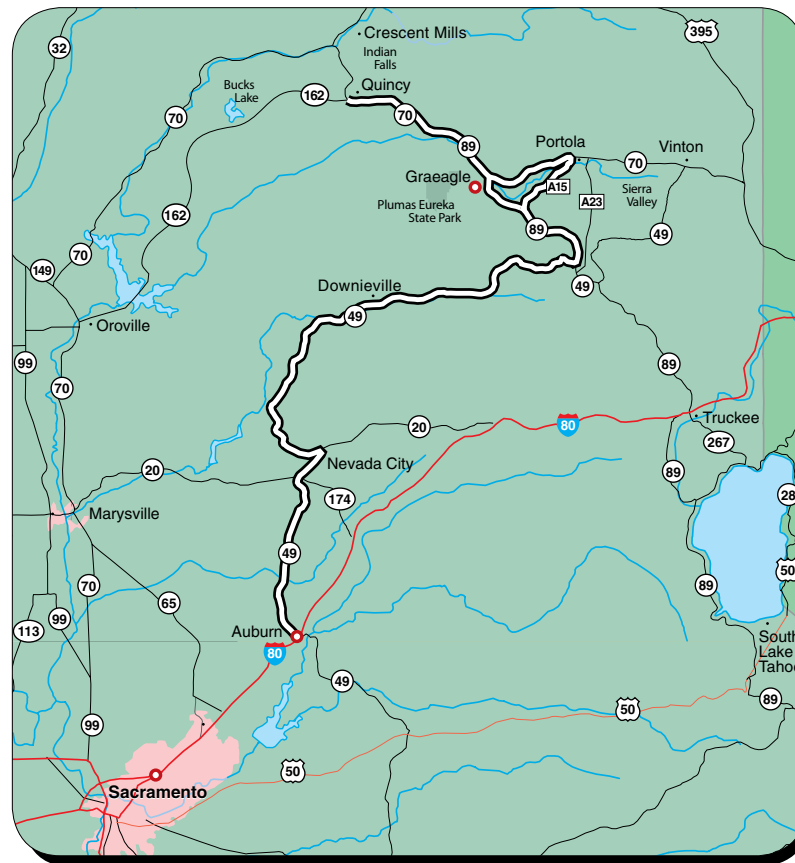


Tour 6 - Historic Mountain Towns in the Northern Sierra

Explore getaways off-the-beaten path -- Downieville, Graeagle, Quincy and Portola -- on a scenic journey linked by Gold Rush legacy and unique attractions.

Plumas County, at the northern edge of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, offers year round recreation and it is easily accessible. All major highways into the county are maintained and plowed during winter months. In addition to its spectacular beauty, natural resources and friendly residents, the area is rich in history. You will marvel at the vestiges left by early gold miners, loggers, ranchers, explorers, Maidu Indians and railroad workers. Explore the Sierra Valley, the largest alpine valley in the Sierra Nevada. Embark on this three-day adventure by following Hwy. 49 north/east off Interstate 80 at Auburn. This scenic route winds through the quaint communities of Downieville, Sierra City and Bassetts.



Day 1 Downieville to Graeagle

- Shopping and relaxing in Graeagle

Day 2 Graeagle to Quincy

- Shopping and touring in Quincy


Day 3 Eastern Plumas County

- Birding in Sierra Valley
- Portola
- Plumas-Eureka State Park



Historic Downieville

Day 1 - Downieville to Graeagle

 **Auburn to Downieville** - 72 miles allow 2 hrs driving time. From I-80 at Auburn travel east on Hwy. 49 to Downieville.

Downieville, the county seat of Sierra County, is situated at the fork of the North Yuba and Downie Rivers. In 1850, Downieville had 15 hotels and gambling houses to serve the needs of gold miners.

 **Lunch:** Downieville

Gallows Cafe and Pizzeria (530-289-3540) corner of Main St. and Nevada St.

Grubstake Saloon/Downieville Steakhouse (530-289-0289) 317 Main St.

 **The following attractions are available in Downieville:**

Self-guided walking tour of Downieville - contact the Sierra County Chamber of Commerce for a free tour brochure (800-200-4949.) Allow 1 hour.

Foundry Tour -built in 1855. Group tours can be arranged with advance reservation (530-289-3377.)




Relaxing at Graeagle Mill Pond.

Discover secrets in an unknown part of California: from Frank Lloyd Wright and Maidu baskets to great birding, unspoiled scenery and trains you can drive.



Downtown Quincy

 **Depart Downieville for Graeagle** - The route from Downieville to Graeagle will depend on the month of your visit and on snow conditions. The shortest route is 33 miles and will take 1 hour. The year-round route is 47 miles and takes 1-1/2 hrs. Both routes are very scenic.

Continue traveling east on Hwy. 49 17 miles to Bassetts. If the Gold Lake Road is open, turn left on it and follow it for 14 miles. Turn left on Hwy. 89 and travel 1 1/2 miles to Graeagle. If Gold Lake Road is closed, continue past Bassetts on Hwy. 49 for 13 miles. Turn left on Hwy. 89 and travel 17 miles to Graeagle.

Arrive in Graeagle

The village of **Graeagle** features an array of identical red buildings that once were homes for workers at the former lumber mill. Today they house shops and services, and the nearby Graeagle Mill Pond is a popular spot for relaxation.

Motel check-in:

Feather River Inn (530-836-2623) with restaurant and bar (reopens 2010.)

Chalet View Lodge (530-832-5528) with restaurant and wine bar

River Pines Resort (530-836-2552) with restaurant and bar

Free time to relax or explore the shops and galleries in Graeagle and Blairsden.

 **Dinner in Graeagle Area:** See restaurant listings

Day 2 – Graeagle to Quincy

 **Breakfast in Graeagle:** See restaurant listings

 **Follow Hwy. 70 west** 24 miles to Quincy.

The Plumas County seat of **Quincy** is nestled against the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and tucked at the edge of the lush American Valley. The four-story courthouse building on Main Street is the county's most dominant and impressive structure. Take a walking tour of Quincy's downtown Main Street historic buildings and murals.

 **The following attractions are available in Quincy:**

Plumas County Museum 500 Jackson St. (530-283-6320), Open 8am - 5pm Tuesday - Saturday year-round. Admission \$2/adults, \$1 for children 12-17, children under 12 free (allow 1 hour).

Historic 1878 Variel Home 137 Coburn St., next to Plumas County Museum.


Advance arrangements can be made for entrance and a guided group tour by contacting the museum (530-283-6320, allow half hour.)

Self-guided walking tour of Quincy's historic buildings (4 blocks, allow half hour.) A free tour and guide map is available at the Plumas County Museum.


Plumas County Courthouse 520 Main St., (allow 20 minutes) Open 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday.

Advance arrangements can be made for a guided group tour by contacting the museum (530-283-6320.)

 **Lunch in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **Shopping** in Quincy - W. Main St. and adjacent side streets, Plumas Pines Shopping Center at Hwy. 70 and Quincy Junction Rd. and also in East Quincy along Hwy. 70. Art galleries, antique and thrift shops, gift shops, and stores selling books, clothing, candy, toys and more are located along this route.

Give your feet a rest and stop by **Alley Cat Cafe** (530-383-0902) in Grover Alley or **Dunn's Coffee & Fine Teas** (530-283-5061) 231 W. Main St. for a cup of gourmet coffee, tea, and a homebaked treat. Or, sip a varietal at Quincy's new wine bar, **The Drunk Brush** in Grover Alley.

 **Depart Quincy** and return to Graeagle.

 **Dinner in Graeagle Area:** See restaurant listings



Birdwatching in Sierra Valley, designated as one of the nation's Important Bird Areas.



All aboard at Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola.



Nakoma Golf Resort, an original Frank Lloyd Wright design, near Portola.

Day 3 – Eastern Plumas County


Motel check-out

NOTE: An early start is advisable this morning if the group plans to bird watch.


Breakfast in Graeagle Area: See restaurant listings

OPTION 1

Birding in Sierra Valley


 **Depart Graeagle on Hwy. 70 east** 5 miles to Portola. From Portola travel east 4 miles on Hwy. 70 to County Road A-23 and turn right (south). Continue 5 miles to Marble Springs Rd. (shown as Dyson Lane on some maps.) Turn left (east) on Marble Springs Rd. and travel 3 miles to the end. This dirt road offers wonderful opportunities for birding, especially where it crosses the streams. Continue north 5 miles on A-24 to Hwy. 70.


OPTION 2

 **Western Pacific Railroad Museum** at Portola. (530-832-4131) Advance appointment advised during off-season (allow 45 minutes.) Open seasonally April through October from 10am to 5pm daily.


Railroad buffs from all over the world visit the Western Pacific Railroad Museum, where you can view displays, inspect historic trains and even drive a locomotive. Train rides in cabooses and vista flatcars around a one-mile track are offered. This hands-on museum is housed in a former Western Pacific diesel shop, and includes 12,000 feet of track.

OPTION 3


 **Plumas-Eureka State Park** (530-836-2380) Open 9am-4pm in summer; when staff is available during the rest of the year.

 **Travel (west) for 5 miles on road A-14.** Advance appointment required for the museum during off-season. Free admission (allow 1 hour)


The museum and park are located at the foot of Eureka Peak, which produced some \$25 million in gold from hard-rock mining during the late 1880s. Both are within the tiny Gold Rush town of Johnsville, which preserves the rich heritage of the area's gold mining legacy. The indoor-outdoor complex includes a miner's boarding house, the five-story Mohawk Stamp Mill, a blacksmith shop and a restored miner's home.

 **Continue west on A-14** for a few blocks to see Johnsville's historic buildings. Then take A-14 to back to Hwy. 70. Turn right (east) onto Hwy. 70 and continue 5 miles to Portola.

Sierra Valley and the city of Portola are intersected by the Union Pacific Railroad and the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The city is home to the renowned Portola Railroad Museum, and the area serves as the gateway to Lake Davis and Frenchman Lakes, trophy trout fisheries.


 **Shopping** stop along Commercial Street and Hwy. 70 in Portola (allow 45 minutes.)

 **Lunch in Portola:** See restaurant listings

 Visit **Nakoma Golf Resort** to see its unique Frank Lloyd Wright design (530-832-5067.)

This is the final stop before departing from Plumas County and ending the tour. From Nakoma travel south 2 miles to Hwy. 89. Follow Hwy. 89 through Sierraville to Hwy. 80 at Truckee (48 miles, 1-1/2 hrs. driving time.) Turn right (west) on Hwy. 80 and continue 66 miles to Auburn.

NOTE: *Off-season business hours vary. Many local restaurants and attractions are happy to accommodate groups during non-business hours by pre-arranged appointment. Contact the sites prior to planning your tour to ensure a positive travel experience.*

 **For more information on this tour,** contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau at 800-326-2247 or visit www.plumascounty.org.



Plumas County Restaurant Guide for Tour Groups

Call to verify off-season hours.

Quincy

Breakfast

- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Morning Thunder Cafe (530-283-1310) 557 Lawrence St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.

Lunch

- Cafe Le Coq (530-283-0114) 189 Main St.
- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Moon's (530-283-0765) 497 Lawrence St. (Groups only.)
- Morning Thunder Cafe (530-283-1310) 557 Lawrence St.
- Pangaea (530-283-0426) 461 W. Main St.
- Pizza Factory (530-283-4545) 490 W. Main St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.
- Stoney's Country Burger (530-283-3911) 11 Lindan Ave.

Dinner

- Cafe Le Coq (530-283-0114) 189 Main St.
- Moon's (530-283-0765) 497 Lawrence St. (Groups of 20 or less, weekday only.)
- Pangaea (530-283-0426) 461 W. Main St.
- Pizza Factory (530-283-4545) 490 W. Main St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.
- Sweet Lorraine's (530-283-5300) 384 W. Main St.

Chester/Lake Almanor

Breakfast

- Bidwell House (if the group is staying there, 530-258-3338) #1 Main St., Chester
- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester
- St. Bernard Lodge (530-258-3382) Hwy. 36, west of Chester

Lunch and Dinner

- Cotton Candy Diner (530-258-1950) 300 Main St., Chester
- Knotbumper (530-258-2301) 274 Main St., Chester
- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester
- Maria's Walker's Mexican Restaurant (530-258-2225) 159 Main St., Chester
- Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant (530-258-1879) 686 Main St., Chester
- Peninsula Grill (530-596-3538) 401 Peninsula Dr., Lake Almanor
- St. Bernard Lodge 530-258-3382) Hwy. 36, west of Chester

Portola

Breakfast

- Dee's Station Cafe (530-832-4852) 165 Pacific St.

Lunch

- Casa Carmelita (530-832-5360) 165 E. Sierra St.
- Dee's Station Cafe (530-832-4852) 165 Pacific St.
- Pizza Factory (530-832-0430) 197 Commercial St.

Dinner

- Casa Carmelita (530-832-5360) 165 E. Sierra St.
- Log Cabin (530-832-5243) 64 E. Sierra St.
- Pizza Factory (530-832-0430) 197 Commercial St.

Graeagle

Breakfast/Lunch

- Bonta St. Bistro (530-836-1497) 190 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Cafe Mohawk (530-836-0901) 1228 Johnsville Rd., Mohawk
- Gumba's Pizzeria & Grill (530-836-1212) 350 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Mountain Cuisine (530-836-4646) 250 Bonta St., Blairsden
- The Village Baker (530-836-4064) 340 Bonta St., Blairsden

Dinner

- Coyote Bar & Grill (530-836-2002) Hwy. 89
- Grizzly Grill (530-836-1300) 250 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Gumba's Pizzeria & Grill (530-836-1212) 350 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Longboards Bar & Grill (530-836-1111) 402 Poplar Valley Rd., Plumas Pines Estates
- Mt. Tomba Dinner House (530-836-2359) 10 minutes west of Graeagle on Hwy. 70 in Cromberg
- Sierra Valley Lodge (530-994-3367 or 800-858-0322) Off Hwy. 89, Calpine
- Trattoria Rosa Cucina Italiana (530-836-0371) 15 minutes west of Graeagle on Hwy. 70 in Cromberg

Greenville

Breakfast/Lunch

- Anna's Cafe (530-284-1998) 300 Main St.
- Sierra Sunrise (530-284-6968) Hwy. 89

Dinner

- Main Street Dinner House (530-284-6888) 305 Main St.