



Climb aboard locomotives or drive one yourself at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum.

Rail fans from all over the world come to view and photograph Plumas County's unique bridges, tunnels and trains with spectacular scenic backdrops.

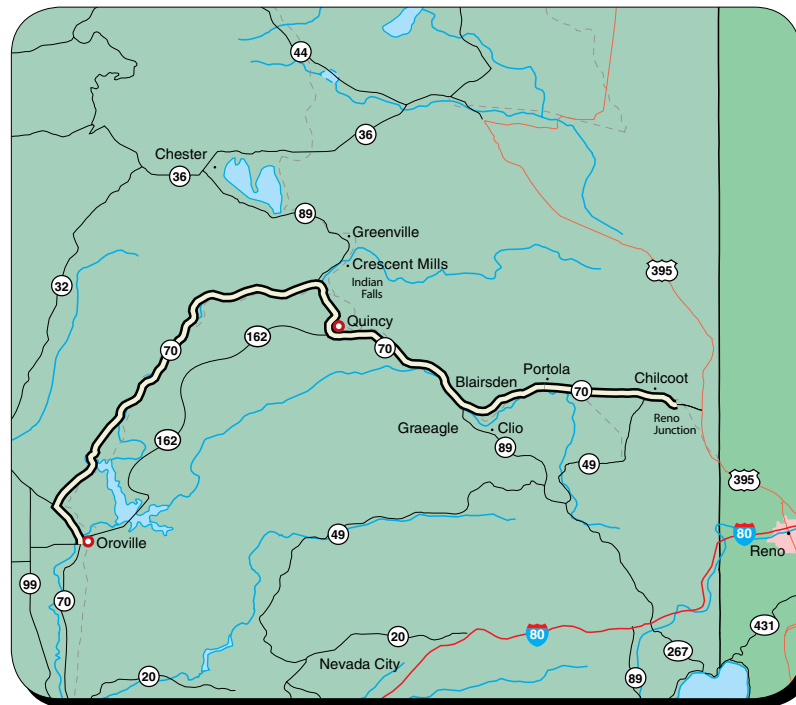


Freight trains, unique railroad engineering and seasonal color abound in the Feather River Canyon between Oroville and Quincy.

Tour 7 - Wonders of the Railroad World

Plumas County's rich railroad history, unique railroad bridges and tunnels, one-of-a-kind elevated wye, tight one-mile cross-over loop and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola are all reasons why train buffs enjoy railfanning in this area.

In 1905, laborers began construction of the Western Pacific Railroad through the rocky chasm of the Feather River Canyon. Much of the line crisscrossed the river and was carved out of and tunneled through solid granite cliffs. The run was completed in 1909. The final spike was driven into the railroad on the trestle at the present Keddie "Y," named after Arthur W. Keddie who in 1867 surveyed a wagon route through the Feather River Canyon and realized its potential for railroad passage.



Day 1 Oroville to Quincy

- Feather River Scenic Byway
- Tobin Twin Bridges
- World Famous Keddie Wye

Day 2 Quincy to Portola

- Williams Loop
- Western Pacific Railroad Museum

Day 3 Portola Area


- Reno Junction

Day 1 - Oroville to Quincy, 81 miles, 3-4 hours

Breakfast in Oroville:


Gold City Grill (530-533-9332) 935 Oro Dam Blvd.

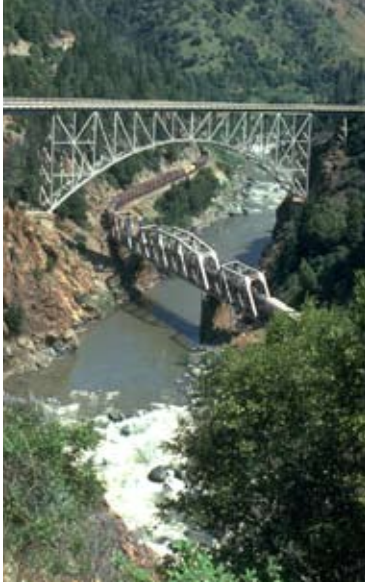
The Depot (530-534-9101) 2191 High St. is located in the old Oroville train station. Open Mon - Fri. at 11am; advance arrangements can be made for earlier breakfast for groups of 20 or more.

 **Leave Oroville on Hwy. 70**, driving northeast up through the Feather River Canyon. Set your odometer to "0" at the Montgomery St. off-ramp.

There are two rest areas in the canyon open year-round. Both are located on the north side of Hwy. 70. The first is at mile 32.5 just before entering the first of three highway tunnels. The second is at mile 49.7 right before the Belden Bridge.

NOTE: Use extreme caution when pulling off Hwy. 70 to stop at rest stops and viewpoints. The road has frequent curves and blind spots and there are no guardrails in many locations.

 East of Jarbo Gap summit, **mile 24**, stop to see a panoramic view of the canyon with four miles of railroad and river. At **mile 28**, there is a small pullout, no guardrail, offering a good view and photo opportunity of the Pulga Bridges. The highway bridge spans 680 feet with each end perched on rocky outcroppings. A railroad bridge and the North Fork of the Feather River are located 200 feet below.



Pulga Bridges



Plumas County Courthouse in Quincy



World famous Keddie Wye

There are several pullouts and viewing opportunities along this stretch of Hwy. 70, including **mile 34**, where the railroad is on the north side (left side) of the highway.

Where Rock Creek comes into the Feather River, at **mile 38**, there is a good view of a railroad trestle.

At Rock Creek Reservoir there is a pullout above Cresta Dam with an overview of the area of five tunnels known as the “honeymoon tunnels.”

There is a good pullout at Tobin, **mile 42**, the site of the famous Tobin Twin Bridges, where a railroad bridge crosses over the top of a highway bridge. Locals say it’s good luck if a train passes over you as you drive across the river.

At Twain, **mile 61.7**, you will find Twain General Store. Call in advance (530-283-2130) to check their off-season hours. There is an outdoor picnic area near the store.

At **mile 70.7**, look to your left to see the world famous Keddie Wye, the only railroad wye in the world with two legs on bridges and a closing track in a tunnel. The trestle is located high above Spanish Creek and was the location of the last spike ceremony in 1909 at the completion of the track through the Feather River Canyon. There is a pullout area off to your right across from the wye.

NOTE: Use extra caution when walking across Hwy 70. There are blind curves both east and west of the pullout.

 **Lunch in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **Motel check-in:**

Ada’s Place (530-283-1954)

Gold Pan Motel (530-283-3686)

Lariat Lodge (530-283-1000)

Pine Hill Motel (530-283-1670)

Quincy Courtyard Suites (530-283-1401)

Ranchito Motel (530-283-2265)

Sporting Inn (530-283-4300)

The Feather Bed B & B (530-283-0102)

 **Quincy is home to the following attractions:**


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

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.

 **Shopping in Quincy** - W. Main St. and adjacent side streets, Plumas Pines Shopping Center at Hwy. 70 and Quincy Junction Rd. and 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.

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

 **Evening entertainment** can include a movie at the historic Town Hall Theatre on Main St. or a community concert or show (depending on schedule.) Athletic and other events are often available at Feather River College and Quincy High School. You can also workout at the Feather River Fitness Center or try out your skill at the bowling alley.

The Town Hall Theatre is open Thurs-Mon and offers a movie starting at 7pm, with a matinee at 4pm on Sunday only. (530-283-1140)

La Sierra Lanes bowling alley is open evenings seven days a week. (530-283-1633)



Downtown Quincy



Awaiting a train at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum.



An extensive collection of trains, photographs, and memorabilia is offered at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum.

Quincy Library is open until 8pm on Thursdays. (530-283-6310)

Feather River College often schedules evening events. (530-283-0202)

Feather River Fitness and Recreation Center is open until 9pm Mon-Fri (530-283-2255) One-day passes are available.


Plumas Arts schedules evening concerts and art exhibits. (530-283-3402).


Quincy Jr. Sr. High School hosts evening events. (530-283-6510)

Day 2 –Quincy to Portola


 **Motel check-out**


 **Breakfast in Quincy:** See restaurant listings


 **Depart Quincy**, heading east on Hwy. 70 toward Portola. Reset odometer to 0 at La Porte Road, 1 mile out of Quincy.

 **At mile 4.3** is the Spring Garden bridge. Shortly after you cross the bridge there will be a place to pullout on the right, where you can view William's Loop. Because the railroad could not exceed a one-percent grade, it was necessary to construct a one-mile long loop at this location. Crossing over itself on a trestle, the track gains altitude to continue up the canyon. Train buffs have witnessed the front and rear cars of long trains traveling in opposite directions as they cross over themselves on William's Loop.

Continue driving east on Hwy. 70 and catch glimpses of the track off to your right.


 **At mile 6.7** (3/10ths of a mile past Greenhorn Ranch Rd.) there is an unpaved road on your right that crosses over a 7,344-foot tunnel at Spring Garden. From this road, if the gate is open, you can view the west entrance to the tunnel by looking down at the tracks and east. This amazing bore cuts through the ancient Jura River channel, which is rich in placer gold. The tunnel transfers the railroad from the North Fork to the Middle Feather River Drainage. Obstacles were encountered in driving the tunnel at an elevation of 4,000 feet, where water and boulders from an underground river slowed the progress.

 **Return to Hwy. 70** and travel east. At the junction of Hwy. 89, at **mile 20.4**, turn right (south).

 **Visit the quaint communities of Blairsden and Graeagle** one mile south on Hwy. 89. Several shops and eateries there are housed in historic little red buildings that once served as residences of local lumber mill workers.


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

OPTION:

 **Travel south on Hwy. 89**, passing through Graeagle, and go five miles to Clio. Turn left off Hwy. 89 to Clio. Cross over the bridge and turn right onto Clio State 40A Rd. and continue one mile to reach Clio trestle, a tremendous 1,005-foot long viaduct of steel, which crosses 172 feet above Willow Creek. Under the bridge are the last vestiges of Plumas County's first railroad, the narrow gauge Sierra Valley & Mohawk Railroad right of way.

NOTE: *The availability of this option depends on snow conditions. Clio State 40A Rd. is not plowed the last half mile up to the trestle.*

Continue on 40A until it reaches Hwy. 70 and turn right. Continue east into Portola to the Gulling Street overpass (**mile 29.8**) which leads to the UP yard.

 **Western Pacific Railroad Museum** at Portola is home to various historic locomotives, freight, caboose and passenger cars. This unique, hands-on, indoor/outdoor museum allows visitors to inspect and climb aboard its extensive collection. For a fee, visitors can even run a vintage diesel-electric locomotive themselves! Contact Feather River Rail Society (530-832- 4131) to pre-arrange an appointment.



The Pullman House Bed and Breakfast Inn

Motel check-in:

Pullman House Inn (530-832-0107) built as a boarding house in 1910 where railroad employees frequently stayed, includes continental breakfast

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

Sierra Motel (530-832-4223)

Sleepy Pines Motel (530-832-4291)

Shopping along Commercial Street and Sierra Ave (Hwy.70)

Dinner in Portola: See restaurant listings

Evening Entertainment:


Portola High School hosts evening events. (530-832-4284)


Portola Library is open until 8pm on Thursdays. (530-832-4241)

Pullman House Inn offers VCR railroad tapes for their guests.

Day 3 – Portola Area


Motel check-out

 Breakfast in Portola (See restaurant listings) or in Chilcoot at the Wood 'N' Rose (530-993-1738) 94248 Hwy. 70, Chilcoot

 Leave Portola on Hwy. 70 driving east. Just past Chilcoot, a 6,002-foot long tunnel penetrates the Sierra and extends under Hwy. 70, bringing the Union Pacific railroad out onto the desert at Reno Junction. From there, the mainline continues eastward across the Smoke Creek and Black Rock deserts to Salt Lake City. To view the tunnel and Reno Junction, follow the unpaved road on your right a short distance. There is also an unpaved wide spot on the right side of Hwy. 70 at mile 40.4 for an overview of Reno Junction.

From this point drive back (west) on Hwy. 70, just two miles to Vinton. Turn left on Hwy . 49 and travel south for 11 miles to Loyalton. At Loyalton, Hwy. 49 turns right and after one mile crosses the Union Pacific tracks. The tour concludes here. Continue southwest on Hwy. 49 to the junction of Hwy. 89. Turn left on Hwy. 89 and continue to Truckee, where it intersects Interstate 80. Follow I-80 west to return to Oroville or your point of departure. (Check a map for various alternate routes off I-80 to Oroville.)

NOTE: *Off-season business hours vary. Contact the businesses 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.



Riding the rails is part of the fun at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum.



The Tobin Twin Bridges in the Feather River Canyon



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.