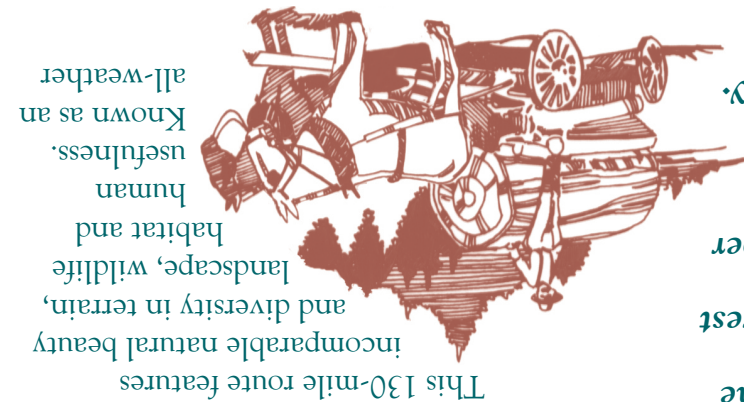




route because of its relatively low elevation, the Feather River Scenic Byway can be enjoyed throughout the year. Each season provides a unique view of the route. In the spring, you'll find nearly 100 waterfalls, brilliant wildflowers, and brightly-colored boats of daring kayakers riding the whitewater. In the summer, the sun sparkles off the river as swimmers, fishing enthusiasts and gold miners enjoy the cool water. The beautiful fall colors along the steep mountain slopes make autumn spectacular. In the winter, the river rushes and the snow-capped mountains contrast sharply with the granite and slate at river level. There is so much to see and do along the way that you should plan plenty of time for stops. One-way drive time of the route is approximately three and one-half hours. The map inside shows a few highlights, but we encourage you to explore the area in more depth. The various visitors centers and information sources listed in this brochure can provide you with more details on your particular areas of interest. Drive carefully and enjoy!



The Feather River Scenic Byway is a treasure awaiting discovery. Start at the west end and you'll find Lake Oroville, a jewel set in golden hills. Follow Highway 70 up the Feather River Canyon and make discoveries at each curve of the highway. The canyon is an awesome gorge carved by the river through granite, into conifer forests and high mountain meadows. The human additions of highway, railroad and powerhouses are beautiful feats of engineering in their own right. At the east end of the Byway, the route winds through the Sierra Valley, the western edge of the Great Basin. This 130-mile route features incomparable natural beauty and diversity in terrain, landscape, wildlife habitat and human usefulness. Known as an all-weather



Since the advent of the automobile, motorists have enjoyed pleasure driving. The United States Forest Service established the National Forest Scenic Byways Program to showcase the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological and natural qualities of some of this country's finest roadways. The Feather River Scenic Byway is a fine example of the use of natural resources as working assets. The natural beauty and historic interest make this a drive you'll remember with pleasure. Welcome to the Feather River Scenic Byway.



Contact these sources for more information regarding Feather River Scenic Byway attractions.

Butte County

Butte County Economic Development Corporation
P.O. Box 496
Chico, CA 95927
Tel: (530) 895-2728
www.experiencebuttecounty.com

Chico Chamber of Commerce

300 Salem Street
Chico, CA 95928
Tel: (530) 891-5556
Toll-free: (800) 852-8570
www.chicochamber.com

Gridley Chamber of Commerce

613 Kentucky Street
Gridley, CA 95948
Tel: (530) 846-3142
www.gridleyareachamber.com

Oroville Chamber of Commerce

1789 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965
Tel: (530) 538-2542
Toll-free: (800) 655-GOLD
www.orovillechamber.net

Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce

5550 Skyway, #1
Paradise, CA 95969
Tel: (530) 877-9356
Toll-free: (888) 845-2769
www.paradisechamber.com

Plumas County

Plumas County Visitors Bureau
550 Crescent St. (Hwy. 70)
(Half mile west of downtown)
Quincy, CA 95971
Tel: (530) 283-6345
Toll-free: (800) 326-2247
www.plumascounty.org

Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce

529 Main Street
P.O. Box 1198
Chester, CA 96020
Tel: (530) 258-2426
Toll-free: (800) 350-4838
www.lakealmanorarea.com

Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce

Junctions of Hwys. 89 and 70
P.O. Box 1043
Graeagle, CA 96103
Tel: (530) 836-6811
www.easternplumaschamber.com

Portola Visitors Center

Williams House Museum
424 E. Sierra Ave. (Hwy. 70)
Portola, CA 96122
Tel: (530) 832-0671
www.portolavisitorscenter.com

Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce

408 Main Street
P.O. Box 516
Greenville, CA 95947
Tel: (530) 284-6633
www.indianvalley.net

Quincy Chamber of Commerce

464 W. Main Street
Quincy, CA 95971
Tel: (530) 283-0188
www.quincychamber.com

Plumas County Museum

500 Jackson Street
Quincy, CA 95971
Tel: (530) 283-6320
www.plumasmuseum.org

See adjacent panel for U.S. Forest Service Information Centers.

U.S. Forest Service Information Centers

Plumas National Forest (PNF) Headquarters
159 Lawrence Street
P.O. Box 11500
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-2050
www.fs.usda.gov/plumas

PNF-Greenville Work Center
128 Hot Springs Road
Greenville, CA 95947
(530) 284-7126

PNF-Feather River District
875 Mitchell Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 534-6500

PNF-Mt. Hough Ranger District
39696 Highway 70
(NW of Quincy)
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0555

Lassen National Forest Almanor Ranger District
Hwy. 36 (west of Chester)
P.O. Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141
www.fs.usda.gov/lassen

PNF-Beckwourth Ranger District
23 Mohawk Highway Road
(off Hwy. 70, west of Blairsdén)
P.O. Box 7
Blairsdén, CA 96103
(530) 836-2575



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A guide to Northern California's

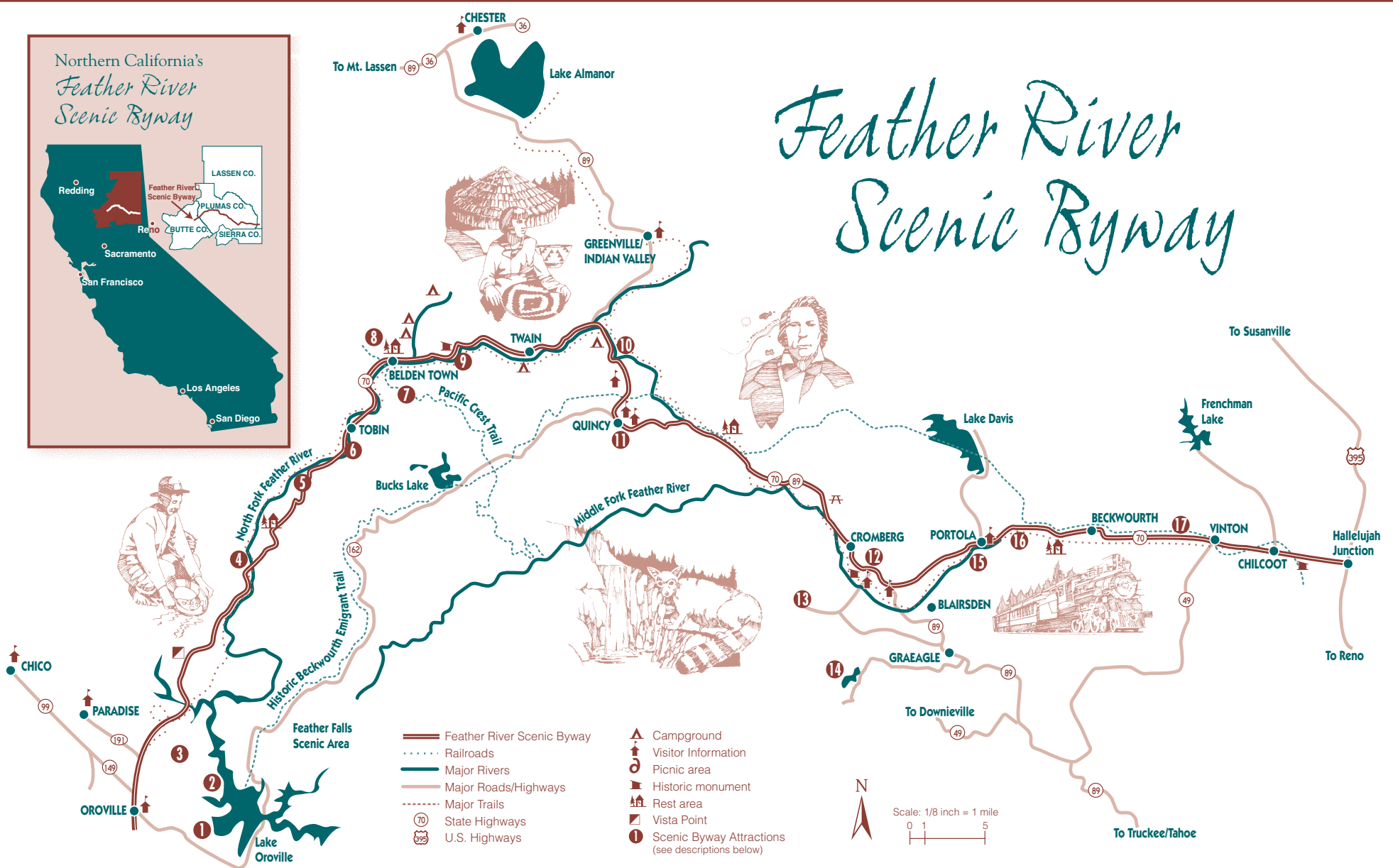
Feather River Scenic Byway

Heritage
Beauty
Resources
Recreation

Northern California's Feather River Scenic Byway



Feather River Scenic Byway



Feather River Scenic Byway Attractions

1 2 Feather River Fish Hatchery & Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

Lake Oroville is the gemstone of the state water project. Waters from the Feather River converge to form a recreational paradise with boating, fishing, camping and bike and equestrian trails. The water stored in Lake Oroville generates electricity upstream and serves the water needs of farmers and other citizens as far south as Los Angeles. The visitors center at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area has permanent displays portraying the area's history and natural surroundings. The fish hatchery below the dam is one of Butte County's five official Watchable Wildlife viewing areas.

Other sites not to be missed in Oroville include the Chinese Temple and the Pioneer Museum (contact the Oroville Chamber of Commerce for more information).

3 Cherokee

The largest diamond ever found in California was reputedly mined in Cherokee. Although the mines were worked intermittently into the early 1900s, only about 200 diamonds were found. The mines have closed, but a few stone structures and a museum remain.

4 Pulga Bridge

The Feather River Canyon boasts some of the most beautiful bridges in the West. One such engineering and aesthetic success is the Pulga Bridge. The bridge spans 680 feet with each end perched on rocky outcroppings. A railroad bridge and the North Fork of the Feather River are approximately 200 feet below.

5 Tunnels

Arch Rock, Elephant Butte, and Grizzly Dome are three impressive tunnels blasted through solid granite. A Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, some of the rock removed from inside the tunnels was used in the stone guardrails throughout the canyon.

6 Bucks Creek Powerhouse

This hydroelectric powerhouse is an excellent example of the power-generating process in action. Built in 1927, it is one of seven such powerhouses located throughout the Feather River Canyon collectively known as the "Stairway of Power". The force of gravity is put to use here as water from Bucks Lake descends through pipes creating tremendous pressure.

7 Pacific Crest Trail

Trailheads to the Pacific Crest Trail are located on both sides of Highway 70 near Belden Town, the heart of the Feather River Canyon. The Pacific Crest Trail, which runs from Canada to Mexico, is one of the nation's most beloved hiking trails. Other recreation around Belden Town includes spring kayaking, camping, RV hookups, summer music festivals, gold mining, fishing and swimming.

8 Eby Stamp Mill

Reconstructed at this site, the Eby Stamp Mill has interpretive signage explaining how the huge iron stamps were used to crush gold-bearing quartz from mines near Seneca from 1898 to 1937.

9 Rich Bar

The richest gold producing area in the Feather River Watershed, there is nothing left of Rich Bar except for a secluded graveyard and a historic marker commemorating the rich history of this site. One resident of the 1850s, Dame Shirley, recorded turbulent times common to the gold rush towns. In what is now a book titled *The Shirley Letters*, she reports of murders, bloody accidents, mob rule, whippings, a hanging, an attempted suicide and a fatal duel—all in one month!

10 Keddie Y

As the railroad tracks emerge from a tunnel beneath the highway, they split to form a "Y". It is an impressive feat of engineering and the only trestle of its kind in the world. Railroad buffs often perch along the highway above the tracks with cameras poised, waiting for a train to pass to complete the picture. Passenger trains stopped riding these rails in 1970, and traffic is now limited to freight trains.

11 Quincy

Halfway between Reno and Oroville, Quincy is the county seat of Plumas County. You'll find the Visitors Center at the west end of town at the airport. Among things to see is the county courthouse, a mammoth, four-story structure built in 1921. Behind the courthouse is the County Museum. Housed here is a fine collection of Maidu baskets and artifacts along with other historic and natural history displays. Quincy is also the beginning of the Maidu Worldmaker's Trail, another scenic heritage route. Guides to the Heritage Walk (a walking tour of Quincy's historic buildings), backcountry driving tours off the byway and other visitor brochures are available at the Museum and the Visitors Center.

12 Feather River Inn

Built in 1914, the Feather River Inn was a destination resort for many of the San Francisco Bay Area's elite. Arriving by passenger train, the guests were treated to quaint accommodations, swimming pools, horseback

riding, golf, fishing and fine meals. It served as a private high school in the 1970s and 80s and the University of the Pacific operated it as an alumni camp and conference center until 2005. Following new ownership and a major renovation, the inn plans to reopen as a destination resort once again, offering lodging, golf, a theater, spa facilities, shops and restaurants. The huge chalet-style lodge building is an impressive sight.

13 Plumas-Eureka State Park

Situated at the base of Eureka Peak in Johnsville, an indoor/outdoor museum complex tells the mining history of this area. A restored stamp mill, miner's cabin and assayer's office bring the mining days to life for visitors. Rich mines drew \$25 million in gold from the mountains during the 1880s. Now a state park, camping, hiking and fishing are the draw for visitors. In the winter, Eureka Ski Bowl operates a family ski hill featuring historic longboard races.

14 Lakes Basin Recreation Area

Dotted with numerous lakes, this area offers something for every outdoor enthusiast: boating, hiking, horse packing, camping and fishing are favorite activities. Some lakes have full vehicle access including boat ramps, while others are accessible by hiking only. Beautiful trails of varying lengths provide spectacular views.

15 Western Pacific Railroad Museum

Railroad buffs from all over the world visit the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola where you can view displays, inspect historic trains and even drive a locomotive. Train rides in cabooses and vista flat-cars around a one-mile track are offered during the summer.

16 Beckwourth Cabin

The trail pioneered by Jim Beckwourth parallels the Feather River Scenic Byway along several stretches. Beckwourth led many pioneers through what is the lowest pass over the Sierra. His cabin, built in 1852, served as a hotel and trading post as the trail grew more popular. Jim Beckwourth was one of only a small number of explorers of African-American descent.

17 Sierra Valley Wildlife Viewing

Bordered by meadows and pines, this is a favorite viewing area among birders. You may witness Canada geese, tundra swans, bald eagles, ospreys, hawks and numerous migratory birds. Coyotes, mule deer and black-tailed deer, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and skunks are also seen. Nearby Lake Davis is part of the Watchable Wildlife Viewing Network. Frenchman Lake, accessed through Chilcoot, is another good viewing area. Dawn and dusk are prime times for sighting wildlife.