If you’re looking for year-round fun in the great outdoors, Eastern Plumas County has got it covered. It’s here where pristine lakes, scenic trails and community events are just waiting for you to explore. Find out for yourself why small town charm makes for the perfect vacation getaway.

Make It Your Adventure.

You’ve just got to experience the sunrise here.

–Your Friend

Photo: Heidemarie Johnson
On the Way to Mount Elwell

Photo: John Williamson
You’ve just got to experience the sunrise here.
–Your Friend

EASTERN PLUMAS COUNTY

Eastern Chamber of Commerce
Take a look at Eastern Plumas County, you’ve just got to come here on your next vacation. With Summer activities like fishing, hiking, bicycling, boating and camping, I could hardly fit everything in during my vacation.

You’re surrounded in nature here, with all kinds of wildlife like deer, coyotes, and so many different species of birds. As well as historic sites like James P. Beckwourth’s Cabin.

And you’ll be delighted at all the different community events that Eastern Plumas County has to offer like the arts and craft fairs in Graeagle and Gold Mountain, Thunder Days in Chilcoot, Railroad Days in Portola and Cowboy Poetry in Vinton. It just goes on and on . . .

I even found several golf courses to play. All with the most breathtaking scenery and backdrops I’ve ever seen. In fact, I could hardly keep my eye on the ball.

So naturally, I just had to come back this winter to experience all of the wintertime fun. Dog sled races, snowmobile poker runs, and cross country skiing are just some of the activities. Then there is the Winter Holiday at Lake Davis. And I just had to see the famous Historic Longboard Revival Series at Plumas-Eureka Ski Bowl.

There are so many ways to enjoy the area’s natural wonders, you’ve just got to keep coming back.

Walk through the woods, and you’ll see all the wildlife. From water fowl to bald eagles, there is over 50 species of birds. And deer, squirrel, raccoons and chipmunks were among the many animals I saw along my way.

The wildflowers bloom here in every color imaginable. Each season brings forth a new display of vibrant colors. And like the wildflowers, the show of fall colors are spectacular, too. Bursts of brilliant gold, red and magenta dot the mountain side.
Bring your mountain bike, because the high mountain terrain makes for an enjoyable ride. There were plenty of biking trails and byways perfect for my scenic cycling trek. The most popular is the Sierra Valley Loop. A 50-mile route that takes you from County Road A-23, south-east to State Highway 49, then Highway 49 south to State Highway 89. From there, it takes you 89 north to State Highway 70, until you reach the charming town of Portola.

Pack your hiking boots, so you can experience all of the mountain beauty up close and personal. With hundreds of adventurous trails like the Frazier Falls Trail, Round Lake Loop Trail, Long Lake Trail, Madora Lake Nature Walk, Little Jamison Creek Trail, Eureka Peak Loop Trail or the Frenchman Lake area, you’ll find something here for everyone to enjoy.

Hunt a variety of game, from deer to duck. Hunters in Eastern Plumas County can find some of the best hunting grounds anywhere. Track either bear, geese, quail, bandtailed pigeons, grouse, chukar or squirrel. And I’m told Lake Davis and Sierra Valley are the hot spots for duck hunting around here.

Climb aboard a caboose, and take a ride around a one mile track. Or better yet, drive a locomotive yourself at the Portola Railroad Museum. Established in 1983 by the Feather River Rail Society, this world renowned museum is just filled with historical information, railroad history, old engines, artifacts, and photographs of the early days of the railroad.

We made a day out of visiting the Railroad Museum. The kids explored the old engines. Rode the caboose again and again. And were so thrilled every time the train whistle blew. This is definitely a rail buff’s dream.

I think you’ll agree, Eastern Plumas County is rich with railroad history. Even the design of the railroad tracks along the Feather River are unique. And just a couple of miles down the track, I found a spectacular trestle known as the “Y” section. This unusual railroad track actually crosses over itself within its one mile loop.

While you’re out hiking around, be sure to venture out to the restored stamp mill at Eureka State Park, where ore was once processed in the 67 miles of tunnels in the Eureka Mine.
Take in year-round events, and you’ll be a part of the hospitality and charm of these small town communities. Whether it’s the Railroad Days in Portola, or the Mohawk Valley Independence Day Parade down the main street of Graeagle, each town has an event exclusive to their community.

I browsed the booths of the arts and craft fairs in Gold Mountain and Graeagle. Watched the fireworks display over the mill pond in Graeagle. Drove the locomotive at the Railroad Days celebration in Portola. Listened to a cowboy’s poetic verse during Cowboy Poetry in Vinton. And had so much fun at Thunder Days in Chilcoot.

And my vacation wouldn’t be complete without a visit to the historic James P. Beckwourth Cabin. He was the frontiersman that discovered one of the lowest passes over the Sierra Nevada.

Beckwourth’s 1852 cabin is one of the earliest buildings related to African-American history in California.

But get ready when the snow falls, because you wouldn’t want to miss the historic downhill ski racing that’s featured during the Historic Longboard Revival Series in Plumas Eureka State Park.
Bait your hook, sit back and get ready for one of the greatest fishing days of your life. That’s the best way to describe my experience when I spent the early morning fly fishing for trophy rainbow trout at Lake Davis, and the afternoon trolling at Frenchman Lake.

You should really bring the whole family out for a fishing trip to this picturesque lake. And you might try boating, windsurfing or swimming while you’re at the lake too. While you’re in the area, take the kids to the fishing derby during the Railroad Days celebration.

You’ll have a terrific time fishing no matter which lake you choose.

So many fish, so little time. Just think about reeling in one of those brown, brook, lake or rainbow trout. Some of the waters even have bass, bluegill and catfish as well.

And with over 100 lakes and streams here, I can play a lot of different ways in the water, like jet skiing, sailing, boating, kayaking, rafting or just taking a leisurely float down stream in an inner tube.

We even pitched camp next to our favorite lake. The ideal spot. One with tall pine trees towering overhead, open meadows for the kids to run freely, set right on the edge of the lake. You’ll find hundreds of campsites like this one in Eastern Plumas County.

Tee off, on championship greens that will challenge any golfer. Golf is world renowned here. While out swinging my nine iron, I met people from all over the place. They come here just to golf.

These devout golfers have golfed them all, Whitehawk Ranch, Plumas Pines, Graeagle Meadows, Feather River Park, Feather River Inn, and Gold Mountain.

You’ll find these divine golf courses located on incredible mountain backdrops. It’s such an amazing experience, I wasn’t sure if I was golfing or sightseeing.
Some of the golf courses even offer package deals. You know, golf, dine and stay in accommodations near the golf course. Not to mention, I got my first choice in tee times. With so many beautiful golf courses here, I’ll have to plan another vacation just to play them all.

**Bundle up,** to play out in the snow. And be sure to tie your scarf on tight, I heard someone say to me as I went traversing down the ski hill at the historic ski bowl in Johnsville. This famous ski slope has both beginner and advanced runs, so we took the whole family out for a day of downhill skiing.

While I was there, I saw racers compete on 12-foot skis for the annual Historic Longboard Revival Series. Skiers dressed in historic clothing in celebration of the birthplace of North American downhill ski racing.

And people weren’t just downhill skiing, they were mountaineering and touring too.

But it was the cross country skiing that gave me quite a workout. I skied everything from the flat open beginner trails to the advanced peaks in the back country. I can’t think of a better way to enjoy the scenery than when I go cross country skiing. Would you believe, I schussed across the entire forest?

When you’re ready to go snowmobiling, you’ll be in for a treat. There are miles of forest roads to make your run. And some of the best places to go snowmobiling are the lakes when they freeze over for the winter. Yeah, the very same lakes I caught all those fish at last summer.

Love to tell you more, but I’m off again.

—Your friend

P.S. You really should plan your next vacation in Eastern Plumas County.
Only one hour west from Reno, Nevada, and two and a half hours north-east of Sacramento, California, Eastern Plumas County is a perfect, quick getaway for anyone.

Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce

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