

# Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway

The Eern Sierra Scenic Byway is a partnership project sponsored and supported by the Coalition for Unified Recreation in the Eastern Sierra (CURES). This partnership combines the support of public and private recreation providers in the Eastern Sierra including:

- USDA - Forest Service
- USDI - Bureau of Land Management
- USDI - National Park Service
- USDT - Federal Highway Administration
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Transportation
- Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
- Inyo County
- Mono County
- Chambers of Commerce and Civic Clubs from:
  - Alpine County, Lee Vining, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence and Lone Pine.

And the many private providers who support the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities here in the Eastern Sierra.

Funding for this Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway project was made possible through an Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Activity Grant.

## LEGEND

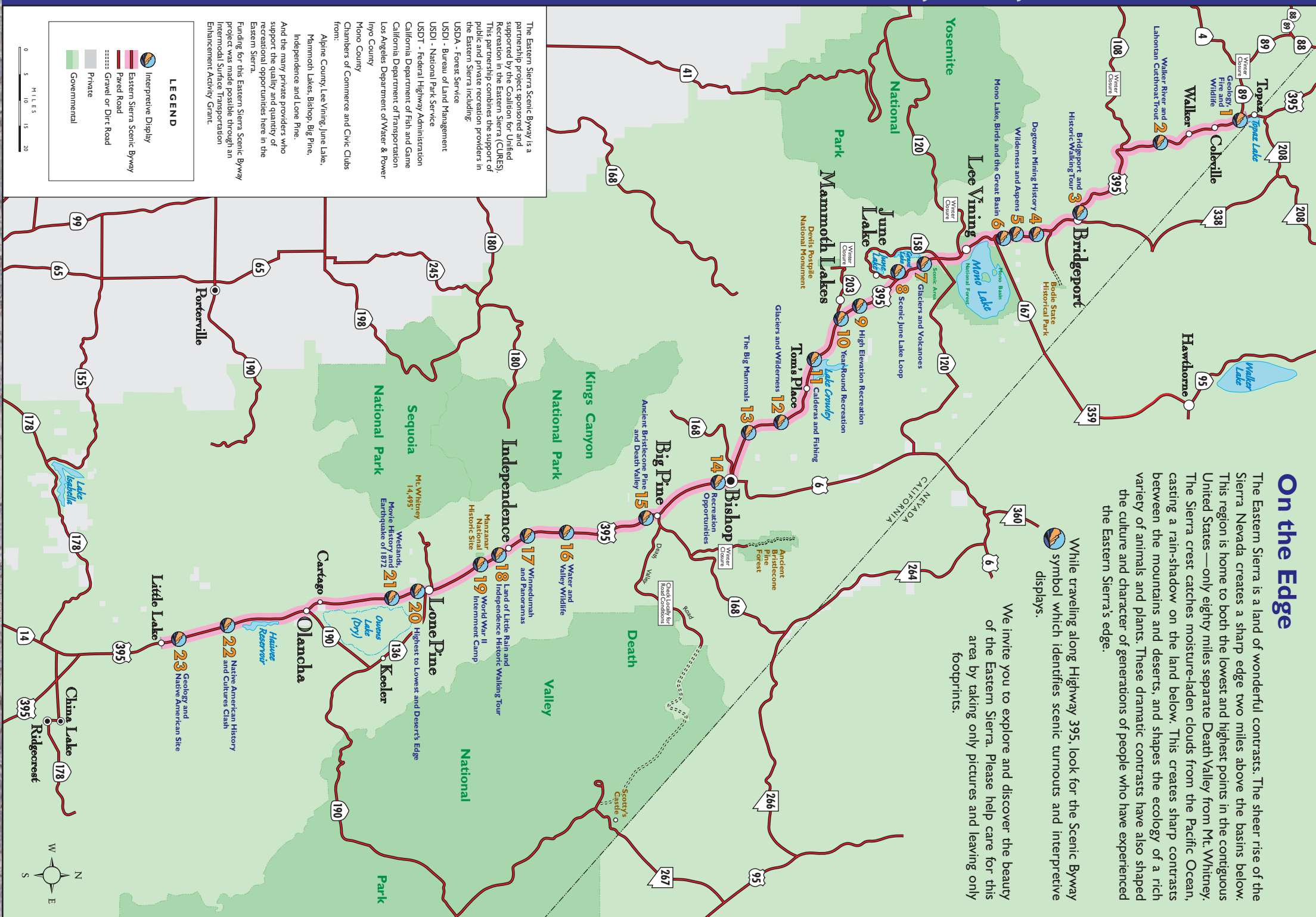
- | Interpretive Display  |
|---|
|  Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway |
|  Paved Road                  |
|  Gravel or Dirt Road         |
|  Private                     |
|  Governmental                |

# On the Edge

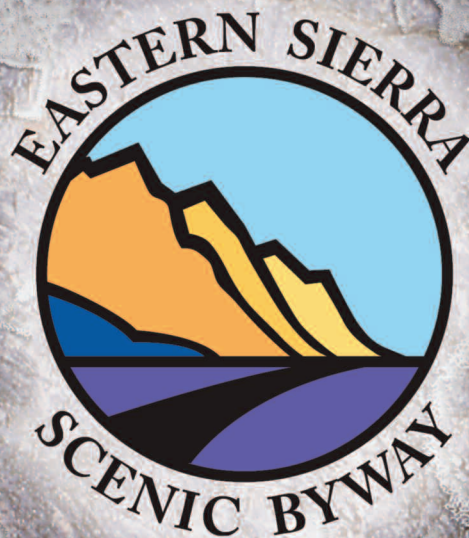
The Eastern Sierra is a land of wonderful contrasts. The sheer rise of the Sierra Nevada creates a sharp edge two miles above the basins below. This region is home to both the lowest and highest points in the contiguous United States—only eighty miles separate Death Valley from Mt. Whitney. The Sierra crest catches moisture-laden clouds from the Pacific Ocean, casting a rain-shadow on the land below. This creates sharp contrasts between the mountains and deserts, and shapes the ecology of a rich variety of animals and plants. These dramatic contrasts have also shaped the culture and character of generations of people who have experienced the Eastern Sierra's edge.

While traveling along Highway 395, look for the Scenic Byway symbol which identifies scenic turnouts and interpretive displays.

We invite you to explore and discover the beauty of the Eastern Sierra. Please help care for this area by taking only pictures and leaving only footprints.



# Explore...



*While traveling along Highway 395,  
look for the Scenic Byway Symbol*



*which identifies scenic turnouts  
and interpretive displays.*





# Site List from North to South



Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway sites listed by map designation, followed by location and topics:

## 1 **Geology, Fire and Wildlife**

*Highway 89 at Topaz Lake*

- Formation of the Great Basin
- Importance of fire in the ecosystem
- Bird inhabitants of Topaz Lake
- Migration patterns of mule deer

## 2 **Walker River and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout**

*Shinglemill Day Use Area on Walker River*

- Native Lahontan Cutthroat trout
- Journey of a desert river
- Walker River in the water cycle
- Early travel route across the Sierra Nevada

## 3 **Bridgeport and Historic Walking Tour**

*Bridgeport Park*

- History of Bridgeport Valley and Big Meadow—historic walk includes Mono County courthouse, Historical Society museum, ghost house and 22 other sites

## 4 **Dogtown: Mining History**

*Between Bridgeport and Conway Summit*

- Boom and bust—the largest gold nugget on the eastern slope of the Sierra was found here

## 5 **Wilderness and Aspens**

*Virginia Creek, between Bridgeport and Conway Summit*

- Life in an aspen forest
- Fall colors
- Wilderness history

## 6 **Mono Lake, Birds and the Great Basin**

*Mono Overlook on Conway Summit*

- Lee Vining attractions and recreational opportunities
- Mono Lake—an oasis in the desert for birds
- Panorama of the Sierra and native grasses

## 7 **Glaciers and Volcanos**

*Mono Craters on Sandhouse Grade*

- Volcanic and glacial activity
- Long Valley eruption
- Life of the Paiute people in the Mono Basin
- Mono Lake's water story

## 8 **Scenic June Lake Loop**

*June Lake Junction*

- Driving the June Lake Loop
- Fall colors
- Skiing and snowboarding at June Mountain

## 9 **High Elevation Recreation**

*Crestview Roadside Rest, north of Mammoth Lakes*

- Visitor information for Lee Vining
- June Lake Loop
- Mammoth Lakes

## 10 **Year-Round Recreation**

*Junction of Highways 203 & 395 at Mammoth Lakes*

- Devils Postpile National Monument
- Skiing and snowboarding at Mammoth Mountain
- Nordic skiing
- Outdoor year-round adventures
- Full service resort

## 11 **Calderas and Fishing**

*Crowley Lake*

- Long Valley Caldera
- Formation of Crowley Lake
- Terrific fishing opportunities

## 12 **Glaciers and Wilderness**

*Sherwin Grade*

- Moraines and glaciers
- The values of wilderness
- Deer migration

## 13 **The Big Mammals**

*Round Valley*

- Bighorn sheep
- Mountain lion
- Deer migration

## 14 **Recreation Opportunities**

*Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce*

- Outdoor sports—fishing, camping, hiking, backpacking and horsepack trips
- Sightseeing
- Day trips from the Bishop area

## 15 **Bristlecone Pine and Death Valley**

*Big Pine Canyon Recreation Area*

- Bristlecone Pines—Earth's oldest living individuals
- Travel tips for Death Valley National Park
- Palisades Glacier
- Recreational opportunities in the Big Pine area

## 16 **Water and Valley Wildlife**

*Division Creek Rest Area*

- Tule elk
- Desert reptiles
- Nature's clean-up crew
- 1863 Owens Valley Paiute forced relocation march
- Owens Valley water

## 17 **Winnedumah and Panoramas**

*Owens Valley*

- Legend of Winnedumah
- Panoramas of the Sierra and the Inyo
- Mountain peaks
- Mountain-building geology

## 18 **Independence Historic Walking Tour**

*Dehy Park / Eastern California Museum*

- Land of Little Rain—rainshadow of the Sierra Nevada
- Life along Independence Creek
- Historic walking tour of Independence—includes courthouse and home of Mary Austin
- Local recreation opportunities

## 19 **World War II Internment Camp**

*Manzanar National Historic Site*

- Ten thousand Japanese were detained here during World War II

## 20 **Highest and Lowest Points, Deserts**

*InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine*

- Death Valley National Park travel tips
- The Great Basin and Mojave deserts
- Mountain-building
- Mount Whitney

## 21 **Diaz Lake**

*Diaz Lake Recreation Area*

- Formation of Diaz Lake by earthquake
- Wetlands and birds
- Movies filmed near Lone Pine

## 22 **Native Americans and Cultures Clash**

*Coso Junction Rest Area*

- The lives of the Owens Valley Paiute and clashes with white settlers

## 23 **Geology and Native American Site**

*Fossil Falls*

- Fossil Falls, sculpted by water and fire
- The resourceful native people who lived here



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CURES is a nonprofit, community-based organization that catalyzes public/private partnerships to enhance and protect outdoor recreational opportunities in the Eastern Sierra and the resources upon which such experiences are based. CURES is dedicated to preserving the Eastern Sierra's natural, cultural and economic resources and enriching the experiences of visitors and residents.

Experience the interactive Byway map at

[www.drive395.org](http://www.drive395.org)

### Chambers of Commerce

Big Pine .....	760-938-2114
Bishop Area .....	760-873-8405 888-395-3952
Bridgeport .....	760-932-7500
Death Valley .....	760-852-4524
Independence .....	760-878-0084
June Lake .....	760-648-7584
Lee Vining .....	760-647-6629
Lone Pine .....	760-876-4444 877-253-8981
Mammoth Lakes Tourism & Recreation .....	760-934-2712
Northern Mono County .....	530-495-9666

### Visitor Centers

InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine) .....	760-876-6222
Mammoth Visitor Center .....	760-924-5500
Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center .....	760-647-3044
White Mountain Ranger Station (Bishop) .....	760-873-2500