Take your sweet time!
You will need multiple days to experience everything there is to see and do — and photograph — in the fall season here, “outside on the eastside.” A spellbinding contrast of colors makes a brilliant show color into early November. The Eastern Sierra’s varied elevations — from approximately 5,000 to 10,000 feet (1,512 to 3,048 m) — means the trees peak in color at different times. Bishop Creek, Rock Creek, Virginia Lakes and Green Creek typically turn color first (mid to late September), with Mammoth Lakes, McGee Creek, Bridgeport, Conway Summit, Sonora and Monitor passes peaking next (late September), and finally June Lake Loop, Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, Convict Lake and the West Walker River offering a grand finale from the first to third week of October. The City of Bishop shows color into early November.

When and How to Get Here
FIND OUT WHEN to “GO NOW!”
See detailed fall color reporting at www.CaliforniaFallColor.com
Follow the Eastern Sierra on Facebook:
Mono County (VisitMonoCounty) Mammoth Lakes (VisitMammoth) Bishop Chamber of Commerce (VisitBishop)
FLY INTO AUTUMN!
From any direction, the drive to the Eastern Sierra is worth it... but the flight connecting through LAX to Mammoth Yosemite Airport is possibly more spectacular and gets you here faster! www.AlaskaAir.com

NEED HELP PLANNING YOUR TRIP?
CONTACT US:
Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
760-873-8405 www.BishopVisitor.com
690 N. Main Street - Bishop, CA 93514
County of Inyo
www.TheOtherSideOfCalifornia.com
Mammoth Lakes Tourism / Welcome Center
1-888-466-2664 or 760-924-5500 www.VisitMammoth.com
2510 Main Street - Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mono County Tourism
1-800-845-7922 www.MonoCounty.org

Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center
760-676-6200
US Hwy 395 at CA Hwy 136 - Lone Pine, CA 93545
Mammoth Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center
760-647-3044
1 Visitor Center Drive - Lee Vining, CA 93541
Bridgeport Ranger Station
760-932-7070
75694 US Hwy 395 - Bridgeport, CA 93517
www.CaliforniaFallColor.com

Quick Fall Facts
WHY OUR FALL COLOR SEASON GOES ON AND ON AND ON
The Eastern Sierra’s varied elevations — from approximately 5,000 to 10,000 feet (1,512 to 3,048 m) — means the trees peak in color at different times. Bishop Creek, Rock Creek, Virginia Lakes and Green Creek typically turn color first (mid to late September), with Mammoth Lakes, McGee Creek, Bridgeport, Conway Summit, Sonora and Monitor passes peaking next (late September), and finally June Lake Loop, Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, Convict Lake and the West Walker River offering a grand finale from the first to third week of October. The City of Bishop shows color into early November.

TREE SPECIES
Trees that change color in the Eastern Sierra include aspen, cottonwood and willow.

LIKE CLOCKWORK
Ever wonder how Eastern Sierra leaves know to go from bright green to gold, orange and russet as soon as the calendar hits mid-September? Their cue is actually from the change in air temperature and decreased daylight.

TRUE COLORS
The reason we see fall colors is part of an annual cycle that begins in spring and summer, when green chlorophyll pigments are active in cells that make food for the tree to grow. It’s during this time that leaves also contain lesser amounts of yellow, orange and red pigments masked by the chlorophyll. The occurrence of fall colors is actually the disappearance of green chlorophyll!

COLOR INTENSITY
Intensity of leaf color is determined by air temperature and moisture. Warm, dry days and cool nights (under 45˚F or 7˚C) mean brilliant colors; rainy days and warm nights result in less intense coloration.

COLOR PARADE
If you’ve ever wondered why some leaves turn deep crimson red, while others become so golden they seem to be lit from within like a lamp, here’s your answer: They have pigments called xanthophylls (yellows), carotenoids (yellows, oranges and reds), and anthocyanin (red). Anthocyanin is the result of trapped plant sugar, produced by the leaf when days are sunny and nights are cold.

The fall season is yet another reason why US Highway 395 is designated a Scenic Byway by the State of California. The 395 corridor through the Eastern Sierra offers jaw-dropping views right from the windshield and should be on all epic road trip bucket lists, especially in the autumn. The best time to see the spectacular array of color is usually mid-September to mid-October. Savor the drive, pull over often, park and explore... and prepare to be astonished!

A colorful fall celebration of arts, culture and recreation
There are so many festivals, events, activities, concerts and sports competitions going on in the Eastern Sierra in the fall months, we’d need another brochure to list everything. To find out what’s happening Outside on the Eastside, check out: www.VisitMammoth.com/trip-ideas/outside-eastside-colorful-fall-celebration www.MonoCounty.org/things-to-do/events/ www.AlaskaAir.com/events/ www.TheOtherSideOfCalifornia.com/events

Welcome to autumn in the Eastern Sierra. Welcome to brilliance.
Carson and Virginia Lakes Road:
- Follow the beaten path to the Virginia Lakes Road. This road winds through the Eastern Sierra, offering views of the Minarets, Mammoth Lakes, and the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Byway.
- Be sure to take the time to stop and explore this area, as it offers some of the most scenic drives in the nation.

Virginia Lakes Road:
- The Virginia Lakes Road is a scenic drive that offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.
- Be sure to stop and take photos of the Virginia Lakes, which are nestled in the heart of the Eastern Sierra.

Virginia Lakes Road:
- This drive offers a unique opportunity to explore the Virginia Lakes, which are fed by meltwater from the surrounding glaciers.
- Be sure to take the time to explore the area, as it offers a variety of hiking trails and scenic viewpoints.

Virginia Lakes Road:
- Be sure to take the time to explore the Virginia Lakes, which are fed by meltwater from the surrounding glaciers.
- This drive offers a unique opportunity to explore the Virginia Lakes, which are nestled in the heart of the Eastern Sierra.

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