QUICK FALL FACTS
WHY OUR FALL COLOR SEASON GOES ON AND ON AND ON
The Eastern Sierra’s varied elevations—from approximately 3,000 to 10,000 feet (913 to 3,048 meters)—means the trees peak in color at different times. Bishop Creek, Rock Creek, Virginia Lakes and Green Creek typically turn color first in mid- to late September, with Mammoth Lakes, McGee Creek, Bridgeport, Conway Summit, Sonora and Monitor passes peaking in 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 (yellow), carotenoids (orange), and anthocyanin (red). Anthocyanin is the result of trapped plant sugar, produced by the leaf when days are sunny and nights are cold.

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 and Instagram: @EasternSierra
Visit Eastern Sierra
Monarch Airport in Mammoth Lakes
Mammoth Lakes
VisiMammoth @VisitMammoth
Bishop Chamber of Commerce
@VisitBishop
@VisitInyo
Inyo County, CA  @ExploreInyoCounty
NEED HELP PLANNING YOUR TRIP?
CONTACT US:
Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
760-872-8405 www.BishopVisit.com
630 N. Main Street • Bishop, CA 93514
County of Inyo
www.InyoCountyInfo.com
Mammoth Lakes Tourism / Welcome Center
1-888-466-7686 or 760-924-5500 www.WelcomingMammoth.com
2510 Main Street • Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mono County Tourism
1-800-845-7922 www.MonoCounty.org
Eastern Sierra Intergov Visitor Center
760-872-6200
US Hwy 395 at CA Hwy 190
Lone Pine, CA 93535
White Mountain Ranger Station
760-877-2500
798 North Main Street • Bishop, CA 93514
Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center
760-647-3044
1 Visitor Center Drive • Lee Vining, CA 93541
Bridgeport Ranger Station
760-932-7070
7564 US Hwy 395 • Bridgeport, CA 93517
WWW.CALIFORNIAFALLCOLOR.COM

INYO & MONO COUNTRIES

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 in the Eastern Sierra. A spellbinding contrast of colors makes a brilliant backdrop for classic Sunday drives, hikes, fishing, kayaking, cycling, ATVing, horseback riding, festivals and events, and so much more. Plan to spend a few days to comb fall color spots with nearby must-see attractions:

Big Pine Canyon #1
Bishop Creek #3,
Buttermilk Country #4
Rock Creek Fall Color #67
PLUS DON’T MISS: Ansel Adams Winter Pine Forest, Lassen Natural Museum, California Hotspur Trail, Convict Lake & Rainbow Falls

Virginia Lakes #15
Green Creek Fall Color #17
Sonora Pass #19
Conway Summit #16
Twin Lakes #18
PLUS DON’T MISS: Bodie ghost town, Mono County Museum, Convict Lake & Rainbow Falls, Lassen Meadows Park Station, Little Antelope Peak Trail, Virginia Lakes Pack Outfitters, and more

June Lake Loop #11
Lee Vining Canyon #13
Lundy Canyon #14
Sagehen Summit #12
PLUS DON’T MISS: June Lake South Tutla Tioga Pass Road, Yosemite National Park

FALL FESTIVALS & EVENTS
To find out what’s happening throughout the Eastern Sierra this autumn, check out this un-be-leaf-able number of events and festivals:
www.BishopVisit.com/events
www.InyoCountyVisitor.com/events
www.VisitMammoth.com/events
www.MonoCounty.org/events-to-do/events

WELCOME TO AUTUMN IN THE EASTERN SIERRA. WELCOME TO BRILLIANCE! The fall season is yet another reason why USHighway 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 through late October. Savor the drive, pull over often, park and explore...and prepare to be astonished!