

Bishop Creek Canyon Fall Color Courtesy

Many Fall Leaf Peepers experience wonderful fall colors in Bishop Creek Canyon beginning in September. During the fall season, Bishop Creek Canyon becomes congested quickly with traffic and has become worse over the last several years. The high number of guests has created unacceptable impacts and hazards that affect public safety and your outdoor experience.

This guide will allow fall color enthusiasts such as yourself to continue enjoying the outdoor color safely and respectfully while ensuring that others can enjoy their experience as well.

Considerate fall color enthusiasts do the following to reduce impacts and respect the environment:

- **Carpool With Others** – Avoid the temptation to drive with an empty vehicle up into the canyon. Carpooling is a very effective way to reduce the number of vehicles going in the canyon. It opens up more spaces to park and increases safety. Please also obey all posted speed limits and watch for deer along the roads.
- **Park Vehicles Only in Approved Turnouts** – Considerate outdoor enthusiasts park their vehicles completely in turnouts to avoid sticking out into the road and increasing congestion. Please honor “no parking” signs and do not ruin an area’s natural appearance by parking on vegetation. When you park, take up the least amount of space possible to allow others room to enjoy the area. Parking on or in the middle of the road is prohibited. Parking in the road is a hazard that diminishes the outdoor experience of all.
- **Photograph Fall Color Foliage from Safe Locations** – Setting your tripod or photographing color from the middle of the road is inappropriate and inconsiderate. It blocks traffic and is disrespectful to other users like you. To provide a safe and optimal experience for all, please photograph only along the edge of the road or beyond the edges where traffic is not affected.
- **Find Alternative Locations When the Canyon is Crowded** – When an area and its parking is crowded with color enthusiasts, please leave the area and come back when there are fewer guests and there is more parking.
- **Going to the Bathroom & Respecting Commercial Businesses in the Canyon** – There are few bathrooms open in the canyon during the fall. Finding a toilet can be difficult. Canyon businesses absorb the impact of thousands of guests who use their bathrooms. Please be considerate of the businesses and the costs they incur when you use their bathrooms. Being considerate means cleaning up after yourself when you are finished in the bathroom and purchasing an item or two from the businesses to show your respect and appreciation for their hospitality.
- **Learn to Drive the “Hair Raising” North Lake Road** – The North Lake area is one of the most exquisite fall color locations in the Eastern Sierra. Most of the roads in the BCC are paved and relatively easy drives. However, the North Lake Road is more difficult. It is a mountain dirt road carved out of the mountainside. It is steep in portions and has no guard rail along the edge, which drops off to a sheer cliff. If you desire to drive this short road, it is advised you have experience driving mountain roads. You must proceed slowly when driving this road.



*Blocking Traffic on a Fall Color Day.
Photo by M. Chevront*

Considerate drivers going downhill on this road yield the right of way to uphill traffic. This means pulling your car to the right side of the road and allow uphill traffic to safely go around you. **Trailers and Recreation Vehicles are not advisable** for this road. It is designed for shorter vehicles only.

Learn the nature of this road and review the following 10-minute movie which shows the entire road and what you can expect. You can watch it for free at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=082ndwVobs4>. You can also find it by going to You Tube and in the search field, type *“Drive up to North Lake Campground - Fall Color - Bishop, CA”*. The film will give you a clear idea of what to anticipate while driving.

If you need additional assistance, please contact the Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau at 760-873-8405 or info@bishopvisitor.com.

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