

TRAVEL

# NEVADA

2020 OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



# THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THE WATER



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# LIVE LIKE THERE'S 48 HOURS IN A DAY.



This is where America's largest alpine lake meets the Biggest Little City in the World. Here, there are no limits to the adventures you'll take, the characters you'll meet, and the trouble you'll cause. So ask yourself: How will I fill my time? Find out at [VisitRenoTahoe.com](http://VisitRenoTahoe.com).

**RenoTahoe**  
[VisitRenoTahoe.com](http://VisitRenoTahoe.com)

# GOOD TO SEE

## **WELCOME TO NEVADA, THE SILVER STATE!**

Nevada is a state of incomparable beauty, from Lake Tahoe—the largest alpine lake in North America—to the stunning red sandstone formations of the high desert.

Road trips are at the heart of the Nevada experience, and I encourage you to travel our highways and byways and see what lies beyond the bright city lights. Find yourself along “The Loneliest Road in America” and see some living examples of boom-and-bust mining towns. Visit Great Basin National Park and see nearly 5,000-year-old bristlecone pines—the oldest living organisms on Earth—for yourself. Stand under the iconic Welcome to Las Vegas sign or the equally impressive Reno Arch.

Help us celebrate the opening of the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum, the only one of its kind in the United States, when you visit Carson City. The capital city is also home to the historic U.S. Mint, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a longtime resident of this great state, I invite you to explore everything Nevada has to offer. Inside this guide, you'll find itineraries to help plan your trip and information to inspire your next vacation getaway.



**GOVERNOR  
STEVE SISOLAK**



YOU



PHOTOGRAPH: TRAVEL NEVADA

# TRAVEL NEVADA

## 2020 OFFICIAL STATE VISITORS GUIDE

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### ON THE COVER

You can just enjoy the feeling of your Nevada vacation, which is kind of like carefree glee with a giant heart backdrop. Or you can *literally* experience that at sculpture-packed Reno Playa Art Park, with Shane Pitzer's *Identity Awareness*. (Or soar, with *Scultura di Collettivo*, a Burning Man creation, seen on the back cover.)

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Jamie Kingham

# TALK TO US

ONE OF THE FUNNEST PARTS OF VACATION (ESPECIALLY IN A PLACE THAT LOOKS AS GOOD AS OURS) IS POSTING ABOUT IT. HERE'S HOW TO CONNECT WITH US—AND WITH EVERYONE ELSE.



IT'S EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY POSING FOR PICS, LIKE THIS GIRL WAS AT THE GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE.

PHOTOGRAPH Kelsie Culbertson

## KNOW STUFF

Keep yourself safe out there with road rules and other bits of general wisdom. [TravelNevada.com/plan](https://TravelNevada.com/plan)

## HEY. HI. HELLO.

We're @TravelNevada on all things social. If we love your pic, we might ask to reshare it (or print it here!) and make you all kinds of Insta-famous.

## HASH IT UP

We've got plenty of reasons to blow up your friends' social feeds. Whether it's a FOMO-inducing selfie or some serious scenery, be sure to tag your stuff. #TravelNevada is our OG—works every time! But as you flip around, watch for other ones geared directly toward your go-to passion. That way, you can rub virtual elbows with your fellow voyagers and let the rest of us live vicariously through your Silver State saga.



BURNER BYWAY



CHICKADEE RIDGE



PYRAMID LAKE



**NEVADA**

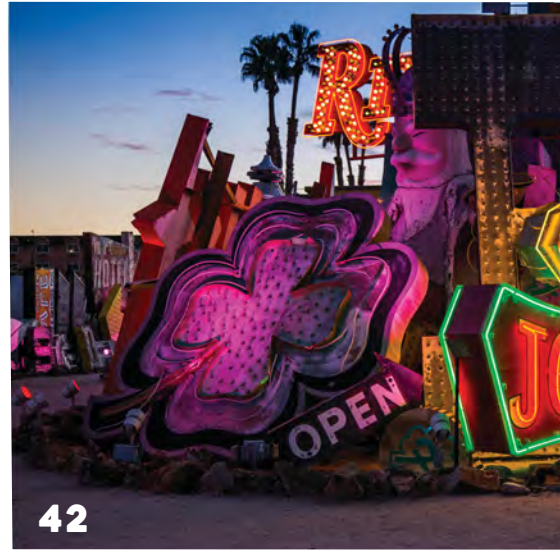
**ROAD TRIP CAPITAL OF THE USA**

Yeah, we said it. But no one else can compete with our staggering scenery, our oddball characters, our outdoor freedom, our intriguing towns, and the miles and miles of all-to-yourself roads connecting them. And we've mapped out plans to help you see all of it. To get your head around all the options, turn to page 36.

**#NVRoadTrip**



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**40 ALTITUDE ADJUSTMENT** On The Rubies Route, all roads lead someplace amazing. The centerpiece of this sparkling region is a glacier-carved range called the Ruby Mountains.

**42 AU NATUREL ADVENTURES** The Neon to Nature drive reveals much of the surprising scenery that beckons just an hour or two from the Las Vegas Strip.

**44 LAND CRUISE TO TAHOE** The Lake Tahoe Loop flaunts its vast, wet namesake, a summer paradise and winter wonderland.

**46 SACRED COWBOYS** Yes, you can still find real buckaroos here. Few routes brim with as much Western heritage as the Cowboy Corridor.

**48 ROGUE GALLERY** Who needs galleries, walls or easels? The Free-Range Art Highway exhibits some of the edgiest works ever.

**50 BURNING LOVE** The Burner Byway offers a dusty taste of the art, surreal landscapes and unmatched freedom that call burners to Reno, the Black Rock Desert and beyond.

**52 THE LONELY ROAD CLUB** The heck with *LIFE* magazine. The Loneliest Road in America is totally worth the drive—there's plenty to see and do. Come join the survivors' group.

**54 E.T., DRIVE HOME** Channel agents Mulder and Scully from *The X-Files* as you search for the truth on the Extraterrestrial Highway.

**56 LARGE AS LIFE** The Death Drive covers starkly beautiful landscapes, eerie haunts and refreshing oases for a life-affirming experience.





## FEATURES

**CIVILIZATION AND DESOLATION  
POWER NEVADA'S UNIQUE  
CHEMISTRY. THESE JOURNEYS  
PUT YOU IN YOUR ELEMENT.**

**58 DO YOU KNOW RENO?** Bet it's not what you think. The city of smoky casinos and quickie divorces now draws art-lovers and outdoor types who seek upward mobility,

**64 GO PLAY OUTSIDE** Sorry Shakespeare: All of Nevada's a playground, and all who visit are players. It's a place for boots and boats, wheels and reels, boards and cords.

**72 TURN ME ON, NEON** When you think about Nevada, neon signs are probably one of the first things you picture. But in this era of higher-tech lighting, genuine neon is getting harder to find. We'll show you where it is.

**76 WHERE THE GHOSTS LIVE** Let these Nevada ghost towns be a lesson: All we do crumbles. It's poignant, really, to see what's left of homes, stores, saloons, jails and churches. And a little spooky to visit graveyards and feel spirits.

**80 VEGAS 7 WAYS** We tried to cover Las Vegas without a big gambling reference, and look what happened—we found seven sides to the city: shopping, culture, family fare, food, vintage vibes, avant-garde and sports. Just lucky, right?

**90 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL** If you're not careful, you and your kids may learn something on your Nevada vacation. Subjects include astronomy, history, engineering, fine arts and forensic science. And don't forget recess.

**94 STONE AGE** The *Seven Magic Mountains* art installation south of Vegas has quickly become one of the state's top attractions. Its limited run has been extended temporarily, but you'd better see it while you can.

**96 POWDER YOUR FACE** Do you want to build a snowman? Nevada's more *Mad Max* than *Frozen*, but Tahoe's mountain rim gets enough powder to support world-class skiing. And other spots (like Vegas) offer ways to play in the snow.

## PLANNING GUIDE

**READY TO VISIT? HERE'S EVERYTHING ELSE YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT NEVADA ... THAT WOULDN'T FIT IN THE FIRST 100 PAGES.**

**104 EVENTS**

**114 MUSEUMS**

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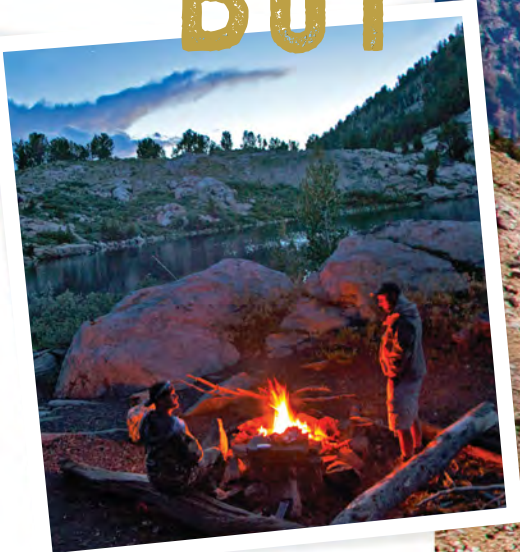
**120 PARKS**

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NOWHERE  
BUT



NEVADA

**IF YOU TOOK A FAMILY PHOTO OF ALL 50 STATES, WE WOULD BE THE ONE STICKING OUR TONGUE OUT—IT'S THAT WHOLE MAVERICK THING. SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A VACATION THAT'S IRRESISTIBLY DIFFERENT (OR IF YOU WERE THAT CHEEKY KID YOURSELF), WELCOME TO NEVADA. WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG GREAT.**





PHOTOGRAPH: LARRY N. YOUNG

**LIBERTY LAKE, THE RUBY MOUNTAINS**

**SOUTHEAST OF ELKO**

Named for the garnets found by early explorers, the Rubies still hold treasures—like priceless views of Liberty Lake and the ranges beyond.

To get here, follow Ruby Crest Trail from Lamoille Canyon to Liberty Pass. You may want to stay all night.



**NATIONAL  
COWBOY  
POETRY  
GATHERING**

**ELKO**

Poems on the range. Buckaroo bards keep the meter running as thousands come to hear cowboy culture celebrated in verse, story and song.

> See "Events," p. 104.



**ANCIENT  
BRISTLECONE  
PINES**

**GREAT BASIN  
NATIONAL PARK**

These trees are gnarly, dude. Literally. And they're the oldest on the planet—still alive after 5,000 years in thin air, rough soil, extreme cold and intense heat.

> See "Rock Star Parking," p. 38.



**BLACK ROCK  
DESERT**

**NEAR GERLACH**

Need some alone time? Well, here's 1.2 million acres with few signs of humans (except during Burning Man). The vast, flat playa blows your mind.

➤ See "Burning Love," p. 50.

**INTERNATIONAL  
CAMEL AND  
OSTRICH RACES**

**VIRGINIA CITY**

It's hump day all weekend at this tradition dating to the 1950s. BTW, are female camel jockeys dromedary queens?

➤ See "Events," p. 104.



**FLY GEYSER**

**NEAR GERLACH**

Pics of this freaky formation look so obviously photoshopped that people think it's not for real. Snopes.com has to rebut the cries of "fake spews." See for yourself.

➤ See "Burning Love," p. 50.



◀ **COFFINWOOD PAHRUMP**

As seen in *Better Funeral Homes and Gardens* (not a real magazine), this private residence is a showroom for Coffin It Up, a real burial-box business. Call to arrange a visit-ation. [▶ See "Large as Life," p. 56.](#)

**TAHOE RIM AND FLUME TRAIL INCLINE VILLAGE**

This is an Epic ride. That's no travel-guide hype: It's an official label from the International Mountain Bicycling Association. The 165-mile loop draws hikers and horses (with riders), too. [▶ See "Go Play Outside," p. 64.](#)

⬆ **RHYOLITE GHOST TOWN NEAR BEATTY**

When the gold rush ended, people ghosted. One of the coolest remnants left behind is Tom Kelly's bottle house, built with 50,000 medicine, beer and whiskey bottles. [▶ See "Where the Ghosts Live," p. 76.](#)



PHOTOGRAPH: (CAR FOREST) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY

**INTERNATIONAL  
CAR FOREST  
OF THE LAST  
CHURCH**

**GOLDFIELD**

Master cylinders inspire masterpieces from artists Chad Sorg and Mark Rippie at this gallery of old autos. Some are "planted" like trees, others stacked precariously as if for a game of junkyard Jenga.

➤ See "Rogue Gallery," p. 48.

**NIGHT SKIES**

**TONOPAH,**

**GREAT BASIN  
NATIONAL PARK,  
MASSACRE RIM**

The stars at night are big and bright far from light pollution. Massacre Rim in Washoe County was just named the world's seventh Dark Sky Sanctuary.

➤ See "Rock Star Parking," p. 38.

**BASECAMP**

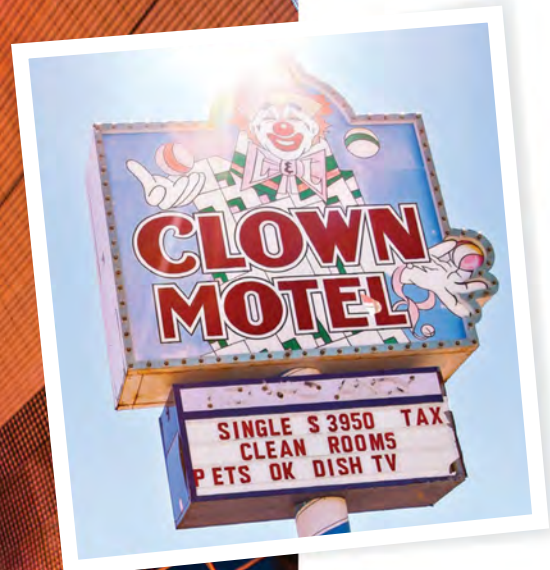
**RENO**

If your daily routine has you ready to climb the walls, practice the real thing at this bouldering park, then scale the world's tallest outdoor climbing wall.

➤ See "Do You Know Reno?" p. 58.

**#WEIRDNEVADA**

Yes, our state is, pardon the anagram, wired weird. Share odd shots on Instagram.



**CLOWN MOTEL**  
**TONOPAH**

If it were part of a lodging chain, it could be the Merry-ott (or the Scary-ott). The Red Nose Inn. The Eek!-ono Lodge. The Double E (shoe width) Inn. Discuss. *> See "Rogue Gallery," p. 48.*



**FREMONT STREET EXPERIENCE**  
**LAS VEGAS**

The city's first paved street is now a ped mall that's not at all pedestrian. Think zipline, shark tank, massive video screen and 16 bajillion lights—roughly one per nightly visitor. *> See "Turn Me On, Neon," p. 72.*

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FREMONT) RYAN DONNELL; (CLOWN) KAITLYN GODBEE YOUNG/TRAVEL NEVADA



In a land of diverse terrain and sun-kissed beauty, is a place where you can slow down.  
Here, in our oasis, awaits a treasure trove of unforgettable moments.

# Fallon, Nevada

TAKE YOUR JOURNEY WITH US.



# GEM-DANDY ROCKHOUNDING

NEVADA LEADS THE COUNTRY IN GOLD AND SILVER, BUT KEEP DIGGING: THESE HILLS ALSO YIELD A RAINBOW OF PRECIOUS AND SEMIPRECIOUS GEMS.



If you're a rockhound, Nevada will have you crying eureka all the time. Take the family on a rockhounding trip. The price is right (free in most cases), and the kids will love a nature-made scavenger hunt. To get started, grab a guide (we like the Falcon books), a map (phones are not always reliable) and a few tools, such as a rock hammer, garden fork and squirt bottle. And bring a container for your swag.

## EXPLORE Turquoise Shops

### LITTLE BLUEBIRD TURQUOISE *Austin*

Find a vivid selection of rings in shades from grass greens to deep blues.

### ERICK BEGAY NATIVE AMERICAN JEWELRY *Boulder City*

Browse the artist's signature turquoise-and-pearl designs.

### OTTESON BROTHERS TURQUOISE *Tonopah*

Tour their mines and dig for your own pieces. They'll cut the best ones for free.

### GARNET MERCANTILE *Ely*

Shop authentic American Indian arts and crafts, including beautiful rings and necklaces.

# 4 Seasons of ELY, NV

## ANNUAL EVENTS

**Fire & Ice Festival**  
JANUARY

**Birkebeiner XC Ski & Fat Bike Race**  
JANUARY

**Rotary Ice Fishing Derby**  
JANUARY

**Ely Film Festival**  
MARCH

**Silver State Classic Challenge**  
MAY & SEPTEMBER

**Fears, Tears & Beers MTB Enduro**  
JUNE

**White Pine Fair & Horse Races**  
AUGUST

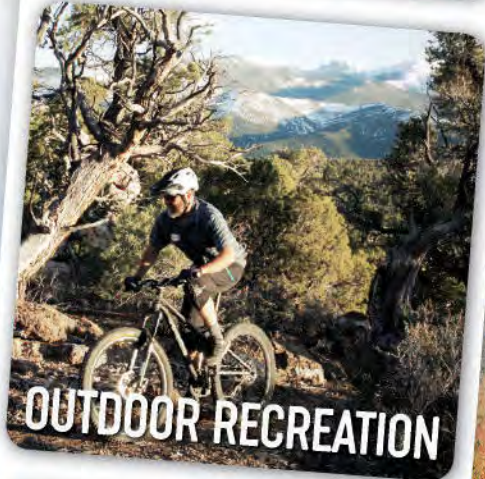
**Race the Rails**  
SEPTEMBER

**Astronomy Festival**  
SEPTEMBER

**Festival of Trees**  
DECEMBER

**Gateway to the  
Great Basin**

[www.elynevada.net](http://www.elynevada.net)  
[www.greatbasinheritage.org](http://www.greatbasinheritage.org)





### GARNETS

Known around the world for its cache of the dark red gemstones, **Garnet Hill** near Ely offers pickers guaranteed access. It's an official rockhounding site, and your odds of finding the gems are legit. Use a rock hammer to break up the rhyolite rock, dig around with a shovel or simply search the ground for gems while enjoying the scent of piñon pines and views of the nearby copper mine.

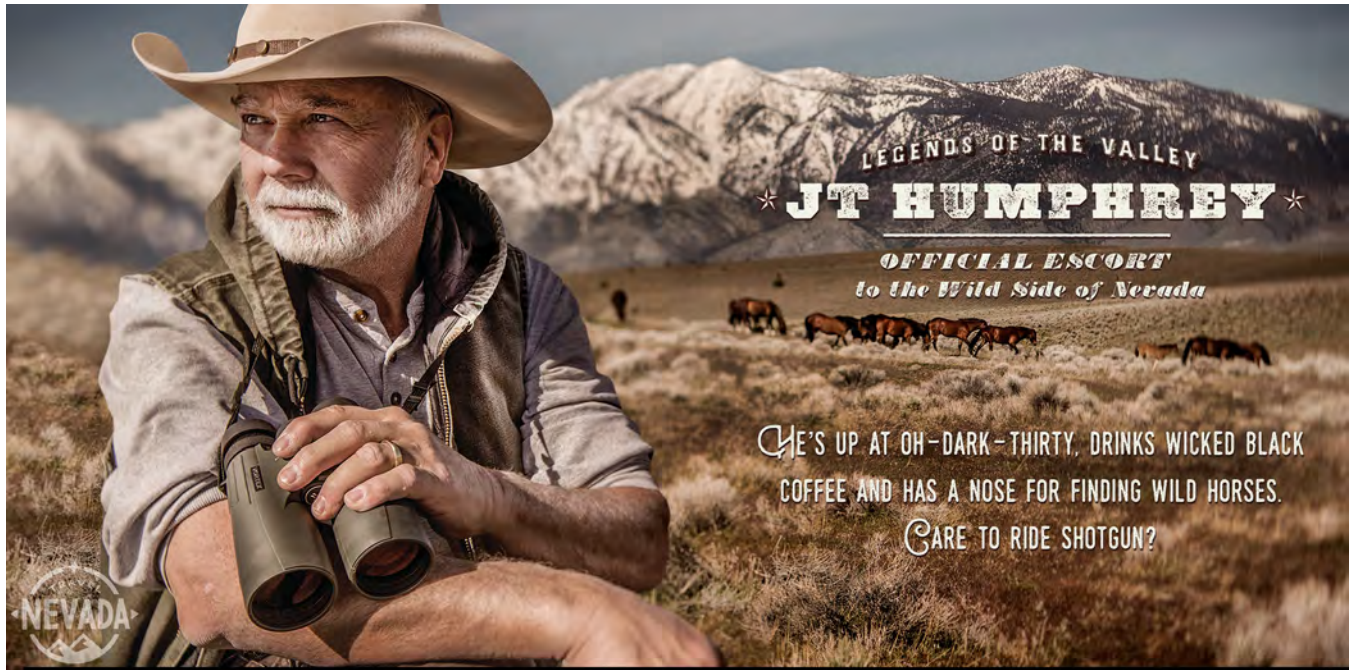


**FYI**  
You can take home rocks and gems from organized digs, but it's illegal to remove fossils, arrowheads and other cultural items.



### OPALS

You wouldn't expect to find opals in the desert, but northwest Nevada's Virgin Valley holds the state's official precious gemstone—black fire opal—plus opalized wood and opalite. For premium glasslike stones, visit one of the area's pay-to-pick mines. Dig in at **Royal Peacock Opal Mines** in Denio, search for opalized pinecones and more prizes at **Bonanza Opal Mines** in Humboldt County, or sift tailings at **Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine**.



LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY

★ **JT HUMPHREY** ★

OFFICIAL ESCORT  
to the Wild Side of Nevada

HE'S UP AT OH-DARK-THIRTY, DRINKS WICKED BLACK  
COFFEE AND HAS A NOSE FOR FINDING WILD HORSES.  
CARE TO RIDE SHOTGUN?



WHILE CERTAIN OTHER PLACES IN NEVADA ARE JUST WINDING DOWN AROUND 6 AM, JT HUMPHREY IS ROLLING OUT. IN TOW ARE PHOTOGRAPHERS, BIOLOGISTS AND A TRUCKLOAD OF THE TERMINALLY CURIOUS WHO FEEL A DAY ENCOUNTERING EAGLES, MUSTANGS AND PETROGLYPHS TRUMPS A FULL HOUSE AND THE JOY OF BINGO. UNTIL LATER TONIGHT, THAT IS. SUCH IS THE PACE OF CARSON VALLEY, WHERE LIFE IS SERVED COMFORTABLY RAW.

  
**CARSON VALLEY**  
NEVADA

VisitCarsonValley.org

# VISIT THE COWBOY ARTS & GEAR MUSEUM

Showcasing the rich history, culture and traditions of the Cowboy of the American West – connecting the past to the present. The museum presents the deep-rooted heritage of ranching and cowboy lifestyles through exhibits, demonstrations and programs.

Historic customs, leather stamping classes and workshops, silver engraving demonstrations, rawhide braiding classes and other cowboy skills are featured at the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



**Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum**

775-389-1713 | cowboyartsandgearmuseum.org

542 Commercial St. Elko, Nevada 89801



# CUE THE BANDS

POP STARS AT THE BIG CASINOS MAKE STARSTRUCK FANS SWOON. BUT FOR LIVE MUSIC WITH MORE GRIT THAN GLITZ, FOLLOW LOCALS TO THEIR SECRET STASHES OF STAGES.

WRITERS Jess Hoffert and Gary Thompson



## RENO REVERB

Need a makeover? Get tat and hair ideas at **Jub Jub's Thirst Parlor**, part bar (with pool and pinball), part stage for metal, hip-hop and all things loud. Grab the mic on Monday's Shitty Jukebox Karaoke night and get your drink at half-price. Hang with woke folk at **The Holland Project**, an all-ages and all-genres art gallery and live music spot that promotes inclusivity. No hate, alcohol or drugs. The stage setup makes performers and crowd feel as one. They tap beers and toes at

**The Saint**, a Midtown place that serves its own brews with dancing and live music from emerging local artists and national acts on stage. The music gets Loud As Folk on the first Thursday of every month at **Pignic Pub and Patio** (a Victorian home-turned-bar and music venue), where an exuberant host spotlights local and touring songwriters. Grill your own grub or choose your favorite film or music reference off the menu of the Pig Shack Eatery, their perma-parked kitchen trailer.

**ABOVE** Run by volunteers, **The Holland Project** in Reno is an art gallery in front and a music venue in back.

**OPPOSITE, TOP** *Rolling Stone* says the San Francisco music scene really started in Nevada—at the Red Dog Saloon in Virginia City.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM** **The Bunkhouse Saloon** is considered to be one of the best spots in Las Vegas to see both on-the-rise bands and established artists. It's also known as a place where you can get super close to the acts while they're on stage.

**MIDDLE-OF-NOWHERE MECCAS**

Hear bands play country, classic rock, jazz and more at the **Red Dog Saloon** in Virginia City, an old mining town. Hippie/psychedelic rockers like Janis Joplin performed here in the 1960s. Open Mic night is every Wednesday. Elko's **Duncan LittleCreek Gallery** has that multitasking thing down to, well, an art. It's an architect's office, art gallery, inn, bar and live music venue (most weekends). Rising singer-songwriters and bands put their fresh twists on folk, rock and blues in the

DLC's Gallery Bar. You won't get robbed at Boulder City's **The Dillinger**—named for the gangster who knocked off banks—during weekends. The live music is free and open to all ages. Shotgun door handles adorn the 1940s building, an old Bank of Nevada location. Good luck dropping a famous name that doesn't have some connection to **Genoa Bar and Saloon**, Nevada's oldest watering hole (built in 1853 and still going). The place doesn't hold many people inside, but the porch anchors outdoor parties with live music.



**HIDDEN VEGAS VENUES**

The Smith Center's epic Reynolds Hall hosts Broadway shows and big-ticket concerts, but it's the center's 240-seat **Myron's Cabaret Jazz** that lures locals to chill with cocktails and cool live music in a classy setting. Hidden by a record-store entrance, multiroom **On the Record** (at the Park MGM) celebrates the music biz with a cassette-tape wall and mic light fixtures. DJs and live acts provide tunes. It's a good place for celeb sightings too. **The Bunkhouse Saloon** opened in 1953 yet keeps a low profile downtown. Despite the cowboy name, the place features bands from all over the rock spectrum (or outside it), plus great sound and lighting. Far from the Strip (and easy to miss), **The Sand Dollar Lounge** carries on a serious blues legacy—B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Mick Jagger used to prowl here. Enjoy the live blues, cocktails, pizza and lack of pretension (men's room sign: Please Do Not Puke in Urinals).

**WE CREATE A SPACE FOR ORIGINAL MUSIC OF ALL KINDS, A SCENE FOR LOCAL MUSICIANS AND NATIONAL TOURING ACTS.**

**BRIGDON MARKWARD, MUSIC DIRECTOR, THE HOLLAND PROJECT**



**TUNE IN Vegas Music Fests**

**ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL**  
May  
Nonstop EDM at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Lights, pyro, costumes.

**PUNK ROCK BOWLING AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
May  
Strike a pose. Pins, piercings and pool parties downtown.

**PSYCHO LAS VEGAS**  
August  
Metalhead masses bang their heads at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL**  
September  
A-list pop and rap stars, fine art, and world-class food meet downtown.

**IHEARTRADIO MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
September  
Chart-toppers in all genres play at night; rising stars perform by day.

# NATIVE SOIL

**NATIVE PEOPLE KNOW NEVADA BEST—THEY’VE LIVED IN THE GREAT BASIN FOR AT LEAST 13,000 YEARS. GET A FEEL FOR THIS VIBRANT HERITAGE AT CULTURAL CENTERS, PETROGLYPH SITES AND POWWOWS.**



**STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM CARSON CITY**

Opened in 1890, the school was one of many created to uphold “assimilation.” Thousands of American Indian children were forced to attend and learn Euro-American customs and vocational skills.

Stewart’s history is complex. Children were taken away from their parents. Students who went to the school in the early years had harsh experiences. They were cut off from their families, language and culture.

Government and school policies did improve. Some alumni from the 1950s and later years loved Stewart. By the 1970s, there was a waiting list to get in.

Great Basin Native artist Melissa Melero-Moose, whose mother and grandparents attended Stewart, says it’s a bittersweet story: “Strong friendships were made at the school, and it became a second home. My mother talks about her good memories. She wants people to learn about this era in history.”

A cultural center opening in 2020 includes recorded alumni voices, band

uniforms, student art, sports jerseys and a 1966 state championship basketball. The colorful locally quarried stone buildings on campus were built by students who learned from Hopi stonemasons.

The **Stewart Father’s Day Powwow** is just one of Nevada’s American Indian celebrations. In midsummer, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe hosts the **Sacred Visions Powwow**. On Labor Day weekend, the **Numaga Indian Days Powwow** takes place in Hungry Valley. In November, the **Pahrump Social Powwow** brings together members of tribes from all over the West.

**ABOVE** The Numaga Indian Days Powwow features some of the country’s best American Indian dancers, singers and drummers. Vendors offer traditional native foods and handcrafted art, including silverwork, beadwork and baskets.

PHOTOGRAPH: LARRY BURTON



Visit... **TONOPAH**  
#1 Stargazing Destination

**ANNUAL EVENTS**




50th Anniversary of Jim Butler Days, Nevada State Mining Championships, Summer Rodeo, Blacksmithing Classes, Ghost Walks, Star Parties, Dance Festival, Arts Festival

**PLACES TO VISIT**

Tonopah Historic Mining Park, Central Nevada Museum, Stargazing Park, Tonopah Speedway, Historic Downtown, Mizpah Hotel (Voted #1 Haunted Hotel in the US), Old Cemetery next to the Clown Motel

Find out how to help preserve Tonopah's history:  
[www.TonopahMiningPark.com](http://www.TonopahMiningPark.com)



[TonopahNevada.com](http://TonopahNevada.com) or 775-482-6336   



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**RESORT**  
LAKE TAHOE

800.23.TAHOE • [ZephyrCove.com](http://ZephyrCove.com)



**YOUR FRONT ROW SEAT  
TO YEAR-ROUND FUN!**

Quaint lake-side cabins, multiple dining options, and endless activities entice our guests to come back to Zephyr Cove Resort year after year for their Lake Tahoe vacation. Zephyr Cove Resort activities include M.S. Dixie II paddle-wheeler cruises, marina activities, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.





**LOST CITY MUSEUM** **OVERTON**

Archaeological digs in the 1920s uncovered the Lost City, home to Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) people who dwelled in pit houses and pueblos from 300 B.C. to A.D. 1350. But in the 1930s, this remarkable discovery was nearly drowned by Lake Mead, its waters rising behind the newly constructed Hoover Dam. As water seeped into the valley, archaeologists dug up cultural items—tools, pottery, baskets, beads and turquoise pendants—that are now on display, along with black-and-white photos documenting the excavation. You can also peer into an authentic pit house or view a reconstructed pueblo cluster.

**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM'S BASKETRY VAULT** **CARSON CITY**

Tucked in a climate-controlled vault are roughly 3,000 American Indian basketry items, including water bottles, trays, hats and duck decoys. The cache features 19 baskets made by famed Washoe weaver Dat So La Lee. Her meticulously crafted pieces, woven between 1896 and 1925 in Carson City and Lake Tahoe, helped ignite the early 20th-century "basket craze," a bustling trade fueled by eager collectors as part of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

American Indian baskets are still a coveted commodity. Curator of Cultural Collections Anna Camp says today's collectors "would pay close to \$1 million for a Dat So La Lee basket." Public tours of the basketry vault are held on the last Friday of every month, but visitors can also request a private tour.

**BE RESPECTFUL**  
Help preserve this history for future generations—don't touch the petroglyphs.

**PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER** **NIXON**

Cobalt Pyramid Lake—often called the West's most beautiful desert lake—is marked by starkly gorgeous tufa formations, including The Pyramid's conical mound and the Stone Mother, which looks like a shrouded Native woman seated next to an open basket. On the lake's treeless shoreline, a striking Hopi-designed stone museum houses exhibits explaining the lake's significance to the Paiute people.

**ABOVE** Tour a village of replica ancient pueblo dwellings at the Lost City Museum in Overton.

**LEFT** Dollmaking is one of the tribal traditions celebrated at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitors Center in Nixon. The late Dennis Numkena, a renowned Hopi architect, designed the unique structure.



**EXPLORE Ancient Sites**

**GRIMES POINT** *southeast of Fallon*  
View ancient drawings: symbols etched in boulders centuries ago.

**HIDDEN CAVE** *near Grimes Point*  
Indigenous people stored a trove of baskets, tools and arrowpoints here.

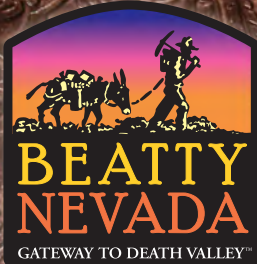
**LOVELOCK CAVE** *south of Lovelock*  
First opened to the public in 1912, it yielded 20,000 artifacts.

**TOQUIMA CAVE** *near Austin*  
Western Shoshone artists painted images 1,500-plus years ago.

**HICKISON PETROGLYPH RECREATION AREA** *near Austin*  
Hike to prehistoric art and epic views.

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## A STEP BACK INTO THE OLD WEST.

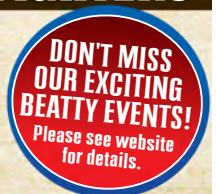


## GHOST TOWNS & GUNFIGHTERS

[BEATTY/RHYOLITE] From reenactments of old west shootouts along the streets of Beatty to the eerie silence of the Ghost Town of Rhyolite, you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time, to the days when outlaws like Billy the Kid ran amok. However, the gunslingers that walk these streets today are just having fun and you'll find nothing but friendly folks and plenty of adventure to be had.

ONLY 7 MILES FROM THE ENTRANCE TO DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK.

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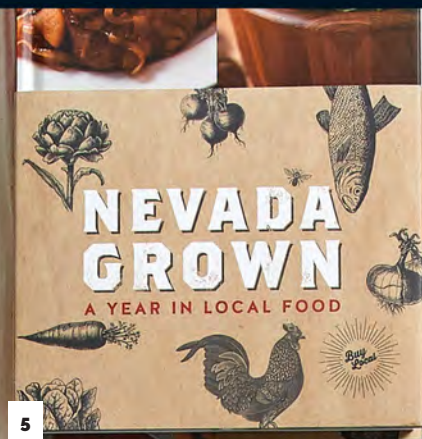
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1

2

3



5



6



7

# SWAG BRAG

SURE, TAKE HOME A T-SHIRT AND AN OVERSIZED NOVELTY COCKTAIL VESSEL OR TWO. BUT ALSO SNAG A SOUVENIR THAT'LL HAVE YOU TELLING PEOPLE, "YEAH, IT'S SO GREAT, RIGHT? I FOUND IT ON MY NEVADA TRIP."

**OLD FASHION**  
Each Great Basin hat is custom-fitted using antique hatters equipment.

4

**1 LETTERPRESS PRINT** Unframed linocut *Mount Rose Springtime Sunset* by Meridian Press, Reno. \$190.  
**2, 11 ROLL-ON PERFUMES AND SLEEP SALVE** Naturally scented botanical finds from Pantry Products, Reno.

\$12 each for perfume; \$16 for salve.  
**3, 14 HAND-TOOLED PURSE AND SILVER SPURS** Customizable, one-of-a-kind bag or traditional Garcia spurs from legendary outfitter J.M. Capriola Co., Elko. \$575 for bag; \$475 for spurs.



10



11



12

**LAND CRUISER**  
Designer-illustrator  
Haleigh Hoff gets  
inspiration from spots  
like Lake Tahoe, curvy  
image at left.

9



8



Roping

3/9

Deon

**4 BEAVER FELT HAT** Custom-fit topper in The Willow style from The Great Basin Hat Company, Elko. \$500–\$750, based on felt quality.

**5 NEVADA COOKBOOK** The state's flavors in *Nevada Grown: A Year in Local Food*. \$19.95.

**6 ELK IVORY COPPER BRACELET** By KH Designs Jewelry, Elko. \$500.

**7 SMALL-BATCH GIN** From local grains by Bently Heritage Distillery, Minden. \$40.

**8 AMARO CANNELLA** Italian-inspired herbal liqueur from Ferino Distillery, Reno. \$40.

**9 TURQUOISE PENDANT** Silver Nevada-shape bauble by Jonathan Austin. \$211.

**10 WOOL YARN** Naturally dyed skeins from Lani's Lana Fine Rambouillet Wool, Gerlach. \$22–\$30.

**12 GRAPHIC STICKERS** Waterproof geographic designs from Hoff Goods, Reno. \$4.

**13 PHOTO PRINT** Black-and-white *Roping* image by Deon Reynolds, Carson City. Prices vary by size.

**13 WIDE-ANGLE WRANGLER** A 1990s disposable plastic panorama camera was used to deliver maximum grit.



14

27



# DAY AT THE MUSEUM

**WHETHER YOU'RE MORE CHOO-CHOO OR FROUFROU, NEVADA'S SEVEN STATE MUSEUMS DELIGHT WITH FASCINATING RELICS AND LORE.**



## **NEVADA STATE MUSEUM**

### **CARSON CITY**

In the former U.S. Branch Mint, learn the state's backstory all the way from prehistoric times. The Natural History collection includes a mammoth whose bones were found on the Black Rock Desert (before Burning Man) and an ichthyosaur that swam in an ancient Nevadan sea.

**DON'T MISS** See the Mint's Coin Press No. 1 in action—it still works (producing pure-silver replicas), 150 years after the mint opened in 1870. Celebrate the sesquicentennial with events all year long.

### **LIMITED EDITION COIN**

Buy the museum's 1870 CC Liberty Half Dollar replica, struck on Coin Press No. 1.



## **EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM**

### **ELY**

Revisit the era of the Nevada Northern Railway, which served a copper mine west of Ely and was a boon to the entire area. The Depot looks virtually the same as it did a century ago. Stand at the CFO's desk and see handwritten payroll records from the 1920s, plus original train tickets and a vintage ticket punch.

**DON'T MISS** The adjacent Nevada Northern Railway Foundation offers guided tours of the rail yards and shops, plus seasonal excursion trains.

VISIT THAT  
CRAZY OLD TOWN...

STEP BACK IN TIME  
Virginia City

[visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com)



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SOMETHING IN THE WATER

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**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM**

**BOULDER CITY**

The museum preserves the legacy of railroading in southern Nevada, where the Union Pacific Railroad built the Boulder City Branch in 1931 to haul the tons of equipment and material needed to build Hoover Dam. See working diesel and static steam locomotives; passenger, baggage, and postal cars; and cabooses.

**DON'T MISS**

Ride in a refurbished (and air-conditioned) 110-year-old Pullman car. Trips cover a 5-mile route along the original Boulder Branch Line and take 45 minutes. Enjoy views of the Eldorado Valley and Mojave Desert.

**NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**RENO**

The state's oldest cultural institution is home to the American Gaming Archives, a collection of gambling manufacturers' equipment (like early slot machines), research materials and ephemera (chips, playing cards, ashtrays). The Reno Gallery celebrates many of the city's iconic moments, characters, institutions and structures. (Yes, there's some neon.) The research library is a resource for casual history buffs and scholars alike.

**DON'T MISS** Priceless woven willow baskets by legendary Washoe Tribal member Dat So La Lee.

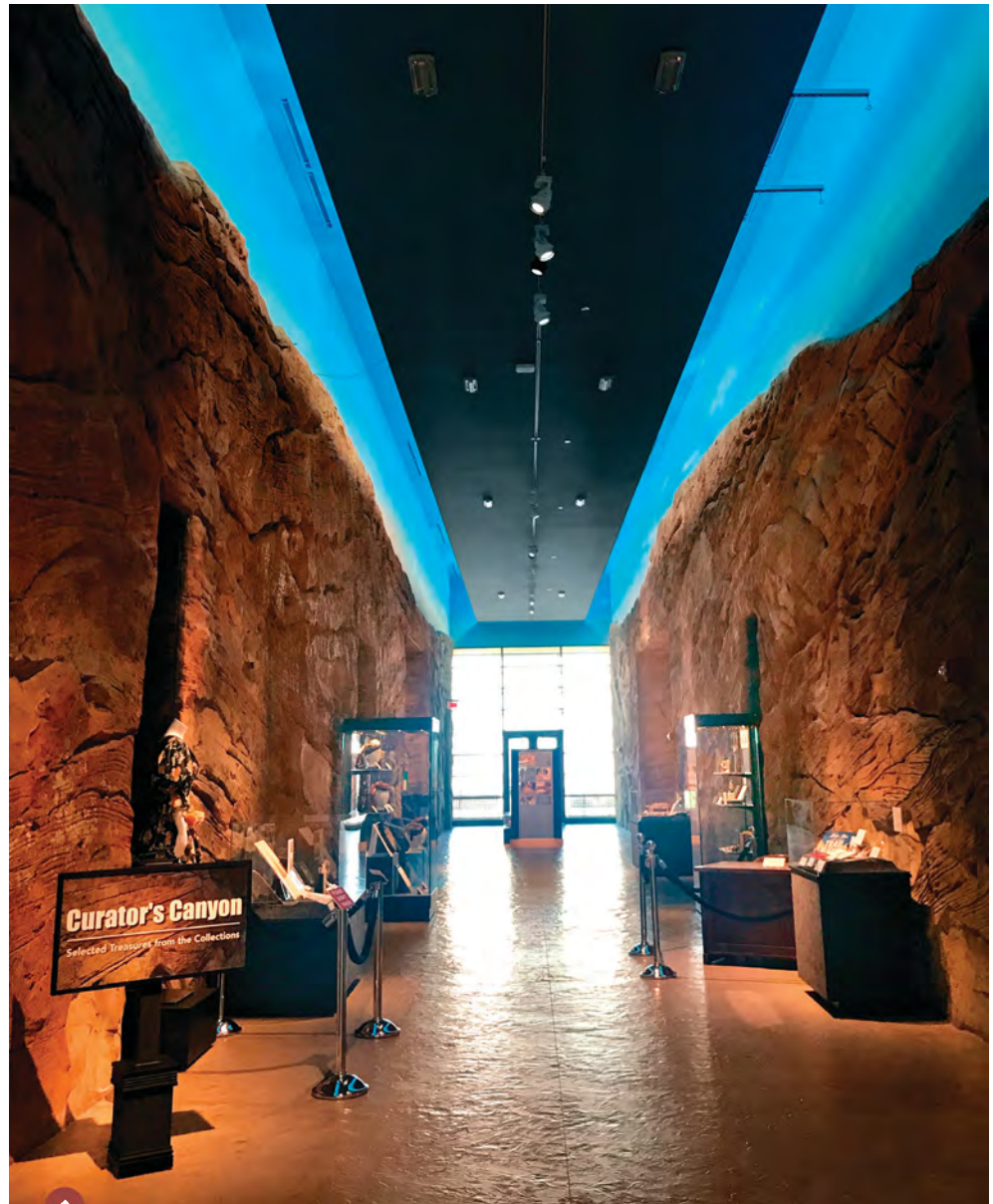
**LOST CITY MUSEUM**

**OVERTON**

Built atop an actual archaeological dig site, the museum tells dual stories of ancient times and the 20th century, when the building of Hoover Dam changed the face of a wide swath of southern Nevada. The museum celebrates the history of ancient Puebloans through artifacts such as stone tools, arrowheads and basketry.

**DON'T MISS**

The center of the Fay Perkins Gallery, the largest of the museum's exhibition halls, displays part of the actual 1930s excavation site.



**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM**

**LAS VEGAS**

Natural and human history meet. Yes, you'll see paleontological fossils, including a *mammoth* mammoth on display, but also follies fossils, like the 8,000-piece *Folies Bergère* costume archive from an early Vegas cabaret show that ran for 49 years at the Tropicana.

**DON'T MISS**

Also on the Showgirl Wall: original *Jubilee!* design renderings alongside actual stage costumes. *Jubilee!* was a wardrobe-heavy revue at Bally's that had a 34-year run.

**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM**

**CARSON CITY**

See restored and fully operational steam locomotives from 1875, including the narrow-gauge Glenbrook and the standard-gauge Inyo (seen on TV's *The Wild, Wild West*). Seasonal train rides depart from restored Wabuska Station.

**DON'T MISS**

The 1910 McKeen Motor Car, a National Historic Landmark, is the only McKeen railcar still moving on its own power.



# BREAK OUTSIDE OF THE NORM

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# WIDE OPEN Spaces



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It's time to get out of the city. This is Real Nevada, where you can discover natural beauty, go off-road, hike some trails, fish, camp, find a quaint out of the way diner or even explore some old Nevada history. So come visit us out here, where the opportunities for getting back to reality are wide open.

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*it's human nature*

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north lake tahoe  
it's human nature

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800.824.6348  
Mon - Sat | 8:30am - 5pm  
Sunday | 9am - 5pm



# MAXED

NEVADA AND STRONG COCKTAILS GO TOGETHER LIKE GIN AND TONIC. TRY STIFF SIPS FROM TOP BARS, THEN TOUR THE STATE'S SPIRITED DISTILLERIES.

# DRINKS

**GET BUZZED**  
Jalapeño-infused honey syrup, gin and lemon juice give this Prohibition-era classic a real sting.



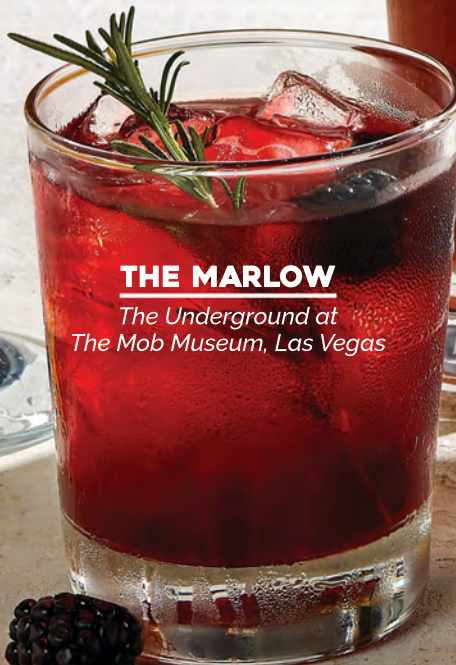
## **THE BEE'S KNEES**

*The Underground at The Mob Museum, Las Vegas*



## **BUNKER HILL BLOODY MARY**

*Lucky Spur Saloon, Kingston*



## **THE MARLOW**

*The Underground at The Mob Museum, Las Vegas*

**FULLY LOADED**  
This one's named for a famous rifle made in 1882 and found under a juniper tree in 2014.

**THE FORGOTTEN WINCHESTER**

*Kerouac's, Baker*

**PICON PUNCH**

*Louis' Basque Corner, Reno*

**WHIP IT GOOD**  
Feel comfortably numb after a dose of Dole Whip served with rum, OJ, pineapple and coconut cream.

**PAINKILLER**

*The Golden Tiki, Las Vegas*

**TRUST ME, I'M A BARTENDER**

*Bite, Incline Village*



## BANANA BATIDA

The Golden Tiki, Las Vegas

PHOTOGRAPHS: (DRINKS) MARTY BALDWIN, (TIKI) COURTESY OF THE GOLDEN TIKI SALOON; COURTESY OF LUCKY SPUR SALOON



THE GOLDEN TIKI, LAS VEGAS

### KEROUAC'S, BAKER

The Stargazer Inn's on-site restaurant makes drinks as refined as the food—think scratch-made American artisan pizza and the Dharma Bum Burger (named for a Jack Kerouac book). The Forgotten Winchester is a high-caliber take on a Bourbon Smash.

### LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER, RENO

This is one home of the unofficial state drink, Picon Punch, a bitter Basque tradition made with Torani Amer, an orangey aperitif inspired by French Amer Picon. J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room in Gardnerville is famous for its version too. Recipes vary.

### THE GOLDEN TIKI, LAS VEGAS

Fancy cocktails are a dime a dozen in Vegas (BTW, a gambler's dime is \$1,000), but the Tiki's tropicals are worth the coin. Entering the place feels like you're in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, so you might as well order a Painkiller or Banana Batida, both made with Dole Whip, the Disney frozen treat.

### THE UNDERGROUND AT THE MOB MUSEUM, LAS VEGAS

Enjoy Prohibition-era drinks in a dark, secretive speakeasy. The Bee's Knees is a dance-inspired cocktail with a jalapeño-honey kick, while The Marlow is a sexy sip that pairs bourbon and sultry sherry.

### BITE, INCLINE VILLAGE

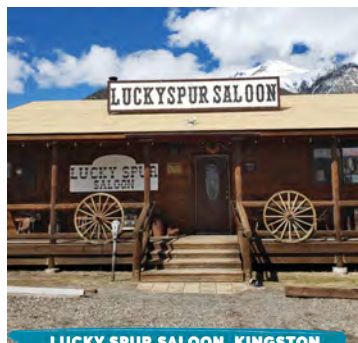
There's serious food and drink inside this North Lake Tahoe spot. Who can resist a drink called Trust Me, I'm a Bartender (a bourbon-based mélange with Bénédictine liqueur and bitters)?

### DEATH AND TAXES PROVISIONS AND SPIRITS, RENO

This sophisticated cocktail lounge offers innovative drinks and a large selection of rare and allocated spirits. Featured cocktails are Death and Taxes, Old Fashioned (with Moroccan spiced sugar and tobacco bitters), and The Black Gates (powered by gunpowder green tea bourbon).

### LUCKY SPUR SALOON, KINGSTON

Come for serious pool, a heated patio and frequent drink specials, such as Bunker Hill Bloody Marys on Sundays.



LUCKY SPUR SALOON, KINGSTON

### DUNCAN LITTLE CREEK GALLERY, ELKO

Lots of wines and microbeers, plus craft cocktails that'll tingle the old swizzle stick. Try Nectar of the Gods (mango vodka, cranberry juice, orange juice and lime), To Wong Foo (gin, homemade rosemary simple syrup, lemon, grapefruit juice and cherry) or the Peach Singe (with cinnamon tequila).

### SIERRA ST. KITCHEN AND COCKTAILS, RENO

You can't refuse the infused-spirit cocktails, including a Beet Martini (beet-infused vodka) and a Bourbon Bramble (blackberry).

## DISTILLERIES

### Frey Ranch Estate Distillery, Fallon

Every stage of making spirits happens on-site. Free tours and tastings on Saturdays.

### Bently Heritage Estate Distillery, Minden

It's in a century-old flour mill. Tour historic buildings and sample premium spirits.

### Seven Troughs Distilling Company, Sparks

Slow 19th-century methods produce small-batch spirits worth waiting for.

### Verdi Local Distillery, Verdi

*Esquire* says this humble spot full of character(s) makes the state's best whiskey.

### Las Vegas Distillery, Henderson

A tour spills secrets. Tastings open up their whole liquor cabinet, plus raw moonshine.

### Ferino Distillery, Reno

Master distiller Joe Cannella makes Italian liqueurs. To help fund the place, he sold \$100 Drinks for Life memberships.

#NVRoadTrip

# ROAD TRIP

## GUIDEBOOK

— ◆ —

*The shortest distance between two Nevada points is rarely a straight line. That's what makes a #NVRoadTrip epic. So pick a drive, pack a map (cell service can be spotty), and keep the tank full. And tag us!*



**38**  
 #GreatBasinHighway  
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**40**  
 #TheRubiesRoute  
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**42**  
 #NeonToNature  
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**46**  
 #CowboyCorridor  
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**48**

**#FreeRangeArtHighway**

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**50**

**#BurnerByway**

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**52**

**#LoneliestRoadInAmerica**

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**54**

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**56**

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GREAT BASIN  
HIGHWAY



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# ROCK STAR PARKING

*The Great Basin route is a walk in the parks—nine state and one national, to be exact. Prepare to go underground, mountain high and out of this world.*

WRITER Melissa Walker

## DAY 1 LAS VEGAS TO CALIENTE

The bad news: You leave Las Vegas at dawn. The good news: It's totally worth some mental fog to catch early-morning colors at **Valley of Fire State Park** in Overton, about 50 miles northeast (via Interstate-15; the scenic route, Northshore Road, is a little longer and lovelier). The sight of bright red Aztec sandstone outcrops nestled among limestone will wake you up better than any barista's best shot. And hikers of all abilities can hit trails for views of the White Domes, Elephant Rock, the Beehives, Arch Rock and Mouse's Tank. Look for petroglyphs, carvings left behind by ancestral Puebloans, near the Atlatl Rock area and along the Mouse's Tank Hiking Trail.

As you continue north, make a stop in Alamo at the **Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge**, a wetland oasis for migrating birds (and humans). Bring binoculars to zoom in on the thousands of ducks, geese and songbirds that stop by.

When you're ready to migrate, follow US-93 north and east to **Oak Springs Trilobite Site**, a spot under water 500 million years ago. Play paleontologist and learn about the remains of six types of fossilized marine creatures that once lived here. Afterward, drive a little farther to Caliente for your overnight stay. Once the City of Roses, **Caliente** is now a mountain biking mecca, drawing riders with a new skills park and 30-mile singletrack trail system. Speaking of track, the town also boasts a Mission-style railroad depot and a boxcar museum.

HIT THE  
ROAD

START  
Las Vegas

DURATION  
3 days

DISTANCE  
432 miles

FINISH  
Baker

**OPPOSITE, TOP**  
The Alpine Lakes Loop Trail at Great Basin National Park offers million-dollar views—minus millions of people.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM**  
At night, Great Basin still looks like a million bucks—plus a million stars.

## DAY 2 CALIENTE TO ELY

Jump-start your metabolism at **Kershaw-Ryan State Park**, south of Caliente, with a hike on the Canyon Overlook Trail. Then kick back in this lush, green gem that resembles a delightful urban park—except that 700-foot-tall canyon walls and rainbow-color cliffs frame it instead of buildings. Dip your feet in the natural spring that feeds wild grapevines, trees and a wading pool.

Continue 18 miles north on the Great Basin Highway to **Cathedral Gorge State Park**. Here, playing the slots takes on a new meaning: The park is a maze carved out of volcanic rock that has eroded into slot canyons, crevices, spires and caves. Feast your eyes and fill your social feed with views of Miller Point, Cathedral Caves and Moon Cave. Miller Point Trail through the canyon crescendos with a staircase climb to an overlook shaded by a gazebo. The views are humbling.

Refuel in nearby **Pioche**. Back in the 1870s, Dodge City and Tombstone had nothing on this lawless little mining town known for gunfights. **Boot Hill Cemetery** has a Murderer's Row with more than 100 gunslingers' graves. No wonder they built the **Million Dollar Courthouse**. (Actually, it's a modest structure that took decades to pay off, hence the seven-figure nickname.) You'll spend far less on pizza and brews at the movie set-like **Overland Hotel and Saloon**, where you can spring for a cozy room (all flashily themed, except the haunted one), or cruise 108 miles north to **Ely** for the night.

## DAY 3 ELY TO BAKER

Wake early for the hour's drive into **Great Basin National Park**; you'll want as much time there as possible. Hike to the southernmost glacier in the States, take the **Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive**, climb 13,063-foot **Wheeler Peak**, or stroll past aspen trees to sparkling alpine lakes. High on the mountain, be amazed by the story of the bristlecone pine, whose seeming outliving-them-is-the-best-revenge stubbornness has kept the gnarled trees alive for thousands of years. If time allows, tour **Lehman Caves** for a peek at Mother Earth's undercarriage: cracks, crevices and recesses, plus stalactites, stalagmites, and surprising colors and patterns.

End your heavenly day with stargazing at Great Basin, recently named an **International Dark Sky Park**. The high elevation, low humidity and minimal light pollution make it a natural window to the universe. On a clear, moonless night, you can see thousands of stars and five of the planets, plus the odd meteor, satellite and galaxy—like our Milky Way and our neighbors in Andromeda. (How come they never ask us over? Or maybe they have. Find out on the ET Highway, page 54.)

After stargazing, it's only fitting to stay the night at the **Stargazer Inn** in nearby Baker. **Kerouac's Restaurant** next door is open late April through October for breakfast and dinner with seasonal hours. The bar is a great place to relive your adventure over a libation and plan the next one. (Adventure, that is; your next drink can be more spontaneous.)





★  
**TRAVEL NEVADA  
PRO TIP**

Soak in the night views at Great Basin National Park, and you'll see why it's called the spot where "half the park is after dark." Our photos show the same vantage point at day and night.





# ALTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

*Shift into high gear for a trek to the Ruby Mountains, Nevada's Alps. Friendly Elko is your passport to top-shelf scenery, next-level rec and Wild West flavors.*

**WRITERS** Beth Eslinger and Gary Thompson

HIT THE  
ROAD

START  
Elko

DURATION  
3 days

DISTANCE  
332–512 miles  
(route options)

FINISH  
Jarvis

## DAY 1 ELKO TO LAMOILLE CANYON

Sliced through by canyons of aspens and crystal streams, the craggy **Ruby Mountains** sprawl across northeast Nevada. Peaks soar past 11,000 feet—and the local elk are pretty darn big too. With every service available and friendliness to spare, Elko is the perfect launch point for a journey through the Rubies.

Have breakfast at **McAdoo's** or the **Coffee Mug**, or (local cuisine alert!) a Basque lunch at **The Star Hotel**. If you plan to fish or camp, stock up on any last-minute cookout and star-watching provisions before leaving town.

Fully fueled (in every sense), hop on State-227 for about 20 miles, then turn onto Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway for the epic 12-mile ride through glacier-carved **Lamoille Canyon**. Stop for pics of hanging valleys and waterfalls as you enter the heart of the Ruby Mountains.

Now it's decision time: fly-fishing or hiking. If you're coming from flat land, consider Option A. (This is some serious altitude; it might take a day or two to adjust.) Cast in Lamoille Creek for some wild brown, rainbow, brook or tiger trout. Option B: Hikers can explore several trails, including the 35-mile **Ruby Crest Trail**.

Bed down at a campground or splurge on a luxury yurt at **Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience**. **Conrad Low Yurt** is a drive-up; **Ruby High Yurt** requires a hike, snowcat or helicopter. Or drive back to Elko for the night.

## DAY 2 LAMOILLE CANYON TO WELLS

The early bird catches the ...bird? Casts the worm? Never mind. Just set your alarm and four-wheel it across Harrison Pass to **Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge**, home to 220 bird species, including songbirds, raptors and marsh birds. While at the refuge, cast for largemouth bass or stocked trout. Then backtrack across Harrison Pass and drive 55 miles on State-228 to outside Spring Creek for a lunch of pies and wings at **Ruby Mountain Pizza Company**. Another 7 miles and you're back in Elko in time for a siesta.

With your second wind, drive 50 miles to Wells. (Follow I-80 all the way or take State-230 for part of it.) There's lodging (if you want a new base camp) and a grocery store, plus caffeine at **Bella's Restaurant and Espresso**. And holy hops, Batman, there's a brewery out here! **Ruby Mountain Brewing Company**, on Angel Creek Ranch 9 miles south of Wells (via US-93 and State-232), has been crafting small-batch beers like Bristlecone Brown Porter and Angel Creek Amber for more than 25 years. Call ahead for a tour.

From there, it's a 12-mile drive on State-231 to **Angel Lake**, a heavenly oasis for hiking, fishing and wildlife-watching. Hike 2.5 miles to Smith Lake via the **Angel Lake Trail**. Camp at Angel Lake or cruise back to your bunk in Wells (or Elko). In Wells, grab a late burger and tots at **Luther's Sports Bar & Grill**.

## DAY 3 JARBIDGE

OK. You've hiked, You've fished. You've surely seen a helluva lot of stars. You can stop right there. Or you can complete the Rubies' Triple Crown with a trek north to Jarvis, a remote outpost just shy of the Idaho border. Before we delve into the practical details, here's the elevator pitch: 10,000-foot peaks dressed in wildflowers. Glaciated canyons. More than 125 miles of hiking trails. Big-game hunting. Pristine fishing waters. Sheepherder-etched aspen arborglyphs. Cinematic campfire scenes in **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest** and **Jarvis Wilderness**. And even a dose of Wild West history at the site of the last stagecoach robbery and a 1909 gold rush.

Sold? Here's the 411. On getting to Jarvis: From June to October, when there's far less chance of snow blocking roads, you can take a 104-mile route from Elko: State-225 toward Wild Horse Reservoir, then CR-748/Charleston-Jarvis Road over the mountains and down into town. It's about 200 miles the tamer way: I-80 to US-93, then 2000 E Road, 1520 N Road, and 3 Creek/Jarvis Road.

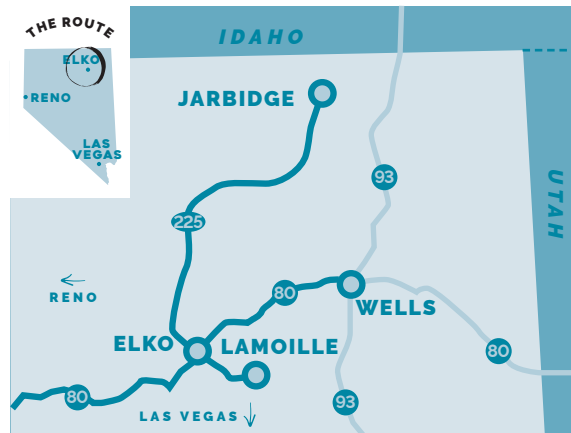
From Wells, you're talking about 90 miles the short way or 145 miles the paved way. The most direct (and driver-distracting) route requires climbing unpaved passes that get plowed once a year for the July 4th bash. And at these elevations, it snows as early as October. If



RUBY CREST NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

you don't trust the weather, your vehicle or yourself, take the longer, paved way and travel through a bit of Idaho. (It's OK. It's not like you're cheating on Nevada or anything.)

Although Jarbidge is one of the most remote spots in the Lower 48, some people do call the town home. The population floats between 12 and 100 seasonally—the barstools-to-butts ratio is excellent. Toast your trek at **Red Dog Saloon** or **Outdoor Inn**. (Yep, you can stay here.) And even though you've come all this way for the sweeping mountain panoramas, don't miss a dark selfie in the town's open jail cell.



★  
**TRAVEL NEVADA**  
**PRO TIP**  
 Your best bet to take this drive is June through October. During winter, the Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway (and many secondary roads through the mountains and wilderness) stay unplowed.



# AU NATUREL ADVENTURES

Road trippers discover rugged beauty not far from Vegas afterglow (and afterimages) when they trade neon for nature's nitrogen-oxygen blend.

WRITER Krista Diamond

## NEON MUSEUM, LAS VEGAS



### HIT THE ROAD

START  
Las Vegas

DURATION  
3 days

DISTANCE  
578 miles

FINISH  
Las Vegas

## DAY 1 LAS VEGAS TO MESQUITE

On the fringe of Vegas, everything travelers assume about this town shifts. Last night, they were at a big show or touring the **Neon Museum**. But now it's dawn, and the sun warms them and the sandstone as **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** wakes up. Visitors can take the 13-mile Scenic Drive through

Joshua trees and crimson mountains, or hike **Pine Creek Canyon Trail** to the ruins of a homestead in the shadow of a rock formation called Mescalito. To be clear, it's still Clark County, and the Neon to Nature #NVRoadTrip is already legit.

Next up, a three-hour drive to **Gold Butte National Monument**, a good portion of it a half-paved, half-dirt road

best navigated slowly (and by those who can change a tire). The destination is the Whitney Pocket area, a desert expanse dotted by sandstone.

It's a place to spend the day hiking and looking at petroglyphs along the **Falling Man Petroglyph Trail**. From there, a bumpy road leads to Mesquite for a room at the **CasaBlanca** resort, which has an Old Vegas feel. The menu of its steakhouse conjures up a lounge where a jazz singer croons: shrimp cocktail, wedge salads and cherries jubilee.

## DAY 2 MESQUITE TO LAUGHLIN

Breakfast at **Peggy Sue's 50's Diner** in Mesquite means a Cisco Kid omelet before Interstate-15 calls drivers onward. Just off NV-169 as the road veers south from the interstate, Overton is a green oasis where goats and cows graze against a backdrop of red mesas. At the **Lost City Museum**, built over an archaeological dig, visitors learn how ancestral Puebloans lived near the Virgin and Muddy rivers.

Back on NV-169, it's a dip south and east to the remnants of St. Thomas, a Mormon settlement long ago submerged by a lake but now visible, thanks to drought. A drive on Lakeshore Road through the desert teases with glimpses of Mead before the cerulean lake eventually reveals itself in full.

At **Hoover Dam**, a tour of the power plant is a must-do. On a hot day, it's cool inside the dam, made from 3.25 million cubic yards of concrete and completed



two years ahead of schedule. The structure is done in a masterful Art Deco style with delightful design details.

It's lunchtime, and Boulder City is only 20 minutes away, so travelers can sink into a booth at **Fox Smokehouse BBQ** to devour sumptuous brisket and gooey mac 'n' cheese. Afterward, a stroll downtown includes stately **Boulder Dam Hotel** and antiques shops selling Victorian furniture, vinyl records and porcelain dolls. At snack time, a red velvet truffle from sweet shop **Grandma Daisy's** proves irresistible.

The drive continues down a canyon choked with jumping cholla, one of the most dangerous of desert cactus. The general store in **Nelson** may have news about the latest rattlesnake sightings too. Visitors walk around this ghost town, looking at rusted cars and Eldorado Canyon's famous **Techatticup Gold Mine**. Nearby, there's a crashed plane seen in the film *3,000 Miles to Graceland*.

It's an hour and 15 minutes to **Laughlin**, a neon-tinged town on the Colorado River. Rooms await at the high-rise Laughlin River Lodge, a place to watch the sunset as boats cruise by on the water below. After dark, the riverwalk comes alive, and the **Colorado Belle Casino Resort** pleases crowds with live music.



RED ROCK CANYON, LAS VEGAS

### DAY 3 LAUGHLIN TO LAS VEGAS

Time to head on back to Las Vegas via Searchlight, passing through the **Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness**. Wee Thump is Paiute for "ancient ones"—some of these massive trees are more than 900 years old.

The forest gives way to familiar I-15. A turn onto NV-161 puts lunch seekers on course for the **Pioneer Saloon** in Goodsprings. The Old West bar, built in 1913, serves a memorable jalapeño margarita, plus burgers and BBQ.

Getting back on I-15 finishes the loop to Las Vegas (and provides an opportunity to stop at Ugo Rondinone's **Seven Magic Mountains** art installation). The finish is a few miles from the start, at **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park**.

At this verdant gem in the desert, cows low, burros bray, and rich green pastures spread out like a carpet beneath the red mountains. It's the perfect place to take a seat on the ground, look up at the sky, and savor the end of an enlightening journey.

### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

On the way back to Vegas, consider a scenic detour to drive winding **State Route 167 (Northshore Road)**. Views are abundant; sightings of romping wild horses are epic.



# LAND CRUISE TO TAHOE

*Forget that diamond in Titanic. This blue jewel, Lake Tahoe, is waaay bigger. Set sail from Reno (there's a whale) and make a port of call in Carson City.*

WRITER Ann Marie Brown



HIT THE  
ROAD



START  
Reno

DURATION  
4 days

DISTANCE  
150 miles

FINISH  
Reno

## DAY 1 RENO

Saunter through the artful **Riverwalk District**, matching the chill vibe of the Truckee River. See kinetic sculptures and former Burning Man installations, and watch kayakers battling angrier waters in the **Truckee River Whitewater Park's** 11 drop pools. Shop for your own outdoor adventures at nearby **Patagonia**

**Outlet Reno**, then head to the **Nevada Museum of Art** to admire mesmerizing collections and sweeping views of the Biggest Little City on the rooftop deck. Around the corner, a 1907 mansion houses **Sundance Books and Music**. (Warning: You may be inspired to break up with your Kindle.) For dinner, check out **Midtown Reno**, stretching south from Liberty Street. Nab a table for sunset at **Brasserie Saint James'** rooftop deck or taste **Arario's** Korean fusion—the kimchee fries are required. Cozy up for the night at **Peppermill Resort Spa Casino's** luxurious Tuscany Tower.

## DAY 2 VIRGINIA CITY

Just 30 minutes southeast of Reno, Virginia City holds many reminders of its heady heyday: the Comstock Lode silver rush. At the **Mackay Mansion**, see wealthy miner John Mackay's opulent furnishings and Tiffany silver. **Saint Mary in the Mountains**, an 1870 church and museum, features hand-carved gables, intricate woodwork and stained glass. The hilltop jewel of **St. Mary's Art Center**—once a hospital for Comstock miners—now houses art galleries and hosts art classes.

In the evening, head to **Red Dog Saloon** for beer, chicken wings and pizza; you might catch live music there or a show at **Piper's Opera House**. Spend the night at the 1876 **Silver Queen Hotel** (check out the ghost tours some evenings) or **Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon**, Nevada's oldest hotel, dating to 1859.

## DAY 3 CARSON CITY AND CARSON VALLEY

Liquid nirvana awaits at **Carson Hot Springs**, where nature heats pools and tubs to Goldilocks-perfect warmth (#NVHotSprings...sigh). Walk through the **West Side Historic District**, where beautifully preserved homes evoke silver-rush-era opulence, and follow lush lawns to the gleaming **Governor's Mansion**. Swing by the 1870 **State Capitol** for a self-guided tour, including the new Battle Born Hall museum experience. Don't miss the 1864 brick icon that houses the nonprofit **Brewery Arts Center**. Its three venues host live performances. When your body's low-fuel warning dings, fill up on **The Fox Brewpub's** English fare (like cottage pie or bangers, beans and mash) or **Comma Coffee's** paninis and pizzas.

Zoom south to Carson Valley to peruse the idyllic, walkable streets of sister towns Minden and Gardnerville for antiques and other treasures. Tour **Bently Heritage Estate Distillery**, one of the only grow-your-own-spirits operations on earth, but save room for hearty Basque fare and picons at **J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room**.

Cap it all off in tiny Genoa, home of the 1853 **Genoa Bar and Saloon**, Nevada's oldest thirst parlor. The mood doesn't disappoint: Walls plastered with animal heads. "Wanted" posters. And a whole lotta dusty ephemera. Finish the day as it started—in hot water. Turn muscles to jelly in springs at **David Walley's Resort**, then retire to a villa, cottage or studio.



**OPPOSITE** At the Silver Queen Hotel in Virginia City, 3,621 silver dollars adorn a woman's gown in a floor-to-ceiling portrait.

**ABOVE** Sand Harbor stands out among the dozens of public access beaches on Nevada's side of Lake Tahoe.

#### DAY 4 LAKE TAHOE

Head up Kingsbury Grade's curlicues toward Stateline, where Nevada and California rub elbows. At **Heavenly Ski Resort**, a 12-minute gondola climb zips up 2.4 dazzling, view-packed miles. From the top, choose your fun by the season: In winter, ski, ride or tube. In summer, try the ropes course or climbing wall.

Work your way north past Stateline's casinos and pine-filled woods to **Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park**. Hike around **Spoooner Lake** and watch for osprey and bald eagles or rent a mountain bike and pedal the **Marlette Flume Trail**. Walk or

bike the brand new lakeshore path to **Sand Harbor**, where a turquoise cove cradles a state-of-the-art outdoor stage. World-class actors perform Shakespeare next to a glorious white-sand beach. (It's more British khaki, really.) Rent a stand-up paddleboard or kayak to paddle the harbor waters.

Three miles farther north is the exclusive, well-heeled, old-Tahoe enclave of **Incline Village**. Have dinner with a front-row lake view at **Lone Eagle Grille**, then follow snaking Mt. Rose Highway back to Reno—and dream of doing this trip all over again.

#### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Mark Twain fans ought to keep a copy of *Roughing It* handy along this route, especially at the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise building, where Samuel Clemens debuted his legendary pen name.

COWBOY  
CORRIDOR



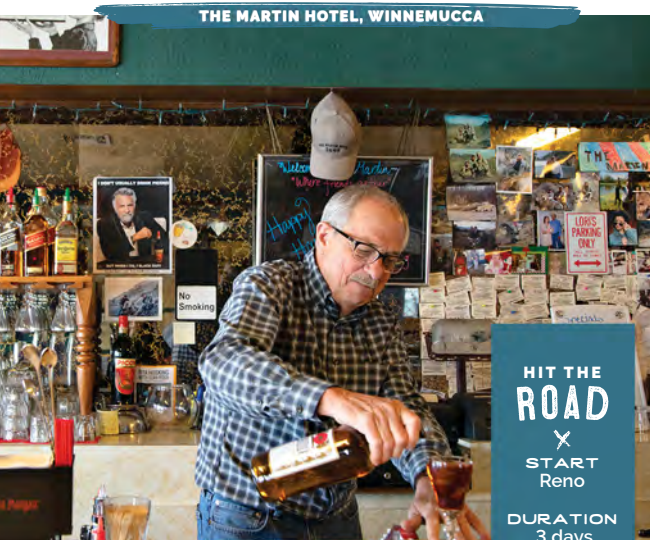
#CowboyCorridor

TravelNevada.com/Cowboy-Corridor

# SACRED COWBOYS

*Interstate-80, aka The Road More Traveled, may not seem like hallowed ground, but Nevada's stretch baptizes you into the church of buckaroos.*

WRITER Beth Eslinger



THE MARTIN HOTEL, WINNEMUCCA

## DAY 1 RENO

Let's start with jargon. First, buckaroos. These cowboys of the Great Basin have a dress code, so to fit in, better fix your threads. At **D Bar M Western Store** east of Reno's Riverwalk District, watch cowpokes pick out work attire, then shop for yourself—inlay cowboy boots, a flat-brimmed hat and maybe a tooled leather leash for your pooch. Test your new look at **Louis' Basque Corner**; the Picon Punch cocktail is famous, as are the lamb and family-style sides. (More key vocab: Basque. Northern Nevada's culture and cuisine reflect the legacy of sheepherding immigrants from that region of Spain.) Once you've had your fill, cruise to Lovelock, about 90 miles northeast. Stroll Main Street and beyond,

searching for antique jewelry and cowboy duds at **Nanny Joe's Antiques, Retro, Vintage**, then snap a photo of the round courthouse, one of two in the country (and the only one still in use). If you're traveling with a soul mate, buy a lock at a local shop or the **Historic Train Depot** (home of the vintage Two Stiffs figures that once promoted a local gas station) and add it to the green chain at **Lovers Lock Plaza**. For a gift of gems, dig for opals, opalized wood, selenite and agate west of town in the Trinity Range. About 20 miles south of town, hike into **Lovelock Cave**, where Native antiquities were once discovered. Finally, cruise to Melarkey Street in Winnemucca. At **The Martin Hotel**, another Basque hub, order pork loin Solomo or deep-fried jumbo prawns before bunking at an area chain hotel.

## DAY 2 WINNEMUCCA

Start your day with a Wild West Scramble or house-made crepes at **The Griddle**, then get schooled at the **Buckaroo Hall of Fame**. Exhibits display the gear that cowpokes made famous—intricately

braided rawhide ropes and reins, silver-mounted spurs and bits, woolly chaps, and stamped-leather saddles. Shop **Tip's Western Custom Saddles** for today's takes on the look, including custom saddles, canvas luggage and bedrolls. If you've got an extra day, detour about 40 miles north into Paradise Valley, a hamlet that was a farming and mining community in the 1800s. Grab brews and a ribeye at **Paradise Valley Bar and Grill**, an old-time joint seemingly plucked out of a Western movie set. For opal hunting, head another hour and 40 minutes northwest to Denio to dig at the **Royal Peacock Opal Mine**.

## DAY 3 ELKO

Cowboy culture runs deep in this mountain town two hours east of Winnemucca. The famed, six-day **National Cowboy Poetry Gathering** fills the town with storytelling legends and musicians each January. Stop downtown at the **Western Folklife Center** (great gift shop), the **Northeastern Nevada Museum** (art and history), and the **Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum** (cool tools and bits). Browse legendary leatherwork at **J.M. Capriola**; buy a bag, hat or custom-designed mug or T-shirt. Don't miss **The Star Hotel**, a century-plus-old Basque joint known for steaks, trout and its own style of Picon Punch. The trip ends at West Wendover on the Utah border. Shoot a pic of **Wendover Will**, the welcoming neon cowboy, take in live tunes at **Peppermill Concert Hall**, and dig into history at the **Historic Wendover Airfield Museum**.







★  
TRAVEL NEVADA  
PRO TIP

Just off  
Interstate-80,  
plenty of Western  
roots still proudly  
show, and not just  
because ranching  
and mining remain  
ways of life. Out  
here, cowboy,  
Basque and  
American Indian  
traditions all  
run deep.

FREE-RANGE  
ART HIGHWAY



#FreeRangeArtHighway

TravelNevada.com/Free-Range-Art-Highway

# ROGUE GALLERY

*Burning Man isn't Nevada's only showcase of creativity gone wild. The Free-Range Art Highway (US-95) links a chain of delightfully surreal sights, including ghosts of burns past.*

WRITER Suzanne Roberts



THE LAST SUPPER, GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM

## DAY 1 LAS VEGAS TO TONOPAH

To understand Nevada's penchant for big, colorful, wonderfully strange spectacles (#WeirdNevada), start on **Fremont East** in Vegas. This is the original Strip (aka Glitter Gulch) and home to legendary neon signs like a giant glowing martini and the old Hacienda's dazzling horse and rider. Around the city, look for the work of today's envelope-pushers. Must-see murals include D'Face's skull-faced man, Felipe Pantone's 3-D works and Ruben Sanchez's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, a tribute to writer Hunter S. Thompson, father of gonzo journalism.

South of town, a different sort of neon icon rises from the desert. Take Interstate-15 past the multiplying

subdivisions and billboards, then exit at Jean and follow South Las Vegas Boulevard to Ugo Rondinone's **Seven Magic Mountains**. A short yucca-lined path leads to a cluster of vibrant totems, painted boulders stacked three-stories-high like a giant's building blocks.

Photo-op mission accomplished, backtrack to Vegas and head northwest on US-95. First stop is the **Temple of Goddess Spirituality** just past Indian Springs. It's a ways off the south side of the road—turn left at the grove of cottonwood trees. The temple, dedicated to Sekhmet, the Egyptian warrior goddess of fertility, is an open-air, round stucco domicile honoring other goddesses across cultures and history. After you

pay your respects, stroll the meditation gardens and soak in the mountain views.

Drive on to Beatty and the **Goldwell Open Air Museum**, featuring Albert Szukalski's ghostly interpretation of *The Last Supper*. Take a seat on a giant mosaic-tiled couch and marvel at *Lady Desert*, a pixilated Venus. And don't miss the tribute to Frank "Shorty" Harris, the prospector whose 1904 gold strike established nearby Rhyolite. It's now a #NVGhostTown with a daisy-strewn cemetery, crumbling buildings, a well-preserved train depot and a quirky little house made of 50,000 bottles of beer and liquor. (If one of those bottles should happen to fall, 49,999 bottles of beer on the walls... Sorry, can't help it.) For a three-day trip, spend the night in Beatty.

On the road again (cue Willie Nelson), watch cloud shadows float across the desert, stirring the occasional dust devil. Just before Goldfield, follow a dirt road east to an upended bus, your first glimpse of the **International Car Forest of the Last Church**, where partially buried vehicles function as a rotating art gallery, attracting graffiti artists and vandals alike. Some vehicles feature artful renditions of gorillas, lobsters and ghostbusters; others are scrawled with nonsense, but that's part of the fun: You never know what you'll find. Longtime Goldfield resident Mark Rippie's original goal was to break the Guinness World Record for the world's biggest car forest. Joined by artists Chad Sorg and Zak Sargent, the three set to work, burying the noses of 40 vehicles. "I feel strongly about

HIT THE  
ROAD

✕  
START  
Las Vegas

DURATION  
2 days

DISTANCE  
475 miles

FINISH  
Reno

★  
TRAVEL NEVADA  
PRO TIP

**The junked vehicles buried at International Car Forest of the Last Church are artists' canvases—and yours too. If you want to leave your own mark, come prepared with supplies.**

PHOTOGRAPH: (CAR FOREST) SUSAN MOWERS / TRAVEL NEVADA

freedom of expression and art in weird places," Chad says.

In Goldfield, veteran burner Rocket Bob displays an impressive collection of double-decker cars plastered with animal skulls, creepy baby dolls, Mardi Gras beads and other oddities. Hit up **Hidden Treasures Trading Company** for vintage gifts and the **Goldfield Historic Cemetery**, where the tombstones list cause of death. (Winner for Most Bizarre: "Unknown Man Died of Eating Library Paste.") Stop at the 1905 **Santa Fe Motel and Saloon**, home of a mean bartender (per the sign out front). It's always 5 p.m. at this saloon, at least according to the clock inside.

Dart into Tonopah and see murals depicting local history. Sample smoked meat at the **Tonopah Brewing Company** and stay in the historic **Mizpah Hotel**, "the finest stone hotel in the desert." (Remember, people in stone hotels shouldn't throw glasses.) Renovated in 2011, the Mizpah has era-authentic chandeliers, antique cash registers and velour Victorian couches. Want to be ghosted? Stay on the fifth floor, favorite haunt of the Lady in Red, a prostitute murdered there by a jealous ex-lover.

If a lady in a red dress doesn't scare you, maybe a dude in a red nose will. That's at the **Clown Motel**, which

overlooks an old cemetery. It has been called America's Scariest Motel, though the owner claims all the clowns are happy ones. Visit the office to see the Priceless Clowns from Around the World collection.

## DAY 2 TONOPAH TO RENO

As you leave Tonopah, the highway curves west for views of Boundary Peak, Nevada's tallest. Near cottonwood-ringed **Walker Lake**, keep an eye out for wild horses, pronghorn and bighorn sheep.

Class up the last push to Reno with a side trip to the **Yerington Theatre for the Arts** or a stop at Fallon's **Oats Park Art Center**, both in restored schoolhouses. The Biggest Little City has reinvented itself as an art town with impressive museums, galleries and fantastic public art, including at least 100 murals, sculptures and vintage neon signs.

Stroll along the **Riverwalk District**, taking a break at one of the taprooms or hipster eateries. **City Plaza** brims with art that debuted at Burning Man, including *Space Whale*, a humpback mother and calf adorned with 1,700 glass panels, and *BELIEVE*, a 12-foot-high steel word imprinted with hundreds of birds. All you need is a pair of goggles from the **Melting Pot World Emporium** and you can take burner selfies without ever setting foot in the playa dust.



INTERNATIONAL CAR FOREST OF THE LAST CHURCH



# BURNING LOVE

*In a state of weird and wild destinations, there's no road trip more strangely beautiful than the Burner Byway. Especially when you have it all to yourself.*

WRITER Ann Marie Brown

## DAY 1 RENO TO GERLACH

Ignite your burning desire at Reno's **Playa Art Park** and its rotating array of retired installations—murals, metal sculptures and fiber arts—from the annual Burning Man event. Tour **The Generator**, where creatives collaborate in a humongous warehouse filled with laser cutters, 3-D printers and tools for working with wood and metal. Some makers do large-scale festival art; others work on home-improvement projects. If you DIY, you'll find inspiration here. Wander into the **Morris Burner Hostel**, with 21 art-theme rooms (including Down the Rabbit Hole, The Sparkle Pony and DaVinci's Workshop) to catalyze your creativity. You might catch a drum circle or an art night.

Next, make sure you're dressed right for this drive. You don't need *playa fiesta* tix to rock a legit Burner-style costume. (Yes, *most* attendees wear clothes.) That means aviator-style goggles, faux-fur coat, captain's hat, vintage parasol, the works. Browse Reno's best counterculture garb at **The Melting Pot World Emporium**, **Dick Diamond's Golden Jackal** or **Junkee Clothing Exchange**, a 15,000-square-foot warehouse of recycled duds. Rationalize your purchases when they do double duty at Halloween.

Time to hit the highway and head for the horizon. Pilgrimage north on State-445, the Pyramid Highway. Thread your way through Reno's burbs, then drive up the Virginia Mountains until you reach astonishing overlooks of **Pyramid Lake**, a vast body of water clearly defined by a 400-foot-tall, cone-shape tufa formation—the Pyramid—on its eastern shore. Swoop down to the lakeshore and take State-446 south to Nixon (not

HIT THE ROAD  
X  
START  
Reno  
DURATION  
2 days  
DISTANCE  
140 miles  
FINISH  
Black Rock Desert

### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Pyramid Lake sits entirely on tribal land. If camping or fishing, visitors should arrive via the town of Sutcliffe and stop by Crosby Lodge for permits and info. (It also serves a great burger.)

named for the late prez, but another pol, George Nixon, U.S. senator from Nevada in the early 1900s). Stop at the **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor Center** for exhibits interpreting the lake's importance to native people.

Jump on State-447 and push north; in about 50 miles, Empire Store is your last market between here and oblivion. Tank up here or in another 7 miles when you hit Gerlach (population 168), "Center of the Known Universe" and base camp for the Black Rock Desert. With advance reservations, join Gerlach's **Friends of Black Rock-High Rock** on a walking tour to **Fly Geyser**, Nevada's psychedelic riff on Old Faithful. Fly Geyser is on private land, so only a guided tour gets you there.

Eight miles northwest of Gerlach lies **Planet X Pottery**, John Bogard's solar-powered studio, gallery and gathering space. Chat with the artist and browse his desert-inspired stoneware and porcelain. Back in town, dine at **Bruno's Country Club**, famous for baseball-size ravioli in a secret tomato sauce and award-winning picnics. Rest at **Bruno's Country Motel** (yep, same Bruno) or **Iveson Ranch**, a 320-acre property with rustic lodging. Expect to help in the kitchen or corral.

## DAY 2 GERLACH TO BLACK ROCK

Start early for the final push to the playa. Veer off to County Road 34 for a quick detour on **Guru Road**, aka Dooby Lane, a drive-through art show that stretches for a mile. See installations made of scavenged bric-a-brac, quirky stone tributes to Elvis and Aphrodite, and deep messages scrawled on rocks. DeWayne "Doobie" Williams built these intriguing pieces between 1978 and 1992.

**Black Rock Playa** lies ahead—200 square miles of dry lake bed and alkali flats. It's one of Earth's largest, flattest surfaces. A jet-propelled car once did 763 mph here, setting a land speed record. If you dare, see what your vehicle can do (set a personal record, at least), but only when the playa is completely dry and definitely not in winter. A wet patch could get you stuck in muck for days.

Or leave your vehicle to walk, camp and take pictures in the blindingly white sand and cloudless blue sky. Then imagine a city of 70,000+ popping up seemingly overnight, only to disappear as suddenly when the party's over. Could only be a mirage, right?





◆

## HOT SPRINGS ETERNAL

Soak in the splendor at the area's treasured #NVHotSprings, like **Black Rock Hot Springs'** aquamarine pool. If the playa is dry (don't se0 these soaks if it's not), the feeling of crossing one of Earth's largest, flattest surfaces—minus lights, fences and crowds—leaves any kind of city vibes in the dust.

◆



**ABOVE** Fall in love with Reno's Playa Art Park, which spotlights retired art installations from Burning Man. (This one is *Identity Awareness*, by Shane Pitzer.) **LEFT** Black Rock Hot Springs looks out across the vast expanse of the playa.

LONELIEST ROAD  
IN AMERICA



#LoneliestRoadInAmerica

TravelNevada.com/LoneliestRoadInAmerica

# THE LONELY ROAD CLUB

*Storied US-50 cuts across Nevada with signs reading like a dare: You haven't really traveled an open road until you explore the loneliest one.*

WRITER Suzanne Roberts

## DAY 1 CARSON CITY TO AUSTIN

When *LIFE* magazine called US-50 between Carson City and Ely The Loneliest Road in America in 1986, the article quoted a AAA rep: "There are no points of interest. We warn all motorists not to drive there, unless they're confident of their survival skills." Instead of scaring folks away, the article attracted them, throwing down a gauntlet that maverick adventurers still can't resist.

Start in the capital, Carson City, with a pub meal and neighborhood-bar ambience at **West Side Pourhouse**. Or savor a soak, suds and the Superfraggacheesalicious stuffed sourdough (not necessarily in that order) at neighboring hot spots **Carson Hot Springs** resort, **Shoe Tree Brewing Co.** and **Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint**.

Next up, in Fallon, swing by **Frey Ranch Estate Distillery** and **Churchill Vineyards**. On Saturdays, owner Colby Frey offers tours and tastes of Riesling and absinthe. Next door, **Lattin Farms** has a growers market, farm animals and a fall corn maze (especially challenging after the absinthe).

Get a culture and nature fix at Fallon's **Oats Park Art Center**, **Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge** and **Grimes Point**, home to petroglyphs 8,000 years old or more. Down the road, watch sandboarders surf the dunes (or take a hike and watch for rare Sand Mountain Blue butterflies) at **Sand Mountain Recreation Area**. Tip your hat to those who traveled here before you at **Sand Springs Pony Express Station**.

HIT THE  
ROAD

START  
Carson City

DURATION  
2 days

DISTANCE  
452 miles

FINISH  
Baker

US-50 roughly follows the route of the legendary riders who braved this terrain to deliver the mail.

East of Fallon, at **Middlegate Station**, you've officially reached The Middle of Nowhere, at least according to the saloon's sign. Settle in beneath a dollar bill-plastered ceiling and, if you dare, take the Monster Burger challenge, which earns you a T-shirt and bragging rights if you finish the thing without puking.

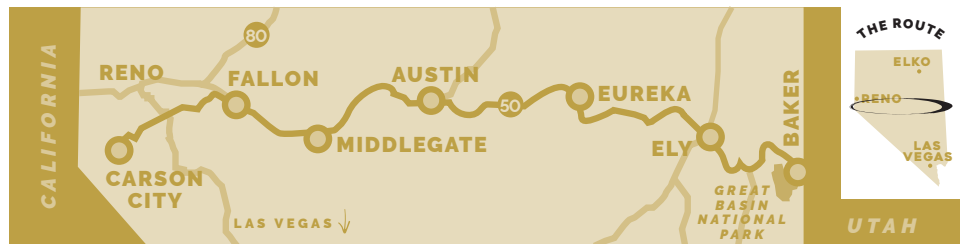
Back on the road, you'll spot hundreds of shoes dangling from a lone cottonwood tree. This is the **Shoe Tree** (version 2.0). Vandals felled the original, but a second one quickly filled with footwear. The story goes that a honeymooning couple argued under a cottonwood, and when the wife threatened to walk, her husband flung her shoes into the tree. They reconciled and later came back to add their baby's shoes, and a tradition was born. Fling your own sneakers onto the tree; then lead-foot it toward Austin. Just before town, follow the dirt road to the 1898 **Stokes**

**Castle**, a three-story tower built by mining developer and railroad magnate Anson Phelps Stokes. He had admired Italian castles on holiday and decided he needed one of his own.

Gothic churches and cemeteries etch the mountains around Austin, making it the quintessential 19th-century mining town, but it's also a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. Mountain bikers take on rugged trails, and anglers fish for brown trout in **Groves Lake**. After a playdate with nature, there's nothing like a soak in the **Spencer Hot Springs** and a cocktail at Kingston's **Lucky Spur Saloon**. Then it's time to turn in—Austin offers a variety of lodging options.

## DAY 2 AUSTIN TO BAKER

In the morning, head to Eureka, billed as The Friendliest Town on the Loneliest Road. It was founded in 1864 with the discovery of silver in the surrounding hills. Its historic buildings include the **County Courthouse** and the **Eureka Opera House**, where you can enjoy Celtic





★  
**TRAVEL NEVADA**  
**PRO TIP**  
 Earn a cool Highway 50 lapel pin and an "I Survived" certificate for collecting stamps at stops on this drive. Pick up an official *Highway 50 Survival Guide* at designated locations; get the list at [ponyexpressnevada.com](http://ponyexpressnevada.com).



music or a magic show. Mosey over to the **Eureka Saloon**, famous for its network of tunnels. Be sure to ask what the tunnels were originally used for, because everyone has a different theory, such as a way to ensure prompt beer deliveries during winter storms or letting people avoid enemies on the street. Our money is on some kind of early subway, but we may not have thought it through.

Keep trucking east to Ely, founded in the 1870s as the Murray Station trading post. The Nevada Northern Railway arrived in 1906, boosting Ely's copper mining industry. The **East Ely Railroad Depot Museum** shows what it took to

keep the trains running on time. For a peek into the town's cultural past, wander through the **Renaissance Village**, a compound of houses decorated to reflect the differing cultures of early settlers. Stroll past the Art Deco **Central Theatre** and view the colorful murals about town. The **Hotel Nevada** is a must-stop. If you don't spend the night (past guests include Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper), at least find a stool at the bar.

For a freakishly realistic journey into the past, schedule a tour of the 1906 **McGill Drugstore Museum**, maintained in a state of arrested decay. The store shelves are packed with retro products:

*Superboy* comics, lead-tubed toothpaste and Dippity-Do hair products. Old prescription records remain, too, proving downwind residency status during the 1950s nuclear bomb tests.

Outside Ely, get stoked about the **Ward Charcoal Ovens**. The large beehive structures processed silver ore during the mining boom and later hid stagecoach bandits. Farther afield, **Lehman Caves** and **Great Basin National Park** delight nature-lovers and beauty-hunters. Camp in the park or stay in nearby Baker at the **Stargazer Inn**. Grab a burger and craft cocktail at **Kerouac's Restaurant**, the perfect way to celebrate life on the road.

**ABOVE LEFT** Of all the state's natural hot springs, Spencer Hot Springs in Austin is the most reliably perfect at any time of year.

**ABOVE RIGHT** At Sand Mountain Recreation Area near Fallon, OHVers rip across what was lakefront property—10,000 years ago.

## EXTRATERRESTRIAL HIGHWAY



#ETHighway

TravelNevada.com/ET-Highway

# E.T., DRIVE HOME

*Cue The X-Files theme: The truth is still out there. Look for it along State-375, an eerie (if you let your mind go there) road through otherworldly terrain. We can't promise UFOs, but Unearthly Fun Oddities are guaranteed.*

WRITER Gary Thompson



### HIT THE ROAD



START  
Las Vegas

DURATION  
1 day

DISTANCE  
257 miles

FINISH  
Tonopah

#### LAS VEGAS TO TONOPAH

To the uninitiated, Las Vegas is like another planet, right? So while you're visiting there and already feeling out of this world, you might as well hunt for some real aliens—whether you picture Steven Spielberg's lovable *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* or Ridley Scott's loathsome, chest-bursting *Alien*.

Fill your gas tank as you leave Vegas (pro tip) and drive north on US-93 for about 100 miles to State-318/375, just east of Crystal Springs. That's where you'll find **E.T. Fresh Jerky**, a roadside store selling snacks and alien souvenirs. Buy some teriyaki jerky and take a selfie at the *E.T.* murals outside.

Follow State-318/375 less than a mile west to the **E.T. Highway sign**. It's in a little parking area where State-318 and State-375 split, its retro-futuristic lettering nearly obscured by stickers. The sign dates to 1996, when the state officially renamed State-375 to coincide with the release of *Independence Day*. (Some scenes in Will Smith's alien invasion blockbuster were shot nearby.)

Down the road, on the north side of the highway, you'll see the **Alien Research Center**, a Quonset hut guarded by a huge metallic *E.T.* figure. Don't be too impressed by the scholarly name: This is actually a quirky souvenir store billed as gateway to **Area 51**,

the nearby super-secret Air Force facility that's long been the subject of UFO-related conspiracy theories. But the shop is a good place to grab a T-shirt and a map. (If you have gotten this far and still haven't tagged a photo #WeirdNevada, you are missing a large point of this adventure.)

The 40 miles or so northwest to the next town, Rachel, are pretty lonely. Whether you're hungry or not, you'll want to stop at the **Little A'Le'Inn**, a folksy restaurant, bar and motel in Rachel. It's at roughly the halfway mark of the route and one of your few restroom options (no fuel, though). Try the Alien Burger and a piece of pie, or





just fill up on the *E.T.* kitsch, like a tow truck hauling a “flying saucer”.

Past Rachel, it’s like being alone on another planet. So zone out and enjoy the solitude (like the stereotypical alien, you come in peace, right?). It’s about 60 miles northwest to Warm Springs, where The E.T. Highway officially ends, but keep pushing another 50 miles west on US-6 to Tonopah for gas and two attractions that will bring you back down to earth.

The first is the **Tonopah Historic Mining Park**, a huge outdoor museum at the place where prospector Jim Butler’s eureka moment launched a 1900 silver rush. Take the Burro Tunnel to a viewing cage above a 500-foot-deep stope (the money part of a mine) and stroll around historical mine structures, which are kept in a state of arrested decay. (Yep, we’d call that a #NVGhostTown.)

About a mile away, the indoor-outdoor **Central Nevada Museum**

shows off more mining artifacts. See a 10-stamp mill (a massive machine used for crushing ore), double-decker hoisting cages and a group of antique town buildings, like miners’ cabins, a blacksmith shop and a saloon.

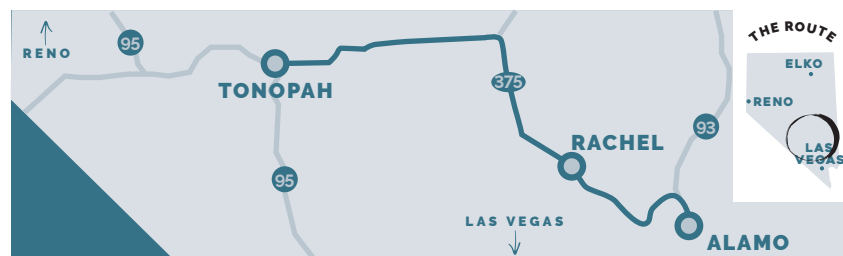
Spend the night in Tonopah before heading back to Vegas or to your next destination. But don’t turn in without taking time to check out the awesomely starry night sky. And wave to any friends you made today.

★  
**TRAVEL NEVADA**  
**PRO TIP**

**Area 51 is part of an active military base. It is heavily fortified and scrupulously patrolled. Believe the signs: If you trespass, you will be arrested. Have fun, but keep your distance.**

**OPPOSITE**  
The E.T. Highway sign lets aliens (and other visitors) know they’re on the right road.

**ABOVE**  
More than 7,000 stars and the Milky Way sparkle above Tonopah. One way to see them: the city’s stargazing park.



## DEATH DRIVE



#TheDeathDrive  
TravelNevada.com/The-Death-Drive

# LARGE AS LIFE

Go from one extreme to another on the spirit-affirming Death Drive. Eerie art and ghosted venues haunt the route to Death Valley National Park, balanced by nature's awesome beauty and humanity's refreshing outposts.

WRITER Krista Diamond

HIT THE  
ROAD

START  
Las Vegas

DURATION  
3 days

DISTANCE  
373 miles

FINISH  
Las Vegas

TRAVEL NEVADA  
PRO TIP

To get a sense of just how low you are in Death Valley National Park's Badwater Basin, scope out the rocky cliffs high above. You'll see a sign marking sea level.

### DAY 1 VEGAS TO PAHRUMP

Heavenly views and hellish heat make **Death Valley National Park** an apt anchor for a road trip of contrasts. Most travelers will start in Vegas. Head south and west from the Strip on State-160 to lush **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park**, fed by the same springs that once sustained pioneers. Bald, red-striped mountains cradle temperate green canyons, home to spiky yucca, wild burros and mule deer. Explore some of the state's oldest buildings or join a guided hike.

On the outskirts of Pahrump, you'll see a cemetery surrounded by hearses. That's **Coffinwood** (#WeirdNevada), the home of a couple who create custom coffins and art for their business, Coffin It Up. Email to schedule a tour, ideally a month in advance, and respect their property when visiting.

In town, the **Pahrump Valley Museum** explores Native American heritage, prospecting settlers and desert ecology. Order frozen custard at **Seemore's Ice Cream**, dubbed the World's Tallest Ice Cream Stand, then choose (or don't!) between two wineries. At **Sanders Family Winery**, tastings end with its signature Red Ginger—a blend of wine, ginger ale and lime. At **Pahrump Valley Winery**, take a glass of sweet, floral Symphony on a walk through pomegranate trees before a steak dinner at the on-site restaurant, Symphony's. Pull your rig into **Lakeside Casino and RV Park**. Or drive on another 45 minutes to Amargosa Valley, where **Longstreet Inn, Casino and RV Resort** is a popular Death Valley base camp.

### DAY 2 DEATH VALLEY

On the way to Death Valley, stop at **Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**, an uncrowded desert oasis of crystal blue waters and Wild West history. It's home to one of the first critters on the endangered species list—the desert pupfish.

Down the road, just across the California line, check out the **Amargosa Opera House**, where pantomime artist and dancer Marta Becket painted the walls with vivid, imaginative murals of a lively 16th-century audience.

And now you're here: Death Valley. Through a veil of heat (the 80s are brisk around here by late spring), the park's geology shimmers—mile after mile of sand dunes, painted rocks and towering peaks. Must-stops include the Artist's Drive, Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, Golden Canyon, and Badwater Basin, the lowest, hottest and driest place in North America.

From Zabriskie Point, drink in the colors and formations. At Dante's View, you can see Mount Whitney in the distance on a clear day, meaning you've got the highest and lowest points in the Lower 48 in sight. After a long day in the park, make the short drive to Beatty to spend the night.

### DAY 3 BEATTY TO VEGAS

While in Beatty, stop at the **Beatty Museum and Historical Society** to see arrowheads from Death Valley's Timbisha Shoshone tribe and photos of miners.

Outside town at the **Goldwell Open Air Museum**, ghosts rise from the desert: Albert Szukalski's *The Last Supper*

and Onny Huisink's *The Beauty of Decay*—human-size, suit-clad puppets meant to devolve over time in the desert.

In nearby Rhyolite, check out the remains of the town bank, **Tom Kelly's Bottle House** and the grave of Mona Belle, a prostitute reportedly murdered by a jealous boyfriend (#NVGhostTown).

Along US-95 back to Vegas, pull up a stool at **Miss Kathy's Short Branch Saloon**, a 10-minute detour south to Crystal. Over a beer and meatloaf, chat with tough-talking Miss Kathy herself.

Ready for this trip's final pinnacle? Aim for the Spring Mountains' 316,000 acres of outdoor action (even skiing) on the forested slopes around Mt. Charleston. Just shy of 12,000 feet, "Charlie" boasts the title of Nevada's fifth-tallest peak.

From there, it's downhill to Vegas, completing a 5,500-foot elevation drop through seven distinct climate zones, a change in habitat similar to driving from Mexico to the Canadian Arctic. Extreme? You bet.





## SALOON KEEPER

Stop for lunch in Beatty at the **Happy Burro Chili and Beer**, a throwback to the town's boom times. It's a family-owned saloon where you can watch black-and-white Westerns on TV and share the bar with dusty old cowboys who look like they've been spinning yarns there for decades. Order the chili—the family's secret recipe—that simmers in a black kettle, with a Bud or PBR served in a frosty Mason jar. Then sit back and drink in the decor, which includes original wainscoting and a portrait of a wild-eyed gunslinger painted on an old car hood.



**FAR LEFT AND LEFT** Seven distinct climate zones dot this drive, with extremes ranging from the nearly 12,000-foot Mt. Charleston in the Spring Mountains (its views are epic) to Death Valley's Badwater Basin, which is the lowest, hottest and driest spot in North America.

# DO YOU KNOW



RENO SITS ON THE EDGE OF THE **SIERRA NEVADA**, WITH THE **TRUCKEE RIVER** COURSING THROUGH DOWNTOWN. THE SECRET TO A STAY: PAYING HOMAGE TO THE CITY'S **OLD SELF** WHILE EMBRACING ITS **NEW LOOK**. SEE BOTH SIDES FROM STREET LEVEL OR GET THE BIG PICTURE ON THE **WORLD'S TALLEST CLIMBING WALL**.

WRITER GERALDA MILLER



# ROCK



R

eno knows how to reinvent itself. Since its founding in the mid-1800s, the Biggest Little City in the World has

had a knack for changing with the times to attract people, first with rail routes, then later with liberal divorce laws and legalized gambling. Today, Reno is morphing again.

Downtown, once dominated by casinos and tourist shops, is enjoying a renaissance. Some of the old casino hotels have been turned into chic condos and apartments. The **Truckee River Arts District**, also known as **The Riverwalk District**, buzzes with markets, coffeehouses, lounges, restaurants, a movie theater, breweries and shops.

Also along the water, **Truckee River Whitewater Park** is site of the annual **Reno River Festival**, one of the nation's top whitewater events.

Just a few blocks east, the **Freight House District** is a year-round entertainment complex attached to **Greater Nevada Field**, home of Minor League Baseball's Reno Aces and the United Soccer League's Reno 1868 FC. It offers concerts, festivals and other events, plus bars and restaurants.

South of the river, the **Nevada Museum of Art** and the **National Automobile Museum** both boost Reno's cultural cred.

But the face of Reno's new look is the **Midtown District**. Midtown is like a red-light district of perfectly legit retail, dining and entertainment spots. It's a smorgasbord tempting you to indulge

in your particular passion, be it food, fashion, fitness or whatever. And it's become a must-see spot for public art, too, especially murals.

## DINING

Pay **Homage Bakery** on Ralston Street a visit for robust coffee and flaky, flavorful pastries. Or try one of their heartier specials, like biscuits and gravy or the croissant egg scramble.

**Noble Pie Parlor**, around the corner from where the Midtown mural tour ends, offers a weekend brunch that includes bottomless mimosas, plus some of the best pizza in Reno.

In the Riverwalk District, **Hub Coffee Roasters** offers perks like a patio and river views. Relax inside the curated art gallery space or sit outside and watch the water and the people. Near the

## ABOVE

Enjoy a view with your brew on the patio at Hub Coffee Roasters.

## OPPOSITE TOP

Charge your phone for photo ops on a Midtown mural walk. (This one is *The People Make the Bull* by David "Nanook" Cogdill.)

## OPPOSITE MIDDLE

At Noble Pie Parlor, get a taste of handcrafted, oven-fired, East Coast-style pizza.

## OPPOSITE BOTTOM

Junkee Clothing Exchange knows over-the-top costumes—it also has a store in New Orleans' French Quarter.



Truckee, **Liberty Food and Wine Exchange** is for farm-to-table foodies. Try the gnocchi or the bee sting pizza.

Chez Louie, a French-inspired eatery in the **Nevada Museum of Art** is open for lunch (Wednesday to Saturday) and Sunday brunch (with live music).

**West Street Market** offers outdoor and indoor space for local food and drink—find pizza, Indian food, coffee, craft beer, wine and more. Relax in an Adirondack chair on the patio and enjoy live music on select days.

## SHOPPING

You'll find beaucoup boutiques in Midtown, including **Junkee Clothing Exchange**, a fount of funky recycled clothing and antiques.

Downtown delivers for shoppers, too, now that the 1930s main U.S. Post Office (just over the south side of the Truckee River) has been transformed into a retail hub. **West Elm**, famous for refined home decor, occupies the main floor of the building, while **The Basement**, a collection of edgy and artsy vendors, claims the lower level. Two blocks away, **Patagonia Outlet Reno** fills an old Hudson car dealership with the brand's coveted active wear.

Nature-lovers have no trouble finding gear for exploring the area on land or water. Just west of town, **Cabela's**, the outdoor rec paradise, opened its first Nevada location along I-80 near the California border—conveniently close to Lake Tahoe.

And just east of town in Sparks, another outdoor mecca, **Scheels**, anchors **The Outlets at Legends**. In addition to a huge selection of sporting

- ✦
- INTRO MURALS**
- ✦ **EXPRESSION OF THE SOIL** by Erik Burke, at Craft Wine & Beer in Midtown
- ✦ **RENO HISTORY WALL** by Erik Burke and Joe C. Rock, backside of Junkee Clothing Exchange
- ✦ **A PRODUCTION WALL COMMISSIONED BY THE OWNERS OF NEVADA FINE ARTS**
- ✦ **CIRCUS CIRCUS MURAL MARATHON** (and murals across the street by Erik Burke and Joe C. Rock)
- ✦ **BLUEPRINT OF A MOTHER** by Erik Burke, **NATURE** by Ricky Lee Gordon, and **FACE OF RENO** by Christina Angelina, all on the Whitney Peak Hotel parking garage walls.
- ✦



PHOTOGRAPHS: C2 PHOTOGRAPHY, JUNKEE WILL DURHAM, (MURAL) RYAN DONNELL



goods, the store boasts a 65-foot Ferris wheel, two 16,000-gallon aquariums and arcade games. Along with other top retail names, The Outlets features the area's only IMAX theater (at the Galaxy), a trampoline park, artwork, fountains and seating areas next to inviting outdoor fireplaces.

At the south end of Reno, off Mt. Rose Highway, **The Summit** piques shoppers' interest with more than 70 boutiques, salons and restaurants, plus views of Mt. Rose. Courtyards at the open-air destination include fountains, paths, firepits (for cool evenings), live music in summer and special holiday events in the fall.

## ART

Take a two-hour, docent-led art tour hosted by **Art Spot Reno**. The nonprofit offers public art and mural tours on the first Saturday of each month and colorful mural walks through hip Midtown on second Saturdays.

Start a DIY art tour downtown at the Reno Arch. (It says The Biggest Little City in the World.) **City Plaza** has the *BELIEVE* sculpture, featured at Burning Man in 2013. The Plaza also provides a temporary home for *Space Whale*, a stained-glass-and-steel sculpture of a humpback whale and calf.

From City Plaza, go north or west. North takes you to **Reno Playa Art Park**, a sculpture garden of smaller pieces from Burning Man and some monumental murals.

West leads to the **Riverwalk District**, where **Bicentennial Park** beckons with *Portal of Evolution*, a large-scale sculpture resembling a butterfly. The park also displays sculptures by local artists on a rotating basis.

## LODGING AND NIGHTLIFE

The **Whitney Peak Hotel** boasts a convenient downtown location and the **BaseCamp Climbing Gym**—an indoor

bouldering park with the world's tallest artificial climbing wall (on the outside of the building). Look for spectacular murals on the parking garage too.

On-site **Cargo Concert Hall** holds about 1,000 for shows by national and regional music acts—think ska punk, death metal, indie rock, alt country and EDM.

Just a few blocks away, **Reno Axe** is a bar that tests your strength and aim with six axe-throwing lanes.

End a night in Reno at **The Eddy**, a gathering spot on the river that offers free yard games, like bocce and cornhole. Check out the murals on the repurposed shipping containers, as well as the impressive sculptures.

**TOP LEFT** Study current events along the Truckee. **TOP RIGHT AND ABOVE** Stop and shoot at the *BELIEVE* sculpture and the Reno Arch. **OPPOSITE** Strike a pose with Burning Man sculptures at Playa Art Park. (This one is *Methuselah*, by Misha Niman and Gray Davidson with Majorelle Arts.)

## TAHOE: TWO FOR THE SHOW

It's about 40 miles from Reno to Lake Tahoe, the blue jewel that straddles Nevada and California. Besides the usual water-based rec, lakeside towns offer cool art-related events, especially in summer.

### + LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL at

Incline Village stages seasonal outdoor theater and musical performances.

### + CLASSICAL TAHOE FESTIVAL & MUSIC INSTITUTE, also

at Incline Village, brings classical and jazz artists from around the world to a pavilion at North Lake Tahoe.





*Boat or paddle. Bike or hike.  
Climb a rock or cast a line.  
Nevada's wide-open outdoor  
spaces are calling. And you  
get to pick up.*

WRITER Ann Marie Brown

A woman with blonde hair is kayaking in a vibrant green river. She is wearing a black top and is holding a blue paddle. The river is surrounded by dark, layered rock formations, with a large overhang on the left side. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment.

# GO PLAY OUTSIDE



PHOTOGRAPH: RADAMO PRODUCTIONS/TRAVEL NEVADA

**BLACK CANYON, BOULDER CITY**

## WATER SPORTS

### ◀ **BLACK CANYON, BOULDER CITY**

Just below Hoover Dam, the Colorado River's gently flowing water provides a mellow milieu for absorbing the majesty of Black Canyon's narrows and Emerald Cove's crystalline green waters. Book a spot on a guided tour with Las Vegas'

**Evolution Expeditions** or Boulder City's **Desert Adventures**.

### **CAVE ROCK, LAKE TAHOE**

Not every paddling trip taxes triceps. Stateline's **Day Go Adventures** rents pedal kayaks on Lake Tahoe, so your calves do most of the work. Get in the water at Cave Rock's boat ramp, then pedal (and paddle if you feel like it) below Cave Rock's volcanic face to Skunk Harbor's Caribbean-teal coves.

### **TRUCKEE RIVER, RENO**

Careening Class II and III rapids deliver major whitewater thrills. In downtown, watch kayakers shoot the rapids at the **Truckee River Whitewater Park's** 11 drop pools. Or chase your own snowmelt from Verdi to Reno on a half-day rafting trip with **Tahoe Whitewater Tours** (based in Cali, but they have a Reno location).

### **SAND HARBOR, LAKE TAHOE STATE PARK**

Tahoe's photogenic beach is a sloping turquoise cove backed by rounded granite boulders. Rent a stand-up paddleboard from **Sand Harbor Rentals** to ply the crystal-clear shallows, then propel yourself southward to a string of secluded coves.

# MOUNTAIN BIKING

## **BOOTLEG CANYON, BOULDER CITY**

First, buy a shuttle pass at **All Mountain Cyclery** and hop on the bus to the canyon's high point. Then bomb down a technical, gravity-testing descent. Try to keep your eyes focused on the trail ahead as views of Vegas and turquoise Lake Mead vie for your attention.

## **BADGER PASS LOOP, BLUE DIAMOND**

Just east of Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area, the 10-mile **Badger Pass Loop** via **3 Mile Smile Trail** (no frowning) weaves its way through colorful desert hills. It's not Tour de France steep, but the slow and steady 1,000-foot ascent provides a solid workout.

## **FLUME TRAIL, INCLINE VILLAGE**

This world-famous ride along Lake Tahoe's east shore delivers Instagram gratification with lake views from 1,600 feet above the water, plus zippy turns and nerve-racking drop-offs. Ride an adrenaline-pumping 24-mile loop or utilize the shuttle bus for a 13-mile point-to-point.

## **BLOODY SHINS TRAIL, WINNEMUCCA**

The name (Pre-tibial Lacerations Trail in med-speak) tells what you're in for: 17 miles of leg-scratching, high-desert sagebrush. The track is divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced grades, with some playful, flowy stretches and a few rock-studded challenges.

## **BARNES CANYON, CALIENTE**

The 12 miles (and growing) of expertly designed singletrack twist and turn over eroded hills marked by red and white volcanic hoodoos known as the Teepee Rocks. Hone your riding technique at the **Mountain Biking Skills Park** in downtown Caliente.

## **LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA, ELY AND AUSTIN**

Bike down that lonesome road all by yourself (or with a friend). A robust trail network threads **Cave Lake State Park's** limestone cliffs and Ward Mountain's pinyon and junipers. Austin's chaparral-cloaked hillsides draw bikers of all skill levels looking to log solid miles.



CAVE LAKE STATE PARK



MOUNT CHARLESTON

## HIKING

### GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

One of America's most underrated national parks offers gobsmacking views from its pleasantly uncrowded hiking trails. The 4-mile **Bristlecone-Glacier Trail** ascends past gnarled bristlecone pines to a stark, rock-rimmed cirque, holding Nevada's only active glacier. The **Wheeler Peak Trail** climbs to 13,063 feet and a vista stretching into Utah. If you're on a time-sensitive trip, schedule a tour of **Lehman Caves**, with marble rooms and limestone formations, or walk the 2.7-mile **Alpine Lakes Loop** to a pair of ruggedly beautiful lakes. In the park's southeast corner, a trail leads to the graceful span of Lexington Arch.

### LAMOILLE CANYON

If you think Nevada is all dry-roasted desert, you're full of hot air. Carved out by glaciers, this chiseled granite valley in the Ruby Mountains southeast of Elko holds a bevy of sparkling lakes, all accessible by trail. If you have a couple of days, the 36-mile **Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail** follows the mountain range's spine from Road's End to

Harrison Pass. Gape at glacial tarns (small lakes), wildflower-carpeted meadows and gushing streams.

### GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

A couple of hours east of Las Vegas, 300,000 acres brim with desert geology and Native American cultural treasures. Paths lead through a geologist's banquet of red and white sandstone dotted with twisted fins, hidden alcoves and bizarrely eroded rock sculptures. Ancient petroglyphs, including bighorn sheep images and the iconic Falling Man drawing, are etched into the formations. *(Be prepared for remote and rugged conditions.)*

### SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

Über-eccentric Howard Hughes once owned this spring-rich oasis in Blue Diamond that's home to some of Nevada's oldest buildings, including an 1860s blacksmith shop. Family-friendly trails wind through red sandstone and southern Nevada's only native ash tree grove. In summer, the park hosts outdoor theater performances.

### MOUNT CHARLESTON

Just 35 miles west of Vegas, Charleston Peak scrapes the sky at nearly 12,000 feet, its slopes graced by bristlecone pine forests. The full round-trip trek to southern Nevada's most prominent peak is not for the faint of feet, but it pays off with views of a state trio—Nevada, California and Arizona. For an easier hike, take the 3.1-mile trail to Mary Jane Falls.

### MOUNT ROSE WILDERNESS

Named after the Carson Range's highest peak, this area frames Lake Tahoe's northeast rim. The 10,776-foot Mount Rose summit makes every Tahoe hiker's itinerary, thanks to blazing midsummer wildflowers and sweeping desert. Hikers can max out their mileage by tacking on Mount Houghton and Relay Peak, bagging three 10,000-foot summits.

### TAHOE RIM TRAIL

You could spend a two-week vacation just hiking the TRT's 165-mile circuit—or a morning strolling a short stretch. Dozens of trailheads provide easy access and holy-cow views.



PYRAMID LAKE

## FISHING

### JARBIDGE RIVER, NORTHEASTERN NEVADA

For many anglers, catching a wily bull trout is the final leg of a Trout Royal Slam—landing one each of seven coveted trout species. In summer and fall, cast dry flies in the **Jarbidge River** and you might just land one of these olive green beauties (catch-and-release rules apply).

### RUBY MOUNTAINS, NEAR ELKO

Glacier-carved summits, deep U-shape canyons, free-flowing streams and trout-filled lakes give the Rubies their nickname: Nevada's Swiss Alps. For low-exertion fishing, drive right up to **Angel Lake** and cast for brookies and tigers. Or work for your catch by hiking up to the craggy basins that hold **Island**, **Lamoille** or **Smith** lakes.

### ◀ PYRAMID LAKE, NORTH OF RENO

In *On Golden Pond*, Henry Fonda chases a huge trout called Walter. Land your own monster at this desert gem surrounded by sculpted tufa formations. Catching one of its gargantuan Lahontan cutthroats (the record is 41 pounds!) requires unorthodox methods—anglers stand on ladders in a few feet of water so they can cast to the lake bed's drop-off. Float tubes and boats can get the job done too.

### TRUCKEE RIVER, LAKE TAHOE TO PYRAMID LAKE

When Tahoe's snow runoff slows in early summer, anglers fish the 110-mile-long Truckee River for rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout. The river's western section

from Tahoe to Reno is steep, fast and cold, so pull out your dry flies. The eastern section from Reno to Pyramid is warmer and slower, with banks covered in sagebrush tufts and shady cottonwoods concealing trophy-size browns and rainbows.

### LAKE MEAD, NEAR LAS VEGAS

Made by Hoover Dam, massive Lake Mead straddles Nevada and Arizona. It supplies water to Vegas tubs and blesses anglers with a smorgasbord of fish. Bait your lure with anchovies and you might haul in a 40-pound striped bass. At dawn and dusk, a largemouth bass could take your hook. If you're looking for black crappie, bluegill or channel catfish, fish the lake's upper Overton Arm.



## ROCK CLIMBING

### **MOUNT CHARLESTON WILDERNESS AREA, WEST OF LAS VEGAS**

This area calls to sport-climbing connoisseurs of limestone lines, overhanging caves and hard-earned celebratory brewskis waiting back in Vegas, just a 45-minute drive away.

### **RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, LAS VEGAS**

Watch climbers strut their stuff—or harness up and join them—at this home to more than 2,000 routes among gorgeous burnt sienna sandstone. The Joshua-tree-dotted desert offers every type of climbing—easy-access top-roping, expertly bolted sport-climbing and multi-pitch trad routes. The popular **Red Rock Rendezvous**, the country's largest outdoor climbing festival, plans to return this spring (after a one-year hiatus) with a weekend of activities that celebrate the climbing lifestyle.

### **LAMOILLE CANYON, NEAR ELKO**

In northern Nevada, climbers clamber up the glaciated formations and bolted sport routes of this showpiece in the Ruby Mountains. With no big cities nearby, Lamoille Canyon is a good place for those who prefer less crowded crags.



PHOTOGRAPH: RADAMO PRODUCTIONS/TRAVEL NEVADA





**MOUNT CHARLESTON**

# TURN ME ON,



*Neon was the king of sign language in Nevada until high-tech LED lights and other eye candy dethroned the noble gas. But there are still places where you can see the real thing. It's totally tubular.*

**WRITER** Suzanne Roberts





**N**

eon blazing brazenly against the backdrop of a black desert—"an attempt to make something out of nothing," as novelist

Raymond Chandler once wrote in a letter to his publisher—that's the image of Nevada burned onto many a retina.

The state's love affair with neon began with Prohibition's end and gambling's legalization in the early 1930s, turning positively torrid in the '50s and '60s. But by the 1980s, many of the older businesses were being razed, and with them went their iconic neon signs. Some people refuse to let them go.

Will Durham, director of the Nevada Neon Project, is one of them. He's been saving and collecting neon signs for 24 years. A Reno native,

Will fell in love with neon as a young insomniac. "I would look out the window and see the downtown lights and know I wasn't the last person awake," he says.

One of Will's goals is to reintroduce neon into the Nevada landscape and elevate it to the art form it is. He holds one of the world's largest private neon sign collections and hopes one day to display it in a proposed neon museum in downtown Reno.

For now, he offers walking tours of Reno's neon, starting at the Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel and ending at the original 1929 arch that welcomed visitors to The Biggest Little City in the World.

Will also teaches at a Montessori school in Carson City. In 2018, he encouraged his fifth- and sixth-grade civics students to write and lobby state legislators on a bill making Nevada the first state to designate

an official element—and neon was the natural choice.

The kids were involved every step of the way. The bill passed the legislature unanimously and was signed into law in 2019. "It wasn't a Democrat or Republican thing. It was a Nevada thing," Will says.

Neon's name comes from the Greek word "new," because as elements in the periodic table go, this noble gas is a relative new kid—discovered in 1898. Two British chemists found that sending a bolt of electricity through neon in a closed glass tube creates an orange-red glow. Adding other gases or tinting the glass makes every color of the rainbow possible.

In the days before GPS, when no disembodied voice told drivers "your destination is on the right," neon signage guided visitors to Nevada's lounges and hotels. A sky-high-heeled shoe directed you to dancing



**ABOVE LEFT** Will Durham, director of the Nevada Neon Project, with old friend Bucky, the Nevada Club Cowboy. **ABOVE CENTER** The Silver Slipper, one of the Neon Museum's most iconic signs, cools its heel in the median of Las Vegas Boulevard North. **ABOVE RIGHT** The Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas preserves several vintage neon casino signs in their native habitat.

at the Silver Slipper, and a Gibson guitar made it easy to find the Hard Rock Hotel. Both signs are now displayed at the Neon Museum in Las Vegas, along with hundreds of other kinetic marvels, which collectively tell the Vegas story.

Highlights of the collection include the original martini glass from the Red Barn, one of the city's first gay bars; and the sign from Moulin Rouge, the first racially integrated casino. Its handwritten-look sign was designed by Betty Willis, who created what is perhaps the world's most Instagrammable sign: Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada.

The Neon Museum and Fashion Show Mall in Vegas have partnered to bring more historic neon signs to the Strip, but the best place to view vintage Vegas neon in the wild is

at the Fremont Street Experience. Weave through the revelers (some draped in neon) and salacious street performers to see dizzying **Binion's Gambling Hall**, the reconstructed Hacienda Horse and Rider, and the kitschy Vegas Vic cowboy, who is no longer lit but still waves tourists into the **Pioneer Club** with a friendly wink.

Discerning neon hunters can travel to other Nevada cities, like West Wendover and Laughlin, where Vegas Vic's friendly brothers, Wendover Will and Laughlin Lou (you'll see the family resemblance), reside.

"Neon is an important part of Nevada's cultural heritage, and some of the best signs are in small towns," Will says.

Whether you find it in Vegas or off the beaten bath, you owe it to yourself to see some real neon.

"I WOULD  
LOOK OUT  
THE WINDOW  
AND SEE THE  
DOWNTOWN  
LIGHTS AND  
KNOW I WASN'T  
THE LAST  
PERSON AWAKE."

**WILL DURHAM,  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
NEVADA NEON PROJECT**

# WHERE THE



*When Nevada's mining boom went bust, people left behind homes, stores, saloons, jails, churches, graveyards—and spirits. But these #NVGhostTown destinations refuse to die.*

**WRITER** Ann Marie Brown

# GHOSTS LIVE

## RHYOLITE

Nestled in volcanic rock at the edge of Death Valley, Rhyolite saw its population erupt to several thousand after Shorty Harris' famous 1904 gold discovery. By 1920, dwindling mine production caused the town to collapse. The crumbling remains of the bank, general store and train depot attracted early Hollywood filmmakers; Paramount Pictures restored one of the town's bottle houses (houses built entirely of bottles) for the silent film *The Air Mail*, and many movies have been shot here since. Surreal artworks dot the desertscape at nearby **Goldwell Open Air Museum**. From this sculpture garden, head to the **Bullfrog-Rhyolite Cemetery**, resting place for feminist rabble-rouser Panamint Annie (spelled Panniment on the headstone). Her remains may be here, but her spirit haunts the hills.



## BERLIN

Both human and reptile ghosts dwell here. Managed by the **Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park**, this well-preserved ghost town east of Gabbs offers a peek into early 20th-century mining-camp life, plus a dinosaur side trip. Take the self-guided tour of the mining cabins and 30-stamp mill on the edge of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, then dig deeper into the past, when giant prehistoric beasts swam in the warm ocean that once covered central Nevada.



## GOLD POINT

Settled, abandoned and resettled many times since 1868, the Esmeralda County town was mined for limestone, silver and gold. During World War II, the government restricted mining to metals useful in the war effort, so the mine shut down and Gold Point collapsed. But a few residents preserved its legacy. Recently, the historic buildings have been privately purchased and revived to welcome visitors. Stroll main street, strewn with animal skulls (that's some really old roadkill), rusting cars and old fire engines. Visit the original post office, now a museum. Play pool on the 1909 Brunswick table in the town saloon. You can even stay the night in a renovated miner's cabin at **Gold Point Ghost Town B&B**.



## BELMONT

The town sits about 50 miles northeast of Tonopah between the Toiyabe and Monitor mountain ranges, where it sprang to life with an 1865 silver lode. The boom lasted just 20 years. Wander through the old miners' cabins and mill sites, and check out the Monitor-Belmont Mill chimney, used for target practice by Air Force pilots during World War II. **Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon** (now there's a name) offers a warm wood stove, shuffleboard and friendly bartenders. If you're staying the night, head about 20 miles southwest to Manhattan, where you'll see Belmont's original church. When the miners left Belmont for Manhattan, they took the church with them.





## METROPOLIS

This ambitiously named town near Wells in Elko County is the rare ghost town *without* mining roots. It was a planned farming community that didn't go as planned: Metropolis succumbed to crop-eating jackrabbits, a typhoid epidemic, an invasion of Mormon crickets (the same species of katydids that once fed on Utah settlers' crops), fire and drought. Wander past the ruins of the Lincoln School and once-grand Hotel Metropolis, now disintegrating into the landscape. It's a reminder of our impermanence (wow, this got philosophical) and that old saw about the best-laid plans.



## GOODSPRINGS

This mining town just southwest of Vegas peaked in 1916, supplying zinc and lead for World War I. Stop in the 1913 **Pioneer Saloon**, approach its historic Brunswick bar and look for bullet holes from a poker-game murder. (The dealer shot a player caught with five aces.) There's also a memorial to Carole Lombard, the movie star who died in a 1942 plane crash on nearby Potosi Mountain. The saloon's shady whiskey-barrel-lined patio attracts a motley crew of history buffs, bikers, off-roaders and ghost hunters. Enjoy live bands, take a ghost tour or soak up local lore. Other preserved spots in town include the elementary school and 1880 cemetery.

# VEGAS



# 7



The Eiffel Tower replica at Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino is only half the size of the original. But you can gamble under this one.



The Fountains of Bellagio provide one of the Strip's top free shows—no tip required. Toss in a coin, though; it'll go to charity.

# WAYS

*If the gaming scene is too dicey for you, Las Vegas will win you over with world-class food, shopping, sports, art, music, museums and more—like atomic-age artifacts that are simply the bomb.*

★  
SHOPPING  
STORES EVERYWHERE

1

**THE DISTRICT AT GREEN VALLEY RANCH**

It's not exactly Mayberry from *The Andy Griffith Show*, but there is an old-fashioned Main Street feel to this mix of shops, restaurants, offices and homes southeast of Vegas in Henderson. Find serious fitness gear at **Red Rock Running Company**, browse on-trend duds for moms (and kids) at **Fashion and Fairytales Boutique**, or stroll the tree-lined main drag, with its patios and benches. There's a splash pad for kids and a parklike central plaza, plus events like outdoor concerts and family movie nights.

**THE ARTS DISTRICT** ➤

"Dead people's junk and cool crap"—that's what the sign promises at **Vintage Vegas Antiques**, part of this retro mecca also known as 18b. **Rockin Bettie** and **Tatyana Boutique** will doll you up in rockabilly and pinup looks—think polka dots and wild prints. **Buffalo Exchange** buys, sells and trades trendy old threads. **ReBar** spikes bargains with booze—everything is for sale, including the barstools, the drink glasses and maybe that old bowling shirt you're wearing. Shop while downing a German beer and a Polish sausage.



**DOWNTOWN CONTAINER PARK**

Since opening on Fremont Street in 2013, this outdoor shopping district made from shipping containers has become a haven for the shop-local crowd. Favorites include **Art Box Designs**, with handcrafted jewelry and decor; trendy millennial clothing shop **Third and Arrow**; and snack purveyor **JoJo's Jerky**, where one of the flavors is cactus.

**FASHION SHOW MALL**

On the north end of the Strip, this place is easy to spot—look for "The Cloud," a huge steel disc hovering above the entrance like a flying saucer impaled on two towers. With more than 200 stores, the mall is a favorite shopping destination for visitors seeking all the big brands under one roof. And true to its name (and for a dash of expected spectacle), the mall offers periodic live runway shows.

**THE FORUM SHOPS AT CAESARS PALACE**

Even if a funny thing doesn't happen on the way there, you'll have fun roamin' the Shopping Wonder of the World. The palatial architecture presents plenty of photo ops—think marble columns, fancy fountains, ornate statues and golden finishes. Did we mention the 150 specialty shops and 10 restaurants? *Veni, vidi, visa* (I came, I saw, I charged).

**R•D EMPORIUM**

Tie-dye bike shorts, ombré cashmere sweatpants and camo rompers (green is the new black, you know) are among the looks you might find at this fashion boutique in **Boca Park** on the west side. Locals love the brands you won't find on the racks at most stores. And they have salty gifts you can take home for friends, like a Toss a Xanax canvas pouch or a journal titled *My Brilliant Ideas*.

# 2

## FAMILY FARE ★ SIN-FREE CITY

### HIGH TIMES

Fly 12 stories above The LINQ Promenade at up to 35 mph on the Strip's only zipline, **FLY LINQ**. See even more from **High Roller**, a 550-foot-tall Ferris wheel with a 360-degree view. The **STRAT Skypod** lifts you more than 1,000 feet to indoor and outdoor observation decks. The **Sling Shot** at Circus Circus shoots you up a 100-foot tower (you free fall back down). And **The Big Apple Coaster** at New York New York is the world's first roller coaster to feature a 180-degree "heartline" twist and dive maneuver.

Don't worry. Though riders on the **FLY LINQ** zipline appear to be heading straight for the **High Roller** wheel, it's only an optical illusion. Or is it?

### DIG THIS LAS VEGAS

Construction junction, what's your function? Here, it's helping families bond over heavy equipment. In this giant sandbox, you get to play with real Caterpillar bulldozers, excavators and more (if you pass the Breathalyzer test). There are smaller rigs for younger kids, but preteens and teens can join parents behind the wheels of full-size models to stack gigantic tires, dig trenches, build earthen mounds and play bucket basketball. (Good luck trying to dribble.)



### CLASSIC GAMES

This is flippin' awesome. Adults will go all nostalgia mode over restored vintage pinball machines and arcade games at the **Pinball Hall of Fame**. Even jaded kids may get sucked in by the flashing lights, balls, bells, buzzes, beeps and synth music. **KISS by Monster Mini Golf** at the Rio Hotel and Casino celebrates the 1970s glam rockers with continuous music, props, trivia, contests and prizes while you play a glow-in-the-dark 18-hole course.

### SPRINGS PRESERVE

Give the Strip the slip and head to this 180-acre Garden of Eden within the city. See animals, hike trails, learn about Nevada's ecosystems and history, explore botanical gardens, and experience Vegas before neon, casinos and traffic. Kids can dig up fossils and witness the dangers of flash flooding. The campus, which includes **Nevada State Museum**, is a showcase of sustainable design, with some of the greenest buildings in the nation.

### SWEET SHOPS

**I Love Sugar** on the Strip is like a real-life game of Candy Land, except everybody wins and nobody can cheat. (Well, except on their diet.) Get a sugar buzz from a candy-infused martini. At **M&M's World Las Vegas**, chocolate addicts can personalize the melt-in-your-mouth candies and sample limited-edition exotic flavors (chili nut? jalapeño?). **Hershey's Chocolate World** welcomes huddled masses with a Statue of Liberty sculpture made of nearly 800 pounds of milk chocolate.

★  
DINING  
**SHAKE YOUR FOODIE**

**BLOCK 16  
URBAN FOOD  
HALL**

Typical food court fare wouldn't do at a place called The Cosmopolitan, one of the Strip's luxury resorts. The gourmet options include **Pok Pok Wing** from James Beard Award-winning chef Andy Ricker and Nashville's family-owned **Hattie B's Hot Chicken**. Search for the hidden entrance to speakeasy **Ghost Donkey**, where mezcal and tequila flights wash down truffle nachos.

**EATALY**

This airy indoor marketplace at Park MGM may not be Italy, but it's appetizingly close. Enjoy charcuterie, pizza, gelato or Chianti at one of several eateries, or drool over all the specialty groceries (so many pasta shapes!) and stock up to create your own Italian feast. (Hint: Plan to check your bags if you splurge on that schmancy olive oil.)



3



## ROLLIN SMOKE BBQ

What started as a single smoker selling BBQ from the street now has three locations. The place wows with Southern-style fare made by folks who migrated from Arkansas. To get a good sampling, order the Pit Special—five meats and three sides—and share with a friend.

## LIP SMACKING FOODIE TOURS

Walk into four of the best restaurants at their busiest times, be immediately seated at their best tables, and sample their best dishes. No, you're not the president, but on these tours, you're definitely a VIP. The Savory Bites & Neon Lights option ends with a commander-in-chief helicopter ride over the Strip and a limo ride back to your hotel (instead of the White House).

## BEST FRIEND

At Park MGM, chef Roy Choi folds the laid-back flavors and culture of Los Angeles into the glamour and glow of Las Vegas. Dine on dishes like Kalbi (Korean barbecue short ribs) and elotes (Mexican street corn) with kewpie mayo, tajin, Cotija cheese and lime juice. Enjoy unlimited portions of select BBQ and sides on All You Can Eat Mondays.

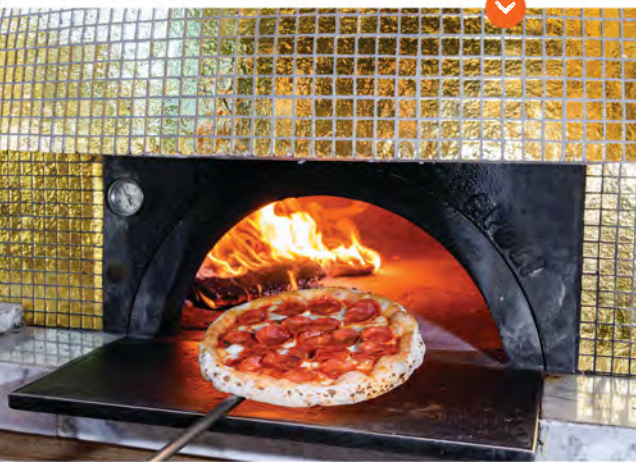
## CHINATOWN

Conduct a non-Strip search for hidden gems by Ubering to Spring Mountain Road. Don't be fooled by the neighborhood name; there's more than familiar Chinese food here. At tiny **Raku**, Japanese Foie Gras Don is worth the wait. **District One Kitchen and Bar** offers modern pho, one with a whole Maine lobster. **Tang Tang Tang**, which never closes, serves ox bone soup and other Korean comfort food.

## FLOCK AND FOWL

Locals say the best chicken in Vegas is at this downtown spot run by James Beard-nominated chef Sheridan Su. His signature is the Classic Flock and Fowl Hainan Chicken, prepared poached or roasted and served with rice.

**You knead to make a from-scratch pie at one of Eataly's pizza workshops. Pick your toppings, then bake it in a wood-fired oven.**



## SMITH CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

After this jewel was built, scores of big-time performers and shows added Nevada to their tour dates. Broadway productions, ballet, jazz artists, classical concerts and more pack the house in the state-of-the-art concert hall, 200-seat studio theater and cabaret-style jazz club, including hometown faves the **Las Vegas Philharmonic** and the **Nevada Ballet Theatre**. As impressive is the artwork: sculptures outside and in the lobby, and paintings and other pieces in and around the performance spaces.

## MARJORIE BARRICK MUSEUM OF ART

Recent exhibits at this free museum on the UNLV campus include *Sorry for the Mess*, a giant landscape where the lives of casino laborers are depicted in children's-TV style. Along with rotating modern art exhibits, see ceramics from Mesoamerican cultures, works by early southern Nevada artists and a 9,000-square-foot garden full of dry-climate plants.

## VEGAS THEATRE COMPANY

The former **Cockroach Theatre Company** started with pop-up shows in parking lots and warehouses. Now resident company at **Art Square Theatre** in 18b, the nonprofit troupe produces material by emerging playwrights, like this February's (2020) *Men On Boats*, the gender-flipping story of a one-armed captain and crazy crew who set out in 1869 to chart the course of the Colorado River.

## UNLV PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The multivenue hub hosts productions of the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, UNLV School of Music, UNLV Dance, Desert Chorale and the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. The UNLV PAC also provides a venue for local schools' concerts. The 2020 calendar includes performances by The Miró Quartet (April), one of America's most celebrated string quartets, and Grammy-winning pianist Emanuel Ax (May), who will perform an all-Beethoven program in honor of the composer's 250th birthday.

# 5

## VINTAGE VIBES ★ PLAY IT BY ERA



### 100 YEARS OF MADE MEN & THEIR ASSOCIATES

#### THE MOB MUSEUM

In a former federal courthouse where mobsters stood trial, you view organized crime through the peepers of G-men and gangsters. See the brick wall from the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, view gruesome crime scene pics, and pose for a police lineup photo (again, simulated). Trip Advisor named it one of the nation's best museums.



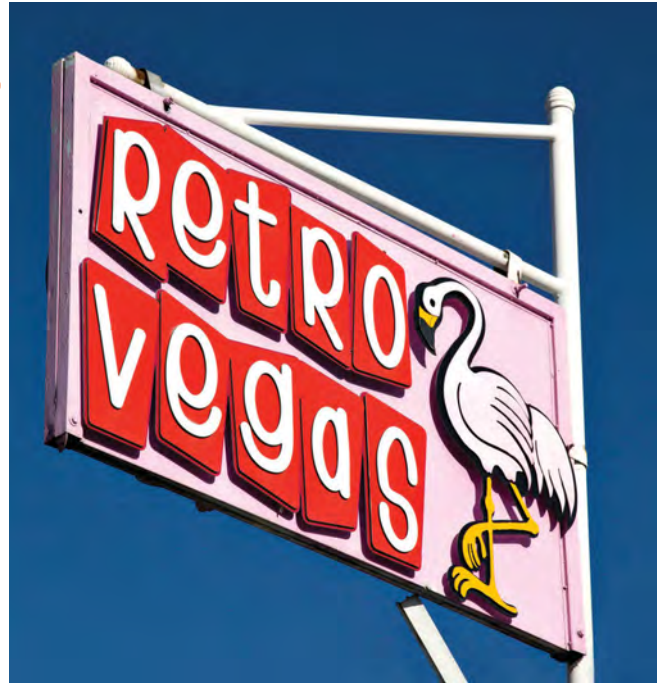


STORY: KRISTA DIAMOND, PHOTOGRAPHS: (MUSEUM) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY, (SIGN) RYAN DONNELL

## RETRO VEGAS



They could call this Arts District staple The Mod Museum, as in midcentury modern. But you can actually buy the items displayed here, including '50s swag (lamps), furniture that's more cool than comfy, chrome kitchenware, casino castoffs and gems mined from the city's gaudiest homes. It's hard to leave without buying at least a little something, like a funky ashtray or a cocktail glass.



## ATOMIC LIQUORS

This Fremont Street icon, originally a restaurant called Virginia's Café, got the city's first packaged liquor license in 1952, making it the oldest freestanding Vegas bar. The name came from customers climbing on the roof to watch atomic bomb tests in the desert. Today, patrons have a blast gathering on the patio beneath the bar's vintage neon sign to sip cocktails like the signature F-Bomb—an explosive mix of Fireball cinnamon whiskey, Fernet-Branca and Atomic Energy Drink. Now *that's* invoking the nuclear option.

## VICKIE'S DINER

This legit retro diner (it dates to 1955) serves killer biscuits and gravy, chicken fried steak and other Formica-top fare. Owner Vickie Kelesis runs the old Tiffany's Café, which her uncle, Vegas diner legend Pete Kelesis, used to own. It once was the lunch counter for now-closed White Cross Drugs (a haunt of Elvis and the Rat Pack). A weird painting in back (a menacing Eastwood-esque gunslinger invading a serene landscape) has a cult following, including a Facebook page and stream of selfie-takers.

## NATIONAL ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM

Just over a mile east of the Strip, experience a simulated bomb blast; learn about the lives of Nevada Test Site workers; and see rotating exhibits created from thousands of rare atomic-era artifacts, such as a large reactor used to develop nuclear missiles and some early personal atomic weapons, like the Backpack Nuke. You'll also learn modern tactics for surviving an atomic blast. (FYI, the old duck and cover is out.)

## APPLE 2 NUCLEAR SITE TOURS

The hottest ticket in Vegas may be for a patch of desert north of town, where ghostly houses stand among Joshua trees. The Apple 2 test site (not a tribute to Steve Wozniak's early computer) is a faux town created to test the effects of an atomic bomb. The only way to get there is via a tour (free, but new dates fill up the day posted; 2020 is fully booked) through the **Nevada National Security Site**. See the old company town of Mercury, a radioactive waste disposal site and the Sedan Crater, left by a 1962 blast.

## ★ AVANT-GARDE YOUR INNER INDIE



# 6

### FREMONT EAST ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

**Oddfellows**, a dance club for people who don't do dance clubs, is one of the quirky venues that power FEED, a walkable six-block district framed by Las Vegas Boulevard East, 8th Street, Ogden Street and Carson Avenue.

**The Writer's Block** bookstore hosts readings, workshops, small music acts and an artificial bird sanctuary (really). **The Bunkhouse Saloon** is a music venue, bar and restaurant that draws on-the-cusp indie acts.

### DOWNTOWN CONTAINER PARK

Yeah, we told you about the shopping already, but this place isn't only a retail zone. One of the containers has been turned into a tree house (plus giant slides) for kids. Free movie nights draw families too. If you like music, come for live bands, karaoke in the park or all-ages silent disco parties (everyone wears glowing headphones).

### BURLESQUE HALL OF FAME

With a Wall of Pasties spotlighting donors and a School of Striptease teaching bump-and-grind basics, this spot invites you to shed your inhibitions and explore the revealing history and impact of this erotic art form. The hall's collection includes thousands of costumes, stage props, photos and personal effects from decades of burlesque dancers. Think: Gypsy Rose Lee's pincushion, where she stored all the straight pins that held her dress together onstage (well, temporarily).

### AREA 15 AND MEOW WOLF

Area 15 (not to be confused with Area 51) is an entertainment, art and retail mash-up due to open in 2020 west of the Strip. Holding it all together is the Spine, a changing corridor of art installations, shops and dining. **Meow Wolf**, a New Mexico-based artist collective known for large-scale multimedia experiences, will anchor Area 15. Get set to join all ages in a fantasy world of interactive and perception-stretching adventures—the heck with real life.

**LAS VEGAS ACES**

Watch world-class women's hoops at **Mandalay Bay Events Center**, home of the WNBA's Aces. After the 2018 season (their first in Vegas), the team won the draft lottery for the third year in a row. (How's that for luck?) They used the No. 1 pick to select Jackie Young, a star guard from Notre Dame. The 2020 home opener is in May, and you can score great seats to most games.

**DREAM RACING**

Still want to be a race car driver when you grow up? **Dream Racing** experiences at **Las Vegas Motor Speedway** put you behind the wheel of a Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini or other rad ride. Get some quick training (including a 3-D simulator), don a suit and helmet, then hit the track for some fast laps.

**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS**

The NFL's legendary men in black (and silver)—known for rowdy fans and rebel leaders like Davis, Madden, Stabler and Gruden—have found the perfect home in mavericks-ville. Starting with the 2020 season, Raider Nation will fly its flag in sweet new **Allegiant Stadium**, a venue built with a special roof and doors to create an outdoor feel while beating the desert heat. Tickets will be hot, too, so act fast.

**NATIONAL FINALS RODEO**

Warning: The NFR (December) is NSFW (Not Safe for Wusses). We're talking about bareback riding, steer wrestling, tie-down roping, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing and bull riding. The world's greatest show on dirt, starring A-list riders and livestock, packs them in at UNLV's **Thomas and Mack Center**.



**THE CORE ARENA**

Vegas has always been a good place to horse around, and now it's even easier.

**The Core Arena**, downtown's first and only outdoor equestrian center and multipurpose events center, is open at the Plaza Hotel and Casino. During rodeos, it offers two arenas for roping practice and exercise, plus 80 permanent stalls (and 300 more for larger events) that cowpokes can use to hold their horses. The arena hosts various events throughout the year, including the **Las Vegas Days Rodeo** (May).

**VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS**

In a city of over-the-top shows, one of the best takes place on ice. And there's hockey too. Pregame theatrics at **T-Mobile Arena** are can't-miss; they whip the crowd into a frenzy that gives the NHL's Knights a huge home-ice edge. In their first season (2017-18), the long shots skated to the pucking promised land—the Stanley Cup Final.



# ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL



*Trust us, this is the fun way to learn. Take a break from your phones, look around and explore. Nevada will reward your curiosity. Start with these courses—no homework, no tests. Extra credit for smiling.*

**WRITER** Melissa Walker

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CLOSE-UP) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY,  
(SAND HARBOR) SUSAN MOWERS / TRAVEL NEVADA



**PHYS ED** Forget burpees, laps and weights. Swim, kayak, SUP and scuba in the cobalt waters of Lake Tahoe. Two boat ramps at **Sand Harbor State Park** in Incline Village make the water accessible for boaters, skiers and anglers. Or head to **Cathedral Gorge State Park** in southeastern Nevada for a power walk. Trails wind by dramatically eroded spires and bluffs of soft bentonite clay, the remnants of explosive volcanic activity millions of years ago.



## SCIENCE LAB

Older kids can make forensic forays at **CSI: The Experience** at MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Take fingerprints, recover DNA samples, and gather evidence as a crime scene investigator before trying to solve the case. Take it a step further by playing medical examiner at **Bodies: The Exhibition** at the Las Vegas Luxor Hotel. Preserved human bodies and body parts show what lies beneath the skin and how the skeletal, muscular, circulatory and respiratory systems work. Younger kids can graze on a creative buffet at **Discovery Children's Museum** in Las Vegas. Three floors of rotating exhibits give aspiring engineers, entrepreneurs and artists a chance to solve mysteries, devise inventions, and perform in theater and puppet shows. As for recess: The backseat set will love scaling (and sliding down) a 70-foot tower full of nooks and crannies.

## HISTORY

Learn on the down-low at the **Tonopah Historic Mining Park**. Walk a tunnel to one of the mine's original stopes (steplike extraction areas)—500 feet underground. Aboveground, tour buildings and equipment that made Tonopah the Queen of the Silver Camps. A lot of that silver went to the Carson City Mint, its 1870 building now home to one branch of the **Nevada State Museum**. Go there to see silver dollars with the CC mark (for Carson City). At the **Wilbur D. May Center** in Reno, circle the globe without packing a bag. World traveler May's collection includes Egyptian tomb artifacts, African tribal masks, Chinese pottery and Japanese swords. And you can't expect the umpteenth *Jurassic Park* sequel to do all the heavy prehistoric ed lifting. Check out the **Las Vegas Natural History Museum** for replicas of woolly mammoths, dinosaurs and other extinct animals.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (CANYON) RADAMO PRODUCTIONS/TRAVEL NEVADA, (RAILROAD) TRAVEL NEVADA, (GREAT BASIN) JAMES RONAN/EVEEM VIA



## ASTRONOMY

Most of us have never seen a night sky like the one stretching across **Great Basin National Park**. Shooting stars dart like tadpoles in a pond, and the Milk Way spills plumes of sparkles over almost every open horizon. (Mather Overlook is a prime viewing spot.) Bring binoculars or a telescope, plus a star chart, to pick out constellations, or attend a park ranger astronomy program. Down the road in Baker, head to **Baker Archaeological Site** for more twinkling, unpolluted views. In Vegas, **The Planetarium** at the College of Southern Nevada offers star shows immune to the big city's bright lights. And **Fleischmann Planetarium** at the University of Nevada, Reno presents daily digital shows in its dome theater.

**WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL OF ROCK. NEVADA'S VARIED TERRAIN MEANS YOU CAN UNEARTH RICH VEINS OF MINING HISTORY OR GO ON A MODERN-DAY GEOLOGICAL TREASURE HUNT. FOR MORE INFO, SEE "GEM-DANDY ROCKHOUDING," P. 16.**

## ENGINEERING

Design, build, and test roads and buildings, and learn about geothermal energy at the **Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum** in Reno. Young aspiring transportation engineers can climb in a play space shuttle or balance on an airplane teeter-totter at **The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada** in Carson City. Think and play inside the box at the **Downtown Container Park** in Las Vegas. Older kids can ponder how shipping containers became shops and restaurants, while younger ones can explore the tree-house play gym and giant foam blocks for building (or throwing). Want to be a different kind of engineer? Check out locomotives and train cars at the **Nevada State Railroad Museum** in Carson City.



**ABOVE LEFT AND OPPOSITE** Cathedral Gorge State Park and Great Basin National Park are like mega outdoor science labs.

**ABOVE** Take a family field trip aboard the restored 1910 McKeen Motor Car at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City.

## FINE ARTS

Indulge young artists at **The King Art Studio** in Henderson. Weeklong camps give kids ages 5–18 a chance to channel their creative energy into drawing, painting and ceramics. Hands ON! Second Saturdays at **Nevada Museum of Art** cater to children with simple art projects, stories and more.



X  
VIEWFINDER

# STONE AGE

*Seven psychedelic boulder towers south of Vegas have become one of the state's selfiest landmarks. Next year, the sun sets on them for the last time.*

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Ryan Donnell





---

**DON'T  
WAIT**

Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains* opened in 2016 for a two-year run. Its popularity led to a three-year extension: Snap your pic before the end of 2021.

---

◆  
**RUBY MOUNTAINS**  
HELI SKIING



POWDER

YOUR

FACE



*Nature drops about 30 feet of snow on Lake Tahoe's mountain rim each year, more than enough for world-class skiing and snowboarding, plus fat biking, tubing and snowmobiling. But Tahoe's not the only place to snow your own way.*

**WRITER** Ann Marie Brown

## RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI SKIING

### WANNA GET (NATURALLY) HIGH? DRIVE SOUTH OF RENO TO MT. ROSE,

where mighty **Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe** boasts the highest base elevation of Tahoe's 13 ski resorts. The upper runs—nearing 10,000 feet—offer l'm-king-of-the-world looks at the Washoe Valley and the desert. Experts hop the Blazing Zephyr lift to The Chutes' double-black-diamond runs, while intermediates sink their edges into deftly manicured groomers. At Winters Creö Lodge, every cocoa break comes with floor-to-ceiling windows and drone's-eye desert views.

Down the hill in Incline Village, intimate **Diamond Peak Ski Resort** covers only 655 acres, but its horizon-stretching lake views are off the charts. From the Crystal Express chairlift, you're treated to divine blue-water vistas and smooth corduroy runs that seem to plummet to the lakeshore. On Saturday afternoons, ride the last chairlift to Snowflake Lodge for appetizers and wine tasting. Then as the sun sinks böind Tahoe's western peaks, ski down a freshly groomed trail in alpenglow's pink blush.

Earn bragging rights by skiing from Nevada to California—and back again—at **Heavenly Ski Resort** on Tahoe's south shore. Mega-resort Heavenly racks up the superlatives, including Tahoe's most skiable acreage (4,800 acres), highest summit elevation (10,067 feet) and longest vertical drop (3,500 feet). Skiers and snowboarders float fresh powder and weave through trees on nearly 100 runs, some crisscrossing two states.

Nonskiers find thrills on Heavenly's 2.4-mile-long gondola, which whooshes over the treetops up to 9,100 feet in elevation. As your tram car climbs, a steadily widening landscape reveals Tahoe's aquatic sapphire gleaming at center stage. Stop at the Observation Deck to snap photos of "Big Blue" extending 22 miles south to north.

At Heavenly's Adventure Peak snow-play area, plop yourself down in a doughnut-shape snow tube and barrel down the tubing hill's 65-foot vertical drop. Expect to hit some butt-jarring bumps.

On Tahoe's east shore, rev up the adrenaline a few notches at **Zephyr Cove Resort's** Snowmobile Center. Drive your own hefty "mountain sled" on a guided tour through aspen groves, pine forests and snow-covered meadows, then up to a 9,000-foot summit.

If you'd rather look at snow than immerse yourself in it, sign up for a flight with **Hang Gliding Tahoe** in Carson City. You'll get an eagle's-eye view of white-crested granite peaks as you and your pilot soar in an open-cockpit "trike," a flying machine with a hang glider wing and aircraft engine. Soon after takeoff, the pilot lets you take over the controls. A heated vest, boots and gloves keep you warm.



## CHICKADEE RIDGE SNOWSHOEING





LEE CANYON  
VEGAS SKIING



**TOP** Skiing with Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience in Lamoille is hella cool. **RIGHT** Lee Canyon near Las Vegas rocks a mod new look. **OPPOSITE** If you can walk, you can snowshoe Chickadee Ridge near Lake Tahoe.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (HELICOPTER) COURTESY OF RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI SKIING, (LEE CANYON) COURTESY OF LEE CANYON

Take the flying thing to the next level at one of Nevada's best-kept secrets, **Ruby Mountains Heli Skiing** in Lamoille. A chopper carries you high into the Rubies and drops you off (no, you don't have to jump out of the helicopter) to ski or snowboard somewhere among 200,000 acres of pristine powder—no lift lines or tracks in sight. There's terrain for all ages and skill levels, from wide-open bowls to adrenaline-amping fall lines. The chopper picks you up when you're done too (so you don't have to Uber).

If you'd rather keep your feet on the ground, simply strap on a pair of snowshoes. Shuffle along the trail to **Chickadee Ridge** from Tahoe Meadows for a lake view and companionship among flitting mountain chickadees, one of Tahoe's most charming birds. For a serious shoeing challenge, climb to the triple-turreted summit of 9,103-foot Castle Peak from Donner Summit. Your reward: The ancient volcano's ridgeline panorama extends for 100 miles on the clearest winter days.

There's even serious snow fun close to Vegas. **Lee Canyon**, a ski resort less than an hour northwest of the Strip, used to be just a local favorite, but more tourists are discovering it. Modern upgrades include new ski runs and lifts, plus a 10,000-square-foot hillside lodge with sweeping canyon views, heated outdoor dining spaces and a ski-in/ski-out bar. But the biggest draw is still the snow. With a base elevation of 8,510 feet—higher than most Tahoe-area resorts—Lee Canyon gets the light, dry snow of skiers' dreams.

And don't overlook **Elko SnoBowl** in Elko, northeastern Nevada's only ski spot. It's a beloved nonprofit run by volunteers. Enjoy a relaxed vibe, uncrowded slopes, short (or no) lift lines and cheap lift tickets (with discounts for students). The SnoBowl is just 6 miles north of town, with a shuttle bus running from Fifth Street to the ski area.

[The Ruby 360 Lodge at Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience makes it easy to ski and stay. Enjoy year-round vehicle access, spacious bedrooms and private baths, plus food and beverage service.](#)



★  
**RUBY MOUNTAINS**  
LODGE STAYS



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI SKIING

# ADVENTURE *awaits*



## WALKER LAKE NEVADA RECREATION AREA



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Explore ghost towns, discover breath-taking scenery, and enjoy local wildlife.

For those that want more comfort after a day around the lake, there are Hotels, Restaurants, Casinos, RV Parks and Museums, located 15 miles south in Hawthorne.

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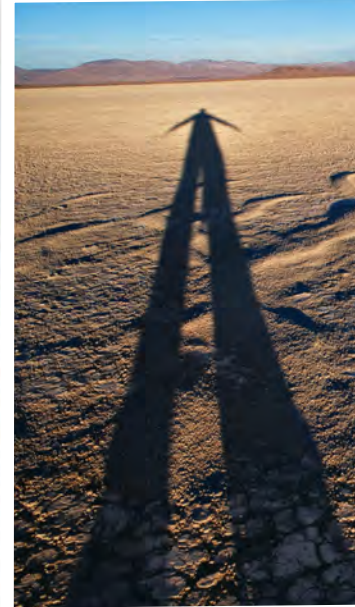


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HELP YOU GET MARRIED HERE.**



# PLANS



## > IT'S A DATE!

FOR EVERY WORLD-FAMOUS EVENT ANCHORING NEVADA'S CULTURE, MUSIC, RACING AND RODEO SCENES, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER WORTHY ONES YOU SHOULD ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR.



### CULTURE CLASSICS

Everyone has heard of **Burning Man**, the annual late August-early September gathering in the Black Rock Desert. It revolves around elaborate art structures, some of which are burned, including the eponymous "Man." If you're into colorful expressions of shared arts and culture, these festivals might spark your interest too.



### NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING, ELKO

**JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

When cowpokes rode the cattle trails north after the Civil War, they passed the long hours by composing rhymes on horseback and later swapping them around the fire. Today, no spurs, lasso or even wide-brim hat required; just show up with your love for the American West as you hear ranchers and wranglers share their stories via poetry, prose and music.

### JIM BUTLER DAYS, TONOPAH MAY 18-25, 2020

Celebrate the namesake lucky prospector who stumbled across silver-rich ore here, leading to boom times in the former mining town. Gems of the 50th anniversary edition include the Nevada State Mining Championships—with mucking and hand drilling competitions—and the annual stampede, featuring bulls, ranch broncs, mutton busting, junior barrels, barrels, pee-wee barrels and other fun at the Tonopah Rodeo Grounds.

# NAVIGATE LIKE A NEVADAN

Carson City is the centerpoint of a true northern Nevada experience. Nestled in the eastern edge of the Sierra, just 30 minutes from Lake Tahoe, it's the perfect spot to wander and recharge. Take it slow on a trail or ride a steam train into the sunset. Carson City is your hub to explore the history and heart of Nevada.



VisitCarsonCity.com



## EXPERIENCE THE UNEXPECTED



*Whether you're a trail blazing, peak bagging, galloping adrenaline junkie or an art strolling, line casting, Sunday driving seeker – Elko has something offer for your next adventure.*

**EXPERIENCE THE UNEXPECTED IN ELKO, NEVADA**

### ANNUAL EVENTS

**January: National Cowboy Poetry Gathering**

**June: Elko Mining Expo**

**July: National Basque Festival, Silver State Stampede, Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival**

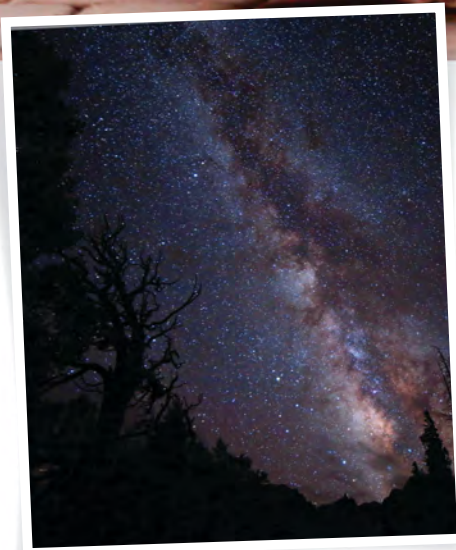
**August: Ruby Mountain Relay, Elko County Fair & Horse Races**

**September: Rides & Rods Elko Classic Car Show**

**ELKO CONVENTION & VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**(800) 248-3556**

**EXPLOREELKO.COM**





▲ **ARTOWN, RENO  
JULY 2020**

You're not hallucinating; the city's streets and building facades really are changing colors thanks to a mural marathon and chalk art festival. Guided art walks highlight Reno's abundance of permanent installations.

**LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE  
FESTIVAL, INCLINE VILLAGE  
JULY 3-AUGUST 30, 2020**

The Bard may find it all too bougie, but there's something magical about taking in a show

with your toes in the sand and Lake Tahoe as a backdrop. Come early for a gourmet meal at Shakespeare's Kitchen.

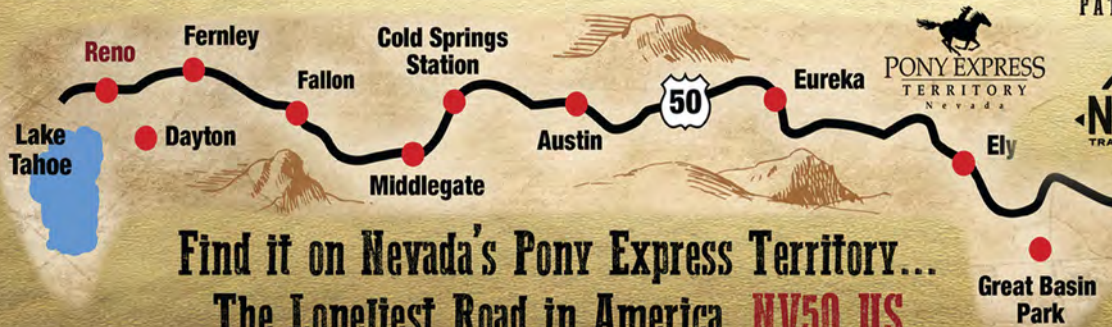
◀ **GREAT BASIN ASTRONOMY  
FESTIVAL, BAKER  
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2020**

Science nerds and curious visitors gather to see the stars under some of the darkest night skies in the nation at Great Basin National Park. High-tech telescopes are on hand for spotting deep-sky nebulae and galaxies.

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PH: WPTM-05/17

## MUSIC, MAN

The world-class **iHeartRadio Music Festival**, staged in Las Vegas each September, has become a must-block-out-my-calendar event for performers and fans. Top artists from across genres headline two nights of music, while rising stars dazzle in daytime performances. If that's your jam, check out these other musical happenings.

### VIVA LAS VEGAS, LAS VEGAS

**APRIL 9-12, 2020**

If "vintage" trips your trigger, pack your old American Tourister suitcase for this celebration of rockabilly and hot rods. Start training now for the jiving contest and retro swimsuit competition.

### RENO JAZZ FESTIVAL, RENO

**APRIL 23-25, 2020**

Things get *saxy* at the University of Nevada as vocal and instrumental ensembles compete for top honors. Don't miss a performance by the aptly named Grammy nominee Jazzmeia Horn.

### LAS VEGAS ELVIS FESTIVAL, LAS VEGAS

**JULY 16-19, 2020**

Even if you don't feel burning love for the King, you can't help falling in love with this annual

homage packed with Elvis tribute artists and after-hours karaoke parties at Sam's Town Hotel and Gambling Hall.

### NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY, YERINGTON

**JULY 23-25, 2020**

Pure country, pure farmland, pure Nevada. This festival takes place away from big-city lights, in a quiet farming town—the perfect spot for three nights of country music acts and camping.

### OFF BEAT MUSIC FESTIVAL, RENO

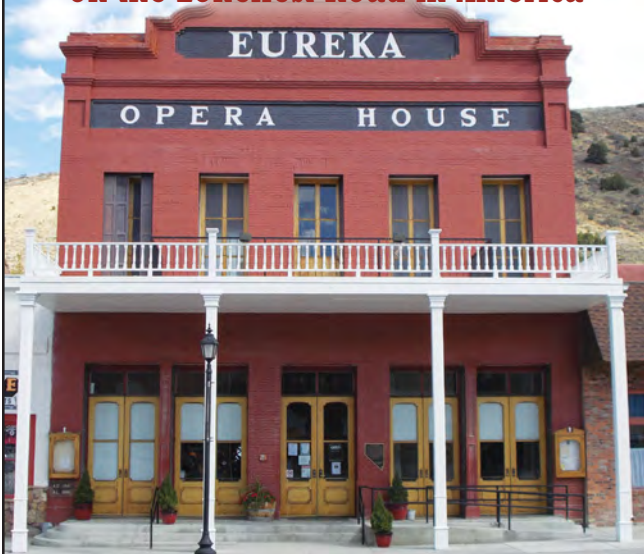
**OCTOBER 1-3, 2020**

The name says it all: You'll find an eclectic mash-up of musical styles among the 100-or-so artists playing gigs at cocktail bars and taverns around the city. Hop around and you'll likely discover at least one new fave.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

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## AMAZING RACES

**Las Vegas Motor Speedway** grabs racing's pole position twice a year when it hosts the world's top drivers for NASCAR Cup Series events. In February, it's the Pennzoil 400, the follow-up to the season-opening Daytona 500. And in September, drivers and fans come back for the South Point 400, the kickoff to the second round of the 2020 NASCAR Playoffs. But there's a lot more racing going on.

### INTERNATIONAL CAMEL AND OSTRICH RACES, VIRGINIA CITY SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020

Yes, this is a thing. And it's as entertaining to watch as it sounds. In addition to watching jockeys bounce around on top of exotic animals (zebras, too), kids can take camel rides at far more sensible speeds.

### ↑ GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE, RENO SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020

You'll want to roll out of the wrong side of bed before showing up for the 35-balloon glow show and mass ascension, because a bed-head competition follows the early-morning festivities.

### WORLD HUMAN-POWERED SPEED CHALLENGE, BATTLE MOUNTAIN SEPTEMBER 2020

The planet's fastest racers bring highly engineered bikes (they look like recumbent capsules) to the area's high-altitude roads in an effort to break bicycle land-speed records.

### SILVER STATE CLASSIC CHALLENGE, ELY TO LAS VEGAS SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2020

This 90-mile competition along State-318 holds a mark from Guinness World Records for world's fastest open road race. (In 2017, one team reached an average speed of nearly 220 mph!)

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES, RENO SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2020

Besides watching the action in the sky at the world's longest-running air race, get a close-up look at aircraft, pilots and crews in the "pits." An air show features the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OUTHOUSE RACES, VIRGINIA CITY OCTOBER 2020

The annual event dates back to a time when outdoor plumbing was outlawed in town—and angry residents protested by taking outhouses to the streets. Today, costumed commode competitors push privies to the TP finish line.



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## ANNUAL WINNEMUCCA EVENTS

### MARCH

RANCH HAND RODEO WEEKEND

### APRIL

SHOOTING THE WEST PHOTOGRAPHY

### MAY

RUN-A-MUCCA / MOTORCYCLE RALLY

### JUNE

WINNEMUCCA BASQUE FESTIVAL

### JULY

SILVER STATE INTERNATIONAL RODEO

COW COUNTRY CLASSIC

### SEPTEMBER

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### OCTOBER

FALL FARM FESTIVAL

WESTERN STATES RANCH RODEO FINALS



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## RODEO GAGA

The **Wrangler National Finals**, the world's premier rodeo, is the year's last roundup—the season-ending championship for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Held at the Thomas & Mack Center on the UNLV campus in Las Vegas, the December event rewards the world's best riders, ropers, racers and steer wrestlers with the circuit's biggest cash prizes. But you don't have to wait that long to see great rodeo.

### WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO, WINNEMUCCA FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 1, 2020

Come for the intense competition among 32 teams who rope, brand, ride and trailer-load their way to bragging rights. Stay for the cow dog trial, in which dogs chase cattle through a timed obstacle course.

### LAS VEGAS DAYS RODEO AND HELLDORADO PARADE, LAS VEGAS MAY 16, 2020

Honoring Vegas' Wild West roots since the 1930s, the festival features a PRCA rodeo competition at the sparkling new Core Arena by the Plaza Hotel and Casino. The Helledorado Parade features plenty of cowboy flair.

### RENO RODEO, RENO JUNE 18-27, 2020

Join the herd of more than 140,000 fans for this epic fest with a PRCA-sanctioned rodeo, plus a drill-team competition, parade, golf tournament, concert, fireworks and stunning cattle drive through the High Desert.

### SILVER STATE STAMPEDE, ELKO JULY 10-12, 2020

Providing bronco-bucking thrills since 1913, the oldest rodeo in Nevada continues to deliver high-stakes rodeo staples, plus the family-favorite mutton busting and rodeo clowns.



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## > SHARE IN THE HERITAGE

NEVADA'S HISTORY AS A U.S. STATE STARTED ON OCTOBER 31, 1864. (PERHAPS HALLOWEEN WAS APPROPRIATE?) NATURAL AND HUMAN FORCES HAD BEEN SHAPING THE LAND FOR CENTURIES BEFORE. CELEBRATE THIS HERITAGE ON NEVADA DAY AND AT HISTORICAL MUSEUMS AROUND THE STATE.



### NEVADA DAY CELEBRATION

Any birthday calls for a party, but when it's an entire state's, that justifies a parade too. The annual **Nevada Day Celebration** in Carson City offers both to honor the state's heritage. It's one of the country's largest statehood celebrations, and the centerpiece is the grand **Nevada Day Parade**, a tradition for more than 80 years. The 2020 edition will be a little more special, because festivities take place on October 31, the actual date of Nevada statehood.

Nevada Day starts with a pancake breakfast, hot-air balloon launch and **Nevada Day Classic Run/Walk**. The parade follows, moving through downtown for about 2 miles. More than 200 entries—floats, marching bands, teams and organizations—take part. Other events include the **Single Jack Drilling World Championship**, inspired by 19th-century mining techniques. Contestants bore holes into stone using only hand tools. (In mining days, the holes would hold sticks of dynamite for blasting rock.) Enjoy a chili feed, marvel at the beard contest, and take a free tour of the Governor's Mansion.

### MORE MUSEUMS

It takes more than a one-day celebration to see the big picture of Nevada's history and heritage. Beyond the seven state museums (see p. 28), these venues fill in key pieces of the cultural mosaic.

#### AUSTIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, AUSTIN

View mining, ranching and railroad artifacts.

#### BATTLE MOUNTAIN COOKHOUSE MUSEUM, BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Capture snapshots of pioneer life through stories, poetry and artists' talks.

#### BOULDER CITY/HOOVER DAM MUSEUM

Explore the story of the people who braved the desert elements to build the mighty Hoover Dam.

#### CLARK COUNTY MUSEUM, HENDERSON

Traverse a ghost town and see historic homes, a 1900s newspaper print shop and a vintage caboose.

#### COURTHOUSE SLAMMER AND COUNTY MUSEUM, VIRGINIA CITY

Housed inside a piece of Comstock history, this museum nails Virginia City's rich history with admirable truth and detail.

#### FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM, VIRGINIA CITY

Salute the nation's birthday at this retrofitted school

building built to honor the U.S. centennial.

#### GENOA COURTHOUSE MUSEUM, GENOA

The restored courthouse, formerly used as an elementary school—and bought for \$15—honors the history of the area's pioneers.

#### HUMBOLDT MUSEUM, WINNEMUCCA

See several sets of Columbian mammoth bones and teeth of a sabertooth cat found in the nearby desert.

#### NORTHEASTERN NEVADA

**MUSEUM, ELKO**  
Stroll 20,000 square feet of art and history that includes more than 180 specimens of wild animal mounts.

#### WESTERN FOLKLIKE CENTER, ELKO

Photos, audio and video recordings, and artwork impart the lifeways and traditions of the American West.

#### WHITE PINE PUBLIC MUSEUM, ELY

Get a robust look at Pony Express stories, a copper cache that put Ely on the map, regional ghost towns and incomparable railroad history.

# UNCOVER HISTORY

AT NEVADA'S STATE MUSEUMS

Adventure through the rich and colorful story of the Silver State. Unearth eras marked by prehistoric giants and eons of natural splendor, experience rhythms of American Indian life and the Old West, feel the booms of mining, railroading, the atomic era, entertainment... and so much more!

Where will your Nevada story take you?

Visit [NVMuseums.org](http://NVMuseums.org) for museum locations, exhibits, & events.  
Become a Museum Member for **FREE Admission** to ALL museums.



# NEVADA MUSEUMS & HISTORY

[NVMuseums.org](http://NVMuseums.org) • [#NVMuseums](https://twitter.com/NVMuseums)

## > HITCH PERFECT

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THIS, YOUR SPECIAL DAY. THERE'S A REASON WHY NEVADA FOR YEARS HAS HAD THE COUNTRY'S HIGHEST MARRIAGE RATE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS: IT'S SUPER-EASY TO TIE THE KNOT HERE, AND WHATEVER YOUR WEDDING WISH, THE STATE WANTS TO MAKE IT COME TRUE. HERE ARE SOME "I DO" DO'S (AND DON'TS) TO KEEP IN MIND IF YOU'RE THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED IN NEVADA.



### "I DO" DO'S

- ◆ Get married whenever. One of the great things about a Nevada wedding is that there's no waiting around if you don't want to. Show up at the county marriage license bureau, pay your dollars (it's 77 bucks in Vegas), sign your names and go get it done.
- ◆ Make it legal even if you're not from the United States. You'll need an Apostille (that's a pretty important international document), and it might take more time to get everything squared away. Get in touch with the Nevada Secretary of State; that office can send the form directly to your home country's government.
- ◆ Find an officiant to perform your ceremony, one with a valid Certificate of Permission for the county you want to get married in.

### "I DO" DON'TS

- ◆ Don't forget to bring paperwork that proves the name and age of both parties. Docs that work: driver's licenses, passports, military ID cards or other government ID cards. If you need to use a birth certificate or Social Security card, make sure you've got a picture ID to go with it.
- ◆ Seems basic, but don't try to get married here if you're already married. Sure, Nevadans are pretty easygoing about most things and aren't gonna get all judgey, but you do have to divorce one spouse all the way before taking another one. You'll need to provide the date your divorce or annulment was finalized, and the city and state where that took place. However, you don't need a copy of the decree.

**LEFT** As icons go, the famed Las Vegas sign is, yes, a fabulous choice for your wedding pics.

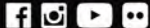
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## PLANNING GUIDE

# WEDDINGS

## VENUES FOR VOWS

**The only hard part about getting married in Nevada is deciding where to do it.**

Talk about taking the plunge. In 1982, the story goes, a pair of window washers tied the knot while dangling outside the 15th floor of The Sands Regency hotel in Reno. That might have been a first, but it's almost impossible to find a wedding venue in Nevada that at least one couple hasn't thought of before.

That said, altar-bound pairs can find inspired wedding backdrops all across the state. In recent years, beautiful natural settings and unconventional outdoor venues (think charming old ranches) have trended. Nevada has no shortage of picture-perfect spots for weddings, including stunning Lake Tahoe, one of the most scenic locations in the world for a wedding (or for anything, really). Several resorts on the lakeshore can help you plan a low-key ceremony at a beautiful mountain park or an elaborate high-rise, lake-viewing extravaganza—whatever you're into.

Looking for something more traditional? Maybe surprisingly, many of Nevada's wedding chapels are quite formal, catering to both lavish productions and more intimate affairs. Las Vegas is still the state's go-to wedding destination, offering options as varied as the couples selecting them. And the venues have years of experience at this marriage thing, so they know how to make things easy and fun for couples and their guests.

Just about every major hotel offers wedding packages that include a chapel, an officiant, rooms, food, and other matrimonial goodies, like extra flowers or a spa package to enhance the romance.



**TOP** Horses as groomsmen? Sure, in the Spring Mountains!  
**MIDDLE** If marriage is all about balance, SUPs on Lake Tahoe seem wonderfully symbolic.  
**BOTTOM** If you feel on top of the world on your big day, might as well be near Lake Tahoe.





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CAVE LAKE STATE PARK, ELY

## > WIDE OPEN SPACES

**WHETHER YOU'RE A COMMITTED OUTDOORS-LOVER OR AN URBANITE ON A FLING, MAKE A DATE WITH NEVADA'S VAST AND VARIED STATE PARKS.**

### **BEAVER DAM STATE PARK, PANACA**

Find hikes for all levels and camp among the forest. See porcupines, bobcats and, of course, beavers.

### **BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK, AUSTIN**

Check out the remains of a prehistoric marine reptile, the ichthyosaur. Learn the stories of Berlin, a mining town-turned-ghost town.

### **BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO STATE RECREATION AREA, LAUGHLIN**

Swim, boat and fish in the Colorado River. Rock formations and petroglyphs tell the story of the Mohave, the valley's earliest inhabitants.

### **CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, PANACA**

Explore the canyon, spires and cave-like formations created by volcanic blasts.

### **CAVE LAKE STATE PARK, ELY**

Land a rainbow or German brown trout. Watch for bobcats and mountain lions. Grab the binoculars to spot hawks and piñon jays.

### **DAYTON STATE PARK, DAYTON**

Wander the remnants of Dayton's gold and silver mining days while taking in the park's natural Great Basin desert beauty.

### **ECHO CANYON STATE PARK, PIOCHE**

Learn the history of the Fremont people, who left behind pictographs, stone flakes and pottery. Boat, swim and fish in the 65-acre reservoir.

### **ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE, CALIENTE**

Call ahead to view a one-room schoolhouse that educated kids from 1922 to 1967.

### **FORT CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK, SILVER SPRINGS**

Read how soldiers at the now-abandoned fort guarded the Pony Express, fought Native Americans and more. Visit Buckland Station, a boarding house and supply station.

### **ICE AGE FOSSILS STATE PARK, NORTH LAS VEGAS**

Examine ice age fossils of mammoths, dire wolves and other mammals at this new park set to open in 2020.

### **KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK, CALIENTE**

This green refuge is surrounded by 700-foot-tall walls and rainbow-color cliffs. Natural springs feed wild grapevines, trees and a wading pool.

### **LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA, FALLON**

Search for nesting bald eagles and play along 69 miles of shoreline. Named for an ancient lake, the reservoir was part of an irrigation project.

### **LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK, LAKE TAHOE**

It's really a series of parks within a larger park. Scuba dive and kayak at Sand Harbor, or ride a mountain bike or horse on the 50 miles of trails around Spooner Lake and the Spooner Backcountry. Near Cave Rock, paddle the waters or sunbathe on the beach.

### **MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK, GENOA**

See this trading post for travelers and the state's first permanent non-Native American settlement.

### **OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT STATE HISTORIC PARK, LAS VEGAS**

Mormon missionaries built this adobe fort along a creek in 1855. Today, it sits in the heart of downtown Las Vegas.

### **RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA, LOVELOCK**

View wildlife in and around the reservoir and off-road it through the surrounding area to prospect for gold and see ghost towns.

### **SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA, SPRING CREEK**

Camp at primitive and developed sites among meadows, rolling hills filled with wildlife and the Ruby Mountains.

### **SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK, BLUE DIAMOND**

Walk in the footsteps of millionaire Howard Hughes, who used the ranch as a luxury retreat. Explore some of Nevada's oldest buildings.

### **SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK, PIOCHE**

Hike to view the light gray, pink and white volcanic tuff and sediment. Plus see George Washington Rock, as eagles, hawks and songbirds soar overhead.

### **VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK, OVERTON**

Experience red Aztec sandstone outcrops, petrified trees and 2,000-year-old petroglyphs. Test replicas of ancient spears.

### **WALKER RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA, YERINGTON**

Explore Nine Mile Ranch and Pitchfork Ranch to experience rugged rangeland in a new park. The "Elbow" at Nine Mile is a section of the East Walker River that's fabled among anglers and will now remain rustic and undeveloped for seekers of true serenity (and excellent fishing).

### **WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK, ELY**

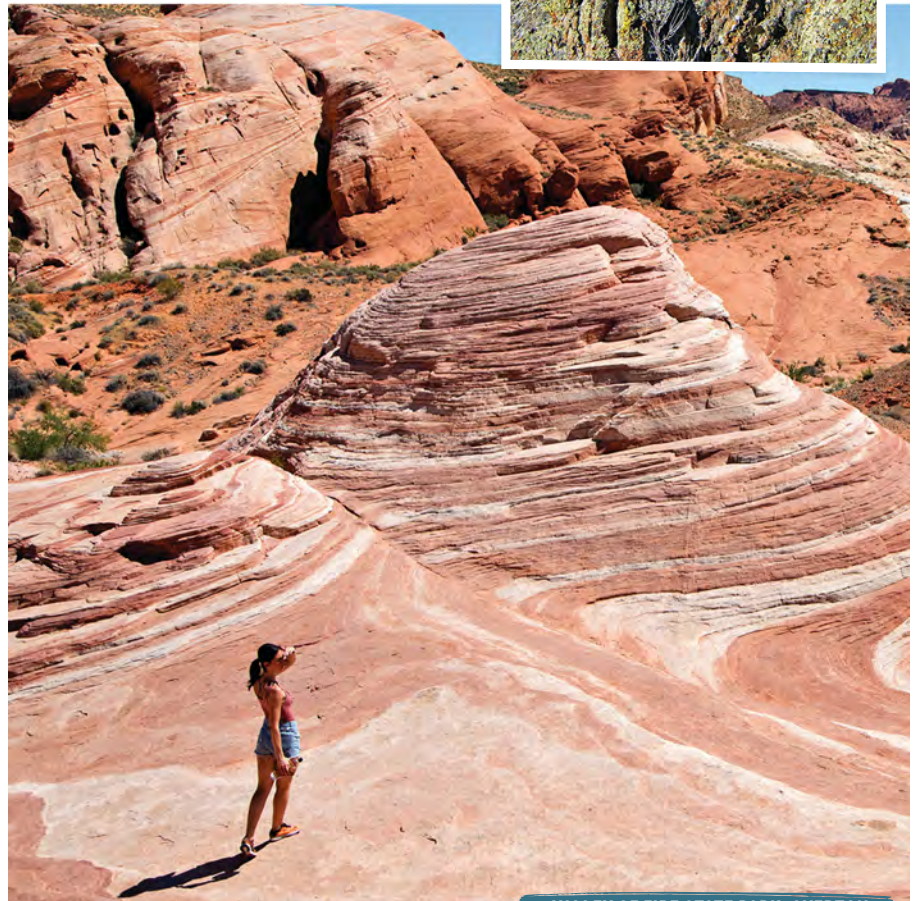
Tour beehive-shaped kilns used in the 1870s to process silver ore. Stagecoach bandits were later rumored to use the abandoned domes as hideouts. The monoliths are especially striking when seen against the night sky.

### **WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK, CARSON CITY**

Behold looming mountain ranges from a valley named for the Washoe people. Watch for migratory birds and waterfowl that nest here.

### **WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA, ELKO**

Roam where horses once did, among wildflowers. Camp, hike or boat and swim in the reservoir; return in the winter to ice fish or skate.



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK, OVERTON

## > LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ATTRACTIONS LOCATED IN NEVADA'S SIX TOURISM TERRITORIES (FIVE REGIONAL, ONE CULTURAL), CONTACT THESE ORGANIZATIONS.



### COWBOY COUNTRY

[cowboycountry.org](http://cowboycountry.org)

### BATTLE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

775/635-8245  
[battlemountainchamber.com](http://battlemountainchamber.com)

### CITY OF CARLIN

775/754-6354  
[explorecarlinnv.com](http://explorecarlinnv.com)

### ELKO CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY

800/248-ELKO (800/248-3556)  
[explorelko.com](http://explorelko.com)

### FRIENDS OF BLACK ROCK- HIGH ROCK (GERLACH)

775/557-2900  
[blackrockdesert.org](http://blackrockdesert.org)

### JACKPOT RECREATION AND TOURISM CENTER

775/755-2653  
[jackpotnevada.com](http://jackpotnevada.com)

### JARBIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

[visitjarbidge.org](http://visitjarbidge.org)

### LANDER COUNTY CONVENTION AND TOURISM AUTHORITY

775/635-1112  
[landercountytourism.com](http://landercountytourism.com)

### LOVELOCK/PERSHING COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

775/273-7213  
[loverslock.com](http://loverslock.com)

### MCDERMITT INFORMATION

775/532-8742

### WELLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

775/752-3540  
[wellsnevada.com](http://wellsnevada.com)

### WEST WENDOVER TOURISM AND CONVENTION BUREAU

866/299-2489  
[westwendovercity.com](http://westwendovercity.com)

### WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY

800/962-2638  
[winnemucca.com](http://winnemucca.com)

### INDIAN TERRITORY

[nevadaindianterritory.com](http://nevadaindianterritory.com)

### FALLON PAIUTE- SHOSHONE TRIBE

775/423-6075  
[fpst.org](http://fpst.org)

### GRIMES POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

702/885-6000  
[blm.gov/visit/grimes-point-hidden-cave-site](http://blm.gov/visit/grimes-point-hidden-cave-site)

### LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBE

702/386-3926  
[lpaiutetribe.com](http://lpaiutetribe.com)

### LOST CITY MUSEUM, OVERTON

702/397-2193  
[lostcitymuseum.org](http://lostcitymuseum.org)

**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM,  
CARSON CITY**

775/687-4810  
nvculture.org/  
nevadastatemuseumcarsoncity

**NEVADA URBAN  
INDIANS**

775/788-7600  
nevadaurbanindians.org

**PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE  
TRIBE MUSEUM AND  
VISITORS CENTER**

775/574-1088  
pyramidlake.us/museum

**RENO-SPARKS  
INDIAN COLONY**

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rsic.org

**SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES  
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**STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL**

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**WALKER RIVER  
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**WASHOE TRIBE OF  
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**LAS VEGAS TERRITORY**

lvtterritory.com

**BOULDER CITY TOURISM  
COUNCIL**

702/892-7575  
visitbouldercity.com

**CITY OF HENDERSON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TOURISM**

877/775-5252  
visithenderson.com

**LAS VEGAS CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS AUTHORITY**

877/VISITLV (877/847-4858)  
visitlasvegas.com

**LAUGHLIN VISITOR  
INFORMATION CENTER**

800/4-LAUGHLIN (800/452-8445)  
visitlaughlin.com

**MESQUITE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

702/346-2902  
mesquitenvchamber.com

**MOAPA VALLEY CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

702/398-7160  
moapavalleychamber.com

**NEVADA WELCOME  
CENTER AT MESQUITE**

877/637-7848  
visitmesquite.com

**SEARCHLIGHT  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

702/297-1682  
clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Pages/  
community-center-searchlight.aspx

**NEVADA SILVER TRAILS**

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**BEATTY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

866/736-3716  
beattynevada.org

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL  
PARK FURNACE CREEK  
VISITOR CENTER AND  
MUSEUM**

760/786-3200  
nps.gov/deva

**DEATH VALLEY NATURAL  
HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

800/478-8564  
dvnha.org

**GOLDFIELD CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE/HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

775/485-3560  
goldfieldnevada.org  
goldfieldhistoricalsociety.com

**GREATER LINCOLN  
COUNTY (ALAMO,  
CALIENTE, PANACA,  
PIOCHE, RACHEL)**

lincolncountynevada.com

**MINERAL COUNTY  
CONVENTION AND  
TOURISM AUTHORITY  
(HAWTHORNE)**

775/945-5854  
visitmineralcounty.com

**TOWN OF PAHRUMP**

visitpahrumpp.com

**PIOCHE CHAMBER OF  
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piochenevada.com

**TOWN OF TONOPAH**

775/482-6336  
tonopahnevada.com

**YERINGTON CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

775/463-2245  
yeringtonchamber.org

**PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY**

ponyexpressnevada.com

**GREATER AUSTIN  
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775/964-2200  
austinnevada.com

**DAYTON AREA CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

775/246-7909  
daytonareachamberofcommerce  
.com

**TOWN OF EUREKA**

visiteurekanevada.com

**FALLON CONVENTION  
AND TOURISM AUTHORITY**

775/423-4556  
visitfallonnevada.com

**FERNLEY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

775/575-4459  
fernleychamber.org

**GREAT BASIN BUSINESS  
AND TOURISM  
COUNCIL (BAKER)**

greatbasinpark.com

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nps.gov/grba

**WHITE PINE COUNTY  
TOURISM AND  
RECREATION BOARD (ELY)**

775/289-3720  
elynevada.net

**RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY**

renotahoe.com

**CARSON CITY CULTURE  
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775/687-7410  
visitcarsoncity.com

**CARSON VALLEY VISITORS  
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800/727-7677  
visitcarsonvalley.org

**TOWN OF GENOA**

775/782-8696  
genoanevada.org

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**NORTH LAKE TAHOE  
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800/462-5196  
gotahoenorth.com

**RENO-SPARKS  
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visitrenotahoe.com

**VIRGINIA CITY  
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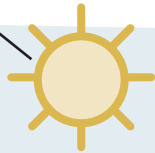
800/718-SLVR (800/718-7587)  
visitvirginiacitynv.com

# LAST BUT NOT LEAST

BEFORE YOU GO, HERE ARE A FEW MORE THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT NEVADA.

**300**

THAT'S HOW MANY SUNNY DAYS A YEAR THE STATE GETS. WHICH BASICALLY MEANS THAT IN NEVADA, IT'S SUPER EASY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.



NEVADA HAS NOT ONE, BUT

**2**

STATE TREES: THE SINGLE-LEAF PIÑON AND THE BRISTLECONE PINE.



THE FAA'S AIRPORT CODE FOR DERBY FIELD IN LOVELOCK IS

**LOL**



**RENO**



NEVADA IS SPANISH FOR

**snow-covered**

THE STATE'S NAME CAME FROM THE NEARBY SIERRA NEVADA ("SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAINS"). SPEAKING OF MOUNTAINS, WE'VE GOT THE MOST IN THE LOWER 48.

MORE THAN

**80%**

OF NEVADA IS PUBLIC LAND, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE AMONG ALL STATES. MEANING, THIS LAND LITERALLY IS YOUR LAND.



**LAS VEGAS**

THE STATE IS IMMENSE. IT'S THE SEVENTH-LARGEST. WITH NO STOPS, IT'LL TAKE YOU

**7**  
**hours**

TO DRIVE FROM **RENO TO VEGAS.** BUT IN A STATE THIS COOL, YOU'VE GOTTA STOP. A LOT.

THERE ARE MORE

**ghost towns**

(AT LEAST **600**) IN NEVADA THAN POPULATED TOWNS (ABOUT **120**).

TO SOUND LIKE A LOCAL, PRONOUNCE THE STATE'S NAME WITH A

**short "a"**

AND NOT LIKE YOU'RE OPENING YOUR MOUTH WIDE FOR THE DOCTOR. SAY

**Nev-AD-uh,**  
**not** Nev-AHH-duh.



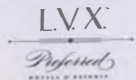
*Up here, time didn't fly, it stood still.*

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WHO **STAND OUT** IN CROWDS OR TRADE THEM FOR THE **WIDE-OPEN ROAD**.  
BOULEVARDS SHIMMERING WITH MILES OF **NEON**  
AND **DARK SKIES** DANCING ON A STARLIGHT STAGE,  
ALL-ENCOMPASSING, ONE VAST **PLAYGROUND**.  
THE ROAD MIGHT END, BUT THE **SPIRIT OF NEVADA** NEVER DOES.  
**WHERE WILL YOUR STORY TAKE YOU?**

