WHEREVER YOU’RE HEADED IN NEVADA, CHOICE HOTELS® IS THERE.

BOOK DIRECT AND PAY IN ADVANCE TO SAVE UP TO 15%.*

Visit ChoiceHotels.com/Nevada-Hotels or call 1-888-846-9378 to get our lowest price guaranteed.**

*Rate Restrictions: Valid only for Choice Privileges members (program enrollment is free). The reservation must be made on ChoiceHotels.com at participating hotels and must be made at least 7, 14, 21 or 30 days in advance, which will vary based on the hotel for which a reservation is being made. Subject to availability, the rate starts at 15% off Best Available Rate, is non-cancellable, non-changeable and non-refundable. Your credit card will be charged for the total reservation amount within 24-48 hours of booking. This rate has a seven (7) night maximum length of stay. Rooms at this discount are limited. Offer is not available to groups and cannot be combined with any other discount. Choice Hotels reserves the right to change or discontinue this offer at any time. Eligibility restricted to U.S. and Canadian residents. Members must book direct at ChoiceHotels.com/Nevada-Hotels or call 1-888-846-9378. All Choice Hotels properties are independently owned and operated. **Guarantee applies to Third Party Website standard rates for a Choice single or double occupancy room that are at least 1% and $1.00 less than the Choice rate. Claims must be submitted within 24 hours of booking and 48+ hours prior to 6 PM check-in time the day of hotel arrival. Other terms also apply; see www.choicehotels.com/legal/best-rate-rules for full terms and conditions. ©2020 Choice Hotels International. All rights reserved.
WIDE OPEN IS A STATE OF MIND.

Honestly, normal has never been our thing. So no matter when you drop in where America’s largest alpine lake collides with the Biggest Little City in the World, well, it’s not exactly what you might expect. From epic single track to first tracks on powder days. From urban climbing to art-filled streets. Summer or winter. Fall or spring. Make it a wild ride at VisitRenoTahoe.com.
The information listed in the Travel Nevada 2021 Official State Visitors Guide has been carefully compiled to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. Information herein that was supplied by Nevada businesses is subject to change without notice. The Nevada Division of Tourism cannot, and does not, guarantee the accuracy of all information furnished and will not be responsible for omissions or errors. The publisher assumes no responsibility or liability for errors, changes or omissions in the guide. Responsibility for performance of services will be with the individual businesses. The Nevada Division of Tourism shall have no liability for any claims or damages incurred prior to, during or following the conduct of any business listed in this guide, and the reader agrees to hold the department, its agents and employees harmless therefrom. Visitors should verify hours and admission policies with destinations.

PRINTED IN THE USA

ON THE COVERS
We’ll take any state’s “wide-open spaces” claim and raise it to the next level. Literally. Among Nevada’s 300-plus mountain ranges (surprised?), the Ruby Mountains tower among brilliantly blue alpine waters. Vertical rock cliffs cast shadows upon Liberty Lake, accessed via the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail.

PHOTOGRAPHER
C2 Photography
TO SEE YOU

WELCOME TO NEVADA, THE SILVER STATE!

Even as travel plans may shift and change, Nevada remains a great place to visit for its wide-open spaces, otherworldly landscapes and friendly communities. 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. Road trips are at the heart of the Nevada experience, and I encourage you to travel our highways and backroads and see what lies beyond the bright city lights. Find yourself along the Great Basin Highway and explore a handful of Nevada’s state parks just outside the communities of Pioche, Caliente and Ely. Head down the Free-Range Art Highway and be inspired by creators who’ve left their mark on the towns of Goldfield and Beatty. Or go from Neon to Nature and experience the amazing recreational opportunities surrounding Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam. Inside this guide, you’ll find itineraries to help plan your trip and information to inspire your next vacation getaway. We’ll see you on the road.

GOVERNOR
STEVE SISOLAK
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.

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.

PEAK LIVING
“DISTANCING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT” NEAR BOULDER CITY BY @DUNYTRAVELS.

KNOW STUFF
Keep yourself safe out there with road rules and other bits of general wisdom. TravelNevada.com/plan
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. We’ve mapped out plans to help you see all of it.

To find the treks that fit you best, turn to page 84.

#NVROADTRIP
WHAT'S NEW, NEVADA?

While we often nerd out over our state’s history, we equally celebrate new beginnings, such as these fresh arrivals.

Belvada Hotel
Tonopah

Built in 1906, this historic Tonopah icon—once home to bankers, miners and dreamers—reopened its doors in late 2020 following an extensive restoration effort to bring every part of the classic building back to life.

Circa Resort & Casino

At the first adults-only resort in downtown Las Vegas, surround yourself with comfort and style in brand-new rooms and suites, bask in rooftop bliss at the Legacy Club, bet with the pros at the world’s largest sportsbook, and up your pool game at Stadium Swim.

Astronomy Amphitheater
Baker

Officially designated an International Dark Sky Park due to its nearly nonexistent light pollution. Great Basin National Park just opened this stellar new pavilion where the Milky Way always gets top billing.

Jackson House Tea Room
Eureka

Pinkies up at this historic teahouse where you can sip while hearing stories of the past, including of guests who reportedly never checked out. Tours occur in the fall; check online to plan your visit.

Stonewise Mead & Cider
Pahrump

The family-focused craft meadery and cidery offers drinks produced on-site and served by the glass, straight from their taps. Pack a picnic from a nearby Pahrump restaurant to enjoy while sampling.

Area 15
Las Vegas

This psychedelic, futuristic 200,000-square-foot complex houses immersive art experiences, including the long-awaited Omega Mart, a surreal and surprise-filled supermarket imagined by the Meow Wolf art collective.
YOUR FUTURE MEMORIES ARE CALLING

READY TO START PLANNING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE? We don’t blame you. (What can we say, Nevada is a pretty amazing place to visit.)

We’re excited to welcome you to our incredible Silver State. Of course, things are still a little different from destination to destination while we all adjust to the world’s new ways of traveling.

Here at Travel Nevada, we strive to provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. We want you to have the resources you need to make informed travel decisions.

So, before you bucket-list your way around our Official Visitors Guide, here are some things to remember:

➤ The safety of visitors and residents is our highest priority.

➤ Though counties in Nevada are open, visitors are encouraged to call ahead to learn about any local restrictions.

➤ Expect safety measures to be in place at businesses and public spaces throughout the state, and be prepared to #MaskUpNV.

➤ Travelers should practice proper social distancing, wear face coverings and follow public health rules.

Look for SMART TRAVELS callouts throughout the guide for pro tips on keeping you and your Nevada neighbors safe on the journey.

Visit TravelNevada.com/COVID-19 for the most current information and travel guidelines.

ALWAYS BEEN HERE. ALWAYS WILL BE.

See you when you’re ready to wander.
CONTENTS

QUICK FIXES

10 NOWHERE BUT NEVADA
19 WEIRDEST, WILDEST WEST
22 SHAKES AND BURGERS
26 GOLFING IN MESQUITE
28 BASQUE HERITAGE
32 SOUVENIRS
34 MUSIC AND SALOONS

FEATURES

38 PARK CENTRAL Nevada’s one big park, really, but 24 special places earn Nevada State Park status. Each appeals to a different kind of adventurer, yet all are easy to experience. In most parks, you don’t have to fight crowds. In fact, you may find yourself at a stunning spot with no one in sight—except Mother Nature.

46 UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS Whether you camp out in a yurt, a caboose, a castle or a ghost town cabin, these unique retreats guarantee stories to send home—before you even leave the room.

48 OUR KIND OF TOWNS You probably know about our glitzy duo of Reno and Las Vegas. But we’re also about to let you in on some better-kept secrets, namely a cowboy crossroads that still feels wild and a capital city where outdoor adventures reign. Oh, and those cities you thought you knew well? Think again.

60 PERFECT PAIRS Here’s the simple recipe for a quintessential Nevada adventure: Start with one large outdoor rec spot and add one nearby small town steeped in frontier history.

68 JUST CHILL Take a break from the sizzle of desert heat with a dip in a supersize swimming hole, or escape via skis, sled or snowshoes into Nevada’s powder-covered mountains.

76 HOT SPRING AWAKENING Slip into one of Nevada’s greatest treasures—its natural hot springs. You’ll find more here (300–plus!) than in any other state. These featured spots are worthy of your bucket (or tub) list.

78 GREAT HAUNTS With more ghost towns than incorporated towns, Nevada makes it easy to rush back in time to the mining era. Want to add a little “eek” to your travels? Unearth spirited discoveries, ranked from calm to blood-curdling.
ROAD TRIPS

TAKE A QUIZ ON PAGE 84 TO DETERMINE WHICH NEVADA TREKS FIT YOU BEST, THEN PACK UP AND DRIVE INTO BLISS.

86 NO SADDLE REQUIRED Cowboys aren’t just Hollywood characters around here; they’re the real deal. Follow the Cowboy Corridor and tip your hat to the buckaroo life.

88 OPEN-AIR GALLERIES Fear and Loathing hallucinations have nothing on the real-world wackiness of the Free-Range Art Highway.

90 SPIRITED EXPRESSWAY Remnants of settlements past dot the Loneliest Road in America. Get a haunting dose of history, right where it unfolded at central Nevada ghost towns.

92 LET’S GET SPACED OUT Keep your antennae up as you fly along the Extraterrestrial Highway for stargazing and UFO-seeking.

94 PACK SOME TRAIL MIX Hike among natural wonders—deep siltstone canyons, spring-fed oases and the world’s oldest trees—along the Great Basin Highway.

96 EPIC EXPLORATIONS Try to keep your eyes on the pavement as you drive the Rubies Route through Nevada’s Alps and into the wilderness of lush valleys and brilliant blue skies.

98 DESERT GEMS The Burner Byway to Black Rock is paved with geodes, hot springs and unique landscapes on routes less traveled.

100 WILD WITH LIFE Endangered fish species in hot water. Wildflowers exploding in the desert. Don’t rush the Death Valley Rally—otherwise you’ll risk missing its many signs of life.

102 TIME TRAVEL TO TAHOE Follow in the footsteps of local legends on a throwback journey along the Lake Tahoe Loop.

104 GLOWING LANDSCAPES Discover Nevada’s wild desert soul as you take the Neon to Nature drive from Vegas’ sparkle to sandstone wonders and a Joshua-tree-dotted wilderness.

PLANNING GUIDE

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

108 OUTDOOR SAFETY

112 MUSEUMS

120 WEDDINGS

122 RESOURCES

124 LET’S GET THIS STRAIGHT

During your trip, dig deeper into Silver State stories by tuning into Travel Nevada’s new podcasts! soundcloud.com/TravelNevada
GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM BEATTY
A haunting re-creation of da Vinci’s Last Supper and the only 25-foot pink cinder block woman you’ll ever encounter (we assume) are a couple of the star roadside attractions.
If slots and vast swaths of nothingness are what come to mind when you think of us, we kindly ask that you take a closer look. Lakes? Got ‘em. Wildlife? Wowza. Arts and culture? We hope you’re joking. Here are some spots to expand your horizons. We think you’ll have your dam mind blown, and not just by Hoover.

SMART TRAVELS Yeah, we’re weird, wild and wacky—but sensible, too. Join us in practicing social distancing, wearing face coverings when needed and following public health rules.
Boating on Lake Tahoe is one thing. Parasailing behind a boat is a whole "thing." See "Just Chill," p. 96.

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

BAKER

Get an altitude adjustment at this outdoor paradise. Test your limits on the Wheeler Peak Summit Trail (reaching 13,064 feet in elevation), see gnarly trees along the Bristlecone Trail, and cool off at mountain lakes and streams. Don’t miss a guided tour at Lehman Caves. See "Perfect Pairs," p. 90.

JARBIDGE WILDERNESS AREA

JARBIDGE

Some say it’s the most isolated area in the Lower 48. We call it sublime. More than 100 miles of hiking trails span nearly 50,000 city blocks’ worth of pristine peaks and gorgeous gorges. See “Rubies Route,” p. 96.

ZEPHYR COVE RESORT

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Boating on Lake Tahoe is one thing. Parasailing behind a boat is a whole different level of breezy beautiful. The pics you take from above will easily win the ‘gram for a day. See “Just Chill,” p. 68.
PUBLIC ART
RENO
Trying to chase down the dozens of murals popping up around the city is like playing a colorful round of Whac-a-Mole. By the time you see them all, another one will appear. Hit up the MidTown District to see a ton, including this one by Joe C. Rock, located outside Nevada Fine Arts.
See “Our Kind of Towns,” p. 48.

ASH MEADOWS
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
AMARGOSA VALLEY
There’s a whole lotta living going on near Death Valley. The 2,800-gallon-per-minute gush of Crystal Spring keeps the refuge thriving with 27 plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth.
See “Death Valley Rally,” p. 100.

GIANT CANVAS
Reno boasts as much free public art as many major metro areas.
Quick Fixes

**J.M. CAPRIOLA CO., ELKO**

Giddy-up on aisle four. It’s a Saks Fifth Avenue for cowboys, with only the finest hand-carved leather saddles, wallets, chaps and more.

▷ See “Cowboy Corridor,” p. 86.

**LOST CITY MUSEUM, OVERTON**

A former village of the ancient Pueblo people was dug up by archaeologists in the 1920s and 1930s. See replicas of the dwellings, plus tools, pottery, beads and more from before A.D. 1350.

▷ See “Glorious Gallery,” p. 112
TECHATTICUP MINE
NELSON
Strike it Insta-rich with photo ops outside Nevada’s once-richest historic gold mine. (There’s a reason Hollywood shoots movies here.) Then head into the mine, where it’s 70 degrees during the summer months. Paradise. See “Neon to Nature,” p. 104.

PICON PUNCH NORTHERN NEVADA
The beautifully bitter Basque-American libation is Nevada’s unofficial state drink. Give it a whirl at The Martin Hotel in Winnemucca, plus a host of other watering holes across the state. See “Basque in the Spotlight,” p. 28.

RIVER RUSH
In true Nevada plot-twist fashion, this desert film site lies deceptively close to the Colorado River. The mine offers canoe and kayak rentals.
You've likely heard of this dam spot. If you're feeling dam brave, walk across the world's tallest concrete arch bridge for incredible captures of Hoover Dam and Black Canyon below.

See “Perfect Pairs,” p. 60.

Mountain bikers are drunk in love with this former land of bootlegged liquor. Tipsy terrain has earned the 36 miles of trails Epic Ride status from the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Tear down the aptly named Elevator Shaft with its 22 percent grade.

SPACE TO PLAY...SAFELY.

No need to get out? Here, you'll find wide open spaces to create your own distance away from others. Discover natural beauty, go off-roading, hike some trails, camp, explore Nevada history or just find a quaint out-of-the-way spot to have lunch. Out here the opportunities for getting back to reality are always open and safe.

Safe. Open. Fun!

Nevada Silver Trails
NevadaSilverTrails.com

“#1 Stargazing Destination” — USA Today

Open and ready to welcome you

ANNUAL EVENTS
Jim Butler Days, Nevada State Mining Championships, Rodeos, Blacksmithing Classes, Nighttime Photography Classes, Ghost Walks, Star Parties, Arts Festival

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

TonopahNevada.com
“Trains to Trails Ticket”

Your ticket to the end of the line...

Join us for a brand new experience on one of the many historic trains running daily at the Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Monument. With the Trains to Trails Ticket, you and your bike will be shuttled to the end of the line where you will unload and enjoy one of the many dirt routes, varying from 6 miles up to 20+ miles, back to town. Trails appropriate for all levels of rider. Gorgeous mountain views are endless on this one-of-a-kind experience blending history and recreation.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY
Special Event Trains - 2021

Sunset, Stars and Champagne
Thursday & Saturday Nights, May-September

Roaring 20’s Limited
*New for 2021* Select Saturdays, May-September

Wild West Limited
Select Saturdays, May-September

Haunted Ghost Train
Friday-Saturdays in October

Santa’s Reindeer Flyer
Head to the North Pole to Visit Santa!

Christmas Lights Drive Through
NNRY & Ely in December

Be the Engineer
You’re in the engineer’s seat!

For more information and to purchase tickets visit:
NNRY.COM
ELYNEVADA.NET
WEIRDEST, WILDEST WEST

NEVADA IS A NIRVANA OF ODD, A BAZAAR OF BIZARRE, A BIG CAN OF UNCANNY AND JUST NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL. FIND THESE OFFBEAT SPOTS OFF THE BEATEN PATH.

SHOE TREE OF MIDDLEGATE FALLON
Get your kicks off on Route 50 by flinging your sneakers into a roadside tree. It’s a thing started by a couple who had just tied the knot. During a spat, the bride threatened to walk, and the groom hurled her shoes into a tree before speeding off. Later, the man felt like a heel and drove back for his wife. Every anniversary, the couple returned here to add another pair of shoes to the tree. Though vandals felled the original 70-foot cottonwood, locals soon transplanted the tradition to a tree nearby.

TOM DEVLIN’S MONSTER MUSEUM BOULDER CITY
What the Frankenstein? A special effects makeup artist for Hollywood and the Halloween biz unmask his own work and private collection of film props. See tributes to horror flicks such as Nosferatu, Child’s Play (Chucky!), Puppet Master and The Exorcist (that Linda Blair is still a head-turner), and buy monster merch like T-shirts, costumes and masks. Step up the scary with late-night tours led by Devlin himself.

LET’S GET FUNKY
Tag your wacky road trip pics with #WeirdNevada to join the beautifully bizarre gallery of Nevada images on Instagram. For additional #WeirdNevada inspo, check out TravelNevada.com/weird-nevada.
REPUBLIC OF MOLOSSIA
DAYTON
Though Nevada can feel like a different country, few people know there’s a micronation within its borders. Kevin Baugh founded Molossia in 1977 at his home. He created a full-on government too, including a currency—the-valora—linked to the price of Pillsbury chocolate chip cookie dough. Alas, the UN does not recognize Molossia. But you can make a state visit. Monthly tours (by appointment) run April through October. Passports are encouraged, though not required.

COFFINWOOD PAHRUMP
Here lies a private residence and headquarters for a business called Coffin It Up. It’s not on a dead-end street, but it is only 50 miles from Death Valley as the vulture flies. The owners sell coffin-shaped jewelry, furniture and the like, plus actual coffins. A frequent-flyer coroner once ordered a coffin carry-on. Headstones and hearse dot the property, along with coffin-shaped outbuildings and flowerbeds (see Google Maps). There’s even a Church of the Coffin where couples can vow “till death do us part.” Visit by appointment only; no dead-man walk-ins.

FAR LEFT
President Kevin Baugh welcomes visitors to the Republic of Molossia near Dayton.

LEFT
Arrange a visitation to Coffinwood in Pahrump.

TOP AND ABOVE
While journalists covered test blasts from the “News Knob,” patrons flocked to Virginia’s Cafe—now Atomic Liquors—to watch from the rooftop.

ATOMIC NEVADA
NORTH LAS VEGAS
Of all the nuclear testing done on the planet, 78 percent of it went down here. Delve into the explosive history at the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas (visits by appointment only). The Silo Museum runs a short video about the nuclear test site that’s just a short-range missile from the Strip. Snag spots more than a year in advance for tours of the Nevada National Security Site. For a more accessible taste of the a-bomb craze, swing by Atomic Liquors for fittingly themed drinks and historical photos. Chat up the bartenders; they love to dish cool atomic stories about the area.
ODE TO THE ODD

CLOWN ROOMS. A DEATH CAR. A FREAKISHLY HUGE COW. FOR THE PLACES WE CAN’T QUITE DESCRIBE IN PROSE, WE TURN TO POETRY.

A limerick for **BONNIE AND CLYDE’S DEATH CAR PRIMM**
Two gangsters named Bonnie and Clyde Were gunned down while on a joyride You’re sure to be floored By the bullet-pierced Ford That Whiskey Pete’s has parked inside

A haiku for **THE CLOWN MOTEL TONOPAH**
Kitschy red-nosed rooms Clowns look gleeful as they stare Next to a graveyard

A sonnet for **BIG BOVINE OF THE DESERT AMARGOSA VALLEY**
Cow, do I love thee! Let me count the ways. I love thee to the depth and breadth and height Your fiberglass soul can reach, in plain sight By the Longstreet Inn and Casino, thy place.

I love thee to the level you did rise In your old home atop the Holy Cow A Vegas brewery long disappeared now Sunglasses then adorned your bovine eyes.

I love thee with all the passion and zeal Of the Longstreet’s owner, who brought you here I love thee with a love even more real Since I found out your name is Herman, dear. I stop and emerge from behind the wheel Take your pic and then shift back into gear.
All Nevada road trips should include a shake and burger detour. Here’s where to get your sweet and juicy fix.

**BURGERS**

Meet your meat at a haunted saloon or on a porch in the middle of nowhere.

**PIONEER SALOON GOODSPRINGS**
This haunted outpost south of Vegas is as famous for its Ghost Burger as it is for its ghosts. A beef patty comes topped with jalapeño bacon and ghost sauce (made from ghost chilies).

**BUTCHER’S KITCHEN CHAR-B-QUE RENO**
A butcher and his sommelier son created this carnivorous kingdom in Reno. Sink your teeth into the Basque-inspired Chorizo Burger topped with chipotle aioli, pico de gallo and pepper Jack cheese.

**MIDDLEGATE STATION FALLON**
This Highway 50 watering hole with dollar bills on the ceiling serves the Middlegate Monster—a triple-decker burger the size of your head. Finish it and you’ll get a T-shirt.

**OWL CLUB CASINO AND RESTAURANT BATTLE MOUNTAIN**
Look for the bright red neon sign just off a quiet stretch of I-80. Owl Club soars with its lineup of chili burgers, patty melts and, best of all, jalapeño cream-cheese burgers with bacon aioli.

**THE DINKY DINER GOLDFIELD**
Explore the International Car Forest of the Last Church (think an open-air gallery consisting of graffitied vehicles), then order up a wonderfully messy chili burger at this aptly named gem in a living ghost town.

**YVONNE’S HOT DOGS FERNLEY**
While the hot dogs are delightful here, it’s all about the Stinky Breath Burger. Nothing says “bring on the breath mints” like a burger smothered with blue cheese, garlic sauce, mushrooms and onions.

**S’SOCORRO’S BURGER HUT MINA**
Among the tumbleweeds between Hawthorne and Coaldale, S’Socorro’s Burger Hut appears like a bacon-and-cheese mirage. Look for the red hut and get a burger with Ortega green chilies.

**SMART TRAVELS**
At the first stomach growl, call ahead to check restaurant hours. Ask if curbside service is available, and be ready for a wait. (It’ll be worth it.) Patience and kindness have no calories.
Exploring Nevada for 84 years.

*Let us be your personal tour guide.*
From outdoor recreation to urban exploration, *Nevada Magazine* has something for everyone.

Available in print and digital subscriptions.

**Yearning for more adventure?**
Pick up the Ghost Town Book and Map to delve deep in history and exploration.

History, Dining, Arts + Culture, Ghost towns... if it’s in the Silver State, it’s in *Nevada Magazine.*

NEVADA MAGAZINE 775-687-0610 | 855-729-7117 nevadamagazine.com
At the end of a dusty trail, a shake is a refreshing oasis in a glass.

**Wigwam Restaurant and Casino Fernley**
The butterscotch milkshakes are mighty fine at this locally loved Fernley joint. There’s plenty of good comfort food, too, along with a Native American museum featuring Paiute artifacts.

**Economy Drug and Soda Fountain Ely**
In a mountain town where steam engine trains still rumble through, nothing is more unexpectedly wonderful than finding a 1950s-era soda fountain. Grab a stool and order a vanilla shake.

**Steve’s Homemade Ice Cream Fernley**
Malted or extra thick? You can’t go wrong with either, especially since all of the ice cream here is made on-site. Rotating flavors include chocolate peanut butter and a seasonal peach.

**The Inside Scoop Overton**
After you sizzle at Valley of Fire State Park, this nearby diner’s shakes are a cool treat. Choose from dozens of flavors, like the chocolatey Black and White. Check out local art while you sip.

**Spoon Me, Elko**
It’s the combination you didn’t know you needed: frozen yogurt and a cowboy town. Fruity frappes and boba drinks join the seasonal flavor rotation.

**Brew 95 Winnemucca**
The “brew” at this cozy coffee shop also refers to the beer they sell here. Either way, you’re gonna want to try a coffee-based frappe or some straight-up ice cream, with flavors including cake batter and cotton candy.

**Outdoor Inn Jarbridge**
Set against a backdrop of jagged peaks, this restaurant/hotel/bar/laundromat has got a milkshake ready for your refreshment—if you can brave the long dirt road to get here.

**Temptations Lovelock**
Resist the urge to try all 18 flavors of ice cream (or don’t). Black cherry vanilla and strawberry cheesecake are calling your name, as are the fruity wines and espresso drinks available here.

**Chilly Jilly’z Boulder City**
They know how to whip it good in Boulder City. The Dole Whip Float comes with swirls of Pineapple Dole Whip served in a cup with pineapple juice, whipped cream and a cherry.

**Strawberry Frappe**  
*Spoon Me, Elko*

**Black and White Malt**
*The Inside Scoop, Overton*

**Dole Whip Float**
*Chilly Jilly’z, Boulder City*
You’ll huff and you’ll puff and you’ll find yourself blown away.

Shall we saddle up?

Job’s Peak is the first crown to catch the sun every day. It’s also the one that’s captured Kate’s heart since childhood, the mountain she shares with adrenaline junkies in search of a healthy serving of jaw-dropping views and means for justifying the inevitable Basque meal at the end of the day. Raw, real and unprocessed. That’s how life rolls in Carson Valley.

ADVENTURE AWAITS

where history lives &

visitcarsoncity.com

We’re open, and ready when you are.
Please, #SierraSafely

LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY

Kate Blake

OFFICIAL MATCHMAKER for the single-track-minded

You’ll huff and you’ll puff and you’ll find yourself blown away.
Shall we saddle up?

 visita Carsonvalley.org
NEVADA’S GOLF MECCA

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Dramatic course designs abound at these seven bucket-list golf adventures.

MANY AWARD-WINNING COURSES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SHORES OF LAKE TAHOE AND IN THE HEART OF SIN CITY, BUT THE NUMBER OF COURSES PER CAPITA MAKES MESQUITE A GOLFER’S PARADISE. TEE OFF, THEN SWING THROUGH A LINEUP OF ART DISPLAYS, ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS AND A HOLE LOT MORE.

PALMS GOLF CLUB
The front nine looks like a Florida course—wide fairways, palms, water. The back nine roller-coasters through canyons. A 114-foot tee-to-fairway drop on No. 15 creates dramatic shots (with club or camera).

OASIS GOLF CLUB
The Palmer Course (yes, designed by Arnie) has hosted Golf Channel’s Big Break. On the tee at No. 5, use the mountain views to stall for time before trying to hit the narrow fairway 100 feet below.

COYOTE SPRINGS GOLF CLUB
Like any Jack Nicklaus Signature course, this one 55 miles west of town values stop-and-think over grip-and-rip. The sand-guarded green at No. 2 recalls one of the Golden Bear’s fave places—Augusta National.

CONESTOGA GOLF CLUB
It’s like playing golf on the moon but with full gravity, says Sports Illustrated about the otherworldly canyon course. The green at No. 14, a short par 3, is a mere throw rug on the desert floor.

TOP Hop across the border into Arizona as you play through Palms Golf Club.

ABOVE After a round of golf, glamp and go wild at the 176-acre Desert Ranch Experience.

OPPOSITE Elevated mesa views make Ridge Golf Course a showstopper.

STORY: GARY THOMPSON. PHOTOGRAPHS: (GOLF COURSES) C2 PHOTOGRAPHY
**WOLF CREEK GOLF CLUB**

Bring plenty of balls for knee-knocking shots from über-elevated tees overlooking canyons and water. The surreal topography looks PlayStation-esque; video gamers know the course from EA Sports Tiger Woods PGA Golf.

**FALCON RIDGE GOLF COURSE**

Fore! It’s so picturesque, distracted drivers launch canyonballs and spend time in the sand. Watch for blind tee shots, too. Even the water hazards are beautiful; you don’t really mind hitting over (or possibly into) them.

**CASABLANCA GOLF CLUB**

The course’s cinematic name begs you to “play it again.” You might have to play some shots again on the tougher holes, like No. 17, where ball-eating natural wastelands line the fairway. Here’s looking at you, bogey.

Though we love Mesquite for golf, there are many incredible courses throughout the state, from Las Vegas to Reno to Lake Tahoe. Explore your options at TravelNevada.com/golf.

**GO OFF COURSE**

After playing 18, explore more Mesquite-area musts in the Virgin Valley.

The 80-year-old Pueblo-style home of the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum has a history of its own—once a library, later a hospital. Inside, see relics like one of Mesquite’s first slot machines. Next door, artifacts give way to art at the Mesquite Fine Arts Center and Gallery, a showcase of valley artists’ works in paint, sculpture, ceramics, fabric, photography and glass. Head outdoors and make fuzzy-humped friends at Desert Ranch Experience. Advance reservations are required, but well worth it to see more than 30 camels, plus alpacas, opossums and more. For four-wheeled thrills, rip it up across sand dunes with dune buggy rentals from Ultimate Desert Adventures. Stay close to the golf action at CasaBlanca Resort, where stay-and-play packages include a round at the CasaBlanca Golf Club or Palms Golf Club. Keep things classy at Katherine’s Steakhouse at the resort. Enjoy USDA Prime steaks, seafood and a romantic ambience. Dessert served flambe may kindle passion, or treat yourself with a Triple Shot Trio (scrub, mask and massage) at the spa.

**HALL OF FRAME**

Gallery exhibitions rotate monthly at the Mesquite Fine Arts Center and Gallery. Near the entrance, check out works by the prominently featured Artist of the Month.

**VIRGIN VALLEY HERITAGE MUSEUM**

Mesquite Fine Arts Center and Gallery.
IN THE CULTURAL CORNUCOPIA THAT IS NEVADA, CREDIT THE SHEEPHERDING BASQUES FOR SOME OF THE MOST EXOTIC FLAVORS (LIKE PUCKERY PICON), AND DISCOVER WHERE YOU CAN TASTE THEIR TRADITIONS.

Nevada wouldn’t be Nevada without the Basques. European immigrants from the western Pyrenees between France and Spain. Starting in the late 1800s, they brought their shepherding skills to the American West. Despite—or perhaps because of—harsh, demanding and solitary conditions in the Great Basin, the Basque people were able to preserve their language, culture and traditions, passing them down to the next generations.

Anamarie Lopategui, owner of Ogi Deli, Bar and Pintxos in Elko, represents the current generation of Basques. Her father immigrated to the Reno area as a sheepherder in 1963. Lopategui grew up in her family’s Reno home, where she played the accordion, sang Basque songs, danced and ate dishes she now serves in her Basque-rooted restaurant. That includes the skewered goodies called pintxos—literally “spikes.” They can consist of meats such as chicken or chorizo, fresh seafood, potatoes, and other items, often served atop bread.

“In the Basque country, whenever you go into a pintxos bar, you pick whatever pintxos you want and eat your way through the night,” Lopategui says. “You save your toothpicks, and when you are ready to cash out, you give the toothpicks to the bartender to count, and that’s how you pay.”

Dig into the colorful lineup of Basque restaurants and festivals on the next page.

LEFT Since 1910, family-style Basque dinners and Picon Punch cocktails have made for stellar evenings at The Star Hotel in Elko.
We’ve Got the Space;
All that’s missing is you.

Annual Elko Events

**JUNE**
Elko Mining Expo

**JULY**
National Basque Festival
Silver State Stampede Rodeo
Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival

**AUGUST**
Elko County Fair & Horseracing

**SEPTEMBER**
Rides & Rods Elko Classic Car Show

**JANUARY 2022**
National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

ExploreElko.com
775-738-4091 or 800-248-3556
POP, LOCK and CHOP it

Traditional Basque dancing and wood chopping go hand in hand at the annual Reno Basque Festival.

THE STAR HOTEL ELKO
Built in 1910, this venerable restaurant still doubled as a boarding house for shepherders until 2019. Steaks and baked lamb dominate at dinner, says owner Scott Ygoa, and the perfectly tender New York steak sandwich lords over lunch.

VILLA BASQUE CAFE CARSON CITY
House-made chorizo flavored with garlic, paprika and other spices gives this breakfast and lunch spot its Basque bona fides. Owner Pete Coscarant also features the spicy pork sausage in breakfast paellas and hearty sandwiches. Buy the chorizo by the pound in the adjoining deli.

THE MARTIN HOTEL WINNEMUCCA
"The best meal I have had on the road," a New York Times reporter once said. Try the traditional lamb shank and deep-fried sweetbreads, the latter served with country gravy made in-house.

OGI DELI, BAR AND PINTXOS ELKO
Owner Anamarie Lapategui’s breakfast and lunch spot offers both Basque and American favorites. Customers love the Solomo Sandwich—grilled pork loin with sautéed onions, peppers, tomatoes and Basque cheese. Try gourmet pintxos and play Mus, a Basque card game.

J.T. BASQUE BAR AND DINING ROOM GARDNERVILLE
The Lekumberry family makes you feel at home in a restored Victorian building relocated from the Virginia City area. Taste Basque dishes made with their ranch’s grass-fed beef, plus seasonal rabbit, sweetbreads and local flavors like Winnemucca taters.

LOUIS’ BASQUE CORNER RENO
Four-course family-style meals satisfy the hungriest shepherders. Think sweetbreads sautéed with vegetables and big bowls of oxtails braised in a rich broth. Try the Picon Punch, a cocktail starring bittersweet Amer Picon orange liqueur. Basque settlers invented it.

EXPERIENCE Celebrations

WINNEMUCCA BASQUE FESTIVAL, WINNEMUCCA June
Basque dancers wear costumes inspired by the Basque flag. Red denotes Spain’s Biscay province, green represents hope and freedom, and white symbolizes purity.

RENO BASQUE FESTIVAL, RENO July
Hosted by the Zazpiak Bat Basque Reno club, this one’s about W’s—weight lifting, weight carrying, wood chopping and war cries. And it’s at Wingfield Park.

57TH NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL, ELKO July
This is the biggie. Pro tip: On the night of the dance, wear all white and spill red wine on your clothes—it’s considered a badge of honor.
WE ARE OPEN AND READY FOR YOUR VISIT!

FALLON, NEVADA | VISITFALLONNEVADA.COM

VISIT EUREKA NEVADA

EUREKA TOURIST INFORMATION
The Jackson House
11 S. Main Street
Ask for Miss Dana
775-230-2232

MUSEUMS & TOURS
The 1880 Eureka County Courthouse
The 1880 Eureka Opera House
The 1879 Sentinel Museum
The 1877 Jackson House/Historic Ghost Tours

MOTELS, VACATION RENTALS, & RV PARK
The Eureka Gold Country Inn
The Historic Jackson House Hotel
The Ruby Hill Motel
Sundown Lodge Motel
The Eureka Inn Vacation Rental
The Colonnade-Vacation Rental
Silver Sky Lodge RV Park

RESTAURANTS
DJ’s Diner
The Owl Club Saloon, Roadhouse and Gambling Hall
The Pony Express Deli
Sacha’s Sugar Shack
The Urban Cowboy

GROCERY STORE & SUPPLIES
Raine’s Market, Deli and Ace Hardware
South Fork Hardware Store
Parts City Auto/Eureka Supply
Economy Drug Pharmacy

GIFT SHOP & GALLERY
The 180 Gallery and Gift Shop

FUEL & SNACKS
The Chevron Station
EZ Stop

WE ARE OPEN AND READY FOR YOUR VISIT!

Eureka Tourism and Recreation
VisitEurekaNevada.net
775-230-2232

Eureka is open to the public, practicing CDC, COVID safety guidelines. We are a COVID compliant community. Masks are required to enter all businesses and museums. Thank you for your kindness in helping us keep our community open.
TAKE IT WITH YOU

YOU SAVE SOME SOUVENIRS FOR A WALL OR SHELF AT HOME. BUT THESE NEVADA-MADE ITEMS HELP YOU ENJOY THE STATE WHILE YOU’RE STILL IN IT (AND AFTER, TOO). ALL TRAVEL WELL, AND THEY’LL PAIR NICELY WITH YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE.

1 BODY OIL AND BUTTER
Soothe skin and breathe in natural aromas. Pantry Products, Reno. $22 for body and bath oil; $14 for hand and body butter.

2 WATER BOTTLE
Don’t get caught without water in a lonely part of Nevada. This glass container carries H2O with style. Tahoe Nevada Love, Reno. $35.

3 MUD MASK
Fresh from the playa, this mineral-rich clay restores skin. Slather on for #NVHotSprings memories. Black Rock Mud Company, Gerlach. $20.

4 WOOD SUNGLASSES
These shades started out as shade—the frames are made from sustainably sourced hardwoods. Tahoe Timber, Reno. $99–$129.

5 ONE-PIECE SWIMSUIT
Get the best coverage for your assets. The pictured one is called Wild Thing. It makes our heart sing. Strange Bikinis, Reno. $170.

Sweet Serenity
You can apply this botanically inspired oil directly to your hair and body to moisturize, or add a few drops to your bath for a little simulated float through a rose garden. Notes of vanilla and jasmine make it even more ahhhh-mazing.

Spring Clean
While this mask is sourced sustainably from Black Rock, most beauty products should not be introduced to a hot spring. It messes with the fragile balance of minerals.

Rugged Inspo
The Bristlecone frames, made of walnut or zebrawood, are named for the epically old pine trees that still stand in Great Basin National Park.

STYLISH SPLASH
Strange Bikinis has prided itself on crafting size-inclusive swimwear since opening in 2012. Each suit is sustainably handmade using eco-friendly, silky fabrics that’ll have you feeling great inside and out.

BOTTLE WARMER
Hot damn! Cerveza Chilebeso ale is made with fresh, hand-cut jalapeño peppers for a nice kick. For something fruitier, rock your palate with the Tectonic Event IPA. A malty backbone paves the way for crisp notes of citrus and stone fruit.

6 CERAMIC MUG Drinks taste better in a cup thrown on Donna Potter’s potter’s wheel. (Yep, that’s her name.) Mission Hills Pottery, Henderson. $26–$42.
7 GEOGRAPHIC STICKERS Waterproof designs by Haleigh Hoff let you carry colorful little pieces of Nevada wherever you go. Hoff Goods, Reno. $4–$5.
8 ENERGY BARS Fuel up for that hike or bike loop. Yacon root, a superfood from South America, makes ’em shine. Rowdy Bars, Reno. $20 for a ten-pack.
9 ECO-RESIN EARRINGS Saguaros cacti, snakes and crescent moons sparkle thanks to Cari Golden’s creations. Wuve Handmade, Laughlin. $27–$35.
10 CRAFT BEER Have beer, will travel. Fill a cooler with ice and true Nevada brews. Great Basin Brewing Co., Reno and Sparks. $9–$10 for a six-pack.
DON’T BE SCARED OFF BY THE NAME OF THE
HISTORIC BUCKET OF BLOOD SALOON IN VIRGINIA
CITY. THERE’S NO NIGHTLY RE-CREATION OF THE
CARRIE PROM SCENE. JUST KILLER BOOZE AND
TUNES FROM HOUSE BAND DAVID JOHN AND THE
COMSTOCK COWBOYS. AT ANOTHER HOT MUSIC SPOT IN
TOWN, THE RED DOG SALOON, LISTEN TO AMERICANA
ROCK, REGGAE AND COUNTRY MUSIC, AND GET YOUR
BLOODY MARY GARNISHED WITH BACON. LESS THAN
30 MILES AWAY IN RENO, DANCERS GROOVE AT THE
LOVING CUP. BOASTING BANANA LEAF WALLPAPER
AND A PATIO AGLOW WITH STRING LIGHTS, THIS VENUE IS
KNOWN FOR ITS JAZZ NIGHTS AND POTENT COCKTAILS.

DOWN IN VEGAS, THE LIVE MUSIC SCENE GETS
HOTTEST IN THE SHADOWS OF THE STRIP. ART IS NOT ONLY
PART OF THE NAME OF ARTIFICE; IT’S ALSO IN THE ARTS
DISTRICT AND HOME TO ARTSY EVENTS LIKE SCARLET
DEEPEST RED GOTH NIGHT. PRETTY COCKTAILS LIKE THE
MIDSUMMER BRAMBLE BEG TO BE PHOTOGRAPIED.
NOT FAR AWAY, AT THE SAND DOLLAR LOUNGE,
EXPERIENCE A RICH LEGACY OF BLUES. B.B. KING,
MUDDY WATERS AND MICK JAGGER ALL HAD GIGS HERE.
THE PIZZA’S WORTH APPLAUDING, TOO. FOR SOMETHING
MORE OFF THE GRID, HEAD TO ELKO, WHERE DUNCAN
LITTLECREEK GALLERY AND THE GALLERY BAR MIXES
MARTINIS WITH LIVE FOLK MUSIC AND A LUSH BACKYARD.

PLAY A FEW BARS
The Strip may get top billing when it comes to
Nevada’s music scene, but plenty of independent
bars rock their own soundtracks, often outdoors.

SMART TRAVELS
Check ahead for the latest info about live music events. When you arrive, follow high school
dance protocol: Keep a reasonable distance and resist the urge to body surf, mosh, grind or twerk.
A LUXURIOUS VIEW OF OLD NEVADA

RESERVE YOUR MOMENT IN HISTORY

UPSCALE. UNEXPECTED. UNIQUE.

NOW OPEN BOOK TODAY

WWW.BELVADAHOTEL.COM
SAGEBRUSH SALOONS

What’s a Sagebrush Saloon? To paraphrase a famous Supreme Court opinion on obscenity, it’s hard to define, but you’ll know it when you see it. It’s a watering hole that’s off the beaten path, with a ramshackle exterior and a guy sitting on the porch who looks like he came with the place. Inside, the place reeks of history and often carries a Wild West swagger. Keep your drink orders simple—Bud, PBR, Wild Turkey neat, Jack on the rocks. You’ll want to bring some cash along. And forget what your parents told you; definitely talk to strangers to get the local scoop.

BRUNO’S COUNTRY CLUB
GERLACH
Named for the late owner, Bruno Selmi, who cooked a mean three-meat ravioli that’s still on the menu, this combination bar/ cafe/motel is a favorite place to imbibe in town.

LUCKY SPUR SALOON
KINGSTON
Nestled in the Big Smoky Valley, this unassuming bar offers views of the Toiyabe Mountains and a porch that’s perfect for sipping whiskey on a cool high-desert afternoon.

JIGGS BAR
JIGGS
Come for the libations; stay for the two-headed calf mounted on the wall. The friendly bartender, pool table, resident cat and Ruby Mountains backdrop don’t hurt either.

SANTA FE SALOON
GOLDFIELD
One of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the state—and alleged site of “Nevada’s Meanest Bartender”—is more than just a place to wet your whistle. It’s also full of Western artifacts.

IGGY AND SQUIGGY’S JUNCTION BAR
CARSON VALLEY
If you must have a martini, order the Nevada version: beer with olives. That’s the signature drink of this joint. Have a few too many and you can pay to camp on the lawn.

DIRTY DICK’S BELMONT SALOON
BELMONT
After checking out Belmont’s historic courthouse—an imposing brick structure built in 1876—head here for cheap beer, shuffleboard tournaments and occasional honky-tonk music on the porch.
SOCIAL DISTANCING SINCE 1862

Loneliest Road in America

NV HWY 50

WIDE OPEN!
*We are safe and open.

DAYTON, where gold was first discovered in Nevada, has plenty of historic sites to explore.

FERNLEY serves as the gateway to Highway 50 to the west, and Black Rock Desert to the north.

ELY offers some of the best mountain biking in the state.

AUSTIN is an OHVers outpost, with easy access to the Toiyabe Mountains and miles of trails.

EUREKA welcomes visitors who come to town for special events like the Eureka Car Show.

FALLON is home to Sand Mountain, enjoyed by off-highway vehicles, hikers, and sandboarders.

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, and nearby Baker, come alive with autumn colors.

LoneliestRoad.us 1.888.359.9449
PARK CENTRAL
Nevada’s one big park, really, but 24 special places earn Nevada State Park status. Each appeals to a different kind of adventurer, yet all are easy to experience. In most parks, you don’t have to fight crowds. In fact, you may find yourself at a stunning spot with no one in sight—except Mother Nature.

**CATHEDRAL GORGE PANACA**
The place has a violent history that begat some pretty peaceful scenery. After massive eruptions from ancient volcanoes, erosion slowwwly (we’re talking tens of millions of years) turned huge ash heaps into buff-colored cliffs and churchy spires. Hiking trails take you in, around and through the popular slot canyon formations. You may also encounter black-tailed jackrabbits, kit foxes and mountain bluebirds.

**VALLEY OF FIRE OVERTON**
This stunningly gorgeous symphony in sandstone plays to big crowds, so get there early in the day to better appreciate the flaming red outcrops crescendoing from gray and tan limestone. Ancient petrified trees and petroglyphs add grace notes, and the visitors center chimes in with maps and history of this state park, the oldest and largest in Nevada. It’s all music to the ears of hikers and campers who come back for encores.

**WARD CHARCOAL OVENS ELY**
It’s the Stonehenge of silver mining. These six stone sentinels (say that six times fast), each 30 feet high, once churned out charcoal needed to melt silver ore, heating wood from piñon pine and juniper trees. Later, stockmen and prospectors took shelter in the abandoned beehive-shaped domes, and stagecoach bandits hid in them. The monoliths look exceptionally stunning against the area’s famously dark night sky. And we’re not just blowing smoke up your chimney.

**ICE AGE FOSSILS NORTH LAS VEGAS**
Think Vegas is wild now? You should have seen it 10,000 years ago. Mammoths, lions, camels, bison, horses, sloths and dire wolves roamed what will be Nevada’s newest state park, drawn by the lush habitat of the Upper Las Vegas wash. The creatures left behind a mother lode of fossils, sparking an archaeological gold rush. The park is still taking shape, with plans that include a visitors center and trails, so check ahead before venturing out.

**SMART TRAVELS** Some Nevada state parks are seeing larger crowds than ever before. If you see a lot of cars in a parking lot, keep driving. And when you’re on the trails, always go the (social) distance.
THESE PARKS EARN THUMBS-UP FOR THEIR HANDS-ON OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES. HIT THE WATER, HIT THE TRAIL, OR HIT THE HAY IN A TENT.

CAVE LAKE
ELY
Experience high-desert highs like stargazing under the darkest skies around; pitching a tent in one of two campgrounds; and mountain biking more than 16 miles of singletrack built among limestone cliffs, aspen and juniper forests, and deer and elk habitats. This elevated hideout offers the best of both worlds: alone-in-nature serenity and access to the quaint former mining town of Ely.

KERSHAW-RYAN
CALIENTE
Mountain bikers of all skill levels love the ever-expanding network of loop trails near this park. Whether it’s a quick spin or an hours-long flow session, hang on to your helmet for banked turns and brake-worthy views. The 6.7-mile Redemption Loop beckons beginners and intermediates, while a new black diamond downhill trail delights daredevils.

BIG BEND
OF THE COLORADO
LAUGHLIN
At Nevada’s southern tip, Davis Dam keeps this spot full of cool, clear Colorado River water year-round, getting boaters’ motors running, revving up the Jet Ski set, luring fishers, and letting swimmers get their kicks. Some folks just chill on 2 miles of sandy shoreline. The place is packed in summer, so get there early in the day.
LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK

It’s really four parks in one, reflecting the sea-like size of North America’s largest alpine lake. On Tahoe’s eastern shore, SAND HARBOR mesmerizes swimmers, kayakers and scuba divers with its bewitching beach, glassy water and radical rock formations—and it does get crowded. For a more off-the-grid experience, SPOONER LAKE AND BACKCOUNTRY wows with acres of trees surrounding water, plus 50 miles of trails to indulge hikers and bikers. Routes include the historic Marlette Flume Trail, known for killer water views. CAVE ROCK floats your boat, motorized or not. Anglers love the steep shoreline and rocky shoals. At the south end of the lake, VAN SICKLE is a short walk from Stateline’s casinos—go from faro to forest in just minutes. Easy to moderate trails offer lake views, peaks at peaks, and access to the Tahoe Rim Trail, a 165-mile route looping the Tahoe Basin.

CATCHES

 THESE FABULOUS FISHING-FRIENDLY PARKS ARE THE REEL DEAL, SO DON’T SPARE THE ROD. CAST AWAY FROM A BOAT OR THE SHORE.

Hook up with rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie and even German brown at ECHO CANYON in Pioche. A 65-acre reservoir connects to a water system that empties into Lake Mead outside of Las Vegas. At nearby SPRING VALLEY, on the same water route, 59-acre Eagle Valley Reservoir holds rainbow and tiger trout, plus more of those German browns. The ice fishing is excellent in the winter when the lake freezes over. Named after an ancient glacial lake, LAHONTAN RESERVOIR in Fallon appeals to boat and bank anglers who want to reel in walleye, white bass, the hybrid wiper, catfish, trout and other game fish. WALKER RIVER in Yerington boasts “the Elbow,” a sharp bend in the legendary Nine Mile section of the Walker’s East Fork. Fabled among fly-fishers for its rainbow trout, brown trout and whitefish, this spot is still pristine and primitive, drawing anglers who seek a little serenity.
FASCINATING RUINS, ARTIFACTS AND LORE RUN DEEP AT THESE STATE PARKS THAT PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF NEVADA’S PIONEER DAYS AND RECALL OTHER BYGONE ERAS.

ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE
CALIENTE
This one-room school (grades 1–8) served area kids from 1922 to 1967. After years as a private home, then a vacant building, it’s been restored with original and period-like furnishings—desks, books, chalkboards, a piano and a wood-burning stove. See the teacher’s private apartment in back, complete with kitchen and bedroom. There’s an outhouse, too. (If you needed to go, you wrote your name on the blackboard—but not 50 times.) Tours by appointment.

FORT CHURCHILL
SILVER SPRINGS
Built near the Carson River in 1861 to protect settlers and Pony Express mail runs, Fort Churchill stands in an eerie state of arrested decay—walk designated trails to study the ruins. The park includes renovated Buckland Station, a way station for 1800s pioneers traveling the Overland Route. Take a self-guided tour of the onetime boarding house and Buckland family home. A 2.2-mile nature trail parallelizing the river connects the fort and the station.
RYE PATCH
LOVELOCK
Named for the grass (not the whiskey), Rye Patch grew like a weed during the 1860s mining boom, sprouting a post office, school, boarding house and—thanks to the Transcontinental Railroad—a train station before ghosting. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a dam and reservoir here. Today, the spot forges new memories for people fishing, boating and camping on its vast waters and shoreline. Some original CCC-built structures remain.

ABOVE Up to 200 soldiers called Fort Churchill home during the 1860s.

DAYTON
DAYTON
Abner Blackburn made Nevada’s first gold discovery here in 1849, purportedly with a hunting knife and frying pan. The park features remains of Rock Point Mill, built in 1861 during the glory days, plus a mother lode of camping, fishing and picnic spots along the Carson River.

OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT
LAS VEGAS
In 1855, Mormons were also the first to develop downtown Vegas. No hotel or neon, mind you, just an adobe-brick fort along a creek. The park includes a partial reconstruction of the fort and a modern visitors center filled with exhibits.

MORMON STATION
GENOA
Mormons built Nevada’s first permanent, non-Native settlement here in 1851. With a hotel and blacksmith shop to boot, it was a place to stock up and rest up before hitting the Sierra Nevada. Explore a reconstructed version of the post and a museum with pioneer-era artifacts.
LAS VEGAS ISN’T THE ONLY PLACE WHERE YOU’LL RUN INTO SOME PRETTY WILD RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. THESE PARKS INTRODUCE YOU TO CREATURES THAT HANG OUT IN NEVADA.

WILD HORSE
ELKO
Though the park is named for the feral fillies and stallions that roamed here when the reservoir was built in 1937, ranching has reined in the horses. The big draws today are ice fishing, along with spotting big game: pronghorn antelope, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain elk. You can’t hunt in the park, but it makes a great base camp for the sport.

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH
BLUE DIAMOND
Millionaire Howard Hughes once owned this splendid retreat adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Maybe the onetime playboy, later a recluse, identified with the creatures here. Many are nocturnal, and some just like to stay hidden. The list includes wild donkeys and burros, desert tortoises, assorted species of lizards and snakes, antelope squirrels, jackrabbits, cottontails, kit foxes, coyotes, and mules. At higher elevations, look for rock squirrels, badgers and bighorn sheep. Pack a picnic for your herd and enjoy a tree-shaded meal on the grounds.
WHETHER YOU SPOT AN ADORBS BABY BURRO OR A GIANT-EARED JACKRABBIT ON YOUR SILVER STATE SAFARI, WE WANT TO SEE IT! TAG YOUR PICS #NVWILDLIFE AND #TRAVELNEVADA FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED ON OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL PAGES.

WASHOE LAKE CARSON CITY
This is where you can see wild horses, chiefly members of the protected Virginia Range herd, named for the nearby mountains. Nestled in a scenic valley where bald eagles soar, the park offers wheelchair-inducing views of the Sierra Nevada, Carson and Virginia mountain ranges, plus equestrian activities with tamed horses. Explore wetlands, sand dunes and other spots for spying wildlife like reptiles and raptors—migrating birds of prey stop to rest at the lake on long red-eye flights.

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR AUSTIN
As gold and silver mining boomed here, the ground below held a different treasure. North America’s most concentrated remains of ichthyosaurs, dolphin-like marine reptiles that swam in Nevada’s ancient ocean. Siemon Muller ID’d the cache in 1928 on a hillside above Berlin. Excavations began in 1954, unearthing 40(ish) ichthyosaurs. See fragments of the 50-foot beasts at the Fossil House.

BEAVER DAM PANACA
Pioneers scared off most of this region’s bustling beaver population in the early 1800s, but once the area was protected and restored to its natural state, the busy critters came back. You can see the damming evidence in the park. The beavers prefer to feed on—and build with—willows and cottonwoods. This is one of Nevada’s most remote state parks, full of deep canyons, flowing streams and waterfalls.

SOUTH FORK SPRING CREEK
The same inviting waters that bring boaters, swimmers and anglers here also attract flocks of aquatic birds. Waterfowl grace the lake, including mallard ducks, pintail ducks, green-winged teal, American wigeon, northern shoveler and common coots. Bring your binoculars and a camera. The Ruby Mountains make a sweet background for photos.
Whether you camp out in a yurt, a caboose, a castle or a ghost town cabin, these unique retreats guarantee stories to send home—before you even leave the room.

WRITER Angela Ufheil
PARADISE RANCH CASTLE BED AND BREAKFAST

AUSTIN A loving newlywed built this remote, ivory-hued castle for his wife. Set against a mountainous backdrop, the stucco structure will charm you as long as you set realistic expectations. (Cinderella may opt for finer digs, but we appreciate the rural flair.) Wake to a savory breakfast before exploring the surrounding high desert via ATV or noble steed (equine owners can bring their horses), then sip a cocktail at the Dungeon bar.

GOLD POINT GHOST TOWN GOLD POINT

Don’t be deceived by the grungy exteriors of the five cabins for overnights. The worn look purposefully matches the historical aesthetic, hiding modern interiors. Fees from tourists eager to explore the old mining town support preservation of the remaining wood-frame buildings, including a post office-turned-museum and saloon, where visitors shoot pool on a 1909 Brunswick table.

RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI-EXPERIENCE LAMOILLE

It’s a wake-up call for the ages. Rising early at the Ruby 360 Lodge or in a queen futon-equipped yurt yields two rewards: views of sparkling snow as the sun peeps over the Ruby Mountains and—more important—snagging the first helicopter ride to the freshest powder along the sweeping 90-mile range.

ATOMIC INN BEATTY

Get an otherworldly welcome to Death Valley. An alien statue stands outside the retro hotel, which has housed defense contractors and military personnel who’ve worked at Nellis Air Force Base. The base is known for its nuclear bomb tests and top-secret operations. One thing we do know: A stay here is one of the best deals around.

OLD YELLA DOG RANCH

VYA The worst part of vacation? Leaving Fido behind. Thankfully, this two-bedroom log home welcomes furry friends. The best part of staying here, though, is the stellar stargazing. It’s a short drive to Massacre Rim, one of the world’s 13 International Dark Sky Sanctuaries. Not only can you see the Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies with your naked eye—the stars are so bright that they cast a shadow. Even puppers will be dazzled.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM ELY

If driving a vintage steam engine leaves train buffs craving extra locomotive time, the preserved rail yard’s mustard yellow Caboose No. 22 fits the bill. Hear the hoots of owls and whistles of trains through the car’s steel frame. You can also stay at a restored bunkhouse equipped with queen and twin beds.

SMART TRAVELS
Reach out to accommodations to see if you might need to pack any extras, like your own sheets, towels, toilet paper and more. You probably won’t find a big-box store in most of these areas.
You probably know about our glitzy duo of major cities. But we’re about to let you in on some better-kept secrets, namely a cowboy crossroads that still feels wild, and a capital city where outdoor adventures reign. Oh, and we’ve got some insider tips on those big cities you thought you knew, too.

**WRITER** Ann Marie Brown
IN THE INTERNET AGE, IT’S HARD TO COME ACROSS A TRULY HIDDEN GEM, BUT NEVADA’S CITIES COME CLOSE.

For starters, there’s Elko, where spirited residents work to preserve the art and heritage of buckaroos and Basques. There’s also Carson City, flanked by mountains and bursting with pride for its capital-city status, outstanding museums, charming historic district and outdoor excursions.

And, of course, there are the bigger cities, which boast a few lesser-known treasures of their own. In Reno, an artistic energy and entrepreneurial enthusiasm have taken over the streets and riverfront. And while Las Vegas makes its own grand entrance with dancing water fountains, the world’s biggest slot machine and a volcano that erupts four times a day, there’s so much more to see off the Strip. Maybe it’s all a bit over the top, but it’s a tribute to what Nevada can dream up.
ELKO
ROAM A COWBOY TOWN

ONCE A ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE OUTPOST, ELKO HUMS WITH A MODERN COWBOY ENERGY, EMBRACING WESTERN ARTS AND CULTURE WHILE KEEPING CLOSE TO ITS HERITAGE.

BUCKAROO LIVING
Founded in 1869 to supply the railroad, this high-desert enclave became a base camp for cowhands punching cattle and Basque shepherders driving sheep to high mountain meadows. Today, it’s still a place to recharge your Wild West spirit and sense of adventure.

Elko keeps its Western roots alive with museums and festivals dedicated to authentic cowboy cultural arts. Step inside the 1913 Pioneer Hotel building, where a 40-foot-long Brunswick mahogany bar anchors the Western Folklife Center’s art exhibits, performances, talks and workshops, including the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Established in 1985, the week-long festival showcases big-name cowboy poets and musicians. Nab a ticket to hear poems and songs about life on the range, and attend workshops on swing dancing, harmonica playing and cowboy-hat making.

A few steps away, the Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum overflows with antique horse- and-rider equipment—handcrafted saddles, bridles, harnesses and more. The museum building was home to G.S. Garcia’s historic saddle shop. Two doors down is J.M. Capriola Co., a Western goods supplier since 1929. Here, cowboys load up their saddlebags with shimmering spurs and buckles. Even if you’ve never ridden a horse, you can shop for leather tote bags, fly-fishing cases and coasters.

For a taste of Nevada’s Basque ties, step into the 1910 Star Hotel, a boardinghouse that still serves a hearty Basque shepherder’s dinner. Start with soup, salad and bread, then move on to grilled steak or lamb chops. Not that hungry? Just order a Picon Punch at the bar. (It’s the Amer Picon orange liqueur that gives it the punch.)

TOP Boots celebrating Elko’s 2017 Centennial make for fun scavenger hunts. ABOVE LEFT The Star Hotel helped spur Elko’s nightlife scene. FAR LEFT The saddles and chaps at J.M. Capriola Co. aren’t just souvenir kitsch. They’re serious merch for real cowboys. LEFT At the Cowboy Arts and Gear Museum, see where G.S. Garcia taught J.M. Capriola how to make saddles.
Elko’s bars, motels, stores and a church are decked out with large-scale paintings that celebrate Nevada’s natural history (find the jackrabbits) and also its human history. Among the Elko Mural Tour’s 54 stops, find this strikingly blue buckaroo at the back of Stockmen’s Casino. The work, titled Do Unto Others, was dreamed up and painted by Reno artist Erik Burke.
CARSON CITY
LIVE THE CAPITAL LIFE

CARSON CITY WEARS ITS HERITAGE WITH PRIDE. BY BIKE, ON FOOT OR BY AIR, SEE GRAND VICTORIANS, POLISHED STEAM ENGINES, AND MILES OF HORSE AND CATTLE COUNTRY.

PEDAL THROUGH NEVADA HISTORY
Ride the Kit Carson Trail through Carson City’s tree-lined historic district. You’ll pass dozens of landmarks, including the original 1870 state Capitol building and a two-story charmer where the inventor of the Ferris wheel lived. Trade the city for sagebrush when you explore the new Buzzy’s Ranch Trail through ranch land and along the Carson River, or pedal along the V&T Trail, following the ghosts of steam locomotives that traveled this route for nearly 70 years. You can ride the rails via four-person railbike with the new Carson Canyon Railbike Tours. Pedal-assist motors allow for smooth and easy gliding along train tracks that weave through Carson River Canyon.

EXPLORE OUTDOOR MUSEUM EXHIBITS
Until 1980, Nevada’s sole off-reservation American Indian boarding school was a mandatory chapter in the life stories of thousands of American Indian children. Hear stories from alumni at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, which stands as a testament to the students’ resilience and ability to preserve their cultures. See the 1875 Baldwin steam locomotive Inyo and 60 more pieces of rolling stock—passenger coaches, freight cars and engines—at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. These marvels ruled the rails during Nevada’s silver rush and later starred in movies. In summer, take a train ride from the museum station.

FLOAT THROUGH TOWN
The 184-mile Carson River flows through the city’s east side. Boat along a 13.7-mile stretch known as the Carson River Aquatic Trail for canyon vistas, or conquer the calm Class I rapids that start at Carson River Park and extend for 3.3 miles past tall cottonwood trees.

Above Watch the annual Father’s Day Powwow at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum.

Left Not just for bikers, the 1.1-mile Buzzy’s Ranch Trail connects with others to create a 5-mile-long pathway along the Carson River.
There are plenty of hiking trails within minutes of downtown Carson City, but Kings Canyon often steals the show (and your breath—in a good way). Meander through gorgeous alpine scenery, complete with incredible vistas, wildlife and a famously photogenic waterfall payoff.
RENO
EXPLOR THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY

SEE RENO’S STUNNING TRANSFORMATION FROM A GAMBLING OUTPOST TO A HIP HAVEN FOR ARTISTS, SHOPPERS AND ENTREPRENEURS.

CONNECT WITH RENO’S CREATIVE SCENE by wandering through MidTown or downtown, coming face-to-face with eye-catching art splashed across old and new buildings. This urban oasis hosts nearly 200 large-scale murals depicting women on seahorses, an owl with beaming eyes, cutthroat trout and lots more, adding a fresh zest to the streets. While Reno’s public art renaissance can be partly credited to Burning Man, its mural renaissance is largely the work of local nonprofit Art Spot Reno. (Visit arspotreno.org for a self-guided mural tour map.)

Reno is a test lab not just for the arts but also for visionary entrepreneurs. Discover indie shops and studios clustered in The Basement, an underground marketplace below a 1933 post office still wearing its Art Deco glory. This cozy, grassroots hangout houses an old-school barbershop, artisan coffee shop, imaginative boutiques and a friendly communal workspace. No one will judge if you bring a book or laptop and hang out for a few hours.

At the south end of Reno, off Mt. Rose Highway, The Summit delivers shopping and dining with views of Mount Rose. Courtyards at the open-air mall include fountains, paths, firepits (for cool evenings), live music in summer and special events throughout the year.
PIT Stops along the RiverWalk
Take in the Reno Riverwalk District, then pick an outdoor patio and dine by the rolling Truckee River.

WEST STREET MARKET
Got friends with wide-ranging taste buds? The whole gang will be happy at this colorful, art-filled hub, where six different cafes serve an array of flavors—South Indian, North Indian, Cal-Mexican and more.

WILD RIVER GRILLE
Have dinner in the classy 1927 hotel that’s now the Riverside Artist Lofts. Nosh on innovative comfort food (plum-chipotle smoked salmon, braised short ribs) while listening to live music on the terrace.

THE EDDY
Three bars tucked inside cargo shipping containers frame this open-air, beer-garden playground. Bring your dog, play some cornhole or Jenga, and enjoy the local art on display. Kids are welcome during daylight hours.

CAMPO
At this top-notch riverside hideaway, a wood-fired oven churns out rustic Italian cuisine. Watch the water flow by while indulging in Neapolitan-style pizzas, lobster mac ‘n’ cheese or beef risotto. Don’t you dare miss the caramel budino.

OLE BRIDGE PUB
Catch European sporting events at a laid-back tavern with two dozen craft beers on tap. (The rotating list always includes some hard-to-find brews.)

THE SHORE
At the Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel, The Shore’s relaxed—but-refined menu lets you sleep in and order brioche French toast into the afternoon hours, or dine on grilled lamb lollipops and charred octopus for dinner.

SIERRA ST. KITCHEN AND COCKTAILS
Tapas-style cuisine appeals to the grazer in all of us. A small menu of Kobe sliders, crab cakes, mini meatballs and street tacos complements a lively lineup of meticulously crafted drinks.

BRING THE KIDDOS
Reno isn’t just for the grown-ups. Get interactive at The Discovery, with more than 67,000 square feet of exhibits. For creature features, swing by the Animal Ark wildlife sanctuary, or see more than 40 animal species, including lemurs and leopards, at Sierra Nevada Zoological Park.

ABOVE Launched in the 1990s, the Reno Riverwalk District helped spark the downtown renaissance.

RIGHT A rotating fleet of food trucks serves street tacos and other fare complementing beers served at The Eddy. OPPOSITE (FROM TOP) BELIEVE by Laura Kimpton and Jeff Schomberg at City Plaza. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout by Louis Masai at Lavi Smoke Shop.
LAS VEGAS
TAKE IN THE BIG SHOW

AMONG THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF LUXURY HOTELS AND DAZZLING MARQUEES, FIND OPEN-AIR FUN AND BIG-SKY VISTAS AT ROOFTOP BARS, ALFRESCO EATERIES AND ADRENALINE-PUMPING ATTRACTIONS.

DOWNTOWN CONTAINER PARK
Take old shipping containers, convert them into pop-up dining spots, boutiques, galleries and play spaces, and what do you have? One funkalicious shopping compound that gives an edgy energy to Vegas’ downtown. Take a dance class, admire quirky outdoor art, and browse shops selling cigars, magic-trick supplies and kettle corn. Then kick back in a recliner under The Dome for a mind-blowing visual and auditory experience—choose from a rock-and-roll extravaganza or a kid-friendly dinosaur show.
OUTDOOR SIPs AND BITES

*Drink and dine under Las Vegas’ dazzling lights at these fresh-air hangouts, just right for either date night or late night.*

Pop in to three buzzy outdoor nightspots along a half-mile stretch of Fremont Street. Start at **Atomic Liquors**, Las Vegas’ oldest freestanding bar, serving drinks since 1952 when customers would watch atomic blasts from the roof. This watering hole boasts Hollywood street cred—the Rat Pack hid from fans on the Strip by drinking here. Barbra Streisand had her own barstool, and Roy Rogers loved the bar so much, he featured it on his television show.

Just two blocks away in the Downtown Container Park, **Oak and Ivy**’s outdoor whiskey oasis serves 30 varieties—on the rocks, neat or in a barrel-aged cocktail. Order a flight so you can broaden your whiskey horizons, or let the skilled mixologists pour you a perfectly balanced Moscow mule. Then wander over to **Le Thai**’s patio and wash down drunken noodles with a cocktail.

Over on the Strip, you’ll find a seemingly infinite lineup of outdoor dining options. Take a world tour with stops at **El Segundo Sol** (Mexican) at Fashion Show Mall, **Eataly** (Italian) at Park MGM, **Mizumi** (Japanese) at Wynn Las Vegas and **Mon Ami Gabi** (French) at Paris Las Vegas.

5 ROOFTOP ESCAPES

*Savor a Vegas sunset or midnight lights from these lofty perches, where views and booze make a perfect team.*

**CARSON KITCHEN**
Las Vegas celeb chef Kerry Simon designed this industrial-chic downtown gastropub and invented a winning menu of crave-worthy comfort food. (Say ‘yes’ to the chicken thighs.) Craft libations include the Hindsight 2020 with white rum, ginger and chocolate bitters.

**SKYFALL LOUNGE**
Watch the sun set over the Spring Mountains from the rooftop bar at Mandalay Bay’s Delano hotel, then stay after dark so you can let loose when the house music heats up. Seating surrounding the dance floor makes for some primo people-watching.

**OMNIA**
Get your groove on at this see-and-be-seen megaclub, which spans a whopping four stories inside Caesars Palace. The rooftop terrace offers an amazing view of the Strip, celebrity DJs crank up the beats, and beautiful people shimmy and sway.

**INSPIRE**
This three-story bar, lounge and nightclub lights up the hopping corner of Fremont Street and Las Vegas Boulevard. It’s the perfect perch for tourist-watching as you sip drinks and rock out to the entrancing music pumped out by resident DJs.

**COMMONWEALTH**
Fremont Street’s classy gathering spot serves up potent cocktails while nailing the speakeasy aesthetic with velvet chairs, dark wood floors and glowing chandeliers. Sip your old-school gimlet on the rooftop while gazing down on buzzy Fremont East.

BELOW For a splashy evening, take in dinner and an H2O show at LAGO, part of the Bellagio hotel. No matter which song is playing during the fountain spectacle, you’ll want to pair it with the limoncello dessert. **BOTTOM** Fun fact: If you were to spend one night in every Las Vegas hotel room, it would take about 411 years.
rights FLY LING riders soar (almost) into the High Roller, the world’s tallest observation wheel. BELOW Though the world-renowned Las Vegas Strip is what captures most attention today, the city originally began along Fremont Street, creating the heart of downtown.

FREMONT EAST DISTRICT
Locals and tourists-in-the-know head east of Las Vegas Boulevard to this hip-and-happening neighborhood that overflows with globe-spanning cafes (Thai, Cajun, Mexican, Japanese and a pizzeria that pays homage to Evel Knievel). After a meal, swing by The Griffin, a swanky Old-Vegas-style bar with a killer jukebox, brick fireplaces and acres of red leather. Love that midcentury modern?
Then also hit up Fergusons Downtown, an übercool collection of indie boutiques, cafés and public art in and around a refurbished 1940s motel.
UP IN THE AIR
Get above the Vegas bustle and take in some seriously spectacular views while standing still or coasting through the sky.

✦ SKYPOD Get your socks knocked off by the vista from America’s tallest freestanding observation tower (1,149 feet above the streets). Ride The STRAT Hotel’s double-decker elevator to the observation deck for sunset cocktails, dine in the revolving Top of the World restaurant, or test your nerve on SkyJump’s 40-mph quasi-free fall.

✦ THE BIG APPLE COASTER Take a white-knuckle ride in a coaster car, painted taxi yellow and checkered black. As your cab twists, swoops and loops upside down through and around New York-New York, try not to close your eyes or you’ll miss the in-your-face encounter with the Statue of Liberty.

✦ EIFFEL TOWER Architects used Gustave Eiffel’s original drawings to ensure the half-size tower that anchors this Paris look-alike was as true to the original as possible. Ride the elevator to the 460-foot-high observation deck for a breathtaking perspective on the Strip, especially at night.

✦ SLOTZILLA ZIPLINE Get a high-speed view of the Fremont Street promenade as you swoosh along a 1,750-foot-long “zoomline” that takes off from the world’s largest slot machine. You’ll fly headfirst like Superman at 40 mph. (Acrophobes can fly seated on a lower, shorter zipline.)

✦ FLY LINQ In the mood for frivolous fun? Get a 40-second adrenaline rush as you whiz above the promenade on this short-but-sweet zipline strung 12 stories above the street. You’ll think you’re going to crash into the 550-foot High Roller observation wheel. (Spoiler alert: You won’t.)

SMART TRAVELS While zipping through Las Vegas (and all Nevada towns), expect safety measures to be in place at businesses and public spaces. #MaskUpNV
Here’s the simple recipe for a quintessential Nevada adventure: Start with one large outdoor rec spot and add one nearby small town steeped in frontier history.

**PERFECT**

Here’s the simple recipe for a quintessential Nevada adventure: Start with one large outdoor rec spot and add one nearby small town steeped in frontier history.

**WRITER** Tovin Lapan
Call it a sand blast. Dirt bikers, quad riders and other off-road types get their fix on Sand Mountain, the largest dune in the Great Basin. Formed roughly 9,000 years ago, when the first farmers were planting their crops (and probably wearing the first seed caps), Sand Mountain is 3.5 miles long, 1 mile wide and 600 feet tall, rising higher than the High Roller observation wheel in Las Vegas. The 4,795-acre recreation area attracts serious sand surfers with a variety of terrain that tests their technical skills. Sand Mountain is also one of roughly 30 “singing” dunes in the world, so kill the engine and listen for the wind-driven rumbles that last up to several minutes and reach 105 decibels—that’s approaching rock band territory. You might also spot a rare airborne resident, the Sand Mountain blue butterfly. Camp primitive style at the base of the dunes. How primitive? Facilities are limited to six vault toilets.

Fallon

Pioneers made Fallon a rest stop on their way west (just like us, they had to rehydrate and walk the dogs), but you’ll want to get out and explore the town, set about 28 miles northwest of Sand Mountain. Fallon grew in the early 1900s, thanks to agriculture, and food is still a focus. The annual late-summer Fallon Cantaloupe Festival and Country Fair celebrates a sweet, delectable variety that bruises too easily to ship well, so you’ve gotta come here to try it. Find fresh grapes, raspberries and other organic goodies at Lattin Farms, then go all naughty with a cinnamon bun from the bakery. Spend your afternoon sampling spirits at Frey Ranch Distillery. On Saturdays, enjoy free facility tours and tastings of Frey Ranch Bourbon and Frey Ranch Rye. They’re made with grains grown on Colby Frey’s 165-year-old family farm.
| ENDLESS HIKING |

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

IT’S THE HOTTEST, DRIEST AND LOWEST PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT DON’T LET THOSE STATS FOOL YOU. DEATH VALLEY DELIVERS HEAVENLY HIKING, REFRESHING VIEWS AND COOL HISTORY, TOO.

Picture stark salt flats, sand dunes, ombre canyons, mountain peaks, and relics of history like charcoal kilns and petroglyphs. Then crank up the thermometer. That’s Death Valley—at least in summer’s triple-digit heat. But in the cooler air of February through early April, when wildflowers bloom, it’s a helluvia place to hike. Get your bearings at Zabriskie Point’s 360-degree (that’s angle, not temperature) overlook of the badlands. On clear days, Dante’s View offers glimpses of Badwater Basin and Mt. Whitney, the highest and lowest points in the Lower 48. Telescope Peak, at 11,049 feet and capped with snow for part of the year, tests hikers with high-elevation forests of juniper and pine. It’s a shorter trek (with a couple of creek crossings) to Darwin Falls, an unexpected oasis. An unmarked trail in Desolation Canyon follows a sandy wash through a narrow ravine, passing Artists Palette—rock faces dyed red, yellow, green and purple by oxidation.

PAIR WITH BEATTY

After other towns in the Bullfrog Mining District went bust, Beatty reinvented itself as a gateway to Death Valley. The Beatty Museum and Historical Society offers nuggets of gold rush history, plus displays about Death Valley’s Timbisha Shoshone tribe. Atomic Inn, built in 1980 for defense contractors visiting nearby military installations, is completely remodeled. At Sourdough Saloon, rack the balls for pool and feed on ribs, Angus beef burgers, fried calamari and grilled cheese. For dessert, get lost in Nevada’s largest (and sweetest) candy store, Death Valley Nut and Candy Co.

SMART TRAVELS

In addition to your normal outdoor gear list, be sure to pack masks, hand sanitizer, wet wipes and/or disinfectant wipes, gloves, and trash bags. And always pack out what you pack in.

TOP Death Valley is known for its seemingly barren and expansive vistas that include huge gravel fields where the mountains are slowly eroding into the valley below.

PAIR WITH BOULDER CITY

Once temporary digs for workers building Hoover Dam, this small town makes a lasting impression with its range of activities, accommodations and dining options. Boulder Dam Hotel, built in 1933, houses the Boulder City-Hoover Dam Museum on its first floor, and counts U.S. presidents and Hollywood royalty like Bette Davis and Shirley Temple among its notable guests. Get your heart pumping on the serpentine mountain biking trails at Bootleg Canyon. Lower trails are perfect for newbies, while the upper trails with steep grades challenge pros. Relax at The Dillinger, named for the infamous bank robber. In true tough-guy style, the restaurant promises that “Our burgers will beat up your burgers.” Sampling any of the six beers on tap (or the two dozen in bottles) can help soften the blows.

| BIKE THE RAILS |

HOOVER DAM

THE EPIC DEPRESSION-ERA PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT CREATED THE LARGEST HUMAN-MADE RESERVOIR IN THE NATION: BEAUTIFUL LAKE MEAD, A FONT OF RECREATION ON AND NEAR THE WATER.

Tighten your helmet strap and check your brakes before biking the Historic Railroad Trail, a fittingly chain-and-sprocket way to tour a place so shaped by human engineering. The well-maintained, level trail passes through five of the original 300-foot-long, 25-foot-wide tunnels carved out of the Nevada mountainside in the 1930s to transport building materials to the dam. It’s one of the only portions of the Hoover Dam Railroad system that wasn’t destroyed or flooded by Lake Mead. Also geared toward pedestrians, the path is dotted with info about the lake, Hoover Dam and wildlife, like desert bighorn sheep, owls and rattlesnakes. Want a longer trip? The trail, accessed via the Lake Mead Alan Bible Visitor Center or the Hoover Dam parking garage, connects to the 30-mile-plus route ringing Lake Mead.
Psst—Great Basin is one of the least-visited national parks. Don’t pass it on. True, the park is somewhat isolated, but what more can it offer? Try horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, and camping against a backdrop of alpine lakes, limestone caverns and the oldest living trees on Earth—5,000-year-old bristlecone pines. The fishing is especially fine. Pack a rod and make the 6-mile journey above 10,000 feet to Baker Lake. In late summer and early fall, anglers (especially fly casters) find an idyllic spot brimming with Lahontan cutthroat and brook trout. For more accessible fishing, head to the Lehman Creek trailhead to cast for rainbow, brook and brown trout. After fishing, catch a sea of stars; Great Basin is one of two Nevada locations recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association. Embrace the darkest skies in the Lower 48 at the new 250-seat Astronomy Amphitheater, opening for its first season in 2021.

| QUIET MAJESTY |

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

THOUGH IT’S CHOCK-FULL OF AMAZING NATURAL TREASURES AND OUTDOOR REC OPPORTUNITIES, GREAT BASIN LACKS ONE FEATURE THAT’S A GIVEN AT MOST OTHER NATIONAL PARKS: LARGE CROWDS.

PAIR WITH BAKER

Electricity didn’t reach this small town until 1971—for context. Richard Nixon was president when that occurred—and Baker retains much of its off-the-grid character. Opened in 2017, the 10-room Stargazer Inn has quite a following, thanks to Kerouac’s Restaurant. The restaurant (open May through October) is known for artisan pizzas, burgers, craft cocktails, beer and wine. Fourteen miles southeast of town, take a UTV ride through Hidden Canyon Retreat’s 375 acres of foothills and pasture land, watching for mule deer, wild turkeys and golden eagles. The lush canyon also fosters fishing, fossil hunting, cave exploring and more.

BASIN BONUS

The Great Basin Highway features eight state parks along a gorgeous 355-mile stretch. Before you pack your hiking shoes, get oriented on page 94.
CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK

ROCK STAR PARKING
Cathedral Gorge is just one of 24 stunning state parks throughout Nevada. See which ones trip your outdoors-loving trigger on page 38.
ANCHORED BY THE CALIENTE RAILROAD DEPOT, A FAITHFULLY MISSION-STYLE MONUMENT TO THE REGION’S RANCHING AND MINING HISTORY, CALIENTE PROVIDES PLenty OF (LOCO) MOTIVES FOR A VISIT.

CHECK OUT A ROW OF HISTORIC RAILROAD COTTAGES, ALL ORIGINAL AND FRAMED BY RESPLendent ROSE GARDENS LINING THE STREET. OR TRY THE PHENOMENAL MOUNTAIN BIKING, INCLUDING CUSTOM FLOW TRAILS AT BARNES CANYON AND A SKILLS PARK RIGHT IN TOWN. THROW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FIVE MORE STATE PARKS—BEAVER DAM, SPRING VALLEY, ECHO CANYON, KERSHAW-Ryan AND ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—and you’ve got plenty of ways to punch your adventure ticket around here.

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK
WITH SIX STATE PARKS STAKING CLAIMS IN SOUTHEASTERN NEVADA, CATHEDRAL GORGE STANDS OUT WITH ITS SLOT CANYONS AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.

Skyscraping spires and rust-color cliffs make Cathedral Gorge an eye-popping geology timeline spanning millions of years. A network of trails twists through and around the stunning slot canyons carved by nature. A good place to start is Miller Point Overlook, which offers picturesque sunrise and sunset vistas. Follow the trail from there as it descends into the dramatic canyons. People have been coming to this exotic landscape to hike and picnic since the 1920s, when the gorge hosted vaudeville shows. Mother Nature staged her own show long ago as ancient volcanoes spewed ash in the region and a freshwater lake formed. Over the span of multiple centuries, the lake dried up and erosion exposed ash and pumice from the volcano. Cathedral Gorge became one of Nevada’s first four state parks in 1935, and many of the facilities—like stone masoned firepits—were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

DAVID WALLEY’S RESORT
IN NEVADA, A YOUNG (AT HEART) PERSON’S FANCY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF SPRINGS. FOR NEARLY 160 YEARS, THIS SPOT’S WARM WATERS HAVE WOOED AND WOWED GUESTS.

Lose yourself in views of the Sierra Nevada as natural sulfur, potassium and sodium in five toasty hot springs (the water gets up to 104 degrees) rid your body of icky toxins, ease joint pain and soothe skin. When David Walley first welcomed visitors to the rejuvenating springs on his property, a soak cost 50 cents. (FYI, a stay costs a little more now.) By 1862, Walley and his wife had built a 40-room resort with a grand ballroom, stable and swimming pool. The resort soon became a regular stop for stagecoaches and celebs like Mark Twain and Clark Gable. Despite multiple fires and the ravages of time, one of the original stone soaking tubs still stands. The on-site 1862 Restaurant and Saloon features an elegant dining room, a rustic bar and a menu that really brings the beef. The outdoor patio offers mountain views and a firepit during the warmer months.

GENOA
SET YOUR WATCH BACK ABOUT 170 YEARS TO rough-and-tumble pre-statehood days in Genoa. Nevada’s first non-Native settlement. The town’s bars, hotels and retreats date to the 1850s. Poke around town for take-home gifts and local treats, then picnic at Mormon Station State Historic Park. Kick back at Genoa Bar and Saloon, which claims the title of Nevada’s oldest saloon (circa 1853), and just imagine the cowboy brawls that once spilled out of its doors. Watch deer graze from a rustically charming room at the White House Inn Genoa, and build your own cheese and charcuterie board at 1855-era The Pink House.

BELOW At David Walley’s Resort, a large swimming pool and five separate mineral spas feature water temps ranging from 86 to 104 degrees, all naturally, thanks to Mother Earth.

PAIR WITH CALIENTE
ANCHORED BY THE CALIENTE RAILROAD DEPOT, A FAITHFULLY MISSION-STYLE MONUMENT TO THE REGION’S RANCHING AND MINING HISTORY, CALIENTE PROVIDES PLENTY OF (LOCO) MOTIVES FOR A VISIT. CHECK OUT A ROW OF HISTORIC RAILROAD COTTAGES, ALL ORIGINAL AND FRAMED BY RESPLendent ROSE GARDENS LINING THE STREET. OR TRY THE PHENOMENAL MOUNTAIN BIKING, INCLUDING CUSTOM FLOW TRAILS AT BARNES CANYON AND A SKILLS PARK RIGHT IN TOWN. THROW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FIVE MORE STATE PARKS—BEAVER DAM, SPRING VALLEY, ECHO CANYON, KERSHAW-Ryan AND ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—and you’ve got plenty of ways to punch your adventure ticket around here.

PAIR WITH CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK
WITH SIX STATE PARKS STAKING CLAIMS IN SOUTHEASTERN NEVADA, CATHEDRAL GORGE STANDS OUT WITH ITS SLOT CANYONS AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.


PAIR WITH GENOA
SET YOUR WATCH BACK ABOUT 170 YEARS TO rough-and-tumble pre-statehood days in Genoa. Nevada’s first non-Native settlement. The town’s bars, hotels and retreats date to the 1850s. Poke around town for take-home gifts and local treats, then picnic at Mormon Station State Historic Park. Kick back at Genoa Bar and Saloon, which claims the title of Nevada’s oldest saloon (circa 1853), and just imagine the cowboy brawls that once spilled out of its doors. Watch deer graze from a rustically charming room at the White House Inn Genoa, and build your own cheese and charcuterie board at 1855-era The Pink House.

PAIR WITH CALIENTE
ANCHORED BY THE CALIENTE RAILROAD DEPOT, A FAITHFULLY MISSION-STYLE MONUMENT TO THE REGION’S RANCHING AND MINING HISTORY, CALIENTE PROVIDES PLENTY OF (LOCO) MOTIVES FOR A VISIT. CHECK OUT A ROW OF HISTORIC RAILROAD COTTAGES, ALL ORIGINAL AND FRAMED BY RESPLendent ROSE GARDENS LINING THE STREET. OR TRY THE PHENOMENAL MOUNTAIN BIKING, INCLUDING CUSTOM FLOW TRAILS AT BARNES CANYON AND A SKILLS PARK RIGHT IN TOWN. THROW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FIVE MORE STATE PARKS—BEAVER DAM, SPRING VALLEY, ECHO CANYON, KERSHAW-Ryan AND ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—and you’ve got plenty of ways to punch your adventure ticket around here.

PAIR WITH CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK
WITH SIX STATE PARKS STAKING CLAIMS IN SOUTHEASTERN NEVADA, CATHEDRAL GORGE STANDS OUT WITH ITS SLOT CANYONS AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.


PAIR WITH GENOA
SET YOUR WATCH BACK ABOUT 170 YEARS TO rough-and-tumble pre-statehood days in Genoa. Nevada’s first non-Native settlement. The town’s bars, hotels and retreats date to the 1850s. Poke around town for take-home gifts and local treats, then picnic at Mormon Station State Historic Park. Kick back at Genoa Bar and Saloon, which claims the title of Nevada’s oldest saloon (circa 1853), and just imagine the cowboy brawls that once spilled out of its doors. Watch deer graze from a rustically charming room at the White House Inn Genoa, and build your own cheese and charcuterie board at 1855-era The Pink House.

PAIR WITH CALIENTE
ANCHORED BY THE CALIENTE RAILROAD DEPOT, A FAITHFULLY MISSION-STYLE MONUMENT TO THE REGION’S RANCHING AND MINING HISTORY, CALIENTE PROVIDES PLENTY OF (LOCO) MOTIVES FOR A VISIT. CHECK OUT A ROW OF HISTORIC RAILROAD COTTAGES, ALL ORIGINAL AND FRAMED BY RESPLendent ROSE GARDENS LINING THE STREET. OR TRY THE PHENOMENAL MOUNTAIN BIKING, INCLUDING CUSTOM FLOW TRAILS AT BARNES CANYON AND A SKILLS PARK RIGHT IN TOWN. THROW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO FIVE MORE STATE PARKS—BEAVER DAM, SPRING VALLEY, ECHO CANYON, KERSHAW-Ryan AND ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE—and you’ve got plenty of ways to punch your adventure ticket around here.
Take a break from the sizzle of desert heat with a dip in a supersize swimming hole, or escape via skis, sled or snowshoes into Nevada’s powder-covered mountains.

PHOTOGRAPH: (SKIING) DAVID BUNKER

WRITER: Melissa Walker

JUST CHILL
Even the glorious glitz of Vegas can’t overshadow the incredible natural diversity of Nevada’s landscape. It’s no wonder the state anthem, “Home Means Nevada,” calls it the place of a thousand thrills—and they weren’t just talking about the showgirls. Where the desert meets the foothills, Nevada turns into the most mountainous state in the contiguous United States. (How’s that for bragging rights?) From those peaks spill streams, lakes and rivers perfect for water-skiing, boating and fishing. Once the first flurries fall, grab the poles, skis, boards and tubes. Mother Nature drops about 30 feet of snow on Lake Tahoe’s mountain rim each year. But Tahoe’s not the only place to snow your own way. Here are some of the coolest spots to chill out across Nevada.

ON THE WATER

Among striking desert scenery, find hidden lakes and rivers that will quench your thirst for thrilling water sports, trophy fishing or peaceful paddling.

Just minutes away from the Las Vegas Strip, Boulder City’s Lake Mead National Recreation Area feels worlds away from the neon lights. Cast a line—and make a wish—to catch 40-pound striped bass in the lake’s brilliant blue water. Within the recreation area, the Black Canyon Water Trail meanders for 26 miles along the Colorado River. Here, the morning sun gives the rock a fiery glow against the purple mountain backdrop. Take the water trail to sandy beaches, secluded coves and the shimmering gem of Emerald Cave.

In the state’s northeast, cool mountain runoff makes Angel Lake a tad chilly for swimming, but the fish sure like to bite. The Nevada Department of Wildlife and Gallagher Fish Hatchery keep the lake stocked with trout. Speaking of stocked, journey to the remote waters of the Jarbidge River to score one of the gorgeously green bull trout (catch-and-release only). You may also get a few redbands and mountain whitefish.

World-class anglers flock to Pyramid Lake (40 miles northeast of Reno) for
TOP RIGHT Guided tours of the Black Canyon Water Trail often stop at coves, caves and hot springs.

ABOVE RIGHT Looking to catch a bull trout? The Jarbidge River is the only place in Nevada where you can find one.

OPPOSITE Catch ginormous trout species in the Truckee River.

Guided tours of the Black Canyon Water Trail often stop at coves, caves and hot springs.

Looking to catch a bull trout? The Jarbidge River is the only place in Nevada where you can find one. We’re still not entirely sure what the Red Hot Chili Peppers meant when they wanted to take us away on their own zephyr, but one thing’s for sure: Zephyr Cove Resort is where you want to be. Lift off the ground and parasail 1,000 feet above Lake Tahoe to peer into its clear waters. The cove’s gentle breezes and endless sunshine will have you savoring that free-from-it-all feeling. You can also make waves with rentals, choosing from water skis, wakeboards and more.

Swim, boat and Jet Ski in the cool Colorado River at Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area in Laughlin. View rock formations and petroglyphs that tell the story of the Mohave, the Colorado River Valley’s earliest inhabitants. After the excursion, roam sandy beaches to view waterfowl and shorebirds that call this place home.

Anglers, this should reel you in: Nevada has more than 200 lakes and reservoirs, and upwards of 600 rivers and streams swimming with catches. We know you can’t wait to brag about that big fat bass.
MORE LAKES TO LOVE

LIBERTY LAKE
With nearly 2,000 feet of elevation gained along this 2.8-mile hike over Liberty Pass, the endless views, angling opportunities and pure mountaintop freedom found here are definitely the kind you earn—and are sure glad you did.

LAMOILLE LAKE
The easy, delightful 1.5-mile hike to Lamoille Lake is a popular destination for day hikers and trout chasers. It’s also a perfect picnic spot, couched beneath the imposingly picturesque Liberty Pass.
**ANGEL LAKE**
Perched at 8,500 feet, this aspen-cliffed gem just 16 miles off Interstate-80 steals the hearts of hikers, photographers and anglers, as well as keen-eyed spotters of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn antelope and more.

**VERDI LAKE**
This deep, blue glacial tarn towers above its neighbors at an elevation of 10,184 feet—the range’s highest lake. Gloriously well off the beaten path, if it’s serious alpine solace you’re seeking, Verdi Lake is hard to beat.

**ISLAND LAKE**
The easy, 17-mile hike from the end of Lamoille Canyon Road zigzags up to a stunning glacial tarn in a wildflower-blanketed valley. Meanwhile, bird buffs flock here in hopes of spying the rare, elusive Himalayan snow cock.
Pair your Vegas vacation with a ski day at Lee Canyon, just 50 minutes northwest of the city. Fly down dozens of runs in the Spring Mountains’ upper elevations, and ski right up to the bar at a new lodge with a heated terrace. Mountain bikers may take over the trails in summer, but until then, downhill skiers stake their claim. Take the family to the tubing hill, or don snowshoes and stroll through ponderosa pines.

Good for both novice skiers and pros, Diamond Peak Ski Resort in Incline Village features private and group lessons, plus kids’ ski schools. Experts dig the abundance of off-trail glade skiing options. On Saturday afternoons, ride the last chairlift to Snowflake Lodge for glorious Lake Tahoe views (best enjoyed from the sprawling outdoor sundeck).

On the southern end of the lake, Heavenly Mountain Resort is a paradise for those craving downhill speed. More than one-third of its trails are rated for experts, and nearly half are intermediate runs that challenge alpine skiers’ skills. Snowboarders will find the swaying blue runs long and wide enough for their boards. In the summer season, ride the gondola to the top for panoramic views of Lake Tahoe, or hop in the gravity-powered Ridge Rider Mountain Coaster and whoosh downhill.

Not to be outdone, Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe boasts the highest base elevation of Tahoe’s 15 ski resorts, with upper runs nearing a cloud-scraping 10,000 feet. The high elevation keeps the snow in optimal shape, even when the sun beats down. Experts hop the Zephyr Express lift to The Chutes’ double black diamond runs, while intermediates sink their edges into deftly manicured groomers.

Want to take things to the next level? With Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience, ride a helicopter high into the Ruby Mountains near Lamoille, and get dropped off among 200,000 acres of powder. Choose from steep drops, tree-lined corridors, glades and open bowls. The helicopter also picks you up when you’re done (so you don’t have to call an Uber).
While skiing gets top billing in Nevada’s mountains, there are plenty of other activities that go with the snow.

**MOUNT CHARLESTON SLEDDING AREA**
**NORTH LAS VEGAS**
Vegas snow bunnies will appreciate the short drive to the Foxtail Group Picnic Area, where sledding and snowball fights abound. Afterward, warm up with hot chocolate at Lee Canyon.

**CHICKADEE RIDGE**
**MT. ROSE MEADOWS**
Strap on snowshoes and climb to the top of the ridge to see friendly mountain chickadees. The birds along the 3-mile snowshoe trail are so used to visitors, they’ll naturally land on your hand. Pro tip: Don’t feed wildlife. It’s illegal.

**BORGES SLEIGH AND CARRIAGE RIDES**
**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**
Dash through the snow on a private horse-drawn sleigh ride. Blond Belgian horses lead the sleigh through Sand Harbor Nevada State Park along Lake Tahoe. Sing songs, hear stories, and take the most Norman Rockwell-esque photo of your life.
HOT SPRING AWAKENING

Slip into one of Nevada’s greatest treasures—its natural hot springs. You’ll find more here (300-plus!) than in any other state. For maximum nirvana, enjoy the mineral-rich waters under a canvas of stars. Here are five spots worthy of your bucket (or tub) list.

WRITER Suzanne Roberts
Why does Nevada have so many hot springs? It’s the Earth’s fault. Or faults. Cracks in the Earth’s surface allow water to percolate up. Some springs are actually cold; others are way too hot for bathing. But many are just right for soaking. Go suitless (if you wish), but more importantly, leave no trace of your visit behind, so that these natural wonders can remain pristine.

**SPENCER HOT SPRINGS**

Compared to many well-hidden springs, these don’t play hard to get. You’ll find Spencer very close to the geographic center of Nevada. Choose a natural pool with a pool’s extreme temperature—it’s hot enough to do serious damage. Also be sure to live by the Dirt Road Code. Drive only on designated routes (even the playa has well-worn “lanes”), and always keep those tires off the sensitive, protected dunes.

**BLACK ROCK HOT SPRINGS**

Sweet Instagram dreams are made of this. Bathing in a natural pool at the edge of a desert playa. Two pools overlap here, but avoid the smaller, deeper pool’s extreme temperature—it’s hot enough to do serious damage. Take in views of the Black Rock Range and High Rock Canyon from one of the dammed-up pools.

**SOLDIER MEADOWS HOT SPRINGS**

The going gets rough on the road from Gerlach—4WD with high clearance is recommended—turning this 60-mile trip into a two-hour trek, but you’ll be glad you took the scenic route. (Playa pros can take the playa to get close.) A hot springs river meanders through the area. Take in views of the Black Rock Range and High Rock Canyon from one of the dammed-up pools.

**GOLD STRIKE HOT SPRINGS**

BOULDER CITY Less than an hour from the Strip, the springs require a strenuous rock-scrambling, rope-assisted hike. (It’s worth it!) Multiple pools are dammed up through the canyon, and you’ll even find a sauna cave and hot springs waterfalls. Plunge into the Colorado River to cool off and eat up epic views of Hoover Dam. The springs are open from October to mid-May.

**FISH LAKE VALLEY HOT SPRINGS**

DYER Follow a well-maintained dirt road to this awesome little gem. A vast swath of marshland surrounds a concrete tub with a stepladder and handrails. Views stretch across the desertscape to the White Mountains and nearby Boundary Peak (which happens to be Nevada’s tallest mountain). The stargazing here is top-notch.

**SPENCER HOT SPRINGS**

AUSTIN Compared to many well-hidden springs, these don’t play hard to get. You’ll find Spencer very close to the geographic center of Nevada. Choose a natural pool with a sandy bottom or an old-school “cowboy tub” (a metal cattle trough). Watch wild burros graze in the distance as the sun glows upon the Big Smoky Valley and dips behind the Toiyabe Range.

---

SMART TRAVELS: Hot springs are even hotter destinations these days, as more people seek secluded escapes. If there’s already a group soaking, wait your turn or try another Nevada adventure—there’s one not far away.

---

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

If you stumble across a backroads hot spring, congrats! Take all the pics you want, but please don’t geotag. We love to keep many of our lesser-known springs a secret, making the quest all the more magical.
GREAT HAUNTS
Visions of gold and silver danced in the heads of thousands lured to Nevada after 1859 by the Comstock Lode. Mining camps popped up, many growing into bona fide towns. But when prospects dried up, people moved on to the next shiny new thing. That’s how you get more than 600 ghost towns. They can’t all be haunted ... right?

WRITER Geralda Miller
GHOST TOWNS GALORE

With more ghost towns than incorporated towns, Nevada makes it easy to rush back in time to the mining era.

RHYOLITE
The skeletons of a three-story bank, part of the old jail, the general store and the train station remain from this Gold Rush town nestled in volcanic rock at the edge of Death Valley. Founded in 1904 and deserted by 1915, it boasted a hospital, an opera house and a stock exchange. In 1907, it was Nevada’s third-largest city. But as mines were already slowing, a financial crisis hit that year too. Rhyolite didn’t weather the storm.

BERLIN
Located within Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, about three and a half hours east of Carson City, Berlin once supported 250 people—miners, woodcutters, charcoal makers, a doctor and nurse, a forest ranger, and even a prostitute. Trails tell the story of the town and its mine, as do 13 original buildings from the 1890s, including the 30-stamp mill and the machine shop, which offers 60-mile views from inside.

ABOVE Take a self-guided tour of Berlin’s mining cabins and mill on the edge of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
LEFT The Tom Kelly Bottle House—built from nearly 50,000 glass bottles—is one of Rhyolite’s big draws.
OPPOSITE Some visitors to Hamilton claim feeling an aura that lingers among the remaining structures.
CHERRY CREEK
A luxury hotel, along with many boarding houses, restaurants and saloons, made up the largest town in what would become the Ely area, at least until a financial crash wiped out the local economy. An 1888 fire destroyed the business district, leaving only one soul, with most of the remaining buildings closed and people left after the financial panic of 1893. Today, sections of stone and wooden structures remain, including an old mercantile building.

DELMAR
The gold mine here was a veritable gold mine, producing more than $8 million in ore from 1895 until 1900. But the mine also earned the nickname The Widowmaker for the high number of deaths from its silica dust. At one point, at least 400 residents were widows. Because most of its buildings were made of native stone, Delamar showcases some of the most extensive and well-preserved ruins of any ghost town in southeast Nevada.

METROPOLIS
Water is life. That’s what 700 residents in this region learned when irrigation plans went down the drain. A horrific combo of drought, typhoid, killer jackrabbits and Mormon crickets (yes, you read that correctly) took out many residents in the 1910s. By 1920, fewer than 100 people remained, and, five years later, the last store closed. A post office was stamped out in 1942, and a school was expelled in 1947. Only ruins and ranches remain to tell the story.

CANDELARIA
Whiskey was cheaper than water in this isolated town, as water had to be shipped in at a buck per gallon. Mexican prospectors discovered silver here in 1864 and named the mine and town after a Catholic Mass day. By 1880, the area bustled with hotels, law offices, shops and saloons. Mines closed and people left after the financial panic of 1893. Today, sections of stone and wooden structures remain, including an old mercantile building.

HAMILTON
Don’t throw away your shot to see the home of the purest silver strike in Nevada. At one point, its population soared to more than 10,000. The town had a skating rink, dance halls, an opera house, a soda factory and more. But mining declined, and the population shrank. What’s left are several fairly well-preserved structures, including a Wells Fargo bank, against a mountain backdrop. Double dip with a visit to Treasure City ghost town next door.

Good Ghostin’
Take a road trip past more haunts along and near the Loneliest Road in America. Learn more on page 90.

SMART TRAVELS
You don’t have to treat fellow ghost hunters like zombies, but always remember to keep at least 6 feet apart, wear a mask and sanitize your hands frequently.
SPIRITED DISCOVERIES

OK, so most ghost towns aren’t that haunted. But if you want to add a little “eek” to your travels, here’s where to get your fix. We’ve ranked these attractions from calm to blood-curdling.

CARSON CITY GHOST WALK

It was just before Halloween in 1873 that Carson City’s founder, Abraham Curry, died. Follow host Madame Curry and her team of Spirit Wranglers through the city’s downtown and historic district as they try to reach Abe. Want to dress for the times? Costumes are more than welcome.

FEAR FACTOR
1 out of 10 (nothing jolt-worthy)

THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY GHOST WALK

RENO

Hear about a mysterious unsolved disappearance and tales of gangsters, illegal gamblers and other misfits on a 90-minute walk around downtown. The Biggest Little City in the World saw more than its share of sinister characters while blazing the trail for gaming in the Silver State.

FEAR FACTOR
2 out of 10 (slight heebie-jeebies)

HAUNTED VEGAS GHOST HUNT

LAS VEGAS

Whoever lives in Vegas doesn’t always stay dead in Vegas. Equipped with ghost hunting devices (like electromagnetic field meters), explore haunted buildings and former hangouts of Vegas regulars—e.g., Bugsy Siegel, Redd Foxx, Michael Jackson, Liberace, and Elvis (maybe he never really left the building).

FEAR FACTOR
3 out of 10 (Twilight Zone suspense)

TONOPAH GHOST WALK

TONOPAH

George “Devil” Davis played pranks on the Tonopah Liquor Company, Bina Verrault is still on the lam, and the Lady in Red must have been wearing pearls when her ex-lover strangled her. Their stories and others are told at historic sites, including a cemetery.

FEAR FACTOR
4 out of 10 (definite creepy-crawlies)

GOODSPRINGS GHOST HUNT

GOODSPRINGS

Ghosts should live in a ghost town, right? For years, spirits have been seen and felt around here, including the ghosts of a gunshot victim and old miner at the 108-year-old Pioneer Saloon. Mortals report seeing them in the bar—ghosts love boaos, you know.

FEAR FACTOR
5 out of 10 (hairs might stand on end)

THE MIZPAH HOTEL TONOPAH

Beautifully restored, with granite walls and Victorian-era decor, the hotel embraces a history as blood red as its scarlet furnishings. Guests include the Lady in Red, a murdered prostitute whose ghost leaves pearls on the nightstands of unsuspecting guests.

FEAR FACTOR
8 out of 10 (if you meet Rosie)

ZAK BAGANS’ THE HAUNTED MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

Paranormal investigator Zak Bagans has filled more than 30 rooms with items from his creepy collection. But the huge structure, built in 1938, already had a spooky rep. Hostile spirits are said to have terrorized past occupants. And locals say dark rituals took place in the basement in the ’70s.

FEAR FACTOR
7 out of 10 (cue The Exorcist theme)

SILVER QUEEN HOTEL VIRGINIA CITY

You may hear the ghost of Rosie running around, rattling door knobs and tapping on windows. (Rosie died is one of the oldest in the area. It’s also regarded as one of the spookiest in the Silver State.

FEAR FACTOR
8 out of 10 (if you meet Rosie)

SCARED YET?

This is just the start of haunted stuff around here. Seek more spooky finds at TravelNevada.com.
OVERLAND HOTEL AND SALOON
PIOCHE
Given this old silver-mining town’s history of Wild West violence, it’s no surprise that ghosts linger here, especially around a couple of the rooms. Paranormal pros from Travel Channel’s Ghost Adventures encountered the spirits: Something possessed left one team member disoriented. A sudden force knocked another off his feet.

FEAR FACTOR
9 out of 10 (room 10 is super haunted)

THE WASHOE CLUB AND HAUNTED MUSEUM
VIRGINIA CITY
Some say this historic saloon is one of the most haunted places in the West. The spirits in the towering brick building may remain from an explosion that killed 12 people, missing prostitutes or bodies stored in a freezer called the Crypt. Guided tours are available.

FEAR FACTOR
10 out of 10 (during overnight paranormal investigations)
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR ROAD TRIPS?

Here’s the good news: No matter which route (or how many) you take, epic adventures await. Pick a drive, pack a map (cell service can be spotty), and keep the tank full. Be sure to tag @TravelNevada along the way!
MULTIPLE ROUTES

Hiking Workouts

Leisurely Jaunts

Closer to the City

Way Outta Town

Shorter Trails

History

Nature

One Big One

Desert Gems

Desert Wildlife

Rubies Route

Burner Byway

Death Valley Rally

SMART TRAVELS
Check ahead with your road trip destinations. Nevada is wide open, but some places may be temporarily closed.
NO SADDLE REQUIRED

Cowboys aren’t just Hollywood characters around here; they’re the real deal, working Nevada’s ranchland and infusing the region with Western culture. Follow Interstate-80 and tip your hat to the buckaroo life.

Chances are some hall of famers rode gear with gear from J.M. Capriola Co., an Elko shop that’s been in business 92 years. Shop (or admire) the fine leatherwork on display (including purses and wallets), score a new Stetson, or take home a mug or T-shirt. Further stimulate your brain’s Western hemisphere across the street at the Western Folklife Center in the restored Pioneer Hotel. Best known for hosting the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering (January 23–29, 2022), the center features two theaters, a galloping gallery of horse-centric exhibits, a gift shop (cool wild rags) and the Pioneer Saloon—it’s 1890 Brunswick bar is 40 feet of mahogany and cherry inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

FAMILY PHOTO
Secure the link to your mate (or fam) by leaving a padlock on the chains at Lovers Lock Plaza, located behind the courthouse in Lovelock. Post a pic—locking lips is optional. Don’t have a lock? A number of local shops stock them; just look for the Lovers Lock posters in storefront windows. For best results, we recommend throwing away the key.

REFUEL
A ride through Cowboy Country can make you hungry as a horse, but don’t raid some ranch for oats and hay. Instead, head for The Griddle in Winnemucca, home to French toast, fresh crepes (loch la la!) and a hearty Wild West Scramble.

MORE MUSTS
+ Cowpoke Cafe, Lovelock Did the chicken or the egg come first? Doesn’t matter; enjoy both—plus burgers—at this fave local spot. Country cooking and a no-frills ambiance comfort diners.
+ Nanny Joe’s, Lovelock Play a little seek-and-find at this antique store housed in the town’s historic Mercantile Company building. Quest for something quaint or quirky among the vintage furniture, clothing, jewelry and quilts.
+ The Old Pioneer Garden Country Inn, Unionville An hour northeast of Lovelock, get some R&R at a ranch in the ghost town where Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) sought fortune as a silver prospector. His cabin stands nearby.
+ Humboldt Museum, Winnemucca Check out ice age remains, Native regalia and relics from a soda bottling plant. The site overlooks where pioneer wagon trains once forded the Humboldt River.
+ Battle Mountain Cookhouse Museum, Battle Mountain Old-school tack room gear, a small herd of vintage Slestons and other artifacts fill a restored barn red building where ranch hands once gathered at the dinner bell’s clang.
+ Historic Wendover Airfield Museum, Wendover This World War II air base located just across the border from West Wendover closed in 1977, but it’s since been featured in a number of Hollywood flicks, including Independence Day. Roam the grounds and see the Fairchild C-123K plane featured in Con Air.
SEE IT ALL

Get a full itinerary for Cowboy Corridor, along with planning tools and tips. TravelNevada.com/CowboyCorridor

J.M. CAPRIOLA CO., ELKO

RANCHER & COWBOY HEADQUARTERS SINCE 1929

RENO
ELKO
WINNEMUCCA
WEST
WENDOVER

80
95
93
50
95

THETRIP

See it all
Get a full itinerary for
Cowboy Corridor, along
with planning
tools and tips.
Travel
Nevada.
com/Cowboy-
Corridor
Fear and Loathing hallucinations have nothing on the real-world wackiness along US-95, where psychedelic free-range art meets the American West.

**OPEN-AIR GALLERIES**

On the southern end of Goldfield (about an hour north of Goldfield), follow a dirt road east, catching sight of an upended bus. You’ve officially arrived at the International Car Forest of the Last Church, where partially buried vehicles function as a rotating art gallery, attracting graffiti artists. Longtime Goldfield resident Mark Rippie’s original vision was to break the Guinness World Records for the world’s biggest car forest. Joined by artists Chad Sorg and Zak Sargent, Rippie set to work, burying the noses of 40 vehicles. Some flaunt artful renditions of gorillas and lobsters; others are scrawled with nonsense. You never know what you’ll find here, and that’s part of the fun.

Your trippy road trip ends in Reno. Browse the city’s awe-inspiring collection of MidTown murals. You could spend a whole day spotting the 80-plus works, including an impressive assemblage by local Erik Burke. End your art experience strolling the Reno Riverwalk District and snacking at one of many eateries dishing a world tour of cuisine.

**FAMILY PHOTO**

Just south of Vegas, colorful rock totems emerge from the desertcape. Follow the short yucca-lined path to pose with Ugo Rondinone’s Seven Magic Mountains, stacked boulders painted in neon colors. See it now; because this is a short-term art installation that will disappear like a mirage at the end of 2021.

**SPOTLIGHT COLORFUL CREATIONS**

On this artfully inspired desert adventure, encounter kaleidoscopic boulder towers, a forest of cars, retired Burning Man sculptures and other oddly whimsical finds.

Swoop into downtown Vegas for off-the-charts neon hunting and mural viewing. Check out Fergusons Downtown, a creative space in the former Fergusons Motel, where you’ll find bohemian shops and funky galleries. The art centerpiece here is Mike Ross’ Big Jig Rig, consisting of two 18-wheeler tanker trucks that twist into the sky. This piece—along with others downtown—debuted at Burning Man. For more public art, head to The Las Vegas Arts District. You could spend a full day navigating the 18 blocks packed with galleries, eateries and bars.

About two hours up US-95, discover the Goldwell Open Air Museum, home to Charles Albert Szukalski’s ghostly Last Supper. Lounge on a mosaic-tiled couch and marvel at Ledy Desert, a pixelated Nevada Venus. And don’t miss the tribute to Frank “Shorty” Harris, whose gold strike established Rhyolite (now a ghost town).
Tonopah is home to some of the darkest night skies in the Lower 48. After nightfall, head to Tonopah Stargazing Park or the Crescent Sand Dunes for a spectacular show.

REFUEL
Stop at the Tonopah Brewing Company for a flight of craft beers and a classic BBQ plate. As a manager here once said: “Beer and bones go together.” Can’t argue with that.

MORE MUSTS
♦ Area 15, Las Vegas Just off the Strip, this art island, a new sculpture park for Burning Man pieces, including Omah, a neon-lit owl. Also explore the beautifully bizarre array of themed bars and eateries.
♦ Walker Lake Recreation Area, Mineral County Camp, swim, picnic or just relax under the cottonwoods, keeping eyes peeled for wild horses and bighorn sheep.
♦ Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs Wander trails, studying the historic ruins of this 1861 fort. The park runs along the Carson River, offering tab camping, hiking, biking and canoeing.
♦ Yerington Theatre for the Arts, Yerington Housed in Yerington Grammar School, this theater boasts an impressive schedule of performances, gallery exhibitions and cultural heritage events.
♦ Oats Park Art Center, Fallon It’s the epicenter of Fallon’s arts scene. Catch an art show, concert or poetry reading. Vintage neon buffs: Don’t miss the iconic Highway 50 Lantern Motel sign.
♦ The Melting Pot World Emporium, Reno Browse counterculture goodies—we’re talking tutus, steampunk gear, incense and candles. Buy Burning Man goggles to earn road trip cred on a future Burner Byway adventure (see page 98).
SPRITED EXPRESSWAY

Remnants of settlements past dot the drive eastward from Carson City. Get a haunting dose of history, right where it unfolded, at central Nevada ghost towns.

Writer: Angela Ufheil

MORE MUSTS

✦ Carson Piazza Bar, Carson City
Inspired by the owners’ trips to Italy and Spain, this hot new spot features a seasonal menu of flatbreads, small plates and charcuterie. The wine list rules.

✦ Stokes Castle, Austin
The three-story granite tower gives off some serious Rapunzel vibes (if Rapunzel donned a cowboy hat). She’d dig the stunning views of the Reese River Valley, framed by the Toiyabe and Shoshone mountain ranges.

✦ Ely Renaissance Village, Ely
The town’s history comes alive each May through September, when interpreters show kids life in turn-of-the-century homes, complete with claw-foot bathtubs and wood-burning stoves. The general store sells cold drinks; sip ‘em in the courtyard.

✦ McGill Drugstore Museum, McGill
Come for the rock candy; stay for the glimpse into McGill’s days of yore. Hair gel, still line the shelves at this time capsule just north of Ely.

✦ Great Basin National Park, Baker
Wonders stretch from the subterranean to the sky. Marble in the shape of witches’ fingers dangles within Lehman Caves. And lack of light pollution allows the stars to shimmer, especially from Mather Overlook.

✦ Kerouac’s Restaurant, Baker
Even if a night at the Stargazer Inn isn’t on the itinerary, schedule a stop at the on-site restaurant (open seasonally). Savor burgers on house-made brioche buns or pizza topped with local produce.

HIT THE ROAD

START
Carson City

Suggested Duration
2 days

Distance
380 miles

Finish
Baker

SPOTLIGHT GHOST TOWNS

In July 1986, a Life magazine article stated “There are no points of interest” in regards to this sparsely populated stretch of US-50. Clearly the quoted AAA counselor didn’t get the appeal of ghost towns.

Quick detours from the Loneliest Road reveal myriad abandoned boroughs and buried treasure, including a Pony Express Station revealed from beneath the dunes at Sand Mountain Recreation Area near Fallon. The 1860-era structure of arranged volcanic rocks contained a stable, telegraph room, kitchen, tiny living space and more.

Southeast of Sand Mountain lies Ophir Canyon (aka Toiyabe City), a mining town abandoned in the 1890s. Stumble across iron mine artifacts in a mountain canyon. At Belmont Mill, one of Nevada’s best-preserved mining camps, see the pulley system laborers used to move ore to the four-story mill site. A cart loaded with minerals dangles from the intact cables, making it all the easier to imagine workers rushing around the site.

The journey continues to the aptly named Treasure City near the former gold mine. At Belmont Mill, one of Nevada’s best-preserved mining camps, see the pulley system laborers used to move ore to the four-story mill site. A cart loaded with minerals dangles from the intact cables, making it all the easier to imagine workers rushing around the site.

Southeast of Sand Mountain lies Ophir Canyon (aka Toiyabe City), a mining town abandoned in the 1890s. Stumble across iron mine artifacts in a mountain canyon. At Belmont Mill, one of Nevada’s best-preserved mining camps, see the pulley system laborers used to move ore to the four-story mill site. A cart loaded with minerals dangles from the intact cables, making it all the easier to imagine workers rushing around the site.

Continue east toward Osceola, where the South Snake mountains loom over leantos near the former gold mine.

FAMILY PHOTO

Anyone can take a pic in front of the wooden welcome sign on Middlegate Station’s front porch, which puts the restaurant’s location at “Middle of Nowhere.” But only a true champ can do it wearing an “I Ate The Monster” T-shirt, the award for snarling down a hulking burger and mound of fries—a staggering 4 pounds of food total.

REFUEL

Start the day sweet (griddled French toast) or savory (steak sandwiches with shaved garlic) at The Owl Club in Eureka. Rolling through for lunch? Snag a Double Ortega burger, tots instead of fries and a Ruby Mountain Amber Ale on draft—all raved about by regulars.
Finders doesn’t always mean keepers. Even if you just discovered the coolest mining artifact while exploring a ghost town, resist the urge to pocket it. Not only is it extremely uncool, it’s also illegal. Leave places as you found them so the next ghost townie can have the same experience you did.
LET’S GET SPACED OUT

Keep your antennae up as you fly along State-375 for nearly 100 miles of UFO-seeking, stargazing and geocaching through an out-of-this-world (and ridiculously wacky) desertscape.

WRITER Suzanne Roberts

HIT THE ROAD

START Las Vegas

SUGGESTED DURATION 1-2 days

DISTANCE 257 miles

FINISH Tonopah

SPOTLIGHT

OTHERWORLDLY ENCOUNTERS

There’s no better place to get your alien on than this route that passes nebulous Area 51, along with bases for intergalactic quirks and hitsch.

Start by filling up on gas in Las Vegas or Alamo, as there’s no fuel again until you reach Tonopah, and E.T. can’t phone home for help, because there’s no cell service either. Just before the highway 318/375 junction in Hiko, stock up on heavenly snacks from E.T. Fresh Jerky and snap a selfie with the cowboy alien murals.

Look for the Quonset hut and enormous metal alien, signaling you’ve arrived at the Alien Research Center, a quirky all-things-aliens gift shop. Owner George Harris says they also conduct secret alien research. “We send people out all over the world where there have been UFO sightings... and then there’s the stuff we don’t talk about.” After shopping, venture into the remote landscape.

Seek out creatures twisting their arms to the sky (Joshua trees) and pronghorn antelope bouncing among them.

In another 40 miles, stop in tiny Rachel, home to the Little A’Le’Inn, where you can stay the night, grab a Saucer Burger (a close encounter of the tasty kind) and swap UFO stories. Samantha, the friendly server, says she’s not sure if they’re aliens or “something the government is up to,” but she sees UFOs all the time.

While it wasn’t a UFO that created Lunar Crater (a slight detour between Rachel and Tonopah), the volcano-formed landscape sure looks like something from another planet. Peer into and around the 430-foot-deep crater, and you’ll see why astronauts used this terrain to train for missions to the moon during the 1970s.

Carry on to Tonopah, turning your sights from the galaxy above to below ground to explore mining history. End your trip at Tonopah Stargazing Park, where thousands of stars, the Milky Way and—if you’re super lucky—perhaps a few flying saucers blaze across the night sky.

FAMILY PHOTO

If you don’t capture it and tag the photo #WeirdNevada, were you even there? Take a selfie with the E.T. Highway sign at the junction of highways 318 and 375 in Crystal Springs. If you miss it, don’t worry, there’s another sign in Rachel.

REFUEL

Spend the night in luxury at Tonopah’s 1907 Mizpah Hotel, known as “the finest stone hotel in the desert.” Or at least stop in for a drink (it has a great wine list) and relax on the velour Victorian couches. Be sure to peek inside the 19th-century bank vault (now a tiny historical museum).

MORE MUSTS

+ Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah

Learn Tonopah’s colorful story through an eclectic collection of mining tools, Chinese pottery, Native American tools and artifacts from World War II. Don’t miss the outdoor replica of the turn-of-the-century mining camp, including miners’ cabins, a blacksmith shop and a saloon.

+ Tonopah Historic Mining Park, Tonopah

Enjoy a self-guided stroll at this huge outdoor museum. Explore the Burro Tunnel and step onto a steel viewing cage 500 feet over a mine stope. You can also peer into the Glory Hole, an extremely rich ore site. The visitors center boasts an impressive mineral display, mining equipment, headframes, hoist works and more.
Don’t be a space invader. Area 51 is part of an active military base guarded by some of the heaviest security on the planet. That means it’s not a tourist attraction, so don’t even think about trespassing. Photography is prohibited—take your pics behind the Alien Research Center instead.

SEE IT ALL
Get a full itinerary for E.T. Highway, along with planning tools and tips. TravelNevada.com/ET-Highway
Backtrack to US-93 and head north to Cathedral Gorge State Park, famous for its cave formations, siltstone slot canyons and towering hoodoos (rock spires) carved by water, wind and time. The Miller Point Trail connects the park’s picnic area with a rim-top viewpoint.

Next, put your boots on the ground in Echo Canyon State Park and Spring Valley State Park, both east of the silver-mining town of Pioche. At Echo Canyon, the Ash Canyon Trail takes you into a wilderness of volcanic cliffs. At Spring Valley, walk to Eagle Valley Reservoir to watch for eagles and trumpeter swans.

Give your feet a break while you zoom 130 miles north to Cave Lake State Park. Wander through píon-juniper woodland on the Twisted Pines Trail. This is also a hot park for mountain biking enthusiasts.

Finish your trip on the Bristlecone Trail at Great Basin National Park. Here, the world’s oldest living trees cling to arid slopes at 10,000 feet and higher.

FAMILY PHOTO
Generate social buzz with a group pic in front of the beehive-like kilns at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park. Miners used these six structures to process silver ore in the 1870s.

REFUEL
If the Overland Hotel and Saloon’s Brunswick bar could talk, it would tell some wild Western tales. Pioche may be small now, but in the 1870s, it had dozens of saloons and gunslingers.
MORE MUSTS

+ Million Dollar Courthouse, Pioche
This gorgeous stone and brick building was built in the 1870s when Pioche was designated the county seat. But kickbacks and overruns cost a fortune—about a million bucks. Tour the jail, sit in the jury box, and learn about Pioche’s history as the West’s baddest town.

+ Stargazer Inn, Baker
Need a place to stay near Great Basin National Park? Book a room and be dazzled by a zillion (or so) stars against a velvet-black sky. The innkeepers also run Kerouac’s Restaurant, known for artisan pizzas and organic salads. (Dining options are limited in the off-season between November and April.)

SEE IT ALL
Get a full itinerary for Great Basin Highway, along with planning tools and tips. TravelNevada.com/Great-Basin-Highway

OPPOSITE You can thank ancient volcanoes for crafting the colorful walls of Rainbow Canyon at Kershaw-Ryan State Park.

BELOW Conquer more than 60 miles of wildly scenic hiking trails at Great Basin National Park.
EPIC EXPLORATIONS

Try to keep your eyes on the pavement as you wind through Nevada’s Alps (the Ruby Mountains) and into the wilderness of lush valleys and brilliant blue lakes.

SPOTLIGHT SWEEPING LANDSCAPES

All roads leave from Elko on this route that requires rolling down the windows to fully appreciate the texture-rich kaleidoscope of the Ruby Mountains and its surroundings.

Getting to Jarbidge Wilderness isn’t exactly a piece of cake (research the route ahead of time as cell signals are spotty), but it’s so worth the effort. Once there, don your hiking boots and play I-Spy for wildlife on 125 miles of trails. Cast your line for several species of trout found in the many lakes and streams. Or join a guided big-game hunt and camp overnight. You’ll be rewarded with a star-filled sky and spectacular sunrise.

Closer to Elko, take a scenic 12-mile drive through Lamoille Canyon. Admire its rock formations sculpted by glaciers before hitting the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail. The trail stretches 43 miles south from Lamoille Canyon to Harrison Pass. Elevations range from 7,200 to 10,893 feet, with trails tracing alpine waters. Wildflowers abound, and you’ll likely have big stretches to yourself. Even avid hikers need a couple of days to complete the trek, but it’s easy to tackle shorter segments. Bring binoculars—and a bit of good fortune—if you want to spot mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

Give your feet a rest and spend a day farther south at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Shoot away—but only with your camera. Capture swans in the winter, pronghorn in the fall and one of the country’s densest breeding populations of canvasback ducks in early spring. Fish in the Ruby Marshes, where bites come often in the 9,000 acres of spring ponds, marshes and canals.

FAMILY PHOTO

The view gets better after each bend in the final stretch to Angel Lake, surrounded by rocky mountain cliffs, wildflowers and seasonal waterfalls. 59 miles northeast of Elko. Afterward, hike the shoreline, paddle in a canoe, or take a refreshing plunge in the cool water.

REFUEL

The prickly pear limeade at McAdoo’s restaurant in Elko won’t poke you, but it will quench even the thirstiest of travelers. Also buzzworthy: the fall-favorite pumpkin pancakes swirled with cream cheese, and the lemon-blueberry cake baked with creamy mascarpone.

HIT THE ROAD

START Elko

SUGGESTED DURATION 3 days

DISTANCE 312–512 miles (route options)

FINISH Jarbidge
The best time 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.

### MORE MUSTS

**Machi’s Saloon and Grill, Elko**
Snag a seat, toss back beers, and get friendly with locals. Carnivores dig the all-American prime rib, while veggie-lovers go for fried chickpeas and carrot cake.

**Red Dog Saloon and Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge**
Hike or off-road by day, and pick your poison at night. These two watering holes rotate seasons of operation with food service. Weary travelers rest at the rustic inn (closed during the winter months).

**Bella’s Restaurant and Espresso, Wells**
You won’t find any stale gas station excuses for coffee here. It’s all locally roasted and fresh at Bella’s. On the eats side of things, get a taste of grandma’s cooking crafted from old family recipes.

**Cottonwood Ranch, Wells**
Mount your saddle for a ride through the ranch, then unwind in a rocking chair overlooking cattle grazing the vast meadows and pasture. Bonus: You can also help feed the calves.

**Ruby Mountain Brewing Company, Wells**
Owner Steve Safford pours ranch-brewed beers near his family’s homestead in Clover Valley. Call ahead for limited tours, and keep an eye out for Ruby Mountain beers on tap along the route.

**The Pine Lodge Dinner House, Lamoille**
Marty Moose stares down on diners inside the historic lodge. Guests are encouraged to bring their cameras to photograph the large collection of North American big game and dioramas.

**Travel Nevada Pro Tip**
Before or during your journey, dig deeper into this region by tuning into the Travel Nevada podcast at soundcloud.com/TravelNevada
DESSERT GEMS

The road to Black Rock is paved with geodes, hot springs and unique landscapes that will get you hooked on routes less traveled.

WRITER Suzanne Roberts

SPOTLIGHT REMOTE ADVENTURES

Off-roading and camping in one of the world's most unusual settings will leave you burning for more.

As you head north from Reno on State-445, vistas of Pyramid Lake appear like an oasis amid the desert backdrop. Its 400-foot-tall, cone-shaped tufa formation—the Pyramid—is hard to miss. Follow State-446 to 447, where a lonely ribbon of road unfolds onto a desert playa, with craggy mountains crouching above. Soon you'll reach Gerlach, your gateway to the Black Rock Desert, a mind-blowingly vast landscape made famous (or infamous) by Burning Man, a showcase of creativity gone wild.

Swing by the Friends of Black Rock-High Rock visitors center for information and maps before heading out. At 200 square miles, the Black Rock Desert (former lake bed of the ancient Lake Lahontan) is one of the largest, flattest surfaces on our planet. A jet-propelled car once did 763 mph here, setting a land speed record. But it's best not to try for your own personal racing best, especially when the playa isn't completely dry.

Rather, hike or mountain bike into the hills, or mine for minerals and gemstones, including geodes, obsidian, topaz and opals. (Fun fact: Nevada is the only place in North America where black fire opals exist naturally.)

Hot spring enthusiasts will happily find three springs to splash into (there's a fourth, but temperatures are way too hot for a soak), including the Soldier Meadows Hot Springs, which have designated campsites nearby. The combo of a relaxing float in an aquamarine pool and the seemingly endless view leaves any lingering city vibes in the dust.

If farther-flung adventures are calling your name, head north to Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge to see the pronghorn antelope this refuge was created to protect, and for a chance to rockhound ancient black fire opal fields, home to Nevada's official state gemstone. When night falls in this corner of the state, stargazing is off the charts.

FAMILY PHOTO

Get the night sky shot of your dreams at Massacre Rim, one of two Nevada locations recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association. A foreground of sagebrush and juniper adds the perfect untamed touch to this site located 103 miles north of Gerlach.

REFUEL

The posh name shouldn't fool you: Bruno's Country Club in Gerlach is a down-to-earth diner with great comfort food. Try the famous ravioli or one of the breakfast plates. (They're served all day.)
**MORE MUSTS**

+ **Pyramid Lake** Located in the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, this is one of Nevada’s largest natural lakes and home to the state fish, the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Look for The Great Stone Mother, a limestone formation resembling a grieving woman sitting next to a basket. Admire it respectfully from afar and learn about her legend at the museum.

+ **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor Center, Nixon** Discover the importance of Pyramid Lake to its native inhabitants, the Kooyooce Tukadu (cui-ui eaters) Paiute tribe. Exhibits tell about the tribe’s culture and a prehistoric fish.

+ **Guru Road** Don’t miss this 1-mile stretch of funky roadside attractions (also known as Doobie Lane). Look for stones etched with words of wisdom, a rock totem honoring Elvis and other oddities.

+ **Miners Club, Gerlach** Coffee bar meets dive bar. Wet your whistle with booze or espresso and chat with the regulars.

+ **Planet X Pottery, Gerlach** Wander through the solar-powered working studio and browse four galleries of desert-inspired pottery and paintings.

+ **Black Rock Mud Company, Gerlach** Schedule an appointment to help “harvest” the geothermal mud that’s used for face masks and thermal spring water toner. Or, order their products online.

+ **Iveson Ranch, Gerlach** For Wild West glamping, check out this charming dude ranch with private cabins, guesthouse rooms, and RV/camping spots. Enjoy horseback riding, hiking, opal hunting, off-roading and more.

**SEE IT ALL**

Get a full itinerary for Burner Byway, along with planning tools and tips. [Travel Nevada. com/Burner-Byway](http://TravelNevada.com/Burner-Byway)
Endangered fish species in hot water. Wildflowers exploding in the desert. You won’t want to rush the drive from Las Vegas to Death Valley—otherwise you’ll risk missing the many signs of life along the way.

**WILD WITH LIFE**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS**

Travel from below sea level to the tallest peak in southern Nevada. And get ready for some serious temperature range. This wildlife trek is all about the extremes.

We know you just started, but 30 minutes west of the Strip, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park begs for a stop. Here, natural springs beckoned southern Nevada’s first settlers, and the park claims some of the state’s oldest buildings. They share the sprawling meadows and foothills with wild burros, mule deer, antelope, kit foxes, lizards and snakes—many of which are more active at night. Join a guided hike on select days.

From Spring Mountain Ranch, drive past yellow-flowered creosote bushes, Joshua trees, rusty hills and other striking desertscapes to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. One of the Mojave Desert’s last remaining oases is a haven for rare plants and animals, 26 of which are native to the refuge. Stroll boardwalks over natural springs favored by desert pupfish, which can live in water up to 92 degrees (and only half an inch deep). Bird-watchers look for the Phainopepla’s brilliant red eyes and spiky black crest.

Death Valley National Park is now a mere 30 minutes away. Get ready for the heat and have plenty of water with you. Like many other creatures, we humans just aren’t wired to thrive in this environment; with its rolling sand dunes and spiky peaks. But desert tortoises dig underground burrows to escape the sun. Jackrabbits’ ginormous ears help them cool down. Bighorn sheep bounce along mountain ledges, and bobcats, mountain lions and coyotes prowl the hills.

**FAMILY PHOTO**

Embrace the area’s elevation extremes. Pose among bristlecone pines atop Mount Charleston (at 11,916 feet, it’s the tallest peak in southern Nevada), or at neighboring Lee Canyon, where skiers hit the slopes in winter. Then click a pic at the lowest point in North America: Death Valley’s Badwater Basin.

**REFUEL**

At Happy Burro Chili and Beer in Beatty, choose your preferred chili delivery method: served in a bowl or heaped atop a hot dog or burger, then smothered in cheese and onions. Bring your own mints.

**MORE MUSTS**

+ Mountain Springs Saloon, Las Vegas
  Although it has a Vegas address, you’ll be 45 minutes from the Strip (and chilling at an elevation of 5,000-plus feet) at this biker bar. Awesome eats include monthly pig roasts from March through October.

+ Sanders Family Winery, Pahrump
  On the south side of town, one of Nevada’s largest wineries offers full-bodied vistas of the Spring Mountains and Nopah Range, plus award-winning pours.

+ Seemoore’s Ice Cream, Pahrump
  Get an eyeful of Native artifacts and browse exhibits chronicling the region’s history, from the arrival of European settlers to the prospecting boom.

**HIT THE ROAD**

**START** Las Vegas
**SUGGESTED DURATION** 3 days
**DISTANCE** 373 miles
**FINISH** Las Vegas

**#DeathValleyRally**

TravelNevada.com/Death-Valley-Rally
SEE IT ALL
Get a full itinerary for Death Valley Rally, along with planning tools and tips.
TravelNevada.com/DeathValley-Rally

RIGHT Endangered desert pupfish like the water hot and shallow at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

BOTTOM Death Valley bathes itself in bright color during spring blooms.

OPPOSITE Outside Las Vegas, Desert National Wildlife Refuge is home to desert tortoises and more than 500 plant species.

Amargosa Opera House, Death Valley Junction For more than 40 years, late owner Marta Becket performed for live crowds. For a lasting encore, she painted the walls of this adobe theater with imaginative murals depicting a lively Renaissance audience.

Beatty Museum and Historical Society, Beatty Three local women poured their passion into this converted historical church. It's home to some of the state's best photo archives, including those of the nearby Bullfrog Mining District, which went from boom to croak in two decades.

Goldwell Open Air Museum, Beatty Ghost sculptures rise from the desert, including Albert Szukalski's The Last Supper, Fred Bervoets' Tribute to Shorty Harris (ask about the story behind the penguin) and seven other giant pieces.

Tom Kelly’s Bottle House, Rhyolite It’s the caper in a ghost town filled to the top with photo ops. Due to a timber shortage, Kelly collected 50,000 bottles from the town’s 50 saloons to build his three-room home.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Make more of your trip to Death Valley by going in February or March, before temps creep into triple digits. If you’re super lucky, catch a “super bloom” of wildflowers between mid-February and mid-April. (They only occur about once every 10 years.)
TIME TRAVEL TO TAHOE

Follow in the footsteps of local legends on a throwback journey through Carson City, Carson Valley, Lake Tahoe, Reno and Virginia City.

SPOTLIGHT LEGENDARY NEVADANS

An influential writer, a master artisan, a hero athlete and a big-hearted madam hold exalted places in Silver State history.

The Wild West was never tamed in spirited Virginia City. In the 1860s, lady of the evening Julia Bullette owned the town’s fanciest brothel, served on the fire brigade and donated to local causes. After her death, 100 saloons closed up shop to show their respect. Spend the night in the room honoring Bullette at the town’s opulent Cobb Mansion B&B.

In Carson City, check out the 1863 home of Orion Clemens. His brother, Samuel Clemens—better known by his nom de plume Mark Twain—lived with him there. In today’s stroll-worthy West Side Historic District, Samuel Clemens wrote humorous pieces for Virginia City’s newspaper, where his razor-sharp wit had landed him a reporter’s job. Nearly 40 years later, another creative soul called Carson City home. A citizen of the Washoe people of northwestern Nevada, Dat So La Lee continues to be celebrated for her intricate Native American basket weaving. She wove beautiful symbolism into every work, mostly made from willow and fern. Marvel at her masterpieces in the Nevada State Museum’s climate-controlled vault during prearranged tours.

Traveling south, you’ll reach the tiny enclave of Genoa. For 20 winters from 1850 to 1876, John “Snowshoe” Thompson skied across the Sierra Nevada to deliver mail, medicine and supplies to Genoa’s settlers. Learn about the Norwegian skier’s extraordinary feats at the Genoa Courthouse Museum and admire his statue in town.

In the Washoe Valley (between Reno and Carson City), mining magnate Eliley Bowers and her third husband built the strikingly lavish Bowers Mansion with Comstock riches. As you tour the 16-room Georgian-Italianate manor, consider how this woman’s life mirrored Nevada’s mining history: First boom, then bust. Her life ended in far more modest fashion.

FAMILY PHOTO

Nab an eagle’s-eye view of Lake Tahoe without breaking a sweat. At Stateline’s Heavenly Mountain Resort, a gondola whoshes upshits during its 2.4-mile journey. Drink in the view of sapphire Lake Tahoe, covering 190 square miles. For pretty Tahoe views with a side of history, book a tour at Thunderbird Lodge. At the lavish residence of tycoon George Whittell Jr., an underground tunnel leads to the boathouse, home to the lodge’s namesake wooden speedboat.
REFUEL
In a state saturated with craft breweries, the Reno Brewery District stands out. Revitalized warehouses set the stage for Record Street’s pale ales, Lead Dog’s fruity beers, Black Rabbit Mead Company’s cider-style meads and Pigeon Head’s German-style lagers. On date night, hit up the 1910 railway station for The Depot Craft Brewery Distillery.

MORE MUSTS
+ Saint Mary’s in the Mountains, Virginia City Silver-mining riches paid for hand-carved gables and elaborate woodwork in this 150-year-old Catholic church.
+ Kings Canyon Waterfall, Carson City In spring or early summer, park at King Street’s western end, then walk less than a mile to the 25-foot cascade at its peak.
+ The Pink House, Genoa Pop in to sample gourmet cheese and charcuterie at this meticulously restored 1855 Gothic Revival jewel, its adorable gingerbread exterior blushing pink.
+ Bently Heritage Estate Distillery, Minden In a century-old brick flour mill, sip spirits made from grains grown on the Bently cattle ranch, then malted, distilled and bottled on-site.
+ Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park, Minden Take a guided history tour of the grounds on which four generations of Minden’s founding family lived, or pack a picnic and savor Carson Range vistas.

SEE IT ALL
Get a full itinerary for Lake Tahoe Loop, along with planning tools and tips. TravelNevada.com/Lake-Tahoe-Loop
GLOWING LANDSCAPES

Discover Nevada’s wild desert soul as you depart Vegas’ sparkle. Trek to sandstone wonderlands, rock art sites, gold-mining ruins and a Joshua-tree-dotted wilderness.

WRITER Ann Marie Brown

For a bigger adventure, push northeast from Las Vegas for 90 miles, then engage the four-wheel drive before turning onto Gold Butte Backcountry Byway. The 62-mile road—partly paved and partly rugged dirt—leads to Gold Butte National Monument, passing dramatically chiseled sandstone formations. It’s more than worth the effort to get here, but be aware that the road is rough (pack spares) and there are no toilets. Be sure to pack food and water.

If you’re not up for the rough drive, get equally epic scenery at Valley of Fire State Park near Overton. Nevada’s largest and oldest state park wows with its spectrum of sandstone formations, from chalky white to blazing red.

Heading south from Boulder City, visit the Techatticup Mine, site of the region’s oldest, richest and most famous gold strike. Late 19th-century relics stand out among the cholla cacti. Detour south to Searchlight to see the Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, where ancient Joshua trees grow. (Wee Thump means “ancient ones” in the Paiute language.) Cartoon-like Joshuas festoon the desert floor, their limbs reaching 30 feet high.

FAMILY PHOTO
Get schooled on Las Vegas’ legendary lights at The Neon Museum. More than 250 casino and business marquees pack the outdoor Neon Boneyard, some dating back to the 1930s. At night, 24 signs light up, like the snazzy Stardust letters.
MORE MUSTS

- Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Henderson
  Just 20 minutes from the Strip, follow trails to nine ponds with elevated viewing platforms. You’ll spot wading shorebirds, migratory songbirds, and waterfowl, plus desert avian species.

- Pioneer Saloon, Goodsprings
  Order a cowboy steak and soak up the Western vibes at a 1913 watering hole 30 minutes south of Vegas. If you ask about Clark Gable’s three-day stay here in 1942, prepare for a sad story.

- Boulder City-Hoover Dam Museum, Boulder City
  Celebrities including Bette Davis and the future Pope Pius XII signed the guest book at this grand 1933 hotel, which now features a museum documenting the lives that were changed as a result of the dam’s construction.

- Bootleg Canyon, Boulder City
  This mountain biking mecca boasts 30-plus miles of singletrack. Lower trails are mellower; upper trails challenge experts craving steep, technical terrain.

- Laughlin Riverwalk, Laughlin
  Trace the Colorado River along this 3-mile stroll that provides easy access to water taxis, Jet Ski rentals, riverboat and jet boat tours, and seven of the city’s resorts.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

If you’re heading from Vegas to Valley of Fire State Park, consider a scenic detour on State-167 (Northshore Road). Views are ruggedly spectacular; sightings of romping wild horses are epic.
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 for museum locations, exhibits, & events. Become a Museum Member for FREE Admission to ALL museums.
WANT EVEN MORE? USE THIS GUIDE TO HELP CRAFT YOUR ITINERARY. HECK, WE’LL EVEN HELP YOU GET MARRIED HERE.

PLANS
OUTDOOR INSIDER

NEVADA’S IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN WHEN IT COMES TO ADVENTURES UNDER THE SUN AND STARS. AND WHILE THESE ARE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, WE’VE GOT YOU WHEN IT COMES TO EXPLORING OUR STATE SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY. HEED THESE TIPS AND YOU’LL BE READY TO ROLL WITH US.

BE CLOSURE-MINDED
Nevada is wide open. But that doesn’t mean your destination currently is, local or otherwise. And things are changing all the time. Check closure and restriction status for camping and recreating well in advance, and check them again on your departure date. If things are open, expect reductions in day-use admittance and campground space.

LEAVE NO TRACE
Remember always: Pack it in, pack it out. It’s also a good idea to bring resealable plastic bags for food and scraps. And be sure to check fire restrictions before roasting those s’mores over a campfire or lighting up a personal stove. Fire season hits Nevada hard, with sudden blazes lighting up a personal stove. Fire season hits Nevada hard, with sudden blazes.

EXPECT CROWDS
Your vision of a tranquil getaway may be met with a reality of the cars and crowds you were hoping to get away from. That’s especially true for state parks, hot springs and other recreation areas. If you see a full parking lot or a bunch of cars near a trailhead, it’s best to keep driving. There are plenty of other Silver State memories to be made out there.

REMEMBER THESE ESSENTIALS
Plan on bringing everything you need from home. In addition to your normal gear list, be sure to pack the following:
- Masks
- Soap and/or hand sanitizer
- Toilet paper and paper towels (wet wipes also come in super handy)
- Gloves
- Disinfectant wipes for gas pumps, ATMs, etc. (You don’t know who’s been touchin’ that stuff!)
- Trash bags
BE SENSIBLE
No outdoor activity is 100 percent safe. There’s simply no such thing, and what would be the fun in that anyhow? But right now is not a good time to take up downhill mountain biking, try climbing that boulder you’ve had your eye on, or teach yourself to cliff dive. Hospitals have plenty of other things to do right now besides deal with your totally preventable injury. Don’t be that person.

SPREAD LOVE, NOT GERMS
If you encounter fellow adventurers, keep your (social) distance. Keep a wide enough berth of 6 feet from folks—or 10 when you’re eating—and remember to pull that mask up when you approach anyone. That said, there’s no need to treat people like aliens—unless they are aliens (see page 92).

MAKE SURE YOU’RE SURE
Above all else, if you’ve recently felt under the weather, come enjoy Nevada’s incredible destinations some other time. The Silver State will always be here to welcome you.
**ROAD RULES**

Going to a ghost town? Hunting for hot springs? Or simply want to chase some horizons on a wide-open Nevada road? Before you hit our highways (or venture off of them), consider these potentially lifesaving pointers.

---

**PLAN FOR NO BARS (THE PHONE KIND)**

We all love our phones, but consider this a needed break. While Verizon has more far-reaching coverage than other service providers in Nevada, it’s best to prepare for zero bars when you’re in rural areas. Also, be sure to let someone know where you’re headed, just in case. (Yes, that’s your mom talking.)

---

**BRING A PAPER (MAP) TO READ**

Knowing how to navigate by paper map or atlas is not only ridiculously satisfying, it’s also a more reliable way of traveling across the state—especially when there’s no cell service. You may also spot some enticing side roads on that good old-fashioned map. Here’s to spontaneous road trip adventures!

---

**PACK FOOD, WATER AND MORE WATER**

Packing plenty of good groceries not only makes your time in rural Nevada feel better, but if you get into a jam, you know you’re set to wait it out if needed. And don’t forget the H2O. Most people need about a liter of drinking water per day, but grab more if you need it for bathing or cooking.

---

**FUEL UP AND DON’T BE DEFLATED**

Given that the nearest tow truck may be eons away, have some solid tread on those tires, carry a full-size spare, and if it really hits the fan, make sure you’ve got the tools and know-how to swap out a flat. Oh, and if you see a gas station, fill ‘er up. The next one might be more than 100 miles down the road.

---

**BRING LAYERS FOR ALL OF THE WEATHER**

When it comes to packing the right get-up for exploring Nevada’s lesser-known places, you kinda just have to bring a little bit of everything. But hey, the positive in that is this: a freak blizzard, sun-scorcher, white squall and damn near everything in between could go down and you’ll be ready to rock.

---

**OVERNIGHT MUSTS**

- Headlamps and/or flashlights
- Tent
- Camp chairs
- A camp stove (and fuel!
- Utensils, plates, bowls, etc.
- Cooler
- Trash bags

---

**LAKE TAHOE**

---

**HAPPIEST TRAILS**

Unscripted adventure awaits just off the pavement. Feel like dippin’ a tire or two in some off-grid bliss? Click here to visit our Dirt Road Code.
Stay healthy and happy at one (or many) of Pahrump’s socially distant adventures, just 60 miles west of Las Vegas. Enjoy a private hot air balloon ride with panoramic views of the valley, embrace fresh air on a scenic hike, or explore local eats – courtesy of curbside pickup options.

Stay safe to stay open – because following the rules doesn’t always have to be boring.

Explore the possibilities at VisitPahrump.com
GLORIOUS GALLERY

IF YOU THINK OF NEVADA AS ONE BIG MUSEUM, IT’S A COLORFUL MASH-UP OF ABSTRACT ART, INTERACTIVE HISTORY AND MIND-BOGGLING SCIENCE. GET A TASTE OF THE STATE’S LARGER-THAN-LIFE SCENERY AND STORIES AT THESE ATTRACTIONS.

AMAZING DISPLAYS
With a mix of themes both naughty and nice, these museums pack plenty of character and history inside their walls.

BURLESQUE HALL OF FAME LAS VEGAS
If the name didn’t tip you off, you might not want to bring young kiddos to this tease of a museum showcasing the burlesque art form and sharing juicy details on legends like Gypsy Rose Lee. Shed your inhibitions at a dance class.

COURTHOUSE SLAMMER AND COUNTY MUSEUM VIRGINIA CITY
As the county jail during the largest silver strike in U.S. history, this cellblock was a grand slammer. Former cells filled with displays capture the history of the Comstock Lode.

THE EUREKA SENTINEL MUSEUM EUREKA
Time has stood still for more than 140 years in the building that housed The Eureka Sentinel Newspaper. A giant printing press remains untouched, along with type cases, ink containers and layout boards.

ORDNANCE MUSEUM HAWTHORNE
In 1928, the U.S. Navy chose this sparsely populated area to stockpile missiles, bombs and other ammo. See loads of weaponry and military memorabilia at what’s still considered to be the world’s largest ammunitions depot.

THE MOB MUSEUM LAS VEGAS
Mobsters once stood trial in this former federal courthouse. Today, it’s home to stories of murders and mayhem. View gruesome crime scene pics and see the brick wall from the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.
EXPLORE
HISTORIC
GOLDFIELD
AND SURROUNDING
ESMERALDA COUNTY

GOLDFIELD, NEVADA
WHERE THE PRESENT
AND THE PAST MEET.
775-553-8131
WWW.GOLDFIELDNEVADA.ORG
SPONSORED BY GOLDFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND GOLDFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GOLDFIELD IS OPEN AND
READY TO SAFELY SERVE YOU.

Mesquite, NV
Your safe home away from home. Come see us! We’re open.

For more information visit:
www.MesquiteNvChamber.com or call 702-346-2902
FAMILY FAVORITES

Good luck finding another state where you can encounter fabulous feline rescues and star as royalty in your own fantasy performance. The only problem: Your kids won’t want to go home.

THE DISCOVERY RENO

If you’ve ever dreamed of exploring a mansion riddled with mysteries or designing your own spacecraft, then Nevada’s largest science center is your ticket to paradise. Visitors love ascending the Cloud Climber, a three-story structure that teaches important lessons about the water cycle.

DISCOVERY CHILDREN’S MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

Anyone who dismisses Vegas as “not for the kids” clearly hasn’t heard of this mecca of imagination. Children live out their dreams of being kings and queens at the Fantasy Festival, where they can create storyboards before role-playing in a life-size castle.

ANIMAL ARK RENO

Meet orphans like Gracie the black bear and Princess Leia the raccoon at this safe haven for injured, abandoned and otherwise non-releasable wildlife. Natural enclosures help the animals feel at home, and visual displays keep things engagingly educational.

SAFE HAVEN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IMLAY

She may have been deemed “not trainable” in the entertainment industry, but 3-year-old Bengal tiger Sundara knows how to steal the spotlight. Here, she lives her best life, splashing in a pool and showing off her purr-fect mug. Meet Sundara, along with dozens of other rescued cats, bears, birds and more.

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF NORTHERN NEVADA CARSON CITY

Honey, they shrunk the Capitol building, just so kids could match and learn about state symbols (including real silver) at this ultra-interactive museum. The Construction Zone allows aspiring architects to use digging machines and build with foam rocks and bricks.

FUN WITH THE FAM

It’s easy to feel like a kid at heart in Nevada, whether you’ve got young ones in the back seat or not. Get your fill of family-friendly travel ideas at TravelNevada.com/family-activities.
FIND YOUR CURE FOR CABIN FEVER

SOCIAL DISTANCING SINCE 1862

PLAN YOUR NEXT BIG ADVENTURE AT:
AUSTINNEVADA.COM

PEACE OF MIND, THAT’S BEATTY, NV.
OPEN SPACE. FRIENDLY PEOPLE. SMALL TOWN CHARM.

PHONE: 1.866.736.3716
BEATTYNEVADA.ORG

OPEN & SAFE
98 MILES NORTH OF LAS VEGAS ON HIGHWAY 95.
EARLY HISTORY
Get schooled on more than 14,000 years of state stories, beginning with the Great Basin roots of Native peoples and extending to the present day.

CARSON VALLEY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER GARDNERSVILLE
Architect Frederic DeLongchamps (who also designed most of Nevada’s courthouses) imagined this former high school building. Inside, learn about Basques and the American West.

HUMBOLDT MUSEUM WINNEMUCCA
A contemporary building meets the Old West with an adjacent tannery, 1907 church and other structures. Storylines include the region’s American Indian and Chinese heritage, and fossils of prehistoric creatures discovered nearby.

STEWARD INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM CARSON CITY
Stewart’s students were forced to attend due to federal assimilation policies. Hear from alums in the Our Home: Our Relations exhibit about Stewart’s 90-year history.

HISTORIC FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES VIRGINIA CITY
The four-story, Second Empire-style school holds a restored 1887 press, fun deets on former local Mark Twain and rooms showcasing the town’s mining history.

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER NIXON
Along the desert lake, this stone museum’s exhibits explore the water’s significance to the Paiute people. Doll making is one of the tribal traditions celebrated here.

SMART TRAVELS
Some experiences at museums (especially the super hands-on ones) may be temporarily closed. No matter what you see or touch, wash your hands frequently and have sanitizer at the ready.
Inspired Art See woven willow baskets by Washoe Tribal member Dat So La Lee at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

State museums
Roll back the clock or roll along the rails at Nevada’s seven state museums, each one filled with fascinating relics and lore.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum Ely
The Nevada Northern Railway depot looks practically like it did a century ago. The adjacent Nevada Northern Railway offers tours of the rail yards, plus seasonal excursions, including a Haunted Ghost Train.

Lost City Museum Overton
Built atop an actual archaeological dig site, the museum celebrates Ancestral Puebloans through artifacts such as stone tools, arrowheads and basketry. Also learn how the Hoover Dam forever changed the face of Nevada.

Nevada Historical Society Reno
At the state’s oldest cultural institution, you can bet on seeing early slot machines, poker chips and playing cards in the American Gaming Archives. See some vintage neon in the Reno Gallery.

Nevada State Museum Carson City
In the former U.S. Branch Mint (which minted silver from the record strike in Virginia City), learn the state’s backstory, all the way from prehistoric times. The Natural History collection includes mammoth bones and ichthyosaur fossils.

Making Coin Coin Press No. 1 at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City still produces pure silver replicas after 151 years.
Wherever something intriguing happened, there’s usually a great museum to show you how. Get the full scoop on the state’s storied destinations at TravelNevada.com/museums.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
BOULDER CITY
The Union Pacific Railroad built the Boulder City Branch in 1931 to haul many tons of equipment and material to build Hoover Dam. Take a ride on the original Boulder Branch Line in a refurbished Pullman car. Also see working diesel and static steam locomotives, plus a variety of train cars and cabooses.

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
CARSON CITY
See restored and fully operational steam locomotives from 1875, including the standard-gauge Inyo (seen on TV’s The Wild Wild West). Seasonal train rides depart from restored Wabuska Station. The 1910 McKee Motor Car, a National Historic Landmark, is the only McKee railcar still moving on its own power.

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM
LAS VEGAS
Natural and human history meet on the Springs Preserve campus. Grow your knowledge of prehistoric flora and fauna that thrived in an ancient sea, then discover how Las Vegas became a hot resort destination.
WEDDINGS

HITCH PERFECT

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THIS, YOUR SPECIAL DAY. THERE’S A REASON WHY NEVADA CONSISTENTLY HAS 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 judge, 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 Amp up the charm—and the good fortune—by getting married in front of the Lady Luck sign at The Neon Museum in Las Vegas.
7 LUCKY SPOTS TO GET HITCHED

NO GUARANTEES ON HOW THINGS WILL UNFOLD AFTER THE CEREMONY, BUT ANY OF THESE VENUES WILL GET THE MARRIAGE OFF TO A MEMORABLE START.

CHAPEL IN THE CLOUDS, LAS VEGAS
Atop The STRAT Hotel, Casino and SkyPod, exchange vows on the Observation Deck or balcony far above the city, or even on the eight-seat thrill ride Insanity. (Insert your own hardy-har marriage crack here.)

SILVER QUEEN WEDDING CHAPEL, VIRGINIA CITY
At Virginia City’s oldest hotel, say “I do” in a small, historic chapel with antique furnishings and a stone fireplace. Get your money shot in front of the Silver Queen portrait composed of 3,261 silver dollars.

LITTLE CHURCH OF THE WEST, LAS VEGAS
This quaint wooden chapel looks like it belongs in a forest surrounded by fairy-tale creatures. Instead, it sits conveniently on the south end of the Strip. The now-historic venue has hosted Vegas weddings for 79 years.

TREASURE ISLAND, LAS VEGAS
eĘŅƼØŸŅŅĺěƋŅěÆåěĵ±ƋĜåŸú:åƋƊęčĘƋŅƴåųBŅŅƴåų%±ĵØX±ĩåaå±Ú±ĺÚ/g2vpnm3C2±ĬĬåƼŅü8Ĝųå/g5Qo6wfq2Ƌ±Ƌå

C A C T U S  P E T E S, J A C K P O T
Tying the knot in a town called Jackpot is an instant win. Fabulous catered meals are served in the resort and casino’s 180-guest Ruby Mountain Ballroom.

A LITTLE WHITE WEDDING CHAPEL, LAS VEGAS
There are actually five chapels here, plus an outdoor gazebo and the famous Tunnel of Love drive-through service. Splurge on one of the Elvis Tribute packages for bonus hunks of burning love (including a serenade by The King himself).

MAVERICK HELICOPTERS, LAS VEGAS
If you’re seeking a higher power for your marriage, get your head into the clouds for vows with a view. Soar over the Strip at twilight, or book the Painted Dreams package for a flight over Hoover Dam, Lake Mead and Valley of Fire State Park along with your wedding party.
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

BATTLE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
775/635-8245
battlemountainchamber.com

CITY OF CARLIN
775/754-6354
explorekarlinnv.com

ELKO CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY
800/248-ELKO (800/248-3556)
exploreelko.com

FRIENDS OF BLACK ROCK-HIGH ROCK (GERLACH)
775/557-2900
blackrockdesert.org

JACKPOT RECREATION AND TOURISM CENTER
833/452-2576
townofjackpot.com

JARBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
visitjarbridge.org

LANDER COUNTY CONVENTION AND TOURISM AUTHORITY
775/635-1112
landercountytourism.com

LOVELOCK/PERSHING COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
775/273-7213
loverslock.com

MCDERMITT INFORMATION
775/532-8742

WELLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
775/752-3540
wellsnevada.com

WEST WENDOVER TOURISM AND CONVENTION BUREAU
866/299-2489
westwendovercity.com

WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY
800/962-2638
winnemucca.com

INDIAN TERRITORY
nevadaindianterritory.com

FALLON PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE
775/423-6075
fpst.org

GRIMES POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
702/885-6000
blm.gov/visit/grimes-pointhidden-cave-archaeological-site

LAS VEGAS PAIUTE TRIBE
702/386-3926
lvpaiutetribe.com

LOST CITY MUSEUM, OVERTON
702/397-2193
lostcitymuseum.org

PHOTOGRAPH: MAC HOLT
LET’S GET THIS STRAIGHT

YOU’VE PROBABLY HEARD A THING OR TWO ABOUT OUR FAMOUS STATE. BUT NEVADA IS FULL OF SURPRISES. GET A LOAD OF THESE LESSER-KNOWN FACTS, AND FIND OUT WHERE TO EXPERIENCE IT ALL FOR YOURSELF.

MYTH: IT’S PRONOUNCED Nev-AHH-duh.

FACT: IT’S Nev-AD-uh, AND THE LOCALS WILL LOVE YOU MORE FOR SAYING IT RIGHT.

MYTH: IT’S HOT. LIKE ALL THE TIME.

FACT: SURE, WE’VE GOT THE MOJAVE DESERT (AND IT’S STUNNING), BUT WE’RE ALSO HOME TO

snow sports  
(PAGE 74)

lake escapes  
(PAGE 70)

AND indoor fun  
(PAGE 112). FOR THE RECORD, TEMPS CAN DIP INTO THE 30S IN LAS VEGAS DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

MYTH: NEVADA IS JUST A FLAT OL’ DESERT.

FACT: THAT ONE’S ABOUT 13,000 FEET OFF. WE’RE ACTUALLY THE most mountainous STATE IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, WITH MORE THAN 300 INDIVIDUAL RANGES.

WE DON’T MEAN TO BOAST…

BUT SINCE YOU’RE ASKING, NEVADA IS A PRETTY SUPERLATIVE STATE. WE’RE HOME TO:

THE oldest living trees  
ON EARTH (ANCIENT BRISTLECONES)

THE largest alpine lake  
IN THE U.S. (LAKE TAHOE)

brightest stars AND THE darkest skies IN THE LOWER 48

more ghost towns

more hot springs THAN “LIVING” TOWNS (600-PLUS)
We're Open. Wide Open. Plan Your Escape.
NEVADA SPEAKS

TO WEEKEND WANDERERS AND LONG-HAUL PONDERERS,
GUARDIANS OF TRADITION AND BUCKERS OF TRENDS
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.
WHERE WILL YOUR STORY TAKE YOU?

THE ROAD MIGHT END, BUT THE SPIRIT OF NEVADA NEVER DOES.