

# NEVADA

Summer 2022

Display until August 1, 2022

MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

## DIVE INTO SUMMER'S BOUNTY

Whet your appetite with a decadent foodie tour or visit local eateries that focus on farm-fresh food

## ELY'S RENAISSANCE VILLAGE

Step back in time at this historic park

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Pro tips for taking memorable photos



A close-up, low-angle shot of a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a white cowboy hat and a blue denim jacket over a grey t-shirt. He is looking slightly upwards and to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a clear blue sky with some green foliage visible at the bottom left.

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# NEVADA

MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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Historic Reno,  
see page 52



Outdoor  
recreation,  
see page 86



Using your mobile device, open the camera app and point it at the QR code. Once the QR code is recognized, it will either give you the option to click a link, or automatically take you to the corresponding web page.



# SILVER STATE SUMMERS CAN'T BE BEAT

Someone once said, “When all else fails, take a vacation.” Summer is the season of fun, of carefree days and star-filled nights, so what better time to get away, recharge, and refresh? If you’re in need of a little inspiration, look no further than this issue.

In the pages that follow, we’ll pedal through Boulder City’s famed Bootleg Canyon and head up north to ride the Lake Tahoe Flume Trail. The adventures continue as we take a road trip to the Ruby Mountains and explore alpine lakes and one seriously lush wildlife refuge.

Those outdoor adventures lead to big appetites, and we have a seriously dynamic food scene to fill that need. In this issue, learn about plant-based cuisine that’s expanding the culinary offerings in Fallon, Las Vegas, and Reno. Plus, read up on a new American Indian-owned coffee shop serving delicious, healthy food and drinks perfectly located along the Free-Range Art Highway.

The past comes alive this summer with a stop in Winnemucca—one of the last true cowboy towns—and a stroll through Reno’s historic district. Visit the remains of one of our most-visited ghost towns, then discover how one of America’s most famous writers got his start in Virginia City.

We invite you to peruse these pages and use this guide as you plan your next Silver State getaway. And if you’re lucky enough to call this great state home, we hope you find some ideas to Discover Your Nevada. Don’t forget, we publish four times a year now, so whatever season you find yourself in the Silver State, we have you covered.

Welcome to Nevada!



Megg Mueller, Executive Editor



MEGG MUELLER



LOOK FOR  
EASY-TO-USE  
QR CODES  
THROUGHOUT  
THIS GUIDE.



Plant-based cuisine,  
see page 18

February–April 2022 issue correction: The photo credit on page 56 was incorrectly listed as Kat Galli. The photographer is Brandie Vincek.




# VIEWS FOR BAJILLIONS OF MILES\*

\*GIVE OR TAKE

Real talk: What you see here is pure, unfiltered Nevada. With the most mountain ranges in the lower 48 and vistas for days, we're full of surprises. That's why we say — in the Silver State, we'll see your **un**expectations...and raise them.



 CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, NEVADA (TOP)  
VIEW FROM LIBERTY PASS, LAMOILLE, NEVADA (BOTTOM)



[TravelNevada.com/NVMag](https://TravelNevada.com/NVMag)



# TALK TO US

While there are plenty of things you'll want to keep to yourself during your vacation, we know there are must-post pictures your friends have to see. Here's how to share them and inspire a bit of envy about your trip to NV.

## WE'RE HERE

For all things social, find us at [@TravelNevada](#). If we love your pic, we might ask to reshare it or include it in our next guide!

## HASH IT UP

Nevada has so many reasons to blow up your friends' social feeds, from no-filter-needed scenery to selfies sure to induce a little FOMO. Tag your pictures, and while [#TravelNevada](#) always works, look for other tags geared toward your favorite theme.



JEFF MARTINEZ / MICHELLE GARTHE | ELKO



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Dive deeper into the Silver State at [NevadaMagazine.com](#). For more than 85 years, we've mined a rich vein of stories on history, outdoor rec, cuisine, and more, with new stories added each month. If your adventure fits our deep dive, tag us at [#nvmag](#). See page 124 for more.



@NICHOLE\_MAGDOR | HIGHWAY 50

## MAKE IT HAPPEN

Stay safe, learn the Dirt Road Code (see page 125), and get insider tips for your best vacation yet. [TravelNevada.com/plan](#)



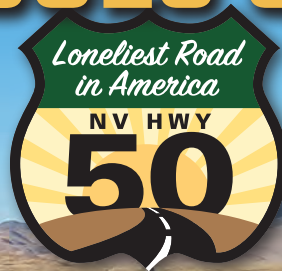
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# THE ROAD GOES ON FOREVER



**FERNLEY**  
BOTTLECAP GAZEBO



**FALLON**  
SAND MOUNTAIN



**EUREKA**  
EUREKA OPERA HOUSE



**ELY**  
NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY



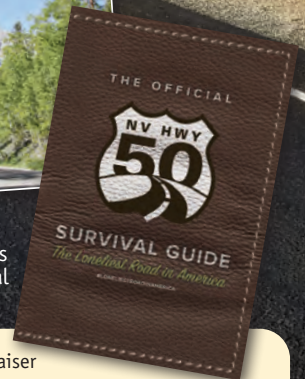
**DAYTON**  
ODEON HALL



**AUSTIN**  
STOKES CASTLE



**BAKER / GREAT BASIN**  
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



The tradition continues with great **2022 summer events!** Nevada's Highway 50 is **WIDE OPEN** with plenty of room to roam and things to do and see. This is the route of the historic Pony Express Trail, where yesterday's legends were born, and today's OHVers, mountain bikers, and hikers find unbridled freedom. Make sure to pick up an official Highway 50 Survival Guide before traveling The Loneliest Road in America, or request one at [LoneliestRoad.us](http://LoneliestRoad.us).

## DAYTON

**June 3** 29th Annual "Making A Difference" Golf Tournament  
**July 4** Annual 4th of July Parade, Historic Downtown  
**September 10** 6th Annual Silver State OHV Poker Run  
**September 17-18** 33rd Annual Dayton Valley Days

## FALLON

**May 7** Mayors Cup  
**May 20-21** Backroads Vintage Market  
**June 4** Green Goddess Farmers Market  
**June 10-11** Octane Fest 2022 / I80 Challenge  
**June 18** Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers Concert in the Park  
**June 25** De Golyer Bucking Horse & Bull Bash  
**July 4** 4th of July Parade and Fireworks  
**July 24-25** Lattin Farm's Sunflower Festival  
**July 29-31** Fallon Ranch Hand Rodeo  
**August 1-2** Lattin Farm's Sunflower Festival  
**August 6** Green Goddess Farmers Market  
**August 26-28** Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair  
**September 2-5** Lion's Club Junior Rodeo & Labor Day Parade  
**September 11** City of Fallon 911 Ceremony  
**September 30-October 29** Lattin Farm's Corn Maze & Fall Festival

## AUSTIN

**May 28-30** Memorial Day Poker Run- Lion's Club  
**June 18-19** Gridley Days Art in the Park, Swap Meet  
**July 4** Lions Club 4th of July  
**July 29-31** Austin ATV Poker Run  
**September 10** Annual Wine Walk

## EUREKA

**May 6-7** Nevada Fiddlers' Contest  
**May 7** Perdiz Spring Fling Fun Shoot  
**May 14** May Fun Shoot  
**May 21** Doug Flagg Country Western Singer, Eureka Opera House  
**May 28-29** Nevada Bowhunters Marked Yardage Shoot  
**May 30** VFW-Memorial Day Service, Eureka Opera House  
**June 4** Perdiz FFA Spring Shoot  
**June 10-11** Legends of the West Bike and Car Fest  
**June 19** Perdiz Father's Day Shoot  
**June 25** Nevada Bowhunters Jamboree  
**June 25-26** Eureka Gold Rush Games  
**July 3-4** Perdiz 4th of July Open Shooting  
**July 4** Eureka Firemen's 4th of July  
**July 16** Perdiz Fun Shoot  
**August 5** Sheriff's office hosts National Night Out  
**August 5-7** Perdiz Eureka Walk a Bout  
**August 9-14** Eureka County Fair and Rodeo  
**August 27** Perdiz Dove Hunters Warm Up  
**September 10** Perdiz Fireman's Picnic Shoot  
**September 16-17** Art Wine and Music Fest  
**September 17** Dutch Oven Cook Off  
**September 17** Dig Deep Trail Run  
**September 24** Perdiz Bird Hunter's Challenge

## ELY

**May-September** Ely Renaissance Village  
**May-October** Sunset, Stars, and Champagne, Nevada Northern Railway  
**May 13-15** Nevada Open Road Challenge  
**May 28** Sagebrush Social Disc Golf Tournament  
**June-October** Snake Valley Farmers Market

**June 2-5** Schellraiser Music Festival  
**June 11** Bristlecone Bricks and Train Show  
**June 11** Fears, Tears, and Beers Bike Race  
**June 11** White Pine Corral Association's Gymkhana Series  
**June 11-12** Bristlecone Bowmen Archery Shoot  
**June 18** Ward Mountain Trail Run  
**June 19** White Pine Motorcycle Rodeo  
**June 17-19** Museum Rock & Gem Swap  
**July 2** Swim-A-Thon for Veteran's  
**July 4** Ely July 4th Parade and Fireworks  
**July 4** Ely Community Independence Day Breakfast  
**July 16** Color Me Ely 5K  
**July 22-24** Lund Pioneer Days  
**July 22-24** Christian Motorcycle Association Ride Through Ely  
**July 28-29** Ely Rotary Golf Tournament  
**July 28-29** Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango and Pow Wow  
**August 19-21** Fair and Horse Races of White Pine County  
**September 10** Race the Rails Bike Race  
**September 16-18** Silver State Classic Challenge  
**September 17** Take it to the Lake Half Marathon

## BAKER

**Lehman Cave Tours** Available for reservation up to 30 days in advance.  
**September 22-24** Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival

## NEVADA'S HIGHWAY 50

**September 26-October 2** 31st Annual OATBRAN, One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada

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How Samuel Clemens became Mark Twain

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Gastro-tourism with downtown's Lip Smacking Foodie Tour







*Sweet summer has arrived! That means it's time for lazy days at area lakes, bike rides through verdant meadows, hikes to mountain peaks with stunning views, and most of all, enjoying glorious sun-filled days and starlit nights with family and friends.*

## COVERS

**Front:** Stand up paddleboarders enjoy Lake Tahoe. Photo courtesy of Clearly Tahoe. **Back:** Biking at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park. Photo by Rob Adamo of Adamo Productions.



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Bike Nevada's backcountry, plus tips on hiking, fishing, and stargazing

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Heritage and recreation converge in the cowboy town of Winnemucca

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Rachid Dahnoun (Lake Tahoe picnic, top left),  
Pete Foley (Las Vegas Indian Food Festival, top right)





the silver state

# SCAVENGER HUNT

## OUR STATEWIDE ADVENTURE RETURNS!

### Get ready:

The 6th Silver State Scavenger Hunt is now underway! Nevada is full of incredible structures built long ago, and now's your chance to see some.

If you've not done the Hunt before, it's easy! We split the state into two zones—Northern and Southern—with 14 historic buildings in each. Snap a photo of yourself holding the Summer 2022 issue of Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide in at least 10 of the locations in either zone (or both...the more ground you cover, the luckier you are!) and submit them at [nevadmagazine.com](http://nevadmagazine.com).

Two prize packages—one in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada—will be awarded. One lucky winner will receive a hotel stay at Harveys Lake Tahoe, plus dinner for two at Savori Italian Kitchen at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Our second lucky winner will receive a hotel stay and spa package at the Casablanca Resort in Mesquite.

**Harrah's**  
**HARVEYS**  
LAKE TAHOE

*Savori*  
ITALIAN KITCHEN



MESQUITE GAMING

Casablanca  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

*The Spa*  
& Salon  
at Casablanca

Don't forget to share your adventures with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by using #nvmaghunt to document your travels. The first 25 people to complete the hunt will receive a free copy of our Historical Nevada coffee table book.

You'll have until June 1 to submit your photos.  
For complete rules and how to submit your photos, visit [nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt](http://nevadamagazine.com/scavengerhunt).





# THE SILVER STATE SCAVENGER HUNT OFFICIAL DESTINATIONS

## NORTHERN ZONE

### LOVELOCK

Pershing County Courthouse (1921)

### GOLCONDA

Golconda School (1888)

### GERLACH

Gerlach Water Tower (1909)

### JIGGS

Skelton Bar (1950)

### PARADISE VALLEY

Paradise Valley Saloon & Bar G (1900s)

### ELKO

Pioneer Building (1912)

### SPARKS

Sparks Heritage Museum (1931)

### FALLON

Overland Hotel (1907)

### RENO

The Depot Craft Brewery & Distillery (1910)

### AUSTIN

Gridley Store (1863)

### WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion (1862)

### ELY

Central Theater (1939)

### CARSON CITY

Nevada State Capitol (1870)

### MCGILL

McGill Drug Store (1909)

## SOUTHERN ZONE

### YERINGTON

Jeanne Dini Yerington Cultural Center (1912)

### SEARCHLIGHT

Walking Box Ranch (1931)

### TONOPAH

Tonopah Liquor Co. Building (1906)

### BOULDER CITY

Boulder Dam Hotel (1933)

### PIOCHE

Old Lincoln County Courthouse (1938)

### OVERTON

Lost City Museum (1935)

### GOLDFIELD

Goldfield Historic High School (1907)

### GOODSPRINGS

Pioneer Saloon (1913)

### CALIENTE

Caliente Railroad Depot (1923)

### BELMONT

Belmont Courthouse (1876)

### LAS VEGAS

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort (1855)

### HAWTHORNE

Old Mineral County Courthouse (1883)

### PAHRUMP

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum (1941)

### MANHATTAN

Manhattan School (1913)





## MYTH VS. FACT:

## LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe is an alpine lake that sits 1/3 within Nevada's boundary. At 1,655 feet deep, it is the second deepest in the U.S. (after Crater Lake) and the 16th in the whole world. In fact, Lake Tahoe is so deep that the bottom of the lake is at the same elevation as Carson City, which sits on the valley floor below the Sierra Nevada.

There are many myths related to the lake's legendary depths, including one that says the bottom has never been discovered. Let's look at a few more of these stories, and hopefully set the record straight on a few!

## TUNNELS ON THE LAKE'S BOTTOM CONNECT TO VIRGINIA CITY.

Tales of tunnels beneath the lake have been around since the late 1800s. Reports of greedy miners digging all the way to Tahoe's bottom or an underground river connecting to a vast boiling lake were originally published in newspapers as entertainment.

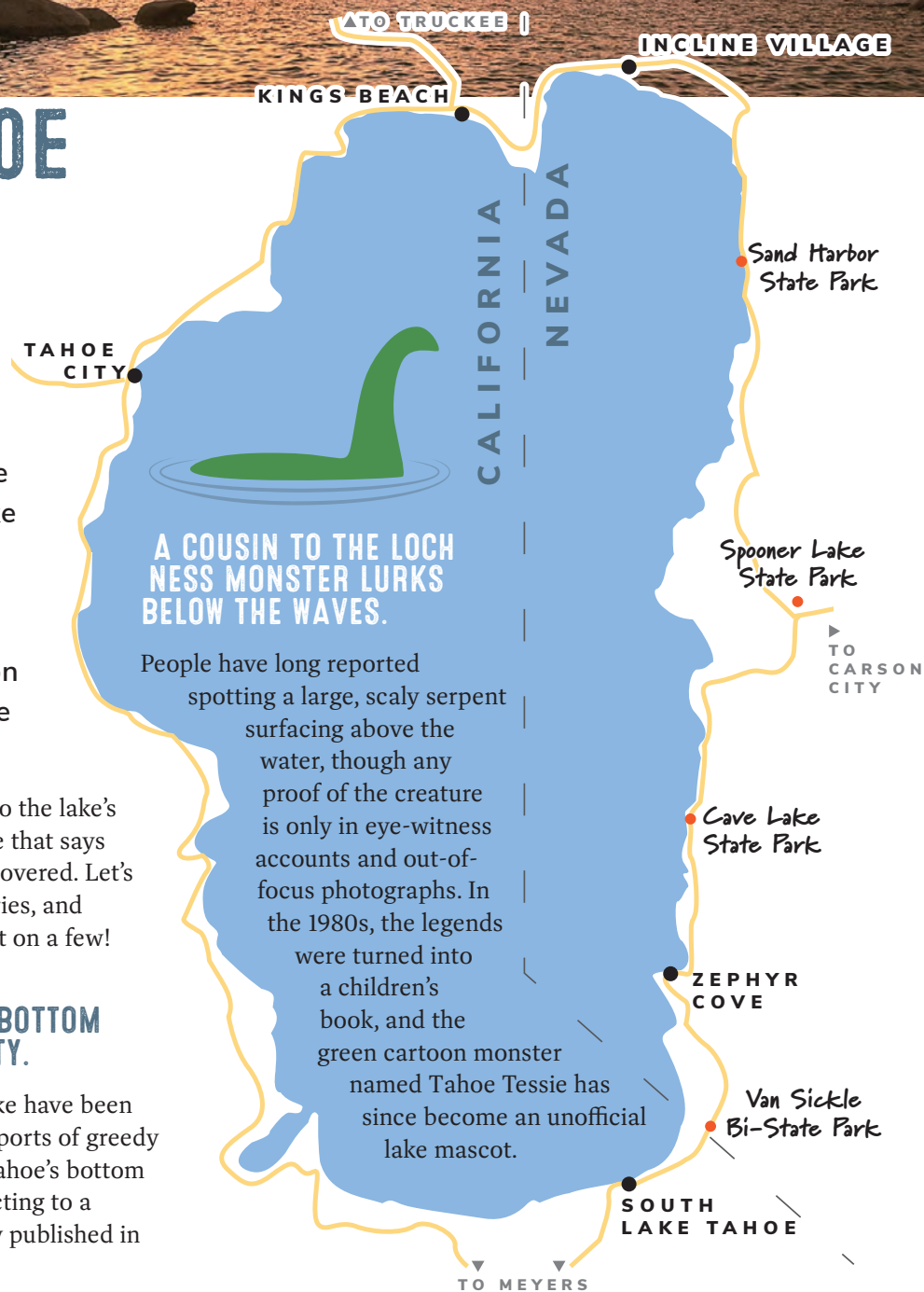
## JACQUES COUSTEAU MADE A SECRET DIVE.

In the 1980s, the famed oceanographer apparently made an unannounced submarine voyage at Lake Tahoe. When he surfaced, he allegedly said that the world is not ready for what he had discovered. There's no evidence this voyage happened, but the lake has been explored by a submersible. In 2016, the Undersea Voyager Project located more than a dozen shipwrecks.



## THE MOB SANK HUNDREDS OF BODIES TO THE BOTTOM.

It's no secret the Mob had a presence in Tahoe during the mid-20th century, and it's said that people who ran afoul of the bosses would find themselves in concrete shoes plummeting toward a watery tomb. There isn't any proof that the Mob used the lake as a place to disappear bodies, and—to date—no mass graves have been discovered.







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# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ruby Mountain BALLOON FESTIVAL

## July 29 - 31, 2022

**FRIDAY, JULY 29**  
ELKO CITY PARK

6:00 am: Balloons launch around Elko  
12:00 pm: Food vendors & kids activities  
7:30 pm: Night Glow, food vendors, & entertainment

**SATURDAY, JULY 30 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 31**  
SPRING CREEK SPORTS COMPLEX

6:00 am: Balloons launch, tethered rides,  
food and other vendors, & kids activities

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Creek, Nevada

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STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

**MAVERICK**

**Western States**  
PROPANE

**Ruby Mountain**  
Balloon Festival

**RubyMountainBalloons.org**

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See website for updates & photo contest information.

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**JULY** | National Basque Festival • Silver State  
Stampede • Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival •  
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# EYE CANDY






## VERDANT HILLS IN SUMMER

Douglas Merkler captured this evening scene near Smith Creek—20 miles southwest of Austin—while his wife Lois was conducting small mammal research for the College of Southern Nevada.

“We spend as much time in the Great Basin as possible,” says Douglas. “Lois is from a ranching family in western Montana, and I am a fourth-generation Nevadan from a sheep ranching family in the Ruby Mountains.”

 Mavic 2 Pro, 1/320s, f/5, ISO 100



## LIVE LIKE A LOCAL

Visit nearby Middlegate Station to see if you can wrangle the Middlegate Monster burger and earn yourself a t-shirt!



Check out page 48 for more adventure ideas along the Loneliest Road in America!





## HIGHLANDS IN BLOOM

John King captured this slice of the state's northeastern wilderness. "Nevada is awesome when the highlands are in bloom. Time flies overall, but winter could fly just a little faster: I'm always ready for the Jarbidge area to start looking like this!"

📷 Canon Rebel XT,  
1/400s, f/11, ISO 400

## NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS

This reflection of Frenchman Mountain was taken by James Marvin Phelps at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve. "The preserve is not a spot you typically think of for landscape photography, but the early morning light was perfect that day, and the clouds really made the mountains stand out." 📷 Canon 5D mk IV, 1/20s, f/18, ISO 100



## Great Nevada Picture Hunt

**CONTEST BEGINS  
SUN, MAY 1**

**CONTEST ENDS  
TUES, MAY 31**

### THIS YEAR'S CATEGORIES:

1. People
2. Landscape
3. Cities/Towns
4. Ghost Towns
5. Mobile Phone
6. Event
7. Wildlife
8. Photographers

**Under 18 (any subject)**

*Submitters younger than 18 will need to include a signed permission form from a parent or guardian.*

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# Find Your *Fresh*





## Delicious plant-based cuisine in Nevada has never been easier to find.

Nevada's desert landscape is well known, so it may surprise some to learn that the state is also home to organic farming operations and a robust farm-to-fresh dining scene. Restaurants all over the state—and increasingly in rural areas—are offering locally grown foods with a focus on vegetarian and/or vegan-oriented menus. Here are a few tasty offerings you'll find.

### FALLON

It's no surprise the Oasis of Nevada is known for its farm-to-fork cuisine. Farms occupy tens of thousands of acres in the verdant valley, providing an agricultural bounty that is easily found in many restaurants.

#### Lattin Farms

For five generations, Rick Lattin and his family have maintained one of Nevada's largest organic farming operations. The farm is known for its tomatoes, berries, peppers, and squash, but their signature crop is the Hearts of Gold cantaloupe—an award-winning melon that is the namesake of Fallon's greatest event. Lattin Farms is passionate about bringing farm-fresh produce to the community, and visitors are encouraged to stop by their incredible café, bakery, and produce stand.

#### Maine Street Café

For almost 15 years, this homegrown restaurant has adapted to the ever-

changing landscape of food trends. Maine Street's Chef Wenceslao Sandoval has more than 26 years of experience at four- and five-star restaurants, and he incorporates the café's garden produce into a delicious and eclectic menu.

#### Slanted Porch

The Slanted Porch seems as if it were plucked out of a trendy urban neighborhood and dropped into rural Nevada. The loving detail that went into remodeling the 1908 residence into a trendy restaurant is also in the locally sourced food. Produce makes the less-than-4-mile trip from Lattin Farms, and beef is hand-selected from Fallon's H5 Ranch. Even the delectable homemade potato chips come from potatoes grown at Fallon's Workman Farms.



### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The crispy Brussels sprouts appetizer at Maine Street Café is not to be missed.







## LAS VEGAS

The opportunities to eat whatever your heart desires are rife in Las Vegas. Finding farm-fresh, plant-based foods is easy, but a couple standout choices include:

### VegeNation

Locations in Downtown Las Vegas and Henderson serve flavorful fare that just happens to be meatless—not the other way around. Try the “chicken” pot pie gnocchi garnished with pie crust; classic Vietnamese pho loaded with seasonal vegetables; or pizza topped with vegan sausage, jalapeños, and pineapple.

### NoButcher

Those looking to add more plants to their diet should head to NoButcher’s bustling community table. Some great items to try: “Pulled NoPork” sandwich, “NoEgg” sandwich, and the “NoTuna” sandwich.

## RENO

The Biggest Little City’s Midtown District is home to a growing dining scene, and tasty, plant-based eating is at the forefront. Look for vegetarian options on most menus, but make sure to splurge on these fine choices:

### Great Full Gardens

Since 2013, this eatery has offered vegan, gluten-free, and paleo choices along with healthy dishes for the meat lover in the family. The three locations feature many options from local vendors and farmers. Start with the sinful cheesy bruschetta, then indulge in the wasabi vegetable bowl. Wrap up your meal with their delicious signature Liège waffles.

### Laughing Planet

With locations in Midtown and at the University of Nevada, Reno campus, this eatery focuses on delicious vegetarian and meat dishes served fast and fresh. Awesome salads and soups start things off, but save room for the Bollywood bowl, which will make your taste buds dance with the southern Indian flavors.



HARVEST BOWL AT LAUGHING PLANET

Susanne Reese (NoButcher), Olga Miller (Laughing Planet)



# NEXT EVOLUTION COFFEE SHOP

A risky venture leads to delicious results.

On a quiet stretch of U.S. Route 95 on the Walker River Indian Reservation, an unassuming coffee shop beckons. Before entering, visitors may think they are in for a normal cup of joe, but one step inside this small sanctuary and you know you're in for something special.

Andrea Martinez opened Next Evolution in October 2020, and while the pandemic proved a challenge, it was nothing compared to the monumental task she'd already set for herself. In a location that had been multiple burger joints, Andrea sought to provide her community with healthy organic food and drink options. Her menu is largely focused on vegetarian and vegan cuisine, and the idea of such an offering in Schurz was so unusual that Andrea could not get a business loan. After some help from her family, she decided to keep the plan under wraps until people could try her extensive and impressive menu for themselves.

While there were skeptics at first, most are now regular customers who come in daily for fresh fruit smoothies, beet juice shots, acai bowls, sandwiches, and coffee sourced from Star Village Coffee, an American Indian family-owned business based in Verdi. For Andrea, helping her community thrive is her greatest dream.

"I wanted to give my community healthy eating options that were readily prepared and inexpensive. I started this business to put people over profit," she says. "This was never about making a ton of money."

A steady stream of patrons—some regulars and others passing by on their way from Reno to Las Vegas—keep the eatery hopping. A drive-through window that was added to comply with pandemic regulations has proven popular, and now colorful smoothies, wickedly delicious coffee drinks, and flavorful organic sandwiches regularly pass through this convenient portal to hungry patrons.



ANDREA MARTINEZ



Andrea's dream of serving lovingly prepared, healthy, organic foods has proven a hit.

Inside, the shop is intimate with counter seating and a couple of small tables offering a relaxed setting. Fresh produce from farms on the reservation are included in her tempting creations, such as her sourdough sandwich: a simple affair of spinach, tomato, vegan mayo, cheese, and mushroom, with flavors and freshness that are both surprising and incredible. The attention to detail in the menu is obvious, and the myriad smoothie combinations offer out-of-this world concoctions.

With her first year under her belt, Andrea is already planning to start a full garden to source her food from. She also hopes to add outdoor seating and a pet-friendly area for travelers. Her location near the junction of U.S. 95 and A-95 has attracted visitors from around the globe, and each time it's a chance to share a bit of her community with them.

"Some people admit they'd never seen a Native American before," she says with a smile.

While her business may surprise some, its novelty is why she started it in the first place. Tending to her people and community and sharing her lifelong journey toward health in the most flavorful fashion is why Next Evolution is so special.





# Sagebrush Saloons

Drink in the history at Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon.

## Mining Chimneys at Belmont

The 100-foot chimneys from milling ruins were used as target practice in the 1940s. During WWII, pilots from the Tonopah Air Force Base used these chimneys to test their 50 caliber guns!

Colorful characters invite you to pull up a bar stool, listen to a tale, and wet your whistle with a frosty brew or curated cocktail. As you wind through the state's backroads, keep an eye out for this issue's featured bar, Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon.





## PLANNING CHECKLIST



- ☐ To see inside the historic courthouse, schedule a tour with the Friends of the Belmont Courthouse at 775-482-3968.

SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



SAGEBRUSH SALOONS

At three hours from Las Vegas and just slightly longer from Reno, this thirst parlor lies pretty darn close to the geographic center of the state—making it one of the most sequestered saloons around. Get ready for a road trip to reach this secluded slice of old Nevada: you'll be enjoying your cold beverage at a historic bar in a living ghost town. For a house specialty, order up a Picon Punch—a popular Nevada Basque drink, now regarded as the unofficial State Drink—or their famous Bloody Mary made from a recipe passed down by the saloon's original owner. If you're lucky, you might enjoy your libation during some live music or a shuffleboard tournament.



Once you finish chatting up fellow travelers and friendly locals, head outside and tour the ruins of this once-glorious mining town. Belmont came alive in 1865 after a major silver strike. By 1870, the town had boomed to 2,000 residents and boasted the title of county seat. Today, the town has a bit less bustle than 150 years ago, but echoes of the past are still found in its mystifying ruins. The can't-miss Belmont Courthouse is the pride of the town and stands as a well-preserved historic site.



You won't find a phone number for Dirty Dick's, but it's usually open Friday and Saturday. Belmont has two other businesses open during the summer that are well worth stopping by: Sticks and Stones (jewelry) and Susie's Attic (antiques).

Arianti Sumukti-Wilsterman (exterior)





In the contest for weird, wild, and altogether unusual attractions, the Silver State takes the gold every time. From haunted hotels and alien-occupied highways to mysterious museums and offbeat art installations, these aren't your traditional tourist attractions.

# WEIRD NEVADA



## READ MORE ABOUT IT

One of the most famous visitors of Guvu Road/Dooby Lane was renowned Beat-era poet and Pulitzer Prize-winner Gary Snyder. After touring the site, Snyder was inspired to chronicle Dooby's life work. His book—titled "Dooby Lane"—is a collection of photos accompanied by poetry and prose.





## GURU ROAD/DOOBY LANE

### Gerlach

Like most folks, DeWayne “Doobie” Williams knew he would have extra time on his hands when he retired. After moving from Florida to remote Gerlach, he soon realized that he had more free time than he knew what to do with.

Doobie—a nickname earned from a past recreational interest—began keeping himself occupied by carving the names of friends and family in rocks he found near the Black Rock Desert. When he finished his carvings, he would drop them off near a stretch of highway that overlooked the playa. When carving his own name, he revised Doobie to Dooby to save his hands from the extra work.

Once Doobie had run through all the names he could think of, he upgraded to a motorized grinder and began etching aphorisms and lines of personal wisdom on his rocks. During the next 15 years, Doobie scattered his works over a mile-long stretch of road and included larger installments such as a wedding chapel and a Vietnam War memorial.

Today, visitors can take a drive on the Burner Byway, and after a stop in Gerlach, embark on a ponderous walk along Guru Road/Dooby Lane. The 1-mile walk—beginning at the official Guru Road street sign—is a magnificent gallery of folk art and a testament to the beauty of individual expression.



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WEIRD NEVADA



### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Before your trip to Gerlach, contact the Friends of Black Rock High Rock to arrange an exclusive tour of breathtaking desert, surrounding wetlands, and the otherworldly Fly Geysir.





## KEEP NEVADA AWESOME!

Tours of the Goldwell Open Air Museum and nearby Rhyolite are self-guided, so it's up to visitors to keep the historic and cultural importance of this site well-preserved. Be sure to stick to main roads and walking paths. Please take nothing and leave no trace.



## QUICK HITS **WEIRD NEVADA**

### GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM

#### Beatty

This entirely unique art experience sits just 6 miles from the gates of Death Valley and a mere stroll from the well-preserved remains of the ghost town of Rhyolite (see page 100). The 8-acre sculpture park was created by a group of Belgian artists who were drawn to this remote portion of the Mojave Desert to pursue artistic vision free from convention.

Included among the park's several monumental installations is the ghostly, life-size version of "The Last Supper," a nearby stray specter holding a bicycle, a 25-foot-tall pink woman constructed from cinder blocks, a towering steel prospector and penguin, and a very photogenic mosaic couch.

The sculpture park is open all day, every day, and there is no admission fee. It also features a visitor center with regular exhibits and events, as well as a small gift shop. The center is only open on certain weekends during the summer.





# CLEARLY,

awesome.



Clearly, the south shore of Lake Tahoe is the ultimate spot for summer fun. The whole area is alive with outdoor activity like mountain biking and hiking in the Sierra or jetting across the lake on a boat. Did we mention the summer concerts and lake-side dining? Come experience the good times and Tahoe vibes for yourself. It's sure to take your breath away.

Clearly, it's time to plan your summer vacation at [TahoeSouth.com](http://TahoeSouth.com)



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# UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

It's no secret that Nevada offers world-renowned, white-glove hospitality at lavish resort-casinos and cozy roadside hotels. But elsewhere in the Silver State, our perks are also our quirks. If you're looking for a vacation that's irresistibly different, Nevada's array of unique retreats and unusual accommodations have got you covered.



There are many areas of Nevada known for their utter remoteness and off-the-grid appeal. Northwestern Nevada is queen of this category, with miles and miles of nothing but gorgeous scenery. Just 10 miles from the California border and less than an hour to Oregon's state line, the town of Vya is often called a ghost town—and short of a very small number of residents, it is just that. The remnants of the old post office and library have been partially restored, but you'll otherwise find little else. So if you're ready to hit the eject button and kick back in one of the Silver State's most remote experiences, Rockin' TD Ranch is for you.



GUEST HOUSE



Owners Tony and Diane began building Rockin' TD Ranch in 2008 and eventually decided to share their empty guest house. In 2016, they began offering guests unbeatable access to some of Nevada's best outdoor recreation, including wildlife viewing and birdwatching, hiking, horseback riding, and rockhounding.







MASSACRE RIM AS SEEN FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL AT THE RANCH

A cozy, two-bedroom, two-bath guest house is outfitted with large windows that overlook Long Valley, along with a big, beautiful front porch to take it all in. The property also offers the Rockin' TD Ranch Bunkhouse, which welcomes folks who travel with their pets. Two sets of bunkbeds, a full kitchen, and single bathroom make this upscale bunkhouse a great family option, too.



BUNKHOUSE

While visiting, you may spot a world of wildlife that lives in this remote, northwestern corner of Nevada, but one thing's for certain—you'll spot the registered black angus cow and calf operation Tony and Diane run. Along with wildlife preservation, land stewardship and pasture management are an important focus for the



#### STAY ANOTHER DAY

The Rockin' TD Ranch is the perfect basecamp for adventure. It sits along the historic Applegate Lassen Emigrant

Trail which was popular during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and it's not too far from the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge or the Black Rock Desert. A little farther to the northeast, discover three Nevada mines that welcome visitors to search for opals (Royal Peacock, Bonanza, and Rainbow Ridge).

duo—be sure to ask them about it and the cattle drives and roundups that may happen during your stay.

### AFTER-DARK ADVENTURES

One of the most popular reasons to stay at Rockin' TD Ranch is to visit Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area. Massacre Rim's night skies represent the darkest of the dark—which is why it was designated as a Dark Sky Sanctuary (one of only seven in the world!) by the International Dark Sky Association in 2019. Visitors can see their shadow by the light of the Milky Way—one criterion for Dark Sky designation, and one memory-making Nevada experience.



ANDROMEDA GALAXY  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY A GUEST  
WHILE STAYING AT THE RANCH

Massacre Rim itself is a 1,200-foot basalt rim that towers above Long Valley. Flanked by lichen-covered boulders and ancient stands of juniper, the geological wonder that is Massacre Rim appears black, gray, pink, and gold, backlit by ever-shifting sunlight and clouds.





SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

As night falls, the view gets even better: there is little to no light pollution in any direction. On a moonless night, it can be difficult to identify constellations due to the sheer number of visible stars. And, as Diane notes, these views are visible from the front porch of your guesthouse, too.

One night at Rockin' TD Ranch, and you'll see why the idea of getting away to nowhere has never been so bright.

## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NEVADA HISTORY

via the pages of "Historical Nevada: 150 Memorable Images in Celebration of the Silver State's Sesquicentennial."

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# NEVADA

MAGAZINE

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# NEVADA'S *WEIRD AND WACKY* MUSEUM EXHIBITS

We're all familiar with the typical museum experience. During the first half hour, each display is given careful consideration and each placard is dutifully read. But soon, our finite supply of 'oh wow!' runs short, and we start looking for one of those exhibits that lets you play with a magnet. Don't fear: Nevada's museums offer plenty of ways to survive that mid-visit slump and stay engaged with some truly oddball and entertaining experiences.



## ↑ JCPENNEY'S ATOMIC TEST MANNEQUINS National Atomic Testing Museum Las Vegas

Can your jacket withstand the blast of a 1-kiloton detonation? In the early 1950s, JCPenney donated dozens of mannequins to the Nevada Test Site (now the Nevada National Security Site) to help scientists study the effects of a nuclear blast. To create a lifelike simulation, the clothed mannequins were placed in specially constructed homes complete with wallpaper, furniture, and a fully stocked fridge. After the tests, the company advertised before and after images of the mannequins, which showed severe bodily damage yet clothing that was often in remarkable condition. JCPenney would go on to display the mannequins for a short time in its Las Vegas store.

Neil Lockhart (showgirl costumes)

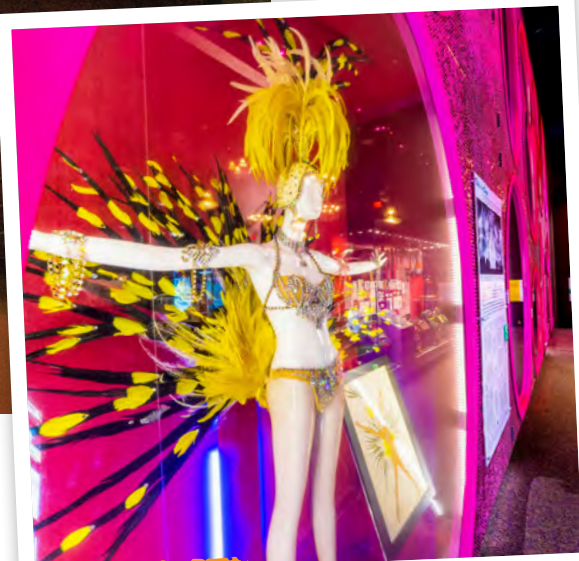




## A CATTLE RUSTLER'S HOOF SHOES

Northeastern Nevada Museum  
Elko

Raising cattle is hard work, and for J.R. "Crazy Tex" Hazelwood, that was work that could be avoided with some customized footwear. Hazelwood invented shoes that left cow prints so he could pilfer cattle from local ranches under the cover of darkness. The ranchers were baffled by the missing cattle and confounded by the lack of clues. Hazelwood was eventually caught, and his shoes are proudly displayed as a symbol of the work humans will do to get out of doing work.



SHOWGIRL COSTUMES

## SHOWGIRL COSTUMES

Nevada State Museum  
Las Vegas

Showgirls helped put Las Vegas on the map, and this exhibit is dedicated to their trademark flashy fashion. The exotic dress donated to the museum originated in French cabarets before landing in Las Vegas in 1959 to entertain visitors at provocative spectacles. Museum visitors can enjoy this colorful slice of the state's history while wondering if it's possible for a bikini to have too many feathers.



CATTLE RUSTLER'S HOOF SHOES





## RESTORED NEON SIGNS

The Neon Museum  
Las Vegas

For more than half a century, Nevada has been home to thousands of neon signs lighting up everything from casinos and motels to restaurants and mom-and-pop shops. But where do these signs go after they reach retirement age? The answer—for 200 of them, at least—is the Neon Boneyard. This dazzling gallery features some of the state's coolest, most iconic signage. For the full effect, schedule your visit during the dusk tour.

## THE TWO-HEADED CALF

Nevada Historical Society  
Reno

We've all heard the adage 'two heads are better than one,' but that usually doesn't refer to two heads on the same body (or that those heads are on a cow). In any case, the saying holds true for visitors; this bovine curiosity garners many a double take. The calf was born on a Winnemucca ranch in the 1940s and has long been a popular attraction for the museum. Bring the kids: this is a favorite for the field trip crowds.

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MORE INFO



MUSEUMS

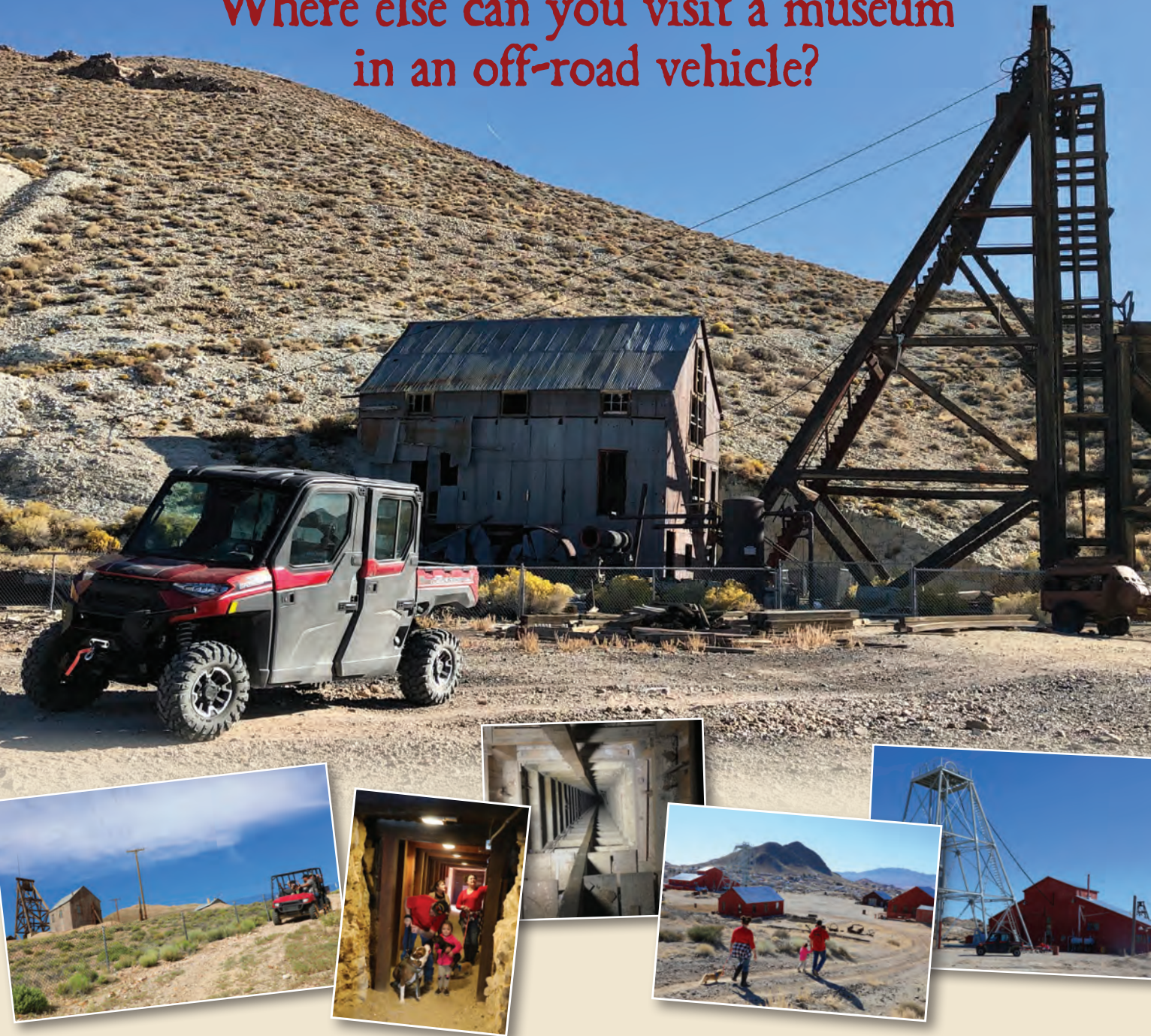


Ryan Donnell (Neon Museum)  
Nevada Historical Society (Two-headed calf)



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For events & other things to do, check [TonopahNevada.com](http://TonopahNevada.com)



## ADVENTURES IN ANATOMY

The Discovery Museum  
Reno

Make like the crew of scientists in “Fantastic Voyage” and dive deep into the wonders of human anatomy. This large collection of interactive experiences puts the “fun” in “bodily functions.” Visitors can see their heat signature through a thermal camera, scan the veins on their hand, combine faces with a friend, move a ball with their mind, and much more.



ADVENTURES IN ANATOMY



THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE



## THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE

The Washoe Club & Haunted Museum  
Virginia City

The Washoe Club is a historic saloon with a seriously haunted past... and present. This towering brick building lies in the heart of Virginia City and is believed to be one of the most haunted locations in the West. Visitors can partake in hourly ghost tours or spend the night for an overnight investigation. Here, groups will be locked down for the evening with access to all three floors of the Washoe Club, including The Crypt and Spiral Staircase—the longest freestanding spiral staircase ever built, which is said to be haunted by a resident spirit named Lena. Talk about a night at the museum!



QUICK HITS **MUSEUMS**



**PROHIBITION SPEAKEASY**

The Mob Museum

Las Vegas

It's a safe bet that most museums don't have a basement speakeasy with authentic 1920s décor, a full bar, and a backroom distillery where spirits are manufactured on site—not to mention a secret lounge inside said speakeasy. Suffice it to say, after a tour of America's mob past, a beverage downstairs will make for a memorable end—no prescription needed!



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NEVADA ROAD TRIPS

# TAKE

Nevada road trips prove

A well-packed car and the open road... those who know, know. There is no better way to escape the daily grind than behind the wheel heading into the great wide open. With 10 classic road trips, Nevada has just the adventure you're looking for. Turn the page for three featured trips to start off your summer adventure.



See page 6 for the full map of all 10 Nevada Road Trips.





## COWBOY CORRIDOR

400 miles | 2 to 4 days

Few road trips brim with as much Western heritage as the Cowboy Corridor. Nevada's Interstate 80 may be what some motorists blast down on their way to somewhere else, but that's their loss! Highway speed limits top 80 mph, but when you hit a town, slow down and take that exit. Beyond the off-ramps, you'll discover lively communities with museums, art galleries, and cuisine highlighting the confluence of buckaroo, Basque, and American Indian traditions.

# THE WHEEL

it's all about the journey.



## BURNER BYWAY

110 to 250 miles | 2 to 4 days

Come trace the art-lined route Burners take on their annual pilgrimage "home" to Burning Man, the wild arts event held in the mystical Black Rock Desert. Each fall, the pop-up metropolis of Black Rock City springs to life and—just as quickly—disappears. However, around northwestern Nevada, the Burning Man spirit never leaves. Road trip the Burner Byway any time of year and you'll discover how Nevada's "why not" attitude and unmatched freedom energize people to come create something magical.



## GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

This route offers some of the West's most majestic terrain, beginning with sandstone canyons and ending with ancient bristlecone pine forests below some of the nation's darkest skies. In five days, you'll steer from Las Vegas to Ely to Great Basin National Park, diving into the larger-than-life landscapes of several state parks including Valley of Fire and Cathedral Gorge, as well as charming communities and historic ghost towns.



## NEON TO NATURE

60 to 210 miles | 1+ day per loop

Las Vegas is good at keeping people occupied, but if you're looking for places beyond the glow, these three mini road trips will have you exploring the world-famous Hoover Dam, outdoor playgrounds like Red Rock Canyon and Valley of Fire, and charming towns—and still get you back in time for your dinner reservation, spa treatment, or Elvis-officiated wedding.



## DEATH VALLEY RALLY

Up to 370 miles | 3 to 4 days

Nothing is more extreme than a road trip from Las Vegas to Death Valley National Park—or rather, nothing has more extremes. On this dive into the state's southwest, you'll cruise from the lowest point in North America to the nearly 12,000-foot Mt. Charleston, imbibe at rugged biker bars and elegant wineries, and explore sprawling sand dunes and ancient bristlecone pines.



## FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

"Fear and Loathing" hallucinations have nothing on the real-world wackiness along US-95, where psychedelic free-range art meets the American West. We're talking kaleidoscopic boulder towers, a "forest" of junk cars, "post-Playa" Burning Man sculptures, and beyond. The 500 or so miles also wander through several colorful towns, home to intriguing murals, top-notch art galleries, and iconic places to stay—including one with the world's largest private collection of clowns.



## LAKE TAHOE LOOP

145 miles | 2 to 5 days

Kick things off in always-hip Reno, then cruise around world-famous Lake Tahoe, the "Jewel of the Sierra Nevada." Vast, crystal-clear, and encircled by alpine peaks, Lake Tahoe is a summertime paradise, a winter wonderland, and a year-round haven for resort-goers and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Just over the hill lie some of Nevada's most intriguing destinations, iconic history, and best-kept secrets—including idyllic Carson Valley, the capital town of Carson City, and wildly Western Virginia City.

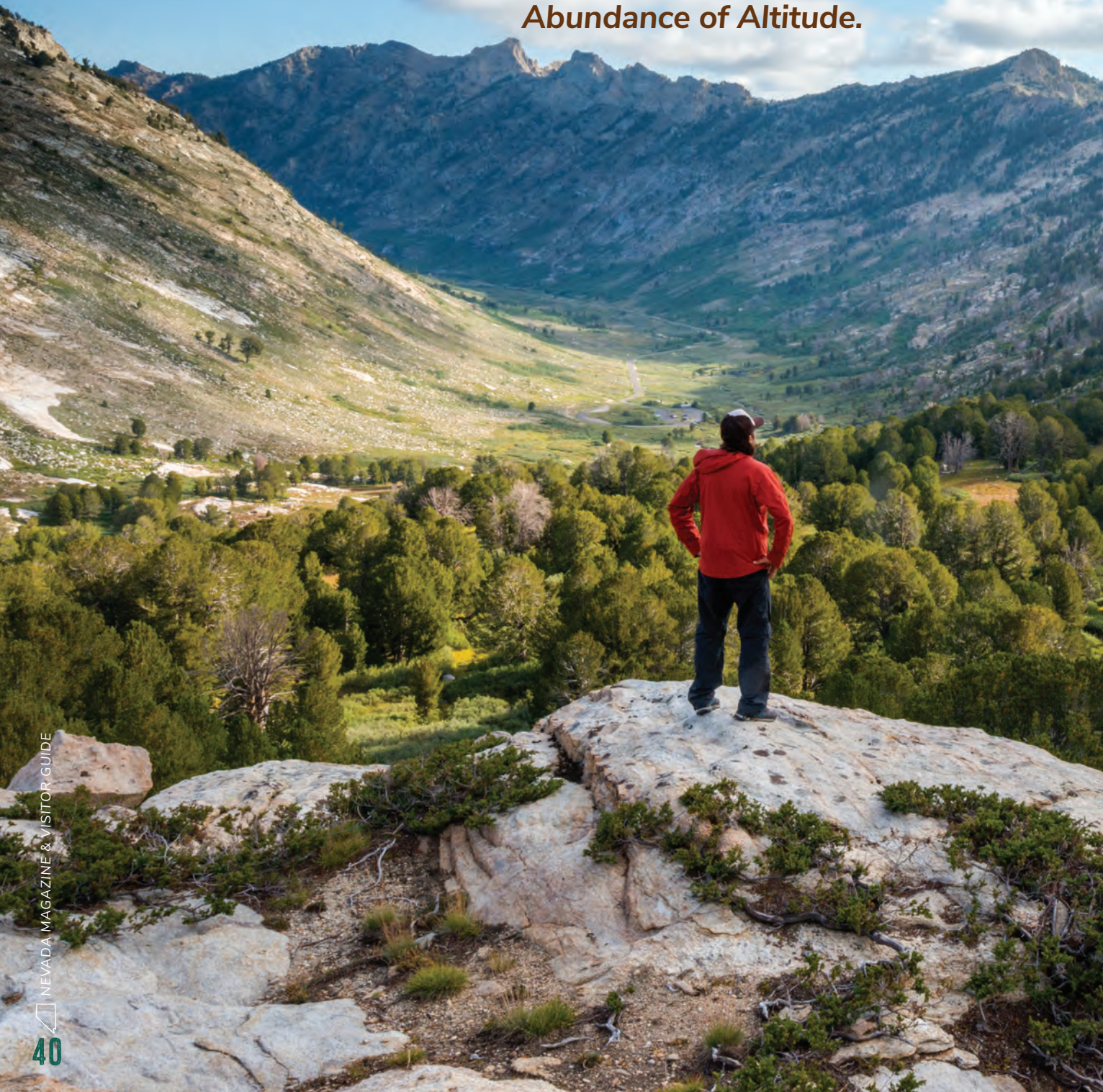




#RubiesRoute  
[TravelNevada.com/Rubies-Route](https://TravelNevada.com/Rubies-Route)

# A GEM OF A ROAD TRIP

The Rubies Route Serves up an Abundance of Altitude.





## HIT THE ROAD

**Start:** Elko

**Suggested Duration:** 2-5 days

**Distance:** 30 to 375 mi

With Elko as your hub for this perfect jewel of a road trip, you'll have the choice of three main spokes that lead to scenic slices of recreation-packed paradise. Chase trails in stunning Lamoille Canyon, wildlife at Ruby Lake and Angel Lake, or wind your way through wild country toward Jarbidge, one of the West's last true frontier towns.



## ELKO TO LAMOILLE CANYON AND THE RUBY MOUNTAINS

Called Nevada's Alps, the Ruby Mountains' craggy peaks—capped by Ruby Dome at 11,387 feet—rise nearly a mile above the valley floor. A 45-minute drive puts you at the top of **Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway**, where scenic trails offer everything from afternoon jaunts to multi-day thru-hikes on the **Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail**. Whichever you choose, you're never far from beautiful, trout-packed alpine lakes. In winter, the byway closes to cars and becomes a snowmobile superhighway with around 300 inches of annual snowfall. Elko's hotels and motels offer all the amenities, but closer to the mountains are the rustic **Hotel Lamoille** and two **swanky wilderness yurts**—one on top of a Ruby Mountain ridge, another tucked back in the woods on a babbling brook.

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MORE INFO



RUBIES ROUTE

Get a full itinerary, plus road trip essentials, including downloadable directions, maps, podcasts, and tunes curated for your adventure.



LAMOILLE CANYON



RUBY CREST NATIONAL  
RECREATION TRAIL



RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Larry Burton (Ruby Lake)



## ELKO TO RUBY LAKE AND ANGEL LAKE

If mostly-unpaved Harrison Pass is open, stop at remote **Jiggs Bar** for a cold one on your way to Ruby Valley. If it's not, take paved Secret Pass/NV-229.

### Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

offers a 370,000-acre panorama of watery grandeur, home to 220 species of birds and plenty of fish. Embark on the wildly photogenic **Angel Lake Scenic Drive**, an aspen-laden gem where wildlife abound, hidden just 12 miles up from I-80. If you don't already have a comfy bed waiting for you in Elko, **Wells** has you covered. Spring for an **Uncommon Overnighter with teepee glamping** at a wild horse refuge or a **luxurious lodge on a working ranch**.



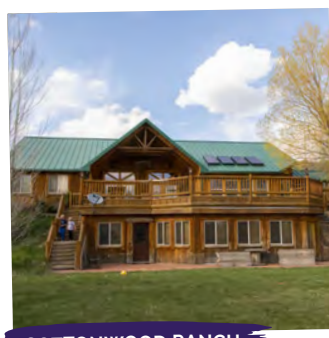
JIGGS BAR



JARBIDGE WILDERNESS AREA



OUTDOOR INN



COTTONWOOD RANCH

## ELKO TO JARBIDGE

It doesn't get much more off-the-grid than **Jarbridge**. Site of the last American gold rush and stagecoach robbery, this Wild Western town (seasonal population: 11 to 100) draws anglers, off-roaders, shutterbugs, and nature-lovers. The picture-perfect **Jarbridge Wilderness**

**Area** is one of the most remote corners of the lower 48. The dirt roads from Elko only get plowed once a year (around July 4) and get snowed in as early as October. Alternatively, there's a paved route via Jackpot into Idaho and back down to Jarbridge. With all the effort to get there and all the splendor waiting at the end of the trail, we

recommend an overnigher at the **Outdoor Inn**.

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Heading to Jarbridge requires planning—and maybe some extra fuel. When the dirt road is open (July–October, usually) the route is 105 miles (unpaved), one way. If it's closed, going through Jackpot into Idaho and back down is 195 miles. Either way, it's worth it.





#ExtraterrestrialHighway  
[TravelNevada.com/Extraterrestrial-Highway](http://TravelNevada.com/Extraterrestrial-Highway)

# AN OTHERWORLDLY ADVENTURE

*Blast off on the  
Extraterrestrial Highway.*

## HIT THE ROAD

**Start:** Las Vegas

**Suggested Duration:** 2 days

**Distance:** 100+ mi

**Loop from Las Vegas:** 470 mi

Welcome to Alien Country. We can neither confirm nor deny the rumors of alien spacecraft, top secret technology, or little green dudes. One thing we can promise? When you pilot your vessel along the wide-open roads through this otherworldly wilderness, you'll get why a "visitor" would cross the galaxy to enjoy this slice of the Silver State. Feast your curiosity on such Extraterrestrial Highway landmarks as the Black Mailbox and Little A'Le'Inn, and get ready to meet some friendly humans who don't need a phone to call these lovably odd locales home.









The Extraterrestrial Highway—State Route 375—runs past the **Nevada National Security Site** (aka the Nevada Test Site), including that portion known as Area 51—a top secret part of the site that the government didn’t even admit was real until 2013. An alien-themed jerky shack, a knick-knack-packed “research center,” a UFO-themed bar-café, and spectacular night skies full of stars (and other things?) also await along SR 375.



PAHRNATAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

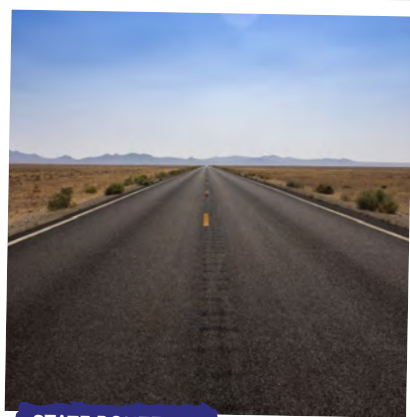


ET SIGN BY CRYSTAL SPRINGS

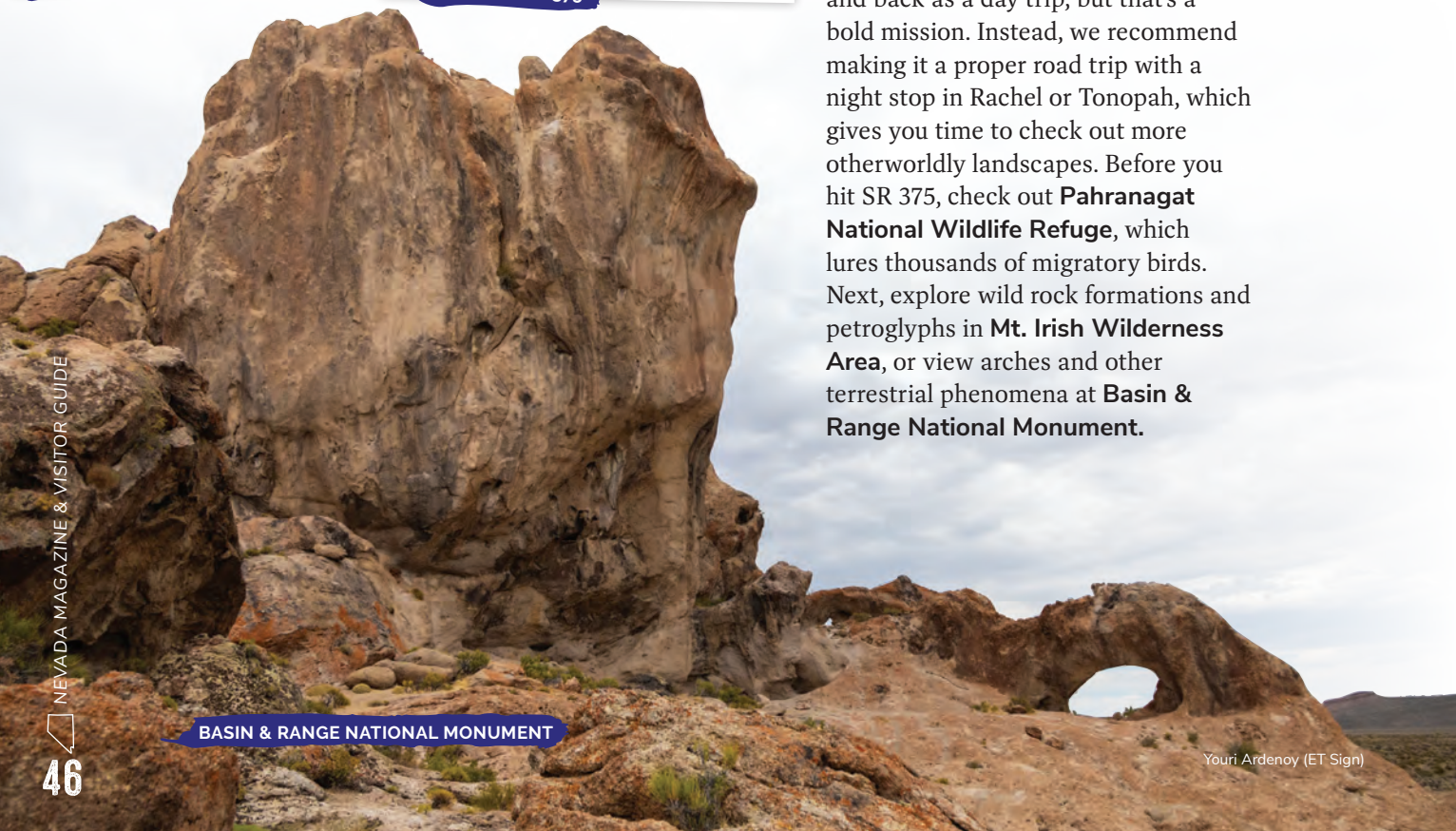
From Vegas, chart a course about 1.75 hours north to **Crystal Springs**. Some voyagers endeavor to rocket there and back as a day trip, but that’s a bold mission. Instead, we recommend making it a proper road trip with a night stop in Rachel or Tonopah, which gives you time to check out more otherworldly landscapes. Before you hit SR 375, check out **Pahrnatagat National Wildlife Refuge**, which lures thousands of migratory birds. Next, explore wild rock formations and petroglyphs in **Mt. Irish Wilderness Area**, or view arches and other terrestrial phenomena at **Basin & Range National Monument**.



MT. IRISH WILDERNESS



STATE ROUTE 375



BASIN & RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Youri Ardenoy (ET Sign)



**E.T. FRESH JERKY****TONOPAH MINING PARK****THE CLOWN MOTEL****LUNAR CRATER**

Gas up in **Alamo** or **Ash Springs** (your next chance is 52 miles away at the **Alien Cowpoke** in Rachel), then snag snacks at **E.T. Fresh Jerky**, where you can pose with life-size, mural-ized “out-of-towners”—and find the cleanest restrooms in Area 51. Head a mile west to the iconic **Extraterrestrial Highway Sign**, then launch onto SR 375. Don’t miss the **Alien Research Center** (thanks to the giant, silver space dude... you won’t), the **Black Mailbox**, or the **Little A’Le’Inn** in eccentric Rachel, the only “town” for miles.

The only place to stay out here is the tiny town of **Rachel**, home to funky multi-room “units” (AKA spiffed-up portables) and a free sci-fi stocked VHS library. The next rooms are 110 miles farther down the road in Tonopah.

Whether you’re coming in for a landing from cruising the E.T. Highway or sticking around for a day in the “Queen of the Silver Camps,” Tonopah offers more to explore. Trade aliens for poltergeists at some “Ghost Adventures”-certified haunts—**The Mizpah Hotel** and **The Clown Motel**—both of which you can stay the night in. Get a less spectral, hands-on glimpse of history touring the **Central Nevada Museum**, a **100-acre mining park**, or nearby Belmont, a ghost town complete with a saloon.

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Moonwalk in the footsteps of actual astronauts at 430-ft-deep Lunar Crater, about 70 miles southwest of Tonopah. Lunar Crater and its surrounding smaller craters are so much like the landscape found on the moon that the area was used by astronauts in the 1970s to train in preparation for lunar missions.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



EXTRATERRESTRIAL HIGHWAY

Get a full itinerary, plus road trip essentials, including downloadable directions, maps, podcasts, and tunes curated for your adventure.

**BLACK MAILBOX**



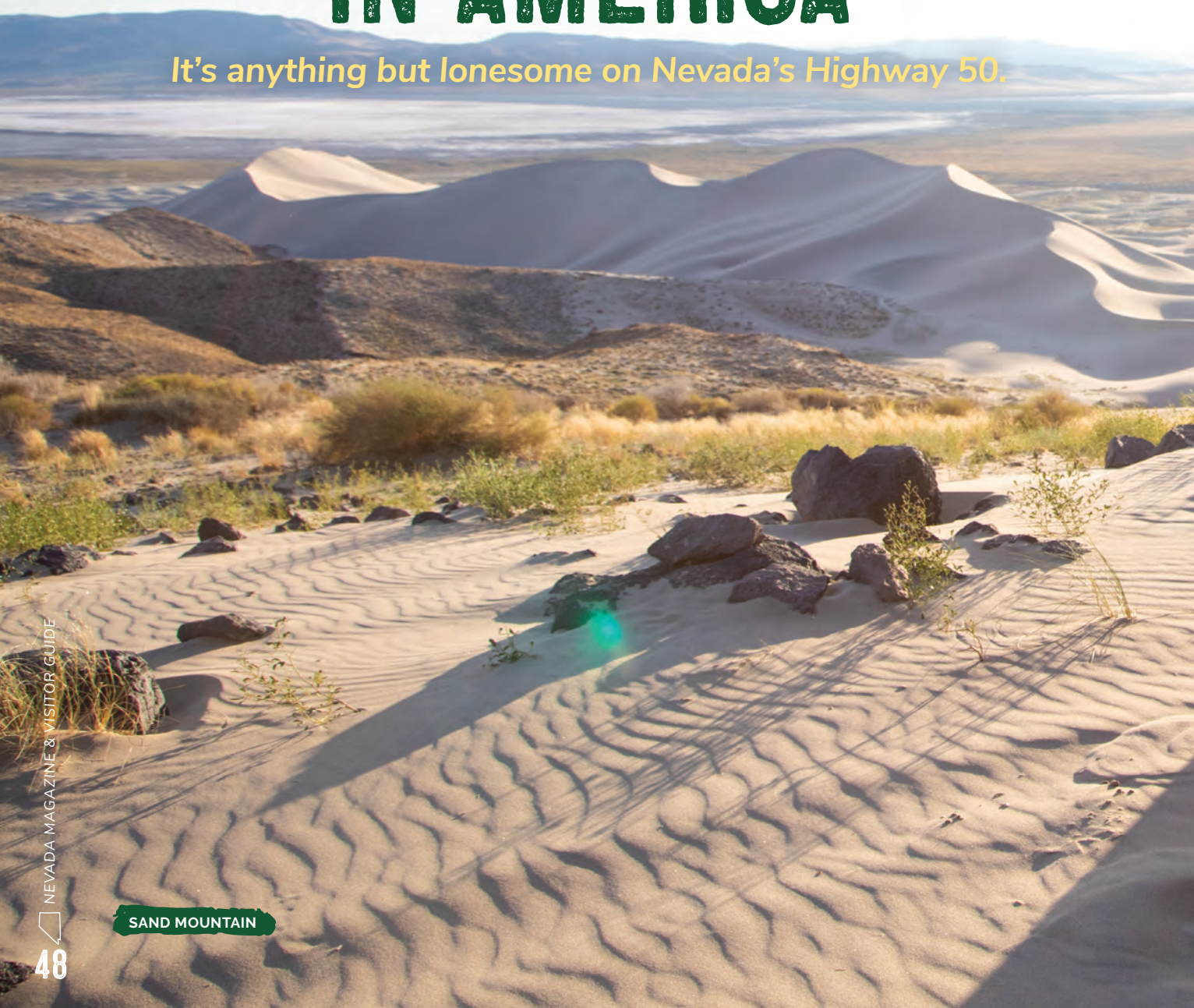


#LoneliestRoadInAmerica

TravelNevada.com/Loneliest-Road-In-America

# THE LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

*It's anything but lonesome on Nevada's Highway 50.*





## HIT THE ROAD

**Start:** Reno or Carson City

**Suggested Duration:** 3 days

**Distance:** 375-500 mi

American Indians, the Pony Express, gold miners, and now, you—come chase some history while making plenty of your own. If it's outdoor action you're after, get ready for hiking, biking, camping, stargazing, hot springing, off-roading, wildlife watching, and Sagebrush Saloon-hopping. You'll encounter a few far-flung—but just-close-enough small towns—from farm-fresh Fallon to history-packed Austin, Eureka, and Ely. Cap it all off at Great Basin National Park, where sky-scraping peaks and 5,000-year-old trees beckon visitors who prefer their national parks served without a side of elbows at their vista points.





From Nevada's cultured-up capital of Carson City, hit the road east to Dayton—the historic mining town where Nevada's first gold discovery was made—then on over to Fallon. The Oasis of Nevada,

*For a taste of Fallon's farm fresh food scene, see page 18.*

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Before you ditch civilization, order a Highway 50 Survival Guide (or grab one at the Visit Carson City offices). Collect stamps in at least five communities along your journey and we'll send you sweet "survivor" swag.



Fallon is the epicenter of Nevada's farm-to-table scene, and it's the access point to ancient petroglyphs at Hidden Cave and **Grimes Point**

### Archeological Site.

Nearby is **Sand Mountain**, one of Nevada's three singing sand dunes (yes, this sand actually produces sound when wind passes over it, thus "singing"). Belly up to the bar at the one-and-only **Middlegate Station**—a Pony-

Express-Station-turned-roadhouse serving up the legendary **Monster Burger Challenge** and plenty of ice-cold beer. Take a load off and enjoy a quiet stay at Austin's **Union Street Lodging B&B** or embark on the Uncommon Overnighter experience of your life at the **Paradise Ranch Castle**.

### MIDDLEGATE STATION



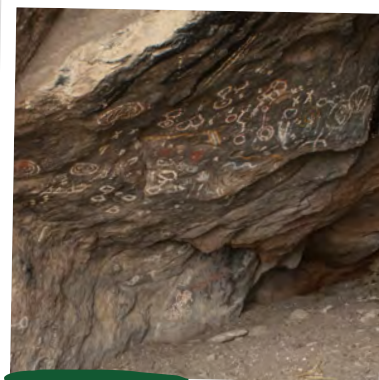
### SPENCER HOT SPRINGS

Some folks blast from Austin to Eureka in just over an hour, but with all these on-the-way wonders, what would be the fun in that? On this next stretch, pull up a stool in a classic **Sagebrush Saloon**

with a Big Smoky Valley view at the Lucky Spur Saloon. Next, soak your cares away while listening for the bray of wild burros at **Spencer Hot Springs**, then examine **millennia-old cave paintings and rock carvings** at Toquima Cave and Hickison Petroglyphs. Once you arrive in Eureka, rest your head at the **Eureka Doll House** or **Jackson House Hotel & Tea Room**.



### EUREKA DOLL HOUSE



### TOQUIMA CAVE



The short 90-minute drive from Eureka to Ely offers plenty of time to fill your day exploring a mountain town built on art, history, and outdoor adventure. Stop at **Garnet Hill** to search for gemstones before rolling into town, where you'll find more gems at the bauble-filled **Garnet Mercantile**, plus paintings at the **Ely Art Bank** and on a town-wide **mural tour**. After wandering trails, rails, and historic sites, treat yourself to a hearty dinner and rest up at the **Prospector Hotel & Gambling Hall** for the last leg of the Loneliest Road in America.

SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

Get a full itinerary, plus road trip essentials, including downloadable directions, maps, podcasts, and tunes curated for your adventure.



GARNET HILL



ELY ART BANK

Start your final day with an hour-and-change drive that whisks you to **Great Basin National Park**, a sanctuary where solitude can still be found and nature runs wild. Wander among **5,000-year-old bristlecone pine trees**—the oldest living things on Earth. Drive up to 10,000 feet and hoof it up to 13,064 feet at **Wheeler Peak**—Nevada's second tallest. Navigate stalactites and stalagmites at stunning **Lehman Caves**, then discover why “half the park is after dark” as you scan the Lower 48's **darkest night skies**. The tiny town of Baker has tasty restaurants, plus cozy places to lay your head as you dream about your next adventure on America's Loneliest Road.



LEHMAN CAVES



# Step Into Reno's Past

Take this guided stroll of the town's cultural center.

BY CORY MUNSON

So you're in Reno and want to get acquainted with the city: where should you start? Consider this walking tour a primer for exploring the city. Beginning next to the neon and nightlife of downtown, you'll end your walk on a bohemian street where locals shop and dine. Along the way, discover a post office-turned-indie mall, a riverside restaurant on Reno's most historic site, and one of the town's earliest buildings. We begin just south of the Truckee River right after crossing the bridge on Virginia Street.

## DOWNTOWN POST OFFICE (1933)

In 1931, Nevada passed two laws that were found nowhere else in the country: legalized gambling and speedy divorces. As the largest town in the state, Reno quickly became America's hottest tourist destination.

To support the flood of mail that followed visitors, a new post office was needed. Officials chose a site that was then home to the Carnegie Free Library, built in 1904 after Andrew Carnegie donated today's equivalent of \$1.5 billion to construct libraries across the nation.

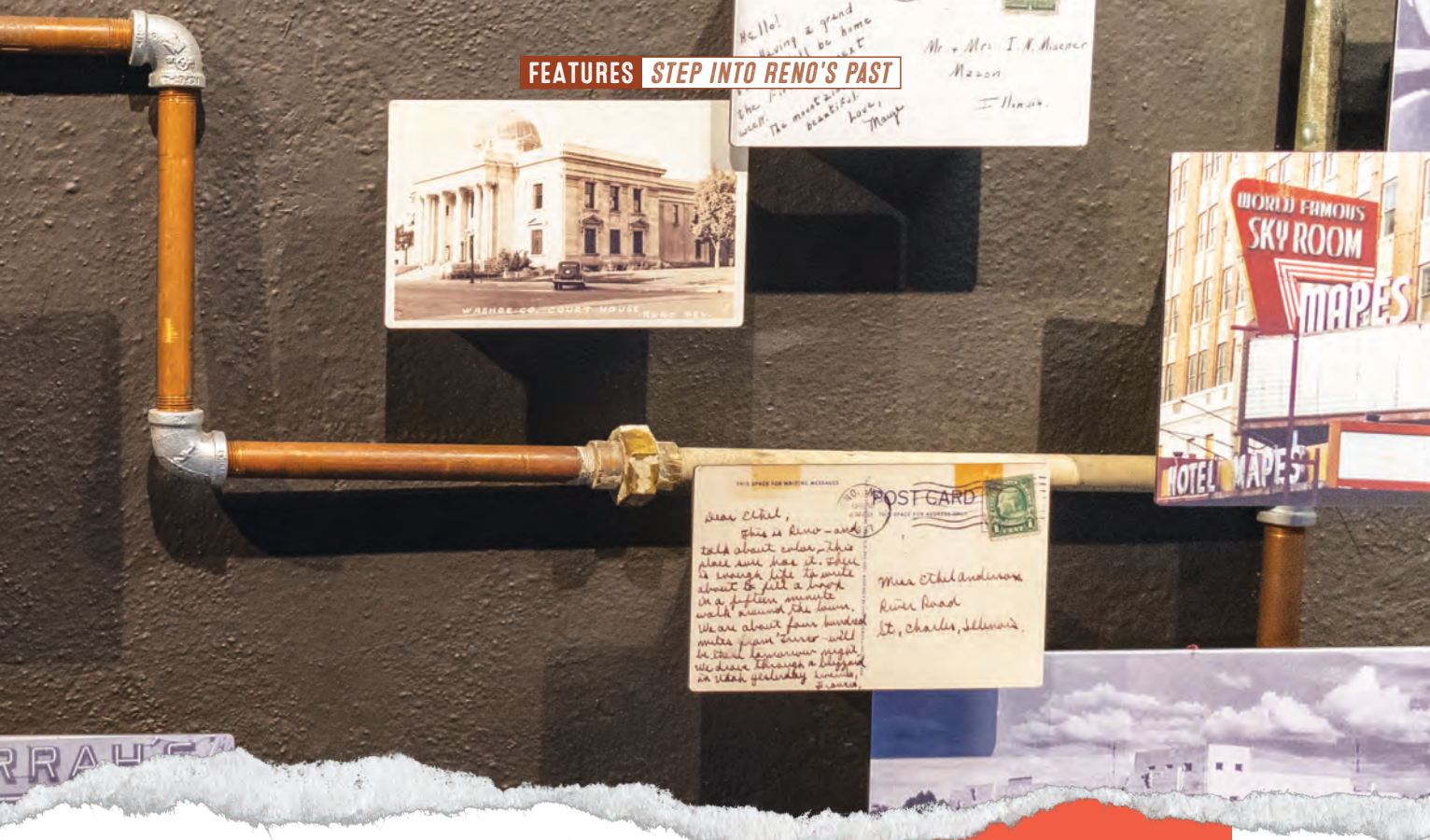
The small library had been vacant for years, so it was demolished to make room.

The new post office was designed by Reno-native Frederic DeLongchamps, a prolific architect whose work is found throughout northwestern Nevada, including the two buildings across the street: the Riverside Hotel and the Washoe County Courthouse.





## FEATURES STEP INTO RENO'S PAST



The post office was designed in the Art Deco style, a departure from the columns and vaulted ceilings found in many government buildings of the time. The exterior—terracotta made to look like chiseled granite—is decorated with fanlike aluminum grills and bands of geometric designs. Above the entrance, you'll find massive eagles whose heads alone weigh 200 pounds apiece.

The inside is adorned with black marble, aluminum, a central skylight, and maple flooring. Keep an eye out for the intricate geometric designs that cover the interior, including an airplane and winged Mercury—symbols of progress—above the doors.

In 1975, a new main post office was built, and the downtown building continued as a branch until it was closed in 2012. The building was reopened in 2015 as a commercial space. On the main floor you'll find well-preserved remnants of the old post office and a department store. Head downstairs and spend time wandering The Basement. This quirky marketplace is filled with tiny, independently owned stores and restaurants.

### THREE'S COMPANY

The triumvirate of buildings south of the river—the hotel, the post office, and the courthouse—were the engine that ran Reno's lucrative divorce industry. For out-of-staters looking to end their marriage, only a six-week residency in Nevada was required. The courthouse, built in 1911, verified more than 30,000 divorces during the 1930s alone.







RIVERSIDE HOTEL BUILDING TODAY

## RIVERSIDE HOTEL (1927)

Across the street from the post office is a grand brick building that marks the site where Reno began. In 1859, Charles Fuller built the valley's first permanent structures: a ramshackle inn and a wooden bridge. The station—called Fuller's Crossing—was used by miners to cross the Truckee River on their way to the rich mines of Virginia City.

Two years later, a farmer named Myron Lake traded his California ranch for Fuller's Crossing and replaced the old inn with a comfortable lodging called the Lake House.

By 1907, Reno was an up-and-coming railroad town. The Lake House, now under new ownership, was demolished to make room for a monumental 110-room, castle-like brick building called the Riverside Hotel that was, unfortunately, destroyed by fire in 1922. The site was then purchased by George Wingfield—one of the richest men in the state—who hired DeLongchamps to design the fourth and final building to occupy the site.

Wingfield's six-story Riverside Hotel opened as the center of Reno's social scene. After the end of Prohibition in 1933, this is where high society enjoyed drinking and gambling, and soon-to-be divorcees rented luxurious rooms.

By the 1960s, however, the Riverside Hotel's fortunes began to fade, and apart from a brief revival in the 1970s, the building spent decades mired in bankruptcy and mismanagement. In the late 1990s, the Riverside was scheduled to be demolished—only to be saved in a last-minute local campaign led by the Sierra Arts Foundation.

Today, the building's upper levels have been converted to artist lofts. Its west side was demolished, and a stroll over there will reveal The Eddy: an artsy container park offering food and drink (see page 110). On the bottom floor is the Wild River Grille—an excellent eatery where outdoor seating allows for the perfect view of the Truckee River.



RIVERSIDE HOTEL CIRCA 1927



## LIVE LIKE A LOCAL

As you stroll along the Downtown Reno Riverwalk, take the bridge into Wingfield Park. During the spring and summer, this is a popular spot for anglers, sun-bathers, and live music. After watching folks float the Truckee River, you might be inspired to try it out yourself. Several businesses nearby offer tube rentals and a shuttle upriver.



VISIT HISTORIC FALLON

THE MAINE STREET EXPERIENCE

10am - 4pm | \$25 per person

Reservations Required ~ Book Today!

Spend the day enjoying a historic tour of Maine Street that includes:

- Admission & personal guided tour of Churchill County Museum
- Lunch at the museum catered by The Slanted Porch
- Tour of Historic Fallon Theater & viewing of a classic movie

*The Slanted Porch*

Available Saturdays  
Maximum capacity 35 people

Shop Maine Street Boutiques  
as you enjoy your day!




For information and reservations: Teri Hedgpeth  
director@ccmuseum.org | 775-423-3677




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## LAKE MANSION (1877)

At this point, you might be wondering where you can find a building that is really old. From the Riverside, walk west—toward the Sierra Nevada Mountains—along the charming Riverwalk, then turn south at Arlington Street and walk a block up the hill. You'll find the beautiful white manor that once belonged to Myron Lake.



Stay tuned for more Nevada history! In the next issue, we'll explore the origins of the State Flag and trek through the ghost towns of Elko County.

After purchasing Fuller's Crossing, Lake made a fortune granting land rights to the railroad—a decision that literally put Reno on the map. Lake died a few years after purchasing the home, which then passed to his ex-wife and son.

Originally built on the corner of California and Virginia Street, the house was relocated to its present location in 2004. Today, the building is an art teaching and cultural center operated by Arts for All Nevada. Contact the organization to schedule a tour of the mansion.



LAKE MANSION CIRCA 1890

## ONWARD TO CALIFORNIA (AVENUE)

At the Lake Mansion, you can look south toward Reno's Midtown district and California Avenue: a vibrant pedestrian street that offers plenty of window shopping along with dozens of trendy restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. You'll find Sundance Bookstore, the Nevada Museum of Art, and historic neighborhoods to complement your afternoon stroll.





# DISCOVER

A DIVERSE TERRAIN



[VisitFallonNevada.com](http://VisitFallonNevada.com) | [#VisitFallon](https://twitter.com/VisitFallon)



## IMMERSE

*Yourself in History*



## EXPLORE

*Natural Beauty*



## INSPIRE

*Creativity*



## TASTE

*Locally Sourced Products*







# Tribal Art and Culture

## FROM THE GREAT BASIN

### GREAT BASIN NATIVE ARTIST GALLERY

For nearly 10,000 years, the Great Basin has been home to a rich tapestry of cultures and peoples including the Washoe (Wa She Shu), the Northern Paiute (Numu), the Southern Paiute (Nuwu), and the Western Shoshone (Newe). Today, their stories and craftwork are easily discovered and appreciated in cultural centers, galleries, museums, and gift shops around the state.

### GREAT BASIN NATIVE ARTIST GALLERY

Carson City

The Great Basin Native Artists (GBNA) is a Southwest-based group committed to discovering Native artists and presenting their work to the public. The organization also collects historic and modern works of the Great Basin's Indigenous artists, which can be found at their archive in the Nevada Museum of Art.

GBNA's new, permanent gallery at the Stewart Indian School displays historic pieces and contemporary works. The collection, curated by artist Melissa Melero-Moose, rotates semi-yearly.





## MEET THE ARTIST



Micqaela Jones  
The Basketweaver  
Acrylic on canvas with glass beads  
[artbymicqaela.com](http://artbymicqaela.com)



WOVEN BASKET

“Our first few shows are just a warmup to introducing visitors to the Great Basin’s contemporary art scene,” says Melero-Moose. “Our future exhibitions will focus on regional Indigenous issues and perspectives while providing opportunities for some artists to have their own shows in the gallery.”

The gallery’s current exhibit—titled “Basketry and Art of the Great Basin”—will run through June 3 and features examples of burden baskets, cradleboards, baby rattles, winnowing trays, and contemporary works.



TULE DUCK

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Native works can be found in museum gift shops around the state, including the Churchill County Museum, Nevada State Museum, the Nevada Historical Society, and the Northeastern Nevada Museum.



## MEET THE ARTIST



Linda Eben Jones  
Quail with Yellow Flowers  
Beaded purse

## PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER

Nixon

Standing on the shores of Nevada's most iconic desert lake, this center perfectly complements a day of adventuring on and near the water. Included among the handmade tools, beadwork, and jewelry, the center's exhibits explore the area's past and the lake's importance to the Paiute people. Visitors will also discover the natural history of Pyramid Lake and the bountiful fish and bird populations that enjoy this National Wildlife Refuge.



PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER







## LOST CITY MUSEUM

Moapa Valley

Built on the actual prehistoric site of the ancestral Puebloans, the Lost City Museum tells the stories of Nevada's first permanent residents between AD 200 to AD 1200. Tools, pottery, and other artifacts—recovered from the on-site excavation pit—offer a glimpse of Puebloan life in the region for centuries, while basketry and contemporary regional art highlight lasting links between culture, then and now.

LOST CITY MUSEUM

## MEET THE ARTIST



Topaz Jones  
Intertribal-twining  
Red and white cedar, beads,  
freshwater pearl, pine nut, buckskin  
[topazjones.artspan.com](http://topazjones.artspan.com)





## MEET THE ARTIST



Karma Henry  
*Grandma's Corn*  
Acrylic on canvas  
[karmahenry.com](http://karmahenry.com)

## STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER

Carson City

Opened in Jan. 2020, the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center is home to the Great Basin Native Artist Gallery and adjacent museum dedicated to the school's century-long history.

Just outside the center, a stone building houses a gift shop that contains the state's largest assortment of goods created by Native artists and artisans. Among the vibrant display of wares for purchase are tule duck decoys; jewelry; balms, salves, and sprays made from locally harvested pine nut and sage; and a large collection of artist prints and paintings.



To learn more about the Great Basin Native Artists, their projects, and future exhibitions, visit [greatbasinnativeartists.com](http://greatbasinnativeartists.com).

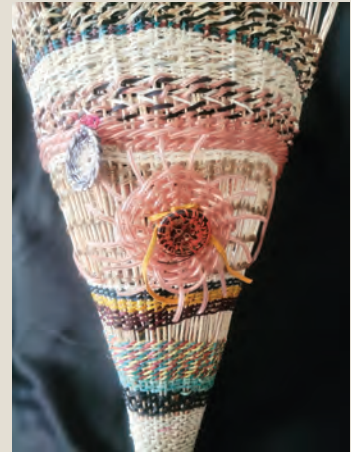






STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER

## MEET THE ARTIST



Loretta Burden  
Basket  
Willow string, copper, and bead

**LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY**  
★ **JB & MARIE LEKUMBERY** ★  
*COOKIN' UP GOOD TIMES along with great food*  
BEANS, BREAD, SALAD AND LAMB, THE PERFECT RECIPE FOR MAKING FRIENDS OUT OF STRANGERS.  
HUNGRY?

TRAVEL NEVADA

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT GARLIC BREATH MAY HELP LUBRICATE THE ART OF CONVERSING? WHEN EVERYONE AT THE TABLE IS UNDER ITS INFLUENCE THEN IT LIKELY DOES BECAUSE AT THE JT BAR & DINING ROOM ON MAIN STREET, THE TABLE IS SET FOR BIGHEARTED PEOPLE WHO APPRECIATE OLD WORLD MASTERPIECES AND A SIDE ORDER OF NEWFOUND FRIENDSHIPS. THE KIND OF SPIRIT THAT RUNS RAMPANT IN CARSON VALLEY.

**CARSON VALLEY**  
NEVADA  
[visitcarsonvalley.org](http://visitcarsonvalley.org)





Nevada's

# STATE PARKS

Escape the crowds  
and find adventure in  
Nevada's backcountry.

One of the lures of Nevada's wide-open spaces is the ability to find a bit of solitude in a busy world. Sometimes finding that outdoor quiet requires long treks and dirt roads—not that there's anything wrong with that! But sometimes, that quiet escape can be found just off the highway. No matter your choice, if you're looking to go where the crowds aren't, look no further than these naturally socially-distanced state parks.

## SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

The South Fork Valley, rich with vegetation and a consistent supply of water from the Upper Humboldt River, enticed settlers in 1867. Located about 18 miles south of Elko with the majestic Ruby Mountains as backdrop, the setting is as picturesque as you'll find. And since the construction of the South Fork Dam in 1988, the valley has boasted a 1650-acre reservoir that beckons water-sports enthusiasts and anglers alike.

Known for its trophy-sized trout—along with catfish and bass—South Fork just begs to be fished by boat or along its ample shores. The abundant wildlife draws wildlife enthusiasts year-round. Everything from mule deer, badgers, beavers, and waterfowl call the valley home and are easily spotted throughout the park.



SOUTH FORK

Nevada State Parks (South Fork with jet ski)



## SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK

The 65-acre Eagle Valley Reservoir at Spring Valley State Park offers space for boaters and swimmers in the summer, and fishermen have plenty of room to angle for rainbow, tiger, and German brown trout, even in winter; ice fishing is big at the lake. Regardless of the time of year, hiking on the trail around the reservoir is a great way to take in the valley that has seen settlement since 5500 BC.

There's ample room for camping at Horsethief Gulch Campground's 37 sites, and the Ranch Campground—a couple miles north—has seven sites. Near the day-use area, you can find a boat launch. Head back into the canyon past the reservoir to see an old Mormon stone cabin, and poke around the ranches built in the 1800s.

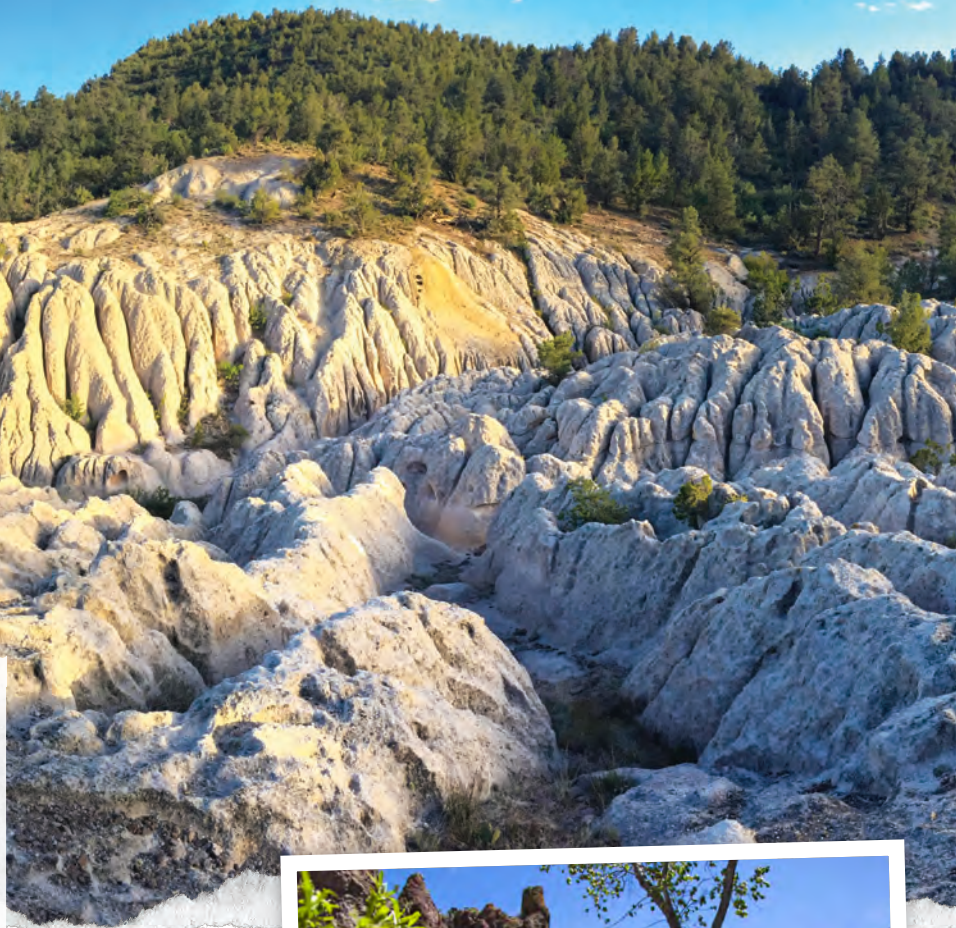




## BEAVER DAM STATE PARK

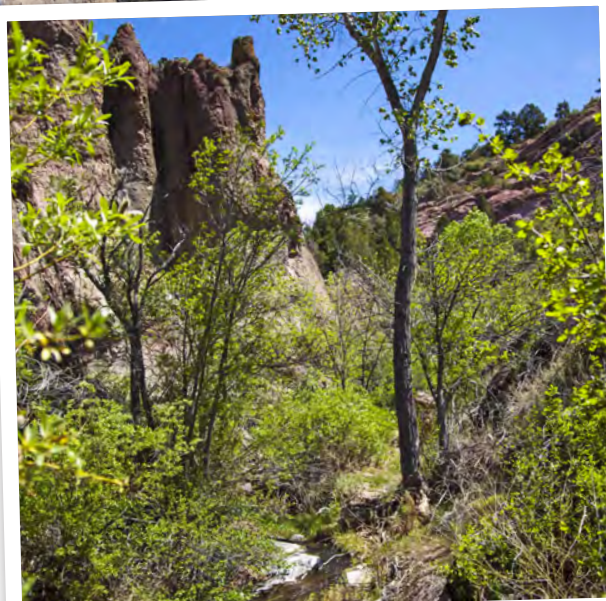
Beaver Dam State Park holds a couple of notable distinctions. It's one of Nevada's first state parks—designated in 1935—and it's also the most remote park in Nevada. It's a 26-mile graded dirt trek off U.S. Route 93 to visit this rustic, almost-hidden gem. If you're searching for solitude, this is your park.

In 1849, pioneers were looking for a shortcut to California's Gold Rush when they came upon Beaver Dam Wash's imposing canyons and gorgeous valley. One family settled down, and a few remnants of their homestead still can be found today.



Structures built by the park's namesake are easily spotted, in addition to so much wildlife the park has been designated a Watchable Wildlife Area. Camping and hiking are seriously advised; if you're going to take the trouble to get here, stay a while and experience one of the many trails in the area leading to sweeping overlooks, waterfalls, and a warm spring. Don't forget to bring a fishing rod for the rainbow trout living in the streams—and, of course, your camera.

As always, call the park office before heading out to check on road conditions.



BEAVER DAM

### RECREATE RESPONSIBLY



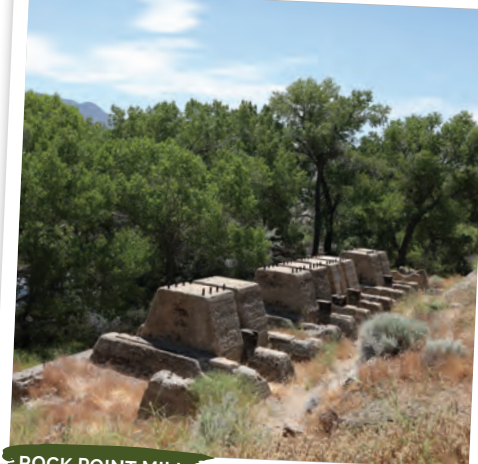
In love with the Silver State as much as we are?

Learn what you can do to help us keep the places we cherish special—and open—for us and future generations. See page 124 for more.



## DAYTON STATE PARK

Dayton State Park's 160 acres are perfectly situated in one of Nevada's oldest settlements, but there does seem to be a little location confusion. The park lives on both sides of Highway 50, and while it was once right on the Carson River, the flood of 1997 shifted the riverbank to the east, away from the park.



ROCK POINT MILL

On the west side of Highway 50, you'll find the remains of Rock Point Mill, which was built in 1861 to process ore from the nearby Comstock Lode. The main park is on the east side of the highway, and here you'll find 10 campsites large enough to accommodate 34-foot-long RVs, a beautiful picnic area with group-use facilities, and two trails. One trail wanders along the Carson River; the other goes under the highway to the mill ruins.

The park opened in 1979, and today it's a lightly-used gathering place for families looking for a place to play amid the myriad cottonwood and willow trees.



CARSON RIVER







## RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA



Rye Patch State Recreation Area is the sole state park in Pershing County, but this beauty can hold its own. Established in 1971, the focus of the park is the reservoir, which stretches 22 miles across the recreation area with a whopping 72 miles of shoreline.

Rye Patch is highly dependent on annual precipitation, so the park's offerings change year-by-year. In high-flow years, swimmers, fisherman, water skiers, and boaters enjoy the splashy splendor of this oasis in the desert. Without high flows, the park can be sparsely populated with campers and fishermen enjoying a still-beautiful, quiet stay.



The park has two campgrounds with 47 sites and two day-use picnic areas. A boat launch on the west side supports year-round fishing. Fish to be found include wipers (a cross between a white bass and a striped bass), white bass, channel catfish, black bass, crappie, and walleye. Three short hiking trails showcase the desert shoreline.



Get it stamped!



The Nevada State Parks Passport can be picked up at any Nevada State Park and serves as a travelogue for visitors. It includes photos, park descriptions, amenity lists, and spaces for validation stamps. Once you have your booklets stamped at 15 different parks, you earn one free annual pass to all Nevada State Parks! Call 775-684-2770 for more information.

Nevada State Parks (Lush Rye Patch)



## WALKER RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA

Walker River State Recreation Area—Nevada’s newest state park—is home to the usual assortment of scenic splendor, recreational activities, and abundant wildlife. At more than 12,000 acres, it is Nevada’s fourth largest state park. The main entrance is at the Pitchfork Ranch, about 10 miles south of Yerington. From that point, it extends nearly 29 miles south along the East Walker River, giving room for everyone to have an almost-solo experience.



KAYAKERS ON WALKER RIVER

Park headquarters are at the Pitchfork complex, featuring a visitor center and shaded picnic areas. A pond is used for kayak and water-safety training, and the park provides the equipment for the class. Kayakers with their own gear can take advantage of more than 5 miles of kayak run. There are 16 dry campsites suitable for tents or RVs, each with a shaded table and fire pit. Both pull-through and back-in sites are available, and bathrooms and free shower facilities are available, as is a 7-mile wilderness trail.



WALKER RIVER VISITORS CENTER

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



NEVADA STATE PARKS

See a complete list of Nevada’s parks.



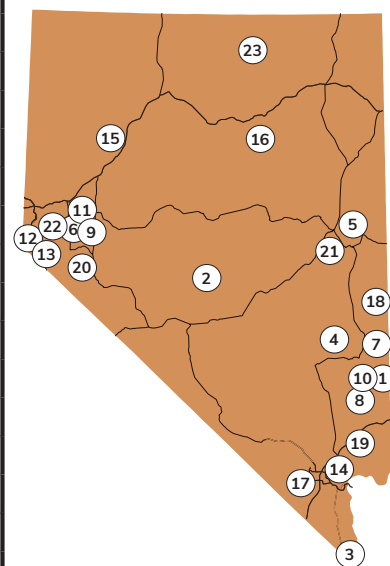
# STATE PARKS

## Directory

Camping  
RV Dump Station  
Flush Restrooms  
Group Camping  
Showers  
Visitor Center  
Boat Launch  
Trails  
Fishing  
Maximum Size  
RV Space

1. Beaver Dam State Park	•			•				•	•	28'
2. Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park	•	•		•		•		•		25'
3. Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area	•	•					•	•	•	60'
4. Cathedral Gorge State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		40'
5. Cave Lake State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	35'
6. Dayton State Park	•	•	•					•	•	35'
7. Echo Canyon State Park	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	35'
8. Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site								•		N/A
9. Fort Churchill State Historic Park	•	•		•		•		•	•	45'
10. Kershaw-Ryan State Park	•	•	•					•		30'
11. Lahontan State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	60'
12. Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	N/A
13. Mormon Station State Historic Park			•			•				N/A
14. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park			•			•		•		N/A
15. Rye Patch State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	45'
16. South Fork State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	30'
17. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park			•			•		•		N/A
18. Spring Valley State Park	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	35'
19. Valley of Fire State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		50'
20. Walker River State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	50'
21. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park	•			•				•	•	30'
22. Washoe Lake State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	45'
23. Wild Horse State Recreation Area	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	60'

Ward Charcoal Ovens  
State Historic Park



**Know Before You Go:**  
Park openings, hours, and services are subject to change. Before visiting, consult the Nevada State Parks website, or call the park ranger.



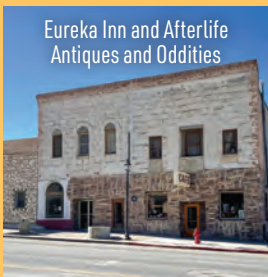
1864

# EUREKA

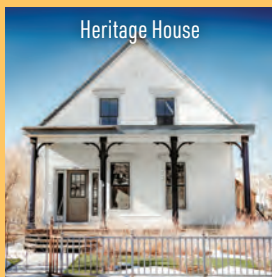
You've found it!

## HISTORIC STAYS AND MEMORABLE DAYS

Eureka Inn and Afterlife  
Antiques and Oddities



Heritage House



1880 Colonnade Hotel



1887 Jackson House



Gold Country Inn



Stone Church Lodge



Sundown Lodge



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Legends of the West  
Bike and Car Fest  
June 10-11



Gold Rush Games  
June 25-26



4th of July Festivities

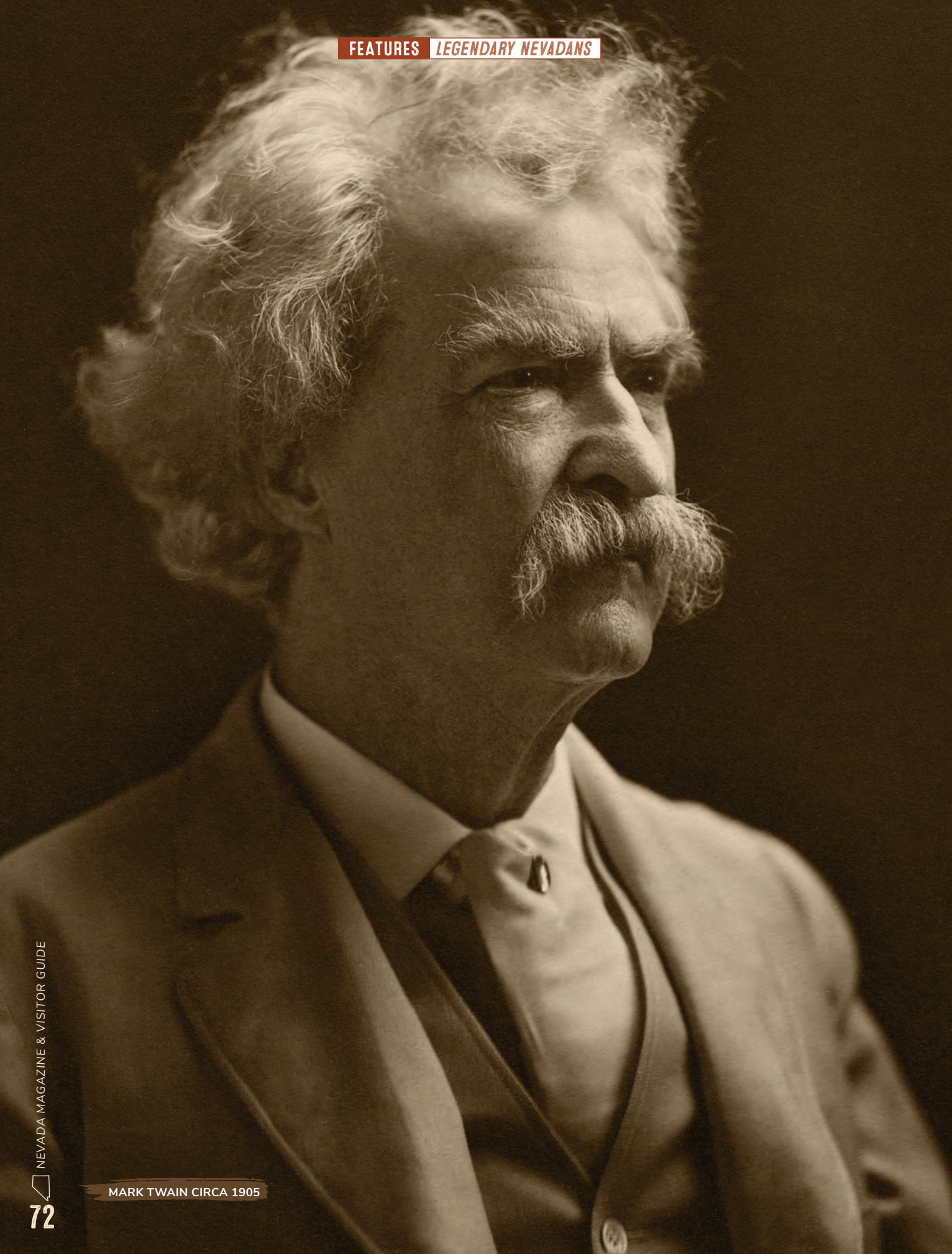


EUREKA TOURISM & RECREATION  
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[VISITEUREKANEVADA.NET](http://VISITEUREKANEVADA.NET)





MARK TWAIN CIRCA 1905



# Legendary Nevadans

## Samuel Clemens becomes Mark Twain.

In 1861, Samuel Clemens was living his childhood dream as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi. The 25-year-old had established himself as a talented, respected navigator and earned a considerable salary of \$70 a week (equivalent to about \$2,000 today).

But that summer, Clemens knew his days as a pilot were over. The Civil War had just begun, and military blockades were undoing his livelihood. With few prospects in his home state of Missouri, a new opportunity suddenly appeared from his older brother.

### NEVADA BOUND



Orion (ORE-ee-un) Clemens was a lawyer who had campaigned for the election of President Lincoln. For his loyalty, Orion was appointed secretary of the newly formed Nevada Territory. Unfortunately, if he wanted the job, he would have to pay for transportation to Carson City. Samuel Clemens saw his opportunity and offered to finance the trip if his brother would hire him as an assistant. The two struck a deal and immediately set off west.

On Aug. 14, 1861, the brothers arrived in Carson City, dusty and travel-worn. Orion Clemens got to work managing affairs for the governor. Samuel Clemens, however, soon became bored with life as a secretary's secretary. After a few weeks, he resigned and set out to find fame and fortune.

### SEEKING TREASURE

The word around Carson City was that a man could make a fortune buying and selling a timber claim. Samuel Clemens traveled to nearby Lake Tahoe and purchased a large piece of forest. To keep his claim, he would have to live on the land and build a fence around his property.

For a few weeks, he lived and worked on the shores of the alpine paradise, but his attention to the timber business slowly drifted. When he wasn't building fences, Clemens was associating with mountain prospectors who often stopped by. These men told him of desert hills and lost mines hiding veins of rich ore. Clemens soon contracted gold fever—known locally as Washoe Fever—and the only cure was to strike it rich.

He traveled to Aurora—a young boomtown three miles on the Nevada side of the California border—and bought up a handful of claims. A month later, he heard

All Nevada is a stage, and cowpokes, artists, activists, and visionaries are the players in a drama centuries in the making. Whether born or raised, these special characters aren't just Nevadans: they're Legendary Nevadans.



Stay tuned for more tales of Legendary Nevadans! In the next issue, we'll follow the life of Jessie Beck, the "Crabblin' Grandma" of Reno who rose up the ranks from cashier to casino owner.



MARK TWAIN'S AURORA CABIN



# TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE

*and Virginia City News*

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Retrace Twain's time in Nevada by getting your picture taken in front of the Territorial Enterprise building in Virginia City.

tales of a new strike in a camp called Unionville. He arrived there in December and stayed in a small cabin for two weeks. When the strike turned out to be a bust, he returned to Aurora and worked his claim. When money ran short, he worked in the local quartz mill to fund his venture.

While in Aurora, Clemens spent his evenings writing articles for the "Territorial Enterprise" newspaper in Virginia City. Clemens had always been drawn to writing: before he was a riverboat pilot, he worked as a

newspaper typesetter and even saw a few of his stories published. The articles sent from Aurora were humorous, semi-autobiographical accounts of life as a hard-luck miner. Rather than submitting the stories under his own name, he simply signed them as "Josh."

## CITY LIFE

Clemens would never find the lode that would make him a millionaire. After five months of hard labor, a letter arrived from Virginia City. Joseph Goodman—editor and owner of the "Territorial Enterprise"—wanted to know if "Josh" would like a job. The salary wasn't large, but with a choice between sweating in the quartz mill or writing in Nevada's biggest boomtown, Clemens elected to pack his bags and walk the 90 miles back to civilization.

In September 1862, he arrived in Virginia City. While only three years old, the town was undergoing a remarkable transformation from tent camp to cosmopolitan city that boasted fine restaurants, French cafés, and grand theaters. In the West, it was rivaled only by San Francisco, and Clemens fell in love with it.

The young reporter enjoyed his new lifestyle. He would go to sleep at dawn, awaken at noon to a large breakfast, cover the streets and saloons, then write into the early morning. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed the privileges of the upper crust and mingled with the town's aristocracy at operas and galas.



THE TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE IN 1895

It was not difficult for Clemens to round up the town gossip and spin it into news. Clemens's magnetic personality endeared him to the public; he was personable, a natural storyteller, a born entertainer, and—as he would readily admit—something of a lovable



scoundrel. His flashy dress and signature cigar dangling from his lip gave him an air of distinction. He was a born writer, and his affinity for humor and fun, colorful language delighted readers. But a propensity for spinning yarns made him a West Coast star.

## TALL TALES AND HOAXES

One of his most famous hoax articles, titled “Petrified Man,” reported the discovery of a man whose body had turned to rock. While it appeared like a news article with expert opinions, scientific facts, and a detailed timeline of the investigation, the story was entirely fake. For readers who caught onto the joke, the stories were entertaining, but when other folks were fooled, they became hilarious.

Virginia City readers were delighted when these hoaxes embarrassed people in power or fooled other newspapers into reprinting them as fact. After a San Francisco newspaper exposed a business in Nevada that had

falsified its earnings, Clemens plotted his revenge. The San Francisco papers, he lamented, never talked about corruption in their own city. He vowed to trick the papers into printing a story that would both embarrass them and expose a California business.

Clemens wrote about a man who had confessed to murdering his wife and nine children with an axe. The man said he did it because he had lost his savings by investing in the Spring Valley Water Company in California. Although there were plenty of outlandish details to indicate it was all a hoax, the graphic story was reprinted in San Francisco papers.

Clemens endured severe public backlash for his trick. When he saw his own paper’s reputation was now tarnished, he offered to quit. Goodman—his unflappable editor—rejected the resignation, stating, “We can supply people with news, but we can’t supply them with sense.” Eventually, the

anger passed, and now everyone knew about the young writer in Virginia City.

## A NEW NAME

By winter of 1862, the young man was an accomplished journalist, yet still missed something every great writer needs: a pen name. In Aurora he was “Josh,” but that lacked gravitas and flair. Since arriving in Virginia City, he had been submitting his articles uncredited.

In December, Clemens was sent to Carson City for six weeks to report on the legislative session. He was not interested in this assignment, but he looked forward to spending time with his brother. Each day, he dutifully recorded the proceedings, then sent his news off to Virginia City.

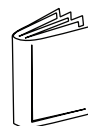
On Jan. 31, 1863, Samuel Clemens sent his report of another dry day at the legislature. Below his dispatch, he finally wrote a name. Where it came from is unclear. Perhaps he used this name for his bar tab, but it could be a term called out by riverboat pilots to indicate safe water. Some believe it was the *nom de plume* of a friend back east. Regardless, he would carry it for the rest of his life. The writer was now Mark Twain.

Twain continued writing for the “Territorial Enterprise” into early 1864, but by spring, he was ready for a new adventure. He loaded a wagon and left Virginia City for San Francisco, though he would return to Nevada twice to perform lectures in 1866 and 1888.

Over the next few decades, Mark Twain would emerge as a national celebrity, and today he is considered one of America’s most cherished authors.



JOSEPH GOODMAN CIRCA 1939



### READ MORE ABOUT IT

You can relive Twain’s Nevada adventures as told by the great writer himself in “*Roughing It*.” You’ll find a copy at Sundance Books in Reno or The Writer’s Block in Las Vegas.





PHOTOGRAPHER ELIZABETH CUMMINGS

# TIPS FOR VIEWING & PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE IN NEVADA

Some of America's favorite wild creatures thrive in Nevada's 3-million-plus acres of wilderness. Keep an eye out for animals you know—after all, more than half the nation's wild horses roam free here—but also species you might not expect like the surface-dwelling desert fish (the world's rarest). Bring your camera; chances for photography and incredible encounters await.

## STAY SAFE

& Respect Nevada's Wildlife

**Enjoy from afar:** wild animals do not need “rescuing” from the elements. Please never feed wild animals, as they can become malnourished or become dependent on human food if fed.

*Picking up desert tortoises is illegal, as they might urinate out of fear, and that loss of water can be life-threatening for them.*

**Respect private property** and posted No Trespassing signs.

**If you pull over on the side of the road,** make sure it's in a safe place and that you pull all the way off the road. Be aware of traffic in both directions.

A few Nevada photographers have shared some tips for photographing Nevada wildlife. First and foremost, never do anything that would cause a significant change in an animal's behavior.

- 1** Whatever creature you're hoping to zoom in on, read up on the Nevada Department of Wildlife's website—you'll find many Nevada creatures are most active at dawn or dusk.
- 2** Leave that cellphone in your back pocket. While the latest cellphone camera technology is sure to impress, a zoom lens helps keep your distance for a more candid shot.
- 3** See signs of animal activity like tracks, scat, worn trails, or even a water source? Settle in and quietly wait.
- 4** Nevada is a land of extremes in any season. Along with some patience, plan for changes in weather, climate, and terrain by packing clothes for both warm and cold. Bring all the gear you think you'll need, and even backups you don't.

Neil Lockhart (photographer), Russ Colletta (elk), James Marvin Phelps (bighorn sheep)



"Avoid merges (overlapping subjects where you can't tell how many animals are in the picture)."

— Russ Colletta



ELK AT COLD CREEK



BIGHORN SHEEP AT VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK



"From wild horses to desert bighorn sheep, spring is a great time to see the newborns and mothers, starting in February in the south (Hemingway Park and Valley of Fire State Park for bighorns). Late summer to early fall is when the males are typically in 'rut' and you can sometimes catch the bighorns ramming horns. Maintain a safe distance, as large mammals can be particularly aggressive during this time."

— James Marvin Phelps





OSPREY IN RENO



BLUE HERONS AT STILLWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

"Before visiting an area, try to establish a relationship with a photographer or birder, especially Audubon Society or local camera club members. Many are enthusiastic about their area and willing to share knowledge."

— Jerry Fenwick

"Birds of prey, in particular, will often poop right before they're about to fly. It's a great predictor for getting an action shot."

— Kippy S. Spilker



RED-TAILED HAWK IN THE CARSON VALLEY

#### LIVE LIKE A LOCAL

Nevada hosts great wildlife-viewing events for the public, including:

- Spring Wings Bird Festival (Fallon)
- Eagles & Ag (Carson Valley)
- Hawk Watch International Goshute Raptor Migration Project (West Wendover)
- Great Basin BioBlitz (Baker)



TRAVEL  
NEVADA  
PRO TIP

Nevada is part of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south migratory path for birds in the Americas, and provides

many important stopover locations for both migrating and overwintering bird species. Find a list of Nevada birding hotspots at [audubon.org/news/birding-nevada](https://www.audubon.org/news/birding-nevada)

**5** Stay in your car when you can to keep concealed and reduce the chance of animals detecting your presence.

**6** Know your camera! Before you head out into the Nevada backcountry, get familiar with your camera settings, bring extra batteries and memory cards, and remember these pro tips:

- You will often want exposures of 1/1000 of a second or faster for sharp images.
- For a faster shutter speed, shoot with a higher ISO than you think you might need.
- Consider a wide-open (lower) aperture, which will provide more focal separation between your subject and background.

**7** Watch for repetitive behaviors and interaction between animals. Action photos are almost always more interesting than static ones.

**8** Be ready to shoot. Keep your camera up to your face while you move if it's safe to do so. Focus and adjust settings as you go.

**9** Wildlife is typically more aware of us than we think. To move closer, try zig-zagging or walking at an angle, rather than straight toward them.



Learn more from the Nevada  
Department of Wildlife

DISCOVER NEVADA'S  
WILD HORSES

HORSES IN LYON COUNTY'S VIRGINIA RANGE

Deb Sutherland, documenter and photographer for the American Wild Horse Campaign (AWHC), on photographing wild horses:

- ★ Never feed or touch wild horses.
- ★ Let them know you are there so they don't startle.
- ★ Move slowly and quietly.
- ★ Watch patiently. Pay attention to band interactions and body language—ears back mean they are not happy.
- ★ Leave them an "out"—somewhere to run if they are afraid so they will not run toward you.
- ★ If they try to approach you, retreat—to your vehicle if necessary.
- ★ If they approach your open window, roll it up.
- ★ Leave pets in your vehicle.
- ★ Always check your surroundings for other horses coming to join those you are photographing.
- ★ Stay outside of the group of horses—never get in the middle of the bands.

Find wild horses in Nevada at [nvwildhorses.com](https://www.nvwildhorses.com). The AWHC and Wild Horse Preservation League work with the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Agriculture, and private landowners to manage the wild horses. You can view the results of this partnership at [wildhorseadventure.net](https://www.wildhorseadventure.net).



# LIP SMACKING FOODIE TOURS

Get a tasty VIP sampling of  
Las Vegas' best restaurants.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Savvy travelers know that the best way to become truly acquainted with a place is through its cuisine—but which restaurants do you choose? How can you get a comprehensive sampling without a big price tag or exhausting trial and error? In southern Nevada, the answer is simple, thanks to Lip Smacking Foodie Tours.









Donald Contursi started the company in 2015 after spending 12 years as a server in some of Las Vegas' most famous eateries. He has created an experience that allows the average diner to enjoy the city's most elegant and sought-after restaurants without any of the pressure or hassle that comes with navigating the world of fine dining.

"I wanted to put together the best possible meal in Las Vegas by highlighting the best signature dishes at the highest-rated restaurants," Donald says. "There is an overwhelming number of restaurants in Las Vegas, and when somebody visits, they are limited to the restaurants they can visit. With a Lip Smacking Foodie Tour, they can experience the best restaurants in Las Vegas as a VIP."

## EPICUREAN DELIGHTS FOR ALL

Donald started with just one tour—Savors of the Strip, which started my love affair with all things Lip Smacking Foodie Tour. As demand grew, he quickly added more options. Whatever taste experience you're looking for, there's a tour for you. I have now taken two, and each was a delicious surprise.



CURRY PASTY AT 7TH & CARSON



DEVIL'S EGGS AT CARSON KITCHEN

### Savors of the Strip

Indulge in an evening at four of The Strip's most sought-after and glamorous restaurants where elegance and fun await the adventurous foodie. A tour highlight is the Bardot Brasserie's wild burgundy snails with toasted hazelnuts in a chartreuse garlic butter, wrapped in a puff pastry shell. The explosion of flavors is unexpected and sublime. Neither a snail nor hazelnut fan, I was elated by the richness of the delicate pastry.

### Afternoon Culinary Adventures

For those looking to keep their evenings free, this casual outing to four restaurants on The Strip is packed with delicious and exciting tastes with three to four signature dishes at each stop. Which restaurants you'll visit is a surprise until you book.

### Downtown Lip Smacking Tour

Venture into the city's original downtown for a look (and taste) of the chef-driven dining scene that has sprung up in this revitalized area. Three independent and seasonally focused eateries reveal why this part of town cannot be overlooked. Dig into a delicious Chicken and Red Velvet Waffle Slider with a red pepper remoulade slaw at Therapy, while 7th & Carson proffers a dazzling Foie Butter & Jelly Sando.

### Arts District Lip Smacking Tour

Three delectable stops provide a deep dive into one of the city's most distinctive and colorful neighborhoods. The cuisine offers delicious tastes so beautifully prepared, you'll think they are part of the artist scene. Sample food from a James Beard finalist, peruse a rum menu with more than 100 choices, and discover arresting art along the way.



## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Although each tour is unique in its offerings, a few things come with every Lip Smacking Foodie Tour. While adding the signature cocktail package is a no-brainer—did someone say flaming absinthe craft cocktails?—the tours' most important ingredient, aside from the food, is your guide. Part ringleader, part concierge, and part font of knowledge, the guides are indispensable; it's as if you've suddenly met the coolest person in town, the one with all the right connections who knows all the best secrets. A secret bar with no signage only locals know about and a restaurant that turns into a nightclub after hours are two such tidbits they'll dispense.

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

More foodie adventures can be had as well. Take a nighttime helicopter ride down The Strip before dinner; sample only the finest steakhouses in town; or gather your friends for a weekend boozy brunch.



THERAPY



CARSON KITCHEN



GRILLED PEAR AND BURRATA AT 7TH & CARSON



7TH & CARSON



CRISPY FRIED CHICKEN SKINS AT CARSON KITCHEN



POTATO GNOCCHI WITH BRAISED SHORT RIB AT 7TH & CARSON





THE DOWNTOWN LIP SMACKING TOUR



Between restaurants, your guide will give you the lowdown on the area as you stroll along at a comfortable pace. You might stop in at a vintage sunglasses shop, where you get to try on specs from the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Zsa Zsa Gabor, or take in some public art. The tour and accompanying stops provide a brief respite from the gastronomic gluttony and are packed full of local secrets and historic trivia.

Once at your destination, your guide whisks you past those poor souls waiting in line and escorts you to a VIP table. Cocktails and beverages arrive moments later, and the sampling menus are printed for your perusal. Orchestrating the dishes' presentation along with fielding myriad questions, the guides are the dining companion you never knew you needed. Every need is addressed, every question answered, and each experience leaves you feeling sated both physically and mentally. It's the full package.

I count myself as a culinary neophyte, and I rarely stray outside my tried-and-true dishes. However, every time I take a Lip Smacking Foodie Tour, I'm left gobsmacked at

the items I've eaten, and more importantly, thoroughly enjoyed. I likely would not have ordered octopus, escargot, or Banoffee tart, but I am so glad I've tried them. I may even order them on my own now. And to me, that's the real beauty of Lip Smacking Foodie Tours: I am enticed to broaden my palate with each bite—and deliciously rewarded for doing so.



## THE ULTIMATE SELFIE

For those looking to taste the best the city has to offer but on their own schedule, Donald has created Finger Licking Foodie Tours. Seven self-guided tours are available throughout the city with immediate seating upon arrival, three signature dishes at each restaurant, and a virtual guide with commentary about each stop. While I would never give up the guided tour, the self-guided option offers some flexibility that is tougher to come by with larger groups.

Whatever culinary adventure you choose, I offer a final piece of advice, one Donald imparted to me on my first tour: go easy on the bread. While utterly decadent in its own right, save that precious appetite for the main courses. These tours will fill you up. Oh, and did I mention there's dessert?



# WIDE OPEN *Beauty*




## DISCOVER REAL NEVADA

This is Real Nevada, where you can discover natural beauty, explore off-road, hike some trails, hunt, fish, camp, or just find a back country diner to learn some Nevada history from one of the locals. So come visit us out here, where the opportunities for getting back to reality are wide open.




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


Game Hunting 


Fishing / Boating 

Bird / Wildlife Viewing 


ATV / Off-Roading 

Mountain Biking 


Camping / RV Hook-up 


Climbing / Bouldering 


Ghost Town Exploring 

Golfing 

Hiking 

UFO Spotting 

History & Petroglyphs 

Diners & Saloons 



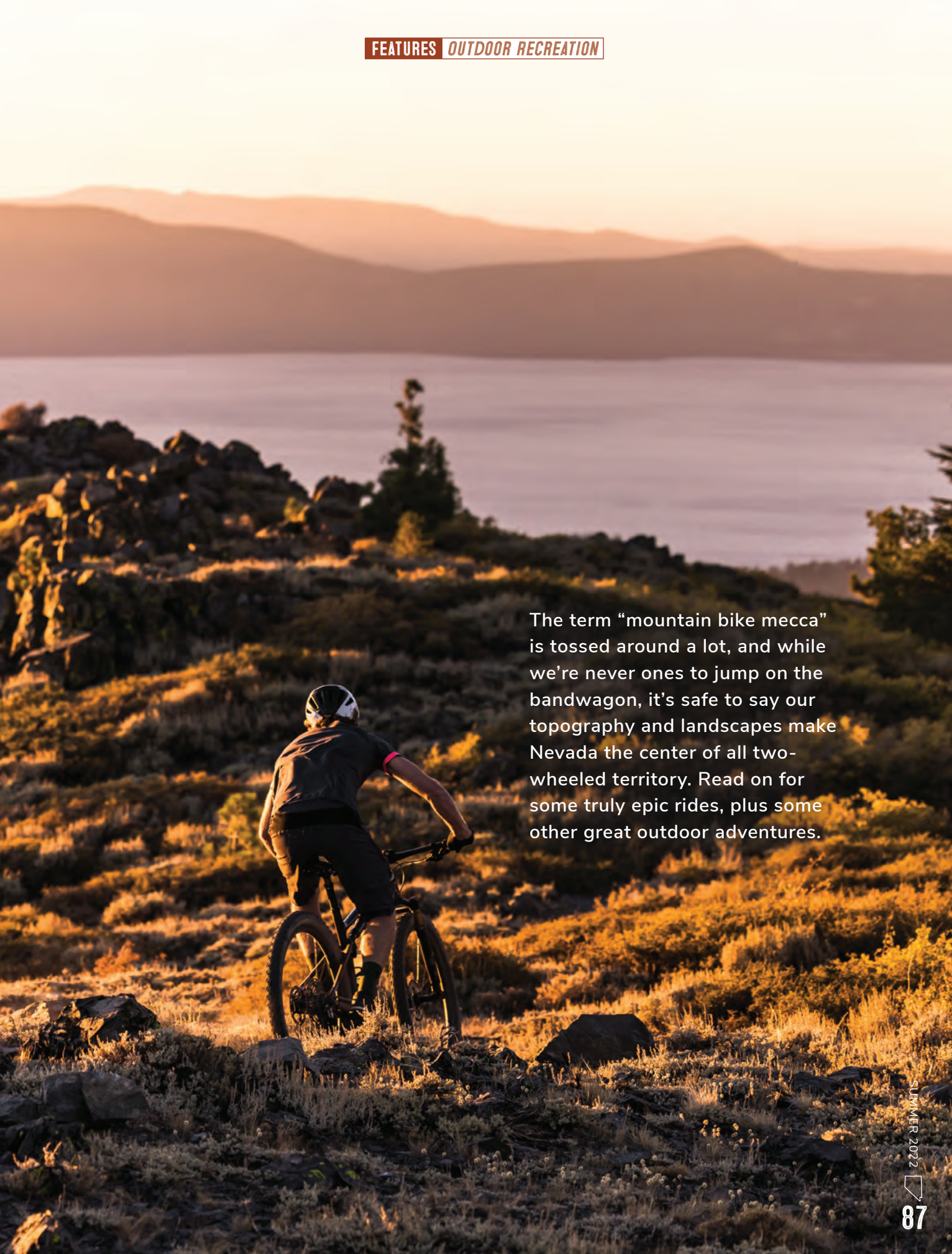
[TRAVELNEVADA.COM](http://TRAVELNEVADA.COM)



# TWO-WHEEL TERRITORY

There is no wrong way to enjoy Nevada, but  
there are plenty of ride ways.





The term “mountain bike mecca” is tossed around a lot, and while we’re never ones to jump on the bandwagon, it’s safe to say our topography and landscapes make Nevada the center of all two-wheeled territory. Read on for some truly epic rides, plus some other great outdoor adventures.



## BOOTLEG CANYON

Boulder City

Mountain bike Shangri-La awaits at Bootleg Canyon, nestled in the mountains surrounding historic Boulder City. The area was known for bootlegging in the Prohibition era, but today, the mountain biking network features 24 trails and more than 35 miles of dusty desert single track, including nine gravity-testing descents and 15 cross-country trails. A certified “Epic Ride” by the International Mountain Biking Association—a designation given to only 17 other locations in the world—you’ll find everything from easy loops to rocky technical rollers to gravity-testing downhills.

## CASTLE LOOP

Austin

Road trippin’ the Loneliest Road in America with your bike? Castle Loop in Austin is the perfect place to spin those car-weary legs. An easy 4.5-mile trail with very little elevation gain (400 feet) makes this great for beginners and kids, plus it allows advanced riders a warm-up. The ride starts and ends at Austin Park.

## PONY EXPRESS LOOP

Austin

Austin’s chaparral-cloaked hillsides draw bikers of all skill levels looking to log solid miles. This beginner/intermediate loop follows a section of the Pony Express mail route through Emigrant Pass. The 10-mile loop begins in downtown Austin and climbs to Austin Summit, with an elevation gain of 1,300 feet. The trail heads north along a rocky two-track and through some grassy spring areas, and after a sharp left, you’re on the historic Pony Express route. Once you reach the pass, it’s a fast and fun descent to Highway 50.



BIKERS OVERLOOKING AUSTIN

Bob Allen (two bikers surrounded by flowers)



AUSTIN TRAIL



## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Feeling competitive? Head for Nevada cycling events at Boulder City's Nevada DVO Winter Gravity Series, Beatty's Spicer Ranch, the Beaver Dam Gravel Grinder Mountain Bike Ride, and the country's oldest enduro race at Ely's Fears, Tears and Beers.

## BARNES CANYON Caliente

From fast and flowy to rocky and technical, Caliente's Barnes Canyon Mountain Bike Trails are one of Nevada's newest single-track systems. Just minutes from downtown, riders can find solitude, adventure, and excitement while exploring diverse geology and terrain.



*More exploration to come! In the next issue, we'll look to the skies—the dark skies—and do a little stargazing.*



BARNES CANYON

Leslie Kehmeier



## WARD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

Ely

With hundreds of miles of trail systems in the region, Ely is quickly becoming eastern Nevada's mountain biking basecamp. Riding up just a small part of the Ice Plant Canyon trails—where the annual Tears, Fears, and Beers enduro ride has happened for 15 years—it's easy to see why Adventure Sports Journal recently wrote that Ely was “On Track to Become the Next Mountain Biking Mecca.” The trails alternate between smooth single track with consistent climb to downhill-only trails that reward the ferocious climber with sweet dips, manicured berms, and enough jumps to satisfy even the most hardcore downhiller. Trail maps are available around town (including the Bristlecone Convention Center).



WARD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA



LAKE TAHOE FLUME TRAIL

## CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

Carson City

Clear Creek Trail outside Carson City is almost 10.5 miles long (21 miles out-and-back). The trail begins with a gentle climb meandering up the hill through the high desert sagebrush. After a couple of miles, you'll enter the trees and wind through the woods with frequent views of the valley below. For a shorter ride, Knob Point makes a good turnaround spot just 7 miles in. Perched at 6,050 feet, it offers spectacular views of Jacks and Carson Valleys a thousand feet below.



CLEAR CREEK TRAIL

## LAKE TAHOE FLUME TRAIL

Lake Tahoe

Prized as one of the most jaw-dropping trails in the world, the Lake Tahoe Flume Trail is a bucket-list ride for cyclists around the globe. Get an early start; this is an all-day adventure at 14 miles one-way. Carved into a steep, granite spire overlooking Lake Tahoe, the ride follows the same path where wooden square-box flumes once delivered water to Virginia City in the late 1800s. The trail typically becomes snow-free and rideable around Memorial Day, with several access points. Shuttles are available, and there are bike restrictions on certain days each week, so do your homework before you go.

Jeff Moser (Clear Creek & Flume Trail)



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## STARGAZING

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK  
Ely

A “true dark sky” is a natural resource that’s becoming increasingly rare, which is why the International Dark Sky Association has officially designated Great Basin an International Dark Sky Park. Even during a full moon, expect a stunning, celestial show with thousands of stars, planets, and galaxies visible to the naked eye.

## FISHING

TOPAZ LAKE  
Carson Valley

In the Lake Tahoe area and looking to dip away from the crowds? Head for Topaz Lake, which straddles the Nevada-California state line just south of beautiful Carson Valley. A man-made reservoir created in 1922, this high-desert stunner is stocked with rainbows, bowcutt, brown, and tiger trout. Set up camp at one of the recreation area’s spacious, modern campsites to take advantage of the fish cleaning station, boat ramp, and drive-up beaches.

*Can't get enough stargazing?  
Check out our Uncommon  
Overnighter feature on page 28 for  
some out-of-this-world night skies.*

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



## TRUCKEE RIVER Reno

When Tahoe's snow runoff slows in early summer, anglers fish the 110-mile-long Truckee River for rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout. The river's western section from Tahoe to Reno is steep, fast, and cold, so pull out your dry flies. The eastern section from Reno to Pyramid Lake is warmer and slower, with banks blanketed in sagebrush tufts and large cottonwoods shading holes home to trophy-size river fish.



TRUCKEE RIVER

SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Pete Foley (Truckee River)

## HIKING AND BACKPACKING RUBY CREST NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL Elko

The Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail (RCT) follows the spine of the Ruby Mountains—one of Nevada's most spectacularly pristine ranges. Its sole paved access point—the picturesque Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway—sees its fair share of day-trippers and overnight visitors. But rugged terrain and lingering snow (many high lakes and passes remain frozen well into summer) keep the farthest reaches reserved for the hardy few who venture out on foot or horseback. Beginning at Harrison Pass, the RCT is often navigated from south to north, winding through 43 miles of alpine lakes, lush mountain meadows, and pristine wilderness.



RUBY CREST NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL



# RURAL WRANGLER



While Las Vegas and Reno offer white-glove hospitality and world-class entertainment, it's our smaller towns that give visitors a glimpse into the heart and soul of our state.

Each issue, you'll find one of our smaller-but-no-less-incredible towns highlighted. Make sure to order all four annual guides so you don't miss these must-visits.

# WIN



WINNEMUCCA AS SEEN FROM WINNEMUCCA MOUNTAIN



# WINEMUCCA

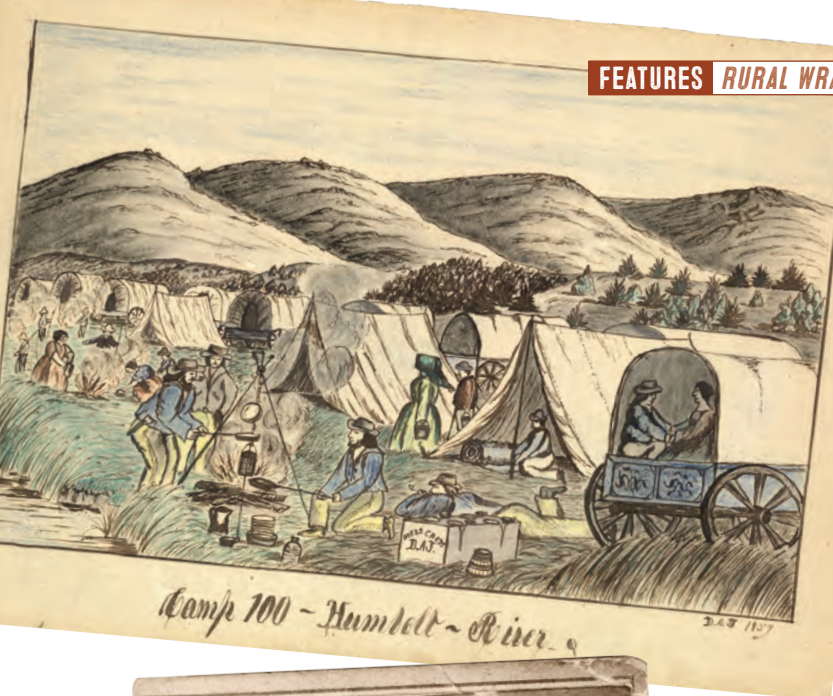
The town that promises a prize actually delivers.

Let's get this out of the way: there is no such thing as a mucca, so no, you can't win one. And yes, that question gets asked.

If there were such a thing, perhaps a mythical creature, it would surely live in this bucolic central Nevada town located smack dab in the heart of Cowboy Country. Whatever pleasures you seek, you'll find them in this melting pot of activity, heritage, and geography.







Pioneers along the Humboldt River in western Nevada, painted by Daniel A. Jenks after he and his party arrived there on July 22, 1859.

## BACK IN THE DAY

Almost 100 years before the city incorporated in 1917, the site along the Humboldt River was a desired spot for trappers and later became a trading hub for the pioneers heading westward. The land was a virtual oasis in the desert, and the fertile banks of the Humboldt River soon attracted farmers and ranchers to the area. Mining activity was scattered throughout the surrounding hills, and in 1868, the settlement

was officially named Winnemucca after the legendary Paiute chief. It is the only town in Nevada named after an American Indian.

Winnemucca continued to grow thanks to its advantageous location as a railroad town. In the 1970s, gold discoveries led to the resurgence of the mining industry, which continues to play an important role in the area's economy today.



CHIEF WINNEMUCCA IN 1870



ALABAMA MINE



TENMILE MINE

Library of Congress (Jenks painting),  
University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections (Chief Winnemucca)





## DIVE INTO NEVADA'S PAST AT THE NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly lectures and curated exhibits offer a glimpse of our hearty history.

### UPCOMING LECTURES

#### HIGH NOON – VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

12 pm - 1:30 pm | Virtual Programs, Register Online

#### Where to Hear about Nevada History

May 19th | Carol Coleman, President; HRPS Organization

#### Verdi History Center and the Verdi Public School Restoration Project

June 16th | Barbara Ting, President

#### Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark - Steamers' 35 years

July 21st | Mark Basset, Director

#### JULY ARTOWN LECTURE SERIES

Every Wednesday in July; 6, 13, 20, 27 – 10:30-11:30am and 1-2pm

In person event featuring 15-minute history talk & 45-minute gallery led tour  
History Talks on exciting Nevada subjects & objects within our collections and  
Docent led gallery tours on Reno or Nevada History.



**NEVADA**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For more information and a  
detailed schedule, visit our website.

1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, 89503  
775-688-1190  
[nvhistoricalsociety.org](http://nvhistoricalsociety.org)



## Eureka Opera House

Old Time Fiddlers Contest | May 6-7

Doug Figgs | May 21

VFW Memorial Ceremony | May 31

Missoula Children's Theater | June 25

Old Fashioned 4th of July

Parade and Fireworks | July 4

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WINNEMUCCA SAND DUNES

Nevada's unofficial State Drink, the Picon Punch, being crafted at The Martin Hotel. Opinions vary on the pronunciation of Picon, but everyone agrees on the "punch."



WINNEMUCCA REGIONAL RACEWAY

## THIS IS THE WEST, NEVADA-STYLE

One of Nevada's largest concentrations of Basque people reside in and around Winnemucca. Today, their heritage is celebrated at the annual Basque Festival and daily in the town's famed Basque eateries. The Martin Hotel has been around since 1898, and you can still enjoy the traditional, family-style dining in a building that's on the National Register of Historic Places. Ormachea's carries the Basque influence in its meals as well, and don't forget the Nevada favorite (and unofficial State Drink) Picon Punch.

Be sure to stop by the Humboldt Museum to learn just about everything related to the area's beginnings

and discover their historic walking tour, perfect for architecture and history buffs. If you're fascinated by the Old West, stop at the Buckaroo Hall of Fame at the Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority where photos and memorabilia from 70 inductees preserve the legendary buckaroo heritage.

There's a pristine and challenging nine-hole golf course in town, plus the Winnemucca Regional Raceway has stock-car racing on Fridays and Saturdays throughout summer and fall. Just 10 miles north, the Winnemucca Sand Dunes offer some 40 miles of camping, riding, hiking, and off-road play.

Wicked Mare Photography (raceway)





## STAY ANOTHER DAY

Winnemucca is the perfect basecamp for nearby adventures:

- Rockhounding for Nevada's state gemstone, the black fire opal, at the Royal Peacock Opal Mine near Denio
- Quench your thirst at the more than 100-year-old Paradise Valley Saloon & Bar while taking in the valley's beauty



DOWNTOWN  
WINNEMUCCA



BUCKAROO HALL OF FAME



HUMBOLDT MUSEUM

## REST AND REPEAT

After a day's adventures, drift off to sleep at the Scott Shady Court, a retro roadside inn that pairs vintage charm (that neon!) with comfy beds and a year-round heated pool and sauna. Those loyal to traditional lodgings can bunk up at the pet-friendly Best Western Gold Country Inn or Days Inn by Wyndham Winnemucca, complete with breakfast.

In a town of just 8,000 people, the range of activities and culture that can be found is almost overwhelming. Better spend a couple days so you can unveil all there is to see in this Central Nevada prize.



SCOTT SHADY COURT





# SPIRITED ADVENTURES

Nevada's distinct history is borne by the nearly 600 towns that rose and fell before the 1900s even had a chance to stretch its legs. The gold and silver fever that struck the nation resulted in a clamor that touched nearly every corner of the state. While most towns bore fruit only for short periods, they literally left their mark on the state's landscape. Many ghost towns have no more residents, but they are still full of stories, if you listen carefully.



## ELDORADO CANYON

Less than an hour away from Las Vegas, the Techatticup Mine in Eldorado Canyon is a photographer's paradise with thousands of movie and photoshoots to its name—as well as leftover props and set features to photograph. In its heyday, this mine pumped out millions of dollars in gold, silver, and copper, making it the richest and most famous in southern Nevada. Today, poke around with your camera or go underground with Eldorado Canyon Mine Tours.



TECHATTICUP





TECHATTICUP

## BELMONT

This once bustling city about 50 miles northeast of Tonopah has become one of Nevada's more iconic ghost towns. Explore the 19th-century cabins, the restored Belmont Courthouse, and Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon (discover this Sagebrush Saloon on page 22). In its heyday during the late 1860s, Belmont had more than 100 businesses, including three newspapers and six mills. By 1901, the mills stopped running, most residents left, and the last newspaper stopped the presses.



BELMONT

Read more about Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon on page 22.



BELMONT COURTHOUSE



DIRTY DICK'S BELMONT SALOON



BELMONT





## RHYOLITE

When prospectors Eddie Cross and Frank “Shorty” Harris discovered rich ore in summer 1904, it is said a dusty stampede of prospectors abandoned nearby mining camps. Shorty later recalled it seemed the entire population of Goldfield was trying to move to Rhyolite all at once, with some men even pushing wheelbarrows the whole 75 miles.

Rhyolite—named for the area’s abundant green rocks—was a booming metropolis by February 1905. Water had to be hauled in from Beatty, and lumber couldn’t reach the site quick enough. In 1906, steel magnate Charles Schwab invested heavily in the town, and a school, hospital, train station, electric lights, water mains, newspapers, banks, and other luxuries became commonplace. Estimates put the population at anywhere from 5,000-8,000 residents, though some sources estimate it could have been as high as 10,000.



RHYOLITE 1909

## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Stop at the Beatty Museum and Historical Society for a walking brochure of Rhyolite.



RHYOLITE





**TOM KELLY'S BOTTLE HOUSE**



**RAILROAD DEPOT**

Rhyolite succumbed to the nationwide financial panic in 1907 that folded many mines in the West. By 1910, the town's mines were operating at a loss, and population had dwindled to about 1,000. A decade later, the population was close to zero.

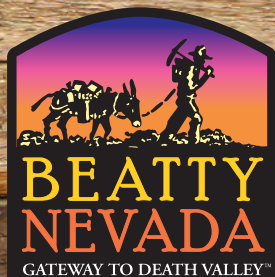
Rhyolite never truly died, though. The site was a setting for several motion pictures and has evolved into one of the most famously photographed ghost towns in the West. Some highlights of the town include the railroad depot and Tom Kelly's bottle house—made using approximately 50,000 bottles scavenged from the town's saloons. Just south of the townsite is the Goldwell Open Air Museum—a bizarre bohemian sculpture garden and one of our favorite Weird Nevada wonders.



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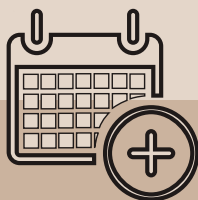


[TRAVELNEVADA.COM](http://TRAVELNEVADA.COM)





## STAY ANOTHER DAY



Ely has enough history and outdoor rec to warrant at least a few days. Stay the night at the historic Hotel Nevada and spend a day checking out the Nevada Northern Railway Museum or discover local art at the Art Bank—a historic bank-turned-gallery.



# Ely's Renaissance Village

Heritage and history are at home  
in the heart of eastern Nevada.

BY CORY MUNSON



Tucked into the hills in northeast Nevada, Ely was a thriving, multi-ethnic community for most of the 20th century. After the town entered a recession in the 1990s, a group of citizens embarked on a mission to transform one ruined block of homes into a place of living history.





EXTERIOR OF ASIAN HOUSE

## THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

In 1999, it was hard times for Ely. The copper mine closed, and with it, 20 percent of the town's population had left. A once-bustling downtown became a patchwork of abandoned lots and boarded-up businesses.

That summer, lifetime residents Margaret Bath and Virginia Terry decided something needed to be done to help the town. They gathered a group of passionate locals and called themselves the Ely Renaissance Society (named after the period of artistic and cultural rebirth in 14th century Europe). The group began researching cost-effective ways to improve communities, and for its first project, worked to cover the town's faded brick buildings with cultural murals.

Within five years, Basque sheepherders, Italian rail workers, pioneer blacksmiths, and a half dozen other richly colored murals greeted visitors. The project was hailed a success, and with it came a wave of renewed local pride.



The Ely Renaissance Society rode high on the momentum of its first project and looked for more ways to restore the town's past. An opportunity presented itself in a block of decaying, century-old cottages overlooking the town.

## 'UNITED BY OUR CHILDREN'

Built in 1907, the homes were originally intended for railway workers, though most have not been inhabited since the 1970s. When the society purchased the properties in 2005, the structures were in a state of decay. Today, after more than a decade of restoration, the Ely Renaissance Village awaits visitors with 10 beautifully restored homes at its heart.

Outwardly, the village captures the daily life of residents in the 1920s, yet its purpose extends beyond a museum: it is a time capsule of Ely's rich cultural past. Each house represents a prominent culture that laid its roots in town.

As founding members of the society—and village tour guides—Virginia and Glenn Terry wanted these homes to tell the story of Ely's early days.

Susanne Reese (photo of child)



“People came from all over the world to work in Ely’s booming mine, ranch, and railroad scene,” explains Terry as he passes through an iron fence and follows a red stone pathway. “Ely was home to Spaniards, Italians, Greeks, Slavs, and a dozen other nationalities.”

“While the parents stayed in their cultural pockets, the children learned English,” says Virginia Terry. “They brought the community together, which is why we say Ely was united by our children.”

Terry opens the door into the first house and steps into the past.



FRENCH HOUSE

## ELY CIRCA 1920

The English House boasts a lovingly decorated living room: a modest chandelier, a piano adorned with scattered sheet music, a radio, a typewriter. These houses feel lived in, as if the occupants ran to the store and guests are there to watch things until they return.

Glenn Terry motions to a 1920s “National Geographic” draped over an armchair. The Renaissance Society worked hard to fill every room with details that depict the time. Adding to this authenticity, everything here—from the radios and kitchen appliances to sewing machines and upholstery—was donated locally.

A long sheepherder’s hook hangs outside the Basque House. Beyond the front door is an unexpected sight: a laundromat. While the men were at work, the rest of the household usually managed any variety of side businesses. The French House boasts a trendy salon, complete with retro hair drying chairs.



GERMAN HOUSE



ITALIAN HOUSE



ENGLISH HOUSE



## TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Grab your walking shoes and learn about the Ely Renaissance Society's murals and the other 28 artworks town with a self-guided Mural Audio Tour.



Download the map and access the tour.

While each is culturally distinct, the cottages all have a living room, a kitchen, one bedroom, and a bathroom. Although these homes are tiny by today's standards, six family members were often crowded within.

In each kitchen sits a monumental wood stove with an attached water heater—Ely was the first community in Nevada with heated plumbing. The bathrooms feature a stately clawfoot bathtub, though not all the houses boast a pull chain “flushing apparatus.”

Aside from the period-perfect décor and remarkable attention to detail, the village is also



overflowing with stories. Photographs and recollections fill the walls, inviting visitors to meet the town's early inhabitants. Throughout the homes, the town's first women are particularly honored. In the Irish House, pictures of the nuns who ran the local parish adorn the wall.

“Men built the town, but women made the community,” says Glenn Terry.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

A large group pavilion sits at the center of the village. In the warmer months, this is a popular wedding destination. Behind an old barn door hides a fully modern catering kitchen. As the Terrys stand under the pavilion, they say this was all possible through fundraising. In fact, more than 20 years into the society's existence, they've raised more than \$500,000 for community projects. Glenn Terry adds that when they purchased this land, one building was filled with antiques, which they were able to restore and sell for more funding.

Ultimately, they have been able to do so much through the help of locals. Every part of the village, from building restoration and painting to interior design and pathing, is thanks entirely to volunteer support.



Check out page 48 for more adventure ideas along the Loneliest Road in America!

Susanne Reese





# GET ELY-VATED

**MAY-JULY 2022**

**MAY 13-15:** Nevada Open Road Challenge

**JUNE 2-5:** Shellraiser Music Festival

**JUNE 10-11:** Bristlecone Bricks & Train Show

**JUNE 11:** Fears, Tears and Beers Mountain Bike Enduro

**JUNE 17-19:** White Pine Museum Rock & Gem Swap

**JUNE 18:** Ward Mountain Trail Run (Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts)

**JUNE 25-26:** Sagebrush Social Disc Golf Tournament

**JULY 4:** Independence Day Celebration

**JULY 16:** Color Me Ely 5K (Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts)

**JULY 22-23:** Lund Pioneer Days

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MOUNTAIN TOWN**

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TV**





# Get Into the Fun AT NEVADA'S CONTAINER PARKS

**Hip shops, craft drinks, and tasty treats galore await at these family-friendly venues.**

Container parks are all the rage, and Las Vegas and Reno have everything you need to scratch that industrial-sized itch. These quirky, outdoor areas are centrally located and serve as veritable warehouses of fun, food, and recreation.

## THE EDDY

Reno's container park opened in 2017 and has since thrived as a downtown hub. This pet-friendly area on the Truckee River boasts everything you need for a perfect summer evening including bocce ball courts, pop-up markets, and three bar areas. During the day, families gather in the colorful courtyard to enjoy local art and some classic food truck cuisine. In the evenings, you'll find the younger crowd enjoying music and libations at one of Reno's coolest repurposed spaces.

*As an outdoor experience in northern Nevada, The Eddy is a seasonal gathering space: the park usually shutsters after the annual Santa Crawl in mid-December and reopens for St. Patrick's Day.*





## DOWNTOWN CONTAINER PARK

Just one block past the Fremont Street Experience sits one of Downtown Las Vegas's most impressive shopping and dining districts. This open-air plaza of refurbished shipping containers premiered in 2013 and features 21 local boutiques and 13 locations to wine and dine. Amid frequent live music, you'll find everything from kettle corn and craft cocktails to art galleries and jewelry. After 9 p.m., it's 21-and-older only inside the park with an even split between locals and visitors. The Downtown Container Park also is a small-business incubator, which means repeat visits will reward you with brand-new experiences.

*The Treehouse Play Zone draws families with its interactive playground that parents and kids can explore. Inside the gated area are massive foam building blocks, a 33-foot slide, and the chance to climb to the top of the treehouse for the best view around.*



*The 55-foot Praying Mantis that sits at the gates of the park originally made its fiery debut at Nevada's Burning Man festival. Stop by just before sundown to watch it shoot flames six stories into the sky!*



# TAHOE CANDY CO.

Born in a recession, this beloved confectionery has found sweet success.



Gardnerville native Mindy Miller always enjoyed crafting sweets, but when she and her husband Larry became unemployed in 2009 during the recession, she decided it was time to become professional confectioners. Mindy began making honeycomb sweets and her signature Nevada-shaped toffees for local businesses during the holidays, but once clients started asking for candy outside of the season, she knew she was on to something.

Today, Tahoe Candy Co. confections are available in 45 locations. The handmade candies are found in gift shops, markets, and bakeries around Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Reno. Tahoe Candy Co. has also expanded its product line and now makes a bit of everything including almond clusters, caramel corn, s'mores bark, peanut brittle, and assorted boxes and gift baskets.

Mindy thinks a secret to the company's success is the local appeal; customers keep coming back for the small-batch, homemade experience, and the opportunity to support a small business. They also appreciate the gift-like packaging that makes for the perfect present on any occasion.

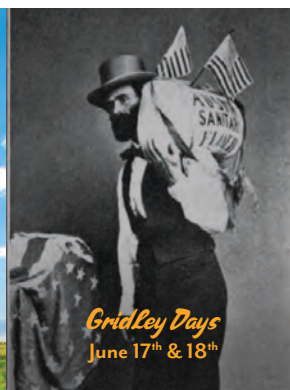


To see where products are available or to order online, visit [tahoetoffee.com](http://tahoetoffee.com).

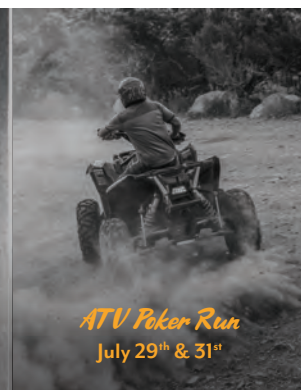


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# YOU BRAG ABOUT



*Gridley Days*  
June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>



*ATV Poker Run*  
July 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>



*Wine Walk*  
September 10<sup>th</sup>



*Zombie Crawl*  
October 29<sup>th</sup>



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## LINCOLN COUNTY

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## Off-Highway Vehicles

Check out Lincoln County's vast network of dirt roads, designed for all-wheel drive and off-highway vehicle exploration. Trails crisscross diverse terrain, offering access to stunning views. The renowned Silver State Trail is a 260-mile loop of well-marked backcountry roads that will take you up and down Lincoln County's famous mountain/basin landscape. Plus, the county's OHV-friendly laws make the area a welcoming destination for off-roading enthusiasts.



To learn more, visit  
[LincolnCountyNevada.com](http://LincolnCountyNevada.com)



# BRING



## BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS

Gerlach

May 25-29

The Black Rock Desert is best known for its annual Burning Man Festival. But if you're looking to enjoy the majestic landscape without the crowd, come celebrate the playa's natural and human history with five days of demonstrations, campouts, volunteer hot spring cleanups, hikes, rocket launches, and more.

## CORDILLERA FILM FESTIVAL

Reno

July 28-Aug. 1

One of the top 100 film festivals in the country, Cordillera prides itself on killer venues with packed houses. The Friday night screening is at Wingfield Amphitheater on the Truckee River. The festival is part of July's Artown Festival, which hosts more than 500 events.

## LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Incline Village

July 1-Aug. 21

All the world's a stage, but sunset over Lake Tahoe may be the most majestic backdrop to The Bard's most famous works. This summer, award-winning thespians will give nightly performances of the comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" and the hit musical "Mamma Mia!"



# THE HEAT

From small-town soirees to weekend-long metropolitan bashes, Nevada's time-honored celebrations draw in the crowds. Here are a few can't-miss events going on this summer.



## STEWART FATHER'S DAY POWWOW

Carson City  
June 18-19

Since 1990, cultural enthusiasts have gathered alongside American Indian dancers and artisans to celebrate tribal heritage at the historic Stewart Indian School. More than 200 dancers showcase the pride of their people, and visitors can peruse more than 30 food and crafts vendors.

## SHELLRAISER MUSIC FESTIVAL

McGill  
June 2-5

For four days, 31 bands from all corners of the nation will converge in eastern Nevada to fill Steptoe Valley with the best of alternative/indie country, bluegrass, and southern twang. Proceeds from this inaugural music fest will go to the Nevada Northern Railway's McGill Depot and McGill Railroad Track restoration projects.



## ADVENT

SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO

WEDDING IDEAS

Getting married in Las Vegas—if Hollywood is to be believed—is for the young, the foolish, the headstrong, or the inebriated. In the really far-out tales, impatient, lovestruck couples who have just met take their newfound passion all the way to the altar.

In truth, of the approximately 200 weddings performed there each day, the vast majority are anything but spur-of-the-moment.

Weddings in Las Vegas are serious business, and there is an entire industry built around creating that dream ceremony. The options for how to tie the knot are endless and as unique as the couples coming to say “I do.”

## GETTING HIGH

Want to tie the knot just before you get shot 160 feet in the air at 45 mph, only to plummet back down seconds later, and then get shot up again? Head to the STRAT's Big Shot thrill ride and you can do just that. If you're looking for elevation without the G-forces, maybe the Linq's High Roller pods are a better choice. As the pods climb to 550 feet above The Strip, say your vows with up to 40 friends watching.

## PLANNING CHECKLIST

Getting hitched is pretty easy in Nevada. There are no blood tests, no waiting periods, and anyone 18 or older is welcome.



- ☐ Check with the appropriate county clerk's office for license requirements.
- ☐ Both parties need to appear in person to get the license.
- ☐ Licenses cost \$85 in Washoe County (Reno) and \$102 in Clark County (Las Vegas).
- ☐ If you are divorced or annulled, be sure you have the date and location of the legalized end.





# TURBOUS IDOs

## SCENIC CEREMONIES

Scenic weddings aren't confined to The Strip, which is breathtaking in its own right, but within an hour (or less, depending on your mode of transportation) the splendor of southern Nevada's outdoors is ready to host the perfect ceremony.

Red Rock Canyon offers an unparalleled backdrop, especially from the helicopter-only landing pad. The limo-accessible area is another option, if flying isn't in the budget.

Eldorado Canyon is another popular wedding site, thanks to its rugged beauty and quirky movie set-like setting that make it picture-perfect for so many couples (think old relic-strewn ghost town with an upended airplane).

Valley of Fire is your helicopter wedding destination. Tie the knot in an unforgettable setting among stunning rock formations and petroglyphs as the desert sunset lights up the surrounding canyon.





# WHAT'S *New?*



## MAGNOLIA GALLERY & INN Austin

Stay a night in one of Nevada's smallest, newest lodges: the **Magnolia Gallery & Inn**. Constructed in 1864, this charming two-room building sits in the heart of the 150-year-old mining town of Austin. Don't forget to head downstairs to the gallery and unleash your inner outlaw with an old-fashioned photo shoot.



## ALIEN COWPOKE GASOLINE & GENERAL STORE Rachel

Fuel up for your Extraterrestrial Highway discoveries at Rachel's newest business and first gas station—the **Alien Cowpoke Gasoline & General Store**. While there, be sure to stock up on snacks, supplies, and all kinds of souvenirs, books, and maps. This is also a great hub for learning local advice on where to do some stellar stargazing and UFO hunting.





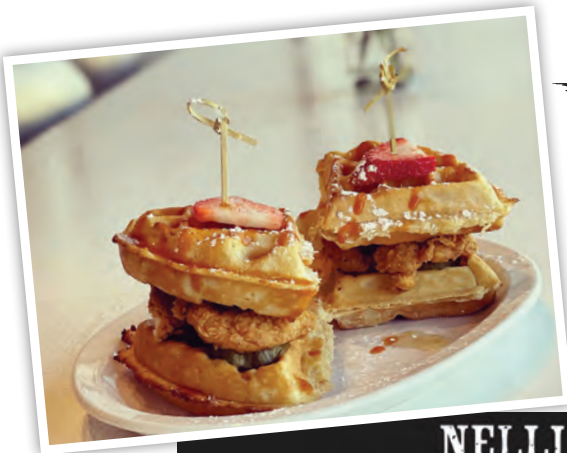
All around Nevada, you'll find exciting brand-new restaurants, shops, and inns ready for your business. Keep an eye out for these brand new establishments as you make your way around the state.

### AFTERLIFE ANTIQUES & ODDITIES / CLEMENTINE'S Eureka

In early 2022, two businesses opened on Eureka's main street. **Clementine's** is an old-fashioned steakhouse that specializes in hearty, ranch-style cooking. **Afterlife Antiques & Oddities** is a specialty antiques store, café and book nook, and museum: ask to tour part of Eureka's old brick tunnels that run beneath the town!



AFTERLIFE ANTIQUES & ODDITIES



### NELLIE'S SOUTHERN KITCHEN



LAS VEGAS

### NELLIE'S SOUTHERN KITCHEN Las Vegas

The Jonas Brothers and family have announced their opening of **Nellie's Southern Kitchen**, located in the MGM Grand. Pull up a chair to warm biscuits, chicken and dumplings, chicken and gravy, Southern meat loaf, and chicken and waffles. Your comfort food spread will be complemented by an extensive cocktail menu and live entertainment.



# ONLY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

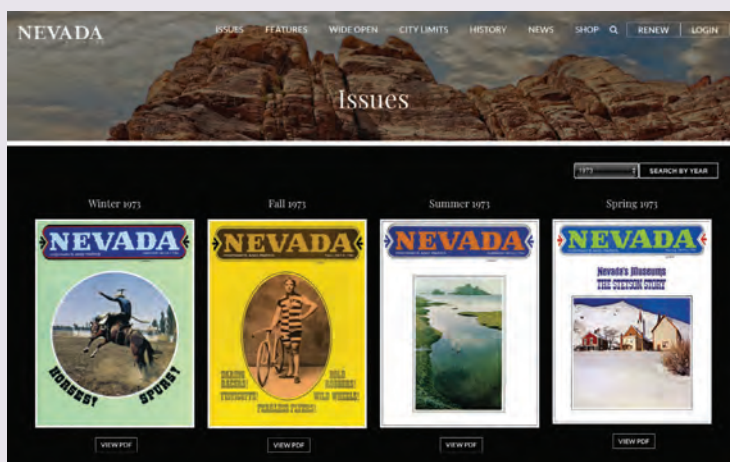
Itching for more information about this great state? Each month, head to **NevadaMagazine.com** to find new, web-exclusive articles, like this:

**The Disaster at Mazuma:** The story of one of the greatest natural disasters in the state's early history: in 1912, a sudden cloudburst appeared over the small canyon town of Mazuma. Within minutes, a raging wall of water 20 feet high crashed into the town, carrying away buildings and residents in its wake. **By Cory Munson**



## NEVADA MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

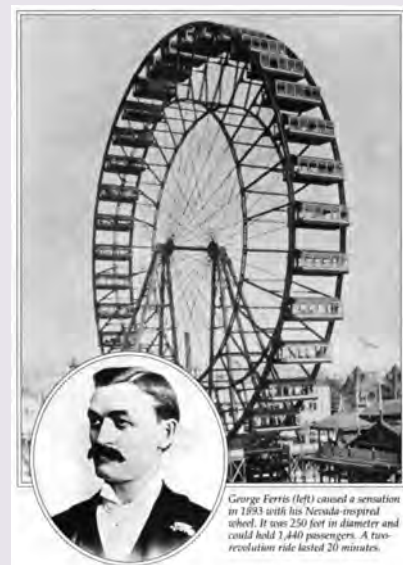
For more than 86 years, *Nevada Magazine* has told the stories of the Silver State. We've seen it all, and you can too. At NevadaMagazine.com, we have every issue from 1936 to today available in a digital flipbook. If you like what you see, consider becoming a digital subscriber and receive full access to our archives and new stories added each month. Digital subscriptions are just \$9.95 per year. Your first three articles are on us!



**The Orange Rock Down Vegas Way:** In 1924, a San Francisco family relocated to an isolated homestead in remote Nevada. The author recalls life in the state more than a century ago: wooden sidewalks in Las Vegas, the family Studebaker rumbling down cow trails, weekly trips to town for provisions, and a mysterious orange rock behind her home. This story first appeared in our **Winter 1973** issue.



**Ferris' Wonder Wheel:** Everyone knows about the popular carnival ride, but did you know it was inspired by a water wheel on Nevada's Carson River? As a child, George Ferris, Jr. would watch the giant wheel scoop up of buckets of water and imagine himself riding it. At 33, that dream from his youth became the Ferris Wheel—an overnight sensation that has entertained millions for more than 130 years. This story first appeared in our **October 1988** issue.



George Ferris (left) caused a sensation in 1893 with his Nevada-inspired wheel. It was 250 feet in diameter and could hold 1,440 passengers. A two-revolution ride lasted 20 minutes.



# COMING SOON...

With four issues each calendar year, a **FREE SUBSCRIPTION** to **Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide** will have you ready for adventures year-round.

Take a second to sign up to receive your copy every three months  
(you won't even pay for shipping)!

SCAN HERE  
FOR FREE  
SUBSCRIPTION



NEXT TWO ISSUES COMING IN: **AUGUST & NOVEMBER**

## HERE ARE SOME SNEAK PEEK TO-DO LISTS:

### FALL

- ☐ Take a trip to the state's southern edge and explore a serene **Joshua Tree forest**.
- ☐ Celebrate Halloween properly with **haunted hotels**, ghost walks, and abandoned mining towns.
- ☐ Develop your playa name and follow the **Burner Byway** to the Black Rock Desert.
- ☐ Find out who won some primo swag after participating in the **Silver State Scavenger Hunt**.



JOSHUA TREE FOREST



BICYCLING IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT

### WINTER

- ☐ Sink a lure and reel in the big one at some of the Great Basin's best **fishing spots**.
- ☐ Get tips on **desert survival** from some of the world's hardest critters.
- ☐ **Wet your whistle** in Nevada's biggest boom and bust town.
- ☐ Live vicariously through the amazing photos from our annual **Great Nevada Picture Hunt** contest.



FISHING IN MASON VALLEY



GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT 2021 WINNER





# STATEWIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

From races and spectator sports to fairs and festivals, this summer is packed full with plenty to do in Nevada. Keep in mind that dates and events are always subject to change, so be sure to double check our online events calendar for more events before your trip.

SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO



NEVADA EVENTS CALENDAR

## MAY

6-7

NEVADA OLD TIME  
FIDDLERS' CONTEST  
Eureka

7-8

RENO RIVER FESTIVAL  
Reno

20-22

ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL  
Las Vegas

21

ARMED FORCES DAY  
Hawthorne

21-22

CHILI ON THE COMSTOCK  
Virginia City

29-30

BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS  
Gerlach



CHILI ON THE COMSTOCK

## JUNE

2-5

SCHELLRAISER MUSIC FESTIVAL  
McGill / Ely-area

10-11

OCTANE FEST  
Fallon

11

FEARS, TEARS AND BEERS  
MOUNTAIN BIKE ENDURO RACE  
Ely

16-25

RENO RODEO  
Reno

19

RUBY ROUBAIX: GRAVEL FONDO  
Lamoille

22-24

GREAT BASIN BIOBLITZ  
Great Basin National Park



OCTANE FEST



## JULY

- 1-3**  
NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL  
Elko
- 6-10**  
AMERICAN CENTURY  
CELEBRITY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP  
South Lake Tahoe

- 8-10**  
SILVER STATE STAMPEDE  
Elko

- 21-23**  
NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL  
Yerington

- 29-31**  
RUBY MOUNTAIN BALLOON FESTIVAL  
Elko



## AUGUST

- 2-7**  
HOT AUGUST NIGHTS  
Reno
- 5-7**  
GOLDFIELD DAYS CELEBRATION & LAND AUCTION  
Goldfield
- 13**  
JARBIDGE DAYS  
Jarbidge
- 19-21**  
WHITE PINE COUNTY FAIR AND HORSE RACES  
Ely
- 26-28**  
FALLON CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL & COUNTRY FAIR  
Fallon
- 27-Sept. 1**  
BONNEVILLE SPEED WEEK  
Wendover
- 29-Sept. 5**  
BURNING MAN  
Gerlach
- 31-Sept. 5**  
BEST IN THE WEST NUGGET RIB COOK-OFF  
Sparks



## SEPTEMBER

- 2-5**  
PIOCHE LABOR DAY CELEBRATION  
Pioche
- 9-11**  
INTERNATIONAL CAMEL & OSTRICH RACES  
Virginia City
- 14-18**  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES  
Reno
- 15-18**  
SILVER STATE CLASSIC CHALLENGE  
Las Vegas to Ely
- 16-18**  
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL  
Las Vegas
- 22-24**  
GREAT BASIN ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL  
Great Basin National Park
- 22-25**  
PAHRUMP FALL FESTIVAL  
Pahrump
- 24-25**  
CANDY DANCE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIRE  
Genoa





## In love with the Silver State as much as we are?

Get the lowdown on how you can do your part to protect the places we love and keep the land pristine for your next trip (and the next generation).



### FIRE DANGER

Fire season hits Nevada harder than ever these days, and catastrophic blazes can easily start from campfire embers, vehicle undercarriages, hot bullet casings, and more. All of this is preventable. Always check local fire restrictions and use common sense.

### STAY ON ALL TRAILS, TRACKS, AND ROADS

As you head into the desert, you'll find a world of existing roads and trail systems—no need to blaze your own.

### THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

More than 80 percent of Nevada is public lands—the highest percentage among all states, meaning this land is literally your land. Whatever land you're on—private or

*When exploring Nevada's backroads, you might come across a fence with a cattle guard gate. So long as there are no posted No Trespassing signs, go ahead and go right on through. Just be sure that, whether the gate was open or closed, leave gates the way you found them.*

public—it's owned and managed by a person or an agency. Be a good land steward and respect all posted No Trespassing signs.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

Nothing is worse than driving across Nevada's perfect landscape and seeing a grocery bag stuck in the sage or a bottle on the side of the road. Along with leaving every place better than you found it, familiarize yourself with the "Seven Principles" of LNT outdoor ethics.

*Finders does NOT mean keepers. Whether it's a ghost town mining relic, arrowhead, or other kind of artifact, regardless if it looks historical or not, it's a vital piece of the Silver State story. Take all the photos you like but leave all objects where you found them. Taking—aka stealing—artifacts is not only extremely uncool, it's also illegal.*

### TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

*Don't count on your cell phone to bail you out of a jam! Nevada's wild places are some of the country's most remote, which means they're often out of cell service and far from help. Plan accordingly.*





Feeding wildlife of any kind is not only extremely uncool, it's also illegal. Human food is not healthy for wild animals, and they do not need food from humans to survive.

### WATCH FOR WILDLIFE

Beyond the asphalt, Nevada's diverse fauna ranges from rabbits to rattlesnakes, burros to bighorns, cattle to coyotes, pronghorn aplenty, more wild

horses than anywhere else, and an abundance in between. If you're going so fast that you miss them—or worse, that you can't stop when you need to—then you're going too fast.

### STARLIGHT? TOO BRIGHT

Nevada's night skies are some of the darkest in the Lower 48. Many visitors take to remote campgrounds for our unrivaled galactic view, so be aware of the light pollution you bring with you: it doesn't take much to blow out another camper's night vision. Help protect this disappearing, sacred natural resource by lighting your camp mindfully.



GROOM LAKE ROAD, AREA 51

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



DIRT ROAD CODE

### DIRT ROAD CODE

Study up on the Dirt Road Code if you plan on venturing outside metro areas for an unscripted adventure. You'll find packing tips, vehicle suggestions, and how to safely navigate Nevada backroads like a dusty ol' pro.





# WHEN YOU'RE READY TO TRAVEL

Nevada is a land of wide-open spaces and amazing places to visit. Before you head out on your next adventure, we invite you to visit our Nevada tourism partners.

THE LINQ EXPERIENCE, LAS VEGAS

## LAKE TAHOE

LAKE TAHOE  
VISITORS AUTHORITY  
tahoesouth.com, 775-588-4591

NORTH LAKE TAHOE  
VISITORS BUREAU  
gotahoenorth.com, 775-832-1606

## NORTHERN NEVADA

CITY OF RENO  
reno.gov, 775-334-4636

RENO-SPARKS CONVENTION &  
VISITORS AUTHORITY  
visitrenotahoe.com, 800-367-7366

AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

BATTLE MOUNTAIN,  
KINGSTON, AUSTIN (LANDER  
COUNTY CONVENTION &  
TOURISM AUTHORITY)  
landercountytourism.com,  
775-635-1112

BLACK ROCK DESERT (FRIENDS  
OF BLACK ROCK HIGH ROCK)  
blackrockdesert.org, 775-557-2900

CARLIN (CITY OF)  
explorecarlinnv.com, 775-754-6354

CARSON CITY CONVENTION &  
VISITORS BUREAU  
visitcarsoncity.com, 775-687-7410

CARSON VALLEY  
VISITORS AUTHORITY  
visitcarsonvalley.org, 800-727-7677

DAYTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& VISITORS CENTER  
daytonnvchamber.com,  
775-246-7909

ELKO CONVENTION &  
VISITORS AUTHORITY  
exploreeelko.com, 800-248-3556

ELY (WHITE PINE COUNTY  
TOURISM AND RECREATION)  
elynevada.net, 775-289-3720

EUREKA TOURIST INFORMATION  
visiteurekanevada.net,  
775-230-2232

FALLON CONVENTION &  
TOURISM AUTHORITY  
visitfallonnevada.com,  
775-423-5104

FERNLEY (CITY OF)  
cityofferney.org, 775-784-9800

GARDNERVILLE (TOWN OF)  
townofgardnerville.com,  
775-782-7134

GENOA (TOWN OF)  
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

HAWTHORNE, MINA,  
SCHURZ (HAWTHORNE  
CONVENTION CENTER)  
visitmineralcounty.com,  
775-945-5854

JACKPOT  
townofjackpot.com, 775-335-9922

JARBIDGE  
visitjarbridge.org

LOVELOCK (CITY OF)  
cityoflovelock.com, 775-273-2356

MINDEN (TOWN OF)  
townofminden.com, 775-782-5976

PYRAMID LAKE  
PAIUTE RESERVATION  
pyramidlake.us, 775-574-1000



**SPARKS (CITY OF)**

cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

**SPRING CREEK (ASSOCIATION)**

springcreeknv.org, 775-753-6295

**VIRGINIA CITY**

**TOURISM COMMISSION**

visitvirginiacitynv.com,  
775-847-7500

**WELLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

cityofwellsnv.com, 775-752-3355

**WEST WENDOVER (CITY OF)**

westwendovercity.com,  
775-664-3081

**WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION  
& VISITORS AUTHORITY**

winnemucca.com, 775-623-5071

**YERINGTON CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

yeringtonchamber.com,  
775-463-2245

**SOUTHERN NEVADA**

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

lasvegasnevada.gov, 702-229-6011

**LAS VEGAS CONVENTION &  
VISITORS AUTHORITY**

visitlasvegas.com, 702-892-0711

**BEATTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

beattynevada.org, 866-736-3716

**BOULDER CITY**

visitbouldercity.com, 702-293-2034

**GOLDFIELD CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

goldfieldnevada.org, 775-485-3560

**HENDERSON (CITY OF)**

visithendersonnv.com, 702-267-2670

**LAUGHLIN VISITOR  
INFORMATION CENTER**

visitlaughlin.com

**LINCOLN COUNTY**

lincolncountynevada.com

**MESQUITE (CITY OF)**

visitmesquite.com

**MOAPA VALLEY  
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moapavalleychamber.com,  
702-398-7160

**PAHRUMP**

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**PRIMM (VALLEY RESORTS)**

primmvalleyresorts.com,  
702-386-7867

**RACHEL**

rachel-nevada.com

**TONOPAH (TOWN OF)**

tonopahnevada.com, 775-482-6336

**TERRITORIES**

**COWBOY COUNTRY**

cowboycountry.com

**INDIAN TERRITORY**

nevadaindianterritory.com,  
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lvterritory.com

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**PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY**

loneliestroad.us, 888-359-9449

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**NATIONAL PARKS**

**GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK**

nps.gov/grba, 775-234-7331

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**

nps.gov/deva, 760-786-3200

**LAKE MEAD NATIONAL  
RECREATION AREA**

nps.gov/lake, 702-293-8990

**STATE RESOURCES**

**NEVADA STATE PARKS**

parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770

**NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL**

nvaltscouncil.org, 775-687-6680

**NEVADA DIVISION OF  
MUSEUMS & HISTORY**

nvmuseums.org, 775-687-7340



# The Final Word

THE FINAL WORD **ALLEN METSCHER**



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**TRAVEL  
NEVADA  
PRO TIP**

## Allen Metscher

*Allen Metscher is a founding member of the Central Nevada Historical Society and the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah. He has spent a lifetime researching the history of central Nevada.*

**NM&VG:** Allen, where did you find your passion for history?

**AM:** My brothers and I grew up hearing the stories of the early days. My grandfather had gold fever and left Germany for Alaska's gold rush then moved to prospect in Goldfield in 1904 just as the camp was taking off. My dad was born in a suburb of Goldfield and remembered the days when the town was the largest city in Nevada, including the 1923 fire that wiped out 20 city blocks. Growing up, we used to explore Goldfield's abandoned buildings. I suppose I always wanted to know what happened there.

**NM&VG:** What was one of the first major history projects you worked on?

**AM:** About 40 years ago, my brothers and I began restoring the historic cemetery in Tonopah. Mine tailings had washed over a large section of the cemetery, and the identities of many interred there were lost. To find who was buried there, I ended up having to research old plot maps, funeral records, and newspaper obituaries. Each grave was a remarkable history lesson: who they were, what their life was like. They came from Russia, Ireland, Serbia—all over the world.

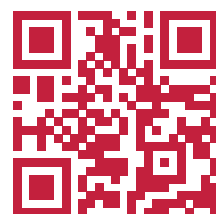
**NM&VG:** You worked as a historical consultant for the Nellis Air Force Base and conducted research on Tonopah Army Airfield. What were some of your findings?

**AM:** The U.S. military had a large presence in central Nevada during World War II. At the nearby Tonopah Army Airfield, 120 aviators died in a three-year span during training exercises. Many of the planes used for training had already seen combat, and they also weren't used to taking off at 6,000 feet. You can find some of the recovered wreckage at the museum.

**NM&VG:** What can the public do to support the history of central Nevada?

**AM:** Plan a trip to Tonopah and visit the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah. If you're interested in joining some of our ongoing restoration efforts, consider joining the Central Nevada Historical Society. We're

currently working on a World War II memorial in Tonopah and restoration of the Goldfield cemetery.



Download the museum brochure

DISPLAY AT THE CENTRAL NEVADA MUSEUM



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**WE HAVE VISITED MANY PLACES BUT CANNOT THINK OF  
ANOTHER ONE THAT HOLDS THE APPEAL OF NEVADA.  
WHETHER IT IS THE CRISP COOL MORNINGS OF THE DESERT,  
OR THE BEAUTY OF THE MOUNTAINS AND LAKES,  
MY WIFE AND I AS WELL AS OUR GROWN KIDS LOVE THE STATE,  
AND IT IS ALWAYS IN OUR VACATION-  
PLANNING CONVERSATIONS.**

—JOE PELLETIER, PLANO, TEXAS



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