

NEVADA

Spring 2023

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MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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Lake Tahoe's mysterious mansion

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and both sides of the coin

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NEVADA

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COMING IN SUMMER:

THE 2023 GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

Have you captured some amazing photos of Nevada?

If so, our annual contest is for you!

Winners get their photos in our Winter issue
as well as bragging rights and fantastic prizes.



**Great Nevada
Picture Hunt**

Watch for
contest entry
information in
our Summer
2023 issue.



Liz Huntington (top left), Christopher Balladarez (top right),
Wally Hawkins (bottom)

Take a peek
inside the lavish
and remote
Thunderbird Lodge
on pg. 40.



Learn more about
Howard Hughes,
the mysterious
billionaire who
bought Las Vegas
on pg. 66.



WELCOME 2023!

IT'S YOUR TURN.

Use this QR code to take our survey and tell us what you like/don't like about the guide AND what you'd like to see in future issues!

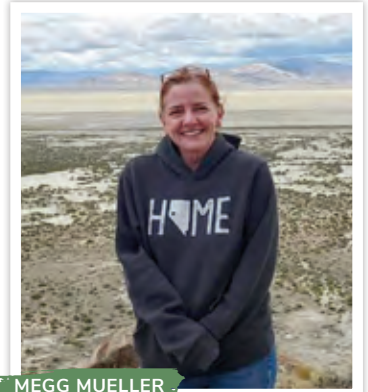


It's been a year since we launched the new *Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide*, and what a year it's been. The magazine you hold has undergone many changes to become the best possible window into all Nevada has to offer, and we'll continue to keep that as our goal. We love sharing our state with you, whether you live here or are just stopping by.

To that end, we've got so many good stories inside! We'll take you to a castle in the desert, follow the trail of how Nevada's wealth went from dirt to dollars, take a delicious road trip through southern Nevada, and step into a mansion at Lake Tahoe you have to see to believe. Not enough for you?? Well, that's fine, because we always have more!

Take a visit with us to a Sagebrush Saloon that boasts one of our best views, discover why all-you-can-eat sushi can be found across the Battle Born State, learn about our state fossil and see one of our best-preserved ghost towns at one state park, and discover why in spring, Nevada is the perfect place to watch for our feathered friends.

As we breathe in the new year and start anew, a reminder that if you enjoy reading this issue, you can sign up to receive them for free, mailed to your address. Use the QR code or visit travelnevada.com/travel-guides to sign up so you never miss an issue.



MEGG MUELLER



SCAN HERE
FOR FREE
SUBSCRIPTION



Find some of the Silver State's all-you-can-eat sushi spots on pg. 16.



Welcome to Nevada!



Megg Mueller, Executive Editor

Winter 2022-2023 issue corrections: In the Great Nevada Picture Hunt results, Nancy Florence was misspelled as Nancy Flores. Our report of Don Laughlin's death was greatly exaggerated. He is alive and well!

Luxury lifestyles and incredible bargains can be found in Las Vegas, as you'll see on pg. 52.



TALK TO US

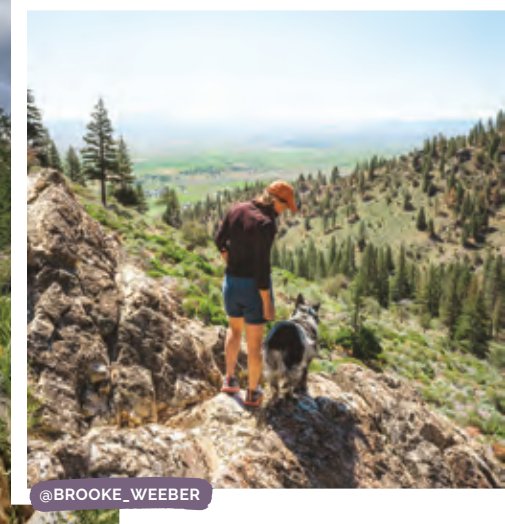
While there are plenty of things you'll want to keep to yourself during your vacation, we know there are must-post pictures your friends have to see. Here's how to share them and inspire a bit of envy about your trip to NV.

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

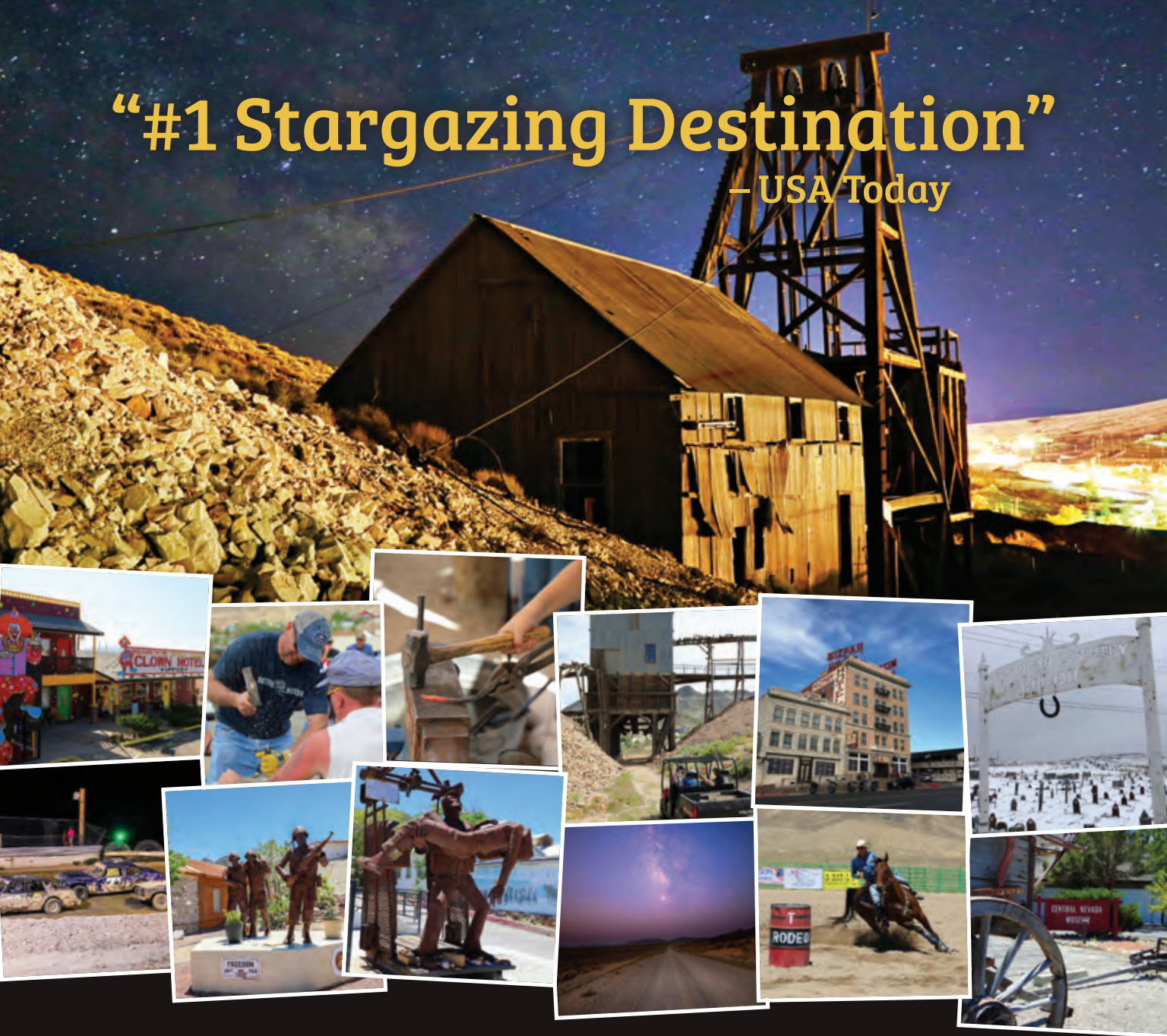
Nevada has so many reasons to blow up your friends' social feeds, from no-filter-needed scenery to selfies sure to induce a little FOMO. Tag your pictures, and while [#TravelNevada](#) always works, look for other tags geared toward your favorite theme.



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 92 for more.

“#1 Stargazing Destination”

– USA Today



ANNUAL EVENTS

Jim Butler Days, Nevada State Mining Championships, Blacksmithing Classes, Ghost Walks, Rodeos, Star Parties, Historic Self-Guided Walking Tour, Tonopah Speedway Jim Marsh Classic

PLACES TO VISIT

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



Nevada

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To get your head around all the options, turn to page 98.

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Learn more at [VisitLakeTahoe.com](https://www.VisitLakeTahoe.com)

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Las Vegas casino empire



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Spring in Nevada means wildflowers waking up in the meadows and baby birds and beasts playing in our wide-open ranges. Spring is also a time of new beginnings and adventure, and whatever your interests, you'll find endless opportunity and a welcoming smile.

COVERS

Front & Back (wrap):

A country path flanked by a field of large-leaved lupines ribbons out into the Jarbidge Wilderness.

Photographer: Melinda White



SPOTLIGHT

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A conversation with a whiskey farmer



Patrick Kennedy (Virginia City Grand Prix, top left), Nicole Wargo (Cold Creek mustangs, top right)



DID YOU KNOW?

NEVADA'S CLIMATE

ALMOST ALL OF NEVADA IS LOCATED WITHIN THE LARGEST DESERT IN THE U.S., THE GREAT BASIN DESERT. YOU CAN BANISH ANY THOUGHTS OF ENDLESS SAND PLAINS AND CACTI FORESTS THOUGH. NEVADA IS A PLACE OF VERDANT VALLEYS, MOUNTAIN OASES, AND PLENTIFUL FLORA AND FAUNA.

TEMPERATURE
EXTREMES

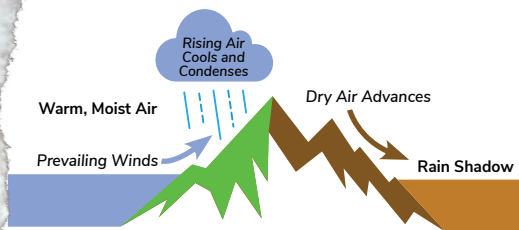
HOTTEST:
125° F
LAUGHLIN
JUNE 1995

COLDEST:
-50° F
SAN JACINTO
JAN. 1937

Nevada enjoys a mild climate, and all four seasons get a chance to shine.

STATEWIDE HIGHS
AVERAGE

84° F & **42° F**
IN THE SUMMER IN THE WINTER



Nevada has a desert climate because of the nearby Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains, which block moisture from precipitating in the state—an effect known as a

RAIN SHADOW

Nevada is the driest state in the U.S.

AVERAGING

10 INCHES
OF RAIN A YEAR.
(Hawaii, the wettest, gets more than 60 inches). You'll still find plenty of lakes, rivers, and creeks here—especially near the mountains.

25 **WETTEST TOWN:** Crystal Bay
INCHES OF RAIN PER YEAR

4 **DRIEST TOWN:** Indian Springs
INCHES OF RAIN PER YEAR

Nevada means "snow-covered" in Spanish. We have the

MOST
MOUNTAIN
RANGES IN
THE U.S.

most of which are white all winter.

Las Vegas normally gets 0.3 inches of snow a year, but on Jan. 10-12, 1949, the city received

9.7 INCHES
of snow
(more than 3 decades worth!)

Tanja Musselman
(Washoe Valley tree in four seasons)



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DESERT PLAYGROUND

Michele Barney captured this sweet image out hiking with her family in the Independence Mountain range in northeast Nevada.

📷 Samsung Galaxy, 1 sec, f/1.8, ISO 40








BIRD BALLET

This shoreline scene from a pond in Washoe Valley was sent in by Sandra Whitteker. “I was photographing a Great Blue Heron when a second one flew into the picture. The two fabulous creatures circled each other for several minutes, raising their heads high, stretching out their elegant necks, and displaying larger wings than I’d ever imagined possible.”

 Canon 5D Mkii, 1/640 sec, f/9, ISO 200

SCENIC CYCLING

Anthony Capaiuolo snapped a shot of this racer participating in the Stetina Paydirt Race. “This is an awesome race that starts and ends in Carson City and rides through a lot of Carson Valley. One particularly cool thing is that this race flips the script on prize money. Far too often, women competitors get less prize money than the men. In this race, only the women’s bracket had a cash payout.”

 Sony ILCE-1, 1/500 sec, f/5, ISO 125





Check out page 34 for more cool things to see and do along the Death Valley Rally Road Trip!



MOMENT OF ZEN


Nicole Wargo took this shot at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality near Indian Springs. “Blink and you might miss this refuge for tranquility and contemplation outside of the bustle of Las Vegas. Those lucky enough to catch this sanctuary on their drive through Nevada are

rewarded with a meditative space to reflect. The temple is nondenominational and welcomes everyone. Spend an hour wandering the labyrinth, lighting incense, and enjoying a moment of serenity before continuing back onto the highway.”

 Samsung SM-G900T, 1/120 sec, f/2.2, ISO 40

RAINBOW CANYONS

Nikita Williams sent this photo in from a family trip at Valley of Fire State Park. “This park is absolutely stunning and unique. Our family walked through narrow canyons of sand and rock lit up by the sun with a lovely golden glow. We enjoyed taking in each little stop along the way, chasing lizards and checking out caves. We can’t wait to go back again to try another path.”

 Apple iPhone 12, 1/1800 sec, f/2, ISO 25



Sushi



Roll Call

Nevada is fixated on fresh fish.

Sushi is something of a Nevada specialty. This might sound surprising, given that the nearest wharf is some 150 miles away, but it's true. The Silver State is home to some of the best sushi around with daily offerings as fresh as you'd find in any oceanside community. Best of all, amazing sushi restaurants are found all across Nevada, not just in our metropolitan areas.



The sushi we all know today originated as fast food in 19th century Tokyo. In the 1970s, advances in refrigeration and local rice cultivation led to the U.S. opening its first sushi restaurants in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago.

The first sushi restaurants catered mostly to wealthy Japanese businessmen and the American upper class. In the 1980s, Americans became obsessed with all things Japanese, and as the appetite for anime and Zen gardens flourished, so did our love for sushi.

AYCE SUSHI CAPITAL OF THE WEST

So, how did a landlocked, desert state come to reign supreme in serving a signature Japanese dish? It all comes down to the casinos, or rather, competition with them. In the 1990s, sushi restaurants in Reno needed to find a way to compete with the high-class sushi bars

popping up in the casino resorts. Their answer? All-you-can-eat (AYCE) sushi.

AYCE soon became standard fare in restaurants across the city, offering sushi fans the chance to indulge and engorge for a reasonable price. Las Vegas picked up on the craze, and today you'll find many AYCE experiences in both cities.

At most restaurants, guests can sit at a table or at the bar, where you'll be chatting up other diners and placing orders directly with the chef. For AYCE, you can order all the sushi you'd like, but you may get charged for uneaten rolls.

Sushi culture is so prevalent in Nevada that plentiful sushi experiences are found in our smaller towns as well. Keep these options in mind as you make your way across the state.

BLUE MOON ASIAN CUISINE & SUSHI

Elko

Blue Moon offers a spread of Asian plates from Pad Thai to Vietnamese Pho, not to mention a full bar offering dozens of imaginative cocktail combinations. Sushi includes classic choices with plenty of special and signature rolls including the Ruby Mountain: crystal shrimp with assorted fish, avocado, and sweet and spicy mayo.





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north lake tahoe
it's human nature



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GoTahoeNorth.com/TravelNevada



MOMO SUSHI

Boulder City

Momo's is a popular spot with a considerable menu. They also offer generous drink specials including sake flights and buy-one-get-one-free house sake. Try the Heart Attack: a fried roll with jalapenos stuffed with cream cheese and spicy tuna.



MINATO'S JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Laughlin

Minato's features classic Korean and Japanese entrees alongside all varieties of sushi—including deep fried and baked. If you're not sure what to order, try the Chef Special Roll; this inspired piece changes every day.





LAS ARENITAS SUSHI

Winnemucca

A Mexican and sushi restaurant in a cowboy town? Yup, it totally works. Las Arenitas is one of the few places to serve up enchiladas next to edamame and mochi alongside tostadas. Their sushi menu has dozens of options, many embracing the cultural fusion like La Playa: crab, mango, salmon, and cream cheese topped with mango sauce.

KEI SUSHI

Carson City

Making a stop in our state capital? You'll find one of the best sushi experiences in northern Nevada at Kei Sushi. In addition to beautiful presentation and talented chefs, this spot shows off a considerable AYCE menu that includes unlimited appetizers. Try their dessert long rolls, like the Ladybug, which includes sweet potato, cream cheese, honey, chocolate, whipped cream, and strawberries wrapped in soy paper.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

When enjoying sushi, feel free to experiment with the three add-ons: ginger, soy sauce, and wasabi. To keep your sushi from falling apart, keep your rice out of the soy sauce and only lightly dip the fish. Wasabi is part of the horseradish family and brings some spice with a little going a long way. The ginger is there as a palate cleanser, which is very useful when you have different rolls to appreciate.

SUSHI SCHOOL

NIGIRI—Hand-molded rice with a slice of fish draped atop

SASHIMI—Thin slices of raw meat

HAND ROLL (TEMAKI)—Rice and fillings served inside a seaweed cone

MAKI—Classic sushi: a medallion of seaweed, rice, and fillings



KEI SUSHI

Sagebrush Saloons Lucky Spur

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



SAGEBRUSH SALOONS

Kingston's epic watering hole delivers tasty refreshments with a killer view.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

If you're here, you're way out there (kudos!) and there's no restaurant in town, so it's best to grab a meal in advance at Middlegate Station or Cold Springs Station Resort.





Just east of Austin, take a 30-minute detour south of Highway 50 to Kingston, where pretty much every road leads to a joint “Men’s Health” magazine once dubbed the “Best Bar in the Middle of Nowhere.” We’d argue that it’s the middle of Big Smoky Valley, which, from atop your barstool, is laid out before you in all its splendor.

While you enjoy the view, take in this scrappy little oasis known for cold beers, stiff pours, old trappers’ gear lining the walls, and always-eclectic conversations with colorful locals. You can also chat up the myriad road trippers, fishermen, hikers taking a break from the Toiyabe Crest Trail, and others who find themselves drawn to this picturesque watering hole at the mouth of Kingston Canyon.

STAY ANOTHER DAY



The beautiful Kingston Canyon offers plentiful camping so you can stay and enjoy the trails, OTV routes, and fishing holes. While here, grab a soak in nearby Spencer Hot Springs and admire the ancient pictographs of Toquima Cave. Kingston Cabin offers nearby lodging, as does Austin, 30 miles to the north.



C2 Photography (Hot Springs)

UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

Vacationing in Nevada often means luxurious stays at ritzy hotels or sprawling casino resorts. But outside the neon, a world of unique retreats and unusual accommodations offers an irresistibly different kind of stay.

PARADISE RANCH CASTLE

Enjoy a bed and breakfast fit for a king.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

Spring is here, and that means it's time to escape to your country estate and take in the fresh valley air. For those seeking a royal outing but are between palatial retreats, a perfectly good substitute awaits outside Austin.





Some might wonder why there is a giant, castle-like bed and breakfast in central Nevada. Once upon a time—about 20 years ago—Ohio natives Donna and Bob got married in Las Vegas. Like many partners who promise their betrothed the world, Bob said he would build his wife a castle. But Bob wasn't kidding. The two found a plot of land in the Reese River Valley and established their desert realm. Before long, their new home was operating as one of the most unique bed and breakfasts in the state.

Guests at Paradise Ranch Castle have their choice of two rooms: the quaint Blue Room or the regal, lavender-hued master suite. If staying in the suite, be prepared: The bathroom is the size of some studio apartments. Like any good castle, the main floor has plenty of interesting nooks and crannies to explore with eclectic décor running the gambit from Victorian dolls and suits of armor to antique slot machines and baseball memorabilia.





TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

While breakfast is provided, you'll have to bring your own dinner. We recommend stopping at Cold Springs station for a bite to eat. Paradise Ranch Castle does not take payment by card, so be sure to bring cash or a check.

Once settled, head down the spiral staircase, through the batwing doors, and into the parlor room, lovingly called The Dungeon. With a saloon-style bar, billiards table, two poker tables, and a player piano, this is the place to while away the hours in good company. As the evening passes, don't forget to head outside to take in the quiet, remote setting. Sit out on the porch and enjoy a sunset cocktail or get in some truly spectacular stargazing.

The next morning, make for the 12-chair banquet table and enjoy your breakfast and coffee before plotting out your next adventure for the day.



RAW AND TUMBLED BLUE AGATE

Just southwest of Austin, the verdant Reese River Valley beckons visitors for outdoor adventure. After a night at Paradise Ranch Castle, hop on your mountain bike or OHV to explore the foothills and canyons of the Shoshone Mountains. If rockhounding is your thing, ask around for the best spots to score some blue agate! Can't get out to find your own agate? Visit etsy.com/shop/MtnSageMinerals, to buy one from a Nevada-based seller.





DIRT TO DOLLARS

Nevada's museums specialize in the history of wealth.

Nevada is known as the Silver State for a good reason: it's home to the largest silver strike in U.S. history. That's impressive, but it only scratches the surface of the remarkable mineral bounty found here. To fill in the rest of the picture, don't miss these museums dedicated to all things mining and money.

C2 Photography (Man walking toward mine)



VERTICAL MINE SHAFT



TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

Tonopah

Get ready to wind back the clock to 1910. At the turn of the 20th century, Tonopah and its sister-town Goldfield led the resurgence of Nevada's then-ailing mining industry. Even after extraction ended in the 1940s, Tonopah's mining complex retained its magnificent collection of infrastructure and equipment.

The wonderfully preserved Tonopah Historic Mining Park is a 100-acre relic of the state's mining past. Visitors can explore the grounds on a self-guided walking tour, but consider scheduling ahead of time for a curated Polaris tour—how often can you say you've motored through a museum?

Site buildings are packed with period equipment and tools, and a handful of crisscrossing mine tunnels are open for inspection. The Tonopah Historic Mining Park has plenty of exciting moments for kids (particularly the grated vertical shafts), and mining and history buffs will find no shortage of informative displays and historic photos.

The park is conveniently located just behind the Mizpah Hotel. Entrance fee for adults is \$5, and kids 7 or under get in for free.



W. M. KECK EARTH SCIENCE AND MINERAL ENGINEERING MUSEUM

Reno

The Keck Museum—quietly tucked away near the quad of the 150-year-old University of Nevada, Reno—holds a staggering collection of ore and rock specimens from historic mines around the world. This charming gallery also serves as a research archive for archeologists and geologists, and only 5 percent of the collection is on display.

Plenty of treasures are kept in this collection, including the famous “blue mud” from The Comstock, a horde of precious stones (including the fire opal—Nevada’s state mineral), and practically every variety of mineral that ends with -ite.

The gallery’s centerpiece is the plaster relief map of Nevada created for the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exhibition. Visitors often find themselves spending long minutes studying this highly detailed depiction of the state’s striking geography.



CURATOR GARRETT BARMORE



Keck Museum

QUICK HITS **MUSEUMS**



After the main gallery, there are two more levels to explore. Downstairs is the fluorescent minerals collection—popular with the kids—and the opulent 57-piece Mackay silver collection. The silver set hails from 1878, when John Mackay (a wealthy miner who funded many of the University's earliest buildings) ordered 1,200 dining implements, all made from 96.4 percent Nevada silver. Finally, climb upstairs onto the beautiful mezzanine to tour artifacts dedicated to mining history and local paleontology, including 50,000-year-old mammoth tracks from Carson City.

The Keck Museum is free to enter and open Monday-Friday and on the first Saturday of the month.

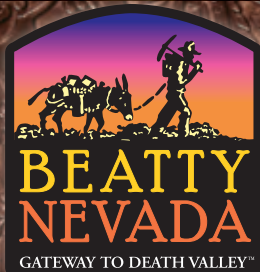
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MORE INFO**



MUSEUMS

360° of ADVENTURE

From Death Valley to Rhyolite Ghost Town,
and from the Amargosa Big Dunes to Oasis
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THE WILDFLOWERS ARE COMING... ARE YOU?



THE DEATH VALLEY BLOOM

[FEBRUARY - MAY] In spring, a burst of color softens the stark, dry landscape of Death Valley with a blanket of wild flowers set against the surreal salt flats and majestic mountains. It's a sight you don't want to miss! Beatty is your perfect basecamp with plenty of room accommodations, RV parks and dining.

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

JUST 98 MILES NORTH OF LAS VEGAS ON HIGHWAY 95.

Made possible by a Nevada Commission on Tourism grant. www.travelnevada.com



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

Carson City

Fun fact: the Nevada State Museum in Carson City operates from inside an actual historic mint. Between 1870-1885 and 1889-1893, federal coinage was produced in this corner of the West.

Back when silver practically streamed out of nearby Virginia City, its bullion was carted to Nevada's capital and transformed into coins, all bearing the "CC" mint mark. In total, the Carson City Mint produced nearly \$50 million (face value) in gold and silver coins.

While the mint has been out of operation for more than a century, the museum was able to locate and restore the original Coin Press No. 1, which can be found on the first floor. This is the only coin press of that era still in operation; it produces commemorative medallions for museum visitors, special occasions, and historical organizations.

Nearby, you'll find a goldmine of exhibits detailing the journey of Nevada ore from processing to pressing, including crucibles, scales, stamps, and glittering displays of mint-quality coins. Head downstairs to the mine and walk through an incredibly realistic mine tunnel featuring plenty of mannequin miners hard at work.



MINT PRESS DEMONSTRATION



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Coins with the famous "CC" mint mark are highly coveted by collectors. You can find a collection of historic Carson City Mint coins for sale across the street at Northern Nevada Coin—ask if you can hold their silver bar!



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| Reno, NV |
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Drive #161
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March 1-5 2023

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Ranch, Rope & Performance Horse Sale!
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ROAD TRIPS **DEATH VALLEY RALLY**

#DeathValleyRally

TravelNevada.com/Death-Valley-Rally



DEATH VALLEY RALLY

Explore a world of extremes
found just one hour off The Strip.



Is there anything to do in the area surrounding Las Vegas? Short answer: absolutely. Soon after hitting the road, you'll find mountain hikes, winery tours, a national park, strollable ghost towns, and some seriously cool wildlife. Even better, along the way are some of the best food and lodgings that small town Nevada has to offer. Whether you decide to cruise around for an afternoon or a weekend, this trip is sure to be a highlight of your visit.



MOUNTAIN SPRINGS SALOON

LAS VEGAS TO PAHRUMP

Traveling southeast from Las Vegas, the trek begins on Highway 160—also called the Pahrump Valley Highway. Upon reaching the Mountain Springs Summit, consider a brief sojourn on the Mountain Springs Trailhead, a 5-mile roundtrip hike that grants gorgeous views of Mount Charleston. For a post-walk respite, stop in at the Mountain Springs Saloon and Maria's Taco Shop, located just down the road.

From the summit, the road flows down the other side of the mountain and into 30 miles of pure Mojave Desert. Up ahead is Pahrump, one of the last vestiges of the American frontier. More than 38,000 people call this place home, making it the largest community in the state outside of the Las Vegas, Reno, and Carson City metro areas.

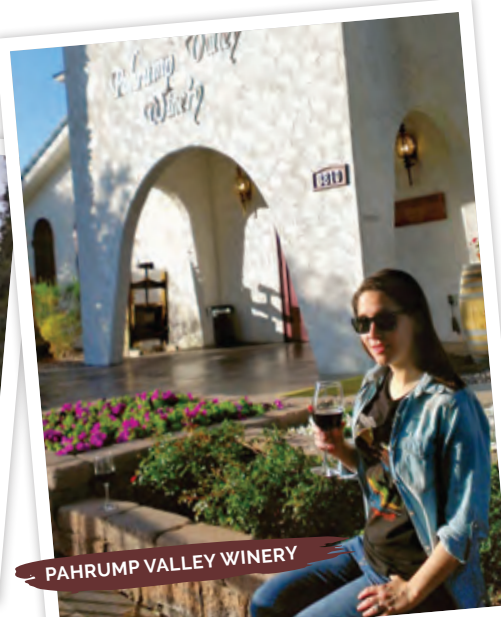
In Pahrump, you'll find everything from driving ranges and winery tours to great restaurants and comfortable accommodations. No matter what you decide, make sure to fuel up and get rested for one of the West's most famous landmarks waiting up ahead.

PAHRUMP TO DEATH VALLEY

Despite that ominous name, Death Valley National Park is a landscape alive with incredible beauty. Enter from Highway 190 and get the lay of the land from Dante's View, where you'll gaze down 5,760 feet to Badwater Basin and, on clear days, out to Mt. Whitney—the highest and lowest points in the Lower 48.



MOUNTAIN SPRINGS TRAIL



PAHRUMP VALLEY WINERY

**TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP**

Plenty of adventures await in Death Valley National Park, but be sure to recreate responsibly and plan out your trip before heading further into the desert. Research your route ahead of time to make sure what you're hoping to see is open and accessible.

Hit Furnace Creek Visitor Center, then spend the day exploring landmarks like the kaleidoscopic Artist's Palette and Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes before looping back into Nevada via the park's north entrance.

DEATH VALLEY TO RHYOLITE

From Death Valley National Park, cross the border into Nevada and take a short drive to Beatty. There's one stop to make before reaching town, however: The ghost town of Rhyolite.

Founded in 1905, Rhyolite rose and fell in span of a few years. Although it once boasted 6,000 residents, today only a handful of buildings remain, including the stately Cook Bank Building and the train depot. Outside town, you'll find another famous Nevada landmark: the Tom Kelly Bottle House. This structure harkens back to a resource-scarce era when a house made from glass bottles was more practical than one of wood or stone.

Don't forget to stop at the Goldwell Open Air Museum. This open-air gallery is one of the state's coolest, and if you're looking for a good place to get photos, this is it.



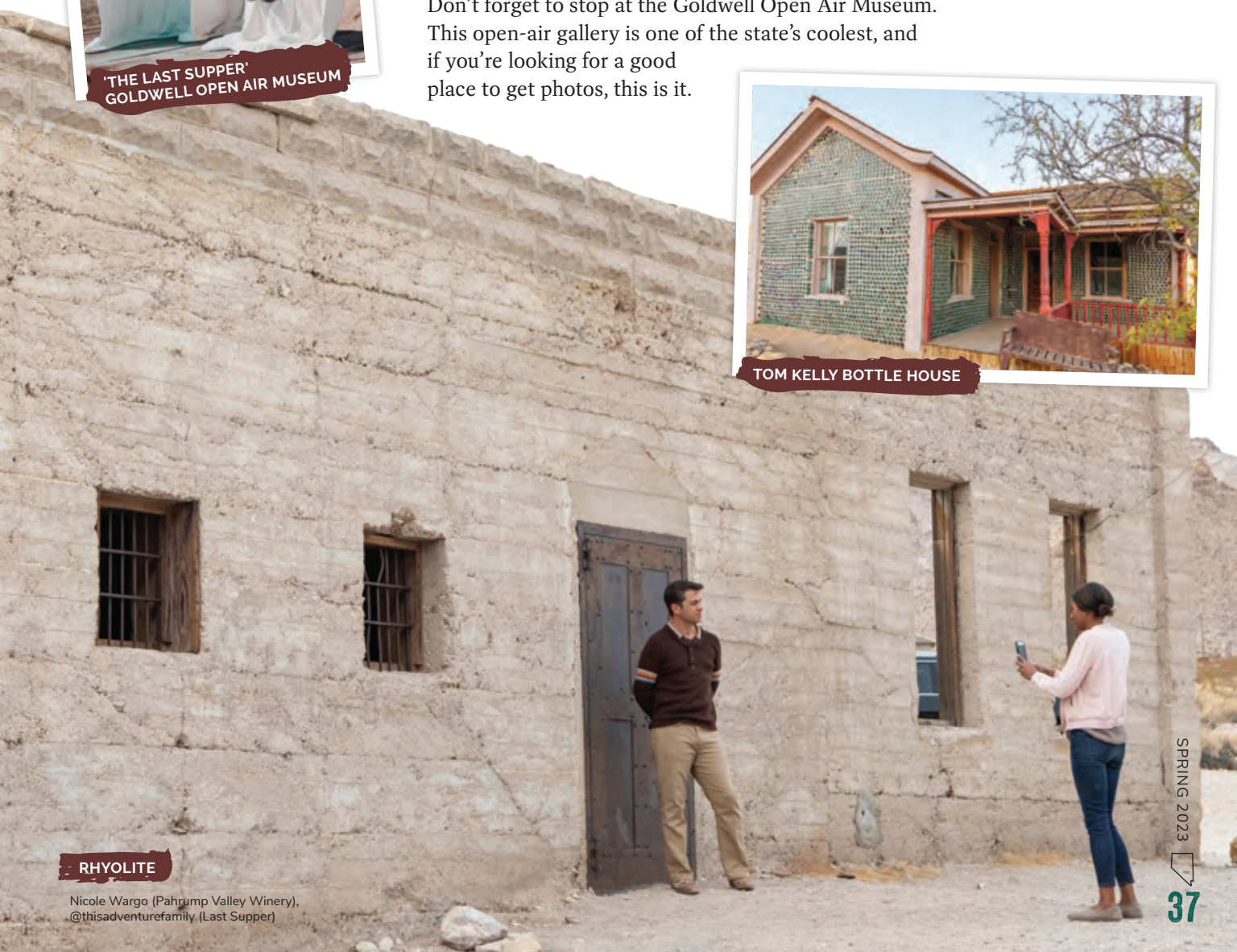
'SIT HERE!'
GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM



'THE LAST SUPPER'
GOLDWELL OPEN AIR MUSEUM



TOM KELLY BOTTLE HOUSE

**RHYOLITE**

Nicole Wargo (Pahrump Valley Winery),
@thisadventurefamily (Last Supper)

STAY
ANOTHER
DAY

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—located 45 minutes outside Pahrump in Amargosa Valley—boasts clear-blue pools, bubbling springs, wooden boardwalks, and a remarkably unique ecosystem. The refuge is home to 26 plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth—including many species of Desert Pupfish. Ash Meadows is free to enter.

RHYOLITE TO BEATTY

Beatty is a welcome sight for road-weary travelers—keep an eye out for its iconic wandering burros. This town was founded in the early 1900s as a water and material supplier to surrounding mining towns. When the gold and surrounding towns dried up, Beatty survived thanks to being at the crossroad of two highways and the railroad.

Although small, this town is built to serve road trippers and outdoor adventurers: It's known as the gateway to Death Valley, after all. You'll find a great selection of restaurants, casinos, and lodgings. If you only have time for one stop, make it the Death Valley Nut & Candy Co. and peruse barrels of bulk buy confections.

**DEATH VALLEY NUT & CANDY CO.**



DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



DEATH VALLEY RALLY

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

BEATTY TO LAS VEGAS

On the return trip, don't miss wildlife viewing opportunities at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1936, this massive complex is home to dozens of desert species and is your chance to spot Nevada's state mammal, the desert bighorn sheep.

If you still haven't had enough of the outdoors, consider escaping to the alpine air at The Retreat, a mountain lodge on Mt. Charleston. Here, you'll get your fair share of stargazing, drinks by the fire, and panoramic views—and you're only 45 minutes from The Strip.

Finally, it's back to Las Vegas. If your trip has left you feeling nostalgic for an earlier time, consider going retro at Downtown's glitz and neon. For some real Sixties' fare, we can recommend classic motel lodgings at the Oasis at Gold Spike or the time-capsule-like El Cortez Hotel and Casino.



INDIGO BUNTING, DESERT
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

BEATTY

RESTAURANTS

Smokin' J's Barbecue
Gema's Café
Happy Burro Chili & Beer

ACCOMMODATIONS

Atomic Inn
Stagecoach Hotel & Casino
Death Valley Inn & RV Park
Motel 6
Exchange Club Motel
El Portal Motel

RESTAURANTS

Sugar and Spice Pahrump
Bistro and Bakery
Chatthai Bistro
Mom's Diner
O Happy Bread
Stagestop Casino
\$5 \$10 \$15 Restaurant
Seemore's Ice Cream

PAHRUMP

DISTILLERIES AND WINERIES

Pahrump Valley Winery
Sanders Family Winery
Stonewise Mead & Cider
Artesian Cellars
Desert Cane Distillery

ACCOMMODATIONS

Best Western Pahrump Oasis
Saddle West Hotel and Casino
K-7 Bed & Breakfast
Wine Ridge RV Resort & Cottages
Lakeside Casino & RV Resort





Thunderbird Lodge

Curiosity and majesty on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

BY CORY MUNSON

Thunderbird Lodge is a sight to behold. Even from the parking lot, visitors can't help but snap photos of the manor nestled amid pine trees and car-sized boulders. The summer home of a Depression-era millionaire, Thunderbird Lodge is lavish and remote. It is also a place of many secrets that, when revealed, help paint a picture of the mysterious man who built it.

ALONE IN THE WOODS

Thunderbird Lodge is a home built in two parts. The modern section—easily distinguishable by its olive-green paneling—was completed in the 1980s. It includes a residential wing, a skywalk, and a panoramic gallery built around the old lighthouse.

The original part of the mansion was designed by prolific architect Frederic DeLongchamps and completed in 1939. Its visionary and owner was one of the era's wealthiest individuals, George Whittell, Jr.

Whittell hailed from San Francisco's high society—his family made its fortune selling real estate during the Gold Rush. Months before the Great Depression, Whittell pulled his money out of the stock market and stayed a wealthy man as the nation slid into financial chaos.



In 1935, Whittell purchased 44,000 acres on the east shore of Lake Tahoe. At that time, the land was mostly deforested—an unfortunate side effect of feeding The Comstock's mines. As the land had no practical value, he got it all for a bargain of \$2.3 million.

Whittell's property stretched from Incline Village to Zephyr Cove, more than 20 miles of shoreline. The man valued his privacy and was not interested in selling any of it during his lifetime. For this reason, Nevada's side of the lake is today mostly national forest and public land.

A TIME CAPSULE

Entering the original lodge, visitors will notice that most of it is living room. The great hall's décor is heavily inspired by nature: pine paneling, pinecone print rugs, and exotic animal trophies. Upstairs, Whittell's and his wife's bedrooms face each other from opposite wings.

Domestic operations are found downstairs, which includes the bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room, and servant's quarters. The rooms are furnished, stocked, and decorated in 1940s fare—including the original, payphone-sized air conditioner.

Something is missing in the original lodge, however: guest bedrooms. That was by design. Whittell was happy to host, but guests were expected vacate the premises when the fun was over.

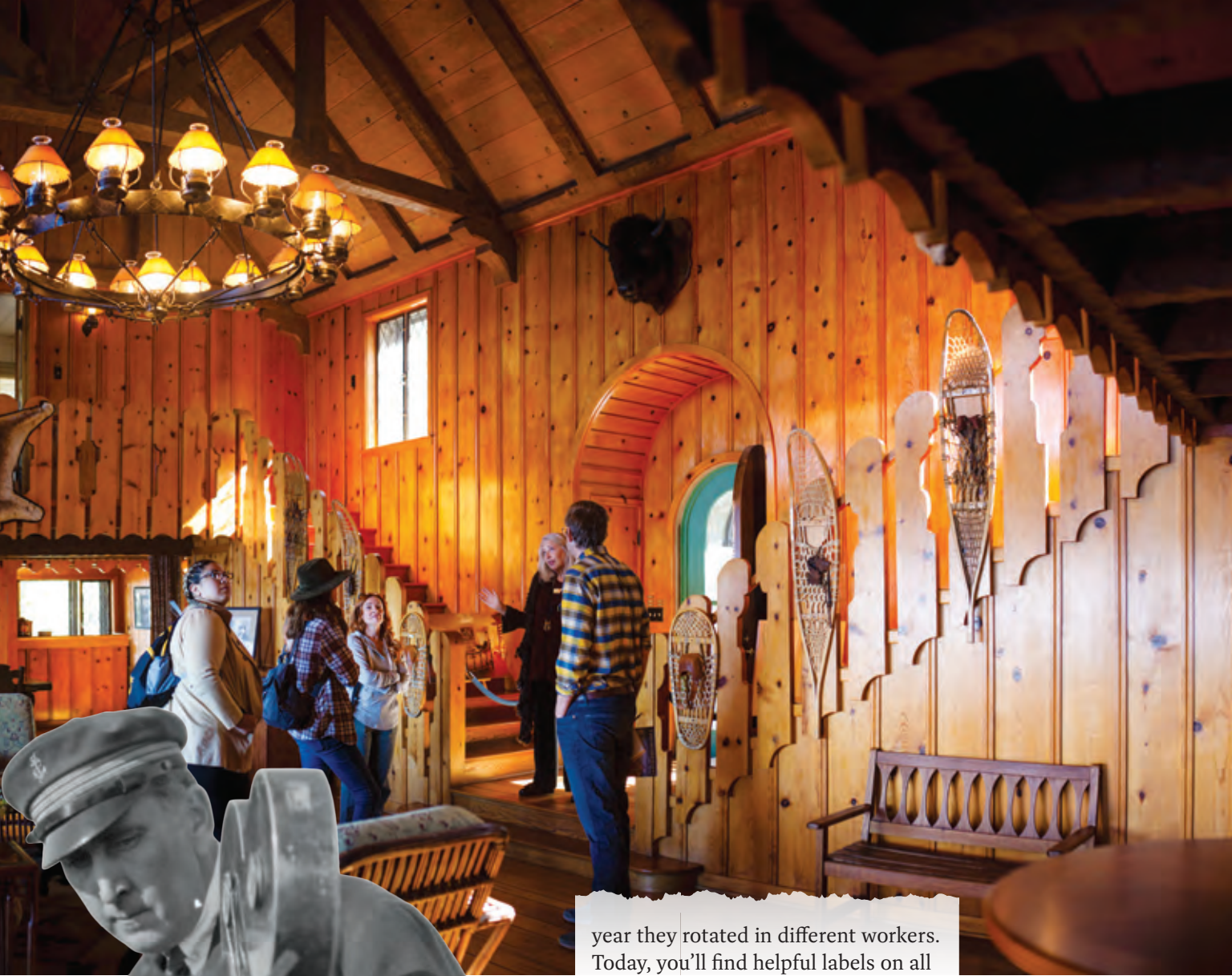


Indeed, Whittell was a very secretive individual. He installed outdoor security systems that alerted him to approaching cars and placed hidden microphones in rooms to learn what guests knew about him.

This eccentric behavior extended to his staff: Whittell did not want them knowing his business. When around them, he and his wife spoke French, and every

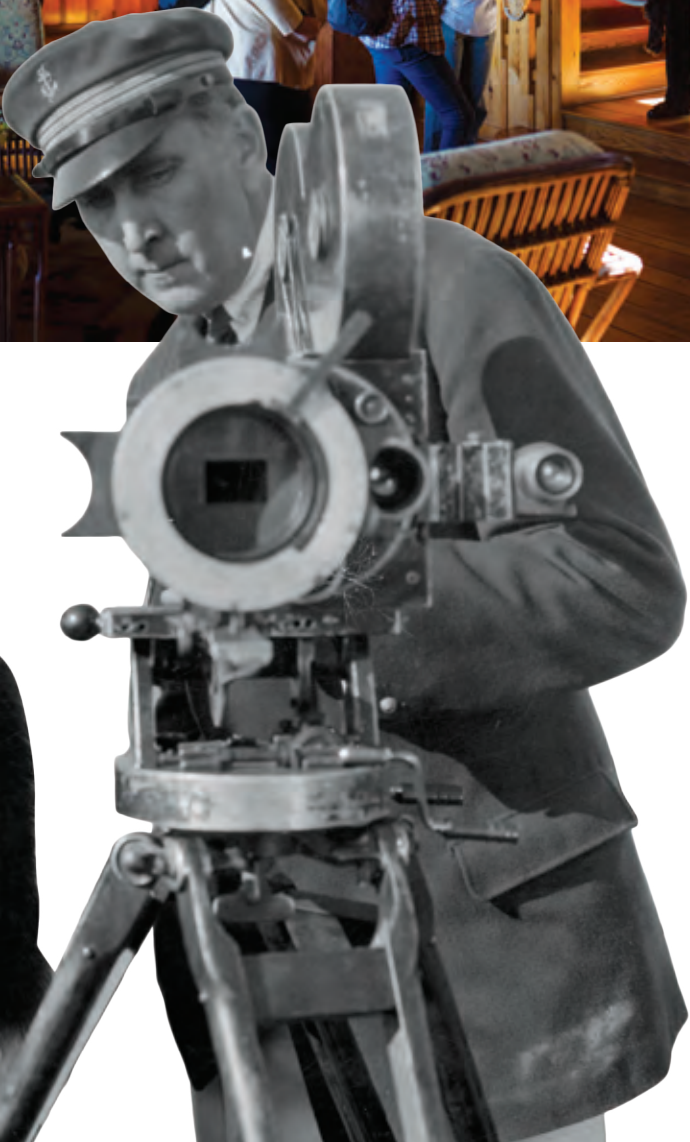


GEORGE AND ELIA WHITTEL



year they rotated in different workers. Today, you'll find helpful labels on all the light switches, which were used to quickly orient new employees.

While functional and cozy, the lower level is not particularly large. Visitors might even assume the tour is over. But there is one door left, tucked away in the back of the laundry room. Opening it reveals a catacomb-like tunnel extending into the darkness.



THE OTHER THUNDERBIRD

More than 200 yards of stonework passages—built by unpaid student masons from the Stewart Indian School in Carson City—wind beneath Thunderbird Lodge and connect buildings across the grounds. Of course, it wouldn't be a millionaire's mansion without some secret alcoves carved into the hard rock. We won't give this part of the tour away, but Whittell did seal off one of these subterranean rooms forever.

At the end of the tunnel, filtered daylight illuminates a warehouse-like structure. Inside, a gleaming wooden ship rocks in a channel of clear water. This is the famous *Thunderbird* yacht.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Public tours take place between the last week of May and mid-October. Contact Thunderbird Lake Tahoe to arrange your visit or to inquire about private, corporate, and wine and cheese tours. The lodge is also available as a wedding and event venue.



Built in Michigan and transported to Nevada by train, the yacht was first put in the water in 1940. It was built to resemble a Douglas DC-2 airplane (think Indiana Jones), and its engines were the same ones used on the P-38 fighter plane. Whittell only used his prized *Thunderbird* for two summers. When WWII began, he grew concerned that the government would seize and disassemble his ship for parts. He camouflaged the boat house and hid the ship away. When Bill Harrah purchased the *Thunderbird* yacht in 1962, its maintenance log registered only 83 hours of use.

The journey back to the estate follows a meandering trail above the beach that parallels the tunnel below. Thunderbird Lodge is magnificent in its scope and sprawl, but small touches make Thunderbird Lodge a work of art. The way back to the estate reveals Nordic-style cottages (one of which was used just for Whittell's gambling nights), beaches in picturesque coves, and immaculately groomed gardens.

While conceived of and built for an aristocratic family, Thunderbird Lodge now belongs to posterity. The hard work of conservation and upkeep is proudly done by volunteers, and the estate is managed by Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, a nonprofit organization.

You can help support this organization by booking one of its fascinating tours of Nevada's most interesting residence.

George Whittell Jr. wasn't the only 20th century capitalist to leave his mark on the state. In the 1960s, Howard Hughes moved to Las Vegas and bought up most of The Strip. Read all about it on page 66.



LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY
 ★ **JT HUMPHREY** ★
 OFFICIAL ESCORT
 To The Wild Side of Nevada

HE'S UP AT 0-DARK-THIRTY, DRINKS WICKED BLACK COFFEE AND HAS A NOSE FOR FINDING WILD HORSES.
 CARE TO RIDE SHOTGUN?

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



CARSON VALLEY
 NEVADA
visitcarsonvalley.org



THE GREAT SILVER STATE WAY



Nevada is home to a bustling Broadway and performing arts scene.

BY MIKALEE BYERMAN

Making a trip to see a Broadway play in a large city often comes with jaw-dropping sticker shock. First are the ticket prices themselves, the cost of which could rival the gross national product of a healthy micronation. Then you'll need to factor in transportation, parking, dinner/drinks, and hotel stays.

Bottom line: You might need to take out a small loan to enjoy “Hadestown” or “Hamilton” in New York City or San Francisco.

And this is one of the many reasons Nevada is becoming an alternate—and sometimes, far more enticing—destination for a Broadway experience.

BROADWAY ON A BUDGET

Nettie Oliverio, president of the executive board of the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno, discovered this sentiment while surveying Pioneer patrons.

“They were telling me you can come to Reno, pay far less, stay in a hotel downtown where parking is free, walk to the Pioneer, have dinner across the street for less than half the price you’ll find in a big city, watch a Broadway show, often with the same touring companies as San Francisco, then get up the next morning and go hiking at Lake Tahoe,” she recalls. “Why would they NOT come here?”

Indeed, the Pioneer Center in the north and The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in the southern tip are destinations for entire calendars of Broadway productions. And more and more people are discovering the benefits.



THE PIONEER SPIRIT

“It’s not only Broadway that attracts people to northern Nevada,” Oliverio says, adding that the 1,500-seat Pioneer is home to the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, A.V.A. Ballet Theatre, and Artown. “The Pioneer is the perfect place to sample all different genres of entertainment, from dance to book lectures to music and beyond.”

The Pioneer opened in 1968 and has been an anchor of northern Nevada’s vibrant artistic and cultural scene ever since. Its geodesic dome comprised of 500 interlocking panels has earned it the nickname the “Golden Turtle.”

“When people first visit, they expect a standard theater,” Oliverio explains. “But our design—let’s just say it’s weird. Who would have thought that it would be a great idea to dig a deep pit, and that’s the main floor? And now, innovative design around arts venues is practically an expectation. The Pioneer was ahead of its time for sure.”

In recognition of its historical and architectural significance, the Pioneer Center is listed in the registers of historic places, both locally and nationally.

David Calvert (All)



THE RENO PHILHARMONIC



THE PIONEER CENTER



COMING EVENTS

The Pioneer Center for the
Performing Arts

Clyne's Cello Concerto, Reno
Philharmonic
March 25

"Come From Away,"
Broadway Comes to Reno
March 28-April 2

"Carmen," Reno Philharmonic
April 15

A.V.A. Ballet Theatre Presents
"The Frozen Snow Queen"
April 22-23

"Anastasia," Broadway Comes to Reno
May 16-21

Visit the NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit NVMuseums.com for museum locations,
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UNCOVER HISTORY

AT NEVADA'S STATE MUSEUMS



NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM



Visit our website to learn about
monthly events and new exhibits.
www.MuseumElko.org

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Nevada's largest collection of wild animals
from around the world!

ART EXHIBITS

Will James • Edward Borein • Ansel Adams
• Edward Weston



SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Just as the Pioneer is an architectural and cultural landmark in the north, similarly, The Smith Center in Las Vegas fills that role in the south.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of its opening, and Suzanne Chabre, vice president and chief experience officer, notes it will continue to bring world-class productions with a goal of making the performing arts accessible to all.

“We take great pride in bringing the best of Broadway to our theater,” she says. “In fact, multiple productions have launched national tours at The Smith Center, and we expect to launch more in the future.”

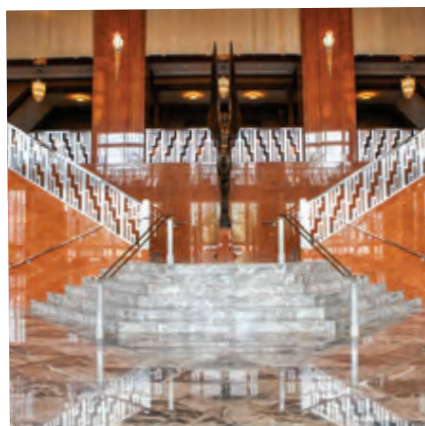
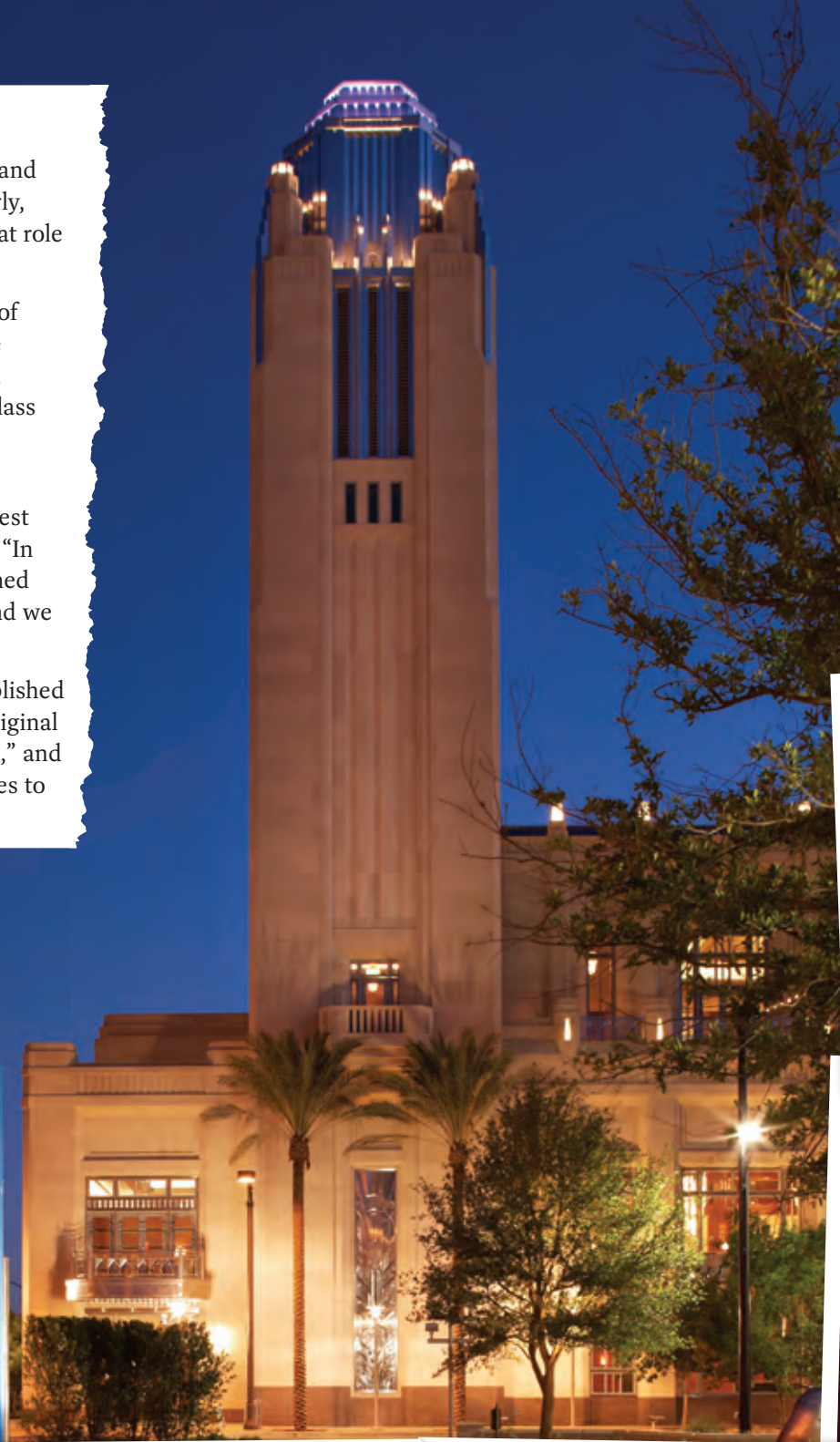
The Smith Center has already accomplished one of its top goals in producing an original musical, “Idaho! The Comedy Musical,” and it will continue to explore opportunities to generate new works.



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



ARTS & CULTURE





COMING EVENTS

The Smith Center for the
Performing Arts

Las Vegas Philharmonic
Spotlight Series

March 9, April 20

Looking Over
the President's Shoulder
March 3 - 5

The Music of John Williams
March 4

Disney's "Frozen,"
Broadway Las Vegas Series
March 8-18

Storm Large
March 10-11

Runa: Celtic Roots Music
March 17

"Mean Girls,"
Broadway Las Vegas Series
March 21-26

Meow Meow
March 25

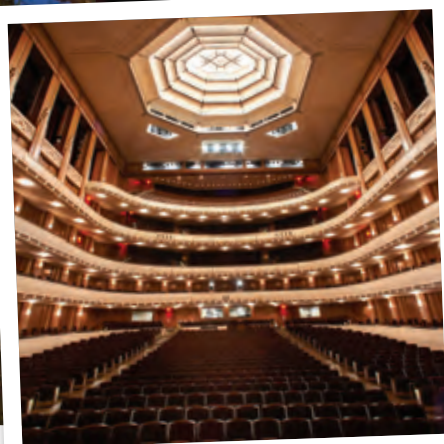
Cabrera Conducts a Night
at the Opera
April 1

The Music of Star Wars
April 2

Fatti Lupone
"Don't Monkey With Broadway,"
April 16

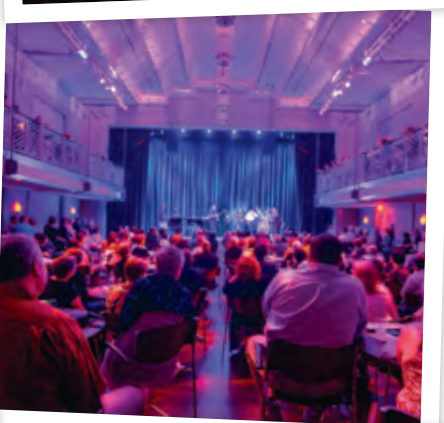
Cabrera Conducts Tchaikovsky
May 6

"The Wizard of Oz"
May 13-21



The Smith Center encompasses three theaters that each provide a different experience:

- The 2,050-seat Reynolds Hall houses large-scale performances, such as Broadway productions and legendary performers like John Legend and Bernadette Peters.
- The 240-seat Myron's venue offers a more cabaret-style experience where audiences can enjoy their favorite performers up close—such as stage-and-screen stars Sutton Foster and Erich Bergen—while enjoying light bites and cocktails.
- The 250-seat Troesh Studio Theater houses a wide range of shows best enjoyed in an intimate setting, including classical ensemble performances, plays, and stand-up comedy.



The Smith Center has sold more than 3 million tickets in its first 10 years, demonstrating its importance as a cultural hub. And like the Pioneer Center, The Smith Center's architectural design helps it stand out among performance arts venues. The design ultimately took inspiration from the Art Deco architecture of the Hoover Dam, in homage to the dam's role in the development of Las Vegas.

The Smith Center (All)

BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN

Las Vegas offers luxury lifestyles and incredible bargains.

Las Vegas is for everybody. Yes, Lamborghini escorts and palatial suites await high rollers, but \$19.99 buffets and pinball arcades can be just as nice. There are plenty of lavish—if impractical—options worth gawking at, but this desert

metropolis also offers some fantastic value for your dollar. Which is the better option?

That's up for you to decide.



ACCOMMODATIONS



SIN CITY HOSTEL

Hostels are perfect for adventurers on a budget, and Sin City Hostel ranks among the best. This adult-only lodging offers coed and women-only bunk rooms at around \$30 a night. With the savings come plenty of opportunities to meet new friends in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Best of all, Sin City Hostel is a short walk to the hip Art District and blocks full of breweries, restaurants, and pubs.

PALMS RESORT / HARDWOOD SUITE

Las Vegas specializes in one-of-a-kind experiences, including this basketball court-themed hotel room. And by themed, we mean there is literally a locker room and Murphy beds built into a half-sized court. That's not to mention the attending butler, secret whiskey room, and billiards lounge. These courtside tickets will cost you around \$20,000 a night.



FOOD

GABI'S GORDITAS

Head to southwest Las Vegas for delicious Latin comfort food and wonderful vegetarian and vegan concoctions. Whether ordering three Argentina Tacos or the Brisket Gordita, you're looking at about \$12 or less for your entire meal, a real bargain given the incredible spread and rave reviews. For the real deals, stop in on Tuesday for your \$2 tacos.



JOËL ROBUCHON RESTAURANT

Welcome to the only three-star Michelin restaurant in Las Vegas. Joël Robuchon is among one of the most exquisite dining experiences anywhere in the Southwest. It's also one of those places where the prices aren't on the menu. Before drinks, anticipate at least \$120 a plate or around \$500 for the popular 16-course experience. Your meal does come with bread, however!





ANTIQUE ALLEY MALL

With 65 businesses and more than 12,000 square feet of space, you'll probably find whatever you're looking for at the Antique Alley Mall. Toys, jewelry, clothes, art, memorabilia, furniture, and every imaginable category of collectible from the past 200 years are ready for perusal. Antique prices have a wide range, of course, but you'll certainly put your dollars to good use.

HOUSE OF BIJAN

Socks: \$95. Beanie: \$680. Dress shirt: \$1,650. Shawl: \$2,800. Loafers: \$3,800. Bijan—located in the Wynn Hotel & Casino—ranks among the most expensive boutiques in the world. Specializing in luxury goods for men, this outfitter offers only the finest accessories and apparel. Exclusivity is another reason for the eye-watering price tag. Bijan's wares are produced in small batches, so you'll likely never bump into another person with the same yellow alligator leather wallet (\$1,880).



Antique Alley Mall (top), House of Bijan (bottom)

COCKTAILS



GOLDEN TIKI'S ADAM RAINS

THE GOLDEN TIKI

Let's cut to the chase: affordable libations aren't difficult to find in Las Vegas. In casinos statewide, folks can get their drink for "free" while actively gaming (remember to tip your server). That said, we're talking about the best value for your dollar, and it would be a challenge to do better than this tropical island tavern located just one mile from The Strip. Prices for beer and cocktail here are average, but don't be afraid to make it a memorable night by getting your drink in a Souvenir Tiki Mug or their famous Dole Soft Serve Float. Also, there's a good chance your table will be visited by a magician or a roving guitarist from the house surf rock band. Reservations recommended!

SKYBAR

This panoramic parlor on the 23rd floor of the Waldorf Astoria offers an unrivaled view of the Las Vegas skyline. Their refined cocktail menu is here to tell the city's story: The Spanish Trail (\$21), Prohibition (\$29), Sinatra (\$23), Golden Knight (\$24), and many others. Skybar offers its share of high-end tasting experiences, including two ounces of Remy Martin Louis XIII for \$400 and a half ounce of 30-year Macallan whiskey for \$450.



GAMING

COIN SLOTS

Where have all the coin slots gone? These days, it's all paper vouchers, but in the city's early days, casinos were rife with the pleasing plink of cold, hard coinage spilling into outstretched arms. The good news is that a handful of locations have kept up the old ways, including penny and nickel slots at the El Cortez and quarter-run mechanical horse races at the D Casino.



EL CORTEZ

BELLAGIO

"If you need me, I'll be in my private casino," is a refrain not often heard around The Strip, but high rollers who need to get away from the hoi polloi can play alone if they're willing to put up \$300,000. Once these high-caliber gamblers are sequestered in one of Bellagio's luxurious Villas, they can request any table or slot machine they wish to play. No word on if Mr. Bond will be present.



Nancy Munoz (El Cortez, top)

DESSERT

LUV-IT FROZEN CUSTARD

Everyone loves Luv-It Frozen Custard. Heck, the mayor of Las Vegas proclaimed May 5 as Luv-it Frozen Custard Day and gave the shop a key to the city. This downtown establishment has been slinging sweet treats since 1973, and the prices are from the early 2000s. Get your specialty sundae (like the Cherry Yum Yum with cherry pie topping and crushed Oreos) for \$5.75 or snag a double scoop cone for just \$3.95.



SUGAR FACTORY

Introducing the King Kong Sundae Challenge. Your opponent is—among many other accoutrement—24 scoops of ice cream, three lollipops, a whole can of whipped cream, and sparklers (don't eat those). While it's more party fare that decadent dessert (it serves 12), at \$99 the King Kong is one of the most expensive desserts in town.

Luv-It Frozen Custard (top), Sugar Factory (bottom)



UNCOVER HISTORY

AT NEVADA'S STATE MUSEUMS

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



Where will your **NEVADA STORY** take you?

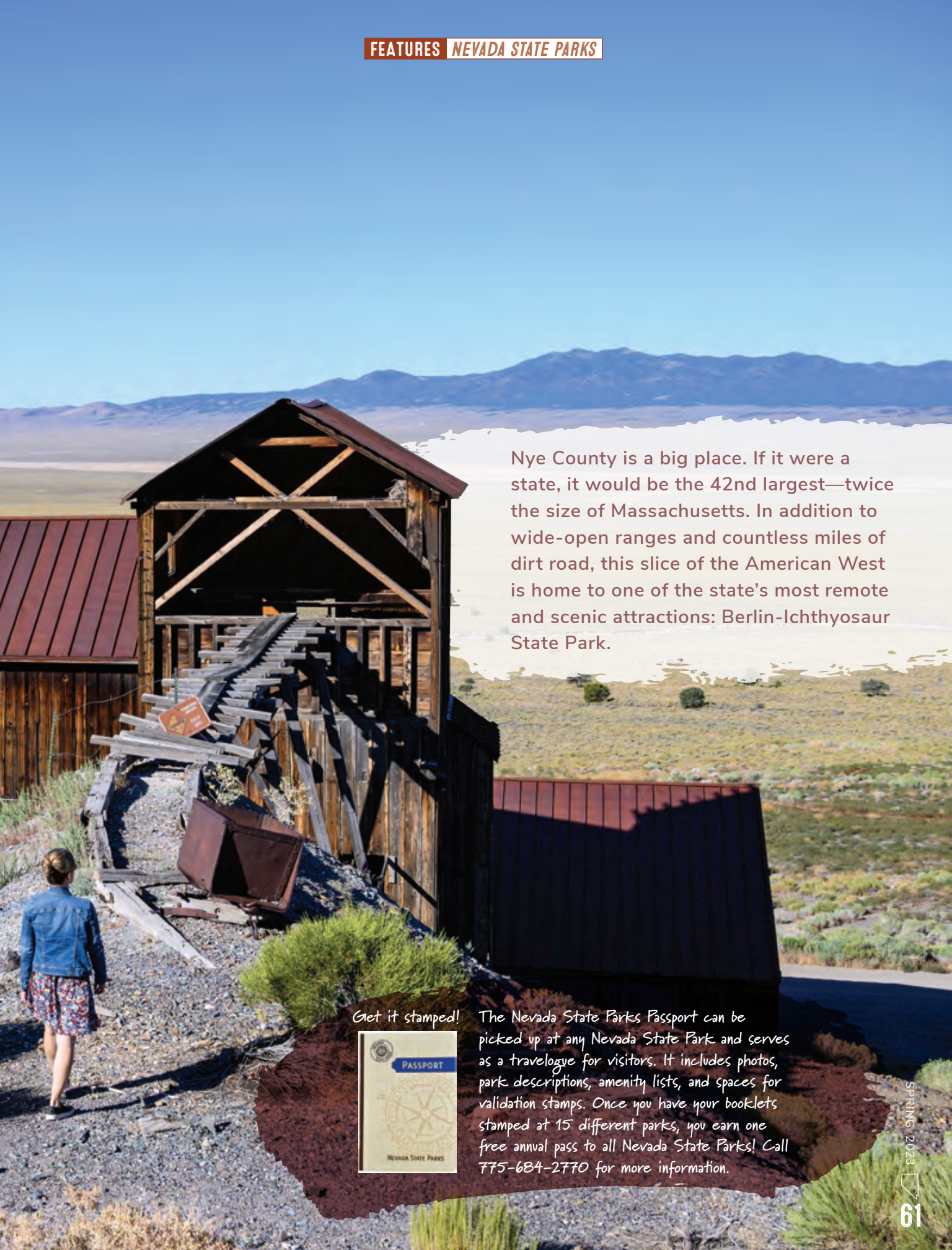
Visit NVMuseums.com for museum locations, exhibits, & events. Become a Museum Member for **FREE** admission to ALL state museums.



BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK

Two parks found in one gorgeously remote setting.





Nye County is a big place. If it were a state, it would be the 42nd largest—twice the size of Massachusetts. In addition to wide-open ranges and countless miles of dirt road, this slice of the American West is home to one of the state's most remote and scenic attractions: Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

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.

GHOSTLY REMAINS

As you rattle up the road to the entrance, take in 60-mile views of the sweeping Ione (EYE-own) Valley. Up ahead, the 160-year-old ghost town of Berlin hugs the western slope of the breathtaking Shoshone Mountains. Even from a distance, the town strikes an impressive presence. A dozen structures stand in roughly the same condition as when built: their remarkable preservation possible due to the region's dry climate, isolation, and state park designation since 1957.

The townsite dates to 1863 when gold was discovered in the foothills. Within a few decades, the valley was home to a few mining villages, including nearby Ione,

PARK SNAPSHOT

Entrance fee:
\$5 Nevada residents
\$10 out-of-state

Camping fee:
\$15 Nevada residents
\$20 out-of-state

Hours:
All day every day

Pets:
Welcome if leashed

Camping:
14 spaces

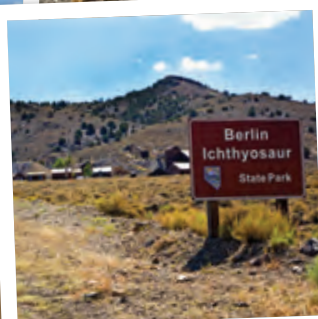
Accommodations:
Day-use picnic area
with tables, grills, and
drinking water



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



STATE PARKS



which still has a handful of residents and is worth a short detour to snap photos of its well-preserved structures.

One of Berlin's best draws is the freedom to wander at one's own leisure. Sure, rangers stand by ready to enthrall you in the area's history, but visitors are welcome to meander trails or walk right up to any homestead and peer into a period-furnished living room.

Whether exploring the old cemetery or staring down the entrance of the old mine, you'll have plenty of opportunities to read stories of the intrepid folks who called this remote community home.

FOSSIL HOUSE

While the park is a proud steward of Berlin, it was originally established to protect the largest collection of ichthyosaur fossils in North America. So, after getting your fill of the town, it's time to take a short ride back to approximately 225 million years ago.



Flip to page 97 for the entire list of Nevada state parks along with their amenities, recreational activities, and more.

In 1928, a paleontologist from Stanford University discovered fossils jutting out of an eroded hilltop outside Berlin. Excavations began in 1954, and over the next decade, nearly 40 ichthyosaurs were unearthed.

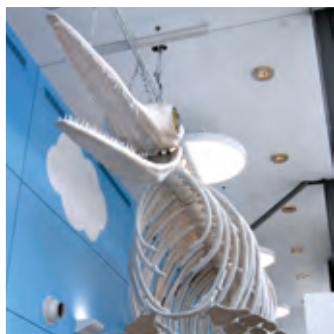
You'll find most of the remains in the Fossil House, which preserves and displays the archeological dig site. Why so many in one location? No one is entirely sure, but the effects of toxic algae or getting stranded at low tide are possibilities. One thing is certain: all the creatures perished at the same time.

Visitors should call ahead to schedule their 30-minute Fossil House Tour. When tours aren't running, a large viewing window gives visitors a glimpse of the site.



PARK TIMELINE

225,000,000 B.C.	A group of ichthyosaur die-off near the coast of Pangea	1863	Gold discovered near the Shoshone Mountains	1897	Berlin founded
------------------	---	------	---	------	----------------



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Need more Ichthyosaur? You can find a full-sized replica fossil—originally a Burning Man art piece—at The Discovery in Reno.





1908 Berlin reaches peak population at 250 people

1911 Berlin deserted

1928 Ichthyosaur remains discovered

1954-1960 Excavations reveal nearly 40 fossilized remains

1957 Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park established

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HOWARD HUGHES

From adventurers and gunslingers to writers and thinkers, Nevada's history was shaped by individuals with grit and drive. Each issue, we look at one of these notable heroes from the past. Whether born or raised, these aren't just Nevadans: they're Legendary Nevadans.



Stay tuned for more tales of Legendary Nevadans! In the next issue, Helen Stewart, the first lady of Las Vegas.

The tale of the oddball billionaire who bought Las Vegas

Who was Howard Hughes? He is remembered as the billionaire who spent much of his late life in near isolation. His demand for privacy is the stuff of legend. When he stayed in hotel rooms, adjacent rooms were also rented, and blankets were draped over all windows. Even employees rarely—if ever—saw him, and most communication was done by phone.

Hughes attracted controversy and was the subject of many scandalous headlines. His abhorrent behavior is well documented—he was quick to anger, an emotionally and physically abusive partner, and openly bigoted.



HUGHES, 1938



Despite his shortcomings, he was a man of many talents. He had boundless energy, countless interests, and a drive to do it all: If Howard Hughes wanted something done, he made it happen. He was a successful film producer, a record-setting aviator, and an inventor (of both aircraft parts and brassieres).

But above all, Hughes was a shrewd capitalist. To best understand this, look no further than the four years he spent in Las Vegas.



BEFORE THE STORM

Hughes first visited Nevada in 1929 when he and actress Billie Dove absconded to a dude ranch outside Las Vegas (although antisocial in his later years, the young Hughes was a playboy). The couple were there to take advantage of Nevada's liberal divorce laws but abandoned the plan after discovering that their ranch shack did not qualify as a residence.

Hughes returned to Nevada during WWII to pilot an experimental seaplane over Lake Mead. The test flight was part of his plan to develop a flying troop transport for the U.S. military. As he attempted to land, the plane crashed into the lake. Hughes survived, but two of his passengers were killed. For the next two months, the gravely wounded Hughes recuperated in nearby Boulder City at the still-elegant Boulder Dam Hotel.

His first long-term Nevada visit was in 1954 when he rented out a five-room residence in Las Vegas called

the Green House. He lived there for a year and then ordered the house sealed until his next return. It remained completely undisturbed until his death. When his estate opened the residence, they found a perfectly preserved time capsule from the 1950s.

In 1957, Hughes and actress Jean Peters traveled to Tonopah. By this time, Hughes had fully adopted his persona of privacy: the two married in a secret ceremony at the Mizpah Hotel.

NEW IN TOWN

In 1966, Hughes decided he was tired of living in Los Angeles. He relocated to Las Vegas, a then-small resort city in southern Nevada.

He arrived by train on Thanksgiving Day. Although there was plenty of speculation, no one was sure why he had come to town. True to form, Hughes kept quiet and sequestered himself in the Desert Inn for four months.



DESERT INN, 1968

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Check out hundreds of historic signs—including the Silver Slippers—at the Neon Museum in Las Vegas. For the real experience, schedule a dazzling sunset tour at the museum's Neon Boneyard.



In March 1967, he made his first move. The owners of the Desert Inn were asking Hughes to vacate because he was hogging the rooms reserved for high rollers. Hughes decided to instead buy the property for \$13 million.

Hughes knew that an out-of-state billionaire with an eye on property acquisition can rub locals the wrong way. After purchasing the Desert Inn, he announced a \$6 million contribution to Nevada's first medical school. Local leaders were satisfied and began promoting the newcomer as a boon for southern Nevada.

Hughes then began his spending spree. In summer 1967, he purchased a 500-acre ranch in Red Rock Canyon—now Spring Mountain Ranch State Park—the Sands Hotel, and a local airline called Alamo Airways. In September, he acquired the Frontier Hotel, an airport in North Las Vegas, dozens of acres on The Strip, and a local CBS TV station.



THE SANDS HOTEL, 1967

plans for Las Vegas' future. He proposed a supersonic jet airport, a high-speed rail linking the casinos to the airport, and a 4,000-room addition to the Sands that would transform it into the world's largest resort.

By his one-year mark in town, Hughes had spent \$100 million (\$890 million today), and nobody had seen his face.

MONOPOLY

In early 1968, Hughes announced his

In February, he placed a bid on two more casinos—the Stardust and the Silver Slipper. These acquisitions would officially make him the largest casino owner in town.

The public backlash began, and business leaders issued warnings about Las Vegas becoming a company town run by one man. Hughes backed off and purchased only the Silver Slipper. A few weeks later, he purchased another \$11 million in land and a failing casino called The Landmark.

Over the next two years, Hughes began adding properties in central and northern Nevada to his portfolio, including more than 500 mining claims near Tonopah and Reno's Harolds Club casino. In Las Vegas, he purchased Air West Airlines and negotiated to buy one of the last Strip properties he didn't own: El Rancho Vegas.



His incredible buyout of the city made national headlines and provoked public outcry and excitement. People couldn't decide whether Hughes was a tyrannical tycoon or the savior the city needed after decades under Mafia control. In the end, it didn't really matter. At the peak of his power, Hughes left Las Vegas forever.

Poor health, power struggles within his cabinet, and looming legal pressures convinced Hughes it was time to go. He died six years later in 1976.

His brief foray into Nevada resulted in lasting changes. In 1990, the Hughes Corporation developed the community of Summerlin, a popular destination for homebuyers and home to the Las Vegas Ballpark.



YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Find Your Flock

Six prime hotspots for watching feathered friends.

Nevada's vast landscape holds many secrets, not the least of which is its popularity with birds. While it may come as a surprise to some, the number of recorded bird species visiting, breeding, or living in the state is a whopping 488. Hundreds of thousands of birds following the north-to-south path from Alaska to Patagonia—the Pacific Flyway—can be seen throughout the Silver State.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

In all, there are 40 Audubon Important Bird Areas in Nevada, 36 with state priority classification and four with global priority status. This translates to approximately 16,585 miles of land just waiting for birders with binoculars, boots, and field guidebooks.

However, Nevada is rarely on a birder's bucket list. In fact, according to the Great Basin Bird Observatory, Nevada is one of the most under-birded areas in the country. It's time to change that.

LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Clark County is home to more than 400 recorded species, many of which reside on more than 1.5 million acres within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This diverse landscape includes Mojave Desert scrub, lush acacia thickets, slot canyon cliffs, 40 freshwater springs, and 950 miles of shoreline riparian habitat. It is also an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area (IBA)—a classification used to “identify, monitor, and protect the most important places for birds.”

Mark Schraad (Dark brown bird)

WATCH FOR:

- Western and Clark's Grebes
- Lucy's Warbler
- Phainopepla
- LeConte's Thrasher
- Scott's Oriole

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve is an urban birding gem. Nine ponds have wheelchair accessible and dirt walkways, benches, and an elevated platform—all for wildlife watching. Check out the visitor's center for the latest sightings.

PHAINOPEPLA

LAHONTAN VALLEY WETLANDS

If you're a shorebird or a waterfowl riding the Pacific Flyway over Nevada, chances are quite good that you'll splash down somewhere in the Lahontan Valley Wetlands IBA, near Fallon. Bird numbers reach 250,000 during migration events, and the area provides vital nesting and wintering habitat.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The wetlands within the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge can be explored via various boat launches or by vehicle.



WATCH FOR:

- Wilson's Phalarope
- Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers
- Long-billed Curlew
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Black-necked Stilt

Tracking down feathered friends can build up quite the thirst, but in Nevada you're always close to a Sagebrush Saloon. Toast your central Nevada adventure at the Lucky Spur on page 22.



WILSON'S PHALAROPE

MONITOR VALLEY IBA

If embracing birding in rugged, isolated areas is your gig, then Monitor Valley IBA is your destination. Navigating this terrain requires a 4WD vehicle with high clearance, and the usual off-road travel precautions should be taken. This IBA lies in the center of the state, roughly between Austin and Tonopah. From the valley floors to the surrounding peaks, habitat diversity and protected public lands support hundreds of avian species.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The road through the valley is graded gravel and usually passable but challenging in wet spring seasons. For very good late-spring migrant birding, take secondary roads off the Monitor Valley Road.

WATCH FOR:

- Sage Thrasher
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Gray Flycatcher
- Sagebrush Sparrow
- Red-naped Sapsucker



BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER



Jeremy Spilker (Bird in flight)
Russ Coletta (Bird on branch)



CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

The vastness of time and space is almost palpable in eastern Nevada's Great Basin National Park. Mountain peaks reach beyond 13,000 feet, and a night canopy of some of the darkest skies in the continental U.S. drapes quietly overhead. With biomes ranging from subalpine forests to grasslands, the park attracts birds from as far away as South America and the Caribbean.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

In the warmer months, start at the visitor center area and travel along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive to the northeastern section of the park. Confirm the drive is open for the season before you go.

WATCH FOR:

- Calliope Hummingbird
- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowned, and Wilson's Warblers
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Black Rosy-Finch



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



WILDLIFE

RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



SAGE-GROUSE

BILK CREEK-MONTANA MOUNTAINS IBA

Overlapping the Oregon border near Denio is the rugged Bilk Creek-Montana Mountains IBA. Exceeding 500,000 acres, this remote landscape is mainly sagebrush. This location supports the largest state population of sage-grouse, with one of the highest densities in the U.S. Additionally, hundreds of species migrate, breed, and reside in this IBA and the surrounding lands.

WATCH FOR:

- Sage Thrasher
- Gray Flycatcher
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Swainson's Hawk



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Check along the Quinn River and Kings River Valley for more bird diversity in a remote setting. Secondary roads require 4WD high-clearance vehicles, and getting stranded a long way from help is a distinct possibility.

Larry Burton (Sage-Grouse)
Troy Wright (Eagle)

FRANKLIN LAKE IBA & RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

These sister locations of marshes, islands, riparian habitat, meadows, grasslands, and shrub-steppe sit at 6,000 feet and include more than 200 pristine springs. Fifteen thousand acres of seasonal wetlands in the Franklin Lake IBA and 37,632 acres within Ruby Lake NWR are five miles apart in northeastern Nevada.

The Ruby Mountains rise to elevations of 11,000 feet, adding forested mountain slopes, canyons, and cliffs to the landscape. More than 225 bird species occupy these ecosystems throughout the year. In springtime, this area provides critical food, resting, and nesting resources for a significant population of migratory birds.

WATCH FOR:

- White-faced Ibis
- Black, Caspian, and Forster's Terns
- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Violet-green Swallow
- Golden Eagle

GOLDEN EAGLE

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

This vast wetland basin contains the highest quality habitat for Canvasback nesting west of the Mississippi River. Specifically, visit the Ruby Lake NWR South Marsh. For birding by water, there are two boat ramp access points with marker poles for a channel navigation route. Visit the refuge headquarters for a detailed trail map.

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Matt McDowell



Katy Ann Fox

MESQUITE

Small town charm meets big city fun.

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

The Old Spanish Trail was—by 1800s standards—a superhighway for traders, settlers, and explorers. Rather than being one route, the trail was a network of roads stringing together far-flung communities of the American Southwest from Santa Fe to Los Angeles. However, no matter which direction folks traveled, all paths converged in the verdant Virgin River Valley through what is now Mesquite.





FARMLAND TO FAIRWAYS

The Virgin River has seen settlement for millennia. The Virgin Puebloans—a culture closely connected to the Ancestral Puebloans of Mesa Verde—arrived in the valley in the first century. For more than 1,200 years, they built adobe towns and irrigated the land for farming. After the collapse of the Puebloan culture, the valley became home to the Southern Paiute. In fact, their agricultural villages were among the first sights for the Spanish and Europeans arriving in the region.

Mesquite was founded by Mormon families under the direction of church leaders in Salt Lake City. The community—established in 1880 with the name Mesquite Flats—was one of several towns in the area created to bolster the Mormon cotton industry and limit reliance on East Coast imports.

Farming the desert landscape proved a challenge. The town was repopulated several times, particularly after floods in 1882 devastated six miles of irrigation. After plenty of hard work, the town stabilized and began exporting cotton and raisins. In 1898, its name was shortened to Mesquite.

Over the next few decades, the town grew and gradually swapped farms for ranchland and dairies. In the 1970s, Mesquite enjoyed a second life as a tourist destination after the completion of Interstate 15. Mesquite was again a transit point for travelers, though instead of wagon convoys on the Spanish Trail, it was road trippers lodging in motels and relaxing at the border town's casinos.

Today, Mesquite is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, golfers, vacationers, and retirees. Whatever your interests, you'll find plenty to do in this picturesque community located just one hour northeast of Las Vegas.



MESQUITE CIRCA 1945

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum (B&W photo)

TOUR THE TOWN

Whether passing through or staying the night, old downtown is a wonderful opportunity to stretch the legs and check out some small-town culture. Pick up a map of the walking tour (found in public buildings and shops) to enjoy an eight-block round trip journey into the community's past. You'll also find a few buildings from modernity worth visiting.

Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery and Center—Tour an ever-rotating gallery of stunning creations from local artisans. Consider picking up a souvenir; you'll find excellent pieces for as low as \$15.

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum—This building has been a hospital, a clubhouse for teens, and now a fascinating archive of the valley's history. You'll explore historic relics from millennia-old basketry to Edison phonographs, but don't miss the live thread spinning demonstrations using cotton grown on the property.



FAST FOOD

Looking for a place to get your grub on? Although you'll find a host of quality restaurants inside Mesquite's casino-resorts and golf courses, consider these options during your travels.

Golden West Restaurant & Casino—This one might be in a casino, but it's also one of the town's oldest eateries. This 24-hour tiny diner punches well above its weight with some fantastic fare. If American-style comfort food is your thing, this is a strong recommendation.

Hole Foods Bakery—Grab your morning coffee here and throw in a hefty cinnamon roll and an éclair for good measure. This delicious bakery offers the best baked goods around, and if you're visiting around lunch time, don't miss their sandwiches.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



MESQUITE

Scan here to learn more
about everything to do in
and around town.



PAR-TEE-UP!

We won't bring any hard statistics into this, but with a whopping six public courses for its 19,000 residents, few places are likely to beat Mesquite's courses per capita.

Casablanca Golf Club—Play through 18 holes while taking in the lush landscape of the Virgin River. Consider bundling a stay-and-play experience at Casablanca Hotel and Resort.

Conestoga Golf Club—This 18-hole, Gary Panks-designed course offers an excellent driving range and one of the best restaurants in town, the 1880 Grille.

Coyote Willows Golf Course—This 9-hole course is perfect for beginners but also offers one of the longest holes in town. Play here for a relaxing afternoon with the family.

Oasis Golf Club—You'll find two courses here. The Palmer Golf Course (care to guess the designer?) is 18 holes and is one of the highest rated in the state. The Canyons Golf Course ups the difficulty and serves as a challenge for veteran golfers.

Palms Golf Course—One of the more photogenic courses around, this 18-hole course straddles the state border and offers a commanding view of the desert.



PALMS GOLF COURSE

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Mesquite hosts events year-round from car shows to golf tournaments. Nearby, some of the best desert landscapes in the Southwest are ready to be explored including Gold Butte, Valley of Fire, and the Lake Mead National Recreational Area.



THE NEED FOR SPEED

*If you want to burn rubber,
make tracks for these locations.*



While Nevada is home to serious outdoor splendor, not all recreation is found on hiking trails and mountain tops. For those looking for something with a little more gas, there are racetrack adventures waiting to be found.

LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Just north of The Strip, this high-octane speedway consists of a 1,200-acre complex with multiple tracks for all kinds of motorsports racing. From NASCAR to drag racing, stock cars to dirt track racing, this is THE place for high-speed action in Las Vegas. Some of the speedway's major events include:

NASCAR Cup Series

Two turbo-charged stock car racing weekends happen during the Penzoil 400 and South Point 400. The events are two of the most anticipated on the NASCAR calendar, with the Penzoil 400 taking place in March and the South Point 400 in October.

NHRA Camping World Drag Racing Series

The National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Mello Yello Drag Racing Series happens twice a year. The Denso Spark Plugs NHRA Four-Wide Nationals takes place in the spring, and drag racers return in the fall for the Dodge NHRA Nationals presented by Penzoil.

The Bullring Events

Every other weekend, local stock car racing happens in The Bullring from March through November. It's the perfect opportunity to watch drivers compete on the 3/8-mile oval track.

Exotics Racing

If watching others put the pedal to the metal isn't quite the thrill you were seeking, the ride of your life awaits at Exotics Racing. Get behind the wheel of exotic cars (Ferrari, Lamborghini, Porsche, McLaren, and more!) and drive them without any speed limits or opt for the passenger seat to enjoy a drifting ride-along experience. You can also choose the Vegas Superkarts, which are powered with an SR5 4-stroke gas engine that blows electric indoor go-karts away.

Mario Andretti & NASCAR Racing Experience

Drive a full-size, Indy-style race car or jump in for a ride-along at the Mario Andretti Racing Experience. You're on your own here: There's no lead car to follow and no instructor in the vehicle. After a formalized driving instruction, you'll meet your crew chief then jump behind the wheel of a NASCAR race car and take to the 1 1/2-mile oval racetrack—complete with banked turns, one-on-one instruction from a spotter, and average speeds well beyond 200 miles-per-hour.

**TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP**

Check the Las Vegas Motor Speedway calendar to plan your high-speed visit at lvms.com.



TOP GUN RACEWAY FALLON

The only NHRA-sanctioned drag strip in northern Nevada is located 12 miles south of Fallon. Test and tune your own hot rod, race against others, or get in on the spectator side of the action from the grandstands. Visitors to the Oasis of Nevada can check out the Summit ET Series, Junior Drag Racing Series, Division 7 Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series, and Sports Compact Racing Series from April to October.



Gather your people and hit the road as you participate in the ultimate outdoor experience: Travel Nevada's Death Valley Rally. On your first stop, explore the many offerings of Pahrump through exciting off-roading excursions, sample sips at any of our wineries, or give a toast at Stonewise Mead & Cidery or Desert Cane Rum Distillery.

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WINNEMUCCA REGIONAL RACEWAY

WINNEMUCCA REGIONAL RACING

Adrenaline also races at the fastest dirt stock track in northern Nevada. Once the green flag goes up, it's on with International Motor Contest Association-

sanctioned SportMods, Modfields, Sport Compacts, Mini-Modifieds, Pure Stocks, and Hobby Stocks, which compete April through September each year.

FERNLEY 95 SPEEDWAY

About 30 minutes from Reno, discover the holy grail of off-road motorsports racing at the Fernley 95A Speedway. You'll find some of the Silver State's most prestigious national and local racing events, ranging from the National Sprint Car Racing Series, midget racing, go-kart racing, and beyond.





FORMULA 1 TAKES OVER THE STRIP

The most anticipated Grand Prix in motorsports history is set for Las Vegas in a four-day event in late November. Unlike traditional Formula 1 racing on a set track, this race will feature an open course.

Formula 1's new flagship Grand Prix is set to take place at night against the Las Vegas backdrop. The track will see drivers reach

speeds of more than 210mph as they race around some of the world's most iconic landmarks, hotels, and casinos on the legendary Las Vegas Strip.

A star-studded opening ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 15 with weeklong events slated through Nov. 18.



SPRINGTIME SPECIAL EVENTS

MINT 400 OFF-ROAD RACE

Las Vegas

March 8-12

Don't miss the oldest and most prestigious off-road racing event in the country. Amid a festival setting with food trucks, shopping, and family-friendly activities, 500 teams from more than 15 countries will compete for fame and glory as they race across the Nevada's wild southern desert.

MINT 400 OFF-ROAD RACE



LOVERS ALOFT

Lovelock

Feb. 9-12

Reaffirming love with a padlock may have been popularized on Venetian bridges, but Nevada has a whole town dedicated to the tradition—plus, it's actually legal here! Every spring, folks flock to Lover's Lock Plaza near the charming Pershing County Courthouse to celebrate Valentine's Day and—you guessed it—lock their love. The celebrations continue all weekend with romantic events, hot air balloon rides and races, and more.



LOVERS ALOFT



ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FRY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FRY

Virginia City
March 18

This city-wide celebration combines the green and giddiness of Saint Patrick's Day with—simply put—bull testicles starring as a culinary ingredient. You'll find this delicacy frittered, smoked, baked, and folded into classic dishes like burgers and tacos. Tickets are sold online for \$45 per person and must be purchased in advance—this event tends to sell out quickly.

GENOA WESTERN HERITAGE DAYS

Genoa
April 28-30

Each April, the state's oldest settlement celebrates Nevada's distinctly Western legacy. Kicking off with live performances from celebrated western artists, the party goes all weekend with heritage appreciation, historic tours, and plenty of food and shopping.



GENOA WESTERN HERITAGE DAYS

RENO RIVER FESTIVAL

Reno
May 6-7

Drawing more than 50,000 people, the Reno River Festival has become one of the region's biggest events. Take in the city's gorgeous Downtown Riverwalk with live music, craft beer gardens, and tasty local food trucks as the world's top whitewater athletes compete at the Truckee River Whitewater Park.



RENO RIVER FESTIVAL



NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

STATEWIDE EVENTS

Wherever you are in Nevada, there's likely something going on. Greet the new year with weekends packed full of film fests, cook-offs, rodeos, races and much more. Calendar information is always subject to change, so be sure to check online before finalizing plans.

FEBRUARY

Through Feb. 4
NATIONAL COWBOY
POETRY GATHERING
Elko

2-5
CHINESE NEW YEAR IN THE
DESERT
Las Vegas

10-12
DEATH VALLEY DARK SKY
FESTIVAL
Pahrump

11
THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT
SALOON CRAWL
Virginia City

16-20
DAM SHORT FILM FESTIVAL
Boulder City

25-March 5
SNOWFEST!
North Lake Tahoe



SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL



THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT
SALOON CRAWL



WINTERWONDERGRASS TAHOE



CHINESE NEW YEAR IN THE DESERT



SILVER STATE CHILI COOK-OFF

MARCH

1-5

WINNEMUCCA RANCH
HAND RODEO
Winnemucca

10-12

ELY FILM, ART & MUSIC
FESTIVAL
Ely

25

BOULDER CITY BEERFEST
Boulder City

25-26

SILVER STATE CHILI
COOK-OFF
Pahrump

31-April 2

WINTERWONDERGRASS
TAHOE
North Lake Tahoe

APRIL

29

CATHEDRAL GORGE DUTCH
OVEN COOK-OFF
Pioche

29-30

SPRING WINGS BIRD
FESTIVAL
Fallon

29-30

VIRGINIA CITY GRAND PRIX
Virginia City

MAY

5-6

NEVADA OLD TIME
FIDDLERS' CONTEST
Eureka

6-7

BOULDER CITY SPRING
JAMBOREE
Boulder City

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MORE INFO



NEVADA EVENTS CALENDAR



ELY FILM, ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SPRING 2023

Ahhhh...
It's a

Spa Day

Need a little pampering?

Me Time is calling, and we have the answers.

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HOT SPRINGS & SPAS

Vacations can get easily crammed full of activities and things to see and do. While there's a time for doing the mad dash, there's also room for slowing things down and spending a little quality time with that most important person: you. There are as many spas in Nevada as there are colors in our sunsets, so consider these mentions as just a taste of what awaits.

STEAMBOAT HOT SPRINGS HEALING CENTER & SPA

Reno

The oldest hot spring resort in the state—established in 1857—once enticed wagon-weary pioneers with its hot, mineral-packed waters. Upon visiting, Mark Twain named the property after the area's geothermal groans which reminded him of the sound of a Steamboat chugging along the Mississippi River. Today, Steamboat offers dreamy soaks in both outdoor and private-room tubs, steam baths, and a whole menu of massage therapy services on a historic property.

Steamboat Hot Springs is not your typical resort hot spring by a long shot. Visitors consult with staff who are expertly trained in a variety of wellness practices, ranging from Ayurveda to Sonatherapy.

QUA BATHS & SPA

Las Vegas

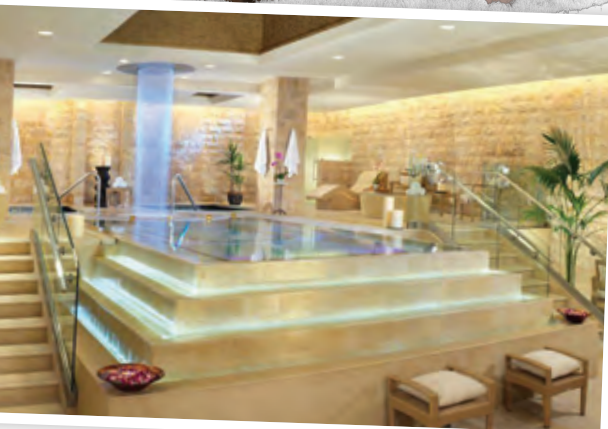
It makes perfect sense that royal Roman baths are a prime feature of Caesars Palace. Do as the Romans did and harness the healing powers of water while surrounded by beauty and tranquility.

For full health benefits, follow the ancients who practiced the cycle of hot baths with cold





STAY
ANOTHER DAY



DAVID WALLEY'S RESORT

Genoa

Surrounded by the picturesque views of the Sierra Nevada, David Walley's Resort offers the perfect simple getaway. Since its inception almost 160 years ago, the resort has offered the ultimate relaxation experience thanks to its mineral-rich waters. Not a traditional spa, but trust us, the self-care is real here.

Hot spring enthusiasts will be delighted to find a large, heated swimming pool and five separate mineral spas with temperatures ranging from 98 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit. The geothermal water that is funneled into these hot springs is naturally produced from the Earth's mantle and filtered and cycled every two-three hours.



After your dip, stay in the resort's spacious, condo-style lodging and dine at Walley's rustic-yet-elegant 1862 Restaurant & Saloon.

SPA ATLANTIS

Reno

Reno's only Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star spa is known for its luxurious and decadent body treatments that run the gamut from exotic cleansing rituals to rejuvenating brine-inhalation light therapy sessions. Facials, massages, and everything in between are ready to help shake off the stress of the day (or the week!) for good.

Spa Atlantis offers a multitude of couples' experiences that will make that bonding time even more relaxing. Couple's massages, pedicures, facials, and soaks can be booked, and isn't love worth a little indulgence now and then?



ONLY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

In our archives, you'll find great stories like this one, which first appeared in our November/December 2018 issue.



THE MAN HOWARD HUGHES LEFT BEHIND

On a December night in 1967, Melvin Dumar, a 23-year-old country-and-western songwriter and former Air Force serviceman living in Gabbs was driving through the central Nevada desert. In the midst of a separation with his wife who had left for southern California, Dumar had decided to drive to the neighboring state to attempt to reconcile with his ex-wife.

"It was payday, I had to wait around until 3 or 4 in the afternoon when the paychecks came out. They wouldn't cash checks in Gabbs, they didn't have any banks. I used to like to gamble, it's a vice I had. So, I got to Tonopah, and I went into the Mizpah Hotel and cashed my check. I sat there for two, three, four hours. I was about even. I don't remember losing anything or winning anything."

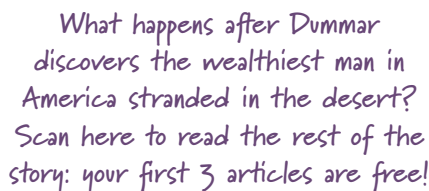
To hear Dumar recall the night is to hear someone describe an event they have run through their mind

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Startled, Dummar was about to drive to Goldfield to alert the sheriff when the body moved.



NEVADA NUGGETS

Nevada's been around a long time, and along with the big events, plenty of bite-sized stories of whimsy and weirdness have occurred. We'll share with you some little-known slices of the Silver State each issue.

Thomas Edison and His Gold Detecting Bonanzograph

BY DAVID MCCORMICK

On Aug. 9, 1878, a mass of reporters merged at the Union Pacific station in Reno to greet Thomas Edison. As the famous inventor detrained, newsmen anxiously gathered around and fired questions in rapid fashion: Why exactly was he in Reno? Had he really invented a contraption that would revitalize The Comstock?

The answer to the last question was eagerly anticipated. Only two mining companies were still in the green, and idle miners were showing their heels to the region. The gold and silver ore that had made Virginia City rich was disappearing.

Edison soon left Reno for Virginia City on the V&T Railroad's "Lightning Express." So the rumors were true: Edison was visiting the Comstock to test his latest invention, which could reportedly detect the presence of gold and silver ore.

The press lost little time in jovially describing Edison's invention as the "Bonanzograph," which appeared to be just the thing to counter the economic downturn. When asked if he was going to "experiment in the mines," Edison affirmed he would.



THOMAS EDISON CIRCA 1870

"I will see what I can do," the inventor replied. "I imagine that the resistance of an ore body to an electric current could be utilized to determine the location of the ore and its extent. I am going down in the mines today to see how the land lays."

The reporter most likely nodded assent, not fully realizing what Edison had just explained.

Edison soon arrived at the mine shaft and met with the company's superintendent. The following afternoon, Edison descended about 1,800 feet into the mine, all the while experimenting in locating large veins of ore.

Ultimately, the Bonanzograph produced no tangible results. Edison, however, was positive he could invent a device that could detect different metals and their quantity.

The Virginia City press noted Edison might undertake further trials, but nothing more was heard about Edison's metal detector. Apparently, the device was discarded to the trash heap of failed inventions.

Eureka Opera House

The Scarlet Verbs | February 1, 6:00 pm

Tylor and the Train Robbers | March 2, 6:00 pm

Fiddlers Contest | May 12-13, All day

Doug Figgs, Country Music | May 20, 5:30 pm

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WHAT'S *New?*

All around Nevada, you'll find exciting things happening. Keep an eye out for these new additions!



THE CITY

Alamo

A magnificent land art project more than a half-century in the making, Michael Heizer's "City" has opened for tours. The 1 1/2 square-mile installation in central Nevada's desert is composed of mounds and depressions made of dirt, rock, and concrete, each containing its own substructures.

Just six tickets are offered per day, and only on some days during certain times of the year. Tickets are \$150 per person and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

EUREKA UNDERGROUND TUNNEL TOURS

Eureka

Take a haunted tour inside the last remnants of the Eureka underground tunnels that traversed this central Nevada town. Established in the mid 1860s, the underground system of tunnels was used for transporting goods and sheltering residents from inclement weather. Today, just a portion remains, and tours—complete with ghost-hunting gear—can be booked through Afterlife Antiques.



ENIGMATA ESOTERICA

Goldfield

Bring a piece of the World's Greatest Gold Camp home with you after a stop at Enigmata Esoterica. Situated in one of Nevada's largest historic districts, this home-turned-workshop has all the souvenirs you need. Discover paintings, Nevada books, made-in-Nevada soaps and lotions, bones found in the surrounding desertscape, and all kinds of silver and turquoise jewelry made in Goldfield.

CABLP

Overton

If your Lake Mead and Valley of Fire adventures work up an appetite, there's no better restaurant to stop and refuel at than CABLP. Situated in the heart of quiet Overton, CABLP—pronounced cuh-blip—is Moapa Valley's newest restaurant. Housed in a renovated 1938 property, Las Vegas illusionist Criss Angel opened this casual, family eatery. The name is an acronym for Criss Angel's breakfast, lunch & pizza, and there's something on the menu for everyone.



STATE PARKS

Directory

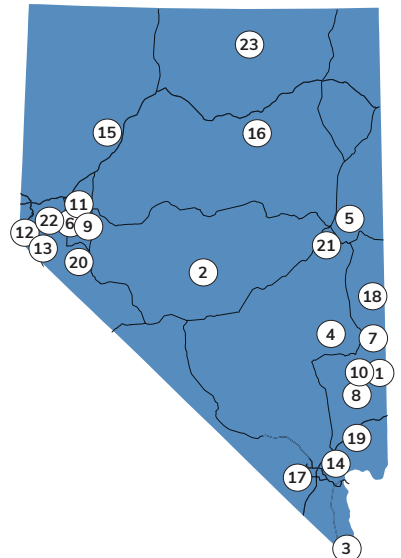
PLANNING GUIDE STATE PARKS



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'

Lahontan State Recreation Area



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.



MAKE YOUR NEXT TRIP A ROAD TRIP

Fancy yourself a foodie?
A die-hard history buff?
A thrill-seeking adventure
junkie? All of the above and
beyond? Perfect. With these
road trip ideas—whichever
corner of the state you venture
to—you're bound to uncover
unexpected encounters,
memorable characters, and
only-in-Nevada experiences.



BURNER BYWAY

110 to 250 miles | 2 to 4 days

This trip starts in the Biggest Little City and follows the same route tens of thousands take each year to the Black Rock Desert and Burning Man. With a night at spellbinding Pyramid Lake and the chance to see some Lower 48's most remote sections, this road is all about unscripted adventure.



COWBOY CORRIDOR

400 miles | 2 to 4 days

Nevada's Interstate 80 may be what some motorists blast down on their way to somewhere else, but that's their loss! On this trip, you'll discover lively communities with museums, art galleries, and cuisine highlighting the confluence of buckaroo, Basque, and American Indian traditions.



DEATH VALLEY RALLY

Up to 370 miles | 3 to 4 days

A land of extremes awaits just off The Strip. While diving into the state's southwest, you'll enjoy below-sea-level adventure in Death Valley, stargaze at an alpine resort, wander a ghost town, and enjoy winery tours in the Mojave Desert.

*For more adventures along the
Death Valley Rally, turn to page 34.*

Austin 64
Eureka 134
Ely 212

MOUNTAIN BIKE





EXTRATERRESTRIAL HIGHWAY

100 to 470 miles | 2 days

Prepare to rocket off into one of Nevada's most remote and mysterious corridors. Along the way, you'll see one of the deepest craters in the U.S., hunt for UFOs just miles outside Area 51, stay in a clown-themed motel, and score some alien swag.



FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

Psychedelic free-range art meets the American West on this 500-mile trek from Las Vegas to Reno. Along the way, you'll meet mural-draped downtowns, oddball open-air galleries, funky shops, and iconic overnights.



GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

This trip begins with sandstone canyons and ends at ancient bristlecone pines beneath some of the nation's darkest skies. Before reaching our state's very own national park, you'll explore surreal landscapes including Valley of Fire and Cathedral Gorge and visit charming communities and historic ghost towns.



LAKE TAHOE LOOP

145 miles | 2 to 5 days

World-famous Lake Tahoe is a year-round haven for resort-goers and outdoor enthusiasts. But don't miss the surrounding idyllic countryside, which includes Reno's artsy Midtown, charming Carson Valley, and the wild Western Virginia City.



LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

375 to 500 miles | 3 days

This famous road trip is your chance to explore Nevada's wild interior. In between tours of the state's most famous (and remote) towns, you'll have unrivaled opportunities for hot springing, off-roading, wildlife viewing, and Sagebrush Saloon hopping.



NEON TO NATURE

60 to 210 miles | 1-3 days

Las Vegas is good at keeping people occupied, but just an hour beyond the glow are the world-famous Hoover Dam and Colorado River, outdoor playgrounds like Red Rock Canyon and plenty of ghost towns, historic mines, and archeological sites.



RUBIES ROUTE

30 miles to 375 miles | 2 to 5 days

With Elko as your hub, get ready to explore a recreation-packed paradise in the state's rugged northwest outback. You'll hike gorgeous Lamoille Canyon, dip into pristine mountain lakes, and wind through the wilds to Jarbidge, one of the West's last true frontier towns.



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

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



NEVADA ROAD TRIPS

While we packed this guide full of wonderful things to do, there's no way we could include everything Nevada has to offer. If you were hoping for something else, here's a few more great topics you can find at TravelNevada.com, and don't forget, we publish four times a year, so sign up to get every issue—each one offers new ways to explore #ThatNevadaLife

WANT



ITINERARIES

Ready to put rubber to the road?

Look no further for an out-of-this-world experience.



EXTRATERRESTRIAL FUN



HOT SPRINGS RESORTS

Luxuriate while you get yourself into hot water.

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ANNUAL EVENTS



MORE?



**BASQUE
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some culture, we
can satisfy that.

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MUCH MORE AT



Explore hundreds
of towns that
time forgot.

GHOST TOWNS



**UNCOMMON
OVERNIGHTERS**

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as unique as
you are.



MUSEUMS

From relics to
pop culture,
it's time for
some mental
stimulation.



RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Nevada is a beautiful place, but one of its best qualities—and the reason folks make repeat visits—is that most of it belongs to everybody. More than 80 percent of Nevada is public, which means our lakes, deserts, valleys, marshes, and mountains are for everyone to enjoy. With that said, it's up to you to protect the land and keep Nevada pristine for the next generation.



WILDFIRE WATCHOUT

Battling natural wildfires is difficult enough, so let's not add human-caused ones to the mix. Preventable blazes are started by campfire embers, vehicle undercarriages, hot bullet casings, and more. Practice situational awareness and always be aware of local fire restrictions.

WHERE YOU'RE GOING, THERE'S A ROAD

No matter your destination, you're likely to find a two-tracks or trail that'll get you where you need to be. Please don't blaze your own: desert fauna is slow to grow and takes decades to recover from damage.

HERE'S YOUR SIGN

While most land is public, some isn't. If you see any No Trespassing signs, please stay out. If you come across a gate with no signage, it's there to keep cattle out. Pass on through but make sure to close the gate behind you.

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. Be a good steward of the land and please don't litter. This also means you should leave all mining relics, arrowheads, and historic artifacts where you found them. They don't belong to you and are protected, so leaving them alone is the right thing to do.

ANIMAL INSTINCT

Nevada's wildlife ranges from rabbits to rattlesnakes, burros to bighorns, antelope to coyotes, and more wild horses than anywhere else. While exploring the backcountry, be sure to drive at safe speeds. You'll be more likely to spot the fauna, and they'll have more time to get out of your way. Also, feeding or handling wildlife is against the law, and human interaction won't do them any favors in the long run. Enjoy from a distance.

GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

STAR CAMPERS

Nevada's night skies are some of the darkest in the Lower 48, and many visitors take to remote campgrounds for our unrivaled galactic view. Be mindful of the light pollution you bring with you: It doesn't take much to blow out another camper's night vision.

DIRT ROAD CODE

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

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



DIRT ROAD CODE

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Don't count on your cellphone 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. Be prepared, let people know where you're going, and always have a plan B.



The Final Word

NM&VG: What was the genesis for starting the distillery?

AF: The Frey family has been growing high-quality grains in northern Nevada for more than 165 years. Colby and I wanted to make something with our grains we could enjoy. As whiskey drinkers, we wanted to put Nevada on the map as a serious producer of unique bourbons and ryes.

In 2013, Nevada legalized craft distillers, so we began distilling and laying down whiskey stocks for extended aging. Today, we offer Frey Ranch Straight Bourbon, Frey Ranch Straight Rye, Frey Ranch Single Barrel Bourbon, and our new Frey Ranch Single Barrel Rye.

NM&VG: What has been the most unexpected part of this experience?

AF: In less than a year after launching Frey Ranch Bourbon, we were the No. 1 ultra-premium whiskey in the state. The support from Nevadans has inspired us, so we always look at opportunities to engage with whiskey fans in our home state. Our distillery sits on the same land as our home, so we get to welcome Frey Ranch fans like we welcome friends and family when they visit us in Fallon.

NM&VG: While your products can be bought in many locations, why should people come to the Ranch to buy your spirits?

AF: A visit to the Ranch is like visiting your local farmer's market because all the grains we use are grown on-site. There is full transparency in how and where we source our ingredients. Plus, not only do you get to sample the whiskeys, but you may also tour our still room, fermentation room, and the barrel house.

Ashley Frey

Read our chat with Ashley Frey, cofounder (along with her husband Colby) and chief storyteller of Frey Ranch Farmers + Distillers in Fallon.

Visit freyranch.com to sign up for the newsletter. Tours are Saturdays from noon – 4 p.m.

NM&VG: Have you seen any impact on the local area as a result of your success?

AF: Colby and I are proud to contribute to our local economy in many ways. Because we have total control over the production process (what we call From Ground to Glass) we support our agricultural community as well as the northern Nevada food and beverage community.

We also put a lot of pride into giving back. This year we launched our inaugural Women + Whiskey campaign in March to coincide with Women's History Month. As a mom myself, we like to say that moms drink whiskey, too. For every bottle sold, we donated \$1 to Pinocchio's Mom's on the Run, a local organization helping women diagnosed with breast or gynecological cancer. We were honored to present them with a \$6,000 donation!

NM&VG: Do you have a five-year plan?

AF: Whiskey is a waiting game. What we lay down today in the barrel house won't be ready to bottle for at least five years, so we need to look down the road and understand the appetite for American bourbons and ryes, as well as the ever-evolving drinking trends. With that said, we are barreling quite a bit of whiskey and have ambitions to be a national brand in the next five years!

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A scenic landscape photograph showing a dirt path winding through a field of purple lupine flowers. In the background, there are green hills and a large mountain under a sunset sky with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE NEVADA IN THESE UNITED STATES.
WHEN I'M THERE, I FEEL A PROFOUND SENSE OF FREEDOM.

—MR. JOHN STETZ, GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.