

NEVADA

MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

• Summer 2023


Display until August 1, 2023



10 PLACES YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED AT

WILD(LIFE) NEVADA SUMMERS
INCLUDING A COLORING PAGE

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE



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WHAT WE
FACE.**

**IT'S
HOW WE
FACE IT.**

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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Shake off the dust in Jarbidge on pg. 20.



Adventure your way
along the Great Basin
Highway on pg. 32.



Learn more about sagebrush and the
animals that call it home on pg. 38.



Bringing *the* Heat!



Discover the town that built the Hoover Dam on pg. 72.

I have never been so happy to welcome summer as I am this year. Across the country, winter was a tough one, and Nevada was no exception. While our ski resorts were overjoyed, I admit after a couple months I was ready for some warmth. And it's here, so there's no better time to get outside and soak up that sun!

To that end, get ready to discover a road trip built just for families along the Great Basin Highway. Or maybe you want to take a deep dive into the world of arts and culture, and in that case, Reno's annual Artown event is just the ticket. What would summer be without water sports? Well, it would be awful, and we'd never do that to you, so we're sharing some of our best backcountry lakes for our aquatically inclined friends.

What else means summer? Oh right, eating outdoors! This issue, we're checking out those movable feasts: food trucks. These events are the perfect warm weather experience, combining friends, food, and fun. We've also made a list just for our friends who travel this great state as much as we do but who might forget to hit the pause button once in a while. There are myriad reasons to pull the car over in Nevada, and we've chosen 10 great ones to share with you.

Welcome to Nevada!

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor



MEGG MUELLER



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FOR FREE
SUBSCRIPTION



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!



Take a walk on the wild side with NDOW on pg. 66.



TALK TO US

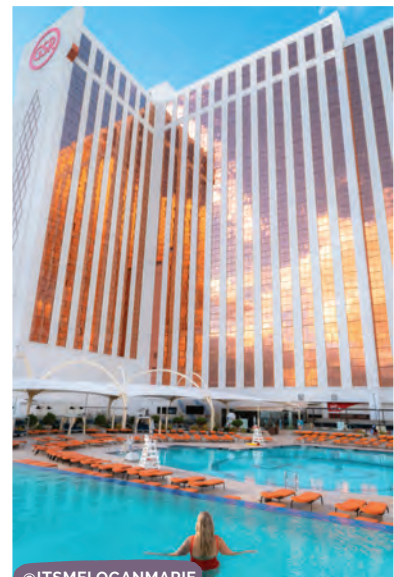
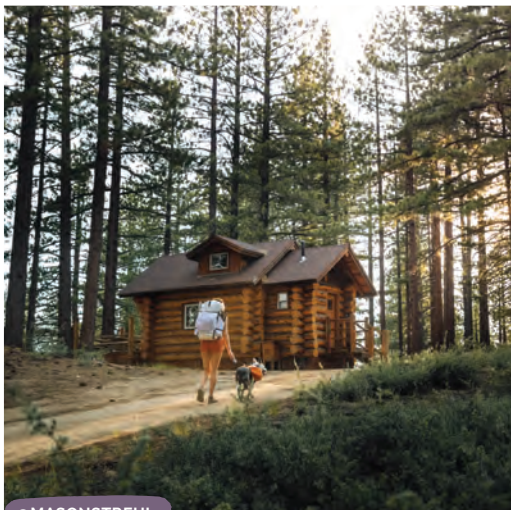
While there are plenty of things you'll want to keep to yourself during your vacation, we know there are must-post pictures your friends have to see. Here's how to share them and inspire a bit of envy about your trip to NV.

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 pg. 90 for more.

THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE

THE EDGE OF NOWHERE.

This spring, explore further than ever and experience a place at The Middle of Everywhere. A city filled with farm-fresh flavors. Museums overflowing with culture and history. The desert, as endless and adventure-rich as you want it to be. Community events, like the Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival, bring people together from near and far to unite over their love of birding. Whether it's events, arts, activities, food, history or natural beauty, "The Oasis of Nevada" has something for everybody.

Come explore Fallon. Let our map guide you.

FALLON EXPLORATION MAP



VISIT
FALLON
THE OASIS OF NEVADA

Nevada

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Self-anointed? Perhaps.

But no one else can compete with our stunning scenery, our oddball characters, our outdoor freedom, our intriguing towns, and the miles and miles of all-to-yourself roads connecting them. And we've mapped out plans to help you see all of it.

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

#NVROADTRIP

THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING



Awe



and then Some



Dive into summer on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. Catch some fish, catch some rays, and then catch a live concert. Raise your elevation hiking the Tahoe Rim Trail or ziplining, and then raise a glass at a local tavern. It's all sorts of awesome. It's Awe and then Some.



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

Visit
lake
tahoe®



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The state's best
backcountry lakes



Martin R. Gollery (top left train and top right bench),
Doreen Lawrence (top center stars)



Summer in Nevada has it all, whether you're searching for antelope herds, alpine lakes, or that perfect small town to spend a few days. Make it a season for exploration: We know you'll soon discover your favorite slice of the West.

COVERS

Front: Turn to pg. 71 to find this beautiful illustration as a coloring page.

Back: Best friends hiking at Spring Mountain Ranch. Photographer: Steven Wohlwender



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A conversation with the Reno author, professor, and historian



QUICK HITS **DID YOU KNOW?**



VIRGINIA CITY THEN AND NOW

Along with its famous wooden sidewalks, cemetery, and countless events and festivals, Virginia City is home to dozens of restaurants, saloons, and shops. Scan here to plan your visit!

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



VIRGINIA CITY

DID YOU KNOW?

VIRGINIA CITY & THE COMSTOCK

FROM ITS FOUNDING IN 1862 UNTIL ITS FORTUNES FADED IN THE 1890S, VIRGINIA CITY WAS THE LARGEST AND WEALTHIEST CITY IN NEVADA. TENS OF THOUSANDS SOUGHT THEIR RICHES AT THIS MOUNTAIN METROPOLIS BUILT ATOP OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S WEALTHIEST MINERAL DEPOSITS—THE COMSTOCK LODE. TODAY, VIRGINIA CITY IS AN EXCITING, EVENT-PACKED TIME CAPSULE OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY.

The historic downtown and mining district form **ONE OF THE LARGEST NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS**

\$20 BILLION

WORTH OF GOLD AND SILVER were mined out of The Comstock

THE GREAT FIRE OF 1875

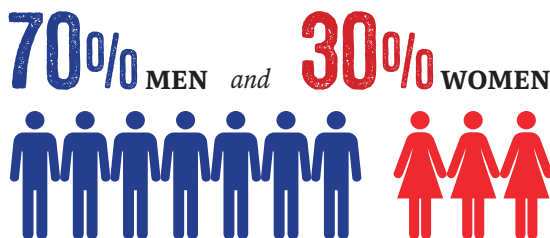
destroyed more than

2,000 STRUCTURES

Peak population of more than

12,000 RESIDENTS

DURING THE 1870s, VIRGINIA CITY WAS



Virginia City's best years—**KNOWN AS THE BIG BONANZA**—lasted from

1873-1879



Its deepest mine—**THE COMBINATION SHAFT**—descended

3,200 FEET

Receives more than

2,000,000 VISITORS every year

During the Big Bonanza, more than

100 SALOONS were in operation, and **20** GALLONS



of alcohol were consumed per capita each year

D I S C O V E R

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north lake tahoe
it's human nature



EYE CANDY



SHOT IN THE DARK

Anthony Cupaiuolo captured this stellar scene looking toward Jobs Peak. “I was optimistic that during the full lunar eclipse it would get dark enough for the Milky Way to pop. Normally when there’s anything close to a full moon, it’s nearly impossible to capture the Milky Way as the sky is too bright. So, this was a unique opportunity to get both together along with Carson Valley as a pretty foreground.”


📷 Sony A7R III, 15 sec, f/1.8, ISO 2000






SUN SEEKERS

Tom Rassuchine took this shot of the sunrise hitting a line of twisted mountain mahogany trees in the Shoshone Mountains. This remote range is found in central Nevada and is also home to Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

 Canon 1DX Mkii, 1/160 sec, f/4.5, ISO 100

BACK TO LIFE

Samantha Starman submitted this photo from the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area just northwest of Las Vegas. "This picture was taken while hiking the Cathedral Rock trail, which was closed for several years after the Carpenter 1 Fire. My mom was looking up at an avalanche chute on her first time back on the trail after it reopened."

 Sony SLT-A58, 1/125 sec, f/9, ISO 100





ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!



THIS YEAR'S CATEGORIES:

1. PEOPLE
2. GHOST TOWNS
3. WILDLIFE
4. EVENTS
5. LANDSCAPE
6. MOBILE/CELL
7. CITIES/URBAN



Great Nevada Picture Hunt

CONTEST BEGINS
Monday, MAY 1

CONTEST ENDS
Friday, JUNE 30

PAST GRAND PRIZE WINNERS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

TOP ROW: MaryLou Schindler, B.C. Collins, Christopher Balladarez
BOTTOM ROW: Robert Rollins, Lee Molof

Basic Rules

- Photos must have been taken in Nevada, in 2019 or later
- You can submit up to two photos per category
- No fee to submit
- Minimal digital photo manipulation/alteration allowed
- No watermarks (can affect judging)
- Drone photos must have been taken while observing all state and FAA rules/regulations
- Photographers retain all copyright to their images

For complete rules/submission info:
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SPECIAL PRIZE FOR GHOST TOWN CATEGORY WINNER: GIFT PACKAGE FROM FRIENDS OF SUTRO TUNNEL

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thesutrotunnel.org



A **MOVE**

**Food trucks
deliver a fun
way to indulge
and imbibe in
local offerings.**

Food tourism has grown steadily in the last decade, and now entire vacations are planned around culinary pleasures. Sampling local foods and beverages is a great way to truly dive into a new destination, and while once that meant trying new restaurants, today it includes farmers markets; foodie tours; brewery, winery, and distillery events; and exploring the food truck scene.

Food trucks are the ultimate small business, and when you buy from them, you support the local economy. Plus, they are a downright delicious way to try multiple options without restaurant hopping. Just sidle up to the next food truck and an entirely new cultural adventure awaits.

Jeremy Spilker (top), Ken Lund (Food Truck Friday)



ABLE FEAST

These mobile eateries are easily spotted at festivals and pop-up gatherings statewide, but a few events make mobile dining the main attraction. One that has found a permanent home is Reno's **Food Truck Friday**.

This weekly event is held each summer in Idlewild Park near downtown. From June to August, more than 40 gourmet food, dessert, and beverage trucks gather to serve tasty treats and delectable drinks in a family-friendly atmosphere. Bring a chair or a blanket, grab a patch of grass, and chow down while you listen to local live music. The party happens from 4 p.m.-9 p.m. but thanks to the never-ending variety of food and the musical guest, it's different every time you go.



Leave dogs at home when you head to Food Truck Friday as they aren't allowed.





The City of Sparks also hosts a summer-long tastefest at its **Hello Summer Celebration** series every fourth Thursday in June, July, August, and September. This free event is the perfect way to spend the summer evening with family and friends. Live music and ample dining options await along the shores of the Sparks Marina at this alcohol-free party.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Not sure where to find a food truck event? Check local listings for craft fairs, farmers markets, art shows, and music-in-the-park type events!

GET THIS ON THE CALENDAR

The Great American Foodie Fest

April, Craig Ranch Park, Las Vegas

The Great American Foodie Fest doesn't just use local chefs and food trucks; they also bring in chefs from across the country to amass more than 50 of the best food trucks anywhere. Along with all the offerings, there are celebrity chef demonstrations, carnival games, and rides at this annual event.

ART FIRST, THEN FOOD

First Friday in Downtown Las Vegas has more than 50 food trucks at this monthly gathering, but the food is only half the fun. The nonprofit event showcases the local arts scene highlighting musicians, artists, and more. Located in the Las Vegas Arts District, the arts and culture festival features a different artist each month.



First Friday Downtown Las Vegas



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Sagebrush Saloons

RED DOG SALOON AND OUTDOOR INN

RED DOG SALOON



Tiny Jarbidge delivers two of the state's finest watering holes.

★ Let's cut to the chase: If you find yourself in one of Jarbidge's two Sagebrush Saloons, that's because you really REALLY wanted to be there. Situated in northeastern Nevada below the spectacular Jarbidge Wilderness Area, this "living ghost town" is said to be the most remote place in the Lower 48.

Would anyone travel so far for "just" a stop at a saloon? Probably not, but some of the state's best outdoor recreation is in this corner of the state, plus the breathtaking drive to this Old West town should be on every explorer's bucket list.

The Red Dog Saloon is right in the heart of town and a great first stop. Order up a cold one, drop a few quarters in the jukebox, and rub elbows with the locals. Whether you traveled more than 60 miles on dirt roads or took the (mostly) paved route via Idaho to get here, you earned this one.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



SAGEBRUSH SALOONS

TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP

The Outdoor Inn is open May through November. The road into Jarbidge from Nevada is often closed until July, so be sure to plan ahead for this trek.



OUTDOOR INN



Next, explore the town with its approximately 20 year-round residents, no paved roads, and only one intersection. Stop at the Jarbidge Jail where the man responsible for the last horse-drawn stage robbery in the West was kept. Next, check out the community hall—built in 1910—which still houses its original stage, ornately oil-painted stage curtain, historical bulletins, and intriguing artifacts from the not-so-bygone era.

After that, step across the street to visit The Outdoor Inn for a cool one and a chat. With a full restaurant and comfy rooms, this is homebase for your Jarbidge adventure.



What the Hell's a Jarbidge?

If you made it to Jarbidge, bragging rights are in order. Display how adventurous you are with a souvenir that will allow you to both provoke and answer that titular question. Next to the Outdoor Inn, a new gift shop has everything you need—from T-shirts to hoodies, books to bumper stickers—to show off your new-found Jarbidge pride.



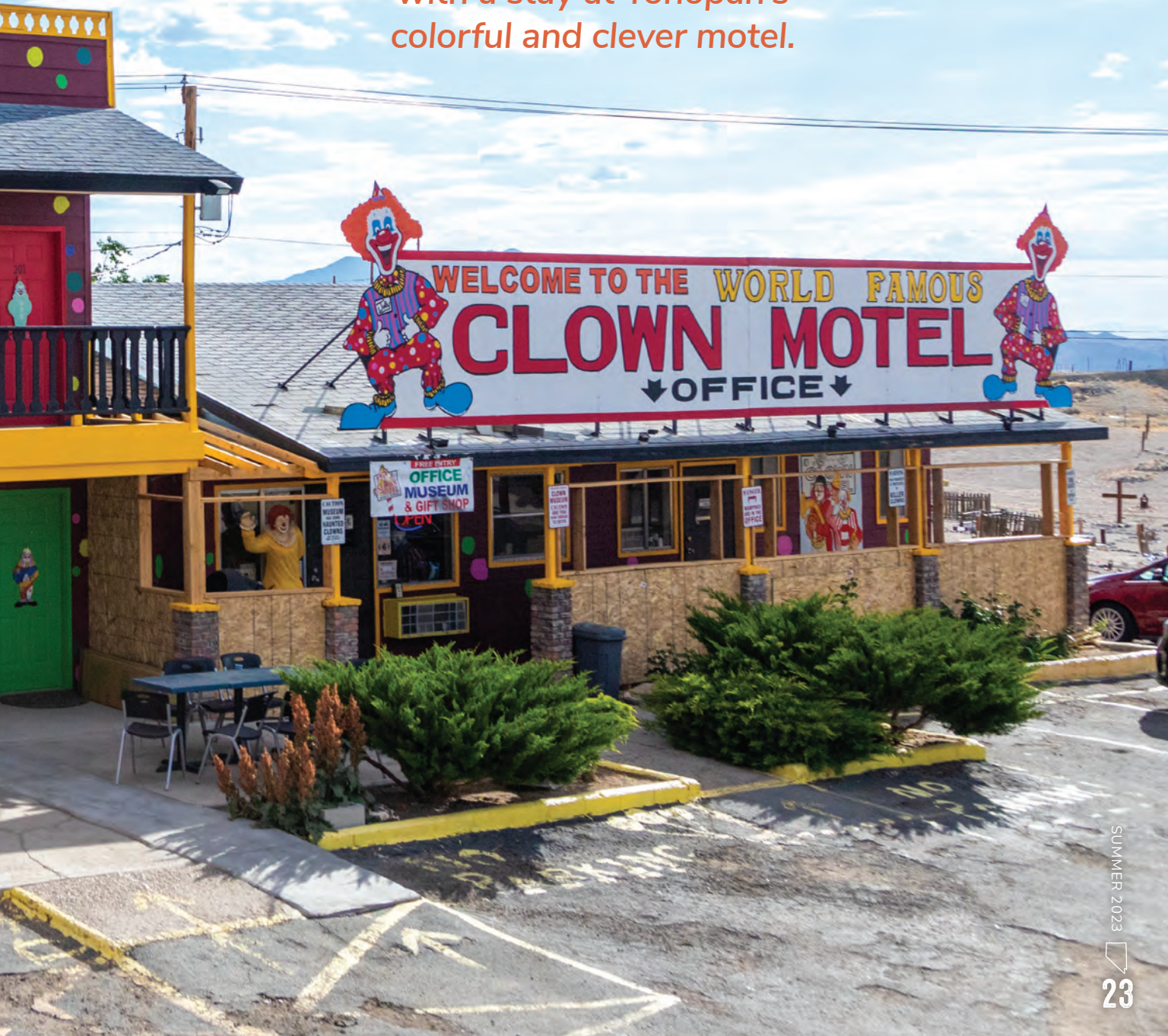
UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

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



THE CLOWN MOTEL

Turn that frown upside down
with a stay at Tonopah's
colorful and clever motel.



The Clown Motel in Tonopah boasts what's got to be the largest collection of clown figurines and memorabilia under the sun. Some 3,200 clowns call the motel's lobby home, with more pouring in weekly as donations from around the world. It's a sight to behold and one that you won't find anywhere else.

For anyone not normally keen on clowns, it's worth noting the motel is, first and foremost, a comfortable and cozy place to stay the night. Manager Hame Anand, a devout clown lover, gets that they're not for everyone, but he encourages people to stop and have a look. Anand is happy to show off the clean and welcoming rooms, which are tastefully decorated with his paintings. He'll even try to match guests to a room with a painting they might fancy: Gandhi, Elton John, and Charlie Chaplin as clowns are among the artwork he's created.



If you're wondering "why clowns?" we have your answer! Scan to read an interview with the man behind the red noses, Hame Anand, Manager of Tonopah's Clown Motel.



For extreme adventure seekers, what's better than a dash of ghosts with your clowns? The Clown Motel sits directly next to the historic Old Tonopah Cemetery, where Tonopah's earliest silver mine workers are entombed (many who died in a tragic mining accident in 1911). The motel has been named "America's Scariest Motel" due to its proximity to the cemetery and was featured on Travel Channel's "Ghost Adventures." Even if you can't stay the night, drop by the lobby, get drowned in clowns, and snap up some truly unique souvenirs from the gift shop.

*Oh, and before we forget:
free clown noses, anyone?*



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS



THOSE WHO CAME FIRST

Nevada's original inhabitants continue to make a lasting impression.

Tribal Nations are as much a part of the fabric of the state as its geology or topography, and their cultures and traditions are woven deeply into the past and future of Nevada. For nearly 10,000 years, the members of the Washoe (Wa She Shu), the Northern Paiute (Numu), the Southern Paiute (Nuwu), and Western Shoshone (Newe) have shaped the heartbeat of the Silver State. This story highlights some of the ways to discover this rich tapestry: museums, art galleries, and historic lands. There is also one particularly poignant experience to remind us of the history the Tribal Nations navigated.




**TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP**

Many museums across the state offer exhibits of American Indian artifacts, but one of the best basket collections can be found at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

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

Nixon

A remnant of glacial Lake Lahontan, Pyramid Lake is home to the Northern Paiute, who lived off the Tui Chub and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout—both native (or endemic) fish species to the lake. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor Center perfectly complements a day of adventuring on and near the water. In addition to exhibits of handmade tools, beadwork, and jewelry, the center explores the area's past and the lake's importance to the Paiute people. Visitors will also discover the natural history of Pyramid Lake and the bountiful fish and bird populations—including American White pelicans living on Anaho Island, a National Wildlife Refuge.



LOST CITY MUSEUM

Overton

The Lost City Museum tells the stories of one of Nevada's first permanent people, the Ancestral Puebloans, who resided here between AD 200 to AD 1200. The museum was built in 1935 by the National Parks Service and Civilian Conservation Corp to house artifacts from the Pueblo Grande de Nevada archaeological site before the rising waters of Lake Mead covered it. The Lost City—as Pueblo Grande de Nevada came to be called—was the subject of great attention in the early 20th century, thanks in part to the extra care taken to preserve its relics.

Tools, pottery, and other artifacts offer a glimpse of Puebloan life while basketry and contemporary regional art highlight lasting links between culture, then and now. Kids love the re-created outdoor pueblo dwelling that accurately depicts the way ancient Puebloans lived.



STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Carson City

The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum brings a difficult period of Nevada's history to life. Just 4 miles south of the Nevada State Capitol in Carson City, the historic Stewart Indian School campus was a boarding school for American Indian children that operated from 1890 to 1980. As part of the Native American Boarding Schools Project, Stewart Indian School—one of more than 350 such schools that once operated in the U.S.—was part of the initiative that removed children from their families in an attempt to eradicate American Indian culture.

A walking map and accompanying cellphone audio tour bring the voices of former students and faculty of the school to life. Touring the grounds and beautiful stone buildings while listening to the stories of those who lived at the school may be haunting at times, but it is also a deeply compelling and often an uplifting experience.



WHAT LURKS BELOW?

Beneath the surface of the world's rivers swim mysterious giants. Giant freshwater fish measuring six feet or longer and weighing more than 200 pounds! Explore *Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants* and join National Geographic Explorer and University of Nevada, Reno professor Dr. Zeb Hogan on a quest to find and study these rare, colossal, and often mysterious fish.

MONSTERFISH
IN SEARCH OF THE LAST RIVER GIANTS

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 **Discovery**
Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum

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GREAT BASIN NATIVE ARTIST GALLERY

Carson City

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

GBNA's permanent gallery is at the Stewart Indian School and displays historic pieces and contemporary works. The collection rotates semi-yearly.

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MUSEUMS





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GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



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MORE INFO



GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

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





This trip up Nevada's eastern edge begins with sandstone canyons and ends at ancient bristlecone pines beneath some of the nation's darkest skies. Along the way, explore the surreal landscapes of several state parks, visit charming communities, and hit some of the state's best hiking and biking trails.

LAS VEGAS TO VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

Interstate-15: 45 min.

State Route 167: 1 hour 15 min.

Heading out from Las Vegas, your first stop is at one of Nevada's natural wonders—Valley of Fire State Park.



LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

You can take the interstate and arrive in the time it takes to finish a yoga class, but we recommend the scenic drive on State Route 167 through the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

This serene desert drive features hills of rust-red sandstone and unparalleled views of Lake Mead, the largest manmade reservoir in the country. Despite regional drought, it endures as an awesome sight, and you'll find its blue waters sprawling along the horizon. Keep an eye out for wildlife as you wind your way north because this is prime territory to spot wild horses, burros, and bighorn sheep.



The North Shore Inn at Lake Mead



Cablp
The Inside Scoop

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK TO CALIENTE

Highway 93: 2 hours 20 min.

Next, it's time to hit the road for Caliente, the town known for its rose-lined streets, Spanish mission-style train depot, and its surrounding network of gorgeous canyons.

Mountain bikers should make for Barnes Canyon to enjoy dozens of miles of singletrack while nearby Kershaw-Ryan State Park promises adventurous hikes. Just outside town is Rainbow Canyon, which is both a beautiful drive and home to some of the best rock-climbing in the state.

Caliente offers plenty of great restaurants and lodgings, and we recommend you treat yourself to an evening in this peaceful town before continuing your adventure.



Shady Motel
Patty's Motel



Knotty Pine
Side Track Restaurant

Before arriving in Caliente, stop at the Pahrump National Wildlife Refuge for spectacular birding opportunities in a watery, oasis-like sanctuary.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP



RAINBOW CANYON

CALIENTE TO PIOCHE

Highway 93: 30 min.

The highway takes us north through the agricultural heart of Lincoln County toward Pioche. Along the way, don't miss the opportunity to stop at Cathedral Gorge State Park, which sits halfway between the two towns. With its otherworldly spires, deep chasms, and meandering hikes through slot canyons and scenic overlooks, this park is almost a required pit stop.

CALIENTE TRAIN DEPOT



CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK



PIOCHE

TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP

While in Pioche, be sure to check out the Gem Theater. This retro cinema is still undergoing restoration, but its neon marquee is again lighting up main street at night.



Arriving in Pioche, it's hard to imagine that this quiet, friendly community was once known as one of the roughest, toughest mining towns in the Old West. Although home to around 1,500, Pioche still retains the charm of a frontier community and boasts plenty of relics from the old days including Thompson's Opera House, the "Million Dollar Courthouse," and the infamous Boot Hill Cemetery.



Motherlode Motel
Overland Hotel & Saloon
Tillies Country Cabins



Historic
Silver Café

PIOCHE TO ELY

Highway 93 + Highway 50: 1 hour 45 min.

The copper mining boomtown of Ely is the last town to explore on this trip. Famous for its pioneer-themed murals and train history, this community is a bustling town with plenty to do. Ely's downtown is pedestrian friendly and home to the historic Hotel Nevada—once the tallest building in the state—and blocks of bars and restaurants.

One of Ely's biggest draws are its historic trains, and it's worth booking a ride with Nevada Northern Railway.



EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM



ELY

Scott Smith (train), Tom Rassuchine (downtown Ely)
Carolyn Johnson (Lexington Arch)

To make the event even more memorable, try their themed lines like the Star Train or Polar Express. Tickets sell out quickly, so be sure to schedule well in advance. Even if you aren't able to ride this historic line, stop in at the nearby East Ely Railroad Depot Museum.



Prospector Hotel & Gambling Hall
Jailhouse Motel & Casino
Bristlecone Motel



Economy Drug &
Old Fashioned Soda Fountain
Racks Bar & Grill
The Cup



BRISTLECONE PINE IN GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

ELY TO GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Highway 50: 1 hour

Hit the road early for the stretch to Great Basin National Park, home to 5,000-year-old Bristlecone Pine trees (the oldest living things on Earth), and some of the darkest night skies in the Lower 48.

Start in the visitor center to learn how Nevada's unique geography makes verdant mountain oases like this state park possible. Next, head underground on a guided tour through the famous Lehman Caves or ascend 4,000 feet up the 12-mile Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive to a panorama of Wheeler Peak—the second tallest mountain in the state. After a day of exploration, a hot meal and soft bed are easily found nearby in the quiet, artsy village of Baker.

If you're looking for a bit more adventure, consider the 5.4-mile loop hike to the 200-foot-high Lexington Arch. Getting to the trailhead requires traversing some rough roads, so make sure your vehicle can handle it.



Hidden Canyon Retreat
Border Inn RV Park
Stargazer Inn



487 Grill
Sandra's Mexican Food
Great Basin Café



LEXINGTON ARCH



LEHMAN CAVES



SAGE COUNTRY

Nevada's state flower is
the heart of the West.

BY CORY MUNSON



If you've been in or near the Great Basin, you know sagebrush. It's practically everywhere, from marshlands and mountainsides to cities and salt flats. It never appears by ones or twos, either. When it's there, it's usually stretching across the horizon like an ocean.

In fact, sagebrush is so common that it tends to disappear from notice, blending into the background like clouds or restaurant chatter. Then one day, you'll be driving down a windswept valley, adrift in the blue-gray sea, and suddenly think, "Wow, this is a lot of sagebrush." You are reminded that there is so much of it, and it's everywhere you look. Really, sagebrush is something of an ecological wonder.



ARID EMPEROR

All desert plants find clever workarounds to survive, but few thrive like sagebrush. It is an evergreen, which means it collects energy year-round. While other plants and grasses sleep the winter away, sagebrush is perpetually powered up and ready to start propagating as soon as spring arrives.

The leaves are short and stubby to limit evaporation, but they're also covered in tiny gray hairs called trichomes. These hairs help shield the sagebrush from relentless solar radiation and give the plant its distinct faded color.

When good soil and water are nearby, sagebrush grows around 4-5 feet tall, but it's known to reach up to 10 feet. It can grow so tall because it has two root systems, one near the surface that collects precipitation and another that delves deep into the soil. In optimal conditions, these taproots can run 12 feet deep. When settlers were deciding where to plant crops or dig a well, they kept an eye out for the particularly tall brush.

Another reason there's so much sagebrush is because nothing eats it. Even hungry animals rarely nibble the leaves (unless it's the only food left) despite them being about as nutritious as alfalfa. Sagebrush is a culinary pariah because it is packed with a volatile oil called terpene that gives off a bitter flavor (this is also what gives the desert its distinct and adored aroma after a rainstorm). Only a handful of creatures—the pronghorn and sage grouse, for instance—have learned to like the flavor.



Tom Rassuchine (Man next to sagebrush)
Scott Mortimore (Road)

HOME AND HEARTH

Sagebrush is a prolific plant, but it's also an important part of the desert ecosystem. It is an emergency food source during the winter, and its wide, billowing frame provides critical shelter. Each brush is like a little world, a potential home to lizards, birds, mice, arachnids, and hundreds of insect varieties.

Native grasses and annuals also benefit from its protection. Not only are they kept out of the elements and hidden from grazing animals, but they grow better. Shed from sagebrush gives the ground plenty of nutrients, and the root system keeps the soil aerated. During the winter, sagebrush acts like a mini reservoir by holding onto the snowpack until it can be used in the spring.

Sagebrush has long been used by people as a medicine and natural resource, though its seeds were rarely eaten except to stretch food supplies. Its leaves are steeped to make herbal teas or are pounded into pulp to form a healing balm, and its smoke accompanies special occasions such as births. Sagebrush bark is used to make insulation and cordage, and the pitch is harvested and turned into glue. Sagebrush is packed with oils, and when it's dry, it burns very hot. It's long been used a fuel in areas with few trees.





A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The sagebrush ocean we know today is impressive, but it doesn't look the same as it did 200 years ago. Before the 1800s, sagebrush lived alongside a lush and diverse carpet of native plants and grasses. What changed?

As early as the 1890s, Great Basin residents were aware that overgrazing was destroying the native grass. The area's first herders were raising too many

Sagebrush is not a true sage shrub but instead belongs to the sunflower and daisy family. Unlike its cousins that pollinate with the help of insects, sagebrush relies on the wind to spread seed.

heads of sheep and cattle, and the delicate desert ecosystem was unable to absorb the shock. The grass couldn't keep up, only to be replaced by invasive weeds like cheatgrass and—of course—even more sagebrush.

In addition to overgrazing, a century of wildfire has also changed the desert ecology. Today, we know fire plays an important role in ecology: It clears out dead vegetation and rejuvenates soil. But after settlers arrived, most ignitions were quickly stamped out and that dead vegetation piled up. The West became a waiting powder keg.



The new wildfires were unpredictable and devastating. What little grass remained was gone, and sagebrush-dense stands burned even hotter. Unfortunately, unlike other plants, sagebrush seeds don't easily survive flames, which means that once an area burns up, they're gone. Nearby stands and—increasingly—human intervention can provide new sprouts, but rejuvenation takes decades.

There is much work to do to protect sagebrush, but it is possible. Restoration projects have seen small-scale success. However, the fact remains that sagebrush territory has been steadily decreasing for centuries. More than a million acres have been lost in just the last 20 years. It is a hardy plant, but it is also slow-growing and sensitive to change.

Everyone can do their part to help preserve the sagebrush sea. Only start a campfire in designated areas, and don't blaze a trail through it. Sagebrush should also never be taken from the desert—it's illegal to harvest it without a permit. If you're interested in adding some to your landscape (or a bonsai version to your office), contact a nursery.

If you're in the Great Basin, take a sojourn out into the wilds to visit it. Hopefully, the sagebrush will be just as mighty and dramatic for generations to come.

Tom Rassuchine (Bristlecone)



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June 24. 2023 LAMOILLE, NV



Rotary
Elko Desert
Sunrise



Photo by Moira Smith



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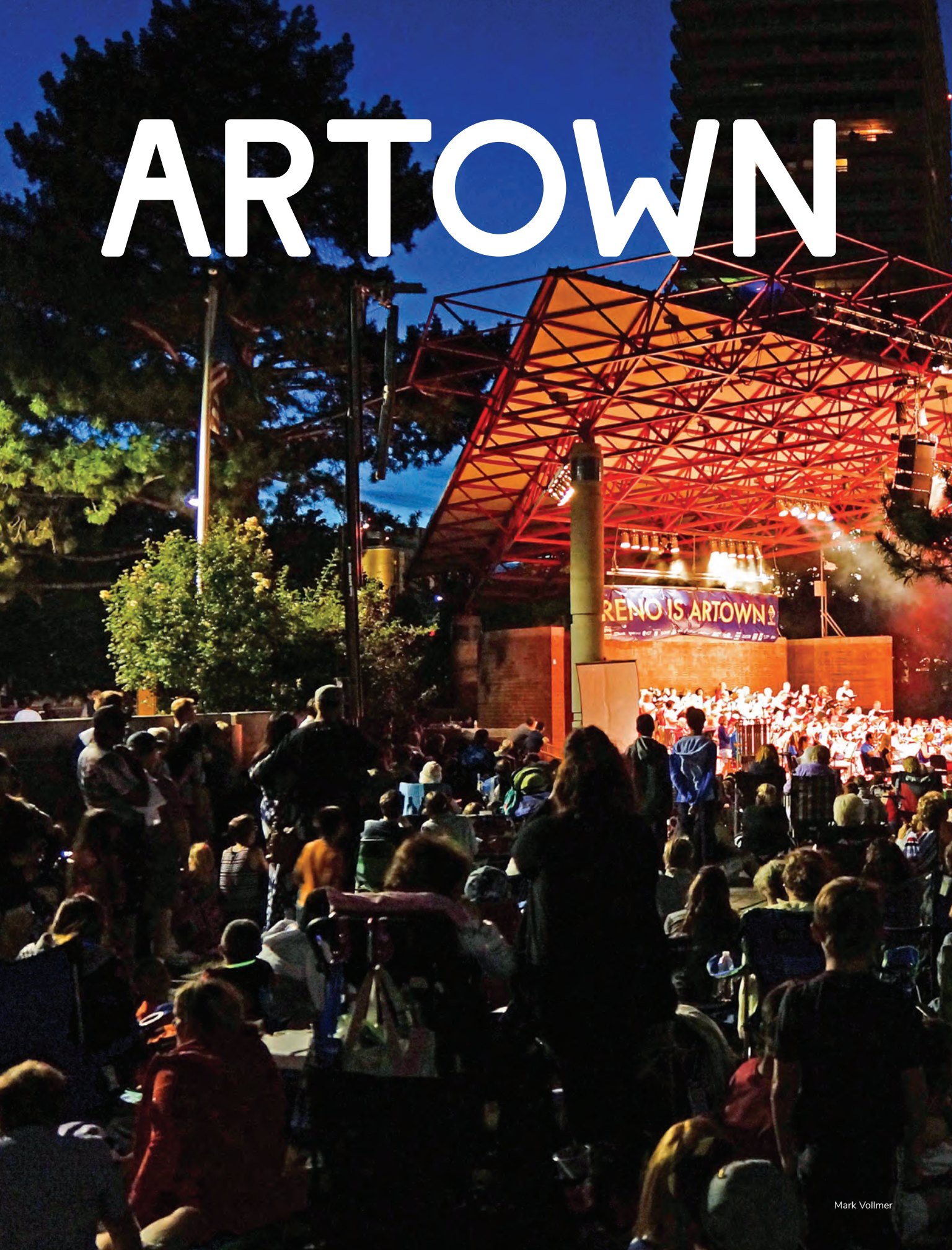
REGISTER NOW




Bald Mountain



ARTOWN



Reno's monthlong festival continues to delight and deliver.



For 28 years, Reno has transformed into Artown for the month of July. The nationally recognized event brings hundreds of performances in dance, music, and theater, not to mention art shows. Last year, Artown held more than 600 performances across 125 venues. International performers and headliners joined regional and local artists to entertain more than 300,000 attendees. Artown's Executive Director Beth Macmillan—who has spearheaded the event since 2001—has succeeded in her mission to bring the world to Reno.

The phenomenal success of this event, which began as a way to bring people back to Reno's downtown, is undeniable.

It is a major economic boon for the city, and it's helped transform the community each summer. Non-traditional businesses pop up as venues each year, hosting small events and displaying the work of local artists.

It also serves as an educational tool: artists from Israel, Australia, Mexico, Japan, Colombia, and Canada share a literal world of experience with audiences, including children.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



ARTS & CULTURE

TOMORROW'S ARTISTS

Engaging children is a priority for the nonprofit organization. Artown offers many events designed to introduce children to a diverse selection of the arts including opera, Shakespeare, taiko drumming, and so much more. The Discover the Arts series provides 20-plus days of children's arts education programs, and Artown even puts on a play each summer starring local talent.



TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP

The Little Book of Artown can be found throughout the city or at artown.org starting in June with a full calendar of events happening each day.

Mark Vollmer (Painter and fireworks)



THE SHOW MUST GO ON... AND ON

Inevitably, the energy and passion surrounding the festival began to spill over the boundaries of its 31-days. In 2011, the Encore series was officially born, and while July remains the cornucopia, the rest of the year's offerings are surprisingly abundant.

Encore shows run the gamut each year, bringing artists who might not visit Reno normally. The 2022 Encore season included jazz legend Wynton Marsalis, Dance Theater of Harlem, Pink Martini, Soweto Gospel Choir, and musical performer Isaac Mizrahi.

LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY ★ KATE BLAKE ★

OFFICIAL MATCHMAKER
for the single-track minded

YOU'LL HUFF AND YOU'LL PUFF AND
YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF BLOWN AWAY.

SHALL WE SADDLE UP?

JOB'S PEAK IS THE FIRST CROWN TO CATCH THE SUN EVERY DAY. IT'S ALSO THE ONE THAT'S CAPTURED KATE'S HEART SINCE CHILDHOOD, THE MOUNTAIN SHE SHARES WITH ADRENALINE JUNKIES IN SEARCH OF A HEALTHY SERVING OF JAW-DROPPING VIEWS AND MEANS FOR JUSTIFYING THE INEVITABLE BASQUE MEAL AT THE END OF THE DAY. RAW, REAL AND UNPROCESSED, THAT'S HOW LIFE ROLLS IN CARSON VALLEY.



CARSON VALLEY
NEVADA
visitcarsonvalley.org

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

While many headliner events require tickets, up to 75 percent of Artown events are free!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The complete list of Artown events for 2023 will be announced after press time, but festival programming will continue to expand into diverse communities and alternative venues. Some initial plans include bringing indigenous programming to Idlewild Park. Also slated for Idlewild are free concerts with the Reno Municipal Band. Artown's annual showcase with Sierra Nevada Ballet will be at Bartley Ranch. Showstopping headliners will appear at concerts at the Grand Sierra Resort and on a special Sunday evening event at Bartley Ranch.

Among the reasons for Artown's popularity, the chance to watch a concert or dance performance under the stars on a warm summers evening is definitely top on many lists. Multiple venues such as Bartley Ranch and Wingfield Park offer outdoor amphitheaters, which adds a layer of excitement to the performances.

With the incredible variety of events to choose from, visitors lucky enough to find themselves in Reno in July can dive into the arts in unprecedented ways. Around every corner, the rich arts and culture scene is sure to delight and illuminate. After all, Reno is Artown.



NICKEL CREEK

Josh Goleman (Nickel Creek)
Beth Macmillan (Performer on stage)

A man and a woman are sitting on a floor covered in confetti and balloons. The man is on the left, wearing a light green suit and a patterned shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark, sleeveless dress and glasses. They are in a rustic wooden building with large arched windows. The background is dark and moody, with warm lighting on the subjects.

ARTOWN 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night

July 1 MarchFourth Marching Band with
*Choir Choir Choir

Spectacle/Family/Millennials

July 1-31 Dragon Lights
July 6 Dancing in the Streets
July 7 Sierra Nevada Ballet
July 7, 14, 21, 28 Movies in the Park
July 22 Pride Parade & Festival
July 29 Base Camp:
Festival 6 – EDM/DJ Dance Festival

Headliners

July 6 John Pizzarelli
July 11 Nickel Creek
July 13 Omar Sosa & Quarteto Americano
July 16 Jesse and Joy
July 20 Taj Mahal
July 27 Dianne Reeves

Closing Night

July 31 The Soul Rebels



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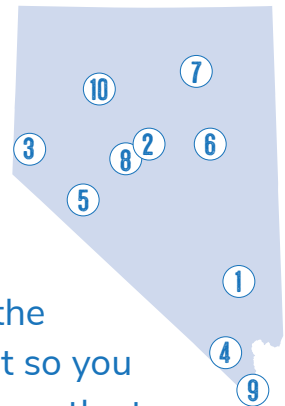


RYANHENG

TOP 10

PLACES YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED AT (YET)

Put away the schedule and indulge in these worthy diversions.



You've seen the road signs. You've always talked about stopping. But each time you're in the area, you blow right past so you can just get home. Here are the top 10 overlooked places that are right off

the highway and deserve your attention. Trust us, these attractions are time well spent, so ease up on that pedal and pull over. You can thank us later.



1 RYANHENGE

Oh Nevada, how we love you. Where else could you find one of the quirkiest and simultaneously impressive roadside attractions ever located on a landfill? A Stonehenge-inspired solar calendar meets aliens in a beautiful garden with a side of vintage railroad cars...and did we mention camels, too? Built by Ryan Williams—CEO of Western Elite Landfill in Alamo—this wild and wonderful attraction should not be missed no matter where your travels take you in the state.

BIG SMOKY VALLEY



HICKISON PETROGLYPH RECREATION AREA

Cruising along U.S. Highway 50, aka The Loneliest Road in America, it's easy to speed between the far-flung towns in a race to rejoin civilization. However, just 24 miles east of Austin, there's good reason to stop and visit an ancient civilization, if only for a short while. A family friendly network of trails weaves through ancient petroglyph-laden rock outcroppings, courtesy of the Western Shoshone that lived in the area some 10,000 years ago. Alongside the ancient etchings, you'll find unbeatable views of Big Smoky Valley and the Toiyabe Mountain Range, picnic areas, restrooms, and 16 free campground sites.



CHOCOLATE NUGGET CANDY FACTORY

If you've ever driven old Highway 395 from Carson City to Reno, you've likely seen a giant prospector statue and thought "what the heck?" This gentle sentinel guards one of northern Nevada's sweetest stops. Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory—a third-generation, family-owned enterprise—handmakes more than 100 varieties of chocolate, along with many other



SEVEN MAGIC MOUNTAINS

Driving in the desert can induce a mirage or two, but if you're on Highway 15 between Las Vegas and Los Angeles, you're probably not hallucinating. When you see the seven massive, day-glo

rock sculptures jutting from the desert floor, it's time to stop the car. Created by Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone, the formations are locally sourced limestone boulders stacked vertically in groups ranging between three and six rocks. Wander among the 30-foot-tall totems for that only-in-Nevada selfie and reflect on the simplicity and oddity of these fluorescent towers in the desert.



confections including the peanut brittle they began making during the Depression to generate extra income. The family makes most of its treats at its second location in nearby Mound House, which opened in 1989. The two shops carry taffy, brittles, fudge, chocolates, caramel corn, and small gifts.



Paula Gessler (small Hickison inset), Larry Burton (large Hickison inset), MaryLou Schindler (Chocolate Nugget)



5 ORDNANCE MUSEUM

Most folks bomb down Highway 95, only slowing for gas or food in Hawthorne before hitting the road again. This is a big mistake. Hawthorne is home to America's largest artillery base, as evidenced by the myriad bunkers across the valley landscape—and if you'd ever wondered why, it's time to stop for a visit at the Ordinance Museum. Dedicated to educating and sharing the Hawthorne Army Depot's contribution to our nation's security, this museum lets you wander through exhibits of cluster bombs, historical ammunition, vintage military uniforms, plus some of the first drones ever produced.



6 SENTINEL MUSEUM

Stop the presses! OK, just stop the car in Eureka for a visit to "The Eureka Sentinel," which was printed daily from 1879 to 1960. This two-story building hosts the old printing room downstairs, which is so well-preserved it looks as if the editors have just finished their shift. The walls are

7 CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

You're rushing to get to Elko for dinner at The Star or to attend the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, but pump the brakes for just a moment. The California Trail Interpretive Center—just west of town—is the perfect place to learn about the settlers who traveled some 2,000 miles in search of a better life. Learning about the harrowing journey across the 40-Mile Desert might be just the thing to put that long car trip into perspective.



covered with aged newspapers, and the printing press and original furnishings give a fascinating glimpse into the life of this historic operation. The upper floor houses a museum—filled with everything from Edison phonographs to 1920s gas pumps—that chronicles the town's history.





COLD SPRINGS STATION

Depending on your destination on the aforementioned Highway 50, you could find yourself without dining options for some time. Cold Springs Station is a great spot to get a meal, shop for mementos and snacks, or check out some Pony Express memorabilia. Ask the owners about the area as you enjoy a hearty dinner or dare to (responsibly) try one of the single-pour drinks.



GRAPEVINE CANYON

While traveling State Route 163 just north of Laughlin, you'll find a turnoff for Grapevine Canyon. Anxious as you are to get to town, pull off and head to the trailhead. Park the car, and you'll see a great wash, which really doesn't look like much. A short hike toward the

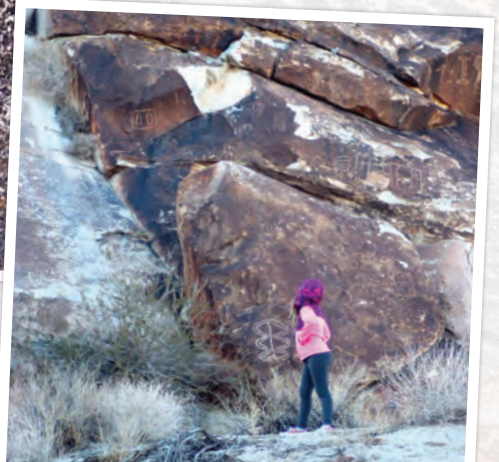


See pg. 90
to read up on
the history
of Thunder
Mountain.

THUNDER MOUNTAIN MONUMENT

This one is so easy to miss, it's almost criminal. Located on Interstate 80 in Imlay, this monument is the creation of WWII veteran and artist Frank Van Zant, who started building it in 1969. A self-identified Creek Indian, he built Thunder Mountain as both a shelter from a potential apocalypse as well as a spiritual haven and hostel during the hippie era. The sculptures mainly portray American Indian figures and the injustices they experienced during and after white settlement. Scattered among the buildings and sculptures is a plethora of odd objects. Each one seems to have been thoughtfully placed, whether it is a car windshield concreted into a wall to be used as a window or a plastic doll head stapled to a tree.

canyon's rock walls will reveal the truth: hundreds of panels of petroglyphs created between 1200 and 1800 AD. You can climb up the canyon for more, or just revel in this incredible offering that's so easy to find you'll wonder why you never went before.



Gary Parker (Grapevine left and above right), Whitney Winlow (Grapevine far right)

WATER IN THE DESERT

*An ancient lake is reborn at
Lahontan State Recreation Area.*

*In addition to its stunning large
waterfronts, Nevada has its fair share
of secret swimming holes. Check out
where you can find some of the state's
best backcountry lakes on pg. 78.*

The West is a dry place. Most states this side of the Great Plains receive far less annual precipitation than their eastern counterparts. The three driest—Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada—receive around 65 percent less rain than the national average.

It's not that there isn't water: Precipitation is just more of a seasonal event. In the winter, Nevada is home to multi-day blizzards and dramatic desert monsoons, and in the spring, snowmelt fills creeks and rivers to the brim. But if the water is not harvested when it comes, much of it will flow underground or be lost to evaporation.

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MORE INFO

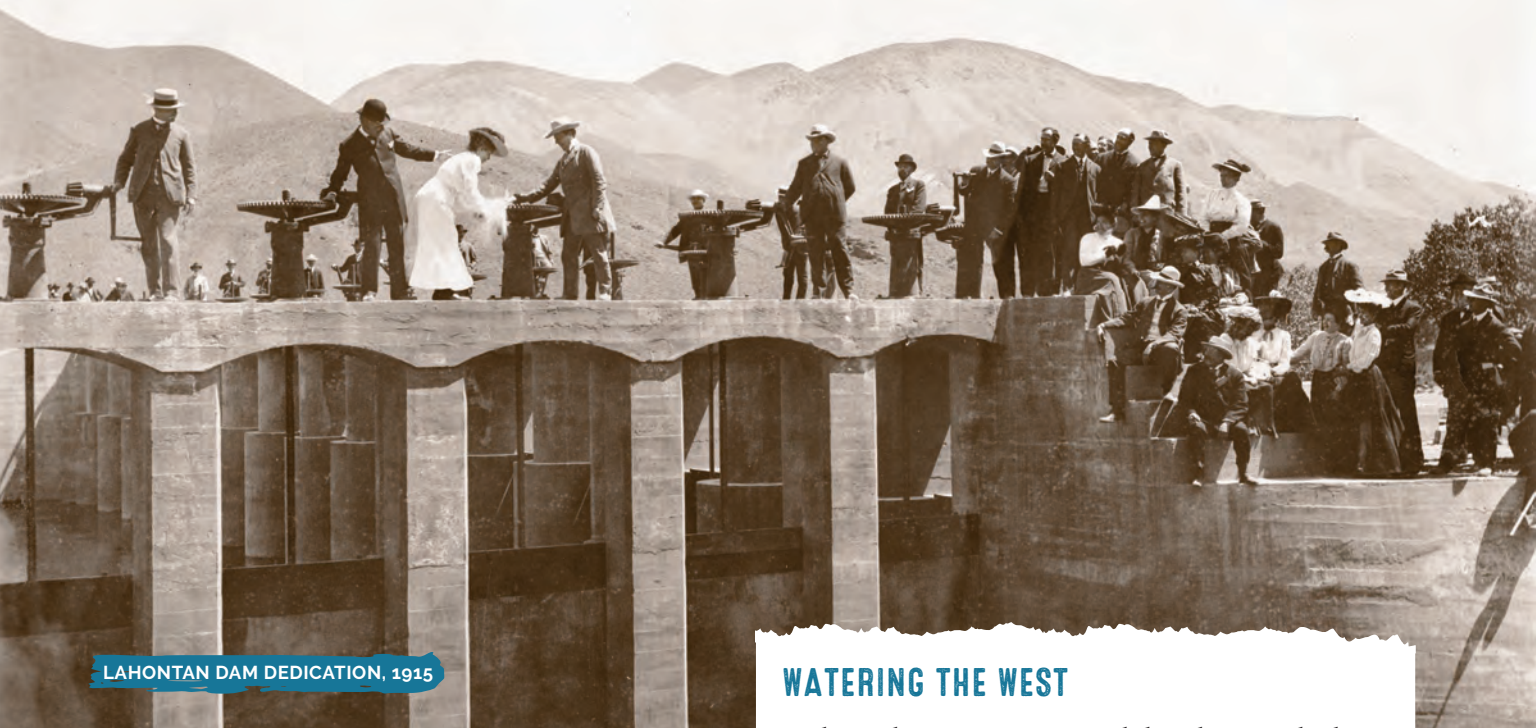


STATE PARKS

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.



LAHONTAN DAM DEDICATION, 1915

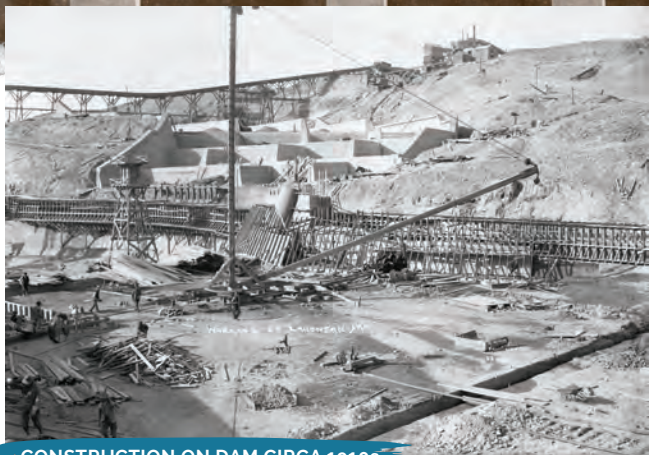
WATERING THE WEST

In the early 1900s, it appeared that the West had hit a growth ceiling. The land that could support settlers or farmers had already been taken, and local governments could only do so much to store the seasonal waterflow. There simply wasn't enough water available to attract new settlements. To keep the region watered year-round, thousands of dams, canals, and reservoirs would need to be built.

The daunting task of taming the West's water supply would fall to the federal government. The project captured the imagination of the nation, including then-president Theodore Roosevelt, who dreamed of a green West dotted with countless farmsteads.

In 1902, Roosevelt signed into law the Reclamation Act. The act's premise was simple: the government would create all the requisite infrastructure before handing it over to the stakeholders. Then, as communities benefited from the water and were able to profit off the land, they would pay the money back to the government. The building-spree across 16 states began.

The act's first project was a dam just outside Reno on the Truckee River, which is fed by Lake Tahoe and runs east into nearby Pyramid Lake. Derby Dam—completed in 1905—successfully repurposed the Truckee for use in irrigation, though it ultimately lowered Pyramid Lake by more than 50 feet and completely depleted Winnemucca Lake.



CONSTRUCTION ON DAM CIRCA 1910s



MORE DAM FUN

Don't miss another beloved reservoir at Spring Valley State Park. While you're in the area, be sure to take advantage of amazing hiking, picnicking, stargazing, and historic pioneer sites.





STAY THE NIGHT

Lahontan State Recreation Area is your go-to spot for primitive on-the-beach camping. For less than \$30, you are invited to pull your vehicle onto any quiet stretch of beach and camp wherever you'd like.

In 1915, Lahontan Dam was completed on the Carson River outside Fallon. Water diverted from the two river systems joined together at the new dam, creating a reservoir in the Lahontan Valley. The valley and the dam are both named for Lake Lahontan, which filled much of the Great Basin 10,000 years ago. The ancient lake was born anew—at least in part—at the new Lahontan Reservoir.

LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA

In 1971, Lahontan Reservoir was designated a state recreation area: The water that made Fallon's famous farmland now doubled as an outdoor playground. Today, its 69 miles of shoreline attract visitors year-round. Whether boating, canoeing, camping, angling, hiking, birding, or horseback riding, this serene landscape promises an adventurous escape into the desert.

Lahontan State Recreation Area is open seven days a week, 365 days a year. Visit the website for the most up-to-date information on hours, campsite availability, and entry fees.



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

Helen Stewart

The First Lady of Las Vegas earned her honorary title.

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**.

On a quiet day in March 1926, businesses in Las Vegas shuttered their doors. Local schools closed and the federal post office was deserted. Most of the city's residents were attending the funeral of Helen Jane Wiser Stewart. The homage paid to Stewart by the city she helped create would have surprised the unassuming woman. But the legacy of her strength, character, intelligence, and spirit was evident to all who knew her.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



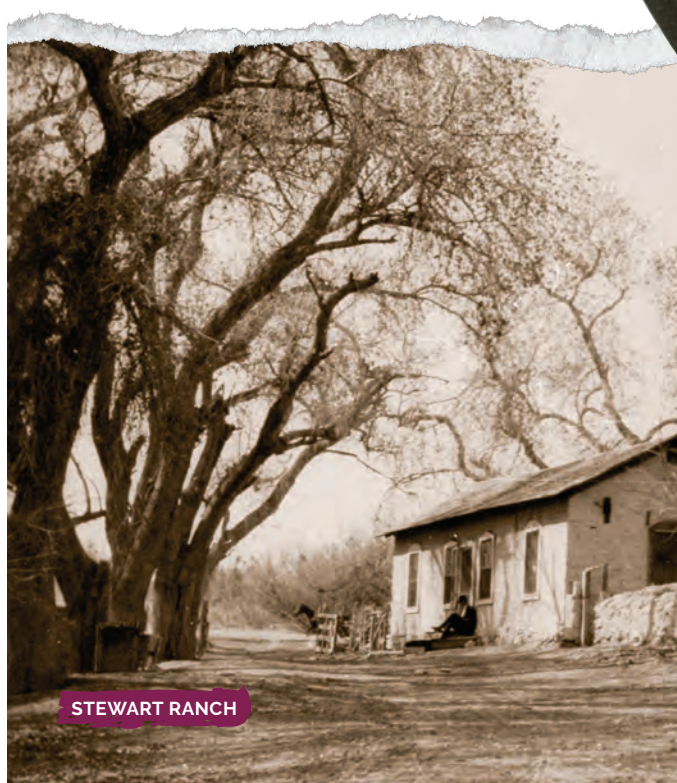
LEGENDARY NEVADANS

A TEMPORARY PLACE

Helen Wiser was born in Illinois on April 16, 1854. At 18, she married Archibald Stewart and moved to his ranch in Lincoln County, about 30 miles north of Pioche. A social person, living in remote Nevada was tough for Helen. After the birth of their first child in 1874, she convinced Archibald to move to Pioche, which had a lively population of about 7,000. Helen loved being surrounded by friends and acquaintances, and the couple had two more children while living there. In 1879, a fateful loan made by Archibald would change Helen's life forever.

Octavius Gass was unable to pay the taxes on his 640-acre ranch, Los Vegas Rancho—the spelling was so the ranch wouldn't be confused with Las Vegas, New Mexico. Archibald lent his friend \$5,000, but when poor weather subsequently destroyed the ranch's crops, the loan went unpaid, and Archibald foreclosed. He was given the ranch and an additional 320 acres, plus cows, mules, and sheep.

In 1882, the Stewarts moved 180 miles south. A pregnant Helen was upset at being once again on an isolated ranch, but her husband promised it was only temporary.



STEWART RANCH

LIFE AT LOS VEGAS RANCHO

The Stewarts' new home was a small ranch house amid the hot and dusty desert that seemed to stretch in every direction. The arid landscape would have been more daunting if it weren't for the spring that bubbled up on the ranch. Despite the tough soil, Helen grew fruit and vegetable crops, which she sold to local miners. The ranch raised cattle and horses and its cottonwood trees provided much-needed respite for travelers. It became a stop for people traveling between Utah and California, and Helen welcomed the visitors and their company.

Life at Los Vegas wasn't what she'd hoped for, but Helen made the best of it. Now with four children, the family's life was a busy one with the ranch and frequent visitors. However, life was about to change for Helen once again.

STANDING HER GROUND

In July 1884, Archibald was away when a hired hand named Schyler Henry suddenly quit and demanded pay for his work immediately. Helen refused, saying Archibald would deal with the issue when he returned. Henry grew more and more abusive, but Helen refused to pay him. He finally left, taking refuge at nearby Kiel Ranch.

Archibald returned a few days later and was furious to hear of Henry's threats. He grabbed his rifle and headed to Kiel Ranch. Helen wasn't sure where her husband had gone, but a note delivered just hours after he left made it clear. The poorly spelled note read: "Mrs. Sturd send a team and take Mr. Sturd away he is dead."

Helen set off on horseback and found Archibald, shot through the head. Suddenly alone and pregnant with her fifth child, Helen—just 30 years old—discovered Archibald had no will. She went to court to secure ownership of the family home, eventually winning a judgment that split the ranch between her and her children.



Stay tuned for more tales of **Legendary Nevadans!** In the next issue, we'll look at two brothers who each played a huge part in shaping the state: **Paul and Robert Laxalt.**

BREAKING THE MOLD

Despite having no business experience, Helen proved an adept manager. She worked alongside the ranch hands and the local Paiutes, just as her husband had. When Helen heard rumors about a railroad being built between Southern California and Utah, she began buying land. She became the largest landowner in the county with more than 1,800 acres of land, including water rights.

The Stewart ranch was a center of activity. Helen's home became a voting site in 1890 and the first official post office in 1893. She even served as the postmistress in 1903, the same year the ranch's name was officially changed to Las Vegas.

In 1902, Helen sold most of the ranch to the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad. The railroad was coming, and Helen's land paved the way. The new line was completed in 1905, and the railroad sold the last of land that was previously Helen's ranch on May 15. About 1,200 plots of land were auctioned in two days. Downtown Las Vegas was born.

Helen kept the plot where her husband and one son were buried and purchased 280 more acres on which to build a new home. During construction, she lived in Los Angeles, and it was there that she married Frank Stewart (no relation). Never one to accept the constraints of the times, Helen refused to marry without a prenuptial agreement that would safeguard her land and money for her children.



A college graduate, Helen was always a proponent of education and served as a member of the Clark County School Board. In 1916, she was elected to the state board of education, and in 1922, she donated the land for the city's first school building: It was the first public school attended by the local Paiute. Helen served on Clark County's first jury that included women, was the first president of the Nevada Historical Society's southern Nevada chapter, and helped found the Society of Nevada Pioneers.

Helen Stewart died of cancer on March 6, 1926, at the age of 72. Her death certificate noted she was a historian, which speaks volumes about the work she did. Years after her death, a friend of Helen's called her The First Lady of Las Vegas, a title she truly deserved.

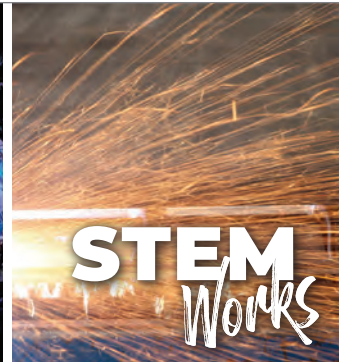


HELEN STEWART IN 1924



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Visit the site of Helen's house, located at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.



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MAKE IT A WILD(LIFE) SUMMER



Discover the animal side of Nevada from those who know our state's critters.

BY MEGG MUELLER

While everyone vacations differently, it's a safe bet that whether you're a history buff or an adventure seeker, one truth is universal: you want to experience something authentic and particular to your destination. While there are plenty of roadside attractions in Nevada that fit that bill, we had something a little wilder in mind.



NATURE IS CALLING

It's easy to get lured in by Nevada's wide-open spaces. Whether camping, hiking, mountain bike riding, climbing, boating, or exploring OHV trails, the Nevada landscape is teeming with activity and with life. That's where the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) comes in. Wonder what that critter was that scurried by on the trail? Curious what to expect in your campsite? Where's the best fishing hole? These questions and more can be answered at the NDOW website.

Animal enthusiasts will find more than 160 species-specific information pages, detailing everything from size and coloring to habitat and areas where they reside in the state. Along with gorgeous photos and fun facts, this section of the website alone is a great resource for fauna fans.

The NDOW website is a great pre-trip planner, also. You can check what animals are in the area you'll be visiting, then use it as an after-trip resource to compare all those great photos you took in the hopes of identifying that beautiful bird or rangy lizard you kept seeing.





THE PERFECT ANGLE

The Silver State is home to 113 lakes and reservoirs and 420 streams and rivers, providing nearly 400,000 surface acres of sport fishing opportunities. If casting a line is on your itinerary, then NDOW should be your first stop.

As all fishermen know, fish are often elusive...so why not increase your odds? Start with a perusal through the many types of fish you'll find in Nevada, then discover the waters they reside in and the best way to land them. You can even find out when and where the most recent stocking events happen. If you're not sure where to start, use NDOW's Fish NV tool to find a map of all the fishable waters in the state. You'll also find

information on what bait to use, regional fishing reports so you can choose where to drop a hook (or cast a line), tips for ice fishing, and information about cold water versus warm water fishing.

If you're a seasoned angler and have all your info, gear, and secret spots, there's still a few things the NDOW website offers that are indispensable: the rules, regulations, permits and license information. Read up on where it's catch-and-release only and learn how to buy your licenses online. You can also view the entire annual fishing regulation guide online or pick up a copy at NDOW's regional offices or any retail store that sells licenses.

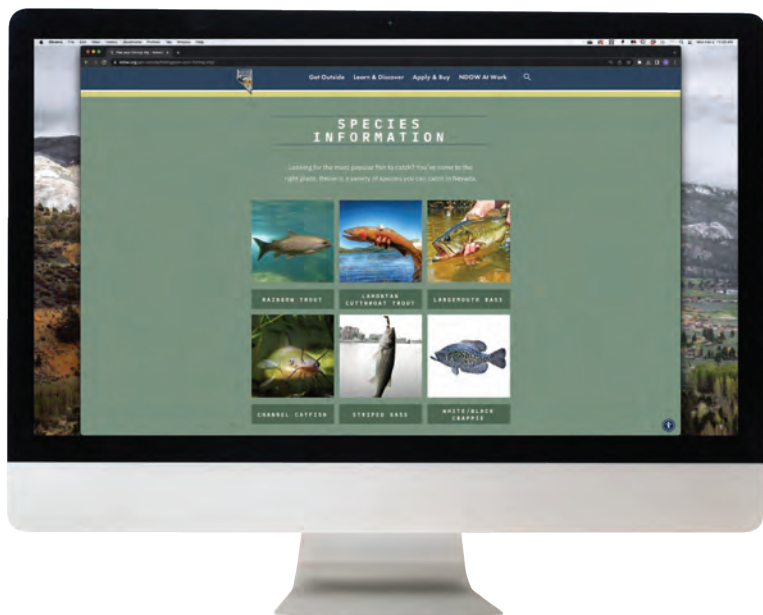
TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

On June 10, cast your line without a license.

The annual Free Fishing Day is open to kids and adults. All other regulations are in effect, but this is your chance to catch a whopper for free!



Scan here to visit NDOW's website.





To read about tips on how to recreate responsibly, see pg. 102.

Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to creating hunting and outdoor experiences for individuals who utilize a wheelchair. To learn more, visit nvoutdoorsmen.org.



NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

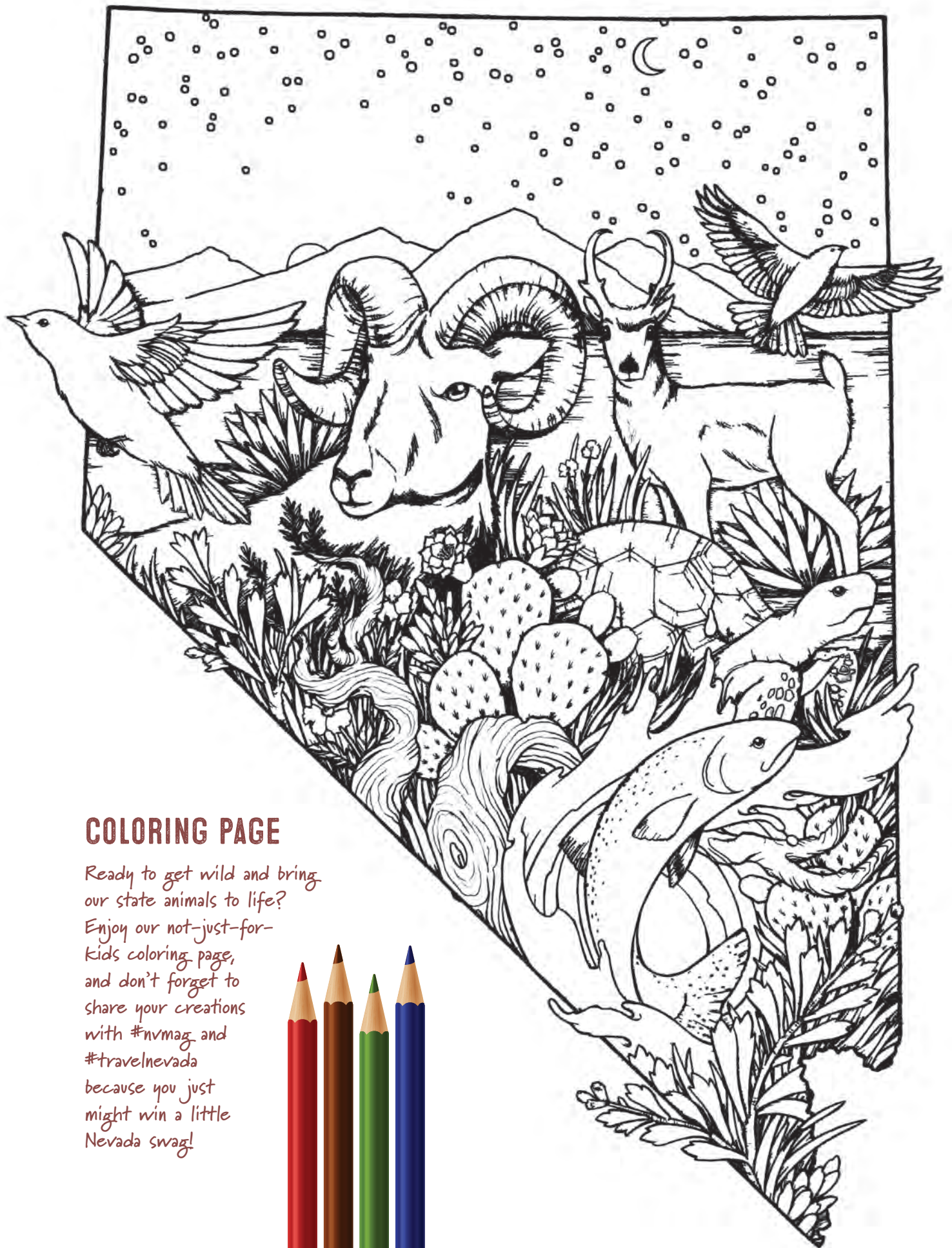
NDOW also offers classes on fly fishing, fly tying, ice fishing, wildlife education, and hunter safety. These classes are just a few hours generally, held at various locations and times, and open to anyone who's looking to learn a new skill or hone an old one. These classes are fun, often free, and a great way to learn tips and tricks from locals.

If you've still got questions about fishing in Nevada, contact one of NDOW's regional offices. Their sportfish biologists and other NDOW staff are happy to provide a personal take on where to go.



If you're looking for boating information across the state—whether it's safety tips, regulations, or boater education—this is your official source. Anyone born after 1983 is required to pass a boater education class before operating watercraft, and if you think that's just a suggestion, think again. Nevada's game wardens—among many other responsibilities—patrol the waterways much like Nevada Highway Patrol watches over the freeways. This isn't the water version of "Paul Blart: Mall Cop." They are there to help and there to keep you safe.

NDOW (Group of people fishing)
Crystal Gibson (Woman in wheelchair)



COLORING PAGE

Ready to get wild and bring our state animals to life?

Enjoy our not-just-for-kids coloring page, and don't forget to share your creations with #nvmag and #travelnevada

because you just might win a little Nevada swag!

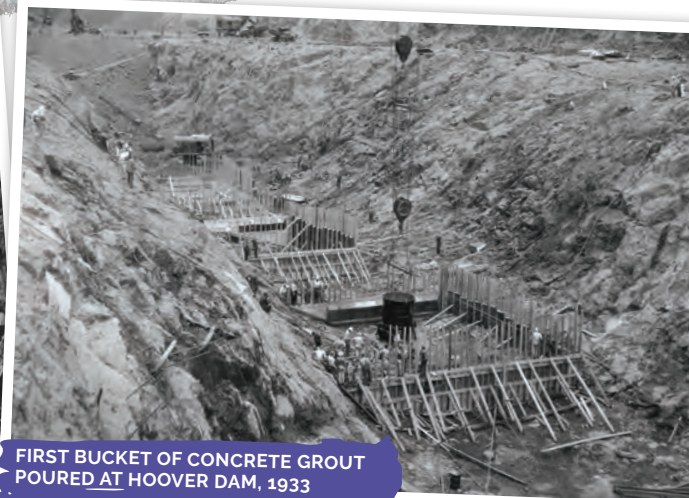
BOULDER CITY

Tour the master-planned town that built Hoover Dam.

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. Each issue, you'll find one of our smaller-but-no-less-incredible towns highlighted.



HOOVER DAM, 1932



FIRST BUCKET OF CONCRETE GROUT
POURED AT HOOVER DAM, 1933

In late 1928, President Coolidge signed the Boulder Canyon Project Act. Its intent was simple: the US would build the world's then-largest dam and tame the Colorado River.

The best locations for the dam were along the Nevada-Arizona border. Initially, the idea was to place it in Boulder Canyon—hence the name of the act—but surveyors later identified nearby Black Canyon as a superior site. Although the project was officially renamed Hoover Dam in 1931, people continued to call it Boulder Dam for at least another decade.

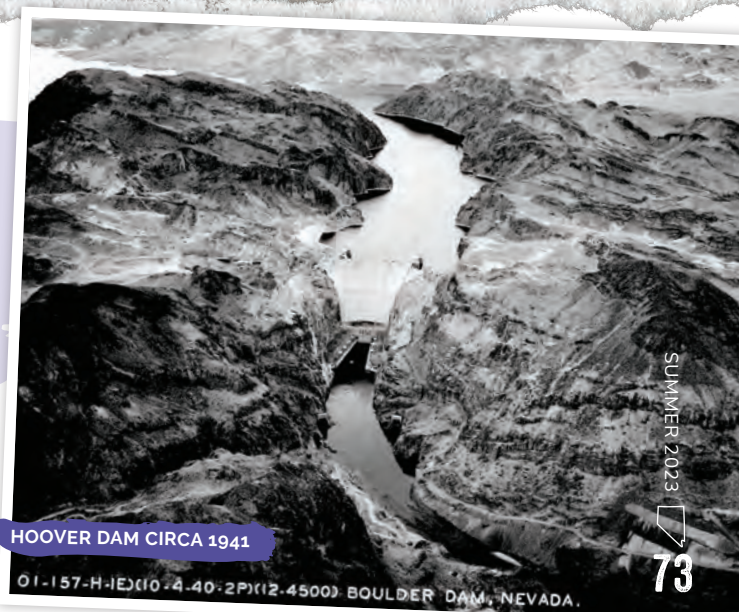
The dam was to be one of the largest infrastructure projects in US history, and it needed workers. It was also at the height of the Great Depression. Tens of thousands hoping to find work migrated to the scorching heat of the southern Nevada desert. They set up shacks and tents below the build site and called the ad hoc community Ragtown.

More than 3,500 workers would be needed at the dam every day. Project organizers knew that the army of workers couldn't live disorganized and unsupplied in a tent town. One idea was to build a camp in Las Vegas—



If you were to take all of the concrete used to build the Hoover Dam, there would be enough to create a 4-foot-wide sidewalk around the equator, or enough to build a two lane road from Seattle to Miami.

Check out the May-June 2018 issue of Nevada Magazine at nevadamagazine.com to read more about how the dam was built.



HOOVER DAM CIRCA 1941

01-157-H-1E)(10-4-40-2P)(12-4500) BOULDER DAM, NEVADA.



BOULDER CITY, 1932

then a small town of only 5,000 residents—but it was 40 miles away. Additionally, leadership felt the workers needed to be closely monitored to keep them from vice.

A MODEL TOWN

Instead of housing workers in an existing town, the federal government announced it would build a community from scratch at Ragtown. But this wouldn't be some temporary work camp. From its inception, every detail of Boulder City—from its city grid to its recreation

activities—was planned and scrutinized. It would be a model 20th century community, an opportunity to show everything that a new American town could be.

Acclaimed urban architect Saco Rienk DeBoer was brought in to create Boulder City's layout. His pleasingly symmetrical design featured wide boulevards, plazas, shaded arcades, and plentiful parks. Its tidy residential streets were lined with trees, and master gardeners worked tirelessly to make the town's public spaces bloom. Much of downtown was completed within two years.



BOULDER CITY, 1998

Gary Reese (Cornish Pasty Co.)

Famously, worker behavior was carefully monitored in early Boulder City. As it was technically a federal reservation and not a public community, gambling and alcohol were strictly prohibited. Boulder City is still the only incorporated town in the state with no casinos or gaming.

The dam was completed in 1936—22 months ahead of schedule—but many workers and their families chose to stay. In 1959, the federal government formally handed control of the town to the state.

Boulder City has a timeless charm. It is well developed and dynamic, but at the same time feels like small town America. That's because the local government has worked to limit growth and preserve the town as it was originally designed. To this day, much of the surrounding 33 square miles owned by the city is maintained as pristine desert.



CORNISH PASTY CO.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Alcohol has been legal since 1967, and visitors will find a charming selection of bars and breweries in the historic downtown. Boulder City goes to bed a little earlier than the rest of the state, so expect last call at 11 p.m.

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BOULDER DAM HOTEL



BOULDER CITY/HOOVER DAM MUSEUM



GOAT FEATHERS EMPORIUM



TOURING BOULDER CITY

A day trip—or even a weekend—in Boulder City means a stay in the Boulder City Historic District. This inviting city center—placed on the National Historic Register in 1983—is one of the state’s most walkable and features colorful blocks brimming with boutique shops, cafes, retro motels, and wonderfully preserved buildings from the city’s founding.

As you stroll the town, be sure to check out the Boulder Dam Hotel. This historic overnigher stands out as one of the few downtown buildings not designed in the Spanish Revival style. Inside, you can visit the Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum and see what it took to build the dam and the town that supported it. Afterwards, head downstairs to indulge in a speakeasy-inspired lounge with live entertainment.



FEATURES **RURAL WRANGLER**



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, BOULDER CITY



COFFEE CUP CAFE



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



BOULDER CITY

Families and train enthusiasts shouldn't miss the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City. There, you'll learn about the Boulder Branch Line, which hauled all the equipment and material needed to construct Hoover Dam. During the weekend, you can hop aboard a refurbished and air-conditioned Pullman Coach ride or call ahead and reserve your spot on one of their themed train rides.

Scan here for a full list of our recommended overnights and restaurants. You'll also find dozens of things to do in and around town.

Nicole Wargo (Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum and Goat Feathers),
Doug Nulle (Coffee Cup Cafe and Nevada State Railroad Museum)

BACKCOUNTRY



MARLETTE LAKE (FOREGROUND)

Nevada's major lakes are household names. But while Lake Tahoe, Lake Mead, and Pyramid Lake are popular, they only skim the surface of water recreation in the Silver State. The following backcountry destinations might mean arrival by a rough road or hike, but time it right and you could have a pristine aquatic playground practically to yourself.



SIERRA NEVADA

The towering peaks separating Nevada from its western neighbor are home to one of the world's most famous lakes: Lake Tahoe. However, during peak season, Tahoe can prove a challenge for those seeking secluded beach space. Luckily, there are plenty of nearby options.

Anthony Cupaiuolo

LAKES

Cool down at Nevada's lesser-known lakes.



Spooner Lake

This state park is located a few miles from Lake Tahoe's eastern edge. Hiking and non-motorized boating are popular here, and guests will find modern amenities including a brand-new visitor center (which includes a warming room) and amphitheater. Spooner is the jumping-off-point to more than 60 miles of multi-use trails, one of which takes us to the next lake on our list.

Marlette Lake

The 5-mile trail to Marlette via the North Canyon Road is moderately challenging but offers stunning views in a forested setting that is particularly magnificent in the fall. While there is no camping at the lake, it's a beloved spot for day trippers looking to beat the crowds and a great fishing spot for rainbow and Lahontan cutthroat trout.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Marlette Lake also serves as the water source for Carson City, so please be a good steward of the land and help preserve water quality.



STAY ANOTHER DAY

Enjoy Spooner Lake State Park rustic-style at one of their two on-site cabins. These comfortable abodes are a welcome sight after a long day on the mountain and offer basic amenities including beds, cooking and wood burning stoves, and composting toilets.



SPOONER LAKE

Hobart Creek Reservoir

As the crow flies, Hobart Creek Reservoir is just a few miles northeast of Marlette Lake, but accessing it—via foot or vehicle—is challenging. Most people start in Carson City and take dirt roads then hike or bike the

rest of the way. This picturesque lake offers primitive camping spots and is a popular destination for fall photographers. Due to its high elevation, parts of Hobart may be covered with ice into early May.



HOBART CREEK RESERVOIR

Larry Burton (Spooner), Elizabeth Cummings (Hobart), Mason Strehl (Spooner cabin), Famartin-CC BY-SA 3.0 (Liberty/Favre/Castle)



RUBY MOUNTAINS

The beautiful Rubies of northeastern Nevada are home to more than two dozen alpine lakes. While some have road access, most will take an afternoon hike or an extended venture on the 40-mile Ruby Crest Trail.

Dollar Lakes and Lamoille Lake

This 4-mile loop from the terminus of Lamoille Canyon Road is the best way for day-trippers to see what the Ruby Mountains offer. The moderate climb treats hikers to a string of gorgeous lakes straight out of the Alps with plenty of time to head back to Elko for a hearty Basque dinner.

Castle Lake

For a shorter Ruby Crest Trail experience, consider the 11-mile loop to Castle Lake. This trek takes you deep into the Ruby Mountain Wilderness, past the shores of a dozen alpine lakes, and beneath the nearly-11,000-foot Castle Peak. Be aware that this is an arduous climb and should only be attempted by well-prepared backpackers.

Liberty Lake

Arguably the most picturesque lake in the Ruby Mountains, this 9-mile hike from the Lamoille Canyon Road trailhead is worth the difficult climb. Liberty Lake is a favorite for hikers seeking an overnight campout in a serene setting.



LAMOILLE AND DOLLAR LAKES



LIBERTY LAKE



LIBERTY, FAVRE, AND CASTLE LAKES

See pg. 102
for tips on
Recreating
Responsibly.



Angel Lake

While not technically in the Ruby Mountains, nearby Angel Lake is a must-see for outdoor enthusiasts. This lake is easily reached by car via a gorgeous 12-mile drive off Interstate 80 near Wells. You'll find plenty to do in this aspen-filled paradise including hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, stargazing, and camping.



MAKE YOUR SUMMER *unforgettable*



Mark your calendars for these great Ely events!

ONGOING

Nevada Northern Railway Train Rides
Seven Days a Week

JUNE

1-3 | Schellraiser Music Festival

10 | Fears, Tears, and Beers

24-25 | Annual Museum Rock and Gem Swap

JULY

28-29 | Shoshone Tribe Powwow/Fandango

AUGUST

5-6 | Bristlecone Arts in the Park

10-11 | White Pine Rodders Car Show

18-20 | White Pine County Fair and Horse Races

SEPTEMBER

9 | Race the Rails

14-16 | Great Basin Astronomy Festival

14-17 | Silver State Classic Challenge



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

JUNE | Elko Mining Expo • Ruby Roubaix • Nevada
Marathon/Relay & Lamoille Canyon Half
Marathon & 5k • Lamoille Country Fair

JULY | National Basque Festival • Silver State
Stampede • SnoBowl Archery Shoot

AUGUST | Ruby Mountain Relay • Elko County Fair &
Horse Races

SEPTEMBER | Rides & Rods Elko Classic Car Show • Ruby
Mountain Balloon Festival



775-738-4091



Photo by Moira Smith



KNOTT CREEK RESERVOIR



ONION VALLEY RESERVOIR



PINE FOREST RANGE

Just two hours outside Winnemucca, this ruggedly remote range beckons outdoor

adventure of all kinds. Expect top-notch fly fishing, no-crowd hiking, plentiful wildlife, and some of the best stargazing around.

Knott Creek Reservoir

This lake is managed and stocked by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, so expect great fishing. Knott Creek covers more than 200 surface acres with a maximum depth of 24 feet, which makes for ideal float tube fishing or fly fishing from the shoreline.

Onion Valley Reservoir

Constructed in the early 1960s as an irrigation reservoir, this 100-acre lake is the perfect spot to get away from modern society. Its sister, Little Onion Reservoir, is located a short distance to the southwest.

Pamela Wickkiser-CC BY-SA 2.0 (Knott Creek),
Tony Fuentes (Onion Valley)

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Eureka Opera House

Perdiz Spring Fling Shoot | May 6

Doug Figgs | May 20

Nevada Bowhunter's Jamboree | May 27-28

Perdiz FFA Foundation Spring Shoot | June 3

Perdiz Father's Day Shoot | June 17

Mile Twelve string band | June 17

Missoula Children's Theatre | June 23

Fourth of July Parade | July 4

Perdiz Fun Shoot | July 15

VFW Softball | July 15-16

Car Show | July 17

Eureka County Fair | August 11-13

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SUMMER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 20-21

Hawthorne

With its thousands of artillery storage bunkers and a one-of-a-kind munitions museum, Hawthorne naturally knows how to give Armed Forces Day a full 21-gun salute. Nevada's biggest patriotic party draws thousands from around the Silver State for a military flyover, classic car show, chili cook-off, and art show. The weekend's festivities culminate with a star-spangled parade and ceremony honoring the US military.

While in Hawthorne, explore the colorful history of munitions and military supplies at the Ordnance Museum. See pg. 55 for more details.



BRISTLECONE BRICKS & TRAIN SHOW

JUNE 2-3

Ely

Don't miss Nevada's premier model train and LEGO show located at the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum. Visitors can peruse countless creations and admire more than 1,000 square feet of model track layout while enjoying the bustle of this busy historic depot. Don't miss the unique opportunity to operate and ride a historic handcar, though you'll have to bring your own horsepower.



Kathy Trujillo (Armed Forces Day)

OCTANE FEST

JUNE 9-10

Fallon

There's no better way to feel the thrill than at one of Nevada's most exciting racing events. This action-packed, two-day lineup offers drag racing, demolition derbies, monster trucks, motocross, burnout contests, and much more. In between races, fuel up with great food and drink vendors and live music.

**SILVER STATE STAMPEDE**

JULY 14-16

Elko

We take our Western heritage seriously around here, and there's no better way to become acquainted with Nevada's buckaroo culture than at the oldest rodeo in the Silver State. The rodeo draws thousands for three days of PRCA-sanctioned events, Old West Bronc Riding, the infamous Ring of Fear, and a massive trade show.

NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY

JULY 20-22

Yerington

What began as a fundraiser for the local Boys and Girls Club has evolved into one of the largest country music festivals in the nation. Join nearly 30,000 music fans for an unforgettable weekend in the heart of Nevada's farm country. Along with a packed lineup featuring some of the biggest country stars, attendees can look forward to rodeo events, themed campsites, wild costumes, and carrying the shindig well into the night.





From cookoffs and cultural days to music festivals and rodeos, summers in Nevada are positively brimming with things to do. Calendar information is always subject to change, so be sure to check online before finalizing plans.

MAY

19-21

ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL
Las Vegas

20-21

CHILI ON THE COMSTOCK
Virginia City

26-27

BEST DAM BARBECUE CHALLENGE
Boulder City

26-28

BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS
Gerlach

26-28

RUN-A-MUCCA MOTORCYCLE
AND MUSIC FESTIVAL
Winnemucca

JUNE

3-4

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS
Elko

1-3

SCHELLRAISER MUSIC FESTIVAL
McGill

10

FEARS, TEARS AND BEERS
MOUNTAIN BIKE
ENDURO RACE
Ely

9-12

CARSON VALLEY DAYS
Gardnerville

10-11

WINNEMUCCA BASQUE FESTIVAL
Winnemucca

15-24

RENO RODEO
Reno

16-17

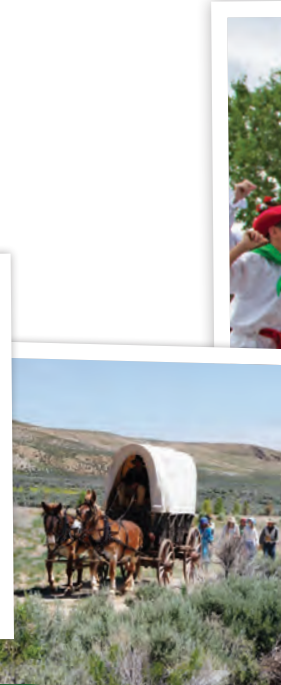
ELDORADO BBQ, BREWS AND
BLUES FESTIVAL
Reno

16-18

STEWART FATHER'S
DAY POWWOW
Carson City



GOLDFIELD DAYS



CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

- 17
BEAVER DAM GRAVEL
GRINDER
Caliente
- 17
TASTE OF DOWNTOWN
Carson City
- 24
CAPITAL CITY BREWFEST
Carson City
- 24
RUBY ROUBAIX: GRAVEL
FONDO
Elko
- 29-July 2
NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL
Elko
- 30-Aug. 20
LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL
North Lake Tahoe

NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL



Brett Fisher (Capital City Brewfest)



CAPITAL CITY BREWFEST

JULY

- 1
CARSON CITY WINE WALK
Carson City
- 12-16
AMERICAN CENTURY
CELEBRITY GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP
South Lake Tahoe
- 21-Aug. 17
CLASSIC TAHOE MUSIC
FESTIVAL
North Lake Tahoe

AUGUST

- 1-6
HOT AUGUST NIGHTS
Reno
- 4-6
GOLDFIELD DAYS
CELEBRATION & LAND
AUCTION
Goldfield
- 5-6
BRISTLECONE ARTS
IN THE PARK
Ely
- 15-17
GREAT BASIN BIOBLITZ
Great Basin National Park

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



NEVADA EVENTS CALENDAR

ONLY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM



In our issue archives, you'll find great stories like this one, which first appeared in our March/April 2013 issue.

THUNDER MOUNTAIN

If you've ever traveled east from Reno, Fernley, or Lovelock to Winnemucca, then you've driven by it. You might not have thought twice to look, and if you didn't, you could easily have missed it even though it abuts Interstate 80. "It" is Thunder Mountain Indian Monument, nominally a monument but also an enigmatic roadside curiosity, a colossal sculpture (or series of sculptures), a living quarters, a rock garden, an otherworldly place of silence and mystery, and the life's work of one exceedingly unusual Nevadan.

Scan here to continue the story and discover how Van Zant turned other people's trash into a stunning monument.



Thunder Mountain was conceived and created by Frank Van Zant, who was an archetype for the kind of independent thinker who's drawn to our wide-open state. Van Zant was a World War II Army veteran, deputy sheriff, Methodist minister-in-training, indefatigable collector, and something of a visionary.

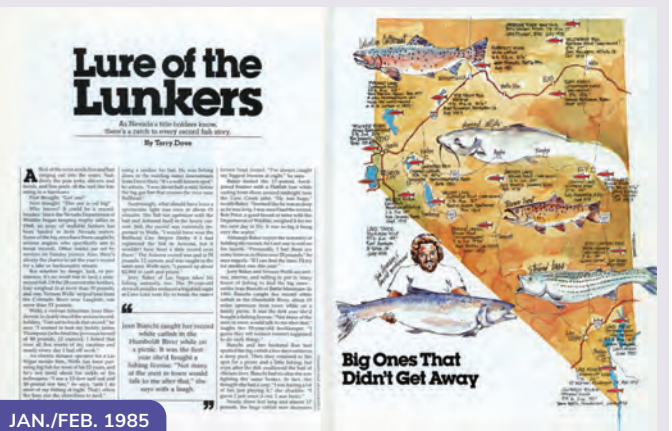
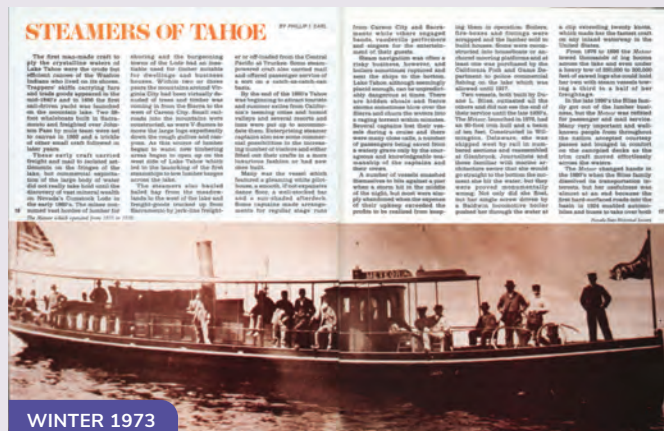
Van Zant lived in Northern California throughout the 1960s, where he worked for the United States Forest Service as an archaeologist. One day, the agency took him up on the deal of a lifetime—in exchange for plat maps that he created, Van Zant got to keep any artifacts

Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide is available online as a digital flipbook. Become a digital subscriber for just \$9.95 a year to explore every issue in Nevada Magazine's 87-year history and to gain access to new articles. Subscriptions also make the perfect gift for students, history buffs, and Nevada lovers of all ages.

he found. The only condition was that he had to disclose where he'd located them.

Laden with years of the treasure that was other people's trash, and having recently lost his bid to be a county sheriff, Van Zant headed east in 1968. He stopped on the outskirts of Imlay, today a living ghost town of barely 100 people and back then only slightly more populated. In later years, Van Zant might credit the finding of his new home to serendipity or supernatural forces, but the real story is less fanciful: Imlay was where his truck broke down.

**SCAN HERE FOR
SUBSCRIPTION**



HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Self-guided walking tours are a free and fun way to explore a community at your own pace—and a good excuse to get your steps in. It's as easy as picking up your map and brochure at the locations listed below, so get walking!



CARSON CITY

Visit Carson City Visitor Center

The Kit Carson Trail is a 2.5-mile stroll through the capital city's popular West Side Historic District. Stroll past Victorian-style homes and historic public buildings dating back to the city's founding in 1858 while encountering 48 iconic landmarks such as the Governor's Mansion and the Orion Clemens house.



BOULDER CITY

Boulder City Chamber of Commerce

Boulder City's historic downtown is an irresistibly charming promenade packed with cafes, pubs, and boutique shops. The six-block Mural and Sculpture Walk adds even more color and character to the tour by highlighting the more than 40 sculptures and two dozen murals that celebrate the city's past. This tour is via the Chamber's app.



GOLDFIELD

Goldfield Visitor Center

The Goldfield Historic Walking Tour lets you wander the Last Great Gold Camp, once home to 30,000. The tour consists of a whopping 190 stops including the Historic Goldfield High School, the Goldfield Hotel, and the Santa Fe Saloon.



EUREKA

Eureka Tourist Information Center

Motorists on Nevada's famous Highway 50 can't help but gawk at Eureka's beautifully preserved main street. But don't hesitate to pull over and explore this Gold Rush relic on foot. Many buildings are open for visitors, so don't be shy about stopping in at the Opera House, the Sentinel Museum, the courthouse, and plenty of other public buildings.

DAYTON

Dayton Historical Society

The land around Dayton has seen American settlers since the early 1850s, giving this fast-growing community claims of being one of the state's oldest. The walking tour of the historic center is a must for history buffs and Nevada lovers and includes an old schoolhouse, a carriage house, a Pony Express station, and plenty of 150-year-old residences.

MINDEN

C.V.I.C Hall / Town of Minden

Get to know one of the country's first planned communities in Minden's Historic District. Brimming with all kinds of shops, restaurants, historic theaters and saloons, this tour is one of the best window-shopping experiences in the state.



PLANET X POTTERY

Get fired up for this off-the-grid and out-of-this-world art studio.



John and Rachel Bogard—proprietors of Planet X Pottery—have lived for decades on the outskirts of Gerlach about 107 miles north of Reno. While Burning Man put the Black Rock Desert area on the map, the Bogards had already called the region home for 20 years when the festival came to Nevada.

Established in 1974 between the Smoke Creek and Black Rock Deserts, a visit to Planet X can feel like a visit to another planet. John began making pottery in 1969, and by the early 1970s, he and Rachel relocated to rural Nevada. They chose the remote community of Gerlach and settled into an old homestead on the Emigrant Trail—leftover wagon ruts and all.

Together, John and Rachel have transformed their once-modest pottery studio into one of the most impressive series of galleries in Nevada. Planet X Pottery offers a vast selection of fine porcelain, stoneware, Raku, and paintings that depict the beautiful high-desert landscapes surrounding their studio. On site, visitors will find four galleries brimming with items for sale.

The shop hosts a pair of annual events: an open-house sale on Memorial Day Weekend and a bargain sale held Thanksgiving weekend. Bring your lunch and enjoy the picnic tables on the premises.

In a landscape known for its extremes, a visit to Planet X Pottery promises relaxing refuge under the towering cottonwoods and colorful landscapes that have inspired the couple for decades.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Planet X Pottery's galleries are located on the same property as John and Rachel Bogard's private residence and are open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. most days. Call ahead to make sure they're open at 775-442-1919, and please remember that this is their business and home.



NEVADA STATE MUSEUMS

Hours and Admission Guide



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM CARSON CITY

🕒 Thursday-Monday
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

🎫 Adults \$8
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM BOULDER CITY

🕒 Daily, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Train Rides Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m. | 12 p.m. | 2 p.m.

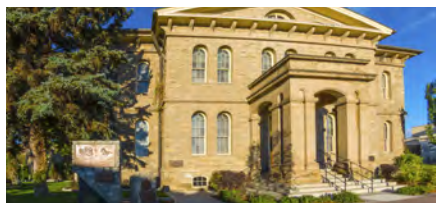
🎫 General Admission FREE
Train Rides
Adults \$10
Ages 4-12 \$5
Ages 3 and younger FREE



EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM

🕒 Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

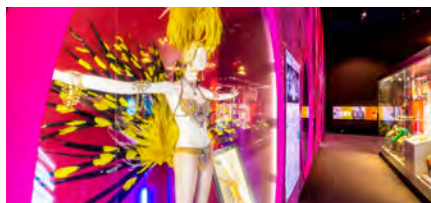
🎫 General Admission FREE
Tour Grounds \$8



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM CARSON CITY

🕒 Tuesday-Sunday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

🎫 Adults \$10
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

🕒 Thursday-Monday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

🎫 Adults \$9.95
Ages 3-17 \$4.95
Ages 2 and younger FREE



LOST CITY MUSEUM (OVERTON)

🕒 Wednesday-Sunday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

🎫 Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (RENO)

🕒 Wednesday-Saturday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

🎫 Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE

Call before you go as hours, admission rates, and openings are subject to change. State and federal holidays may impact availability.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



MUSEUMS

WHAT'S *New?*

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



NEW NEON SIGN DISPLAY

Las Vegas

Eight refurbished and historic neon signs will join the eight signs already installed in the Las Vegas Boulevard median from Sahara Avenue to just north of Washington Avenue. The first of the new additions—the Par-A-Dice Motel sign—will be installed just north of Oakey Boulevard on Las Vegas Boulevard.

SPOONER LAKE VISITOR CENTER & AMPHITHEATER

Lake Tahoe

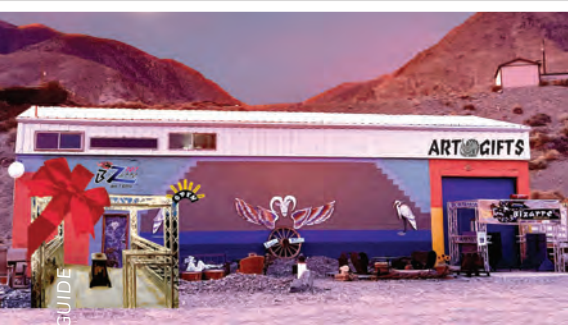
A new visitor center and amphitheater will serve as the heart of Spooner's natural and cultural history programs and ranger-led hikes and tours. The visitor center provides access to more than 60 miles of paths and trails spanning 13,000 acres of spectacular non-motorized primitive wilderness within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The facility features a ranger station, gift shop, warming room, restrooms, and water stations for refilling bottles.



BIZARRE 101

Walker Lake

Discover local art, pottery, jewelry, furniture, and other eclectic collections at this welcome addition to the Free-Range Art Highway. You can't miss the massive metalwork sculptures out front, plus local legend Cecil the Serpent painted on the building. And that's just what's on the outside!



RENO PUBLIC MARKET

Reno

Reno's first food hall has opened with a host of offerings and something to please everyone in your group. Tacos, loaded fries, Brazilian cuisine, a brewing company, bakery, and so much more await in this spacious market. Local vendors have set up shop as well, making this a sure-fire hit for the foodie and shopping enthusiast in us all.



City of Las Vegas (Par-A-Dice), Dana Nollsch (Reno Public Market)

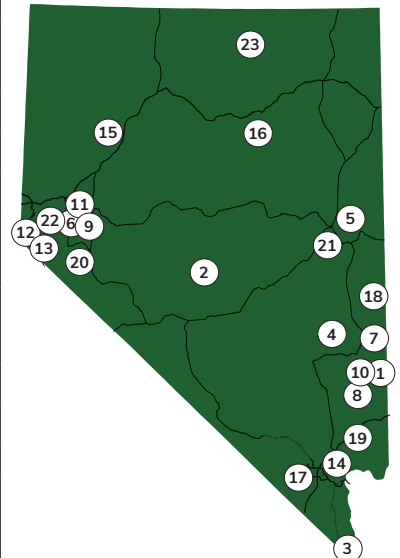
STATE PARKS

Directory



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

Wild Horse 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.**

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



NEVADA ROAD TRIPS



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.



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.

For more adventures along the Great Basin Highway, turn to pg. 32.



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



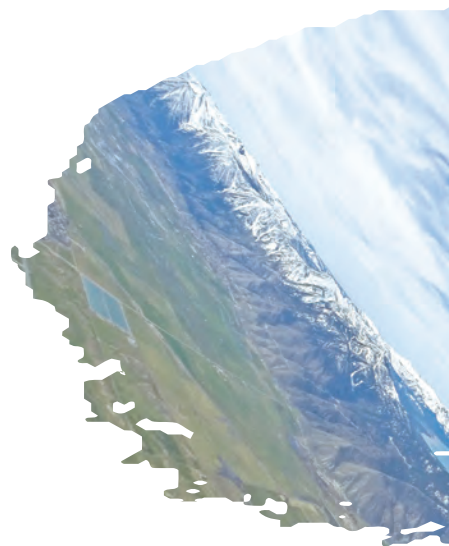
While we packed this guide full of wonderful things to do, there's no way we could include everything Nevada has to offer. If you were hoping for something else, here's a few more great topics you can find at TravelNevada.com. Don't forget, we publish four times a year, so sign up to get every issue—each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

WANT



ITINERARIES

Ready to put rubber to the road?



ALL THIS AND
MUCH MORE AT



CAMPING

Get here, then get away from it all.

Explore hundreds of towns that time forgot.



GHOST TOWNS



MORE?

Take your adventures
higher than you ever
thought possible.



AIR SPORTS



Festivals, gatherings, races
and more happen each year
here...discover your favorite.



ANNUAL EVENTS



Dismiss the
myths and
discover the truth
about Nevada.

MYTH VS. FACT



**SIGNATURE
NEVADA
DISHES**

Feed your soul and your
appetite in truly Silver
State fashion.



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.

TREAD LIGHTLY!

Whether you're off-roading, hunting, target shooting, fishing, or simply exploring, make sure you're operating motorized vehicles legally, safely, and responsibly. Brush up on designated OHV routes before you head out into Nevada's backcountry.

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.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



DIRT ROAD CODE





WARD MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

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.

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 **ALICIA BARBER**

Our Story, Inc.
Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum
...to give the best in me to
guard my every neighbor...
ourstoryinc.com



The Final WORD

NM&VG: What first inspired your interest in the history of the American West?

AB: My mother's family settled in Washington state in the 19th century, my father was born in Alaska Territory, and I grew up in California and Utah. The region has always been my home, and its history has always felt like my history. I fell in love with Western American literature in my 20s, reading everything from Louise Erdrich to Wallace Stegner, and I dove headfirst into studying the cultural history of the American West in graduate school.

NM&VG: Why do you find the history of Nevada so compelling?

AB: Nevada to me is quintessentially Western, with its vast, open landscapes punctuated by tight-knit communities. I think of its core identity as a crossroads. On one hand, it's defined by passage, from the trails established by native communities, explorers, and emigrants to the railroads and highways carrying generations of travelers. But a crossroads is also a place where people gather, some for short periods like miners, divorce-seekers, gamblers, and tourists, with others laying down roots for generations. That dynamic has brought the state a constant infusion of new ideas that have mixed and mingled with established cultural influences to create something truly unique.

Alicia Barber

Alicia Barber, Ph.D., is an award-winning writer, historian, and consultant. She is the author of "Reno's Big Gamble: Image and Reputation in the Biggest Little City."

NM&VG: Can you tell us about Reno Historical?

AB: Reno Historical is a map-based website and mobile app that features stories of the city's historic places. We founded it back in 2014 at the University of Nevada, Reno in order to help illuminate what lies below the surface—and not just the stories behind the existing landscape, but of places long lost to demolition and destruction, like Club Harlem and Reno's Chinatown. The project is now hosted by the Historic Reno Preservation Society, and I've served as its editor from the beginning. We're constantly adding new entries, and you can take virtual tours to explore various themes and neighborhoods.

NM&VG: When friends or family visit, what are your "must-see" Nevada destinations?

AB: I'm drawn to places where you can immerse yourself in the experiences of those who were here before us. The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum in Carson City is immensely powerful. Another favorite is the Historic Fourth Ward School & Museum in Virginia City. And everyone needs to wander through Sundance Books and Music in Reno.

NM&VG: Finish the sentence: "To me, history is ..."

AB: "...an ever-evolving effort to gain a fuller understanding and appreciation of the past."

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Dive deep into the Biggest Little City's past by visiting Reno Historical at renohistorical.org.



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* Please submit only tastefully done images. No image deemed to be offensive will be posted.



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or call 435-665-7724



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more information



See us - search
West Wendover

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NUGGET**
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**THERE WAS A VERY POPULAR SONG A LONG TIME AGO:
“I LOST MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO.” BUT I DEFINITELY
LOST MY HEART AND SOUL IN NEVADA.**

— MRS. RITA VAN IMPELEN, THE NETHERLANDS

