

NEVADA

Winter 2023-2024
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MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

**2023 GREAT
NEVADA
PICTURE HUNT**

**Fall in Love with
Snowshoeing**

The Glory of Goldfield

Winter State-Cations

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple tank top, is seated in a wheelchair. She is holding an orange basketball with both hands in front of her, looking upwards with a focused expression. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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Check out Carson City's historical eateries and delicious fare on pg. 16.



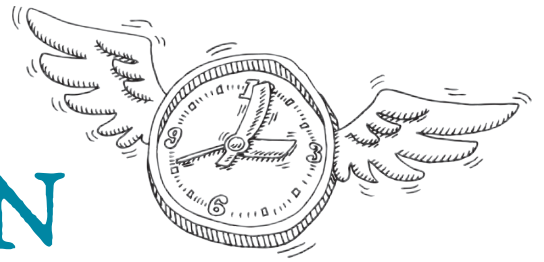
Feast your eyes
on the results of
the 2023 Great
Nevada Picture
Hunt on pg. 66.



Learn about Elko's western heritage and history on pg. 74.



ANOTHER TRIP AROUND THE SUN



Discover wild landscapes beyond Las Vegas through the Neon to Nature Road Trip on pg. 34.



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!



Where did 2023 go? Sure, we have a couple months left, but wow did that year go by in a hurry. They say time flies when you're having fun, and I'd have to agree this year has been full of incredible moments. My exploration of Nevada continues, and as I close in on a decade in this job, I am still finding new places to visit and exciting discoveries. That might be what I love about Nevada most of all: It never ceases to surprise me.

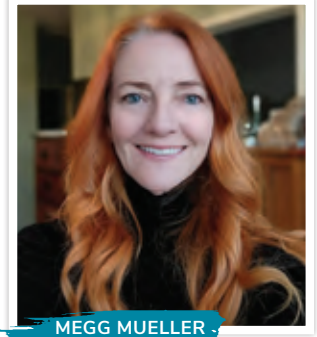
For this issue, I visited a new Uncommon Overnighter in Eureka, and Cory Munson—our intrepid associate editor—went to a new Sagebrush Saloon. What both these places have in common is that they are not new locations, but new to our travels. This issue, we definitely dive into a bit of Silver State history with a look at museums that are frozen in time and some seriously historical eateries in Carson City. Cory also took a look back at the town of Goldfield 100 years after a devastating fire nearly razed Nevada's last boomtown.

The cool thing about Nevada history is that it is still so available today. Goldfield, for example, is an incredible town just begging to be explored. Elko—which has a rich history of its own—is included in this issue, and we share all kinds of reasons to visit Nevada's biggest little town. For our winter lovers out there, we have some great trails just waiting for the crunch of your snowshoes. And if winter isn't your favorite season, we invite you to read all about taking a warm winter state-cation in southern Nevada.

As always, we love your feedback and stories about your Silver State sojourn. Have you discovered something we haven't? Let us know by emailing editor@nevadamagazine.com, because like you, we're always looking for the fun that makes time fly!

Enjoy!

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor



MEGG MUELLER



SCAN HERE FOR FREE SUBSCRIPTION



Find some reasons to love snowshoeing (and places to do it) on pg. 82.

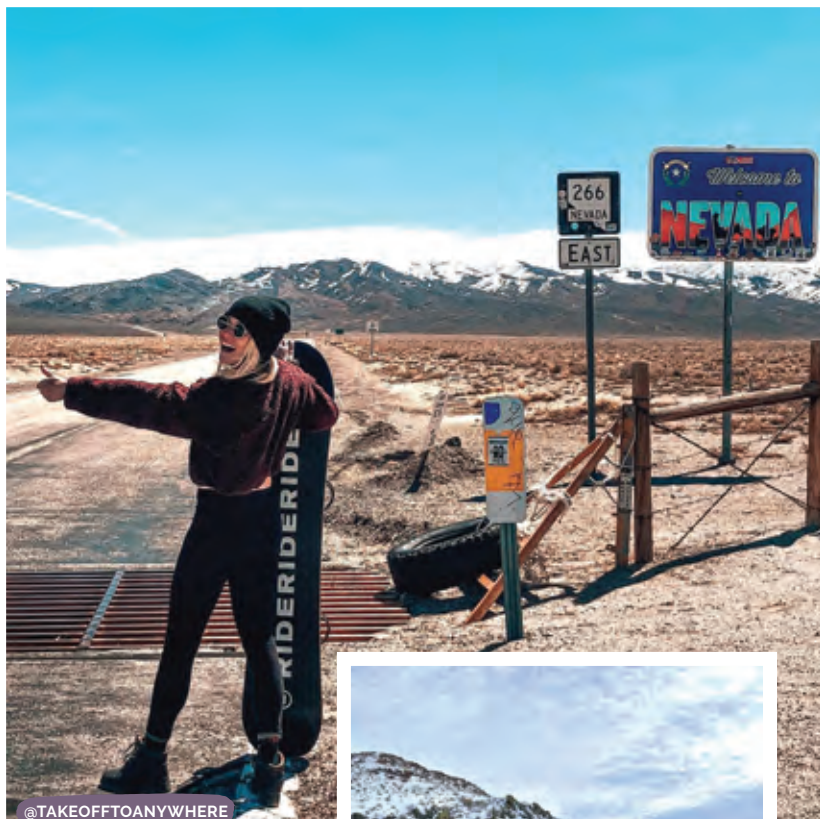


TALK TO US

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!



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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 87 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. 92 for more.

DISCOVER YOUR NEVADA



As I approach one year as Nevada's lieutenant governor, I'm reflective of the travels I've taken exploring our state's diverse landscapes and cultural destinations. From the wide-open "Loneliest Road in America" to the buzzing neon signs along Fremont Street, there truly is something for everyone in the Silver State.

As a 40-year resident of Nevada, I have always enjoyed visiting the state's natural recreation areas, ghost towns, and charming communities. Nevada offers so much to explore beyond the Las Vegas Strip! Get a start planning your adventure by checking out the Neon to Nature Road Trip on page 34. Nevadans and tourists alike are passionate about our state's natural wonders. Our unspoiled places and fascinating historical sites are easy to get to and worth a stop. We look forward to helping new visitors discover our treasured locales.

Over the years, the Nevada Commission on Tourism has made a concerted effort to expand Nevada's presence as a world-class destination for domestic and international travelers. I recently returned from Greece where I met with leaders across the country to promote Nevada tourism and economic development. While there, I had the opportunity to engage with many government officials and travel representatives. Now back at home, I am excited to continue these new

relationships and work together to explore opportunities between Greece and Nevada. As lieutenant governor and chairman of both the Nevada Commission on Tourism and the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, I will continue to work tirelessly to promote travel to the Silver State.

While traveling the state, I make it a point to stop into some of the locally owned stores, restaurants, and bars—like the Eddy Street Vintage Market in Gardnerville, The Little Waldorf Saloon in Reno, and Pioneer Saloon in Goodsprings. As lieutenant governor, I oversee the Office of Small Business Advocacy and am passionate about promoting small businesses throughout the state. As you travel Nevada, make sure to explore the state's unique culture by visiting local businesses.

It's an honor to serve as Nevada's lieutenant governor, and I'm proud to highlight the people and places that make the Silver State an exciting vacation spot throughout the year. Whether you're looking to warm up in southern Nevada over the winter, explore the state's burgeoning art scene, or experience the diverse offerings of our rural landscape, you'll find there is something for everyone here in Nevada!

Stavros Anthony
Lieutenant Governor



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

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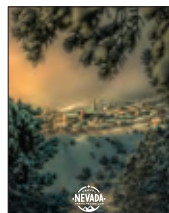
Top of page: Anthony Cupaiuolo (Skiing at Lake Tahoe),
Doug Nulle (Aviation Nation Air Show, Nellis AFB, Las Vegas),
Anthony Donofrio (Redstone Dune Trail)



Winter in Nevada means plentiful snow in the north and warm weather days in the south. Whichever way you enjoy the season, the Silver State is happy to have you along.

COVERS

Front: A child welcomes winter at Spooner Lake (Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park).



Photographer: Kippy S. Spilker

Back: A peek through the trees on a frosty Virginia City morning. Photographer: Liz Huntington

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THE FINAL WORD

104 Michael Branch

A conversation with the author, professor, and activist



From its towering peaks to its majestic caverns, Great Basin National Park highlights the beauty and diversity of the Great Basin Desert. Established in 1986, this 77,100-acre park offers some of Nevada's best opportunities for camping, hiking, exploration, and stargazing. Thanks to its remote setting, it is also one of the least crowded national parks in the U.S.



The park was designated an **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK** IN **2016**



It is so dark visitors can see the Andromeda Galaxy with the naked eye

DID YOU KNOW?

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



Great Basin National Park boasts an

8,000

FOOT CLIMB

from the park entrance to the top of Wheeler Peak

The park is home to many plants and animal species:

11 CONIFER TREES
73 MAMMALS
18 REPTILES
238 BIRDS
8 FISH
800+ PLANTS

There are

40

KNOWN CAVES

at the park, including the famous Lehman Caves. Check out this underworld wonder through a ranger-led tour

Its diverse landscapes include deep caverns, desert steppe, alpine forests, and Nevada's only glacier



Wheeler Glacier covers around

2 ACRES and is more than **10,000** YEARS OLD



YOU MIGHT MEET CATTLE HERE; after the park was created, local ranchers were allowed to keep their historic grazing rights

This tree is among the world's oldest organisms and can live

5,000 YEARS or more

The park contains **3** GROVES of Great Basin bristlecone pine



At **13,063** FEET

Wheeler Peak is Nevada's second tallest mountain

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE PARK?

Hop on the park's website to take a high-resolution, LiDAR scan virtual tour of Lehman Caves

Come for the wildlife



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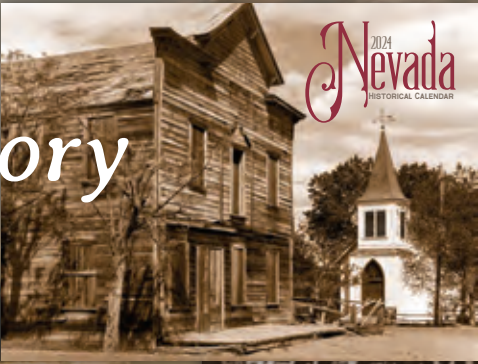


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ZEPHYR WEATHER

Martin Gollery got this heavenly scene from the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. "When the wind gets strong, a different breed comes out to enjoy the lake. Instead of picnics, parties, and sunbathing, these people head into the water wearing thick wetsuits and carrying kites and boards. In a matter of minutes, they can be far offshore. On this day, the light was absolutely incredible!"

📷 Sony ILCE-7M4, 1/3200 sec, f/4.5, ISO 200







DESERT SNOWMAN

Nikita Williams captured this family moment east of Fallon in Poco Canyon. “After driving to a spot where the snow started to get a little deep, we stopped for some fun in the snow. My daughter Addy decided she would build a snowman. Everyone helped her find the perfect accessories: rocks for eyes and buttons; sticks for arms, nose, and a mouth; and we couldn’t miss out on the sage hair.”

📷 iPhone 12 Pro, 1/6000 sec, f/2.0, ISO 32

FROZEN FARMSTEAD

Vivian Powers sent in this shot taken after a winter storm in Carson Valley. “My favorite time to shoot is in extreme weather, and last winter I was out in heavy snow, dense fog, and even blizzards. This barn captures my eye in every season, but this past winter, it really called out to me. There is nothing like a red barn covered in a fresh blanket of snow.”

📷 Nikon D850, 1/200 sec, f/13, ISO 64



WEE THUMP GLOW


Steve O'Melia took this shot on a cold February night in the Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness. "This forest is on the edge of Mojave National Preserve and is a wonderful area to explore wild desert landscape. The Las Vegas glow is hard to escape when taking night photos, so I decided to use it to my advantage."

 Nikon D750, 1 hour, F/2.8, ISO 400



DOG DAYS

Anthony Donofrio snapped this photo outside Las Vegas in Red Rock Canyon. "When I hiked Lost Creek the first week of January, the water was flowing generously. Just three weeks later, I found the pond and waterfall almost completely frozen. It was just so beautiful standing there in the crisp, still air taking it all in. Royce the husky had never seen snow before and was running around with the pond all to himself."

 Canon EOS R, 1/320 sec, F/8, ISO 1600



DINNER WITH A SIDE OF HISTORY

Explore Carson City's vibrant past while eating (and drinking) your heart out!



BY ENGRID BARNETT

When John C. Frémont and crew stumbled into western Nevada in 1844, they found an expansive valley abutting the resplendent Sierra Nevada mountains. More importantly, they located a thirst-quenching river. Frémont declared the serpentine feature the Carson, honoring his buckskin-clad guide, Christopher “Kit” Carson.

By 1851, the much-needed stopover boasted a trading post frequented by California-bound pioneers. And 20 years after Frémont’s foray, Carson City became the Silver

State’s booming capital. Dizzily rich silver deposits in the mountains east of the city, known collectively as The Comstock Lode, clinched the political deal.

Today, Carson City embodies geographical contrasts—sagebrush desert, tree-shrouded riverscapes, pastoral valleys, and rugged mountains. As the state capital, it also contains a unique combination of historical sites and foodie hotspots. Multitasking is a must to make the most of any visit.



Combine a tour of the city's historic buildings with some of its hippest restaurants and watering holes. These establishments often boast up to a century (or more) of civic pride, but their menus keep it fresh, innovative, and mouthwatering!

THE FOX BREWERY & PUB (1862)

An October 1862 ad in the “Silver Age” newspaper proclaimed the three-story St. Charles Hotel “the

pleasantest resort in Carson...where everything kept by the bar is the best quality.” The Fox Brewery & Pub continues this tradition today, offering 17 craft beers, refreshing cocktails, and an exuberant menu.



Belly up to the bar (or booth) for beer-braised brisket, the world-famous pub dip, or the humbly titled mac & cheese—pasta loaded with three types of cheese and bacon crumbles in a crispy parmesan crust. Finish the meal off with a baked-to-order fruit cobbler crowned with walnut crumbles, maple, and decadent vanilla ice cream.



FRUIT COBBLER WITH ICE CREAM



EVE'S EATERY (1925)

Eve's Eatery is a modern American restaurant set inside a two-story building circa 1925. The site has seen several incarnations over the decades including the Kit Carson Club and the Horseshoe Club, a veritable city fixture from the 1970s through the early 2000s. Today's restaurant serves breakfast and dinner, and they're anything but old-fashioned.



TRES LECHES PANCAKES

For breakfast, devour tres leches pancakes piled high with whipped cream, strawberries, kiwis, dulce de leche, and powdered sugar. Chase it with a Mexican hot chocolate—

s'mores in a cup with a dash of cinnamon, or go for a mimosa with a tropical twist: the Pineapple Strawberry Express. And don't forget about Eve's delectable handmade pasta. Whether you tuck into cacio e pepe (cheese and pepper), agnolotti (braised short rib ravioli), or The Knockout (chicken fettuccine served in a homemade bread bowl), you'll roll out happy.



SASSAFRAS ECLECTIC FOOD JOINT (1928)

The Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint should rank near the top of any Carson City culinary tour. Menu highlights include the Superfraggacheesalicious Loaf, a baked-to-order sourdough round stuffed with garlic and a tangy



SUPERFRAGGACHEESALICIOUS LOAF

cheese medley. Evilled Eggs (stuffed with shrimp, roasted peppers, and smoked paprika) elevate the humble hardboiled egg. Or opt for spicy, gooey bliss with an order of baked cheese curds and chorizo.

You'll also find a wide selection of sandwiches, pizzas, and beverages that are anything but ordinary.

The palate-pleasing fun, packed into a single-family residence built in 1928, radiates the energy you'd expect from the Roaring '20s with plenty of contemporary touches.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Next door to Sassafras, check out the Historic Carson Hot Springs. Established in 1849, they welcome visitors to enjoy a relaxing dip. After, cross the parking lot to grab a beer at Shoe Tree Brewery.



Video: Check out Carson City's 'Triathlon'



The Bank Saloon (1899)



The Bank Saloon opened in August 1899. For historical context, Teddy Roosevelt was a rough-riding Spanish-American War hero that year, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were still robbing trains. In other words, The Bank Saloon has seen some stuff. Located in the heart of downtown Carson City, it's your go-to Wild West watering hole.

Historical newspaper clippings and artifacts attest to a past littered with gunpoint holdups and Prohibition raids. Over the years, the joint has gone by various names: The Bank Resort, Hernando's Hideaway, and Jack's Bar. Despite the colorful heritage, today's establishment feels refreshingly upscale, featuring contemporary twists on classic cocktails.

Servers craft winning beverages with the finest premium and local spirits. Combined with fresh herbs and fruits, tasty tonics and bitters, and ice spheres (the oxymoronic round ice cube), each drink represents luxury in a glass. And if you'd prefer something with bubbles or legs, the drink menu includes a well-curated craft beer and wine list, too.

GREAT BASIN BREWING COMPANY (1936)

The Great Basin Brewing Company building (circa 1936) exudes the post-Prohibition charm you'd expect from a brewery in the quaint historic downtown. Like its counterparts in Reno and Sparks, Great Basin's capital location features a crave-worthy mixture of classic eats and local brews. It also contains a 15-barrel brewing system.

Nobody does beer and comfort food quite like Great Basin. Personal faves? Black Gold dry Irish stout with an order of finger-licking-good sticky fries (think fresh-cut sweet potatoes fried to perfection and smothered in BBQ sauce, white cheddar, bacon



STICKY FRIES

crumbles, and scallions. Of course, there's a whole lotta menu to explore, so come ready to eat, drink, and be merry.



GREAT BASIN NATIVE ARTISTS GALLERY



CREATING STORIES: *Artwork of the Stewart Alumni*

The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum serves as a living legacy to educate visitors about the Native children who were removed from their homelands and brought to the federal boarding school. Learn about their stories in a new exhibition featuring paintings, drawings, baskets, and other artwork created by former students.

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Sagebrush Saloons

MIDAS BIGHORN SALOON

Get a taste of living history at this remote watering hole.

Over its 170-plus years of settlement, Nevada has seen the rise and fall of countless mining camps and boomtowns. In fact, there are more than 600 ghost towns in the Silver State. But what if a place isn't entirely abandoned: too small to be a town, but still home to a handful of proud residents who maintain—and reside in—its original structures. The most popular term for these communities is living ghost town.

There's no better place to get to know what a living ghost town is all about than in Midas. Situated north of Interstate 80 between Winnemucca and Battle Mountain, this 117-year-old community—population around one dozen—sprawls up a narrow tree-lined canyon adorned with cabins and relics from the mining boom years.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The easiest way to reach Midas is through Winnemucca, but if you've got time—and a high-clearance vehicle—you can arrive via Elko on the Midas-Tuscarora County Road. For more Elko adventures, turn to pg. 74.



RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Remember that most of the relics sit on private land. Please obey the no trespassing signage, and do not attempt to enter old mine shafts when exploring Nevada ghost towns.



After you've had enough exploring, it's time to head into Midas' best—and only—business, the Midas Bighorn Saloon. In addition to beer and spirits, this historic establishment offers a hearty menu of pizza, hot dogs, and grilled cheese sandwiches. As you enjoy your respite, be sure to check out the curios and antiques that line the walls. Feel free to chat up the locals, who are usually more than happy to regale visitors with tales of the town's glory days.

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SAGEBRUSH SALOONS



UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

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

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UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

STONE CHURCH LODGE

The Loneliest
Road in America
welcomes travelers
to a heavenly respite.





TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

A walking tour map of Eureka is available from multiple locations around town including the Eureka Opera House, Afterlife Antiques and Oddities, and The Owl Club.

Have you heard the good news? Eureka has a new Uncommon Overnighter and it's a revelation. The Stone Church Lodge is housed in an old Methodist church built in 1881 using native stone. The building served as a church until 1900, housed a few revivals in the 1920s, then sat vacant, praying for a comeback. In the 1980s, a master craftsman turned a portion of the building into a living space complete with ornate and intricate woodwork.

Lauren and Joe Luby took over the property in 2018 and added a new roof, flooring, appliances, plumbing, and Wi-Fi along with some decorative changes. The lodge is set up a bit like a studio apartment but has a lower floor complete with a daybed, TV, and workspace. The upstairs is an open floor plan with a kitchen, seating area, comfortable bedroom, and bathroom. The property offers a portable evaporative cooler, and fans for the summer months, yet the 1881



QUICK HITS *UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS*



TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP



stonework alone provides decent protection from the heat. The property is open year round and is also pet friendly.

Along with the living space, the couple plans to open the front of the church as the official tasting room for their Two Bitch Bourbon distillery. For now, they invite Loneliest Road travelers to settle into the historic vacation home and get to know the stories behind the Stone Church Lodge and Eureka's historic structures—all within walking distance and right around the corner.

To sample the Luby's locally made and delicious whiskies, stop in at Raine's Market on the west side of town to pick up your own bottle.



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Holiday events in Eureka



EUREKA OPERA HOUSE:

VFW Annual Dinner • November 11 @ 6pm
Holiday Bazaar • November 17-18 @ 9am
Christmas Concert • December 15 @ 6pm
Fireman's Ball • December 31 @ 9pm

PERDIZ SPORT SHOOTING:

Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot • November 18-19

MAIN STREET EUREKA:

Christmas Tree Lighting • December 2

EUREKA, NEVADA

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MCGILL DRUGSTORE MUSEUM

Ely

Today, there are no businesses quite like the drugstores of the mid-20th century. Back then, pharmacists dispensed syrups and pills while doubling as something of the town sage, wise in both medical knowledge and general life advice. Drugstores were places for townsfolk to hold meetings, kids to hang out after school, and families to enjoy lunch and a dessert.

Between 1908 and 1979, the Rexall Drugstore was a central part of daily life in McGill. During those years, McGill was a company town responsible for smelting the copper shipped in from nearby Ely. McGill—and the drugstore—enjoyed many prosperous decades before the copper industry entered a sharp decline in the late 1970s.



When McGill's pharmacist passed in 1979, there was no one available to take over the store. With few options, the owners were forced to lock up shop—leaving everything as they found it. Fortunately, the store was later acquired by the county and converted into a museum in 1995.

Today, visitors find the McGill Drugstore Museum virtually unchanged from how customers would have seen the shop decades ago. The store's shelves are still filled with faded products dating back to the 1950s including shampoos, nail polish, toys, candy, and everything in between. There is no shortage of interesting relics to discover, from the soda fountain to the prescription log dating back to the 1930s.

The drugstore has many treasures to discover, but it also serves as a snapshot of what daily life once looked like for the average citizen—a perspective not often seen in museums.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Looking to experience a still-operating old-fashioned drugstore? Head to Economy Drug in Ely to enjoy that malt and sandwich in a sublimely old school setting.



DANGBERG HOME RANCH HISTORIC PARK

Minden

Much of the modern history of Carson Valley originates from this sprawling ranchland-turned-museum. This property was once home to German immigrant Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg, one of Nevada's first settlers. In fact, his residency in the verdant Carson Valley predates Nevada's statehood and even the founding of Virginia City.



Starting with just a few acres of land, it didn't take Dangberg long to acquire several hundred additional acres and 100 head of cattle, ultimately founding the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company. When silver was discovered on The Comstock, his ranch fed the tens of thousands of migrants who flocked to the area.

Dangberg soon found it was time to upgrade his family's modest cabin into a luxury ranch. His new property hosted a two-story residence and a dozen outbuildings including a slaughterhouse, bunkhouse, and garage.

Today, the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park remains virtually unchanged from when it was last inhabited. In fact, all the property's artifacts belonged to the family or were original features of the house itself. Visitors are welcome to picnic and relax on the property's grounds, but to see the interior, be sure reserve a spot on a guided tour led by the Friends of the Dangberg Home Ranch.

ENDS JANUARY 7

MONSTERS ARE REAL

Beneath the surface of the world's rivers swim mysterious giants 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 and the habitats they call home.

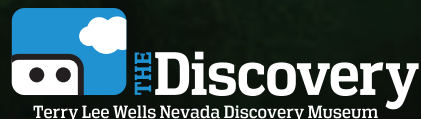
MONSTERFISH

IN SEARCH OF THE LAST RIVER GIANTS

Presented in
partnership with:



University of Nevada, Reno



490 S. Center Street · Downtown Reno · 775-786-1000 · nvdm.org

HISTORIC FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM

Virginia City

The Fourth Ward School—a four-story, Victorian Era, wood school building—is the only one of its kind remaining in the U.S. today. It preserves both the frenzy of Virginia City's bonanza years and the history of modern education.

After much of Virginia City was destroyed by fire in 1875, a new school was desperately needed. Construction began that next summer, and in just four months, the new schoolhouse was ready to serve the town. The building accommodated 1,000 students and included such innovations as indoor flush toilets, drinking fountains, single desks for each student, and an advanced heating and ventilation system.

In 1878, the school graduated its first two students—Anna Herrnleben and Mary O'Farrell. Not only were they the school's first graduates, but they were also Nevada's first students to successfully complete nine grades. For the next 40 years, Fourth Ward teachers educated thousands of students. The boom days couldn't last forever, though, and by the 1930s, Virginia City's population had drastically declined. In June 1936, the last class graduated from the school.





The enormous building sat empty for almost 50 years. Time and the elements saw its glory fade, but a restoration movement began in the late 1960s. The structure was stabilized, and in 1986, the old schoolhouse was reborn as a museum.

Today, Historic Fourth Ward School Museum visitors can embark on a fascinating, self-guided tour of the schoolhouse. Permanent exhibits include The Comstock history room and the printer's room, which houses a restored 1887 Chandler and Price printing press. Of course, the jewel of the museum is the historic classroom, featuring wall maps, a pot-bellied stove, and even an organ.

“#1 Stargazing Destination”

– USA Today

ANNUAL EVENTS

Jim Butler Days, Nevada State Mining Championships, Blacksmithing Classes, Rodeos, Star Parties, Historic Self-Guided Walking Tour, Tonopah Rock & Bottle Show

PLACES TO VISIT

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



TonopahNevada.com





ROAD TRIPS NEON TO NATURE

60 to 210 miles
1+ day per route

#NeonToNature

TravelNevada.com/Neon-To-Nature

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Goldstrike Canyon is often closed seasonally from May through September due to extreme heat, so winter is the perfect time to take advantage of this challenging hike and the hot springs along the way.

GOLDSTRIKE CANYON

NEON^{TO}NATURE

Take a beyond-the-glow day trip from Las Vegas.



Let's be real: Las Vegas has so much to do it could be your annual destination and you'd still never see it all. We have no argument with that, but sometimes you might find yourself itching for something a little less neon and a little more natural. Luckily, you can have it all with this three-part road trip that will have you exploring world-famous Hoover Dam, outdoor playgrounds like Red Rock Canyon and Valley of Fire, exciting attractions, and charming towns—and still get you back in time for your dinner reservation.

RED ROCKIN' LOOP

60 to 110 miles

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Red Rock for short) sits just 17 miles from The Strip but is truly a world of its own. Craggy ribbons of multihued sandstone rise and fall and beg to be explored and photographed. Pack the snacks and book it to the Red Rock Canyon

Visitor Center to view a live desert tortoise habitat and get hiking tips from rangers.

After the dramatic beauty of Red Rock, a quick drive will transport you to **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park**, a verdant oasis full of hikes, historic buildings, and

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

From October through May, you'll need a timed-entry ticket on Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive, a 13-mile scenic drive (or hike or bike!) cherished for its stunning vista points and popular trail access.



SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

**TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP**

Blend neon and nature with a stop at Seven Magic Mountains near Goodsprings. These seven, massive neon structures are the perfect mascot for the Neon to Nature Road Trip.

unique ranger programs. The lush landscape with its six babbling springs is perfect for families looking to picnic or couples looking for the vacation yoga class.

Less than an hour from Spring Mountain, **Goodsprings** is a frozen-in-time (like 1904 time) town that was one of the most bountiful mining districts in southern Nevada. After a historic walking tour, it's time for the real history to begin. Head to the famous **Pioneer Saloon**—built in 1913—and belly up to the bar for a killer drink, fantastic meal, and a story or two, like how those bullet holes got in the wall and which Hollywood royalty left cigar burns in the bar. It all happened here, so if you find yourself wondering if it's worth the drive, the answer is a resounding heck yeah!



YOUNT STORE, GENERAL STORES SITE, GOODSPRINGS WALKING TOUR

Gary Reese (Goodsprings ruins),
John Harrison (Lake Mead), Martin Gollery (VOF)



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Nevada
State
Parks has
launched

Reserve Nevada, an online
campsite reservation system
for Nevada's state parks.
Visit parks.nv.gov for all
the details.

MESQUITE

FIRE & WATER LOOP

120 to 175 miles

The scenic route along **Lake Mead's** edge to Nevada's first state park is arguably as beautiful as the park itself, and that's saying something. **Valley of Fire State Park's** bright red, Aztec sandstone dates to the Jurassic era and features petroglyphs that are some 2,500 years old. Hike, wander, spot desert bighorn sheep, and take all the pictures your camera can hold—just don't forget lots of water and sunscreen. Make sure to recreate responsibly (see pg. 102 for tips) and leave the park as you found it.



After that spectacular experience, hit the road and head to **Mesquite**. This adorable border town is home to art, culture, great restaurants, and hotels, plus nine golf courses—all set against a stunning Virgin River Valley backdrop. It's also the gateway to the next stop on the loop, **Gold Butte National Monument**. This area is perfect for anyone looking



LAKE MEAD

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK





LOST CITY MUSEUM

for Valley of Fire-type landscape without the crowds, but make no mistake; this stop requires a big sense of adventure. More than 300,000 remote acres offer landscapes galore, incredible petroglyph panels, and critical habitat for a variety of wildlife, but there are no services in Gold Butte and cell service is spotty at best, so make sure you're well outfitted. It's a bit of a haul, but oh, the bragging rights you'll have are so worth it.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO



NEON TO NATURE ROAD TRIP

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

Heading back to Las Vegas, make sure to stop in Moapa Valley and discover more about the Ancestral Puebloan culture at **Lost City Museum**. Tools, pottery, and other artifacts—recovered from the on-site excavation pit—offer a glimpse of what life was like in the region. After, reward yourself for a trip well taken with a milkshake at **The Inside Scoop**.

COLORADO RIVER CORRIDOR

70 to 250 miles

Our third leg is heavy on the fun, with a healthy hit of history. **Hoover Dam** is still a modern marvel even at 88 years old, and the tour is one of the best in the country. Afterward, test your camera's panorama mode from the 886-foot-tall, 1,905-foot-long viewing bridge—



Neil Lockhart (Lost City Museum), Shaun Astor (Laughlin)



BOULDER CITY

the longest of its kind in North America. After you've had enough dam fun, explore **Boulder City**, the quiet, Art Deco-obsessed town that housed the dam workers. You'll find fascinating and funky museums, cute shops, outdoor activities, and amazing eats. Boulder City has swanky, retro-chic, and everything in-between for lodging options if you can't get your fill in just one day.

When you are ready, head toward **Laughlin** with a stop in the ghost town of Nelson and take the very cool tour of **Techatticup Mine**.



Resume the journey to Laughlin, Nevada's riverfront resort town. Stay along the river walk in one of the many amenity-packed resort-casinos, take a water taxi

across the Colorado River to Arizona (just to say you did) then come back to where the party is always happening. Our southernmost state park—**Big Bend of the Colorado**—awaits (see pg. 58 for more), as do warm temps all year long. Float, splash, fish, and boat until your heart's content, then grab a delicious dinner with a river view.



LAUGHLIN

The Glory of Goldfield

Remembering Nevada's last great boomtown 100 years after its destruction.

BY CORY MUNSON

On a fine spring day in the year 1900, a rancher named Jim Butler was wandering the remote hills of south-central Nevada—looking for a stray burro, as the story goes—when he came across an outcrop of black-banded rock. Ever the hobbyist prospector, Butler picked off a few samples and headed back to civilization to get them evaluated. The assayer was shocked to discover that the black bands were pure argentite. Jim Butler had discovered one of history's richest silver deposits.

BUTLER'S BONANZAS

Within a few years, Butler's remote outcrop had transformed into the bustling boomtown of Tonopah. Until the rise of Goldfield, Tonopah was Nevada's largest and richest city, peaking at around 10,000 souls. Butler was now a very wealthy man with the time and resources to do whatever he wanted. This turned out to be yet more prospecting.

Butler began outfitting young adventurers with supplies and munitions in return for a share of any claims they discovered—a practice known as grubstaking. One of his clients, a Paiute named Thomas Fisherman, had found gold some 30 miles south of Tonopah, but it wasn't clear where exactly. More grubstake outfits were sent to find the mysterious mine.

In December 1902, two of Butler's men went deep into the desert to locate the claim. Days into their journey, a great sandstorm assailed them, and they were forced to seek shelter in the nearby mountains. As they weathered the piercing wind, they were astonished to see particles of fine gold floating in a pool of water. Not only had they found Fisherman's gold, but they were also standing on the site of the West's last great gold rush.



Library of Congress (Town shots)
Nevada Historical Society (Gold bars)







BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE GREATEST GOLDFIELD
IN THE WORLD.
COPYRIGHT N. 42403.
PHO. GOLDFIELD, NEV. 1906.
U.S.A.

GOLDFIELD 1906

A CITY IS BORN

Between 1904-1912, Goldfield's mines were some of the highest producing in the world. The gold veins were so rich that they could be seen glittering by candlelight. In some tunnels, nearly every piece of ore had value, and tempted miners often stashed debris away in their clothes and in lunch pails. The pilfering was such a problem that federal troops were brought in to improve security.

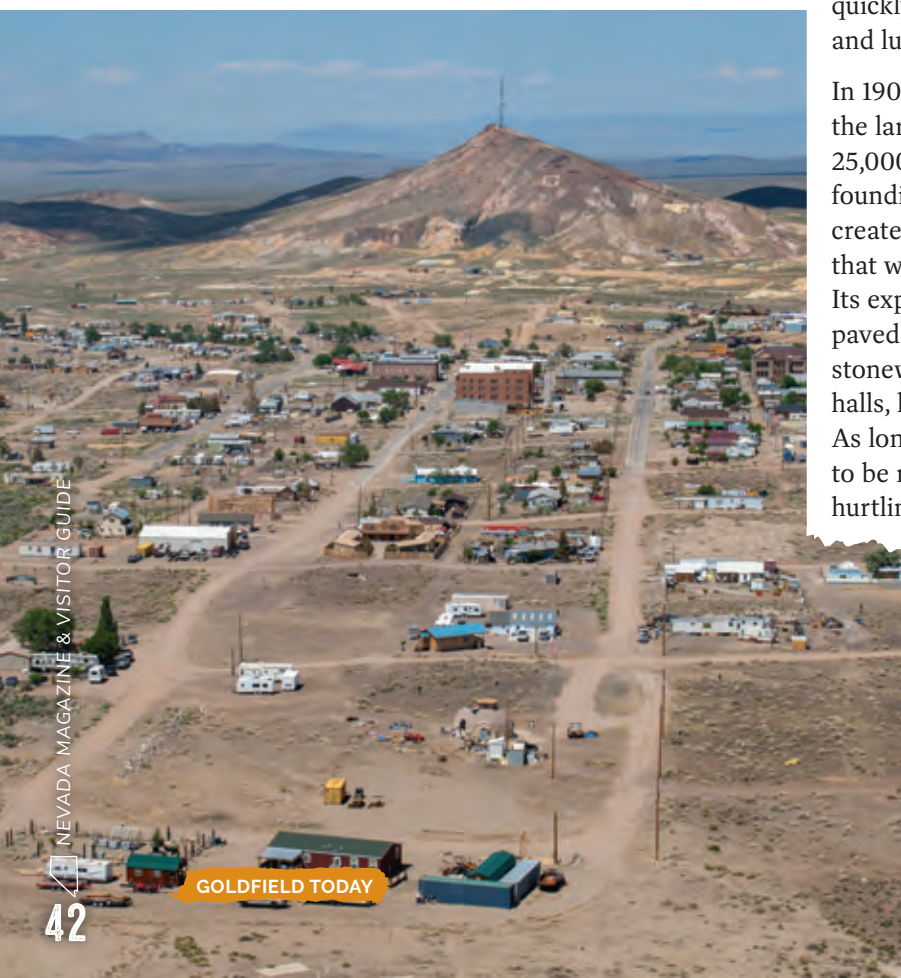
Above the caverns of unimaginable wealth, a great city blossomed. Early Goldfield looked like any other dusty, ragtag frontier town. But it was the 20th century, and the harsh, remote setting was no obstacle to expedited modernization. Instead of covered wagons, settlers arrived in an endless stream of primitive automobiles. Within a year of its founding, the town had telephone and telegraph lines. By 1905, a steam powerplant was powering homes and streetlamps and the city was connected to the national freight rail network, allowing bullion to be quickly exchanged for essential materials and luxury goods.

In 1907, Goldfield surpassed Tonopah as the largest city in Nevada with more than 25,000 residents. Within five years of its founding, the proud citizens of Goldfield had created a thoroughly modern metropolis that was Nevada's cultural and financial hub. Its expansive commercial district boasted paved sidewalks, wide streets, and elegant stonework buildings including banks, union halls, luxury hotels, and department stores. As long as the gold flowed, there seemed to be no ceiling to progress. The town was hurtling toward greatness.

STAY ANOTHER DAY



Need another day to explore town? Book a night at the Goldfield Stop Inn. Their red-light-district-themed cabins make for a memorable stay, and the room interiors are modern, comfortable, and feature a kitchenette.



GOLDFIELD TODAY

Nevada Historical Society (1906, two men putting out fire)



UP IN SMOKE

Goldfield's development was wild and frenetic, but the city was still a boomtown, and boomtowns are ultimately unsustainable.

The decline began in 1912 when gold production dropped for the first time in Goldfield's history—around 40 percent from the previous year. With the arrested growth, systemic problems—corruption, stock manipulation, strikes, and union busting—compounded the depression. On top of that, Goldfield's rapid growth had come at a cost. While there were millionaires and mansions across town, ordinary citizens experienced inflation, limited real estate, and spotty utilities. The mines still produced—and would for another decade—but the spirit of the rush had left the town. The spell had been broken. People began to leave.

17 TAKE

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE

NATURE IS JUST WHAT YOUR BODY NEEDS
17 minutes outside is the new 10,000 steps.

On the morning of July 6, 1923, Goldfield was home to around 1,000 residents—a fraction from its peak. Although significantly depopulated, its buildings were still there, unchanged since the bonanza years. It still looked like Nevada's largest city—developed and magnificent like a mini-Manhattan—but nobody was home.

Although the empty storefronts and shuttered high-rises were a sad sight for those who remained, it turned out to be a good thing. Few people were in any actual danger when the flames arrived.

The fire started at 6:45 a.m. one block west of the Goldfield Hotel. How the blaze began is unclear, but it's believed to have started at the house of T. C. Rhea after his Prohibition-era moonshine still exploded. Some residents believed it was an act of sabotage by rival bootleggers.

Early risers spotted the smoke, and the town was quickly roused. The fire brigade leapt into action just as the flames were spreading to an adjacent commercial garage. One car, belonging to a miner, was filled with dynamite. When it exploded, firebrands violently blasted out into the city, igniting spot fires. Worse, strong southerly winds blowing up to 40 mph threatened to carry the fire northward and directly into downtown. The situation was dire. In a last-ditch effort, firefighters raced across the street with more dynamite and began blowing up buildings to create a firebreak.

It did not work. The hot summer had turned the city into kindling. The conflagration jumped the street, overrunning the firefighters' position and forcing them to retreat. Their equipment and hoses were abandoned and lost to the flames. At the same time, Goldfield's decaying water infrastructure failed, and the city lost water pressure. The helpless residents could do nothing but watch as the fire grew into a 4-block wall of flames.



GOLDFIELD AFTER FIRE IN 1923

The fire burned itself out at around 3 p.m. By then it had taken two lives, 25 blocks, and more than 200 buildings, including most of downtown. More than 100 residents were homeless. Almost all the grandest buildings were now charred rubble. Surprisingly, one of the few structures to survive was the Goldfield Hotel, which was only a few dozen feet from where it all began.

After the fire, Goldfield experienced its second major decline. For many, there was nothing left. Within a week, more than 300 residents had left town. A few years later, another fire wiped out what remained of the commercial core—except for, again, the Goldfield Hotel.





TODAY

It has been 100 years since the devastating fire, but Goldfield has survived. It is much sparser and quieter than it was, but after the rubble was cleared, life went on. People cleaned up, rebuilt, and got back to their lives.

For decades, Goldfielders have worked tirelessly to preserve what has been saved, and the fire's few survivors are conspicuous landmarks that tell part of the town's hidden history. If passing through, make sure to stop and explore the town. It takes a little imagination to see Goldfield as it was during the glory years, but an excellent walking tour map is available at the visitor center.

For a few incredible years, Goldfield embodied Nevada's spirit of discovery and excitement. It is still here, and hopefully its richest years lie ahead.



These survivors on the corner of Columbia Ave. and Ramsey St. offer a sense of how the 25-block downtown appeared before 1923!



SMALL TOWNS, BIG CULTURE

Discover art across Nevada's rural communities.



ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

Virginia City

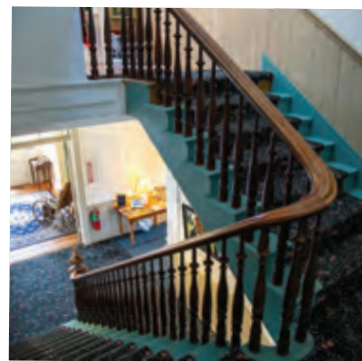
Perched above a backdrop of rolling foothills, St. Mary's Art Center looks like it was once some Comstock silver baron's mansion. But this stately structure has much humbler roots: It was Virginia City's first hospital. Built in 1875, the facility operated for more than 65 years before finally shuttering in the 1940s.

In the 1960s, the city announced plans to demolish the building. Thankfully, two Virginia City residents—an artist and a Catholic priest—saw its potential and teamed up to convert it into an art center.

Half a century later, St. Mary's Art Center is a proud part of Virginia City's cultural scene and home to both a permanent art collection and rotating pieces featuring local artists.

If you'd like to check out this historic structure, head online to book a guided tour. Consider signing up for their workshops, canvas and cocktail classes, and favorite annual events like the Paranormal Sleepover Party on Halloween and Holiday Faire in December.

St. Mary's Art Center is also available year-round as a gathering and lodging space. More than a dozen hospital rooms have been converted into charming guest bedrooms, and the center is ready to host anything from weeklong artist workshops and yoga retreats to weddings and church groups.



BIZARRE 101

Walker Lake

Walker Lake is known for its serene landscape and bighorn sheep, but drivers speeding past might not know that it is also home to an exciting art scene.

When artists David and Maryknoll Bowen left California in search of a place to retire, they had never heard of Walker Lake. The couple were on their way to the Southwest when they first laid eyes on its quiet waters. The moment they saw the disused garage on the shores of the ancient lake, they knew exactly how they wanted to spend their retirement.



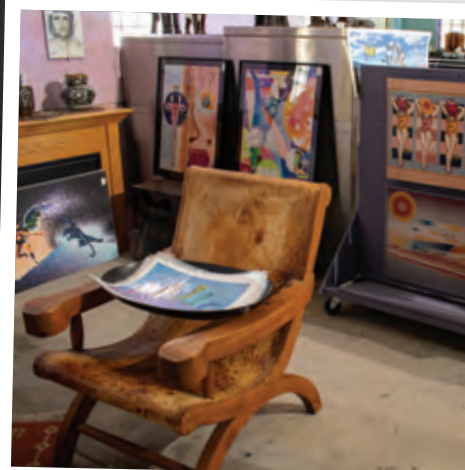
SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



ARTS & CULTURE

Neither had operated a gallery or a retail space, but everything just seemed to work out. Residents came out of the woodwork to help refurbish the garage, converting it into both a home and a gallery, and a diverse group of local artists contributed to the exhibition space. When Bizarre 101 opened in February 2022, the space was stocked with works by woodcarvers, jewelers, painters, potters, and metalworkers.





Next time you're passing through Walker Lake, be sure to stop in and say hello to the Bowens. The gallery is located on the west side of Highway 95, between the Baptist Church and Big Horn Crossing (look for the colorful mural of local legend Cecil the Sea Serpent).

Feel your stomach rumbling after an afternoon at Walker Lake? Grab your next meal at Nevada Pizza in Hawthorne.

MESQUITE FINE ARTS

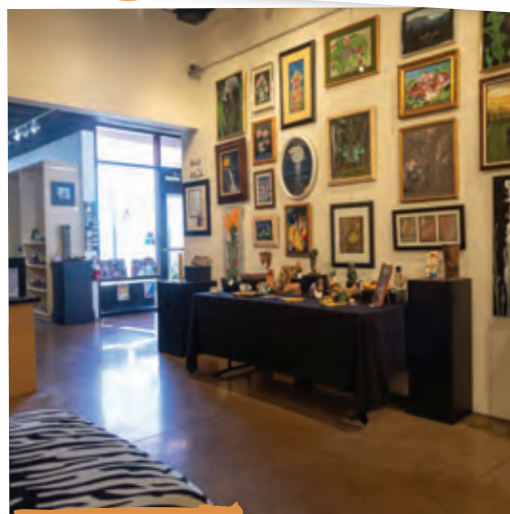
Mesquite

Mesquite is mostly known as a golf-lover's paradise, but if you're more into arts than sports, swing into the Mesquite Fine Arts Center & Gallery. This cultural hub represents a whopping 180+ active member artists, allowing visitors to easily discover new artists and affordable pieces of all mediums.

In addition to its gallery space, this art-lover's oasis also hosts cultural events and classes. So, if you're staying in town for a few days, be sure to head here to brush up on your drawing, painting, and pottery skills.



ELY ART BANK



MESQUITE FINE ARTS





ELY ART BANK

ELY ART BANK

Ely



Converted from a working bank into an art gallery and cultural center in 2013, the Ely Art Bank features a permanent collection of paintings and sculptures. Whether it's indigenous art, folk art, or modern art, you'll find plenty to peruse—and purchase—in this rich collection of handcrafted jewelry, photography, paintings, and furniture.

Winnemucca, NV

There's More Than Meets the Eye...

WINNEMUCCA RANCH HAND RODEO WEEKEND

February 28 - March 3 2024

Join us in Winnemucca for Nevada's premier western event! Featuring the Ranch Hand Rodeo, Western Trade Show, Women's Ranch Rodeo, Cow Dog Trials, Barrel Race, PeeWee Events, and the

Ranch, Rope & Performance Horse Sale!

www.RanchRodeoNV.com



Photo By WT Bruce



Contact Us Today for a FREE Visitors Guide and more Information:


www.WINNEMUCCA.com



WINTER STATE-CATION

*Follow the birds south for the winter
and enjoy Nevada's warmer climes.*





Winter's icy temps are welcomed by those who dream of bluebird powder days and snowshoe hikes through Nevada's backcountry. There are, however, a number of people who long for the warmth of the sun and dream of tropical locales. That wish can fade when faced with the cost of an island getaway but take heart: southern Nevada offers a solution.

In November, Las Vegas and the surrounding area averages 70 degrees; from December to February, temperatures dip into the 60s, but rarely below. While this isn't south-of-the-equator balmy, it's a long way from shoveling your driveway.

So, what's your winter getaway pleasure? Hitting the links, perfecting your cannonball, or getting off road (two feet or two wheels...the choice is yours)? Mix and match, add a picnic, bring the kids or not: This is your adventure. Ditch the sweaters and mittens and get ready for a warm winter wonderland.



LAS VEGAS PAIUTE GOLF RESORT

GREENER PASTURES

Grab your plaid shorts and get ready to experience your best game yet. With driving ranges right off The Strip and lush fairways set against striking Mojave Desert landscapes, some of the best greens in the Silver State are found in southern Nevada.

Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort offers three amazing courses. Its Snow Mountain Course has seriously challenging holes at No. 16, 17, and 18. **Rio Secco Golf Club** in Henderson offers a Rees Jones-designed course in the foothills of the Black Mountain Range, as well as the **Butch Harmon School of Golf**.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Looking for even more places to swing the clubs in southern Nevada? Head for Boulder City, Laughlin, and Pahrump, too.



CONESTOGA GOLF CLUB

Head 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas to Mesquite—Nevada’s golfing mecca. There are nine golf courses within about 10 minutes of the area’s resorts and hotels, and the mellow desert climate makes it a year-round destination. Among the courses are the **Wolf Creek Golf Club**, where the fairways wind through red rock canyons and white sand bunkers and **Conestoga Golf Club**, which boasts a scenic 18-hole Gary Panks-designed course.



TRUE NEVADA ADVENTURE AWAITS.

If you love the outdoors, Pahrump, Nevada is your destination! Offering a wide range of adventurous attractions and exciting excursions, Pahrump is perfect for explorers with hiking trails, access to Death Valley, and off-road activities that will make you want to get lost off the beaten path.

Book your Pahrump adventure today!

PAHRUMP
true NEVADA



travelnevada.com

60 Miles West of Las Vegas. 180 Degrees Different.

Explore the possibilities at VisitPahrump.com



DIP A TOE

Depending upon where you hail from, jumping into Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, or Lake Las Vegas in the winter might sound heavenly. For everyone else, one of the many resort swimming pools on The Strip or in Downtown should serve. Quite a few hotels keep at least one pool open in the winter months, and most are heated to around 80 degrees. While certain locations are for guests only, many allow non-guests to visit for a fee. A few of the best winter splash sites include **Circa's Stadium**

Swim. This 21+ only rooftop pool in Downtown Las Vegas is open all year and has a 40-foot-tall screen devoted to sports viewing. **MGM Resort's** 12 pools (Bellagio, Vdara, Aria, etc.) all allow non-guests and are open year-round. No matter who's in your group, there's a pool for you. In Summerlin, **Red Rock Casino** is perfectly located for a swim after hiking at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Between dips, treat yourself to a little poolside gaming.

Want more southern Nevada vacation ideas? Check out pg. 58 for some fun State Park adventures.



CIRCA'S STADIUM SWIM

Ryan Gobuty (Circa), Rachel Pasche (Bootleg Canyon)
Shaun Astor (Lake Mead), Ashley Rodriguez (Rubber duck tree)



BOOTLEG CANYON MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK

SHORELINES FOR DAYS

Cooler air and water temps might not make swimming top of the list at Nevada's southern lakes, but don't rule out a visit to Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, or Lake Las Vegas. At **Lake Las Vegas Water Sports**, boat rentals continue through the winter months, and Lake Mead and Lake Mohave are open 24 hours a day for all your recreation desires.



LAKE MEAD

DID SOMEONE SAY PERFECT?

There is no better time of year for hikers and mountain bikers to visit southern Nevada. In the summer, high temperatures can make strenuous outdoor activities seriously unpleasant, if not downright dangerous. But winter's warm and mild highs make desert trails absolutely spectacular. There is no shortage of recommendations, but here are some favorites.

Boulder City has mountain biking options galore. **Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Park** offers 36 miles of beginner-friendly and expert-level trails. From gentle cross-country rides to a downhill with a 22 percent grade, if you can't find it here, it doesn't exist. There's bike rentals and a shuttle option, too.

The **Cottonwood Valley** trail system is situated in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The Late Night Trailhead is a great starting point for at least 12 connecting trails in this system, so the choice of descent is yours. From gentle, consistent climbs to seriously fun swoopy sections, these hills have it all. Ride along the famed red sandstone hills and look for the famous rubber duck tree.



WINTER SUN Fun

Escape the cold weather at these state parks.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Nevada State Parks has launched Reserve Nevada, an online campsite reservation system for Nevada's state parks. Visit parks.nv.gov for all the details.



Few people picture T-shirts and shorts when planning their winter adventure. In southern Nevada, however, that's the perfect wardrobe. From November through February the daytime temperatures are rarely below 60 degrees, and the great outdoors beg to be enjoyed before the return of summer's blast-furnace temps. That said, both Big Bend of the Colorado and Spring Mountain Ranch are packed with plenty of reasons to visit any time of year.



BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO

Nevada's most southern state park—Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area—wanders along the shores of the Colorado River just south of Laughlin. The shoreline is dotted with covered shelters, picnic benches, horseshoe pits, and sandy beaches.

Each winter, snowbirds of all stripes flock to the campground that features mostly pull-through sites for RVs up to 60 feet. The park is also ADA friendly; three campsites are reserved for those with permits, and parking and beach access points are accessible for most, with rubber mats occasionally snaking down toward the water.

The park's location offers natural splendor of every variety. The number of trails accessible from the campground is impressive. There are 4 miles of trails in the park, and the surrounding hills have oodles of trails, also. You can even ride dirt all the way to Boulder City if the mood strikes. The area is home to abundant wildlife, such as cottontail, fox, beaver, and even the occasional bobcat or bighorn sheep. Roadrunners compete with quail for mesquite beans, while numerous waterfowl look on.

In the summer, temps can soar to 120 degrees, so it's no wonder the shores of the rolling river call to guests. If you come during peak season, plan to arrive early before the parking lot fills for the day.



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.

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH

Water in the desert is scarce, naturally, and when discovered, word spreads. For more than 10,000 years, the six bubbling springs in the desert near Las Vegas have drawn attention, first from southern Paiute then pioneers and settlers. By the 1870s, a 528-acre working ranch was in place. It changed names a few times and went through a host of owners—German actress Vera Krupp and Howard Hughes, among them.

Spring Mountain became a park in 1974 when the state bought the ranch after plans to develop it into a massive housing project failed. A guided tour is a must, so contact the park for the current schedule. Visitors can roam parts of the house, and volunteer docents fill in the blanks of history with fascinating stories. Memorabilia from Krupp includes a secret room, plus some of her furniture and glamorous clothing.



Steven Wohlwender (inset)

After a tour, venture outside where walking trails allow access to much of the property, including two of the oldest buildings in the state. A massive lawn dotted with picnic tables and barbecues gives families a place to relax as sunlight plays off the colorful hills above.

The park hosts many programs and special events including weekly yoga and living history lectures that bring the ranch's past to life. Super Summer Theater comes to the park each year. A tradition since 1976, this is a big party, with visitors bringing picnic baskets, blankets, chairs, and beverages for a night of theater under the summer sky.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



STATE PARKS

SNOWSHOE

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.

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



LEGENDARY NEVADANS

See a recreation of the inside of Snowshoe Thompson's house at the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center.

THOMPSON

Hero of the Sierra Nevada skied his way into history.

Imagine climbing countless flights of stairs for three consecutive days with little rest and a 90-pound pack on your back. That was essentially the level of rigor Carson Valley legend John A. Thompson—better known to history as “Snowshoe” Thompson—endured on each of his 90-mile expeditions over the Sierra Nevada Mountains for nearly 20 years.

Born in Norway in 1827, Thompson emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1837. They lived in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri before Thompson and his half-brother headed West after hearing about the Gold Rush. While he did not find his fortune, he fell in love with the Sierra Nevada, which reminded him of his homeland. He found his escape back to the mountains in the fall of 1855.



**TRAVEL
NEVADA
PRO TIP**

Check out the display on Snowshoe Thompson's unmatched exploits at the Glenora Courthouse Museum. Afterward, head across the street to the Mormon Station State Historic Park to salute his statue.





Some of Snowshoe Thompson's routes

An article in the "Sacramento Union" requested an able-bodied individual who could carry the mail between Placerville, California, and Genoa during the harsh winter months. Stating "People Lost to the World; Uncle Sam Needs a Mail Carrier," the article explained how the cold and heavy snow cut off communication for people across the West from the rest of the world. A few brave men previously tried to do the job, but frozen limbs and death hindered success.

Thompson accepted the job; he did not fear the cold or terrain. He decided to use a Norwegian form of transportation as a means of travel over the mountains and began crafting a pair of snow skates.



SNOWSHOE THOMPSON

After cutting an oak tree into 4-inch-wide, 10-foot-long planks, he soaked the ends, steamed them, and then bent and carved them into 25-pound crude skis.

In January 1856, Thompson began his first trip over the mountains to Genoa. As he was leaving town, it is rumored that someone yelled out, "Good luck, 'Snowshoe' Thompson!" A new name and a legend were born. On a trip that took other men weeks, if they made it at all, Snowshoe made it from Placerville to Genoa in three days and returned in two. The trek was often covered with 30 to 50 feet of snow.

Anna Wilding (headstone)



← Snowshoe Thompson is buried in Genoa, where a misspelled marble headstone marks his resting place

400 MILES IN 10 DAYS

On one of his trips over the mountain, Thompson came across a trapper with frozen feet holed up in an abandoned cabin. The man had not eaten in 12 days. Thompson skied back to Genoa, gathered rescuers, carved skis for them, and guided them back to the trapper. After he was taken back to Genoa, it was determined the man's feet needed to be amputated, but there was no chloroform in town, so Thompson traveled 90 miles back to Placerville. There was none there either, so he headed to Sacramento to secure the medicine before skiing back to Genoa. Thompson's 400-mile journey took 10 days and saved the man's life.

For the next 20 years, Snowshoe Thompson would carry the mail to the people of Genoa, but he was so much more than a mailman. He often purchased things for people, adding items they needed to his already weighty pack. If they could not pay him, it was no matter: he loved his community and the country that had become his home.

LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY

★ **JB & MARIE** ★

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CARSON VALLEY
NEVADA
visitcarsonvalley.org






Great Nevada Picture Hunt

The Great Nevada Picture Hunt is our annual contest dedicated to finding the photos that best represent the Silver State's people, places, and landscapes. This year, thousands of phenomenal shots were sent in across eight categories. Suffice it to say, judgment was not easy! But the results are finally in, so without further ado, check out this year's esteemed winners.

SCOTT MORTIMORE, GRAND PRIZE

"In late April, my son and I headed out—dogs in tow—to one of our favorite desert haunts. Here, we find caves, dunes, and a dry lakebed in a landscape where the weather likes to play. I was drawn to the innocence of this image and how all the angles lead inward toward this trio of adventurous buddies."

 iPhone 13, 1/270s, f/2.4, ISO 32

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LEE MOLOF, 1ST PLACE, CITIES/URBAN


"I captured this scene from a site just above the LDS Temple looking across the western Reno foothills. The low-angled light of the rapidly setting sun set ablaze—if only briefly—the late afternoon cumulonimbus clouds."

 Canon 5Dmkiv, 1/250s, f/8, ISO 320



JAMES MARVIN PHELPS, 2ND PLACE, CITIES/URBAN


"The Las Vegas Gateway Arches truly epitomize the spirit of this vibrant city and have brought a fresh wave of excitement and splendor to the already dazzling landscape of the city. As I stood there with my camera, I couldn't help but marvel at the striking colors and mesmerizing LED lighting that adorned the arches."

 Canon 5Dmkiv, 1.3s, f/18, ISO 100



KEN HUYNH, 1ST PLACE, LANDSCAPE

“I was on a mission to look for the long-eared owl that I had a glimpse of a few days prior but ultimately couldn’t find it. Feeling defeated, I walked back to the truck as the sun rose above the horizon and hit this scene just right. Clouds were the cherry on top, as this area often has none.”

 Sony ILCE-1, 1/500s, f/5.6, ISO 100

KURT KUZNICKI, 2ND PLACE, LANDSCAPE

“The super bloom of a generation was spreading across northeastern Nevada. Early June was cold, a slight breeze was moving the flowers, but at least the rain had stopped. I still couldn’t see the peaks, but as the sun began to rise, the clouds started to recede, and the tall dark granite peaks of the East Humboldt Wilderness finally came into view. The light moved playfully on the peaks and a defused warm glow kissed the lupine and balsam root.”

 Fujifilm X-T3, 1/150s, f/10, ISO 400





KATIE CERNY, 1ST PLACE, PEOPLE

"Virginia City has a way of attracting people from across the country who come to witness its history by foot, car, trolley, and train. When walking its streets, you may get lucky enough to hear the Sugar Sweet String Band playing some tunes for you to enjoy."

📷 Canon Rebel T100, 1/800s, f/5.6, ISO 1250



STEVE LUTHER, 2ND PLACE, PEOPLE


"Women of the Nevada Northern Railway take a quick pause from their duties running this historic engine. The train was making a run out toward the old mining area of Ruth, and the stately locomotive along with the bright yellow caboose really stood out in the otherwise monochromatic desert landscape."

📷 Sony ILCE-7RM3, 1/640s, f/8, ISO 100



DENISE WOODWARD, 1ST PLACE, WILDLIFE

"I was driving out to see my dad, who lives on a piece of land near the family ranch where he grew up. It has a great view of the Jackson Mountains, and the drive is always breathtaking. What a great day it was to see a herd of antelope out in the field enjoying the crisp winter afternoon."

 Canon R5, 1/160s, f/8, ISO 100



KEN HUYNH, 2ND PLACE, WILDLIFE

"I'd been watching this great horned owl family for a few days. One night, I noticed the weather forecast stating it would be windy and cold the next morning. I woke up before sunrise and headed to the spot to wait. After three hours, the babies finally got cold and snuggled together. My patience paid off that morning!"


 Sony ILCE-1, 1/800s, f/8, ISO 800

Do you have a view of Nevada you want to show off? The contest is open to visitors and residents alike, and there is no cost for submitting photos.

Watch for next year's contest information in the Summer 2024 issue.

RICK POTT, 1ST PLACE, GHOST TOWNS

"I went out to the abandoned Potts Ranch (no relation) for an evening of winter tent camping. This Monitor Valley property once had the reputation as one of the best cattle operations in Nevada, and the ranch house still stands in fairly good condition. It was a bit creepy as there were sounds coming from the walls of the main house, which I later realized to be birds nesting."

 Sony ILCE-1, 15s,
f/2.0, ISO 3200



RICK TEGELER, 2ND PLACE, GHOST TOWNS

"Having visited photographed and explored more than 200 ghost towns, camps, and lost mines in Nevada, Berlin is still one of my all-time favorites. It embodies much of what there is to see of Nevada's mining history. It is remote, but relatively accessible. It remains in a state of arrested decay thanks to the efforts of the State Park."

 Nikon D7000, 1/60s



LIZ HUNTINGTON, 1ST PLACE, EVENTS

"Every September for the past 64 years, Virginia City has celebrated its International Camel & Ostrich Races. What the title of the event doesn't tell you is that they race zebras, too! Zebras are temperamental, comical, and a hoot to watch and photograph at the races."

📷 Canon 5Dmkiv,
1/2000s, f/2.8, ISO 800



MORGAN STINNETT, 2ND PLACE, EVENTS

"I took this shot during Aviation Nation 2022 at Nellis Air Force Base as the jets were taxiing back to the flight line. The combination of the American flag, mountains in the background, and the visible heat from the engine made for a great shot. These pilots have a lot of love and pride for what they do and for their country."

📷 Nikon D5100,
1/1600s, f/5.6, ISO 400



**TAMI FORCE, 1ST PLACE,
CELL/MOBILE PHONE**

“Stanley Paher—the godfather of Nevada ghost towns—invited me to camp with his group near Hamilton. I parked my Jeep between my tent and the group campfire, poured a glass of wine, and turned to see the most beautiful cotton candy sunset... then I saw the reflection in the Jeep's windows.”

📷 iPhone 11, 1/90s, f/1.8, ISO 125



**ROGER PORTS, 2ND PLACE,
CELL/MOBILE PHONE**

“Despite poor weather on a family road trip, the kids insisted we stop at Cathedral Gorge State Park. We immediately fell for the absolute magic of the place. Sunlight still played upon the park, but the atmosphere to the north had become alive! The darkest clouds I had ever seen were swirling and dancing in the wind, all while the incredible geological art glowed in the sun.”

📷 iPhone XS, 1/5700s, f/1.8, ISO 25

Elko

Discover Nevada's wild north from this Western heritage capital.

Founded in 1868, Elko began life as a station on the Union Pacific line. Thanks to its prime location near the railroad and the Humboldt River, the northeastern Nevada town became a busy community surrounded by a sprawl of farms and ranches.



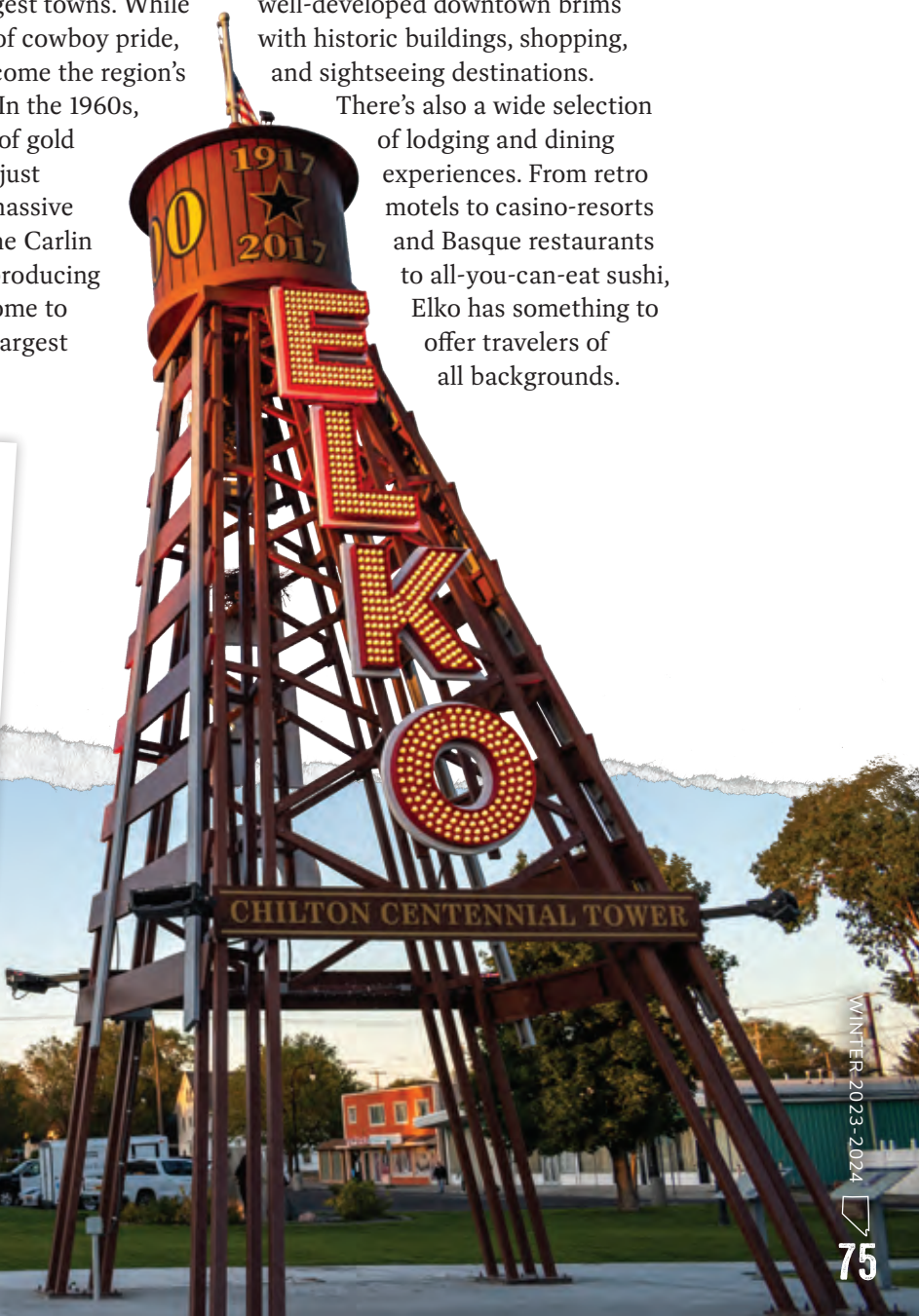
Buckaroos and sheepherders had no difficulty finding work in Elko, and folks soon arrived from around the globe. Some of the town's earliest settlers were from the Northern Paiute tribes, Basque Country, and Latin America. Today, their cultural influence is seen in Elko's restaurants, museums, and festivities.

For more than a century, Elko has enjoyed steady growth and is now one of Nevada's largest towns. While there is still plenty of cowboy pride, gold mining has become the region's dominant industry. In the 1960s, a 50-mile-long belt of gold ore was discovered just west of town. The massive strike—known as the Carlin Trend—continues producing to this day and is home to the world's second largest gold mine.

Indeed, there seems to be no shortage of natural resources in the Elko area. South of town, the commanding, white-capped Ruby Mountains strike a magnificent silhouette. To the north, rolling hills of grass and sage lead into some of the West's most rugged country.

Elko is an excellent launch point for discovering Nevada, but don't forget the city proper. Its charming, well-developed downtown brims with historic buildings, shopping, and sightseeing destinations.

There's also a wide selection of lodging and dining experiences. From retro motels to casino-resorts and Basque restaurants to all-you-can-eat sushi, Elko has something to offer travelers of all backgrounds.



DOWNTOWN

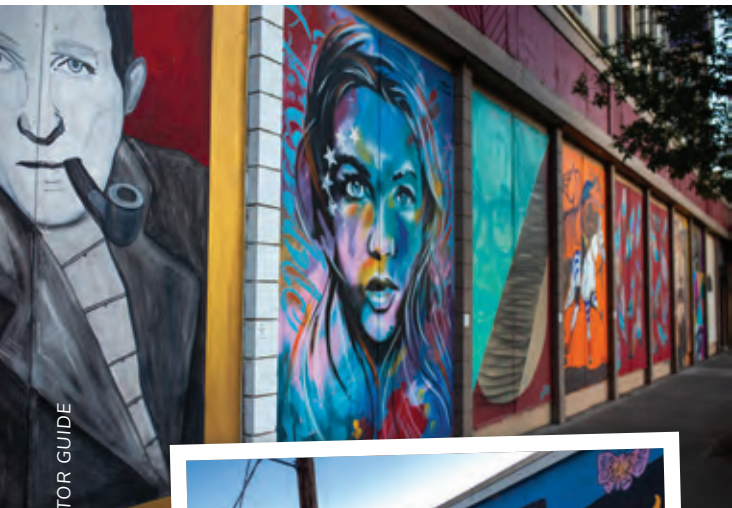
Elko's commercial core is well-preserved, delightfully colorful, and bursting with unique buildings. This pedestrian-friendly district is also packed with dining and shopping experiences. As you tour your way through Elko's historic center, don't miss these beloved stops.



DOWNTOWN ELKO

Mural Tour

Downtown is illuminated with more than 60 brilliantly colored scenes capturing northwestern Nevada's cultural ties to Basque, American Indian, and cowboy cultures. The 4-block-long alley between Idaho Street and Railroad Street is worth a venture, and don't miss the dozen mural panels embellishing Roy's Market.



COWBOY ARTS & GEAR MUSEUM

Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum

This museum is filled with artifacts representing the cowboys of the American West. It also pays tribute to the continuing traditions practiced in Elko and fellow western communities. Admission is free, and even if time is short, stop in to check out their hat collection.





DINING GUIDE

Elko has a full restaurant scene, and for newcomers it might be difficult to decide on that next meal. Need some help? Here are some suggestions to get you started.

PIZZA

- ▶ Blind Onion Pizza

SUSHI

- ▶ Blue Moon Asian Cuisine & Sushi Bar

COFFEE & DESSERT

- ▶ Cool Beans Coffee and Ice Cream
- ▶ Cowboy Joe Downtown
- ▶ Spoon Me

BREAKFAST, BRUNCH, AND LUNCH

- ▶ Dreez
- ▶ McAdoo's
- ▶ Coffee Mug



LUCIANO'S

MEXICAN

- ▶ Dos Amigos Mexican Restaurant
- ▶ Garibaldi's Restaurant Elko
- ▶ La Fiesta
- ▶ Rigoberto's

FINE DINING

- ▶ The Star Hotel Basque Dining
- ▶ Odeh's Mediterranean Kitchen
- ▶ Machi's Saloon & Grill
- ▶ Luciano's

FAST FOOD

- ▶ Arctic Circle
- ▶ Taco Time
- ▶ Dairy Queen



DREEZ

J.M. Capriola's

Grab your own piece of the American West at this famous saddle and leatherwork shop. The nearly-century-old business crafts some of the finest bits, spurs, and leather goods, catering to clients around the globe.



J.M. CAPRIOLA'S

Western Folklife Center

Best known as the headquarters for the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, this Elko staple is open all year and features a permanent art gallery, historic saloon, and gift shop. City slickers looking to slip into the country lifestyle are invited to attend the center's bimonthly folk song and dance concerts.



ANNUAL EVENTS

DECEMBER

Snowflake Festival

JANUARY

National Cowboy Poetry Festival

JUNE

Ruby Roubaix: Gravel Fondo

California Trail Days

Lamoille Country Fair

JULY

National Basque Festival

Silver State Stampede

SEPTEMBER

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival

Rides & Rodeo Elko

Classic Car Show

MUSEUMS

Looking for something on the quieter side? Maybe you just need somewhere that's climate controlled to recover from a strenuous hike. Regardless, Elko has not one but two excellent museums guaranteed to fill your afternoon with contemplation and plenty of local color.

Northeastern Nevada Museum

With its art gallery, taxidermy wildlife installation, and dozens of eye-catching exhibits, Elko's museum rivals those found in some large cities. Don't miss the life-size dioramas, mastodon fossil, Shoshone and Paiute art pieces, and the full-sized Pony Express cabin.



California Trail Interpretive Center

Located 10 miles west of town, many people may have not heard of this museum, but you should absolutely make a point to visit. Located right on the historic emigrant trail, this BLM-run facility offers creative exhibits that painstakingly detail the hard realities of settlement in the American West.



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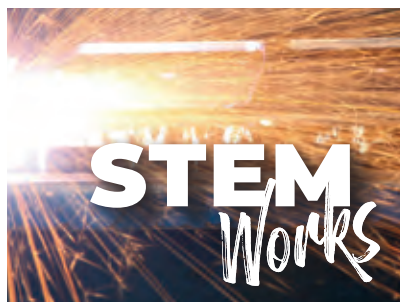
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DAY TRIPS

Some of the area's most popular destinations are just a short drive from downtown. You'll have plenty of time to adventure and explore before returning to Elko for evening entertainment.

Angel Lake

The 12-mile highway to Angel Lake begins in Wells—30 minutes east of Elko—and quickly ascends 3,000 feet before ending at this picture-perfect alpine cirque. You might want to pick the least distractable driver for this breathtaking drive: On some segments, the cliffsides begin a few short feet from the road. Expect expansive views of the valley, brilliant fall colors, and—if you're lucky—a family of bighorn sheep or pronghorn antelope. At the lake, you'll find plenty to fill the day or even an overnigher. The well-kept grounds include 26 camping spots, public bathrooms, picnic areas, and plenty of trails. Sites are reservable online.



ANGEL LAKE



METROPOLIS

Metropolis Ghost Town

At just one hour from Elko, this ghost town is an easily accessible destination for families. Upon arriving, visitors will spot the ruins of the Metropolis Hotel and the schoolhouse's conspicuous archway. Further west are the scattered remains of homesteads and a still-maintained town cemetery. Watch your step for sudden drop offs.



LAMOILLE CANYON

Lamoille Canyon

The short journey to the top of Lamoille Canyon is one of Nevada's most awesome scenic drives. There is no shortage of waterfalls and gorgeous picnic spots to enjoy as the road winds up this glacier-carved gorge. At the top of the canyon, visitors will find themselves at the trailhead for the 40-mile Ruby Crest Trail. Daytrippers can reach plenty of alpine lakes and mountain vistas.



INTO THE WILD NORTH

If you're willing to put in some mileage, the country north of Elko to the Idaho border is true Great Basin wilderness. Looping along Nevada State Routes 225 and 226 takes motorists through **Wild Horse State Recreation Area**, along the creek-laden Independence Mountains, and to the living ghost town of Tuscarora.

During the peak of summer, the dirt road from Elko to Jarbidge is open. This tiny community—which ranks among one of the most remote in the Lower 48—might be difficult to reach, but those who make the trek are rewarded with comfortable food and board in Nevada's stunning backcountry.



RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Situated on the eastern edge of the Ruby Mountains, this sprawling, 17,000-acre oasis of meadows and spring-fed marshes is an attractive recreation area for fishermen, birdwatchers, and photographers. First-come, first-served campsites are available at the South Ruby Campground, near the Ruby Marsh Visitor Center and Gallagher Fish Hatchery. Each site is equipped with a picnic table, fire ring, and access to a fish cleaning station and pit toilets.



WALK IT OUT

Snowshoeing delivers fresh air and frosty fun.

BY BRIGETTE PUGH

I need the outdoors like I need to hydrate. Hiking, mountain biking, and paddleboarding are not only great forms of exercise, but they also provide a mental and physical escape from offices, commutes, and household chores. When I moved back west after 15 years in warmer climes, I knew I needed to figure out how to get my outdoor fix during winter. I also knew skiing wasn't the answer.

LOOKING FOR A NEW PATH

I tried to love skiing. I grew up in the mountains and signed up for the cheap ski lessons through my junior high, but I couldn't get into it. I tried it again in my early '20s, thinking maybe my personality had magically changed in the ensuing years, but it's just not my sport. Still, I couldn't spend an entire season indoors.

Enter my first pair of snowshoes, a birthday gift I received during my first winter in Nevada. Now, 10 years—and hundreds of stomps—later, I am still using the same gear. Every time I head out, it costs me exactly zero dollars (unless you count gas and the rare occasion I pay for a cross-country course). The zero dollars is not my favorite thing about snowshoeing, but

it's a pretty awesome perk. Another bonus? Snowshoeing has almost no learning curve. If you can walk, you can snowshoe, and the cardio workout is no joke.

FINDING YOUR WAY

The internet or mobile apps like TrailForks and AllTrails make finding trails a breeze. My favorite trails are those close to home in Carson City. If we get snow below 5,000 feet, there's no need to drive up the mountain because plenty of the area's biking trails make for great snowshoe adventures. When the snow doesn't quite make it to the valley, it's time to drive up the mountain to find some powder.



FEATURES OUTDOOR RECREATION



TrailForks



AllTrails

As with any outdoor activity, play smart. Look at weather warnings, avoid areas with avalanche danger, let someone know your destination and when you expect to return, and choose trails with which you are familiar or are well tracked. Remember that even trails you know well can look very different under multiple feet of snow. If it is snowing when you head out, you may not be able to follow your tracks back, so familiarity with the terrain is imperative.

Snowshoeing is a cheap and fun way to enjoy this great big open space. Go get some fresh air!





MAKE TRACKS

Carson City and Carson Valley

- **V&T Trail** (easiest)—This Carson City route follows the alignment of the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad. Park off Combs Canyon Road on the north end of Murphy Drive. It's a simple out-and-back trail, has a mellow grade of about around 2 percent, and is mostly non-technical.
- **Lower Jacks Valley Loop** (easy)—There are a couple of places to access this trail system, but I like to park at James Lee Park Trailhead. You'll find trail access and a map at the back of the parking lot. The terrain covers rolling hills with no sustained climbing and beautiful Carson Valley vistas.
- **Ash Canyon** (moderate)—Access is on the west side of Carson City, at Foothill Drive off Winnie Lane. There are many different routes; trail apps will provide the best maps. Lower Ash Canyon trails offer out-and-back options and loops with an average grade of 6 percent.
- **Timberline Drive** (challenging)—To access this trail, follow Timberline Drive until it dead ends. This is a steep trail and can be done as an out and back. The full loop is 3.8 miles, takes about 2.5 hours (add time if you are in fresh snow) and has an elevation gain of about 1,200 feet.

Lake Tahoe area

- **Spooner Lake** (easy)—This trail starts at Spooner Lake State Park. The trail's popularity often makes it easy to navigate as others will have likely stomped the trail ahead of you. This is a fairly flat, 2.1-mile loop around Spooner Lake.

Jay Aldrich (Lower Jacks Valley Loop),
Martin Gollery (Chickadee Ridge group)

- **Chickadee Ridge** (easy)—This trailhead is located on State Route 431 (Mt. Rose Highway) near Mt. Rose Summit. It's a heavily trafficked, 3.5-mile loop with easy-to-moderate terrain. The trail's namesakes are incredibly friendly, so bring your camera.
- **Ophir Creek Loop** (easy to moderate)—To access this 3.2-mile loop with minimal elevation gain, park at the Tahoe Meadows parking area (near Chickadee Ridge). This section is the upper part of a longer trail that starts in Washoe Valley.
- **Tahoe Rim Trail** (moderate to challenging)—The TRT circumnavigates the lake, and you can start at either trailhead on State Route 50 at Spooner Summit. The trail north of the summit is quite popular for snowshoeing, so you will likely find lots of stomped snow unless it's right after a storm. On the way out, you are mostly climbing, but the steep sections are not long. If you want steeper, more sustained climbing, take the trail from the south parking lot.



VIEW FROM CHICKADEE RIDGE

SNOWSHOEING TIPS

- **Protect your skin:** Don't forget sunscreen and lip protection. The sun reflects off the snow, plus the higher altitude makes the UV rays more extreme.
- **Climb smart:** Depending on elevation steepness, it may be easier to sidestep up a slope. Some snowshoes offer heel lifts to help climb steep hills. While poles are not required, they do help on hills and can help you get up if you fall.
- **Fabric Matters:** Avoid cotton which, when wet, can quickly lower your body temperature and lead to hypothermia. Opt for synthetic materials for a base layer. These materials dry quickly and wick moisture away from skin. While wool does not wick moisture, it does help insulate and is a great outer layer. These options go for socks, as well.
- **Turn around:** If you're not on an established trail or using a tracking app, look back from time to time to familiarize yourself with your surroundings so you can better remember the way out. Falling snow, wind, or heavy melting can obscure tracks.
- **Watch the weather:** Always be sure to check weather reports—including avalanche forecasts—to avoid being caught in an emergency situation.
- **Pace yourself:** If visiting Nevada from a lower altitude, give your body a day or two to adjust before heading into the mountains: You may not be able to exert yourself as you normally do, so take it slow. Watch out for signs of altitude sickness, which include dizziness, headache, fatigue, confusion, lack of coordination, and shortness of breath.
- **Stay hydrated:** Your body requires more fluid at higher elevations, so you may find you need to drink more than usual. Do not rely on eating snow or ice as they can cool your body temperature. Water bladder bags freeze in colder temps, so bottled water might be a better option.
- **Safety first:** Always make sure someone knows where you're going and when you plan to return.

WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

PAHRUMP SOCIAL POWWOW

Pahrump
Nov. 17-19

What better way to spend a balmy winter weekend than at this three-day cultural celebration filled with dancing, music, and art. This event is open to all and boasts a wide selection of mouthwatering cuisine and colorful wares.

WRANGLER NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

Las Vegas
Dec. 7-16

Ever since 1985, this world-famous rodeo has entertained diehard crowds. Don't miss the main events like steer wrestling, bronco riding, barrel racing, and bareback riding.

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NEVADA EVENTS CALENDAR



Pahrump Social Powwow





CHRISTMAS ON THE COMSTOCK

Virginia City
Dec. 1-31

Each December, Virginia City transforms into Nevada's veritable Christmas capital. Bring the whole family to enjoy boutique shopping, parades, old-fashioned carriage rides, historic town tours, concerts, and saloon crawls.

RENO SANTA PUB CRAWL

Dec. 9
Reno

Dress up in your most festive holiday attire and join with 15,000 holiday revelers for a spirited charity fundraising event across more than 40 participating bars. It might go without saying, but this event is for the 21+ crowd.



NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

Jan. 29 - Feb. 3

For almost four decades, the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko has drawn cowpokes and urban cowboys alike to its lyrical blend of the Wild West, the spoken word, music, and more. Evolved from the earliest storytelling of the buckaroos who ranched and rode the western U.S., the event has earned an international audience.

Visitors can expect a packed schedule with writing, gear making, cooking workshops, Western art exhibits, film screenings, lectures, open-mic sessions, dances, and late-night jam sessions. And don't forget the shows, featuring some of the best poets, storytellers, and musicians in both ticketed and non-ticketed performances.

Visit Virginia City (Train interior)

SHOP LOCAL

Great gift inspiration awaits at Nevada's small businesses. We've chosen a few favorites, but scan

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



NEVADA-MADE GIFTS

that QR code for not only their contact information, but more great places to get that Silver State swag!



BLACK RABBIT MEAD CO. Reno

Nevada's first-ever meadery specializes in cider-style libations with honey sourced from the Sierra Nevada mountains. Aged in bourbon barrels, this delectable mead is refreshing; gluten-free; and available in a variety of fruits, herbs, and spice infusions.



CHOCOLATE SHOPPE Gardnerville

Get something sweet for the confection connoisseur in your family. This Gardnerville-based candy crafter specializes in small batch orders including chocolate bark, cherry cordials, honeycomb, toffees, and turtles.



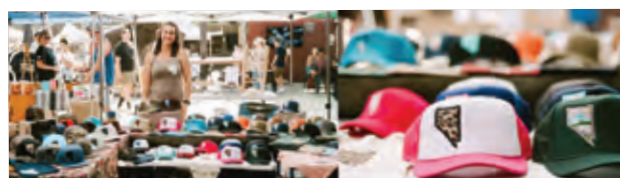
FLAG STORE SIGN & BANNER Sparks

If you need a one-stop shop for all things Nevada—including county and city flags, cutting boards, cookie cutters, and gift baskets—look no further than this champion of Silver State products.



BLACK ROCK MUD Fernley

Sourced straight from the earth of the Black Rock Desert and sustainably harvested by hand, this mineral-rich mud mask will leave your skin feeling oh, so good!





SIDE HILL SPRING LAVENDER

Central Nevada

Nothing says self-care like lavender oils, lotions, and sachets. This lavender comes straight from the Big Smoky Valley and is raised on natural spring water and plenty of Nevada sunshine.

SPOTLIGHT HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



ERICK BEGAY NATIVE AMERICAN JEWELRY

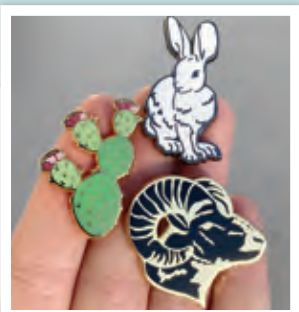
Boulder City

Featuring the finest in Native American art, this master gold-and silversmith offers bolo ties, belt buckles, watches, sand paintings, and a wide range of jewelry.

BATTLE BORN PINS

Las Vegas

Got a flair for flair? Dress up your look with enamel pins, stickers, and magnets representing vintage Vegas icons—think the Riviera, Stardust, Elvis, and the El Cortez's carpet—along with the state icons like sagebrush and bighorn sheep.



SPEAKEASY CANDLE CO.

Las Vegas

Cocktails and candles absolutely do mix. Browse this lineup of thoughtfully crafted scents to find that perfect aroma like the Gin & Tonic, which features notes of juniper, lime, red currant, and aged woods.



COLLECTIVE COFFEE ROASTER

Elko

Treat your coffee maker with gourmet beans shipped straight from this specialty Elko roaster. Delivery subscriptions are available!



NEVADA STATE PARKS ALL ACCESS PASS

Statewide

The Nevada State Parks All Access Pass is perfect for the weekend warrior in your life. For \$250, they'll get an entire year with no entrance, camping, and boating fees for all Nevada's state parks.

WYLD MARKET COLLECTIVE

Reno

This brand-new artisan collective celebrates collaboration by featuring emerging makers. Shop online to find a wide selection of local potters, weavers, and artists, or stop in at their retail space in the Reno Public Market.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Looking to shop local this holiday season? Check out madeinnevada.org for an incredible selection of goods grown and produced entirely within the Silver State. You can shop for everything from apparel and artisan crafts to a wide array of offerings from ranches and farms.

MADE IN NEVADA



ONLY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

In our issue archives, you'll find great stories like this one,
which first appeared in our August 1993 issue.

WAS THE GARDEN OF EDEN LOCATED IN NEVADA?

In 1924, a group of
scientists and reporters
announced that Yerington
was the cradle of civilization.

BY HARRY A. CHALEKIAN

On August 17, 1924, readers of the "San Francisco Examiner" received the shocking news with their Sunday morning coffee: The cradle of civilization had been discovered on a rocky hilltop near Yerington, Nevada.

WAS THE GARDEN OF EDEN
LOCATED IN NEVADA?" blared a front-page headline. An editor's note declared: "We have found what appears to be the evidence of the oldest civilization in the world—the oldest writing, the oldest art, the oldest sacrifice, the oldest worship, and the oldest burial."

For the next week the "Examiner," flagship of the Hearst newspaper empire, presented a spectacular series of articles and photos to support the theory that the Nevada site was "the actual scene of the creation of mankind." The reports were the result of an expedition to the Yerington area led by Alan Le Baron, a self-proclaimed archaeologist. The key discovery, according to the paper's breathless reports, was that the area's petroglyphs appeared to be related to—and even predate—the hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt. Thus, the Nevada site could be the cradle of mankind, the true Garden of Eden.



Stories called the hill near Yerington the "Site of a Thousand Tombs." Photos showed petroglyphs of birds, snakes, and bighorn sheep. Scientists from around the world offered authoritative comments. The headlines focused often on the petroglyphs:

NEVADA CARVINGS ARE LIKE
EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHS.

INSCRIPTIONS GIVE CLEW TO
ANCIENT MAN.

Other so-called discoveries
were announced in the series of
archaeological exposes:

TREMENDOUS ROCKS COVER
ANCIENT DEAD.

CHEMIST SAYS DUST IN TOMBS IS
MADE OF BONE.

Scan here
to continue
the story
to see how
the hoax got
started and
what actual
archeologists
have learned
about the site.



The "San Francisco Examiner" presented the first of several sensational reports on its expedition to Nevada's "Garden of Eden" on Sunday, August 17, 1924. The following excerpt reflects the excitement the paper hoped to generate, although Nevadans apparently paid little attention to the exercise in yellow journalism:



While California readers were being bombarded with this startling news, the Reno and Carson City newspapers did not mention the series. The "Yerington Times" made a rare reference to the investigation when it noted that "it seems that Lyon County is about to become the Mecca of numerous expeditions."

Around Yerington, residents had always believed the ancient petroglyphs were created by the forebears of the Paiute people. The late Sherman Lewis, a former ranch foreman, once recalled, "The local ranchers were too busy with their own lives and activities to pay much attention to the people from San Francisco. We thought Le Baron and his theories were cuckoo."

The locals' skepticism was well founded. For all its high-minded scientific pontifications, the Garden of Eden series turned out simply to be an entertaining hoax.

EVIDENCE FOUND WARRANTS DEEP PROBE OF SCIENCE

On a hill of blackened, broken rock, 30 miles south of Yerington, Nevada, are thousands of inscriptions carved with a crudeness that proves at once their vast age. Compared with all known inscriptions yet found on the face of the earth, they offer their own evidence of being among the first written records of humanity.

And the hill itself is the work of human hands; a cyclopean structure remindful of the Pyramids, built stone on stone into the "Hill of a Thousand Tombs."

The surrounding desert speaks in its own voice of the time when man could have lived happily there. Bones of elephants and lions and camels are mingled with the petrified remnants of luxuriant forests, gone for a million years.

Dr. E. Elliott Smith, professor of anatomy, University of

London, and world authority on Egyptology and the antiquity of man, says there is no other such monument in the world as the one in Nevada. "It is," he says, "a discovery of tremendous importance."

The San Francisco "Examiner" has, for three months, been making every possible test to prove or disprove the theory that in this area, and not on the desert plains of Asia, humankind had its origin and Man began his struggle upward to gain dominion over his inheritance—the Earth....

"The Examiner's" role has been that of explorer-discoverer of evidence. It leaves to science the weighing of that evidence and the determination of its significance. It expects a controversy. Science seldom reaches a truth without a preliminary warfare of dissenting opinions.

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. Subscriptions also make the perfect gift for students, history buffs, and Nevada lovers of all ages.

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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.

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MUSEUMS

WHAT'S *New?*

All around Nevada, exciting things are happening. Here are just a few!



TURNING UP THE GREEN

The small town of Baker—just 36 people in 2020—is the first rural green dining district in the Green Dining Nevada program. Six restaurants have been designated green dining establishments by greenUP!, a nonprofit working with Nevada businesses to implement sustainable best practices. The eateries are the Great Basin Café; Sugar, Salt and Malt; Sandra's Mexican Food; 487 Grill; Border Inn Casino; and Bristlecone General Store. Baker is 5 miles east of Great Basin National Park.



A NEW CELEBRATION

Laughlin River Tours has a new luxury-style yacht in its fleet: The Grand Celebration. These cruises on the Colorado River are perfect for family afternoon excursions, fine dining, date nights, and for special events including weddings and parties.

Laughlin River Cruise
Kristen Kabrin (Group of people sitting at table)

GHOST STORIES

Reno is now home to US Ghost Adventure's newest ghost tour. Reno Ghosts Tour's nightly, one-hour event takes fans of the macabre to the Biggest Little City's most haunted and historic sites. Tour guides weave tales of notorious deeds, unsolved mysteries, and ghostly encounters.



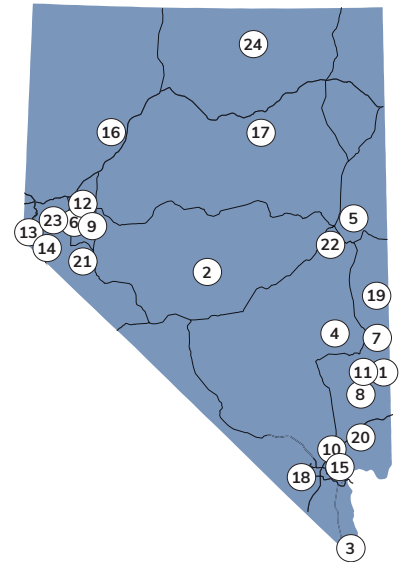
STATE PARKS

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. Ice Age Fossils State Park										
11. Kershaw-Ryan State Park	•	•	•					•		30'
12. Lahontan State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	60'
13. Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	N/A
14. Mormon Station State Historic Park			•			•				N/A
15. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park			•			•		•		N/A
16. Rye Patch State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	45'
17. South Fork State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	30'
18. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park			•			•		•		N/A
19. Spring Valley State Park	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	35'
20. Valley of Fire State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		50'
21. Walker River State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	50'
22. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park	•			•				•	•	30'
23. Washoe Lake State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	45'
24. Wild Horse State Recreation Area	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	60'

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
(Sand Harbor)



Know Before You Go:
Park openings, hours, and services are subject to change. Before visiting, consult parks.nv.gov, or call the park ranger.



GET A LITTLE OUT THERE.

Hop in your car and head into the big-hearted heart of Nevada. Experience the uncommon curiosities and delightful contradictions of the Silver State—away from the neon you know. We've got the space to be. Be offbeat. Be creative. Be free. Just be.



Get inspiration for your
Nevada trip at TravelNevada.com



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.

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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.



MOUNT CHARLESTON



FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

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

GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

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



LAKE TAHOE LOOP

145 miles | 2 to 5 days

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

For more Neon to Nature adventures, turn to pg. 34.



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



WINTER SPORTS

Snow time like the present to get outside.



ALL THIS AND
MUCH MORE AT



EXTRATERRESTRIAL
FUN

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



Ready to put
rubber to the
road?



ITINERARIES



MORE?

Luxuriate while you get yourself in a little hot water.



HOT SPRINGS RESORTS



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



MUSEUMS



RV PARKS

Find the right spot for that mobile abode.



DISTILLERIES



Discover the true "spirit" of the Silver State.

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.

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MORE INFO



DIRT ROAD CODE



SPOONER LAKE

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



Michael Branch

Michael Branch is an award-winning writer and a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is also a humorist, father, and environmentalist.

THE FINAL WORD MICHAEL BRANCH

NM&VG: When did your love affair with Nevada begin?

MB: When I graduated from college in Virginia in 1985, I jumped in my pickup and came west for the first time. Encountering the landscapes of the Mountain West was an absolutely transformative experience. Of all the spectacular environments I encountered, none captured my imagination the way the Great Basin Desert did. Nevada shattered all my assumptions about what a landscape could be, and I vowed that I would become a permanent resident of this high desert wilderness. That dream came true in 1995, and I've been a high desert rat ever since.

NM&VG: Tell us about your Great Basin activism and stewardship.

MB: For me, environmental activism comes in several forms. There's the kind of direct advocacy you might expect, which comes in the form of supporting groups like Friends of Nevada Wilderness. There's also education. I teach a course called The Literature of Nevada, which allows students to learn more about their home landscape and to think about how they might engage it in a meaningful and sustainable way. Then there's my writing, which I always conceive as a form of advocacy.

NM&VG: As a professor, has humor always been a part of your lessons?

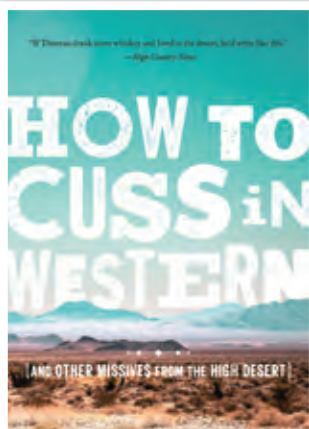
MB: Definitely! Humor not only entertains students, but it helps open their minds to ideas they might otherwise resist. People who laugh together trust each other more. Humor is also a powerful tool for building community. Most importantly, humor is an agent of hope, because when we laugh at something, however painful that something might be, we have an uplifting sense that we can endure it. Laughter helps us live to fight another day, and that's something we all need.

NM&VG: When you encounter people who don't know Nevada, what is the first thing you tell them?

MB: That they're about to encounter something so weird, alien, surprising, bizarre, unimaginable, fantastic, and astonishing...that unless they're willing to let go of all their preconceptions about the Silver State, they won't be able to really see this place at all.

NM&VG: Describe your perfect Nevada weekend.

MB: It might involve climbing in solitude to the high ridge of a desert mountain range. Sit and watch in silence as the moon rises above the serrated horizon. Or it could include crouching in the shade of a granite outcropping and watching in awe as a band of pronghorn glide across the sage-dotted land at a cool 60 mph. It certainly isn't complete without drinking a Great Basin Ichthyosaur IPA while playing croquet on a remote playa, where the ball rolls so far that the wickets must be placed out of sight of each other, and hiking from one wicket to the next feels like traversing a distant planet.



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