NEWAIDA

Fall 2024

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MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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The Golden Age of Las Vegas



Incline Village







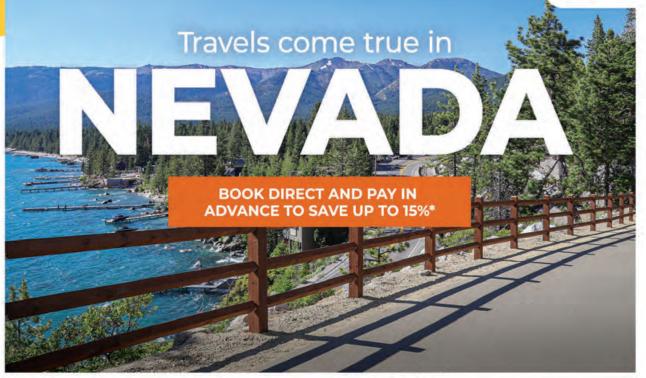


















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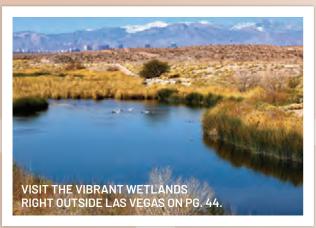
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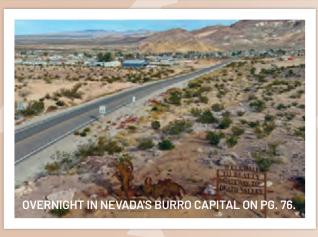


NEVADA •

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NEVADA EXPERIENCES, Tenfold

A few months back, I celebrated my 10-year anniversary as a part of Nevada Magazine and Travel Nevada.

I've written a lot of editor's notes about how lucky I am to have this job and all the adventures I've had during my time here. I'm amazed how quickly the decade passed, and it got me to thinking about some of the questions I hear most often in my capacity as magazine editor. Here are a few of my favorites:

Do you really like all that desert?

Yes, I truly do. I lived in a very lush place on the East Coast for a decade,

and it was gorgeous and refreshing. But I longed for the heady pine scent of the Sierra Nevada and the stark arid beauty of Pyramid Lake in equal measure. As I've said before, I have dirt in my veins.

Is there any place in Nevada you haven't been?

Of course there is—I just can't figure out where it is. In all honesty, there are not very many places I haven't traveled to over the course of my job. I've driven tens of thousands of miles around the state and visited (almost) every single town, most more than once. And yet, somehow, I'm about to embark on a trip to somewhere I've wanted to visit for years, but never have. You'll read about it in a coming issue.

How do you find new things to write about?

While it can be tough sometimes, my greatest source of inspiration comes from the people around me, including our readers. Emails about new attractions, venues, shops, etc., are a great help, as is the team here at Travel Nevada. Along with traveling, we reach out to various sectors, and that line of communication across the state is invaluable. I also look at places I've been or things I've done through others' eyes as often as I can, because a new perspective often leads to a new story. And sometimes, once in a while, I write about something just because I love it so much and simply want to share it!

It's been truly the job of a lifetime for me, and I hope to continue writing about Nevada for many years to come. If you ever have a story idea for me, I love seeing emails that start "Have you ever been to ...??"

Enjoy!



MY FIRST OFFICIAL ROAD TRIP IN 2014. HIGH ROCK CANYON BLEW MY MIND, AND IT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.





Use this QR code to take our survey and tell us what you like/don't like about the guide and you may win a swag bag!



Megg Mueller, Executive Editor

SOCIAL

If you're wandering the Silver State, we want to hear about it.



With its white peaks, red rock canyons, and expansive sagebrush valleys, Nevada is about as photogenic as a state can be. You can help us brag about this place by sharing your favorite travel moments with us on social media. Each issue, we'll take some of our favorites and show them off. Who knows, maybe your shot will be the one that inspires someone's next visit.



Winnemucca

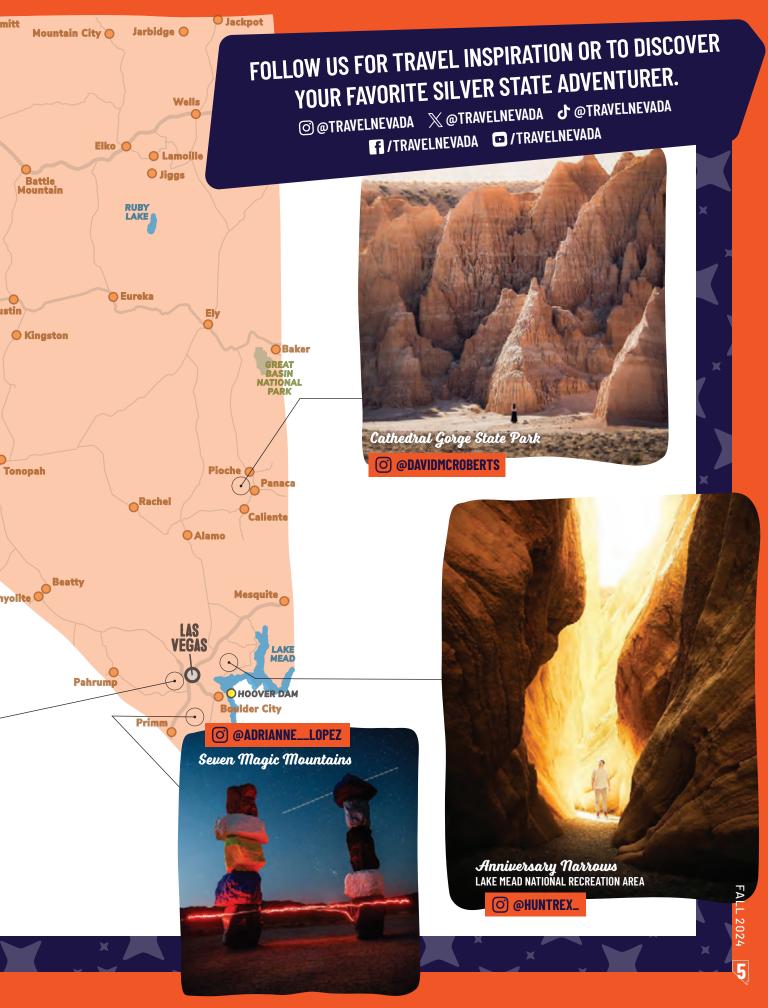
Lovelock

RYE PATCH RESERVOIR

Gerlach

PYRAMID

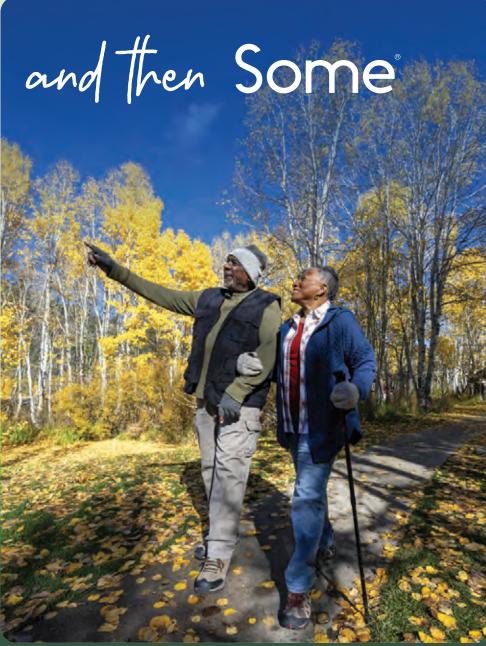






#NVROADTRIP





In autumn, Lake Tahoe is more than a pretty place – it's all sorts of awesome, all to yourself. It's the feeling you get from seeing the largest alpine lake in North America, and living the Rules to Lake By will help keep it blue for future generations. When you enjoy lower room rates, fewer crowds and changing leaves, you also help us preserve the awe. This is where you come alive. It's Awe and then Some.



Scan to plan your autumn trip.





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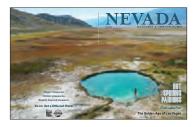


From desert oases to metropolitan museum crawls, you'll find no shortage of autumn adventures across the Silver State.

COVERS

At Smith Ranch Hot Springs, the Ruby Mountains provide

a commanding backdrop. Read more about this remote spring on pg. 62. **Photographer:** Max Djenohan/ @nomadikmax



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Meet the ichthyosaur at the Nevada Museum of Art's newest exhibition

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THE FINAL WORD

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A conversation with the White Pine County Director of Tourism



DID YOU KNOW? RENO

Few U.S. cities enjoy an epithet as wellsuited-and wellused—as The Biggest Little City in the World. Unlike most Nevada communities—which were born as gold or silver camps—Reno was founded as a railroad town. In 1931, it became a major tourist destination after Nevada legalized six-week divorces and gambling, Today, Reno attracts visitors yearround with its mild four-season climate. lavish resorts, colorful Midtown District, and easy access to outdoor playgrounds like Lake Tahne.

The University of Nevada **RELOCATED** FROM ELKO TO RENO in



-MILE-LONG Truckee River flows from Lake Tahoe, through Reno, and empties into Pyramid Lake

Throughout the 1930s, the Washoe County Courthouse granted more than

DIVORCES

The Nevada Museum of Art is one of only

of museums in the U.S.

ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN **ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS**

Reno's FIRST ARCH —built in

is now located on Lake Street

The Reno Riverwalk District is home

to more than

FOOD, DRINK, AND **ENTERTAINMENT** destinations

Reno was Nevada's LARGEST CITY

from 1910-1950

At

Rancho San Rafael is Reno's largest park and features a botanical garden, disc golf course, museum, and dozens of miles of trails

Between **1904**downtown Reno

> operated **ELECTRIC STREETCAR LINES**

similar to



WITH EVENTS TASTY TREATS



This has always been my favorite time of year. Temperatures start to cool and, before we know it, the holidays will be here. As fall beckons at our doorstep, I hope you'll find a few days to enjoy all that Nevada has to offer.

Travelers across the U.S. hop aboard planes to get a glimpse of vibrant fall foliage, but striking shades of copper and gold can be found right here! Great Basin National Park is home to impressive scenery, world-renowned dark skies (mark your calendar for the Great Basin Astronomy Festival happening Sept. 5-7), and groves of aspen trees along nearly every hillside.

This time of year is also ideal to visit a local farm. Did you know agriculture is one of Nevada's most important industries? It generates more than half a billion dollars every year and provides thousands of jobs to our residents.

Held Aug. 23-25, the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair celebrates the town's lasting love for its locally grown Hearts of Gold cantaloupes. Nosh on tasty melon treats—from shakes and ice cream to juicy slices with decadent toppings and beyond—along with live entertainment, carnival rides, livestock exhibits, and plenty of vendors.

In the Las Vegas area, you're just a short drive away from Gilcrease Orchard, where you can pick your own apples and pumpkins. Just don't leave without a batch of fresh Gilcrease apple cider—or, my favorite, their apple cider donuts. These treats are made right on the orchard grounds and are a must-have for visitors in the know!

No matter where you choose to explore, you'll always find an authentic autumn experience in Nevada.

I'm proud to serve as Nevada's lieutenant governor, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to highlight the people and places that make the Silver State America's most exciting vacation destination. Whether you're looking to explore only-found-here fall festivals (check out the World Championship Outhouse Races in Virginia City from Oct. 5-6!) or #GetALittleOutThere and peep fall leaves or starry skies, you'll find there is something for everyone here in Nevada!

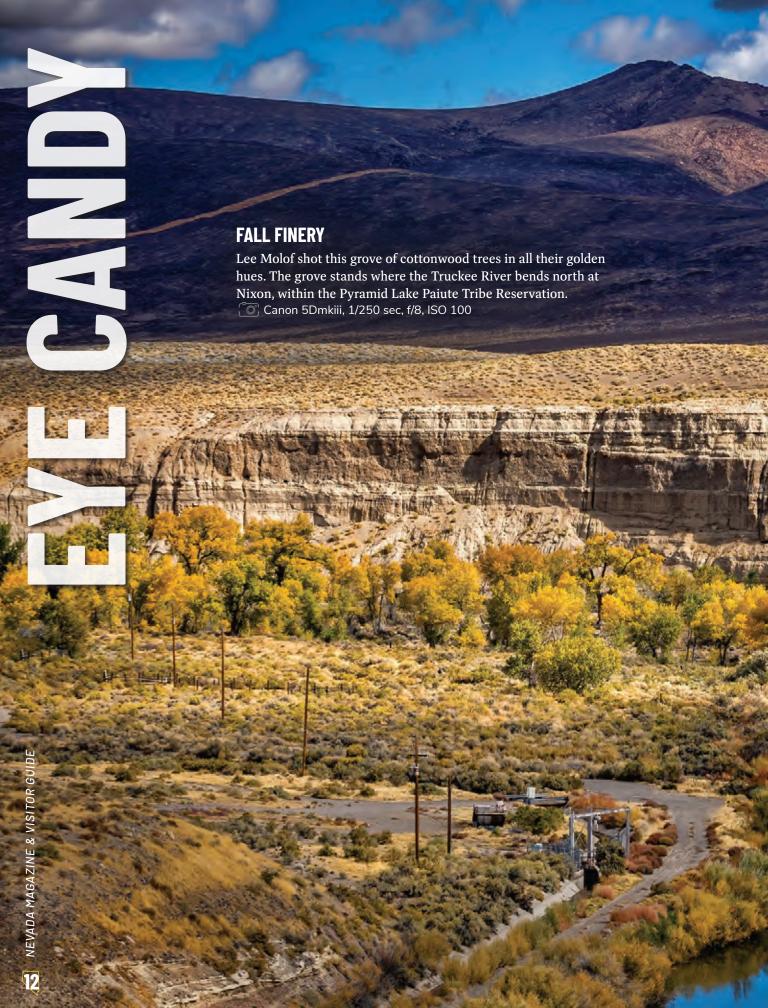
If you've lived here all your life, just moved here, or are simply visiting, I encourage you to hit the road and explore this great state.

Stavros S. Anthony Lieutenant Governor

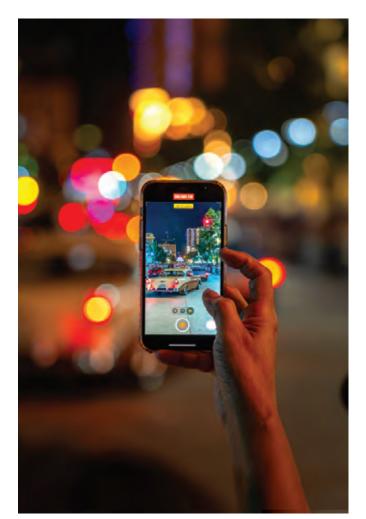
Chairman, Nevada Commission on Tourism

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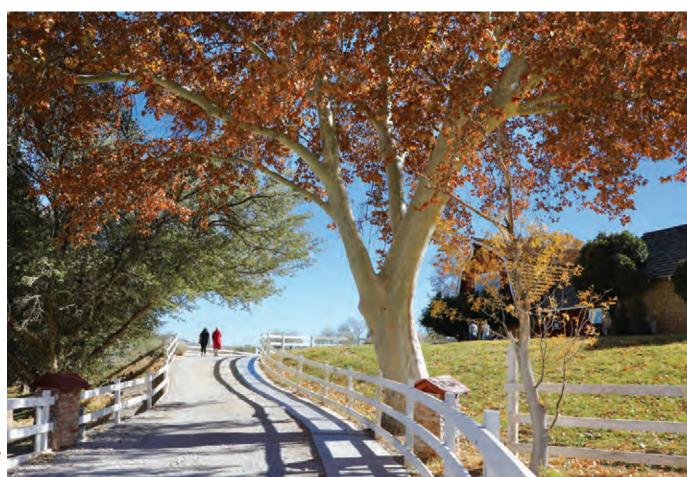
KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK











FRAME STORY

Opposite page, top left: Matt Aguilera was in downtown Reno during Hot August Nights. "I noticed someone taking video where the cars were turning. I adjusted my exposure because the cars were moving pretty slowly. I love the bokeh and perspective of the image."

Sony A7iv, 1/50 sec, f/2.8. ISO 640

CCC FOR YOURSELF

Opposite page, top right:
"A night out camping on the trail led us to Gold Butte National Monument, where we found this very old dam at Whitney Pocket," says Diane Bedell. "The Civilian Conservation Corp built it in the 1930s. It's so unique with stairs leading up to a beautiful view."

Nikon Z8, 1/200 sec, f/11. ISO 64

STATE PARK STROLL

Opposite page, bottom: To Paula Lawlor, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park is especially lovely in the fall. "I took the short walk to the historic ranch house, which takes you through some beautiful, old trees. When you get to the house, there are stunning views out over the ranch."

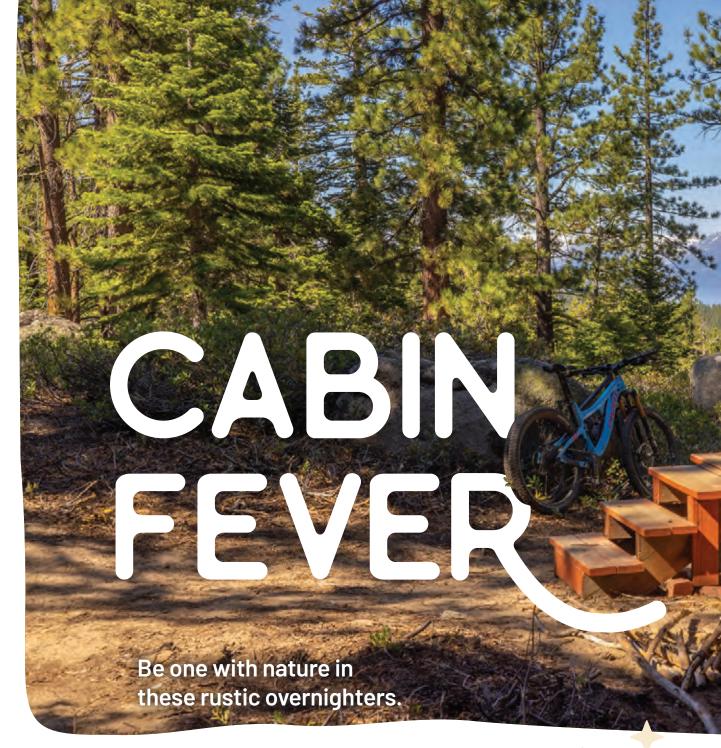
Canon 5Dmkiv, 1/160 sec, f/8. ISO 100

ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER

Tom Rassuchine took this photo heading back to the Canvasback Duck Club in the Stillwater Wetlands outside Fallon. This beautiful desert oasis attracts hundreds of waterfowl and wildlife species.

DJI, 1/180 sec, f/2.8, ISO 100





There's nothing quite like overnighting in a cabin. Simple, secure, and weatherproof, cabins provide comfortable shelter in even the most remote areas. And for those folks that aren't fans of tent camping, cabins are an excellent way to experience the elements while keeping those creature comforts. Plenty of cabin getaways await across the Silver State, but here are some of our favorites to get you started.







SPOONER LAKE CABIN

These two backcountry cabins (it's a 2-mile hike to Wildcat) are the perfect basecamp for exploring the Lake Tahoe Basin wilderness. Available May to October, both are equipped with basic amenities including cot beds, a wood burning stove, and compostable toilet. Be sure to reserve in advance, and bring in all essentials like sleeping bags, food, cookware, water, etc.





A short walk away, ghost towners will find remains of the old town, including a shack briefly occupied by Mark Twain.

grand piano, and an inviting hearth. The residence easily accommodates a large group, and with its full-size kitchen, you'll find it easy to whip up

any home-cooked creation.



Soldier Meadows Cabin NORTH WASHOE COUNTY

One of the most remote locations in the Lower 48, Soldier Meadows is famous for its dark skies and its hot spring (see pg. 62). If you're in luck, you'll be able to take advantage of the site's free cabin, which is overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. Available on a first-come, first-served basis, the cabin is equipped with a wood burning stove, pit toilet, and plenty of room to stretch out for the night. Soldier Meadows is about as far from

civilization as you can get, so come prepared.



MINER'S CABIN INTERIOR MINER'S CABIN

Miner's Cabin GOLD HILL

Celebrate spooky season at the infamous miner's cabin, located near the entrance to the historic Yellowjacket Mine in Gold Hill. During the Comstock era, this cabin served as a search checkpoint to ensure miners weren't pilfering gold and silver ore at the end of their shift. In 1869, a mine fire took the lives of nearly 35 miners, and some bodies were never recovered. Today, the cabin—an apartmentstyle lodge that sleeps up to six people and includes a full kitchen and two bathrooms—is considered one of the state's most haunted abodes.











Today, the 315-acre park preserves thousands of fossilized remains, including Columbian mammoths, bison, saber-toothed cats, American lions, dire wolves, and giant sloths.

But unlike Nevada's other state parks, Ice Age Fossils was entirely undeveloped upon dedication and was without exhibits, pathways, or even a visitor center. At that time, park managers still had to decide how they were going to protect the sensitive fossils and excavation sites while allowing the public to explore the area. After years of development, Ice Age Fossils State Park made its public debut on January 20.

"In a lot of ways, it was a blank slate," says park supervisor Garrett Fehner. "We had to envision the entire park from scratch and decide what our important stories were and how to tell them. That's what we've been doing the past six years, determining what the park's going to look like. It was a pretty intense planning process."

A Historic Find

For Fehner, the park's history begins in 1903 after the first fossils were uncovered by Josiah Spurr of the U.S. Geological Survey. This discovery led to more excavations and a claim that had the potential to turn prehistory on its head.

In 1933, blackened material believed to be charcoal and burned bones were found in pockets resembling campfire pits. Upon review, archeologist Mark Raymond Harrington claimed the discovery could prove that humans migrated to the Americas and coexisted with the Pleistocene megafauna much earlier than previously thought, potentially making Tule Springs the oldest archeological site in North America.

Harrington's theory sparked intense debate and attracted interest across the scientific community. In 1962, biologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists gathered at the site for a four-month excavation known as the Big Dig. To help them study the sediment, heavy construction equipment and earth movers carved 2 miles of deep trenches into the harsh desert landscape.

"The Big Dig was a big deal," Fehner explains. "'National Geographic' had a photographer out here because they thought this was going to be something really important. And those claims just did not hold up to that level of scrutiny. They unearthed thousands of fossils, but that's not really what they were looking for. They wanted to connect these fossils to the humans of that age."

The "charcoal" that they found was actually carbonized wood and not evidence of a human-made campfire. Nobel Prize winner William Libby, developer of radiocarbon dating, concluded that the recovered material was not from humans, disproving theories that ancient people interacted with Ice Ageera animals.

For Dr. Stephen Rowland, a paleontologist for the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, the expedition was still historic in its findings given that radiocarbon dating was relatively new.

"It was revolutionary because they were actually getting radiocarbon dating while the Big Dig site was being





excavated with bulldozers," Rowland says. "From a paleontologist's point of view, that's wonderful history. They found some interesting dates and so on, but they didn't find any spear points stuck into the rib cages of mammoths or anything to prove there was human interaction with these Ice Age animals at Tule Springs. As a result, the site sort of fell off the radar screen."

Exploring The Park

Upon arriving at Ice Age Fossils State Park, the first thing visitors spot is the "Monumental Mammoth," a tribute to the area's former residents. The steel skin of this colossal sculpture was created from metal collected during public cleanups of the adjacent Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument.

The park has three trails that allow visitors to fully explore the landscape. The flat, 0.3-mile Megafauna Trail features interpretive signs and metal sculptures of the prehistoric animals that once roamed the area. The 1.5-mile Las Vegas Wash Trail weaves through a dry wash



area, and the 1.2-mile Big Dig Trail works its way through the deep trenches dug during the Big Dig excavation.

The visitors center offers a glimpse into the past. A video projection shows what the lush landscape would have looked like when ancient animals roamed the land, and a 10-minute film gives a brief introduction to the park. Throughout the center, interactive displays and dozens of excavated finds help fill in the park's natural history.

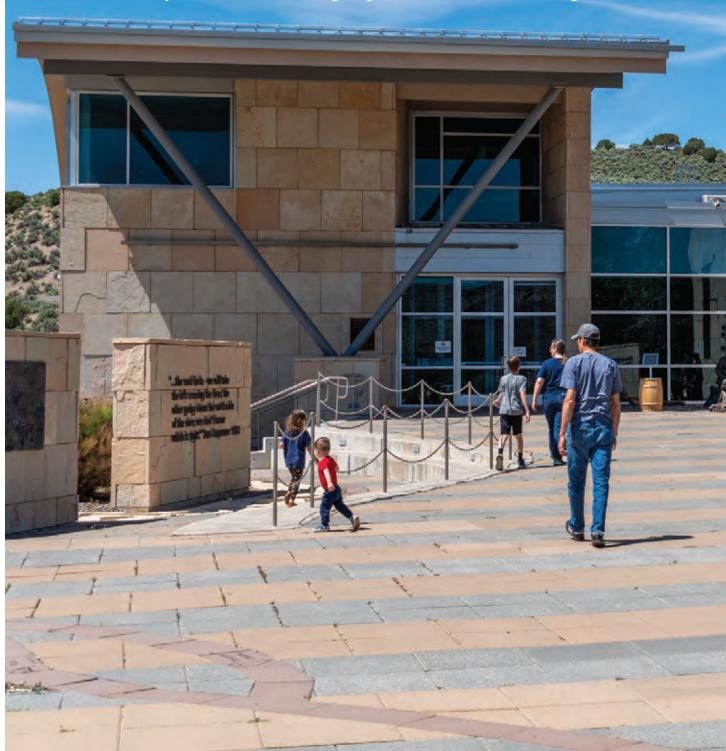
Although now an official state park, Ice Age's story is nowhere near complete. Thousands of fossils have been unearthed, but more are being found to this day. In late March, visitors hiking in the park spotted something on a trail and alerted rangers who went out to the area and excavated a partial Columbian mammoth tooth.

"After it rains new discoveries are often made," Fehner says. "We don't point out the fossils to the public but they're everywhere if you know what you're looking for. The goal was always to develop this park in a way that sparks interest and curiosity."

SEE PG. 99 FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF NEVADA'S STATE PARKS AND THEIR AMENITIES.



Elko museum preserves the legacy of the famous emigrant route.







Upon arrival, explore the grounds outside first. The plaza is packed with exhibits and mural-size quotes from trail travelers. Look down and you'll find yourself wandering a scale-model map of the Trail—about 10 miles a step.

Nearby, you'll spot faithful recreations of both Western Shoshone and pioneer camp sites complete with sagebrush huts and covered wagons. From here, take a gravel path up a gentle hillside to enjoy a 0.3-mile loop walk.



bit more, a 0.8-mile, out-and-back trail offers impressive views of the Humboldt River. Emigrants followed this winding waterway—the longest entirely within Nevada—for nearly 300 miles. From this vista, you can also see the conspicuous South Fork Canyon, which the Donner Party passed through in 1846 when rushing to reach the Sierra Nevada before the first frost.



In subsequent rooms, you'll follow the Platte River in the Great Plains, trek across the Salt Lake Desert, and survive the massive Great Basin before entering the most perilous stretch of the journey: the infamous 40-Mile Desert-today located between Lovelock and Reno. After crossing the Sierra Nevada, your journey ends in Gold Country, where relieved pioneers began their new lives.

While at the center, stop in the theater to enjoy a short film featuring the era's most famous emigrants: the Donner Party. Also, be sure to visit the great gift shop, which offers a variety of books, children's gifts, apparel, art, candy, a Nevada-specific library, and other miscellaneous goodies.







The center is open 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. every day during the spring and summer. Starting in October, it is open Wednesday-Sunday. There is no charge for admission.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS

The California Trail Interpretive Center hosts programs throughout the year, which include crafting workshops, summer camps, and presentations on the desert's wildlife, flora, and dark skies. Its largest event—held in early June—is California Trail Days. This family-friendly affair allows you to experience life in a wagon camp. You'll cook over an open fire, tend livestock, ride in a bumpy wagon, weave on a loom, and enjoy many other eraspecific activities.







wonderland of outdoor recreation. But what if you want to get a little out there?

The Silver State brims with alien adventures, haunted hot spots, and offbeat destinations, too. Let the Paranormal Passport lead you on a quest to discover otherworldly oddities throughout the state and earn spirited swag along the way.

SCAN THE CODE BELOW

to download the Paranormal Passport





SPOTLIGHT + ONLY IN NEVADA



How It Works

The Paranormal Passport showcases some of Nevada's most unique and unusual attractions. Sign up for the free download and a link will be sent to your phone via text or email. That's when the fun really begins. Open the Paranormal Passport (which you can access any time through the non-expiring link) and explore more than 50 locations and events. Hit the road and visit destinations at your own pace, check in digitally, and earn anywhere from 10-25 points per location.





When you first open your Paranormal Passport, you must grant permission to access your phone's location. This ensures you can successfully check into Paranormal Passport stops and get your points.



Sights to See

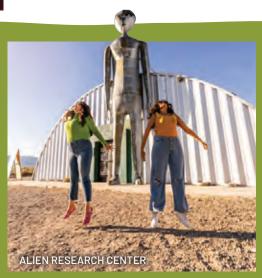
Where will the Paranormal Passport take you? From extraterrestrial encounters and haunted hotels to ghost towns and storied cemeteries, here are just a few of the only-in-Nevada experiences awaiting you in the Silver State.

ZAK BAGANS' THE HAUNTED MUSEUM

"Ghost Adventures" host
Zak Bagans has amassed a
collection of possessed and
unsettling objects from around
the world and housed them all
under one haunted roof near
downtown Las Vegas. Venture
down winding hallways and
secret passages by day or take a
flashlight ghost tour by night.

ALIEN RESEARCH CENTER

Found on the eastern edge of the Extraterrestrial Highway, the Alien Research Center is loaded with outta-this-world souvenirs. Plus, you can talk to locals who'll share the insider scoop on nearby Area 51 and UFO activity. If you see a two-story, silver alien gleaming in the desert sun, you've found the place.



THE CLOWN MOTEL

It's not just a clever name: Thousands of clown figurines and toys fill the lobby of this Tonopah motel that features a polkadot paint job and a cemetery next door. Pick up mementos from the gift shop or spend the night in rooms themed after "It," "Halloween," "The Exorcist," and more.

MIZPAH HOTEL

If you prefer ghosts over clowns, opt for the Mizpah Hotel (also in Tonopah). Originally built in 1907, the historic property has been lovingly restored with era-authentic touches and modern comforts. The Mizpah has also been voted the No. 1 Haunted Hotel by "USA Today" 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, and guests routinely report paranormal experiences here—particularly with the Lady in Red.







RHYOLITE GHOST TOWN

After the discovery of high-grade gold ore in 1904, Rhyolite went from being a two-tent mining camp to a bustling community of 5,000. In its heyday, the boomtown had banks, churches, and a train station, all built from stone. Those ruins are still standing strong just outside of Beatty, making Rhyolite one of the most visited ghost towns in the West.

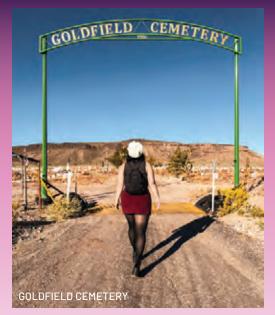
THE WASHOE CLUB GHOST TOURS

Located in the heart of Virginia City, this historic saloon has a seriously haunted past—and present. The Washoe Club is believed to be one of the West's most haunted locations, and the on-site crypt and museum lend serious credibility to the ghostly claims. Take a guided ghost tour and explore all three floors of the property or book an overnight investigation... if you dare.

The more check-ins you complete, the more points you'll earn. Redeem them for a variety of exclusive prizes, including an enamel mug, pint glass, tote, and sweatshirt. Each item is decked out with a frightfully fun illustration featuring some of Nevada's spookiest icons.



WASHOE CLUB





GOLDFIELD CEMETERY

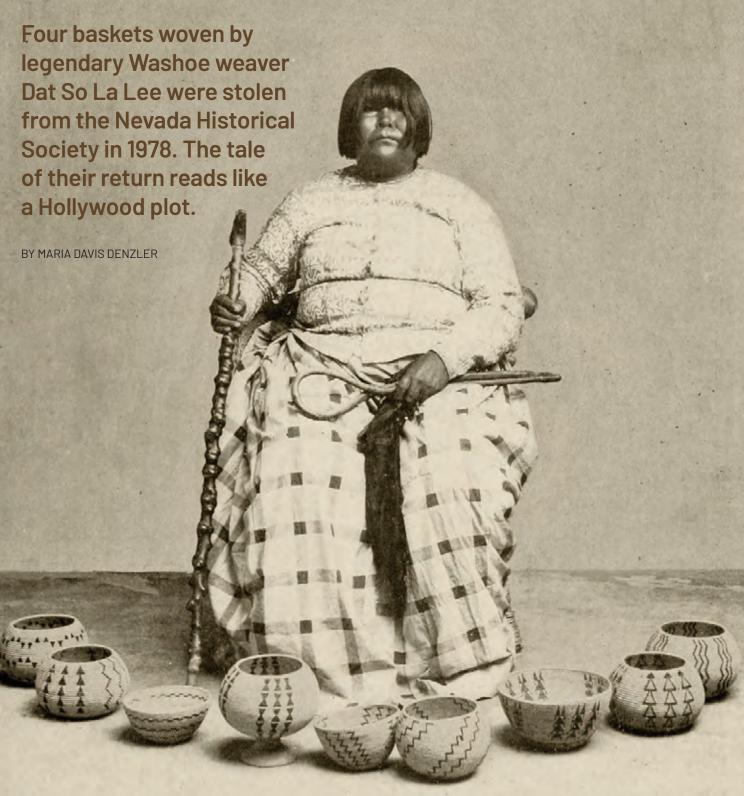
The permanent residents of Goldfield
Cemetery have actually been buried
twice. When Goldfield's population swelled to 20,000,
"Official Ghouls" took on the task of relocating remains from the
center of town. The cemetery—now located just north of town—
is still used as Goldfield's present-day burial ground, so stroll
respectfully when checking out the historical section that features
an unusual assortment of epitaphs chronicling mining-era demises.

TOM DEVLIN'S MONSTER MUSEUM

B-movie and horror film fanatics flock to Boulder City to experience Tom Devlin's Monster Museum. Full of iconic, life-size movie monsters—plus artwork, screen-used props, and a theater—this passion project preserves and celebrates the history of special makeup effects.



THE DAT SO LA LEE BASKET MYSTERY



At nevadamagazine.com, you'll find great stories like this one, which first appeared in our December 2002 issue.

On a cold, blustery day in December 1978, a thief walked into the Nevada Historical Society's museum gallery in Reno, lifted four prized baskets from their Lucite cases, and disappeared.

The baskets, created by the famed Washoe weaver Dat So La Lee and today worth \$2 million, have found their way home and once again are displayed in the society's permanent exhibition gallery. The story of their return reads like a tangled Hollywood plot involving shadowy criminals, mysterious telephone calls, Native American-art experts, and the FBI.

"When the new gallery was built two years ago, we added substantial security," says Peter Bandurraga, the society's director. "We spent over \$300,000 alone constructing the new permanent exhibition, and it is well-protected. I don't want anyone to get the idea that it is like something out of the movie 'The Thomas Crown Affair' (with noisy alarms and slamming gates), but I will tell you that anyone who tries to get too close to the exhibits will be cut in half by a laser beam."

Bandurraga has good reason to be security conscious. Five low-lit display cases hold a group of 10 stunning baskets. The woven-willow creations of Dat So La Lee are known as "degikup," a Washoe word referring to the incurving shapes of their tops. The stitched willow bodies, now soft brown with age, serve as a backdrop for intricate black and red geometric designs that appear to change size with the baskets' contours.

THE STOLEN AND RETURNED BASKETS, LEFT TO RIGHT, CIRCLED: "BRIGHT MORNING LIGHTS," "OUR PEOPLE USED MAGIC ARROWS," "THE CHIEF'S COMPACT," AND "GOING TO WAR."

In the low-light position on glass shelves, the baskets seem to float in air. Bandurraga points to each of the four recovered works of art—"Our People Used Magic Arrows," "Bright Morning Lights," "The Chief's Compact," and "Going to War"—in the historical society's Dat So La Lee display.

"The names really have no meaning," he said. "These are not ceremonial pieces. They are commissioned works of art." He



explains that according to the Washoe basketry expert Dr. Marvin Cohodas, Amy Cohn, the wife of Dat So La Lee's white benefactor, Abe Cohn, made up names that had nothing to do with the Washoe Culture. She also fabricated stories and created a whole mythology around the baskets to promote their sale to white collectors in the early 1900s.



"Dat So La Lee and her work are the stuff of legends," says Jim Haas, director of Native American, Pre-Columbian, and Tribal Arts at Butterfields Auction House in San Francisco. "Because of the superb quality of her work, its scarcity, and the mythology surrounding it, her art has become the symbol of American Indian basketry." Haas estimates that Dat So La Lee's finest degikup are worth approximately a half million dollars each. What is it about Dat So La Lee's work that sets it apart from other Indian basketry and makes

it so valuable? "Innovation," says Cohadas, who is a professor of art history at the University of British Columbia. "Dat So La Lee, borrowing from neighboring tribes such as the Pomo and Maidu, invented the shape of her baskets and also invented many of her own design motifs. She was the first Washoe weaver to use the color red [redbud] in her coiled baskets, later combining it with the color black [bracken fern], traditionally used in Washoe coiled basketry, and also the first to use a very fine stitching technique. Her work is absolutely breathtaking."

When Dat So La Lee died in 1925, most of her significant baskets remained unsold. In 1945, Abe Cohn's second wife and widow, Margaret, sold 20 of Dat So La Lee's major works to the state of Nevada for \$1,500, or \$75 each. Their value today is well over 6,000 times that amount. The state then gave 10 of the baskets to the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and the other 10 to the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

The Nevada Historical Society's baskets sat undisturbed for 33 years until the theft. No one knows exactly what happened.

"We had just finished a renovation of the gallery, and some of the cases had not been permanently secured yet," says Phillip I. Earl, curator of history at the time. "I remember that it was a particularly slow day—not many visitors."

One theory is that the thief or thieves walked into the building at noon, when most employees were at lunch. In 1978, admission was not charged, and there was no internal security. Once in the gallery, strong hands lifted the heavy, unsecured Lucite cases that housed the society's basket collection and removed four degikup baskets as well as a smaller basket, made by an unknown weaver, that held several arrowheads. The thief then smuggled the loot out of the building in broad daylight.

"I opened the next morning and couldn't believe they were missing," recalls Earl, who discovered the theft and immediately called the campus police. An investigation revealed no leads. The baskets had disappeared.



Two years later, the historical society received an intriguing telephone call. A Santa Cruz attorney, representing an anonymous client who claimed to have two of the stolen Dat So La Lee baskets in his possession, called, asking for a finder's fee of \$2,500 for each basket. Society representatives, armed with insurance cash, viewed the two baskets in the attorney's office and identified one of them, "Going to War," as a missing Dat So La Lee degikup. They paid the \$2,500 and returned to Reno, leaving the other basket behind. Bandurraga, who joined the historical society a year later,

suspected from drawings made at the time that the other basket was also one of the stolen artworks. He scrambled to recontact the attorney, but by then the mysterious client had disappeared.

"He said something about his client calling him from a telephone booth and using first names only, and he had no idea who the person was," Bandurraga says.

It would be 17 years later before the other baskets resurfaced.

In 1997, a Tucson antiquities dealer named Paul Shepard purchased three undocumented willow baskets for \$45,000. Seeking a buyer, he sent photographs of the baskets to an art appraiser in Palm Springs, California, for authentication. The appraiser, in turn, sent the photos to Marvin Cohodas, who routinely receives photos from art dealers seeking identification.

"When I saw the prints, my first thought was, 'Thank goodness they've been found!" says Cohodas. He notified the authorities, and the FBI joined the case.

After an investigation, Shepard was deemed an innocent party. He sued the State of Nevada, claiming ownership of the baskets, and in 1998 the Nevada Attorney General's Office settled the case for \$55,000. The FBI retained legal possession of the baskets pending further investigation.

Like small, silent witnesses, the three Dat So La Lee degikup sat in a secure metal cabinet at the Nevada Historical Society—to which the FBI held the only set of keys—for more than a year until the FBI officially returned the baskets to the society.

"I was privileged to be involved in their recovery," says Cohodas, a renowned basket weaver himself. "I have incredible admiration for Dat So La Lee's work, and I'm thrilled that these wonderful pieces are back in the museum where the public can enjoy their beauty."

Bandurraga says that Cohodas is the real hero of the story. "He did the right thing, and that is why the baskets are on display in the museum today."

The identity of the basket thief remains a mystery, and the smaller basket and the arrowheads were never found. Experts who examined the recovered degikup baskets for clues found faded areas that indicated the baskets may have sat on a table in a room in some direct sunlight for many years. A small wear pattern was discovered on the inner rim of each basket, suggesting that someone periodically may have picked up the pieces with just one finger to dust them or admire their beauty.

"We'll probably never know what really happened to the baskets or where they have been for all these years," says Bandurraga. But that is not something he thinks about. "We're not going to lose them again. They're back home now, and they're here to stay."



Nevada's Highway 50 is a road trip with something for everyone.





Get Centered

The Oasis of Nevada, Fallon is the epicenter of Nevada's farmto-table scene. It's also the access point to ancient petroglyphs at Hidden Cave and Grimes Point Archeological Site. Just east is Sand Mountain, one of Nevada's three singing sand dunes (yes, this sand actually produces

sound when wind passes over it, thus "singing"). Next, belly up to the bar at Middlegate Station—a Pony-Express-Station-turned roadhouse famous for its legendary Monster Burger Challenge. After that tasty feat, head further east for a quiet stay at Austin's Union Street Lodging B&B or Magnolia Gallery & Inn.













What's Your Rush?

Some folks blast from Austin to Eureka in just over an hour, but with all these on-the-way wonders, what would be the fun in that? On this next stretch, the possibilities are plenty. Pull up a stool in a classic Sagebrush Saloon with a Big Smoky Valley view at the Lucky Spur Saloon in Kingston, soak your cares away while listening for the bray of wild burros at Spencer Hot Springs, and examine millennia-old cave paintings and rock carvings at Toquima Cave and Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area. Once you arrive in Eureka, rest your head at the Stone Church Lodge or Colonnade Hotel.





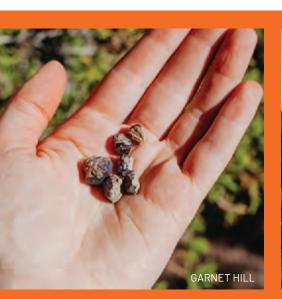
Small Town, Big Adventures

The short 90-minute drive from Eureka to Ely leaves plenty of time to fill your day exploring this mountain town packed with art, history, and outdoor adventure. Stop at Garnet Hill to search for gemstones before rolling into town, where you'll find more gems at the Garnet Mercantile, paintings at the Ely Art

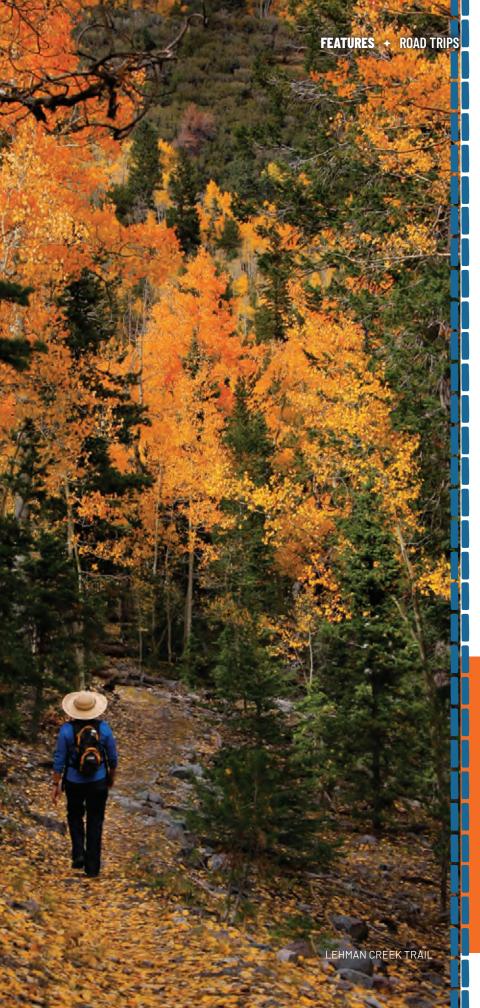
Bank, and a town-wide mural tour. The East Ely Railroad Depot Museum and Nevada Northern Railway have tours and excursions for rail lovers that are not to be missed. For outdoor recreation, the trails at Ward Mountain will please all fat-tire fanatics and hikers. At the end of this fun- and history-filled day, treat yourself to a hearty dinner and rest at the Hotel Nevada.

PRO TIP

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







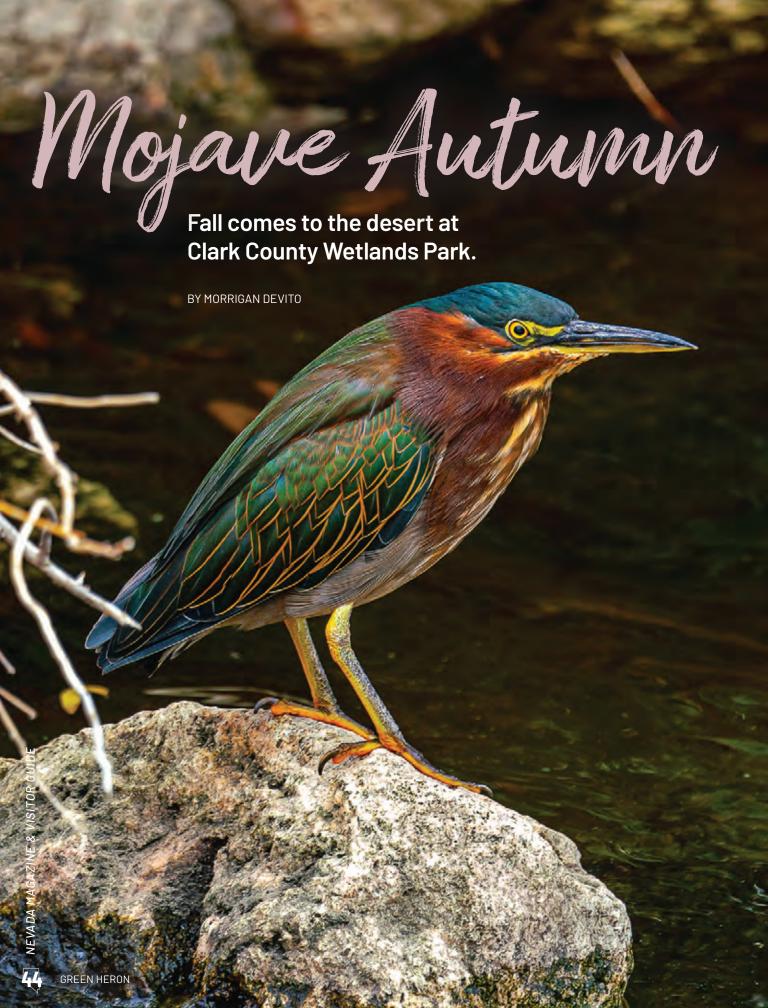




Last But Not Least

Start your final day at Great Basin National Park, a sanctuary where solitude can still be found and nature runs wild. Wander among ancient bristlecone pine trees—the oldest living trees on Earth—or hike to 13,064 feet at Wheeler Peak, Nevada's second tallest point. Navigate stalactites and stalagmites at stunning Lehman Caves, then discover why "half the park is after dark" as you scan the Lower 48's darkest night skies. The tiny town of Baker has tasty restaurants, plus cozy places like the Stargazer Inn to lay your head as you dream about your next adventure on the Loneliest Road in America.





As summer loosens its clutch on the Las Vegas Valley, autumn emerges in muted colors at Clark County Wetlands Park (CCWP).

You may have to look a little closer to see it, but the changing season unfolds with the yellowing of heartshaped cottonwood leaves. Pale pygmy blue butterflies-one of the smallest butterflies in the world-emerge to mate and lay eggs, and shorebirds in salt and sandy hues stop along the Las Vegas Wash as they migrate to wintering grounds in Central and South America. To really appreciate autumn here, you must set aside your forest-centric views of the season. There won't be many moody skies or dramatic canopies of crimson and auburn. Instead, the sky is blue as ever, and golden-brown mesquite seed pods blanket the desert floor—providing a bountiful harvest for the park's wildlife.

Although there are not huge piles of leaves to jump in, the park's leaf litter is still worth celebrating. Leaves from the cottonwoods, willows, and mesquites create a layer of nutrient-rich material that nourishes the soil and provides habitat for native bees and butterfly larvae.

City Green Space

CCWP provides critical habitat for wildlife in an urban sprawl. Residents here include more than 70 species of mammals (including elusive beavers and raccoons), reptiles, amphibians, and at least 310 species of birds.

The 2,900-acre park—which features an information kiosk, exhibit gallery, and gift shop—is only a small fraction of the Las Vegas Wash, an "urban river" tributary that channels treated wastewater, shallow groundwater, urban runoff, and stormwater back into Lake Mead. The park's paved and hard-packed trails—part of a 34-mile trail system—crisscross through stands of phragmites, cottonwood groves, and mesquite bosques.



Need help navigating? Download the mobile app "WETLANDS PARK NAVIGATOR."





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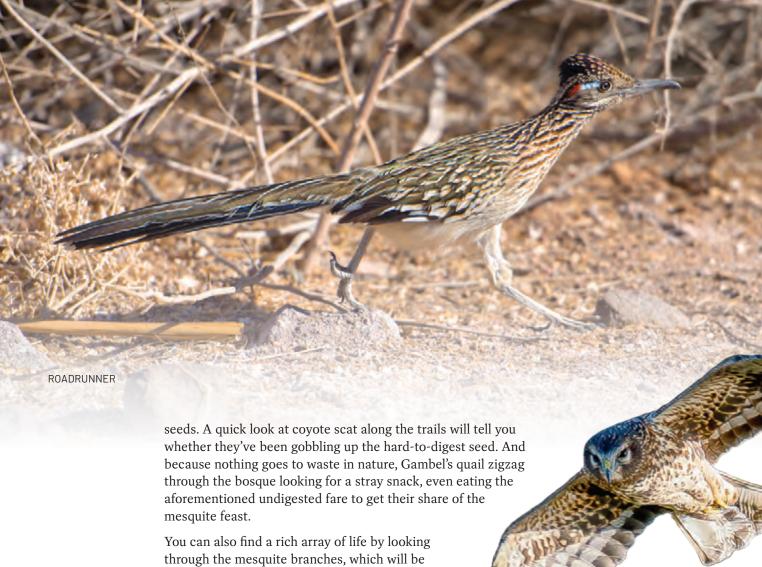


In Nevada, adventure is around every bend. To help you discover your best experience, we're building two Adventure Centers and creating a special guide to take on your travels. Our centers will get you pointed in the right direction, and the guide will offer tips and trips for families, intrepid adventurers, and everything in between. Get ready for us to show you how to #GetALittleOutThere.



Scan the QR code to learn more.





leafless in the wintertime. You may spot the nests of verdins—a small songbird—or lizards camouflaging into the bark. If you wait long enough, a roadrunner is sure to investigate as it prowls the thickets for lizards and large insects to eat.

Park Adventures

To fully experience the diversity of autumn in the park, venture over to Cottonwood Pass, where you may see great horned owls, Cooper's hawks, or northern flickers. You can also go to the Big Weir Bridge for a stunning overlook of the Las Vegas Wash and the city skyline and search for wildlife along the water.

By September, migrating shorebirds feed in areas with shallow water, and by November, the first of the migratory waterfowl begin to trickle into the Las Vegas Valley for the winter. Along the trails, big saltbush and four-winged saltbush starts producing clumps of seeds, which draw in a variety of birds like finches and sparrows.

NORTHERN

HARRIER

FEATURES + NATURE

The mosaic of habitats at CCWP is not just beneficial for wildlife, but for people, too. Walking through the winding trails, you may feel like you're a world away from Las Vegas when you're just at the edge of the metropolis.

CCWP has an active calendar of public events and volunteer opportunities. Its fall programming—available online—includes nature walks that focus on the park's stunning biodiversity (including bird and plant walks) as well as activities for kids, and art events. The website also includes information on the park's pet-friendly areas, biking trails, and much more.



Remember, autumn comes slowly to the desert. But it does come. Slow down and see what life you can find. CCWP has miles of trails to explore, and beyond the nature preserve you can recreate at places like Duck Creek Trailhead, Pabco Trailhead, and the Wetlands Loop Trailhead. What will you discover this fall?



For foodies on the go, nothing beats the chance to eat like a local. One of the best districts in Reno to do this is MidTown. This hip area boasts an eclectic mixture of shops, artsy bars, and innovative restaurants known for delectable cuisine. Some of MidTown Reno's most inspired restaurants draw on flavors and culinary traditions from around the world. In other words, get ready for 16 blocks chock-full of international, palatepleasing adventures.

From Korean fusion and Brazilian barbecue to Japanese and Indian fare, MidTown's dining scene is your one-stop shop for tastebud bliss.



ICOM FOODIE ADVENTURES

Dive into Reno's tasty international flavors.

BY ENGRID BARNETT

Arario Midtown

Owned and operated by TJ and Hani Cho, Arario Midtown serves homestyle Korean and Asian fusion cuisine that pushes the envelope. The ambiance has a harmonious appeal, from its minimalist décor to its round, glowing lamps evocative of feng shui. The restaurant's name comes with plenty of auspicious vibes, too, translating as "great heavenly energy."

We'll leave the "energy" side of things up to you, but folks agree the food is heavenly, as attested by the restaurant's inclusion on Yelp's Top 100 Places to Eat in the U.S. One must-try appetizer is their flavor-packed kimchee fries—a rich combo of spicy pork bulgogi, kimchee, various cheeses, teriyaki sauce, and spicy mayo. Locals also rave about the fusion bowls. Faves include the bulgogi bowl, the perfect blend of savory and spicy, and the dol-sot stone pot bibimbop.







Thali

Whether you're a fan of curries and chutneys or looking for your next favorite vegetarian restaurant, Thali's your spot. This organic dining hub serves authentic northern Indian cuisine that showcases the freshest, locally grown ingredients. All of Thali's dinner plates are bottomless, which means you can fill up on fresh roti and veggies to your heart's content.



Kauboi Izakaya

Over the years, Kauboi Izakaya ("cowboy gastropub") has cultivated a reputation as one of the Biggest Little City's most elevated dining establishments. Known for its small, novel plates, each dish represents a riff on traditional Japanese cuisine staples including shishito peppers, ramen, and pork tempura.

The vibe is trendy and evocative of a restaurant in a major metropolis—think Los Angeles or Seattle—and features an eclectic cowboy ninja theme. Delicious menu options include rice tots with dragon sauce (like risotto with a spicy twist). The Tokyo fried chicken is as juicy, tender, and crunchy as it gets and is served on a smear of piquant Japanese mayo. The tsukune yakitori—skewered chicken meatballs—are served in a finger-licking-good, caramelized soy-based sauce.

Accompanying each dish are lentils or beans, both seasonal and pickled vegetables, chutney, basmati rice, and yogurt. Menu highlights include samosa chaat, spiced potato, onion, and pea pastries topped with chana dahl with yogurt, cilantro, and tamarind chutney. Meals come with a seasonal vegan dessert, and Thali recommends calling in advance or checking their Instagram for daily menu postings based on seasonal offerings. Beverages include various alcoholic drinks, chai, kombucha, and rose water lassi.







Churrasco Brazilian Steakhouse

Taste South America at Churrasco, voted Best Buffet & Best Steakhouse finalists in Best of Reno 2023. The term "churrasco" refers to the tradition of Brazilian gauchos cooking large pieces of meat on skewers and grilling them to sizzling perfection over open flames.

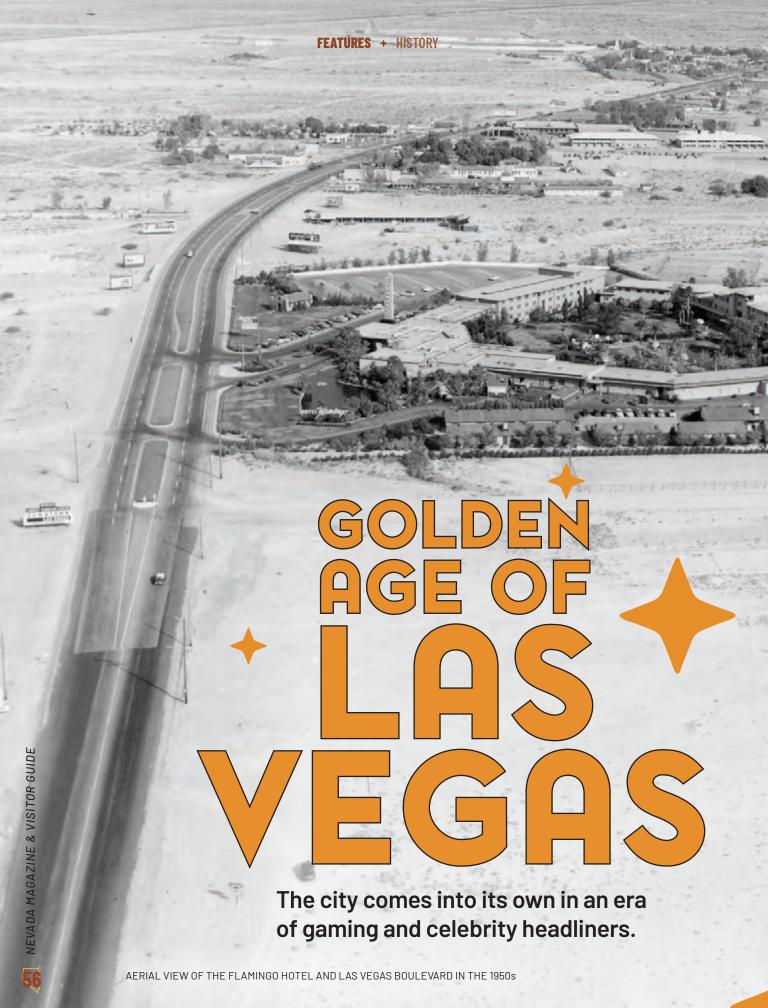
Meat is definitely on the menu here. Churrasco serves 15 different grilled meats fresh off hot skewers to your tableside. Options include parmesan pork, picanha (house special), filet mignon, filet with bacon, and many more, coupled with hors d'oeuvres and celebrated Brazilian sides. In other words, come with a hearty appetite because you're guaranteed to fill up. The restaurant also boasts a fully stocked wine cellar and bar.

Mexcal

Tacos and tequila go together like campfires and s'mores. Find a mindboggling array of the former at Mexcal. Owner Rene Preciado takes pride in outside-the-box options like the quesabirria—a braised, shredded-short-ribs taco dipped in their top secret "special sauce." Other taco options include duck confit, very spicy lamb, octopus, and cauliflower with apple. Specials change regularly but they often include soft-shell crab tacos.

As for the tequila portion of this proposition, margarita and cocktail options abound. From a pineapple jalapeno margarita to the classic, you'll be ready for a siesta after leaving this joint. The drink specials are worth more than one visit, so be sure to note current offerings.









BY MEGG MUELLER

"The town has been converted to an opulent playground to satisfy the entertainment whims of any visitor."

—Associated Press reporter Bob Thomas on the 1946 opening night of the Flamingo Hotel.

The Golden Age of Las Vegas—roughly 1930-1960—was a time when the city sluffed off its Wild West origins and burgeoned into the glitz and glam era it's still known for today. The transformation began amid the Great Depression, when the construction of the Hoover Dam brought a surge of workers. The population of Vegas was around 5,000 in 1931, but after the dam was announced, it grew to about 25,000 with people coming in droves for the promise of work.

Coincidentally, Nevada passed two laws in 1931 that would forever change the way the state would attract visitors: legalized gambling and six-week divorces.

In 1932—the first full year of dam construction—more than 200,000 people visited Las Vegas. Two years later, that number was a quarter of a million people. It was a sign of things to come.





Cashing In

Along with the influx of visitors were entrepreneurs who recognized the economic opportunities that came with tourists and new, mostly male residents. The men who came for work were in need of respite and entertainment after their grueling jobs. Most lived in the company town of Boulder City—built for the laborers and their families—which had strict no gambling and no drinking laws. Some 30 miles away, however, Las Vegas loomed in the desert as a haven for fun.



In the early days, makeshift casinos and speakeasies sprouted like wildflowers. However, the rise of the hotel casino was on its way. The city's original downtown, Fremont Street, was home to the Northern Club, which had received the county's first gambling license. Other small casinos popped up along the newly paved road—the city's first. In 1941, the El Cortez Hotel was built along Fremont. It was the first major resort in the city, armed with both gambling and liquor licenses.





Mobs to the Flame



Downtown's Golden Nugget followed in 1946, along with the Flamingo, which was situated on what is now the Las Vegas Strip. All three would become synonymous with the opulence and extravagance of vintage Vegas. Behind the scenes, shadowy mobsters had their fingers intertwined with the city's fortunes.



Among them was Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, a charismatic yet ruthless figure whose vision transformed the desert into a playground for the rich and famous. It was Siegel who dreamt of a resort that would rival the grandeur of any in the world. And so, in 1946, the Flamingo Hotel and Casino debuted, its pink façade a beacon of luxury in the desert night.

Perhaps lesser known today,

Guy McAfee's Golden Nugget opened months before Siegel's property and was, at the time, the world's largest casino. The police officer-turned-mobster spent a reported \$1 million on the property. The rush to take part in the city's growth continued into the 1950s, with the Desert Inn, Binion's Horseshoe, Sahara, and Sands—among many others—sprouting up in the vast landscape.

It's Showtime

Entertainment was always the name of the game, as was the goal of luring people to stay in town longer and spend more. Famous headliners were needed to draw crowds, and casino showroom owners vied for top talent. The king of the residency, as long-term performance schedules are now called, was none other than Liberace. He played his first show at the Hotel Last Frontier in 1944 when he was 25 and continued to play Las Vegas showrooms until his death in 1987. Bandleader Xavier Cugat and singer Nat King Cole were two other big names who played in the 1940s.

In the '50s, the showrooms became as much of a draw as the table games and slot machines. Marlene Dietrich, not-yet-president Ronald Reagan, Paul Anka, and Ginger Rogers were among the celebrity performers. The undisputed king of Las Vegas during the 1950s and 1960s, however, was Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack.

FEATURES + HISTORY



WAYNE NEWTON WITH COUNT BASIE ON THE PIANO Sinatra's first gig was in 1951 at the Desert Inn, and by 1953, he was doing two shows a night at the Sands. His shows at the latter casino often included his Hollywood cronies Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Peter Lawford. The performances were immensely popular and cemented Sinatra as a showbusiness legend. He played his last Las Vegas showroom in 1994.

Despite the legendary names that came before him, the title of Mr. Las Vegas belongs to Wayne Newton. His first show was

at the tender age of 16 in 1959, and when his hit "Danke Schoen" came out in 1961, he was doing three shows a night. On his 60th anniversary of playing shows, it was estimated he'd performed 30,000 times on The Strip.

The coming years saw The Beatles and Elvis take the stage, and the 1980s brought about the mega-resorts like the Wynn, Excalibur, and Bellagio. Vintage Vegas faded against the era of gaudy excess and "bigger means better," the city's skyline punctuated by ever more extravagant resorts and casinos. The mobsters are gone, and massive stadiums have overtaken intimate showrooms, but entertainment is still the name of the game.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP



Step back in time and discover some vintage fun at some of Las Vegas' most retro attractions.





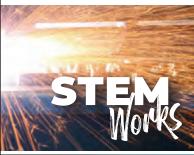




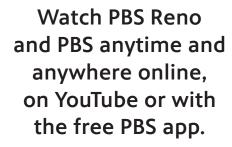


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HOT SPRINGS PAIRINGS

NEW THIS ISSUE: ADVENTURE LEVELS

For some people, adventure is sport climbing the side of a near-vertical rockface. For others, it's waking up before dawn to photograph wildlife. Because of this, we've defined adventure levels for some of our stories in the following manner:

Beginner

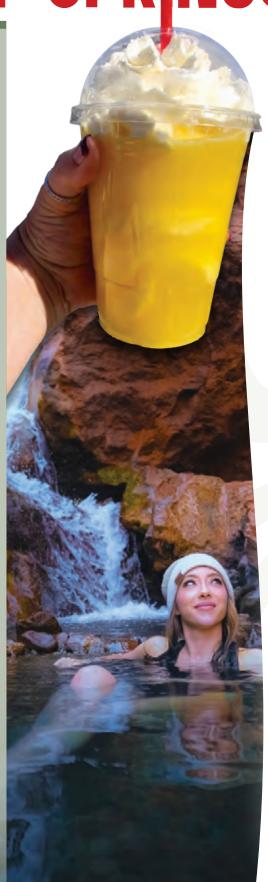
includes
family friendly
activities. These
are easy to get
to, near a city
or town, and
appropriate for
most ages.

Intermediate

adventures
are those that
require more time
and preparation,
are possibly a
day trip, and
could be a bit
more physically
strenuous.

Advanced

means the adventure might require an advanced skill set, be difficult to reach, or require a significant time investment.



Get stoked to soak with an only-in-Nevada adventure.

Some things are just better in pairs: milk and cookies, rock 'n' roll, Batman and Robin. Our favorite combo?

A picturesque hot spring soak and an awesome only-in-Nevada experience.

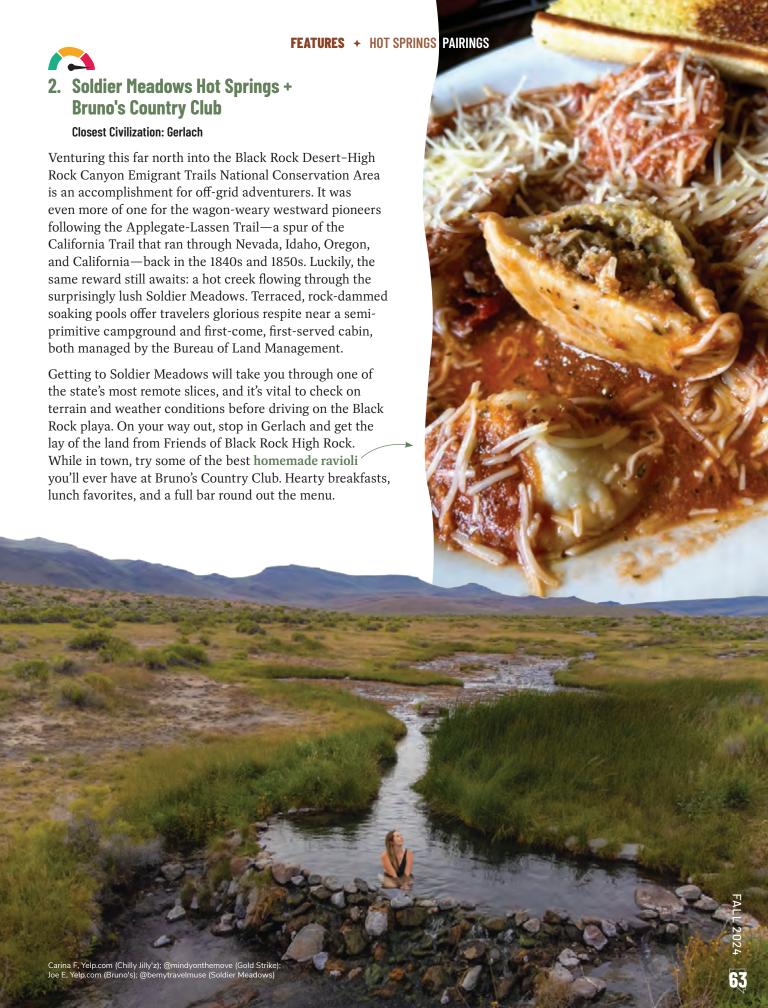
The Silver State is home to hundreds of hot springs—most are set in nature, while others anchor resort-like getaways. No matter your preference, we have tried-and-true recommendations for what to pair with your next steamy dip.

1. Gold Strike Hot Springs + Chilly Jilly'z

Closest Civilization: Boulder City

The hike to Gold Strike Hot Springs isn't for everyone, but the payoff is incredibly rewarding. You'll descend 600 feet into a gorgeous canyon while scrambling over boulders and using fixed rope climbs to reach the Colorado River. Once you get to your ultimate destination, the hot spring oasis delivers wildlife spotting, stunning views, and a whole lotta relaxation. Plan accordingly, though, as the trail can take upwards of 3-4 hours in each direction (don't forget you have to climb back out!) and closes during the summer due to extreme temperatures.

After your hike, treat yourself to a **Dole Whip Delight** at Chilly Jilly'z in nearby Boulder City. The famed theme park soft-serve gets dished up as a float, freeze, or sundae in addition to classic shakes, malts, and smoothies. Plan to sate your appetite with sandwiches, salads, and Broaster chicken tenders.





3. Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center & Spa + Virginia City

Closest Civilization: Reno or Virginia City

Steamboat Hot Springs opened in 1857 as Nevada's first hot spring resort. The "Steamboat" name came from Mark Twain, who soaked in these mineral-rich waters himself and likened the geothermal rumbling of the natural hot springs to the sound of a river paddleboat. You can partake in the same experience that American Indians, pioneers, miners, and travelers have been enjoying for centuries at what is now Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center & Spa.

Follow further in Twain's footsteps just 15 miles up the hill in the Comstock mining town of Virginia City. The entire community is a National Historic Landmark, and it's also where Samuel Clemens adopted his famous nom de plume. Stroll boardwalk-lined streets past numerous saloons, museums, and shops as you continue your day of fascinating Nevada history.





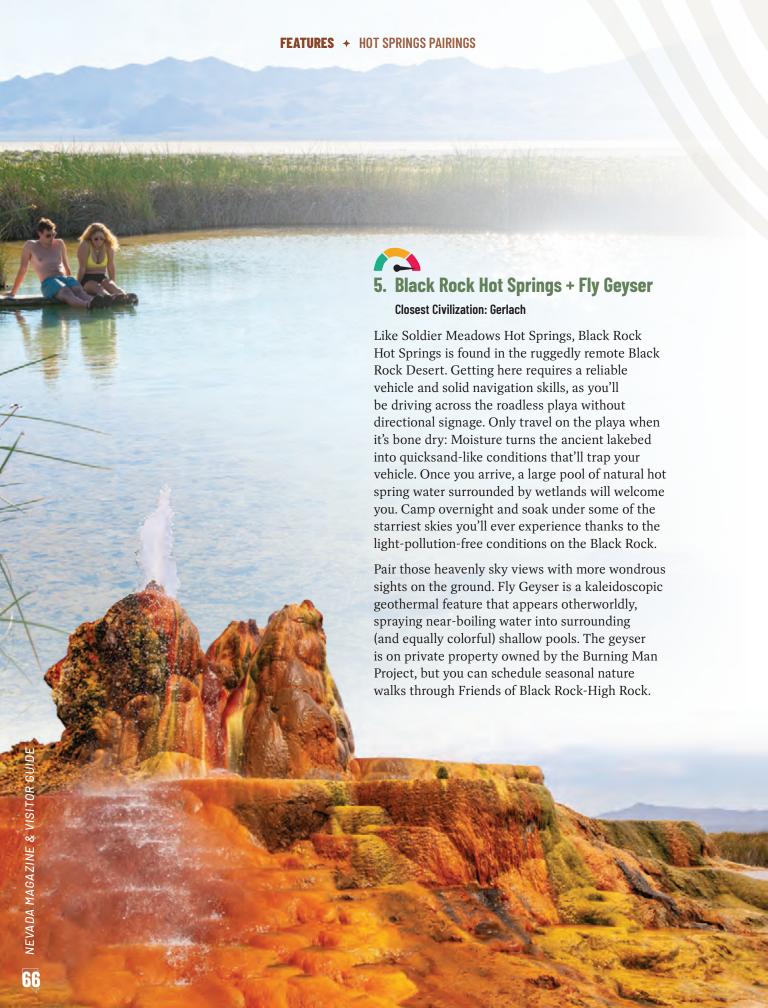
4. Fish Lake Valley Hot Springs + Gold Point Ghost Town

Closest Civilization: Tonopah or Dyer

Next time you find yourself cruising the Free-Range Art Highway, deviate off U.S. 95 and reroute to Fish Lake Valley Hot Springs. Also known as Fish Lake Valley Hot Well, this county-managed site feels like you're taking a dip in a wild outdoor pool thanks to the below-ground concrete tub that serves as the hot spring basin. Typically, the water temperature hovers around 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Your soak comes with spectacular views of 13,147-foot Boundary Peak, The living ghost town of Gold Point also makes for a must-see detour. This former silver boomtown gives modern-day visitors a sense of what the original main street looked like. Book a stay at the Gold Point Ghost Town Bed & Breakfast to sleep in an original cabin and shoot pool on a 1909 Brunswick table at the town saloon.

on pg. 88.











7. David Walley's Resort + Genoa

Closest Civilization: Genoa

Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, David Walley's Resort has been a vacation getaway for more than 160 years. Like Steamboat Hot Springs, these historic mineral waters were also highly regarded by Mark Twain, who wrote, "I now leave without crutch or cane, entirely well, not only relieved from pain but gained in spirit." A heated

outdoor pool and five geothermically heated hot spring tubs (with temps ranging from 98-104 degrees Fahrenheit) are exclusively available to resort guests, and one of the tubs is specially designated for families with kids.

Go beyond David Walley's and explore Genoa, the oldest permanent settlement in the Silver State. Have a drink at Genoa Bar & Saloon, billed as "Nevada's Oldest Thirst Parlor," and grab a delicious bite at The Pink House.





8. Carson City Triathlon Closest Civilization: Carson City

Surprise! This last pairing is actually a trio of stops known as the Carson City Triathlon. Carson Hot Springs, Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint, and Shoe Tree Brewing Company are neighbors in the same parking lot, and you can visit them in any order you prefer to complete this adventure trifecta.

The natural mineral water at Carson Hot Springs comes from 35,000 feet below Earth's surface. Four outdoor pools and hot tubs vary in temperature from 98-104 degrees Fahrenheit all year long, and they get drained and refilled every day. For some extra muscle massaging, let a concentrated stream of hot water from "The Hammer" work its magic. Carson Hot Springs also has nine private pools, perfect for up to five people.

Once you're hungry, pop over to Sassafras and dig into one of the most diverse menus in Carson City. Specials are always enticing, but staples like the peanut butter and bacon burger will tempt you, too. Wash it down with an award-winning beer at Shoe Tree, which brews everything from IPAs and ambers to experimental sours and stouts.







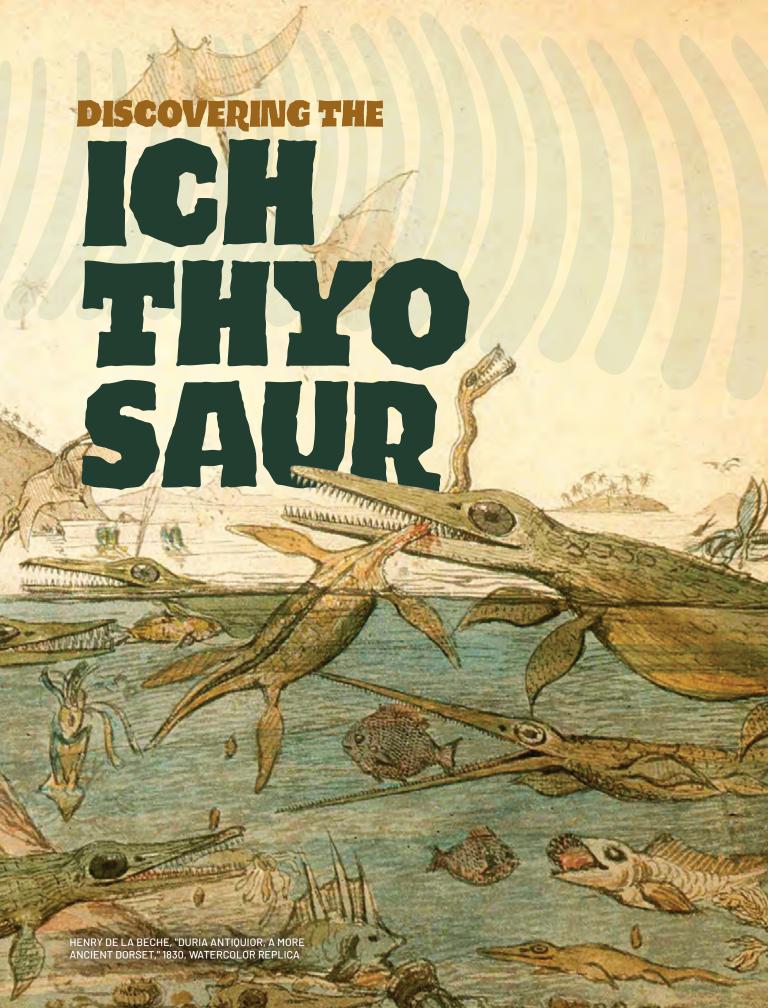


Exhibit reveals Nevada's state fossil in a whole new light.

BY GUY CLIFTON

Nevadans take great pride in things that might seem a bit odd to non-dwellers.

For example, we celebrate the anniversary of our statehood-Nevada Day-as an official public holiday, complete with an oldfashioned parade in Carson City. We will brag about the unsinkable battleship USS Nevada, the only vessel to get under way during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Mark Twain's first byline was in a Nevada newspaper, and we have more named mountain ranges than any other state.

Don't even get us started on the proper pronunciation of Nevada.

And we have a special place in our hearts for a sea creature known as the ichthyosaur, which ruled the prehistoric oceans during the Triassic period 250 million years ago and left their fossilized remains in what is now the high desert of Nevada.

In 1977, the Nevada Legislature designated the ichthyosaur as the official state fossil, but the honors hardly stop there. The ichthyosaur is the focal point of a state park, a featured display in several of the state's museums, the namesake of a favorite beer at one of northern Nevada's venerable brew pubs, and the centerpiece of a new exhibit set to open at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.

PRO TIP

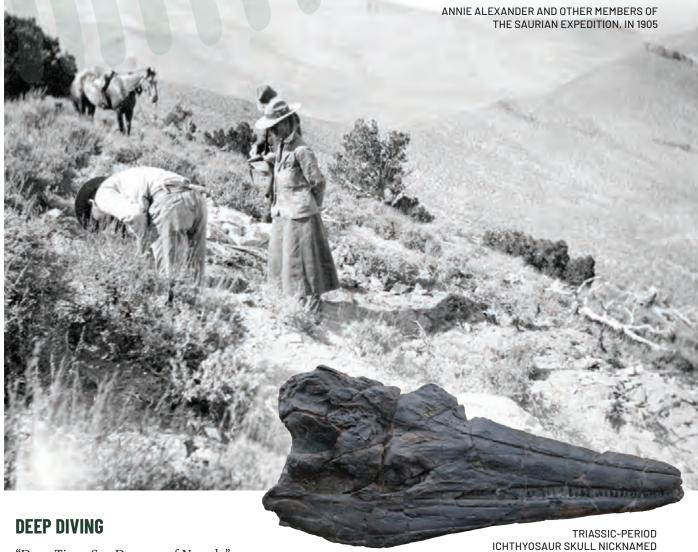
Get up close and personal with our giants of the deep at these locations:

Nevada State Museum, Carson City

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, Nye County





"Deep Time: Sea Dragons of Nevada" opens Sept. 7 and runs through Jan. 11, 2025. The 9,000-square-foot exhibition tells the ichthyosaur's story through a unique blend of paleontology, art, history, and design. It is co-curated by Ann M. Wolfe, the Nevada Museum of Art's chief curator, and Dr. Martin Sander, professor of vertebrate paleontology at the University of Bonn, Germany.

It will feature—and in some cases, debut—many never-before-seen ichthyosaur fossils, including some from an early 1900s expedition led by paleontologist Annie Alexander. There will also be specimens from Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park near Gabbs and fossils from a new giant species excavated in the Augusta Mountains northwest of Austin in 2011 and 2014.

Sander has been doing field work in central Nevada since 1991, drawn back time and again by the abundance of ichthyosaur fossils.

"JIM II" EXCAVATED IN THE

AUGUSTA MOUNTAINS IN 2015

"There is a reason the ichthyosaur is the state fossil of Nevada," Sander says.

"(This) is the place where you have the largest number of species of ichthyosaur of anytime, anyplace, and it's the place with the largest shape diversity—large, small, large head, small head, largest body size," explains Sander. "All the interesting parts in ichthyosaur evolution happened in the Triassic, and the hot spot is Nevada."



FOSSILS TO FOLLIES Discover seven unique state museums

Discover everything from historic trains, an ancient lost city and mammoth fossils to antique slot machines, native baskets and a 19th-century working coin press. Nevada's fascinating state museums offer something for everyone.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum Lost City Museum, Overton Nevada Historical Society, Reno Nevada State Museum, Carson City

Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

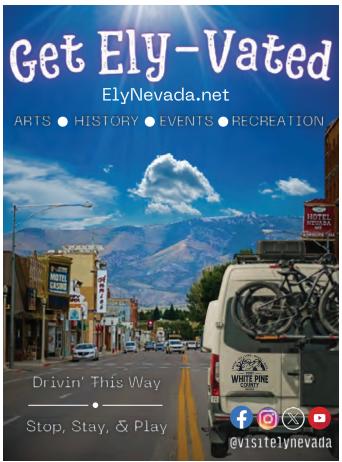
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Visitors begin their journey by stepping into a darkened gallery surrounded by illuminated beams of light and a shifting veil of mistlike haze. The immersive artwork—titled "Swell" by artist Anthony McCall—functions metaphorically as a virtual time machine that transports visitors into an ancient ocean during the Triassic period. In the main exhibit space, museum goers wander through displays representing Nevada mountain ranges to discover more than 20 fossil specimens excavated between 1868 and 2022. Visitors then come face-to-face with a life-sized, virtually animated ichthyosaur that responds to movement, giving visitors a chance to swim alongside the ancient reptile.

(C)

In addition to the wide display of fossils, the exhibition also includes:

- ◆ The story of fossil hunter Mary Anning, the first woman to discover an ichthyosaur fossil in Great Britain in 1811.
- Striking examples of paleoart—art based on fossil evidence. The works show how artists and scientists have worked together to imagine prehistoric creatures.
- → Paleontologist Annie Alexander's photographs and field journal pages from a 1905 expedition to Nevada's Humboldt Range.
- ◆ Rarely seen giant ichthyosaur fossils (including a 33-foot skeleton).
- ◆ Fossils from the newly discovered species Cymbospondylus youngorum, which includes one of the best ichthyosaur skulls ever found.

HONORING CONNECTIONS

Alongside the ancient artifacts, the museum is releasing a children's book titled "Annie Alexander's Amazing Adventure: An American Fossil Expedition in Nevada" written by



museum curator Wolfe with illustrations by Nevada-based artist Kate O'Hara.

Through colorful illustrations, readers learn about the plants and animals of the desert environment, ichthyosaur fossil discoveries and excavation, and extinction and climate science.

The book details the adventures of Annie Alexander who, in 1905, joined an expedition to Nevada's Humboldt Range in search of fossils. During the trip, her team excavated 25 ichthyosaur specimens, some of which were the largest and most complete of their kind ever discovered in North America.

At the time of her journey, there were few women in paleontology. Indeed, for many years, the work of both Alexander and other women researchers went unacknowledged by the scientific community. Fortunately, the groundbreaking work of these two pioneers is far more appreciated today—evident by their featured role in the exhibition.

Wolfe notes that the book is another example of how the Nevada Museum of Art exhibition shows the collaboration that has long existed between the scientific and arts communities.

"We're creating an 84-foot long, 3-D, animated, amazing, immersive wall installation where there is an 80-foot ichthyosaur that comes to life and responds to the visitor's movement," she says. "The artist has been working directly with Martin Sander, so you see this collaboration between art and science unfolding before your very eyes, which is pretty cool."

A DELICIOUS CONNECTION

Another not-so-ancient discovery led scientists to an enduring friendship and collaboration. It was a beer from the Great Basin Brewery in Sparks—owned by Tom and Bonda Young at the time—that featured an ichthyosaur on the label.

A geologist before turning his attention to brewing, Young named one of his first beers after the creature. When the Sander team sought him out, they found a willing and able partner who made Great Basin beer trucks available to transport fossils and materials to and from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

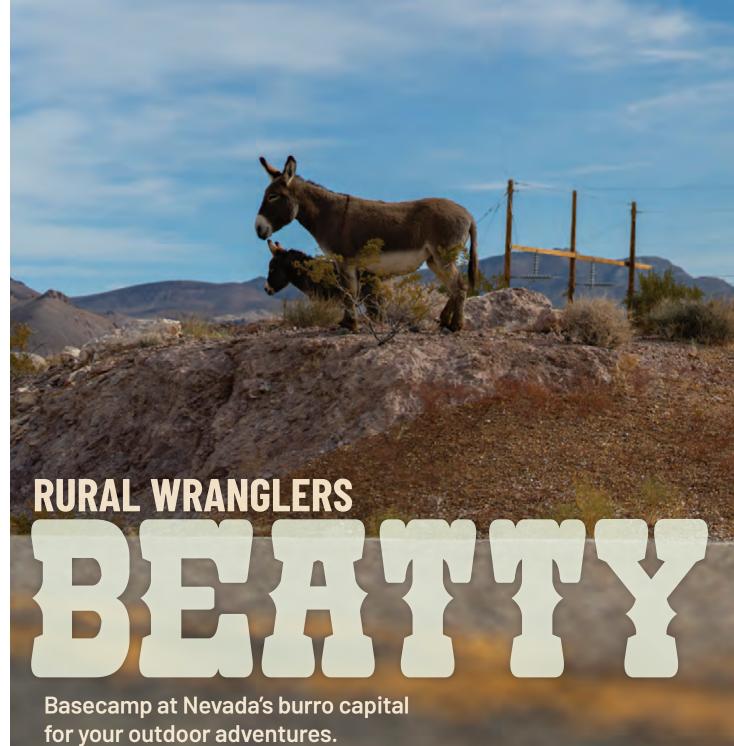
In return, Sander named the new species of ichthyosaur after the Youngs, Cymbospondylus youngorum.

"The more I think about it, the cooler it is," Young says. "To think these magnificent creatures, the first giants, the first large creature on Earth, came from what turned out to be Nevada."

He is equally thrilled with the art exhibit and the auxiliary events it is bringing with it.

"My wife and I have been supporters of the Museum of Art for a long time," he says. "I think it's pretty cool we're finally getting some traction in Nevada with these things."





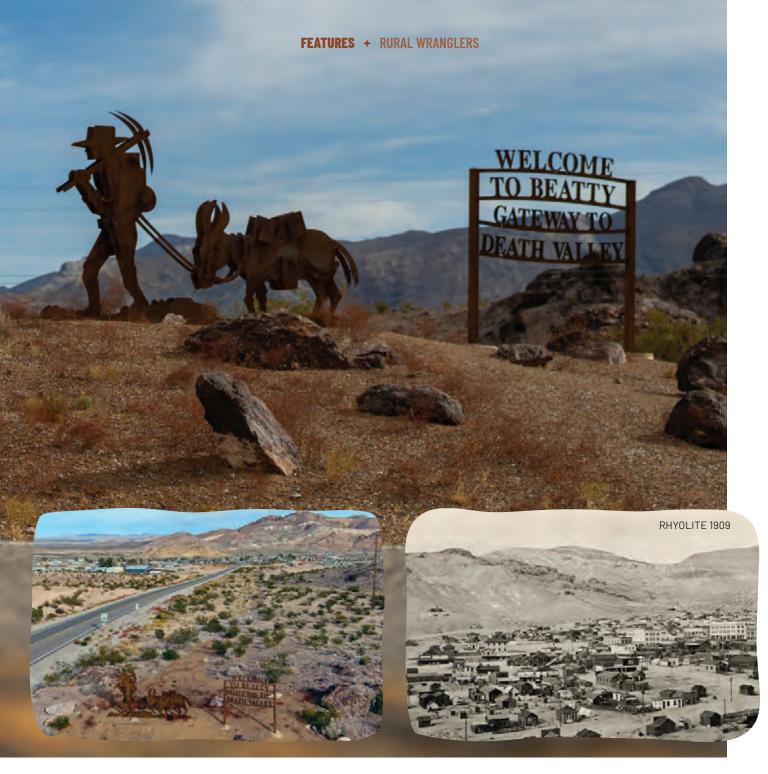
Are you a fan of small-town vacations? Are you interested in soaking in the sights and sounds of a quiet desert community? Perhaps you just want to outrun winter weather for a few more weeks. If so, Beatty might just be your perfect autumn destination.

This southern Nevada oasis attracts travelers with its comfortable lodging, diverse cuisine, and a charming main street. But look a bit beyond the town and you'll find outdoor adventure opportunities for every lifestyle. Within a short drive from your hotel, you'll be spotting bands of burros, exploring an iconic ghost town, off-roading through pristine desert, and touring one of the country's most popular national parks.



Beatty is a go-to stop on both the Death Valley Rally and the Free-Range Art Highway road trips. Check out pg. 100 to start planning.





Location, Location

Thanks to its prime positioning at the junction of U.S. Highway 95 and State Route 374, Beatty plays host to many travelers headed for Death Valley National Park. After a day of exploring the hottest—and lowest—place in North America, Beatty awaits nearby with promise of great fare and lodging.

In fact, Beatty has a long history of being well-positioned. Unlike most early Nevada communities, this was never a mining town: Beatty started out in the early 1900s as the logistical hub for nearby gold and silver camps. One of these camps—located about 6 miles southwest of Beatty—was Rhyolite, which enjoyed a short-lived population boom before becoming one of Nevada's most iconic ghost towns.

FEATURES + RURAL WRANGLERS

While staying in Beatty, it's practically tradition to visit Rhyolite. Most of the original town is gone, but plenty of photogenic foundations remain on the old main street. The best-preserved building sits at the north end of town: the Rhyolite Train Depot. Although this structure—which once saw up to 50 freight cars a day—is closed to the public, it still serves as a strong reminder of the town's glory years.

NE & VISITOR GUIDE

Of course, no stop at Rhyolite is complete without a visit to the Goldwell Open Air Museum, located a short walk from the ghost town. The 8-acre sculpture park features seven major works; the ghostly life-size version of "The Last Supper" is a perennial favorite for group selfies. Goldwell Open Air Museum is always open, and there is no charge for admission.



While in Beatty, don't overlook the rest of the pristine desert surrounding the town—most of which is on public land. The nearby hills are laced with countless miles of trails to explore, and the Amargosa River—a mostly-underground river that flows through town—is fed by a number of nearby springs. Bird watching, wildlife viewing (including Beatty's iconic burros), and catch-and-release fishing are just a few of the experiences that await in this lush slice of the Mojave Desert.

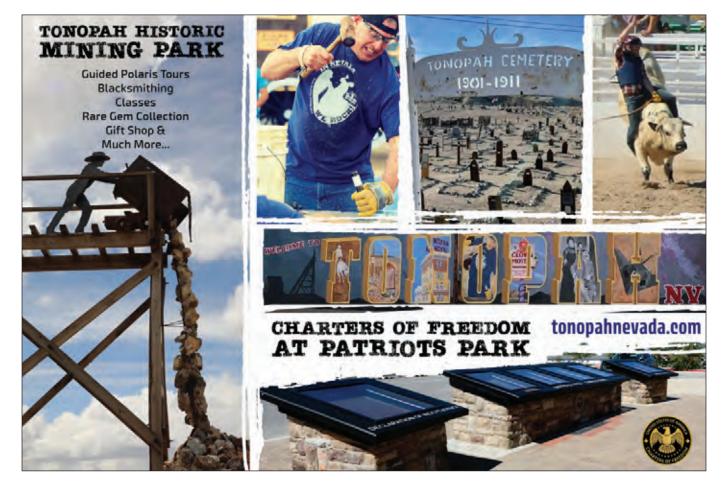


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Life In A Desert Town

Whether you're dropping in for a quick overnighter or enjoying an extended stay, here are a few must-see spots to get you started on your Beatty visit.

GEMA'S CAFÉ

Gema's Café offers fresh, made-to-order classics but with a Mexican-American twist. For breakfast, we recommend the Spanish omelet or enchiladas. If you stop in closer to dinnertime, try the nachos supreme, taco salad, or chicken diablo.

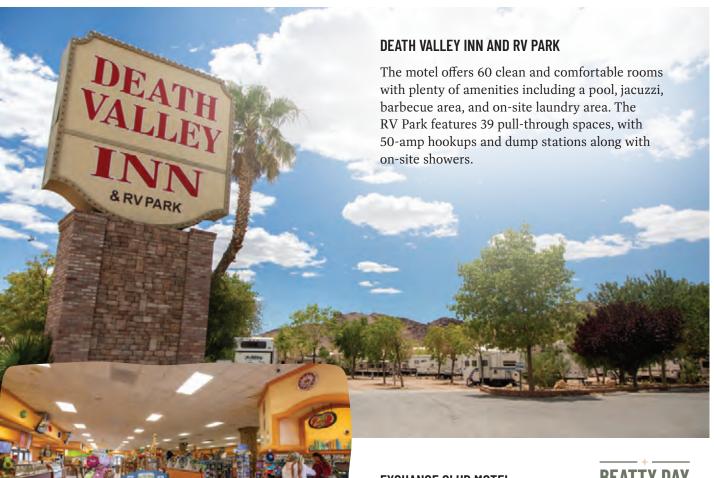


MEL'S DINER

Located right off the highway, Mel's Diner serves up "good food at good prices." This road tripper favorite offers classic American fare for breakfast and lunch. As a bonus, diners often enjoy burro sightings while eating. Cash only!

DEATH VALLEY NUT & CANDY CO.

There's no better place to satisfy that sweet tooth or stock up on road trip goodies than at this deluxe convenience store. Grab an ice cream or a latte and peruse endless aisles of saltwater taffy, licorice, hard candies, dried fruits, nuts, and jerky.



EXCHANGE CLUB MOTEL

DEATH VALLEY NUT & CANDY CO.

EXCHANGE CLUB MOTEL

The Exchange Club Motel has been a favorite overnighter for decades. Just 12 miles from Death Valley National Park, this clean, pet-friendly establishment sits in the heart of historic downtown Beatty within walking distance of the town's favorite establishments.

BEATTY DAY FESTIVAL

OCT. 25-27

For three days each October, the entire town gets down on great chili, live music, bike and car shows, historical reenactments, and gunfights by the Beatty Cowboys.

FISHING Lake

Don't let this amazing experience be the one that got away.

BY MEGG MUELLER

In the northern Nevada desert, just east of Reno, lie the azure waters of Pyramid Lake. With its stunning beauty and rich history, it beckons anglers from far and wide, offering an opportunity to reel in some of the most prized fish species in the region.

A remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan,
Pyramid Lake is not just any ordinary
fishing destination. It serves as the habitat
for five distinct species of fish, each
with its own tale to tell. At the center of
this aquatic menagerie is the legendary
Lahontan cutthroat trout, a species that
once teetered on the brink of extinction.



Ancient Fish Story

Long before anglers cast their lines into its waters, the Lahontan cutthroat trout were plentiful throughout the lake. However, overfishing, habitat destruction, and the introduction of non-native species pushed these majestic fish to near extinction. By the mid-20th century, they were declared endangered, and Pyramid Lake became a battleground for conservation efforts.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, rightful stewards of the lake, took up the mantle of protecting their ancestral waters and its inhabitants. Through years of dedication and collaboration with conservation organizations, they implemented stringent regulations and restoration projects to revive the dwindling population.

While still listed as threatened, the population has rebounded, offering anglers a chance to witness nature's resilience firsthand.





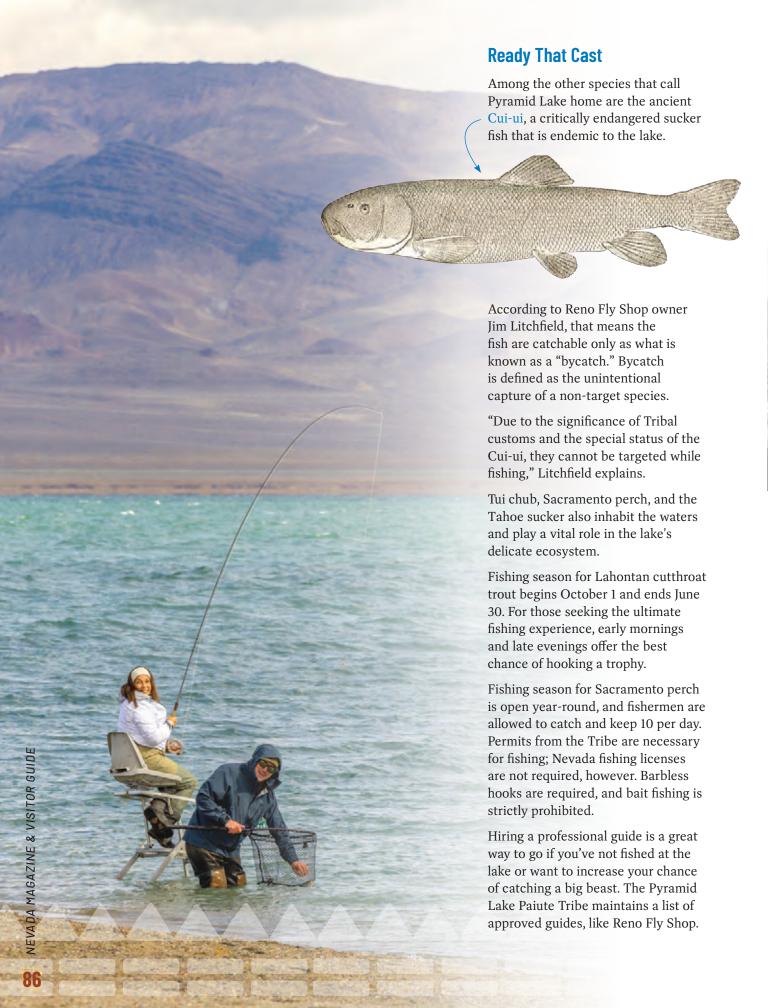
Catching one of these beauties is exciting any time, but when you discover the record-holding catch weighed in at 41 pounds, it's no wonder fishermen from all over flock to Pyramid Lake. Float tubes, boats, and fly casting from shore are all fair game, but securing one of the gargantuan fish sometimes requires unorthodox methods.

Anglers often stand on submerged ladders so they can get far enough away from shore to cast into the lakebed's deep drop-off. According to Mike Anderson, a guide and instructor at Reno Fly Shop, some drop-offs are a few feet from the water's edge, while others are more than 100 yards away and in 6-8 feet of water.

"This essentially makes the fish very difficult, if not impossible, to reach with a fly cast from shore. Unless you wade into the water to get as close to the drop-off as possible. Wading into 4-5 feet of water has its disadvantages, however," Anderson says. "For one, casting any great distance is inhibited. Two, winter water temperatures quickly steal any heat from the body. Finally, any wind or weather can create waves that are high enough to fill your waders or knock you off your feet."

Ladders keep anglers out of the water and able to cast longer distances. While you may not reel in a 40-pounder, know that 20-pound catches are normal in these storied waters.





A Day Well Spent

Whether you've cast your line at Pyramid Lake a thousand times or you've never fished it before, a day spent at this special place is always rewarding. As the sun dips below the horizon, it's easy to depart with a renewed or newfound appreciation for this remarkable landscape.





To learn how to obtain permits, find an approved guide, and see a complete list of the rules and regulations, visit pyramidlake.us.





Winnemucca is Northern Nevada's jewel. Known for its outstanding hospitality, Winnemucca has often been referred to as the "friendliest town in Nevada." With 24-hour action, endless recreational opportunities, a rich community history, quality accommodations and great dining options:

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DISCOVER Winnemucca, Nevada Halfway between Salt Lake City

Halfway between Salt Lake City and San Francisco on Interstate 80 The ♥ of Northern Nevada







Retreat to the olden days in this western Nevada outpost.

BY CORY MUNSON

Fish Lake Valley is a green stretch of high desert straddling the Nevada-California border. Even by Nevada standards, this is rural country. Beyond the tiny town of Dyer—home to one gas station and no stoplight—only farms and weathered homesteads dot the landscape.

The valley has all the best parts of the Great Basin. It's a collage of sagebrush plains, alkali flats, alfalfa fields, and hot spring oases. In the foothills, herds of antelope graze while raptors patrol above. On the valley's eastern flank lies the Silver Peak Range: a mass of hills flush with stubby pines and dry-creek canyons. To the west are the absolutely dominating White Mountains—the tallest range in the state.

DID YOU KNOW?

The White Mountains are home to some of the oldest trees on the planet!



PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

The Curator

"I want visitors to know we didn't crack out of an egg," says Linda Williams with a laugh. "We have a history here."

Williams is a near-lifelong resident of the valley. Her family moved to Dyer in the 1950s, settling into a lifestyle that was—even back then—a bit off the grid. Initially, they lived in a two-room, dirt-floor cabin with no electricity or running water. As a young girl, one of her favorite activities was to travel across the valley collecting curios—both natural and manmade.

"If something was decaying in the desert, I picked it up; it didn't take much for something to twinkle in my eye. After a while, my dad would say, 'Oh my gosh, that's a leaverite!' And I'd say, 'Oh, wow, that must be special!' and he'd say, 'It is! It means you leave it right where you found it,'" says Williams. "Somebody had to put some kind of control on me."



From as early as she can remember, her dream was to build a community museum. Fish Lake never had a museum, and much of its history was buried, forgotten, or dispersed. So, Williams spent the next few decades scavenging old dumpsites, acquiring (and moving) historic buildings, and unearthing a remarkable collection of the valley's relics. Today, her dream is now reality at the Fish Lake Valley Heritage Center and Museum.





History & Heritage

The charming heritage center is in a shaded grove directly off Dyer's main highway. There are no signs up (yet), but it's on the same property as the Wagon Wheels RV Park. If you're having trouble spotting it, pull over when you see something that looks like an old mining village.

"Lots of people stop to check the museum out not knowing what it is. Since this is Nevada, many assume it's a ghost town," says Williams.

The main visitor center is surrounded by a half-dozen structures set in a semicircle. These historic buildings are organized from newest to oldest—a 1947 Westwood travel trailer at one end and an 1870s cowboy cabin at the other.



While the museum is closed in the colder months, visitors are still welcome to stop at the heritage center to peer through the windows and take pictures.







From the houses to the décor, almost everything visitors see is from the valley. The gas station was the area's first. Next to it is one of the original Dyer post offices (there have been seven in total).

Each building tells a piece of the valley's story. Even the visitor center is historic, though it originated 50 miles north as part of the train depot in Mina. The visitor center offers the true overview of the valley's history, featuring everything from fossils to American Indian craftwork to branding irons.

Most of the artifacts are from Williams' collection, but plenty were donations given by decedents of the original pioneers. They were happy to have a place to display their heritage.

Williams prides the museum on being hands-on and allowing visitors to touch and interact with artifacts. Because of this, the heritage center is a popular field trip destination earlier this spring, around 40 students visited all the way from Ely.

"Kids need to touch things," she says. "When they close an old cash register or move around the wires on the operator switchboard, they remember that."



The Esmeralda
Market in Dyer offers
sandwiches until late
afternoon, but there
are no restaurants in
the valley. If you're
not staying at a bed
and breakfast, be
sure to bring food
with you.

Dyer Overnighter

Adjacent to the heritage center sits the Wagon Wheels RV Park, which Williams also owns and built on a 5-acre parcel of her family's old farm. And while she might be a museum curator, Williams also considers herself the unofficial town host.

"I want you to know this is your home. Even if you're just staying one night, you should feel comfortable and secure that you're not alone in the middle of the desert," she says.

The tidy RV park reflects her hospitality, providing the perfect place to settle in for an extended Fish Lake Valley adventure. Amenities include picnic tables, mature landscaping, 23 spaces—all hookups included—onsite laundromat, and heated bathrooms.

Because Williams is the owner, the history doesn't stop at the museum next door. The RV park boasts three cabins—all built in 1905—which were originally from a mountain retreat in California's Owens Valley. Outside of a few modern conveniences like power and plumbing, the cabins remain unchanged with original screen doors, redwood flooring, and covered porch. They also come fully furnished and include a kitchenette and bathroom with a shower.



Fish Lake Fun

Despite—or perhaps because of—its remote setting, people flock to Fish Lake Valley to mountain bike, hike, rockhound, explore ghost towns, and plenty more.

"We have some of the best bird watching out here and get a lot of bird clubs," Williams says. "Plenty of people come out here to stargaze, too. I had an astronomer from Canada come down last year and stay the whole month of October."

One of the most popular activities is off-roading, especially the Silver Peak Range just outside town. A particularly popular event is the valley's 62-mile poker run—a fundraiser for the fire department and ambulance.







While Dyer has a gas station, you should always fuel up in Tonopah, Beatty, or Benton, California, before visiting.





"Climbers want to get up the tallest mountain in every country or every state, so I get people here from all over the world," Williams says.

As the valley host, Williams is happy to suggest other rentals in the area. Next door is the Queensland Bed and Breakfast, an actual vineyard that offers rooms and an in-house breakfast. She's also honest about when not to visit.

"March is not a good time to come. Our typical weather is rain, snow, wind, sun, heat, cold: It's all over the board and crammed in a month."

For a list of things to do and experience in Fish Lake Valley, check out the Wagon Wheels RV Park website.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

Wherever your autumn adventures take you in Nevada, there's something fun going on nearby. Remember that dates and events are always subject to change, so be sure to verify before you start planning.



Pioche Labor Day Celebration Pioche

Aug. 30 - Sept. 2

This nearly 120-year-old tradition and allout street party extravaganza brings the Wild West to life all weekend with shows at the historic Thompson's Opera House, nighttime parades, and one impressive firework show. Check out the carnival games, bake sales, and craft fairs, but don't miss the signature lawn mower race.



Lattin Farms Fall Festival Fallon Oct. 5, 12, 19, 25 & 26

season's celebrations.

The 400-acre Lattin Farms is famous for two things: growing some of the region's best produce and hosting a month-long harvest festival extravaganza. Whether you want to build your own scarecrow, peruse a craft market, enter a costume contest, pick pumpkins, take a hay wagon ride, or navigate Nevada's largest corn maze, you'll find it easy to fall into the



Hauntober Virginia City Oct. 1-31

You'll find a host of terror-inducing activities and hauntings in this monthlong celebration. Ghost walks, mansion tours, escape rooms, and pub crawls await visitors with the festivities capped off by an all-out Halloween bash including a parade, trick-or-treating, and a rare opportunity to tour the Silver Terrace Cemetery after dusk.



August

3-9

BONNEVILLE SPEED WEEK West Wendover

10

JARBIDGE DAYS PARADE

Jarbidge

14-17

CASEY FOLKS VEGAS

TO RENO RACE

Statewide

16-18

WHITE PINE COUNTY FAIR AND HORSE RACES

Ely

16-26

JAZZ & BEYOND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Carson City

23-25

FALLON CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL

& COUNTRY FAIR

Fallon

25-Sept. 2 Burning Man

Black Rock Desert

28-Sept. 2

BEST IN THE WEST NUGGET RIB

COOK OFF

Sparks

September

5-7

GREAT BASIN ASTRONOMY

FESTIVAL Baker

6-8

SILVER STATE ART FESTIVAL

Carson City

6-8

INTERNATIONAL CAMEL

& OSTRICH RACES

Virginia City

6-8

THE GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE

Reno

7

RACE THE RAILS

Ely

12-15

SILVER STATE CLASSIC

CHALLENGE

Ely

14

JARBIDGE WINE WALK

Jarbidge

20-22

RUBY MOUNTAIN BALLOON

FESTIVAL

Elko

26-29

STREET VIBRATIONS FALL RALLY

Reno

28-29

GENOA CANDY DANCE ARTS &

CRAFTS FAIRE

Genoa

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS



October

4-5

RISE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Las Vegas

5-6

ART IN THE PARK

Boulder City

12-13

THE ELDORADO GREAT ITALIAN

FESTIVAL

Reno

18-20

LAKE TAHOE MARATHON

South Lake Tahoe

25-27

BEATTY DAYS FESTIVAL

Beatty

25-27

NEVADA DAY PARADE & CELEBRATION

Carson City



NEVADA MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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

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



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RENO

Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:





2. Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

Cathedral Gorge State Park
 Cave Lake State Park

6. Dayton State Park

7. Echo Canyon State Park

Kershaw-Ryan State Park
 Lahontan State Recreation Area

8. Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site

9. Fort Churchill State Historic Park10. Ice Age Fossils State Park

13. Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

14. Mormon Station State Historic Park

16. Rye Patch State Recreation Area

17. South Fork State Recreation Area

18. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

21. Walker River State Recreation Area

24. Wild Horse State Recreation Area

22. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park

19. Spring Valley State Park

20. Valley of Fire State Park

23. Washoe Lake State Park

15. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

3. Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park

25'

60' 40'

35'

35'

35'

N/A 45'

N/A

30'

60' N/A

N/A

N/A

45'

30'

N/A

35'

50'

50'

30'

45'

60'



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



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-inNevada experiences.

Scan for more info on 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 of the Lower 48's most remote sections, this road is all about unscripted adventure.

COWBOY CORRIDOR NV INTERSTATE

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.



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 very own national park, you'll explore surreal landscapes like Valley of Fire and Cathedral Gorge. Visit charming communities, and historic ghost towns.





FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

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



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 wildly Western Virginia City.



60 to 210 miles | 1 to 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.



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.



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



RUBIES ROUTE

30 to 375 miles | 2 to 5 days With Elko as your hub,

get ready to explore a recreationpacked 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.



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.

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

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.



Scan for more info on the Dirt Road Code



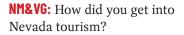
THE FINAL WORD KYLE HORVATH

For Kyle Horvath, moving to Ely to become White Pine County's tourism director was a leap of faith. After more than five years, it's one of the best moves he's made. Ely has earned national recognition for its outdoor recreation opportunities and special events, such as the Ring of Fire Eclipse Festival. His trick for marketing rural Nevada? Support your communities first.

NM&VG: What brought you to Nevada?

KH: I came to Nevada in 1999 teaching tennis at Lake Tahoe for the summer. One day in late May, I crested

Spooner Summit. It was sunset, and snow was falling over the lake. I was filled with emotion and knew this was home. I went back East, graduated with a marketing management degree, and moved immediately back to the lake. I always tell people I'm not from Nevada, but I got here as soon as I could.



KH: I moved to Carson City after a few years at the lake, and when I asked people what there was to do, they would point me back

to Lake Tahoe. I knew there had to be cool stuff going on in the capital, but no one was really talking about it. So, I started my own marketing and events business and worked to promote all the things I wanted to do. Eventually, I got picked up by Visit Carson City as their marketing manager.

NM&VG: What's the biggest challenge you face as a representative for rural Nevada?

KH: Convincing people in Reno and Las Vegas the drive is not as far as they think and that it's worth making.

NM&VG: Were there any surprises when you moved to White Pine County?

KH: I like to say the biggest surprise is the community keeps going along with some of the crazy things I'm suggesting. But honestly, here in Ely we have the biggest mountains and the oldest trees, so the culture is all about "let's highlight the biggest, fastest, or oldest in everything we do." The community is willing to try new things.

NM&VG: What's been the secret to your tourism success?

KH: We don't promote the area just to get visitors here. This is economic development. We want the people who will stay here to move here, so we invest in and promote the lifestyle that is uniquely White Pine. We want to grow, but we are not interested in having our destination lose its identity, so we use our budget to invest in raising the quality of life for everyone, not just tourists. We don't have to be everything to everyone, so we just do Ely the best we can.

NM&VG: If I had 24 hours to spend in Ely, what should I do?

KH: First thing in the morning, grab a cup of coffee and walk the murals in downtown. Grab a hearty breakfast at JT's Steakhouse and then go get in the mountains to hike, bike, or ride an ATV. After that, head to the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum and Nevada Northern Railway to tour the grounds and take a scenic train ride. Ride the Ping-Pong train over to the White Pine Public Museum, then take the train back to your car!



Fall into adventure in Tonopah this season!

Book your stay at the Mizpah or Belvada Hotel and savor the flavors of autumn with a craft beer at Tonopah Brewing Co. Experience the magic of the high desert with vibrant fall colors, crisp air, and unforgettable nights. Your perfect autumn escape awaits! Pets welcome!









