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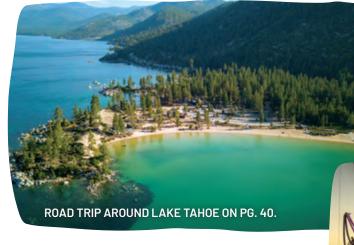
# NEVADA



SPRING/SUMMER 2025 VOLUME 85, NUMBER 1 200 S. Virginia St., Ste. 500 Reno, NV 89501 (775) 220-4941 editor@nevadamagazine.com

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Virginia City

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# SPRING/SUMMER 2025

# Shifts are Underway, but Some Things Never Change

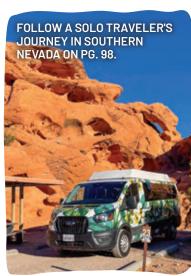




#### IT'S YOUR TURN.

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







You are currently holding the Spring/Summer 2025 issue—our first publication of the year. For anyone keeping track, I mentioned last issue that changes were afoot for the magazine, so here we go.

This year, we are transitioning to a biannual publication. The next and final issue of 2025 will be the Fall/Winter issue, which will come out in September. You can still have the print version mailed directly to you for free by using the QR code on the opposite page, or you can find it online at nevadamagazine.com.

For regular readers, have no fear! We are still going to write the stories you've come to love and we're also hard at work on some new products that will continue our deep dive into the heart of Nevada.

Deep dives like our story on the culture of Burning Man across the state, or the top 10 historic buildings to visit. We've traveled near and far to bring you stories on wildflowers, retro motels, the Punk Rock Museum, where to find some great vegetarian and vegan meals, and even a few ghost towns, to boot.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Nevada Magazine* & *Visitor Guide*, and I encourage you to sign up to have it mailed directly to you. While we no longer charge for the magazine, please note you'll need to sign up each year to have it mailed to you.

May there be many adventures in your future!

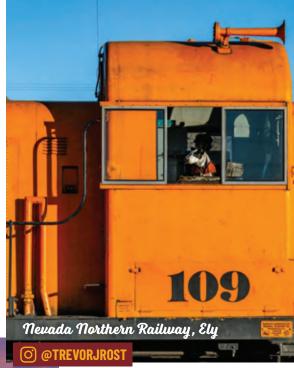
M. Mull

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor

# SOCIAL

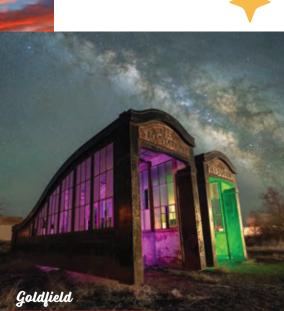
If you're wandering the Silver State, we want to hear about it.

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 by sharing your favorite travel moments 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.





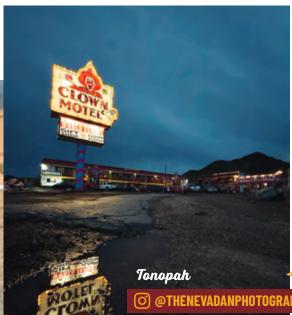




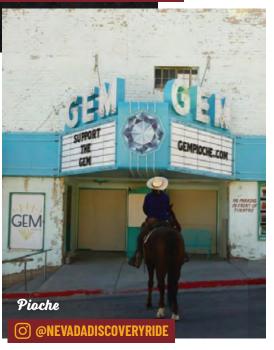
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# One Goal Down,

# So Many More in Store

## A note from Nevada's Lieutenant Governor







This time of year reminds me of how lucky I am to call Nevada home. Now is the time to get out and enjoy Nevada's state parks for outdoor activities like hiking, rock climbing, and fishing—as well as catching Nevada's wildflowers in full bloom.

Did you know that Nevada is home to more than 100 types of wildflowers? Not only do they provide a stunning contrast to the otherwise rugged landscape, but these blooms also play a crucial role in supporting the local ecosystem by providing food and habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Find out the best places to see them for yourself on pg. 48.

The warmer weather across the Silver State also means it's time to take advantage of Nevada's rivers and lakes. Rent kayaks for the whole family and explore the crystal-clear waters and hidden coves of Lake Tahoe—or head out, pole in hand, to reel in a big one on June 14 for Nevada's Free Fishing Day.

When I became Lieutenant Governor and Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism two years ago, I made it my goal to complete all 10 of Nevada's iconic road trips. And at the end of 2024, I did just that!

My travels to Baker and Panaca (Great Basin Highway), Jarbidge and Elko (Rubies Route), and Rhyolite and Tonopah (Free Range Art Highway) reminded me how diverse, stunning, and quirky our state is. For visitors and locals alike, I know you'll find the perfect Nevada adventure you're looking for with these 10 road trips. Check out this issue's story on the Lake Tahoe Loop.

My wife Bernadette and I (and our beagle Lucy) are looking forward to getting out this summer and exploring even more of the Silver State's best spots. I still find myself in awe at all there is to see and do throughout the state.

See you out on the road!

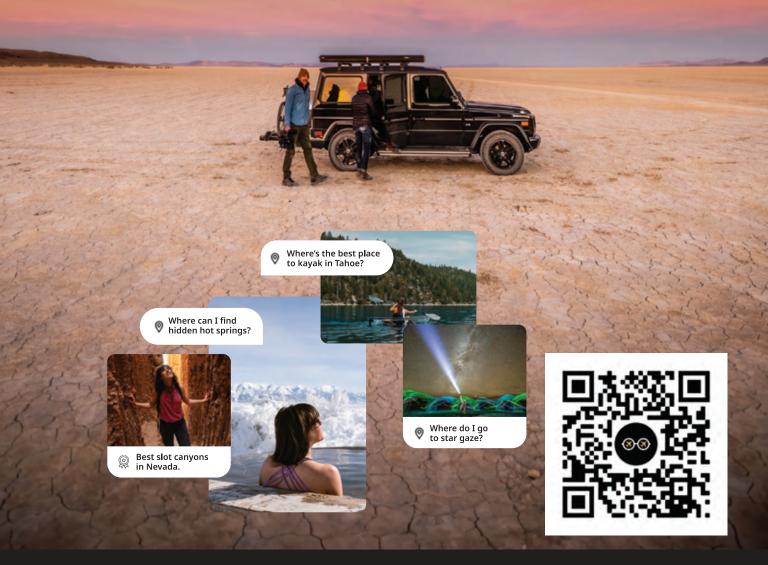
Stavros S. Anthony Lieutenant Governor Chairman, Nevada Commission on Tourism ltgov.nv.gov





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Message GuideGeek (it's free) on any platform.









## **SPOTLIGHT**

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Retreat to charming Minden and Gardnerville

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Burning Man culture thrives year-round in the Great Basin







As winter's chill becomes a memory, Nevada's landscapes awaken with unlimited things to do and see. We've got recommendations for the best places to stay, eat, and visit, so prepare to get a little out there and dive into your next Nevada road trip.

#### **COVERS**

Front: A light painting adorns equipment outside Goldfield.
Photographer:
@dariustwin
(Darren Pearson)
Back: Mingling with the locals at E.T.
Fresh Jerky in Hiko.
Photographer:
Carrie Roussel





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Nevada's landscapes star in 1987 sci-fi flick "Cherry 2000"

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Find out our staff's favorite watering holes

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Follow a solo traveler in southern Nevada













#### PATRIOTIC PADDLERS

Opposite pg, top: Martin Gollery photographed a crowd of boaters gathering on Lake Tahoe outside Incline Village to watch the Fourth of July fireworks.

Sony A7IV, 3.2 sec, f/1.8, ISO 100

#### **ROLLING ON THE RIVER**

Opposite pg, bottom: Jenny Qi took this shot during a Lake Mead paddle wheel riverboat tour. "The stark waterline on the rocks was all the more striking juxtaposed with the lone sailboat."

Google Pixel 2 XL, 1/5800 sec, f/1.8, ISO 53

#### DAZZLING DISPLAY

Nancy Munoz got this vibrant scene along the Fremont Street Experience. Established in 1995, the five-block extravaganza ranks among Las Vegas' most popular attractions and sees millions of visitors each year.

Nikon Z8, 1/250 sec, f/1.6, ISO 250

#### **PINE TIME**

Therese Iknoian captured this bristlecone pine at Great Basin National Park. "The full moon was rising and lending its light atop Mount Washington. Using a longer exposure, I created some movement in the clouds and allowed the stars to have short trails."

Sony a7m4, 137 sec, f/2.8, ISO 250

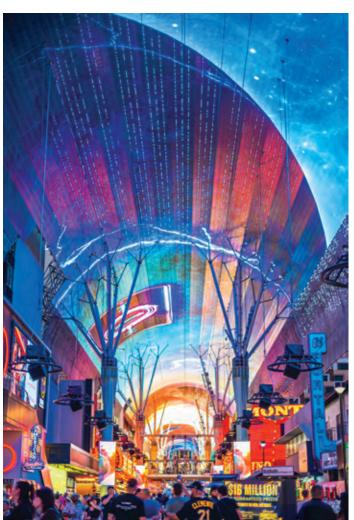
#### PHOTOGRAPHERS: GOT SOME GREAT NEVADA PHOTOS?

WANT A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES AND COOL NEVADA SWAG?

CHECK OUT
OUR 2025
GREAT
NEVADA
PICTURE
HUNT!



DETAILS ON PG. 71.



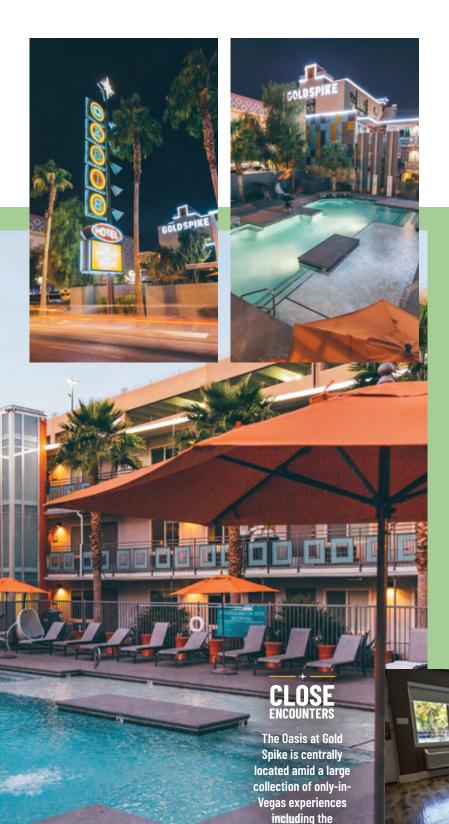




# Celebrate your favorite bygone era in these hip motels.

There's something about retro, vintage, and chic that's practically irresistible. Maybe it's the way they stir up nostalgia-or maybe people just had better taste back then. And sure, while you could don a pant suit and aviators for your retro revelry, why not go all in with an immersive stay at some of Nevada's coolest overnighters?





Downtown Container
Park, Fergusons
Downtown, and
the Fremont Street
Experience.

#### **OASIS AT GOLD SPIKE**

#### Las Vegas

Ready for a different type of Las Vegas vacation? This vintage, off-Strip experience delivers an unforgettable stay within a short stroll of iconic attractions.

This retro, 21+ hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Downtown—a neighborhood packed with indie bars, restaurants, and boutique shopping areas—which means you'll spend less time waiting around for a ride and more time enjoying yourself. The property blends in seamlessly with Downtown's playful, refurbished aesthetic with spacious rooms, modern conveniences, and an acclaimed staff.

The hotel also offers plentiful ways to recharge in between your Vegas ventures. Straight out of a Polaroid from 1975, the outdoor pool is the perfect place to cool off and even out that tan. In the outdoor common area, you'll meet and greet other guests while partaking in oversized games of cornhole and Jenga or enjoying performances from live bands and DJs. There's also free parking, a fitness center, and on-site bike rentals.

## Reno

Whether you're looking for a restful retreat or eager to experience everything MidTown Reno has to offer, consider Best Bet Motor Lodge your ace in the hole. This modern, inviting boutique hotel delivers comfort and convenience with a touch of nostalgic charm, making it an ideal hub for any kind of getaway you're after.

**BEST BET MOTOR LODGE** 

Choose from deluxe king and double queen suites or opt for coziness in a standard queen room. All lodging options include a mini fridge, flat screen smart TV, a workstation, complimentary tea and coffee, and a mini bar. As an added perk, guests can enjoy a rejuvenating sweat session inside a 1950s teardrop trailer that's been converted into an outdoor sauna.











# BOULDER CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

#### **Boulder City**

If you're not familiar with Boulder City, know that its inviting city center is one of the state's most walkable and well-preserved neighborhoods. Boulder City's Historic District which was placed on the National Historic Register in 1983—brims with boutique shops, Art Deco hotels, colorful cafes, and a stunning string of retro motels.

These well-manicured motels still compete for the attention of weary drivers through glitzy signage, inviting outdoor pools, and quirky architecture. And no matter which one you pick, you'll get to enjoy the others as ambience.



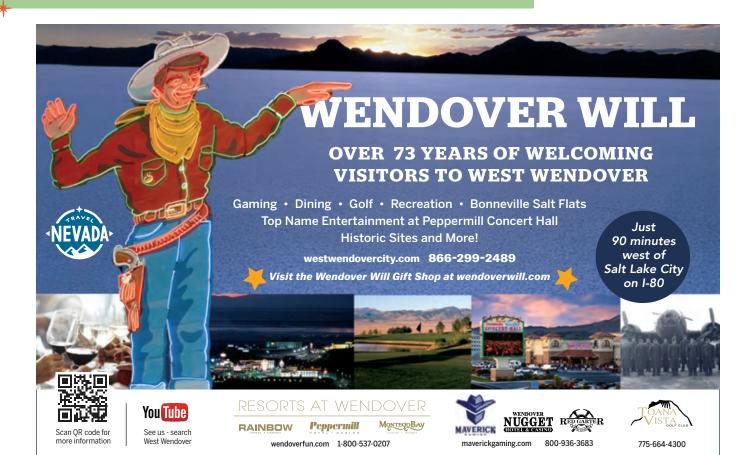


Looking for a few food recommendations while strolling Boulder City's pedestrian-friendly core? We recommend Coffee Cup Café, Chilly Jilly'z, and The Dillinger Food and Drinkery.









# 

# Dive into fun with this watery trio.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

State recreation areas are all managed by Nevada State Parks, so check parks.nv.gov for more information. Northern Nevada is known for quite a few things: buckaroos, gold mining, and Basque culture, to name a few. However, this part of the Silver State is also home to some of the state's wettest mountains. Fortunately, their winter runoff gets captured into massive reservoirs—many of which are now well-managed state recreation areas (SRAs). If your travels take you along Interstate 80, keep these excellent options in mind for your fishing, boating, and camping adventures.

# RUSTIC HOSPI TALITY

Looking for a comfortable stay while at Wild Horse? Reserve one of their three on-site cabins—available to rent year-round.



#### **Wild Horse**

Needing a high-elevation escape into some gorgeous Nevada countryside? This SRA—located an hour north of Elko—offers year-round boating, camping, and angling. Best of all, the surrounding area includes some of the state's wildest (and most diverse) terrain, which is easily accessible via countless OHV trailheads.

This area is ripe with elk, pronghorn, mule deer, and lots of waterfowl and upland game birds. But the 2,830-acre Wild Horse Reservoir is best known as a prime fishing spot—particularly ice fishing. Though the ice varies from year to year, it is generally safe to fish from December through March. The annual Wild Horse Ice Fishing Derby is held every February, weather and ice conditions permitting.



# OLD FASH IONED FUN

Stop in Gold Diggers
Saloon and Grub House
outside Rye Patch SRA for
a cold one and heaping
portions of nachos,
burgers, and signature
specialty pizzas.

#### **Rye Patch**

Located along the Humboldt River between Lovelock and Winnemucca, Rye Patch SRA is a veritable oasis playground. This 11,000-acre reservoir sees visitors swimming, boating, hiking, and camping amid stunning desert vistas. And whatever their hobby, visitors will find light crowds and excellent facilities.



# Elko: Your Next Adventure



Breathtaking views of the Ruby Mountains. Hike, fish, and soak in the beauty.



Diverse habitat like Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge attracts a wide variety of species.



Discover a vibrant outdoor art gallery featuring dozens of murals that depict the region's rich history, culture, and spirit.



Stars sparkle like diamonds against the inky blackness of a celestial canvas.



Vistas of rugged mountains, lush valleys, and sparkling streams showcase the diverse beauty of the region.



Remnants of the region's rich mining history offer a glimpse into the past.

## **UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS**

#### May

Cinco De Mayo Festival Jake Eary Memorial Rodeo Annual Elko Home Show

#### JUNE

Elko Mining Expo Ruby Roubaix Lamoille Country Fair Silver State Stampede Country Under the Stars

#### JULY

4th of July Fireworks National Basque Fest Summer Daze Concerts Art in the Park

#### AUGUST

Elko Pop Con Elko County Fair & Horse Races

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Rides & Rods Elko Classic Car Show Robin Hood Renaissance Faire Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival Gold Rush Bull Riding Challenge



# 0-FISH-AL

Before casting a line, be sure to get your hands on a required state fishing permit. The easiest way to do that is through the Nevada Department of Wildlife website, which is where you'll also find fishing maps and stocking updates.



In addition to its three day-use group areas, this spot hosts 50 campsites that include access to flush toilets and hot showers. Notably, the well-maintained amenities include a bit of history: many trails, gazebos, and barbecue pits were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression.

Spring and early summer are typically the best times to fish along all 72 miles of Rye Patch Reservoir shoreline for crappie, wipers, white and black bass, and walleye, and fall is prime season for catfish.



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	Bluegill	Bowcutt Trout	Brown Trout	Channel Catfish	Largemouth Bass	Rainbow Trout
WILD HORSE		7	7	7	7	7
RYE PATCH	7			7	7	
SOUTH FORK		7	7	7	7	7

#### **South Fork**

Located at the base of the snowcapped Ruby Mountains—about 18 miles south of Elko—this expansive SRA boasts acres of rolling hills flush with sagebrush and meadows. The scenic reservoir attracts anglers yearround to catch its trophy-sized trout—along with catfish and bass. Wildlife loves the region too: Everything from mule deer, badgers, beavers, and waterfowl call the valley home. South Fork offers 25 campsites with tables, grills, and access to flush restrooms with showers.



# DAILY RATE

Admission to
Nevada's state
recreation areas
is \$5 for in-state
vehicles and
\$10 for non-NV
vehicles. Camping
is \$10 and \$15,
respectively,
as is use of the
boat launch.







Las Vegas delivers the perfect love letter to all things punk.

BY RACHEL WRIGHT



Picture it: You walk into a museum and pick up an artifact. No sirens sound. No one asks you to leave. You're encouraged to touch more things. Passersby watch and (possibly) cheer.

Like the music genre and subculture scene that inspired it, The Punk Rock Museum is all about getting hands-on and pushing the envelope. It's a love letter to lifelong fans and an invite to anyone curious about the influence punk has had on music, fashion, and society.



"The Punk Rock Museum is for anyone that wants to look at the history that celebrates a culture that coined the term 'DIY' (Do It Yourself)," says Chief Communications Officer Melanie Kaye. "It aims to be inclusive and fun. Who doesn't like fun?"

Opened in 2023, The Punk Rock Museum fills 12,000 square feet in the heart of Las Vegas with one-of-a-kind memorabilia. Items on display range from instruments and handwritten lyrics to clothing, photos, fliers, and artwork.

"Initially, we went through our personal contacts and asked people we had long relationships with if they wanted to donate or loan an artifact," says Kaye. "After we opened, we found that most of our artifacts were coming in from people who reached out to us. It was incredibly moving as it was based on trust and mutual respect. They knew we would celebrate their legacy."

## (Stage) Dive In

You can pore over the expansive-yet-intimate collection for hours, plus changing and traveling exhibitions guarantee no two visits are the same. Better yet? You'll get the full scoop from a living legend.

Every month, artists and personalities who helped shape the punk scene give guided tours of The Punk Rock Museum. Choose from musicians like CJ Ramone (Ramones/Me First and the Gimme Gimmes), Keith Morris (Black Flag/OFF!/Circle Jerks), and Linh Le (Bad Cop Bad Cop), or opt for well-known

historians and TV hosts such as Matt Pinfield and Riki Rachtman. It's a rare opportunity to explore alongside the icons featured in the galleries, and every guide brings their insider tales to the experience.

In the Jam Room, the museum wants people to play the actual instruments used by renowned punk bands. And if you accidentally break a guitar or bass from NOFX, Pennywise, or Rise Against, The Punk Rock Museum will fix it—just like roadies would do on tour.





## **Literally Live**

Of course, you can't have a punk rock museum without punk rock music. Scheduled and surprise shows happen in both the museum space and the on-site bar: the Triple Down. Past performers include Gogol Bordello, The Dwarves, Me

First and the Gimme Gimmes, and The Paradox. Along with live music, the Triple Down also hosts karaoke and trivia nights, plus album releases and special events (like a rockabilly prom). The establishment also offers a way to refresh your vocal chords with Vegas-brewed beers and specialty cocktails.

"One of our most popular drinks is called a Fletcher—named after Fletcher in the band Pennywise" says Kaye. "It's a rum and cola served in a Pringles can, and the chips are served in a basket. It's a drink and a snack, all in one!"

The museum warmly embraces the wild, in-your-face spirit of punk, but that's not to say meaningful moments are lacking. There are plenty of heartfelt connections in the more than 50 years of community and culture lining the museum's walls.

# TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Want a permanent souvenir of your Punk Rock Museum pilgrimage? Book an appointment (or cross your fingers for a walk-in spot) at The Shop, a tattoo parlor that operates inside the museum.

"One of my personal favorite items is a burnt guitar that belonged to my dear friend Dave Gregg, who played in D.O.A. as well as The Real McKenzies and The Groovaholics," says Kaye. "I miss him a lot, so when I see his guitar and the amazing photo Bev Davies took of him lighting his guitar on fire, I get to have a little visit with him."

For anyone who fell in love with the music or gave their blood, sweat, and tears to the scape. The Punk Pock

Museum is simply a must. And even if you don't feel that kinship, you should still join the party, Kaye believes.

"The exhibits and artifacts are always changing, and we have tour guides from legendary bands and notable artists who offer their personal perspectives," she explains. "With everything going on, it truly leaves people wondering what they will see or who they will meet when they go to The Punk Rock Museum."







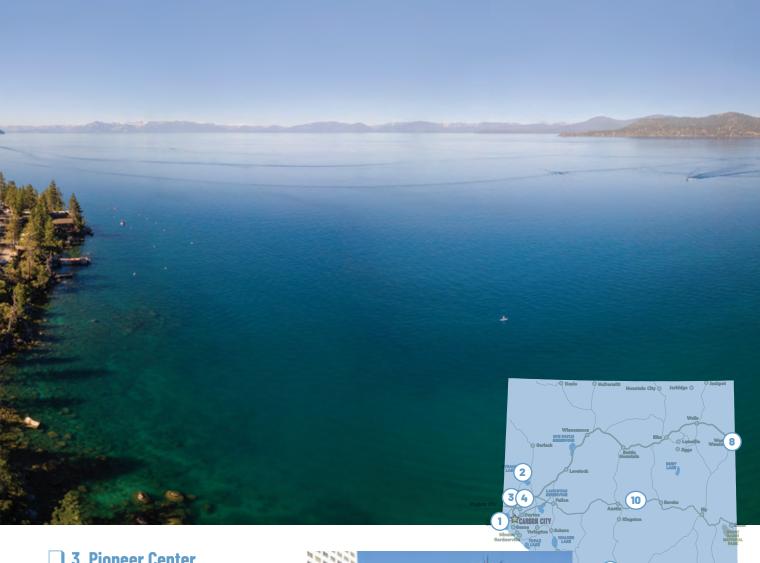
#### □ 1. Lake Tahoe

Vast, crystal-clear, and surrounded by towering peaks, Lake Tahoe is a year-round haven for alpine adventure. While it's a bi-state wonder, Nevada's half features casino resorts, famous beaches, and four glorious state parks.

### 2. Pyramid Lake

This stunning body of water is the largest remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan, which covered the northwest Great Basin during the last Ice Age. Pyramid is the ancestral and current home to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and a popular destination for campers, anglers, and birdwatchers.





# **□** 3. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts

Set in the heart of downtown Reno, this iconic geodesic performance hall—built in 1967—hosts performances from around the globe, including comedy and off-Broadway shows and ballet, jazz, and classical concerts.

#### 4. Reno Arch

Built in 1926 to celebrate the completion of the Transcontinental Highway, the famous Reno Arch has gone through several iterations over the years. The modern arch—which stretches across Virginia Street—was built in 1987. You can still find the original a few blocks away spanning Lake Street.







#### ☐ 6. Las Vegas Strip

Perhaps the world's most famous 4-mile urban stretch, this dazzling drive serves up views of castles, pyramids, and faux cities. In fact, this portion of Las Vegas Boulevard is so distinct that it's been designated a national scenic byway.

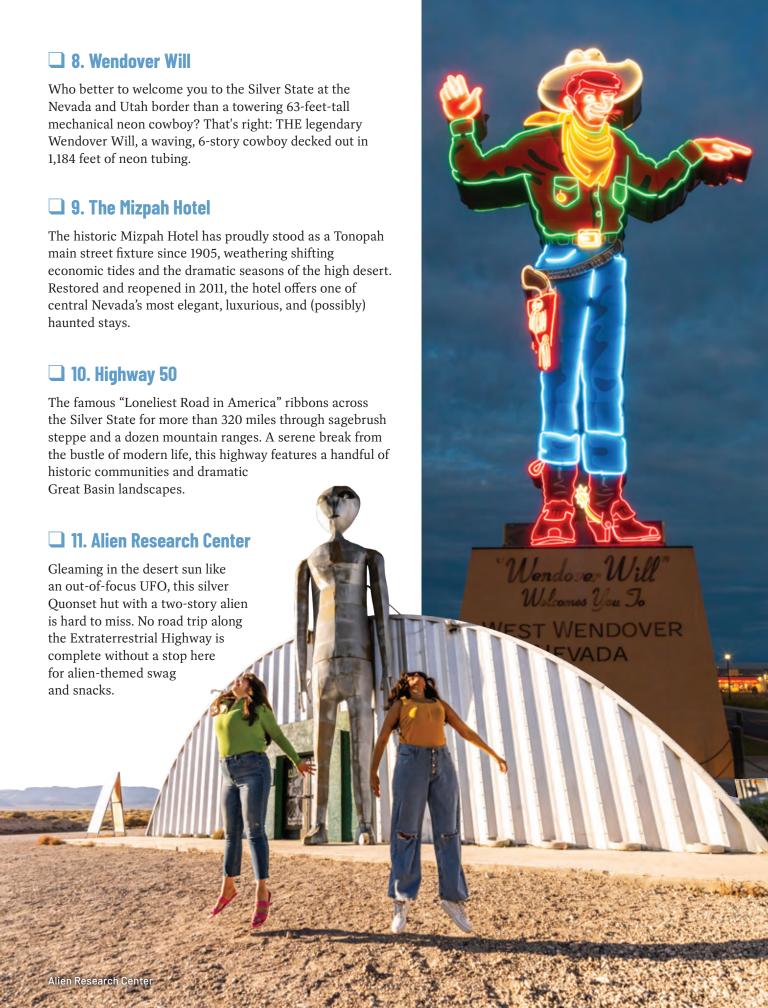
#### ☐ 7. Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign

Say hello to one of the most famous city signs in the U.S. Erected in 1959, this sign—which sits on a traffic island at 5100 Las Vegas Boulevard South—sees tens of thousands queue up each year for their iconic selfie.

## **■** 5. Hoover Dam

Rising mightily over the Colorado River, Hoover Dam enjoys the same worldwide fame as other well-known landmarks like the Eifel Tower and the Empire State Building. This engineering marvel bridges the border between Nevada and Arizona and forms Lake Mead, one of the largest reservoirs in the U.S.



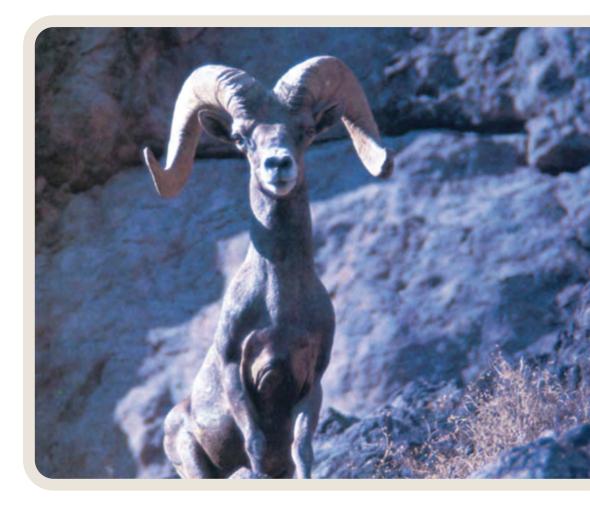






and range shrank drastically, until only a few hundred were left at the turn of the century and had disappeared entirely from two-thirds of their historic range.

There are about 4,200 bighorns in Nevada today\* according to Department of Fish and Game estimates, and hunting quotas are low. In the fall of 1977, the state issued 82 bighorn tags to hunters, and only elderly rams can be killed out of respect for the herd's growth. (Today an average of one percent is harvested annually, which is 16 percent less than the species' annual turnover.)



Historic hunting had

its effect on the bighorn's brush with extinction. Hunted as a major source of food in the 1800s, the animals were easy to catch in summer near waterholes. Despite a state law prohibiting the killing of bighorns after 1901, the Boone and Crocket Club stated in about 1915 that illegal bighorn hunting in the U.S. was most popular in Nevada.

But probably the most important threat to the bighorns' welfare was the introduction of domestic livestock onto Nevada's open rangelands in the 1800s. Thousands of cattle, sheep, horses and burros suddenly were competing with native bighorns for water and forage. At the same time, miners and millers also competed for water and space. Prospectors and farmers built their cabins near springs, a sensible move for home use but sure to drive away wildlife. The bighorns were shy for all their majestic bearing and refused to compete. They simply moved on.

Bighorn sheep are found currently anywhere from below sea level in Death Valley to towering Charleston Peak. Adaptable but slow, bighorns need three things for survival: food, water and escape cover. Their favorite food is grass, which comprises 60 percent of a bighorn's diet, but they also enjoy forbs, browse, and cactus. They drink from springs or rivers in summer and depend on moisture from plants in the winter. Escape cover is rocky, rough terrain because the bighorn can move rapidly through the toughest terrain of mountains and desert.

Most of Nevada's bighorns reside in the southern part of the state in Clark, Lincoln and Esmeralda counties. A few can be found on the Grant Range in Nye County and the White Pine Range near Ely. Well protected from early exploration, herds have survived in these areas that have been shunned by man and are unpopular for livestock grazing.

Bighorn sheep country in Nevada is 90 percent public domain, run by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Parks, and Fish and Wildlife Service. The biggest single bighorn enclave is the National Desert Wildlife Range just north of Las Vegas.

The Nevada Department of Fish and Game is currently trying to improve bighorn habitat by developing water sources and by transplanting small herds into their historic areas where there is no longer competition.

#### **BIGHORN FACTS**

- Bones of bighorn sheep have been found dating back 15,000 years to a time when Nevada and the West were blessed with a wet climate.
- Archaeologists say the animals migrated across the Bering Sea Land Bridge from Russia and have occupied all the mountains with suitable habitat between Alaska and Mexico.
- The earliest bighorn remains discovered in Nevada are estimated to be 11,600 years old. The desert or Nelson bighorn that inhabits the state is smaller than its Rocky Mountain cousin but has a wider spread of horns.
- According to researchers, bighorns migrate up to 40 miles between their summer range with a reliable water source to a waterless winter range.
- Bighorns are polygamous, and during breeding season in fall, rams don't eat, hormones start charging, and the horn growth stops, leaving a ring on the horn for each year. Single lambs are produced in spring.

The best areas for bighorns are those protected from multiple use management: The animals' biggest enemy is man, with his campgrounds, recreation, automobiles, and highways.

"It's not the physical presence of man that bothers sheep," says one Nevada game biologist, "because man and sheep have lived in Nevada together for over 10 thousand years. It's the type of activity that man is engaged in that causes the problems...Like when people go to a spring and camp right on it for several days and two or three kids are playing around it, the sheep won't come in for a drink.

"That's the type of activity that makes it bad for all wild animals."

To test the bighorn's everyday habits, in 1973 Fish and Game caught, tagged, and released 82 bighorns in the River Mountains of Clark County. Besides providing an estimate of the area's population, the study showed that bighorns are relative homebodies.

Unlike cattle, which roam widely throughout the range, the bighorns each occupied a select area within the range. The study also showed that the bighorns could get by in winter months with moisture from food but needed water in summer.

Records were kept of the animals' movements for two years. In that time, some appeared at water sources—tanks and springs—every day in the summertime, while others stopped for a drink only once every three to five days. Ewes with lambs drank most often in early summer, whereas rams tended to concentrate near water later in the season. Rainstorms usually dispersed sheep away from the springs because the rainwater is available in natural rock "tanks" throughout the range.

The familiarity of bighorns with their habitat is important—the rockier and more precipitous the area, the more likely the sheep will survive. And even though bighorns are difficult to spot, they are not always invisible. On a hot summer day from a boat below Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, it is possible to see up to 30 or 40 head on the banks.

The bighorn is the state animal of Nevada, a proud symbol of survival in the desert. The bighorn's future depends on how man uses the land. In several decades, its population in Nevada has grown from a lonely handful to more than 4,000 head. Perhaps the bighorn's best bet is that modern man, like Coronado, will continue to marvel and protect this desert friend.

#### \*Editor's notes:

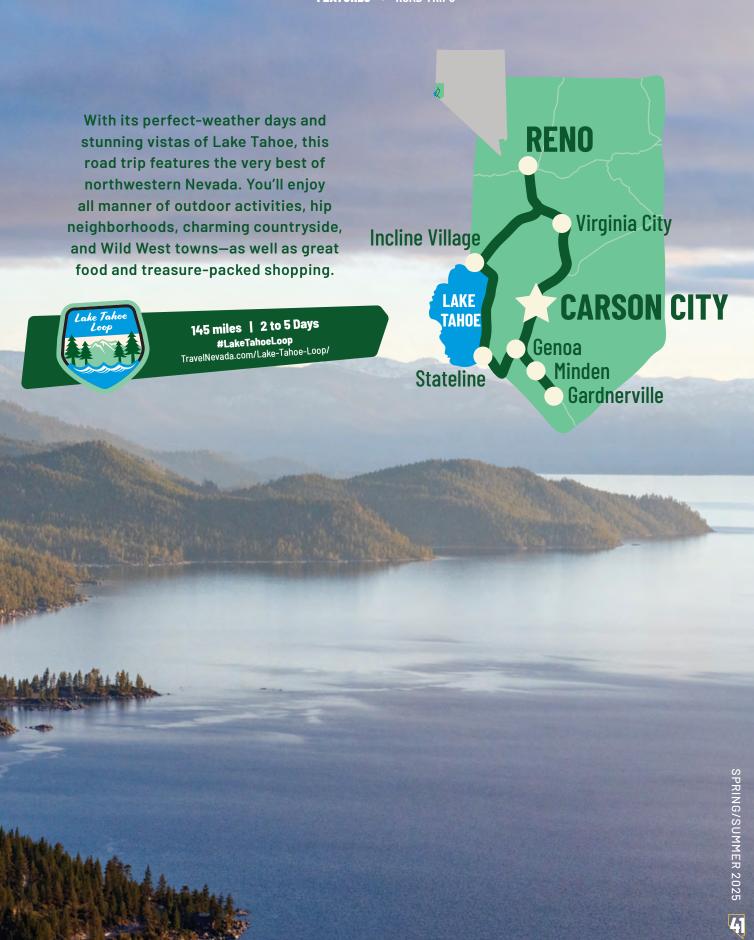
This article has been edited from its original form.

Thanks to conservation efforts, Nevada's desert bighorn population has grown to approximately 6,400 adults since this article's publication nearly five decades ago.



## LAKE TAHOE LOOP,

Scenic views and historic communities await on this alpine adventure.





#### Reno

This picturesque city at the foothills of the Sierra Nevada boasts the perfect blend of outdoor attractions and metropolitan culture. Yes, the Biggest Little City is famous for its exciting casino resorts, but make sure to explore the Riverwalk and the vibrant downtown. From off-Broadway performances at the Pioneer Center to a week-long celebration of classic cars during Hot August Nights, there's always something happening in northern Nevada's largest town.

#### DINE

- + Cosmo's Snack Bar
- + Thali Reno
- + Louis' Basque Corner
- + Brothers Barbecue
- + Süp

#### STAY

- + Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
- + Peppermill Resort Spa Casino
- + The Jesse Hotel & Bar
- + Renaissance Reno Downtown Hotel & Spa
- + Whitney Peak Hotel



#### **Lake Tahoe**

With its dozens of sandy beaches, hundreds of hiking and biking trails, and crystal-clear waters, Lake Tahoe is a world-class vacation destination. And while summer is sublime, it's absolutely worth visiting in every season for the region's diverse offerings—not to mention the reduced crowds.

If you're looking for a place to start your adventure, you can't go wrong with a visit to any of Lake Tahoe's four fabulous Nevada State Parks. Each offers a different—and easily accessible—way to experience the Nevada side of this alpine paradise.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In 1935, a magnate named George Whittell Jr. purchased more than 20 miles of Lake Tahoe's eastern shoreline for \$2.3 million. Whittell left most of his land undeveloped, and after his death, most of the property became public land. For this reason, Nevada's side of the lake is primarily national forest and state parks.





#### SAND HARBOR

Home to one of Tahoe's most famous beaches and the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival



#### SPOONER LAKE & BACKCOUNTRY

Hike, bike, or rent a rustic cabin amid 13,000 acres of unspoiled alpine wonderland



#### VAN SICKLE

Located just minutes from the Nevada/California border, this is one of the most accessible parks in the basin



#### CAVE ROCK

This natural cave formation offers unmatched vistas of Lake Tahoe with access to beaching, boating, and picnicking



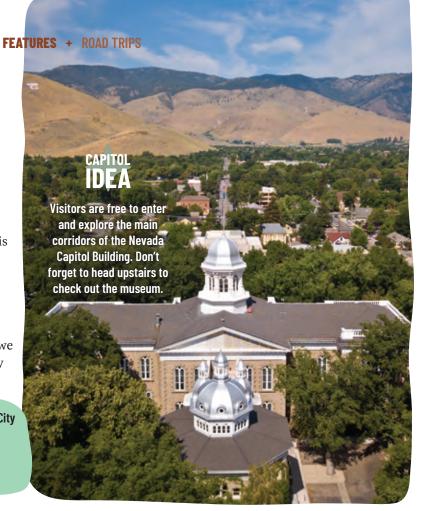




#### **Carson City**

If Reno is the Biggest Little City, Nevada's state capital could be the Biggest Small Town. Charming Carson City offers diverse cultural, culinary, and historical experiences while still preserving a quaint, oldfashioned ambience. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the historic downtown, where the opulence of the late-19th-century silver era is still evident in its grand public buildings and residences. There is much to do and see in Carson, but we recommend starting with its variety of galleries and museums.

- + Nevada State Railroad Museum | Carson City
- **→** Brewery Arts Center
- + Nevada State Museum | Carson City





#### **Carson Valley**

Located just south of Carson City, this enchanting valley brims with Silver State history, locally sourced eats, some of Nevada's best antique shopping, and tons of outdoor action. Be sure to stop in Genoa—the state's oldest settlement—to enjoy this village's timeless charm as you stroll, window shop, or brunch in a deliciously historic setting. Whether you stop in Genoa Bar & Saloon (the state's oldest thirst parlor) or take a hot spring soak at David Wally's Resort, you'll have plenty to look forward to on this stretch of the trip.

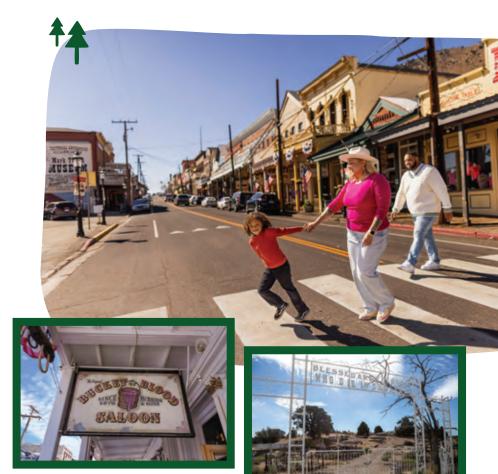
Check out Carson Valley's famous pair of must-see towns on pg. 66.



#### **Virginia City**

Home to the Comstock Lode—the largest silver vein in U.S. history—Virginia City is one of the best-preserved relics of the Old West. Its famous wooden boardwalk is flanked with historic schools, churches, saloons, and hotels, as well as all the window shopping, confections, and hearty grub a visitor could want. With its storied sights, rich culture, and wild events, this time capsule is absolutely worth a visit. Here are just a few highlights to get you started.

- + Bucket of Blood Saloon
- + Silver Terrace Cemetery
- + Ponderosa Mine Tour
- + Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry





Limitless excitement in Reno Tahoe, where the calendar is packed with unique events year-round. Picture hot-air balloons filling the skies, cook-off competitions that sprawl throughout downtown and festivals celebrating every engine-powered vehicle you can imagine, all of it set in the natural beauty of Northern Nevada.

Unleash more adventure by scanning the QR code for a full schedule of events in our vibrant and dynamic destination.



RenoTahoe.

## BURNER BYWAY

110-250 MILES | 2-4 DAYS

Named after the route that revelers trace from Reno to world-famous Burning Man, this journey offers less pavement than some of Nevada's other road trips. However, each mile takes travelers away from civilization and into some of the state's most scenic sectors. Buckle up and triple-check you've got that spare tire: You're headed to some of the most remote places in the Lower 48.



## PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIB MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- + Enjoy a sizzling cuisine scene and abundant night life in Reno's colorful MidTown
- + Discover Native history at the **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitor Center**
- + Grub on comfort food and a cold brew in remote Gerlach
- + Take a tour of the iconic Fly Geyser
- + Enjoy galactic views from the Black **Rock Desert playa**
- + Trek to a (very) remote hot spring at Soldier Meadows



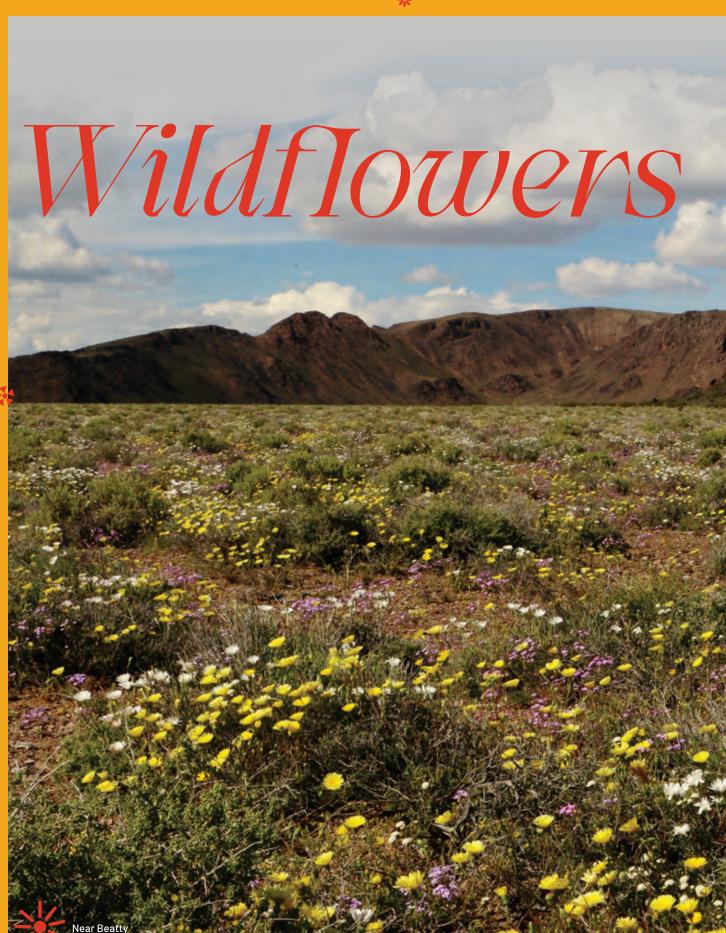






BRUNO'S COUNTRY CLUB, GERLAC







## Chase the blooms and perennials across the Silver State.

A wet winter in the Great Basin is pretty much always a good thing. Most Nevadans will gladly sit through their third April snowstorm if that means babbling brooks and green hillsides into July. But it's not only grass, sage, and alfalfa that reap the rewards of strong runoff: Snowcapped peaks in spring means a bumper crop of beautiful wildflowers.





While a desert state might not be the first place you'd think to check when looking for wildflowers, don't forget that Nevada is the most mountainous state in the Lower 48. Thanks to its wide elevation range (from sea level to almost 14,000'), the state has diverse climates that support an array of flowers, some of which bloom even in drought years.

During the warm months, when moisture is greatest and the days are long, dormant seeds and plants spring to life, and wildflowers burst across the landscape. But there is no single season for spotting these blooms. Mountain wildflowers come in and out depending on elevation, latitude, and snowpack. Peak flowering times also depend on the species: Visit the same hillside over a few weeks and you'll find mule's ear give way to Indian paintbrush and then lupine.



Generally, one of the greatest differences between wildflowers in Nevada is latitude. Southern Nevada sees spring much earlier, meaning it's possible to walk through wildflowers as early as March. In northern Nevada, expect the best blooms around June or July.

With enough planning, a motivated wildflower enthusiast could potentially chase the blooms across half the year. Assuming not everyone has time for that, here is a highlight of some of our favorite wildflower watch areas.





Admire the flowers and take all the pictures you'd like, but please don't gather or trample plants. You'll be preserving the view for the next visitor and helping promote pollinationespecially for rare, endemic species that grow in isolated areas. Additionally, note that in some state parks-and at Great Basin National Park-picking flowers is prohibited.



Northeast of Sparks



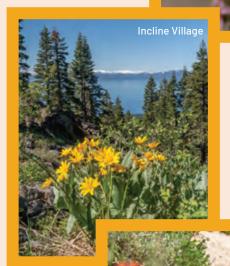




Incline Village & Tamarack Peak

Washoe Lake State Park

Carson City & Carson Valley





Carson City

Tamarack Peak









With more than 40 species across the state, you'll likely encounter a few hills blanketed in these flowers-particularly in central Nevada's Toquima and Toiyabe ranges. Their carnivorous name comes from an old belief that lupines depleted the ground of nutrients. In fact, lupines grow in poor-quality soil because, unlike many plants, they source their nitrogen from the atmosphere-thus ultimately enriching the surrounding soil.



Success Loop

Lamoille Canyon

> **Great Basin** National Park







**FEATURES** 



Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Christmas Tree Pass







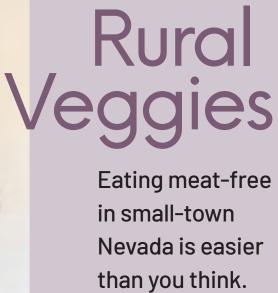


Located just minutes from The Strip, Springs Preserve is home to gardens and trails packed with native flora and fauna. Don't miss a stop at their famous butterfly sanctuary—open during the spring and fall.



NEVADA MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

54



BY SUSAN MOWERS

Susan Mowers enjoying a petite salad and strawberry cake smoothie at So Juicy - Juice and Salad Bar in Carson City. As someone who travels around the state frequently, and who is also a vegetarian, I'm always on the lookout for places in Nevada's smaller communities where I can get my veggie on. What I've found is that rural Nevada has some delicious vegetarian fare, including options in a few unlikely places.

So Juicy - Juice and Salad Bar Vegan-friendly

Nevada's capital is a small town with a big veggie-lovers punch.
So Juicy is centrally located in its quaint downtown, kitty-corner from the capitol building. Looking for breakfast? So Juicy offers freshly made juices, vegan smoothies, acai bowls, and even avocado toast.
Come lunchtime, fill up on all the fresh veggies you can imagine with their full salad bar. They also have kombucha on tap and offer juice cleanses if you want to kick-start your health.

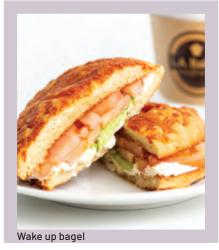
I usually get the petite salad (because the large salad is massive!) and add on a soup (vegan options available). I also have a huge sweet tooth, so I love to top off my meal with an all-fruit popsicle.

Susan's favs: avo cocoa bowl, strawberry cake smoothie, petite salad



Avo cocoa bow







#### LA Bakery Café & Eatery Vegetarian-friendly

A capital city staple, LA Bakery is known for its health-forward and oh-so-delicious menu. If you want more than salad, LA Bakery has great vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free soups and sandwiches. Breakfast choices include coffee, smoothies, sandwiches and wraps, all things eggs, and pancakes (including gluten-free). For lunch, there are several vegetarian options among the massive menu of cold sandwiches, paninis, wraps, soups, and salads.

As the name implies, this is also a fantastic bakery (I mentioned I have a sweet tooth, right?). From pastries to cakes and everything in-between, you have to leave room for dessert. If you really like chocolate, they have a chocolate cup that is made from chocolate, filled with chocolate mousse, and topped with chocolate shavings. Be prepared to share this extremely rich taste of heaven.

Susan's favs: wake up bagel, California grilled veggie wrap, gold latte (made with turmeric), and of course, the chocolate cup!

#### Courtyard Café and Bakery Vegetarian-friendly

This delightful café in the heart of Fallon is open for breakfast and lunch and has plenty of vegetarian options. I used to be an eggs Benedict fan before my vegetarian days, so I love the veggie benny, made with cream cheese, spinach, tomato, and avocado. Lunchtime offers many veggie options in the form of sandwiches, salads, quiche, and pasta. I'm a cheese lover and adore their grilled cheese which is layered with both Swiss and cheddar on a grilled Parmesan cheese-crusted sourdough bread.

Susan's favs: grilled cheese, bruschetta angel hair pasta





#### **FALLON**

#### The Slanted Porch

Vegetarian-friendly

Fallon is known as the Oasis of Nevada—and for good reason: This farm-to-table restaurant uses the bounty of the local farms. Though it's only open for lunch, it's worth it for that fresh meal. The Fallon is the most scrumptious egg salad sandwich; it comes with house-made potato chips—definitely a treat. Or you can opt for the veggie

sandwich or choose from a variety of fresh vegetarian salads. Best of all, The Slanted Porch is a sustainable restaurant and uses biodegradable to-go containers and composts food waste.

Susan's favs: Fallon sandwich, house-made potato chips

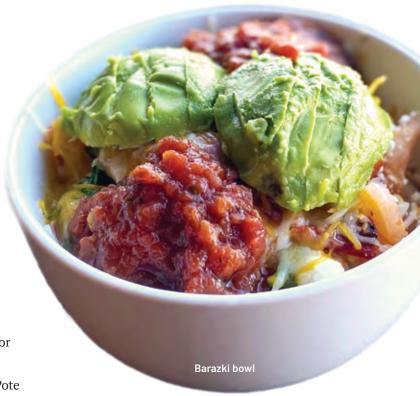


#### Ogi Deli, Bar & Pinxtos Vegan & Vegetarian-friendly

Avocado toast in rural Nevada?
You bet! While the Basque are
known for lamb and chorizo dishes,
this deli has plenty of options for
my fellow vegetarians, including the
aforementioned avocado toast. But
you'll want to veg-out here, because
you can still get your Basque on (minus
the meat) with dishes like their barazki
bowl for breakfast or with several of their
lunch salads, sandwiches, and wraps, like the
osasuna vegan wrap. There are even options for
dessert including a gluten-free lava cake.

On Thursdays and Fridays, they have Pintxo-Pote (Peencho-Potay), the Basque version of happy hour featuring Basque tapas with vegetarian options.

Susan's favs: barazki bowl, osasuna vegan wrap, gluten-free lava cake (it's chocolate, duh!)





#### Odeh's Mediterranean Restaurant

Vegan & Vegetarian-friendly

Who says veggies are boring? The flavors of the Middle East are in full force at this Elko favorite. First off, let's just say that the hummus is so good! They have an entire menu section devoted to vegetarians and vegan (plus another section for gluten-free items). Your best bet is to just get the vegetarian combo: That way you can try everything! And their baklava is to die for.

Susan's favs: vegetarian combo, veggie pesto pizza (Wednesdays only), baklava



Vegetarian-adaptable

Okay, so vegetarians know sometimes we have to ask for adjustments. The Pittman Café offers breakfast and lunch dishes that can easily be made meatless. The omelets, pancakes, and oatmeal are great options, and my go-to is the grubstaker omelet without the meat. For lunch, the BLT without the B plus a little avocado is perfect.

Susan's favs: grubstaker omelet, Lady in Red oatmeal, modified BLT with garlic fries



#### **Hometown Pizza**

Vegetarian-friendly

**TONOPAH** 

If you're in the middle of the state, don't despair! Hometown Pizza in Tonopah has delicious veggie pizzas, cheesy calzones, soups, and a salad bar. Locally owned and operated, they are a staple of this small town. A great loaded veggie pizza is one of my favorite things, and you can really go all out here. Their Greek salad is a perfect complement to your savory pizza meal.

Susan's fav: veggie pizza, Greek salad







#### **Racks Bar & Grill**

#### Vegetarian-friendly

Near the eastern edge of the state? There are vegetarian options here, too. Sure, Racks in Ely offers burgers and steaks, but they also offer flatbreads, grilled cheese, and some lovely salads. In the summer, they offer vegetarian wraps. Check ahead because specials change frequently and often include veg-friendly dishes. Just a head's up: Racks' décor is full of racks...as in mounted animal trophies.

Susan's favs: garden spinach salad, garlic Parmesan flatbread

BAKER

#### The Bristlecone General Store Vegan-friendly

Located near the entrance to Great Basin National Park, this store is already the perfect place to stock up on great organic vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free grocery items. But this year, they'll be opening an onsite restaurant that serves vegetarian options including egg bites, potato stacks, waffles, sandwiches, and pizza. Plan to visit any day of the week May through October or on weekends during the off season.

Susan's favs: Nothing yet but looking forward to all these options!



Vegetarian pizz



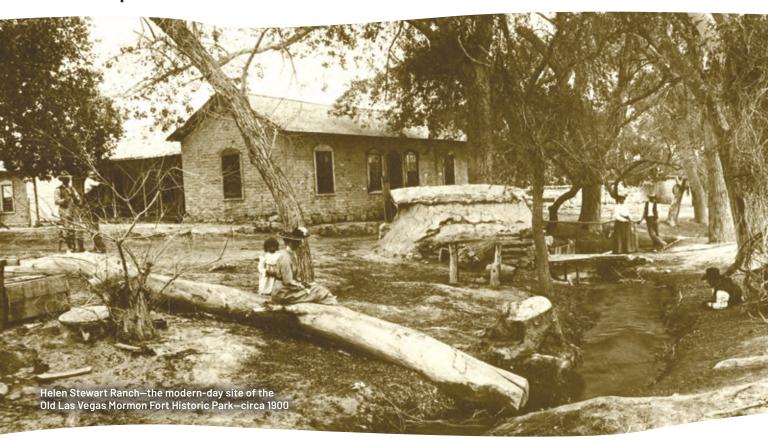




Egg bites, potato stacks, and waffles

# Must-Visit Historic Buildings Become a Silver State expert with a ston at these storied structures.

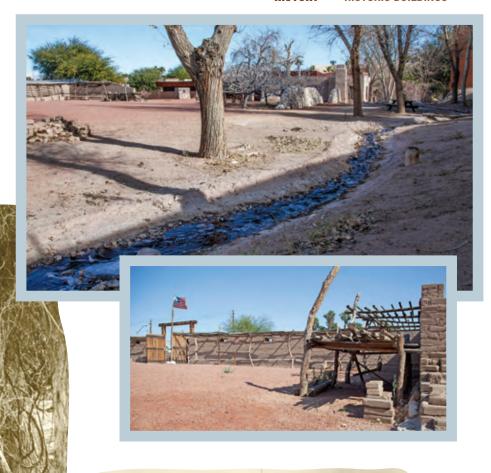
Despite centuries of fires, busted towns, and urban redevelopment, Nevada is still packed with historic structures. Not only do these buildings stand the test of time, each one also tells a unique part of the state's story-and all are worth visiting. Note that the structures in this list aren't necessarily the oldest around, but they are the ones we recommend making a detour for.





#### **Stokes Castle**

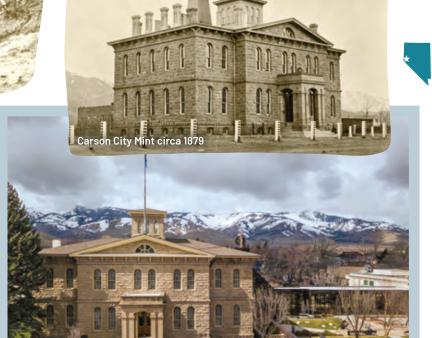
Built in 1897, this three-story granite tower stands as a reminder of Austin's boomtown days. Railroad magnate Anson Phelps Stokes, a prominent mine developer and banker, originally constructed the "castle" as a summer home for his family, though they rarely used the residence. Today, the structure proudly stands on a hill just outside town that offers visitors a perfect picnic area with an impressive view of the Reese River Valley.





#### Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic Park

In 1855, 30 Mormon missionaries entered Las Vegas Valley tasked with creating a permanent settlement along the southern route to California. The party settled near Las Vegas Creek—the only free-flowing creek in the desert valley—and built their adobe fort, which featured rowhouses, a post office, and a general store. The effort was abandoned within two years, and the next 150 years saw the rise of a metropolis with the fort's remains virtually at its center. Today, the reconstructed Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort hides in plain sight in downtown Las Vegas, beckoning visitors to discover the valley's millennia-long archeology and history.



#### **Historic Carson City Mint**

In 1863, Congress established a new federal mint in Carson Citythe second in the West after San Francisco's (established in 1854). Back when silver practically streamed out of nearby Virginia City, the silver bullion was carted to Nevada's capital and transformed into coins, all bearing the "CC" mint mark. In total, the Carson City Mint produced nearly \$50 million (face value) in gold and silver coins before ceasing operations in 1893. Today, the building houses a portion of the Nevada State Museum. Be sure to stop in and check out the historic Coin Press No. 1, which still produces commemorative coins and medallions for visitors.



#### Mizpah Hotel

Conspicuous, storied, and irresistibly elegant, the Mizpah Hotel has been a fixture of Tonopah since its construction in 1905. At that time, the city was the largest in the state and one of the highest-producing silver mining districts in the world. The Mizpah—touted as one of the finest hotels in the state—rode Tonopah's shaky economic highs and lows, reopening in 1908, 1980, 1996, and—most recently—2011. Today, the renovated and restored hotel offers one of the most comfortable and memorable stays in rural Nevada.

#### **Oats Park Art Center**

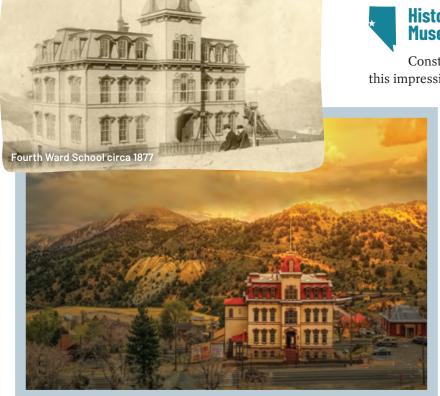
Discover a vibrant arts scene in small-town Nevada at this historic schoolhouse turned art gallery and performance hall. Constructed in 1914, the elegant school served the community of Fallon until it was damaged by an earthquake in 1954. After a decade-long renovation, the Oats Park Art Center opened as the area's preeminent cultural center that hosts art shows and diverse performances and concerts in its 350-seat theater. Check out the events-packed calendar, and don't forget to visit to the Art Bar, which offers specialty cocktails during special events.



#### Historic Fourth Ward School Museum

Constructed in only four months in 1876, this impressive, four-story schoolhouse preserves

the magnificence of Virginia City's bonanza years. It also features what were—at the time innovations in public education: indoor flush toilets, drinking fountains, individual desks for each student, and a central heating and ventilation system. After the school closed in 1936, the structure sat empty for nearly 50 years. Today, the old schoolhouse is the Historic Fourth Ward School Museum, and visitors can enjoy a self-guided tour. Be sure to stop at the perfectly preserved classroom, which features period wall maps, furniture, and even a pot-bellied stove.





#### **Belmont Courthouse**

On July 4, 1876, the citizens of Belmont celebrated both the nation's centennial and the grand opening of their brand-new courthouse. At that time, Belmont was a prosperous county seat

with a population in the thousands. Within a generation, however, the town would be mostly abandoned. The last trial was held in 1905, and the courthouse stood abandoned for decades. In 1972, Belmont was placed on the National Registry of Historical Places, and today the restored courthouse stands as a surprising monument hidden in the remote mountains of central Nevada. To arrange a tour, contact Friends of the Belmont Courthouse.

The Ruby Hill Fire Company's Fourth of July dance

at the Eureka Opera House circa 1910.

#### **Eureka Opera House**

Eureka's historic crown jewel was built in 1880, beginning as a miner's union hall before serving

as one of the West's top opera houses. In the 20th century, it even served as a movie theater. Today, the two-story building is the town's convention center and performing arts theater with open hours Tuesday through Saturday. After admiring the main gallery and its High Victorian stage, head downstairs to see more than a century's worth of signatures adorning the walls left by past performers.



#### **Caliente Railroad Depot**

This Mission Revival relic was built in 1923 to serve the Union Pacific Railroad line between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles.

The depot's primary function was to resupply coal-powered engines—a technology which became obsolete by the 1940s. Outside of its role as an Amtrak stop from 1979-1997, the depot no longer services any rail line. However, the building has been repurposed as Caliente's city hall and is packed with train history, memorabilia, and an onsite box car museum.





#### **Downtown Post Office**

In 1931, Nevada passed two laws that were found nowhere else in the country: legalized gambling

and speedy divorces. As the largest city in the state, Reno quickly became a popular tourist destination that suddenly needed a new post office to support the flood of mail that followed visitors. The result was a beautiful Art Deco-style post office completed in 1933—that served Reno until 2012. In 2015, the building became The Basement: an independent vendor space filled with charming shops and restaurants. Don't hesitate to stop in, window shop, and get a taste of Reno history in one of the city's most impressive venues.



Nevada air mail service began in

September 1920

in a run from

## VINNEMUCCA, NEVADA



There's More Than Meets the

#### **EVENTS COMING UP!**

#### March~April~May

Ranch Hand Rodeo Weekend 3D Archery Challenge Run-A-Mucca - Motorcycle Rally Balloon Festival Humboldt County Jr. & High School Rodeo Nevada State Jr. & High School Rodeo Finals

#### June~July

Basque Festival Silver State International Rodeo

#### October~November~December

Western States Ranch Rodeo Finals Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc. Convention World Ranch Horse Show Barn of Terror Festival of Trees Cody Louk Wrestling Tournament New Year's Eve Bronc Bash



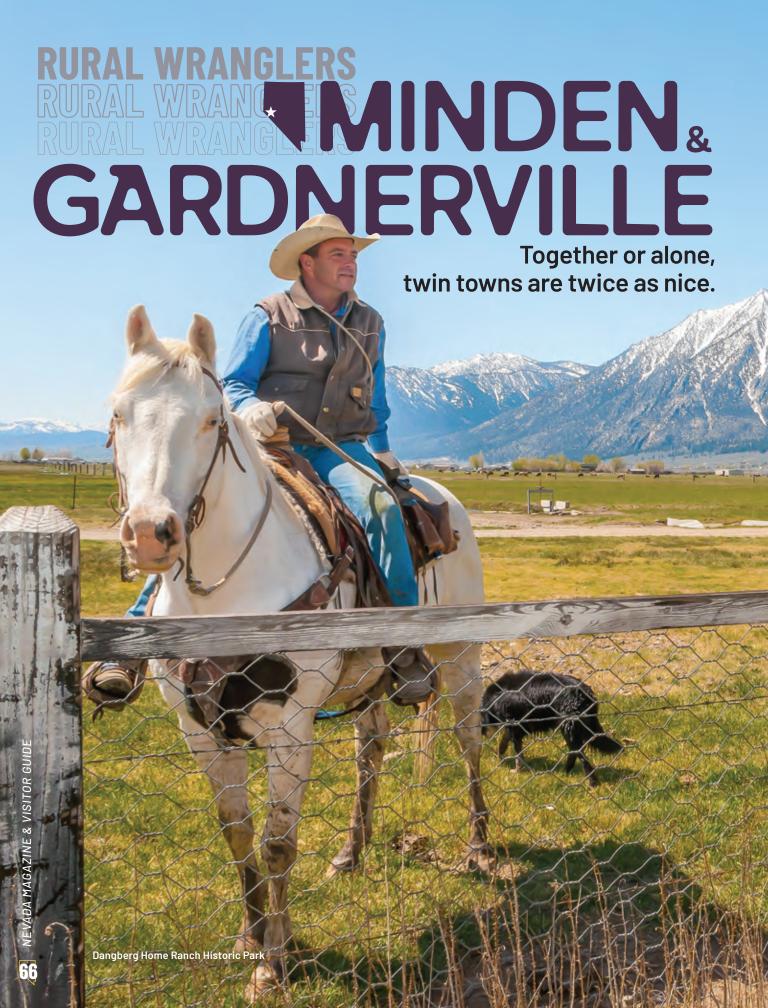


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#### **FEATURES** + RURAL WRANGLERS

Batman and Robin. Simon and Garfunkle. Peanut butter and jelly.

Synergy occurs when two equally exceptional sides join to form a whole; the result is a new creation more than just the sum of two parts.

Minden and Gardnerville are separate, unique, and rich towns right next to one another. So close in fact, even locals can be uncertain where one ends and the other begins. Whichever you're in, however, you'll find it all adds up to one perfect experience.





#### **Home On The Range**

The Carson Valley made an obvious stop for many settlers as they migrated west. Lush, verdant fields spread as far as the eye can see against the high, jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and Pine Nut Mountains. Farmers and ranchers are still abundant, as they were when the valley was first settled.

Settlers poured into the bucolic Carson Valley as early as 1841, but the towns took their time in forming. Gardnerville was developed in 1879 when Lawrence Gilman purchased property from early settler John Gardner. Minden began stirring in 1856, when young rancher H.F. Dangberg bought his first property. The town was not incorporated until 1905, however, when Dangberg donated land and convinced the V&T Railroad to house its terminus there.

Like much of Nevada, many of the towns' first settlers were of European descent. Notably, Minden and Gardnerville were home to a thriving Basque population, as evidenced by the restaurants still serving authentic Basque fare to this day.

**Plan Your Stay** 

A visit to the dynamic duo means arts and culture outings, tasty foodie experiences, and outdoor adventures that will take your breath away—and did we mention the scenic alpine backdrop for all activities?

Minden and Gardnerville share a few standout adventures, starting with the **Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center**. Inside, explore early life in Carson Valley, including American Indian and Basque heritage and the settlement of this beautiful valley. **The Arts & Antiques Trail** is a fun way to embrace the galleries and shops peppered throughout the valley.

Ranching gave birth to the annual

Eagles & Agriculture event, which gives photographers and visitors a chance to tour valley farms and see the raptor migration that occurs during calving season. This incredible event usually happens in early February.

Carson Valley Days has been honoring the town's heritage since 1910. The annual event, held the second week of June, celebrates Carson Valley's deep agricultural roots and pioneer spirit with carnival rides, live bands, an old-fashioned grease pole and tug-ofwar, and the annual Carson Valley Days Duck Derby.



From their small-town feel to their historic and charming main streets, Minden and Gardnerville have an appeal that is undeniable. Plan a visit to discover which is your favorite...if you can choose. Here are a few of each town's top attractions:

#### Minden

Minden is home to the **Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park**, where four generations of Minden's founding family lived. Today the ranch has been preserved as a museum. The property also features a park that plays host to many events throughout the warmer months, including the **Dangberg Summer Festival**.

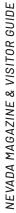
The Minden-Tahoe Airport is home to some of the country's best soaring, thanks to unique thermal patterns. Check out **Soaring NV** and take a ride above Lake Tahoe, truly one of the most spectacularly scenic vistas in the country.

Creating spirits made from locally sourced and sustainable grains, the **Minden Mill Distilling** operation is housed in century-old buildings that used to be a creamery and flour mill. Even non-drinkers will want to experience this remarkable, LEED-certified campus for the awe-inspiring architecture, which earned it a spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Minden is so protective of its small-town authenticity that a McDonald's wasn't built until 1982.







#### **Gardnerville**

Gardnerville is packed with boutiques that offer treasures not found at big box shops. For a unique shopping trip, don't miss the **Eddy Street Experience**, a pop-up event on the 3rd weekend of every month. Make time for more than 1,000 wines at **Battle Born Wine** shop or grab a piece of history at one of the many antique shops.

Partake in an exemplary traditional Basque family sit-down meal at the **J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room**,

a cornerstone of the Gardnerville community. Housed in a building founded in 1896, the J.T. has served as a hotel, saloon, and dining hall over the years.

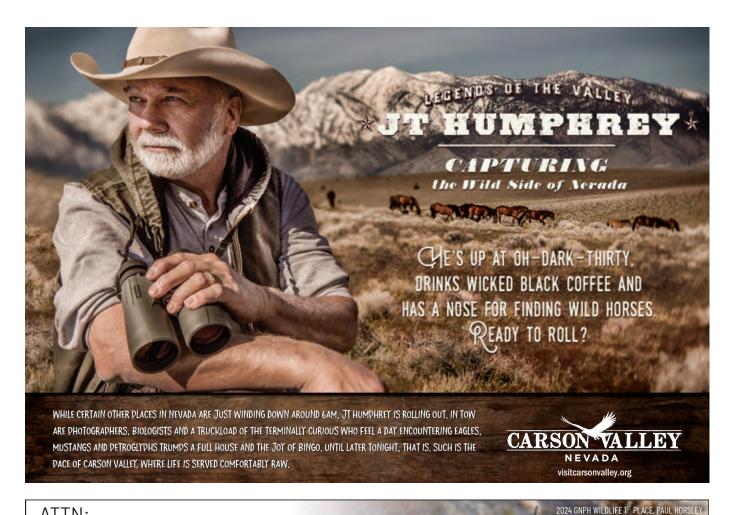
**The Overland Restaurant and Pub** resides in a historic property built in 1902 as a meat market. It became a hotel, restaurant, and pub that served the local Basque sheep herding community. Today, the Overland offers more modern fare with a smokehouse vibe and deep roots in Basque cuisine.



### PRO TIP

Dig into locally raised grass-fed beef and huge family-style meals at historic Basque eateries, serving such authentic meals as lamb chops and juicy steaks. Make sure to try a Picon Punch, Nevada's officially unofficial state cocktail.







For all the early risers, and 'unexpected surprise'-ers; wind (and maybe a little sand) in your hair and you don't care; for the late-night star chasers and road trip slow-pacers; for anyone who knows just how amazing Nevada is. Show us your photos!

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Home Means Nevada Co. (with stores in Reno & Henderson) homemeansnevada.com



# Great Nevada Picture Hunt

**CONTEST BEGINS** Tuesday, APRIL 1 **CONTEST ENDS** Saturday, MAY 31

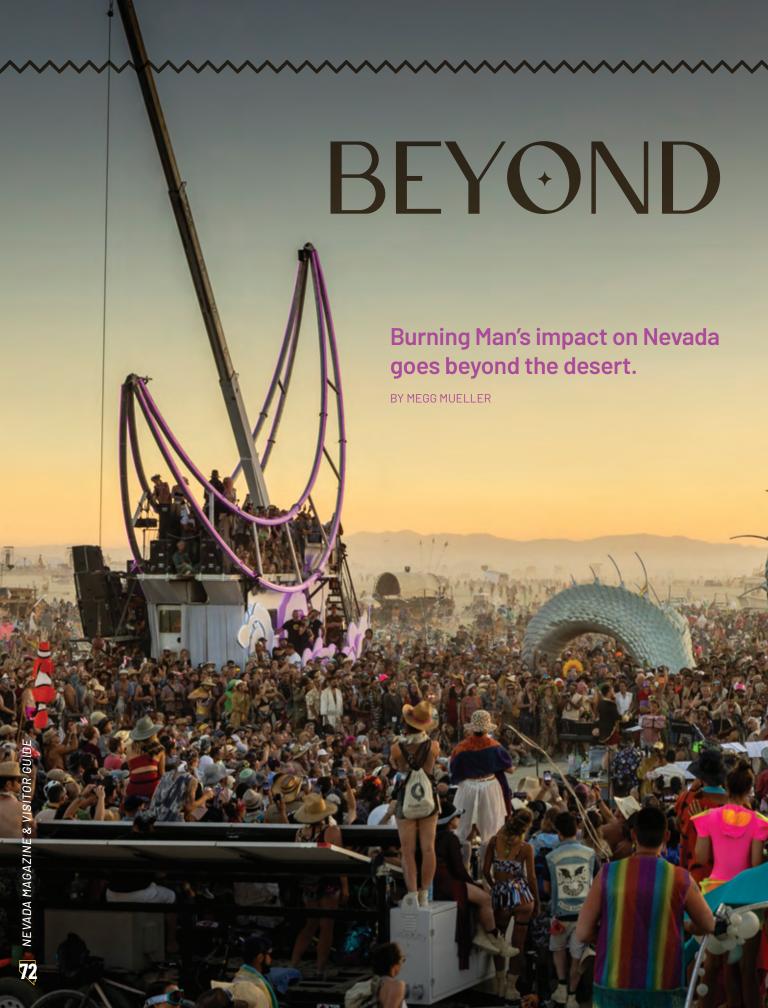
#### **CATEGORIES:**

Landscapes, Waterscapes, People, Birds, Wildlife, Cities/Towns

#### **Basic Rules**

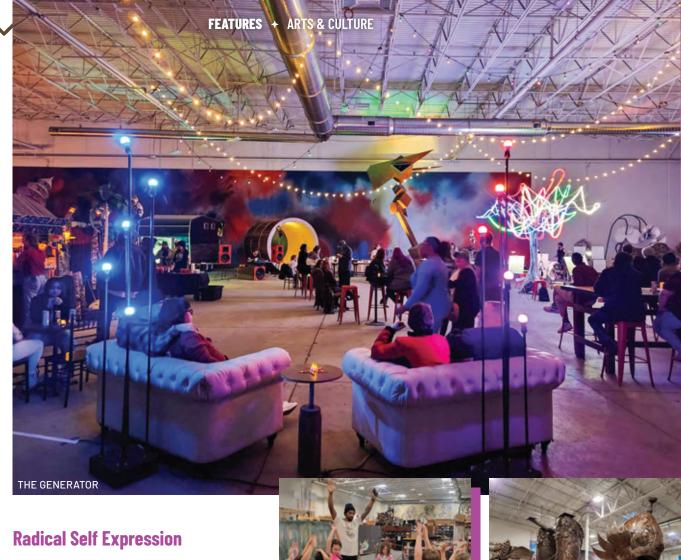
- Photos must have been taken in Nevada,
- · You can submit up to two photos per category
- · Minimal digital photo manipulation allowed
- No watermarks (can affect judging)
- Drone photos must observe all state and federal rules/regulations
- · Photographers retain all image copyrights

For complete rules/submission info: nevadamagazine.com/gnph



# THE PLAYA





Burning Man is renowned for its art installations, which can be massive, interactive, or surreal—and sometimes all of the above. For Nevada, the festival has helped foster a year-round culture of creativity and artistic innovation.

Some of the installations that appear on the playa are crafted in art studios around the world, but many begin in Reno due to its proximity to the playa. These art projects require months of planning and preparation. As a result, Nevada has become home to a growing community of artists, engineers, and creators who are engaged in projects throughout the year.

The Reno area has certainly benefited from this artistic influx. One of the most notable examples is The Generator, which opened in 2013 as an artist and maker space. The site began as a space for those creating Burning Man projects, but it's now become a permanent hub for local artists and fabricators. Although it still produces works for Burning Man, The Generator has grown to offer workshops and classes for artists and would-be artists, along with events that engage kids in the artistic process.

WORKSHOP AT THE GENERATOR

**GENERATOR** 

# DID YOU KNOW?

Burning Man began on a San Francisco beach in 1986 with about 20 people. Today, more than 70,000 attend from around the globe.

#### **Communal Effort**

Despite popular belief, most of the art installations first showcased at Burning Man are not burned. Some pieces are bought by collectors or taken home by the artists, while others find their way to museums and private business. Many have found homes in public spaces around the state, giving the public a chance to get a sense of the scale and artistry on display at the festival.

The "Believe" sign and "Space Whale" sculpture in downtown Reno are examples of how Burning Man art contributes to the city's cultural landscape. Acoss the city, there are more than a dozen pieces of art that debuted on the playa.

Other installations have made their way to Las Vegas, including "Bliss Dance," "Big Rig Jig," and a 55-foot mantis that shoots flames from its antenna. Most recently, "Monumental Mammoth" became a permanent feature of Ice Age Fossils State Park.

While larger cities are obvious places to share the sculptures after the playa, the town of Fernley is also home to public art inspired by the festival. The city collaborated with the Black Rock Arts Foundation to create a program called Big Art for Small Towns. Three pieces of public art—"Desert Tortoise," "Rockspinner 6," and "Bottlecap Gazebo"—live in the downtown art park.







#### **Leave No Trace**

Burning Man is deeply rooted in sustainability and environmental responsibility. The principle of "Leave No Trace" is central to the event's philosophy, which asks participants to leave the desert as they found it. While not everyone adheres to this tenet, caring for the planet is a massive educational opportunity for all attendees.

Additionally, the festival has been a testing ground for sustainable technologies. Solar power, water purification systems, and other innovations have brought the event closer to its goal of net zero impact. These innovations don't end on the playa, as their usefulness is often applicable elsewhere. One of the event's partners is Sunbelt Rentals. Working with Black Rock City's operations department, among others, they came up with a renewable energy technology they later used at the 2024 Super Bowl.





#### **Commodification**

While one of the 10 principles of Burning Man is decommodification, the event has led to significant economic benefits for Nevada. Each year, Burners from across the globe converge on the state, boosting local businesses from gas stations to hotels and restaurants in Reno, Fernley, and other nearby cities. However, the economic impact isn't limited to the festival week alone.



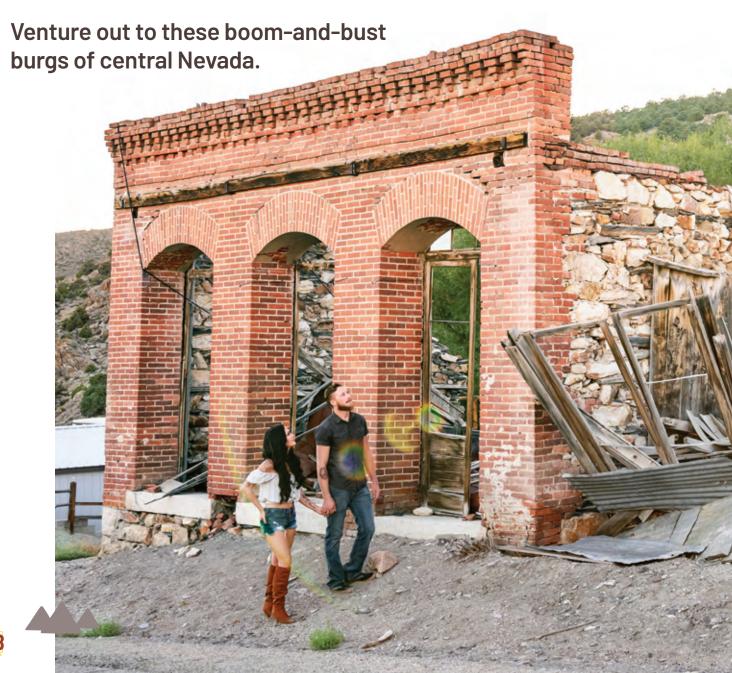
The preparation for Burning Man brings a steady flow of visitors and commerce to Nevada throughout the year. Artists, builders, and participants arrive months in advance to construct art, prepare camps, and coordinate logistics.

Looking for more adventure outside Burning Man? Turn to pg. 46 to find the Burner Byway roadtrip.

#### **Radical Inclusion**

What began as a countercultural event has become a part of the state's identity, shaping its culture, economy, and values. The festival's ethos of creativity, sustainability, inclusivity, and community-building inspires a broader cultural shift. Its impact is seen and felt, but it is also subtly working behind the scenes to shift perspectives, engage science and technology industries, and inspire the festival's ideals.

# THE GHOST OF NYE COUNTY





#### **MANHATTAN**

The small town of Manhattan—located about 50 miles north of
Tonopah—has seen its fair share of
booms and busts. It was founded in
1867 as part of the area's silver mining
boom, abandoned in 1871, and brought
back to life in 1905 when 4,000 people
poured into the region in the hopes
of striking gold. In 1907, after San
Francisco's catastrophic earthquake
and the debilitating stock market
panic, the town pretty much gasped its
last breath. Or so it was thought.

# PRO TIP

While in Manhattan, stop at the library where you can peruse the museum and enjoy a cup of coffee—it's open Mondays and Fridays. The Manhattan Bar—built in 1906—is open Thursday-Sunday.

In 1909, the town was resuscitated once more by the mining industry, and it continued to produce ore until the 1940s. Today, largescale mining is in full swing at Round Mountain, about 14 miles away. Although there aren't many businesses still in operation, Manhattan has a leg up on nearby Belmont: It's on the grid.

When visiting this fascinating living ghost town, note that about 125 people call the region home. The bank's ruins remain a must-see, including the original safe in the rear of the building. It's dangerous to go inside these ruins, but the safe can been seen from the street, and "The Nye & Ormsby County Bank, Manhattan, Nevada" is still distinguishable.





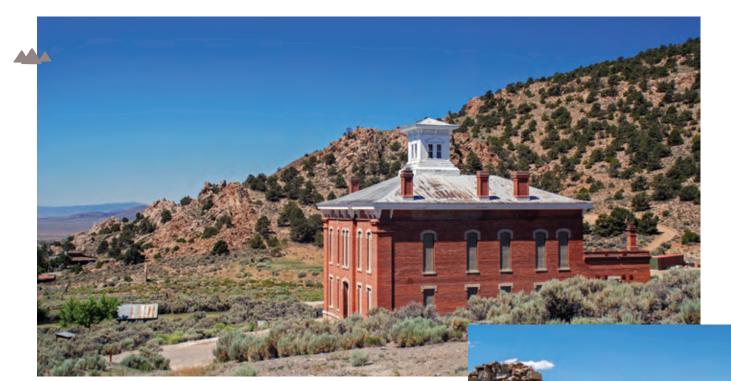
#### **TYBO**

Initial gold discoveries in Tybo—about an hour northeast of Tonopah—can be traced to 1870, when American Indians are said to have revealed the location to prospectors. The district remained relatively stagnant until 1874, when the Tybo Consolidated Mining District was formed and the townsite established. Soon a post office, newspaper, saloons, and a Wells Fargo sprang up, but by 1880, the mines had all but played out. Revival attempts were made many times throughout the decades, but none stuck completely.



Today, a handful of impressively intact ruins are scattered throughout this once-booming town. These include the original hoist house and headframe of the Tonopah Consolidated Mining Company, the Wells Fargo office, historic milling sites, and old charcoal kilns.





# TRAVEL NEVADA

After checking out the Belmont Courthouse. visit one of our favorite Sagebrush Saloons-Dirty Dick's Belmont Saloon.



#### **BELMONT**

The once-bustling city of Belmont is one of Nevada's iconic living ghost towns, offering structures and a rich history. In 1865, silver, copper, and other precious metals were discovered in Belmont and the rush was on. As the population grew, construction proceeded at a feverish pace. Soon the town had a post office, a school, four mercantile stores, a brewery, five restaurants, a bank, a telegraph office, a livery stable, and two newspapers. As Belmont prospered, it became the Nye County seat in 1867.



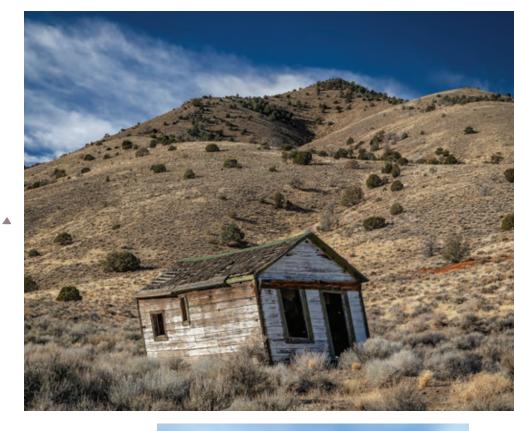
By 1887, the rich ore deposits of Belmont began to dwindle. Several mines closed, and the town experienced a rapid decline in population. The mills stopped running, most residents left, and the last newspaper stopped the presses. By 1900, there were fewer than 100 registered voters.

Located about 50 miles northeast of Tonopah, this town is still home to a handful of residents. Today, more than two dozen buildings stand, and a selfguided tour map is available online from the Friends of Belmont Courthouse.

To learn more about the history of the Belmont Courthouse, turn to pg. 63.







#### **REVEILLE**

The town of Reveille is nearly as remote now as it was during its formation in 1866. Sitting about 40 miles northwest of where Rachel is today, supplies had to be shipped from Austin and took six days to reach town. At its peak, the district had 50 mines in operation and even a post office. Several million dollars of ore were processed in Reveille's stamp mills before populations and production faded in 1880.

No one lives in Reveille today, but many stone cabin foundations and one solitary wooden cabin offer photo opportunities. About a mile further north, you can find old mining equipment left behind when the residents said enough and left town.



# PRO TIP

Reveille is off
Highway 375, better
known as The
Extraterrestrial
Highway. Bunk in
Rachel for the night
and stop in at the
Little A'le'Inn for a
meal after a long
day exploring.







# ROAD TRIP TO



# SPRING/SUMMER 202

# A FUTURE PAST

How the 1987 film "Cherry 2000" turned Nevada's landscapes into an alternate future universe worth exploring.



BY MARK MAYNARD

Photos provided by Gail Adler - courtesy of Annie and Sam Pressman and the Pressman Archives at The Academy of Motion Pictures Library

Steve De Jarnatt has a shock of white hair like what might sprout from the head of a mad scientist. He has more than four decades in the entertainment industry and seems to have done it all, from directing a Las Vegas-set episode of "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" in 1985 to publishing a short story collection in 2020 titled "Grace for Grace." But De Jarnatt is best known for writing and directing his revered cult film: 1988's "Miracle Mile", which still makes top 10 lists to this day—most recently coming in at No. 1 on Screen Rant's "10 End Of The World Movies That Actually Ended With The End Of The World."

In 1987, a year before shooting his magnum opus, De Jarnatt helmed his first feature film, "Cherry 2000"—a strange, post-apocalyptic piece that melded the '80s surfer vibe of Southern California with a "Road Warrior"—esque female tracker. This fusion was wrapped in a campy sensibility that played out across the deserts, towns, and industrial ruins of rural Nevada.





Bambi McCracken as a robot in Slim's Body Shop.

#### WELCOME TO ZONE 7

For "Cherry 2000," De Jarnatt received a budget of \$10 million, which—with the help of a talented, young crew—he used to build a futuristic, dystopian vision of Santa Monica, California in the Silver State.

The film evokes an alternate reality where an apocalypse has decimated manufacturing and everything must be made from recycled parts. In the movie, Sam Treadwell—played by David Andrews—is married to a robot woman named Cherry, played by the late Pamela Gidley. After Cherry breaks down in a soap-sud incident, Sam must travel from their home in Southern California to find her a replacement body in the lawless Zone 7.

To navigate this dangerous wasteland, Sam employs E. Johnson, a fire-haired tracker and force of nature played by future Oscar-nominee Melanie Griffith. E. Johnson brings knowledge, moxie, and an off-road-capable red Ford Mustang loaded with horsepower and guns.

Nevada makes an engaging Zone 7, and the film was shot almost entirely on location at many historic and natural landmarks in Nye, Esmeralda, and Clark counties. If you're ready to take the trip, fire up your Mustang, make sure your tires are solid, and get ready to drive where the rule of law ends in Zone 7. Note: If you have not yet seen "Cherry 2000," there are many spoilers ahead.

#### TONOPAH AND GOLDFIELD

Although little of Tonopah appears in "Cherry 2000," the town served as headquarters for the cast and crew while shooting in Goldfield, Rhyolite, and Beatty.

The film got a young Tonopah resident in the final credits: Bambi McCracken, a Tonopah High School student and daughter of Nevada historian and writer Robert D. McCracken. Bambi was cast as Melanie Griffith's stand-in and even had a non-speaking role as the Bambi 14 model in Slim's Body Shop.

De Jarnatt recalls one night when they closed Goldfield's main street for a driving scene. The production manager had sent Griffith's stunt double home, so someone suggested they have McCracken do the driving.

"They said, 'Let's just have Bambi pull up in the car and stop on a dime," remembers De Jarnatt. "And then it just started snowing. The road was freezing, and I said 'I'm not killing high-schoolgirl Bambi McCracken."

Indeed, the historic mining town of Goldfield plays a significant role in "Cherry 2000" as the futuristic Wild West town of Glory Hole. The Goldfield Hotel became the Glory Hole Hotelits historic bar now a donut shop and saloon called The Sinker. Nearby, the brick wall of the





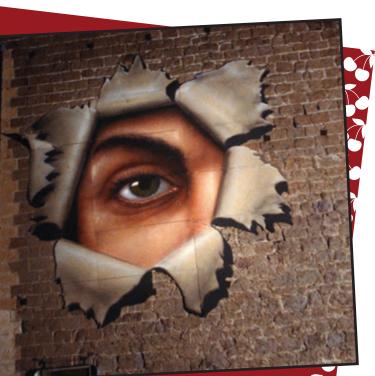
John S. Cook Bank building was embellished with a huge mural that can be seen in several scenes.

Alan Metscher is a third-generation Goldfielder—his grandfather settled there in 1903. He is president of the Central Nevada Historical Society and a co-founder of the Central Nevada Museum. Metscher remembers when the film crew arrived in 1987.

"I was living in Tonopah at the time," says Metscher. "I made a few trips over here just to watch what was taking place during the street scenes."

Asked if he remembered the film's red Ford Mustang, he laughs recalling a car-hauler packed with the car.

"They didn't use the same Mustang over and over again: They had different ones."



#### **GHOST TOWNS**

A lone road sign stands in the dark desert exhorting drivers to proceed with caution. The tracker E. Johnson fires up the advanced engine of her pony, and the pair speeds into the night, headlights off, driving—to quote the film— "by feel, mostly."

They come to The Barricades: a roadblock and checkpoint manned by dozens of armed figures. Set outside Rhyolite's famous 1907 Cook Bank buildingthat's right, this film features both of central Nevada's Cook bank branches—The Barricades bristle with spotlights, anti-tank traps, and barbed wire. Sam and E. Johnson must speed through this gauntlet, dodging flame-throwers, machine guns, and explosions.

The film didn't just use Rhyolite's main street. The Rhyolite Train Depot served as E. Johnson's house and office. Through skillful edits, the swinging sign on her porch "E. JOHNSON | TRACKER | ... NEVER SAYS NO" is visible through Sam's window in the Glory Hole Hotel, 72 miles away.



Goldfield's John S. Cook Bank building was created by the production team.

#### MINE PITS AND DAMS

After E. Johnson and Sam survive The Barricades, they find themselves at the edge of a large open pit mine. Looking across with binoculars, they see the film's villain Lester: judge, jury and executioner of Zone 7. They

watch as Lester loads a victim into a panel truck and sends them over the edge to smash onto a ledge partway down the pit.

The sequence was shot at the Three Kids Mine, a World War I-era manganese mine located near Lake Mead off Highway 564. De Jarnatt says the truck was supposed to fly out farther from the rim and land in a lake at the bottom.

"I would have preferred the long splash," he says.

Next, a scene filmed at the ruins of the Goldfield Consolidated Mill opens one of "Cherry 2000's" key action sequences. Sam and E. Johnson approach the mill, expecting an aerial ride across a large river. Suddenly, an electromagnet snags their Mustang and hoists it into the air with a crane. It's an ambush!

Lester's gang shows up, peppering them with rocket-propelled grenades. A gun-and-grenade fight breaks out to a swelling classical score as mining shacks and tailings are blasted in a series of explosions. At the climax of the scene, the crane swings around and dangles the protagonists perilously over the Colorado River near the Hoover Dam—a location 220 miles away. This was perhaps the most inspired of the stunt sequences in "Cherry 2000."

"The studio wanted a big stunt they could use for the poster," says De Jarnatt.

The director, crew, and stunt performers delivered—all without CGI or camera tricks. As E. Johnson cuts the swinging car free from the electromagnet to leave it dangling from a separate cable, the car drops from horizontal to vertical, whiplashing the stunt performers.

"The stunt that Tracy Keene did? That's a real person over the Colorado River, on the back of a Mustang, swinging way above everything. I mean, it's insane," De Jarnatt remembers.

Next, with permission from the National Park Service, the crew was able to include a second part to the stunt. They lowered the Mustang and two stunt performers into the upper end of the Arizona Spillway at Hoover Dam. Then, they dropped the car, still tethered, down the 600-foot concrete chamber for a once-in-a-lifetime shot.

"First of all, the fact that they would just let us have the run of Hoover Dam," says De Jarnatt laughing. "I don't think that happens today. 'Oh, can we shoot inside this spillway?' 'Yeah, why not?'"





dangles from a cable over the Colorado River.

Top Right: Director Steve De Jarnatt (plaid shirt) directs an action sequence at the Goldfield Consolidated Mill.

Bottom Left: The production crew lowers a modified Ford Mustang down the Arizona Spillway of Hoover Dam.

Bottom Right: Six Fingered Jake (Ben Johnson), Randa (Jennifer Mayo) and Snappy Tom (Harry Carey, Jr.) at the Eldorado Dry Lake Bed.



#### **DRY LAKES AND DUNES**

Veteran character actor Harry Carey Jr. had a storied career that included such films as 1956's "The Searchers" with John Wayne, 1984's "Gremlins," and 1998's "Tombstone." In "Cherry 2000," we find his character Snappy Tom at his compound called Last Chance Brothel and Gas. The location is the Eldorado Dry Lake Bed—an area now popular for off-highway vehicles, land sailors, and even falconers—located southwest of Boulder City.

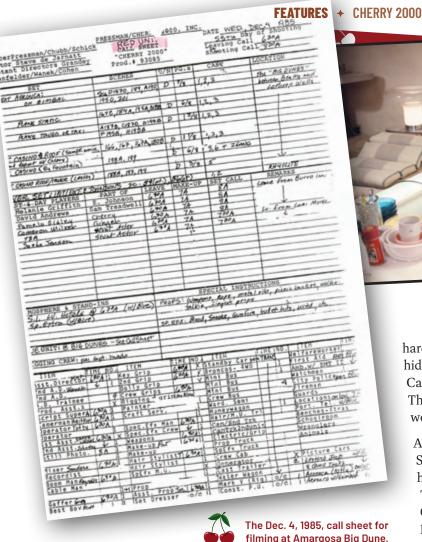
"We built a set that looked like the first Burning Man," says De Jarnatt. "Snappy Tom's mud flat."

It's not hard to see the comparison with the annual event held hundreds of miles north. The set consisted of a compound of trailers, junked cars, shopping carts (a motif in De Jarnatt's films), colorful decorations, and upcycled art.

Last Chance Brothel and Gas is the site of a standoff between the film's main cast and is where E. Johnson fixes up an old airplane that will take her and Sam (and Cherry) to the climax in sand-buried Las Vegas.

"You know, we were the first film to put Vegas under sand dunes," says De Jarnatt, comparing his desert wasteland of Vegas Village to the post-apocalyptic ruins depicted in Denis Villeneuve's "Blade Runner 2049." Interestingly, the latter was filmed in 2017, the year "Cherry 2000" is set in.





The film's finale (think human-robot love triangles, a gunfight, aerial stunts, and sandwiches on the sand-encrusted Strip) was actually filmed just south of Rhyolite at the Amargosa Big Dune, located between Beatty and Pahrump on U.S. 95.

To bury Las Vegas, De Jarnatt and his crew built large practical sets at the dune and then used glass plates to give an in-camera effect of a ruined Vegas Strip. In the film, a dune-buried Pharoah's Casino stands beside a pavilion topped with showgirl statues. Nearby, sits the lamp that once belonged to the sign for The Aladdin Hotel and Casino, now held in the Neon Museum's permanent collection.

#### **CITIES AND PARKS**

Many other locations across southern Nevada get a cameo appearance. Later in the film, the protagonists meet Six Fingered Jake, who lives with a pack of burros in a cave where he hoards stacks of toaster ovens—





Director Steve De Jarnatt (left) and Pamela Gidley, who played Cherry.

hard currency in a post-apocalyptic world. Jake's hideaway is really Techatticup Mine in Eldorado Canyon, located near the small town of Nelson. This area still offers mine tours and is popular for weddings, picnics, and photography.

A subsequent scene has E. Johnson, Sam, and Six Fingered Jake motoring on a barge with a hull made from a Marlboro cigarette billboard. This was filmed in the green-water of Emerald Cave, now a popular kayaking destination near Hoover Dam.

Nearby at Valley of Fire State Park, the sandstone formations known as The Beehives served as backdrop for Sky Ranch—Lester's compound. Because it was a state park, the crew had to be careful not to disturb any of the natural habitat and built the set on structures designed for fragile tidal areas.

Several Las Vegas venues were used for indoor and exterior sets including Sam's dreary office complex, suburban house, and Slim's Body Shop. In Las Vegas, they also filmed the neon-infused Glu-Glu Club, where you need a lawyer to negotiate a date with a human companion—look for a young Lawrence Fishburne.

#### **WORTH A WATCH**

"Cherry 2000" is fun, strange, and worth watching—especially for fans of Nevada landscapes and late-80s action movies. Best of all, a special edition was just released in December 2024 on Blu-Ray. This version includes an excellent feature-length documentary on the making of the film called "Tales from Zone 7."



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#### FEATURES + OUTDOOR RECREATION

It's no secret Nevada is a desert. The state's annual rainfall is, well, minimal, and our wide-open spaces are adorned in hues of brown and—occasionally—green. But lest this description leaves you dry, we also have ample places to get your feet wet. A quick poll of the Travel Nevada staff reveals some great options, so grab a towel and get out there.

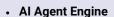
"I grew up going to Wet 'n' Wild when it was still on the Las Vegas Strip," Content Development Manager Rachel Wright reveals. "As such, I have a deep, deep love for wave pools and lazy rivers. Imagine my utter delight when I stayed at the **Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino** for a wedding and discovered they had BOTH these things! I literally jumped for joy in the wave pool because I was that giddy." "For me, one of the top water experiences is **Comins Lake**, located just outside Ely. It's so fun to kayak there," says Destination Development Manager Cortney Bloomer. "The water is clear, and you can see huge fish (or catch them, if that's what you're into). There are lots of bird species to look at as well and excellent views of the Egan Mountains. It feels magical to paddle through the reeds."





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Creative Manager Kippy Spilker had two favorites.

"My favorite water experience is kayaking **Lake Tahoe**'s east and north shore in the winter, but I realize it's not for everyone—I prefer to go when there are fewer people. I think the best local place to take portrait photos with water in them is the **Kings Canyon waterfall** in Carson City. My engagement photos were taken there, and it's still a favorite."

"My favorite Nevada water experience would be the **Carson Hot Springs**," says Research Analyst Gabriel Mortensen. "My wife Brenda loves Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint—which is right next door—and we always were curious about checking the springs out. I was pleasantly surprised that the price was very low considering it was for two hours. We felt like royalty in our own private room, and the water did wonders for my back."

"One of my most fun water experiences was at Lake Las Vegas in Henderson," Global Market Manager Elsa Gomez reveals. "While staying at the Westin, I had the opportunity to kayak and paddleboard (though I failed!). The lake is calm, and the scenery is spectacular—from the golf course to beautiful homes and resorts. You really feel like you are away from it all."





For Marketing Manager Keelie Cox, her choice was simple.

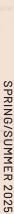
"I like tubing the **Truckee River** in Reno," she says. "It's the perfect way to hang with friends while cooling off during the summer. The flow rate of the river is dependent on snow melt: I like it on the faster side, but not so fast it's dangerous. The float ends in downtown Reno, which is pretty perfect in my opinion. Hopefully, you left some business-appropriate clothes and shoes in the pick-up car and can grab lunch or a drink to celebrate a successful float. It's also free, which is hard to beat."

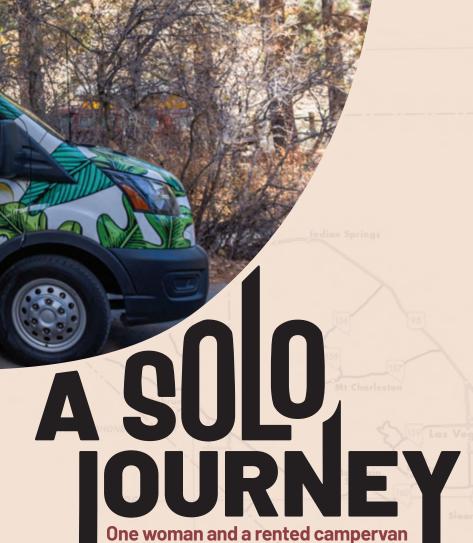
"A few years ago, my family and I made it our mission to get in the car and search for some of our region's best alpine lakes. It was such a fun activity for us, and the reward was always worth it," Chief Communications Officer Tracie Barnthouse explains. "After extensive miles logged and lakes explored, I've settled on my favorite Nevada alpine lake as **Angel Lake** near the Ruby Mountains. It's up against some tough competition, though."



"When I was about 13, I did a 50mile hike on the Ruby Crest Trail with my Boy Scouts troop," Content Development Specialist Cory Munson says. "It was a physically demanding and intense experience unlike anything I'd done before. On day five of six, we finally reached Favre Lake, which is the first of a string of alpine lakes. I remember it was a very happy evening: Our journey was almost over, and we were riding high on a sense of accomplishment. There we were, camping and swimming at this perfect little lake below tall peaks with literally the whole place to ourselves."







take on southern Nevada.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Our desire to unplug and find some solitude is real. A heavy emphasis on the solitude part has been trending of late; venturing out solo is an increasingly popular way to travel.

I've been following a few social media groups devoted to solo travel, and specifically, solo travel for women. The idea is appealing for many reasons, but it's also a bit scary. As writer and philosopher George Addair once said, "Everything you want is on the other side of fear." So, with that in mind, I decided to take a solo camping trip to southern Nevada.



#### First Things First

I flew into Las Vegas and rented a kitted-out rig from Escape Campervans. There are a number of companies that rent vehicles like this, but I went with Escape because I'd been seeing its brightly colored vans at state and national parks for years. The paint jobs are purely aesthetic, but for me, they provided an element of whimsy during the sometimes-intimidating adventure.

From their five vehicle models, I chose the Del Mar, which sleeps up to five. I wanted a spacious experience and wasn't disappointed. The Del Mar is a solid choice for anyone traveling with kids in car seats, as it has a static second row that means you won't have to take seats in and out of the van in order to set up the sleeping area. You can bring your own gear or add extras, such as a kitchen kit or bedding. Flying in as I was, I added on most of the offered accessories: Lugging camp chairs or a comforter on a plane was not appealing.

With my transportation and accommodation settled, it was time to decide where to camp.



For solo travelers, set up two camp chairs in your site to give the impression you're not alone.

#### **Make Good Choices**

The van contract has a 100-mile-per-day allotment with a charge for each additional mile. That meant I was limited only by my imagination—and how much I felt like adding to the bill. I've wanted to stay at Valley of Fire State Park since my first visit years before, but the temps can be insanely high in the summer when I normally camp. A trip in late fall made this my best bet.

I decided to also take advantage of the scenic beauty of Mt. Charleston. The destinations seemed the perfect counterpoints to one another: deep red sandstone formations vs. pine-scented forests.

With the beauty of my trip firmly in the forefront of my mind, I may have overlooked a few details that would prove important later.

#### **And Away We Go**

Day one is all about the getting there, I reminded myself as I pulled into Mt. Charleston's Fletcher View campground at almost 3:30 p.m. I had about 90 minutes before the sun set, so I hustled to get set up for the night.

Overlooked detail No. 1: Where your campsite is **matters.** I don't just mean which campground. By choosing a gorgeous spot tucked tight up against a mountain, I shorted myself precious daylight. The sun was already behind the hillside, which led to overlooked detail No. 2: Camping at 7,000 feet elevation in late fall means the temps will be low. Like, really low. I had checked the forecast, of course, but fell prey to the assumption that it never gets cold in southern Nevada. I'm from northern Nevada, so I figured the beanie, gloves, and coat I brought were plenty. I never would have thought my trip would be so severely impacted by the thermometer.

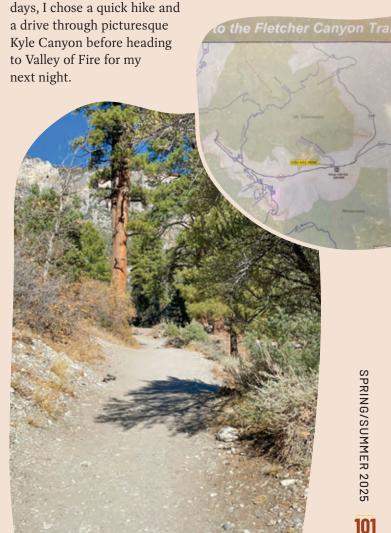
I converted the kitchen table and seating area into my bed, knowing I didn't want to do that in the dark. The kitchen setup is housed in the rear of the van accessed by opening the two back doors. As the light waned, the prospect of standing outside the van, with the back doors open while I cooked, wasn't very appealing. The wonderful dinner I planned to cook with the propane stove, along with hot tea and cookies for dessert, no longer sounded so romantic an idea. Instead, I took a quick tour of the campground before hunkering inside the van for the night, eating protein bars and fruit. The temperature dipped into the mid 20s overnight. Overlooked detail No. 3: The kit that included the space heater would have been a good thing to get.

#### **New Choices**

It was a rough night, to be sure, but I emerged from the van—looking a bit like the Michelin Man in all my layers—ready to make this solo camping trip everything I had envisioned. Quite chilly still but with daylight encroaching, I made a quick breakfast of hot tea and oatmeal and set about exploring the van and all its equipment.

The kitchen area has a sink with a five-gallon water tank and pump-action faucet. A slide-out propane stove, refrigerated drawer, cubby spaces, and countertops round out the basic offerings. The refrigerated drawer was the perfect size for me and potentially one other person. Larger groups would need a cooler. I had purchased the kitchen kit add-on, so I had dinnerware, cups, glasses, silverware, pots, pans, a towel, sponge, and dish soap. Overlooked detail No. 4: Read what your added kits include. Paper towels do not come with the van, nor do tissues, toilet paper, trash bags, or other paper goods.

Now deeply conscious of the short





After a roughly 90-minute drive, I pulled into my campsite at Arch Rock campground. The temperature was in the high 60s, and I had at least five hours of daylight before me. I took advantage of the warmth and light to set up the campervan for the next two nights. I decided to leave the bed in place for the duration of my trip; warmer temps would allow me to eat outside, after all. A quick lunch of salad and soup, and I was off to explore Nevada's first state park.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

If you have a portable propane stove like I did, move it to the campsite table so you don't have to disassemble it when you move the van.



#### **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

See Page 108 for details for your visit.





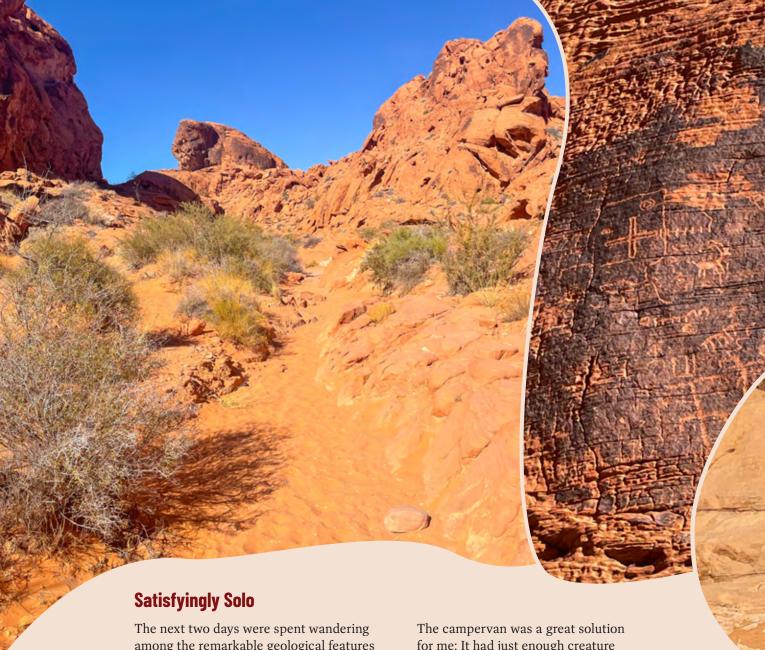


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among the remarkable geological features the park is famous for. While hiking through the sandy washes or taking pictures of

petroglyphs and chuckwallas, I never had time to dwell on

the fact I was alone. There were some moments I wanted to share a spectacular sight with someone. Ultimately, the secret to comfortably traveling alone might be to go where the senses are positively overwhelmed. Well, that and have a secure and comfortable

place to stay each night.

for me: It had just enough creature comforts—sans the heater I would have loved my first night—to make camping alone a success. It was not without its challenges, but the bed was amply comfortable, I was able to cook hot meals and make tea, and while I felt completely safe in the campgrounds I chose, the door locks clinched that feeling.

For anyone flying into town (or someone like me who doesn't own their own RV), a campervan rental is a great option. You certainly don't have to travel alone, but once in a while, I highly recommend it.



For the shorter set, note the step into the van was at least 4 inches above my knee (I'm 5'2"). Ask if there's a van with a running board or a stepstool.





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.



## LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

375 to 500 miles | 3 days

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



## 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

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.



#### **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.



#### **NEON TO NATURE**

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.



#### **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 northeast 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.

# **NEVADA MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE**

# **NEVADA STATE MUSEUMS**



**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM CARSON CITY** 

**Thursday-Monday** 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ====

Adults \$10 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 \$2** Train Rides Adults \$12 | Ages 4-12 \$6 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 \$18.95 Ages 3-17 \$10.95 Ages 2 and younger FREE



#### **LOST CITY MUSEUM OVERTON**

**Tuesday-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.

Closed to the public through

May 31, 2026

==== Adults \$6

Ages 17 and younger FREE 



#### **SCAN FOR** MORE INFORMATION:







3. Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area

4. Cathedral Gorge State Park

5. Cave Lake State Park

7. Echo Canyon State Park

8. Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site

15. Spooner Lake & Backcountry State Park

18. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

17. Mormon Station State Historic Park

19. Rye Patch State Recreation Area

20. South Fork State Recreation Area

21. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

24. Walker River State Recreation Area

27. Wild Horse State Recreation Area

25. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park

22. Spring Valley State Park

23. Valley of Fire State Park

26. Washoe Lake State Park

9. Fort Churchill State Historic Park

10. Ice Age Fossils State Park

11. Kershaw-Ryan State Park 12. Lahontan State Recreation Area

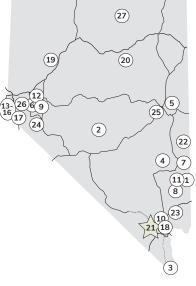
13. Cave Rock State Park

14. Sand Harbor State Park

16. Van Sickle Bi-State Park

6. Dayton State Park

#### **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park**



N/A 30' 60' N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 45' 30' N/A 35' 60' 40' 30' 45' 45'

60'

40'

35'

34'

25' N/A

45'



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 flora 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.



# RESPONSIBLY



# TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Don't count on your cellphone to bail you out of a jam! Nevada's wild places are some of the country's most remote, which means they're often out of cell service and far from help. Be prepared, let people know where you're going, and always have a plan B.

#### **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.



Scan for more info on the Dirt Road Code

@therobertswerehere

# **NEVADA MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE**

# **EVENTS CALENDAR**

With everything from cookoffs and cultural days to rodeos and rallies, there's an event tailor-made for you somewhere in the Silver State. Events are always subject to change, so be sure to check online before finalizing plans.

#### MARCH -

Boulder City Beerfest Boulder City

Donkey Jamboree Mesquite

Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry Virginia City

Silver State Chili Cookoff
Pahrump

The Mint 400

#### **APRIL** -

Bighorn Outback Explorers Poker Run Beatty

Dutch Oven Cook-Off
Cathedral Gorge State Park

Tonopah Star Parties
Tonopah

Virginia City Grand Prix Virginia City

#### MAY -

Armed Forces Day Celebration Hawthorne BackCountry Music Festival Carson Valley

Best Dam Barbecue Challenge Boulder City

Black Rock Rendezvous Gerlach

Chili on the Comstock & Craft Beer Tour Virginia City

Home + History Las Vegas 2025 Las Vegas

Genoa Western Heritage Days Carson Valley

Jim Butler Days Tonopah

Nevada Old Time Fiddler's Contest Eureka

Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle Rally & Music Fest Winnemucca

Salt Flats Endurance Runs West Wendover

#### JUNE -

California Trail Days Elko

Capital City Brewfest
Carson City

Carson Valley Days
Carson Valley

Fears, Tears & Beers Mountain Bike Enduro Race *Elv*  Great Eldorado BBQ, Brews and Blues Festival Reno

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival North Lake Tahoe

Reno River Festival

Stewart Father's Day Powwow Carson City

Taste of Downtown
Carson City

Winnemucca Basque Festival Winnemucca

#### JULY —

American Century Celebrity Golf Championship South Lake Tahoe

Artown Reno

Classical Tahoe Music Festival North Lake Tahoe

Fastest Gun Alive World Championship Fallon

National Basque Festival Elko

Night in the Country Yerington

Reno Basque Festival Reno

Silver State Stampede Elko Tonopah Rock & Bottle Show Tonopah

#### AUGUST —

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off Sparks

Bonneville Speed Week West Wendover

Burning Man Gerlach

Carson City Ghost Walks
Carson City

Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair Fallon

Goldfield Days Celebration & Land Auction Goldfield

Hot August Nights Reno

Jarbidge Days Jarbidge

Jazz & Beyond Festival Carson City

Numaga Indian Days Powwow *Reno* 

Pioche Labor Day Celebration Pioche

White Pine County Fair & Horse Races *Ely* 



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS





## BECOME A STEWARD OF LAKE TAHOE

Leave no trace, pick up after your pet



#### KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Don't leave food in your car and keep your distance



#### STAY EDUCATED

Stay connected to travel advisories and emergency updates



### BE FIRE SAFE

Know how and when to have a safe campfire – and no fireworks



## RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Stay on designated trails, follow signage



### DEMONSTRATE MINDFUL TRAVEL

Be kind and support local businesses

Learn more at: GoTahoeNorth.com/Sustainable-Travel









