# NEVADA

Summer 2024

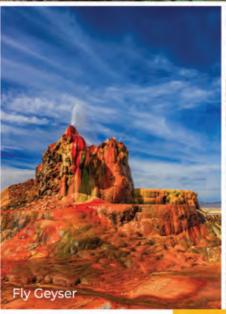
MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

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Discover some of the best stargazing in the nation at Great Basin National Park on pg. 42.

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See pg. 93 for categories, rules, and how



Sink your teeth into the places Travel Nevada staff love to eat on pg. 54.





Get behind the wheel on southern Nevada's best byways on pg. 28.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Summer is here, so let the outdoor adventures begin! For me, summer is all about the mountains. I began snowshoeing last year, but that's just to keep from going stir crazy while I wait for hiking and mountain biking weather. I appreciate the four seasons we have in northern Nevada, but winter curtails my outdoor activities quite a bit.



Set your sights on dazzlingviews with the Rubies Route Road Trip on pg. 36.-



One of the many things I love about living

in Nevada is the diversity of outdoor recreation. I've ridden and wandered the mountains in all corners of the state, and there are so many trails, trees, landscapes, and views to discover. That discovery keeps renewing my desire to travel around Nevada, even when I feel like I've been almost everywhere. I had the chance recently to visit some places I've been to many times, but through a whole new lens: a mountain bike tour from Caliente to Ely.

You can find more about that in this issue, but I mention this to remind all of our readers who live in the Silver State to keep discovering. We all revisit our favorite places with good reason, but maybe take someone who's never been there to see it through fresh eyes or take a chance on some place new. Nevada's strength is in the depth and breadth of experiences we have here. It's time to get a little out there.







### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Along with the mountain biking story, we have stories on a new Uncommon Overnighter in historic Austin and a feature on one of our favorite Wild West towns, Virginia City. The National Automobile Museum in Reno gets a spotlight this issue, and you may be surprised how much there is to experience beyond the cool cars.

We have two great history stories for you, too. One is on the ghost town of Mazuma which was wiped out by a desert flood, and the other is how Basques in southern Nevada created a community over the game of jai alai.

If you are also itching to get outdoors, read our stories on stargazing at Great Basin National Park, the opportunities in must-see Rainbow Canyon, and what awaits at Echo Canyon State Park.

I hope you enjoy our Summer issue, and as always, we'd love to hear from you about your Nevada experiences!

Enjoy!

IT'S YOUR TURN.

Use this QR code to

take our survey and tell

us what you like/don't

like about the guide

AND what you'd like to see in future issues!

M. Mull

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor

# TALK TO US

### SILVER STATE SOCIAL

Join Seattle-based outdoor traveler (and proud dogmom) efoxandpines as she discovers history and stunning scenes on the Lake Tahoe Loop.



Genoa Canyon Waterfall Trail

Nothing beats warm days, paved trails, fresh air, and an endless sea of greenery.



East Shore Trail & Sand Harbor CARSON CITY \*

Virginia City

Dangberg Ranch

Lake Tahoe's East Shore Trail

Run, walk, or bike along a 3-mile paved trail that offers dazzling views of the worldrenowned lake.

Sand Harbor State Park Enjoy a summer beach vacation with alpine vistas.



### Virginia City

This Wild West town is home to historic saloons, haunted hotels, and silver mines that you can tour.

### FOLLOW US FOR TRAVEL INSPIRATION OR TO DISCOVER YOUR FAVORITE SILVER STATE ADVENTURER.

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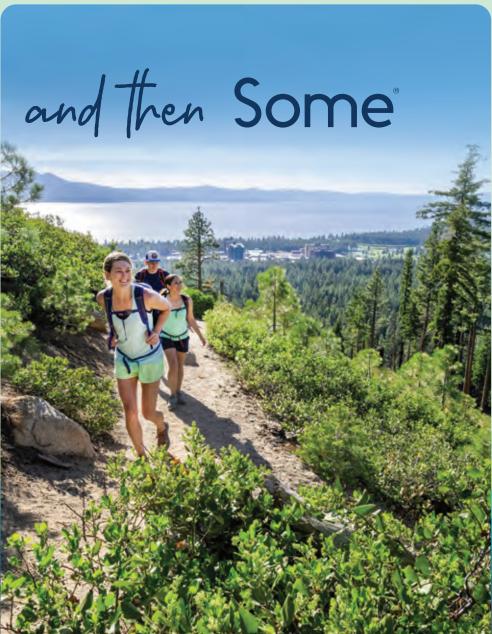
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**#NVROADTRIP** 







Pack this summer with awesome. Pack for Lake Tahoe's South Shore, home of clear blue skies and the clearest lake in the U.S. Let the good times roll around the campfire, then go for a ride across the lake on a fishing charter. Challenge yourself on endless hiking and biking trails, then treat yourself to cool drinks in front of hot summer concerts. Fill your days and nights with Awe and then Some.



Learn more at VisitLakeTahoe.com





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Boy, do we love summertime in Nevada.

Every corner of the state bustles with activities, events, and the chance to get a little out there in our wide-open spaces. From stargazing to road trips to great places to eat, this is the season to make some memories.

COVERS
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Photographer: C2 Photography

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# DOWN AT THINK HELD IN

### THE FINAL WORD

#### **104** Kutoven Stevens

A conversation with the founder of the Remembrance Run





Like much of the West, Nevada's industrial development came about because of trains. Sparks, Elko, Winnemucca, Hawthorne, and Caliente were all founded as railroad towns, and before the locomotive arrived in Las Vegas in 1904, the valley was little more than ranchland. Nevada's rail lines carted gold and silver from some of the West's richest strikes, built desert metropolises, and helped build Hoover Dam.

# RAILROADS AND TRAINS

Established in 1869, the historic Virginia & Truckee (V&T) Railroad transported The Comstock Lode's bullion from Virginia City to Carson City—a

**?**1 -MILE TRIP.

At its peak during the 1920s, the Nevada Northern Railway saw

> **JZ** PASSENGER TRAINS

a day. Students from surrounding communities even commuted to school by train.

The historic government railroad line that transported material to **HOOVER DAM** was dismantled in 1963. Much of that line was converted into the biking-and-hiking friendly Historic Railroad Trail within Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Nevada's first **TRAIN ROBBERY** was in 1870,
when robbers stole

\$750,000

(in today's money)
10 miles west of Reno.

Waiting with mail for the train to Reno in Carson City circa 1940

Before the V&T, fulfilling the Comstock's logistical needs required around

> 2,000 MEN and

12,000 ANIMALS



### Ely's NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY

serviced one of the largest copper mines in the U.S. It remains one of the best-preserved railyards from the steam engine era.

Nevada has an

**OFFICIAL STATE LOCOMOTIVE:** 

**ENGINE NO. 40** 

housed at the Nevada Northern Railway.

Nevada's rail network peaked at

2,422 MILES

in length in 1914—long enough to span the width of the entire U.S. Today, it's around half of that!

The Silver State offers plenty of

recreational train rides on historic lines and engines:

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM (Carson City & Boulder City)

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY (Ely)

**V&T RAILROAD** (Carson City)

Library of Congress (train station), David Homen (Engine 40)



With the temperature rising, there's no better time to explore some of the indoor activities the Silver State has to offer. Nevada's museums have an abundance of educational exhibits that are sure to feed the curious minds of children and adults alike.



Feel the past come to life while wandering the Nevada State
Museum in Las
Vegas! Learn about our state's rich cultural and natural history, from the construction of

Hoover Dam to rhinestone-studded showgirls, mobsters, and Ol' Blue Eyes himself. Visitors will also discover how geology shaped the Great Basin and learn about the ancient flora and fauna that inhabited the massive sea which once covered Nevada.

Speaking of prehistoric life, I was honored to be a part of the opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting for Nevada's newest state park earlier this year. Located just 20 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip and covering 315 acres, Ice Age Fossils State Park has one of the largest and most diverse collections of Ice Age-era fossils ever discovered. The park also features interpretative hiking trails that lead to fossil beds, archaeological dig sites, art sculptures, and an engaging visitor center.

At Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, which borders Ice Age Fossils State Park, archaeologists discovered evidence of extinct mammals including Columbian mammoths, dire wolves, American lions weighing more than 1,000 pounds, and giant ground sloths

the size of a car. A trip to Ice Age Fossils State Park is a "bonea-fide" good time.

Apart from the state's museums and parks, a couple of highlights this time of year are the outdoor concerts



and spectacular events held throughout the state.

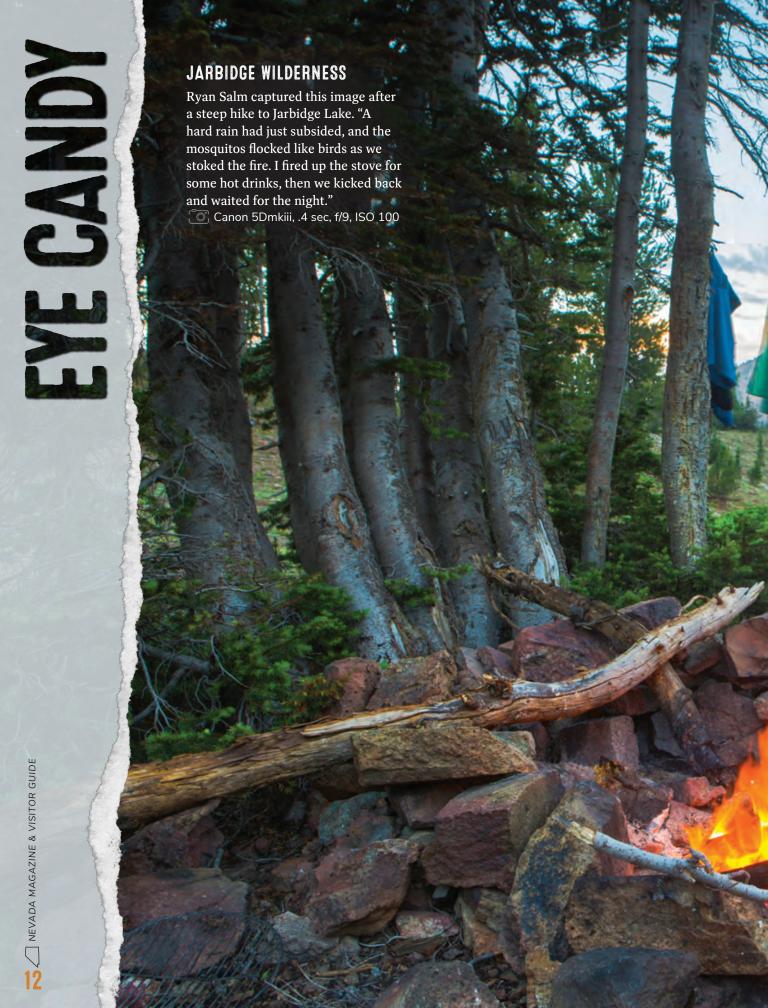
On July 14, you won't want to miss the Sierra Nevada Lavender & Honey Festival in Reno. Along with craft vendors and specialty foods, the festival also features live entertainment and honey tasting. Enjoy a glass of honey wine or a lavender lemonade—all sourced from local and regional growers and beekeepers.

I'm proud to serve as Nevada's lieutenant governor, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to highlight the people and places that make the Silver State America's most exciting vacation destination. Whether you're looking to take a break from southern Nevada's triple-digit temperatures, explore one-of-a-kind festivals, or experience ancient history, you'll find there is something for everyone here.

No matter if you've lived here all your life, just moved, or are simply visiting—I encourage you to hit the road and explore everything this great state has to offer.

Sta & Aug

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







### OTHERWORLDLY FLORA

Steve O'Melia captured this May storm as it rolled over Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas. "The thought occurred to me that the Joshua tree seed pods resembled aliens," he says.

Nikon D750, 1/400 sec, f/9. ISO 1000

### **DUNE AND DOG**

"My Australian shepherd Layla was trotting in the early morning light at Big Dune—located outside of Beatty," says Sara Dudo. "Layla was struck by the heavy shadows and barked at the movement of small grains that fell around her feet while she was still."

Nikon D7500, 1/1000 sec, f/5.6, ISO 125



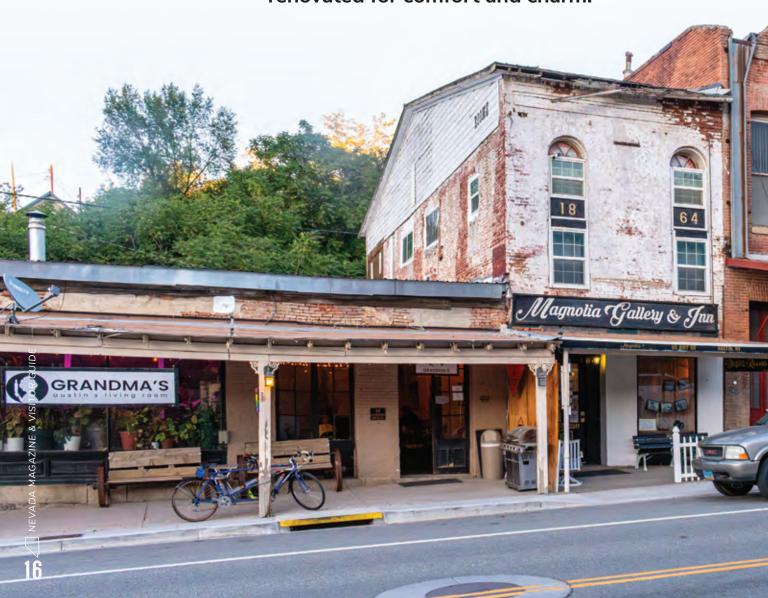


### UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS

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

# THE AGNOLIA GALLERY & INN

Enjoy a suite stay in a historic building renovated for comfort and charm.





#### BY RACHEL WRIGHT

The "Loneliest Road in America" is anything but, and smack dab in the middle of this famed road trip across Nevada lies the welcoming community of Austin. The town sprang to life during a silver mining rush in the 1860s, and the Austin of today features stately 19th-century buildings, intriguing historic sites, and access to remarkable outdoor recreation. Take advantage of everything the area has to offer and let the charming Magnolia Gallery & Inn serve as your adventure basecamp.

The Magnolia Gallery & Inn was originally constructed in 1864—the same year Nevada became a state—and has had many past lives. The building has been a brothel, a grocery store, a saloon, a music store, and an ice cream parlor. Now, proprietors Laurian Arbo and Ken Merkes are honored to add another chapter to the story.

"The building captured our hearts, and we felt that we could refurbish it, add modern conveniences, and offer an experience for travelers who enjoy history and old buildings," Arbo says.



Don't forget to peruse the gallery and curio shop on the first

floor of the Magnolia Gallery & Inn for one-of-a-kind souvenirs, ranging from paintings and local photography to vintage collectibles and handmade items.



The renovated property features two spacious upstairs parlor suites available to guests traveling without children or pets. Settle into a cozy living room with plenty of comfy seating, or fully unwind in a queen bed outfitted with soft sheets and plenty of pillows. Both suites also include a private bathroom and kitchenette with microwave, bar sink, and apartment-size refrigerator.

Arbo or Merkes will likely check you in, and history buffs and curious souls will delight in the anecdotes they share about the storied property. One such story? The size of the

bathroom in the Main Suite is the same size as one entire bedroom and living quarters when the building operated as a brothelthere were nine rooms on the second floor.

As residents of Nevada for 25 years, Arbo and Merkes have explored extensively and will happily share recommendations with travelers.

"The serenity and history of the area are what drew us to Austin," says Arbo. "We love the freedom and the recreational opportunities, and we feel a deep connection to the Old West in Nevada."





### **DELIGHTFUL DIVERSIONS**

Less than a mile from the Magnolia Gallery & Inn, Stokes Castle is a must-see stop on the western edge of Austin. Follow a short, winding dirt road to the top of an overlook with sweeping views of the Reese River Valley and you'll find a three-story stone structure built by a wealthy mining and railroad magnate in the 1890s.

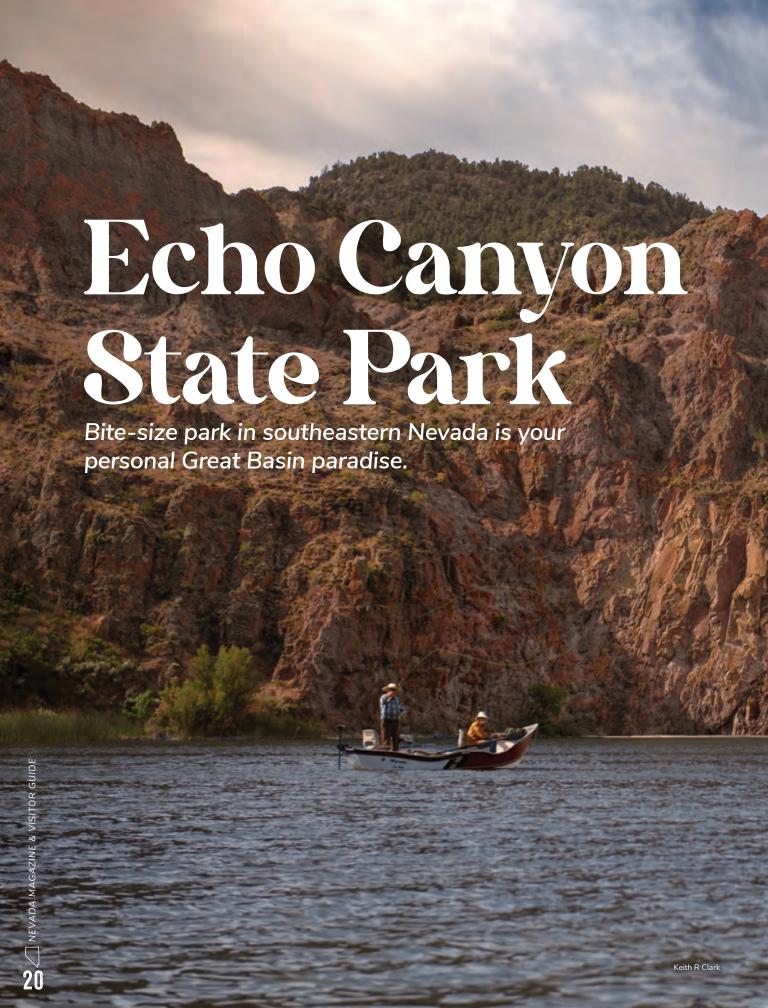
Hikers and bikers can take advantage of Austin's access to the rugged and remote Toiyabe Range, home to the Toiyabe Crest Trail and the Austin-Toiyabe Mountain Bike Trail Network.

Before leaving town, pop into Jason's Art Gallery to shop gorgeous turquoise jewelry of all colors, some of which was mined in the Silver State. The boutique has rings, necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, as well as crystals, cabochons, beads, and antiques.

While overnighting at the Magnolia Gallery & Inn, sate your appetite at **Grandma's**, the next-door restaurant that bills itself as "Austin's living room." Homemade pizza, tacos, and salad (plus a full bar) are extra satisfying after a day of exploration. Open seasonally in the summer, Champs serves up super tasty burgers from a food truck.

Magnolia Gallery & Inn is located at 103 Main Street in the heart of Austin and can be reached by calling (775) 530-2241.











HOURS & **ADMISSION** 

Echo Canyon State Park is open seven days a week, 365 days a year. Camping in the park is available with utility hookups. All sites are first-come, first-served.

view of Dry Valley-with access to flush toilets and an RV dump station.

The park includes an outdoor theater, a group picnic area for up to 70 people, and excellent trails. We recommend taking the Ash Canyon trail, a winding 2.5-mile loop along the valley rim that ends with a dramatic canyon view.

### **COMPASS POINTERS**

En route to the park, you'll become acquainted with some of Nevada's best farmland, where rolling hills, sleepy cattle, and green alfalfa fields slowly pass by on a winding country backroad.

If arriving from the south, consider taking Delmue Ranch Road, accessed via the town of Panaca. This quiet farming community—founded in the 1860s by Mormon settlers—is a great place to stretch your legs or stock up on supplies at the Panaca Market. While in town, stop by Dream



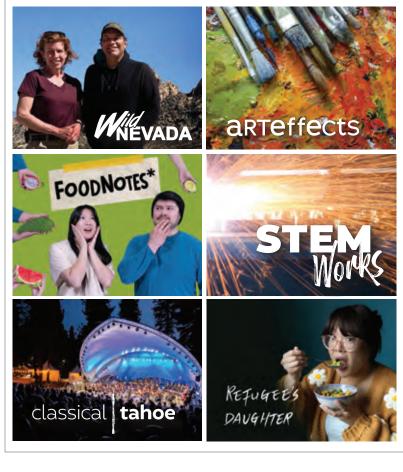
House Growers and Health, a boutique shop that offers everything from apparel to baked goods and local produce. If you decide that Panaca is where you'd like to bed down for a day or two-after all, Cathedral Gorge State

Park is just a 7-minute drive away-vou'll find excellent accommodations at the Pine Tree Inn.

If arriving from the north, stop in Pioche for supplies and a good meal at the Historic Silver Café. Pioche is a well-preserved relic of the Wild West. It's also

Want to add a bit more adventure (and history) to your visit? Check out the Panaca Kilns, located a 30-minute drive east of Panaca. This pair of massive ovens from the 1870s provided charcoal for local mills.

packed with history from its rowdy boomtown years, which visitors can witness firsthand at Boot Hill Cemetery and the Million Dollar Courthouse. If you stay the night, check out the Overland Hotel & Saloon for a themed room and an evening at a classic Sagebrush Saloon.





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# A WILD RIDE

One man's driving passion is now Reno's coolest collection.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Casino magnate Bill Harrah had a bit of an obsession. The man who launched the Harrah's gaming empire in 1937 also had a penchant for collecting cars, which led to him eventually owning around 1,400 vehicles. During his lifetime, his collection—often referred to as the most significant assemblage of vintage and one-of-a-kind cars ever—was housed in Sparks and open to the public.

Harrah passed in 1987 and sadly made no provisions for the collection in his will. When Holiday Inn purchased the corporation in 1980, they also inherited the cars and began to sell off the lucrative collection—but Reno and Sparks residents took up the cause to keep the cars together in Nevada. Holiday Inn struck a deal that if money could be raised for a museum, it would donate 175 cars.

The initiative succeeded and in 1989, the National Automobile Museum (NAM) opened in downtown Reno. Harrah's collection quickly became one of the city's top attractions.







### FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS

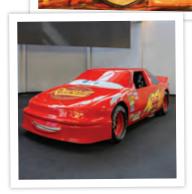
Wandering the museum's exhibits, autophiles will be entranced at the more than 225 cars displayed throughout the 105,000-square-foot complex. Changing exhibits keep the offerings fresh (and beg for repeat visits), while the static displays divulge a deep dive into automobile history. Cars from 1897 to 2003 are presented in gleaming style, revealing the beautiful craftsmanship of days past. With so many of today's vehicles looking rather cookie cutter, it's a treat to see the wide range of details that were once a part of our driving machines (anyone remember hood ornaments?).

Along with the plethora of beautiful vehicles, there are some historic cars that should not be missed, starting with the original 1907 Thomas Flyer. Winner of the 1908 New York to Paris Race around the globe, the car is featured in an exhibit that gives a fascinating look at the world's enchantment with the new motorized carriages and the tenacity of pioneer motorists. Six vehicles attempted the almost-inconceivable race, and only three finished, with the Thomas Flyer crossing the finish line 26 days before the next car.

Other champion vehicles await—think myriad speed record setters and race winners—along with a seriously fun collection of celebrity cars. James Dean's 1949 Mercury Coupe and Elvis' 1973 Cadillac Eldorado Custom Coupe are two of the many you'll find once you walk the red carpet into the collection. Tip: Grab a prop and take a selfie with the celebrity cut outs on the way in.

For kids, check out Guinevere, the van from the film "Onward," or famed stock car Lightning McQueen from the movie "Cars." These cars rotate frequently, but there's always something for the younger members.

The museum excels at showcasing cars, but it also does a great job creating the perfect vibe to match its amazing assemblage. Every collection has a particular feel, with art, props, signage, and more helping to set the scene.



Membership at the National Automobile Museum is the perfect way to stay up on all the changing exhibits for a low annual price.



### THE ROAD AHEAD

A \$3 million renovation to refresh the museum and its environs is underway. From revamping displays to building a new events center (now the largest venue on the Truckee River), NAM is keeping its eye on the future, not just its historic past.

One of the issues Executive Director Phil MacDougall is keen to address is the oftheard comment, "I've been there once, so why go back?"

While most of the collection is static, new vehicles are brought in on a regular, rotating basis, he explains. MacDougall is also excited about new programming for children and families. The renovations include a newly expanded Kids Interactive Center with fun activities. It's also a place kids can take child-focused (read: fun) classes on auto-related subjects.

The new outdoor venue is another way to attract visitors, and it's also to help local nonprofits; MacDougall knows how much venues can cost to rent, and he's committed to helping the local community have an affordable place to showcase their events. He wants the museum visited, enjoyed, and used as a place for education. A new speakers series debuted last year,

with Jeremy Renner of the car-focused "Rennervations" Disney+ show as the kickoff speaker.



GUIDE





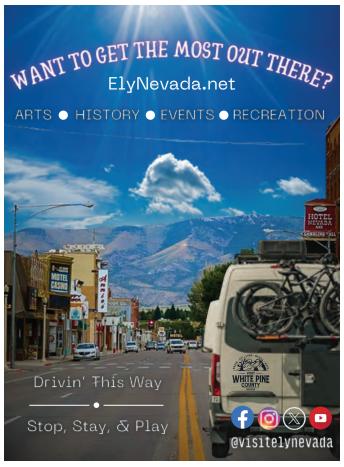
### PUT THE PEDAL DOWN

An afternoon at the National Automobile Museum delivers a nostalgic experience. MacDougall says when he meets guests, he'll often ask them what their first car was, and almost everyone smiles remembering that first ride. Cars are an incontrovertible part of American culture, and these beautifully maintained machines thrill all who see them, whether they are into car culture or not. The next time you're in downtown Reno, motor over to the museum and fuel up on some gorgeous Americana.

#### PUT IT IN DRIVE

National Automobile Museum Open daily 775-333-9300





### SOUTHERN NEVADA'S SCENIC DRIVES

Put the pedal to the metal for these mini road trips.

BY SUSAN MOWERS

As the seventh largest state,
Nevada offers plenty of
backroads and byways to
choose. Not only that, it's also
one of the most geologically
diverse states. Where else could
you drive through mountains
filled with forests of evergreens,
valleys covered in a sea of
sagebrush, and a strip of neon
castles seen from space? Get
behind the wheel and discover
why Nevada is known as a land
of contrasts.



### LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD

### 3.41 miles

Take a trip through Las Vegas history on this National Scenic Byway. Starting near the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park and ending at The STRAT Hotel, Casino & Tower, you'll view everything that makes Vegas, well, Vegas. With its retro motels, wedding chapels (a classic staple), vintage neon, and the tallest freestanding structure west of the Mississippi River, this drive shows you why no other city can replace Las Vegas.



Las Vegas Strip

Believe it or not, the Las Vegas Strip is also an official scenic byway! With one of the most concentrated collections of neon lights in the world, it's like viewing Christmas lights on steroids. The Strip is so illuminated, in fact, that NASA reports it may be the brightest spot on Earth.



### MT. CHARLESTON SCENIC BYWAY

#### 36 miles

Those who've frequented Nevada know that we're a mountainous state. In fact, the Silver State boasts the most mountain ranges in the Lower 48, with more than 300. There's no shortage of amazing mountain routes, and Mt. Charleston is one of our favorites. Part of the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas, Mt. Charleston is great to visit during any season—though be prepared for snow in the winter (take a detour and head to nearby Lee Canyon for some skiing). You'll see various vegetation as you climb up the mountain, from sagebrush and Joshua trees to evergreens like juniper, ponderosa pine, and white fir.



Mt. Charleston has an altitude of 7,500 feet, so stay hydrated and beware of altitude sickness.



This state park is best visited in the shoulder seasons, out of the infamous southern Nevada

this scenic byway is a perfect way to enjoy Valley of Fire—all from the comfort of an air-

conditioned car.

heat. If you do choose to go in the summertime,

### GOLD BUTTE BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY

#### 62 miles

This extremely remote road traverses Gold Butte National Monument, a stunning slice of pure Mojave Desert backcountry. Motor past colorful sandstone, thousands of ancient petroglyphs, and dreamlike formations at Little Finland that seem to ignite as the sun sets over nearby Lake Mead. A high-clearance vehicle with four-wheel drive is a must for this byway.

Cruise down
Rainbow Canyon—
one of our favorite
unofficial backcountry
byways—on pg. 88.









## THE MYSTERIOUS

### When it comes to privacy, candy king Forrest Mars is positively out of this world.

BY ROB POWERS

He lives, according to those who think they know, in a distinctly inconspicuous penthouse above the Ethel M candy factory, a neat-as-a-pin plant on the fringes of Henderson that employs about 100 white-clad people and boasts a meticulously maintained botanical garden and cactus display.

Ask visitors who have taken the self-guided tour of the

\$6 million building if they've ever gotten a glimpse of him, and they'll probably say no. But then, they wouldn't know Forrest Mars if he walked right up and offered them a bag of M&M's.

As mysteries go, the King of Creamy Confections is roughly on par with the great pyramids of Egypt and the Grand Canyon. The 80-year-old Mars is one of the 10 richest men in the world—a conservative estimate of his worth is a sweet \$1 billion—but he's not at all like many of his wealthy counterparts in the Las Vegas Valley, the land of conspicuous consumption.

He doesn't drive down The Strip in a chocolate-colored Mercedes with a personalized license plate proclaiming his wonderfulness. You'll never find him hobnobbing with Nevada's rich and famous (among whom he ranks first in the former category and last in the latter). He doesn't show up for ribbon cuttings, doesn't plug the opening of new Ethel M retail outlets—there are five in southern Nevada, four in northern Nevada, and others in California and Arizona—and doesn't like to see pictures of himself

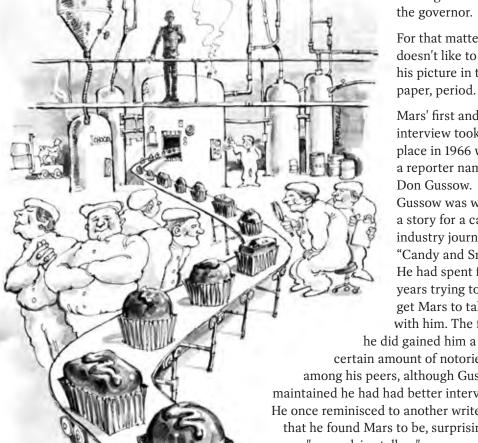
> in the paper shaking hands with the governor.

For that matter, he doesn't like to see his picture in the paper, period.

Mars' first and only interview took place in 1966 with a reporter named Don Gussow. Gussow was writing a story for a candy industry journal, "Candy and Snack." He had spent five years trying to get Mars to talk with him. The fact

certain amount of notoriety among his peers, although Gussow maintained he had had better interviews. He once reminisced to another writer that he found Mars to be, surprisingly, a "compulsive talker."

> The sole published photo of the candy magnate, taken of him



## MR. MARS

fox hunting on his sprawling Virginia estate some years ago, ran in "Fortune" magazine last spring.



Forrest Mars, Sr.

Only the blurriest of images of Mars can be formed today, based on skimpy information pried out of loyal employees who would rather not have their names divulged. Although Mars' reclusive nature has prompted

comparisons to Howard Hughes, "He doesn't have long fingernails, long hair, and tennis shoes," said one person who has seen him in recent months. "He's not very tall," the person said, adding that, Mars is "not frail at all" despite his age.

"If you saw him walking down the street, there'd be nothing to indicate that he was anything other than an ordinary person. Nothing to indicate he was number seven in the wealth chain."

A cheerful woman who passes out free candy samples at the Ethel M factory, when asked if she sees Mars often, smiled sweetly and said, "We're not allowed to say anything." Asked if she had ever seen him, she wavered for a millisecond. Her glance shifted to a fellow worker nearby, whose stone-faced look sealed it. End of an interview that never was.

Mars, it's clear, is positively out of this world when it comes to privacy.

A few oft-told stories document the eccentricity of the man, his fanaticism for cleanliness, his passion for perfection. Once, years ago, he found an improperly wrapped bunch of candy bars and hurled all of them, one at a time, at a glass panel in the boardroom. Others see Forrest Mars as down to earth.

"He's probably one of the nicest individuals you'd ever want to meet," said Tim Carlson of Las Vegas, former executive director of the Nevada Development Authority. "You could listen to his experiences for hours and never be bored. He's extremely knowledgeable and very sharp."

Dean Musser, an Ethel M executive and longtime Mars confidant, is as adept at handling questions about his boss as a major-league shortstop is at routine grounders. You see, every once in a while, reporters still call to ask for

interviews. Why they bother anymore is something to ponder. Perhaps it's in the hope that Mars, in his old age, will forget he's so private and grant an audience. Or maybe they dream that he will have awakened one morning and impetuously pledged to spill his life story to someone.

Sad to say, no such miraculous turn of events has taken place.

"There's nothing I can tell you about Mr. Mars," Musser politely said during a recent interview, his voice firm in tone and silky in resonance. "It's just that, from a private standpoint, he prefers to remain private. It's been that way for many, many years." Is it true Mars keeps a home in a penthouse above the factory? "We don't comment on where he or his family live."

Since it has been written before—and probably only because it has been written before—the Mars lieutenant did say that his boss is married and has three children. Talking to them, or finding out where they are, was another matter.

Musser, who came to work for Ethel M upon its opening three years ago, hasn't failed to learn the lessons in privacy taught by his leader. Asked about his previous company assignments, he paused, choosing his words carefully. "I came here from Mars Inc.," he said slowly. "That's probably the best way to leave it."

When the questions about Mars come, say, at a cocktail party instead of from a reporter, is Musser any more generous with his information? (You knew the answer anyway.) But still the curious inquire.

"I suppose you develop ways to be responsive without divulging any private matters," said the professional killjoy.

Okay. No more questions about Mars. By the way, what's it like to work for him? Musser chuckled softly. "After 30 some years you wouldn't expect me to have anything but good things to say, would you?" Of course not.

If Mars' own story remains cloaked in a shroud of mystery as thick as a coat of milk chocolate, that of the Mars empire is a matter of public record. The tale begins in 1911 in Tacoma, Washington, when Frank Mars started selling confections he concocted in the family kitchen.

That led to a factory, which in turn led to a larger one in Minneapolis nine years later. In the 1920s Frank Mars introduced the Snickers bar—one of the biggest-selling candy bars in the world today—as well as the Milky Way. He opened a plant in Chicago in 1929, which continued to show a profit throughout the Depression.

Forrest Mars was largely responsible for taking a prosperous company and, by diversifying its interests, turning it into an international empire, a conglomerate with tentacles reaching across several countries. Among the company's interests are Unisabi and Mars of France, Master Foods of Austria, Mars Italia, and Effen of Belgium.

Mars formed the hugely successful M&M Candies in 1940; the company then acquired Uncle Ben's a few years later and Kal Kan pet foods about 20 years after that.

Mars Inc., the privately held company founded by Frank Mars, today boasts annual sales of about \$3 billion. Forrest relinquished control of the corporation about 11 years ago to his sons, Forrest Jr. and John, who, like their father, have never been accused of being publicity hounds. But as the story goes, Mars, after five years on his Virginia estate, realized he just hadn't gotten the chocolate out of his blood.

He retired to Las Vegas in the late 1970s with his mother Ethel. "He had a tremendous amount of love for her," Carlson recalled. "He took care of her just like the old times. He's a very traditional individual."

After three years in southern Nevada, Mars began putting together what Carlson called "a project he'd always had in the back of his mind." At Mars' request, the legislature changed state law to allow booze candy. (Kentucky is the only other state that permits it.) He formed Ethel M-named after his mother, who died a few months before the plant opened—and brought trustworthy, reticent Dean Musser out to Las Vegas to help him run it.

Why did a billionaire septuagenarian candy tycoon with absolutely nothing to prove in this world come to the parched Nevada desert and build a \$6 million chocolate oasis?

The question is open to myriad answers. But perhaps the most plausible, considering

the man in question, comes from

Jim Echeandia, one of the chocolate industry's top analysts. Shortly after the plant opened, Echeandia told a reporter, "Forrest Mars has, for his whole life, sought excellence, and I think he is trying one last time to show the candy world what excellence is. In an operation as small as Ethel M, he can monitor everything and get it dead right."

He can do that right from his penthouse above the buzz of activity in the factory, where workers busy themselves making raspberry truffles, honey almond nougats, macadamia nut clusters, and those liqueur-filled delights.

If he really does live there, that is.

Rath n. Randall

### A Sweet Stop

Ethel M Chocolate Factory 2 Cactus Garden Dr. Henderson (702) 435-2608

#### DISCOVER

### **EXQUISITE NATURAL BEAUTY**IS WELL WORTH PRESERVING

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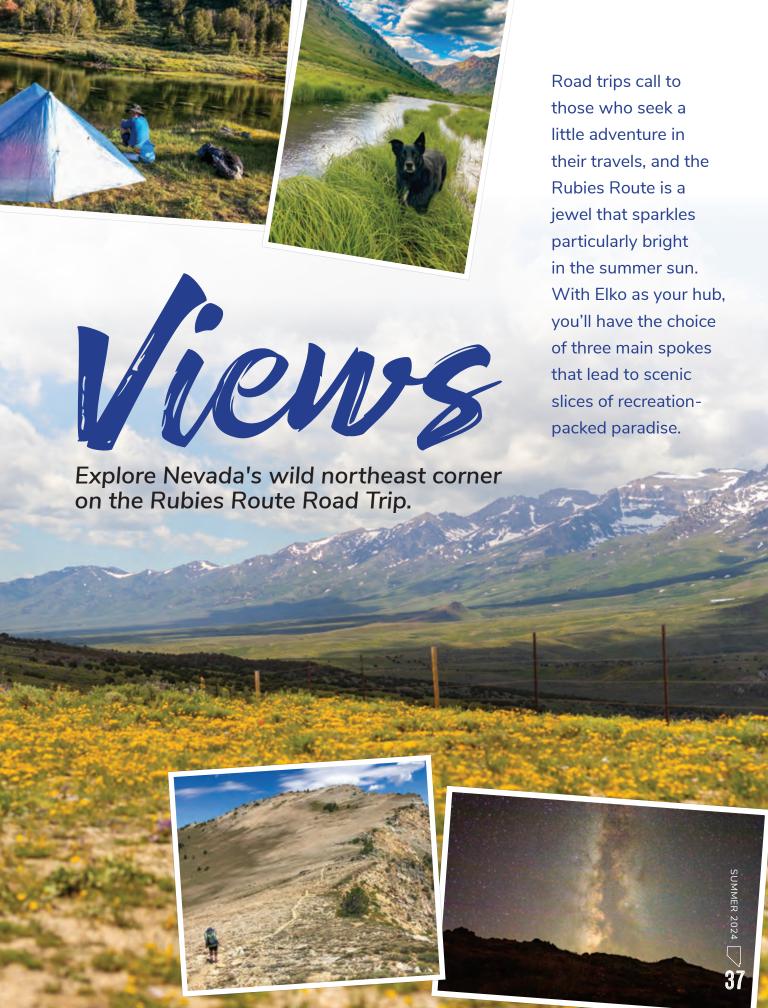
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## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON OUZZZUUNON











#### ELKO TO LAMOILLE CANYON AND THE RUBY MOUNTAINS

Regarded as the Swiss Alps of Nevada, the Ruby Mountains' craggy peaks—capped by Ruby Dome at 11,387 feet—rise nearly a mile above the valley floor. A 45-minute drive puts you at the top of the Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway, where spectacular trails offer everything from afternoon jaunts to multiday thru-hikes on the Ruby Crest National Recreation Trail. Whichever you choose, you're never far from beautiful, trout-packed alpine lakes. In winter, the byway generally closes to cars and becomes a snowmobile superhighway.

Elko's hotels and motels offer all the amenities, but closer to the mountains are the rustic **Hotel**Lamoille and two swanky Ruby 360

Lodge yurts—one high atop a Ruby Mountain ridge, another tucked back in the woods on a babbling brook.



### ELKO TO RUBY VALLEY AND ANGEL LAKE

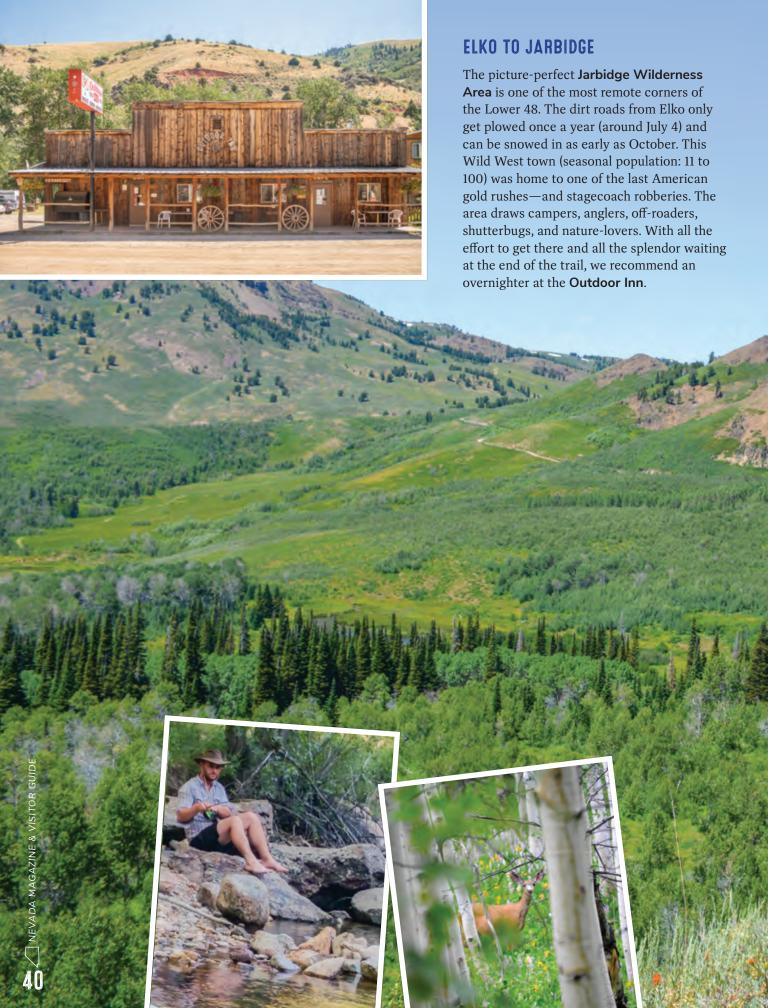
Take the mostly unpaved Harrison Pass to visit a bona fide Sagebrush Saloon, **Jiggs**Bar, on your way to Ruby Valley. Afterwards, drop into the valley toward Ruby Lake

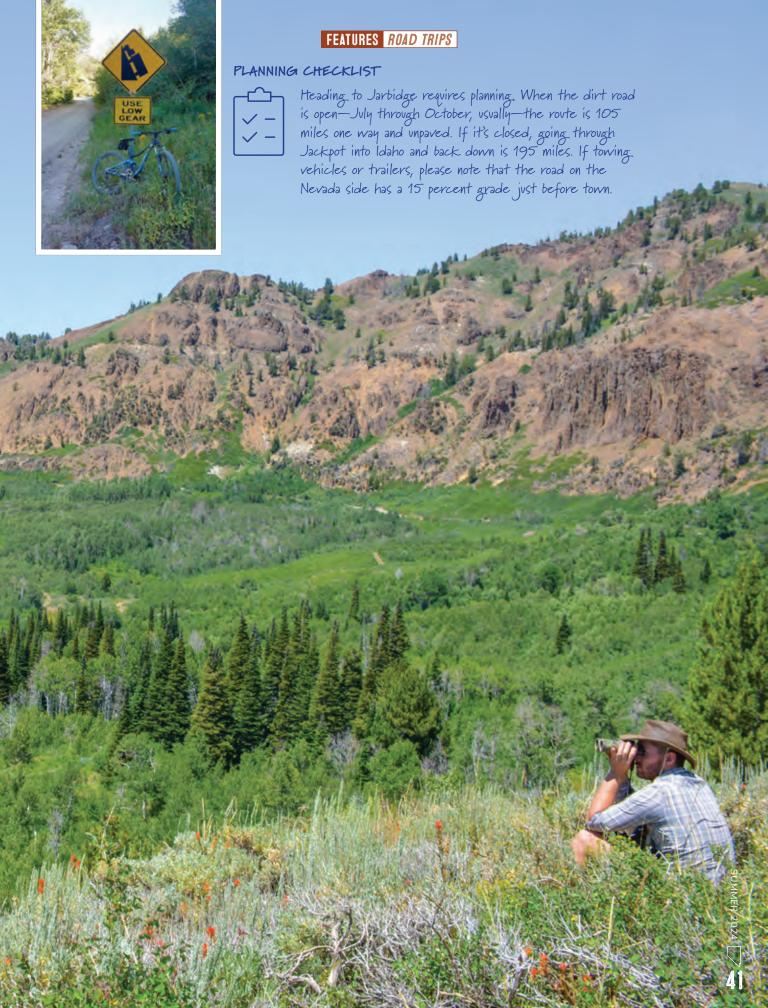
National Wildlife Refuge, a nearly 40,000-acre panorama of watery grandeur home to hundreds of species of birds.

Just 12 miles from Interstate 80, head up to the wildly picturesque **Angel Lake** via another scenic byway to discover an aspenand wildlife-laden gem beloved by hikers, fishers, campers, and stargazers.











Discover some of the nation's best stargazing at Great Basin National Park.

BY CORY MUNSON

Nevada's national park has many natural wonders. Its pristine caverns, bristlecone stands, and snowcapped peaks attract tens of thousands of visitors each year despite the park's remote setting. Over the past decade, however, this quiet corner of the state has become famous for another—and increasingly rare—natural resource: its near-perfect night sky.



#### AD ASTRA

Everyone from amateur astronomers to NASA scientists can point to data showing that night skies are disappearing. Nearly 90 percent of Americans live in or near a city. More cities mean more light pollution, which means fewer stars. Many of us go months—or years—without seeing the Milky Way, which is why sanctuaries like Great Basin National Park serve an outsized role in preserving and presenting starry skies.

"Astronomy was not the primary reason Great Basin National Park was created in 1986," says lead astronomy ranger Bradley Mills. "It was known as a dark place, but many places were dark back then. Now, it's become more special."

Mills' enviable title carries many responsibilities like organizing programs and training staff—including four seasonal rangers. However, his favorite role by far is when he gets to educate the public about all things astronomy.

Three times a week during the summer, Mills stands before an audience of all ages and backgrounds in the park's astronomy amphitheater. The program—which starts around twilight—begins with a slideshow and brief lecture. Then, 30 minutes later, Mills turns off the projector, and guests look up to a sky now completely transformed. Mills describes the experience as magical.





"Some people don't even stand up. They just sit and stare quietly. For many, this is the first time they've ever seen the Milky Way," he says. "There is something so primal about connecting to the night sky."

For the next hour, program participants gaze through 11-inch Celestron telescopes which were donated by the Great Basin National Park Foundation. Nebulae, stars, planets, galaxies, the moon: All are open for exploration.

"I really love when we have kids and they see something like fan-favorite Saturn and its rings for the first time. They'll ask if they're looking at a picture," Mills says.

Mills' favorite subject is galaxies, which he considers the perfect vehicle for demonstrating space's incomprehensible vastness.

"I remember being blown away the first time I saw the Whirlpool Galaxy," he says. "It's a little speck—you can't see it with the naked eye—but it's actually two galaxies, one consuming another. Just imagine the stellar forces going on in such an interaction. The idea that what we're seeing happened millions of years ago is something the human brain can't grasp."





#### RESEARCH GRADE

The program's telescopes are excellent for guest enjoyment, but the park's star-searching technology doesn't stop there. In 2016, it became home to a state-of-the-art facility: the Great Basin Observatory.

The observatory—funded almost entirely through donations—is the first research-grade observatory built inside a national park. Best of all, the 27.5-inch telescope is remotely operated and available as a public resource.

"If you want to get time on a standard observatory, you'll submit your proposal and maybe get a response," explains Mills. "Here, the answer is almost always yes."

Graduate and undergrad programs in Nevada and Utah make good use of the telescope, but it's not just universities that use the high-tech tool. Younger local students also access the telescope, including middle schoolers in Ely—some of whom now have their names on published scientific papers.



be the first to say that the park's goal is not to be a specialized vacation spot: It is to inspire guests to look skyward in their own backyard.

"You don't need much to be an amateur astronomer," says Mills. "Many folks think stargazing means getting an expensive telescope, but that's not true. Even semi-rural areas are great for naked-eye observations, especially if you use a stargazing app. The next step is getting a pair of binoculars from the thrift store. They make a heck of a difference even in places with light pollution, and you'll be better equipped than any human pre-Galileo."

And, of course, Mills and his star rangers want guests to see that a brilliant night sky doesn't have to be something relegated to a Dark Sky Park.

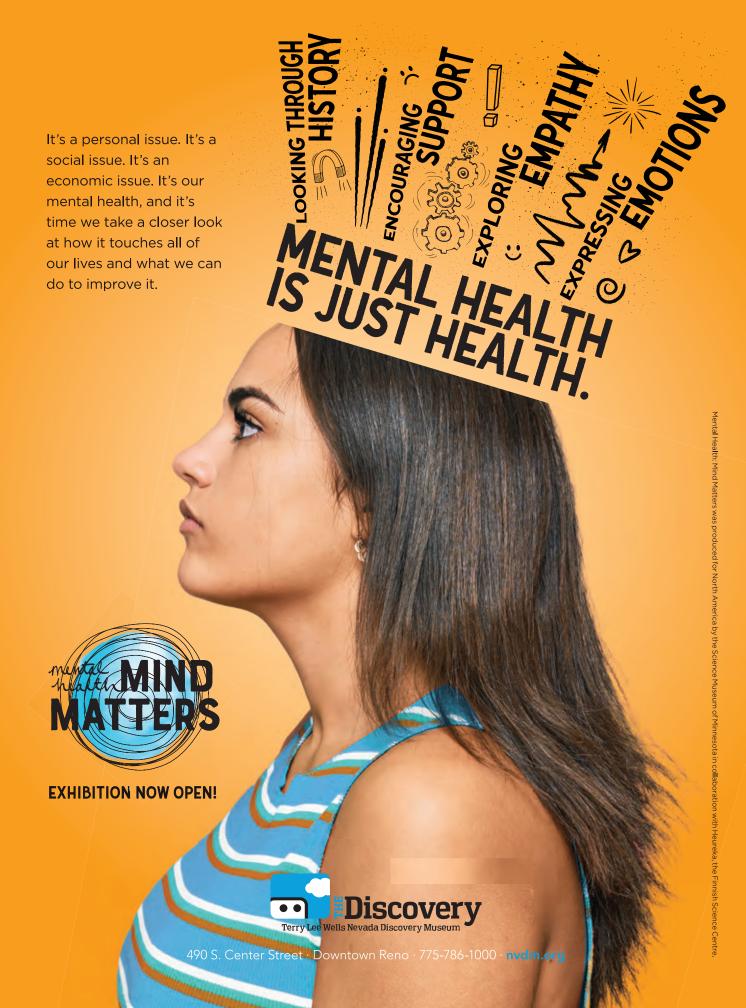
"Reducing light pollution is achievable. We can all do little things like putting outdoor lights on a timer and closing blinds. I encourage people to look at your home and ask how you can improve things for your neighborhood. There are communities where people can see the Milky Way while still having lights."

As Mills says, stargazing is a part of the human experience—likely one of our oldest pastimes. Studying the night sky is powerful and humbling. It connects us to our ancestors and introduces us to the wonders of our universe.

Next time you yearn for a spellbinding view of the Milky Way, remember that at Great Basin National Park, you'll have some of the best seats in the house.

#### WANT MORE?

Check out Bradley Mills' appearance on the Star Talk podcast, hosted by acclaimed astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson.





# Fast Friends

How jai alai helped build Las Vegas' Basque community.





#### BY MARK MAYNARD

Northern Nevada has been home to a thriving Basque immigrant community for more than a century. In communities like Elko, Winnemucca, and Reno, locals and visitors frequently gather at former boarding houses and 100-year-old restaurants for a family-style meal and a potent Picon Punch cocktail. However, not all of Nevada's Basque diaspora communities have such a long-lived tradition.



#### A DIFFERENT KIND OF DIASPORA

The Lagun Onak (Good Friends) Basque Club of southern Nevada is a more culturally isolated group of Basques. Unlike their northern counterparts—who owe their culinary and cultural heritage to generations of high-desert sheepherders, innkeepers, and cowboys—many of the founding members of Lagun Onak arrived in the neon-bathed casino town of Las Vegas in the 1970s and '80s as professional athletes.

Jai alai is the national sport of the Basque country. A high-speed, ball-and-basket game, it is played on a racquetball-like court called a fronton. The hard, goatskin-wrapped rubber ball—pelota—is slightly smaller than a baseball and is propelled by a woven basket—a cesta—worn on the players' hands. The Guinness Book of World Records recognizes jai alai as the fastest moving ball sport, clocking the record speed of a pelota at 188 mph.

Jai alai is an exciting spectator sport ready-made for bettors. Much like horseracing, it uses a pool-based, pari-mutuel system where bets are placed on who will finish in the first three spots. The game was popular on the East Coast but untested in Nevada, where it would compete with legal casino gaming.

In Las Vegas, MGM owner Kirk Kerkorian saw an opportunity to corner the market and built a 2,000-seat fronton in 1974 to be a centerpiece for his new gaming venture. Thus, at the MGM Grand Casino's invitation, the early 1970s saw a small wave of Basque athletes moving to Las Vegas from Spain and other diaspora strongholds.

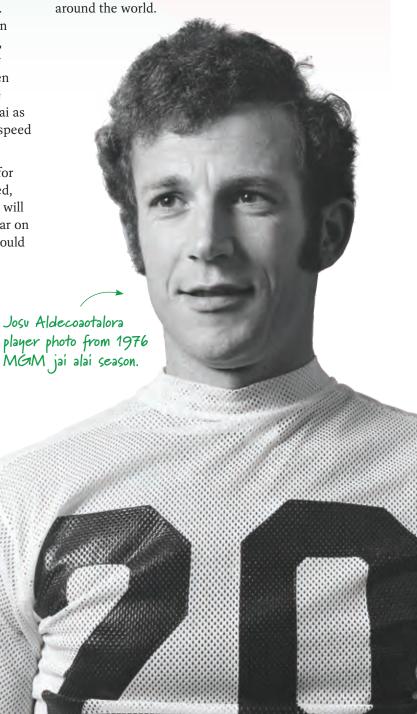
When Josu Aldecoaotalora and his wife Pilar stepped off the plane, they were overwhelmed by blinking lights and ringing bells. Aldecoaotalora, a native of the Spanish Basque Country, had been living abroad for years playing jai alai in Indonesia and the Philippines. Now the couple was arriving after midnight in their new hometown of Las Vegas.

"All of the slot machines in the airport," says Pilar, describing her first few moments in America. "That was the first shocker."

#### AMERICAN DREAM IN THE DESERT

"Growing up, I had a lot of pride in the game," says Jose Echenique. His father came from Spain and was Josu Aldecoaotalora's teammate at the MGM's fronton. "I have memories as a child, in the locker room, watching from the back."

Echenique remembers growing up in "small Vegas" in the 1970s. His community was filled with jai alai players and their families who had immigrated from around the world



Photos courtesy of the

"Many players envisioned their sons—coming up as the first-generation Americans—would take over the sport they started for us," says Echenique. He remembers his father trying to teach him how to scale the wall and other game techniques. The senior Echenique planned on playing in Las Vegas for 10-15 years, saving his earnings, and then returning to his ancestral home in the town of Zugarramurdi (located near the French border).

Jai alai caught on in Las Vegas for a while, and though the casual fans didn't understand the nuances of the sport, the arena was a place to be seen. Pilar remembers seeing Sylvester Stallone and his then-girlfriend Susan Anton in the crowd one night, and her husband remembers the impressive scale of the fronton.

"Everything was big," he says. "American big."

And then, after a 10-year run, Las Vegas jai alai shut down overnight. However, the sport's end did not come as a surprise. Attendance had been declining for years, and the arena's space became more valuable for Las Vegas' burgeoning convention business. In 1983, the fronton was permanently converted into a meeting space, leaving the players without a sport.

Aldecoaotalora remembers the day of the last games when players were told jai alai would close that night. He went to the showers, and by the time he emerged in his street clothes, the net that separated the court from the spectators was being torn down. Professional jai alai would never again be played in Las Vegas.

"They all went in to go play and all the doors were locked," remembers Echenique, whose father was devastated by the closure.

Out of a job before their contracts expired, 29 of the players sued MGM for insurance and back pay, which ultimately reached a settlement. The former players now faced a difficult decision: find casino or construction jobs in Las Vegas or head east where frontons still operated from Connecticut to Miami. If they didn't find work, they faced expired visas and deportation.

#### **CREATING A COMMUNITY**

Near the end of jai alai's tenure in Las Vegas, a pool contractor named Jose Mari Beristain helped found the Lagun Onak Las Vegas Basque Club. Beristain emigrated from the Basque Country to Idaho in 1958 with his mother, brother, and sister. They came to join his father, who had been a sheepherder in the U.S. for the past decade. As an adult, Beristain found his way to Las Vegas, where he befriended many jai alai players who hailed from his home country.

The Aldecoaotaloras became members of the club, as did Echenique's father. Sister Sue Laxalt (sibling of former Nevada governor and U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt and Nevada literary lion Robert Laxalt—all first-generation Basque Americans) was an early club supporter.





When jai alai shut down, players like Echenique Sr. felt alone in an unfamiliar country. Young men who had arrived without family had focused their time on playing jai alai. With the sport gone, they found kinship in Lagun Onak.

"He felt very abandoned and alone," says Echenique. "I'm not too sure how well he would have done without that community in arm's reach."

For years, Echenique has campaigned for a gathering place for the Las Vegas Basques. He wants to buy a building and open a restaurant and bar, following the lead of the city's Italian American Club. He hopes to pool resources with former teammates.

To this day, the club has no official place for gatherings. They often meet in parks and other outdoor spaces, though they avoid the searing months of Las Vegas summers.

After serving as president of the club for almost 40 years, Jose Beristain died in 2021. His daughter Amaya has since taken over as president. It is challenging to sustain and grow membership.

"Kids grew up and moved on," says Amaya Beristain. There was a revival for a short time, however, as she says, Las Vegas has too many distractions for a younger generation.

"Unfortunately, my generation is getting older," says Echenique, noting that his son proudly displays a Basque flag in his bedroom. "We drifted. We're all trying to come back."

This summer, he and his son will travel to the Basque Country to visit his father, who now splits his time between Spain and Las Vegas. Echenique's son will meet his great-grandmother, and for the first time, four generations of the Echenique family will gather in the Basque Country.

DID YOU KNOW? Jai alai was also played at the MGM in Reno from 1978-1980.

Echenique hopes that his father's dreams of a place for Basques to gather in Las Vegas comes true. Perhaps southern Nevada can build upon the Basque camaraderie found in the northern part of the state. Maybe, someday, the sound of pelotas will again echo in the frontons, and a new generation of jai alai athletes will entertain diehard fans-maybe some of whom have a few good bets placed.



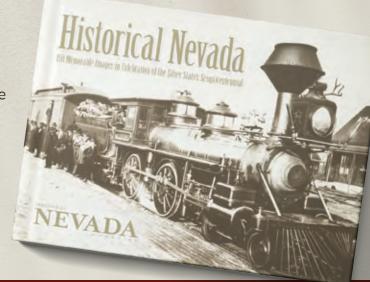
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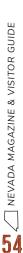
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## WILL WORK FOR



Pictured above: club sandwich and tasteful salad, Courtyard Café in Fallon; Asian chicken tacos, Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint in Carson City; Pancho Villa burger, The Dillinger in Boulder City; strawberry custard creme, The Bagel Café in Las Vegas



#### BY MEGG MUELLER

We're not trying to brag, but as a group, the staff of Travel Nevada really gets around the Silver State. We log countless miles each year traversing the state in search of all the best Nevada has to offer so we can share it with you.



# DELIGIOUS FOOD

Travel Nevada shares some of its favorite meals from around the state.

During our travels, we've had our fair share of meals and decided to spill the tea on some of our favorite places. What follows is by no means all our favorites or meant to be a comprehensive list of Nevada's great dining options. Without further ado, we present the places Travel Nevada and *Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide* staff love to eat!



#### **BEATTY**

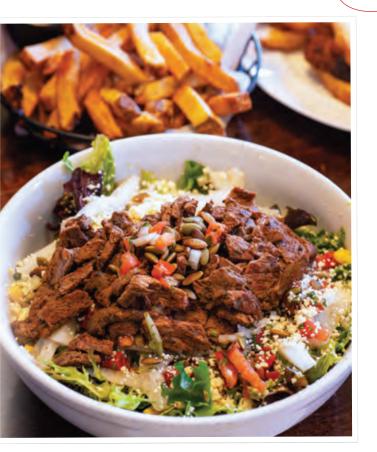
Marketing Manager Keelie Cox chose Smokin J's BBQ. "They have tasty food and a great drink selection to refuel after a long day of exploring Death Valley National Park. Creative Director Susan Mowers seconded that motion. "Who knew such a beautiful little restaurant existed in Beatty? The food was delicious, but more than that, I loved sitting out on the front porch on a perfect Nevada blue-skies day to watch the city mosey on by."

The Dillinger topped Chief Marketing Officer Caroline Sexton's list. "This is a new favorite! Located in the historic Bank of Nevada building, the shotgun door handles and ammo-filled tabletops are so fun and the perfect nod to the restaurant's namesake, John Dillinger. It's American-style dining with super creative menu items. My go-to is the sticky fingers burger and the gangster fries."



#### **CALIENTE**

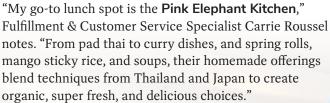
Side Track Café was a favorite of many voters. Here's Destination Development Manager Cortney Bloomer's take: "This place stands out in rural Nevada for its delicious and generously sized dinner salads. While they also offer tasty pizzas, burgers, and pasta, the salads are what keeps me coming back. My favorite is the summer salad with chicken, but whatever salad you pick, get it with the blood orange vinaigrette."





#### **CARSON CITY**

Content Development Director Megg Mueller called out Sassafras Eclectic Food Joint. "This place never disappoints. The menu is full of fresh, homemade items that have a distinct twist you won't find anywhere else. Eclectic is the perfect descriptor. I almost always come back to the Asian chicken tacos with the heavenly sticky coconut rice, but I've never had a bad meal there."







#### **ELKO**

McAdoo's
hits the
spot for Chief
Communications
Officer Tracie
Barnthouse. "The
breakfast sandwich
on a croissant is
absolutely delicious.
I try to go every time
I'm in town."



#### HIGHWAY 50

Associate Editor Cory Munson picked the famous roadside diner found halfway between Fallon and Austin. "For being in the middle of nowhere, something is always happening at **Middlegate Station**. It's like an airport terminal, except the food is a lot cheaper. On my last visit, I met Swedes, Chileans, and a Japanese couple who were all chowing down on some good old greasy spoon fare. But the reason I'm picking Middlegate is because that's where I experienced the proudest moment of my life when I completed their 4-pound monster burger food challenge and won a T-shirt."





#### **GARDNERVILLE**

Deputy Director Mary Ellen Kawchack's pick was easy. "I love the **J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room**. Going there is also a holiday tradition; the lights and comfort food feel like Christmas to me."







I also love that you can sit outside and take in the mountains. The owner is so sweet and provides great conversation! So, in total: great food, great scenery, great conversation—a win all around."

Another spot on Ali's list: **The Bighorn Crossing** in Walker Lake.

"The experience begins in the parking lot where you are greeted by incredible outdoor art sculptures. As you walk in, you can't miss the disco balls hanging from the ceiling mixed with the beautiful modern décor. I must recommend ordering one of their Italian sodas and a burger. The cherry on top? Plopping down at a table by the window and taking in the million-dollar views of Walker Lake."



#### LAS VEGAS

Content Development Manager Rachel Wright quickly called out **The Bagel Café**.

FEATURES CRAVINGS

"The menu is classic deli favorites and a true testament that simple doesn't mean flavorless. My go-to is the turkey sandwich with extra pickles. I don't know how Bagel Café makes their pickles,



but I love them! The matzoh ball soup tastes like it has legit healing powers, the potato knish is packed with flavor, and you won't be able to leave without grabbing goodies from the overloaded bakery case."



Nevada pairs well with everything! Visit travelnevada.com to discover more great places to eat and drink in the Silver State!

#### RENO

"I love **Royce Burger Bar!**" proclaims Francine Burge, Public Relations Manager for the Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. "I can see them from my office window. When I see the steam is coming from the chimney, I know they could be making one for me."

#### MESQUITE

Los Lupes Mexican Restaurant had a special place in Caroline's heart. "This is an old classic for me. Growing up in Mesquite, it was a staple for birthdays or when anyone came into town for a visit. I especially love the fried ice cream."



# The Disaster at Mazuma A cloudburst wipes a Nevada community off the map. BY CORY MUNSON MAZUMANEV FELETTOW MAZUMA





JULY 18. 1912

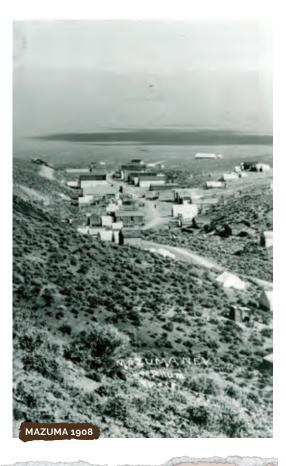
At around 5 p.m., storm clouds formed over the Seven Troughs Range, 30 miles northwest of Lovelock. Light rain sprinkled over the foothills as a confused breeze whipped up dust eddies. In the little mining towns spread along the range—Seven Troughs, Vernon, and Mazuma—people headed home for dinner, thankful for a respite from the July heat.

#### THE CLOUDBURST

Then, as if the range was inhaling the surrounding summer evening, a humid wind blasted up from the valley toward the mountain peaks. The storm clouds shot skyward, elongating until they resembled a black column. Within moments, the ugly thing hit critical mass, and stormwater poured out as if from a spilt bucket.

The deluge fell all at once, washing down Burnt Canyon and taking the life of Julia Foncannon as she sat at home. Downslope, the flood emptied into Seven Troughs Canyon where the bustling, young town of the same name braced for impact. Fortunately, Seven Troughs sat where the canyon was widest, and the floodwater lowered to ankle height. It passed through town and uprooted a few buildings but caused no significant damage or loss of life.

Ed Kalenbauch watched the flood from his second-story office. He rushed to the phone, knowing the canyon narrowed dramatically further down. At the other end of that chute would be Mazuma. As soon as Kalenbauch picked up the phone, lightning killed the line.



#### MAZUMA DESTROYED

Sybil Huntington was halfway to the bakery on Mazuma's main street when the breeze began kicking up dust. Remembering that she'd left her windows open, she returned to her hillside home.

Just before reaching the gate, she heard a roar from the canyon and turned to watch a 20-foot-tall wave crash over Mazuma. Years later, she remembered that it was like the town was made of cardboard.

When the flood hit Mazuma, Percy Gillespie, the superintendent's son, was playing with George and Jimmy Kehoe. Nearby, Mrs. Reese was chatting with Mrs. Kehoe, who held her 19-month-old son Ronnie. The water instantly swept them all away. Downstream, Mike Whalen stepped out of his cabin just in time to see Ronnie pass by. He dove in to rescue the toddler, but neither resurfaced.

The raging river hit the post office, where Maud Ruddel—the Canadian-born postmistress—was assisting Mrs. McLean. Ruddel was later found 2 miles downstream, nails and wreckage tangled in her hair. Nearby, Mr. and Mrs. Trenchard were swept away and wouldn't be discovered until the next day. Mr. Trenchard later succumbed to his injuries, but his wife survived.

Nearly every structure was carried away, some debris going as far as a mile down the valley. The dance hall managed to turn around 180 degrees before crumbling. The Coalition Mining Plant—a cyanide factory—tore off its concrete base, and its vault containing \$20,000 broke open.

## CLOUD BURST Brings Death

WALL OF WATER 25 FEET HIGH SWEEPING DOWN CAN-YON DESTROYS MAZUMA AND DROWNS INHABITANTS.

The most disastrous flood that ever visited Nevada occurred shortly before 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon when a wall of water, caused by a cloudburst, rushed down upon the camps of Seven Troughs and Mazuma and carried nine people to their deaths, seriously, possibly fatally injuring nine others.

The flood came without warning. It was not raining in the camps at the time, although a few drops of water had fallen just before. The skies, however, were overclouded, but not to the extent of indicating a downpour such as took place in the mountains beyond the range of vision.

At a late hour Friday none of the survivors had reached Lovelock, 30 miles from the scene of the disaster, and details are still lacking. It is definitely determined, however, that the wave that swept down from the deluged mountain crest was twenty feet in height and that it swept everything before it, tossing giant boulders aside, or bearing them onward in its course.

The business center of Seven Troughs was destroyed but no lives were lost there, the canyon at that point being so wide that the wave spread out and did not attain the momentum and height that marked its further sweep.

Below Seven Troughs the canyon narrows and its banks are precipitous, while the grade increases. The waters here became an all destroying power. There was no means by which the people of Seven Troughs could warn their neighbors in Mazuma, but they hurried along the sides of the gulch to the rescue of the victims of the flood.

The little camp of Mazuma was practically wiped off the map, all the buildings in the bed of the canyon being either overturned or swept away.

The bodies of nine people were found half buried in the debris after the crest of the flood had passed. Some of them were carried as far as three miles and all were practically denuded of clothing and terribly mangled.

Nine others, who are probably fatally injured, were found along the lower canyon, while the rescue party

#### AFTER THE STORM

Word of the damage soon reached nearby Lovelock. Within the hour, a caravan of early automobiles raced north carrying doctors, nurses, aid workers, supplies, and provisions. Three undertakers were dispatched out of Reno.

The road to Mazuma had turned into a sticky, muddy soup, and vehicles had to make a wide detour. By the time help arrived, it was well after sunset. Rescuers searched for survivors by lantern light.

In total, at least 11 people died—one-tenth of the town's population. All that remained was the two-story hotel, the general store, and a handful of cabins. The "Tonopah Daily Bonanza" called it the worst disaster Nevada had faced in many years.

The "White Pine News" said that, in retrospect, disaster was inevitable, "... encompassed as [Mazuma] was by high mountain walls, resulted in its annihilation ... when the confided waters rushed down the canyon."



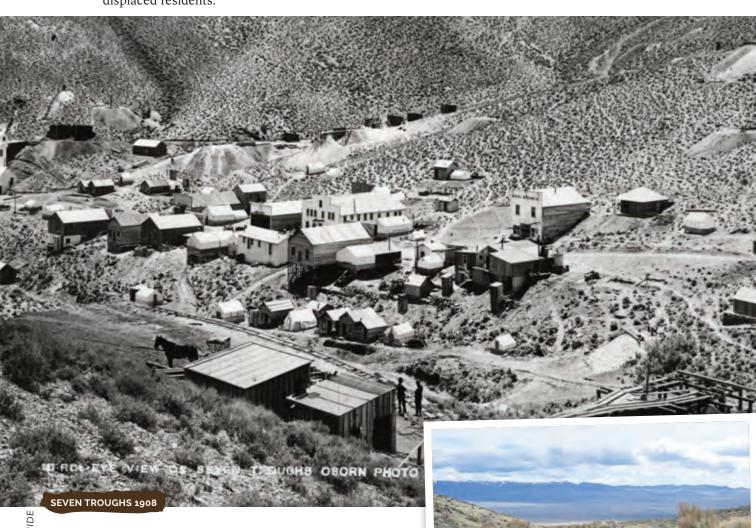
Library of Congress (newspaper clipping) Nevada Historical Society

Later that week, Nevada Governor Tasker Oddie issued a statement: "The catastrophe is so great and the needs of relief so urgent that, as president of the Red Cross of Nevada, I urge upon the people of the state the duty of generous and immediate action."

Donations poured in from across the country, and Nevada towns competed to see who could contribute the most to aid the displaced residents.

Despite the goodwill, Mazuma would never recover. On August 2, less than a month after the storm, another cloudburst appeared over the range. A 5-foot wave flew down the canyon, inundating Seven Troughs and washed out over what remained of Mazuma.

The survivors had seen enough. They collected their remaining possessions and left the town forever.



#### TODAY

In 1955, the "Nevada State Journal" reported nothing was left of the town except for rubble: Mazuma had returned to the desert. There was only a trio of hardly legible stones in the cemetery etched with the names George, Jimmy, and Ronnie Kehoe.



Over the years, the town of Seven Troughs also disappeared. However, ghost towners still have a good reason to visit the area.

In the late 1920s, a company in Seven Troughs constructed a camp about a mile south of Mazuma as a base of operation for drilling a drainage tunnel through the mountain. After

> boring a little more than 2 miles, wet ground caused drilling costs to soar. All work ceased in 1934.

Several impressive structures still stand at the site—helpfully called Tunnel Camp, or Tunnel—including a large red brick building, a stamp mill, wooden cabins, and mine tailings.



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More than 40 miles of OHV adventures



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### **DISCOVER** Winnemucca, Nevada

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



## ŞILVER STATE ARTIST SUPPORT THRIVES

The Nevada Arts Council's Fellowship Program advances state's culture.

BY FRANCINE BURGE

The Las Vegas Strip has a rhythm—a vibe, if you will. Between the lights, the people, and the sounds, it vibrates with upbeat energy. This sensory experience is enhanced by the many sidewalk musicians and street performers. Some lucky pedestrians may have heard the work of Jared Crawford. aka RED (Rapper-Entertainer-Drummer), performing with buckets, drumsticks, and a microphone. Unbeknownst to the crowd, they were getting a free show from one of Nevada's acclaimed performing artists and a 2024 Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Fellowship recipient.

Crawford is a second-generation bucket drummer. He was raised amid the lights of Las Vegas and trained at art-focused middle and high schools. Those settings further ignited his passion to perform and allowed him the time to devote to his craft.

"By the time I had graduated from high school, I had already put in the work of 10,000 hours," Crawford says.

Busking became a way to connect with fans, although it is not easy. On the street, most people aren't there to see him: They are on their way to dinner or a casino show. Still, it's worth the effort.

"It is gratifying to connect with someone and bring them out of their shell with my music," he explains.

Crawford's band, The Noir Movement, has performed nationally and internationally, but Las Vegas is still home.

"Events like First Fridays and Soul Sessions have allowed for a dope curated arts scene. We're just waiting for the world to catch on to it."



### KEEPING THE ARTS ALIVE

Since 1989, the Nevada Arts Council has recognized 220 Nevada-based artists in the visual, performative, and literary fields with Fellowship Awards. The Arts Council nurtures exceptional artists by offering financial support. The artists, in turn, play a crucial role in enhancing the economic, civic, cultural, and educational aspects of Nevada's arts industry.





"Crawford is a shining example of the Fellowship program," Tony Manfredi, executive director of the Nevada Arts Council, says. "He is the best in his field, and we're proud to support him so that he can continue to contribute to the Nevada arts community."

"This fellowship is a recognition of my work and talent," Crawford says. "I hope that people can come to Las Vegas and experience the diverse music and arts scene here."

#### FIRST FRIDAYS

The Las Vegas First Friday Foundation hosts local artists, musicians, and makers of all kinds in downtown Las Vegas. Held the first Friday of each month from 5 p.m.-11 p.m., the free event is one of the area's most popular local draws.

#### MORE FINE FELLOWS

The rest of the 2024 Nevada Arts Council Performing Art Fellowship recipients include:

#### **♦** Carol Scott,

Children's Theater Director Wild Horse Productions Carson City

Carol has founded three youth theater companies in the U.S. and Canada.

"I believe youth theater is not merely a platform for entertainment but a dynamic vehicle for personal and artistic growth."



#### ◆ Yunior Lopez Fernandez, Musician/Conductor/ Entrepreneur Las Vegas

At the age of 20, Fernandez was appointed Conductor of the Phil & Eli Taylor Academy Orchestra at The Royal Conservatory in Toronto, Canada.

"The support from the grant has been a catalyst for growth, enabling me to take significant strides in my musical journey."





#### ◆ Troy Heard, Theater Director Las Vegas

Heard's one-of-a-kind purview set the George Orwell classic "Animal Farm" in an Appalachian mud pit accompanied by an original folk-Americana score.

"The NAC Fellowship is validation. To have the acknowledgement of our peers gives us the encouragement to continue our work and to work better."

#### ◆ Cari Cunningham, Choreographer/Educator University of Nevada, Reno

Cunningham's choreography has been performed in New York City, Oregon, Colorado, California, Massachusetts, and Mexico.

"Nevada really offers a unique blend of trailblazing, tradition, and spectacle, and this is evidenced in the variety of the art scene here."





#### FEATURES ARTS & CULTURE

#### ◆ Jennifer Bellor, Composer/Musician

#### Henderson

Her debut album "Stay"—a melting pot of different music styles largely based on poetry—was featured on "NewMusicBox" magazine's 2016 Staff Picks.

"This grant has made it possible to move forward with my new recording project: an experimental art song concept album to be released summer 2024."







#### **Upcoming Eureka Events**

#### Eureka Opera House

May 10 | Doug Figgs
May 17-18 | Fiddler's Contest
May 25 | Toiyabe Chamber Music Society
May 27 | VFW Ceremony
June 14 | Matt Farris

June 22 | Missoula Children's Theater presents "Peter and Wendy"

#### Perdiz

May 4 | Spring Fling
May 18 | Perdiz Fun Shoot
May 25-27 | Nevada Bowhunters Jamboree
June 8 | FFA Spring Shoot
June 15 | Perdiz Father's Day Shoot
July 31- Aug 4 | Nevada State Shoot

#### Main Street Eureka June 22 | Car Show

4th of July Parade & Festivities



Eureka Sentinel Museum
10 N Monroe Street



Eureka Opera House 31 S Main Street

**EUREKA OPERA HOUSE** 

P.O. BOX 284, Eureka, NV 89316 (775) 237-6006 | opera@eurekacountynv.gov



Comstock legend unloads a ton of historical fun.

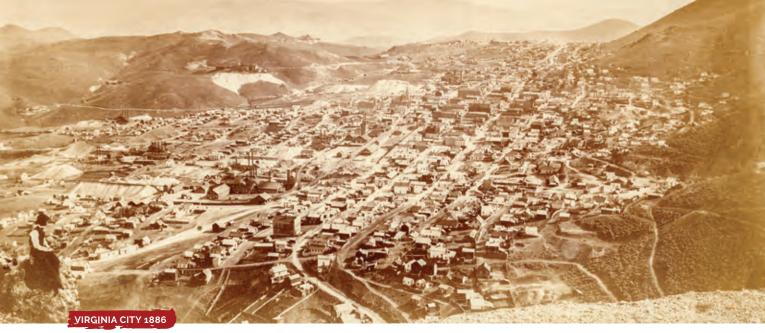
BY MEGG MUELLER

While Las Vegas and Reno offer whiteglove hospitality and world-class entertainment, it's our rural destinations that give visitors a glimpse into the heart and soul of our state. Each issue, you'll find one of our smaller-but-no-lessincredible towns highlighted.

Silver, saloons, mining lore, the Comstock, and Mark Twain: It's likely some or all of these words come to mind at the mention of Virginia City. The history of this northern Nevada gem is as wild, deep, and important as they come, and it also makes for a seriously fun destination.

Virginia City was established in 1859 at the base of Mount Davidson, about 25 miles southeast of Reno. At the height of the Comstock Lode bonanza in 1874, the town boasted a population of about 25,000 people. As miners in search of gold and silver poured into the area—including nearby Gold Hill, Silver City, and Dayton—so did the shopkeepers, saloon owners, railroad workers, and more. Bursting at the seams, the town attracted the attention of many who would stake their claim to fame in Nevada, including Mark Twain, John Mackay, and George Hearst.





While the heyday of Virginia City was about over by 1880, it's estimated that more than \$10 billion (in today's value) was pulled from the surrounding hills in those two booming decades.

The fortunes made by Mackay and Hearst among others—not only developed northern Nevada, but were also responsible for development in San Francisco, and even aided in funding the New York City subway system. For that reason, the town's 13 museums are not just about Virginia City or Nevada history, but also U.S. history.

Those museums include:

- · Mackay Mansion: an Italianate-style mansion built in 1860 once owned by both Hearst and Mackay that has been immaculately restored, with tours that divulge the history of this millionaire mansion.
- Historic Fourth Ward School & Museum: an 1876 Victorian school with 16 classrooms. It's the only Second-Empire-style, fourstoried, wooden school building still standing in the U.S.
- Piper's Opera House: built in the 1880s, this building once featured the likes of President Grant, Buffalo Bill, Al Jolson, and Mark Twain. The restored theater today hosts many performances and special events.





Not all museums are in a building, however. The Virginia & Truckee trains along much of the same route as the trains that ran ore in 1870. Themed rides happen throughout the summer, fall, and winter seasons. If authentic is what you're looking for, consider the Comstock Gold Mill, where you can witness a working stamp mill in action and see how gold was processed.

Railroad offers rides on steam and diesel

take on even greater excitement when the sun is on your face.

The drive from Reno climbs almost 2,000 curvaceous feet in elevation, so for any who want to imbibe and take in the charm of the city's saloons, the drive back down is out of the question. The perfect solution exists, however: stay the night.

There are about 227 rooms, somewhat surprising for a town with a year-round population of 1,200. From incredibly restored B&Bs like the B Street House **Inn** to rustic and potentially haunted rooms (Silver Queen Hotel, we're looking at you) above the town's main street-plus an RV park and modern hotels—there's no reason to hurry through your visit.







have had more than 100 saloons.

While today's number is quite lower, there are still ample places to sidle up to a historic bar. Virginia City distills its own brand of gin—Cemetery Gin, to be exact—and local saloons serve craft beers and cocktails along with traditional shots of whiskey. The Gold Hill Saloon is located in the oldest

hotel in Nevada (built in 1859). It serves a history lesson along with its drinks, while the **Bucket of Blood** has been operating since (only) 1876, remaining popular and offering live music most weekends.



and The Canvas Café serves

A stop at Grandma's Fudge

**Factory** for a sweet treat is

highly recommended.

elegant breakfast and lunch fare.



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Virginia City delivers an immense blend of history, fun, and adventure. Annual events such as the International Camel and Ostrich Races, World Championship Outhouse Races, and the Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry, plus eight annual parades and numerous saloon crawls all speak to how seriously Virginia City takes its celebrations. While a number of attractions are seasonal, the town's appeal and charm can be felt 365 days a year.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Make sure to walk the Silver Terrace Cemetery. Gorgeously situated, this final resting place is full of elaborate headstones, statues, and intriguing epitaphs.



# READY DE P

New tour reveals hidden mountain bike gems.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Nevada is home to more than 300 named mountain ranges, more than any of the other contiguous U.S. states. It stands to reason that mountain biking is a hugely popular sport in the Silver State. While the trails around Lake Tahoe are well-known in the two-wheel community, the last decade has seen an explosion of trails in less-obvious parts of the state. Exploring new trails can be both exciting and daunting but have no fear: Bindlestiff Tours is here.

Bindlestiff has been leading adventure tours out of Las Vegas since 2010. Its latest offering—Nevada Trails to Rails—highlights some of the incredible riding available in and between Caliente and Ely. When the opportunity came to be part of the guided tour, I eagerly accepted—with perhaps just a touch of trepidation about my skills.

I learned to mountain bike when I was 40. I'd been a road cyclist but picked up the fat-tire addiction after deciding rocks were way more forgiving than automobiles. A bit of a late bloomer to the sport, I jumped in with both feet, crashing and burning enough to make my mother "forbid" me from riding any longer. Almost two decades later, I still ride, if not as aggressively. The chance to discover newto-me trails with an expert guide and full support was too good to pass up.







#### THE SETUP

Nevada Trails to Rails is a seven-day, intermediate-level biking trip that traverses the state from Lincoln County to White Pine County. Don't freak out: You don't ride the entire way. The tour begins in Las Vegas, where you meet your guide and fellow riders before heading to a bike shop to get outfitted with your steel steed for the week. After that, it's on the road for the almost two-hour drive to Kershaw-Ryan State Park near Caliente.

#### **READY TO ROLL**

Kershaw-Ryan is one of my favorite parks, truly a tucked-away gem. It's a beautiful little oasis in the middle of the southern Nevada landscape, and the only thing that can make it better is the lunch spread put on by our guide, Bradley Mahnke. From a couple of unassuming coolers in the back of the van, he pulls out the ingredients for an incredibly upscale sub sandwich

complete with organic greens, delicious cheeses, and fresh cold cuts. He even whipped up a gluten-free version for those with dietary restrictions. All kinds of side dishes appear, along with drinks and salty snacks. It's a picnic that will be repeated throughout the week, each one more delicious than the last.

Fully sated, it was time to hit the trail. We chose to drive to the Kershaw Redemption trailhead rather than ride up from the canyon. The trail is a 7-mile loop across super flowy singletrack that delivers the first of many breathtaking views we'll have on the trip. This is definitely the warmup ride for the tour with no major climbing, and yet, it whipped my butt. I blame performance anxiety and an overactive adrenaline system. Regardless, the trail's allure is undeniable and the perfect start to the trip. Riding back into town made me feel better about my lackluster performance as we bombed down the road into Caliente and our rooms at the Shady Motel.





Determined to keep up the rest of the trip, I greeted day two with new resolve. During our breakfast, Bradley and Melissa Chiella—another guide, who also happens to be Bindlestiff's director of operations—laid out our options for the day's ride through the irresistibly beautiful Barnes Canyon. We decided to tackle the Ella Mountain trail system with a shuttle ride to the top and then descend in three sections with a stop after each. Barnes Canyon has it all: flowy descents, super technical downhills, and some wicked good climbs. The group is eager to do the three chosen legs; I decide to tackle just one of the legs.

Meeting up with the group at the first stop, all I see are elated faces. This leg challenged each of them in the best way possible, I'm told. A quick snack break and a few stories later, it's back on the bike, this time with me in tow. Melissa assures me I'll love this leg, and I do. We ride through ponderosa pines with so many turns I lose my bearings (but never the well-marked trail). It's a ride that begs for some speed and a

> lot of flow. At the end, I'm spent and apologize for keeping the group waiting, but Melissa quickly tells

me, "This is a judgmentfree zone. If you had fun, that's what it's all about."

I had fun but decide to skip the last section, and we reconvene in town at the hotel. The group is tired (they logged more than 25 miles) but thrilled with the spectacular trails. No one in the group has ridden Ella Mountain before, and to say they are impressed with the trail network is an understatement.



#### Caliente Stops

Caliente served as our base of operations for the first two days, and this guiet town played host perfectly. Delicious food (great vegetarian options, too) at the Side Track Restaurant, clean and comfy rooms at the Shady Motel, and plenty of stargazing at night were all part of the tour.









#### Ely Stops

Ely's Holiday Inn was our home for four nights and it could not have been nicer. We ate at many places, but standouts include Margarita's Mexican Restaurant, Racks Bar & Girill, and Smash N Grab.



#### GOING DEEP

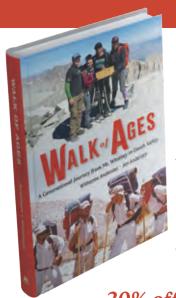
Our tour finishes up with less riding but no less fun. After a detour to experience the annular eclipse, we head to Great Basin National Park for a tour of the exquisite Lehman Caves. After wandering below the surface, we swap our planned ride for a hike on the Bristlecone-Alpine Lakes Trail. With the elevation soaring above 10,000 feet, our lungs still get a workout on the short hike. The views of ancient bristlecone pines high above the ground is not one I'll ever forget.

The tour comes to an end the following day, but not before a ride on the Nevada Northern Railway's steam train and lunch in town. I say goodbye to my fellow riders, people I didn't know a week ago but now can't imagine this experience without. The riding was definitely tough,

but the group made it so enjoyable, I wouldn't hesitate to do it again. The tour features amazing guides who were ready for any situation, comfortable accommodations that fit our needs perfectly, and delicious restaurant experiences. Bindlestiff exceeded my expectations in every way on this mountain biking extravaganza, so when the itch to ride something new hits, you know who to call.

> TRAVEL NEVADA

Bindlestiff Tours can be booked online or by calling (800) 557-6989



# Uncover tales from untamed trails

Following in her father's footsteps, Withanee Andersen begins the expedition of a lifetime when she and her comrades embark on a trek from Mt. Whitney to Death Valley, tracing the rugged path her father, Jim Andersen\*, traversed forty-three years earlier.

20% off with Promo Code NVMAG20 from May-July

unpress.nevada.edu

\*Jim Andersen (1944-2022) was a freelance writer whose career began in 1980 with Nevada Magazine.





# Rainbow Canyon

Take a scenic drive through Nevada's most colorful corridor.

BY CORY MUNSON

As a 30-something-year Nevada resident and a writer for Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide, I've spent a lot of time on the road. I can safely say I have been on every major state route and highway, not to mention countless graded backroads and washed-out two-tracks. Over the years, a few routes have become favorites, and I always look forward to taking or recommending them. These include State Route 722, between Middlegate and Austin, and State Route 486, which passes through the Schell Creek Range behind Ely and McGill. However, at the top of my list is State Route 317, the road that ribbons through Rainbow Canyon.

The canyon—located a few minutes south of Caliente—certainly earns its name. Its towering rock walls display a blend of earth tones offset by bands of rust-red rock. Green junipers and white rabbitbrush run upslope from the road with cottonwoods and aspens—orange and yellow in the fall—lined along the valley floor.



#### FEATURES RAINBOW CANYON

#### RAILROADS AND FLOODS

The waterway that runs through (and carved out) Rainbow Canyon is the Meadow Valley Wash. This temperamental stream begins 40 miles northeast of Caliente at Spring Valley State Park. After passing through the canyon, it empties near Moapa and—eventually—Lake Mead.

Meadow Valley Wash is prone to seasonal flooding. Those who live near it must adapt to frequently submerged roads and the potential for destructive flash floods. Unfortunately for early-20th-century railroad developers, Rainbow Canyon was unavoidable while constructing the Salt Lake City to Los Angeles line.

It took workers three years to complete the canyon's 80 miles of rail and 10 steel bridges. The first railroad (foreshadowing) was placed right on the canyon floor—the lowest possible elevation—alongside the Meadow Valley Wash.

In 1907, a massive flood wiped out 23 miles of track and destroyed three bridges. Stakeholders questioned whether it was worth rebuilding—no doubt there would be more floods—and looked for a way around the canyon. But there were no other options: Any detour would be cost-prohibitive and add dozens of miles through barren desert without water, towns, or preexisting roads. All they could do was build the line higher up the canyon wall.







On New Year's Eve 1909, another flood swept cars and tracks miles down the canyon, destroying millions of dollars in engines and supplies. The U.S. rail network slowed to a crawl as westbound cargo locked up in Salt Lake City in what papers called one of the greatest railroad catastrophes in American history. However, with few alternatives, the railroad had no choice but to rebuild at an even higher elevation, adding 10 tunnels and 13 new bridges.

Today, the busy Salt Lake to Los Angeles line still runs through Rainbow Canyon. Thanks to modern engineering, floods are nowhere near the danger they once posed.

Nowadays (unless a freight line is passing through) the canyon is quiet and peaceful. During your drive, you'll probably feel like you have the whole place to yourself: the water to one side, the rail to the other, and the winding road ahead. It's a wonderful experience, and while there's no wrong way to do it, what follows are my suggestions for those looking to experience Rainbow Canyon for the first time.

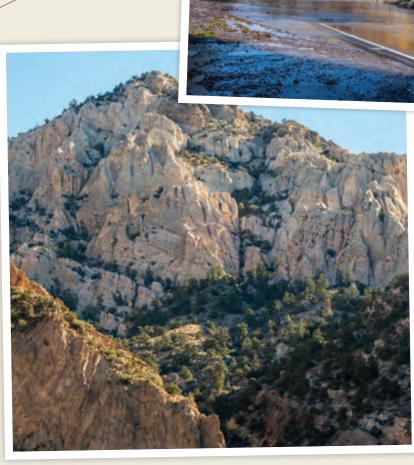
#### THERE AND BACK AGAIN

Although a road passes through the entire canyon, visitors should start in Caliente and then drive as far as Elgin before turning around where the pavement ends. All told, it's about a 45-mile round trip.

As mentioned, floods and washed-out roads are a reality in the canyon. The best time to visit is during the driest part of summer. Check road and weather conditions before making the trek: You might come across a few feet of water on the road that will force you to turn around.

That said, with its bridges, side canyons, ranch houses, and multi-hued cliffsides, Rainbow Canyon is about as picturesque as it gets in Nevada. There are plenty of scenic pullovers during the drive but be sure to visit the two sites that bookend the trip.





#### Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Three miles south of Caliente, this state park marks the northern edge of Rainbow Canyon. After a short drive, you'll be in a 6-acre grove in near-perpetual shade—partly from the cottonwood and elm trees, mainly from the surrounding canyon walls. Stop here for a picnic or to escape the summer heat: Temperatures are usually around 10 degrees cooler here.

This lush glen used to be the Meadow Valley Wash Ranch. The Kershaw family owned it and then sold to a cattleman named James Ryan, who later donated it to the state. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built picnic areas, trails, and other facilities. The park opened a year later.

A 1984 flood wiped out most of the infrastructure, shuttering the park for 13 years. Kershaw-Ryan is fully operational today, offering great camping areas and trails that grant beautiful views of the canyon below (see front cover of this issue).



#### Elgin Schoolhouse

This quaint country schoolhouse sits at the end of the 22-mile road.

By the early 1900s, Rainbow Canyon was a 30-mile string of homesteads with enough children to justify its own schoolhouse. The perfect place to build the school was at centrally located Elgin, a train depot with its own telegraph office. The county built the single-room schoolhouse in 1922, which operated until 1967. In 2005, the state acquired the property and dedicated it as the Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Park.

Today, visitors can enjoy lunch in the shade and admire the old building. If you'd like a tour of the inside, contact the rangers at Kershaw-Ryan State Park.

#### **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

Rainbow Canyon has several points of historic note. Keep in mind that little remains of the following, but hopefully these details add some color to your journey.



#### Luxury Resort

Around 1.5 miles south of Kershaw-Ryan, the canyon widens into a meadowy bend that was once the Conaway Ranch. The Conaways settled there in the 1860s and built a multi-generational farming empire before selling their land to Howard Hughes in 1970. After Hughes died in 1976, his estate sold the

250-acre parcel to another developer planning to build Lincoln County's hottest luxury destination: The Rainbow Canyon Ranch Resort.

When completed, the complex was to feature a condominium village, two luxury hotels, a casino, and a 36-hole golf course. The master plan even called for a movie theater, rodeo arena, horse track, cultural center, country club, and a shopping district.

None of that happened. Or, at least, most of it didn't. In the early 1980s, the developer dug out the resort's plumbing system and completed nine of the 36 holes. Then, the 1984 flood wiped out any hope for a resort, and the land returned to nature.

#### ATTN:

# PHOTOGRAPHERS

For all the early risers, and 'unexpected surprise'-ers; those with wind (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!



**CONTEST BEGINS Wednesday, MAY 1 CONTEST ENDS Sunday, JUNE 30** 

# Great Nevada Picture Hunt

#### 1. Landscapes

There can be people, animals, or buildings in your landscapes, but the focus should primarily be on Nevada's wide open spaces.

#### 2. Waterscapes

Rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, waterfalls-anywhere you find water in Nevada, we want to see it

#### 3. People

Nevada is full of amazing characters. We're not looking for professionallylit and staged photos here (although you're welcome to submit thosemaybe we'll be surprised), we're looking for photos of people who know Nevada's awesome, and help make it that way.

#### **Basic Rules**

- Photos must have been taken in Nevada, in 2020 or later
- You can submit up to two photos per category
- No fee to submit
- Minimal digital photo manipulation/alteration allowed

#### 4. Birds

Did vou know **FOR 2024** that Nevada has nearly 500 species of birds either living here or migrating through regularly? That being the case, we have separated birds out from the Wildlife category this year.

#### 5. Wildlife

The Silver State is teeming with wildlife. Show us the wild-nwonderful from your Nevada adventures. Emphasis on "wild"no domestic animals like sheep, cows, dogs, etc.

#### 6. Cities/Towns

Big, small, ghost-show us the cities or towns you love in Nevada.

- · No watermarks (can affect judging)
- Drone photos must have been taken while observing all state and FAA rules/regulations
- · Photographers retain all copyright to their images

**OUR SINCERE THANKS TO** THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS:





**GRAND PRIZE:** LODGING AND ENTRY TO NNRY WINTER STEAM SPECTACULAR

Nevada Northern Railway & Ramada Copper Queen in Ely nnry.com • wyndhamhotels.com



**CATEGORY WINNER PRIZES:** GIFT PACKAGE FROM HOME MEANS NEVADA

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

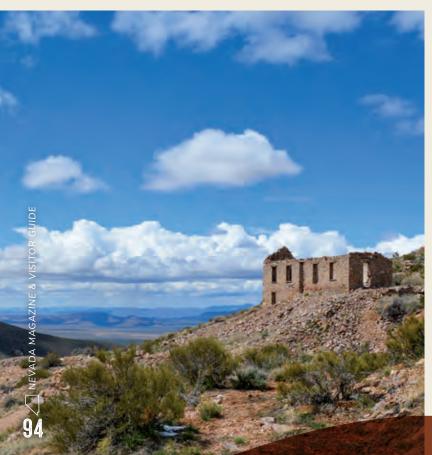
For complete rules/submission info: nevadamagazine.com/gnph

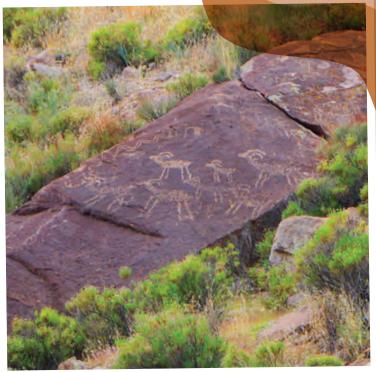
#### **Ancient Remains**

Rainbow Canyon is home to various pictograph (painted) and petroglyph (carved) sites, including one wall—located up a side canyon—that features faded red-orange pictographs. On the cliffside opposite the pictographs is a small hollow where, in the 1930s, archeologists—with the help of CCC crews—excavated artifacts dating back to 3000 B.C.

People have lived in Rainbow Canyon for more than 10,000 years. Over those millennia, innumerable cultures used the area to hunt or shelter. Other bands, like those belonging to the Fremont and Southern Paiute, took advantage of the floodplain to plant corn, squash, beans, and sunflowers.

Nobody knows which specific people made the pictographs, but they stand as a testament to the eons-long use of this canyon.





#### **Ghost Town Utilities**

Around 8 miles south of Caliente, near Mud Spring Canyon, is the site of a powerplant and (a bit further down the road) water pump that served Delamar. This mining town, located just on the other side of the mountain, grew to around 3,000 people in 1897 and thrived for a decade.

In its time, Delamar was infamous for its high fatality rate due to silicosis, which workers developed after breathing in fine particulate—called Delamar Dust—that came off the dry stamp mills.

Today, the town is a bit difficult to reach—OHV vehicles are highly recommended. However, it's one of the state's most expansive and impressive ghost towns. Visitors will find countless mine and mill ruins, hundreds of foundations, and many structures only missing a wall or two. There's even an alleyway (how many ghost towns can claim that?).

SECOND ANNUAL TONOPAH NEVADA

# ROCK& BOTTLE SHOW

SULY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> 2024

Vendors please contact Chrissy Pope,
Tourism & Events Coordinator Town of Tonopah
at 775-277-0804 or
email: chrissy.townoftonopah@gmail.com

To view a full list of vendors please visit TONOPAHNEVADA.COM/TONOPAH-ROCK





TURQUOISE





# STEWART FATHER'S DAY POWWOW





# SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

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

# FEARS, TEARS & BEERS MOUNTAIN BIKE ENDURO RACE

June 8 Ely

Ride up, over, around, and through some of the highest-elevation mountain ranges in the Silver State. Attracting top names in cycling and mountain biking from around the globe, this enduro race begins in downtown Ely where racers start their ride on a casino floor before heading into the surrounding rugged terrain.

#### NIGHT IN THE COUNTRY July 25-27

July 25-27 Yerington

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

### STEWART FATHER'S DAY POWWOW

June 14-16 Carson City

Since 1990, the grounds of the historic Stewart Indian School have been home to an exciting, weekend-long celebration of American Indian culture. This event features artisans, artists, food and craft vendors, and plenty of cultural activities including 200 dancers.

### NATIONAL BASQUE FESTIVAL

July 6-7 Elko

All are welcomed to the Elko Basque Clubhouse for the kickoff of the West's largest celebration of Basque culture. Throughout the weekend, enjoy an array of dance performances, traditional Basque music and cuisine, and events including a wood chopping competition and breadmaking contest.



#### MAY

4-5 BOULDER CITY SPRING JAMBOREE Boulder City

17–18
NEVADA STATE OLD-TIME
FIDDLERS' CONTEST
Eureka

17-19
ELECTRIC DAISY
CARNIVAL
Las Vegas

24-25
BEST DAM BARBECUE
CHALLENGE
Boulder City

24-26
RUN-A-MUCCA
MOTORCYCLE RALLY &
MUSIC FESTIVAL
Winnemucca

30-June 1 SCHELLRAISER MUSIC FESTIVAL Ely

31-June 2
BACKCOUNTRY MUSIC
FESTIVAL
Carson Valley

#### JUNE

1-2 CALIFORNIA TRAIL DAYS Elko

2
AMERICA'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL BIKE RIDE
South Lake Tahoe

7-9
WINNEMUCCA BASQUE
FESTIVAL
Winnemucca

14-15 GREAT ELDORADO BBQ, BREWS AND BLUES Reno

20-29 RENO RODEO Reno

22 RUBY ROUBAIX: GRAVEL FONDO Lamoille

28-Aug. 25 LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL North Lake Tahoe JULY 1-31

> ARTOWN Reno

10-14
AMERICAN CENTURY
CELEBRITY GOLF
CHAMPIONSHIP
South Lake Tahoe

SIERRA NEVADA LAVENDER & HONEY FESTIVAL Reno

19-21 TONOPAH ROCK & BOTTLE SHOW Tonopah

25-28
FASTEST GUN ALIVE
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Fallon

#### **AUGUST**

3-4
BRISTLECONE ARTS IN
THE PARK
Ely

# NEVADA STATE MUSEUMS

## Hours and Admission Guide



**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM** CARSON CITY

- Thursday-Monday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Adults \$8 Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM **BOULDER CITY** 

- Daily, 9 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Train Rides Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. | 12 p.m. | 2 p.m.
- General Admission FREE **Train Rides** Adults \$10 Ages 4-12 \$5 Ages 3 and younger FREE



EAST ELY RAILROAD **DEPOT MUSEUM** 

- Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Sunday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 」 General Admission FREE Tour Grounds \$8



**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM** CARSON CITY

- **Tuesday-Sunday** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Adults \$10 Ages 17 and younger FREE



**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM** LAS VEGAS

- Thursday-Monday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- ्र Adults \$9.95 Ages 3-17 \$4.95 Ages 2 and younger FREE



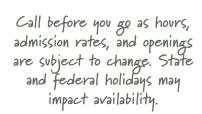
LOST CITY MUSEUM OVERTON

- Wednesday-Sunday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 了 Adults \$6 Ages 17 and younger FREE

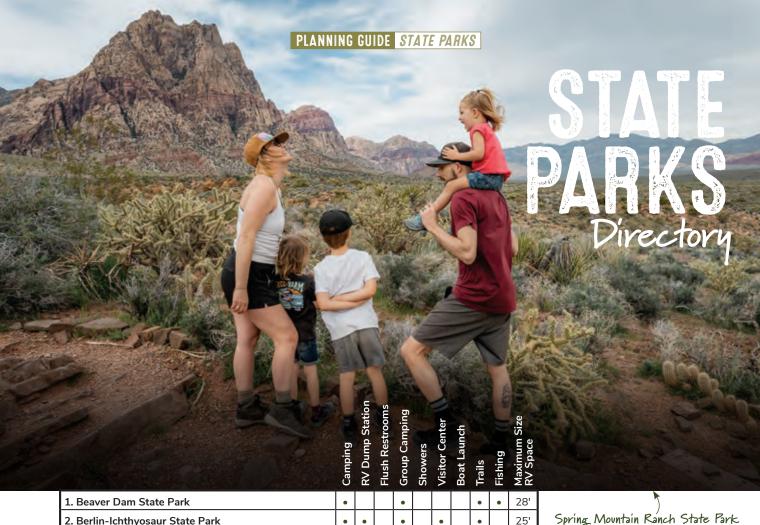


**NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 

- Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Adults \$6 Ages 17 and younger FREE







Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

60'

40'

35'

35'

35'

N/A

45' N/A

30'

60'

N/A N/A

N/A

45'

30' N/A

35'

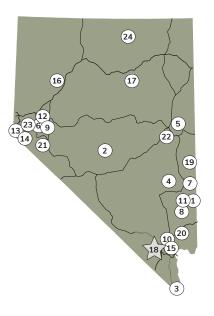
50'

50'

30'

45'

60'



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

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

9. Fort Churchill State Historic Park

12. Lahontan State Recreation Area

13. Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park

14. Mormon Station State Historic Park

16. Rye Patch State Recreation Area

17. South Fork State Recreation Area

18. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

21. Walker River State Recreation Area

24. Wild Horse State Recreation Area

22. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park

19. Spring Valley State Park

20. Valley of Fire State Park

23. Washoe Lake State Park

15. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

10. Ice Age Fossils State Park

11. Kershaw-Ryan State Park

6. Dayton State Park



# SCAN FOR MORE INFO





#### RUBIES ROUTE

30 to 375 miles | 2 to 5 days

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

For a real gem of an adventure, turn to pg. 36.

#### **BURNER BYWAY**

110 to 250 miles | 2 to 4 days

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

## COWBOY CORRIDOR 400 miles | 2 to 4 days

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

## DEATH VALLEY RALLY Up to 370 miles | 3 to 4 days

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





FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY 440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

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

#### GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

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

> LAKE TAHOE LOOP 145 miles | 2 to 5 days

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

#### LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

375 to 500 miles | 3 days

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

#### **NEON TO NATURE**

60 to 210 miles | 1 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.



# RECREATE RESPONSIBLY Nevada is a beautiful place, but one of its best qualitithe reason folks make repeat visits—is that most of its best qualitithe reason folks make repeat visits—is that most of its properties.

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 humancaused 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.

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.

### WHERE YOU'RE GOING, THERE'S A ROAD

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

#### HERE'S YOUR SIGN

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

#### TREAD LIGHTLY!

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

#### **ANIMAL INSTINCT**

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

#### STAR CAMPERS

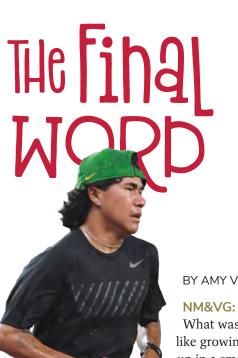
Nevada's night skies are some of the darkest in the Lower 48,

and many visitors take to remote campgrounds for our unrivaled galactic view. Be mindful of the light pollution you bring with you: It doesn't take much to blow out another camper's night vision.

#### DIRT ROAD CODE

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





THE FINAL WORD KUTOVEN "KU" STEVENS

#### Kutoven "Ku" Stevens

A conversation with Kutoven "Ku" Stevens. student athlete and host of the 50-mile Remembrance Run from the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum in Carson City to the Yerington Paiute Reservation.



School

Yerington Paiute Reservation

BY AMY VIGEN

What was it like growing up in a small Nevada town like Yerington?

KS: I grew up in a colony around a lot of Native Americans. My dad always took me to different ceremonies like the Sun Dance, and we also had a sweat lodge in our backyard. These are really big Native American staples in our culture, so I grew up in a pretty traditional way.

NM&VG: How did you become interested in running?

> KS: I fell in love with running very

early on. My dad was a hobby jogger and would take me out in the stroller with him. Eventually, I'd get out and start running by him, and then I was beating him in races. The first race I completed was a local half mile when I was 4 years old.

NM&VG: What inspired your idea for the 50-mile Remembrance Run?

**KS:** It was around the time they made a discovery of 215 unmarked Indigenous graves on the grounds of a former boarding school in Kamloops, Canada. When my family heard about that, it hit close to home. My great-grandfather had gone to a boarding school, which he ran away from three times at only 8 years old. He made the 50-mile trip through the desert from Stewart Indian School back to the Yerington Paiute Reservation.

NM&VG: What did you want the run to accomplish?

**KS:** We wanted to raise awareness about these boarding schools and reignite interest in the subject. A lot of people I'd talk to thought it was something that only happened once, but they didn't realize the schools were part of a bigger cultural genocide that wasn't taught in basic education. We thought of different things we could do. My dad had always wanted to put on a backpack and do the full 50-mile trip to get a better understanding of what it was like for my great-grandfather to go through something like that. It was right before my senior track season, and I was a pretty good runner at that point, so I decided to run it and do a few posts here and there to try and raise awareness. Eventually, more people wanted to join, and it became this really big thing.

NM&VG: What was the most difficult part of the run for you?

KS: Obviously, it's not an easy journey. It's 50 miles, so no matter how good you are at running, it's a pretty tough thing to go through. After the first run, I distinctly remember cresting over the final ridge and seeing my valley, my hometown, and just being overwhelmed. It was really emotional for me to finally complete this journey and understand what my great-grandfather went through: putting myself in his shoes and imagining how he felt after running countless miles, not even sure which direction he was going at times and just trying to get back home.

NM&VG: Will there be a return of the Remembrance Run?

KS: We haven't made a solid decision yet, but we've thought about hosting Remembrance Runs across the U.S., including Yerington. It'd be a lot to undertake, but I think it would bring a lot of change since it'd bring awareness nation-wide. I'm hoping that it allows people to gain a deeper understanding of Native American history, including information about the boarding schools. That's all I can hope for at the end of the day. I can't change the world all at once: just piece by piece.



# RESERVE YOUR MOMENT IN HISTORY

TONOPAH, NEVADA





#### COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST

Luxury Rooms - Free Hi-Speed Internet - Lavazza In Room Coffee Fitness Center - Free Parking - Belvada Café - Kitchenettes Available







