

NEVADA

Winter 2024-2025

MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

**2024 GREAT NEVADA
PICTURE HUNT**

Ghost Town Primer

Northwest Nevada Road Trip



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NEVADA

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editor@nevadamagazine.com • nevadamagazine.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Megg Mueller

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Cory Munson

ART DIRECTOR Kippy S. Spilker

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER Alexandria Olivares-Wenzel

ADVERTISING, FULFILLMENT, & CUSTOMER

SERVICE SPECIALIST Carrie Roussel, carrie@travelnevada.com

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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

775-687-4322

info@travelnevada.com • travelnevada.com

CHAIRMAN Lieutenant Governor Stavros S. Anthony

DIRECTOR Brenda Scolari

DEPUTY DIRECTOR M.E. Kawchack

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TRAVEL NEVADA Rafael Villanueva

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, TRAVEL NEVADA Caroline Sexton

TRAVEL NEVADA MARKETING TEAM Ali Anderson, Tracie Barnhouse, Keelie Cox, Gabriel Mortensen, Rachel Wright

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, TRAVEL NEVADA Susan Mowers

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RIDE ALONG ON THE COWBOY CORRIDOR
ROAD TRIP ON PG. 36.



DISCOVER WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE ON PG. 42.



TOUR AN AMERICAN INDIAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTION ON PG. 70.



JOIN AN ADVENTURE THROUGH NEVADA'S
NORTHWEST CORNER ON PG. 82.



LONG WINTER'S NAP?

Not Around Here!

***"We travel
this state,
experiencing
the land and
the people so
we can share
it with you.
We don't
phone it in
...we live it."***

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
you may win a swag bag!*



As 2024 cruises toward its end, it seems impossible another year is in the books. Planning for the coming year is underway, and we've got some great stories to share with you and a few new things in the works, but let's not get ahead of ourselves just yet. We'll tell you more as plans are solidified, but as you're reading this issue, let's talk about what you'll find inside!

Our annual gift guide is here to help spur on some Nevada-centric holiday shopping. Speaking of annual things, our 2024 Great Nevada Picture Hunt is inside, and all I can say to this year's winners is WOW. The images you're about to see are amazing and so well deserving of their prizes. This contest has been running for 47 years and the submissions just keep getting better.

I took a trip recently to Kingston to stay in some new-to-me digs and came away so impressed I'm working on another trip. This newest Uncommon Overnighter is set in a quiet part of central Nevada and so worth the trip.

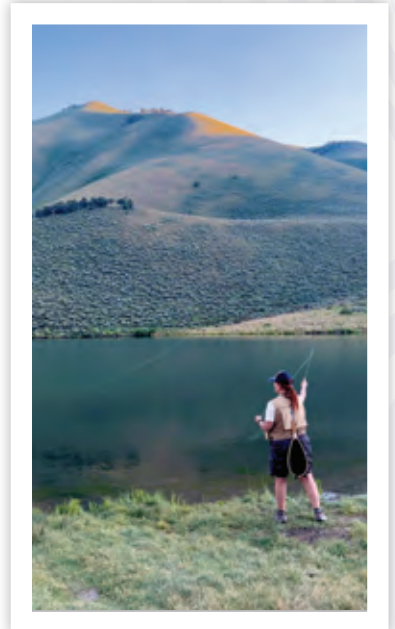
I also checked out Walker River State Recreation Area, and this vast state park is a wonder to wander. You'll find both of those stories inside, along with a photographic journey by our creative staff to Nevada's super-remote northwest corner.

These experiences are just one way this magazine is unique to other publications out there: We travel this state, experiencing the land and the people so we can share it with you. We don't phone it in... we live it.

As we head toward 2025, I wish you all health, happiness, and a whole lot of adventure.



Megg Mueller, Executive Editor



GROVES LAKE NEAR KINGSTON

**SCAN HERE
FOR FREE
SUBSCRIPTION**



SOCIAL *Circle*

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



Moon Rocks OHV Area

Instagram @CECELIASDAYS

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



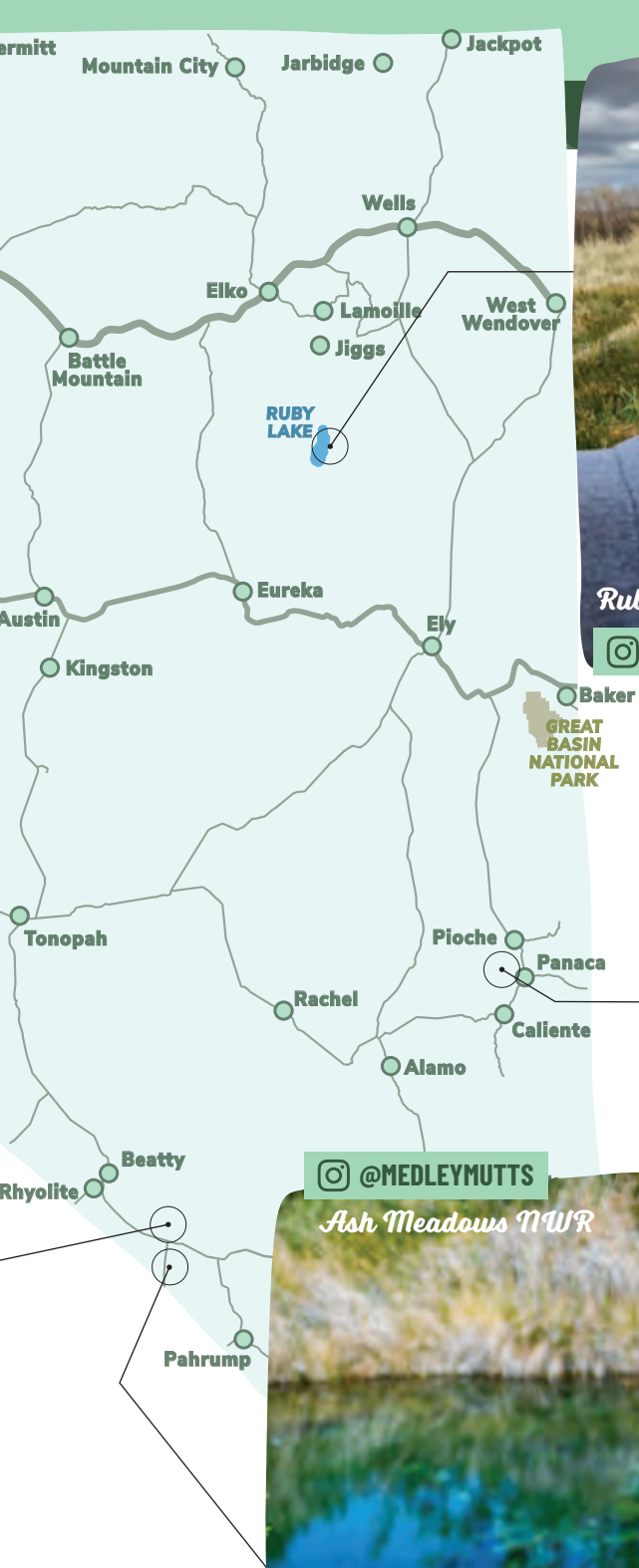
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Area 51 Alien Center



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Ash Meadows NWR



Awe



and then Some[®]



The first flurries are falling—it's time to start planning your Tahoe getaway. Bundle up, then venture out into a winter wonderland. Snowshoe through the forest, then catch a show. Take in the awe of the lake from the top of the chairlift, then gather around the fire at night. It's winter on the South Shore. It's Awe and then Some.

Scan to start planning your trip.



Visit
**lake
tahoe[®]**



SPOTLIGHT

10 Did You Know?

Mining

11 Note from the Lieutenant Governor

12 Eye Candy

16 Uncommon Overnighters

Kingston Cabin

20 State Parks

Walker River State Recreation Area

24 Museums

Reno Roundup

28 Only In Nevada

Holiday Gift Guide

32 Nevada Magazine Archives

Confidence Man

20



FEATURES

36 Road Trips

Cowboy Corridor

42 Nature

Where to spot wildlife across the state

48 Cravings

Cozy up to some of our favorite
Silver State coffee shops

54 History

Get inspired to include historical markers
in your road trip itinerary

60 The Great Nevada Picture Hunt

2024's contest winners

60





Winter brings fresh inspiration to embrace Nevada's deep historical roots and discover adventures anew.

COVERS

Front: East shore of Lake Tahoe, under the Milky Way.

Back: A snowy stroll on the Virginia City boardwalk.

Photographer: Jesse Bradford



PLANNING GUIDE

70 Arts & Culture

Step into Nevada's Native history at Stewart Indian School

76 Rural Wranglers

Find history, heritage, and the great outdoors in Ely

82 Outdoor Recreation

Take a road trip into the state's wild northwest

88 Ghost Town Primer

Discover why Nevada has so many ghost towns

96 Events Calendar

98 State Museums Directory

99 State Parks Directory

100 Road Trips Directory

102 Recreate Responsibly

THE FINAL WORD

104 Melissa Clary

A conversation with Pioche's community activist



Top of page: Martin Gollery (Christmas on the Comstock, Virginia City), Ronda Churchill (Santa Run, Las Vegas), Jenny Qi (Lake Tahoe)



DID YOU
KNOW?

Nevada earned its most prominent nickname—The Silver State—in 1859 after the discovery of silver ore in Virginia City. That legendary find began an industry that continues today, although now the state has become one of the largest gold producers in the world. Not just gold and silver are found in the hills of Nevada, however. The state also mines large quantities of copper, diatomaceous earth, and gypsum.

Mines operate on roughly

0.3% OF THE STATE'S
70.8 MILLION ACRES

GARNET GEMSTONES
can be found on the ground at

**GARNET
HILL**

outside Ely



Nevada contains the
ONLY OPERATING U.S.

**LITHIUM
MINE**

The mining industry employs more than

41,000 NEVADANS

75%

OF ALL
U.S. GOLD
PRODUCTION
happens in Nevada



The

**GOLDSTRIKE
MINE**

in Eureka County is the
LARGEST GOLD MINE IN NEVADA

The **CARLIN
TREND MINE**

near Elko opened in

1963

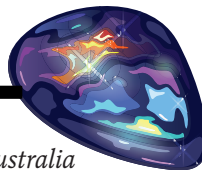
and is one of the world's
RICHEST GOLD MINING DISTRICTS

The rare

BLACK FIRE OPAL

—THE STATE'S PRECIOUS GEMSTONE—

is found only in Nevada's Virgin Valley and in New South Wales, Australia



MODERN MINING
IN NEVADA

began in **1849** near Dayton

WARMING UP TO WINTER

A note from Nevada's Lieutenant Governor



HEAVENLY SKI RESORT

As I approach the end of my second year as lieutenant governor and chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, I'm reflective of my travels while exploring our state's diverse landscapes and cultural destinations.

Winter in Nevada offers a unique blend of outdoor recreation that appeals to adventurers and nature lovers alike. In the north, mountains that are perfect for hiking and mountain biking in the summer become premier destinations for skiing and snowboarding after a fresh blanket of snow. Just outside of Reno, the Mount Rose Wilderness area provides hikers and backcountry skiers stunning vistas of snow-covered pine forests and friendly songbirds on Chickadee Ridge (peak baggers will be excited by Mount Rose's 10,776-foot elevation).

Down in southern Nevada, the unique geography allows thrill-seekers to enjoy both water skiing and snow skiing in a single day. Start the morning on the waters of Lake Mead and, afterward, drive up to Mount Charleston, where the higher elevation brings cooler temperatures and fresh powder, perfect for an afternoon of snow skiing or snowboarding.

To get a little out there this winter, hit the road and discover a few of the state's 600 ghost towns! Check out the Ghost Town Primer (pg. 88) to find out how Nevada came to have so many and which ones are not-to-miss.



Head indoors to warm up and learn about Nevada's original residents with a visit to the Stewart Indian School in Carson City (pg. 70). Here, visitors get a glimpse into a significant chapter of American history. My team and I visited earlier this year and were impressed by the exhibits that shed light on both the hardships faced by its students and the enduring strength of their communities.



SKY TAVERN SKI AREA

Apart from exploring Nevada's state parks, wilderness areas, and ghost towns, mark your calendar for the 40th anniversary of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in January.

This weeklong celebration of authentic

Western cultural arts—from poetry and music to dancing, food and fellowship—draws thousands of revelers each winter.

It's an honor to serve as Nevada's lieutenant governor. Whether it's traveling to southern Nevada for a winter stay-cation, exploring the state's cultural history, or experiencing one-of-a-kind Western celebration, we continue to prove that Nevada's unique destinations are great places to visit. See you out on the road!

Stavros S. Anthony

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

FAMILY PHOTO

Alyce Bender captured this scene near Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. "Snow only falls two to four times a season here and melts quickly, which makes an early morning visit a must. That's also some of the best times to see desert wildlife."

 Nikon D500 1/400 sec, f/6, ISO 800









SNOWBIRDS

Keith R. Clark photographed this flock on a frozen stream in north-eastern Nevada. “The waxwings were attracted to the creek because of the wild rose hips along the bank.”


 Nikon D100, 1/1600 sec, f/8, ISO 250

ON THE FENCE

Anthony Montoya snapped this northern harrier near Genoa. “One talon was tucked away for warmth, while the other firmly gripped the post, capturing a scene of quiet endurance in the winter chill.”

 Canon Rebel T6, 1/1250 sec, f/7.1, ISO 1600

WINTER FEAST

Keith R. Clark also found this furry friend near the base of the Ruby Mountains. “The porcupine was photographed on Christmas Eve on a country road near my house. It was busily nibbling bark from a hawthorn tree despite the storm.”  Nikon D100, 1/320 sec, f/4, ISO 250





PYRAMID PANO

Evan Petty scored this sweeping shot of a spring storm breaking above Pyramid Lake. “When I arrived, the skies were still cloudy but gradually opened up. What makes this image work nicely is the textures: The sand and clouds complement each other, and the great lighting made the scene work well.”

📷 Canon 5D, 1/5 sec, f/11, ISO 100



UNCOMMON OVERNIGHTERS Kingston Cabin



Middle-of-Nevada lodging is the perfect place to find your center.

BY MEGG MUELLER

Many moons ago, I wrote about my best-ever stay in Nevada, at a little place in Kingston. Times change and businesses close, so my search began anew for my favorite spot. I'm thrilled to say I've got a new leader on the clubhouse wall, and I'm not surprised it happens to be in the same locale.

Kingston Cabin—in the small hamlet of Kingston (population less than 150)—offers that exceptional combination of a perfectly furnished stay in a sublime location. The two are inextricably linked to me, so let's tackle them one at a time.





Cabin Comforts



Cabins conjure images of rustic woods, overstuffed bedding covers, and cozy evenings tucked safely inside. Maybe I read too much Laura Ingalls Wilder, but at any rate, Kingston Cabin fits that bill and then some. Two nicely sized bedrooms flank a well-stocked kitchen and comfortable living room. The bedrooms have queen-sized beds with ample bedding and plenty of room to move about. The spacious bathroom has standard amenities and is adorably decorated. OK, the whole cabin is decorated exactly like it should be: homey, with cute and clever touches.



The kitchen has just about everything you'd need to cook your favorite meals, sans groceries. Two coffee makers are available, and one comes with several types of beverage pods for guest use. There are some basic items such as salt and pepper and cooking oil, plus pots, pans, dishes, utensils, and the like.

One thing the cabin doesn't have is Wi-Fi, which I found to be blissful. And to be honest, I did have some service, which I chose to ignore. Instead, board games and a DVD library were much better ways to enjoy the living room and its cushy couch, not to mention faux fireplace.

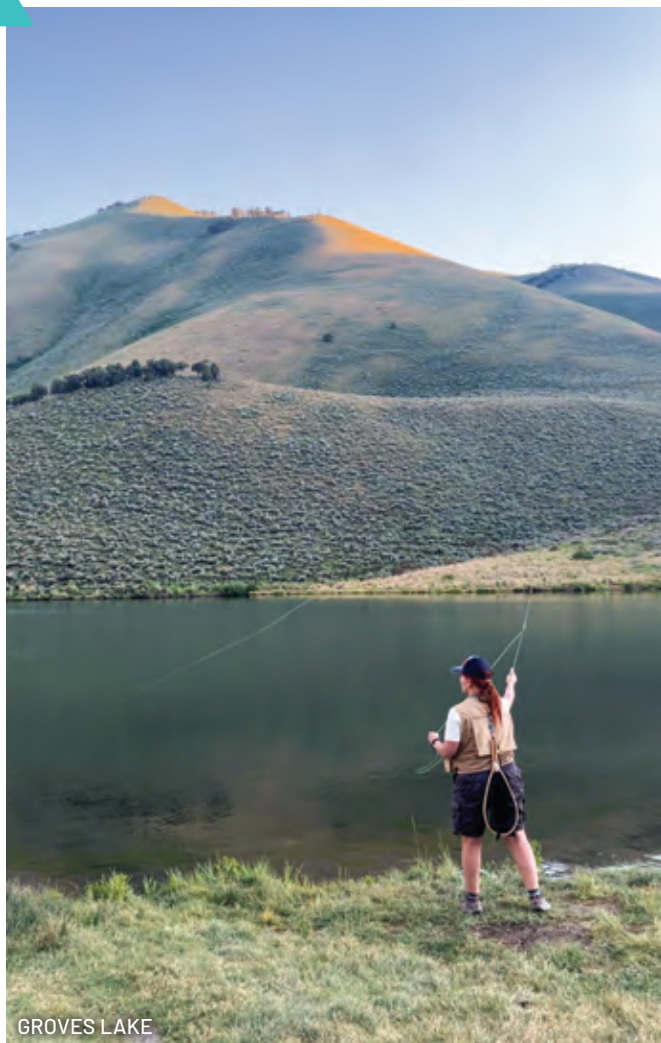




Great Outdoors

To be clear, I wouldn't mind one bit being snowed in at Kingston Cabin, but the recreational ambiance of the local area is a huge draw for me. The Big Smoky Valley is renowned for its beauty and opportunities to enjoy nature. Right out the cabin's front door is the town's stocked fishing pond. To the west of Kingston lies the Toiyabe Range with Kingston Canyon, Groves Lake, and the now-deserted Kingston Guard Station. To the east is Nevada's geographical center, Spencer Hot Springs, and Toquima Cave. Head south and you'll find Arc Dome Wilderness, tasty sandwiches at Shoshone Market just before Carvers, and a grocery store in Hadley.

The limit of things to do within a short radius of Kingston is governed only by your imagination. That, and how much room you have for fishing gear, hiking paraphernalia, wildlife-spotting supplies, and camera gear. Did I mention how insane the stargazing is in this remote locale? Or the ability to see the Milky Way with the naked eye on many nights?



GROVES LAKE



Make It So

Kingston Cabin has been hosting guests since 2018, and one visit makes its popularity understandable. The cabin has a two-night minimum, but trust me, after just 5 minutes, you'll have wished you booked an entire week. The only other business in town is the Lucky Spur, the perfect saloon for its settings and the best way to meet other Kingston lovers. Hunting season is a popular time for Kingston, with many hunters camped in the canyon and hunkered down in town, and winters are definitely felt in this location. But hey, if you book a trip and the snow flies, look on the bright side: You've got the ideal cabin from which to watch nature's work.



SPENCER HOT SPRINGS

@honeytrek (Spencer Hot Springs)

Winnemucca, NV

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Ranch, Rope & Performance Horse Sale!

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Photo By WT Bruce



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WALKER

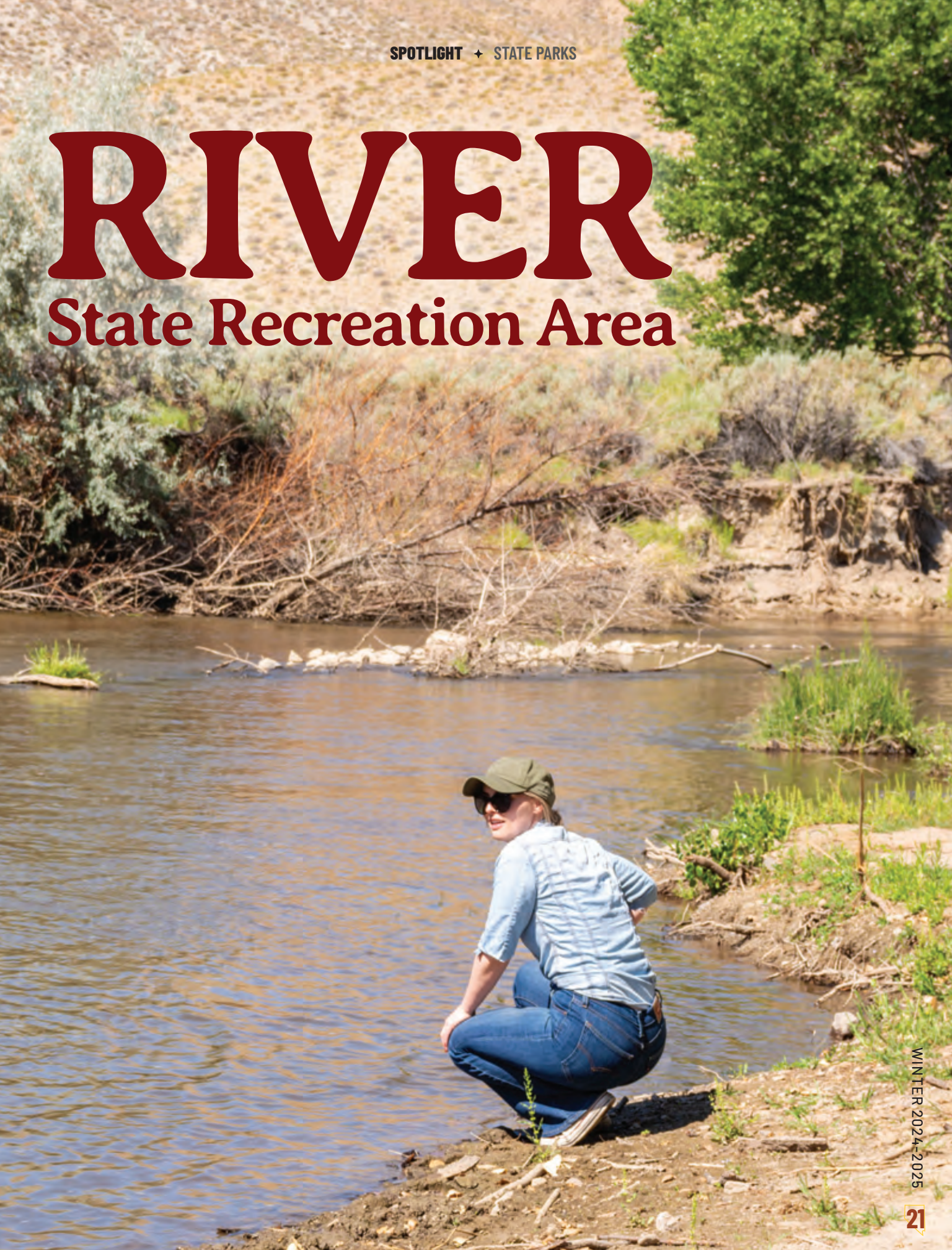
Discover a park made for nearly endless exploration.

BY MEGG MUELLER

In 1862, a wagon bounced over a stretch of dusty road from the booming mining town of Aurora to Nine Mile Ranch, just outside soon-to-be Yerington. On board was Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) racing to the aid of his seriously ill friend, Captain John Nye who owned the ranch. Nye recovered, but the trip cost Clemens a sizeable fortune. He lost his claim due to his absence. Clemens' trek to Nine Mile Ranch was a costly one, but today, the benefits of visiting the area far outweigh any cost. The ranch is just one small part of the Walker River State Recreation Area (Walker River SRA) which opened in 2018.

RIVER

State Recreation Area





A Monumental Gift

Walker River SRA was a 12,000-acre donation from the Walker River Conservancy to the state that encompasses more than 29 miles of the East Walker River. The conservancy originally purchased the land in its effort to restore water to Walker Lake. The donation included some areas that haven't been available to the public for more than 100 years, including a handful of historic ranches that are slowly being incorporated into the park experience.

The Pitchfork Ranch—the main park entrance 10 miles south of Yerington—is the park headquarters and includes a visitor center and shaded picnic areas. Two campgrounds—one dry, the other with RV hook ups—are available, as is a group campground.

Four homey cabins are located a mile from the visitor center and offer a respite for those seeking a more temperate (i.e., heated or air conditioned) experience. These small, self-contained units can sleep a surprising number of guests and offer a step up from tent camping with a small kitchen, eating area, full bath, and two sleeping areas. The cabins have river access and connect to the nature walk that takes you into the park.

Nine Mile Ranch is located along a bend in the Walker River known as The Elbow. The area is a highlight for both history buffs and anglers. Kit Carson and Captain John C. Fremont camped there in 1844, and the ranch was a major stage stop between Carson City and

Aurora. The Elbow is one of the finest fishing spots in the state and prime territory to catch brown and rainbow trout.

Future Plans

With so much unfettered space, big plans await Walker River SRA. More campgrounds, more cabins, trails and more trails, and increased access to the river are just a few of the upcoming projects.

The park's ranches also await their own makeovers. Flying-M Ranch is perhaps the most famous ranch as it was owned by Barron Hilton (of the Hilton Hotel empire). A playground/retreat for the rich and famous—including astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Chuck Yeager and actors Morgan Freeman and Cliff Robertson—the ranch will be developed for park visitors once a provision in Hilton's will expires.

The Rafter 7 Ranch area is set to offer camping, kayaking/floating, cabin rentals, and meeting rooms when its development is completed.

Wide Open Discovery

The East Walker River is a lush area that snakes through the surrounding landscape. Home to an abundance of wildlife, you'll likely spot Mule deer, herds of antelope and bighorn sheep, as well as an amazing variety of birds, including the endangered sage grouse.

You can drive throughout the park, access the river at many locations, and marvel in the beauty of this largely untouched region. It's a state park where you can find yourself in such exquisite solitude for the day, then retire to the peaceful pace of the campground for the night.





GET IT STAMPED:



The Nevada State Parks Passport can be picked up at any Nevada State Park and serves as a travelogue for visitors. It includes photos, park descriptions, amenity lists, and spaces for validation stamps. Once you have your booklets stamped at 15 different parks, you earn one free annual pass to all Nevada State Parks!

LEGENDS OF THE VALLEY

★ **DANA GAWORSKI** ★

ECCENTRIC MIXOLOGIST
at Nevada's Oldest Bar

THE FLOOR SQUEAKS, THE WALLS
TELL STORIES AND THE BARTENDER
OCCASIONALLY SHOOTS FROM THE HIP.

CARE TO KNOCK ONE BACK?

ADVENTURES AREN'T ALWAYS MEASURED BY APPS AND GADGETS. SOMETIMES THEY ARRIVE IN A GLASS SERVED BY A SALTY BARKEEP AND RAISED IN THE COMPANY OF FOLKS WHO KNOW BETTER THAN TO ORDER A MALBEC. WELCOME TO THE OLDEST, QUIRKIEST, MOST MEMORABLE SALOON YOU'LL EVER SET FOOT IN, THE IDEAL VENUE FOR EMBELLISHING A DAY OF EXPLOITS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS. CARSON VALLEY, LIFE SERVED WITH A GENEROUS TWIST OF RAW.


CARSON VALLEY
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Biggest Little Museums

Discover art, history, and science in northern Nevada's metropolis.

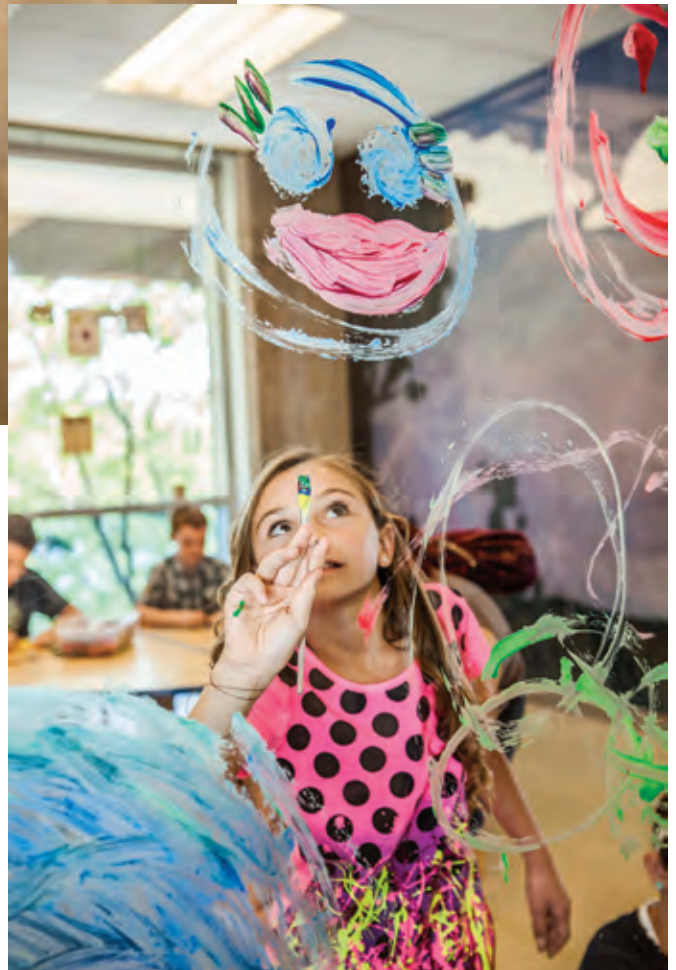
For a mid-size city, Reno enjoys an outsized amount of fame. Sure, there's *that* song, but the city is also known for its lavish resorts, mild climate, and adjacency to one of the world's most famous alpine lakes. Beyond gaming and the great outdoors, Reno has emerged as something of a cultural destination as well. Across MidTown and downtown, some of the state's best galleries and museums await an afternoon of exploration.



Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum

The Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum (The Discovery) features dozens of exhibits focused on technology, engineering, art, history, and invention. While originating as a children's museum, Nevada's largest hands-on learning center has morphed into an immersive experience for learners of all ages.

Every corner of the museum is packed with interactive exhibits that ask visitors to move, build, and think—all while focusing on issues and ideas important to northern Nevada. "Da Vinci's Corner" offers plentiful activities themed around art and science. Guests set



up dominoes, shoot catapults, manipulate magnets, and experiment with centrifugal force. For people who work more on the right side of the brain, the volunteer-led “Art Alcove” features daily classes that’ll get you drawing, painting, and crafting.

In addition to its quality museum content, The Discovery hosts a variety of programs, including a lecture series called “Science Distilled” and an adults-only program called “Social Science.” This after-hours experience—hosted four times a year—offers an evening of cocktails and science-based challenges, each presented with a unique theme like CSI, Brewology, and the ‘80s.

Nevada Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society (NHS)—the state’s oldest cultural institution—is home to some of our most precious artifacts. The society maintains a collection of more than 500,000 photographs, manuscripts, yearbooks, newspapers, and relics.

In fact, the NHS has so much material that only about two percent of its collection is on display—which you’ll find at its headquarters on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. The society’s museum features many exhibits you won’t find anywhere else, including a miner’s bathtub, baskets by Dat So La Lee, gaming instruments, a map of John C. Frémont’s 1842 expedition, Mark Twain memorabilia, and—a favorite for kids—the two-headed calf.





Nevada Museum of Art

One of Nevada's most esteemed cultural centers, the Nevada Museum of Art (NMA) is conveniently located in Reno's bustling MidTown District. This world-class experience—Nevada's only accredited art museum—brims with more than 1,500 paintings, photographs, sculptures, and prints across three floors, not to mention its ever-rotating collection of featured exhibits.

In 2025, the NMA will nearly double in size with the construction of a highly anticipated extension. In addition to a rooftop garden and new galleries, the additional space will focus on community outreach and workshops and classes for visitors to enjoy.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Fuel up for museum hopping at a local coffee shop. Read more on pg. 48.

Wilbur D. May Museum

Located inside Rancho San Rafael Park, this museum preserves the personal collection of Wilbur D. May, a talented Reno resident who dabbled in ranching, painting, aviating, and traveling the globe. The permanent display features treasures ranging from swords and snuff bottles to Venetian glass and Egyptian statues. May's hunting trophy collection—one of the museum's highlights—adorns a richly decorated parlor room. The museum also hosts a traveling exhibition packed with activities designed to engage young visitors.



Shop Local this Holiday Season



Planet X Pottery

Gerlach

Venture out to this solar-powered oasis located at the edge of the Black Rock Desert. This famous pottery studio boasts four galleries packed with mugs, bowls, plates, vases, teapots, and a whole lot more.



Looking for more suggestions? Scan here to discover other artisans we love to recommend.

Need a little gift-giving inspiration? Consider shopping at these amazing small businesses. Not only will you be supporting local makers, but you'll also be giving a little piece of the Silver State to the Nevada fan in your life.



Battle Born Pins

Las Vegas

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



Dovetail Distillery

Mound House

Inspired by oatmeal raisin cookies, Mound House’s Dovetail Distillery crafts premium, oat-forward whiskeys using crisp Carson River water.



Nevada State Parks All Access Pass

Statewide

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



Side Hill Spring Lavender

Central Nevada

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

NV-US Silver Works

Gardnerville

Sterling silver and vibrant turquoise are a match made in heaven with NV-US (eNVioUS) Silver Works. Shop a gorgeous variety of unique pendant necklaces, stamped bracelets, and dangling earrings made in the heart of Carson Valley.





Houston Boot Company

Virginia City

Up your footwear game with a pair of custom-made cowboy boots. Dream up any design or style you desire and they'll bring it to life with perfect-fit and built-to-last craftsmanship.



Lattin Farms

Fallon

Stop in at this fifth-generation farm to pick your own seasonal produce and herbs. If you're outside the area, shop online for family-made jams, dressings, and pasta sauces.



Tahoe Timber

Reno

Shop here for sweet sunglasses—made even sweeter by the sustainable and renewable materials used to craft 'em. Best of all, some of their wooden sunglasses float, making them perfect for beach, lake, and river days.

Minted Medallions From Nevada State Museum

Carson City

Did you know this Nevada State Museum building started life as a U.S. Mint? Today, it continues to mint medallions on a historic coin press that has seen operation since 1870.





J.M. Capriola Co.

Elko

With 90 years of saddle making under their custom leather-tooled belts, this historic, family-run business crafts handmade Western goods. If ranch ropes, snaffle bits, and spur straps aren't for you, they offer plenty of apparel, books, and outdoor items.



Artesian Cellars

Pahrump

This southern Nevada winery is passionate about expanding Nevada's vino industry. While growing grapes in the Mojave Desert has unique agricultural challenges, the extreme climate produces rich, full-bodied vintages.



Cedar Mountain Candle

Las Vegas

Inspired by farmhouse roots, this Las Vegas-based company has a passion for clean-burning candles. Soy wax infused with essential oils brings scents like apple maple bourbon, blackberry ginger, and peppermint bark to life in gorgeous vessels.



Myron Hensel Photography

Las Vegas

Treat yourself to a tintype portrait session—just like Abraham Lincoln sat for back in the day. The process dates to the 1850s, and your resulting one-of-a-kind photograph is certain to become a family heirloom.



Home Means Nevada Co.

Reno and Henderson

Loaded to the brim with amazing adventure gear, this retailer offers a wide range of goods including shirts, hoodies, tank tops, hats, coffee mugs, totes and more. All are accented with Nevada state icons like the desert bighorn sheep, mountain bluebird, and—of course—the state shape.



CONFIDENCE

At nevadamagazine.com, you'll find great stories like this one, which first appeared in our October 2005 issue.

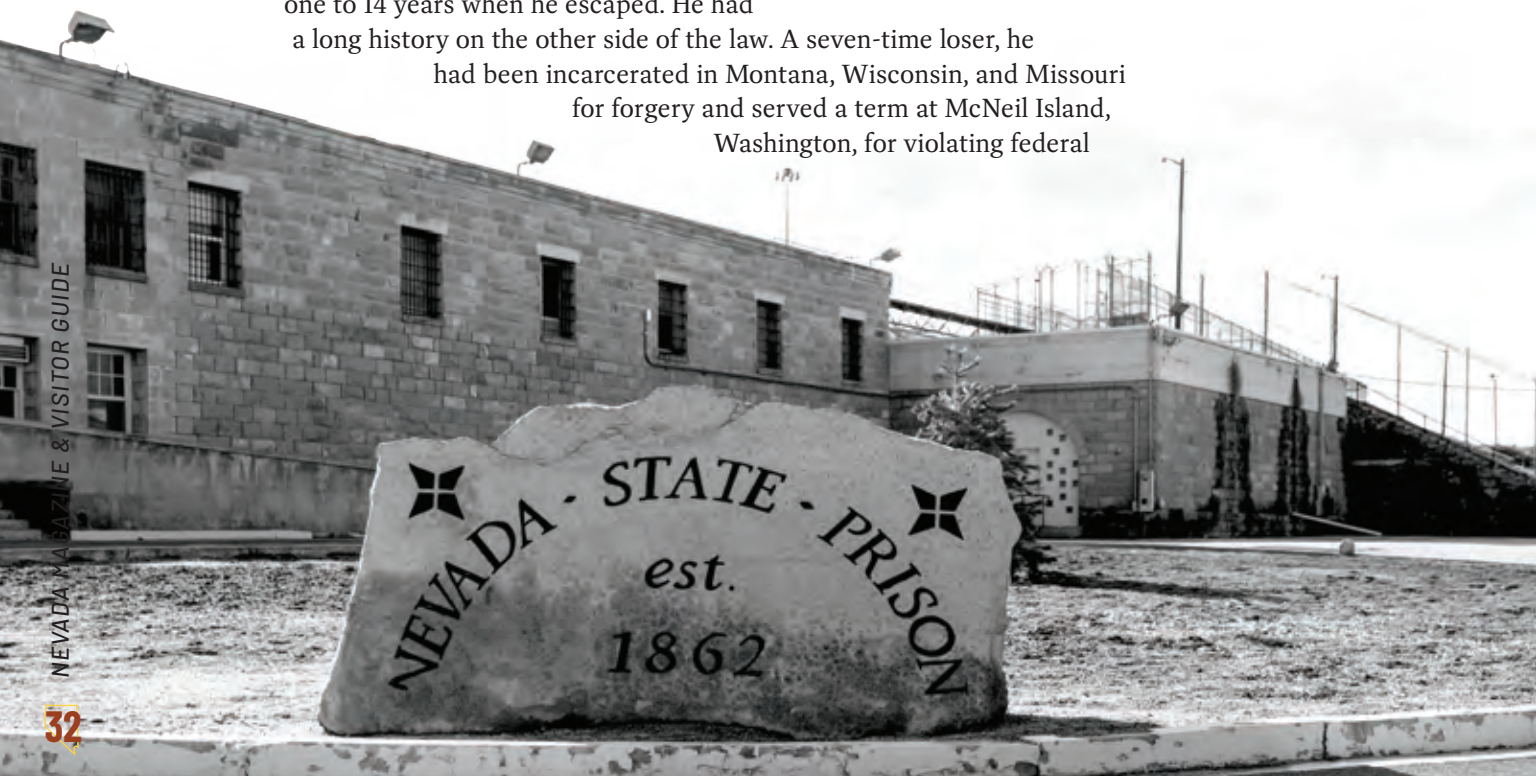
"Jack Meredith, 41, Nevada State Prison trusty who escaped from a sheriff's custody today, was reported speeding toward Los Angeles tonight in a stolen automobile."

"Nevada State Journal,"
May 18, 1937

The inmates of the Nevada State Prison in Carson City generally are a faceless lot, fading into obscurity when the notoriety of their crimes passes out of the daily news and the gates close behind them.

But John K. "Jack" Meredith didn't fade away. After his escape in May 1937, Meredith—a talented forger and confidence man—led state and federal officers on a merry chase for nearly a year. His exploits became front-page fodder, and press coverage kept Nevadans apprised of his cross-country travels.

Convicted of forgery in Elko in December 1933, Meredith was serving a sentence of one to 14 years when he escaped. He had a long history on the other side of the law. A seven-time loser, he had been incarcerated in Montana, Wisconsin, and Missouri for forgery and served a term at McNeil Island, Washington, for violating federal



MAN

In 1937, Nevada prison inmate Jack Meredith duped a sheriff and led lawmen on a merry chase across the country.

Prohibition laws. During his time at the Nevada State Prison, he never applied for parole, telling officials that he would have to face charges in Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado if he were released.

An intelligent sort, Meredith took over the literacy program at the Carson prison and taught other inmates to read and write. He authored “Pots O’Gold,” a prison history published in 1935 under the name of former warden Matt R. Penrose. The well-read convict edited “The Rainbow,” the prison magazine, and wrote a monthly column.

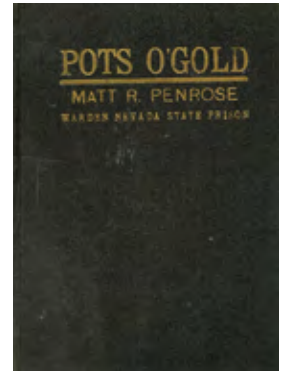
Meredith also became an expert in lifting fingerprints, making casts of footprints, and analyzing evidence. He helped several Nevada and California lawmen solve cases and thereby gained their confidence.

On the morning of May 17, 1937, Meredith accompanied one of those lawmen, Sheriff Orrin Brown of Alpine County, California, to Hot Springs Mountain west of Carson Valley. They were looking for \$10,000 in stolen jewelry buried in a mineshaft that Meredith claimed he heard about from another prisoner. The two men climbed halfway up the steep mountainside. After climbing higher than Brown, Meredith yelled down to the sheriff, directing him to circle around and ascend by an easier path.

When the lawman was out of sight, Meredith ran to Brown's car, grabbed his coat, wallet, and keys, and raced down the mountain road. In his haste, however, Meredith stuck the vehicle in the sand. Soon, David Bywater—a sheep packer—drove by. Meredith told Bywater that the sheriff had broken his leg in a fall and that he was on his way to Minden for help. The ruse worked, and Meredith repeated the story to Clarence O. Dangberg of the C.O.D. Garage a few minutes later. Dangberg produced a new Chevrolet sedan and filled the gas tank. Gratefully, Meredith sped away on his supposed errand of mercy.

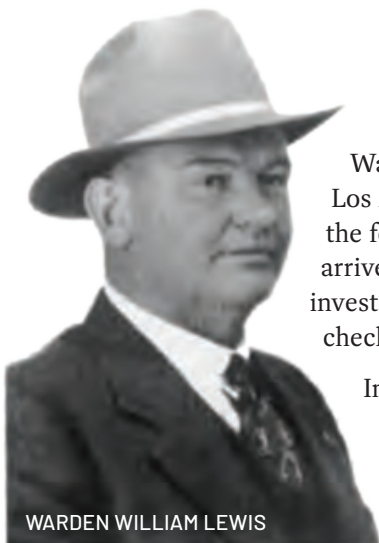
As Meredith drove off, Sheriff Brown, hot and agitated, trudged down from the hills. Finally, he reached a farm, where he phoned Warden William Lewis.

The area's newspapers played up Meredith's escape. Reno's “Nevada State Journal” noted the convict was five feet and 8-1/4 inches tall, weighed 158 pounds, had “fair teeth,” and “was wearing an oxford gray suit with a green fedora hat.” The “Carson City Daily Appeal” reported that Meredith was “armed and desperate” and “difficulty may be experienced in recapturing him.” Meredith wasn't armed—he left the sheriff's gun behind in the stranded car—but the newspaper was right about recapturing him. He would be on the loose for eight months.



“When out of sight of the garage, [Meredith] stepped heavily on the gas and placed as many miles between himself and Minden as he possibly could, knowing that in due time, Sheriff Brown, if his legs held out, would reach civilization and give an alarm.”

**“The Record-Courier,”
May 21, 1937**



WARDEN WILLIAM LEWIS

Warden Lewis initially believed that Meredith was headed for Los Angeles, but three days later, the first of three checks bearing the forged signature of prison purchasing agent William S. Harris arrived from Idaho at the office of the Nevada State Comptroller. An investigation revealed that Meredith had purloined a book of state checks and a pad of purchasing orders.

In Caldwell, Meredith had purchased blankets and bedding for the prison and received cash back. To cash two checks in Pocatello, he represented himself as a U.S. marshal in pursuit of a pair of Nevada bank robbers. That brought the Federal Bureau of Investigation into the case and the notification of law-enforcement agencies across the country.

"Jack Meredith, last heard from at Attica, Ohio about two weeks ago, jumped to the Pacific Coast and was attempting to cash checks under an alias as recent as yesterday at Seattle, Washington."

"Carson City Daily Appeal," June 29, 1937

On June 28, Meredith cashed a \$500 check while pretending to rent a yacht in Seattle. The next day in Indianapolis, he ordered \$2,000 worth of tools for the prison and cashed another \$500 check.

In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Meredith told the manager of a Collins wholesale radio store that he was a buyer for the State of Nevada, and he purchased equipment for a prison radio station. He also ordered several trucks in Iowa. In different cities he bought blankets for the prison, full football and baseball uniforms for prison teams, and a supply of shoes for the prison and the State Orphans Home.

In Covington, Kentucky, Meredith tried to buy a block of 20 prefabricated prison cells, but the deal fell through when the sales manager insisted on verifying the transaction with Nevada authorities. In Baltimore a few weeks later, Meredith impersonated an official of the Anaconda Copper Company, writing a check for \$5,000 to cover the cost of mining equipment valued at \$4,800. Before he received any cash, however, company officials were contacted. Meredith, quick to sense danger, slipped away.

At one point, he even wrote a note to Nevada Governor Richard Kirman, advising him to put more money in the bank.

As Warden Lewis was contacted about deliveries, he told the various victims that they had been taken in. He also kept federal authorities informed.

A PHOTO OF JACK MEREDITH WORKING A SLUICE ILLUSTRATED HIS COLUMN, "CAUGHT IN THE RIFFLES," IN EACH ISSUE OF "THE RAINBOW," THE NEVADA STATE PRISON MAGAZINE. HE EDITED THE PUBLICATION BEGINNING IN 1935.



"G-men are on his trail and sooner or later Meredith will be apprehended," reported "The Record-Courier" on July 2. "In the meantime, he is having a splendid vacation touring the country and living off the fat of the land as a result of his ability to pass bum checks."

Meredith was posing as Roy J. Griffith, a retired Notre Dame professor of geography and journalism, when his spree came to an end on January 26, 1938, in New York City. He was arrested on a forgery charge, and a fingerprint check revealed his true identity.

"What a relief," prison purchasing agent William S. Harris declared. It was Harris' name that Meredith forged on most of his bad checks. Harris said, "It was getting so that I hardly dared to write one of my own checks."

Noting that Meredith was captured at last, "Record-Courier" editor Bert Selkirk wrote, "He was given opportunity at the prison to remould his life and become a useful citizen ... but he proved himself to be just one of those men who could not go straight if he wanted to."

The federal charges were not prosecuted, and Warden Lewis boarded a train for New York on February 14, 1938, to bring Meredith back. Returning to Carson City on March 1, Lewis gave Meredith his old number—3412—and locked him in solitary confinement for a month. More

than four years later, on October 4, 1942, Meredith was paroled, having served almost 10 years of his original sentence.

Within two months, Arizona officials issued a warrant for his arrest for passing bad checks, and there were inquiries from Georgia, Tennessee, Washington, and Indiana. Nearly apprehended in Memphis in April 1943, Meredith was finally tracked down under the name of T.J. Collins in Indiana in June 1944. On August 1, he entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, sentenced to 23 years for interstate transportation of stolen property and aiding and abetting the sale of stolen securities.

For Meredith, unlike other inmates, it was the opening of the prison gates that led to his obscurity. On August 19, 1958, he was given a conditional release. Meredith disappeared, and the authorities never heard of him again.

Editor's note: Phillip I. Earl of Reno, a retired curator of history at the Nevada Historical Society, passed in 2019.

"Meredith's 'writing' ability landed him in the prison for forgery in 1933, won him position as editor of the prison magazine, served as his means of travel since the escape, and finally this same 'literary' trait landed him in the clutches of the law yesterday."

"Nevada State Journal," January 27, 1938

JACK MEREDITH AT WORK AGAIN IS FBI WARNING Nevada Record Of Confidence Man Is Recalled

Jack K. Meredith, one of the more noted alumni from the Nevada state prison and now described by the federal bureau of investigation as a notorious confidence man and bad-check passer is again active in his specialties, according to a warning from Jay C. Newman, special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City office of the FBI.

Newman referred to Meredith as the "man with a hundred names" and said he has defrauded scores of business and professional men out of many thousands of dollars since he was released from the Nevada prison in October, 1942. The FBI has warned business men in this area to be on the lookout for Meredith.

Sent to the Nevada prison on December 6, 1933, to serve a one-to-fourteen-year term for forgery, Meredith demonstrated some of his talents in prison. He became editor of the prison magazine "Rainbow," and also wrote many articles for outside magazines. He also proved to be a fingerprint expert and an investigator of no mean ability. After he became a trusty he was "borrowed" several times.

It was on one such a mission in May of 1937 that he made his escape in a manner that would sound improbable if written as



JACK K. MEREDITH

state prison, he was able to "buy" an assortment of equipment for the prison in various parts of the country, not forgetting to cash a few checks of his own during the transaction. At one time, he passed as a United States mariner and he enjoyed a yacht excursion as the prospective purchaser of a boat. As he went about the country, a trail of bad checks followed him. Finally,

Cowboy Corridor

Saddle up! This road trip is for those seeking a wild (West) adventure.

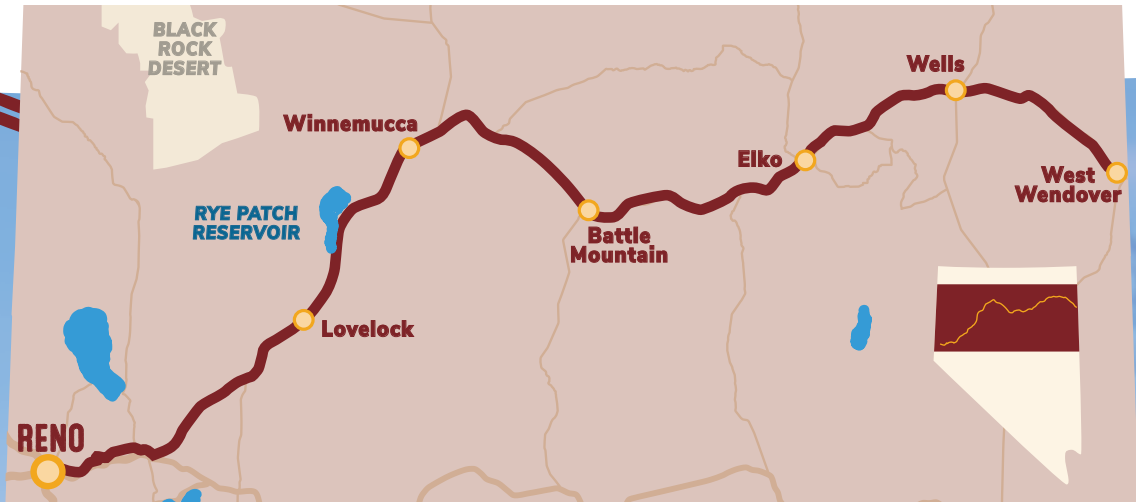
Few road trips brim with as much Western heritage as Nevada's Cowboy Corridor. And here's the thing: Interstate 80's speed limits hit 80 mph but when you come to a town, slow down. Beyond those off-ramps, you'll find lively communities full of history and engaging attractions, with museums, restaurants, and festivals blend buckaroo, Basque, and American Indian traditions. So, pack your boots, hit the Cowboy Corridor, and become part of the story.



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



FEATURES ✦ ROAD TRIPS



400 miles | 2 to 4 Days
#CowboyCorridor
TravelNevada.com/Cowboy-Corridor/



Reno

Before finding your inner cowboy, stop in the Biggest Little City for a look at all things awesomely automotive at the National Automobile Museum. More than 220 historic cars await your visit. Next, fuel up at a local legend. Since 1967, Louis' Basque Corner has served family-style Basque feasts, killer chorizo burgers at the bar, and Nevada's unofficial state drink: the Picon Punch. Now you're ready for some Wild West adventure.



Lovelock

Visit Lovelock Cave, where 11 tule duck decoys—made between 400 B.C. and 100 A.D and the oldest ever found—were recovered. Back in town, “lock your love” to a never-ending chain at Lovers Lock Plaza and marvel at the Transcontinental Railroad depot, built in 1868.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Ghost town enthusiasts should head to **Seven Troughs** about an hour northwest of Lovelock to see ruins of a stamp mill and a handful of miner cabins and old cars. Or head an hour northwest to visit **Unionville**, where a cabin once inhabited by Mark Twain (when he was trying his hand at prospecting) still stands.



WINNEMUCCA SAND DUNES



HUMBOLDT MUSEUM

Winnemucca

The town that inspired one of Johnny Cash's opening line earns its cowboy cred without even trying. Winnemucca is packed with history that begs a closer look, especially if you're hungry. Open since 1898, The Martin Hotel serves Basque meals you won't soon forget. Work off that lamb shank at the artifact-packed Humboldt Museum or head out to the Winnemucca Sand Dunes before resting your head at the uber-retro Scott Shady Court Motel.



C2 Photography (food), David Braun (sand dunes)

Elko

There's no hurrying through Elko, home to the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering and its year-round hub: the Western Folklife Center. Dive into the cultural deep end at the Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum before walking the short distance to the legendary J.M. Capriola Co.'s shop to stock up on authentic leathergoods and more. Mosey through town and marvel at 70 pieces of public art, then finish your day with (what else?) a traditional Basque meal at either The Star or Ogi Deli Bar & Pintxos. A well-deserved rest awaits at the Maverick Casino Hotel.





ANGEL LAKE

Wells

A short 30 minutes east of Elko, Wells is your jumping-off point to the ghost town of Metropolis. Just 15 miles north are the remnants of this once-bustling town and its picturesque schoolhouse arch. Once you've had your earthly fill, head for the heavens. Located some 8,500 feet up (but just 12 miles off the interstate), the beauty of Angel Lake steals the hearts of hikers, anglers, and wildlife watchers.



WENDOVER WILL



BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS

West Wendover

Your final stop along the Cowboy Corridor is West Wendover. Say hello to Wendover Will, the 63-foot-tall, visitor-greeting neon cowboy, then soak in some military history at Historic Wendover Airfield Museum. Venture just over the border to the famed Bonneville Salt Flats before heading back to enjoy all the flash and fun of the town's casinos and big-name entertainment.

@worldofawanderer (woman wearing cowboy hat), @mindyonthemove (woman wearing beanie)

Finding *Wild* Friends

A few tips for catching a glimpse of Nevada's animal kingdom.



I'll never forget the first time I spotted a roadrunner in southern Nevada during a trip to Laughlin. Born and raised in the northern part of the state, I'd never seen these awesome birds before, and it was a great reminder that the critters we see every day might be brand new to someone else. To that end, we've gathered some of the best places you might glimpse a view of some new-to-you or favorite creatures. We make no guarantees you'll see anything—for some reason Nevada's wildlife won't adhere to our wishes. Good luck!

Desert Bighorn Sheep

Nevada is the desert bighorn sheep capital of the West (which is fitting, since it's also our state mammal). This nimble, adaptable creature is one of few its size that can survive (let alone flourish) in the searing heat and bitter cold of the Mojave Desert. They can go three days without water, lose up to 30 percent of their body weight, and bound up sheer cliff faces at 30 miles per hour—all while lugging around horns that can weigh more than 20 pounds.

Viewing chances for this majestic beast are high at Valley of Fire State Park. If you're looking to get into full-on backcountry mode, try the Alta Toquima Wilderness—where bighorn roam at altitudes exceeding 12,000 feet—or the massive Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which was established specifically for bighorn preservation. It is now home to the largest population on Earth.

Hemenway Park spans 10 acres in Boulder City, with a playground, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters and two tennis courts. For animal lovers, there's green grass to sit on while watching desert bighorn sheep graze and lie around. You can also see Lake Mead, located just 5 miles from the park. Please remember to never feed the sheep!

Walker Lake outside Hawthorne is another great place to spot sheep. A reliable band of the animals live in the hills above the lake and can often be seen wandering the landscape and crossing the road to get a drink from the lake. There are several signs alerting drivers to the most-likely crossing areas, but be alert along the entire stretch of highway and make sure you keep your eyes on the road. There are multiple pullouts if you want to get out and really scan the hillside.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



Nevada's 15 state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)—more than 150,000 acres of

land—are home to many resident and migratory birds and mammals. Found throughout the state, many WMAs are less than two hours from major population centers and offer great access to wildlife viewing. Visit ndow.org/discover-your-public-land for more information.

Pronghorn Antelope

Located in far northern Nevada, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge protects more than half a million acres of high desert habitat.

Visitors can often spot large wintering herds of pronghorn antelope, scattered bands of bighorn sheep, and a rich assortment of other wildlife. The landscape is vast, rugged, and punctuated with waterfalls, narrow gorges, and lush springs among rolling hills and expansive tablelands of sagebrush and mountain mahogany. It takes a bit to get to the refuge, so why not take advantage of the many campgrounds and spend a day or two?



Larry Burton
(single pronghorn)



Come for the wildlife

Stay for the WILD LIFE

Home of the Hooper Dam
BOULDER CITY
Chamber of Commerce
BoulderCityChamber.com

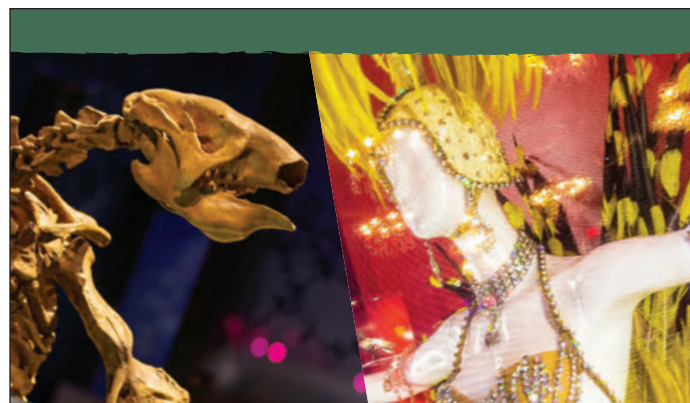


VISIT US



UPCOMING EVENTS

Home of the Hooper Dam
BOULDER CITY
Chamber of Commerce



FOSSILS TO FOLLIES

Discover seven unique state museums

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

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


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

See Page 98 for details for your visit.



TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

Guided Polaris Tours
Blacksmithing Classes
Rare Gem Collection
Gift Shop & Much More...




**CHARTERS OF FREEDOM
AT PATRIOTS PARK**

tonopahnevada.com





Rocky Mountain Elk

Nevada's largest animal thrives in the state's northeasterly reaches. The best place to see elk—typically in spring and fall—is at the Ely Elk Viewing Area, a mile-long corridor paralleling U.S. Route 93, located about 15 miles southwest of Ely. If you have a hearty vehicle and backcountry skills, you can also bring your spotting scopes to the high country around the uber-remote community of Jarbidge, near the Idaho border.

Moose

Speaking of the Jarbidge area, this mountainous expanse—marked by deep canyons, craggy peaks, and dense forest—makes for the ideal (and the only) habitat in Nevada for another massive mammal: moose! Occasional sightings of moose visiting from neighboring Idaho began in the 1960s, but today a resident population of more than 100 moose live in Nevada's northeast corner, particularly in the Bruneau River and Jarbidge River canyons.





Burros

Finding these lovable creatures is as simple or adventurous as you'd like. Bands of burros can be seen in multiple locations around the state. In the north, drive northeast from Lovelock into the Trinity Range, and you'll likely see them roaming around. If you're looking to add a destination, the ghost town of Tunnel Camp is in the same area.

For even-easier spotting, plan a trip to southern Nevada. The tiny town of Beatty is home to a roaming band of burros that, while not quite wild, are definitely not house pets. The Beatty burros will often pose for pictures but keep a respectful distance.

The Marietta Wild Burro Range in the northwest corner of Mineral County is the country's first formally recognized wild burro range. A band of about 100 burros wander the area, and the ghost town of Marietta provides plenty to explore while you attempt to spot these important and adorable animals.



COFFEE



CULTURE


Nevada's locally owned coffee shops cater to all tastes.

BY KIPPY S. SPILKER

Coffee is integral to the overall enjoyment of a great Nevada road trip.

At least, that's how it is in our car. And while there are plenty of coffee chains, we try to seek out homegrown, one-of-a-kind cafes. There's nothing like that enticing coffee smell paired with baked goods and interesting conversations. It's enough to put pep in your step and a smile on your face.

But these days, coffee shops aren't just for mornings: Most offer iced or blended drinks, teas, smoothies, and everything from breakfast treats to lunchtime meals. In addition, many host events and provide opportunities to support artists and other community causes. Every town has a memorable spot to sip gourmet brew amid local color, but here are a few of my favorites to consider on your travels around the Silver State.

 Local or on-site roasted beans





Dam Roast House & Browder Bookstore Boulder City

Almost nothing pairs so well as coffee and books, and Dam Roast House & Browder Bookstore offers up both in a bright, comfortable setting. It's equally tempting to find yourself a comfy reading nook or to enter deep conversation with old (or new) friends. With local artwork and boutique crafts for sale, it's easy to spend enough time to need a second cup before you leave. Dam Roast House also offers outdoor seating, so you can bring your favorite four-legged friend with you.



Death Valley Coffee Time Beatty

Located inside Death Valley Nut & Candy Co., this small coffee shop might be the only thing that'll pull your attention from the store's candy-coated interior. In addition to its delicious coffee concoctions, this woman-owned business offers made-to-order waffles, crepes, omelets, and breakfast burritos. Enjoy your breakfast at a table for two or pull a couple together for larger groups—and there's plenty of room for wheelchair access. Once properly caffeinated, your party will enjoy exploring the rest of the establishment's unique food, drinks, stuffed animals, and sugary goodies.





Double Shot Coffee Clinic

Laughlin

Owner David Lewis is a Las Vegas-born actor you might recognize from TV shows like “True Blood” and “Glee.” But believe me when I say Lewis’ background isn’t even the most impressive thing about this small-but-mighty shop. Double Shot Coffee Clinic focuses on a welcoming vibe while offering organic and sustainable products like mushroom coffees and teas. You’ll find great conversation as your food and drinks are prepared and you’ll be supporting a good cause: Double Shot supports addiction recovery programs in the southern Nevada area.





Star Village Coffee

Reno

American Indian-owned and family-operated, Star Village Coffee is one of Reno's true hidden gems. This establishment roasts their own coffee and offers unique, regional flavors like their delicious—and slightly addictive—maize corn and pine nut lattes. Additionally, they provide baked, gluten-free temptations like apple pine nut bread, blueberry huckleberry cake, and pistachio rose cake. The shop's interior is bright and airy with beautiful American Indian art and decor, and the conversation is easy and friendly. Star Village Coffee will absolutely be a stop on my next Reno visit.



Order your brew to go and stroll around historic downtown Ely. Story on pg. 76.



Taproot Ely

Fun, funky, and delicious. This café greets visitors with an upbeat and welcoming vibe. Taproot certainly feels like an appropriate name: This coffee shop is fully rooted in supporting the Ely community. There is plenty of local art and other goodies to peruse while you await your order, which could include everything from coffee, boba tea, milkshakes, smoothies, or just plain ice cream—Taproot is a treat for pretty much all the senses. And for those looking for a little evening pick-me-up, right next door is The Space at Taproot, which offers live music, karaoke, and more!





Stone Cabin Coffee

Fallon

It's pretty much all in the name: If you enjoy a log-cabin-type atmosphere, this is the coffee shop for you. In fact, this café's mantra just happens to be "take a break from the ordinary." The interior is cozy and rustic, and there are many offerings to choose from. In fact, not only do they serve coffees (many with bear-themed names) and teas, they also offer a selection of beer, wine, and hot adult beverages. A selection of pastries rounds out the menu. Stone Cabin Coffee is a place for gathering and socializing, and while there is a drive-through, we absolutely recommend treating yourself and going inside.

★ TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Taking a Highway 50 road trip?
In addition to Stone Cabin Coffee in
Fallon and Taproot in Ely, we recommend
Larry's Gourmet Coffee House in Dayton
and the **Eureka Depot** in Eureka.

ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

Nevada's historical markers
preserve the past.

BY DAVID RODRIGUEZ

Nevada is a state made up of stories. For hundreds—and even thousands—of years, American Indians, emigrants, miners, and dreamers traversed Nevada's ranges and deserts playing to the horizon and chasing dreams. In the process, they have left history that stands the test of time in the form of historical markers.

The best way to discover these fascinating historical sites—around 270 total—is by incorporating them into your next road trip. They are easy to include on any journey and appeal to history enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike. They are also an excellent opportunity to explore Nevada's diverse landscape. As you travel, you'll be treated to vast skies, endless fields of purple-tinged sagebrush, and vibrant sunsets painted with violet and orange hues.

We've prepared three curated trips that showcase some of Nevada's most remarkable areas while guiding you through the state's captivating history and breathtaking scenery.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office offers a guide listing the location and background for each marker, which you can access by scanning this QR code.



WARD CHARCOAL OVENS

THESE OVENS WERE CONSTRUCTED DURING THE MID 1870'S AND ARE LARGER AND OF FINER CONSTRUCTION THAN MOST OTHER OVENS FOUND IN NEVADA. THEY ARE 27 FEET IN DIAMETER AND 30 FEET HIGH WITH A CAPACITY OF ABOUT 35 CORDS OF WOOD WHICH WAS BURNED FOR A PERIOD OF 12 DAYS TO PRODUCE ABOUT 50 BUSHELS OF GOOD SOLID CHARCOAL PER CORD.

THE CHARCOAL WAS USED IN THE SMELTERS AT NEARBY WARD, ABOUT 30 TO 50 BUSHELS BEING REQUIRED TO REDUCE ONE TON OF ORE.

EACH FILLING OF ONE OF THESE OVENS REQUIRED THE TOTAL TREE CROP FROM 5 OR 6 ACRES OF LAND. DURING THE LATE 1870'S THE HILLS AND MOUNTAINS AROUND MANY MINING CAMPS WERE COMPLETELY STRIPPED OF ALL TIMBER FOR A RADIUS OF UP TO 35 MILES.

AS RAILROADS PENETRATED THE WEST CHARCOAL WAS REPLACED BY COKE MADE FROM COAL, AND THE CHARCOAL INDUSTRY FADED.

"THE REAL WORTH OF THE OLD CHARCOAL OVENS IS THEIR HISTORICAL FUNCTION IN REMINDING PRESENT DAY AMERICANS OF A NOW-VANISHED INDUSTRY, WITHOUT WHICH THE GREAT SILVER AND LEAD BONANZAS OF THE EARLY WEST COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HARVESTED."—NELL MURBARGER.

STATE HISTORICAL MARKER NO. 104
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Ely offers a variety of lodging options—including historic establishments like [Hotel Nevada](#) or the [Prospector Hotel](#)—and plenty of RV Parks. Dining options include tasty bites at [Margarita's Mexican Restaurant](#) or the justifiably famous chorizo sandwich at [Racks Bar and Grill](#).



White Pine County

This eastern Nevada county offers intrepid visitors incredibly diverse landscapes, including stunning mountains and high desert landscapes. From Ely—its largest town—one can quickly discover 24 nearby markers.

About 12 miles south of Ely, Marker No. 184 highlights the history of the ghost town of Ward and its famous charcoal ovens (see the previous page). Constructed in 1870, these six beehive structures were vital to the mining industry and produced coal for the ore smelters. As the mines faded away, the ovens eventually became home to range animals, weary travelers, and if rumors are true, even a few stagecoach bandits.

Located in town, Marker No. 100 denotes the Nevada Northern Railway. In its heyday, this railyard had more than 150 miles of track and transported ore, smelted metals, and—until 1941—even local schoolchildren into Ely from surrounding towns. Today, the Nevada Northern Railway offers vintage steam rides on sections of the historic line.

Ely has been a hub for mining for more than 150 years. Located just 5 miles west of town on U.S. Highway 50, Marker No. 9 introduces you to the area's famous open-pit mines, which have produced more than a billion dollars in copper, silver, and gold over the years, including Liberty Pit—once the largest man-made hole on the planet.



Lincoln County

With about 10,000 square miles—but only around 5,000 residents—Lincoln County (named in 1866 for President Lincoln) is a remote yet beautiful part of the state offering stunning vistas and wide-open spaces. From the county seat of Pioche, one has easy access to 25 markers.

On Pioche's main street, Marker No. 5 details the town's rich silver mining history, which began in 1864. Remnants of the mines surround you, including an aerial tramway which transported ore from Treasure Hill to a nearby mill.



About 20 miles south in Caliente, Marker No. 55 describes the area's rapid development in 1905 as a station town along the newly completed Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. The town's iconic Mission-revival depot—built in 1923—remains a magnificent structure—you'll find its history on Marker No. 249.

Taking U.S. Highway 93 back south, you'll find marker No. 205 at Crystal Springs. Largely used for irrigation today, these turquoise blue pools were once one of the few life-giving water sources on the Old Mormon Trail.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Pioche is a step back in time, featuring 19th-century architecture and plenty to explore, including [Boot Hill Cemetery](#) and [Thompson's Opera House](#). Don't forget to pop into the famous [Historic Silver Café](#) for lunch, which has been in operation since 1907. Be sure to also stop in at historic watering holes like [The Alamo Club](#) or [Overland Hotel and Saloon](#).



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Downtown Fallon hosts many colorful shops and cafes. **The Cranberry Cottage** is a local favorite for vintage and craft items—be sure to try their “secret” speakeasy: the **C&C Social Club**. For great burgers, check out **The Slanted Porch**.

Looping back through Fallon, be sure to visit **Frey Ranch Distillery**, which has the distinction of producing one of the few “ground to glass” whiskeys in the West.



Churchill County

Just 60 miles east of Reno awaits Fallon and the rich agricultural lands of Churchill County. Well known for the Naval Air Station and the famous “Top Gun” training school, the area is steeped in Nevada history.

Head about 10 miles southeast to find Grimes Point/Hidden Cave and Marker No. 27. This historic Native American petroglyph site is more than 8,000 years old and is one of the most accessible sites of its kind in North America. Visitors will find hundreds of engravings carved into about 150 basalt boulders along the quarter-mile trail.



Just a few miles farther east lie Sand Mountain and Marker No. 10. This massive sand dune stands about 600 feet tall and stretches for 2 miles. It's called a singing dune because it produces unique sounds when wind blows across

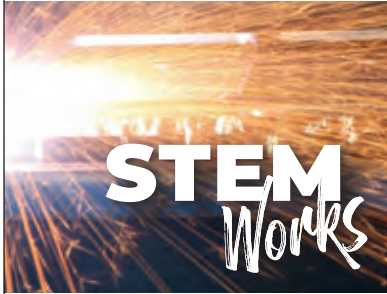


its high ridges. While there, try to find the remnants of the old Sand Springs Pony Express station.

Marker No. 19—labeled Ragtown—is 5 miles west of Fallon on Highway 50. This site marks a crucial water stop along the Emigrant Trail and was the first location travelers found water after crossing the challenging 40-Mile Desert—a veritable desert oasis. The Humboldt River still flows through this site, making for a great place to cool off after a long day of exploration.



Ready to find some markers? Why not tie them in with one of our 10 curated road trips? See pg. 100 for inspiration!



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Great Nevada Picture Hunt

The Great Nevada Picture Hunt is our annual contest dedicated to finding photos that best represent the Silver State's people, places, and landscapes. This year, we received hundreds of photographs across six categories. *Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide* staff faced the daunting task of selecting a winner for each category—trust us when we say it wasn't easy. But the results are finally in, and we are proud to announce this year's winners!



ALEX STAFFEN, GRAND PRIZE

"I couldn't believe my luck: Everything fell into place perfectly, and I managed to capture exactly what I was aiming for. I reached a spot where I had previously spotted numerous Great Basin rattlesnakes. I came across this one soaking up the final rays of the sun, overlooking Washoe Lake with the sunset as a stunning backdrop. Remarkably, it didn't rattle or strike at me; it just remained still as if it understood what I was trying to achieve."

 Canon EOS 90d, 1/60s, f/8.0, ISO 100



CITIES & TOWNS, 1ST PLACE, LIZ HUNTINGTON

“This summer, Virginia City hosted a carnival to benefit our local schools. The juxtaposition of the bright carnival lights against the desert hills and St. Mary’s Art Center in the background was a photographer’s dream. I stayed until the last hues of the sunset colors left the clouds and was elated to have captured this shot!”

📷 Canon 5Dmkiv,
1/125s, f/8, ISO 1250



CITIES & TOWNS, RUNNER-UP, RICK POTT

“As sunset approached, I looked out my window toward the north side of Carson City and saw this interesting cloud formation starting to develop. After a brief hike, I arrived at a vantage point where I had a grand view that extended well into Carson Valley.”

📷 Sony ILCE-7RM5,
1.3s, F/8, ISO 100






BIRDS, 1ST PLACE, LEE MOLOF

“This is a gathering of yellow-headed blackbirds hanging out on what is left of an old outbuilding in Stillwater.”

 Canon 5D Mark IV, 1/400s, f/7.1, ISO 100

BIRDS, RUNNER-UP, KEN HUYNH

“I have lived in Nevada since 1997 (straight from Vietnam) but wasn’t into photography then. As I got serious with wildlife photography, I’ve been wanting to get a decent photograph of our state bird to represent my skill set. Once I found a good spot to photograph them, I started practicing a lot. This shot was two years in the making.”

 Sony Alpha 1, 1/3200s, f/4, ISO 800





LANDSCAPE, 1ST PLACE, EDWARD NASH

“Northern Lights over Tonopah Dunes. It is rare for the aurora to light up the sky this far south, but on this night, they graced the central Nevada desert.”

 Canon R5, Samyang, 15s, f/2.4, ISO1600



LANDSCAPE, RUNNER-UP, DOREEN LAWRENCE

“Seeing snow around the Las Vegas area is a rarity, but in February 2024, Red Rock Canyon received several inches. The mixture of dark blue skies and the warm orange rock colors made the canyon a winter wonderland. I was delighted to capture a beautiful scene as it unfolded.”

 Canon R5, 1/400s, f/14, ISO 100




PEOPLE, 1ST PLACE, ERIN BERNIUS

"Charlie Wright branding at the Wright Ranch, located in Tuscarora. For the past couple years, I've been fortunate to be invited to photograph this incredible tradition: I want to thank all the Wright family members who always welcome me with open arms every single time I step foot on the ranch. This image not only shows a moment of action but also the deep-rooted traditions and camaraderie that define life on the ranch."

 Canon 6D, 1/1600s, f/3.5, ISO 160

PEOPLE, RUNNER-UP, ANTHONY CUPAIUOLO

"Will Brommelsiek takes flight above iconic Sand Harbor. There's something special about being able to ski and snowboard above waters that give off as much of a Caribbean vibe as they do an alpine one. On days when conditions line up, experienced backcountry skiers and snowboarders can take advantage of terrain that is rivaled only by the views below."


 Sony ILCE-1, 1/3200s, f/6.3, ISO 500





WATERSCAPE, 1ST PLACE, JESSE BRADFORD

"The story behind this shot is part joy and part sadness. My daughter was born almost 3 months premature (she's perfect now), so my wife and I had to temporarily move to Reno to spend as much time as we could in the NICU. One morning around Christmas, I came across this beautiful scene on my way to the hospital. It filled me with a joy and hope I had not felt in quite a while. I pulled over quickly to snap a shot and made my way to the hospital with a smile on my face."

 Fujifilm X-T4, 12s, f/11, ISO 160



WATERSCAPE, RUNNER-UP, KATIE CERNY

"Hoover Dam was one of our must-see locations when we first visited Las Vegas, and we were not disappointed! It was a stunning view with Nevada on one side and Arizona on the other. Seeing where the water level used to be was very intriguing."

 Canon Rebel T100, 1/400s, f/5.6, ISO 100



WILDLIFE, 1ST PLACE, PAUL HORSLEY

“This photo was taken in Lamoille Canyon outside of Elko. I owe part of this photo to a man watching the mountain goat with his spotting scope, who showed me where the goat was. It was close to a half mile up the side of the canyon.”

 Canon 7D, 1/1000s, F/9, ISO 400



WILDLIFE, RUNNER-UP, KEN HUYNH

“These bighorn sheep near Pyramid Lake were the hardest species for me to photograph in 2024. They’re often high in the mountain or on almost-vertical cliffs. Not only do I have to be physically fit to climb as high as they do, but I also have to be discreet: One loud move and they disappear in a split second. Lots of planning and hard work, but the result is so satisfying.”

 Sony A7R Mark 5, 1/1250s, F/2.8, ISO 100

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Roger Ports

Tule Peak

 Canon R7, 1/400s, f/5.6, ISO 400



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Anthony Cupaiuolo

Carson Valley

📷 ILCE-1, 1/4000s, f/2.8, ISO 320

Andrew McDonald

Spring Valley

📷 Sony DSC-RX100M6, 1/1000s, f/6.3, ISO 125



STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL



A boarding school for American Indian children becomes one of Nevada's most important cultural institutions.

BY CORY MUNSON

The quiet campus of the Stewart Indian School stands as a memorial to a traumatic—and lingering—chapter in American history. But while the school's early years were marked by cruelty and abuse, it ultimately transformed into a place of pride, community, and

healing. Today, the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum archives the seldom-taught history behind Indian boarding schools. However, the center also lives in the present as a place of gathering that allows visitors to discover northern Nevada's rich Native culture.





A Complex History

Between the early-19th and mid-20th century, the U.S. government helped fund more than 500 boarding schools for American Indian children. These schools were designed to remove children from their Indigenous cultures and assimilate them into American society—often by force. In their new, highly regimented environment, students received Western-sounding names and instruction in (among other things) English, Christianity, and vocational skills.

For decades, students suffered under a system designed to erase their cultural identity. However, by the early 21st century, reports of terrible conditions and abuse inside the schools prompted public outrage. In the 1930s, the government passed progressive policies—known as the Indian New Deal. The schools stopped suppressing Native culture and began reinforcing it.

The Stewart Indian School was founded in 1890 as one of four Indian boarding schools in Nevada. Most of the thousands of students who attended were Washoe, Paiute, and Western Shoshone.



Like nearly all Indian boarding schools, it began as an oppressive place full of painful memories. But as the country changed, so did the school's purpose. Over time, it transitioned into a proud, inclusive institution still fondly remembered by its alumni.

What separates the school today from similar institutions is its state of preservation and its continued role as a community center and visitor destination.

After the school closed in 1980, the state acquired the land, much of which it donated back to the Washoe Tribe. In 2020, the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum opened inside what was once the administrative building. Today, the center is hard at work to restore other campus buildings, including the gymnasium and the auditorium.

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The Center

The center features an art gallery, storytelling room, research library, and—of course—the must-see museum that chronicles the school's near-century-long legacy. The center also hosts classes—open to the public—on traditional cooking, basket weaving, and the medicinal and practical use of plants found in the Great Basin.



The Campus

The 240-acre campus is home to 65 stone buildings, most built by students under the guidance of Hopi stoneworkers. Take a walk on the Stewart Indian School Trail, a self-guided cellphone tour featuring first-person accounts and stories from alumni. Before you set out, be sure to pick up the Stewart Indian School Rock Scavenger Hunt Guide and try to spot all 27 varieties of stone quarried from the Carson area.



The Gift Shop

The school's post office is now the center's gift shop. Its shelves are packed with works by Native artists and artisans—the largest collection of such products in the state. The vibrant display includes tule duck decoys, necklaces and earrings, and fishing rods adorned with glass beads. You'll also find balms, salves, and sprays made from locally harvested pine nut and sage, as well as a large collection of prints and paintings.



The Wa-Pai-Shone Art Gallery

Originally a student-run co-op established in the 1930s, this charming gallery houses a variety of Native art. Most pieces are provided by the Great Basin Native Artists, an organization dedicated to education and creating exhibition opportunities for Native artists. The current exhibit features artwork created by school alumni.



Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Since 1990, the Stewart Indian School grounds have hosted an exciting, weekend-long cultural celebration. The event features artisans, artists, food and craft vendors, and a wide variety of activities, including competitive dancing.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

You'll find gift shops selling Native crafts around the state, including the **Churchill County Museum**, the **Nevada State Museum** in Carson City, the **Nevada Historical Society**, the **Lost City Museum**, and the **Northeastern Nevada Museum**.

RURAL WRANGLERS

RURAL WRANGLERS

RURAL WRANGLERS

ELY

BY CORY MUNSON

This historic town has everything you need for an unforgettable experience.

One of Nevada's oldest communities, Ely was founded in 1870 as a humble service hub for nearby mining towns. But thanks to a bit of luck and some good timing, Ely soon found itself standing on a figurative gold mine, which just happened to be copper.

People had known about the massive copper deposit outside town for years, but the metal had few uses in the 19th century. However, when the nation began electrifying in the early 1900s, copper became the material of the future—and a lucrative one at that. Ely blossomed into eastern Nevada's largest and busiest town—a title it still holds.

Visit Ely today and you'll find plenty of its history on display. You'll also be surrounded by some of the prettiest and most diverse country in the Silver State. Pick any direction out of town and you won't be far from lakes, creeks, piney mountains, and well-preserved ghost towns.

This historic community is set amid spellbinding scenery, but the town also works hard to preserve its heritage through plentiful cultural centers. You're also not going to find a community with as many events, festivals, and celebrations. As we heard last time we passed through, "Ely residents love having an excuse to dress up."

Ready to make Ely your next destination? We've got a few suggestions to get you started.

Nevada Northern Railway

The Nevada Northern Railway (NNRY) was built in 1906 to service the area's copper industry. When the mines closed, its historic diesel and steam engines were kept perfectly preserved. Today, NNRY operates as a leisure train with service to the White Pine Public Museum and hour-long excursions up Steptoe Valley. The railway also offers a diverse selection of themed rides that'll see you racing the train by bike, sipping champagne at sunset, or visiting with Santa. If you're looking for a hands-on experience, sign up to "Be the Engineer" and operate a historic diesel train.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum

While you're at the railway, be sure to stop in at the East Ely Railroad Depot—a state-operated museum located on the second floor above the ticket office. This building-sized time capsule transports visitors to 1983: the year Ely's copper production suddenly halted. At the time, everyone believed layoffs were just temporary, and the depot was locked up until employees could return to work. They never did, and more than 40 years later, parts of the depot feel practically untouched, with employee schedules and calendars on the wall and a fully stocked supply room. The museum also tells the story of Ely's mining past, and some rooms have been masterfully restored to appear as they would have at various time periods.

Ely Renaissance Village

Get a glimpse of life in early Ely with a self-guided stroll through this miniature village featuring 10 historic homes—each representing an ethnic group important to the region. These fully furnished residences are packed with incredible detail and period-specific décor.

McGill Drug Store

This historic drug store remains virtually unchanged from how customers would have seen it when it was in operation (1908-1979). Although the soda fountain is no longer slingin' malts, it's still easy to spend hours perusing antique beauty products, toys, or the century-old prescription logbook.





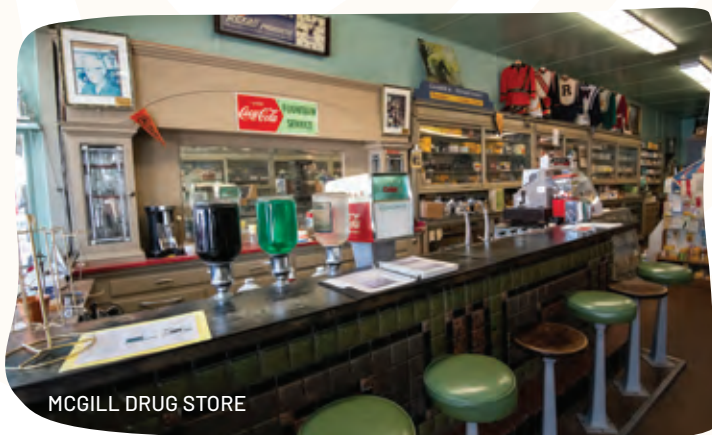
EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM



ELY RENAISSANCE VILLAGE



WHITE PINE PUBLIC MUSEUM



MCGILL DRUG STORE

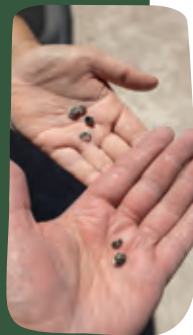
White Pine Public Museum

Get a crash course in the history of eastern Nevada at this artifact-packed museum. From the replica cave bear skeleton to a collection of oddball heritage finds—ask about the preserved foot—this museum punches well above its weight. Outside, check out various historic structures, including a jail cell and the historic Cherry Creek Railroad Depot.

DAY TRIP IDEAS

♦ Garnet Hill 9 miles

If searching for gems sounds like a good way to spend the day, look no further than Garnet Hill just outside of Ely. This popular rockhounding spot is famous for its red, multifaceted stones that litter the ground. Along with plentiful plundering possibilities, Garnet Hill is a developed day-use area complete with accessible bathrooms and four picnic sites with grills.



♦ Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park 20 miles

Literally step inside history at these 140-year-old relics, which were masterfully constructed to create charcoal for the region's first mining towns. Trails within the park provide hiking and biking along Willow Creek, where the mining explosion began.



♦ Great Basin National Park 55 miles

Established in 1986, Nevada's only national park is one of the most isolated and least-visited parks in the country. Home to glaciers, snow-capped peaks, and ancient bristlecone forests, this high desert oasis offers unrivaled hiking and camping experiences in the summer and fall. After stopping at the visitor center or scheduling a tour of the stunning Lehman Caves, grab a low-altitude or high-altitude (10,000') campsite—or just check into a comfortable room in Baker—before setting out on some of the state's best hikes.





SUCCESS LOOP

Hit The Trails

The country surrounding Ely is rugged and diverse with no shortage of green canyons, alpine creeks, or piney foothills to explore. If you want to get somewhere, odds are you'll find a developed trail for every skill level. We recommend you visit ohv.nv.gov to discover your next ride, but here are a few ideas.

OHV

Success Loop

Also accessible by car, this popular scenic route between Ely and McGill winds through ranchland, aspen groves, and mountain passes.

Hamilton Ghost Town

Get acquainted with the extensive trail system of the Shellback Ridge by visiting one of the best-preserved mining districts in the county.

MOUNTAIN BIKE

Cave Lake State Park

This popular park is home to a diverse network of loops and trails with climbs ranging from easy to challenging and thrilling descents.

Ward Mountain Recreation Area

Two well-signed trailheads offer single track and double track leading to great views earned by a steady climb.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Skip the hassle of hauling your off-road vehicle and rent instead with Eastern Nevada Adventures. Pick up your ride at their downtown headquarters or ask for a drop-off at the RV park, trailhead, or campsite of your choice.



CAVE LAKE STATE PARK



HAMILTON GHOST TOWN

GRUB ON

Ely's diverse cuisine scene features fine-dining Italian, acclaimed food trucks, and plenty of quality pizza and burgers. Don't miss their just-opened restaurants: JT's Steakhouse (inside the Ramada Copper Queen), Hector's Cellblock Steakhouse, and Smash N Grab (both located inside the Jailhouse Hotel). Not sure where to start? Here are a few of our favorites.

Economy Drug & Old-Fashioned Fountain



Margarita's Mexican Restaurant & Steak House



Mr. Gino's Restaurant & Bar



Racks Bar and Grill



Robert Adamo (bicyclist)

Your New Year's Resolution: Make Tracks to Ely, Nevada



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THROUGH THE LENS NEVADA'S WILD NORTHWEST

Two photographers capture the rugged landscapes of the state's most remote corner.

BY ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRIA OLIVARES-WENZEL & KIPPY SPILKER





Me walking into Fly Canyon.

During my senior year of high school, I took a trip to the Black Rock Desert. I remember sitting in the back seat as we drove through Wadsworth and Nixon, past mysterious Pyramid Lake, and into the unknown toward the tiny town of Gerlach.

The landscape was alien to me; at that point in my life, I hadn't explored outside the Gardnerville-Carson City-Reno area, and I had no idea what secrets hid in the Nevada desert. When we arrived, it was afternoon. The way the light beamed down onto the mountains broke my brain. I had zero sense of direction, and it felt like we were witnessing early morning light.

We spent the day trekking around on dirt roads. Someone in the car said the roads connected the Black Rock Desert to Winnemucca. All I could think was why the heck anyone would want to travel via dirt roads.

Little did I know, my job would take me on some of those very roads 13 years later.



Kippy standing in awe over Soldier Meadows Hot Springs.

Getting (Way) Out There

After weeks of planning and research, Art Director Kippy Spilker and I packed the company 4Runner with supplies and photography gear and headed off into one of the most remote corners of Nevada. Neither of us had been beyond Gerlach or the Black Rock Desert, so this trip was a thrilling opportunity to get out and experience a part of the state relatively few have seen.

The land north of the Black Rock Desert is spectacularly remote. There are no towns or services, and you are very unlikely to come across other people. Despite being so far from civilization, there was life everywhere. Birds raced alongside our car, antelope sprang to life, and burros watched us cautiously—yet curiously—from afar. In all my travels, I have never encountered as much wildlife as I did on this trip.



Nevada is a very geothermally active state, so hot springs are fairly common. This hot spring is located in Smoke Creek Desert.



One of the many herds of antelope we passed in Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.



A first-come, first-served BLM cabin located near the western entrance to Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

JUST A HEADS-UP

There is no cell service out here. Do not rely on your cellphone to get out of a pickle!

The fateful road where I earned my off-road badge. We were trying to reach Yellow Canyon, but this way led to a dead end.



At Virgin Valley Campground & Warm Spring, the ponds are warm year-round.



Beautiful hawk posting up on a rock in Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.



South entrance to High Rock Canyon. This section of the trip was the most stressful for me due to the road conditions.

Taking the Road Less Traveled

In this corner of Nevada, obsidian shards are just about everywhere you look, including on the road. This—coupled with large rocks—made driving pretty slow. Kippy did most of the dirt road driving: I had developed a small fear of off-roading, fueled by a combination of people intentionally scaring me on the road and chronic anxiety.

The main dirt roads we took were maintained and graded, but once we ventured off Nevada State Routes (S.R.) 34 and 8A, road conditions varied greatly depending on how frequently the roads were used—most were not maintained.

At one point, I played 20 Questions: Off-Road Edition with Kippy, asking her everything that came to mind about how to drive on this terrain. Before I knew it, I found myself behind the wheel—heart rate slightly elevated, but driving (very, very slowly) on the somewhat-sketchy road we had come in on. Look mom, both hands!

I can now say that I am officially part of the unofficial off-roading club. Those I travel with in the near future may breathe a sigh of relief knowing they won't have to shoulder all the burden of off-road driving.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The best time to view the Milky Way in Nevada is between May and September.



The Milky Way over the Black Rock Desert. I have never seen the galactic core this bright before. There are many reasons to explore past city limits, but this view alone is worth any amount of driving.

WHAT'S IN OUR BAGS?

This part of the state is very remote, so it's important you are equipped to handle any situation life throws at you. Here's a list of some of what we carried with us.

- ✦ 1 gallon of water per person per day
- ✦ Food for the entire week
- ✦ Printed atlas
- ✦ Maps of the area, downloaded on a smartphone for offline use
- ✦ Spare tire
- ✦ Tire repair kit
- ✦ Air compressor
- ✦ Garmin GPS tracker (with upgraded plan to send messages without cell service)
- ✦ "Chuck Dodd's Guide to Getting Around in the Black Rock Desert & High Rock Canyon"
- ✦ Sunscreen
- ✦ Insect repellent
- ✦ First aid kit

For a comprehensive guide on what to bring and how to be a desert wanderer, scan the QR code below.





Moon mug that I purchased from Planet X Pottery with a Guru Road rock in the background.

We drove 951 miles. About 55 percent of the trip— 523 miles—was on dirt. Our average speed was 20.7 mph.



The entrance to Thousand Creek Gorge. The road was a bit rough, but the views were worth the trek!

In Spite of Everything

This trip was an absolute whirlwind. We spent countless hours hopping in and out of the car capturing photos, soaking in the sights, and having many tense moments hoping we wouldn't have to shift into 4X4 low to get unstuck. We were treated to unmatched desert landscapes few people have seen, but it was a relief to return to civilization after spending days of seeing almost no sign of people.

It was rewarding to return to Gerlach and the Black Rock Desert more than a decade later and relive those memories. I'm incredibly grateful a younger me was able to visit otherworldly places like this, and I'm thankful for the opportunities I have now to explore areas, new and old.

Who knows, maybe one day I will return and take that dirt road that connects the Black Rock Desert to Winnemucca. Just to say I did.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Always check road conditions before heading out. If it has recently rained or looks like it's going to rain, do not attempt to travel on dirt roads. Most roads are not maintained in winter and undergo seasonal closures.

Stevens Camp at the north end of High Rock Canyon.



GHOST TOWN PRIMER

**A quick history—
plus how-to
guide—for visiting
the state's many
uninhabited burgs.**

BY MEGG MUELLER



RHYOLITE



Nevada is known for many things: Las Vegas, mining, and wide-open spaces, for example. While some people may be aware, it's perhaps less known that the state is home to more ghost towns than currently populated ones.

Many states have ghost towns, but here, there are more than 600 spread across the desert landscape. That figure outnumbers populated towns almost five-to-one, based on the approximately 175 zip-coded locales in the state.

So just how did Nevada end up with so many places no one wanted to call home any longer? And what is a ghost town, exactly? Are there really “living” ghost towns? Read on for the answers to these questions and more.



AURORA MAIN STREET IN THE EARLY 1900S



So Much More Than Just a Desert

Nevada's geology played a significant role in creating these often-short-lived towns. Rich mineral deposits—particularly gold and silver—dotted the landscape, just waiting to be discovered.

When such potential wealth was found, it would spark a rush to the area. Overnight, towns sprang up around mining sites because where the prospectors went, support businesses followed; grocery stores, mining supplies, hotels, and of course, saloons rose up as fast as the miners' tents. You can't throw a rock in Nevada without hitting a town that can claim it was once the largest in the state, if only for a short while.

Mining activity fluctuated as easily found ore was depleted and a new claim was found elsewhere in the state. This led to the boom-and-bust cycle responsible for so many of the rapidly vacated towns we see today.

University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections (old Aurora photo)



HAMILTON

Location, Location

Another factor in the proliferation of ghost towns was the often-remote nature of the ore discoveries. Lucky prospectors might stumble upon a rich deposit while simply traveling to the next town, and if ore was found in an incredibly secluded location, it didn't stop people from coming in droves. Towns would spring up in harsh environments, far from major cities or infrastructure, and when the silver or gold ran dry, people were just as quick to leave. These locations made it challenging for people who wished to remain: a lack of water, harsh weather conditions, and isolation all contributed to the decline of these settlements.



REVEILLE

Future Forward

While prospectors raced around the state in search of fortunes, leaving a trail of now-you-see-it, now-you-don't towns in their wake, another factor began to have impact.

As mining techniques evolved, older methods and infrastructure became obsolete. Towns dependent on outdated practices often struggled to survive as newer mines and more efficient methods were developed elsewhere. Once the easily mined ore was gone, towns that used slower—and often more-costly—methods of extraction to get the harder-to-find samples simply couldn't compete. People moved on to potentially greener pastures.

Along those same lines, the development of railroads greatly affected the fortunes of Nevada's towns. Settlements that were well-connected to rail lines prospered, and new ones sprung up to take advantage as well. Those reliant on more pedestrian means faced tough challenges: Supply issues and the difficulty of moving mined ore to market caused a natural exodus to towns better situated near railways.



BUCKET LIST TOWNS

In the more than 10 years at this magazine's helm, I've been fortunate enough to visit many ghost towns. While everyone's tastes differ, my favorites run toward the completely empty, seriously out-there variety. Here are a few of my favorites, in no particular order.

Delamar



Eberhardt



Stateline



Sprucemont District



Humboldt City



Bristol Well





ADA H. MINE



GRANTSVILLE

Step Into History

The misfortunes of these pioneering Nevada towns were many, but through today's lens, we could consider them good luck. Visiting these once-bustling settlements is a fantastic way to explore Nevada's wide-open space. But what can you expect to find when you venture to one of these towns? The short answer is just about anything.

Some towns are barely recognizable by a couple stone foundations or the scant remnants of mining operations. Other times, you'll round a bend in the road to discover half a dozen or more structures rising amid a landscape that is working hard to reclaim the land.

Not knowing what is out there is half the fun for some. These intrepid folk grab a map or get directions from a book or website and head out to discover what may (or may not) be left. For others, rigorous research is required to determine not only the location but the current state of the ghost town. These folks read about the town's history and look for the latest updates from fellow travelers. The good news is whichever way you choose to ghost town (yep, it's a verb), there are plenty of locations to satisfy.

Make A Plan

Many choose which ghost town to visit based on proximity, but if you're looking for a great reason to take a road trip, you couldn't find a better one. Whether you plan the ghost town visits around the road trip, or vice versa, you'll be sure to have a memorable time. If you don't have any towns in mind, check out travelnevada.com/ghosttown for suggestions on some tried-and-true locations.

Over time, some towns have been deemed honorary ghost towns due to historical origins and current things to see, but they don't fall under the definition of a ghost town for one specific reason: People still live there. These living ghost towns are worth a visit, but please be aware that sometimes residents may not love having their home called a ghost town; always be respectful of private property.



GOLD POINT



FORT CHURCHILL

BUY THE BOOK

If you're interested in reading about first-hand ghost town experiences, pick up "Odyssey of a Ghost Town Explorer" by Nevada Magazine. You'll find 12 stories covering more than 70 ghost towns, plus see historical and current images. Visit nevadamagazine.com/shop to learn more.



That advice goes for the uninhabited ghost towns as well. While a building might look abandoned, it could very well be privately owned, just not currently occupied. Even if these places "look" abandoned, don't assume anything and make sure that you practice Leave No Trace ethics. And don't forget Leave No Trace also means don't take anything but pictures while visiting.

Visiting ghost towns is an incredible way to feed many birds with one scone: These excursions often combine road trips with history, education with outdoor recreation, and family fun with low-cost adventure. Consider this your invitation to make history come alive.



ENTER

-the-

OASIS

Kick off the holiday season in Fallon with the traditional Christmas tree lighting on **December 6th at 6:00 PM**, a cherished Northern Nevada event celebrating nearly a century of magic!

Experience the joy of winter at the 2nd Annual Fallon on Ice, opening on **Saturday, November 16th**. Skate with friends and family in a beautifully decorated winter wonderland, where there's fun for everyone—whether you're a seasoned pro or just looking to enjoy the season.

Celebrate the community with festive lights, music, and the spirit of the holidays. Don't miss out on these unforgettable experiences!



SCAN TO ENTER THE OASIS



WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

No matter your interests, the Silver State hosts plenty of great events to keep you busy throughout the season. Remember that dates are always subject to change, so be sure to verify before making plans!



MORE
UPCOMING
EVENTS



'Polar Express' On The V&T Railroad

Carson City

November & December

What better way to start the holiday season than with a ride to the North Pole? As the train winds its way along this historic rail line, the whole family will enjoy hot chocolate, a visit from Santa, and a reading of the classic children's book. Get your tickets soon—this event sells out fast!



Pahrump Social Powwow

Pahrump

Nov. 22-24

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



Christmas On The Comstock Virginia City Dec. 1-31

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



Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Las Vegas Dec. 5-14

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



Reno Santa Pub Crawl Reno Dec. 14

Dress up in your most festive holiday attire and join 20,000 other holiday revelers for a spirited event across more than 40 participating bars. It might go without saying, but this event is for the 21+ crowd.



Mesquite Hot Air Balloon Festival Mesquite Jan. 24-26

Enjoy warm winter climes during this lofty, two-day festival. Free to attend and open to all ages, this event sees dozens of hot air balloons mass ascending at sunrise and sunset.



National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Elko Jan. 27-Feb. 1

Drawing cowpokes and urban cowboys from across the world, this acclaimed event celebrates Western culture—particularly spoken word, music, and artisan craft. The Gathering evolved from the early days of buckaroo storytelling and is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

NEVADA STATE MUSEUMS

HOURS AND ADMISSION GUIDE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM CARSON CITY

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

=====

Adults \$8
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM BOULDER CITY

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

=====

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



EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM

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

=====

General Admission FREE
Tour Grounds \$8

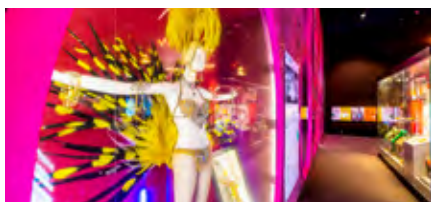


NEVADA STATE MUSEUM CARSON CITY

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

=====

Adults \$10
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

Thursday-Monday
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

=====

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



LOST CITY MUSEUM OVERTON

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

=====

Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE

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



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RENO

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

=====

Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE

SCAN FOR
MORE
INFORMATION:

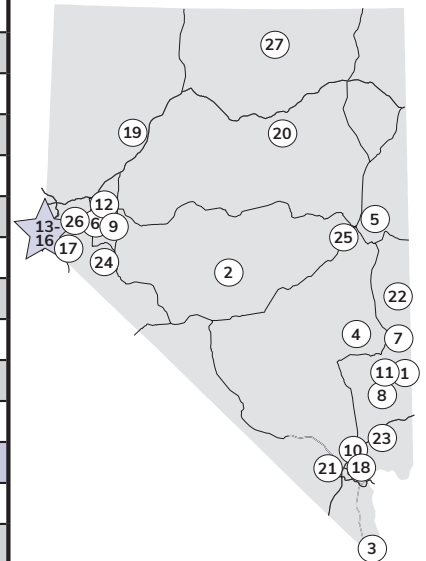


STATE PARKS DIRECTORY



	Camping	RV Dump Station	Restrooms	Group Camping	Showers	Visitor Center	Boat Launch	Trails	Fishing	Maximum Size RV Space
1. Beaver Dam State Park	•		•	•				•	•	28'
2. Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park	•	•	•	•		•		•		25'
3. Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	60'
4. Cathedral Gorge State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		40'
5. Cave Lake State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	35'
6. Dayton State Park	•		•	•				•	•	34'
7. Echo Canyon State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	25'
8. Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site										N/A
9. Fort Churchill State Historic Park	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	45'
10. Ice Age Fossils State Park			•			•		•		N/A
11. Kershaw-Ryan State Park	•	•	•		•			•	•	30'
12. Lahontan State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	60'
13. Cave Rock State Park			•				•		•	N/A
14. Sand Harbor State Park			•			•	•	•	•	N/A
15. Spooner Lake & Backcountry State Park	•		•			•		•	•	N/A
16. Van Sickle Bi-State Park			•					•		N/A
17. Mormon Station State Historic Park			•			•				N/A
18. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park			•			•		•		N/A
19. Rye Patch State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	45'
20. South Fork State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	30'
21. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park			•			•		•		N/A
22. Spring Valley State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	35'
23. Valley of Fire State Park	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		60'
24. Walker River State Recreation Area	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	40'
25. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park	•		•	•				•	•	30'
26. Washoe Lake State Park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	45'
27. Wild Horse State Recreation Area	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	45'

Spoooner Lake & Backcountry State Park



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

MAKE YOUR NEXT TRIP A **ROAD TRIP**

Fancy yourself a foodie?
A die-hard history buff?
A thrill-seeking adventure
junkie? All of the above and
beyond? Perfect. With these
road trip ideas—whichever
corner of the state you
venture to—you're bound
to uncover unexpected
encounters, memorable
characters, and only-in-
Nevada experiences.

Scan for more
info on Nevada
road trips



BURNER BYWAY

110 to 250 miles | 2 to 4 days

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



LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

375 to 500 miles | 3 days

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



DEATH VALLEY RALLY

Up to 370 miles | 3 to 4 days

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



GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

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



Read more
about a
road trip
for those
seeking a
wild (West)
adventure
on pg. 36.



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.



FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

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



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.



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



LAKE TAHOE LOOP

145 miles | 2 to 5 days

World-famous Lake

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



EXTRATERRESTRIAL HIGHWAY

100 to 470 miles | 2 days

Prepare to rocket off into one of Nevada's most remote and mysterious corridors. Along the way, you'll see one of the deepest craters in the U.S., hunt for UFOs just miles outside Area 51, stay in a clown-themed motel, and score some alien swag.



RUBIES ROUTE

30 to 375 miles | 2 to 5 days

With Elko as your hub,

get ready to explore a 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.



RECREATE

Nevada is a beautiful place, but one of its best qualities—and the reason folks make repeat visits—is that most of it belongs to everybody. More than 80 percent of Nevada is public, which means our lakes, deserts, valleys, marshes, and mountains are for everyone to enjoy. With that said, it's up to you to protect the land and keep Nevada pristine for the next generation.

WILDFIRE WATCHOUT

Battling natural wildfires is difficult enough, so let's not add human-caused ones to the mix. Preventable blazes are started by campfire embers, vehicle undercarriages, hot bullet casings, and more. Practice situational awareness and always be aware of local fire restrictions.

WHERE YOU'RE GOING, THERE'S A ROAD

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

HERE'S YOUR SIGN

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

TREAD LIGHTLY!

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

RESPONSIBLY

ANIMAL INSTINCT

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

STAR CAMPERS

Nevada's night skies are some of the darkest in the Lower 48, and many visitors take to remote campgrounds for our unrivaled galactic view. Be mindful of the light pollution you bring with you: It doesn't take much to blow out another camper's night vision.

DIRT ROAD CODE

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

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP



Scan for more info
on the Dirt Road Code

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



THE FINAL WORD

MELISSA CLARY

NM&VG: You've worked on saving the Huntridge Theater in Las Vegas and restoring the Gem Theater in Pioche—which you own. What draws you to theaters?

MC: I love old theater architecture. There is something magical about the different styles of old stand-alone movie houses—from gaudy, more ornate designs, to simple Art Deco.

NM&VG: What other restoration or public works projects have you been involved with?

MC: For the City of Las Vegas, I worked in Parks and Recreation and helped oversee restoration of several historic structures, including the Floyd Lamb ranch house and other public facilities. One of my proudest accomplishments during my tenure with Veterans Affairs was the construction of several Colorado clinics and the Denver Medical Center replacement project.

NM&VG: What do you like about this type of work?

MC: There is nothing like the completion of a building or park: They benefit the community and make you feel that you've really done something bigger than yourself. I think I picked that up from my father. He worked in construction and was always so proud to drive by a building he worked on.

NM&VG: Did your father help foster your passion for community involvement?

MC: Yes, my dad was very engaged in the community and had strong political opinions. It's not difficult for me to speak up for what's right or to advocate for the betterment of the community. Losing my dad at a young age instilled in me a fearless spirit and willingness to take risks.

NM&VG: What have you learned in your decade-plus of public service?



For this issue, we spoke to community activist Melissa Clary. A resident of both urban Las Vegas and rural Pioche, Clary has overseen and promoted a variety of southern Nevada conservancy projects.

MC: It takes a village to be engaged and help organize in the community. Without interested and engaged volunteers, no single cause can progress. It can be challenging because contrarians can be the most vocal and appear loudest. But if you have faith in your mission and the work at hand, you can keep going and ignore the critics.

NM&VG: Are there any notable similarities or differences between urban and rural communities?

MC: There are common threads, such as the challenge of working within slow government procedural frameworks or finding gaps in communication and building consensus in communities. What is so utterly apparent is how much rural communities accomplish with less. Residents in rural areas step up and help others time and time again, which is so heartwarming to witness. While I have experienced it in our urban counties, it does not compare to the extent of camaraderie I see in rural areas.

NM&VG: What's the easiest way for people to get involved in their community?

MC: Choose an issue you are passionate about. If you love animals, assist at a local rescue organization. If you are concerned about your child's school, attend a PTA meeting. By simply showing up to a meeting or requesting a tour of an organization's operation, you can find where you may fit in or offer a needed skill set.

NM&VG: If I am going to Pioche, when should I go and what should I do?

MC: Between Memorial Day and Labor Day: It is less likely to snow, and we enjoy cooler temperatures than Las Vegas by about 20 degrees. I recommend people see the Gem Theater's refurbished neon marquee lit up at night, check out the five area state parks, and attend the annual Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo or Pioche Labor Days.

Visit TONOPAH

& discover
the Old West



MIZPAH HOTEL
~1907~



Warm Your Spirit in Tonopah This Winter

This winter, escape the ordinary and step into the enchanting world of Tonopah, Nevada. Nestle into the historic charm of the Mizpah and Belvada Hotels, where luxury meets legacy, surrounded by the timeless allure of Nevada's silver mining history. Just a stroll away, warm up with a hearty brew at Tonopah Brewing Co., where the winter ales are as rich in flavor as the town is in tales.



BELVADA HOTEL
TONOPAH, NEVADA



TONOPAH
BREWING Co.



Top 4 Things to do in Tonopah, NV

- 1 Tonopah Historic Mining Park
- 2 Central Nevada Museum
- 3 Old Tonopah Cemetery
- 4 Ghost Tours at Mizpah Hotel

CLINE
FAMILY HOTELS

HISTORIC HOTELS
of AMERICA
National Trust for Historic Preservation



THEMIZPAHHOTEL.COM

BELVADAHOTEL.COM

TONOPAHBREWING.COM

Winter wonderland.
Adventure at hand.
More 'wow' than you can stand.
Go on. Get a little out there.



BE A
LITTLE
OUT
THERE.

