
RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY SPECIAL EDITION
NEVADA
MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011
LOVELY LAKES & PERFECT PARKS
RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY
17 HISTORIC TOWNS
24 IRRESISTIBLE EVENTS
BLACK ROCK DESERT
15 SENSATIONAL SKI RESORTS
75th ANNIVERSARY
1936 | 2011



Every now and then you need to defy convention with a good dose of whoop it up, let your hair down and paint the town red. In Nevada, we pit Lady Luck and her late night shenanigans against Mother Nature and her untracked early morning glades. This winter, throw some hijinks in the face of the mundane and join us lakeside at one of Tahoe's 18 world-class resorts.

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RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY SPECIAL EDITION

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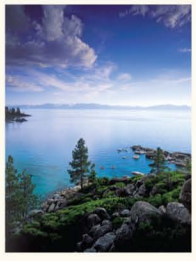
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The Perfect Holiday Gift!

See page 49 to learn how you and friends and family can give the gift of *Nevada Magazine.*



Cover Photo:
Chris Talbot

Two kayakers paddle on Lake Tahoe near the shore of Sand Harbor in Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park.

FEATURES



Downhill Delight

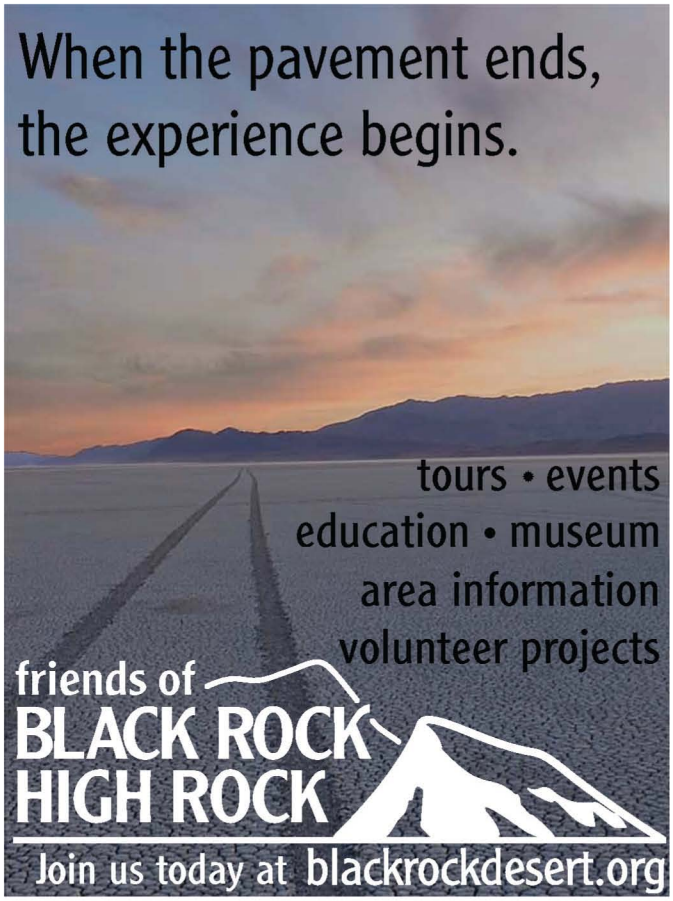
Just about every cliché in the lodge has been thrown at the collection of downhill ski resorts that populate the Lake Tahoe region. And try as they might, none of the fawning descriptions even come close to doing them justice. So let's just stick to the facts: more than 25,000 skiable acres, peak elevations above 10,000 feet, up to 3,500 vertical feet of drop, nearly 1,000 designated trails, and almost 200 chairlifts at 15 downhill resorts. And we haven't even touched on cross-country amenities.



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Touring Reno-Tahoe Territory's Towns

From Carson City to Washoe City, the towns in Reno-Tahoe Territory are historic and varied. After learning about the origins of these pleasant burgs, and what they offer travelers today, you'll discover that northwestern Nevada is a region where traditional and modern seamlessly coexist.



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PHOTO: THOMAS GRAY

THIS ISSUE ON NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

- *Nevada Magazine's* summer intern reflects on the history of and her weekend ride on the **Virginia & Truckee Railroad.** By Cristiana Corrao
- Writer, curmudgeon, humorist, and social commentator—this writer could only be describing legendary Nevadan **Mark Twain.** By Chris Carney
- Carson Valley has long been a destination for people who love the outdoors, so take a hike with **Carson Valley Trail Association.** By Joyce Hollister
- A Kazakhstan visitor, via the **Legislative Fellows Program**, reports on his autumn exploration of Reno-Tahoe Territory. By Vitaliy Shuptar
- The **Griswold cabins** alongside the Silver State OHV Trail in Lincoln County are a must-see slice of Nevada history. By Chris Hanefeld

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WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Christel Hall: My husband just brought home the Sept/Oct issue. Looking forward to reading the article on the Lincoln County state parks.—Google+

jenniferFOX5: Read @Nevada_ Magazine this morning. We sure live in a beautiful unique state. Thanks for showing off the side of Nevada rarely seen.—Twitter

Randy Closson: Happy 75th Nevada Magazine! Like what you've done. Keep up the great work…a Nevadan subscriber.—Facebook

Sally Hanrahan: Wow! I love Nevada…can't wait to go to Cathedral Gorge State Park.—Flickr, commenting on September/October 2011 cover

WORTH A CLICK

renotahoe.com

Find events by area, photo galleries, group tour information, detailed maps—even request a visitor guide—at Reno-Tahoe Territory's official website.

FEATURED PHOTO COLLECTION

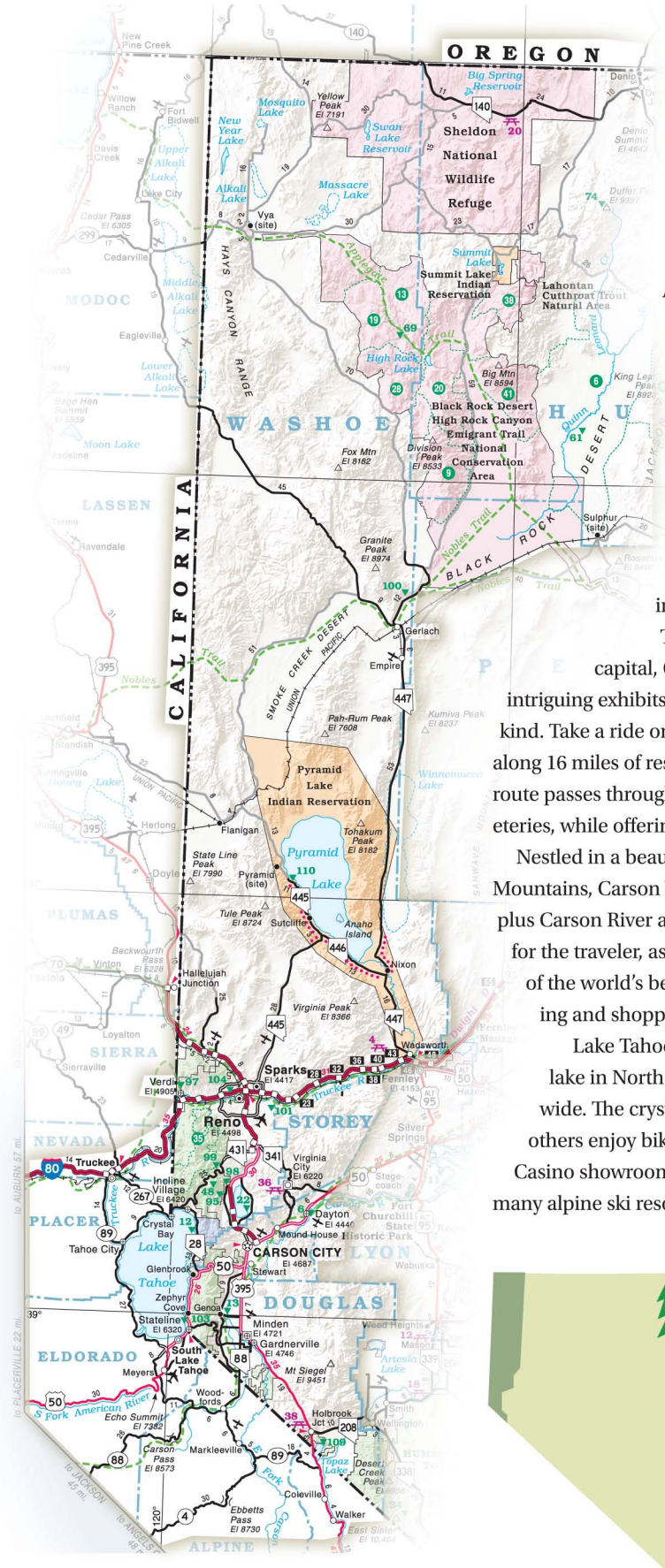
Reno-Tahoe Territory: Visit our Flickr profile, and click on "Collections," then "Reno-Tahoe Territory," to see images from our travels in Nevada, including Virginia City's Mackay Mansion Museum, Reno Aces Ballpark, and the Virginia & Truckee Railroad.

FEATURED PHOTO COLLECTION

75 Years of Covers: 2011 marks *Nevada Magazine's* Diamond Anniversary. Enjoy 75 years (1936-2011) of *Nevada Highways and Parks* and *Nevada Magazine* history by visiting our Flickr profile and clicking on "Collections," then "Cover Images."

FEATURED VIDEO

The Great Reno Balloon Race: Visit our YouTube page to watch two videos from the popular hot-air balloon event, held annually at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. See the "Nevada" balloon rise up as the "Star Wars" theme song plays.



Welcome to Reno-Tahoe Territory!

Reno—The Biggest Little City in the World—has world-class gaming, dining, and entertainment coupled with the beautiful downtown Riverwalk District and Truckee River Whitewater Park attractions. Museums include the Nevada Museum of Art, National Automobile Museum, and the new Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum. Take in a baseball game at the Reno Aces Triple-A ballpark, or scale the world's tallest rock-climbing wall at the new CommRow. The Summit Reno and nearby Outlets at Legends in neighboring Sparks are premier dining, entertainment, and shopping destinations.

Just 30 minutes from Reno, Virginia City is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A visit to this historic mining town—once home to Mark Twain—provides hours of adventure in Nevada's Wild West. From its wooden boardwalks to authentic mansions, churches, museums, saloons, and antique stores, you can step back in time and rest easy in one of its charming bed and breakfasts.

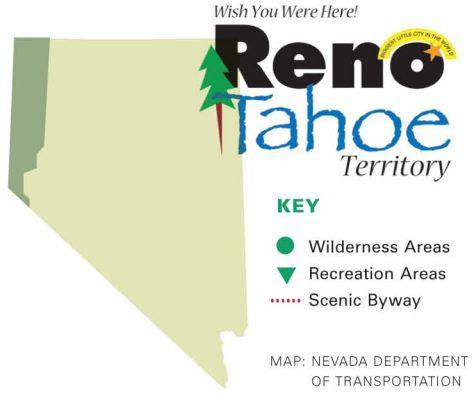
The history of the American West also comes to life in Nevada's state capital, Carson City. The Nevada State Museum and the Capitol present intriguing exhibits, while the Nevada State Railroad Museum is one of the finest of its kind. Take a ride on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad's vintage steam and diesel trains along 16 miles of restored track between nearby Mound House and Virginia City. The route passes through two tunnels and past abandoned mine shafts and historic cemeteries, while offering occasional sightings of wild mustangs.

Nestled in a beautiful broad valley between the Sierra Nevada and the Pine Nut Mountains, Carson Valley is home to the towns of Genoa, Gardnerville, and Minden, plus Carson River and Topaz Lake. That combination delivers a remarkable playground for the traveler, as nearly every type of outdoor recreation imaginable (including one of the world's best locations for soaring) share space with a surprising array of dining and shopping choices.

Lake Tahoe, surrounded by snow-capped mountains, is the largest alpine lake in North America at 6,229 feet above sea level, 22 miles long, and 12 miles wide. The crystal-clear blue waters beckon boaters, water-skiers, and anglers while others enjoy biking, horseback riding, sightseeing, camping, golfing, and shopping. Casino showrooms and cabarets entertain nightly. The area is also famous for its many alpine ski resorts and winter recreation such as cross-country skiing, sleigh riding, and snowmobiling.

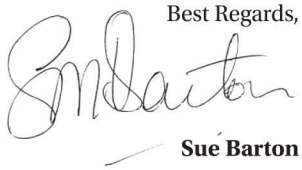
From breathtaking scenery to world-class skiing, golf, gaming, entertainment, dining, and Old West flair, you'll find it all in Reno-Tahoe Territory.

Wish You Were Here!



MAP: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Best Regards,



Sue Barton
Reno-Tahoe Territory Chair

closing the book on 75 years

Recently a colleague put a folder on my desk labeled, "Nevada Mag.—background." Some things sit in the editor pile for far too long, but I didn't hesitate to dig into this treasure trove.

Among the folder's contents was an excerpt, written by F.G. Greulich, from the Tenth Biennial Report of the Department of Highways, printed in 1936. Greulich, then the publicity director for the department, was also the founding editor of our parent publication, *Nevada Highways & Parks*.



Diamond Peak Ski Resort

In the report, Greulich writes, "The Department has set a high standard for this publication in the selection of textural matter, as well as photographs for reproduction, to portray the many natural advantages, as well as cultural features, found in the State." I thought, Greulich could just as well be explaining today's *Nevada Magazine*.

As I read on—a retirement letter from longtime Department of Highways photographer Adrian Atwater; an interview with Bill Engel, former assistant editor; former Editor Donald L. Bowers' 1980 obituary; a 1975 Editor's Note written by Judy Casey—those feelings of appreciation for what we do flooded back.

It's been an enduring sentiment throughout 2011, since we published the 75th-Anniversary Edition to the printing of this issue you're holding in your hands: We are extremely proud to carry the torch passed on by Greulich, Atwater, Bowers, et al, and we appreciate now more than ever our advertisers, subscribers, and general supporters. We have the distinct honor of publishing a bimonthly magazine about the great State of Nevada, and we are thrilled to share it in print and online.

We would also like to take this time to welcome Claudia Vecchio, the first director of the new Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. We look forward with great enthusiasm to our continued promotion of Nevada tourism under her guidance.

Please enjoy this homage to Reno-Tahoe Territory, our final 2011 special edition dedicated to Nevada's six tourism territories.

Here's to another 75 years, and I'll see you on the slopes!



Matthew B. Brown, Editor
editor@nevadamagazine.com

letters to the editor

RAVE REVIEW

The [September/October 2011] issue is a triumph! Your magazine has become exactly what I always wanted it to be—plenty of history coupled with favorite exploring destinations in my second favorite state (California is still No. 1). Keep up the good work. I really look forward to future issues.

Roger Goad, Belmont, California

THE "NV" OF ARIZONA

I continue to hear nothing but positive comments about the [July/August 2011 Indian Territory] magazine. I was at the American Indian Tourism Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona [in September], and the Arizona Office of Tourism staff person commented that she was "jealous" of our magazine! We had a booth there, and the magazine was definitely the draw…they went just as soon as we put them out on the table!

Sherry Rupert, Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director

ON A STEEL HORSE THEY RIDE

Some of [my co-workers] saw the article about The Loneliest Road [in the March/April 2011 issue]. They put it into their plans after Sturgis, South Dakota, and rode their steel horses Pony Express-style on the Lonely [U.S. Highway 50]. They loved the ride, not the helmet law.

Two families got together and went to a dude ranch in Cowboy Country with their young-ins. Stopped in Fallon, and Reno, before heading home. They had a good time. They read about ranches in *Nevada Magazine*.

…The hunters here have expressed interest in Jarbidge. They saw a small piece in your magazine, and it piqued their interest.

Mike Sheehan, Addison, Illinois

EVENTS & SHOWS ...CONTINUED



I have been a subscriber to *Nevada Magazine* for many years and am very pleased with the new format and elimination of extensive calendar listings in the September/October edition, making room for many pages of fascinating reading about places in Nevada.



Really sad that you took this out of the magazine, as it is the first thing I looked at when *Nevada Magazine* came—to see what shows I wanted to see. You just keep giving me more and more reasons to stop my subscription.

THE VERDICT

We share the above e-mails (senders purposely kept anonymous) with readers to give you an idea of the spectrum of responses we received concerning the removal of our Events & Shows calendars in our previous September/October issue.

While the feedback for and against was roughly half and half—mostly out-of-state subscribers voiced their support of the listings—we have decided that we will reinstitute the listings starting with our January/February 2012 issue. Although the listings will be condensed in some manner to take up fewer pages, we should be able to devise a fair compromise.

GO ONLINE

While some people aired their frustration at finding information online, we do want to remind readers that this option is still available and quite user-friendly. There are a couple of ways to get free Events & Shows information from our website, **nevadamagazine.com**:

1. Visit our homepage, and look to the upper left of the screen. There will be an easy-to-find clickable graphic that will take users to a landing page featuring electronic turning books of our sister publications, *Las Vegas Events & Shows* and *Nevada Events & Shows*. You can "flip" through these just as you would the print publications.

2. Visit our website, and look for the "events & shows" tab. Hover over it, and wait for a drop-down menu to appear. You will have the option of clicking on "Southern Nevada" or "Northern Nevada." At those respective landing pages, look for an underlined PDF-download message in blue.

Thanks,



Matthew B. Brown, Editor
editor@nevadamagazine.com





KNOW YOUR NEVADA

Dear Friends,

This edition of *Nevada Magazine* explores the marvelous Reno-Tahoe Territory, a dynamic and scenic part of Northern Nevada that runs from tranquil Topaz Lake in the south, winds through historic Carson Valley and Carson City, journeys north into the bustling urban area of Reno-Sparks, meanders into remote northern Washoe County, and crescendos into the mountain areas of Incline Village and Lake Tahoe.



Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki

The Reno-Tahoe Territory truly has something special for every visitor. Features include the entertainment and glitz of The Biggest Little City in the World, the rich history of Genoa—one of the first settlements in Nevada—and the towering 10,663-foot summit of Jobs Peak presiding over the Carson Range.

The Reno-Tahoe Territory is also home to majestic Lake Tahoe, once described by Mark Twain as "the fairest picture the whole world affords." Situated at an altitude of 6,229 feet, the largest alpine lake in North America boasts an impressive 72 miles of shoreline. Lake Tahoe is a favorite winter playground of world-class natural wonders and beauty. It also boasts a rich Olympic heritage, having just celebrated last winter the 50th anniversary of the highly successful 1960 Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley.

The Lake Tahoe region hopes to rekindle the Olympic flame and is seriously engaged in the process to host the next Olympic Winter Games to be held in North America—possibly in 2022, contingent upon pending decisions by the United States Olympic Committee. I enjoy the incredible opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition, an advocacy group comprised of leading Nevadans and Californians passionately dedicated to this cause.

The region is perfectly suited for a modern Olympic Winter Games, with more than 25,000 acres of world-class skiing at 18 premier downhill and cross-country ski resorts with an annual average snowfall in excess of 42 feet, yet almost 300 days of sunshine.

Beyond our embrace of the Olympic spirit, we believe successfully hosting a modern-day Olympics would serve to enhance the environmental efforts to preserve the beauty of the Lake Tahoe area and its fabled crystal-clear blue waters for generations to come.

I hope you enjoy this wonderful edition featuring the Reno-Tahoe Territory. We look forward to your visit!

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman — Nevada Commission on Tourism

THE WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER PRESENTS:



Clyde Aspevig, *Cow Camp*, 2011

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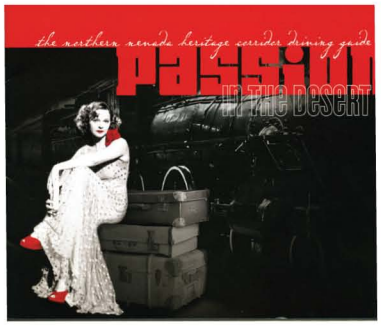
FEATURING: Ian Tyson, R.W. Hampton, Baxter Black, Dave Stamey, Wally McRae, Paul Zarzyski, Waddie Mitchell, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Stephanie Davis, Wylie & The Wild West, Hot Club of Cowtown and more!

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WESTERN FOLKLIFE CENTER

NEVADA news

✦ **Cowboy poet** and Spring Creek resident **Bruce "Waddie" Mitchell** will be honored with the fiscal year 2012 Nevada Heritage Award at Elko's National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, set for January 30 through February 4, 2012. Mitchell will also accept the 2011 Nevada Writers Hall of Fame award on November 17 at the University of Nevada, Reno. **nevadaculture.org, westernfolklife.org, knowledgecenter.unr.edu**



✦ The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority recently unveiled the **Northern Nevada Heritage Corridor Program**, a set of three history tours aimed at bringing the region's past and present together. Passion in the Desert traces Reno's development from the 1920s to '60s, Boom or Bust follows the history of the Comstock Lode, and Engraved in Stone: Nevada Ancient Rock Art explores the area's native history through its petroglyphs. The driving guide is available and shown above, or you can view three tours online. **visitrenotahoe.com/heritage, 800-367-7366**

✦ Las Vegas' **School of Rock** opened this fall to give local music students an authentic band experience as they practice and perform with other music-loving kids at popular venues in front of live audiences. The school focuses on students age seven to 18. **schoolofrock.com, 702-778-9382**

MUSEUM

Hands-On Learning in Reno



The Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum opened in September as Reno's premier children's museum. Geared specifically toward children up to 12 years old, the facility's seven hands-on learning galleries aim to engage and educate. Interactive exhibits vary from science, art, and local history to green home building, outdoor and wildlife studies, and the process of invention.

Thanks to donations from Black Rock Solar, NV Energy, and Windspire Energy, the building features some of the latest green-energy technologies, including roof-top solar panels and a wind turbine that combine to produce 32 kilowatts. The nearly 70,000-square-foot campus includes birthday party and multi-purpose rooms, a gift shop, and administrative offices. **nvdm.org, 775-786-1000**



PHOTOS: CHRIS MORAN

MEMORIAL

Las Vegas' First Lady Honored with Statue





Helen Stewart was a rancher, businesswoman, historian, and socialite. She served as Las Vegas' first postmaster and was the first woman elected to the Clark County School Board. The most significant contribution Stewart made to Southern Nevada was the 1902 sale of her more than 1,800-acre ranch, which paved the way for the 1905 land auction that gave birth to the City of Las Vegas. Thanks to a grant from the city and numerous charitable donations, a statue commemorating the renaissance woman and her role in shaping Las Vegas was approved in 2009 and will be unveiled at Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park on Saturday, December 3 at noon. **parks.nv.gov/olvmf.htm, 702-486-3511**

RECREATION

Carson Valley Offers an Extensive Trail System

Carson Valley has long been a destination for people who love the outdoors. Hikers, bikers, and equestrians follow mountainside logging roads and country lanes in pursuit of the outdoor experience. Since the 1990s, the Carson Valley Trail Association has been working—with donations, grant money, and volunteers—to connect old roads with many new trail sections, place signs, develop parking areas, and print maps and brochures to make these experiences all the better.

The CVTA maintains the Fay-Luther Trail System and Jobs Peak Ranch Trail on the west side of the valley and is a partner with others in the Bently-Kirman Tract Trail that lies across a working ranch with access to the Carson River. The trails are generally rated easy to moderate, suitable for families with young kids and older folks as well as dedicated hikers, says Jeremy Vlcan, who is a CVTA vice president and helps oversee trail design and construction.

The trails are open all year, he says. "Right after a snowstorm people do snowshoeing and cross-country skiing," he adds. "The best times are when it's not very hot or early mornings and late afternoons. It's very comfortable in the spring and fall." In the spring, the newest addition to Carson Valley Trails, the Genoa Foothill Trail System project west of Genoa, is expected to be fully completed. **carsonvalleytrails.org, 775-265-3736**—*Joyce Hollister*



NEVADA ONLINE

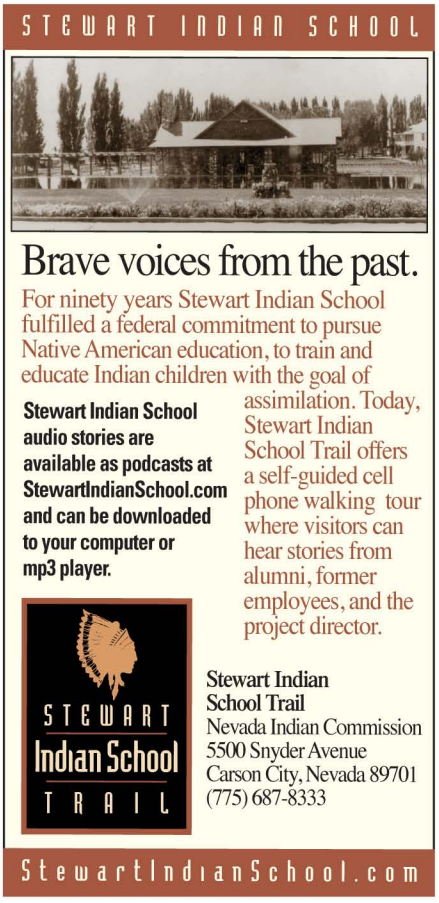
To learn more about trails in Carson Valley, visit **nevadamagazine.com** and click on "Web Extras."



PHOTO: JEREMY VLCAN

The Carson Valley Trail Association works diligently to maintain such trails as Eagle Ridge, north of Genoa off Adams Ranch Road.





HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Highway 395 Gets Lined With Willow Reindeer

If you've ever made a winter visit to the offices of *Nevada Magazine* in Carson City's Paul Laxalt Building, you might have noticed a clutch of willow reindeer adorned with lights on the lawn. We'd love to take the credit, but that goes to the Willow Reindeer Program and its 14-year effort to line Nevada's more than 80 miles of U.S. Highway 395 with the festive holiday decorations. More than 20,000 school children, 150 businesses and state and federal buildings, and three Nevada Governors have taken part in the ongoing effort. **willowbill.com, 775-842-3594**



FAMILY FUN

Dashing Through the Snow… On a Borges Family Sleigh Ride

Since 1967, the Borges family has been bringing to life the lyrics of one of the most recognized winter carols—"Jingle Bells"—with nostalgic sleigh rides along the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe and in Squaw Valley. The one- and two-horse open sleighs can be booked for 30-minute group rides, one-hour private tours, and dinner rides and include ample warm blankets for snuggling and historical anecdotes from sleigh drivers. Visit the Borgeses this winter to experience for yourself what fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song… well, you know the rest. **sleighride.com, 800-726-7433, 775-588-2953**



EVENT

Bottle-Free Beer Bonanza

The third annual Reno International Canned Beer Festival, CANFEST, comes to the Silver Legacy on Saturday, November 12 and features the latest trend in micro-brewed beers: cans. The brewers in attendance buck the misconception that quality handcrafted beers belong in bottles by utilizing the superior protection from sunlight and oxygen infiltration offered by cans and highlighting the containers' better portability and environmental friendliness. Hosted by Reno's own colossus of the can, Buckbean Brewing, CANFEST features suds from Oskar Blues, Big Sky Brewing, Bohemian Brewing, Maui Brewing, and more. "The rapid growth of beer served in cans proves that this event symbolizes a trend that isn't going anywhere anytime soon," says Buckbean co-founder Doug Booth. **canfestreno.com**

2 GREAT ADVENTURES

HAUNTED VEGAS TOURS

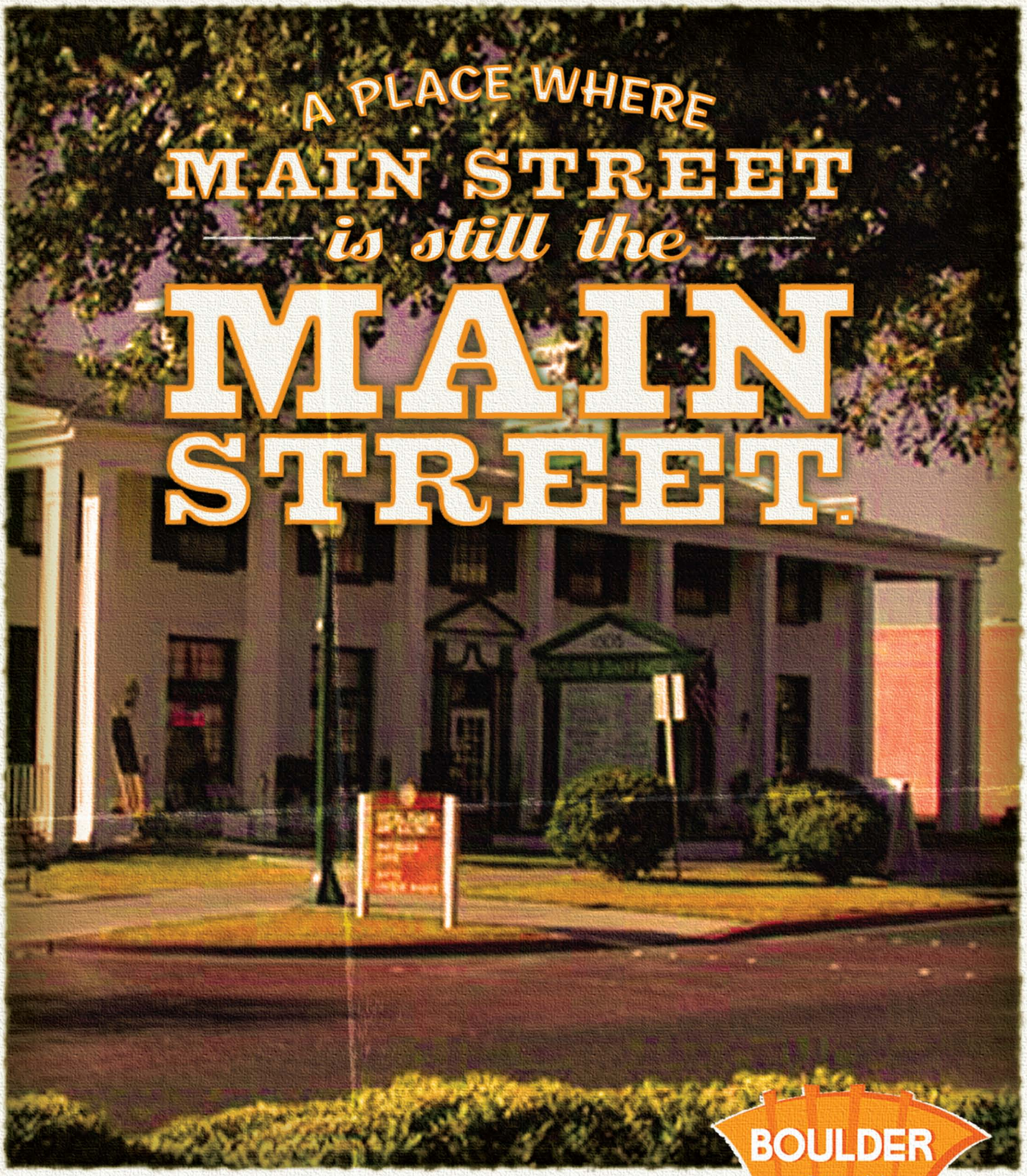
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RESORT

Caesars Palace Expands its Empire

One of the Las Vegas Strip's most recognizable resorts, Caesars Palace, is taking a cue from the Emperor's playbook with ambitious expansions into 2012. First up, New York City's legendary Old Homestead Steakhouse is scheduled to open at the resort before the New Year. Several signature dishes from the classic New York menu such as the Colossal Crab Cake, 32-ounce Gotham Rib Eye Steak, and Old Homestead New York-Style Cheesecake will accompany new Vegas-specific offerings.



Scheduled for a January 2, 2012 opening, the new Octavius Tower has 668 rooms, including 60 suites and six luxury villas. Octavius rooms start at 550 square feet and feature luxurious linens, velvet sofas, stone tables, and 42-inch high-def, flat-panel TVs. The opening of the tower marks the completion of Caesars' $860-million expansion underway since 2008.

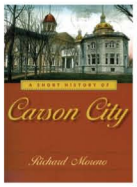
Caesars Palace and Nobu Hospitality recently announced plans to open the boutique-style Nobu Hotel, Restaurant, and Lounge at Caesars Palace. The 180-room hotel and spacious restaurant and lounge will occupy the Centurion Tower following a multimillion-dollar refurbishment and are slated to open in summer 2012. **caesarspalace.com, 866-227-5938**

NEVADA BOOKS

In the spirit of our 75th-anniversary celebration of Nevada's six territories, the following books each honor the history and culture of a specific region.

RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY

A Short History of Carson City

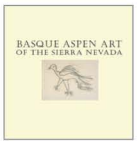


By Richard Moreno, University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu, 775-682-7934, 192 pages

Moreno delves into Carson City's history from a small ranching community to its emergence as Nevada's political center through old photographs and witty anecdotes. He also introduces new characters, such as renowned stagecoach driver Hank Monk, and elaborates on the histories of our better-known characters like Samuel Clemens, known more famously as Mark Twain, who interestingly began his career in Carson.

COWBOY COUNTRY

Basque Aspen Art of the Sierra Nevada

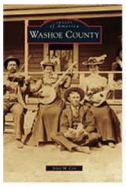


By Jean Moore Earl and Phillip I. Earl, Baobab Press, baobabpress.com, 775-786-1188, 144 pages

This book offers a unique look at a little-known aspect of immigrant culture in Nevada and California during the first half of the 20th century. The years 1920 to 1950 were the high point of the sheep industry in the western U.S. The mountain meadows of the Sierra Nevada were an important source of summer forage, and Basque sheepherders, many recently arrived from the Pyrenees, were primarily responsible for tending the flocks. The Earls discuss 40 years of locating, identifying, and preserving Basque sheepherder carvings.

INDIAN TERRITORY

Images of America: Washoe County

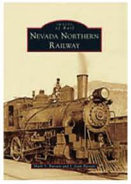


By Joyce M. Cox, Arcadia Publishing, arcadiapublishing.com, 843-853-2070, 127 pages

Located in the northwestern corner of Nevada, bordering Oregon to the north and California to the west, Washoe County was a crossroads for miners seeking riches in the California Gold Rush and later in the neighboring Comstock Lode. Occupied by the Washoe and Paiute Indians, Washoe County was explored by John Bidwell in 1841 and John C. Fremont in 1844. Washoe County became one of the original nine counties in the Nevada Territory in 1861 and expanded to its current size with the addition of Lake County and Roop County land in 1864.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

Images of Rail: Nevada Northern Railway

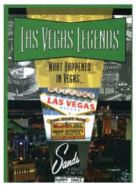


By Mark S. Bassett and J. Joan Bassett, Arcadia Publishing, arcadiapublishing.com, 843-853-2070, 128 pages

Finished in 1906, the Nevada Northern Railway served mines throughout the state and also operated as a daily passenger train between Ely and Cobre. Now a museum, it has been preserved as a working steam railroad. From the *Images of America* collection, more than 200 photographs fill this book and chronicle the history of the Nevada Northern Railway.

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Las Vegas Legends: What Happened in Vegas...

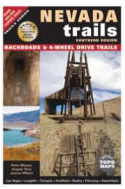


By Greg Niemann, Sunbelt Publications, sunbeltbooks.com, 800-626-6579, 320 pages

The "Entertainment Capital of the World" was forged by farsighted and tough characters of the Old West who created a town that worked for them. In the 1930s, while other cities and states suffered the pangs of the Depression, Las Vegas blossomed and grew, thanks to liberal divorce laws, nearby construction of Hoover Dam, and the pivotal dynamic force—legalized gambling. Relive the tragedies and triumphs of those who left their mark on Las Vegas.

NEVADA SILVER TRAILS

Nevada Trails: Southern Region



By Peter Massey, Angela Titus, and Jeanne Wilson, Adler Publishing Company, adlerpublishing.com, 800-660-5107

This back roads and four-wheel-drive book guides travelers along spectacular byways and trails. Plan day trips and weekend getaways from among 44 destinations and more than 820 miles of trails and discover endless outdoor adventures. Ghost towns galore, campsites, hiking trails, and GPS navigation—this book has it all.

NEVADA ONLINE

For more Nevada Books, visit **nevadamagazine.com**.

RESTAURANT

There's Nothing to Get Mad About at Reno's Wet Hen Café



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

One of the newest members of Northern Nevada's farm-to-table fraternity opened its coop to customers early this year. Wet Hen Café, at the corner of McCarran Boulevard and Longley Lane, is a locally owned and operated restaurant that offers rustic American comfort food with a French flair. The eatery specializes in breakfast, lunch, and baked goods such as apple pie, cookies, and croissants. Eggs for the breakfast-favorite quiches hitch a ride to work with owners Don and Jackie Handlin, whose free-range chickens lay them at home. Other local products come from such Truckee Meadows sustainability stalwarts as Blind Dog Coffee, Davidson's Teas, and Gourmet Rooster. Standard breakfast fare such as biscuits and gravy join the quiche lineup, and lunch items include homemade soups, salads, and sandwiches such as the Monet, made with fresh whole-roasted turkey. Wet Hen Café is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. **wethencafe.com, 775-657-8880**

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downhill delight



Lake Tahoe's resorts offer endless tantalizing terrain for skiers and snowboarders.

Squaw Valley USA

PHOTO: HANK DEVRE

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Just about every cliché in the lodge has been thrown at the collection of downhill ski resorts that populate the Lake Tahoe region. And try as they might, none of the fawning descriptions even come close to doing them justice.

So let's just stick to the facts: more than 25,000 skiable acres, peak elevations above 10,000 feet, up to 3,500 vertical feet of drop at some resorts, nearly 1,000 designated trails, almost 200 chairlifts, and an average of 42 feet of snow—more than 63 feet fell at some locations in the 2010-11 season.

Spend a winter at Lake Tahoe, and you're going to become *really* good at waxing skis and snowboards.

ALPINE MEADOWS

One of the best skiing and snowboarding bargains in the Lake Tahoe region, Alpine Meadows has acreage to compete with the big boys, prices that challenge the smaller resorts, and snow conditions that are often identical to its world-famous neighbor and partner, Squaw Valley USA.

The predominantly north- and east-facing slopes and bowls of Alpine's "Frontside" are protected from melting sunlight and ice-encouraging winds, giving fluffy powder the chance to hold on for days at a time, and the southeast-facing "Backside" offers unobstructed views of Lake Tahoe less than four miles away.

Season passes at Alpine Meadows offer unique options that do away with blackout dates (busy times around holidays during which season passes aren't typically honored) and include access to Homewood Mountain Resort, Kirkwood Mountain Resort, and Durango and Red Lodge Mountain Resorts in Colorado and Montana, respectively.

In a merger announced earlier this year, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley USA have combined operations to create the largest ski resort—6,400 acres—in the country. There are no plans to change either's name, and resort executives say each will maintain its individual character.

CONTACT

Alpine Meadows
2600 Alpine Meadows Rd., Tahoe City, CA 96145
skialpine.com
530-583-4232

BOREAL MOUNTAIN RESORT

If the word "McTwist" conjures images of halfpipes instead of golden arches, Boreal Mountain Resort has the slopes to fit your



Diamond Peak Ski Resort

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

REFLECTIONS



The view of Tahoe from Incline Village's ski area is one of the lake's best. Riding the Crystal quad chair to the top of Diamond Peak (8,540 feet) takes you to good intermediate and expert runs. The subsequent drop down Crystal Ridge toward the lake will blow your mind—it looks as if you're skiing into blue. Perched below the mountain's edge, Snowflake Lodge has the best day-lodge view on the lake.

"Skiing Tahoe: An Enthusiast's Guide"
Nevada Magazine, December 1996



Boreal Mountain Resort

style. What the 480-acre resort near Interstate 80's Donner Summit lacks in size, it makes up for with big-air-encouraging freestyle terrain that includes jumps, parks, and pipes.

To up the snowboarder-favored resort's cool quotient, Boreal offers night riding until 9 p.m. from three lifts and in the Core (terrain) Park. The Playland Tubing area is a fun change of pace for the whole family and is also open at night on Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays.

CONTACT

Boreal Mountain Resort
PO Box 39, Truckee, CA 96160
rideboreal.com
530-426-3666

DIAMOND PEAK SKI RESORT

Snow worshipers have flocked to the slopes of Diamond Peak since November 1966, when its precursor, Ski Incline, first opened. A lot has changed in more than four decades. In the last three years alone, the 655-acre, family-oriented resort has spent $8.5 million renovating its base lodge, constructing a new Skier Services Building, and updating its snowmaking system.

Improvements at the lodge include an expanded rental shop, an additional 300 square feet of outdoor decking, new restrooms, and a new meeting room, while the aforementioned Skier Services Building houses the resort's two ski schools and features new ticket windows and restrooms. Its proximity to Reno, outstanding views of Lake Tahoe, and some of the most affordable lift tickets in the region make Diamond Peak a locals' favorite.

CONTACT

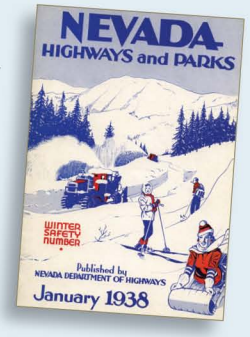
Diamond Peak Ski Resort
1210 Ski Way, Incline Village, NV 89451
diamondpeak.com
775-832-1177

DONNER SKI RANCH

Opened in 1937 with a simple rope tow to transport skiers, Donner Ski Ranch was one of the first ski resorts in California. Today, the mountain is among the

REFLECTIONS

Scandinavians who have long enjoyed a great reputation for daring and skill in skiing must now look to their laurels, for within the past few years this snow sport has tightly gripped the fancy and interest of Nevadans. With excellent grounds on which the thousands of fans can develop their skill, they are rapidly becoming expert in the snow sports and a champion might arise to challenge the Norsemen.



"Cleared Roads Aid Winter Sports"
Nevada Highways and Parks, January 1938

state's last family owned and operated resorts, lending to a friendly down-home atmosphere. Following record-breaking snowfall in the northern Sierra for the 2010-11 season, Donner Ski Ranch ran the region's last chairlift of the season at 3:15 p.m. on July 10.

CONTACT

Donner Ski Ranch
19320 Donner Pass Rd., Norden, CA 95724
donnerskiranch.com
530-426-3635

GRANLIBAKKEN SKI AND SNOWBOARD HILL

With the veneration given to high peaks and vast mountains in the skiing world, it's easy to believe that bigger is better, right? Not necessarily. Enter Granlibakken on Lake Tahoe's west shore. The tiny 10-acre, two-lift resort redefines intimate on a handful of easy to moderate slopes. If the mini mountain's diminutive crowds are still too much, the whole hill can be rented for $750 a day. Granlibakken's convenient access to popular trailheads makes it a favorite among cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

CONTACT

Granlibakken Conference Center & Lodge
725 Granlibakken Rd., Tahoe City, CA 96145
granlibakken.com
530-583-4242



Heavenly Mountain Resort

HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN RESORT

Big doesn't begin to describe Heavenly Mountain Resort. The behemoth mountain spans two states, encompasses 4,800 acres, and is among the largest ski resorts in the United States—ensuring guests miles and miles of new terrain for each visit. Add breathtaking views of Lake Tahoe from many of its runs, and it's little wonder that Heavenly is also one of Reno-Tahoe's most popular resorts.

Most of the resort can be conveniently reached from South Lake Tahoe's Heavenly Village via the Heavenly Gondola, which non-skiers can also ride for a bird's-eye view of the lake. The new 14,720-square-foot Tamarack Lodge opened last year at the top of the gondola, joining the resort's four other lodges and bringing dining options to rival the best on-mountain restaurants in the skiing world.

Before heading up to explore the mountain, skiers and boarders can cruise the village for the latest winter fashions—or, after a day on the slopes, visitors can search the village's shops for souvenirs, après ski cuisine, and cocktails or practice their triple Lutz on the south shore's only ice-skating rink. New this year is Heavenly Holiday, a nightly synchronized light show, December 1-30.

CONTACT

Heavenly Mountain Resort
3860 Saddle Rd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
skiheavenly.com
775-586-7000

Lake Tahoe ski map

In addition to Lake Tahoe's 15 downhill resorts, the area offers myriad cross-country options as well.



HOMEWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT

Only one ski resort at Lake Tahoe boasts lake views from every run, and at Homewood Mountain Resort, those views are so close it feels like you might ski right into the water. The resort's main lodge is steps from the lake's west shore, making the cobalt beauty the dominant feature from almost any vantage.

Homewood Mountain Resort's 1,260 acres are accessed from two lodges, each with a patio, dining options, and bar. The Mid Mountain Pavilion near the top of the Madden Chairlift is open weekends and offers one of the resort's most stunning views of the famous lake.

Skiers and boarders can save by purchasing Homewood lift tickets online, and local Tahoe Truckee School District honor-roll students are rewarded for their hard work with free lift tickets.

CONTACT

Homewood Mountain Resort
5145 West Lake Blvd., Homewood, CA 96141
skihomewood.com
530-525-2992

KIRKWOOD MOUNTAIN RESORT

Powder hounds and daredevils flock to Kirkwood Mountain Resort, 30 minutes south of Lake Tahoe, for feathery soft snow and hair-raisingly steep corniced cliffs. The mountain's location on the western side of the Pacific Crest means many snowstorms reach it faster and linger longer than at most resorts in the area, resulting in what is often the most plentiful snow of any resort.

While most resorts classify their runs as beginner, intermediate, or advanced, Kirkwood adds expert classification for 15 percent of its slopes and has the highest-angle groomed runs in the Tahoe region. Less experienced skiers and boarders needn't worry, though; the mountain has an equal number of beginner trails, and roughly half the terrain is designated intermediate. The new facility Kirkwood Outfitters offers special clinics.

CONTACT

Kirkwood Mountain Resort
1501 Kirkwood Meadows Dr.,
Kirkwood, CA 95646
kirkwood.com
209-258-6000

Learn to Ski and Board Weekend
Dec. 10-11 • gotahoenorth.com • 877-949-3296

MT. ROSE SKI TAHOE

Renoites have been skiing in the wilderness around Mount Rose and Slide Mountain since the 1930s. Sky Tavern capitalized on the pastime in '41, Reno Ski Bowl—better known as the Slide Bowl of Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe since the resorts merged in the '80s—opened in '53, and Mount Rose Ski Area started operations in '64. And if such longevity doesn't prove Rose is doing something right, the daily hordes of eager skiers and snowboarders do.

Lake Tahoe's highest base elevation—8,260 feet—means fluffy dry powder that begs for sunrise first tracks, and the north-facing experts-only Chutes (nine gates to choose from) provide rebellious runs that reach angles as steep as 55 degrees.

The environmentally friendly wind-powered Winters Creek Lodge, opened in 2009 at the base of the Slide Bowl, offers dramatic views of Washoe Valley, and the mountain and is available year-round for private functions.

CONTACT

Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe
22222 Mt. Rose Hwy., Reno, NV 89511
skirose.com
775-849-0704



Northstar-at-Tahoe

PHOTO: COREY RICH

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE RESORT

One of the region's most popular ski resorts is (no surprise) also one of its most conveniently located, about 35 miles from Reno and South Lake Tahoe, respectively, and six miles from Truckee, California. North Lake Tahoe's largest snowmaking system covers half the resort, ensuring plenty of snow even on the rare occasions when the weather doesn't cooperate.

A new chairlift on Northstar's "Backside" provides access to new terrain and trails for the 2011-12 season, and a new restaurant near the top of the Tahoe Zephyr Express chairlift adds to the resort's already impressive list of dining options.

Off the slopes, the Village at Northstar offers a multitude of shops and restaurants and is home to one of only a handful of ice-skating rinks in the region. The 2011-12 ski season brings new restaurants and more shops to the village. The Village is preparing to open two new national retail outlets—Patagonia and Burton.

CONTACT

Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort
100 Northstar Dr., Truckee, CA 96161
northstarattahoe.com
530-562-1010



Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe

Family fun abounds on Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe's groomed runs (left) and at the Village at Northstar (top), where fire pits and one of the region's only ice-skating rinks lend to a winter wonderland atmosphere.

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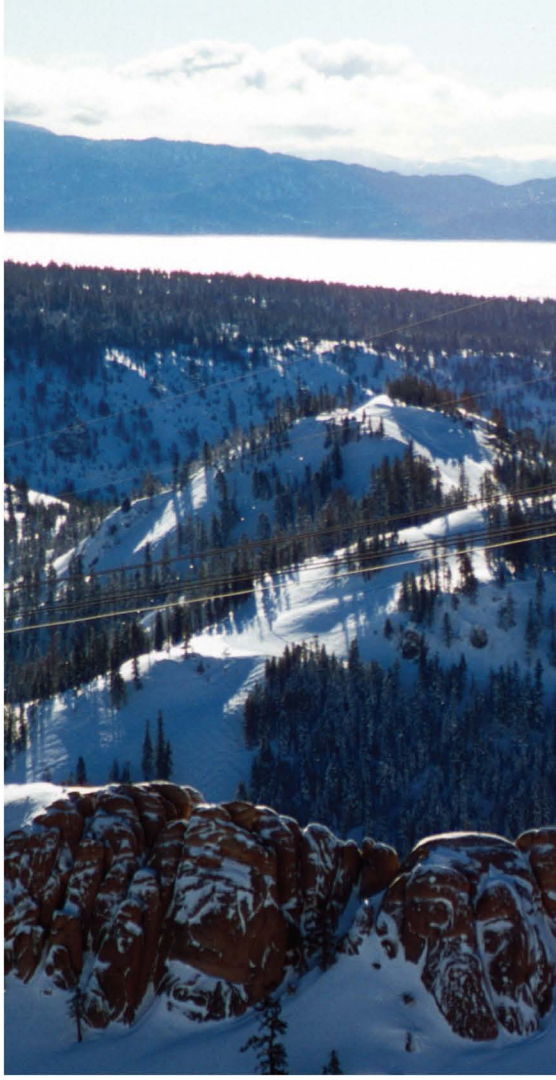
REFLECTIONS

Everything is set. Squaw Valley is poised and waiting, eager to play host to the world during the Eighth Olympic Winter Games. A few last-minute touches are yet to be made, but the Nevada hospitality center is about as ready as it will ever be for the massive invasion it will experience next February.

"Salute to the Olympics"
Nevada Highways and Parks, No. 2 1959



Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort



SIERRA-AT-TAHOE RESORT

Sierra-at-Tahoe was one of South Lake Tahoe's first resorts when Vern Sprock opened it as Sierra Ski Ranch in 1946. Expansions, a move further up U.S. Highway 50 toward Echo Summit, and new ownership in the '90s brought the resort into the 21st century as one of the south shore's largest, most highly regarded resorts.

Sierra's expert-only terrain in and around Huckleberry Canyon was recently opened to provide experienced skiers and riders with all the cliffs, cornices, and rock chutes their fanatical hearts desire, and free guided tours (you still have to buy a lift ticket, of course) of the canyon ensure that safety is kept at the forefront of backcountry adventures.

CONTACT

Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort
1111 Sierra at Tahoe Rd.,
Twin Bridges, CA 95735
sierraattahoe.com
530-659-7453

SODA SPRINGS

More than 70 years ago, Soda Springs was frequented by train-bound, wool-coated, leather boot-clad skiers on wooden skis. Although most visitors today arrive by car, dress in synthetic waterproof parkas, and sport the latest carbon fiber skis, the welcoming small-resort spirit and relaxed atmosphere of Soda Springs' early days remains at the small 200-acre mountain off I-80 near Donner Summit.

CONTACT

Soda Springs
PO Box 39, Truckee, CA 96160
skisodasprings.com
530-426-3901

SQUAW VALLEY USA

When people think of Lake Tahoe skiing and snowboarding, one of the first resorts that invariably comes to mind is Squaw Valley USA. The host of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games is a titan among resorts around the world. And with 4,000 skiable acres, more than 170 trails, 30 chairlifts, and a storied and inspiring history, Squaw lives up to the hype.

A lot has changed in the more than 50 years since the world's eyes were on the north Lake Tahoe mountain. In addition to its gargantuan size, Squaw has become a winter (and summer, by the way) destination, with unique on-mountain offerings and its base community, The Village at Squaw Valley.

A tram accesses High Camp at 8,200 feet, where restaurants and shops join the Olympic Ice Pavilion ice-skating rink and 1960 Olympic Museum. High Camp is also convenient to Squaw's unique mountaintop beginner terrain, ensuring that first-timers have an escape should one be needed. In the village, almost 300 condominium suites, 20 shops, 16 restaurants, and a full-service spa are just steps from the slopes and provide après ski recreation and relaxing diversions for non-skiers.



Squaw Valley USA

CONTACT

Squaw Valley USA
1960 Squaw Valley Rd.,
Olympic Valley, CA 96146
squaw.com
530-583-6985

SUGAR BOWL

Even Sugar Bowl's name conjures thoughts of sweet, white, powdery goodness. The resort, near Donner Summit off I-80, has been serving up generous helpings of sugary snow since Walt Disney and his skiing cadre erected the first chairlift in California there in 1938.

Today, Disney's former snow-clad magical kingdom—complete with a mountain and chairlift named for Walt himself and a run named for everyone's favorite foul-tempered fowl, Donald Duck—draws the same youthful exuberance from skiers and boarders as his famous theme parks do from children and Mickey-crazed adults.

The gondola-accessed lodge offers on-mountain accommodations in Tahoe's only snowbound village, where staying, eating, and shopping at the chalet has all the charm of the Alps without the jet lag.

CONTACT

Sugar Bowl
629 Sugar Bowl Rd., Norden, CA 95724
sugarbowl.com
530-426-9000

TAHOE DONNER SKI AREA

Tahoe Donner Ski Area bills itself as "the best place to begin" because of the resort's commitment to providing personal attention for novice skiers and snowboarders. The second-smallest ski destination at Lake Tahoe also provides a relaxed, unhurried experience for snow enthusiasts of all skill levels with intermediate and expert runs and a terrain park.

CONTACT

Tahoe Donner Ski Area
11603 Snowpeak Way, Truckee, CA 96161
skitahoedonner.com
530-587-9444


Tahoe Donner Ski Area

downhill

RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY	Opening date *	Full-day lift ticket ($)*	Summit elevation (in feet)	Vertical drop	Skiable terrain (in acres)	Number of lifts	% Beginner runs	% Intermediate runs	% Advanced runs/Expert	Sledding	Tubing
Alpine Meadows 2600 Alpine Meadows Rd., Tahoe City, CA • 530-583-4232 • 800-949-3296 • skialpine.com	n/a	50	8637	1802	2400	14	25	40	35		
Boreal Mountain Resort 19659 Boreal Ridge Rd., Truckee, CA • 530-426-3666 • rideboreal.com	n/a	49	7701	500	480	8	30	55	15		◆
Diamond Peak Ski Resort 1210 Ski Way, Incline Village • 775-832-1177 • diamondpeak.com	Dec. 16	49	8540	1840	655	5	18	46	36		
Donner Ski Ranch 19320 Donner Pass Rd., Norden, CA • 530-426-3635 • donnerskiranch.com	n/a	42	7781	750	505	8	25	50	25		◆
Granlibakken Ski and Snowboard Hill 725 Granlibakken Rd., Tahoe City, CA • 530-583-4242 • 800-543-3221 • granlibakken.com	Dec. 16	24	6610	300	10	2	40	60		◆	
Heavenly Mountain Resort 3860 Saddle Rd., South Lake Tahoe, CA • 775-586-7000 • 800-HEAVENLY • skiheavenly.com	Nov. 18	82	10067	3500	4800	29	20	45	35	◆	◆
Homewood Mountain Resort 5145 West Lake Blvd., Homewood, CA • 530-525-2992 • skihomewood.com	n/a	47	7880	1650	1260	8	15	50	35		◆
Kirkwood Mountain Resort 1501 Kirkwood Meadows Dr., Kirkwood, CA • 209-258-6000 • 877-KIRKWOOD • kirkwood.com	Nov. 24	75	9800	2000	2300	14	15	50	20/15		◆
Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe 22222 Mt. Rose Hwy., Reno • 775-849-0704 • 800-SKIROSE • skirose.com	Nov. 23	69	9700	1800	1200	8	20	30	40/10		
Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort 100 Northstar Dr., Truckee, CA • 530-562-1010 • 800-GONORTH • northstarattahoe.com	Nov. 18	84	8610	2280	3300	20	13	60	27		◆
Pacific Crest Heli-Guides 10356 Truckee Airport Rd., Truckee, CA • 888-792-9222 • pacificcrestheliguides.com	Call for heli-skiing and backcountry skiing options.										
Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort 111 Sierra at Tahoe Rd., Twin Bridges, CA • 530-659-7453 • sierraattahoe.com	n/a	75	8852	2212	2000	14	25	50	25	◆	◆
Soda Springs I-80 Soda Springs exit, Truckee, CA • 530-426-3901 • skisodasprings.com	mid-Nov.	35	7325	625	200	3	30	50	20		◆
Squaw Valley USA 1960 Squaw Valley Rd., Olympic Valley, CA • 530-583-6985 • 888-736-9740 • squaw.com	Nov. 23	83	9050	2850	4000	30	25	45	30	◆	◆
Sugar Bowl 629 Sugar Bowl Rd., Norden, CA • 530-426-9000 • sugarbowl.com	n/a	71	8383	1500	1500	13	17	45	38		
Tahoe Donner Ski Area 11603 Snowpeak Way, Truckee, CA • 530-587-9444 • skitahoedonner.com	Dec. 9	39	7350	600	120	4	40	60			

cross-country

RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY	Season *	Trails (km)	Trail Pass ($)*	Sledding	Tubing
Camp Richardson 1900 Jameson Beach Rd., South Lake Tahoe, CA • 530-542-6584 • 800-544-1801 • camprichardson.com	December-April	15	7	◆	
Clair Tappaan Lodge 19940 Donner Pass Rd., Norden, CA • 530-426-3632 • ctl.sierraclub.org	November-April	12	8	◆	◆
Hope Valley Outdoors 14655 Hwy. 88, Markleeville, CA • 530-694-2266 • hopevalleyoutdoors.com	November-April	145	Donation		
Kirkwood Mountain Resort 1501 Kirkwood Meadows Dr., Kirkwood, CA • 209-258-7248 • kirkwood.com	November-April	80	22		
Northstar-at-Tahoe 100 Northstar Dr., Truckee, CA • 530-562-1010 • 800-GONORTH • northstarattahoe.com	November-April	40	25		◆
Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort 9411 Hillside Dr., Soda Springs, CA • 530-426-3871 • 800-500-3871 • royalgorge.com	November-April	195	30		
Spooner Lake 1/2 mile on Hwy. 28 from Hwy. 50, Carson City • 775-749-5349 • spoonerlake.com	November-April	80	21		
Squaw Creek Nordic Center 1960 Squaw Valley Rd., Olympic Valley, CA • 530-583-6300 • 800-3CREEK3 • squawcreek.com	November-April	18	18	◆	
Tahoe Cross Country 925 Country Club Dr., Tahoe City, CA • 530-583-5475 • tahoexc.org	November-April	65	22		
Tahoe Donner 15275 Alder Creek Rd., Truckee, CA • 530-587-9400 • tahoedonner.com	November-April	114	23	◆	◆

*All rates and dates of operation subject to change.

PHOTO: HANK DEVRE (OPPOSITE PAGE)


Squaw Valley USA





a little further afield

Nevada's downplayed pair of non-Lake Tahoe skiing options.

ELKO SNOBOWL

Eastern Nevada's only chairlift-accessed skiing option is Elko Snobowl, six miles north of the city. The volunteer-run ski hill has one chairlift, 700 feet of vertical, runs for beginner and intermediate skiers and snowboarders, certified ski patrollers, and snowmaking capabilities.

CONTACT

Elko Snobowl
775-401-0881

LAS VEGAS SKI & SNOWBOARD RESORT

Just an hour from the desert-bound palm tree-lined Strip, Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort is a downhill alpine oasis. Situated in the nearly 12,000-foot-high Spring Mountains, it is Southern Nevada's only skiing and snowboarding option.

The resort was recently approved to expand to 10 lifts from its existing count of four and increase from 11 to 50 total trails, effectively more than tripling its size. Additional changes include increased snowmaking capabilities and parking, upgraded equipment, and expanded guest facilities. While all the changes will take place over a 10- to 12-year period, Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard president and general manager Kevin Stickelman says some of the improvements will be visible during the 2011-12 season.

Due to a surprising early-season storm, the resort was one of the first in the U.S. to open for a short duration on October 8.

CONTACT

Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort
State Route 156, Mount Charleston, NV 89124
skilasvegas.com
702-385-2754

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN



airborne alpine

There are no lift lines when heli-skiing in the Sierra Nevada and Ruby Mountains.



PHOTOS: COURT LEVE (TOP), RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI-EXPERIENCE (BOTTOM)

PACIFIC CREST HELI-GUIDES & SNOWCATS

With access to more than 100,000 acres of backcountry terrain, Pacific Crest Heli-Guides can drop (literally) skiers and snowboarders into countless untouched bowls, chutes, and couloirs with individually catered excursions along the spine of the Sierra Nevada north of Donner Summit.

The Heli-Guides' sister operation, Pacific Crest Snowcats, offers access to more than 2,000 acres of private advanced and expert terrain in the mountains between Squaw Valley USA and Sugar Bowl.

CONTACT

Pacific Crest Heli-Guides
pacificcrestheliguides.com
888-792-9222

RUBY MOUNTAINS HELI-EXPERIENCE

If waiting in lines for a chairlift tries your patience, skip the lines and lifts all together with Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience, Nevada's only heli-skiing service. Based in Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko, Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience is at the foot of the Silver State's Alps and some of the best backcountry skiing in the country.

Guests of the one- and three-day trips are guaranteed six runs and 39,000 vertical feet, respectively, and receive royal treatment at Reds Ranch during their stay.

CONTACT

Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience
helicopterskiing.com
775-753-6867



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY
TOWNS

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

*SEE MAP ON PAGE 4 FOR TOWN LOCATIONS.

It's hard to imagine 150 years ago when downtown Reno's urban Riverwalk District lacked its hip restaurants and lounges and was nothing more than a muddy riverbank at Lake's Crossing. Conversely, Virginia City's boardwalk-lined C Street and its crowded wood-planked storefronts might as well be perpetually locked in 1875, save the paved roadway and modern cars parked along it.

It's that juxtaposition—the comingling of old and new—that makes Reno, Virginia City, and all of the communities in Reno-Tahoe Territory so unique. From Sparks, a railroad town that grew into the unofficial special-events capital of Nevada, to the actual capital, Carson City, where historic buildings serve modern functions, northwestern Nevada is a region where traditional and modern seamlessly coexist.

RENO

Following the discovery of silver and gold on the Comstock, Charles Fuller realized the need for a connection between the Truckee River-adjacent California Trail and Virginia City to the southeast. In 1859, he established a basic trading post and toll bridge across the Truckee. In 1861, Fuller sold his bridge and station to Myron Lake, who expanded the outpost and named it Lake's Crossing.

Lake secured the future of the town when he granted land to the Central Pacific Railroad—the western component of the nation's first transcontinental railroad—in the late 1860s in exchange for a depot at Lake's Crossing. On May 13, 1868, the town site of Reno was officially established. It was named for the fallen Civil War General Jesse Lee Reno of the Union Army (who ironically never set foot in his namesake land).

Reno won the seat of Washoe County in 1871 and enjoyed growing prosperity through the 19th century as a business and agricultural center and the principal settlement between Sacramento and Salt Lake City on the transcontinental railroad. The city's prominence grew even after many nearby towns failed in the wake of dwindling output from the Comstock. By the early 1900s, Reno was arguably the most important and influential city in the state. The University of Nevada was moved to Reno from Elko in 1885, testament to Reno's permanence in a state typified by boom and bust. The July 4, 1910 Johnson vs. Jeffries heavyweight title bout—the so-called "Fight of the Century"—also lends credence to the city's prominent status.

Reno made a name for itself as the nation's divorce capital starting in the early 1900s thanks to lenient Nevada divorce laws and a general freewheeling spirit. The influx of divorce-seeking men and women also bolstered the city's growing population. Reno gained its most iconic symbol, the Reno Arch, in 1926, and its well-known nickname "The Biggest Little City in the World" was adopted three years later. The arch that currently resides at Virginia Street and Commercial Row was erected in 1987. The original can still be viewed today a few blocks southeast on Lake Street near the National Automobile Museum. One of the city's most unique attractions, the museum houses the impressive car collection of casino mogul Bill Harrah. The 1931 legalization of gambling in Nevada paved the way for enterprising men such as Harrah and proved another boon to The Biggest Little City, which in short order added gaming capital to its expanding list of claims to fame.

Though Las Vegas overtook Reno in the mid-1900s as the country's top gaming destination and Nevada's most populous municipality, The Biggest Little City continued to grow substantially in population and influence through the 20th century.

Today, Reno is Nevada's fourth largest city with about 220,000 residents and the center of a metro area of nearly 500,000, the second largest in the state.

Downtown casino-resorts such as Circus Circus, Club Cal-Neva, Eldorado, Harrah's, and the Silver Legacy are appreciated by tour-

ists and residents for their convenience and lively atmosphere. The array of events that center on the downtown core are also big draws and include food and drink festivals throughout the year, August's classic-car show Hot August Nights, and September's motorcycle celebration, the Street Vibrations Fall Rally. Outside the city center, the Atlantis and Peppermill in Reno's southern neighborhoods and Grand Sierra Resort near Reno-Tahoe International Airport also host major events and boast expansive casinos, hotel towers, and some of Reno's best restaurants, making them popular among visitors and locals alike.

Since the 1990s, the city has successfully revamped the section of downtown along the Truckee River, building the Riverwalk District and Truckee River Whitewater Park. The district has since become one of Reno's most popular destinations, replete with chic shops and lounges and eclectic eateries, and plays host to two of the city's most popular events, the Reno River Festival and the month-long July celebration of the arts, Artown. The city's commitment to the arts doesn't stop at Artown. The Reno Philharmonic, dance troupes, and live theater at venues including the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts and Brüka Theatre speak to the reverence given to creative pursuits in the Truckee Meadows.

Sports fans delight in cheering for Reno's two professional teams, the Aces (Triple-A baseball) and Bighorns (NBA D-League), and the University of Nevada, Reno's 2010 Western Athletic Conference Champion Wolf Pack football team



Reno's Riverwalk District

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

frequently sells out the nearly 30,000-seat Mackay Stadium. The university's men's and women's basketball teams and baseball and softball teams also draw enthusiastic crowds. For folks whose idea of entertainment is loftier than sports arenas, the stars at Fleischmann Planetarium & Science Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, are literal stars…and moons, and planets, and galaxies, too.

As popular as Reno's in-town offerings are, many of its staunchest fans love The Biggest Little City for what lies just beyond the city limits. Dozens of the most picturesque greens and fairways in the state—both within the city and nearby—offer superb golfing, and, in August, Montrêux Golf and Country Club hosts the PGA Tour's Reno-Tahoe Open. Easy access via one of only two international airports in the state makes Reno the gateway to Lake Tahoe and its myriad activities in all seasons from world-class skiing in the winter to hiking and biking on thousands of miles of alpine trails in the summer.

Beyond the downtown whitewater park, the Truckee River's entire stretch from Tahoe to Pyramid Lake is popular among kayakers, rafter, and anglers. The nearly complete Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway follows the Truckee for 116 miles between the lakes and allows access to the river for walkers and cyclists.

CONTACTS

City of Reno
PO Box 1900, Reno, NV 89505
reno.gov
775-334-4636

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority
4001 S. Virginia St., Ste. G, Reno, NV 89502
visitrenotahoe.com
800-367-7366

CARSON CITY

Much like our nation's capital, Carson City was envisioned as a seat of government from its conception when Abraham Curry set aside 10 acres of the Eagle Valley settlement in 1858 expressly for the construction of a Capitol—three years before the formation of the Nevada Territory in 1861, six years before statehood in 1864, and 13 years before the Capitol was constructed in 1871.

The region was first explored by John C. Fremont's 1843-44 expedition, during which Fremont named the Carson River for his scout, Christopher "Kit" Carson, whom the city itself was later named for as well. The town's precursor, Eagle Station trading post, was established near the river in 1851.

Following the discovery of the Comstock Lode, made public in 1859, the soon-to-be capital city grew into a major center of commerce and was the staging point for much of the nearby mines' workers, lumber, freight, and other supplies. Carson City's status as state capital and seat of then Ormsby County spared the town from the fate of many Nevada settlements and kept it alive—with a drastically decreased population—once the Comstock busted.

During the early 20th century, the capital again served as a waypoint for Tonopah- and Goldfield-bound supplies and miners during those towns' mining booms. By 1960, Carson City surpassed its historic high population of about 4,500 and has continued to grow into the 21st century. Today, more than 55,000 people call the city home. Ormsby County was merged into Carson City in 1969 to consolidate government services,



Nevada State Capitol

PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN



Paul Laxalt State Building

making it the only independent city (it does not belong to a county) in Nevada.

In addition to housing its government, Nevada's sixth-largest incorporated city is home to many of the state's best-preserved historic buildings and other attractions that make it a highly regarded tourist destination. The Nevada State Museum, Carson City occupies the 1869 U. S. Mint and is full of enough historical and cultural exhibits to entertain visitors for most of a day.

The blue line painted on the sidewalk outside of the Mint is the Kit Carson Trail, a 2.5-mile walking path through downtown that passes more than 60 historic landmarks, including the Capitol, the 102-year-old Governor's Mansion, the Frederic DeLongchamps-designed Heroes Memorial Building and Ormsby County Courthouse, the 1891 Paul Laxalt State Building (which houses the offices of *Nevada Magazine*), and more than 20 Victorian-era homes. The former Carson Brewing Company (also on the walking tour) is home to the Brewery Arts Center, which hosts musical and theater productions and art shows.

Train and history aficionados will appreciate the Nevada State Railroad Museum and its collection of more than 60 locomotives and cars, the bulk of which were once part of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. The recently refurbished V&T line from Mound House, just east of Carson City, to Virginia City offers 1.5-hour one-way excursions between the historic cities (the V&T becomes The Polar Express during select dates in November and December. See page 39 for details.) The family-favorite Children's Museum of Northern Nevada offers dozens of exhibits that entertain and educate. The state's native history is honored at the Stewart Indian School, a former boarding school that educated American Indian youths from around the West from 1890 to 1980.

For non-history recreation, Carson is central to the Divine 9, nine of the area's most picturesque golf courses. Myriad hiking and biking trails crisscross the surrounding foothills and climb into the imposing and beautiful Carson Range. The Carson River is also home to a host of trails and one of Northern Nevada's best waterways for rafting and kayaking. To fuel a long day of exploring the capital, the city's eclectic array of dining options—from gourmet dinners at Adele's and Glen Eagle's to inspired international fare at The Basil Thai restaurant and Kim Lee's Sushi—offers a meal to suit any taste.

Downtown wine walks on the first Saturday of each month are just the beginning of the impressive array of events in the capital city that include the Northern Nevada premier of "The Phantom of the Opera" at the Carson City Community Center, starting Friday, November 4, with weekend performances through November 20. Numerous farmers' markets run through spring and summer, entertaining "ghost walk" tours are a fall favorite, and the annual Nevada Day Parade at the end of October celebrates the state's admission to the Union.

CONTACTS

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau
1900 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701
visitcarsoncity.com
800-638-2321

Carson City
201 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701
carson.org



Summertime Movies in the Park are among Gardnerville's most popular events.

PHOTO: JAY ALDRICH

GARDNERVILLE

Named for English homesteaders John and Mary Gardner, the farming community of Gardnerville was founded in 1879 on the fertile banks of the East Fork of the Carson River. Because of its abundant farms, dairies, and ranches, the town was a natural gathering place for Basque sheepherders who gravitated to Gardnerville's boardinghouses for the familiar food, language, and customs of the old country.

The town's heavy Basque influence is celebrated today at JT Basque Bar & Dining Room, Overland Hotel, and Carson Valley Country Club Basque Restaurant where traditional family-style Basque meals and hospitality are served in gargantuan proportions.

Today, the city of about 5,000, much like its close neighbor Minden, is centered on the business district that follows U.S. Highway 395 through town. Carson Valley's answer to the Twin Cities, Gardnerville and Minden share many services and traits while still keeping distinct identities. In addition to the popular and historic JT Basque and Overland Hotel, Gardnerville's section of the highway is lined with historic buildings, many of which are occupied by charming, locally owned shops and restaurants. The Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center houses exhibits that share the story of the region's cultural history, including displays on the native Washoe people and Basque immigrants. Nearby recreation opportunities include the 18-hole Carson Valley Golf Course; hiking, cycling, equestrian, and OHV trails; and Topaz Lake, 21 miles south. Topaz, on the Nevada-California border, offers some of the area's best fishing and boating and accommodations at Topaz Lodge Casino and RV Resort.

CONTACTS

Town of Gardnerville
1407 U.S. Hwy. 395 N., Gardnerville, NV 89410
gardnerville-nv.gov
775-782-7134

Main Street Gardnerville
1407 U.S. Hwy. 395 N., Gardnerville, NV 89410
mainstreetgardnerville.org
775-782-8027

WORTH A CLICK

Carson Valley Visitors Authority
1477 U.S Hwy. 395 N. Suite A, Gardnerville, NV 89410
visitcarsonvalley.org
800-727-7677

Elko, Nevada



ELKO CONVENTION CENTER

ELKO CONVENTION & VISITORS AUTHORITY
700 Moren Way • Elko, NV 89801 • (775) 738-4091
www.ExploreElko.com

Reno-Tahoe Territory

BED & BREAKFASTS

"B" Street House B&B
58 North B Street
Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-7231
innkeepers@bstreethouse.com
BStreetHouse.com

Edith Palmer's Country Inn
416 South B Street
Virginia City, NV 89440
775-847-7070
edithpalmers@msn.com
EdithPalmers.com

Wild Rose Inn B&B
2332 Main Street
Genoa, NV 89411
775-782-5697
wildrose@pyramid.net
WildRose-Inn.com

Wildflower Village B&B
4275-4395 West Fourth Street
Reno, NV 89523
775-747-8848
patcampbellassoc@sbcglobal.net
WildflowerVillage.com

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PHOTO: SYDNEY MARTINEZ

The 1853 Genoa Bar attracts visitors eager to wet their whistles at "Nevada's oldest thirst parlor."

GENOA

One of the most charming locales in Nevada—let alone the Reno-Tahoe Territory—Genoa is also one of the state's oldest towns. Actually, depending on who you ask, it *is* the oldest and remains very much entrenched in a friendly, often entertaining dispute with the nearby Pony Express Territory town of Dayton for claim to the title.

The sleepy town came to be in 1851 when Mormon settlers from Salt Lake City started a trading post at the base of the Carson Range. It was called Mormon Station until 1855 when Judge Orson Hyde renamed it for Christopher Columbus' birthplace of Genoa, Italy. The town was named the seat of Utah Territory's Carson County in 1854 and was later awarded the seat of the new Nevada Territory's Douglas County in 1861. Genoa never grew to the prominence of many of its Silver State cousins, and, following a devastating fire in 1910 from which the town never fully recovered, lost the seat to its Carson Valley neighbor, Minden, in 1916.

Despite, or perhaps because of, its somewhat languid existence, Genoa is today highly regarded among locals and visitors alike—being home to "Nevada's oldest thirst parlor," the Genoa Bar, certainly doesn't hurt. In addition to the 1853 tavern (pictured above), the town claims Genoa Courthouse Museum—which served as the original county courthouse and a school—Mormon Station State Historic Park, and a host of other historic and interesting spots such as the 1853 Pink House, built by one of the town's founders, John Reese.

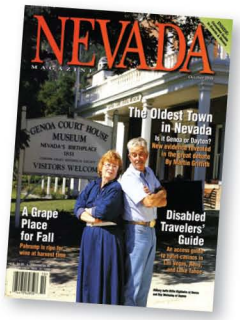
Another fascinating stop is the Snowshoe Thompson statue at Mormon Station. Norwegian-born Thompson became a local hero and legend in the 1850s, '60s, and '70s by carrying mail to and from Genoa over the snow-choked Sierra Nevada. The nearby 1862 David Walley's Hot Spring Resort is one of Carson Valley's oldest and most revered resorts, and four cozy bed and breakfasts offer visitors the opportunity to become temporary residents of the town of about 200. Genoa Lakes Golf Club offers two 18-hole courses.

The best times to visit Genoa are during the town's lively family-friendly events that include Christmas in Genoa and Christmas in the Sierra, December 2 and 10, respectively, Genoa Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival, April 27-29, 2012, Concerts on the Green throughout the summer, and the world-famous Candy Dance Arts & Crafts Faire, which will celebrate its 92nd year in September 2012.

CONTACT

Town of Genoa
PO Box 14, Genoa, NV 89411
genoanevada.org
775-782-8696

REFLECTIONS



The dispute over which town is Nevada's oldest pits a group of Salt Lake City traders who settled Genoa against a throng of California miners who toiled for gold near Dayton. Both groups arrived in 1851 during a hazy period in Nevada history… Between them, these two small towns can claim most of the important historical firsts in Nevada. In the 1850s, Genoa was the site of Nevada's first house, business, ranch, post office, government meeting, lawsuit, and newspaper. Dayton was the site of Nevada's first marriage, divorce, dance, and gold discovery.

"What's Nevada's Oldest Town?"
Nevada Magazine, October 1998

GERLACH & EMPIRE

Gerlach is best known to outsiders for the annual Labor Day Weekend counterculture extravaganza of Burning Man, held in the nearby Black Rock Desert. As uniquely entertaining as the 50,000-person temporary Black Rock City is, Gerlach has plenty to offer the rest of the year.

Established by the Western Pacific Railroad in the early 1900s, the dusty outpost 110 miles north of Reno has until recently avoided the boom-and-bust cycles of so many Nevada towns. A 24-hour gas station and convenience store, two bars, and Bruno's Country Club (a restaurant, motel, and bar) constitute the town's business district, and Planet X Pottery just north of town offers a studio and three show galleries. Aside from Burning Man, the major draws to the area are exploring the vast Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and hunting in the surrounding wilderness. The new Black Rock Field Station serves visitors to the area spring through fall.

Just south of Gerlach, Empire was founded in 1923 to serve the Pacific Portland Cement Company's mining operation in the area. In 1948, United States Gypsum Corporation purchased the claim and the town, which it has owned ever since. The January 31, 2011 closing of the USG mine and plant in Empire—and corresponding flood of newspaper coverage—made the town and its unfortunate plight a household name throughout Nevada and the West. After the end of the 2011 school year (June 20), the company-owned town closed, its 89405 Zip Code was discontinued, and its few hundred residents were displaced. It is worth noting that USG allowed employees with children to remain, rent-free, for the five months between the close and the end of the school year.

As strongly tied as the neighboring towns have long been—Gerlach's school shut down following the closure of Empire, since Empire was responsible for the majority of the region's 500 or so residents—Gerlach's future without its southern companion is uncertain.

WORTH A CLICK

Burning Man
burningman.com

Friends of Black Rock/High Rock
blackrockdesert.org

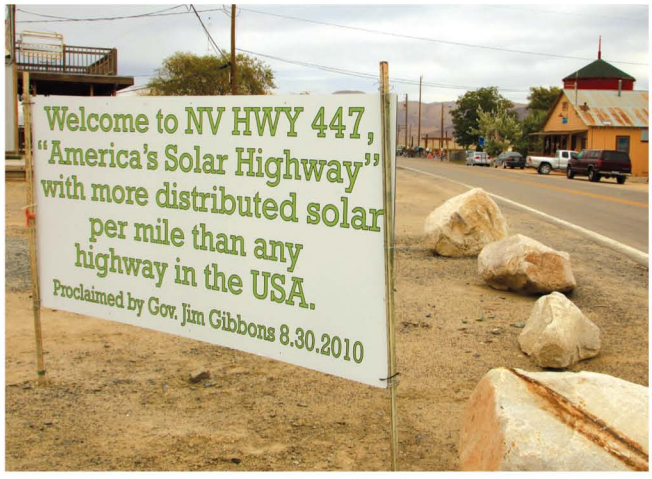


PHOTO: LARRY TURNER

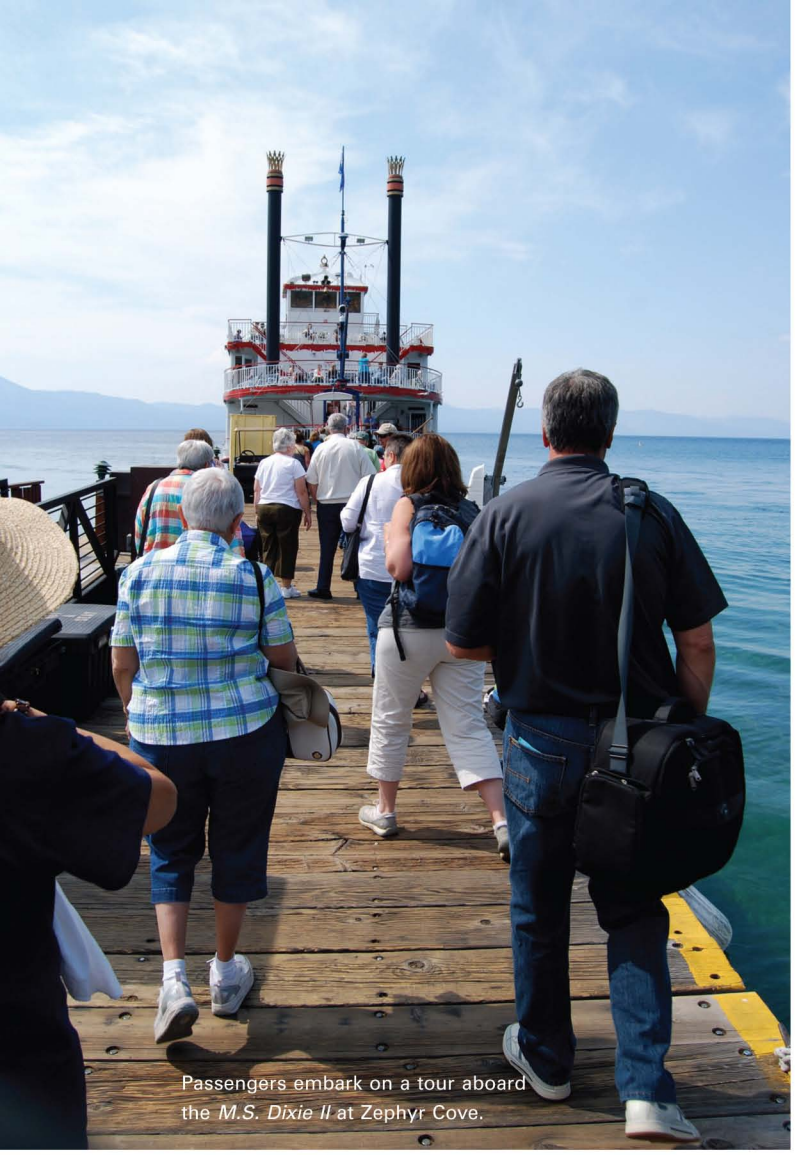
Gerlach and Empire owe much of their solar power prowess to the efforts of renewable energy-minded Black Rock Solar. **blackrocksolar.org**

RENO-TAHOE GOLF

Northwestern Nevada is home to the most varied collection of golf courses in the state. From nine-hole community links and private resorts with championship courses to desert greens and lakeside fairways, Reno-Tahoe Territory has a course to fit any golfer. Visit **golf.travelnevada.com** for a complete list of courses, statewide golf map, and golf travel deals.



PHOTOS: CHARLIE JOHNSTON



Passengers embark on a tour aboard the *M.S. Dixie II* at Zephyr Cove.

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

The year-round favorite *M.S. Dixie II* paddlewheel offers scenic and dinner cruises from Zephyr Cove Resort's boat dock (pictured at left), and in the winter months, the resort offers snowmobiling excursions from nearby Spooner Summit. A few miles south of Zephyr Cove, Round Hill Pines Beach and Marina is a secluded local gem just two miles from the casinos of Stateline.

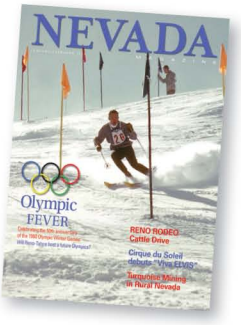
CONTACT

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
169 U.S. Hwy 50, Stateline, NV 89449
tahoesouth.com
800-288-2463

WORTH A VISIT

Zephyr Cove Resort & Marina
760 U.S. Hwy 50, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
zephyrcove.com
775-589-4906

REFLECTIONS



Morning and afternoon [snowmobile tours at Zephyr Cove Resort] follow groomed trails and include transportation to Spooner Summit from Zephyr Cove; a helmet, snowmobile, and knowledgeable guide; and all the spectacular views you can handle. "It was hard keeping my eyes on the trail," says rider John Vicknair of Laplace, Louisiana. "I just wanted to keep watching the scenery."

"Winter Wonderland"
Nevada Magazine, January/February 2010

GLENBROOK & ZEPHYR COVE

Contrary to its under-the-radar modern existence, Glenbrook played a vital role in supporting the mines of the Comstock and claims the title of Lake Tahoe's oldest settlement. Much of the timber used to build Virginia City and support the countless miles of tunnels beneath it was cut and milled at Glenbrook, where lumber from around the lake passed through the burg on its way to the silver mines. Named for the two main features of the site, a narrow valley, or glen, and the brook that passes through it, Glenbrook's picturesque setting was also the home of Tahoe's first resort in 1863.

About five miles south of Glenbrook, Zephyr Cove's history is one of leisure—the secluded, charming crescent of sand and languid surf has been home to Zephyr Cove Resort since the early 1900s.

While Glenbrook is primarily a residential area with stunning mountain and lakeside homes today, Zephyr Cove has remained a tourist destination, its original cabins restored to feature modern conveniences. In addition to the cabins, Zephyr offers an RV park and campground, restaurant, and one of the lake's most popular beaches.

INCLINE VILLAGE & CRYSTAL BAY

Like much of the Lake Tahoe region, settlers first took notice of what would become Incline Village thanks to its abundant pine forests and an ever-growing need for lumber in Nevada's bulging mining camps. The Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company camp of Mill Creek was the precursor to Incline Village, which is named for the Great Incline Tramway, built by Mill Creek's loggers in 1878 and used primarily to transport lumber.

In 1935, the San Francisco-born California Gold Rush heir George Whittell Jr. purchased a more than 40,000-acre swath of lumber-company land that encompassed 27 miles of Tahoe shoreline, including the future site of Incline Village. From 1938-59, Whittell gradually sold much of his property in small pieces. The town was born of those parcels amid the Tahoe building boom of the 1950s and '60s. The enigmatic real estate magnate's grand Thunderbird Lodge still stands today.



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Crystal Bay

PHOTO: RACHID DAHNOUN

Visitors can tour Whittell's former summer estate (May through September), which includes a boathouse and beautiful antique yacht—owned for a spell by Bill Harrah.

Crystal Bay's early days had a more Nevada-style disposition, which is to say the town that straddles the Nevada-California line on Tahoe's north shore owes its dot on the map to good times and gambling. The 1920s brought a proliferation of vacation homes to the area, and the 1926 opening of the Cal-Neva Lodge started Crystal Bay's ongoing run as a resort destination. From its early days as a mob-hangout to regular appearances by performers such as Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe, the getaway has earned its place in the upper echelon of storied Nevada resort-casinos. Today, guests can crisscross the state border in the Cal Neva Resort Spa Casino's swimming pool. Adding to the area's mob ties, the Tahoe Biltmore Lodge and Casino, built in 1946, was owned for a period by Lincoln Fitzgerald, rumored to be a Detroit mobster. Born as the Ta-Neva-Ho in 1937, the recently renovated Crystal Bay Casino rounds out the gaming options in Crystal Bay.

Collectively, Incline Village and Crystal Bay are home to about 11,000 people occupying some of the priciest, most sought-after residences in the country—the average home price in 2009 was almost $850,000. Services in the area are typical of like-sized cities, and residents (and paying visitors) have special access to private, city-owned beaches. Resorts such as Incline's Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe join the Crystal Bay lodging options.

Locals favor Diamond Peak Ski Resort and Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe as much for their terrain as their proximity—the former is literally in Incline and the latter about 10 minutes away on State Route 431.

Summertime brings beaches and the Bard, with miles of warm sand and the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor in July and August. While private beaches take up much of the shoreline near Incline and Crystal Bay, Sand Harbor and a handful of secluded sandy coves occupy Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park five miles south of Incline, and the California towns of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, and Carnelian Bay offer many public options as well. Two 18-hole golf courses within the city limits of Incline also offer summer fun—with an emphasis on staying out of the sand and water.

CONTACTS

Incline Village General Improvement District
893 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451
ivgid.org
775-832-1100

Lake Tahoe Incline Village & Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau
969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451
gotahoenorth.com
800-468-2463

MINDEN

Founded at the southern terminus of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad in 1905, Minden's early layout was influenced by rancher and land baron Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg Jr., whose 1906 plan for the burgeoning hamlet called for a European-style community built around a central square—Minden Park. The town was even named for a town near the German birthplace of Dangberg's late father. The family's ranch and home are part of a historic park today. The park, a mile south of town, offers historical exhibits and $8 tours by reservation of the 1857 homestead. Once a state park, the site is now operated by the nonprofit Friends of the Dangberg Home Ranch. The December 3-4 and 10-11 Holiday Toy Exhibit offers visitors a look at antique toys that once belonged to the Dangberg children.

Minden was named the seat of Douglas County in 1916, and the town's pleasant rural setting and proximity to Lake Tahoe made it a favorite getaway for Hollywood icons such as Clark Gable and Jean Harlow in the first half of the 20th century. The 1950s brought commercial development along U.S. Highway 395 and the town's first residential subdivisions. Such development continues to shape Minden to this day.

The town of about 3,000 gets into the holiday spirit with its annual Gazebo Lighting, Parade of Lights, and Minden Weihnachts Fest arts and crafts fair on Friday and Saturday, December 2-3. Block parties, concerts, car shows, and farmers' markets in the warmer months draw enthusiastic crowds of locals and visitors; the Minden Street Celebrations in June and September are among the most popular gatherings.

The recently renovated and rejuvenated Carson Valley Inn anchors Minden's tourist offerings with three restaurants, a large casino, more than 200 rooms, and an RV resort. The year-round Carson Valley Swim Center is a popular family destination with six pools, waterslides, and other water-related fun.

CONTACT

Town of Minden
1604 Esmeralda Ave. Suite 101, Minden, NV 89423
townofminden.com
775-782-5976

WORTH A VISIT

Carson Valley Inn
1627 U.S. Hwy. 395 N., Minden, NV 89423
carsonvalleyinn.com
775-782-9711

MOUND HOUSE

Mound House's location along a major 19th-century route to California was responsible for its earliest settlers in the 1850s, and from 1860-61 it supported a Pony Express stop. The Comstock Lode boosted the town's population and importance through the 1860s and '70s.

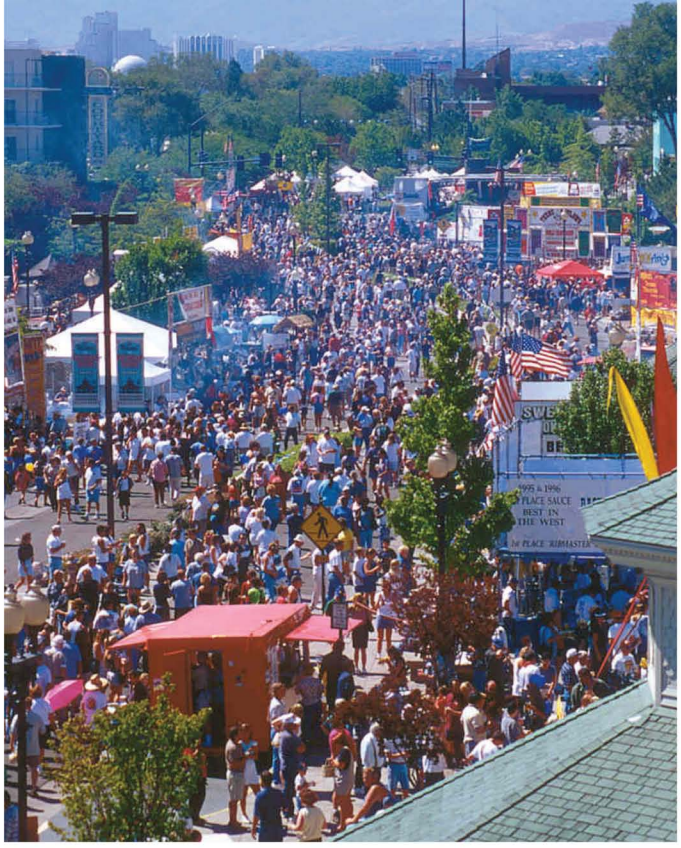
A Virginia & Truckee Railroad station built in 1871 set the stage for Mound House to become an important transfer point, and its railroad prominence grew with the construction of the narrow-gauge Carson & Colorado Railway in 1880. Declining output from the region's mines and the 1905 completion of the Hazen branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad—which bypassed Mound House—dealt the town a staggering blow, but gypsum mining and milling saved the day and kept the town alive.

In addition to the gypsum venture, which still operates today, the unincorporated burg on the Lyon County border a few miles from Carson City is home to substantial industrial enterprises, a handful of residential areas, and four legal brothels that account for the majority of Mound House's out-of-town visitors.



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

The skies above Minden and Gardnerville in Carson Valley are revered as some of the best in the world for soaring—an airborne activity in which engineless gliders are flown using wind currents.



Sparks' Victorian Square serves as the stage for some of Nevada's most popular and well-attended events, including the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off in August and September.

SPARKS

When the Southern Pacific Railroad succeeded the Central Pacific and took and over its lines through Northern Nevada, it also cut a few miles off the route and bypassed the former roundhouse and maintenance shops in Wadsworth. Rather than abandon the town, the railroad moved it in 1903 to a swampy tract of land four miles east of Reno. Newspapers called it East Reno and New Reno, although the post office was named for Southern Pacific president Edward Harriman. In 1904, residents renamed it in honor of then-Governor John Sparks. A year later, the City of Sparks was officially incorporated and, for the first half of the 20th century, was very much a railroad town.

A shift away from the railroad in the 1950s and '60s was accompanied by the growth of warehousing and light industrial development, and the 1955 opening of Dick Graves' Nugget got the attention of tourists. In 1960, Graves' food service manager, John Ascuaga, bought the Nugget and gradually developed it from a 65-seat diner with slot machines into the world-class 1,500–room resort residents and visitors see today from Interstate 80.

The 1980s brought a vigorous approach to attracting tourists and beautifying the city with the redevelopment of the once-blighted downtown area into the inviting, festival-friendly Victorian Square (pictured above). Some of Northern Nevada's best-loved events call Victorian Square home, including the Sparks Hometowne Christmas and official State of Nevada Christmas parade, December 2-3, weekly farmers' markets June through August, Street Vibrations' Spring and Fall Rallies in June and September respectively, Star Spangled Sparks 4th of July celebration, Hot August Nights, and the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off in August and September.

Today, the state's fifth-largest incorporated city with more than 90,000 residents is barely distinguishable from its neighbor; the pair is often referred to as Reno-Sparks. In addition to John Ascuaga's Nugget and Victorian Square, Sparks is home to Outlets at Legends, an outlet shopping mall anchored by a manmade lake and Scheels sporting goods store. At 295,000 square feet, Scheels is among the largest sporting goods stores in the world, complete with a 65-foot Ferris wheel and two 16,000-gallon aquariums.

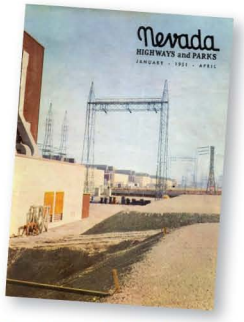
The 77-acre Sparks Marina Park features walking paths, sandy beaches, a dog park, picnic tables, and volleyball courts all a stone's throw from Legends. The city's history is on display at Victorian Square's Sparks Heritage Museum, where artifacts and exhibits tell the story of the former railroad town and No. 8 Engine train tours are offered every Saturday and Sunday.

The nearby Wild Island Family Adventure Park offers go kart race tracks, bowling, miniature golf, and Northern Nevada's only water park. More water-based fun can be found at the Rock Park Whitewater Park along the Truckee River, and Sparks is the Truckee Meadows' gateway to boating and many other recreational opportunities at Pyramid Lake, 28 miles north of the city via State Route 445.

CONTACT

City of Sparks
sparksitshappeninghere.com
775-353-5555

REFLECTIONS



At the turn of the present century there was no such thing as a town called Sparks, Nevada. So the town grew up in an environment of change, noting every improvement in mechanization as it applied to railroads. With only 50 years of history the town is still a youngster with plenty of vitality and spirit to carry forward over many rugged miles and years of future railroading.

"Sparks, Nevada—Out of the Swamp to a Railroad Town"
Nevada Highways and Parks, January–April 1951



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STATELINE

The Washoe people inhabited the Lake Tahoe region and its surrounds for generations before the first white man laid eyes on the awe-inspiring alpine sea. One of the lake's earliest non-native settlements was the 1860-61 Pony Express trail's Friday's Station, at virtually the same site occupied by Stateline today. Despite the mail route's short existence, the region drew continued attention thanks to its vast supply of the Comstock's primary building material: lumber. As demand for lumber declined through the late 1800s, the lake was increasingly viewed as a recreational getaway. In 1944, the modern face of Stateline began to take shape when Harvey Gross opened Harvey's Wagon Wheel Saloon and Gambling Hall near the Nevada-California border.

In the following decades, more casinos, hotels, and the 1960 Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley contributed to development and population booms in Stateline and all of Lake Tahoe. Today, the town of almost 1,400 is for all intents and purposes the Nevada extension of California's South Lake Tahoe, a city of 21,000.

Stateline is most recognized for its four high-rise resort casinos straddling the border with California: MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Harveys Lake Tahoe, and Horizon Casino Resort. The resorts' combined repertoire of restaurants, clubs, entertainment venues that include the popular Harveys Outdoor Amphitheater, and the nearby Heavenly Mountain Resort and Heavenly Village make Stateline the lake's most-visited tourist destination.

In addition to Heavenly—one of the largest and most popular ski resorts in the country—Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort and Kirkwood Mountain Resort are 30 minutes and an hour away, respectively. Fall and winter activities that attract skiers and non-skiers alike include the Valhalla Holiday Faire, November 19-20, and Gala Dinner, December 3, and the Lake Tahoe Festival of Trees and Lights, December 2-4.

During the warmer months, myriad beaches from Nevada Beach, just two miles north, and Baldwin Beach near Emerald Bay cater to sun worshipers and offer lakeside camping. Nevada Beach is also a great vantage from which to watch South Lake Tahoe's July 4th fireworks display. One of the lake's two iconic, turn-of-the-century paddlewheels, the *Tahoe Queen*, departs for regular scenic and dinner cruises from Ski Run Marina.

Nearby golf resorts such as Edgewood Tahoe (pictured below)—which hosts the annual favorite American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament, July 17-22, 2012—offer world-class links amid unparalleled alpine scenery and sweeping lake views.

CONTACT

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
169 U.S. Hwy 50, Stateline, NV 89449
tahoesouth.com
800-288-2463

VERDI

Born as O'Neil's Crossing in 1860, Verdi was established near the Truckee River in 1868 in conjunction with the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad about eight miles west of present-day Reno. Railroad officials were responsible for the name change, an homage to Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi.

The town grew into a major milling site and terminal for the shipment of construction timbers and ties and is rumored to have at one time been larger than Reno. One of Verdi's earliest claims to fame was the 1870 Great Train Robbery, during which an express car carrying close to $50,000 in gold and silver was held up and relieved of its contents. The lumber town's major foe, not surprisingly, was fire. In Verdi's almost 150-year existence, it has been plagued by more than 20 major fires. The blaze of 1926 was

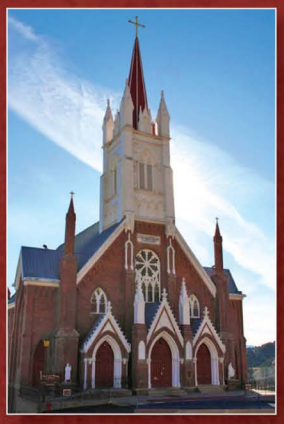


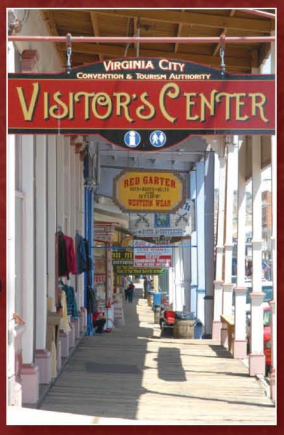
Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, Stateline

PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON



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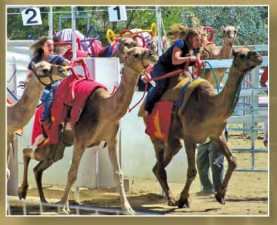




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Verdi

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

arguably the worst as it crippled the town and ended its days as an active railroad stop.

Today, the biggest draws to the mainly residential community of about 3,800 are Boomtown Hotel Casino and Cabela's outdoor superstore, just one exit east of the burg on Interstate 80 toward Reno, and Terrible's Gold Ranch Casino and RV Resort, one exit west toward California. Crystal Peak Park, southwest of the town center, has a scenic walking path along the river.

CONTACT

Verdi History Preservation Society
PO Box 663, Verdi, NV 89439
775-345-0173

VIRGINIA CITY

The spring 1859 discovery of the Comstock Lode on the flanks of Mount Davidson ranks as one of the most significant events in the history of Nevada. If not for the almost $400 million in silver (and gold) extracted from the Comstock and the population boom that accompanied it, the Silver State would lack its most treasured nickname, and perhaps even its statehood. In addition to nicknames, statehood, and mindboggling wealth amassed by a handful of individuals, the Comstock Lode brought a host of technological advances that continue to shape the mining industry to this day.

Following the discovery of silver and gold, Virginia City practically exploded into one of the West's most important cities overnight. Named for longtime local miner and one of the lode's early discoverers, James "Old Virginny" Finney, Virginia City claimed more than 30,000 residents and rivaled San Francisco for prominence at its peak in the mid-1870s. But prosperity was shortlived. The 1880s brought steady decline, and, by the late 1890s, the mines of the Comstock had all but dried up.

Virginia City continued to whither for a few decades until a different sort of bonanza struck in the mid-1900s. Despite several devastating fires, the town retained many Comstock-era buildings that attracted people interested in finding a piece of the Old West. The 1940 Warner Bros. film "Virginia City" featured the town, and the 1959 birth of the hit NBC television series "Bonanza" made the town of about 1,000 a household name. It's little surprise that Virginia City is such a popular destination. Walking along the Comstock's vintage creaking boardwalks and sauntering into the world-famous Bucket of Blood or Delta Saloon is about as close to the Old West anyone lacking a time machine can get.

Among the dusty wooden walkways and artifact-laden bars, Virginia City offers visitors a multitude of activities and opportunities to peer into the past. The former residences of some of Virginia City's mining magnates still stand. The 1860 Mackay Mansion houses a museum that includes mining

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Virginia City

artifacts, original furnishings, and Tiffany silver, and the 1861 Chollar Mansion is a bed and breakfast.

Art exhibitions and oral history lectures make use of the 1876 Fourth Ward School Museum, and theatrical performances grace the 1885 stage of Piper's Opera House. Although claimed by the devastating Great Fire of 1875, the Storey County Courthouse and St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic church were each rebuilt the following year and today are, respectively, the state's oldest continuously operated courthouse and most prominent structure in the town. The Mark Twain Museum at the *Territorial Enterprise* is a tribute to Virginia City's most famous resident and Nevada's oldest newspaper with 1860s printing equipment and Twain's former desk.

To venture (literally) deeper (literally) into the Comstock's history, visitors should consider an excursion on the recently refurbished Virginia & Truckee Railroad and underground tours of the Chollar and Ponderosa Mines. Rides on the V&T include the 35-minute roundtrip route to nearby Gold Hill and 1.5-hour one-way trips to Mound House, just east of Carson City. Holiday-themed Polar Express trains November through December and Christmas Elf Trains, December 3, 10, 11, 17, and 18, offer yuletide cheer and fun for the whole family.

As though all of the historic offerings in Virginia City weren't sufficient to attract throngs of tourists, the town's many annual events are almost as legendary as the Comstock itself. The Veterans Day Parade takes over C Street on Friday, November 11, and the Christmas on the Comstock and Parade of Lights, December 2-4, celebrate the holiday season with a Virginia City spirit. One of the city's most popular events is March's Mountain Oyster Festival and St. Patrick's Day Parade—for the uninitiated, mountain oysters are sheep's testicles. September's International Camel Races always draw



Washoe City's Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory (bottom right) has been a stalwart sweet-tooth satisfier for decades, and a short walking path out back leads to a larger-than-life sculpture of "The Prospector" (below).

a crowd, and the Outhouse Races in October practically guarantee a laugh from onlookers.

CONTACT

Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority
86 S. C St., Virginia City, NV 89440
visitvirginiacitynv.com
800-718-7587

WASHOE CITY & WASHOE VALLEY

Named for the native Washoe people who inhabited the Lake Tahoe area and nearby western Nevada valleys, Washoe Valley was inhabited for countless generations before white settlers reached the region. Franktown was occupied by several Mormon families as early as 1848. Following the discovery of the Comstock Lode in nearby Virginia City in 1859, Ophir and Washoe Cities were established around smelters and mills in the valley in 1860. Named the seat of newly formed Washoe County in 1864, Washoe City was home to more than 2,500 residents (the total population of the valley surpassed 4,000) and numerous hotels, stores, and saloons. Decline followed the county seat's 1871 move to Reno, and dwindling production from Comstock mines through the 1870s spelled the end of prosperity for the valley's towns.

Being roughly midway between Reno and Carson City, the burgs in Washoe Valley were spared the fate of many Nevada towns that had outlived their utility and continued to support ranches and occasional businesses. Today, the bulk of the population (roughly 13,600 people live in Washoe Valley) is on the east side of the valley, locally referred to as New Washoe City. The mostly residential area has basic services and is only a few miles from Washoe Lake State Park, where fishing, hunting, wildlife-viewing, boating, windsurfing, horseback riding, picnicking, and camping are popular activities in all seasons. The campground has 49 sites with tables, grills, fire rings, restrooms, and showers.

Scattered neighborhoods, ranches, and locally owned shops such as Nevada Lynn Emporium and the Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory occupy the western part of the valley where historic Washoe City, Franktown, and Ophir used to be. In addition to the aforementioned shops, the 1863 Bowers Mansion and its surrounding park are popular stops, and Davis Creek Regional Park and Campground offers hiking trails, fishing, ice-skating on a pond that typically freezes in the winter, and 63 campsites with tables, fire pits, grills, restrooms, and showers.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

WORTH A CLICK

washoevalley.org



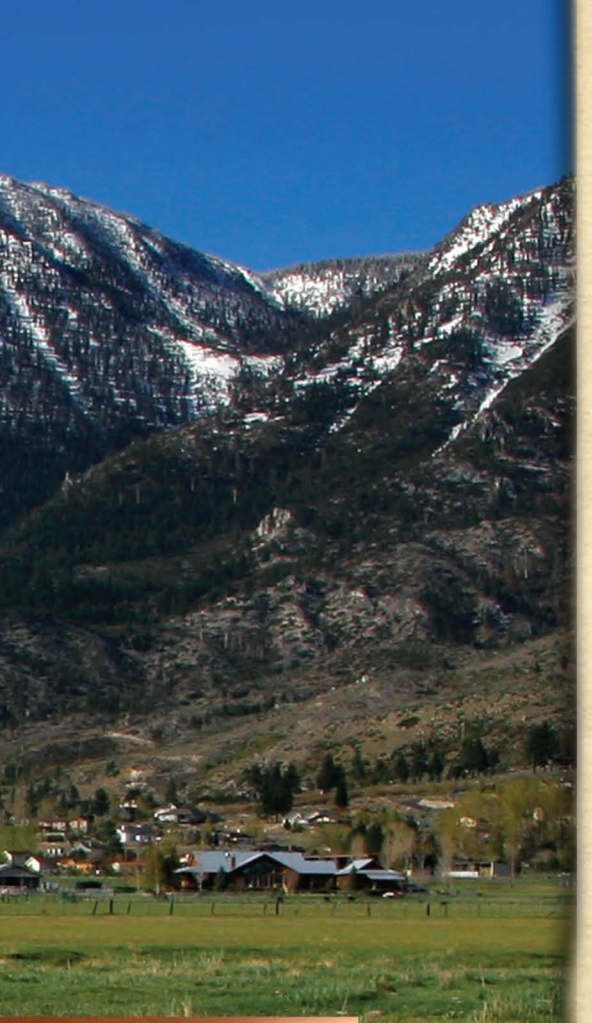
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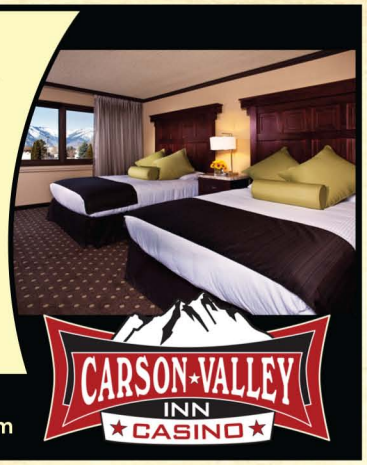




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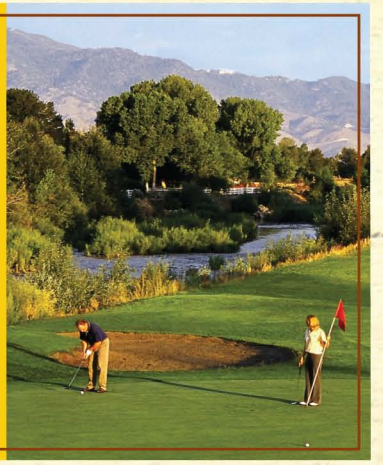
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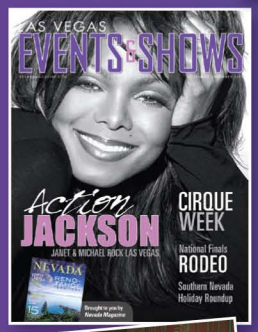
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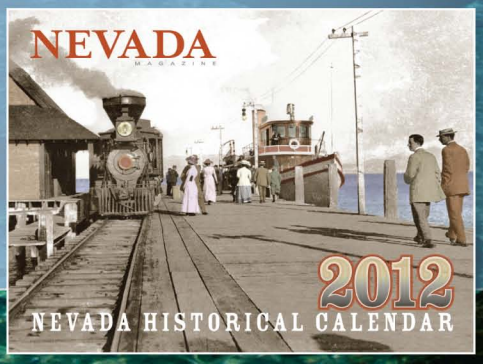
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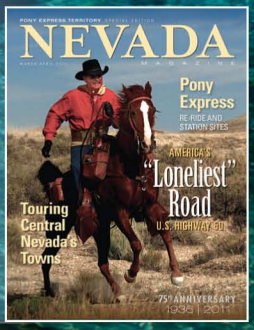
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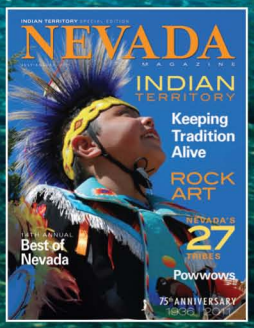




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reno-tahoe's lakes and parks

Recreation opportunities are abundant in this territory—no matter the season.

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Luckily for visitors and the roughly half-million residents of Nevada's second-most populous region, Reno-Tahoe Territory is brimming with places to escape the urban grind. From day trips on the trails and beaches of awe-inspiring Lake Tahoe and camping, boating, and fishing at Pyramid Lake to shady afternoon picnics at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and alpine hiking just minutes from Reno at Galena Creek Regional Park, there's an outing in Reno-Tahoe to suit any taste.



PHOTOS: CHRIS TALBOT (OPPOSITE PAGE), MATTHEW B. BROWN (ABOVE).

From Lake Tahoe's south shore—above, kayaks line the beach of Zephyr Cove—to its north shore—on the opposite page, a pair of kayakers delight in the liquid heaven of Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park—there are endless opportunities for outdoor adventure in and out of the water.

LAKE TAHOE

To say that Lake Tahoe offers an abundance of recreational possibilities is an understatement as colossal as the impossibly blue lake itself. The largest alpine lake in North America, Tahoe's 72 miles of shoreline and hundreds of thousands of acres of unspoiled forested mountain wilderness make it a strong contender for largest outdoor playground as well.

The granddaddy of all Lake Tahoe outdoor adventures is the Tahoe Rim Trail. In its 165 miles, the route circumambulates the lake through pristine wilderness and along mountain crests as high as 10,338 feet. Ultra-running superhuman Kilian Jornet completed the route in a mere 38 hours and 32 minutes, but us mortals should budget about 12 days. The Tahoe Rim Trail recently opened a new section along the Galena Waterfall, and, in late 2010, work started on the Rim to Reno Trail System, which connects the TRT to Reno and provides 20 additional miles of trails in the Mount Rose Wilderness vicinity.

Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park occupies much of the lake's northeastern shore and adjacent backcountry between Incline Village and U.S. Highway 50. Sand Harbor is the park's most



PHOTO: RACHID DAHNOUN

Hikers bask in the glory of a summer view of Lake Tahoe and the smaller Cascade Lake from the summit of California's Mount Tallac.

popular stop, with sandy beaches, a boat ramp, and picnic and group-use areas. A beachside stage hosts the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival in July and August. The shoreline north and south of Sand Harbor along State Route 28 offers myriad secluded—but popular—stretches of sand including Chimney and Hidden Beaches. Spooner Lake in the southern part of the park is popular for fishing and hiking and is the embarkation point for many trails leading into the 13,000-acre Marlette-Hobart Backcountry.

Fabled hiking, biking, and horseback routes such as the Marlette Flume and Tahoe Rim Trails combine for more than 50 miles of paths within the park and provide access to Marlette Lake and Hobart Reservoir. Hobart, Marlette Peak, and North Canyon Campgrounds provide primitive overnight options for backpackers, and the Spooner Lake Outdoor Company offers two rustic cabins near Spooner Lake. Cave Rock at the southern tip of the park is a sacred site among the area's native Washoe people and overlooks a small day-use area with a boat ramp, beach, and picnic sites just south of the Cave Rock tunnels on U.S. 50. Outside of the state park, the eastern shore of the lake between Incline Village and Stateline is strewn with popular beaches, resorts, campgrounds, and other lakeside attractions.

Van Sickle Bi-State Park straddles the Nevada-California border just steps from Stateline and South Lake Tahoe. The nation's first bi-state park offers hiking and equestrian trails and nature study.

Roughly two-thirds of Lake Tahoe is in California, where cozy lakeside towns, four state parks, and endless wilderness are the perfect complement to the offerings on the Nevada side. Burton Creek, D.L. Bliss, Emerald Bay, and Sugar Pine Point State Parks offer countless trails to suit any fitness level, and all but Burton Creek offer camping as well. All told, the California side of Lake Tahoe is home to more than 1,000 campsites—all with restrooms and most with access to showers.

Emerald Bay State Park ranks among the most popular attractions at Lake Tahoe thanks to the unparalleled beauty of its languid waters and picturesque setting amid grand alpine forests, cascading waterfalls, and towering granite crags. In addition to a variety of trails and access to Desolation Wilderness, Vikingsholm Castle is a big draw to the park. Built in the late 1920s, Vikingsholm is considered the best example of Scandinavian architecture in the Western Hemisphere. Fannette Island—the lake's only island—in Emerald Bay, is home to the castle's companion, the Tea House. Beaches on the lake's western shore include those within D.L. Bliss, Emerald Bay, and Sugar Pine Point, as well as popular spots such as Pope Beach near Camp Richardson, Tahoe City's Commons Beach, and Meeks Bay.

A challenging way to take in all the scenery of Tahoe is during one of the lake's many endurance sports events, including the 72-mile circumnavigation of Lake Tahoe via America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride, June 3, 2012, and the Lake Tahoe Marathon, which follows California State Route 89 from Tahoe City 26.2 miles to Pope Beach, September 30, 2012.

CONTACTS

Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park
PO Box 6116, Incline Village, NV 89450
parks.nv.gov/lt.htm
775-831-3030

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
169 U.S. Hwy 50, Stateline, NV 89449
tahoesouth.com
800-288-2463

Lake Tahoe Incline Village & Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau
969 Tahoe Blvd, Incline Village, NV 89451
gotahoenorth.com
800-468-2463

Tahoe Rim Trail Association
948 Incline Way, Incline Village, NV 89451
tahoerimtrail.org
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America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride
bikethewest.com

Lake Tahoe Marathon
laketahoemarathon.com



Pyramid Lake

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

PYRAMID LAKE

The austere desert ying to Lake Tahoe's majestic alpine yang, Pyramid Lake's great beauty lies in its unlikelihood. The terminal destination of Tahoe's only outlet, the Truckee River, blue-green Pyramid sits in striking contrast to the arid brown expanse surrounding it. One of the last remaining vestiges of ancient Lake Lahontan, 195-square-mile Pyramid is the largest lake situated entirely within Nevada.

The lake's location within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation has spared it from development with the exception of two small towns, Nixon and Sutcliffe on its southeastern and western shores, respectively.

Pyramid is one of Nevada's most popular fishing destinations and home to the state's largest population of native Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, found only in a handful of Nevada waterways. The lake's other famous fish, the large Cui-ui suckerfish, is an endangered species found nowhere else in the world—and is subsequently off limits to fishermen. In 2010, the lake was named one of the top public fisheries in the world by *Flyfishing & Tying Journal*.

Winged wildlife are another draw to the lake, where Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge is a vital nesting colony for thousands of American white pelicans. While the island is closed to the public, the birds congregate at the lake's southern end, providing excellent opportunities to watch and photograph.

In addition to the world-class fishing and bird-watching, Pyramid is a favorite watersports destination, as evidenced by the hordes of boaters, jet-skiers, kayakers, water-skiers, and wakeboarders that ply its surface every weekend between May and October, and occasionally during colder months as well. Visitors vie for beachside camping spots along the lake's western shore, which is also home to the first National Scenic Byway located entirely on tribal land. Camping, day use, and other permits are required for non-tribal members visiting the lake. The fees charged for such permits help preserve the lake and the unique wildlife that depend on it.

Campers and day-users have easy access to basic supplies in Nixon and Sutcliffe, and the Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center in Nixon offers information on area activities as well as the history of the land and its native Paiute people.

CONTACT

Pyramid Lake
pyramidlake.us
775-574-1000

WORTH A VISIT

Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center
709 State St., Nixon, NV 89424
pyramidlake.us
775-574-1088



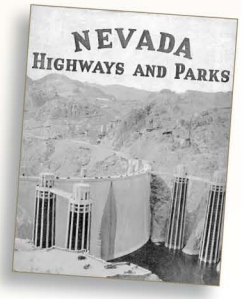
Topaz Lodge

TOPAZ LAKE

Topaz Lake reservoir, on the Nevada-California border 21 miles south of Gardnerville, was created in the early 1920s when the West Walker River was diverted to an Antelope Valley basin that previously held a smaller natural lake. In 1937, the Army Corp of Engineers built a new levee, nearly tripling the lake's volume and bringing it to its current capacity of 126,000 acre feet.

While the reservoir's primary purpose has always been to serve the irrigation needs of the downstream agricultural regions of Smith and Mason Valleys, the lake is also a favorite Douglas County recreation spot, popular among bird-watchers, boaters, campers, fishermen, picnickers,

REFLECTIONS



Topaz Lake, in western Douglas County, is a little gem in the mountains and this lake likewise offers good fishing. Not comparable to Pyramid or Tahoe in size, nevertheless the scenic setting of Topaz fully lives up to its name. Fishermen can expect plenty of sport and few disappointments.

"They'll Offer Plenty of Fight Too!"
Nevada Highways and Parks, May 1936

and water-skiers. During the January 1 through September 30 fishing season, the lake has been known to produce many trophy-quality rainbow trout above eight pounds.

Topaz Lake Park includes 15 sites with RV hookups, electricity, water, and restrooms and 40 developed dry campsites and many undeveloped tent campsites along the lakeshore. For a higher standard of comfort, Topaz Lodge offers a full-service casino, 100 hotel rooms, a coffee shop and steakhouse, its own RV park, panoramic views of Topaz, and many of the aforementioned trophy trout pulled from the lake.

CONTACTS

Topaz Lake Park
topazlake.com/topazlakepark.htm
775-266-3343
775-782-9835 (camping reservations)

Topaz Lodge
1979 U.S. Hwy 395 S.,
Gardnerville, NV 89410
topazlodge.com
800-962-0732

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

Despite its proximity to the bulk of Northern Nevada's population, Washoe Lake State Park is a refreshingly uncrowded weekend retreat. The park, which encompasses the southern half of Washoe Lake and part of Little Washoe Lake, offers some of the state's best windsurfing and waterfowl-hunting, as well as boating, camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, and wildlife-viewing.

CONTACT

Washoe Lake State Park
4855 East Lake Blvd.,
Carson City, NV 89704
parks.nv.gov/wl.htm
775-687-4319

The park's campground consists of 49 sites with tables, grills, and fire rings. Some of the sites have shade structures and can hold RVs up to 45 feet, and all are adjacent to restrooms with showers. A group area with a covered pavilion, restrooms, 20 picnic tables, grills, power, and lighting can be reserved for day and overnight use. Nevada State Parks hosts occasional stargazing and wildflower-viewing events in the park. Washoe Lake is conveniently situated about 20 miles south of Reno and less than 10 miles north of Carson City on U.S. Highway 395.



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

Majestic views of the Carson Range are among the many enticing reasons to visit Washoe Lake State Park. The Washoe Valley oasis includes trails for motorized and non-motorized use, camping, equestrian areas, and excellent migratory and resident bird-watching.



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

DANGBERG HOME RANCH HISTORIC PARK

One of the first-ever Mickey Mouse toys, the oldest known pair of Levi's cut overalls in Nevada, Christmas cards from a litany of Nevada Governors, an excessively large bottle of cod liver oil, and the oldest electric refrigerator in Carson Valley are only a handful of the more than 39,000 historical artifacts found at the Dangberg estate, just west of Minden off State Route 88.

German immigrant Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg homesteaded a patch of land near present-day Minden in 1857 and within a few decades became a successful rancher, businessman, and politician. By the time of his death in 1904, the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company held more than 50,000 acres in Carson Valley, Douglas County, and California's Alpine County. Successive Dangberg generations inhabited and improved upon the original cabin and continued to hold prominence throughout the region well into the 20th century.

Today, the ranch house and surrounding out buildings hold the memories of four generations of Dangbergs and more than 150 years of Nevada history. Despite state budget woes that caused the park to be dropped from the Nevada Division of State Parks system in mid-2011, the ranch and home are still maintained and shared with the public thanks to the work of the

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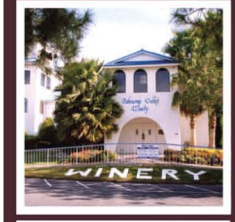
Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge



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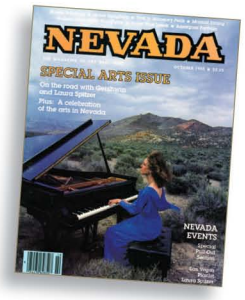
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REFLECTIONS

One day [Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg] returned to [his] claim to find the notorious gambler and highwayman "Lucky Bill" Thorington waiting for him with a finger resting on the trigger of a rifle. Thorington said, "What are you going to do now, Dutchman?" Wisely, Dangberg rode away, knowing he could acquire another claim more easily than another life. In [1857] he staked out a second place between the forks of the Carson River. That claim was the beginning of a ranch that a century later covered more than 50,000 acres and sold in 1978 for $17 million... Dangberg eventually regained the land stolen by Thorington.



"The Amazing Grace"
Nevada Magazine, October 1988

nonprofit Friends of the Dangberg Home Ranch and Douglas County Parks and Recreation. Guided tours are offered by reservation for $8 per person 17 and older, and children are free. A special Holiday Toy Exhibit, December 3-4 and 10-11, features toys from the 1860s through 1940s that once belonged to the Dangberg children and are not seen during regular tours.

CONTACT

Friends of the Dangberg Home Ranch
1450 State Route 88, Minden, NV 89423
dangberghomeranch.org
775-783-9417

WORTH A READ

Lost Legacy of Carson Valley: The Rise and Fall of the H.F. Dangberg Ranching Empire
By Steve "Dink" Achard
and Conrad Buedel
e-mail: tahoeconrad@charter.net
775-267-6676



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

GALENA CREEK REGIONAL PARK

Nestled amid alpine forests in the shadow of 10,776-foot Mount Rose and just minutes from Reno, Galena Creek Regional Park offers urban dwellers of the Truckee Meadows a chance to get away from the city without having to venture too far from home. Summertime hiking and equestrian trails play double duty as cross-country skiing routes in winter months.

Horseshoe pits, picnic and barbecue facilities, and fishing at Marilyn's Pond provide additional recreation opportunities, and Camp WeChMe Lodge offers 12 bunkrooms, a kitchen, grand room, and restrooms and can host up to 150 people for reunions, retreats, and the like. Several picnic pavilions can also be rented for gatherings and special events.

The park's new visitor center, located at the north entrance to the park, provides natural, historic, and recreational information and resources and includes exhibits, a weather station, gift shop, and bookstore. The visitor center also hosts guest speakers and events.

CONTACT

Galena Creek Regional Park
18350 State Route 431,
Reno, NV 89511
washoecounty.us/parks
775-849-2511



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

HIDDEN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

The 480-acre Hidden Valley Regional Park in southeast Reno includes 65 developed acres with picnic areas, multi-use athletic fields, two tennis courts, a volleyball court, playground, fenced dog park, and equestrian area with main and practice arenas, restrooms, and a grandstand. Hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails meander through the undeveloped portion of the park's high-desert landscape.

CONTACT

Hidden Valley Regional Park
4740 Parkway Dr., Reno, NV 89502
washoecounty.us/parks
775-828-6612

MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

Built in 1851, Mormon Station in present-day Genoa is the site of one of the first permanent settlements in what would eventually become Nevada. Though the original station and trading post was lost decades ago to fire, Mormon Station State Historic Park is home to a reproduction constructed in 1947 that houses a museum with period artifacts. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the replica log cabin-turned-museum, the park includes a Snowshoe Thompson memorial statue (at right), stockade area with antique wagons, walking paths, picnic sites, and a group-use pavilion.

CONTACT

Mormon Station State Historic Park
PO Box 302, Genoa, NV 89411
parks.nv.gov/ms.htm
775-782-2590


Mormon Station State Historic Park

PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

RANCHO SAN RAFAEL REGIONAL PARK

Since enthusiastically approving its creation in 1979, Renoites have held Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in northwest Reno in high esteem. The 570-acre park is home to some of the city's most cherished events such as The Great Reno Balloon Race in September and is a favorite picnic, dog-walking, and recreation spot for people all around the Truckee Meadows. Manicured lawns, pastures, a duck pond and marsh, and shaded gardens and groves lend a peaceful countryside feel to Rancho San Rafael.

The Wilbur D. May Museum within the park is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features special exhibits and the eclectic mix of items collected around the globe by May in the early 20th century. A philanthropist, rancher, and avid traveler, May was once the owner of Double Diamond Ranch in south Reno. The 13-acre Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens features an abundance of native and adaptive plant species.

CONTACT

Wilbur D. May Center
& Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
1595 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89503
washoecounty.us/parks
775-785-5961



Rancho San Rafael Regional Park

PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

REFLECTIONS

Evans Creek meanders through rolling foothills north of Reno before descending to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. There the stream puddles into a pond and then into a marsh. The water nourishes an oasis of gardens and groves known as the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden, which is a great place to escape the city's midsummer heat.

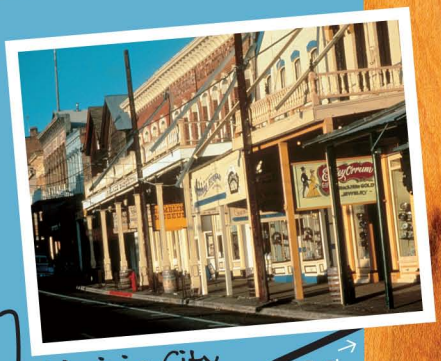


"Summer Oasis"
Nevada Magazine, July 2006

A great Nevada destination,



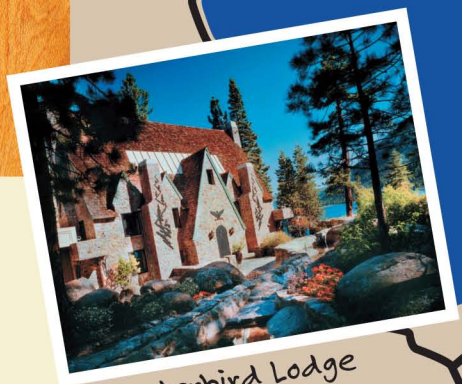
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NEVADA
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Reno/Sparks
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Virginia City
800-718-7587 VisitVirginiaCityNV.com

Wish You Were Here!

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RenoTahoe.com

beyond burning man

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area is a mouthful, but its boundless adventure will leave you speechless.

BY BRIAN BEFFORT

The putrid, algae-choked pool was more than I had bargained for, but there wasn't much choice. I had already rappelled in and swum halfway across it. Vertical rock walls towered above me on three sides. Forward was the only way out.

The reward was a hike through the famous potholes and crevices of Fly Canyon, a jagged slot canyon tumbling through the bedrock of Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Fly Canyon is nearly invisible from the dirt road a half-mile away, inconspicuous like so many of the attractions in this vast and extreme northwestern Nevada region. One large "pothole" in Fly Canyon plunges nearly 80 feet. The canyon also contains the visible remnants of a difficult wagon slide traversed by emigrants a century and a half ago.

It's the intriguing combination of adventure and history that makes a journey to this isolated Nevada land so fruitful.

"The Black Rock Desert is a never-ending supply of surreal and weird," photographer Grant Kaye writes on Flickr. "Just when you think you've seen it all after 10 years of Burning Man and countless weekends spent camping out there... you happen upon a three-inch-deep lake of water 10 miles north of the Burning Man site, complete with flocks of birds and millions of little horseshoe crabs swimming in the water."

PHOTO: GRANT KAYE





The playa's version of a stream (left) snakes along the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in northwestern Nevada. Calico Mountains Wilderness (below), sitting west of the Black Rock Desert, contains snow-capped peaks as high as 7,719 feet (South Donnelly Peak).

Mention the Black Rock Desert, which begins beyond Gerlach—a tiny town about two hours northeast of Reno—and you'll likely hear tales of dust, art cars, bedazzled bodies, and the flaming temples of Black Rock City, the 50,000-person community built to host the annual counterculture summer festival known as Burning Man.

Or perhaps you'll hear the legend of Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green, who drove 763 mph in a 110,000-horsepower rocket car named ThrustSSC on October 15, 1997, breaking the land-speed record and sound barrier.

The Black Rock playa—one of the planet's largest, flattest places—makes such extraordinary events possible. Stretching roughly 60 miles from southwest to northeast, and averaging 10 miles wide, the playa is so big and flat the horizon seems to reveal the curvature of the Earth.

Yet the playa is just the beginning of the Black Rock Desert experience—hence the High Rock Canyon and Emigrant Trails parts of the tongue-twisting NCA name. For prepared hunters, hikers, wildlife enthusiasts, and other explorers with four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles, survival equipment, and common sense, a lifetime of rugged, remote, and beautiful escapades await in Black Rock-High Rock.



PHOTOS: BRIAN BEFFORT

PIONEER TRAILS

Pioneers began traversing the Black Rock Desert in the 1840s. Most followed the Humboldt River from the east and veered north instead of south near today's

CONTACTS

Bureau of Land Management—Winnemucca Field Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.,
Winnemucca, NV 89445
blm.gov/nv
775-623-1500

Black Rock Field Station
Gerlach
Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wed.-Sun., Mar.-Nov.
blm.gov/nv
775-557-2503

Friends of Black Rock/High Rock
PO Box 224, Gerlach, NV 89412
blackrockdesert.org
775-557-2900

Soldier Meadows Ranch & Lodge
PO Box 310, Gerlach, NV 89412
soldiermeadows.com
775-849-1666

"There's an incredible serenity out here."

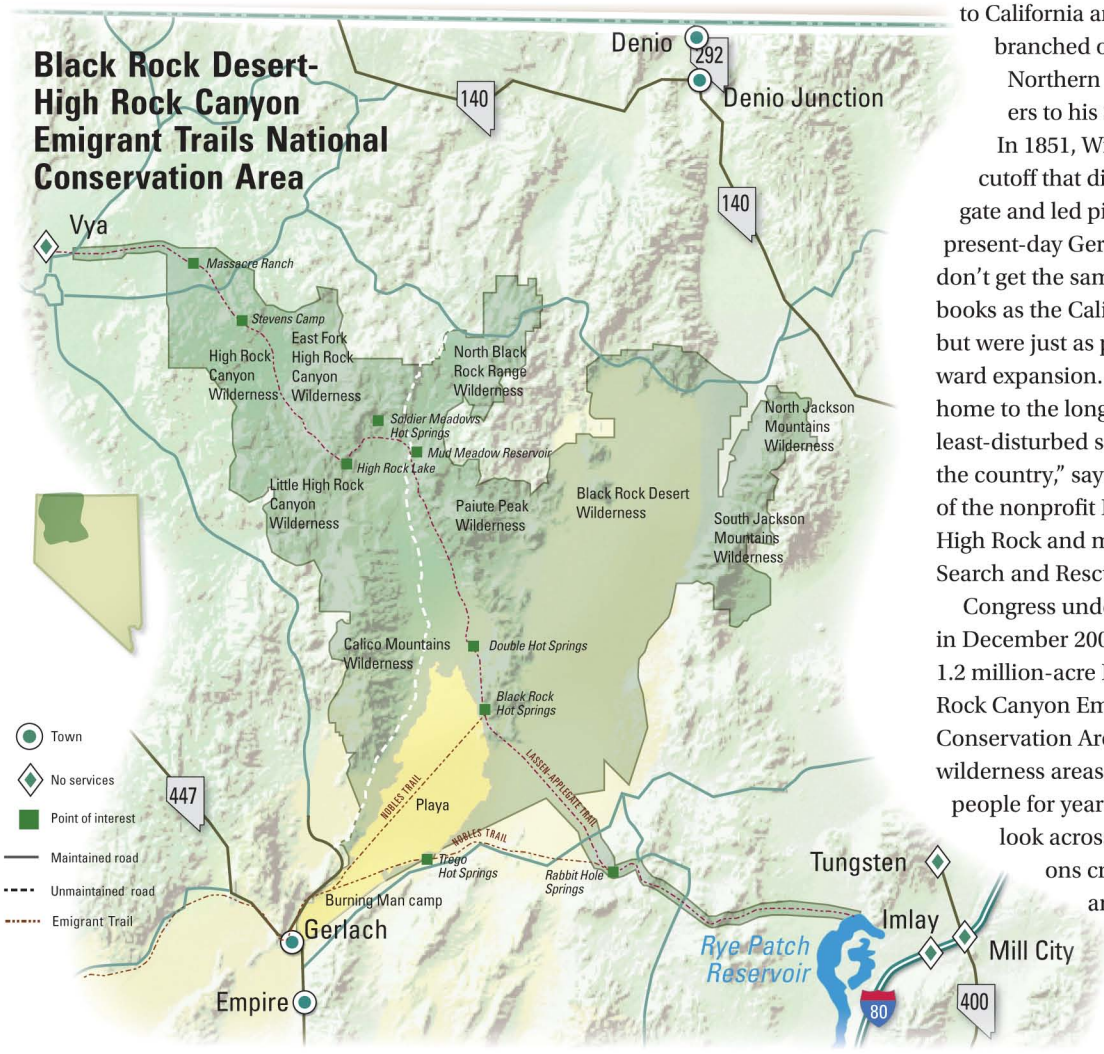
—Jenny McKay, Carson City resident

Rye Patch Reservoir on Interstate 80. They were chasing rumors of a short cut and wanted to avoid the California Trail's brutal 40-Mile Desert and Donner Summit, which especially struck fear in travelers after the tragic fate of the Donner Party in 1846. The northwest route crossed the playa, passed through Soldier Meadow and High Rock Canyon, and trekked onward into California or Oregon.

Though springs were indeed closer together than on the 40-Mile Desert, the general landscape was parched, the heat was intense, and pack animals quickly denuded the scant vegetation. '49er J. Goldsbourough Bruff wrote of the trek in his diary: "I shall never forget that night march. The road was lined on both sides with the carcasses of animals, which had perished on the way. They were so thick that from the Wells to Black Rock by stepping from one body to another one need never to have touched the ground."

An estimated 50,000 pioneers crossed the Black Rock on one of two trails: the Applegate-Lassen Trail or Nobles Trail. In 1846, Levi Scott and the Applegate brothers backtracked on portions of explorer John C. Fremont's route of 1843-44 to establish an overland wagon route to Oregon. Two years later, Peter Lassen got lost on his way to California and blazed a new road that branched off the Applegate Trail in Northern California, leading travelers to his Sacramento Valley ranch. In 1851, William H. Nobles found a cutoff that diverged from the Applegate and led pioneers west through present-day Gerlach. These pioneer paths don't get the same attention in history books as the California and Oregon Trails, but were just as pivotal to America's westward expansion. "The Black Rock Desert is home to the longest, most continuous, and least-disturbed section of emigrant trail in the country," says David Book, president of the nonprofit Friends of Black Rock/High Rock and member of Washoe County Search and Rescue.

Congress understood that historic value in December 2000, when it designated the 1.2 million-acre Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and its 10 associated wilderness areas. Thanks to this foresight, people for years to come will be able to look across the plain, visualize wagons crossing in the distance, and imagine the emigrants' ache and thirst as they trudged on toward hope of a better future.



MODERN ADVENTURES

Today, air-conditioned automobiles, modern camping equipment, and other toys make life a little easier, and much more exciting, in the Black Rock-High Rock. Several times each year, AeroPac and other rocket clubs get Federal Aviation Administration clearance to use the playa as a launching pad for devices you won't find in a hobby store. It's a thrill to watch an eight-foot-tall rocket sizzle from zero to 14,000 feet in just a few seconds.

Beyond the playa, Black Rock-High Rock offers about 800 miles of designated roads and vehicle trails that climb into soaring mountains, jagged canyons, and secret stands of aspen. At one time, pioneers steered their wagons north through High Rock Canyon, the lesser-known component of the NCA. Today, a 14-mile chassis-shaking, tire-popping dirt road wanders between craggy volcanic cliffs, where attentive travelers can spot bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and graffiti carved by pioneers.

Beyond this road, most of the region is designated wilderness, where hikers, hunters, and horse-packers can explore the remote corners of Little High Rock, Yellow Rock, Monument, and Pole Canyons—landscapes untouched by roads or other modern developments. Yellow Rock Canyon is the site of a stone garage built by homesteader David B. Fox in the early 1900s.

It is the NCA's remoteness that appeals most to those with the time and mettle to explore it. "In a lot of ways, the Black Rock-High Rock region is like Death Valley was 30 years ago," Book says. "There are no developed campgrounds out here; no water, bathrooms, picnic tables, or signs." There aren't many designated hiking trails, either. But that doesn't mean there's nowhere to hike or camp.

For the fit and prepared, places such as the Jackson Mountains (capped by 8,923-foot King Lear Peak), Pahute Peak, and Calico and Black Rock Ranges make popular destinations in the Sierra Nevada seem like a crowded amusement park. In



PHOTO: KURT KUZNICKI

Fly Canyon is famous for its "potholes"—the amount of water in them will depend on the time of year, of course. These cavities were carved in the bedrock of the canyon by sand and gravel swirled in whirlpools and can reach depths of several dozen feet.

Black Rock-High Rock, you can get an entire mountain range to yourself, or at least feel like it. And all this isolation equates, of course, to some of the best stargazing on the planet.

Northeast of Fly Canyon, emigrants found respite from the harsh desert in a large wet valley, home to hundreds of acres of grass and abundant water. It became Soldier Meadow, due to the U.S. Calvary's presence there and the establishment of nearby Camp McGarry in 1865.

Today it is the grounds of year-round Soldier Meadows Ranch and Lodge, which even hosts a traditional Thanksgiving feast. A few miles to the west, numerous hot springs sustain endangered plant and animal life. A primitive campground near the springs provides a pit toilet, a few interpretive signs, and no other amenities to speak of. The NCA as a whole is popular for its hot springs, and Book guides a Cold Weather and Hot Springs tour in early November (call 775-843-6443 for more information).

Almost anywhere in Black Rock-High Rock, you'll see no passing cars or other signs of man. The only sounds will be wind, the occasional buzzing insect, and the hum of blood coursing through your ears. "It's fabulous, there's nobody here," says Jenny McKay, who drove with her family from Carson City to Black Rock to volunteer at National Public Lands Day in September. "There aren't any modern intrusions, not even cell phones, so you have to tune out. It's dirty and dusty, but the scenery's spectacular—this wide plain, mountains rising up, and mirages in the distance. There's an incredible serenity out here."

WORTH A CLICK

Association of Experimental Rocketry of the Pacific
aeropac.org

Friends of Nevada Wilderness
nevadawilderness.org

Trails West
emigranttrailswest.org



PHOTO: KRIS VAGNER (BURNING MAN)

BLACK ROCK EVENTS

Black Rock Rendezvous
Memorial Day Weekend 2012
Hot-springs tours, lectures, Dutch-oven cook-offs, and a campout under the stars.
blackrockrendezvous.org
775-557-2900

Perseids Meteor Shower Campout
Aug. 11-12, 2012
blackrockdesert.org
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Burning Man
Aug. 27-Sep. 3, 2012
burningman.com
415-TO-FLAME

National Public Lands Day
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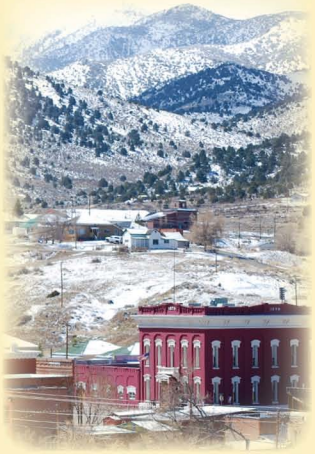
PHOTO: BRIAN BEFFORT (NORTH BLACK ROCK RANGE)

BLACK ROCK POINTERS/TIPS

- Roads in the Black Rock-High Rock range from bad to terrible. 4WD, high-clearance vehicles are recommended.
- Weather ranges from dangerously hot to brutally cold.
- Empire has the last grocery store before the playa begins. Gerlach has the last gas station.
- Stop in at Bruno's Country Club for his famous ravioli.
- Cell service is nonexistent beyond Gerlach.
- Leave your itinerary with a responsible person, and stick to it.
- Do not drive on the playa if it is wet.
- Leave No Trace by driving only on designated routes, washing with biodegradable soaps away from springs and water sources, and pack out what you bring in.

NOTE: SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WAS COVERED IN THE MAY/JUNE 2011 ISSUE.

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Eureka Opera House
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the six-week cure

Fifty years ago Nevada struck gold with its innovative divorce law, and Easterners flocked west to get Reno-vated.

BY SUSAN HORTON
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1981

The Overland Limited grinds to a halt in Reno on a cool summer night. A well-dressed woman steps down from the train, hoping to be unnoticed. Other passengers walking up and down the platform wonder aloud if she is "one of them." She feels as if she has a contagious disease. Anxious and a little embarrassed, she looks around and finally spots the handsome, suntanned cowboy who will whisk her away to a dude ranch. She will spend the next six weeks there trying to forget her marital woes while taking the cure.

The cure was divorce and the scene a familiar one in Reno during the 1930s. In March 1931, the Nevada Legislature shocked the nation when it not only legalized gambling in the state, but reduced the residency requirement for divorce from three months to six weeks. The combination of wide-open gambling, a short waiting period, and sympathetic judges was a powerful magnet. Men and women were drawn to Nevada from around the country, lured by the promise of quick and easy divorce.

Nevada began to realize the possibilities of establishing a divorce trade in 1906, when Mrs. William Ellis Corey, wife of the Pittsburgh steel millionaire, sued for divorce in Reno. When Mrs. Corey revealed that her husband's attentions had been directed toward a young actress, the ensuing scandal attracted worldwide publicity. Actress Mary Pickford's 1920 divorce from Owen Moore in Minden focused more attention upon the state. The Corey and Pickford decrees gave a fashionable tone to Nevada divorce.

Wealthy Easterners who made the trek found their domestic difficulties could be ended after establishing a residency of only six months. Nevada was the only state to offer such a quick relief.

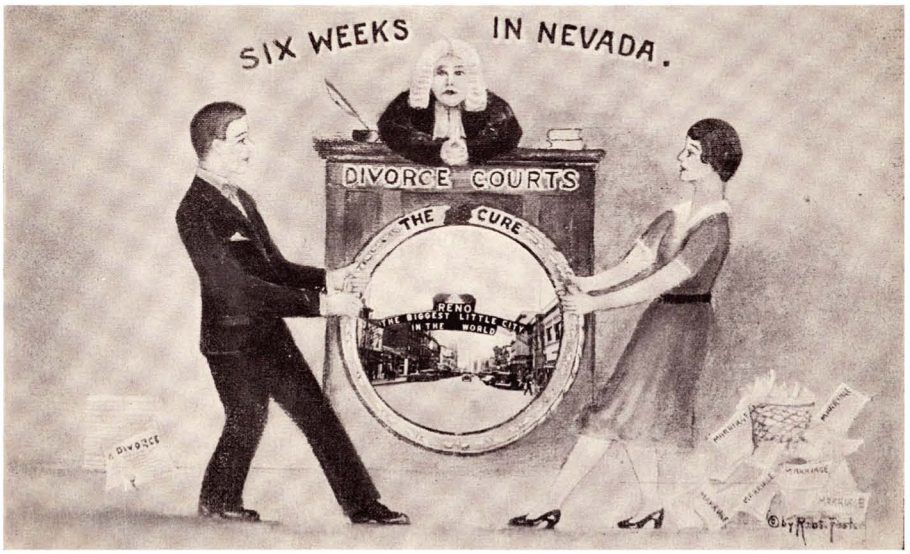


IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This circa-1940 postcard illustrates the tug of war between husband and wife in The Biggest Little City in the World. In 1931, the divorce residency requirement was reduced to six weeks.

The Silver State basked in the dubious limelight until 1927 when Mexico and France threatened to reduce their residency requirements, hoping to attract American divorcees. That year the legislature responded by passing a three-month residency bill, encouraged by financier George Wingfield, whose new and expensive Riverside Hotel was conveniently located just a few brisk paces from the Reno courthouse.

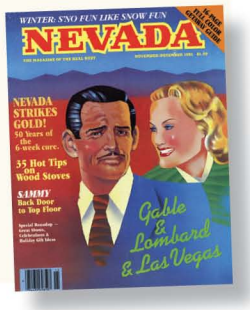
By 1931, however, Idaho and Arkansas had reduced their residency requirements to three months. Nevada had to act fast. On March 19, with little fanfare and virtually no opposition, Governor Frederick Balzar signed a six-weeks residency bill, and the rush was on to Reno and Las Vegas and easy divorce.

The America of 1931 remained staunchly conservative in its views, and the passage of the six-weeks bill was not without its opponents. The *Reno Evening Gazette* believed the action taken by the legislature would only degrade Nevada's image in the eyes of her sister states. Business would surely suffer as short-term residents would not be inclined to purchase homes and automobiles or become permanent citizens. National magazines called Reno "a city of women who have failed," a town made beautiful as bait for divorce-seekers. The International Society of Christian Endeavor declared that Reno was "a blot on civilization, a menace to the American home and national prestige." By passing the six-weeks residency bill, Nevada had all but forsaken her rights in the American Commonwealth.

Many Nevadans bristled with indignation when they heard such remarks. Nevadans were proud of their state and resented the accusation that they thrived

THE STORY

"The Six-Week Cure" was originally published in the November/December 1981 edition of *Nevada Magazine*. Two stories concerning divorce appeared in this issue, including the breakup that led to Clark Gable's marriage to Carole Lombard.



on other people's marital problems. One Reno resident told a national reporter that Nevada might be making a profit on domestic affliction, but every hospital in the country was committing the same offense by accepting fees from patients.

While most of the nation expressed shock over Nevada's seeming lack of respect for the institution of marriage, members of café society were extolling the virtues of a Reno divorce. Wealthy Easterners were mesmerized by the thoughts of days spent horseback riding and swimming at a local dude ranch, followed by glorious nights of gambling and dining in elegant casinos. Divorce seekers were also attracted by a "travel feature" which had been added to the six-weeks bill. Petitioners could travel freely around the state, for residency need not be established in one county. Just maintaining residence in Nevada was sufficient.

Obtaining a divorce was surprisingly simple. Extreme cruelty was the most common ground, and the term was stretched to mean just about anything, from a poor sense of humor to keeping too many Persian cats. One woman alleged that her husband threatened to go to the South Sea Islands if she did not leave him. Another wife complained that her husband caused her great embarrassment when he bounced a tennis ball off her head in the presence of their friends.

Women did not always have the last word. The grandson of a steel millionaire described how his wife, in a fit of anger, would pull his hair out by the roots. During one of her more excited moments, she had even driven a nail file into his ankle while the two were vacationing in Switzerland.

Reno judges gained a reputation for being sympathetic, if not downright accommodating. Uncontested divorces were heard on Monday and could be over in as little as 15 minutes. Frequently a teary-eyed female plaintiff would be seen leaving the Reno courthouse, clinging to her lawyer's arm. Taking a few steps to the Truckee River Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Sighs, she would toss her wedding ring into the cold waters below. Some divorcees couldn't resist getting a little revenge, like the woman who sent her divorce decree to her husband with a farewell gift of silk underwear in which she had concealed black widow spiders.

Reno's attractions were many, and the divorce seeker was rarely at a loss for amusement. Two-thirds of Nevada divorces were granted to women, and the state worked hard to assure them that coming to Nevada would be a pleasant and safe experience. Dude ranches offered a desert haven for those wishing to escape journalists and photographers. The Flying ME at Franktown and the Pyramid Lake Ranch catered to an elite clientele who spent their days basking in the sun, swimming, and taking riding lessons. Nights were a whirlwind of dining and dancing at the posh Willows Inn and the French Room of the Reno Country Club. The Pyramid Lake Ranch became a favorite spot for women who brought their children for the six-week stay. It was well known as a place where kids would be looked after during that kind of vacation.

The dude ranches were a novelty to Easterners, who quickly learned that their couturier riding outfits were definitely out of place in the Nevada desert. It didn't take them long to blend in, however, and most found their stay to be great fun.

A divorcee could expect to end her residency in love with at least two handsome cowboys. Once Reno-vated, she would return to her Park Avenue penthouse, the envy of her friends, disgustingly healthy and suntanned.

After receiving their divorces, the majority of men and women returned to their homes to pick up the pieces of their disrupted lives. Some fell in love with Nevada and stayed. Others quickly remarried while in the state, taking advantage of Nevada's easy marriage laws, which required no waiting period.

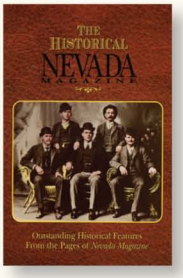
In Nevada, 1931 was a banner year for divorce with more than 4,000 decrees granted. The state managed to stave off depression for nearly two years. When divorces dropped off around the country in 1932 and 1933, Reno suffered. In order to keep business going, the city catered to those whose pocketbooks preferred boarding houses to dude ranches. Reno was no longer fashionable, but many remembered how it was once the talk of London and Paris.

NEVADA HISTORY BUFFS

If you enjoyed the preceding article, from the November/December 1981 edition of *Nevada Magazine*, you will want to add to your collection *Nevada Magazine's* 75th-Anniversary Edition, available while supplies last. To experience 23 more stories from past issues of *Nevada Highways and Parks* and *Nevada Magazine*, visit nevadamagazine.com or call 775-687-0603 to place your order.



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- Complimentary hotel pick-up and return to most Strip hotels

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*$10 per person fuel surcharge on the day of tour.

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- Fly to the Grand Canyon aboard state of the art aircraft
- Land at the Grand canyon West Rim – home of the Hualapai Tribe
- Take a scenic bus tour along the rim of the Grand Canyon
- Upgrade to the Skywalk - walk on a glass bridge 4,000 ft above the canyon floor
- Complimentary hotel pick-up and return for most Strip hotels

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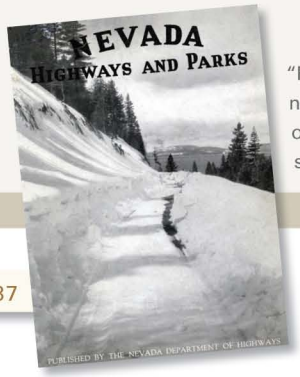
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LOOKING BACK



"High up in the...forests of the Sierra Nevada, near Glenbrook, king winter deftly piled flake on flake to cover the whole region with a deep snow mantle," reads the original caption.

JANUARY 1937

NOVEMBER

3, 1860 – The *Territorial Enterprise* newspaper—later made famous by writer Mark Twain—resumes publication in Virginia City. The first edition was printed in Genoa on December 18, 1858.

5, 1870 – The first train robbery on the Pacific Coast takes place near Verdi. Led by A.J. "Jack" Davis, it is now known as "The Great Train Robbery."

8, 1938 – Dewey Sampson of Washoe County is elected the first Native American member of the Nevada Legislature.

18, 1858 – A federal post office is formally established in Carson City. John F. Long, who had surveyed the town, is named postmaster.

25, 1861 – The Nevada Territorial Legislature establishes nine counties—Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Ormsby (now defunct), Storey, and Washoe—three years before Nevada becomes a state.

DECEMBER

6, 1864 – "Nevada" is uttered three times and "Sierra Nevada" once in Abraham Lincoln's State of the Union message. Lincoln mentions Nevada's recent admission and its prominent role in the railroad industry.

6, 1925 – Famous Washoe basket maker Dat So La Lee dies in Carson City. She is buried in the Stewart Cemetery.

15, 2000 – The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area is established in northwestern Nevada.

17, 1890 – The Stewart Indian School opens in Carson City, with 37 students from local Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone tribes and three teachers. The school closes 90 years later in 1980.

17, 1947 – The 12-story Mapes Hotel and Casino, at the time the tallest building in Nevada, opens in Reno. The iconic building was imploded on January 30, 2000.

Nevada Magazine volunteer Elmer Wolf provided this information.



TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE



THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY



NEVADA POSTAGE STAMP



PRESIDENT LINCOLN



DAT SO LA LEE BASKETS



BLACK ROCK DESERT

reno-sparks by the dozen

Discover 12 Truckee Meadows events you don't want to miss in 2011 and 2012.

BY CRISTIANA CORRAO & CHARLIE JOHNSTON



Support the Claus: Reno's annual Santa Pub Crawl fundraiser is December 10. This year, participants will see the new CommRow attraction, which replaces Fitzgeralds in downtown Reno.

NOVEMBER & 2012

BROADWAY COMES TO RENO

With its array of stellar performing arts venues, Reno has plenty to offer theatergoers, but the town's modest size has occasionally prevented the big Broadway shows from making it to The Biggest Little City. Thanks to the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts' "Broadway Comes to **Reno**" series, Northern Nevadans get a chance to experience the splendor of some of Midtown New York's finest performances. Seasons typically comprise six shows. The remainder of the 2011-12 season includes "Monty Python's Spamalot," **November 25-27**; "Young Frankenstein," **January 27-29, 2012**; "Damn Yankees," **February 17-19, 2012**; "Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles," **March 16-18, 2012**; and "The Color Purple," **April 13-15, 2012.**
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

DECEMBER

SPARKS HOMETOWNE CHRISTMAS & RENO SANTA PUB CRAWL

The holiday season is a time for carol singing, eggnog drinking, cookie eating, and jovial celebrating. The City of **Sparks** jump-starts the mood of yuletide cheer on **December 2** with the community tree-lighting ceremony. The celebration continues **December 3** with the annual Christmas parade showcasing high school bands, dance troupes, community organizations, and the big man himself, Santa Claus. Attendees will get the chance to meet St. Nick and browse the various arts and crafts vendors on hand.
sparksitshappeninghere.com, 775-353-2350—*Cristiana Corrao*

A decidedly more adult-themed Christmas celebration in the Truckee Meadows, the annual **Reno** Santa Pub Crawl, **December 10**, is the nation's largest no-charge pub-crawl and features upwards of 5,000 revelers dressed as, you guessed it, Kris Kringle.
renosantacrawl.com, 775-786-0808

JANUARY 2012

SHEEP DIP 48

Northern Nevada's Basque sheepherding traditions have loaned the region some of its most-loved cultural quirks. Though the rich heritage and food found in Basque-style eateries first comes to mind, the annual Sheep Dip Show is on the short list as well. While the phrase "sheep dip" refers to a cleansing solution in which herders historically dipped their sheep to clean them, the event of the same name references the satirical "cleansing dip" area newsmakers are given during the annual fundraiser and roast.

Hosted by John Ascuaga's Nugget, the resort owned by Nevada's best-known Basque-American, in **Sparks**, the **January 20-21, 2012** Sheep Dip 48 exposes the follies and foibles of the Truckee Meadows during skits, songs, and dances performed by local celebrities, members of the media, and politicians. Proceeds from the event help support local charitable activities—over the event's 47-year history it has donated more than $410,000.
sheepdipshow.com, 775-356-3300



PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Traditionally held during early May, the Reno River Festival is moving to mid-June in 2012. The 2011 event attracted nearly 40,000 visitors to downtown Reno.

MAY 2012

ROCK-N-RIVER MARATHON

The popularity of distance running events has been increasing in recent years, and **Reno's** Rock-n-River Marathon is convincing proof of the sport's growing popularity. The **early May**, 26.2-mile Rock-n-River Marathon—which also includes a half marathon, 10-kilometer and 5K races, and children's fun run—draws thousands of runners, joggers, and walkers to the streets of downtown Reno and scenic paths along the Truckee River. Having the start and finish lines under The Biggest Little City's most recognizable landmark, the Reno Arch, augments the festive race-day atmosphere that includes live entertainment and free refreshments and food for participants.
rock-n-riverhalfmarathon.com

JUNE 2012

RENO RIVER FESTIVAL

The Truckee River Whitewater Park and downtown **Reno's** Riverwalk District and Wingfield Park are the stage for the country's premier urban whitewater event, the Reno River Festival **June 14-16, 2012**. The three-day event includes Boatercross, freestyle kayaking, live music, a beer garden, local and national outdoor-related vendors, and the popular Run Amuck relay race, in which costumed teams of two complete a short footrace with obstacles that have, in previous years, included a mud pit and inflatable bounce house.
renoriverfestival.com, 775-788-2131

JULY 2012

STAR SPANGLED SPARKS

The City of **Sparks** knows how to honor the land of the free and celebrates Independence Day with exuberance worthy of the red, white, and blue. The **July 4th** event, Star Spangled Sparks, kicks off at dawn with hot-air balloon rides and an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Sparks Marina. Milk carton boat races, food booths, a military fly-over, and a crafts fair fill the day until the festivities shift to Victorian Square in anticipation of the main event. Here people can enjoy live music, food, and a children's area. John Ascuaga's Nugget caps off the night with one of Nevada's biggest fireworks displays.
sparksitshappeninghere.com, 775-353-2350—*CC*

JULY 2012

ARTOWN

Reno's month-long celebration of cultural diversity and artistic innovation draws more than 300,000 people to more than 400 events each year as it brings together local, national, and international artists to inspire and impress. With art exhibits, workshops, dance performances, music exhibitions, movies in the park, and more, Artown has something for attendees of all tastes and ages. While the main event spans the entire month of **July**, Artown holds events throughout the year, which include theatrical and musical performances. **renoisartown.com, 775-322-1538**—*CC*

JULY & AUGUST 2012

RENO-TAHOE OPEN

Golf enthusiasts delight when the PGA Tour returns to Montrêux Golf and Country Club **July 30-August 5, 2012**. **Reno** has been a stop on the tour for 13 years and is one of only 47 PGA Tour events worldwide. Not only do spectators get to watch some of the best players in the game, they also have the opportunity to see one of Reno's most beautiful, albeit private, courses. The Reno-Tahoe Open also hosts a variety of other on-site events for fans to enjoy, such as two pro-ams and wine tasting. **renotahoeopen.com, 775-322-3900**—*CC*

AUGUST 2012

HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

The stars of this show are the thousands of classic cars that roll into **Reno** each summer. Marking its 25th anniversary in 2012, Hot August Nights is a celebration of bygone years of rock 'n' roll, poodle skirts, and hula hooping. The event, **August 7-12, 2012**, is one of the Reno-Sparks area's most popular and has a week full of family-friendly festivities. With venues throughout Reno and Sparks, event goers can check out a new scene every night while swinging to the sounds of Herman's Hermits, cruising down Virginia Street and Victorian Square, and admiring vintage automobiles.
hotaugustnights.net, 775-356-1956—*CC*

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2012

BEST IN THE WEST NUGGET RIB COOK-OFF

There's no better way to celebrate Labor Day Weekend and send off summer than **Sparks'** Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, **August 29-September 3, 2012**. Cooks from around the country converge to serve up the finger-lickin'-est

ribs this side of...well, anywhere. The annual Rib-Eating Championship kicks off the event each year and features some of the top competitive eaters in the world. As top-notch as the ribs are entertainers such as The Family Stone, Heidi Newfield, and The Honeymoon. A children's area and craft fair make this an event for the whole family. **nuggetribcookoff.com, 775-324-6435**—CC

SEPTEMBER 2012

THE GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE

Since its humble beginnings in 1982, The Great **Reno** Balloon Race—**September 7-9, 2012**—has taken off to become the biggest free ballooning event in the nation and includes more than 100 balloons that paint the Reno sky with vibrant splashes of color. One of the most stunning sights during the event is Dawn Patrol—occurring on Saturday and Sunday of the event—during which balloons rise in the dark skies before sunrise and glow like massive fireflies. **renoballoon.com, 775-826-1181**—CC



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

Spectators must rise early to watch The Great Reno Balloon Race because low wind and cool temperatures are required to safely fly the balloons.

SEPTEMBER 2012

STREET VIBRATIONS FALL RALLY

The roar of Harley Davidson motorcycles, smell of gasoline fumes, and throngs of leather-clad babes and bikers means it's late **September** in **Reno**, and the Street Vibrations Fall Rally has roared into The Biggest Little City. In its 18th year in 2012, the event is a celebration of biker culture and one of Northern Nevada's most popular—and profitable—festivals. Goings-on in Reno, Sparks, and the surrounding area include America's Finest Custom Bike Builders Expo, a tattoo expo, stunt shows, poker runs, live music, and motorcycle-related vendors. Street Vibrations Spring Rally in **June** features many attractions similar to the original Fall Rally and is centered at **Sparks'** Victorian Square. **road-shows.com, 775-329-7469**



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES & AIR SHOW

The future of one of Northern Nevada's most beloved events, **September's** National Championship Air Races & Air Show at **Reno's** Stead Airport, is uncertain following the worst accident in the event's 48-year history. On Friday, September 16, a modified World War II P-51 Mustang—one of the most common types of aircraft at the event—flown by 74-year-old Jimmy Leeward of Ocala, Florida crashed near the grandstands, killing 11 people including Leeward and injuring more than 70 more. In addition to the pilot, those lost in the accident include John Craik, 45, Gardnerville; Sharon Stewart, 47, Reno; Regina Bynum, 53, San Angelo, Texas; Cheryl Elvin, 71, Lenexa, Kansas; George Hewitt, 60, Mojave, Arizona; Wendy Hewitt, 56, Mojave, Arizona; James McMichael, 47, Graham, Washington; Greg Morcom, 47, Stanwood, Washington; Craig Salerno, 50, Friendswood, Texas; and Michael Wogan, 22, Scottsdale, Arizona. The remainder of the races were canceled following the crash that rekindled the ongoing debate over the safety of the event whose fate will likely be determined by insurance companies and their willingness to cover it. **airrace.org, 775-972-6663**



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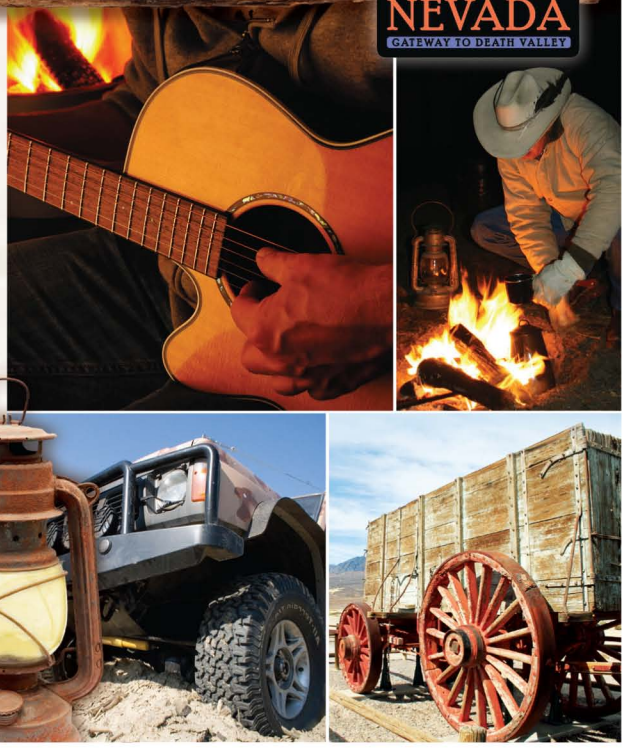
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Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival


Corley Ranch


Virginia City International Camel Races

reno-tahoe territory by the dozen

Twelve events outside the Reno-Sparks metro area you don't want to miss in 2011 and 2012.

BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS ON THE COMSTOCK

The V&T Railroad and **Virginia City** come together every December to make their celebration of Christmas one of the best in Nevada. Santa Claus, carolers, and lambs ply Virginia City's C Street on glowing homemade floats on **December 3**.

On **December 11**, Virginia City gets into the holiday spirit with its annual Gingerbread Social and Auction. Participants create gingerbread houses that are displayed for the contest, then auctioned off, with all proceeds benefiting the Virginia City Community Chest Food Bank.

The Virginia & Truckee Railroad delivers Christmas cheer with rides on Comstock Christmas and Polar Express trains. Comstock elves read a Christmas story, cider and hot chocolate are served, and good boys and girls can send wish lists to Santa.
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-4386

FEBRUARY 2012

EAGLES & AGRICULTURE

Drawn by the afterbirth littering **Carson Valley** ranchers' fields in late winter, eagles, hawks, and other birds of prey come in droves to feast—and bird-watchers come in subsequent crowds to spot and photograph the raptors. Eagles & Agriculture, **February 24-26, 2012**, brings organization and expertise to the attraction with tours and workshops that offer the best vantages for viewing and photography tips. Participants also learn about the valley's rich agricultural history and get the chance to compete in photo contests.
visitcarsonvalley.org, 800-727-7677

APRIL 2012

GENOA COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Weathered boots, Wranglers with Copenhagen disc imprints, beloved Stetsons, deep insightful prose, and hilarious rhymes. If this list strikes you as non sequitur, a visit to **Genoa April 27-29, 2012,** is in order. If the list looks perfectly normal, you have probably already purchased tickets to the third annual Genoa Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival. Some of the West's most talented cowboy poets and performers grace the historic Carson Valley town during the three-day celebration that includes western vendors, craftsmen, horsemen, food, and refreshments.
cowboypoetrygenoa.com, 775-782-8696

JULY 2012

LIGHTS ON THE LAKE

South Lake Tahoe's July 4th fireworks extravaganza, Lights on the Lake, was named one of the country's top five fireworks displays by the American Pyrotechnics Association. The display, choreographed to music, is visible from all around the lake's south shore, but the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority suggests watching from Bijou Community Park, Nevada Beach, the Tallac Historic Site, or Timber Cove Marina. Edgewood Tahoe and the Lake's two paddlewheelers (the *M.S. Dixie II* and *Tahoe Queen*) also offer viewing options.
tahoesouth.com, 800-288-2463

JULY 2012

AMERICAN CENTURY CELEBRITY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Lakeside links at Tahoe are about as scenic as golf gets. Throw some celebrities in the mix, and you've got a recipe for one of Northern Nevada's most popular events. **Stateline's July 2012** American Century Celebrity Golf Championship at Edgewood Tahoe pits more than 80 stars of sports, screen, and stage against one



another for $600,000 in prize money. Fans love the event for the candid views of their favorite athletes and actors, not to mention frequent opportunities to shake hands and ask for autographs.
tahoecelebritygolf.com

JULY & AUGUST 2012

LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

It's hard to improve on a midsummer sunset from the soft warm sands of Lake Tahoe—but for 40 years, that is exactly what the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival has done. **Sand Harbor's** picturesque beaches support the stage and provide a picture-perfect backdrop to the Bard's best during the **July**/**August** event, which has featured such Shakespearean stalwarts as "Twelfth Night," "Midsummer Night's Dream," and "Much Ado About Nothing."

The unique outdoor amphitheatre lends to a jovial atmosphere replete with beach chairs, blankets, and coolers overflowing with picnic dinners. Shakespeare's Kitchen offers refreshments and gourmet food for anyone averse to packing their own meal, and non-Shakespeare musical and theatrical performances during Monday Night Showcases are a big hit.
laketahoeshakespeare.com, 800-747-4697

JULY & AUGUST 2012

SOUTH TAHOE WOODEN BOAT CLASSIC & LAKE TAHOE CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

There are few things as graceful as a spotlessly detailed antique wooden boat cruising across a clear alpine lake. Thanks to **South Lake Tahoe's** Wooden Boat Classic in **July** and **North Tahoe's** Concours d'Elegance in **August**, you don't just have to take our word for it. The events display the beauty of wooden vessels and celebrate the dedication it takes to own and maintain the exquisite crafts.
tahoewoodenboats.com; laketahoeconcours.com, 775-851-4444

SEPTEMBER 2012

GENOA CANDY DANCE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIRE

Few events in the country, let alone Nevada, can claim the longevity of the annual end-of-summer **Genoa** Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire. The **September** event celebrates is 92nd anniversary in 2012 with more than 300 craft and food vendors and thousands of attendees. Highlights of the event include live music and a dinner and dance.
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

SEPTEMBER 2012

VIRGINIA CITY INTERNATIONAL CAMEL RACES

Since the days of Mark Twain, **Virginia City's** *Territorial Enterprise* has been well known for spinning the occasional yarn. One such hoax, dreamed up by the paper's late editor, Bob Richards, in 1959 about fraudulent camel races, resulted in locals and visitors actually holding a race. **September's** International Camel Races (ostriches were added in 1962) have since become one of the town's most popular events. Not to be taken lightly, the entertaining races involve serious competitors from around the globe and seriously cantankerous animals.
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-379-4787

OCTOBER 2012

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OUTHOUSE RACES

Just about everyone has, at one time or another, had to race to a bathroom. Remarkably fewer people, however, can say they've raced *in* a bathroom. **Virginia City's October** World Championship Outhouse Races pit pedal- and push-powered potties against each other in one of the state's most unique and entertaining events. If watching the calamity isn't enough excitement, teams of three can enter their own outhouse in the double-elimination tournament for $50. The races take place on C Street and feature awards such as ugliest, prettiest, most unusual, and people's choice.
nvshows.com, 775-323-7526

OCTOBER 2012

CARSON VALLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL

Weekends at the Corley Ranch in **October** are the quintessential autumn experience during the annual **Carson Valley** Harvest Festival. Held every Saturday and Sunday throughout the month, the festival includes a two-acre corn maze, pumpkin patch, hay rides, a giant pumpkin slingshot, live entertainment, fresh produce, and food and craft vendors. The Night Crawler Maze Event, every Saturday night, allows guests to enter the maze in the dark with flashlights and is one of the festival's most popular activities. This year, the Corleys created a Nevada-shaped maze.
corleyranch.com, 775-265-3045

OCTOBER 2012

NEVADA DAY PARADE

No other state in the nation can compete with Nevada's celebration of its 1864 admission to statehood, the largest such commemoration in the country. Held in **Carson City** the **last Saturday in October**, the Nevada Day Parade has been a Northern Nevada tradition since 1938 and includes awards in 35 categories such as best float, best band, and best mounted-equestrian group. Though the parade is the main attraction, the capital is abuzz for days before and after with events that include the Governor's ball, a chili feed, and the Nevada Day Classic 8K race.
nevadaday.com, 866-683-2948

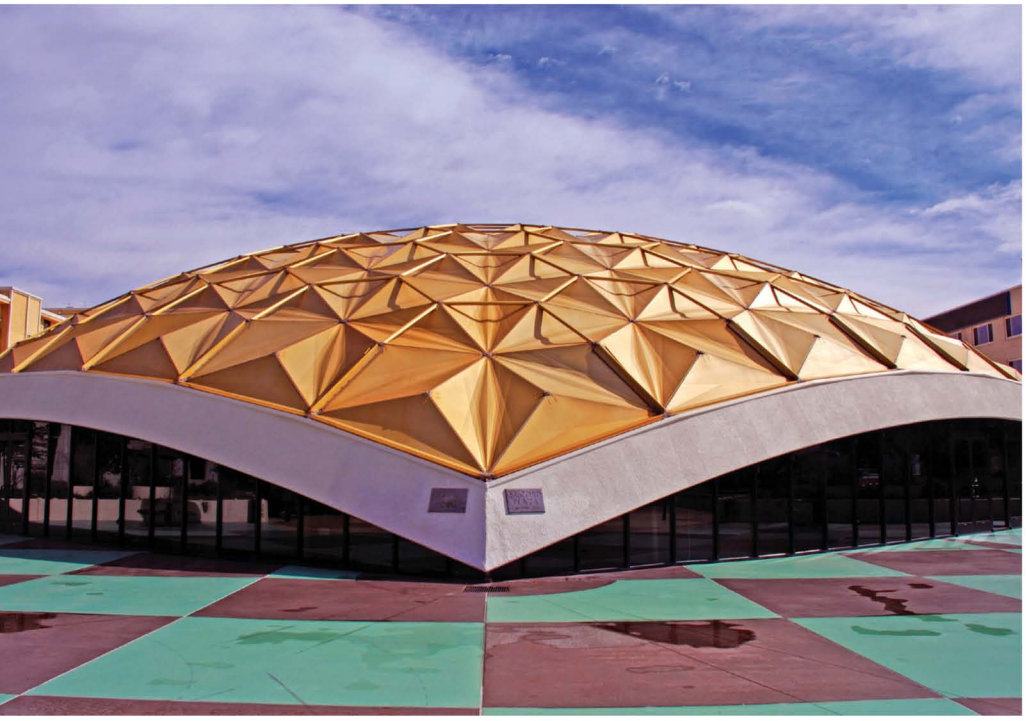


PHOTO: CHARLIE JOHNSTON



PHOTO: MATTHEW B. BROWN

STORIED STAGES

Past meets present at this trio of historic entertainment venues in Reno-Tahoe Territory.

BY CHRIS MORAN

At some shows, the stage itself is part of the entertainment.

That's the case at three northwestern Nevada venues—Brewery Arts Center in Carson City, Pioneer Center in Reno, and Piper's Opera House in Virginia City—where history and community share the spotlight with actors and musicians.

Brewery Arts Center

On a quiet corner in Carson City, an effort is underway to strengthen the area's arts community.

The old Carson Brewing Company building, constructed in 1865 at King and Division Streets, is now home to the Brewery Arts Center, a nonprofit group committed to promoting arts and cultural events. Although the Brewery Arts Center has existed since 1975, the group has recently reached out to area artists and arts groups, says Tami Castillo Shelton, director of programs.

A strategic plan, with input from community and civic leaders, has been developed over the past year to help the Brewery Arts Center become a focal point for Carson City arts and culture, according to Shelton.

It seems a logical choice, as the building houses three performance venues—the 1864 Grand Ballroom, the 306-seat BAC Performance Hall, and the 120-seat Maizie Harris Jesse Theatre. The center also holds classes, is home to the BAC Stage Kids children's theater company, and operates Access Carson City, the local public-access television station. An on-site art gallery displays local work, and an artisans' store sells it.

All of that is contained in a historic two-story Classical Revival-style building that Shelton admits needs constant renovation and repair. Currently, the nonprofit Brewery Arts Center—which leases the building from the city—is working to raise funds to restore a section of the structure's brick exterior.

Preserving the building, Shelton says, is worth it. "It's a wonderful blend of history, as well as the present, and a vision for the future," she says.

On tap at the Brewery Arts Center this winter: BAC Stage Kids performs "Music Man Jr." November 11-20, and Proscenium Players, Inc. presents "A Tuna Christmas" December 2-4 and 8-11.

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts

The mid-20th century was a boom period for Reno—the city was growing, and gaming provided a strong economic base. Into this milieu, the distinctively shaped Pioneer Center opened its doors in 1968.

The gold-colored dome structure in downtown Reno houses a 1,500-seat theater that serves as the primary stage

for the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Nevada Opera Association, and A.V.A. Ballet Theatre, as well as a stop for touring Broadway productions. Besides the main theater space, the Pioneer Center has the 167-seat Pioneer Underground black box theater, leased by Reno Tahoe Comedy, and a 4,000-square-foot exhibit hall. "It's basically a cultural icon in Reno," says Willis Allen, executive director of the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, the nonprofit that operates the facility.

Part of that iconic status can be credited to the Pioneer Center's modified geodesic dome—a design developed by American engineer Richard Buckminster Fuller. The dome is one of the reasons the Pioneer Center is listed as a Nevada State Historic Site on the National Register of Historic Places.

But the building's fame can also be attributed to its history as a performance venue. Resident arts groups have long used the facility to stage shows, and, for the past 17 years, the nonprofit has been bringing in touring Broadway shows as part of its "Broadway Comes to Reno" series. "It's huge," Allen says. "It accounts for a very large percentage of our operating income."

Currently planning the 2012-2013 season, Allen says his choices are based on what shows are touring in the region and the preferences of the local audience. "The audience in Reno [leans toward] the old Broadway standards," he says.

He admits the 2011-2012 season varied a bit from that—remaining shows in the current lineup include "Monty Python's Spamalot," November 25-27; "Young Frankenstein," January 27-29, 2012; "Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles," March 16-18, 2012; and "The Color Purple," April 13-15, 2012. For those who prefer the classics, "Damn Yankees" comes to town February 17-19, 2012.

Piper's Opera House

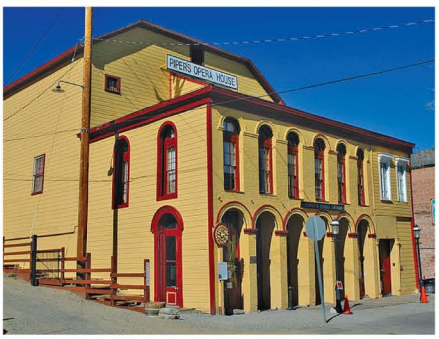
"It looks virtually like it did [originally]," Robert Slaby, Storey County School District superintendent, says about Piper's Opera House.

When visitors enter the yellow building on Virginia City's B Street, they are walking in the footsteps of John Mackay, who amassed a fortune from the Comstock mines in the 1870s. When performers take to the Piper's stage, they are working in a venue once inhabited by turn-of the-century actors Lily Langtry and "Buffalo Bill" Cody. "It's one of the oldest opera houses still standing in the western United States," Slaby says. "It's part of our heritage—one of the reasons our town is [a National Historic Landmark]."

Today's Piper's is actually the third incarnation of the opera house. The original structure, on D Street, was destroyed by fire in 1875. Owner John Piper constructed a new Piper's at B and Union streets, only to see the second building burn down in 1883. He rebuilt on the same site, opening the third—and current—Piper's in 1885.

Throughout the 20th century, Piper's was alternately opened and closed as various members of John Piper's family took control of the facility. In 1997, it was sold to the nonprofit group Piper's Opera House Programs, Inc., which works to fund projects to keep the building in good repair. Earlier this year, Piper's financial operations and scheduling were taken over by the Storey County School District, which uses the facility for classes, graduations, and proms. There are even plans to train students to be docents at Piper's, according to Slaby.

Upcoming programming includes Christmas on the Comstock, December 3, featuring a performance by the Comstock Cowboys and a Civil War-themed Christmas ball.



CONTACTS

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breweryarts.org
775-883-1976

Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts
100 S. Virginia St., Reno
pioneercenter.com
775-686-6600

Piper's Opera House
B & Union Streets, Virginia City
piperslive.com
775-847-0433

MORE RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY STAGES

Brüka Theatre
99 N. Virginia St., Reno
bruka.org
775-323-3221

Good Luck Macbeth
119 N. Virginia St., Reno
goodluckmacbeth.org
775-322-3716

Nevada Repertory Company
University of Nevada, Reno
unr.edu/nevadarep
775-784-6829

Nevada Shakespeare Company
127 Creekside Dr., Dayton
nevada-shakespeare.org
775-232-4974

Reno Little Theater
Currently: Hug High School, Reno
Starting Jan. 2012: 147 E. Pueblo St., Reno
renolittletheater.org
775-329-0661

Theatre of Arts Discipline (TOAD)
701 Long Valley Rd., Gardnerville
toad.vpweb.com
775-219-3577

Valhalla Boathouse Theater & Grand Hall
South Lake Tahoe
valhallatahoe.com
530-541-4975

Wild Horse Children's Theater
813 N. Carson St., Carson City
wildhorsetheater.com
775-887-0438



CHANNELING ANSEL

On Tony Vitali's Facebook profile, under Favorite Quotations, the first one listed reads: "Look deep into nature, and you will understand everything better." Many of Vitali's photos evoke the sentiment of Albert Einstein's famous quote, especially the above black-and-white image, which he calls "Heavenly Lake Tahoe."



Like the great black-and-white photographer Ansel Adams, Vitali—a production artist for the Nevada Commission on Tourism—is an avid outdoorsman and quite often totes his camera along. Vitali shares 150 of his favorite images (color, too) in his book, *Walkabout: A Year in Pictures*, which can be ordered using the following contact information.

blurb.com/bookstore/detail/1859004, 775-687-0644

PHOTO BY TONY VITALI

Share Your Nevada

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