

NEVADA

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MAGAZINE & VISITOR GUIDE

THE PICON PUNCH

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Digging for the Virgin Valley Fire Opal



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NEVADA

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SATISFY YOUR CRAVINGS
IN LAS VEGAS ON PG. 52.

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REDISCOVER THE LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA ON PG. 10.



Time to Celebrate and Reflect



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The holidays are long behind us, but it's still time to raise a glass and celebrate. At least *we* think so, for 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of this publication. It's had many names over the years—starting life as "Nevada Highways and Parks" in 1936—and it's also had a few state agencies at its helm: the Department of Highways, Department of Economic Development, and its current home, the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

In all its many guises, the mission remained steadfast: share Nevada's story. Those stories may have changed in tone and focus over the years, but their purpose never wavered. Those who've sat in the editor's chair may have used a different lens, but they always told Nevada's story as it was unfolding to them.

Here I sit, 90 years after the first issue was published, and there are still stories to tell. Even more surprising, after 12 years on the job there are still so many things I've yet to do and see in this amazing state. I'm lucky my job is to travel across Nevada in search of new adventures, and over the years I've come to realize that the term adventure means something different to everyone. That's a tenet we're embracing at Travel Nevada, so as we move forward, expect to see us broaden our definition and how we approach our stories.

Case in point, this issue's adventures include digging for Nevada's official state gem and exploring the remains of what was once one of the richest towns in White Pine County. You can find those stories on pgs. 90 and 76, respectively. More adventures await on pg. 28, as we reveal where and how to experience Nevada's new official state drink: Picon Punch.

Other adventures are a bit more tasty, and they involve trying some new eateries in the Las Vegas Arts District. You can read about those on pg. 52, and then hop onboard the legendary V&T Railway for a ride on the historic steam train up to Virginia City (that story is on pg. 58).

No matter what level of adventure you crave, you'll find it in Nevada, and as ever, you'll learn about it in these pages.

Megg Mueller, Executive Editor

SOCIAL *Circle*

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

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



Crystal Springs Rest Area

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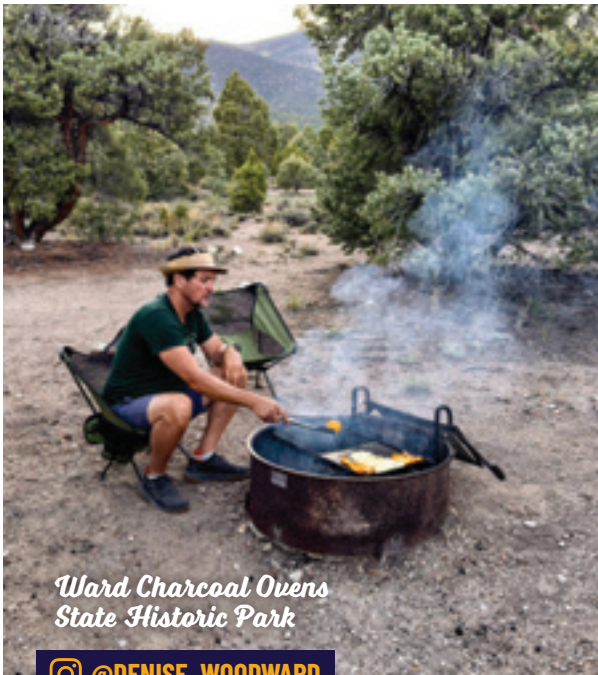
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Warm Up To The Idea Of Getting A Little Out There This Season

A note from Nevada's Lieutenant Governor

Every spring and summer, Nevada comes alive in ways that remind us just how much there is to see and do across the Silver State. Longer days and warmer nights make this the perfect season to explore our vast landscapes, vibrant communities, and one-of-a-kind adventures you won't find anywhere else.

One of my favorite ways to experience this time of year is by visiting Nevada's ghost towns. From Belmont to Metropolis, these storied places tell the tales of the miners and dreamers who helped shape our state. Walking beside the remnants of old saloons and weathered storefronts, you can almost feel the echoes of the past while taking in views that stretch for miles.

Summer is also a season of festivals and local traditions. Whether it's the Reno River Festival, Ely's Bristlecone Bricks and Train Show celebration, or a small-town Fourth of July parade, Nevada knows how to celebrate community. These events showcase the creativity and hospitality of our people and capture the true spirit of Nevada.

For those who love the outdoors, our dark skies offer some of the most breathtaking stargazing in the nation. Great Basin National Park is one of the best places in America to view the Milky Way, and summer is the ideal time to experience it in full splendor. Pair that with camping, hiking, or simply an evening under the stars, and you'll understand why Nevada remains a haven for outdoor adventure.

As Lieutenant Governor and Chairman of the Nevada Commission on Tourism, I've seen firsthand how travel connects us all—whether it's families road-tripping across the state, adventurers discovering new trails, or visitors experiencing Nevada's magic for the first time. My wife Bernadette and I look forward to exploring even more of what this season has to offer—from quiet evenings in rural towns to the energy and excitement of our cities.

Wherever your Nevada journey takes you this spring and summer, I know it will be one to remember.

See you out on the road!

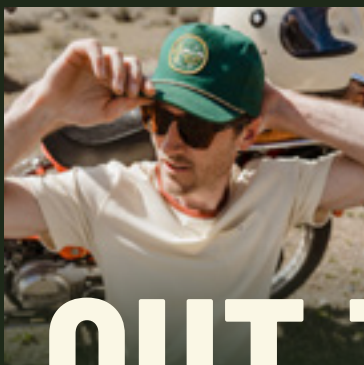
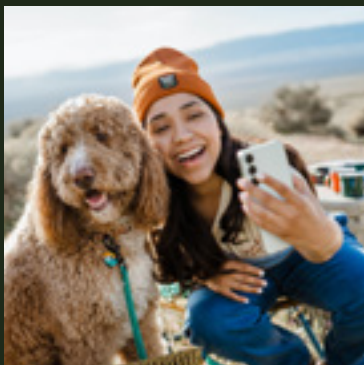


Stavros S. Anthony
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman, Nevada Commission on Tourism
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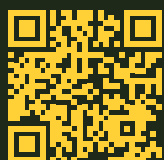
LEHMAN CAVES,
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Deso
in cahoots with





SPOTLIGHT

10 Eye Candy

16 State Parks

Washoe Lake

22 Museums

Nevada State Museums

28 Only In Nevada

Picon Punch

34 Nevada Magazine Archives

Our very first article from 1936

38 Road Trips

Great Basin Highway

FEATURES

46 Nature

Discover southern Nevada's biodiversity on the Acastus Trail

52 Cravings

Find your favorite eats in the Las Vegas Arts District

58 History

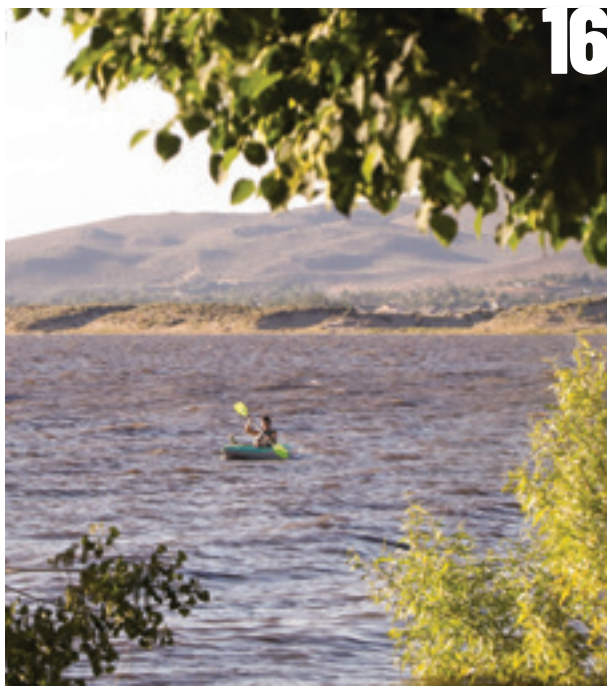
Travel through time on the V&T Railway

64 Rural Wranglers

Create your own adventure in Nevada's historic capital

70 Arts & Culture

Where to find silver screen scenes filmed in the Silver State





Welcome the warm weather season with an unforgettable trip across the Silver State. Whether you're enjoying an alpine hike outside Las Vegas or playing opal prospector on the northern border, make 2026 the year you get a little out there in the heart of Nevada.

COVERS

Front: Biking near Lake Tahoe
Photographer: Kippy S. Spilker

Back: Road hazard along old section of Highway 50, today State Route 722
Photographer: Scott Mortimore



76 Ghost Towns

Wander White Pine County's most famous ghost town

82 World Human Powered Speed Challenge

Race to Battle Mountain for an engineering event like no other

90 Outdoor Rec

Mine your own fire opal in northern Nevada

98 Vegas' Green Gamble

Fun and sustainability converge at the Springs Preserve

PLANNING GUIDE

106 Road Trips Directory

108 State Museums Directory

109 State Parks Directory

110 Recreate Responsibly

112 Special Events & Calendar



Top of page: Jenny Qi (Red Rock Canyon), Katie Blood (Jim Butler Stampede, Tonopah), Martin Gollery (Music on the Beach, Incline Village)



EYE CANDY

In 1986, "LIFE" magazine ran a story highlighting extreme experiences around the country. In the article, they named Nevada's 287-mile portion of U.S. Highway 50 between Ely and Fernley "The Loneliest Road in America."

"It's totally empty," said the AAA employee who penned the article. "There are no points of interest. We don't recommend it. We warn all motorists not to drive there, unless they're confident of their survival skills."



By road-trip standards, Highway 50 is extreme, but that's what makes it worth experiencing. Road trippers find frozen-in-time towns, preserved mining camps, and pristine valleys—and yes, sometimes you might be the only motorist around for miles.

It's a special highway, and for the 40th anniversary of that article, we thought we'd share photographers' views of this stretch of road, in this expanded edition of Eye Candy.

SAND & STORM

Neil Lockhart got this shot of Sand Mountain near Fallon. "This was taken on the side of Highway 50 one cold November morning back in 2013. The dunes were wet and crispy from a recent storm which brought the textures to life."

 Canon 5Dmkii, 1/2000 sec, f/5.6, ISO 200



GREAT SUCCESS

Diane Bedell captured this scene on Success Loop, located north of Ely. "This is a place we return to every year in July. The scenic drive offers quiet moments, wildlife, wildflowers, and wonderful opportunities to photograph bumblebees, butterflies, and our pups Lily, Luna, and Laken."

 Nikon Z8, 1/400 sec, f/8, ISO 100



DOUBLE VISION

Jackie Gorton and her husband spotted two bull elk as they headed toward Ely. “They were out in the sage, about 100 yards off the road and moving at a pretty good pace. When they both stopped and struck this pose, I was elated!”

📷 Nikon D850, 1/750 sec, f/5.6, ISO 7200



SILENT HILL

Katie Blood took this ghost town shot just outside Eureka. “As the sun sets, the shadows of what is left of Ruby Hill danced across the mountains.”

📷 Samsung Galaxy S23, 1/730 sec, f/2.2, ISO 50



HOME ON THE (FIRING) RANGE

Lee Molof found this ruined residence in Dixie Valley. “I took this during a group camping trip before the Navy closed the area for good. The junked green trailer had been there, apparently, for a long time.”

📷 Canon 7D, 10 sec, f/22, ISO 100



ANCIENT VIEW

Jay Aldrich took this cave shot inside Burnt Cave, located at Grimes Point just south of Fallon. “We checked in at the Churchill County Museum where we met our guide, who led us on backroads to Grimes Point. After an official tour of Hidden Cave, we explored the area’s other caves, trails, and petroglyphs.”

📷 Canon 40D, 1/1500 sec, f/4, ISO 100



BALLOON ARTIST

Cindy Whitaker snapped this bison herd by hot air balloon near Eureka. “During the town’s annual July art festival, I met these cool balloon folks from Arizona, and they gave me a ride the next dawn. It turned out to be the best spur-of-the-moment photography experience ever!”

📷 Canon, 1/160 sec, f/6.9, ISO 100



SAGEBRUSH SALOON

Kurt Kuznicki captured this scene at Middlegate. “Middlegate Station is one of my favorite dive bars in The Silver State. There is always a cast of characters, and you never know who you’re going to see. I captured this shot, and the only one who seemed to notice me was the scruffy little dog sitting on the barstool.”

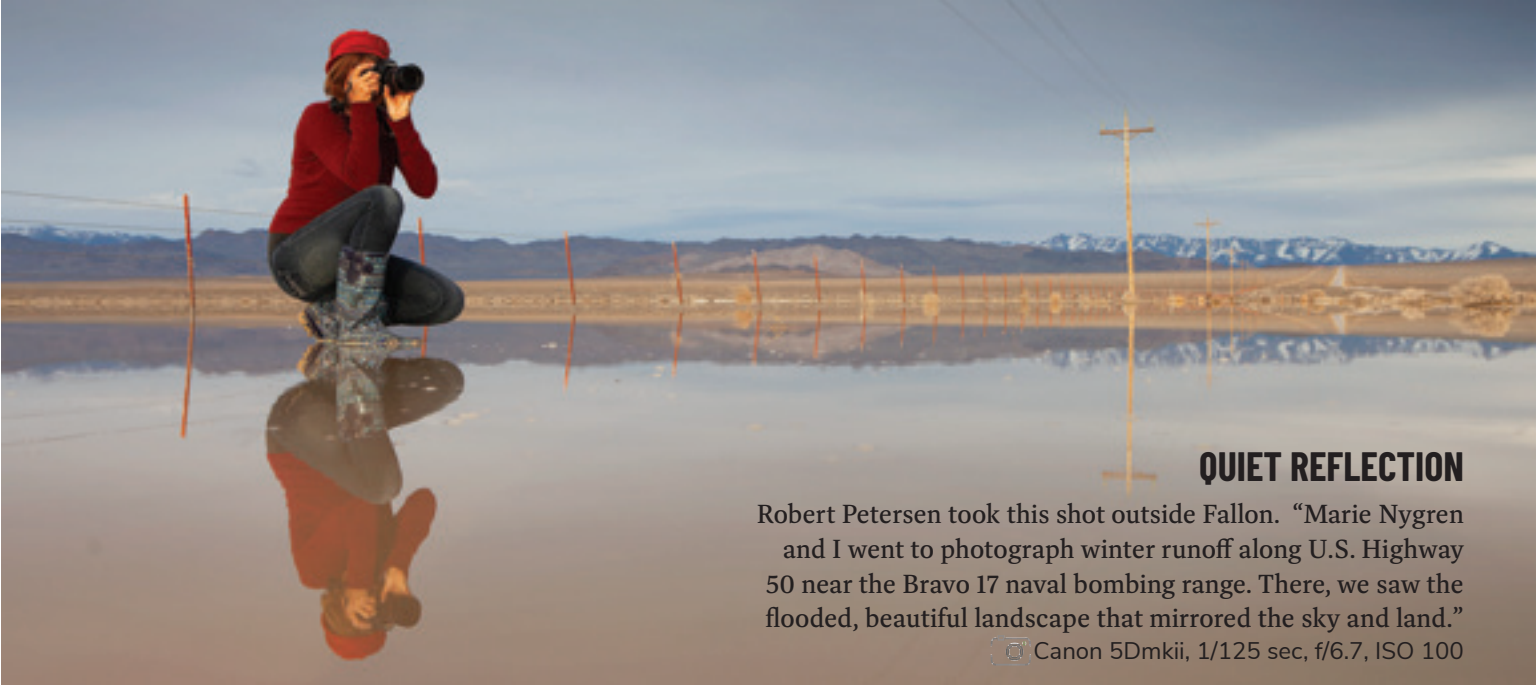
📷 Nikon D800, 1/20 sec,
f/5.6, ISO 6400

SUNSET'S PAINTBOX

Barb Swetsof Lund took this photo at Illipah Reservoir—located 40 miles West of Ely—as the storm clouds drifted away just before sunset.

📷 Canon Rebel, 1/125 sec,
f/20, ISO 800





QUIET REFLECTION

Robert Petersen took this shot outside Fallon. “Marie Nygren and I went to photograph winter runoff along U.S. Highway 50 near the Bravo 17 naval bombing range. There, we saw the flooded, beautiful landscape that mirrored the sky and land.”

 Canon 5Dmkii, 1/125 sec, f/6.7, ISO 100

I HEART HUCKABEE (SALT FLATS)

Neil Lockhart found this scene along U.S. Highway 50. “This was another one of those “*pull over now!*” moments. My shoes and tripod were caked with sulfury goodness the rest of the day.”

 Canon 5D, 1/5 sec, f/10, ISO 100



PLAYA'N AROUND

John Kupersmith found these weekend warriors on the Smith Creek playa near Austin. “We were boondocking in our van on the playa, and nearby a group of land sailors were having a meetup and doing some racing.”

 iPhone 11,
1/5319 sec,
f/2.4, ISO 25



STATE PARKS STATE PARKS STATE PARKS WASHOE LAKE

Perfectly located, this packed park offers history and adventure.

Washoe Lake State Park and the surrounding landscape provide almost limitless outdoor fun. From the towering peaks of the Sierra Nevada to piney foothills and lush meadows, the park provides a picture-perfect basecamp for exploring the Reno-Tahoe area. Its location 30 minutes from the state's oldest settlements—Virginia City, Genoa, Reno, Dayton, and Carson City—places it at the very center of Silver State history.



STATE PARK

GET IT STAMPED!

Pick up your Nevada State Parks Passport at any Nevada state park. This conveniently sized travelogue includes photos, amenities, and descriptions for all 27 state parks. After you've had your passport stamped at 15 different locations, you'll earn one free annual pass to all Nevada state parks.





Pick Your Pleasure

Washoe Lake State Park offers plentiful opportunities for fishing, hiking, horseback riding, camping, and stargazing. Watersports like kayaking are obviously a big draw, and the zephyr-fed waters make it a popular destination to windsurf. For those who prefer to adventure with a camera and binoculars, it's easy to spot wildlife throughout the valley. Nevada's iconic wild horses roam freely in the eastern hills that lead to Virginia City, and countless songbirds, hawks, and other large birds of prey frequent the lake as a resting place along their migration routes.



The lake is home to a mix of naturally reproducing and stocked bullhead catfish, wipers, brown trout, white bass, and Sacramento perch. Little Washoe Lake—a smaller body of water to the north—delivers amazing shore fishing opportunities, too.

Visitors can get the most out of a visit by staying on-site, ensuring easy access to the amenities and those early bites on the lake. The park has 49 campsites, all equipped with a table, grill and fire ring, and room for trailers. Two comfort stations—one of which includes a shower—are available.

ADMISSION

Washoe Lake State Park charges \$5 per local vehicle, \$10 per out-of-state vehicle, and \$2 to bike in. Boat launching ramps are \$10 for Nevada vehicles and \$15 for out-of-state vehicles.

The park is open 24 hours a day, year-round.



BOWERS MANSION

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Grab a sweet treat before any nearby explorations at the Chocolate Nugget Candy Factory. Located on the west side of the lake on Old Highway 395, this family-owned shop has been making peanut brittle, fudge, and so much more for three generations.

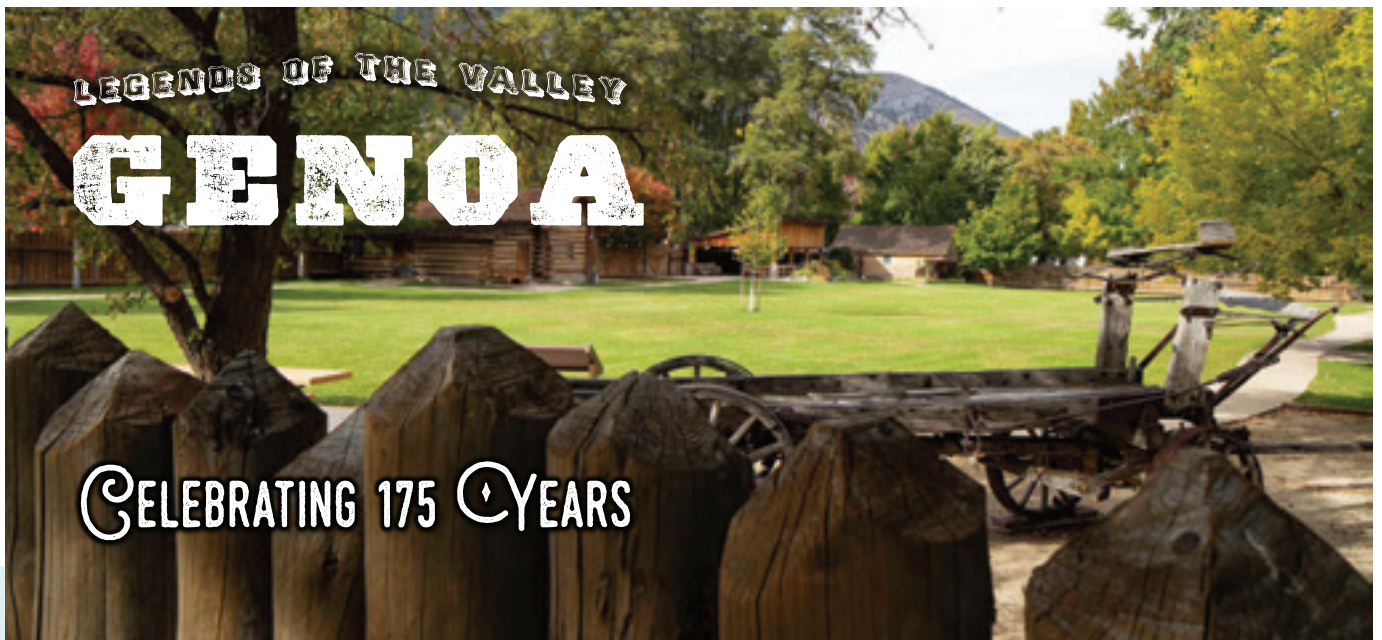
Valley History

“Washoe,” the namesake of the valley and state park, derives from the Washoe (Wá•šiw) people—the first occupants of the area. During the summer months, these communities retreated to cooler elevations at nearby Lake Tahoe and wintered in Washoe Valley.

In the late 19th century, mining towns popped up throughout the region, particularly after the discovery of gold in nearby Dayton and the unparalleled silver strike in Virginia City, making Washoe Valley an important thoroughfare and logistical hub.

Some of Nevada's first residences are located just outside the park, the most famous being Bowers Mansion. This stately Victorian manor was built in 1863 and illustrates the great wealth extracted out of nearby Virginia City. Visitors can make an appointment to tour Bowers Mansion, but the grounds are free and a lovely spot for an afternoon picnic.

Once the mining boom subsided, residents turned to ranching and farming—an easy prospect thanks to the lush landscape. In 1977, Washoe Lake State Park was established to preserve 3,775 acres of the valley for future generations. Today, the park continues as a peaceful retreat in one of the state's most breathtaking valleys.



JULY 4TH, 1851 -- DUST-COVERED, TRAIL-WEARY, AND DETERMINED TO MAKE SOMETHING PERMANENT IN A LAND THAT KNEW ONLY WILD FREEDOM, GENOA, NEVADA WAS BORN. WITH A TRADING POST, A HANDFUL OF CABINS, AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE, NEVADA'S FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT SPRANG FROM THE ROOTS OF THE CARSON RANGE. THAT BOLD BEGINNING IS STILL FELT TODAY, WHERE RED BRICK AND WEATHERED WOOD WHISPERS STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND FRONTIER SPIRIT. IN 2026, GENOA PROUDLY MARKS 175 YEARS SINCE THAT HISTORIC DAY -- STILL SMALL, STILL STRONG, AND STILL WELCOMING THOSE WITH A PIONEER'S HEART.

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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

NEVADA'S TALE (IN TWO CITIES)





Get your culture and history fix at our two state museums.

Nevada's past spans eons. From primordial geology to silver booms, atom bombs, and showgirls, this state has many a story to tell—and fortunately, we have the perfect pair of places to do that: one in Carson City and one in Las Vegas. Whether your adventures take you to Lake Tahoe or a night on The Strip, you're never far from the Silver State's bizarre, eclectic, and always-fascinating story.

Las Vegas

Since 1982, the Nevada State Museum—Las Vegas, has served as a veritable treasure trove for the state's natural and cultural heritage. The museum sits on the grounds of the 180-acre Springs Preserve—a popular destination for families, trail walkers, and nature lovers located just minutes from The Strip (see pg. 98 to learn more).

Once inside the museum, guests are greeted with the life-size model of a towering bristlecone pine—one of the West's most hardy survivors (and, we might add, an excellent official symbol for the state). The surrounding hall details Nevada's natural history, from the eons this land spent as seabed to Ice Age flora and fauna.





Farther inside, artifacts reveal southern Nevada's long history as a cultural meeting place. These include a Paiute water jug, an ornate Spanish cross, a vaquero's buckskin jacket, and a 19th-century painting of the old Mormon fort that marks early settlement in the Las Vegas Valley.

But exhibits are not limited to southern Nevada. Mining—which mostly took place in the state's north—gets its fair share of attention with a facsimile boomtown and a replica cave showcasing the state's precious minerals. Other themes the museum explores include Native experiences, public lands, nuclear testing, divorce, and—of course—gaming.

Indeed, no dip into Nevada history is complete without a chapter on casinos and show business. Some of the most fascinating displays detail Las Vegas's breakneck development into the entertainment megacity it is today, from Hoover Dam and post-WWII suburbia to Howard Hughes and The Strip.

The museum's "Viva Las Vegas" permanent exhibit hosts a vast quantity of photos, poker chips, and other vintage swag from the 1960s. But the star of the show is—and always will be—the showgirls, who are immortalized in the museum's centerpiece costume collection.

ALL-IN-ONE

In addition to the Nevada State Museum—Las Vegas, and the nearby Origen Museum, admission to the Springs Preserve grants all-day access to the area's diverse gardens, trails, and nature areas.



IM“PRESS”IVE

Although the Mint has been out of operation for more than 130 years, the museum has dedicated a large exhibit to telling its story. At the center of this experience is the museum’s most prized artifact: Coin Press No. 1, a still-functioning historic coin press that produces commemorative medallions.



Carson City

Northern Nevada’s state museum operates from within the former Carson City Mint, which produced federal coinage from 1870 to 1893, all bearing the distinguishing “CC” mark.

But the Mint isn’t the only story the museum has to tell, and its collection has expanded considerably since it was established in 1941. Hundreds of years of accumulated state treasures wait to be explored here, from Nevada’s official state artifacts—including a tule duck decoy—to memorabilia from Nevada’s namesake battleship, the *USS Nevada* (BB-36).

From the battleship collection, the officer table service is particularly prized. It was created from 5,000 ounces of silver mined in Tonopah and highlighted with gold from nearby Goldfield.

One of the most popular exhibits—and usually a first stop for kids—is the mining tunnel, which takes up most of the basement level. Dedicated in 1950, it was designed to give visitors an up-close look at an underground mining operation. (Fair warning to adults: watch your head.) On the second floor, the natural

THAT'S NOT ALL

The museums in Las Vegas and Carson City are excellent spots to get a big-picture perspective on the Silver State, but they aren't the only museums owned and operated by Nevada. To find the rest of the list, turn to pg. 108.

history section features a dizzying display of iconic Silver State creatures like desert bighorn sheep, sage grouse, and Lahontan cutthroat trout. But there's plenty of prehistoric life as well, including a giant Colombian mammoth excavated from the Black Rock Desert.

Housed in the museum's newest wing, the "Under One Sky" exhibit presents Native history and culture from the perspective of area tribes—and in their own words. This large-scale experience details daily life for Nevada's first inhabitants: the foods they collected, the homes they built, and the skills they honed for survival.



ONLY IN NEVADA ONLY IN NEVADA ONLY IN NEVADA

BY MIKALEE BYERMAN

Across the U.S., 22 states have chosen milk as their official state drink—a nod to tradition with a safe, though decidedly lactose-forward, lean.

But Nevada? In 2025, it doubled down on its reputation for boldness and declared, “Here, hold my Punch.”

With roots as strong as its pour, the classic Basque-American cocktail known as the Picon Punch is now the official state drink. The designation is a tribute to Nevada’s immigrant history and cements a cultural ritual into state law.



BASQUE

in the Glory

Nevada honors cultural heritage
by naming the Picon Punch
its state drink.

A Legislative Toast

Nevada Assemblyman Bert Gurr grew up in Elko, where Basque heritage runs deep. When asked to carry the bill, he agreed without hesitation.

“The Basques are an integral part of the northern Nevada culture,” he says. “This is a way to say, ‘we see you, we appreciate you’.”

The proposal had been floated unsuccessfully in past sessions. This time, Gurr and Assembly Speaker Steve Yeager teamed up. Gurr’s one-sentence Picon Punch bill was folded into Yeager’s broader “cocktails-to-go” legislation, with a goal of adding momentum to win support.

“A single-issue bill probably wouldn’t have gotten through,” Gurr explains, acknowledging Yeager’s role in carrying it across the finish line. “By combining it, we made it work.”

Yeager saw the measure as both symbolic and practical.

“The Picon Punch is such an important part of Nevada history. It’s impossible to welcome visitors and new residents, particularly in northern and rural Nevada, without talking about it,” he says.

In the early stages of the process, J.B. Lekumberry—owner of the J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room in Gardnerville, one of Nevada’s original Basque boardinghouses and restaurants—met with Gurr to make his case the Basque way.

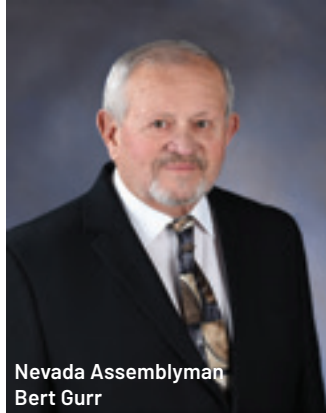
“When we first met, I happened to bring the fixings for a Picon Punch—I wasn’t going in naked,” Lekumberry says with a laugh. “So I served a few up in Bert’s office, and we talked about how he had been wanting to recognize Basque efforts in the state of Nevada.”

Basque Roots, Nevada Pride

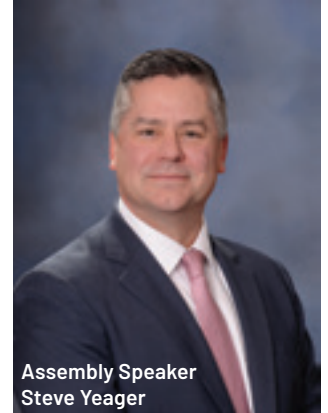
Basques immigrated to Nevada beginning in the early-19th century in search of gold, like many others. Most worked as sheepherders while others established boardinghouses that became cultural hubs for the families. From Ely to Elko, Gardnerville to Reno, these establishments carried traditions across generations. And the Picon Punch became their signature.

Etienne Lekumberry, J.B.’s son and bar manager at the J.T., said the drink is a rite of passage.

“We’ve been making Picons for more than 65 years here,” he says. “And now, making it the state drink somehow consecrates the Basque population of Nevada with the literal constitution of Nevada. For that, we’re eternally grateful.”



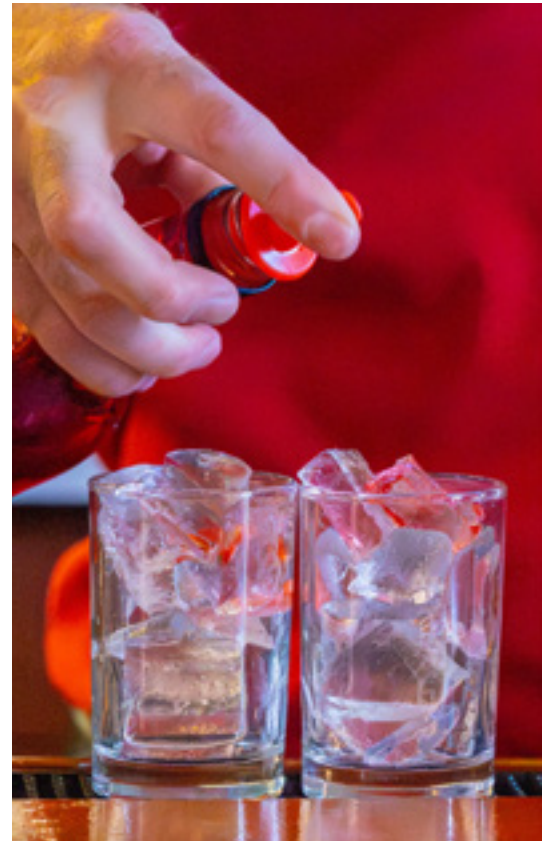
Nevada Assemblyman
Bert Gurr



Assembly Speaker
Steve Yeager

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Sip slowly, and remember: Nevada’s state drink is as bold as the state itself. The late Louis Erreguible, founder of Louis’ Basque Corner, always advised that you stop at two, famously warning, “The first two are the Picon. The third is the punch.”





How to Drink Like a Nevadan

An authentic Picon Punch follows a specific recipe. But like Nevada itself, it's got range. At the J.T., Etienne Lekumberry insists on tradition.

"A dash of grenadine, a shot of Amer, a splash of club soda, and a brandy float—that doesn't change unless a customer requests it," he says. "The Picon Punch demands respect."

Elsewhere, you'll find slight variations. Yeager counts his favorites at the J.T., The Star Hotel in Elko, and Louis' Basque Corner in Reno. In Elko, Gurr swears by The Star, where the Picon Club maintains a wall of personalized glasses for its members.



Etienne Lekumberry serves up a couple of Picon Punches at J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room

An Amer Tradition

The punch depends on Amer, a bitter orange liqueur originally from France. When Amer Picon disappeared from U.S. shelves due to an FDA ban of a key ingredient, Basque restaurants relied on American-made Torani Amer. But in 2020, Torani stepped away from spirits. Enter Reno's Ferino Distillery.

"Torani wanted to ensure the recipe landed with a distillery that would treat it with respect and carry forward the legacy," says Ferino founder and master distiller Joe Cannella. "They reached out to us out of the blue, we had a series of meetings, and they signed over to us the rights to the recipe for no charge."

Cannella initially kept to the recipe, but after early feedback, he adjusted to better balance the flavors.

"We consider ourselves stewards of this thing," he says. "It's cultural and much bigger than Torani or Ferino Distillery. We'll continue to give it the love and attention it deserves."



Dodging a Milquetoast Milk Toast

While many states raise glasses of milk, Nevada picked something stronger. Gurr laughs at the comparison:

"They can have it if they want, but we're not a milk state in my mind."

J.B. Lekumberry sees the designation as a tribute.

"The state recognizes its own history," he says. "It's real, it's organic, and I think that's truly important."

And according to his son, the cocktail mirrors the Nevada landscape itself.

"It's strong, it can be unforgiving, but it has everything you could possibly want," Etienne reflects. "If you were to describe Nevada in a drink, it would be the Picon Punch."

RAISE YOUR GLASS—HOW TO PICON PUNCH LIKE A NEVADAN

THE CLASSIC RECIPE

Dash of grenadine

1 shot Amer Ferino

Splash of club soda

Floater of brandy

Lemon twist

Served over cracked ice in a highball glass

That's it. Purists frown on tinkering, though regulars often skip the brandy if they're planning on more than one.

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Sean Kenney's

BRICK MASTERS STUDIO

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Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum

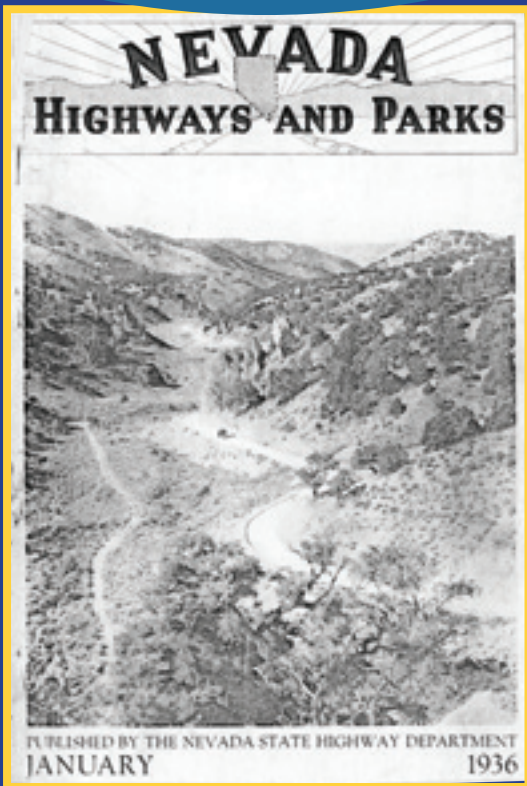
490 S. Center Street · Downtown Reno · 775-786-1000 · thediscovery.org



CELEBRATING

90
YEARS

NEVADA MAGAZINE
& VISITOR GUIDE



This year marks the 90th anniversary since "Nevada Highways and Parks"—now *Nevada Magazine & Visitor Guide*—debuted. To honor that historic event, we're sharing a story that appeared in our very first issue, published in January 1936. To read other nostalgic and historical stories like this one from the last 90 years, visit travelnevada.com.

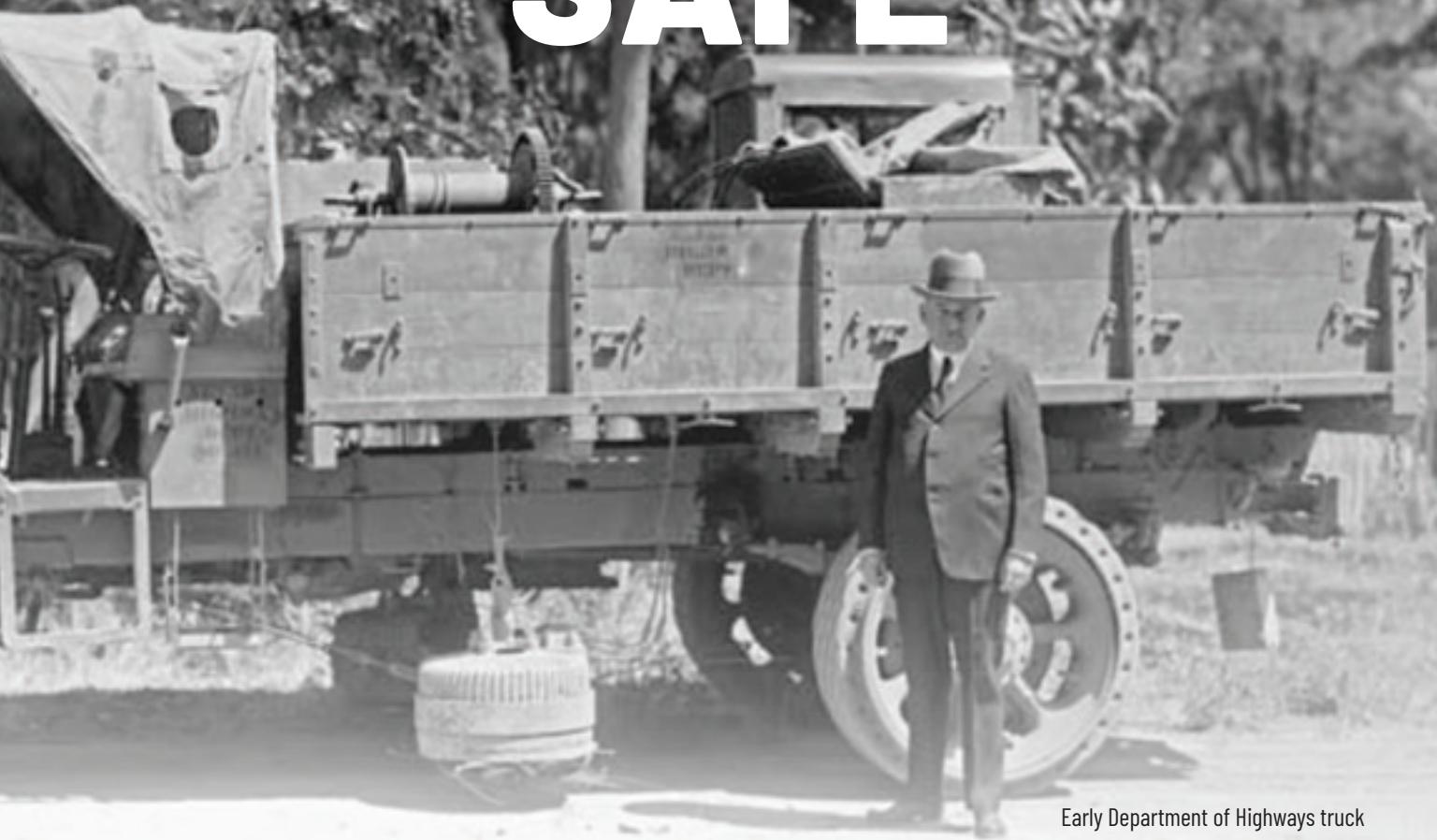


In the belief that the publishing of this bulletin will serve a useful purpose in disseminating facts and news about Nevada's highways and parks, its abundant natural scenic places, and perhaps promote a wider knowledge of its mountains, deserts, and the real western, friendly spirit of its people, the Nevada Department of Highways has prepared, and offers to the public, this first issue.

It is a long step from Nevada's unimproved highways system, at the inception of the Department of Highways in 1917, to its present status of over 2,100 miles of surfaced highways.

To Nevadans, who can remember that it was a lengthy adventure, punctuated with dust, jolts,

NEVADA MAKES SCENIC DESERT SAFE



Early Department of Highways truck

blowouts, and laborious pumping, to traverse 50 miles of typical desert road in those days, it is hard to realize that the entire State may now be crossed swiftly and safely in the space of a few hours. Yet today the Victory Highway in Nevada is completely surfaced with oiled gravel or concreated from the California state line near Verdi to the Utah state link at Wendover. The Lincoln Highway from the California state line near Lakeside to the State line at Wendover lacks but a single small link of being completely oil surfaced; and the highway from Reno to Las Vegas is rapidly approaching completion to the same level.

Route 6, crossing the southeast corner of Nevada, Las Vegas, and serving Boulder Dam, forms an

integral part of U.S. Route 91 from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City, and is likewise completely oil surfaced. Interconnections between these main trunk lines have been—and are being made—to form a network between important points throughout the state and connections to contiguous state highway routes at various strategic points are also being prosecuted. Such, briefly, is the picture of the State Highway System today.

The transition in the development of the highway system from unimproved roads to its present status was gradual until 1933, when highway construction was given a tremendous impetus through relatively large governmental National Recovery Appropriations



Department of Highways staff in 1929

made available to the states by Congress in an effort to relieve the existing acute unemployment situation.

Highway construction has, therefore, been at a high level of activity for the past three years, including the current calendar year 1935. Projects were financed almost entirely from National Recovery funds during the first half of this year. About July, however, the regular Federal Aid funds and the new Works Program Highway funds became available for primary and secondary highway construction and grade crossing elimination projects, and it is with these funds that all recent projects have been financed.

Miles

Graded and drained	7
Gravel.....	157
Oiled gravel	289
Asphaltic surface.....	29
Composite surfacing.....	3
Oiling (only).....	127
Total	613

It will be noted that most of the road construction for the year has been oiled gravel type, as this presents

a smooth, fast, dustless surface to travel, has good wearing qualities, and yet is not a highly expensive type of surface.

A detailed examination of the actual location of each project shows a nicely balanced diversification between projects located on the Federal Aid System, Federal Land System, secondary or feeder roads, and highways within municipalities. The bulk of the work, however, has naturally been on the Federal Aid or Primary system.

Of particular note is the graveling and oiling and reconstruction work on the Reno-Las Vegas highway. It is now almost completely oil surfaced throughout its entire length.

In Elko County, oiling was recently completed on the entire 67-mile highway from Wells to the Nevada-Idaho state line. This interconnection with the highway system in Idaho is proving a valuable stimulus to interstate commerce.

Two other interconnections of note which have been made this year are from Minden south to the state line, and from a junction with Route 5 in Nye County to Death Valley Junction in California.

Of particular interest to western Nevadans is the completion of a graveled and graded highway from Reno to Pyramid Lake, thus providing rapid and easy access to this unique and interesting desert lake.

Thus far, no mention has been made of those vastly important connecting links in the highway system—bridges and grade separation structures. A summary of the year's work shows the construction of seven timber bridges, two reinforced concrete girder bridges, two bridge widening projects, and five reinforced concrete boxes of over 20-foot clear span. In addition, plans and designs of the new proposed bridge across the Humboldt River in Winnemucca are about complete. The design is a splendid combination of architectural beauty and structural strength.

Of major importance, from the standpoint of eliminating railway automobile accidents and expediting traffic, is the construction of highway-railroad grade separation structures, both overpass and underpass. During the year, contracts have been let for three overpass structures located at Wendover, Deeth, and Dunphy; and two contracts for the widening of existing underpass structures at Winnemucca and Fernley have also been let. Though numerically small, this year's grade separation program far transcends any previous yearly program.

Construction activities for 1935 are replete with progress toward that ultimate objective—the ideal highway system.

Road striping in the 1920s



Road striping in 1941



From the January 1936 issue of "Nevada Highways and Parks"



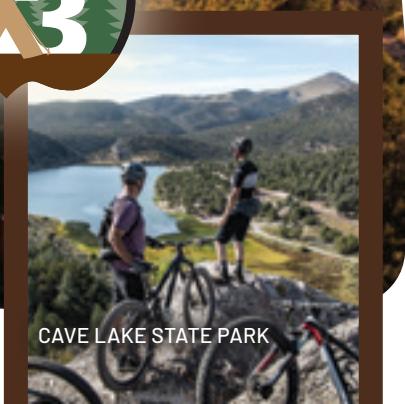
An overpass structure in the desert country of east central Nevada. These, with the highly improved modern roads throughout the State, rob the desert of its dangers, and reveal the scenic grandeur symbolic of great distances and peaceful solitude.

GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

Nevada's eastern corridor offers diverse landscapes, state parks, and one amazing national park.



With all its diversions and delights, it's easy (SO easy) to spend a vacation entirely in Las Vegas. But consider this: a trip along Nevada's eastern edge as a way to enjoy your next Vegas trip a little differently. From the glittering lights of the city to the breathtaking scenery of Great Basin National Park, this road trip delivers the fullness of Nevada's extreme landscapes and charming communities—along with multiple state parks and ample outdoor recreation opportunities. Who else is ready to get behind the wheel?





BIGHORN SHEEP



GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT



LAKE MEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK



Leaving Las Vegas

Once you've had your fill of the neon lights, get ready for one of the state's most gorgeous locales: Valley of Fire State Park. We recommend taking the scenic Northshore Road (State Route 167) through the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and past Gold Butte National Monument.

This serene desert drive features hills of rust-red sandstone and unparalleled views of Lake Mead, the largest manmade reservoir in the country. Despite regional drought, it endures as an awesome sight, and you'll find its blue waters sprawling along the horizon. Keep an eye out for wildlife as you wind your way north because this is prime territory to spot wild horses and bighorn sheep.

Sweeping vistas and stunning formations make Valley of Fire the most visited park in the state. Much of it can be enjoyed without leaving the car, but easily accessible hikes allow for closer inspection of its slot canyons, red-ribboned hills, and 2,000-year-old petroglyphs left by the Ancestral Puebloans. Try to time your exit at sunset when the sandstone canyon walls glow in the fading light.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

✦ Plan your visit in the off season to minimize crowds (and because summertime temps close many trails).

REST AND REFUEL

Camping at Lake Mead NRA is the perfect way to catch incredibly dark skies. Reservations are required; visit reservenevada.com. For non-campers, head to the North Shore Inn at Lake Mead, just 15 minutes from the park. Nearby Moapa Valley has a number of tasty eateries, including CABLP: Criss Angel's Breakfast, Lunch & Pizza.



CALIENTE TRAIN DEPOT



RAINBOW CANYON



BARNES CANYON

REST AND REFUEL

Caliente offers plenty of great restaurants and lodgings, and we recommend you treat yourself to an evening in this peaceful town before continuing your adventure.

Valley of Fire State Park to Caliente

Next, it's time to hit the road for Caliente, the town known for its rose-lined streets, Spanish mission-style train depot, and surrounding network of gorgeous canyons.

Mountain bikers should make for Barnes Canyon to enjoy dozens

of miles of singletrack while nearby Kershaw-Ryan State Park promises breathtaking hikes and lush environs. Just outside town is Rainbow Canyon, which is both a beautiful drive and home to some of the best rock climbing in the state.

Caliente to Pioche

Before you depart Caliente, head just 40 minutes south to Elgin Schoolhouse State Historic Site to take a pre-arranged tour of a beautifully preserved 1922 schoolhouse. It's well worth the brief detour.

Then head north through the agricultural heart of Lincoln County toward the town of Pioche. About halfway between the two towns, you'll come upon Cathedral Gorge State Park. With its otherworldly spires, deep chasms, and meandering hikes through slot canyons and scenic

overlooks, this park is almost a required stop.

Arriving in Pioche, it's hard to imagine that this quiet, friendly community was once known as one of the roughest, toughest mining towns in the Old West. Although home to around 1,500 people, Pioche still retains the charm of a frontier community and boasts plenty of relics from the old days including Thompson's Opera House, the "Million Dollar Courthouse," and the infamous Boot Hill Cemetery.



DOWNTOWN PIOCHE

ELGIN SCHOOLHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE

REST AND REFUEL

A night at the Overland Hotel in Pioche offers paranormal fans a chance for a spectral visit, while those seeking less spirited accommodations should try the Pine Tree Inn & Bakery in nearby Panaca. For more tasty fare, try the Historic Silver Café or Gunslingers in Pioche.

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK

Pioche to Ely

Ely is the last town to explore on this trip, and this bustling community offers plenty to do. Walk the historic downtown, visit the Renaissance Village, rent an ATV to explore the nearby mountains, or grab your bike to shred the area's popular mountain bike trails.

One of Ely's biggest draws, however, is its historic trains. Start your exploration at the Nevada

State Railroad Museum—East Ely. As one of the most complete historic railyards in the nation, this impressive complex lets you roll back the clock to 1907 as you explore artifacts that bring the railroad's history to life. Next, book a ride with the adjacent Nevada Northern Railway. Try one of their themed lines like the Star Train or Santa's Reindeer Flyer, but note tickets sell out quickly.

REST AND REFUEL

Stay the night at the Jailhouse Motel or the historic Hotel Nevada, and dine at either Racks Bar & Grill or get a nostalgic meal at the Economy Drug & Old Fashioned Soda Fountain.



ATV ON WARD MOUNTAIN



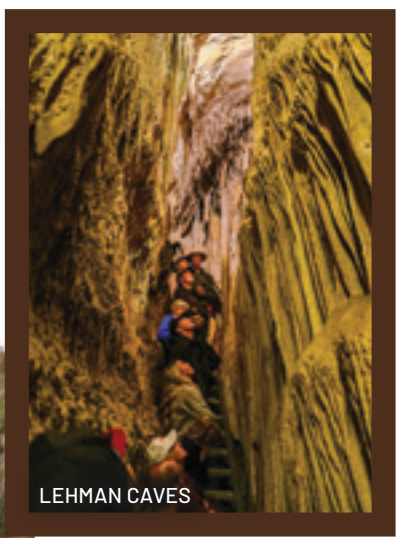
NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY



RENAISSANCE VILLAGE



NIGHT SKIES AT
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK



LEHMAN CAVES

REST AND REFUEL

Camping in the park promises stargazing under one of the most brilliant night skies in the U.S. For more curated lodgings, grab a bite and bed down at the Stargazer Inn in Baker.



HIKING AT GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Ely to Great Basin National Park

Hit the road early so you have plenty of time at Great Basin National Park, home to 5,000-year-old bristlecone pines and some of the darkest night skies in the Lower 48.

Start in the visitor center to learn how Nevada's unique geography makes verdant mountain oases like this national park possible. Next, head underground on a guided tour

through the famous Lehman Caves or ascend 4,000 feet up the 12-mile Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive to a panorama of Wheeler Peak—the state's second tallest mountain. Afterward, hit one of the many trails, including one that passes those 5,000-year-old trees, or check out one of the park's astronomy programs.

WALKING THROUGH WORLDS

One short southern Nevada walking trail holds a world of biodiversity.



BY MORRIGAN DEVITO

The drive from Las Vegas to the Spring Mountains is nothing short of breathtaking—and for those seeking to escape the summer heat, watching the temperature drop feels like a weight off your chest. During the 90-minute trip, you'll climb past desert creosote, scraggly Joshua trees, and scruffy pinyon pine and juniper before arriving at towering ponderosa and gnarled bristlecone. If you take the entire scenic route, you can drive from 3,000 feet to more than 11,000.

And in a car, it's over in a blink. If you want to slow down and experience part of the habitat transition, the Acastus Trail is a great choice. This gentle path in Kyle Canyon offers plentiful chances to get up close to the fascinating organisms of the high desert.

OUT THERE WITH CARE

Make sure to check current weather and trail conditions before embarking on the Acastus Trail. Always bring water and sun protection—even in cooler months.

At A Glance

The Acastus Trail is a paved 1.5-mile out-and-back hike that can begin either near the Spring Mountains Visitor Center Gateway (connecting through the Kunav Huveep Trail) or from the Fletcher View Trailhead parking lot, accessed through the Kyle Canyon Picnic Area. Its elevation ranges from 6,700-6,900 feet.

The trail runs along the Kyle Wash and features interpretive signage about the landscape's geology, ecology, and history. There are shady spots closer to Fletcher View, and benches along the entire path make this an excellent choice for those with limited mobility, families with young children, or people who want to take a slower pace. Restrooms and water stations can be found at both the visitor center and picnic area.

Pinyon-Juniper Woodland

Starting the Acastus Trail at the visitor center will put you in the heart of the pinyon-juniper woodland, a habitat characterized by single-leaf pinyon pine and Utah juniper and shrubs like Gambel oak, curl-leaf mountain mahogany, and sagebrush. What these plants have in common is that they're typically short and bushy, due in large part to harsh environmental conditions like infrequent rainfall and rocky, nutrient-poor soils.

This scrubby world is home to this trail's namesake: the Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly,

one of many butterfly species that call this region home. This orange and black, checkered-patterned butterfly is an endemic species, meaning it is found nowhere else in the world, and although it is rare, it's possible to find it fluttering around the trail in the warmer months.

This butterfly is one of 20 endemic animals and plants that reside in the Spring Mountains, a phenomenon that has occurred because of the unique geography of this landscape.

As you walk and take in the sweeping views of Kyle Canyon, think about how these mountains are surrounded by desert on all sides. Over evolutionary time, the common ancestors of the acastus checkerspot became genetically isolated from one another, unable to cross the lowland Mojave Desert and spread their genes. The result? Another distinct, isolated species joins the Spring Mountains' rich biodiversity of endemic plants and animals.

Like all butterflies, the acastus checkerspot needs a host plant to support its development. As caterpillars, they eat yellow and rubber rabbitbrush: two species of bushy shrub that produce small, yellow flowers in the late summer and early fall—both of which grow along the entire Acastus Trail. As adult butterflies, they seek nectar from a plant called spreading dogbane, an uncommon, low-growing shrub with white, bell-shaped flowers.



Utah juniper

Ponderosa Pine

feast for the senses

The conifer trees all around you are ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). You may recognize them by sight—but have you explored them with your other senses?

Las coníferas que ve a su alrededor se llaman pino ponderosa (*Pinus ponderosa*). Posiblemente las reconoces con la vista, pero ¿los has examinado con sus otros sentidos?

Close your eyes and listen. Can you hear the wind? How do you think the wind would differ if the pines had large leaves instead of thin needles?

Cierra los ojos y escucha. ¿Puedes oír el viento? ¿Que diferencia crees que habría en el sonido de las pines si en su lugar tuvieran hojas grandes en lugar de agujas finas?



Pick up a few needles from the ground and explore them with your sense of touch. Can you tell them between your fingers? How sharp are they? Close your eyes and have someone hand you a green needle and a brown needle. Can you tell the difference just by feel?

Recoge algunas agujas del suelo y examínalas con tu sentido del tacto. ¿Puedes distinguir entre sus dedos? ¿Que son blanda o dura? Cierra los ojos y pídele a alguien que te pase una aguja verde y una marrón. ¿Puedes sentir la diferencia con tus dedos?



Put your nose next to a non-warmest pine branch. What can you detect with your sense of smell? What does it smell like? If you could collect it, what would you use it for? Cooking? Perfume? Soap?

Acércate tu nariz a un tronco de pino. ¿Qué puedes detectar con tu sentido del olfato? ¿Que huele a madera o a resina? Si pudieras recogerlo, ¿que usarías para él? ¿Cocinar? ¿Perfume? ¿Jabón?



With a needle (pine cone) and a seed's shell open and a few seeds. Does the flavor remind you of anything?

Con una aguja (pino) y una semilla abierta y unas pocas semillas. ¿El sabor te recuerda a algo?



The pinyon-juniper habitat is home to another elusive animal: the pinyon jay. A relative of the common ravens and scrub jays that call the Spring Mountains home, these cerulean birds are nomads, traveling in family flocks across the woodlands of southern Nevada and other Western states, nesting in pinyon pines and searching for their seeds. In the fall, they can cache up to 30,000 seeds for winter, making them crucial dispersers for the trees—whose heavy seeds cannot be spread by wind or water. Because of their broad ranges, these jays can be enigmatic and difficult to spot, but woodlands like those on the Acastus Trail provide an important habitat for them.



Ponderosa Pine Forest

As you make your way up the trail, you will soon enter the greener, cooler canopy of ponderosa pines and white firs. The warm red hues of the ponderosa trunks and the supple shade of their branches invite you to take a deep breath of the mountain air. Perhaps you will cross paths with wary mule deer, which make their way up and down these habitat zones as they search for shrubs and grasses to eat.

In the spring and early summer, the trees host a rich soundscape of birdsong as different species establish breeding territories in the shelter of the forest. Keep an ear out for the melodic songs of western bluebirds, robins, warbling vireos, western tanagers, house finches, and many more—not to mention the nasally sounds of red-breasted nuthatches and northern flickers, whose calls and songs punctuate the landscape.

The forest attracts such a myriad of birds due to the abundance of insects, water, and nesting shelter compared to the desert lowlands. This makes spring a season of frantic energy as birds establish territories, find mates, lay eggs, and raise young. Though they may be hard to spot in the tall trees, they are abundant.

Both the ponderosa pine and white fir tell the story of one big shaper of this landscape: fire. Everything from the forest's open canopy to its sparse understory is a result of an evolutionary relationship with fire. White

firs are more at risk because of their lower, drooping branches. The ponderosa, although highly susceptible to fire as saplings, self-prune by adulthood, shedding their lower limbs to reduce the risk of fire climbing up them like a ladder.

The ponderosa's needles also help the pine avoid fire. As they fall, the abundant needles create a thick blanket that protects the tree from competing grasses and other plants, reducing the fuel load that could potentially ignite and spread. This strategy explains the scattered, open canopy you'll find while wandering through these forests.

A Memorable Hike

The Acastus Trail is a special place to experience how subtle changes in geography can dramatically affect biodiversity. This short walk offers an intimate look at the relationships between plants, animals, and climate in southern Nevada. And even though it's so close to a bustling city, it still provides a rewarding sensory experience like you're a world away.

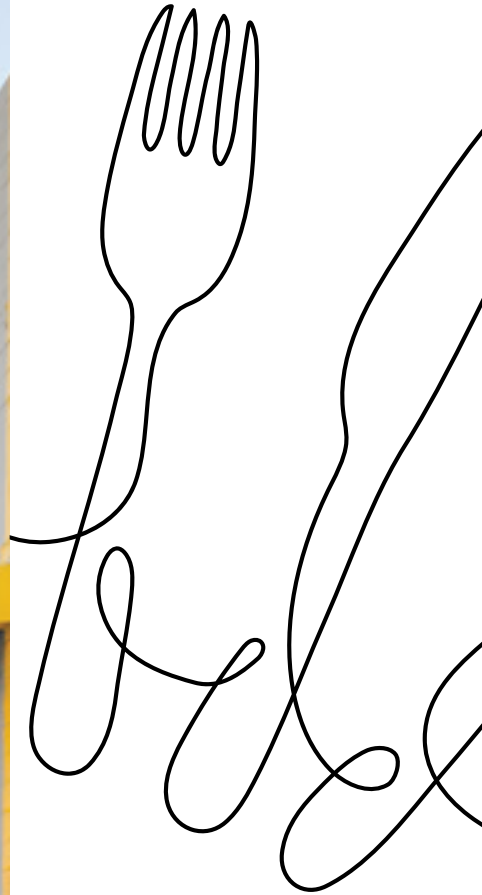
The Palmer's chipmunk is another endemic species to the Spring Mountains. These small, reddish-brown rodents are only about 8 inches long and have alternating black and white stripes on their face and back. They serve an important role in the forest as seed dispersers: When they drag ponderosa cones away to eat, they spread the seeds far away from the parent tree.



Morrigan DeVito (sign and trees)

A Taste of the Arts

BY MACKENZIE JERVIS



Creativity spills from the galleries to the kitchens in Las Vegas' Arts District.

If The Strip is the glamorous face of Las Vegas, the Arts District is its heart. The 18-block area downtown between Commerce and 4th Streets has been called the "Least Vegas Neighborhood in Vegas" by "The New York Times," primarily because its bohemian aesthetic is so unexpected in a metropolis known for neon and towering casino-resorts. Instead, the Arts District is defined by its extravagant street art, quirky bars, off-beat secondhand shops, and trailblazing restaurants, all proudly locally owned and fiercely protective of their place in the city's culture.

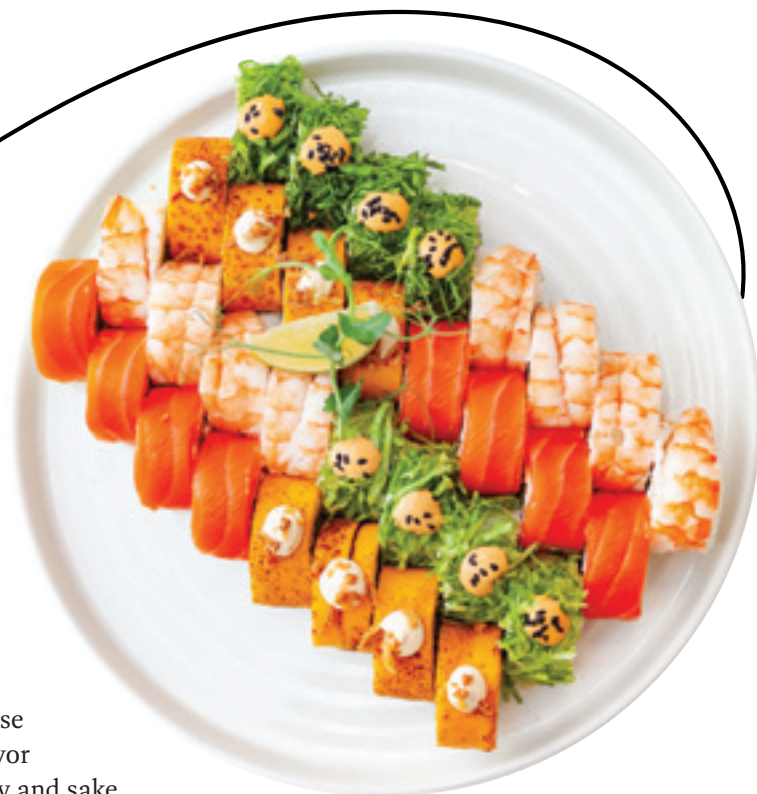
The Arts District has grown into one of Las Vegas's most exciting culinary neighborhoods, where creativity thrives both on the plate and in the community. Easily walkable, the colorful streets are packed with unique and trendy restaurants that cater to every possible palate and preference while showing off surprisingly innovative cuisines. It's a part of Las Vegas that few visitors see, but it might just be where the real Vegas lives and thrives.

Not sure where to start? Here are a few crowd favorites.

Yu Or Mi Sushi Bar

With so many unique offerings in the Arts District, sushi might not be the first cuisine that comes to mind. Even this restaurant's nondescript facade is easy to walk by. But step inside Yu or Mi, and it'll leave a lasting impression.

The sleek sushi bar is a modern twist on the Japanese tradition, combining pristine fish with inventive flavor combinations paired with high-end Japanese whisky and sake. Headed by Chef Virakone Vongphachanh, who has more than 20 years of experience, the menu showcases the freshest cuts in artful presentations and rolls that blend playful creativity with meticulous technique.





Esther's Kitchen

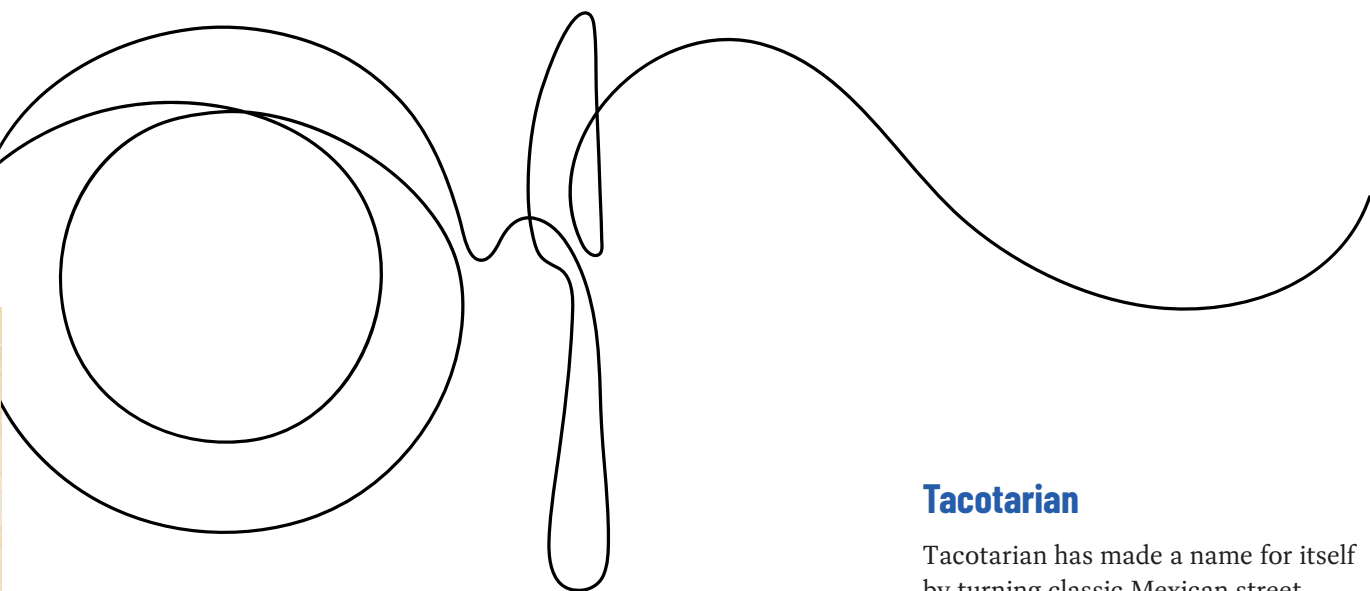


Tacotarian

Esther's Kitchen

Mention Arts District restaurants to anyone, and they're bound to bring up Esther's Kitchen. Founded in 2018 by Chef James Trees, a Vegas native and James Beard Award finalist, the 160-seat dining room can be a difficult reservation to score—even harder than some of the internationally-acclaimed spots on The Strip. The open kitchen, elegant bar, and cozy upstairs lounge bring a sleek and chic touch to the quirky Arts District.

The menu focuses on what they call seasonal Italian soul food. And with their emphasis on fresh, farm-to-table produce to match the seasons, each trip to Esther's is a new experience. Choose between fresh pastas, pizzas, antipasti, or popular entrees like cacio e pepe and margherita pizza. Beyond the staples, the duck confit pizza (with truffle panna, fontina, spinach, and cherry mostarda) and their signature rigatoni (with spring peas, crème fraîche, prosciutto, and lemon) are the types of dishes that keep bringing people back. Their combination of approachable-but-elevated cuisine is why Esther's Kitchen remains a staple of the Arts District.



Tacotarian

Tacotarian has made a name for itself by turning classic Mexican street food into daring vegan creations. The taqueria is a favorite among local diners, but it has also received national honors, including being named one of five Hot Concepts winners in 2025 by Nation's Restaurant News. The menu is filled with classics like tacos, burritos, nachos, and enchiladas, packed with inventive ingredients like mushroom asada and jackfruit barbacoa tasty enough to win over even the most dedicated meat eaters. And don't forget to grab one of their flavored margaritas, agua frescas, or Mexican soft drinks to go along with it.





SoulBelly BBQ

SoulBelly BBQ

No neighborhood is complete without a spot for smoky and savory barbecue. In the Arts District, that place is SoulBelly BBQ. Founded by acclaimed chef Bruce Kalman (who appeared on the Food Network’s “Chopped” and “Beat Bobby Flay”), SoulBelly delivers a fusion of regional traditions: Think Texas-style brisket, Carolina pulled pork, and St. Louis pork ribs. Crowd-favorite sides include mac and cheese, Texas ranch beans, and creamy coleslaw.

The industrial-chic dining room keeps things casual while the communal picnic tables invite conversation over plates of ribs and local craft beer. Speaking of craft beer, SoulBelly is wedged between two top breweries: Nevada Brew Works and HUDL Brewing Company, which only adds to the carefree, convivial feel of the Arts District.



Main Street Provisions

Main Street Provisions

Just down the street from SoulBelly is Main Street Provisions, a refined yet approachable dining experience. The interior is sleek yet warm, with wood accents and soft lighting that make it ideal for special nights out. The menu focuses on modern American comfort foods along with some more elegant and upscale dishes that feel familiar, exciting, and elevated without being pretentious. You can expect filet mignon tartare, roasted Spanish octopus, and Korean-inspired short ribs alongside classic steak cuts and hearty sides.

Makers & Finders

Further along Main Street, this Latin café and diner doubles as a cultural and community hub in the Arts District. Makers & Finders is recognized for both its specialty coffee and its menu of bold Latin comfort foods, inspired by founder Josh Molina's Colombian heritage. It's the kind of place you can visit from morning through afternoon and always find a lively crowd. The interior is filled with bright murals, open seating, and an energetic soundtrack, all of which adds to the welcoming vibe.

As for the food, start the day with a Cuban cortado or lavender latte, paired with chilaquiles or Latin hash. For lunch, try dishes like lomo saltado, braised chicken arepa, and their empanada bowl.



Makers & Finders



Makers & Finders

THE V&T RAILWAY

Steam through history on a
Comstock-era passenger train.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

The train runs on weekends from May to October, and riders can buy a ticket for either a painstakingly preserved steam locomotive or more modern diesel engine. Visit vtrailway.com for the full ride schedule including weekend and one-way rides, as well as the V&T's holiday, seasonal, and themed rides.

BY MEGG MUELLER

The sun shines bright and hot into our train car, but the breeze coming through the windows scattered throughout provides a sweet respite from the morning's unexpected warmth. The windows also allow the sound of the train's wheels—the proverbial clackety-clack—to filter into the car, and it mixes with the excited chatter of my fellow riders. If I squint my eyes a bit, the chattering group across the aisle could be a troupe of performers circa late 1870s making its way to Virginia City, ready to entertain the crowds at Piper's Opera House. Eyes fully open, I see my fellow passengers (albeit some in period costumes) riding the Virginia & Truckee (V&T) Railway from Carson City to Virginia City on a beautiful September day.

A Journey Through Time

I'm taking a journey that thousands have taken before, and I'm not just talking about the popular tourist attraction I'm on, but one that began in the late 1800s. Our train closely follows the original route of the V&T, which operated at a time when thousands of miners, shopkeepers, and families flocked to the burgeoning city in the mountains that was once home to the largest discovery of silver in U.S. history.

As we depart the V&T's Eastgate Depot, the train meanders through the Virginia Range, just as it did more than 150 years ago. Along the way, the conductor points out the mines and tailing piles that still dot the hills. Some of which are worked by today's fortune seekers, but most were left by the miners of days gone by. The

train winds slowly along the hills at a gentle grade; the occasional whistle and puff of smoke adds to the trip's timeless charm.

The conductor keeps up a consistent stream of anecdotes from the silver rush years—tales of those who made fortunes and those who did not. Many elicit smiles and chuckles from the passengers as the legends and lore of Virginia City's more colorful characters come to life. We also hear facts about the mines themselves and the innovations that came from the Comstock, which still impact today's mining industry.

We hear about the great Incline of the Sierra Nevada that was built to bring needed lumber from Lake Tahoe to Virginia City, along with Adolph Sutro's brilliant tunnel that would have helped drain dangerous water from the mines if only the ore hadn't begun to play out by the time it was completed. And of course, our conductor tells us how the V&T itself was built from the need to move massive amounts of ore from Virginia City down to the shores of the Carson River for easy transport to refining operations.

TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Learn more about Sutro Tunnel by taking one of the twice-monthly guided history tours or by scheduling a private tour. Visit thesutrotunnel.org for more information.



**THIS BEAUTIFULLY META
MOMENT BARELY HAS
TIME TO SINK IN WHEN I
HEAR ONE OF MY FELLOW
PASSENGERS YELL,
“HORSES!”**



Station to Station

Fascinating as all this history is, the lessons land even more deeply as you hear them told as you pass through the environs where they first occurred. This beautifully meta moment barely has time to sink in when I hear one of my fellow passengers yell, “Horses!”

Sure enough, someone’s keen eyes have spotted a band of wild horses, and the whole car is suddenly at the windows, cameras and cellphones in hand. The excitement of that moment is barely over when our train begins its pass along the Overman Pit. For at least half of the car—those on the side facing the embankment—it’s either an incredibly thrilling moment or a slightly terrifying one, but either way, the 120-foot-deep pit is a sight to behold as the train looms above. If you aren’t on the correct side on the way up, stay on that same side on the way back so you’re sure to see it.



If you're based in Virginia City or looking for a shorter excursion, consider taking the V&T Railroad from Virginia City to Gold Hill. The V&T Railroad is the historical predecessor to the V&T Railway, and the train ride is 35 minutes. More information can be found at virginiatruckee.com.

After about 90 minutes of sites and stories, the train pulls into the station in Virginia City, where we enjoy a leisurely, three-hour visit of the town that spurred Nevada's mining industry into high gear.

With myriad museums, restaurants, shops, and saloons, my party and I wander the wooden boardwalk, shopping for sweets at Barrels O Candy and admiring the craftsmanship at the Virginia City Hat Maker. We stop by "The Territorial Enterprise" building—sadly closed—to peer in the windows of Mark Twain's former place of employment before heading to The Roasting House for a delicious lunch.

With so much available, we are hard-pressed to see even a slice of it before the train whistle calls us back to the station.





On my return trip to Carson City, I once again think of those traveling this way so many years ago. As I take in the thoughtfully decorated train car with its historic photos and vintage traveling cases atop polished wood racks, laugh at the conductor's stories, and enjoy the views along my journey, I know I'm only getting a glimpse of how the denizens of the late 1800s lived. To travel by train is often romanticized, and with good reason: There really is nothing like it. To that end, taking a ride on the V&T Railway is an experience that has left me feeling richer for having had it. But next time, I'm going to dress up in a period costume, too.





RURAL WRANGLERS
RURAL WRANGLERS
RURAL WRANGLERS

CARSON



CITY

Nevada's capital city has history, community, and culture, with so much more to offer.

"Fun fact: Vegas isn't the capital, but that's OK," David Peterson, executive director of Visit Carson City, says with a smile. "For those who didn't know that, we'll still let them visit!"

For 167 years, Carson City has led Nevada's growth as the state's center of government. This historic community has earned an incredible legacy—from its charming downtown to its excellent dining and cultural scene—emerging as one of those places that surprises visitors in the best possible way.

Finding Their Footing

While the capitol building certainly draws many visitors—rightfully so, with its beautiful sandstone façade, exhibits, and interactive museum—the entire city core is a picture-perfect experience, a walkable and bikeable historic downtown, replete with restaurants, shops, and museums. It's a place to gather for an outdoor concert or just a meal with friends, as well as the place to learn about the state's history.

Just west of downtown's Carson Street, you'll find the **Kit Carson Trail**, a self-guided audio tour of 48 stops in the city's historic neighborhoods. Stop in front of the marked buildings and use your cellphone or device to hear fascinating stories—many of which stretch back to the Comstock era. Stops include the former U.S. Mint, the Governor's Mansion, and the Krebs-Peterson House, where John Wayne's last movie, "The Shootist," was filmed.

A Big Dash of Culture

History may be a powerful lure, but once in town, expect to be dazzled by the amount of public art and cultural events you'll find. For the past three years, the city has put on a **Murals & Music Festival**, which invites artists from across the globe to leave their art on Carson City. The nearly weeklong festival includes artist lectures, children's activities, and while it's held in the fall, the fruits of the event can be enjoyed yearlong by downloading a map to all the mural locations.

Each October, **Mark Twain Days** is a three-day celebration of Nevada's own bard, featuring art, music, literary events, the Twain Train, and even ghost tours.

Speaking of trains, not only does the **Nevada State Railroad Museum** host a dazzling display of locomotive history, but you can immerse yourself in some on a historic steam engine. Hop on board the **Virginia & Truckee Railway** for a journey through time to Virginia City: You can read more about that trip on pg. 58.

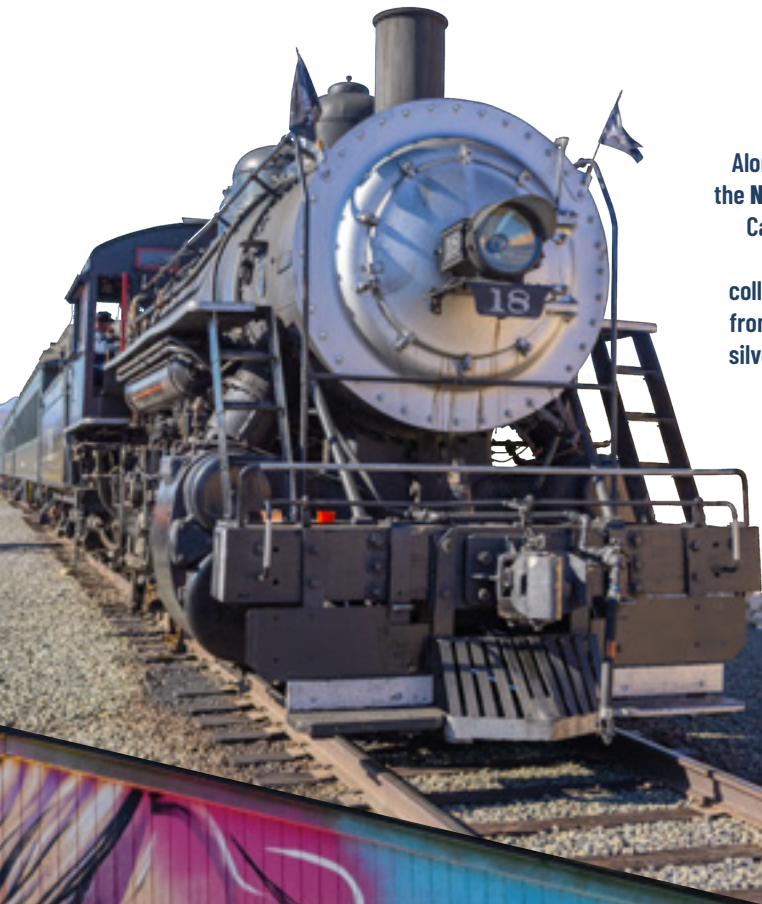


TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Along with the state's train museum, the **Nevada State Museum** in downtown Carson City is housed in a former U.S. Mint and hosts a fabulous collection of the state's memorabilia, from prehistoric exhibits to stunning silver works from our mining history. Turn to pg. 22 for more.

Carson's culture also comes from its storied and sometimes tumultuous past. Given the area's history predates statehood even, it's no wonder there are spectral tales all over the town. The city's ghost walks are a particularly popular event which have been going on for more than 30 years, and the tales of the historic homes and families that once lived in Carson bring the past to life in an engaging and sometimes surreal way.

If you're seriously into haunted happenings, do not miss the **Historic Nevada State Prison** tours. You can choose from general day tours to learn about the prison that operated from 1862 to 2012, or take the spookier paranormal ghost walk. Either way, it's an experience you won't soon forget.





And Then There's The Outdoors

Not only is Carson City nestled in one of the most beautiful valleys in the state, it's the basecamp for all the legendary adventures at Lake Tahoe, just 25 minutes away. From snow skiing to water sports, hiking to biking, Lake Tahoe's reputation as an outdoor paradise is well deserved. You're also just minutes from the recreation offerings of nearby Reno and Carson Valley.

Adventure seekers have no need to leave town if they don't wish to, however. You can kayak along the bucolic Carson River, mountain bike along the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon trail, or tee up at one of the area's nine golf courses. Skate parks, fishing ponds, swimming pools, and city parks abound in this charming town, too, so whatever slice of the great outdoors calls to you, Carson City aims to please.

With all it has to offer, Peterson notes it's no surprise this charming and fascinating town is one of the most visited places in the state.

"We've got the best of Nevada here—the rich history, great food, and an arts and culture scene that rivals much bigger cities," he says.

Visit Carson City (golf)



TRAVEL NEVADA **PRO TIP**

In fall 2026, the **Travel Nevada Adventure Center** will open in Carson City at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. The center will host outdoor recreation-minded businesses that will help connect travelers and residents to outdoor adventure experiences, outfitters, and more.



SCAN TO WATCH



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READY FOR YOUR CLOSEUP?

Set-jetters can take their pick of movie locations across the state.

BY ROBIN HOLABIRD

Movies often inspire travelers to visit bucket list destinations. I saw this point frequently emphasized during the more than 20 years I spent putting Silver State sites on screen as a part of the Nevada Film Office, now Film Nevada. We call it “set-jetting”—the trend of visiting places seen in the movies.

With Nevada’s glamorous and sparkling side and its rugged, vast landscapes, it’s no surprise set-jetters can find a jackpot of screen locations across the state. Need a few examples? How about spies racing through glittering Las Vegas, ace mavericks flying over endless deserts, or the U.S. president protecting the world from space aliens?

While the number of movies filmed in the Silver State is in the thousands, we’ve chosen a handful from the last few decades and shared some of the locations where you can have your own celebrity moment.

Las Vegas

“Anora” (2024)

Like the title character, millions party hard in Las Vegas—though most don’t end up winning the Oscar for Best Actress like Mikey Madison. *Anora* shows up in Las Vegas with her boyfriend and ends up getting married, which proves key in the Best Picture-winner’s twist on the Cinderella story, blending humor, pathos, and plenty of lap dancing. Set-jetters easily find *Anora*’s hangouts at the Palms Casino Resort, the Little White Wedding Chapel, and the Fremont Street Experience—the latter is shown in the movie’s poster.



CAST OF "ANORA"



LITTLE WHITE WEDDING CHAPEL



RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO



RIO HOTEL & CASINO



PAMELA ANDERSON AT "THE LAST SHOWGIRL" Q&A

"The Last Showgirl" (2024)

Pamela Anderson and Las Vegas take center stage in a film that avoids the beloved, salacious tackiness of 1995's cult favorite "Showgirls"—which filmed in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. Filmed at the Rio Hotel & Casino, director Gia Coppola captures the habits of a woman who feels pride in the work of what she calls "ambassadors of style." Keep an eye out for street performers dressed as showgirls who pose with visitors for a tip.

"Jason Bourne" (2016)

Director Paul Greengrass puts star Matt Damon on a familiar path, forced by amnesia to go on the run and figure out why everyone is after him. Chases include one along The Strip, ending with a crash into the Riviera Hotel and Casino—empty at the time and since torn down. The high-profile project also hired 1,600 extras to play convention attendees at the Aria Resort & Casino.

Fallon

"Top Gun" (1986) and "Top Gun: Maverick" (2022)

Nevada skies offer ideal space for flyboys exercising their need for speed. Pulsing music and the star magnetism of Tom Cruise fire up the screen, propelled through phenomenal visuals filmed from real aircraft. Decades since the first film, "Maverick" again used Naval Air Station Fallon. Set-jettlers will find NAS Fallon closed to the public but open to current and retired military personnel/spouses bearing appropriate identification. Those curious to see Top Gun training flights can park on the opposite side from the military fence line at Fallon's Pasture Road.

Pyramid Highway/Empire/ Gerlach

"Nomadland" (2020)

Like many people and stories that fit a Nevada setting, this Best Picture Oscar winner resists traditional systems. The story stems from Jessica Bruder's best seller, and director Chloe Zhao takes her camera to many of the book's locations, including Empire and Fernley. Set-jettlers will easily find the movie's vistas along State Route 447 and can stop in the remnants of the town of Empire. Though the Amazon warehouse used in the movie closed after filming, the Desert Rose RV Park remains in business with a sign clearly visible from U.S. 50 in Fernley.



SET OF "TOP GUN: MAVERICK"

"Sin" (2003)

Director Michael Stevens could have filmed the story of a retired cop dealing with a past mistake in many places, but he chose northern Nevada for sentimental reasons. His grandfather George Stevens directed "The Greatest Story Ever Told" at Pyramid Lake in 1965. The younger Stevens makes Pyramid shine in opening and closing shots, and he also used the privately-owned Capurro Ranch on the northwest end of Pyramid Highway as a peaceful landing spot for Ving Rhames until violence sets him on the trail of Gary Oldman. The men finish business on a desert expanse featuring quicksand—not a typical danger in Nevada, so filmmakers went to the privately owned Misfits Flat near Stagecoach, where the owner let them dig a pit and fill it with sludgy sand.

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Larry S. Carlson, USN (Ret.) ("Top Gun: Maverick")



BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS

Rachel and West Wendover

**"Independence Day" (1996) and
"Independence Day: Resurgence" (2016)**

Nevada's Area 51 is woven into the story about a hostile alien invasion, and set-jetties can catch ties to the two films by visiting regions associated with the real and reel location.

Extraterrestrial enthusiasts should land in Rachel—the closest town to the actual top-secret area—to visit the Little A'Le'Inn, which boasts burgers and an official movie monument. As for the reel Area 51, cast and crew stayed in West Wendover and shot local scenery. Filming occurred a mile over the border at Utah's Historic Wendover Airfield and the Bonneville Salt Flats. Nevada shows up in the sequel with a glimpse of Wendover Will, a 64-foot metal cowboy who greets visitors near Interstate 80.



RACHEL

Genoa

"Misery" (1990)

Movie magic used Sierra Nevada peaks in place of Colorado's Rocky Mountain summits for Stephen King's tale of a writer imprisoned by a psychotic fan. Facades were added to Genoa's town front, and in Carson City, a house exterior was built in a meadow banked by looming mountains off Clear Creek Road. Director Rob Reiner told me on one of our scouts Kathy Bates would win an Oscar for her performance. I gave a non-committal answer because I knew little about her. Turns out he was right.



SET OF "SMOKIN' ACES"



NEVADA STATE PRISON



GOLDEN NUGGET LAKE TAHOE HOTEL & CASINO

Carson City

"The Mustang" (2019)

The story features a state prison's wild horse training program, pairing two similarly reticent characters—neither of whom plays well with others. The movie presents the healing bonds between human and animal in an unsentimental manner. Set-jettlers can book a tour of the film location with Nevada State Prison Preservation Society. Try to catch a glimpse of the wild horses at nearby Washoe Lake State Park.

Lake Tahoe

"Smokin' Aces" (2006)

"I just love the lake," writer/director Joe Carnahan told me as we discussed his project, which brings assassins to Tahoe in a race to kill (smoke) a comedian nicknamed Aces. Carnahan's vision drew an impressive cast: Ryan Reynolds and Ray Liotta, among others. Bit parts brought in Chris Pine and Ben Affleck, who both played Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan in other movies. Carnahan used the Hard Rock (now Golden Nugget) and Caesars (now Bally's). The two Jack Ryans meet at Cave Rock State Park on Highway 50.

Nevada Magazine Archives ("Smokin' Aces")



Great Nevada Picture Hunt

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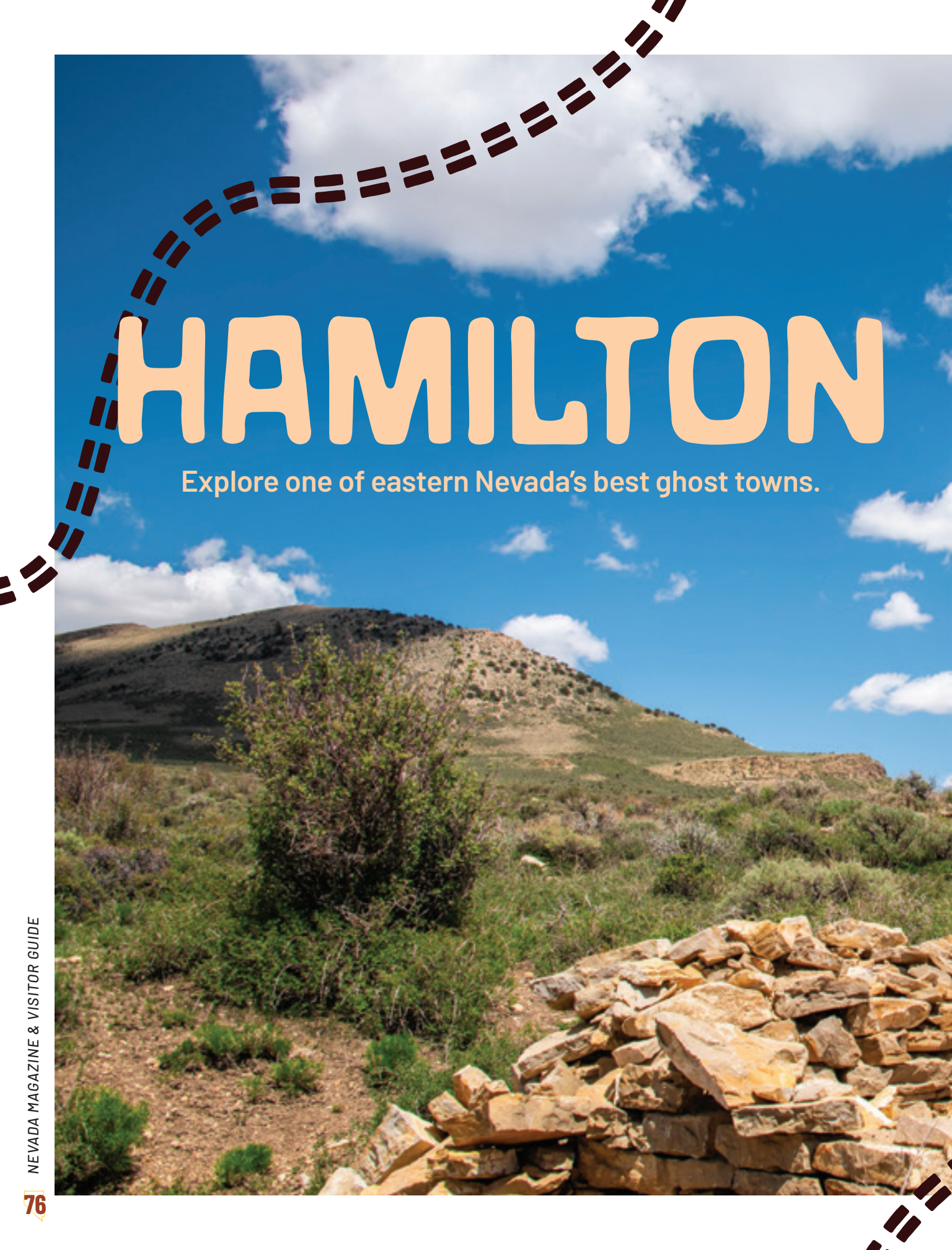
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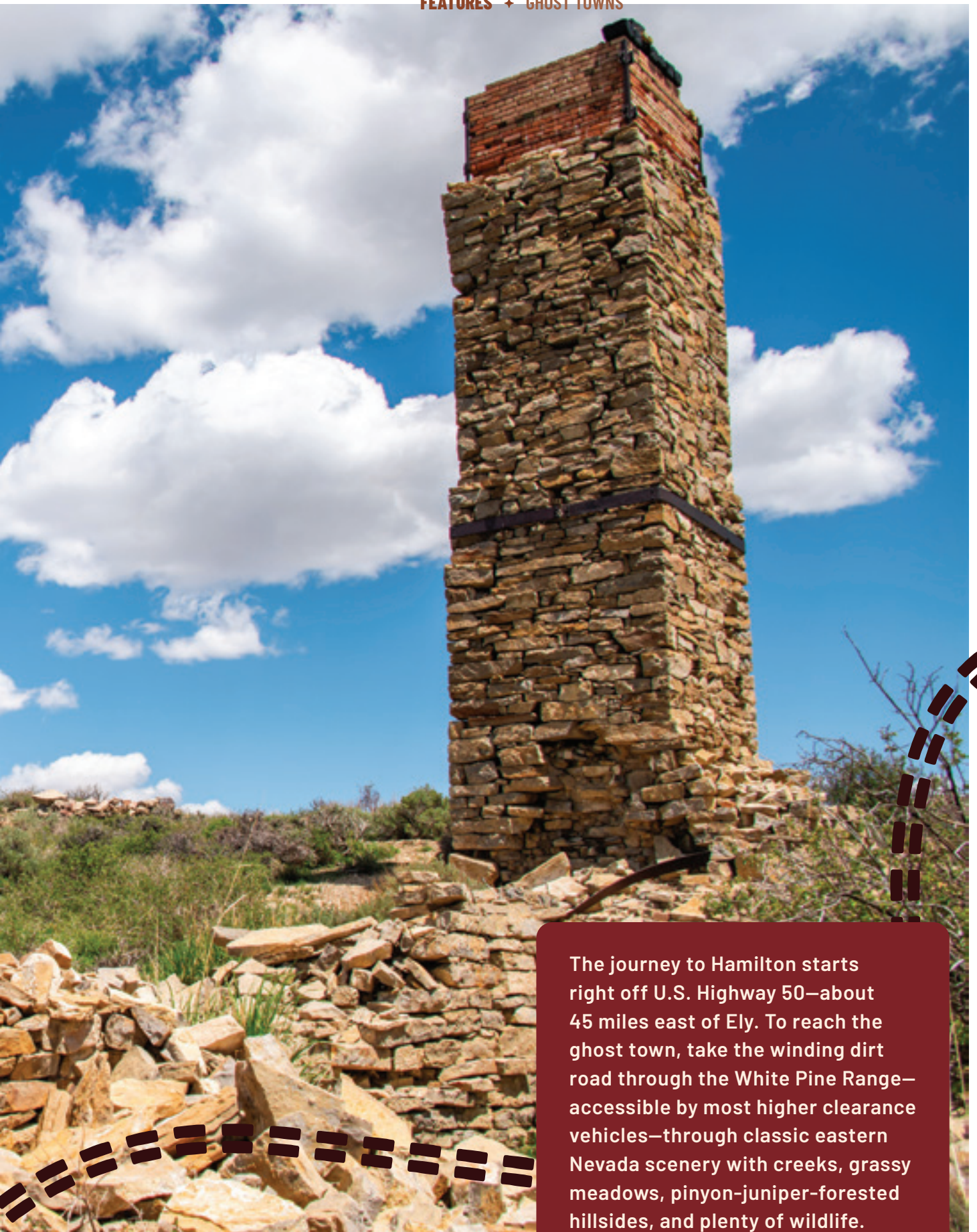


Visit **travelnevada.com/gnph** for more details.



HAMILTON

Explore one of eastern Nevada's best ghost towns.



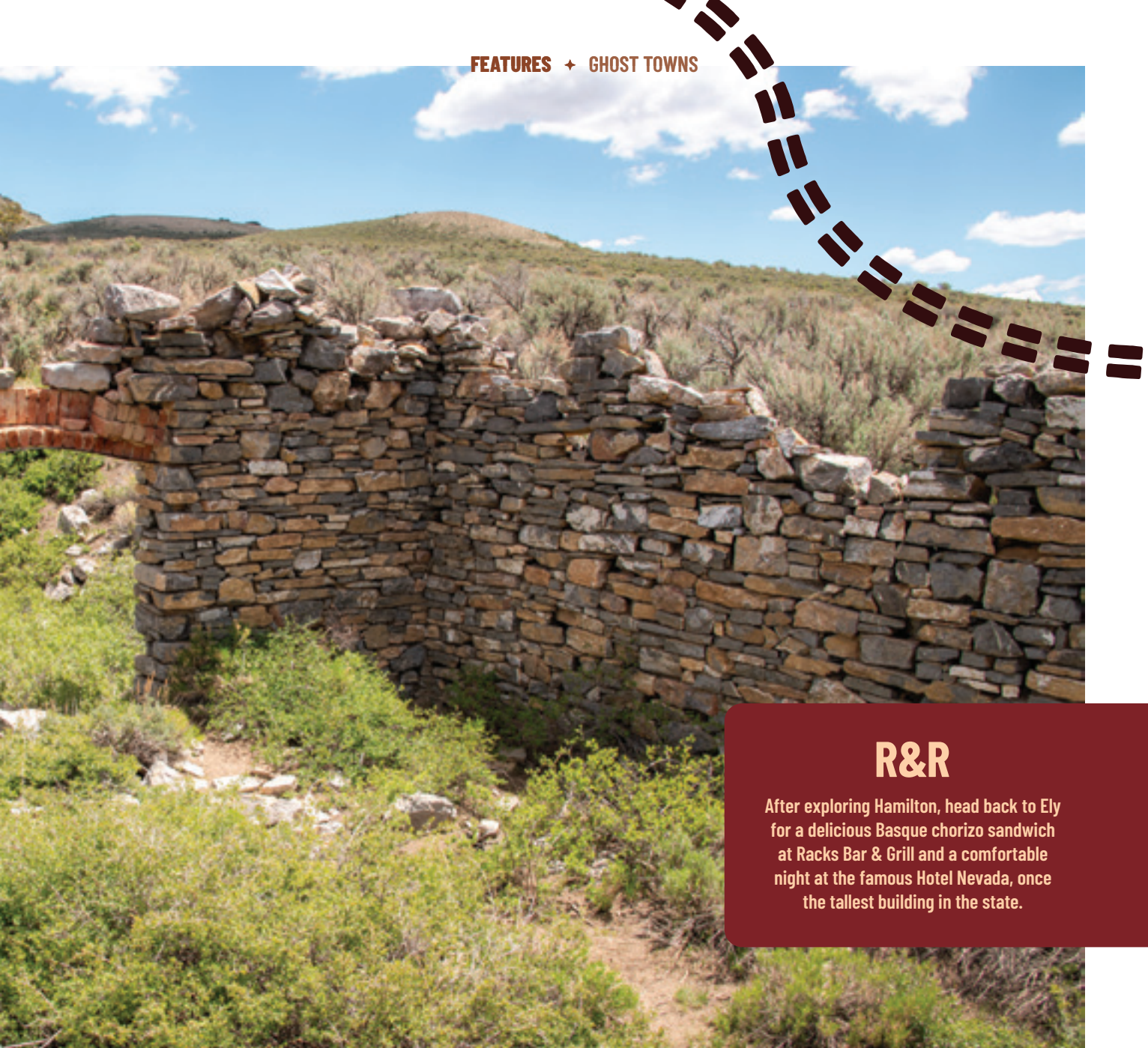
The journey to Hamilton starts right off U.S. Highway 50—about 45 miles east of Ely. To reach the ghost town, take the winding dirt road through the White Pine Range—accessible by most higher clearance vehicles—through classic eastern Nevada scenery with creeks, grassy meadows, pinyon-juniper-forested hillsides, and plenty of wildlife.

Still Standing

From the highway, the 11-mile drive takes about half an hour—though the scenic overlooks along the way might slow you down. Minutes before you arrive, you'll spot the weathered shacks and crumbling brick structures sprawled below photogenic Mt. Hamilton. This idyllic, wind-swept setting is about as Nevada as it gets.

Of course, Hamilton has changed quite a bit since its founding in the late 1800s. It's also different from even a few generations ago. Ely residents who grew up in the 1950s will remember driving up to the mountain ghost town to tour its impressive brick buildings or walk through houses still stocked with furniture, canned food, and magazines. But, as is the fate of many ghost towns, this once-bustling metropolis was slowly disassembled, its bones repurposed for building materials and mementos.





R&R

After exploring Hamilton, head back to Ely for a delicious Basque chorizo sandwich at Racks Bar & Grill and a comfortable night at the famous Hotel Nevada, once the tallest building in the state.

Despite this, Hamilton is still one of the best ghost towns in eastern Nevada and absolutely worth the visit. You'll find a dozen structures scattered across the sagebrush, including an oddly anachronistic industrial shop in the middle of town, which was the headquarters for a short-lived mining revival in the 1980s. But now it too is a ghost and just as much a resident as the crumbling ruins of the old hotel across the street.

In addition to its scattered structures, Hamilton has a large collection of antique mining equipment. You'll find these relics stacked in a neat row along

main street—a bit like an outdoor museum. It's a wonder to think these hulking cast-iron works were carried up the mountain by mule teams.

Finally, one of Hamilton's best features is that it sits at the center of what was once a large, sophisticated mining district, and many historical sites in the surrounding hills await discovery. However, do keep in mind these other locations—including nearby Belmont Mill—are harder to reach and require more planning and an OHV (or a sturdy pair of hiking boots). Still, given the setting and the area's history, your preparation will be rewarded.

SPOTLIGHT HISTORY

SPOTLIGHT HISTORY

SPOTLIGHT HISTORY

THE WHITE PINE MINING DISTRICT

HAMILTON 1925

In January 1868, miners discovered rich veins of silver ore in the White Pine Range. The rush to this new strike was immediate and impressive, and within a year, three bustling towns formed the heart of the White Pine mining district: Shermantown, Treasure City, and Hamilton.

Each town was incorporated by the state legislature and boasted substantial commercial and public services. Additionally, each had their own special job in the district: Shermantown was the milling town, Treasure City focused on money and commerce, and Hamilton handled logistics and supply.

At around 8,000 feet, most of the mining district sprawled across a zone of harsh climate, particularly Treasure City, which was famous for its miserable, arctic weather. But despite the snow, wind, and isolation, all three towns thrived—for a time.

In 1869, the district reached its peak with a population of about 20,000 people. Half of those residents lived in Hamilton, which made it the county seat when White Pine County was created on March 2 of that year.

Hamilton was a modern metropolis that boasted theatres, stores, dance halls, stage line companies, auction houses, a soda factory, and several breweries. A water company and steam-pumping works was even established by a San Francisco firm that anticipated Hamilton's population would grow to 50,000.

But by 1873, production slowed, leaving only the poorer ores and base metals to prolong the area's economic life. In 1885, a big fire wiped out most of Hamilton, including the brick courthouse and jail. Two years later, the county seat was moved to Ely.

A small population survived through the 1920s. After the Hamilton post office closed during the Great Depression, the era of the great White Pine mining district finally came to an end.

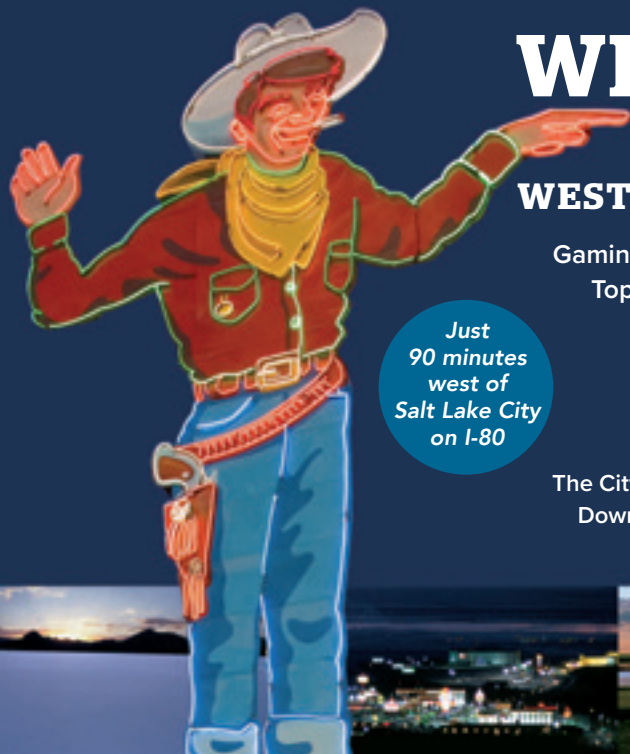
BACK IN TIME

Plenty more history awaits in the landscapes nearby. Don't miss Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, the Ely Renaissance Village, the McGill Drugstore Museum, or the Nevada State Railroad Museum—East Ely.

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HUMAN

The World Human Powered Speed Challenge breaks barriers while building community in rural Nevada.



BY CORY MUNSON
PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRIA HAWTHORNE





POWERED

It's early morning in late summer, and we're parked off a remote highway in northern Nevada. The sky is hazy, and the sun rises a deep red. This is as ordinary a spot you'll find within a 200-mile radius: a narrow sagebrush valley surrounding a long ribbon of pavement. But it's not an ordinary scene, and this is not just any road. For many, it's the best highway in the world.

For 23 of the past 25 years, this 5-mile stretch of Nevada State Route 305 near Battle Mountain has been home to the World Human Powered Speed Challenge (WHPSC)—one of the most

unique and specialized events in the state. Athletes, tinkerers, and cyclists

arrive from around the world to participate in the weekslong competition. All are here to answer one question: What's the fastest achievable speed on muscle power alone?

While the event hosts many race categories (multi-rider, bikes, trikes, and even hand-powered vehicles), there is one record that tantalizes above all others. It's *the* record: the maximum

speed ever achieved by human power. For those arriving at the 2025 WHPSC, that sat at 89.59 mph—set by Todd Reichert in 2016 (Ilona Peltier set the women's record of 78.61 mph in 2019). And yes, those records were set here.

On Your Mark

First heats aren't until 7 a.m., but we need to arrive early. The racetrack is on a state highway that sees its fair share of traffic, so coordinators can only close the road for 20-minute intervals. If we miss our window, we'll be stuck behind a road flagger.

The 5-mile course is split into three sections: finish line, 2.5-mile launch, and 5-mile launch. Beyond the finish line is an area called "catch," where the bikes are intercepted by volunteers before the deceleration topples them.



Our day starts at the 2.5-mile launch. While the pros launch at the 5-mile, this halfway point is where teams qualify.

In the early morning chill, teams move with practiced precision as they unload their sleek, hyper-modern rigs. Apart from us—and a U.K. camera crew—everyone else is either a coordinator, a racer, or a team member.

This is an international group, and there are around a dozen teams from France, Canada, Australia, the U.K., the U.S., and the Netherlands. Four are from engineering schools (the University of Liverpool, the University of Toronto, Annecy IUT, and Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo).

Light finally floods the valley, and the launch area comes alive with nerves, excited chatter, and plenty of technical jargon. Teams start their pre-launch checklist, adding air to tires, making minor repairs, and testing electrical connections. Nearby, athletes warm up with lunges or a short jog along the cattle fence.



There are many teams here, but there is also a strong sense of friendship among participants. After all, this is as much a reunion as it is a competition.

“We are all family,” says one attendee. “At the end of the day, we’re all collectively hoping someone breaks 90 mph.”

The camaraderie is enhanced by the fact that this is rural Nevada, where extra help and spare parts for specialized bikes are a luxury. Everyone shares, volunteers time, or fills in where needed—even if that means jumping into another team.





That was the case when we met Barney, an effervescent cycling guru from the U.K. team. He's here this morning to assist a Dutch racer who found himself without helpers. As we chat, Barney shows off his team vehicle, a sleek blue machine named *Seventyseven*.

Back in the 1970s, record-setting vehicles were essentially road bikes with windscreens. Today's bullet-like shape is the result of decades of gradual optimization to limit friction and wind drag. But in achieving that efficient design, riders have had to sacrifice a little comfort.

"The athlete inside has a hard job," says Barney. "They're in a vehicle designed for their body with only a few millimeters of clearance."



First, they enter (usually, lifted by team members) into the tight and enclosed space. Then, they're covered with a seamless, windowless hatch: their view of the outside world reduced to a digital screen.

The radio squawks, and a race official announces that flaggers have closed the road. There are only 20 minutes to complete the first heats before it opens again, and each minute is carefully accounted for. If a team can't get a successful launch within four minutes, they'll need to abandon their run.

First up is the University of Toronto with their bike *Cyclone*. Team members lift their athlete inside the cockpit, secure the top, and find their position on the start line. One person—known as the pusher—holds the craft between his knees as he places electrical tape over the seams of the hatch (to further decrease drag). When it's time to launch, they sound off a countdown and give the craft a running start before letting go.

Cyclone is off to a wobbly start, and within moments she's strayed from the center line and veered into the sagebrush. The crowd reacts with a collective wince.





On The Road

"They're nervous. It's a mental thing at this point," I hear someone behind me say.

But the pusher has already come to the rescue and wheels *Cyclone* back to the starting line. With only a minute to spare, he gives it another launch, and this time the bike stays dead center.

The crowd lets out a loud cheer. Officials rush over to hug and congratulate the Canadians. As the next team prepares to launch, we watch *Cyclone* vanish into the horizon: a tiny dot on a remote Nevada highway.



According to everyone involved with this event, Nevada State Route 305 is one of the best places in the world to set speed records.

"There's nothing like this road anywhere," Barney tells us. "It's flat, it's straight, it's long, and it's at around 5,000 feet elevation."

Study S.R. 305 on a satellite map, and you'll see just how perfectly plumb this section is. And while it's hardly the only straight road around, the elevation puts it into a league of its own.

Altitude is important: Too high, athletes get less oxygen. Too low, they're practically swimming through air. Beyond being just right for record setting, the elevation here also contributes to the area's mild climate, which is important. Calm, predictable weather is critical in these competitions. For a record to be legal, wind speeds must not exceed 3.71 mph. That is barely more than a breeze. And it's why the event is in early September. Historically, that's been the calmest, most storm-free time of the year.

The World Human Powered Speed Challenge isn't the only event in the human-powered vehicle circuit: There are races and competitions held year-round and across the world. But this is the big one; it's the event people attend to set world records.

And today might be that day.





Time To Shine

By 10:30 a.m., the morning heats are over, and everyone returns to Battle Mountain. The next round of races won't start until this evening (when the wind is more calm).

At the community center—and race headquarters—people eat breakfast and discuss the morning's drama. Eventually, everyone gathers in the auditorium for the briefing, where organizers give a weather report and announce the official times.

Unfortunately, no one set a record that morning. François clocked 85.84 mph. Blazingly fast, but nowhere near the logarithmically scaling challenge of crossing 89.54 mph. (As a consolation prize, later in the week he did achieve 88.07, the fastest time ever for a European.)

After announcing time slots for the evening's races, the briefing turns to an important matter (which is the reason we chose today for our visit). That afternoon, the convention hall will come alive as racers host a beloved, community event: the Show and Shine.



MORNING BRIEFING

We finish the qualifying heats from the 2.5-mile launch, and the road reopens. As semi-trucks pass by, the convoy prepares to move up the road to the 5-mile area, fondly referred to as the big boys. People are excited about what might happen there. Everyone's talking about the French team and its star rider François. I'm told that if anyone is going to break the world record this week, it's them.

As soon as we show up, it's clear this is the big leagues. Things feel more professional and focused—also more serious. In the back of the Dutch and French team vans, athletes warm up on large stationary bikes.

When the road closes again, conditions are perfect: zero range downwind, 63 degrees. François steps out of the van, ready for his run. Everyone watches as the Frenchman walks to his bike. Again, we hear whispers that this could be a world record moment. He climbs into his sleek machine and has a successful launch.

But if there is a world record, we won't know for another hour. They'll announce times at the morning briefing back in town.



TIME SLOTS FOR THE NEXT DAY'S RACE



At 1:30 p.m. sharp, dozens of third graders burst into the race headquarters accompanied by lively harmonica. With papers clutched in hand—where they hope to gather as many racer autographs as possible—the students excitedly visit the buffed and polished vehicles. Teams stand by to lift kids into cockpits, let them pedal to their heart’s content, and field dozens of breathless questions like “how fast does this one go?” and “why aren’t there windows?”—as I watch, it strikes me that those were the same questions I’d asked that morning.

I grew up in rural Nevada. There are nice things about growing up in the country, but childhood experiences like this are rare. But here we were, watching kids from a mining town—small even by Nevada standards—face-to-face with some of the most high-tech analog bicycles on the planet. I don’t think that’s something they’ll ever forget.

As I watch, I also think about the other thing participants have told us during our short visit. There’s a chance this is the last crop of students to see any of this. That’s because the future is very uncertain for the World Human Powered Speed Challenge. From what I understand, this might be the last one.



SHOW AND SHINE

Bumpy Road Ahead

Battle Mountain treasures and supports the World Human Powered Speed Challenge. It makes sense: This is easily its largest tourism event. For one whole week, dozens of out-of-towners intensely invest in the community, filling up pretty much every hotel, eating at restaurants, and visiting grocery and hardware stores hourly.

The trouble comes from the very feature that makes this event possible in the first place. To put it bluntly, the road’s condition is no longer of a quality that can set records.

In 2009, organizers secured a federal grant to pave their portion of highway. Afterwards, the event saw a surge in participation—not to mention a new world record. But a decade of heavy vehicles, icy winters, and runoff have degraded the road below the point where people can set records.





FEATURES + HUMAN POWERED

Attending the WHPSC takes significant investment. Most of these teams are international, and bringing a crew and a giant road bike to the middle of Nevada is expensive and takes planning. If they don't believe setting records is possible, they're not going to attend. Many teams have already signaled they might pull out unless the road gets repaired.

Attempts by organizers to secure funding or support for repavement have so far proved unsuccessful. The future for one of Nevada's most unique sporting events remains uncertain.



SHOW AND SHINE



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NEVADA

Events

May

Cinco de Mayo Festival
Elko Home Show
Jake Eary Memorial Rodeo
Mother's Day PowWow

June

California Trail Days
Country Under the Stars
Elko Mining Expo
Elko Beer Festival
Lamoille Country Fair
Ruby Mountain Jr. Rodeo
Ruby Roubaix Gravel Fondo
Silver State Stampede
Stampede Country Kickoff Concert

July

Art in the Park
National Basque Festival
Elko 4th of July
Spring Creek Freedom Festival
Wells Fun Run
Summer Daze

August

Carlin Ranch Hand Rodeo
Carlin Sho' N Shine
Elko Cosmic Con
Elko County Fair & Horse Races

THE OPAL OF MY EYE

BY MEGG MUELLER

Digging for precious gemstones at Royal Peacock Opal Mine is a rich adventure.



Adventures that are one-of-a-kind are highly sought after. Social media is awash in images of people purporting to experience something that is entirely unique. I wish I could say mining for black fire opals in Nevada's Virgin Valley is one of those experiences, but no: You can in fact do it elsewhere. But, if traveling to New South Wales, Australia—the only other place on the planet these gems exist—seems a bit far to travel, then look no further than Nevada's remote northwestern corner for the dig of your dreams.



Can You Dig It?

It's been 10 years since I last searched for opals, but the allure of the black fire opal has called to me once again. This time, I'm hitting the road with my work mates, Alexandria and Abby. As we pull into the Royal Peacock Opal Mines—located 40 miles west of Denio near the Oregon border—the excitement comes flooding back.

Nevada's mining history is full of tales of miners striking it rich among the dirt and rocks, and while I'm just digging for a day, who says it won't be me?

"You never know, but if you're looking for a sure thing, you might want to buy from the gift shop," Jake Anderson, co-owner of Royal Peacock, says with a laugh. "Nevada is a gamble, after all."



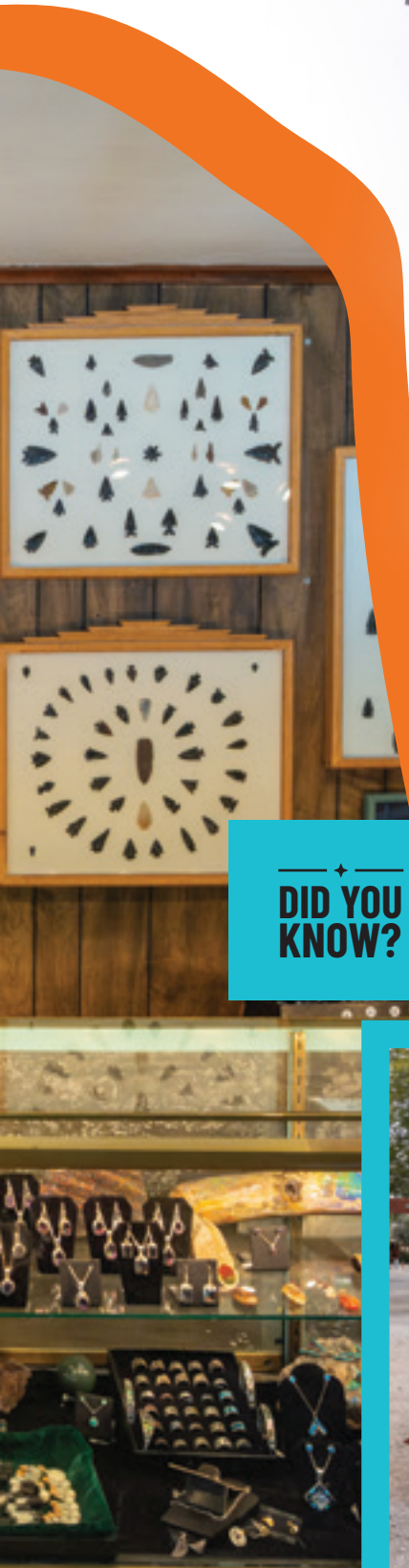


DID YOU KNOW?

With the help of Harry and Joy Wilson (Jake Anderson's grandparents), Nevada declared the black fire opal its official state precious gemstone in 1987.

Last time I was at the mine, Jake was working with his mom, Julie Wilson, who ran the operation after the passing of her father (who had inherited the business from his father.) This makes Jake the fourth-generation family member to run Royal Peacock, which he does now with his wife, Cassie. Suffice to say, Jake grew up finding opals, and if there was ever someone you want on your side showing you the ropes, it's him.

While his family started out as ranchers, it was his great-grandmother who had an eye for the "pretties" found in the Royal Peacock mine across the valley from their land and insisted they purchase it in 1944. Today, those pretties are the backbone of the family business.





A Rainbow Of Delights

Produced nearly 14 million years ago when volcanic activity occurred in the region, opals come in a variety of colors, including pink, white, moss, lemon, and the all-in-one state gemstone, the black fire opal. No matter the color, finding opals among a sea of dirt is no mean feat, but when you do, it's a rush unlike any other. The stones are fragile, and often the first indicator you've found one is when your pick sounds as if it's hit glass.

After the initial cringe moment of worrying you've broken an amazing specimen (of which there were many), it's time to lay down the heavier tools and start in with an awl or screwdriver, carefully trying to find the edges of the piece amid the bank of dirt. Often, I'd call Jake over for advice: How far around should I dig? Is this actually an opal? And how much could I hope to extract before it rapidly dried and began to crack and crumble?

The fragility can be frustrating—especially for a novice—but Jake and his staff can help you determine what to do with your finds based on what your plans for the stones are. Sometimes they should go straight into water; other times they go into a zip-top bag to dry slowly. Opals are formed of silicon dioxide and water, and once removed from the earth, they begin to dry rapidly.



★ PACK YOUR BAGS

Before you go, make sure to review the list of items to bring for a successful dig. Along with your own tools—and don't forget awls and skinny screwdrivers—gloves, zip-top bags, squirt bottles, paper towels, buckets, and soft brushes can make the job so much easier.

Also pack sunscreen, plenty of water, and snacks! You'll be digging in full sun without shade.

Two Ways To Dig

Searching for opals can be done a couple of ways, depending on your preference. There's bank digging, where you work on a prepared bank with a pick and rock hammer digging for buried treasure. The other option is to rake the tailing piles, a gentler, less-expensive option that can prove just as fruitful (and, I have to say, looked less strenuous).

Alexandria, Abby, and I chose bank digging for our adventure. Armed with hard hats, pickaxes, and a whole lot of help, we spent hours looking for veins, fossilized wood, and the toothpaste-white signs of silica deposits, using all the tips Jake doled out.

Around us, other diggers were working the tailing piles. Combing through the earth left from previous diggers along with fresh material moved while preparing the banks, the tailings are often rich in overlooked limbs (log-shaped deposits that often encase the opals). Kids under 12 can't dig the banks due to hazards from falling rock, but raking the tailings with their young eagle eyes is the perfect job for them, and they are free with paid adults.





TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Royal Peacock is open for mining from May to October. Check their website—www.royalpeacock.com—for detailed info on how to dig and everything you need for a successful adventure.

Even More Ways to Play

Whichever way you choose, I heartily recommend staying the night at either the campground, RV park, or one of two furnished cabins. While one day of opal mining left us all exhausted with some muscle aches, we were dying to do it again the next day. Once you find one specimen, the game is on, and you can't stop looking. But according to Cassie, while opal mining is the main draw, Royal Peacock attracts visitors of all stripes.

"You don't have to mine to stay here," she notes. "We do have lots of avid collectors who come for weeks at a time, but we also have stargazers, birders, ATVers, and hunters, plus lots of families."

The remote location put on quite the star show during our visit, and Abby, who had never seen the Milky Way before, was overwhelmed by the night sky. Cassie said that's not unusual, and it's just one of the best parts of running Royal Peacock.

"We love bringing families out to enjoy the outdoors," she says. "Sure, we have Wi-Fi, but it's not what people come for. We love getting them immersed outside, and we have events all season long. We buried a treasure chest on the Fourth of July and had a barbecue, and people loved it."

FEATURES + OUTDOOR RECREATION



Plans for more events are in the works, as is an online shop, upgrades to the property, and a museum of items that have too-long been in storage. It's a lot of work, and the remoteness of the business can be a challenge, but she and Jake couldn't imagine life any other way. The family, including their two sons, are looking forward to growing the business and welcoming even more people to the thrill of opal mining.

I have yet to find my black fire opal. I did find a small, white precious opal (defined as anything that has fire) and plenty of "potch"—common opals. I've been watching Jake's videos on the mine's website and have learned even more about how to find the veins, so you can rest assured, I'll be back. After all, third time's a charm.



WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA

There's More Than Meets the Eye...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring & Summer

- Ranch Hand Rodeo Weekend
- 3D Archery Challenge
- Monster Trucks
- Winnemucca Mural & Music Festival
- Run-A-Mucca - Motorcycle Rally
- Winnemucca Basque Festival
- Silver State International Rodeo

Fall & Winter

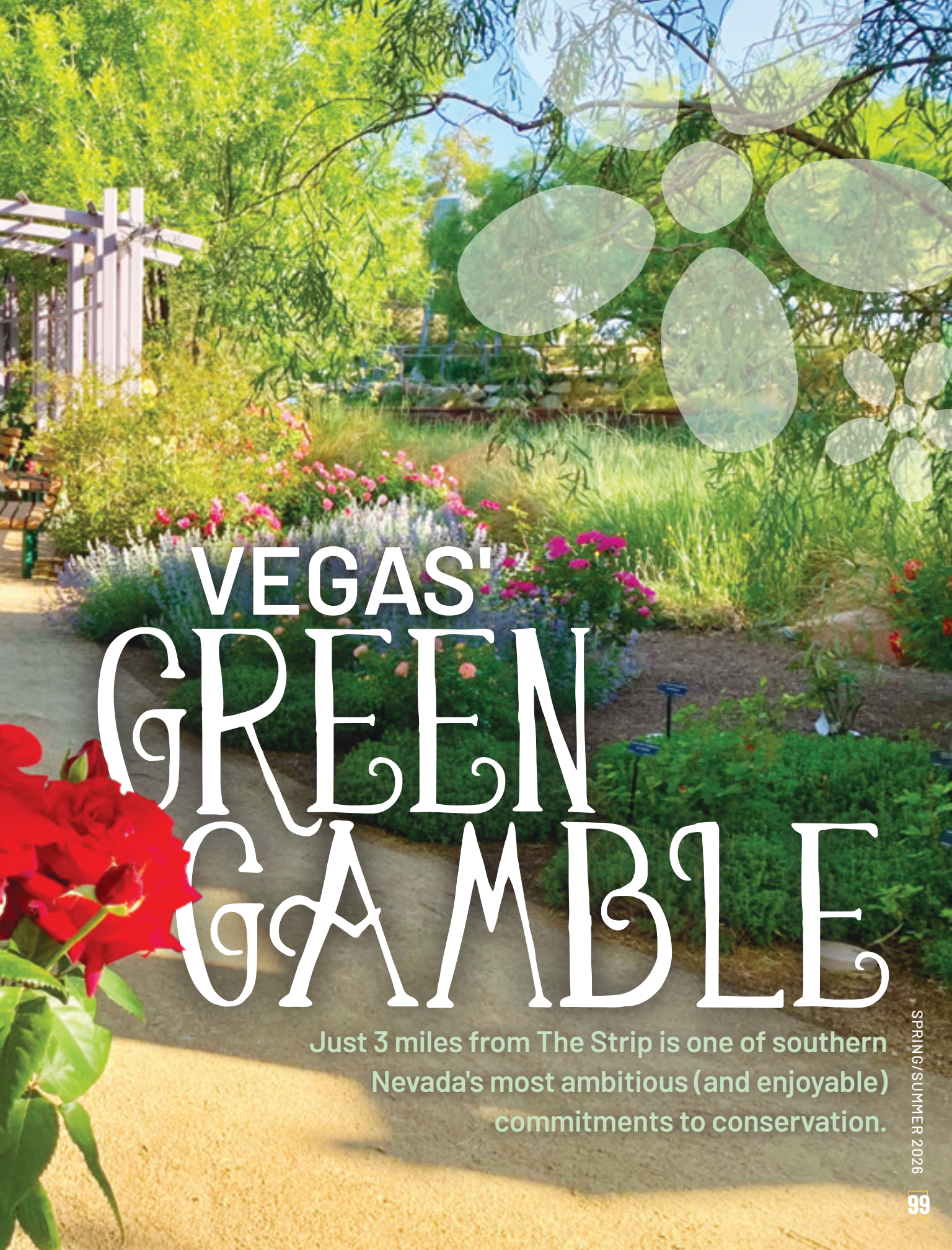
- Western States Ranch Rodeo Finals
- Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc. Convention
- World Ranch Horse Show
- Balloon Festival
- Festival of Trees
- Cody Louk Wrestling Tournament
- New Year's Eve Bronc Bash



SCAN HERE

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE VISITORS GUIDE AND MORE INFORMATION





VEGAS' GREEN GAMBLE

Just 3 miles from The Strip is one of southern Nevada's most ambitious (and enjoyable) commitments to conservation.

STORY BY BRIANA BRADY
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPRINGS PRESERVE

The middle of the Las Vegas desert is the last place you'd expect to find an oasis like the Springs Preserve. Built around the original water source for the Las Vegas Valley, this garden-like complex shows off a side of the city that offers more than casino-resort entertainment. This is where visitors can recharge, be inspired, and leave eager to plan their next visit.

There's as much to do as there is to learn, making this the perfect gathering place for curiosity, culture, and community. Whether you're planning a museum outing with the kids, a peaceful hike among native plants, or a workshop on sustainability, the Springs Preserve invites you to slow down and rediscover the desert.

History Meets Sustainability

Opened in 2007, the Springs Preserve sits on the historic Las Vegas Springs, which supported Native American communities for thousands of years. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the site preserves the "birthplace of Las Vegas," a legacy that is honored across the grounds. Here, the long history of the valley is on full display, from prehistoric wetlands to Indigenous cultures, frontier settlements, and the modern metropolis.

While the Springs Preserve works to honor the valley's past, it is equally dedicated to looking toward the future. Each space inside the preserve is designed with eco-conscious living in mind, offering visitors a glimpse of the challenges a desert city faces in a changing climate while offering innovative solutions to sustainable growth.

These emerging technologies are literally built into its daily operation, from timeless design principles—north-south facing windows, passive ventilation, and green roofs—to innovative features like a biofiltration system recycling water for use in flush toilets and plant irrigation. Across campus, more than 2,200 photovoltaic panels are used as shade, generating clean energy in the process—some of which is utilized for on-site EV charging stations. Even the Preserve's hydrogen-powered utility vehicles are doing their part for a greener future.



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and exciting outdoor experiences add to the
fun to make every visit to Vegas unforgettable.
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Natural Discoveries

Sustainability at the Preserve goes beyond its Platinum LEED certification. Every space is designed to protect the environment while inviting nature lovers of all ages to connect with the desert oasis.

Botanical Gardens

This award-winning garden is home to the world's largest collection of Mojave Desert cacti and succulents. The botanical gardens also highlight sustainable and regional plants—including gardens dedicated to herbs, roses, and palms—as well as local wildlife. Many of the native plants were rescued from development sites and transplanted to ensure genetic authenticity.



TRAVEL NEVADA PRO TIP

Many exhibits and events are offered seasonally or closed during extreme heat, so check their calendar ahead of time to plan your visit.

Trails

More than 3.5 miles of winding trails meander through cienega wetlands, mesquite groves, and archaeological sites—all of which give visitors a peek into the landscape's ecological origins. Don't feel like walking? Ride the train on the main Exploration Loop Trail, which is a ton of fun for adults and kids!



Butterfly Habitat & Wildlife

The Butterfly Habitat, which is open during spring and fall, is a great exhibit for all ages who want to get a closer look at monarchs, painted ladies, blue morphos, and other flying pollinators. Outside of the Butterfly Habitat, there are 250-plus native wildlife species, from birds and butterflies to Mojave Max, Nevada's official state tortoise, to keep an eye out for.



Nature Exchange

The Nature Exchange allows visitors to trade rocks, leaves, and other treasures from the outdoors for points, which are assigned based on quality, rarity, and knowledge of the item. This program encourages young naturalists to explore, observe, and appreciate nature through responsible and ethical collecting. Some of the natural finds include rocks, minerals, plants, and insects.



Exhibits For Every Generation

The Butterfly Habitat and gardens are just the beginning of what visitors may discover at the Springs Preserve. No matter what you enjoy, from hands-on science to living history, there's an exhibit for everyone.



SNACK BREAK

Recharge at the Springs Cafe for delicious sandwiches, burgers, salads, and desserts featuring vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. Paired with the panoramic garden views below, this stop makes for a perfect break between adventures.

Origen Museum

Explore the valley's story through more than 75 permanent exhibits. Favorite stops include the storm flood simulation chamber and an early-20th-century passenger car—complete with gossiping animatronics. The museum also includes an indoor theater, which features a short video of the valley's history.



LilyB, Yelp.com (avocado toast),
Neil Lockhart (State Museum)

Boomtown 1905

Ready to take a trip to the past? Head to the train station to catch a quick ride over to Boomtown 1905 and explore a re-created early streetscape of Las Vegas, including railroad cottages, a depot, and a saloon. You can even try sending a message in Morse Code using a telegraph machine.



Nevada State Museum—Las Vegas

Located on-site at the Springs Preserve, this museum is home to countless state treasures ranging from dinosaur and mammoth fossils to exhibits dedicated to showgirls and Hoover Dam.



MAKE YOUR NEXT TRIP A **ROAD TRIP**



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



BURNER BYWAY

110 to 250 miles | 2 to 4 days

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



LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

375 to 500 miles | 3 days

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



LAKE TAHOE LOOP

145 miles | 2 to 5 days

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



DEATH VALLEY RALLY

Up to 370 miles | 3 to 4 days

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



GREAT BASIN HIGHWAY

350 to 585 miles | 3 to 5 days

Read more about
a road trip for
those seeking a
wild adventure
on pg. 38.

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



FREE-RANGE ART HIGHWAY

440 to 515 miles | 1 to 3 days

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



NEON TO NATURE

60 to 210 miles | 1 to 3 days

Las Vegas is good at keeping people occupied, but just an hour beyond the glow are the world-famous Hoover Dam and Colorado River, outdoor playgrounds like Red Rock Canyon, and plenty of ghost towns, historic mines, and archeological sites.



Scan for more info
on Nevada road trips



COWBOY CORRIDOR

400 miles | 2 to 4 days

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



EXTRATERRESTRIAL HIGHWAY

100 to 470 miles | 2 days

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



RUBIES ROUTE

30 to 375 miles | 2 to 5 days

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

NEVADA STATE MUSEUMS

HOURS AND ADMISSION GUIDE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM CARSON CITY

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

=====

Adults \$10
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM BOULDER CITY

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

=====

General Admission \$2
Train Rides
Adults \$12 | Ages 4-12 \$6
Ages 3 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM EAST ELY

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

=====

General Admission FREE

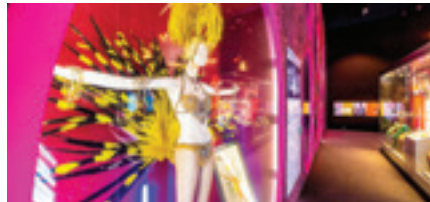


NEVADA STATE MUSEUM CARSON CITY

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

=====

Adults \$10
Ages 17 and younger FREE



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM LAS VEGAS

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

=====

Adults \$18.95
Ages 3-17 \$10.95
Ages 2 and younger FREE
Half-price for NV residents



LOST CITY MUSEUM OVERTON

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

=====

Adults \$8
Ages 17 and younger FREE

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



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RENO

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

=====

Adults \$6
Ages 17 and younger FREE

Closed to the
public through
May 31, 2026

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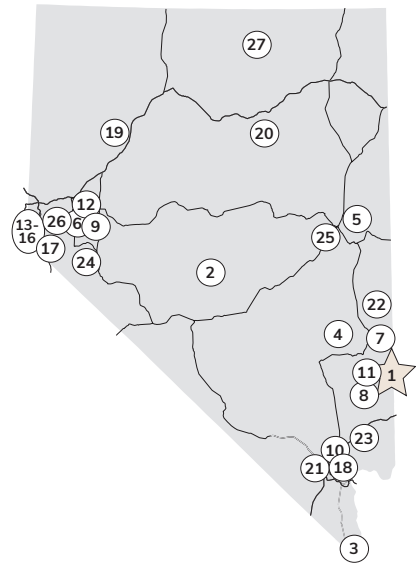


STATE PARKS DIRECTORY

Camping
RV Dump Station
Restrooms
Group Camping
Showers
Visitor Center
Boat Launch
Trails
Fishing
Maximum Size
RV Space

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

Beaver Dam State Park



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



RECREATE

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

Wildfire Watchout

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

Where You're Going, There's A Road

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

Here's Your Sign

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

Tread Lightly!

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

Animal Instinct

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

Star Campers

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

Dirt Road Code

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



Scan for more info
on the Dirt Road Code



RESPONSIBLY

TRAVEL NEVADA
PRO TIP

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



EVENTS CALENDAR

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

MARCH

Boulder City Beerfest
Boulder City

Donkey Jamboree
Mesquite

Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry
Virginia City

Pahrump Chili Cookoff
Pahrump

The Mint 400
Primm

APRIL

Bighorn Outback Explorers
Poker Run
Beatty

Genoa Western
Heritage Days
Genoa

Virginia City Grand Prix
Virginia City

MAY

Armed Forces
Day Celebration
Hawthorne

Best Dam
Barbecue Challenge
Boulder City

Black Rock Rendezvous
Gerlach

Chili on the Comstock &
Craft Beer Tour
Virginia City

Electric Daisy Carnival
Las Vegas

Jim Butler Days
Tonopah

Nevada Old Time
Fiddler's Contest
Eureka

Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle
Rally & Music Fest
Winnemucca

Salt Flats Endurance Runs
West Wendover

JUNE

California Trail Days
Elko

Carson Valley Days
Carson Valley

Fears, Tears & Beers
Mountain Bike Enduro Race
Ely

Reno Rodeo
Reno

Stewart Father's
Day Powwow
Carson City

Taste of Downtown
Carson City

Winnemucca
Basque Festival
Winnemucca

JULY

American Century Celebrity
Golf Championship
South Lake Tahoe

Artown
Reno

Classical Tahoe
Music Festival
North Lake Tahoe

Fastest Gun Alive
World Championship
Fallon

Lake Tahoe
Shakespeare Festival
North Lake Tahoe

National Basque Festival
Elko

Night in the Country
Yerington

Reno Basque Festival
Reno

Tonopah Rock & Bottle Show
Tonopah

Wells Fun Run
Car Show & Cruise
Wells

AUGUST

Best in the West Nugget
Rib Cook-Off
Sparks

Bowers Bluegrass Festival
Washoe Valley

Burning Man
Gerlach

Fallon Cantaloupe Festival
& Country Fair
Fallon

Goldfield Days Celebration
& Land Auction
Goldfield

Hot August Nights
Reno

Jarbridge Days
Jarbridge

Jazz & Beyond Festival
Carson City

Numaga Indian
Days Powwow
Reno

Pioche Labor
Day Celebration
Pioche



**MORE
UPCOMING
EVENTS**



Awe and then Some



"In our study of awe, we found that focusing on an epic view for just two minutes can increase happiness 33%."

- Dr. Paul Piff,
Social Psychologist, Expert on Awe



We partnered with Dr. Paul Piff and University of California, Irvine to answer a simple question: Does experiencing awe at Lake Tahoe actually change people? What we learned is groundbreaking. Over seven studies, we found that Tahoe raises feelings of awe by 34%, which leads to more happiness, calmness and connection. Sounds like a trip to the South Shore of Tahoe is a pretty good idea?

Learn more about our study and watch *Awestruck* - The Scientific Search for Connection, our three-part docuseries, at VisitLakeTahoe.com/Awestruck



SCAN TO
PLAN YOUR TRIP.

Visit
lake tahoe®

Full of wows.
Road trip now.
Watch for cows!
Go on. Get a little out there.

LET A
LITTLE
OUT
THERE.

