



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Lake Tahoe Ski Resorts

Reno, Lake Tahoe, 7 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Winter is coming and the snow is already starting to make an appearance on the mountaintops. Here's a list of all the Tahoe ski resorts. Do the powder dance!

My List

contact:

tel: +1 209 258 6000
http://www.kirkwood.com/summer/

location:

1501 Kirkwood Meadows Drive
Kirkwood CA 95646

1 Kirkwood Ski Resort

DESCRIPTION: With 12 lifts delivering you to 68 different runs, you can choose from some of the best terrain in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There is a base elevation of 7,800 feet and a summit elevation of 9,800 feet, giving the skier a 2,000-foot vertical descent. The resort offers downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Ski instruction and rentals are available; the Mighty Mountain Children's Ski and Snowboard School is open for ages 4-12. © wcities.com



cajoel/Flickr

contact:

tel: +1 800 500 3871
fax: +1 530 426 3871
http://www.royalgorge.com

location:

I-80 at Norden Exit
Soda Springs CA 95728

hours:

8:30a-5p Sa-Su and holidays,
9a-5p M-F

2 Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort

DESCRIPTION: The cross-country course has more than 90 trails, 28 of which are novice level, and the longest trail is 22-kilometers. Features include 9,172 acres of stunning terrain, 10 warming huts and a shuttle service that will pick you up when you get tired. Group and private lessons are available. © wcities.com



177-Flickr

contact:

tel: +1 530 659 7453
fax: +1 530 659 7749
http://www.sierratahoe.com/

location:

1111 Sierra-at-Tahoe Road
Twin Bridges CA 97535

3 Sierra-at-Tahoe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The choice resort for a lot of the area's Olympic hopefuls.

DESCRIPTION: This fabulous ski area encompasses 2,000 acres of varied terrain for all levels of expertise. It has a base elevation of 6,640-feet and a summit elevation of 8,852-feet and 12 lifts transport you to 46 slopes and trails. A tubing hill also equipped with a lift will make your day in the snow a breeze. You will find all the rental equipment and lessons necessary to fully enjoy your day. The Wild Mountain Children Center ski and snowboard camp provides fun for kids 4-12. The average price is USD25 for an all-day lift ticket. © wcities.com



Mr.Wizard/Flickr

contact:

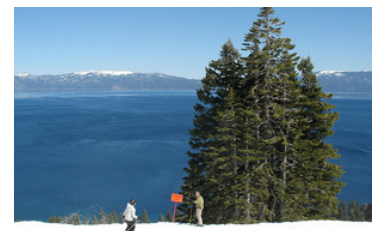
tel: +1 530 525 2992
fax: +1 530 525 0417
http://www.skihomewood.com/

location:

5145 W. Lake Blvd

4 Homewood Mountain Resort

DESCRIPTION: Breathtaking views at every turn give that exhilarating feeling you crave when you ski or snowboard down the mountain. At this powder lover's paradise you will find 1,700 acres of privately held land with 1,260 skiable acres. There is a base elevation of 6,230 feet and a summit elevation of 7,800 feet making for a vertical drop of 1,650 feet. The resort



Optimal Tweezers-Flickr

Homewood CA 96141

hours:

9a-4p M-Su snow days only

offers eight lifts that can take you to 56 different ski runs. Ski instruction and rentals are available for an additional charge. An Adventure in Snowboarding clinic is held for women every week throughout the season. For children 4-12 years of age, there are ski programs at the children's center and a state licensed day care for children age two and older, with an emphasis on safe and fun winter activities. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 530 562 1010

<http://www.northstaratahoe.com/>

location:

Northstar Drive
Truckee NV 96160

5 Northstar-at-Tahoe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

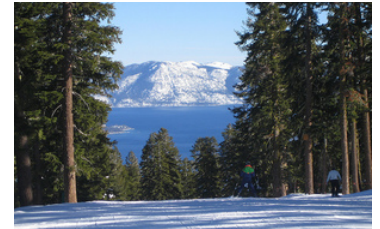
Free skating at the Village skating rink!

DESCRIPTION: Truly a skier's paradise, this resort offers a wide range of activities and events for everyone. You can even find mountain photographers that will capture your best run on the slope. You can enjoy recreational racing, cross country runs and snowshoeing. Ski at the crack of dawn with a Fast Track pass. If you're not an early riser, then Polaris Park is just for you. The adventure park is located mid-mountain and has something for everyone after the sun goes down.

For you Olympic fans, Northstar now offers the West Coasts only biathlon range. Ski and shoot to your heart's content, or sign up for biathlon lessons.

A day of skiing can work up a big hunger, so don't forget to try one of the five restaurants located on the mountain. For the warmer months, Northstar also opens up a Mountain Bike Park offering more than 100 miles of trails. The resort also contains a golf course and driving range, a Tennis Center and offers several activities including horseback riding, fly-fishing and hiking.

© wcities.com



rysac1/Flickr

contact:

tel: +1 775 849 0704 / +1 800 754 7673

fax: +1 775 849 9080

<http://www.mtrose.com/>

location:

22222 Mt. Rose Hwy
Reno NV 89511

6 Mt. Rose Ski Resort

DESCRIPTION: Spread over more than 1200 acres, and running a convenient shuttle service twice a day, it is no wonder that Mt. Rose is the most popular ski resort in Tahoe! Located just 25 minutes from Reno and 10 minutes away from the North Shore, getting here is super convenient. Open daily from April to November, the resort boasts of an elevation of 8,260 feet of powder snow, 1800 vertical feet of skiable area and over 60 trails! For all you adrenalin junkies, the Mt. Rose Chutes are now open, and are the steepest, longest inbound slopes in the country. And you can avoid lengthy queues to get to the top thanks to two new high speed detachable lifts, which will have you up there in 10 minutes flat! And after all the excitement, unwind at any one of the several dozen hotels awaiting you in nearby Reno! © wcities.com



RickC

contact:

tel: 530-426-3635
fax: +1 530 426 9350
<http://www.donniskiranch.com/>

location:

P.O. Box 66
Norden CA 95724

hours:

Lodge and building services:
8a-6p, Lifts and mountain
services: 9a-4p

7 Donner Ski Ranch

DESCRIPTION: Donner Ski Ranch covers 435 acres of terrain including a terrain park and half-pipe. The ski area rises 750 feet from a base elevation of 7,031 feet. Chairlifts include one triple chair and five double chairs. The base lodge includes a cafeteria, cocktail lounge, ski shop, rental shop, retail shop, and personal lockers. Donner Ski Ranch is normally blessed with an abundance of snow, receiving an average of 33 feet annually. Donner Ski Ranch offers free guided tours of the mountain. Join an historical tour and learn about the area's history, or join the family tour and learn how you and your family can safely ski the entire mountain, including beginner return runs to the bottom. Donner Ski Ranch offers 435 acres of terrain for skiing and snowboarding. Donner Ski Ranch is located northwest of Lake Tahoe on Donner Pass, off Interstate 80, 45 miles west of Reno and 10 miles west of Truckee, California. Only 85 miles east of Sacramento, Donner Ski Ranch is one of the closest ski areas to Sacramento and the Bay Area.



wcities

contact:

tel: 530-426-9000
fax: 530-426-3723
www.sugarbowl.com

location:

P.O. Box 5 (Mailing)
Norden CA 95724

8 Sugar Bowl

DESCRIPTION: Known for its rich history and deep powder, you'll find 1,500 acres of challenging terrain, four picturesque mountain peaks serviced by thirteen lifts, including, three high speed detachable quads, and three day lodges with spectacular sun decks. Mt. Lincoln, Mt. Disney, Crows Peak, and Mt. Judah offer skiers and snowboarders every type of terrain for all abilities. Facilities include three cafeterias, one formal restaurant, three bars/lounges, a sundeck at the top of Disney, Mountain Sports Learning Center, licensed child care, rental & retail shops at both the Village & the Main Lodge, outdoor tuning & demo centers, lockers & basket check, video/photography services, & historic hotel lodging with great mountain views. Sugar Bowl offers 1,500 acres of excellent terrain for skiing and snowboarding. Sugar Bowl is located three miles east of Interstate 80, off the Soda Springs/Norden exit on top of historic Donner Summit. The closest major resort to Sacramento and the Bay Area, Sugar Bowl is 10 miles west of Truckee, 44 miles west of Reno, 90 miles east of Sacramento, and 180 miles east of San Francisco.



planetlight/Flickr

Reno Snapshot

Local Info

Reno has always been a bit of a black sheep. It is not as hip as Portland and Seattle and not as chic as Los Angeles or Las Vegas, but in its own way it's dynamic and funky in a small package. The one thing to understand about Reno is that it's NOT Las Vegas. Reno is more popular for its outdoor sports than its gambling, but it also has a thriving art, music and theater scene sprinkled with great restaurants and bars. The downtown area, famous for the Reno Arch and several casinos has hit on hard times with the bad economy, but look a block or two south around the Truckee River corridor for cafés, farmer's markets, bike trails, street performers, ice rinks and roller derbies. This is the Reno Arts District and this is the real Reno. Locals are friendly and open, and will be happy to let you in on their town's many secrets.

One of Reno's best assets is being central to the Western U.S. San Francisco is a three or four hour drive to the west, Yosemite is a four to five hour drive to the south, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles and Las Vegas are about an hour or two plane ride away. Reno and the surrounding areas also straddle several different types of terrain. When you visit Reno, you have access to the mountains with its rivers and alpine lakes, ski resorts and hiking trails, you can visit the wide open desert of central and southern Nevada, and the Pacific Coast is only a few hours away.

Downtown Reno

The Virginia Street corridor is the center of activity for not only gambling, but special events as well. The bright lights of the casinos and the famous Reno Arch declaring "The Biggest Little City In The World," greet visitors as they enter downtown.

The boisterous casinos have been the main attraction along the Truckee River for decades. The Club Cal-Neva Hotel Casino has been around since 1948, and is still going strong as one of the most popular gaming establishments in town. Harrah's Reno opened as a full casino the same year and the action has never ceased. The National Automobile Museum, located two blocks east on Mill and Lake Streets, houses some fascinating antique

cars collected by William Harrah on his ride to fame and fortune. Harrah's Events Plaza is a center for downtown events and entertainment. The Circus Circus Hotel Casino is a favorite for family fun with high-flying acts and a great arcade for the youngsters. The Silver Legacy Resort Casino is known for sponsoring major events and adding to the revitalization of downtown. The Automated Mining Machine towering 120-feet over the casino floor is a wonderful attraction for visitors. The Eldorado Hotel Casino is a major host for special events, as well as popular gaming venues. A couple very popular nightspots downtown include Roxy's at the Eldorado and Limerick's Pub and Grille.

"Reno-vation" is taking place in the downtown area to make more open and attractive spaces for visitors and Renoites to enjoy. The Truckee River Walk is one of the first efforts. The whole city gets into the act to host one of the major cultural events in the nation, the Reno Summer Arts Festival featuring Artown. The Pioneer Centre for Performing Arts presents the Reno Philharmonic, the Nevada Opera and Nevada Festival Ballet. Marvelous museums are lavishly dispersed throughout the area including the Wilbur D. May Museum and Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael Park and the Nevada Museum of Art on Liberty Street downtown.

Some major hotel/casinos outside of the Virginia Street hub include the Peppermill Hotel Casino and Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa on South Virginia Street. East of downtown resides the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, a high-rise city in itself.

Sparks

Although it looks like it's part of Reno, this is a separate, thriving city. Founded in 1904, it served as maintenance facilities for the Central Pacific Railroad. Named for then-governor John Sparks, the city has come a long way in establishing itself as not only a great place to visit but to live. The Sparks Heritage Museum displays artifacts relating to the beginnings of the town that is sometimes known as the "Rail City."

The hub of activity is centered in Victorian Square at Interstate 80 and Victorian Avenue. John Ascuaga's Nugget towers over the Square and the hotel sponsors many major events taking place there. Fine

dining facilities in this establishment include Trader Dick's Restaurant and Aquarium Bar and Restaurante Orozko. Across the Square, you will find a great mid-sized hotel/casino, the Silver Club Hotel Casino. Smaller casinos are to be found as one strolls along the Square, one of the most popular being Rail City Casino. The casinos along Victorian Square host major events almost every month of the year. Sparks Hometowne Christmas is a favorite and the very popular Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off.

Carson City

The capital of Nevada is about 45 minutes south of Reno. The historical main street and homes give this small town its charm. Several great restaurants and the great Nevada State Museum are the main attractions. Carson City is also the start/end of the infamous Hwy. 50, or the "Loneliest Road in America" across Nevada. Just east of Carson City is the historic mining town of Virginia City where you can step back in time and mosey down on wooden sidewalks, dress up in Western wear and have your photo taken or jump on an authentic steam train for a ride down the mountain.

Lake Tahoe

One look and you'll know why it is called the Jewel of the Sierras. The areas surrounding the largest alpine lake in the country offer year-round recreation and beauty. The Cal-Neva Resort Hotel Casino, the favorite haunt of the "rat pack," is always popular for entertainment. The Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino is perhaps one of the most elegant places to lodge and have fun. MontBleu Casino Resort & Spa and Harrah's Lake Tahoe are also well known for fine dining and top entertainers.

During the summer months, the Zephyr Cove Resort & Marina beckons visitors to cruise on the M.S. Dixie II. On the south shore of the lake, Lake Tahoe Cruises offer sailing on the Tahoe Queen. The beaches and parks are popular for sunbathing and hiking. Sand Harbor presents the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and Kings Beach hosts the Lake Tahoe Music Festival.

The ski resorts in the Sierra Nevada mountains are unmatched anywhere. Boreal Mountain Resort is usually the first of the season to open because of snow-

Reno Snapshot continued

making equipment. Granlibakken Resort & Conference Center offers fabulous lodging and conference facilities, as well as fine slopes. Heavenly Ski Resort and Northstar-at-Tahoe are first-rate for challenging ski

areas. Cross-country ski enthusiasts will find the best trails in North America at Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort in Soda Springs. And, of course, there is Squaw Valley USA, famous for hosting

the 1960 Winter Olympics and still a world-class venue for winter sports of all genres.

© NileGuide

Lake Tahoe Snapshot

Local Info

Lake Tahoe is an original. The "Jewel of the Sierras" is the third deepest lake in the world at 1,645 feet, and its crystal blue water shines brightly in both winter and summer inviting visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty. The Lake Tahoe area was recently voted the best ski area in the United States by Orbitz. And the locals couldn't agree more.

Lake Tahoe straddles two states, Nevada and California. And each portion of the lake has a different vibe. Like the Native Americans who summered in the region and called it "big sky lake", we will come up from the Nevada side, drop into California and then back into Nevada.

Nevada and Highway 50

For your first view of "The Lake", nothing is better than taking Highway 50 up from Carson City, the capital of Nevada. Even people who have lived here for years, still catch their breath when witnessing this blue beauty hovering among mountains and pine forests. The trip continues with a tour around the 72 miles of shoreline. Each place you go, you will not lose sight of the lake that Mark Twain called the "fairest picture the whole earth affords".

Traveling toward Stateline, and home to the gaming center of Tahoe you will drive passed the Logan Shoals Vista Point and through the tunnel at Cave Rock, which is sacred to the native tribes in the area. You will then pass by Zephyr Cove where you can camp, rent water and snow toys, eat at numerous restaurants or just enjoy one of the nicest beaches in the area. Zephyr Cove is also where you can catch a ride on the MS Dixie II, a full-size paddlewheeler (that Mark Twain would be proud of) or the Woodwind II, a catamaran that sails during the summer months. Stateline is home to Harrah's, Harvey's, Montbleau and the Horizon casino resorts. Here you can eat, game, relax in a spa, golf at

the Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course or enjoy the lake without having to leave the area.

California and Highway 89 North

As you leave Stateline and head into California and South Lake Tahoe you will pass by Heavenly Village and Heavenly Ski Resort which has a gondola with some of the best views of the lake. Coming into South Lake Tahoe you will find numerous hotels, resorts, restaurants and other ways to enjoy Tahoe and the views.

South Lake Tahoe is known for the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Area and has several bike and pedestrian trails that run alongside the road. As you head out of SLT, onto Highway 89 North and into the Tahoe National Forest and Tahoe Basin, you drive through some of the more rugged and beautiful areas of the lake. Here you will find less restaurants, but beaches like Pope Beach and Baldwin Beach, camping or dining at Camp Richardson, the Mt. Tallac Trailhead and the Spring Creek Recreation Area. All this beauty leads up to Emerald Bay, at the southern tip of Tahoe. This deep green bay embraces the only island on the lake, Fannette Island. From here you can hike down to Vikingsholm Castle as well as get great views of both Emerald Bay and the nearby Cascade Lake. The Eagle Falls trailhead and access to the Desolation Wilderness is here as well. This area can be precarious during snowstorms and sometimes the road will be closed due to avalanches.

California and Highway 28

As you continue up Highway 89 to the West Shore, you will come across D.L. Bliss State Park, Meek's Bay and campground, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Tahoma, Homewood Mountain Ski Resort and the tiny but local favorite, Granlibakken ski resort. Most of the West Shore is privately owned and the piers inviting you to take a stroll over the water are gated. However, this area also has several bike-friendly trails that run from here to Tahoe City and up to Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Tahoe

City is "at the Y" of Highway 89 and 28. Highway 89 heads north towards Truckee on Interstate 80 and passes by Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley USA, home of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, and Highway 28 heads back toward Nevada. Tahoe City is a laid back town near the outlet of the Truckee River and offers dining and bars, rafting, golfing and shopping.

Back to Nevada

Beyond Tahoe City, Tahoe Vista and Carnelian Bay, the turnoff for Highway 267 also goes to Truckee over the Brockway Summit and passes by Northstar-at-Tahoe ski resort. If you stay on 28 you will head back into Nevada through Kings Beach which offers hotels, restaurants and a public beach. Highway 431, or the Mount Rose Highway, passes by the local favorites of Tahoe Meadows, the Mount Rose Summit trail, Mount Rose Ski Tahoe resort and into the Galena area of South Reno, home to Jack Nicklaus's Montreaux Golf and Country Club.

The quiet, laid back town of Incline Village has some of the local favorites in food and drink. Ski Diamond Peak, play a round of golf at the Incline Village Golf Course or access the lake at the Lake Tahoe State Park from Hidden Beach or Sand Harbor. Sand Harbor is the prettiest beach on the lake and home to the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Farther along the road you will see a parking area for Secret Harbor, a clothing-optional beach about a mile hike from the road.

This is near the end of your circle of Tahoe. You can drive back down Highway 50 to Carson City which connects along Highway 395 to Reno and Sparks, or you can take the loop again! Lake Tahoe is big and full of out-of-the-way treats. It might be best to take the lake in sections. But after your first visit, you are bound to come back and join the locals in helping to "Keep Tahoe Blue."

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