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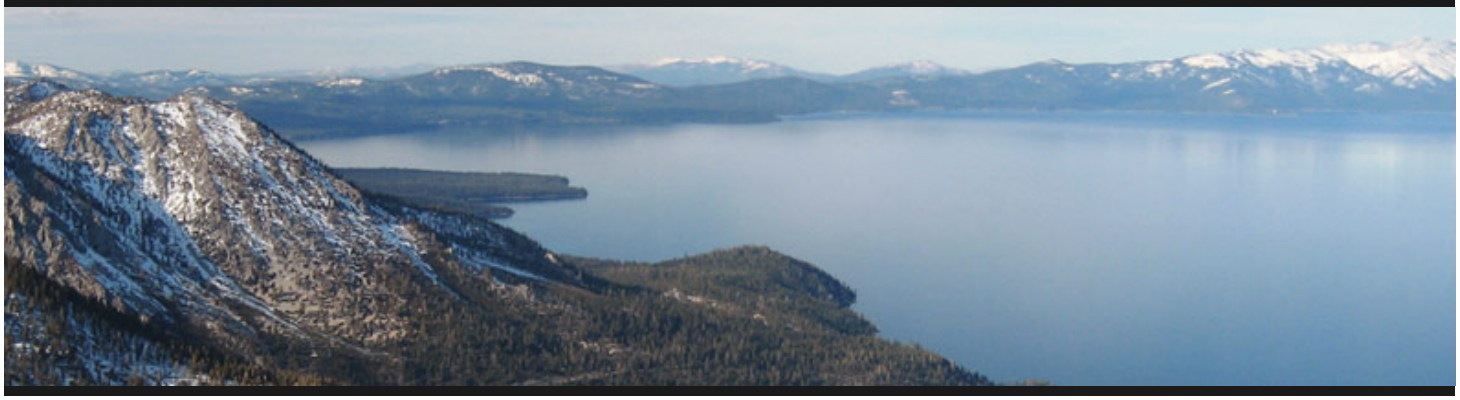

Tahoe Winter Sports for Kids

Reno, Lake Tahoe, 3 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Kids and snow go hand in hand. At Lake Tahoe, there are dozens of places where little skiers and non-skiers can hit the bunny slopes, tube down a fast hill, play on a zip line course or enjoy some ice skating.

Photo by Chad Crowell/Flickr

http://www.flickr.com/photos/thecrowells/2214831614/sizes/m/in/photostream/

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My List

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

1 Sierra-at-Tahoe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
The choice resort for a lot of the area's Olympic hopefuls.

DESCRIPTION: This fabulous ski area emcompasses 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: (775) 849-0111

location:
16795 Mount Rose Highway
Reno NV 89511

2 Galena Sports

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Nice selection of snowboard hats and gloves.

DESCRIPTION: You will be greeted in this small cabin heated with an ancient cast iron stove by a wonderful staff who can either rent or sell you whatever you need for your winter adventures. Skis and equipment, snowboards, snow tubes, clothing and snowshoes are all available. Galena Sports does shut down when the snow is gone. When heading up the Mount Rose Highway, look for the building on the right with the snow tubes.
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Donna & Andrew/Flickr

location:
US Highway 395
Reno NV 89511

3 Tahoe Meadows

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Fantastic views of the Lake, Incline Village, Reno and Washoe Valley can be seen from this area.

DESCRIPTION: This trail is a great spot for a family outing or a place where you can be alone. In the spring, the wildflowers carpet the scenery in copious abundance and their scents almost empower one with a burst of energy. The variety of plant life changes with the seasons yet is always spectacular. This scenic trail is about 12-miles round-trip and provides an opportunity to see wildlife inhabiting the area. During the winter the meadows are a great place to cross country ski, snowshoe and sled. Dogs are welcome on this trail. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: 530-587-3558
http://www.campingguidenevada.com/cgnes/standardlisting.asp

location:
Old Hwy 395
Washoe Valley NV 89704

4 Davis Creek Campground

DESCRIPTION: Davies Creek Campground is located on a dirt road on the west side of Washoe Lake. This campground has a dozen or so sites and toilets on site. There is a pond a 1/4 mile away in Davis Creek Park. You can fish there in summer, or ice-skate when the pond freezes over in winter. Additionally in the park is a trailhead for the Ophir Creek Trail. This long and pretty strenuous hike gains approx. 4,000 feet to Mt. Rose Campground in the Tahoe Meadows area. From here you can connect to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Washoe Lake State Park is only 10 minutes away on the other side of Washoe Valley.

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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 theReno Arch and several casinos has hit on hard times with the bad economy, but look a block or two south around theTruckee 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 includeRoxy'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 andNevada Festival Ballet. Marvelous museums are lavishly dispersed throughout the area including the Wilbur D. May Museum and Aboretum 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 greatNevada 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 ofVirginia City where you can step back in time and mosy 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 theJewel 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, theZephyr Cove Resort& Marina beckons visitors to cruise on theM.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 theLake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and Kings Beach hosts theLake 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-

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making equipment.Granlibakken Resort& Conference Center offers fabulous lodging and conference facilities, as well as fine slopes.Heavenly Ski Resort andNorthstar-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 isSquaw Valley USA, famous for hosting the 1960 Winter Olympics and still a world-class venue for winter sports of all genres.
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History

In 1844, John C. Fremont led a mapping expedition with the help of a Paiute chief who escorted the party through the wilderness of the Pyramid Lake region to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Two years later, in 1846, the ill fated Donner Memorial State Park party would rest on the banks of the cool Truckee before trying to cross the rugged mountains on their way to California. However, their disastrous journey did not discourage those who followed during the gold rush.

Soon the Truckee Meadows became the meeting point of the emigrant trail going east to west and the north-south passage. Ruts made by the wheels still remain as testament to the long, hard journey. During this time, entrepreneur Charles Fuller decided he could make money by building a toll bridge across the Truckee to accommodate the travelers going west. In a log shelter close to the crossing, weary travelers and prospectors could rest and compare travel tales. Card games where a favorite way to entertain themselves, usually for money.

In 1861, after having to rebuild the bridge several times because of floods, Fuller sold his business to Myron Lake, whose vision for the future was the start of a thriving community. His dream of connecting east with west by railroad would become reality. In March of 1868, the first train rolled into Lake's Crossing. Teamed with a gentleman by the name of Charles Crocker, Lake was able to exact a promise from the Central Pacific Railroad to build a depot on his property. Land in the community was divided into lots and auctioned to builders.

With more pioneers deciding to remain in the beautiful, thriving area, and spurred by the newfound wealth from gold and silver, gambling and other vices became the"hot button" issues of the day. In 1908 the Reno Anti-Gambling League was formed and they succeeded in their mission to outlaw gaming. It was not long until laws eased to allow very restricted,"civilized" games. Furtive, high-stakes gambling never stopped even with the ban on wagering. It was not long until the likes of Baby Face Nelson, John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd found the hidden gambling clubs to be useful in money laundering. Prostitution and bootleg liquor became big business under the guidance of these criminal masterminds.

With the decline of the gold and silver boom and the start of the Great Depression, a campaign was started by Mayor E. E. Roberts to ease the laws against alcohol, gambling and divorce. He rationalized that previous prohibitions did not work and revenues could be gained from licensing and taxing these establishments. A law legalizing gambling was signed in 1931.

Putting an end to matrimonial woes became big business in Reno during the 1930s. With only a six-week waiting period finally established, thousands of couples received a"quickie" divorce. The rich and famous had found the ideal place to gain their freedom. Elegant hotels and dude ranches sprang from the green meadows to accommodate the influx of those casting off the shackles of marriage. Soon the Truckee River Walk was flowing with diamond rings thrown in by happy divorcees. During World War II, weddings became the business of choice. Judges and clergy worked overtime to wed throngs of couples hoping for wedded bliss. In 1945 alone, more than eighteen thousand couples tied the knot. The first commercial wedding chapel was established in 1956 next to the Washoe County Courthouse."In and Out" marriages became big business along the Truckee.

Bill Harrah and Harold Smith were among the first to realize the amazing potential in gaming establishments. Reno had the wealthy visitors and they might as well spend their money in the casinos. Starting modestly, the two soon built their individual establishments into the most popular places in town. Slot machines, crap tables and twenty-one games soon relieved many visitors of their money.

To this day, Reno is still growing. Hotels and casinos have been erected outside the"red-line" district of downtown. And downtown is restoring itself in new ways reflecting the diversity of the city. Unfortunately, many of the famous old landmarks have met their fate via wrecking ball and implosion. The Reno Arch still proclaims the town as"The Biggest Little City In The World" and will probably remain forever. The town has become a center for Artown and Lake Tahoe. Special events bring in as many visitors as the casinos. Gaming is here to stay, but Reno has so much more to offer. Respectability has come to the banks of the Truckee.
©

Hotel Insights

Considered a small town by most visitors,"The Biggest Little City" is full of surprises. The Truckee Meadows offers year-round entertainment, sports activities and special events. The town is undergoingReno-vation and it shows; the downtown area has revitalized itself with major changes along Virginia Street and the Truckee River Walk. Business people will have every amenity necessary to make their stay pleasurable, while family vacationers will find activities for each member to enjoy. Accommodations are available to suit everyone at very reasonable rates compared to most vacation spots.

Downtown Reno

Downtown Reno is known for hotels that are combined with casinos. You can enjoy the conveniences of the hotel then go to the casino without ever leaving the building. Eldorado Hotel Casino is a luxurious hotel with a casino, ten restaurants and a nightclub. Eldorado also boasts comfortable

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rooms and great service. Most of the larger casinos such as Harrah's Reno have showrooms and entertainment, along with large hotel rooms. Another obvious choice might be Circus Circus Hotel Casino. Adults will love the hotel's casino and reasonable prices and children will love the daily free circus shows. Club Cal-Neva Hotel Casino also has moderate hotel room rates and a great sports book. If you're looking for a large meeting space the Silver Legacy Resort Casino offers 150,000 square feet of convention space and has excellent catering and convention services.

Greater Reno

If you stay in the greater Reno, you'll be a short ride away from the downtown attractions while avoiding the larger crowds. The Grand Sierra Resort& Casino offers a large arcade and a bowling alley for both children and adults to enjoy. The Sands Regency has excellent choices for nightly shows and fine dining. If you want to stay near the Reno/Sparks Convention Center, the Atlantis Casino Resort& Spa is located directly across from it to make your commute a breeze. The marvelous Peppermill Hotel Casino is in the same vicinity with some of the best rooms in town. If you are a big spender in the casino or have an extra$5,000, you might want to spend a night in the Safari Suite.

Sparks

Sparks is close to Reno and you can find some great hotel deals. Windsor Inn is close to Victorian Square, a central point in the city. Silver Club Hotel Casino is a beautiful hotel with Victorian decor. Most of the major casinos have huge convention areas including John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks with more than 100,000 square feet of meeting facilities, not to mention the fine casino and restaurants.

Lake Tahoe

If you have the time, spend a relaxing and serene visit to nearby Lake Tahoe. The Sierra Nevada Mountains encompass this breathtaking crystal clear blue lake and you will find a multitude of choices for your lodging pleasure. Skiing is the big winter sport here, and most hotels offer ski packages that give you a ride to the slopes, an all day ski lift pass, a room to stay in and usually a free breakfast or dinner. TheTahoe Biltmore Lodge Casino andHarvey's Tahoe would both be good choices and offer such packages. TheFantasy Inn& Wedding Chapel is a great pick if you are coming up for your honeymoon or just a romantic get-away. The ideal place for combining a business trip with outdoor activities isGranlibakken Resort& Conference Center. If you like to walk along the beach or just soak up the sun, theInn by the Lake is within walking distance of the lake. Consider a stay at the south shore where the majority of the casinos such asMontBleu Casino Resort& Spa andHarrah's Lake Tahoe are located.

©

Restaurants Insights

Reno is not well-known for its restaurants or great food, in fact, most visitors make the assumption that there are only buffets in Reno. This is not true, there are dozens of really great restaurants, excellent chefs and food that even folks in the Bay Area keep coming back for.

All-You-Can-Eat sushi is a Reno staple and seems to be unique to the area. You will find several excellent sushi restaurants where you can eat yourself silly for a great price. Lunches atSushi Club are around $16.95 and dinners are around$24.95. Another popular sushi spot isHiroba Sushi in the hills above Reno,Sushi Lover near downtown andIchiban at Harrah's hotel and casino.

For a romantic night out you can splurge at several of these excellent restaurants near downtown includingBeaujolais Bistro which serves wonderful French food and wine, the excellentLuLou's serves specialty items like BBQ Quail, Spicy Thai Soup and Tune Tartare and the4th Street Bistro utilizes fresh produce and herbs from local farmer's in the area.

For something a little more budget-friendly, you can visitEl Salvador in the CalAve District orBlue Moon Pizza just down the street. El Salvador has some great deals on their pupusas and combination meals, Blue Moon serves up some great pizza and beer. In the MidTown District head toIndia Kabab for their$6.95 lunch buffet and don't forget the garlic naan! For some famous grub, visit theGolden Nugget downtown for the Awful Awful burger. This little slice of Heaven won the Food Network's Food Wars Challenge.

To top of a great night, grab some desserts at these places around town. TheSteak House at Harrah's has some excellent dessert that you can flambé including Bananas Foster and Cherries Jubilee. TheChocolate Bar in downtown Reno has everything for the chocoholic(and the martini lover) andJosef's Vienna Bakery will have you drooling for their Tirimasu and Crepes.

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Nightlife Insights

"The Biggest Little City in the World" is indeed that! When the slogan was adopted in 1929, the city fathers were desperate to find a way to gain recognition for the little town on the Truckee. That's hard to believe these days, since there's so much to do in Reno you might not have time to fit it all in.

Theater, Dance and Opera

The Pioneer Centre for Performing Arts is home to the Nevada Festival Ballet, Reno Philharmonic and the Nevada Opera. Nightingale Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Nevada Reno(UNR) offers first-rate entertainment by the Reno Chamber Orchestra which is becoming increasingly popular. The college also is home to the Nevada Repertory Company, the only university repertory company in the United States, which hosts several outstanding productions throughout the year. Music lovers will enjoy the Reno Jazz Festival, one of the largest jazz competitions in the country.

During the summer head to Lake Tahoe to enjoy world-class performances with the stunning backdrop of the pristine lake. The Lake Tahoe Music Festival presents a feast of programs from classic to contemporary at various locations in the alpine forest. The Tahoe International Film Festival gives new filmmakers a venue to show their works.

The ultimate cultural event of the summer in Reno/Sparks is a month-long feast of activities at Artown. More than 200 events and exhibits are featured at a dozen venues citywide. The residents in the community are a literate lot. A national survey has

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proclaimed Reno to be the most well read city in the United States. The Washoe County Library System offers more than 1700 community programs for children and young adults to encourage good reading habits. The Nevada Humanities Committee sponsors the Great Basin Book Festival in September at Wingfield Park Amphitheater featuring noted authors, book signings, literary discussions and lectures.

Sports

Whether you are a spectator or a player, the sporting activities in the Truckee Meadows are second to none. The golf courses dot the landscape from the valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course at Lake Tahoe is rated byGolf Digest as one of the"top 25" in the United States and is host to the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship. The Reno-Tahoe Open is held at Montreux, a Jack Nicklaus designed course, and spectators can watch players vie for more than$2,000,000 in prize money. The Dayton Valley Golf Course is a challenging play area to the south of Reno. Golf Club at Genoa Lakes in the same area hosted the U.S. Open Qualifying tournaments in 1998 and 1999.

World-class ski areas seem almost as numerous as the snowflakes falling on the Sierras. Normal winters can bring close to 40 feet of snow, however the temperatures remain fairly mild, making the area a skier's paradise. Boreal Mountain Resort, on Tahoe's north shore, is usually the first to open for the season with the help of state-of-the-art snowmaking machines. Of course, the resort most well known is Squaw Valley USA, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics. The south shore of Lake Tahoe is home to Heavenly Ski Resort with the top elevation near 10,000 feet. Cross country skiers and snowboarders will find their sports well represented at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Royal Gorge, Diamond Peak and Granlibakken Ski Resort.

The areas in and around the Truckee Meadows are also a paradise for fishermen. Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake are two of the better known fishing areas with trout in abundance. For fishing right downtown, try the Sparks Marina.

Events

One of the favorite events in the area is the Reno Rodeo. Another similar event includes the Snaffle Bit Futurity where top riders compete against each other with various horse tricks. For something a little different, Virginia City presents unusual competition at the annual Camel and Ostrich Races.

Aeronautical activities attracting numerous participants and thousands of spectators include the Great Balloon Race and the National Championship Air Races.

Northern Nevada has something for everyone. The above mentioned activities are just the tip of the iceberg. We've come a long way, baby; and we've only just begun. ©

Things to Do Insights

Visitors to Reno may think the only thing to do in the Biggest Little City in the World is gamble, but locals know that their weekends(and weeks) can be filled with tons of things to do besides hitting thecasinos. How about somehiking? Biking along the Truckee River? Visiting museums? Shopping inused books stores? You can actually do all these in one day in Reno.

Reno has some wonderful access to the outdoors. Most people who live in the area do at least 4-5 different types of outdoor sports. Hiking thefoothills or themountains around the city is a great way to get out of town and enjoy the views. If you like to bike, theTruckee River Bike Trail will take you from Verdi, just West of Reno, into the neighboring city of Sparks. Other outdoor sports include kayaking on theSparks Marina or at theTruckee River Whitewater Park.

If you are looking for a little culture, visit theNevada Museum of Art. It's a small museum, but the revolving exhibits are extremely well designed. Nationally recognized exhibits are located here, too. TheNational Automobile Museum has been voted one of the 10 best automobile museums in the nation, and among the top 16 in the world. The museum shows recreated street scenes and historical information about the automobiles once used by the rich and famous.

If you have kids, take them to several of the local parks includingRancho San Rafael Park where they can enjoy theWilbur D. May Museum with its science exhibits and dinosaur forest. TheSierra Safari Zoo and theAnimal Ark are outdoor, natural exhibits of exotic animals that cannot live in the wild.

For a taste of the natural, Reno and Sparks have several popularFarmer's Markets that are held both during the week and on the weekends. If you want to bury your nose in a lavender plant, visit theLavender Ridge farm just West of downtown Reno.

For sports fans, you can get your fill of baseball with theReno Aces Minor League team or some football and basketball with theUniversity of Nevada, Reno Wolf Pack. Horse lovers should come out during the early summer to see theReno Rodeo or during the Fall to see theVirginia City Camel Races.

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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Reno-Tahoe International Airport(RNO)+1 775 328 6870http://www.renoairport.com

RNO is located 3 miles from downtown and services the following airlines:

Alaska Airlines(+1 800 426 0333/http://www.alaska-air.com) Aloha(+1 800 367 5250/http://www.alohaairlines.com) American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300/http://www.aa.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/http://www.continental.com) Frontier(+ 1 800 432 1359/http://www.flyfrontier.com) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/http://www.nwa.com) Skywest(+1 800 453 9417/http://www.skywest.com) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/http://www.southwest.com) United(+1 800 241 6522/http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com)

Airport Map& Information:http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_rno.htm

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Airport Services:http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_rno2.htm

Airport Transportation:http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_rno3.htm
From the Airport

Shuttle: Airport Mini Bus(+1 775 786 3700) CitiFare/CitiLift(+1 775 348 7433/http://www.866 nvpride.com) South Tahoe Express(+1 866 898 2436/http://www.southtahoeexpress.com) Tahoe Casino Express(+1 775 785 2424/http://www.tahoecasinoexpress.com)

Taxi Service: Whittlesea Checker Taxi(+1 775 322 2222) Yellow/Deluxe Cab(+1 775 355 5555)

On-Demand Limousine Service: Sierra West(+1 775 329 4310) Bell Luxury(+1 775 786 3700)

Car Rental: Advantage(+1 800 777 5500/http://www.arac.com) Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://www.alamo.com) Avis(+1 800 984 8840/http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com) Dollar(+1 800 800 4000/http://www.dollar.com) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8222/http://www.enterprise.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com) National(+1 800 227 7368/http://www.nationalcar.com) Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/http://www.thrifty.com)

Train

Amtrak's California Zephyr(+1 800 872 7245/http://www.amtrak.com) makes a stop through Reno at 245 Evans Avenue. Reno's station is open daily 8:15a-5p. The Zephyr runs daily between Chicago and San Francisco, stopping at cities such as Salt Lake City, Denver and Omaha.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com) accesses Reno daily at two different stops. The main bus station,(+1 775 322 2970) located at 155 Stevenson Street, is open 24 hours. There is also a stop at the Sands Regency,(+1 775 348 2248) located on 345 N Arlington, open M-Th, Su 6a-10p and Fr-Sa 6a-1a.

Car

Approach Reno by Interstate 80 from the east and west, and Interstate 395 from the north and south.

Getting Around

Public Transit

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County(+1 775 348 0400/http://www.rtcwashoe.com) provides two convenient services in Reno. Citifare(+1 775 348 7433/http://www.citifare.com) is the public transit service for the greater Reno/Sparks area. To get around downtown Reno, Sierra Spirit, circles the city in 30 minutes, hitting each stop every 10 minutes.

Taxi

Some of the major cab companies servicing Reno include:

Alpine Taxi(+1 775 833 4433) Capitol Cab Co(+1 775 885 0300) Whittlesea Checker Taxi(+1 775 322 2222) Yellow Cab Co(+1 775 331 2500)

Walking

The"Biggest Little City in the World" has great walking paths in its many parks, including Fisherman's Park, Truckee River Walk, Virginia Lake, and Rancho San Rafael.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/

©

Fun Facts

1. Mark Twain worked as a reporter for the Territorial Enterprise inVirginia City for several years before beginning to write his books.

2. Interesting Fact: Reno is the main launching pad for Burners, or people on their way to and fromBurning Man in the Black Rock Desert.

3. There are over 20 casinos in Reno and slot machines are available at the airport, convenience and grocery stores.

4. Nevada takes its name from a Spanish word meaning snow-clad. The correct way to say Nevada is Ne-va-duh("a" as in cat).

5. Nevada is the largest gold-producing state in the nation. It is second in the world behind South Africa.

6. Random Fact: Nevada's Highway 50, known as the Loneliest Highway in America, received its name from"Life" magazine in 1986.

7. Famous residents of Reno include Judge Mills Lane, Sharon Stone, Dawn Wells of Gilligan's Island, Kristi Yamaguchi and Toni Tenille.

8. Weird Fact: Reno experiences thousands of earthquakes a year, most of them too weak for people to notice.

9. Fun Fact: The show Reno 911! takes place at the Reno Sheriff's Department(which does not exist) but is filmed in LA.

10. Nevada is called the Sagebrush State, Silver State and the Battle-Born State.

11. Interesting Fact: There are several legal brothels within a few miles of Reno, but prostitution within the city limits is illegal.

12. Marilyn Monroe's and Clark Gable's last completed film, the Misfits, was filmed in Reno.
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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 fromCarson 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 theLogan Shoals Vista Point and through the tunnel atCave Rock, which is sacred to the native tribes in the area. You will then pass byZephyr 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 theMS Dixie II, a full-size paddlewheeler(that Mark Twain would be proud of) or theWoodwind II, a catamaran that sails during the summer months. Stateline is home toHarrah's,Harvey's,Montbleau and theHorizon casino resorts. Here you can eat, game, relax in a spa, golf at theEdgewood 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 andHeavenly Ski Resort which has agondola 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 atCamp Richardson, theMt. Tallac Trailhead and the Spring Creek Recreation Area. All this beauty leads up toEmerald 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 toVikingsholm Castle as well as get great views of both Emerald Bay and the nearbyCascade Lake. TheEagle Falls trailhead and access to theDesolation 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 acrossD.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 toTahoe 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 byAlpine Meadows andSquaw 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 theTruckee 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 byNorthstar-at-Tahoe ski resort. If you stay on 28 you will head back into Nevada throughKings Beach which offers hotels, restaurants and a public beach. Highway 431, or the Mount Rose Highway, passes by the local favorites ofTahoe Meadows, theMount 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. SkiDiamond Peak, play a round of golf at theIncline Village Golf Course or access the lake at theLake Tahoe State Park from Hidden Beach orSand Harbor. Sand Harbor is the prettiest beach on the lake and home to the annualLake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Farther along the road you will see a parking area forSecret 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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Fun Facts

1. Donner Pass andDonner Lake are named after the ill-fated Donner Party. This group of settlers attempted to cross the mountains in the winter of 1846-47. Most of them were trapped by the snow and several of them resorted to cannibalism to survive.

2. Strange Fact: Truckee, California often registers the lowest temperature in the nation, but not during the winter season. During the spring/summer seasons of 1991, 1993 and 1994, Truckee claimed the honor of coldest spot in the nation, excluding Alaska.

3. The deepest snowpack recorded at Tahoe was over 30 feet deep in 1890.

4. Interesting Fact: If Lake Tahoe was tipped over, the water would cover California to a depth of fourteen and a half inches.

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Lake Tahoe Snapshot continued

5. Weird Fact: Many drowning victims are never recovered from Lake Tahoe. The cold water at lower depths preserves the bodies and prevents the formation of gases that would otherwise float them to the surface.

6. Interesting Fact: As an"interstate navigable waterway," Lake Tahoe is protected by the U. S. Coast Guard and is reputed to be the most desirable Coast Guard duty station in the world.

7. Tahoe has nine mountains with peaks over 10,000 feet includingMt. Rose, Jobs Peak and Freel Peak.

8. The Tahoe area averages more than 300 days of sun each year.

9. Tahoe has 18 alpine and cross country ski resorts and over 50 championship golf courses.

10. Random Fact:Virginia City is known as"The Liveliest Ghost Town in the West.

11. The floor of the Tahoe basin(the bottom the lake) is near the 4,580 foot elevation, lower than the surface of the Carson Valley to the east.

12. Fun Fact: Sixty three streams flow into Lake Tahoe.
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