



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



ojbyrne

Reno for Children

Reno, Sparks, 7 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

My List 3

Reno Snapshot 6

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Reno is not just for the big kids. Small kids can have fun at several of the area's museums, outdoor parks and a real-life steam train up at Virginia City.

contact:
tel: +1 775 849 0201

location:
4005 u.s. Highway 395 North
Washoe Valley NV 89704

1 Bowers Mansion Museum

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful sandstone mansion was the home of Sandy Bowers, one of the first people to strike it rich on the Comstock. When the mansion was built in the late 1800s, it was the most fabulous home in all of Nevada. There are fine antique furnishings, brocades, silver tea services and even silver door hinges and knobs. The mansion has guided tours during the summer months. One can stroll the grounds, have a picnic, or take a dip in the nearby Bowers pool. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 775 827 7600

location:
1900 Idlewild Drive
Reno NV 89509

2 Idlewild Park

DESCRIPTION: This park has something for everyone. You can find several interconnecting lakes in this beautiful, tree-lined park. There is no better way to spend an afternoon than strolling through the City of Reno Municipal Rose Garden. Smell the sweet aroma as you walk through this incredibly beautiful garden that houses 2400 rose plants, representing 560 different varieties. The park offers picnic facilities equipped with benches and barbecues. There is a large playground for the kids with baseball diamonds, a volleyball pit and municipal pool. No admission is charged. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 1 775 329-0711
www.circusreno.com

location:
500 N Sierra St
Reno NV 89503

3 Circus Circus Hotel & Casino Reno

DESCRIPTION: This family-friendly downtown destination is one of the top casinos in Reno. It is best known for its kid friendly arcade, circus games and hourly circus acts. Circus Circus also has several award winning restaurants and is connected by inside walkways to the Silver Legacy and the Eldorado.



contact:
tel: +1 775 329 2600
<http://pegsglorifiedhamneggs.com/default.aspx>

location:
420 S Sierra St
Reno NV 89501

hours:
Mo to Su from 06:30 AM to
02:00 PM

4 Peg's Glorified Ham & Eggs

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Get to Peg's early to avoid the rush.

DESCRIPTION: This is where the locals go for a huge breakfast that will last you way into the evening. Peg's is a popular coffee and breakfast spot that is well know for its huge portions, excellent staff and fun selection various items including stacks of pancakes, skillet meals and Latin inspired dishes.



Waldo Jaquith

Favorite menu items include the Huevos Ranchero served in a skillet with fresh salsa, beans, hash browns and fruit or the Mexicali Omelette with guacamole and salsa. For something lighter you can order the huge portion of Lox, Bagel and Cream Cheese or a Veggie Benedict. Their classes Eggs Benedict is excellent as well as the their French Toast and Pancakes. Prices are higher than your average coffee shop, but you won't have to eat again for the rest of the day. The average price for breakfast will run you about \$10 to \$12 per person. The weekend breakfasts can be very busy, especially during the summer and the holidays. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +1 775 829 0200
<http://www.claimjumper.com/>

location:
4905 S Virginia St
Reno NV 89502

hours:
Su to Th from 11:00 AM to
10:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:00
AM to 11:00 PM

5 Claim Jumper Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: This unique place is popular spot for tourists and is famous for its huge portions. Rustic artifacts and antiques from the 1880's grace the log and natural rock interior. The seating is comfortably arranged with a view of the large fireplace. The braised Red Ale Spare Ribs are probably the best you will ever eat for the price, and include an amazing selection of side dishes. If you have a tough time deciding, try the Ore Cart with chicken, beef and pork ribs. An extensive dessert menu is available, and a full-service bar will provide your favorite cocktail, wine or house microbrews. © wcities.com



danperry.com/Flickr

contact:
<http://www.reno.gov/index.aspx>

location:
300 W First St.
Reno NV 89501

6 Truckee River Whitewater Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
This is still a river, not a water park. So keep safety in mind when playing in the pools and rapids.

DESCRIPTION: The Truckee River Whitewater Park brings the outdoors into downtown Reno. This area of the Truckee River, which runs from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake has been redesigned to accommodate kayakers, swimmers and tubers. It runs right through Wingfield Park and past the downtown Arts District. The entire park is 2,600 feet in length. There is easy access to the river from all directions and a total of 11 drop pools: five drop pools in the north channel; six in the south channel for kayaking maneuvers that decrease slightly in elevation with each successive pool, to keep them supplied with fresh water. There are 7,000 tons of smooth flat-top rocks and boulders installed along the river banks and in-stream for easy public access, spectators, and kayaking maneuvers. The deep pools are continuously filled with fresh water to provide a good habitat for fish, particularly Lahontan cutthroat trout. There are various pedestrian walkways for convenient mobility between the streets and Wingfield Park. The water temperature ranges between 50 and 70 degrees and it does not freeze. The difficulty rating is Class 2-3 course and kayakers must wear helmets and floatation devices. Various kayaking



RickC/Flickr

maneuvers include freestyle, front and side surfing, cartwheeling, throwing ends, blunt moves, spoofing and splatting, flat spinning, loops, front flips, slalom racing. There are some boulders within the channels. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +1 775 359 2927
fax: +1 775 359 5942
<http://www.wildisland.com/>

location:
250 Wild Island Court
Sparks NV 89434

7 Wild Island

DESCRIPTION: This water park is a great way to cool off and have tons of wet and wild fun. This is a swell place for both kids and adults to spend the day. Small children can have a wet time in the Little Lagoon, which features mini water slides. Big kids and adults will find the Stingray and Shark slides to their liking. For the really adventurous, give the Red Viper or the Black Widow a try. The new Hurricane Cove also promises gallons of wet excitement with rope climbs and tube slides. Montego Bay offers great waves for body surfing. If you prefer to stay dry, you can enjoy a game of 18-hole miniature golf or play in the arcade. Speed addicts will get their fix at the Formula K Raceway, the only miniature racetrack in Northern Nevada. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 775 322 1538
fax: +1 775 322 8777
<http://www.renoisartown.com/>

location:
Various venues
Reno NV 89501

8 Artown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Most events take place at Wingfield Park by the Truckee River.

DESCRIPTION: The whole city gets into the act during the entire month of July every year for this outstanding festival. More than 200 events take place at various locations citywide, including films, ballet, art workshops, poetry readings, and music. This event has been nationally acclaimed as one of the best summer arts festivals in the country. Most events are free. Bring money for food and drink. Some vendors may take credit cards. © wcities.com



Zack Sheppard/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

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 were 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 undergoing renovation 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

Reno Snapshot continued

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 Peppercorn 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. The Tahoe Biltmore Lodge Casino and Harvey's Tahoe would both be

good choices and offer such packages. The Fantasy 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 is Granlibakken Resort & Conference Center. If you like to walk along the beach or just soak up the sun, the Inn by the Lake is within walking distance of the lake. Consider a stay at the south shore where the majority of the casinos such as MontBleu Casino Resort & Spa and Harrah'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 at Sushi Club are around \$16.95 and dinners are around \$24.95. Another popular sushi spot is Hiroba Sushi in the hills above Reno, Sushi Lover near downtown and Ichiban at Harrah's hotel and casino.

For a romantic night out you can splurge at several of these excellent restaurants near downtown including Beaujolais Bistro which serves wonderful French food and wine, the excellent LuLou's serves specialty items like BBQ Quail, Spicy Thai Soup and Tuna Tartare and the 4th Street Bistro utilizes fresh produce and herbs from local farmer's in the area.

For something a little more budget-friendly, you can visit El Salvador in the CalAve District or Blue 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 to India Kabab for their \$6.95 lunch buffet and don't forget the garlic naan! For some famous grub, visit the Golden 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. The Steak House at Harrah's has some excellent dessert that you can flambé including Bananas Foster and Cherries Jubilee. The Chocolate Bar in downtown Reno has everything for the chocoholic (and the martini lover) and Josef's Vienna Bakery will have you drooling for their Tiramasu and Crepes.

© NileGuide

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

Reno Snapshot continued

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 by Golf 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 the casinos. How about some hiking? Biking along the Truckee River? Visiting museums? Shopping in used 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 the foothills or the mountains around the city is a great way to get out of town and enjoy the views. If you like to bike, the Truckee River Bike Trail will take you from Verdi, just West of Reno, into the neighboring city of Sparks. Other outdoor sports include kayaking on the Sparks Marina or at the Truckee River Whitewater Park.

If you are looking for a little culture, visit the Nevada Museum of Art. It's a small museum, but the revolving exhibits are extremely well designed. Nationally recognized exhibits are located here, too. The National 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 including Rancho San Rafael Park where they can enjoy the Wilbur D. May Museum with its science exhibits and dinosaur forest. The Sierra Safari Zoo and the Animal 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 popular Farmer'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 the Lavender Ridge farm just West of downtown Reno.

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

© NileGuide

Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) +1 775 328 6870 <http://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

Reno Snapshot continued

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 at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>

©

Fun Facts

1. Mark Twain worked as a reporter for the Territorial Enterprise in Virginia 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 from Burning 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.

© NileGuide