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Five Reasons Locals Love Fall in Carson Valley, Nevada

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (Sept. 29, 2022) – Locals always know best when it comes to a destination's secret spots and the hidden gems. While any season offers visitors a reason to visit Carson Valley, Nevada, there's something about fall that checks more of the boxes, and the locals can tell you why.

Carson Valley, located just minutes east of Lake Tahoe and just 15 minutes south of the state's capital Carson City, is comprised of four communities each offering diverse options. The towns of Minden, Gardnerville and Genoa offer a small town feel with proximity to the Sierra Nevada, while Topaz Lake offers a more relaxed desert lake experience.

Here's what the locals say about autumn in Carson Valley, and why it should top every fall destination list.



Fall in Genoa, Nevada | Photo by Vivian Powers

1. Fall Colors

Just ask photographer Vivian Powers to show some of her most vivid images, and you'll see shots of fall bursting off your screen – especially those in and around Genoa. Situated at the base of the impressive Eastern Sierra, the photo-worthy town of Genoa, Nevada, is worth a visit any time of year, but something about the leaves falling across the road makes it feel like something out of the movies. Stroll the quaint town's main street and peruse the antique shops, taking in the fresh mountain sights and sounds. Complete the experience with a delicious treat on the patio at Sierra Chef, where fresh sandwiches and sweet treats are made fresh daily.

"Carson Valley's fall season is none like I have ever seen," photographer Vivian Powers said. "Come October you can find aspens and huge cottonwood trees that have turned a vibrant yellow, and you can even find maple trees that will turn an amazing red color. I love going out to capture these incredible colors through my camera lens and share the beauty of the Carson Valley with others."



Eddy Street Vintage Market in Carson Valley, Nevada

2. Get Ahead on Unique Holiday Shopping

The holiday season is notably busy and finding the perfect gift can be a stressful endeavor. Enter Carson Valley and its ample boutique and antique shops. Locals know just where to go to get their holiday lists knocked out. The owners of Eddy Street Vintage Market, local pioneers in creating a boutique shopping experience, focus on unique and quality gifts not likely to be found anywhere else. And, you must be in the know to find them as they only "pop up" every few weeks.

"Carson Valley is the quintessential place to shop for the holidays," Meredith Fischer, owner of Eddy Street Vintage Market, said. "From the welcoming shop owners to the thoughtful displays, small business owners here provide a community experience that Amazon and the big box stores can't offer. At Eddy Street Vintage Market, we carefully curate our displays to tell a story. Each item is thoughtfully placed and creatively exhibited. The changing seasons and the holidays are our absolute favorite to decorate for. Not to mention that the beautiful Carson Valley paints the ultimate backdrop with its stunning scenery."

Eddy Street Vintage Market is just one of many unique shopping experiences in Carson Valley. There's even an [Arts & Antiques Trail Map](#) to help visitors navigate the many options. Be sure to bring an empty suitcase to bring home all the goods!



Candy at the Genoa Candy Dance Arts & Craft Faire

3. Dance for Candy

Fall kicks off each September in Genoa with more than 300 crafters and vendors for the annual Genoa Candy Dance Arts & Crafts Faire. It's a tradition more than 100 years strong, primarily because of the locals who volunteer to make it happen each year. True to its name, it involves both candy (with traditional candy and chocolate-making) and dancing. The event features high-quality, hand-made arts and crafts, food vendors, activities and fun for the whole family. It's the unofficial kick-off to the fall season for locals and visitors to Genoa alike. For details, visit [online](#).

"This event has been an integral part of the Carson Valley community for more than 100 years," Kim Harris, who portrays Lillian Virgin Finnegan - the originator of the Genoa Candy Dance, said. "The locals know it started as a way to help raise money for streetlamps, and it's only grown from there. Today, it draws thousands of folks from hundreds of miles to get a little slice of the everyday life we're fortunate enough to enjoy here in Genoa and Carson Valley."

The beautiful fall weather in Carson Valley makes it popular for many other events, including a rodeo, wine walks, fall festivals and studio art tours.



The bar at Daniel's Restaurant in Genoa, Nevada

4. Dive into the Comfort Foods

Carson Valley's dining options are as diverse and delightful as the destination itself. Locals can enjoy a variety of meals on their outings and never tire of one place with so many options to choose from. When it comes to fall comfort foods, there are a few places that top the list.

"Carson Valley is fortunate to have many great eateries and restaurants," Jen Nalder, Main Street Gardnerville program director, said. "It is hard not to play favorites because I love them all as a foodie. I will say for breakfast or a bistro date night on the weekend it is Woodett's Diner. My go-to burger has to be the Valley Burger at the Overland Restaurant and Pub, and when I am in the mood for some comforting soul food it has to be the JT Basque Bar & Dining Room."

Whether one of these or another one of the many restaurants, visitors will need to get in that daily nature walk to work off the delicious meals that Carson Valley's dining establishments offer.



David Walley's Hot Springs, Carson Valley, Nevada

5. Leave the Phone and Recharge

With Carson Valley's quiet and serene landscape, many locals and visitors alike feed their soul by leaving the phone behind and recharging out in nature. A soak in David Walley's Hot Springs can do wonders for the body and mind, allowing the minerals in the natural hot spring pools to ease away worries and tension. Or, simply take a walk along River Fork Ranch to watch the wildlife in action along the ponds and wetlands. There's nothing quite like nature to quiet the mind, and Carson Valley's locals know this all too well.

"There's nothing like the serenity of nature and wide-open spaces to recharge your mind and body, and Carson Valley has both in spades," Mendy Stuart, general manager for Holiday Inn Club Vacations David Walley's Resort in Genoa, said. "Our fresh air, the peacefulness of the valley and the ability to connect to nature makes this the perfect place to relax before the holiday rush."

For more ideas on how to enjoy fall, or any other season, in Carson Valley, reach out to Visit Carson Valley by email at info@visitcarsonvalley.org or call 775-782-8145.

About Carson Valley:

Nestled at the base of the Sierra, Carson Valley begs visitors to not just drive through it, but to it. Located 45 miles south of Reno-Tahoe International Airport and 12 miles east of South Lake Tahoe, the region's natural beauty is legendary: wide-open farms, ranches, bands of wild horses and birds of prey dot the landscape. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts follow all points of the compass with more than 50+ miles of hiking, mountain biking or walking trails along with world class road biking. The valley's museums, arts, antiques, Basque dining, historic watering holes and more add to the destination's authentic culture. The region includes the communities of Minden, Gardnerville, Topaz Lake and Genoa, Nevada's first settlement dating back to 1851. Explore the land of everyday legends at VisitCarsonValley.org.

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MEDIA RESOURCES

Photos: <https://radstrategies.box.com/v/5-reasons-fall>

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