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Why Carson Valley Is Your Next Family Destination OR Leave the Devices at Home with a Family Getaway to Carson Valley

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (May 12, 2022) – A history lesson, an up close and personal wildlife experience, a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and an adrenaline-filled nature excursion – that’s what a family getaway to Carson Valley, Nevada, offers. Located at the base of the Sierra Nevada, just 25 minutes from Lake Tahoe and an hour from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Carson Valley and its four communities offer boundless outdoor options and jaw-dropping landscapes – perfectly made for ditching screentime for real time and giving your smartphone camera a run for its money. Here’s what to do with your family this summer in Carson Valley.



Genoa, Nevada | Photo by Whitney James

Discover Nevada’s History

While a museum is often the last thing most pre-teens want to do, Carson Valley takes a different approach to history. Here, visitors are immersed in the region’s history everywhere they go. In the town of Genoa, Nevada, the oldest permanent non-native settlement in Nevada, a simple stroll down the main street is a history lesson in itself. A thriving historical settlement, Genoa is a throwback to its old-fashioned western culture. See historic markers and buildings dating to the 1800s, including the Genoa Bar, Nevada’s oldest thirst parlor. Tables outside make it a great family-friendly stop. Also in Genoa,

[Mormon Station State Park](#) offers an idyllic location for a picnic with its lush lawns and mature trees. The station was built in 1851 as a trading post. Today, it is home to a reconstructed version of the original building, a museum with pioneer era artifacts and more.

In Minden, the historic [Dangberg Ranch](#) is the sprawling home of the Dangberg Family, considered to be one of the first families to settle in the valley. The ranch home was built in 1857 and today serves as an immersive, walk-through museum. The home is beautifully kept and preserved in time as it was in the ranching days, giving visitors and inside peek at life on the ranch in the pioneer days including toys, clothing and artifacts from the 1800s. It also happens to be a great place for watching wildlife and birds of prey.

For history buffs that can't get enough, the [Douglas County Historical Society](#) offers two museums, the Courthouse Museum in Genoa and the Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center in the heart of Gardnerville, housed in an old high school. These museums offer a look into early life in Carson Valley with exhibits like the Snowshoe Thompson, a Victorian parlor, blacksmith shop and more. The first Saturday of each month is Family Day, themed events featuring interactive entertainment for kids and families, all with a historic and educational focus.



Wildlife Tours in Carson Valley, Nevada

Wildlife Encounters

Better than visiting a zoo, Carson Valley brings nature up close for a true wild encounter. Here the wide-open landscape is home to many native animals including bobcats, cougars, wild horses and a variety of raptors and birds of prey. Take a guided wildlife tour, adventuring off road in a 4x4 to meet the Nevada's wild horses where they roam. There's no substitute for seeing a majestic band of horses roaming free across the desert landscape.

Another spectacular opportunity to experience wildlife, [River Fork Ranch](#) is an 800-acre preserve owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy. Located where the east and west forks of the Carson River meet near Genoa, the ranch's corridor supports a robust and diverse wildlife population including bald eagles, sandhill cranes, leopard frogs, monarch butterflies and mule deer. The trails are flat and easily accessible for hikers of all ages.

Put Down the Screens

The old-west vibes of Carson Valley demand a slower pace. Sure, technology works here, but it just doesn't seem to be the priority. While families immerse themselves in nature and the wide-open space, putting down the devices seems only natural. It's a mental wellness check for the whole family as togetherness takes priority. Guests of all ages are welcome to soak in the natural hot springs at [David Walley's Resort](#). The five mineral hot spring tubs and outdoor heated pool offer a relaxing way to connect with nature.



Photo by Corey Rich

Hit the Trails

For families who enjoy hiking and biking, Carson Valley is unmatched. With more than 60 miles of trails in the area, there's a trail or a hike for all ability levels. The Fay-Luther and Jobs Peak Ranch trail systems offer about nine miles of loop and connector trails. Along the way, interpretive signs about the area provide an educational experience. If biking, more experienced riders and families with older kids can enjoy the Clear Creek Trail, a 15-mile trail traversing through U.S. Forest Service land and the Nature Conservancy. For more trails, visit [Carson Valley Trails Association](#).



Attend an Event

The quintessential small-town fair is epitomized in Carson Valley Days, held in June each year. This family-favorite, weekend-long festival features attractions including a carnival-like midway, games, rides, crafts and vendors, a parade, live music and more, all celebrating the local culture and community that is Carson Valley. The 2022 event is slated for June 9-12 at Lampe Parke in Gardnerville, Nevada.

All summer long, the Bently Family Summer Concert Series offers live music in Minden Park. Lay out a blanket and bring the family to enjoy music from the likes of EV & the Electric Soup, The Outlaw Mariachi and more. The free concerts offer a sense of community and togetherness, as well as a place the kids can run around and dance the night away.

For the planning ahead types, this October 1 – 2, [Aviation Roundup](#) returns to the Minden-Tahoe Airport. Featuring world-class aviation performers including Bill Stein, The Chuters, Kirby Chambliss and the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, the skies above Carson Valley form the backdrop to these aerialists performing wild stunts, elegant formations and twists and turns for the crowds below. Children can get an up close and personal look at the impressive aircraft and even meet the pilots. Plus, admission for kids under 12 is free. Learn more at [AviationRoundup.com](#).

In Carson Valley, families can together learn and experience some of life's greatest lessons. It's where togetherness, being present, and being one with nature come first, and that's something worth passing on.

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, antiquing, 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

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