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Cast, Splash, and Backstroke into Summer in Carson Valley, Nevada

Carson Valley Offers a Recreational Respite for Water Seekers

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (DRAFT) — The deepest recorded snowfall made the 2022-23 winter season one for the record books. Translation? Visitors to Carson Valley, Nevada, are in for a treat with creeks, rivers, and lakes that are fuller than ever and ready to be savored all summer long. Situated in the eastern Sierra Nevada at the foothills of some of Nevada’s most ruggedly spectacular mountain peaks, there’s no better diversely verdant place in the Silver State to cast a line, watch for wildlife, boat, swim, waterski, and stretch out on a big, sandy beach. Plus, it’s conveniently located within 20 minutes from the awe-inspiring south shore of Lake Tahoe, North America’s largest alpine lake.

Situated along Highway 395 and a 45-minute drive from Reno, Nevada, is a valley that encompasses four communities – Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake. While each of these four communities offers its own distinctive claims to fame, each has an unmistakable trait – access to abundant outdoor recreation in an area so vast it’s like touching the sky. Within a few minutes, there are dozens of miles of trails for riding, hiking and wildlife viewing—and access to glimmering high desert lakes, a primo waterski lake, flowing rivers and streams offering one of the best ways to get out on the water without fighting the crowds.



Campers at Topaz Lake

[Topaz Lake](#) beckons outdoorsmen of all kinds annually, thanks to its full hookups and all-season camping, trout and bass-filled waters and easy access to fishing and boating. During the winter, the lake never fully freezes making it a bullseye for fishermen. Summer is when this high desert hidden gem fully shows off with a marina plus miles of trails and plenty of shoreline to stretch out on with the whole

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family. Two boat launches make getting on the water quick with 15 full hookup RV campsites and 26 primitive campsites.

Wild and scenic. That's what environmental pros have titled one of Nevada's most legendary waterways—the mighty Carson River—meeting in Carson Valley before splitting into the West and East Forks. An esteemed designation, a wild and scenic river is the strongest form of federal stewardship and protection a waterway can receive, which is given only to the most remarkably scenic, recreational, and geologic rivers that provide exceptional habitat for fish and other wildlife. There are plenty of places to access the East and West forks of the Carson River from Carson Valley, but one of the best places to stretch out for the afternoon can be accessed from River Rock Road between Gardnerville and Topaz Lake. Here, settle into cottonwood-cloaked riverbeds with access to the East Fork of the Carson River for a fun-filled day of fishing, picnicking, and sunbathing.

Just outside Genoa, Nevada, the state's oldest permanent settlement, see where the wildlife roams at River Fork Ranch. Situated at the base of the scenic eastern Sierra Nevada and minutes from the historic town, the Carson River and natural runoff from the mountains towering overhead make this natural marshy wetland a welcomed respite for area wildlife including deer, bobcats, coyotes and a myriad of eagles, raptors, and other birds. Access the North or South River Fork Ranch Trailhead and jump on miles of level, well-maintained trails that lead through wetlands and habitat area wildlife depend on. Take a break at one of the many sun-soaked benches positioned at some of Carson Valley's most iconic scenic overlooks, a LEED-certified welcome center and immediate access to some of the region's best wildlife photography opportunities.

And of course, a visit to Carson Valley is far from complete without a stop-and-soak at David Walley's Resort's restorative waters. As one of Nevada's oldest historic hot spring resorts, there's no bad time to splash around at the resort's thermal waters.

For more information about Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake [click here](#), or get in touch with the Carson Valley Visitors Authority directly at (775) 782-8145.

Straddling the California-Nevada state line, Carson Valley is located about an hour's drive south of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Here, discover the four communities that comprise the region—Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake. Beholding some of Nevada's first and oldest establishments, visiting Carson Valley means authentically interacting with Nevada's many histories while experiencing world-renowned outdoor recreation Nevada, and the American West are known for. From legendary forefathers who paved the way to Nevada statehood, to wild horse bands, eagles, and other wildlife, to premiere air sports, American Indian, Basque, and Western Ranching histories and cultures, and distinctive dining experiences that all exist here and only here, Carson Valley offers an adventure for everyone. For more information about lodging, special events, and more trip planning tools, see VisitCarsonValley.org or dial (775) 782-2555. The Visitor Information Center is located within the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center at 1477 U.S. Highway 395 N, Gardnerville, Nevada.

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