



Experience a ‘Stroke’ of Luck at Carson Valley Golf Courses

Region Touts Affordable Golf Getaways and a Science-Backed Play Enhancements

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (Mar. 5, 2024) – Ready for an improved golf game overnight? It’s scientifically proven that playing golf in the Carson Valley, Nevada, can add about 10-plus yards to a drive. Why? Balls fly further.

It may sound like marketing spin trying to lure golfers to the region, but it’s fact: Golf balls travel farther at altitude than at sea level. Thinner air exerts less drag on the ball, which translates to a longer drive.

Carson Valley’s elevation at 4,700 feet gains golfers roughly 10-12 yards of extra distance compared to hitting the same ball at sea level. ([Golf.com](#) provides an easy equation, estimating an extra 2.5 yards per 1,000 feet of elevation.) That means improving play overnight is entirely possible with an added bonus that the region is widely regarded as one of the U.S.’s best-kept golfing secrets due to its affordable rates and sprawling vistas. Located just 20 minutes east of Lake Tahoe find four communities that comprise Carson Valley, Nevada, complete with [four legendary courses](#) — each with a unique personality.



[Carson Valley Golf Course](#)

“The course is incredibly beautiful with great tee options, fun bridges and tunnels and an amazing array of wildlife including chipmunks, quail, geese, a variety of birds and a beautiful doe. We highly recommend this facility and considered it to be a hidden jewel.” – [Yelp Review](#)

Local favorite and the oldest golf course in the region, [Carson Valley Golf Course](#) has been home to affordable, friendly golf since 1965. “Friendly” means a lot around these parts: while hoots, hollers and shouts may be frowned upon at other courses, here players are encouraged to indulge in a vocal victory celebration.

The course boasts a relaxed dress code among its many features, and often golfers bring Bluetooth speakers to boost swings and their overall golf spirit.

If the invitation to high-five against a musical backdrop while wearing loud golf attire doesn’t bring a smile, how about the price. Here, rent a cart and play 18 on a weekend during peak season for just \$55. Off-peak rates are only \$35, and the course offers attractive junior and family rates, ladies specials and often has golf+cart+lunch promotions.

If the experience sounds atypical, its scenery follows suit. Dotting the course’s landscape, find giant cottonwood trees throwing shade (the welcome kind, that is), as well as water hazards endlessly teasing even the most gifted golfers. These features are created by the East Fork Carson River and its various canals and tributaries that feed into surrounding cattle ranches.

[Sunridge Golf and Receptions](#)

“Breathtaking views galore, especially when sun sets into the snowy High Sierras. I haven’t even mentioned best part.... The cost. Here you can play a ~\$50/round on a what oughta be closer to ~\$150/round.” – [Google Review](#)

“Bring your a-game or a lot of balls lol — probably the best value for your \$ of any course I've ever played, can't wait to go back on the way up to Tahoe.” – [Google Review](#)

Located just south of Carson City, Nevada’s state capital, [Sunridge Golf and Receptions](#) boasts a layout caliber comparable to a private course with the most value-priced memberships in the region. Golfers can expect to pay about \$75 for 18 on a weekend during peak season, or \$40 any time any day during the off season. Monthly memberships are only \$300, which can be an affordable option for visitors to the region who are exploring northern Nevada for an extended stay. Ladies enjoy \$45 Tuesday rounds, while seniors golf for \$50 Wednesdays.

This premier high-desert golf destination stretches over 7,000 yards and features unique topography, elevated tees and sloping fairways. Speaking of that slope, some of the holes are situated on the side of rolling hills positioning that perfect downward shot. It also means views for days of Job’s Peak and the surrounding Carson Valley coupled with dramatic elevation changes and copious challenges to navigate.

Complete the day with a visit to the pro shop, a meal or drink at the bar and grill, or a visit to the practice facilities.

[Genoa Lakes Golf Club](#)

A golf visit to Carson Valley would not be complete without playing at one of two Genoa Lakes’ championship golf courses – both offering distinct outlook and characteristic vibe. One is known for its abundant challenging water features, while the other boasts sprawling desert vistas. The clubhouse

offers extraordinary views to be taken in while dining at one of the restaurants, including the quick and casual Knaughty Pine Bar or The Grill at The Lakes.

[Genoa Lakes Golf Club – Lakes Course](#)

“Beautiful golf course! Wonderful staff! A lot of water which makes the course a bit of a challenge especially when it’s your first time! Loved watching all the beautiful deer. Great course overall. Will come back one day.” – [Google Review](#)

Ready to tackle an affordable course that has hosted qualifying rounds for the U.S. Open? Luxury and performance — plus an occasional wildlife sighting — are the name of the game on the [Genoa Lakes - Lakes Course](#). Co-designed by PGA Champion Peter Jacobsen and John Harbottle III, this links-style course with rolling fairways meets head-on with the eastern slopes of the breathtaking Sierra Nevada.

Located in the town of Genoa, the winding Carson River creates lush wetlands and brings water into 14 holes of play. Wide-open fairways invite opportunities for that elevation-advantaged longer drive.

[Genoa Lakes Golf Club – Ranch Course](#)

“Every single aspect of our visit to Genoa Lakes Ranch Course was pretty much flawless. We were greeted at the car with carts. The staff were ALL awesome and friendly. The course was clean, safe and welcoming. The food was great. The bathrooms are clean. The cart woman was friendly and on the spot with the drinks. Prices were fair. Zero complaints. An awesome day. We will be back.” - [Yelp Review](#)

About two miles north of the Lakes course, the sprawling [Genoa Ranch Golf Course](#) cuts into the rugged Sierra Nevada foothills. This one starts at the valley floor and brings about 300 feet in elevation change, meaning great views (specifically on the back nine) and a challenging course to play. It’s slightly more visually intimidating than the more traditional Lakes Course, with bad shots flying off into steep-sided mountain gorges.

Johnny Miller and John Harbottle III built this course for power and distance, framing spectacular high desert vistas against a backdrop of wide-open spaces. Encounter more than 100 bunkers, unpredictable mountain terrain, afternoon breezes, a waterfall and of course the famed “Aces Cemetery” where those who get a hole-in-one get a tombstone with their name on it.

Where to stay during your golf getaway

It seems fitting to follow a day avoiding water hazards with a welcome dip in the region’s most notable hot springs. Stay at [Holiday Inn Club Vacations David Walley’s Resort](#) and choose from five natural mineral hot springs, two pools, steam, and dry saunas. Or take the wages won betting among your own foursome and follow up with a visit to an entirely different gambling playground at [Carson Valley Inn](#) — including free nightly entertainment, slots, blackjack, craps, 3-card poker, a live poker room, and a race/sports book. The valley offers several other options for fitting any budget, location and desired amenities.

Get all the tee-time tea at all of Carson Valley’s four unique golf experiences at [PlayCarsonValley.org](#). Book a getaway and learn more about the region at [VisitCarsonValley.org](#).

Straddling the California-Nevada state line 1.5 hours south of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, discover the four communities — Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake — that comprise spectacular Carson Valley. 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 is 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, go to 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, NV.

MEDIA RESOURCES:

Photos: <https://radstrategies.box.com/v/carson-valley-golf>

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