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Carson Valley Offers Romantic Adventures 365 Days a Year

Rugged and Romantic Year-Round Ideas to Make Love Soar

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (Feb. 14, 2024) – For many couples, adventure is the ultimate aphrodisiac — there’s just something about adrenaline-pumping activities that make a heart pound, combined while drinking in the sights and sounds of nature, that strengthens an already-solid love connection. Carson Valley may be the ultimate destination for those hopeless romantics who seek love year-round. Even its location straddling two states (one part California, one part Nevada) serves as a beautiful symbol of unity for this most romantic of days.

For those 365-day-a-year romantics, look no further for a rugged escapade than Carson Valley. Here are a few adventurous ideas to spend the day making hearts (and sometimes bodies!) soar.



Carson Valle, Nevada in winter | Photo by Marc Crumpler

Take Love to New Heights in Carson Valley

Love is written all over this sweeping experience – filled with a little hot air, but not from your sweetie. Carson Valley offers once-in-a-lifetime hot air ballooning adventures from [Balloon Nevada/Lake Tahoe Balloons](#). Schedule a morning or evening ride to fly high over Carson River and the Carson Range, with

stunning views of the incredible Jobs Peak and Lake Tahoe beyond. Along the way, spot frolicking wildlife — wintering raptors, families of deer and herds of wild horses are common sightings.

Morning flights start at \$325 per person. For a more intimate ride, choose the morning VIP flight option that starts at \$1,900 — ideal for a splurge or a big occasion. (*Ahem*: Perhaps a proposal is in the cards?)

Follow the morning flight with a visit to the fabulous [Taildragger Café](#), where diners can watch planes landing and taking off while enjoying a meal — the perfect way to top off a high-flying adventure. Or head to downtown Minden for dinner at [Khristopher's Ristorante and Bar](#).

'Horse' Around in Gardnerville

Does an ideal adventure smell like rustic barns and fresh hay? Then [Sheridan Creek Equestrian Center](#) provides a truly unique experience. This isn't a traditional nose-to-tail trail ride; instead, all rides are completely custom and private — so trot, gallop, or kick it up and get some speed alongside a partner. Of course, safety is always a top priority, so rest assured that every precaution is taken to ensure a comfortable and safe ride.

All rides are \$80 per hour/per rider and are private for riders ages 4 and up with a maximum weight of 250 pounds.

To keep the horse theme going, how about a traditional Basque dinner? Nevada was home to thousands of Basque migrants in the Old West who used horses and dogs to herd sheep, so a visit to [J.T. Basque Bar & Dining Room](#) can serve as a memorable nod to this adventurous tradition. Basque dinners are still served family style with large portions served for the entire party. Just don't forget to partake in Nevada's legendary drink of choice, the Picon Punch. Its reddish hue sets the perfect tone for a romantic meal.

'Fall' in Love in Minden

Ok sure, skydiving isn't exactly "falling," but falling for this ultimate adrenaline rush with [Skydive Lake Tahoe](#) is easy. Leaving from the Minden-Tahoe airport, take a tandem skydive overlooking Lake Tahoe, Carson Valley and, on a clear day, 100-mile views. Considering a [proposal](#)? How about a truly breathtaking experience where a [tandem jump](#) takes divers on a graceful glide landing near a sign that says, "Will You Marry Me?" Pro tip: With some advanced planning, invite family and friends for a welcome to the happy couple!

Whether or not you put a ring on it after a skydiving adventure, consider transitioning from sky-high to feet-on-the-ground by ending the date at [Woodett's Diner](#). Taste bud explosion is on the menu offering French, Lebanese and Greek flavors prepared by a classically trained French chef. Time it with one of the monthly French Bistro nights, offering a set menu featuring unforgettable old-world flavors.

Plan a Picture 'Par'-fect Date Night in Gardnerville

Ready to score points for adventurous date-planning skills — even if the weather is less than ideal? Sushi rolls and sweet swings are the highlights of this fun indoor itinerary. Start at [Swing 395](#), offering indoor golf simulators and a good time regardless of the weather. Then head next door for healthy, fresh, and fast service at [Sakura Sushi & Poke](#). Or grab a handful of hand rolls or a poke bowl for two and bring them to Swing 395 while playing at a choice of courses from around the world. Pro tip: Plan a date on a Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. for 10% off golf and dinner combo.

Finish the night with personalized sweets from the [Chocolate Shoppe](#). This talented chocolate team can create anything — so get imaginative and leave room for a sinfully decadent romantic indulgence.

Experience a Different Kind of ‘Sleepaway’ Camp at Topaz Lake

The truly adventurous know that winter camping is a thing. See stars and become one with nature in the great outdoors. At the southernmost tip of Carson Valley, [Topaz Lake](#) is one of the region’s best-kept recreation secrets, complete with prolific winter fishing. Pick from about 15 campsites that offer full hookups all year long, then experience Nevada’s high desert beauty on the lake’s surrounding hiking trails or from a small island that offers up some of the best views this side of the Sierra.

Or book a room at [Topaz Lodge Resort Casino](#), and see what happens when a mountain lodge marries an action-packed casino. Pro tip: Reserve a lake-view table at the [Steak House at Topaz Lodge](#) for a romantic sundown view.

Cook Up Some Adventure in Genoa

If “adventure” has more to do with exploration than the wild side of the valley, then Genoa welcomes visitors for the makings of a day date. Spend a few hours exploring [Nevada’s first permanent settlement](#) — walk around the historic home of Snowshoe Thompson, shop for locally made items, explore a fascinating museum, and take a tour of the historic [Mormon Station State Historic Park](#).

After a thirst for history is quenched, stop for a drink at Nevada’s oldest thirst parlor — the [Genoa Bar and Saloon](#). Built in 1853, it’s one of the few buildings in Genoa left standing after a massive 1910 fire. Make it a scavenger hunt for two searching for the original “Wanted” poster from Abe Lincoln’s assassination and a leopard-print bra that once belonged to Raquel Welch. And talk about romance: the bar is heated by a beautiful wood stove, and in winter locals bring in firewood to keep the fires burning.

As a final way to satiate an appetite for exploration in Genoa, visit [Sierra Chef](#). Choose a culinary adventure from gourmet food packed to-go, to partaking in charcuterie on a scenic outdoor patio, private cooking lessons to an Italian specialty market for all the picnic supplies. Visit the [schedule](#) for events and group cooking classes.

If fine dining is more the vibe, make a reservation at [Daniel’s Fine Dining](#). The old Nevada farmhouse charm is complimented by the country French cuisine, complete with an exquisite wine and cocktail list.

Got your heart set on adventure? All of the above just goes to show that cheesy candy hearts and wilting flowers don’t hold a candle to a custom Carson Valley romantic getaway any time of year.

Learn more about Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake [here](#), or call the Carson Valley Visitors Authority at (775) 782-8145.

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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.