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CONTACT: Amy Demuth, RAD Strategies Inc.
775-378-0032 / media@radstrategiesinc.com

Stargaze, Singletrack, Soak and Soar in Carson Valley, Nevada Legendary Summer Family Bucket Checklist Awaits

Must know:

- June 21 ushers in summer with the Summer Solstice, the day that officially marks the start of summer when the path of the sun is the farthest north in the Northern Hemisphere, and brings all the summer vibes that move Carson Valley to the top of destination wish lists.
- With the official start of summer, Carson Valley offers up seven family-friendly options to make the most of summer.
- Offering warmer day experiences not to be missed, the list includes award-winning golf, stargazing beneath iconic peaks, historic hot springs, wild and scenic waterways and more.
- Carson Valley offers the ultimate summer bucket list for memory-making experiences.

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (June 21, 2023) — Rooted in western legacies and ruggedly unending, high desert mountain vistas, Carson Valley, Nevada, offers a landscape that beckons families for an ultimate [summer bucket checklist](#). Situated within an hour from the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area, proximity and access make it easy to savor bold blue skies, warm temperatures and endless outdoor offerings from Genoa, Nevada's oldest permanent settlement, the towns of Minden and Gardnerville and Topaz Lake. The individual communities that comprise the larger Carson Valley intermix with numerous multi-use trail systems, world-renowned gliding and other air sports, dark skies, fishing from roaring rivers, streams and lakes, award-winning golf courses and historic hot springs. So much so, a summer bucket list dance card is filled with a week of activities in the blink of an eye.



The Milky Way as seen from Carson Valley | Photo by Dale A. Andrews

- 1. Stargazing:** Catch the celestial show of a lifetime this summer at the foot of the eastern Sierra Nevada from Carson Valley's [Topaz Lake](#). Nestled in a remote-yet-accessible high desert basin about 20 minutes from downtown Minden and Gardnerville, the state-straddling Topaz Lake offers an unusual combination of dependable creature comforts and wildness hard to find. Yet, it's only here that one can savor a Topaz Lodge steak dinner followed by stellar night sky viewing at one of Nevada's most unexpected stargazing destinations. Little to no light pollution can be detected from the shores of Topaz Lake making thousands of stars, constellations, planets and even the Milky Way Galaxy (best viewed in Nevada from May through October each year) visible to the naked eye. Best yet, a handful of astronomical events are on the horizon including the Perseids Meteor Shower (July 14-Sept. 1) and the Annular Solar Eclipse (Oct. 14).
- 2. Catch a Big One:** Topaz Lake brings water and other outdoor activities to the area with swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, biking and summertime camping. Reeling in an 18-pound trout, the lake is stocked with, is not unheard of. Back in Gardnerville, stop and fish one of Nevada's most pristine wild and scenic rivers along the shores of the Carson River. Stock up on flies and other fishing gear at The Angler's Edge in Gardnerville. Learn more about fishing in the Carson Valley [here](#).
- 3. Hit the Trails:** Access more than 70 miles across six vast networks in Carson Valley. Newly available is the user-friendly [Carson Valley Trails website](#), which provides reliable information on the Bently Heritage Trail, Clear Creek Trail System, Fay-Luther Trail System, Genoa Trail System, Pinyon Trail and the River Fork Ranch. Each offer different mountain biking, hiking and equestrian riding terrain with supporting amenities.
- 4. Soar Like an Eagle:** In Minden, glide through world-renowned flying and gliding conditions that pilots from all over the world come to Carson Valley to experience. Operating from the Minden-Tahoe Airport, skydive over Lake Tahoe, or sign up for an only-in-Carson-Valley glider ride with [Soaring NV](#). Prized for ideal mountain wave conditions not possible anywhere else in the United States, strap into a glider with a certified pro, then brace for the glide a lifetime over Lake Tahoe, Emerald Bay, Desolation Wilderness, and the spectacular Carson Valley.
- 5. Catch a Birdie:** In the shadow of Jobs Peak and the majestic eastern Sierra Nevada, [golf in Carson Valley](#) serves up some of the most beautiful landscapes in all of Nevada. With four award-winning courses, grip it and rip it from Carson Valley Golf Course in Gardnerville or choose from two separate Genoa Lakes Golf Club Courses—the Lake Course, or The Ranch Course. Or test your game at Sunridge Golf and Recreations.
- 6. Soak the Day Away:** After a full day of fun, soak in the Great American West from [David Walley's Hot Springs](#), one of Nevada's most historic 19th-century hot springs resorts. Mark Twain himself famously soaked, then wrote about his ethereal experiences along with some of Nevada's earliest socialites and Comstock millionaires. Take your pick from a large, family-friendly hot springs-filled swimming pool, or slide into three additional hot tub-style soaks, each varying in temperature.
- 7. Dance the Night Away:** Nothing says summer like long days, cool nights, and live music in the evenings. Head to [TJ's Corral](#), located at Carson Valley Inn, for outdoor summer concerts to rival any big city. Coming up July 21 is country star Scotty McCreery, then July 29 see Country legend and GRAMMY nominee Trace Adkins. The summer lineup ends with Randy House, Aug. 25. Another live music option is the Bently Summer Concert Series, featuring a free lineup of local and touring musicians, plus vendors and more. Looking for something that requires a lot less movement, head to [Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park](#) for Chautauquan performances as part of the 2023 Summer Festival performing series now

through the end of August. Chautauquan is a performance art with actors portraying intriguing historical figures in character.

Ready to book your Carson Valley getaway? 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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