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Wide Open Adventure: Say Hello to Carson Valley's Unbridled Side

70+ miles of multi-use trails, natural hot springs resorts, wildlife photography, and diamond-rated gliding conditions

Nevada's wide-open outdoor recreational hub

CARSON VALLEY, Nev. (April 26, 2023) — Known for its western legacies, unbridled outdoor recreation and unending landscapes, Carson Valley, Nevada, is located just an hour from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and yet feels remote and wide open with its endless outdoor opportunities. Miles upon miles of trail systems to hike or bike, hot springs for soaking, the ability to glide through diamond-rated flying conditions, access to up-close and personal wildlife photography tours and more – all without breaking the bank.

Discover four communities in one Carson Valley destination: Genoa, Minden, Gardnerville and Topaz Lake. While each community prides itself on unique offerings, one thing each has in common is vast opportunities for outdoor fun and recreation.



Aerial view of Carson Valley, Nevada, March 2023 | Photo by Tyler Aguilar

Miles of Trails

Newly available is the user-friendly [Carson Valley Trails website](#), which provides reliable information about the Bently Heritage Trail, Clear Creek Trail System, Fay-Luther Trail System, Genoa Trail System,

Pinyon Trail and the River Fork Ranch. Trails offer a variety of options including mountain biking, hiking, and equestrian riding terrain with supporting amenities. Visit online or grab a printed copy at many places throughout Carson Valley, including Mormon Station State Park in Genoa or the Carson Valley Visitors Center located in the [Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center](#) in downtown Gardnerville

For a more adrenaline-pumping way to explore, bring an off-road vehicle or rent one at any of several local businesses. Head east into the Pine Nut Mountains and hit the trails with a bit of speed to go further and see more of the rugged Nevada landscape. The [Johnson Lane OHV staging area](#) offers routes into the Pinyon, Juniper and Pine Nut forests, providing fun and challenging trails for all experience levels. From downtown Minden and Gardnerville, several OHV routes and trail systems are nearby, including the [Kingsbury Stinger & Genoa Peak Road](#). Offering stunning vistas of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada, this is a popular group of trails which also connects with the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Tours and guides are available, [visit online](#) for more information.

Natural Hot Springs

With more natural hot springs than any other state, a visit to Nevada is incomplete without a restorative soak at [David Walley's Resort](#) in historic Genoa. This historic hot springs resort once attracted Nevada's first pioneers, Virginia City's upper crust, including Mark Twain who famously wrote about soaking here and maybe even a few Pony Express riders along the way. Afterward, dine at the resort or take a walk to a variety of restaurants. Or stay the night in comfortably appointed rooms at David Walley's Hot Spring Resort.

Wildlife Up-close

When the scenery and wildlife are as spectacular as they are in Carson Valley, the wildlife photography cannot be beat especially when you tag along with some of the most well-known wildlife photographers in Nevada. Majestic wild Mustang herds, bobcats, bears and migrating eagles and raptors and more all roam the area. These wildlife photography tours are guided by the pros including JT Humphrey who uses a wildlife-first approach to always keep wildlife and tour-goers safe. [Visit online](#) for more tour options, viewing tips and locations.

Gliding Mecca

While in Carson Valley, experiencing its world-renowned gliding conditions is a must. Operating from the Minden-Tahoe Airport, skydive over Lake Tahoe, or sign up for an only-in-Carson-Valley glider ride with [Soaring NV](#). Glider pilots from all over the world come to the valley for the holy grail of gliding conditions that are based on ideal mountain wave conditions found only here. Glider rides take passengers high above beautiful Carson Valley with views of the Eastern Sierra, Lake Tahoe, Desolation Wilderness and far beyond.

For more information about Carson Valley, [click here](#), or get in touch with the Carson Valley Visitors Authority directly 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, 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, NV.