

Enduring Traditions

Driving & Walking Tour

THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA



Acknowledgements

Countless individuals shared their knowledge, experience, and support in order to create this tour. We are particularly grateful to all of the traditional artists who are its lifeblood. An entire acknowledgement page could have been written for each one, and there are many others important to this guide, whose names are not included because of space limitations. All gave us their time, and allowed us to enter their worlds and their lives, so that we could portray Lake Tahoe's authentic artistic diversity and map its most significant sites. There would be no tour without them.

A project such as this takes minds, money, devotion, and encouragement. Without the support of the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America and Millennium Trails grants, and the Western Folklife Center, this project would only have existed in our imaginations. We want to express our thanks to individuals in the following organizations and agencies who provided services and guidance in the process of developing this tour guide, and checked for accuracy in the historical and environmental content. They are:

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South Lake Tahoe Historical Society
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Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
Tahoe Rim Trail
Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society
USDA Forest Service-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Washiw Wahayay Mangal (Washoe Language Program)
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

In 2006, the first edition of *Enduring Traditions* was published to encourage visitors and locals to understand and enjoy the traditional arts and the tribal and ethnic cultures of Lake Tahoe. The Nevada Arts Council staff and board provided constant support and ideas to make the tour a destination touchstone for the state. Penny Rucks interviewed artists and craftspeople from nearly all the counties surrounding the Lake. She used her ability to establish instant rapport with people, and her expertise in anthropology and photography to capture the skill, details and processes each traditional artist incorporates in his and her works. From the time of the initial publication, Susan Boskoff (NAC Executive Director) has remained a consistent advocate of folk and traditional arts, of the importance of strengthening connections between tourism and culture in Nevada, and of elevating perceptions of Nevada's arts and cultures. Pat Atkinson (NAC Folklife Program Coordinator) is once again steering a part of Nevada's traditions onto the center stage of Nevada's cultural offerings. This time it is Lake Tahoe's heritage and traditional culture and its updated tour that are her foci, via an electronic web-based version of *Enduring Traditions*. Lori Kunder (Kunder Design Studio) revised the design of this new and extremely user-friendly edition. As a team, the authors and supporters of this tour hope the information will increase visitors' understanding of Lake Tahoe and Nevada's cultural resources and deepen their interest in learning more about this special place.

Jeanne Harrah Johnson, Ph.D.

Enduring Traditions Project Manager/NAC Folklife Program Coordinator, 2000–2007

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Research and Writing:

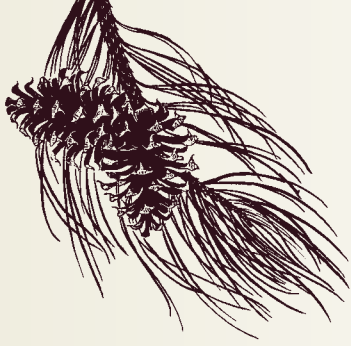
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Produced By:

The Nevada Arts Council
A division of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs



Foreword

Welcome to the cultural and natural beauty of Lake Tahoe, Nevada. This tour leads its followers through the lake's shoreline communities dotted with European, Native American, Hispanic and other cultural groups and their traditions. The natural features of the region are woven together with the history and artistry of Tahoe's people.

Lake Tahoe is unique. The largest alpine lake in North America, it straddles two states and five counties. Nestled in forested mountains that become high desert on the eastern slope, it is the second deepest lake in the United States. It never freezes despite characteristically heavy winter snowfall. Its waters drain not into the ocean, but northeast into the Truckee River with its terminus in semi-saline Pyramid Lake.

The traditional cultures and heritage of Lake Tahoe are as striking and complex as its natural features. Most of the arts featured in *Enduring Traditions* have been passed on for generations. Some, like the Washoe traditions, have been shared for millennia. The heritage of the area reflects not only the lives of the early settlers who used the richness of the land to support themselves, but also reflects those who lived and continue to rely on the urban environment and tourism to sustain their livelihoods. Historically and in today's milieu, particular corners of Lake Tahoe attract wealthy residents and visitors who contribute a culture of their own.

Lake Tahoe's traditional arts, cultures, and significant destinations do not stop at the state boundaries. Though *Enduring Traditions* focuses on the Nevada borders of Lake Tahoe, some maps and segments include California's landscape and people. Distinctions between the two states may be present in an official sense, but the living, working and creative space of the communities and people overlap routinely.

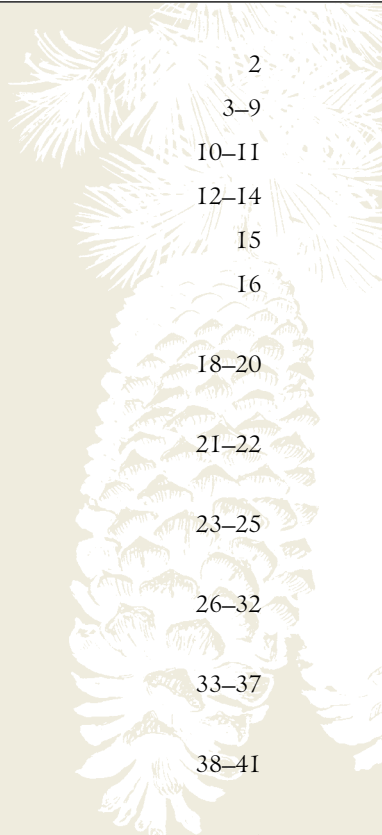
Enduring Traditions, the tour, is perpetually in a process of discovery. Artisans, communities and destinations move, increase or decrease their significance, and surface unexpectedly. The current revised edition offers updated information to guide and intrigue the user. Keep following the paths and exploring the places to enrich your experience even further of one of the world's most beautiful places.

Jeanne Harrah Johnson



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How to Use This Guide

This tour is divided into ten segments featuring themes introduced in the Timeline, pages 3–9. Directions and information about the stops are located in the right or left outside column of each page. Symbols indicate the amenities and cultural themes represented at each stop (See the key on pages I5–I6).

Three routes are featured: Mt. Rose Hwy (SR 431), Hwy 50 over Spooner Summit, and the Kingsbury Grade over Daggett Pass (SR 207). Mt. Rose and Spooner Summit provide the best “first views” of Lake Tahoe. The Kingsbury Grade offers outstanding views overlooking the Carson Valley, and is best driven east.

The tour begins on Mt. Rose, the highest point on the northeast rim of the Lake Tahoe Basin. You can drive west to Tahoe City, or south through Incline Village to the Kingsbury Grade. One leg takes you to the Tallac Historic Site on the south shore. The tour ends on the other side of the mountains that form the basin around Lake Tahoe by driving over the rim on the Kingsbury Grade and then north on Foothill Road to the historic town of Genoa.

We recommend that you read “A Timeline” and the “Segment Profiles” for an overview, then plan your own tour. The “I Am Interested In” section provides a key to stops by cultural theme. Don’t forget to bring this guide with you as you explore your surroundings on foot. Numerous “leg-stretchers,” neighborhood excursions, and longer walks and hikes are featured throughout the guide. Whenever you see an unfamiliar term, organization name, event, or excursion about which you want more information, turn to the corresponding sections in the back of this guide. “More Information” lists references, visitors information, and events calendars, and “How to Sound Like a Local” is a glossary of the acronyms and other terms familiar to locals used in this guide. Check the “Contact” section for a list of agencies, organizations, and some of the featured artists.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS AT LAKE TAHOE:

A TIMELINE

9000 BCE Glaciers begin receding

8000 BCE Big game hunters visit and leave evidence they quarried stone for tools. By 7000 BP, hunter-gatherers begin to stay longer in the mountains and establish camps.



They fish, hunt, and collect plants. They probably lived here year-round. Because of extreme drought during this period, Lake Tahoe is 20' below its rim. If these people were your ancestors, they would be your great (+ 276 more great) grandparents. People camp at Spooner Lake, a swale, not a lake at the time (Spooner Lake Loop Trail, Stop 26).

Organic remains do not survive long in the soils of the Sierra Nevada, but in dry caves of the western Great Basin, archaeologists have recovered basketry dated to this time.

5000 BCE Wetter and cooler conditions approach those of today. The population increases throughout the region, and more people come to Lake Tahoe in the summer, moving back to the valleys during the winter. However, they continue to stay year-round during several periods of significant drought. People continue to camp at Spooner (Stop 26), and begin to camp at Má wi Díme Daga dup (Stop 1) and Lam Watah (Stop 38).

By 4000 BCE, Great Basin weavers are making coiled baskets in addition to twined. Both these techniques persist today in Washoe basketry.

2000 BCE Bows and arrows replace spears, and arrowheads outnumber spear points. Archaeologists suggest the Washoe way of life begins now. But oral traditions tell the Washoe their ancestors were the first people of Lake Tahoe. People continue to camp at Má wi Díme Daga dup (Stop 1) and Lam Watah (Stop 38). Your great (+76 more greats) grandparents were alive 2,000 years ago.



Photo Courtesy of Washoe Tribe

“Tahoe” is derived from the Washoe word *dá ow*, for “lake,” and the Washoe were the first to refer to Lake Tahoe, as people do today, simply as “The Lake.” It is located in the center of their ancestral homeland, and every summer, families return to reclaim camps, fish and hunt, collect plants and process stores for winter.

Washoe weavers state that designs—like those made from bracken fern root—were important to their ancestors for signaling the owner’s lineage and social network. Generations of harvesters maintained and tended collecting areas. Neglected patches produce tangled, small-diameter roots and are difficult to harvest (Stop 24).

1492 Your great (+16 great) grandparents are alive when Columbus discovers the New World.

1844 Your great-great-great grandparents are alive when John C. Fremont is the first Euroamerican to see Lake Tahoe.

1849 The California Gold Rush kicks off road building, way stations, and grazing to support Euroamericans (Europeans who settled first in other parts of the New World) traveling to California, but most traffic bypasses the basin in favor of other routes. Mormon settlers establish a trading post in Carson Valley (Mormon Station, later named Genoa, is Stop 48).

1859 Silver is discovered near Virginia City and the Comstock mining period begins. New routes and way stations are established for two-way traffic through the basin between the Comstock in Nevada and the gold towns of California.

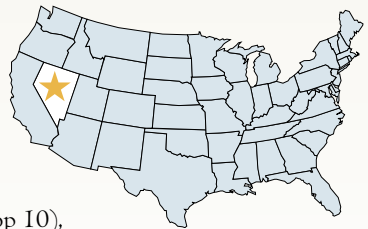
1860 A homestead and toll station at Glenbrook (Stop 30) and a small settlement in Tahoe City (Stop 10) are established. In this decade, ranchers, hostlers, and commercial fishermen profit from supplying travelers and mining centers with hay, vegetables, dairy products, beef, and fish. Small-scale lumbering and fluming begins at Glenbrook. Other independent operators log Spooner Summit (Stop 27) and the Stateline area (Stop 38) through the 1870s.

1861 The Kingsbury Toll Road over Daggett Pass is established and designated as the Pony Express Route (Stop 45).

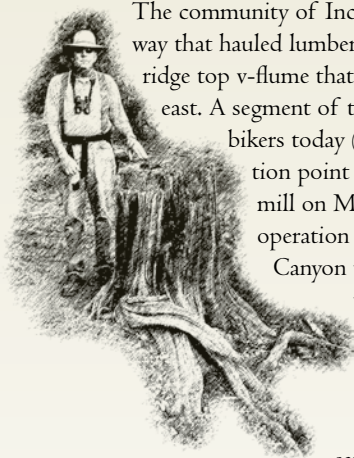
1861–1865 CIVIL WAR

1864 NEVADA BECOMES A STATE

1869 The transcontinental railroad is completed. Lakefront resorts develop at Tahoe City (Stop 10), Glenbrook (Stop 30).



1875–1897 D.L. Bliss and J. P. Yerington's Carson Tahoe Lumber and Fluming Company (CTLFC), headquartered at Glenbrook and W.S. Hobart's Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company on Mill Creek (Incline Village) dominate timber operations that strip the Tahoe Basin of merchantable timber by 1898. Each industrial complex includes barging timber across the lake to collection points and mills, transportation systems with their own railroads, a network of flumes, and elaborate water projects—engineering marvels that require intensive labor to maintain. Hundreds of Chinese work as flume tenders and cordwood cutters for these companies. Remnants of the flumes, railroad grades and trestles, water developments and labor camps dot eastside forests.



The community of Incline Village (Segment 4) is named for the ingenious tramway that hauled lumber directly up the steep incline from the Hobart Mill to the ridge top v-flume that carried lumber to the mining centers in the valleys to the east. A segment of this flume route is the Flume Trail that thrills mountain bikers today (Stop 20). Sand Harbor (Stop 22) was Hobart's collection point for barged timber that was transported by train to his mill on Mill Creek. Glenbrook was the collection point and sawmill operation for the CTLFC. A train hauled lumber up Slaughterhouse Canyon to Spooner Summit and the Clear Creek Flume. Hikes to Skunk Harbor (Stop 25) and in the Marlette-Hobart backcountry (Stop 26) intercept remnants of this RR grade, and the flumes and water works of both systems.

Comstock-era loggers felling timber with cross-cut saws left waist-high stumps. These remnants of Tahoe's ancient forests package information in their tree-rings about past climates and fire regimes. They can be found throughout the eastern forests of Lake Tahoe. Watch for them while walking trails in Segment 1, 5, 6 and 8; and Stops 6 and 31.

- 1890** Lucky Baldwin builds the Tallac Resort and Casino (Stop 42).
- 1891** The "Road to Incline" connects the Reno area directly to Lake Tahoe over Mt. Rose Pass (Segment 1).
- 1896** W. S. Hobart moves his entire operation to Martis Valley.
- 1900** Large-scale timber operators shut down their mills and lease or sell cutover lands primarily for grazing. Timber barons and their heirs develop summer resorts, as lone Basque herders move huge flocks of sheep (1,000–1,500 ewes) through former timberland.



Basque shepherds left messages carved on trees throughout the aspen groves they favored as camps. Many simply state their name and the date; some communicate weather conditions or personal feelings and experiences; many are artistic, some have provoked censorship. Those that endure are carved with the delicate touch of a master. This folk art is an example of a dying tradition since Basque shepherders no longer graze their flocks in these forests or teach their juniors the fine touch needed to leave lasting impressions on living trees. Historic carvings can be found in aspen groves along hiking trails in the Marlette Back Country (Stop 26) and along the Genoa Peak Road (Stop 29).

The Bliss enterprise moves components of their Glenbrook RR to complete a line from Truckee to Tahoe City that terminates on a pier where passengers embark on luxury steamers to destinations around the lake. The family builds the Tahoe Tavern, rivaled only by Lucky Baldwin's Tallac Hotel (Stop 42) and the Glenbrook Inn. Lake Tahoe becomes a summer destination for the wealthy elite and the people who serve them.

The Bliss family continued to operate the Inn until the 1970s, selling 3,000 acres to the LTBMU and 700 acres to the developer of the present gated community, where they continue to maintain a residence. The Inn is now a private home.

1910s

First automobiles travel into the basin, ushering a new era of tourism and road building.



1920–33

PROHIBITION fosters illegal gambling along with speakeasy establishment.

Until recently, legal gaming was unique to Nevada, but gambling—lawful or not—is as American as the cowboy. During the heyday of Comstock logging at Lake Tahoe (1870s–1900), pickup games provided a few hours of diversion in work camps, while timber barons and mining tycoons frequented private casinos, like “Lucky” Baldwin’s Tallac House (Stop 42). By 1900, marketable timber had been cleared from Lake Tahoe, and around the lake, resort life and recreation blossomed. Gambling was one of the amenities summer visitors anticipated. During Prohibition (1919–1932), alcohol was added to the mix by casino/speakeasies that flourished, particularly in Nevada and along the California stateline where enforcement remained lax.

The Cal-Neva, straddling the stateline on the north end of the lake, was the most famous and enduring of these Prohibition-era casinos. It has operated continuously since it was established in 1927 by land developer Robert Sherman to house and entertain business associates and prospective clients. The Cal-Neva and the Stateline Country Club, established in 1930 on the “other” stateline at the south end of the lake, where Harrah’s is today, (Segment 8), continued to dominate the industry when gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931.

The Cal-Neva remained the most glamorous and best-known casino at the lake until the 1960s. By the 1970s, larger gaming complexes on the state line at the south end of the lake began overshadowing this smaller club. Harvey Gross and Bill Harrah, riding the wave of development that engulfed Lake Tahoe after World War II, transformed smaller operations like the Stateline Country Club into competing year-round entertainment complexes, including those that bear their names. Today, Harrah’s and Harvey’s are run by corporations. When Harvey’s was sold to a corporation in 1989, the era of family-owned casinos ended at Lake Tahoe.

1920s

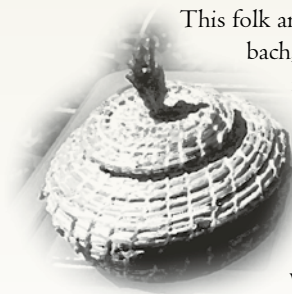
W. S. Hobart Jr., converts his father's logging operation at Sand Harbor into a summer resort for wild house parties and fast boats.

The first auto loop circles the lake in 1925, and entrepreneurs develop former lumber holdings as rustic resorts and subdivisions geared to automobile travelers of more modest means than the very wealthy clientele of the luxury resorts. The Zephyr Cove Properties—now listed as a National Register Historic District (Stop 34) is one of the first of these summer recreational tracts. Gertrude S. Church acquired this parcel and the 36-acre point of land directly south from the CTLFC. She donated “the point” to the Presbyterian Synod of California for a youth camp in 1924. It remains today as the Presbyterian Conference Center (Stop 35). Camp Richardson is one of earliest auto resorts (Segment 9).

1920s
and 30s

Pine needle basketry, perhaps modeled on traditional Gullah or Seminole Indian baskets of sewn bundled grass from the southeastern United States, is “discovered” and developed as a leisure activity by women associated with the “back to nature” and rustic aesthetic of the Arts and Crafts movement. Mrs. Ethyl Vernon, a Tahoe City pioneer, takes up the hobby (The Gatekeeper's Museum exhibits her baskets and those she collected, Stop 10).

This folk art lost favor after WWII but has regained popularity. Marion Steinbach, a collector and accomplished basketweaver, began teaching pine needle basketry for the Gatekeeper's Museum in the 1980s. Mrs. Larena Burns from Carson City was among her first students. Of Washoe and Northern Paiute descent, Mrs. Burns adapted a traditional “Washoe stitch,” and has taught family members how to sew these baskets. Today, her sister-in-law, Brenda Frank, and Audrey Frank, her niece, are masters with their own distinctive styles. The workshop they teach for the Gatekeeper's Museum every summer is so popular, additional sessions are needed to meet the demand.



1929

STOCK MARKET CRASH

1933

ROOSEVELT AND THE NEW DEAL

Many owners of large estates begin to liquidate their holdings. George Whittell, Jr., having pulled his fortune out of the stock market before the crash, is in position to consolidate his massive estate from the Hobart and Bliss holdings over the next decade (Segment 5). The Bliss family retains Glenbrook Valley and C. T. Bliss, son to D. L. Bliss, develops the Zephyr Cove Resort in the 1930s on lands retained by the CTLFC. The resort is eventually absorbed by Whittell in 1937. Roadwork is part of the New Deal that puts people to work as it literally paves the way for promoting tourism in the basin. Highways 50, 89, 28, and 431 are paved and an improved road encircles the lake.

1941–1945 WWII: Fuel rationing and speed limits defer automobile tourism.

**1950s
and 60s**

Post-war prosperity fuels a building boom. Bill Harrah and Harvey Gross consolidate smaller enterprises and develop mega-entertainment complexes at Stateline. Chris Kuralsa and casino partners build the first chairlift and open Heavenly Valley Ski Resort in 1955 (Stop 39 and Segment 10). The synergy provided by both industries generates continual growth, and Lake Tahoe becomes a major year-round tourist destination, requiring more and more services. Community development accelerates around these employment centers, as more and more land is paved, subdivided and developed. Incline Village and the Glenbrook gated community are developed.

Employment and investment opportunities attract newcomers from around the world as seasonal employees and entrepreneurs, laborers and artisans, performers and artists. Skiers, leaving war-torn Europe, gravitate to developing ski resorts at Tahoe. Besides contributing expertise as instructors and designing equipment and facilities, they bring Old World building trades that are in most demand during the summer, the skier's off-season. The influence of these Austrian skier-artisans is evident in the Alpine Style architecture and decorative arts that embellish Tahoe's neighborhoods and public spaces (Segment 4 and Stops 10 and 41).



1970s

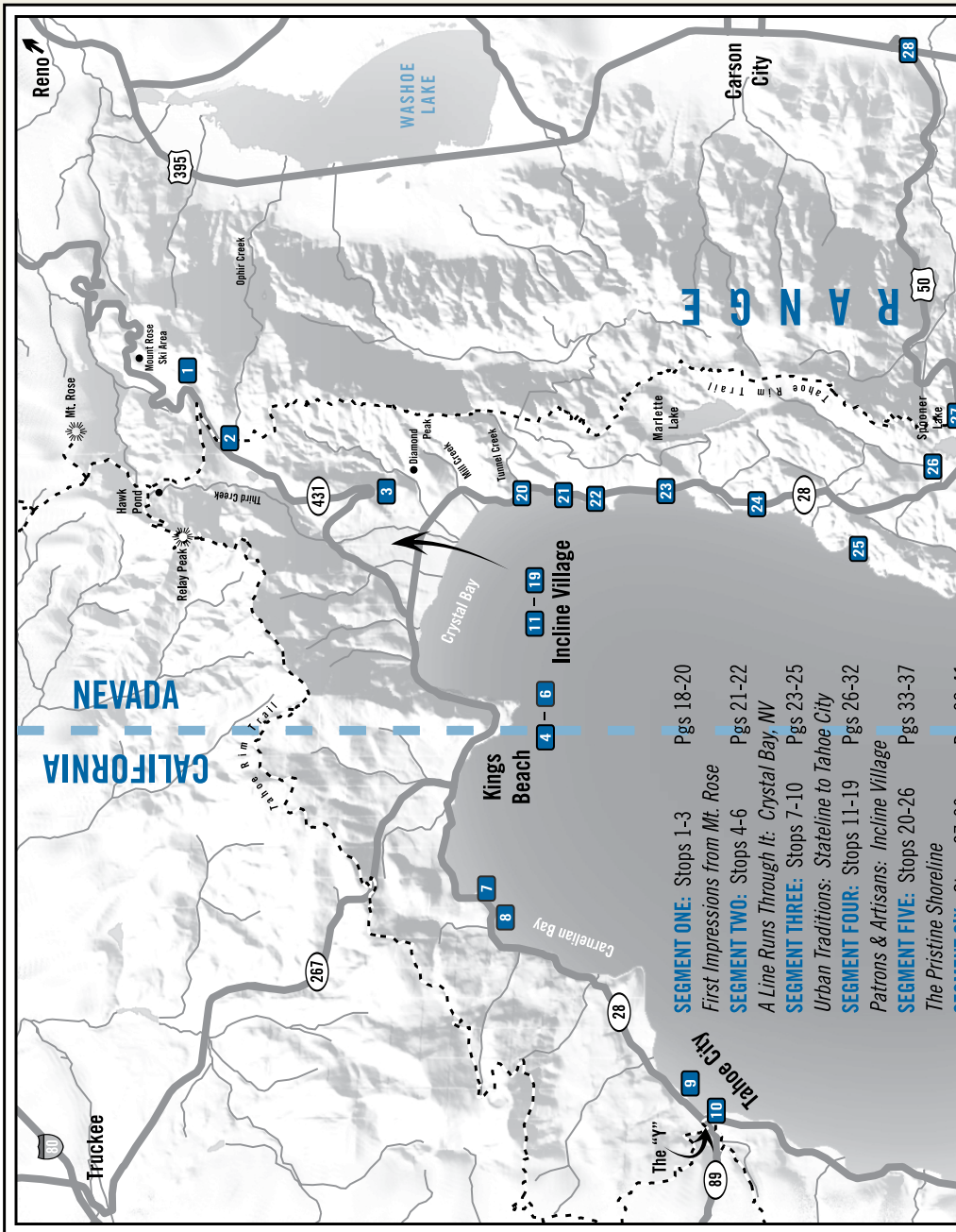
The natural beauty of the lake and quality of recreation opportunities are acknowledged pillars of Tahoe's booming tourism economy, and concerns mount about the effects of unregulated development on the environment (measurably demonstrated at Lake Tahoe by decreasing levels of water clarity). The bi-state Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is established to monitor and regulate development. LTBMU is formed from portions of three National Forests in order to focus management on acquisition of endangered habitats and wetlands, and outdoor recreation. The LTBMU acquires and restores Rabe Meadow (Stop 38), and large parcels of the former Whittell Estate (Segment 5, 6 and 7).



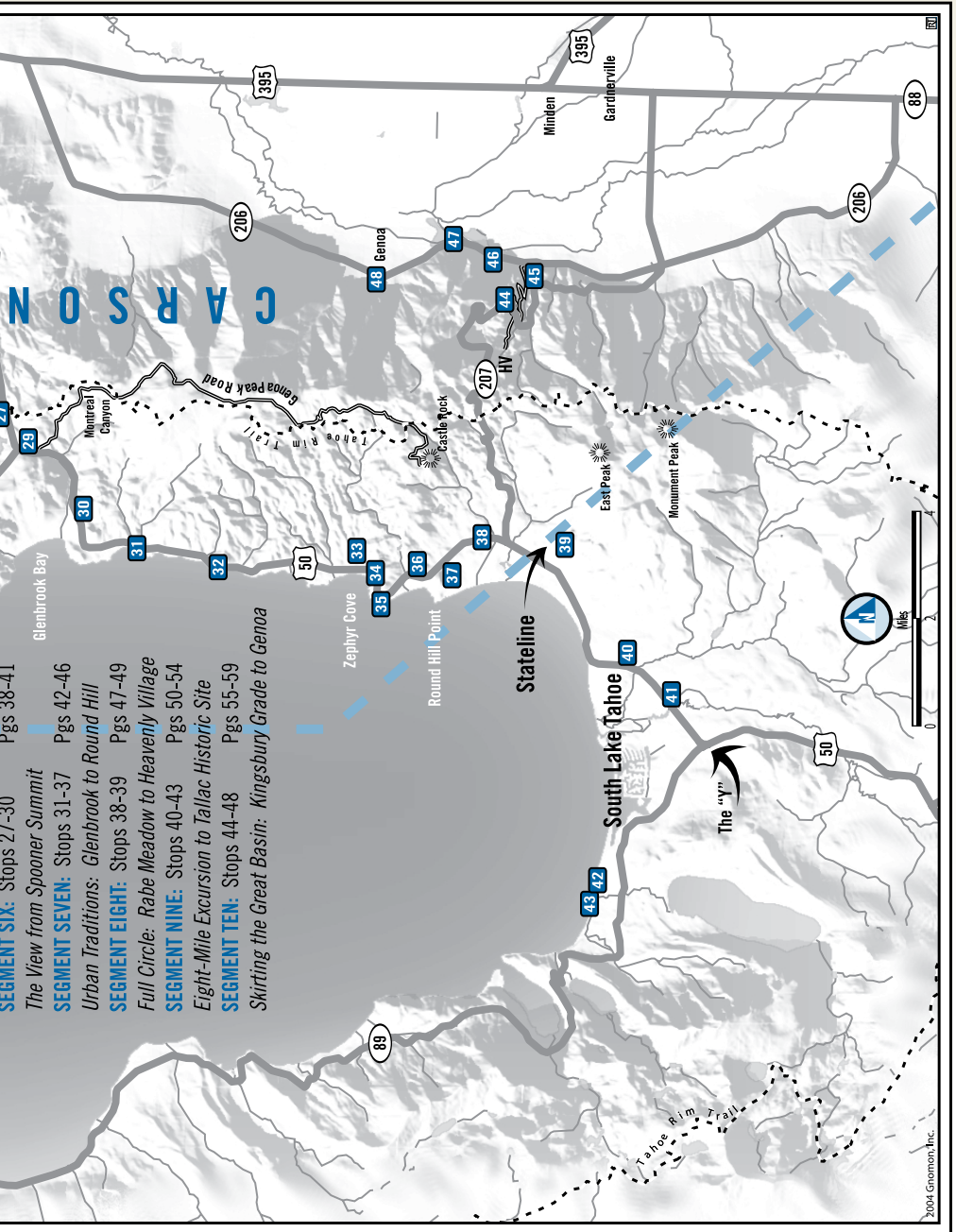
1985–2005 After WWII, many of the domestic arts associated with housework, hard times, and making do that mothers and grandmothers once taught daughters faded from mainstream life. As one quilter stated, every girl wanted “store-bought clothes and a chenille bedspread.” In a similar vein, students of Washoe Indian culture declared that the art of weaving willow baskets based on traditions and techniques thousands of years old would die along with the last few weavers of their day. Yet in the last twenty years, Washoe basket makers and quilters, knitters, spinners, and weavers from a broad range of backgrounds have “rediscovered” these traditional arts, reveling in improved tools and new materials, and the discovery of their own legacies and community solidarity. They are part of a nationwide grassroots revival, fueled across the miles by the internet and in communities by guilds, workgroups, retreats, workshops, festivals, and exhibitions. Their creations may be fine art or functional products. They may be hobbyists or full-time artisans, instructors, or community volunteers. Their creations may be for personal use, gifts, for sale, or for donation, but in every case, the process of discovery and sense of community remain as important as the resulting art.

2005–Present Local and regional events and festivals celebrating Celtic culture, ethnic music, Native American traditional baskets and other arts, along with hiking and water sports attract visitors throughout the summer months. Skiing, snowboarding and show shoeing are magnets for Nevadans and Californians (primarily) in the winter months. The knitters and wool spinners continue their guilds; the quilters, wood workers, and iron/metal smiths promote “Tahoe style” art work (with chalets, fir and pine trees, and mountainous lake images) to ensure that the stamp of Tahoe’s uniqueness is emblazoned both upon the memories and the materials people live with and carry away. While the rest of the country struggles with an uncertain economy, the ethnic communities of Tahoe have been reduced, and home owners in Incline Village and Glenbrook have maintained stability and continued to support local artists and craftspeople through their purchases and upgrades.

Enduring Traditions



Map



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Segment Profiles

SEGMENT 1

First Impressions From Mount Rose. Stops 1 and 2 feature leisurely walks into sun-drenched meadows. Visit a prehistoric site (Stop 1), or plan more ambitious hikes on well-marked trails of varying lengths and difficulty to exhilarating vistas. A picnic stop or brief stroll into Tahoe Meadows (Stop 2) during the wildflower bloom late June-September provides the perfect backdrop for absorbing a bit of history and invites discovery of some of the native plants important in Washoe Indian traditional culture. Stop 3, overlooking Incline Village, has the best view of the lake from this highway. Stops 2 and 3 are the most accessible for visitors with limited time or physical restrictions.

SEGMENT 2

A Line Runs Through It: Crystal Bay, Nevada. Here, it is possible to stand with one foot in California and another in Nevada. Stops 4 and 5, the Cal-Neva Casino—the oldest continuously operated casino in North America—and the Soule Domain Restaurant are icons of gambling history and offer dining and accommodations enhanced by the historic setting and tours. Stop 6 is a short but invigorating walk to sweeping views of the north shore. Informative signs and strategically placed benches are a bonus.

SEGMENT 3

Urban Traditions: Stateline to Tahoe City. Call ahead to arrange a visit to the Sierra Boat Company's workshop (Stop 7) to watch master craftsmen restore classic wooden boats. In August, the marina hosts the *Concours d'Elegance*, one of the premier wooden boat shows in the country. Stops 8 and 9 include examples of several decorative arts featured in other segments. The Cobblestone Plaza and Commons Beach in Tahoe City (Stop 9) and the Gatekeepers Museum and Bridgetenders Tavern & Grill (Stop 10) provide dining and shopping, picnic grounds, local history, cultural events, and opportunities to meet local artisans.

SEGMENT 4

Patrons and Artisans: Incline Village. You are invited to discover masterworks of alpine-style architectural arts, chainsaw sculptures, wrought iron gates, and other examples of craftsmanship showcased in the homes and landscapes of this relatively new community. Stops 11 through 17 identify neighborhood streets. We ask that you respect the privacy of the residents as you explore.



Segment Profiles

SEGMENT 5

The Pristine Shoreline. Swimming, sunning, picnicking, hiking, and other outdoor adventures provide opportunities to learn more about the cultural heritage of Lake Tahoe while exploring undeveloped beaches and backcountry. This segment features unobstructed views of Lake Tahoe along the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline around the lake. Stops 20, 24, and 25 access secluded walk-in beaches. Sand Harbor State Park (Stop 22) offers similar views from a beautiful public beach and boat launch with ample parking and facilities. These public lands were all once the private estate of eccentric playboy millionaire, George Whittell, Jr., and you can catch a glimpse of his private estate, the Thunderbird Lodge (Stop 23), but need to arrange entry with the nonprofit organization that manages the estate as a house museum (See “Contacts”). Learn how master Washoe basket weavers collect and process bracken fern for decorative black fiber (Stop 24).

SEGMENT 6

The View from Spooner Summit. A roadside pullout (Stop 30) offers an outstanding “first view” of the lake just below Spooner Summit. Near the summit itself, Stop 27 features the history of Comstock logging and road building, and access to trailheads on either side of the highway to the TRT. High-clearance vehicles can access the Genoa Peak backcountry road from Stop 29 to explore aspen groves and discover *arborglyphs* (carvings on tree trunks) carved by Basque sheepherders (1890s–1960s). Timeless Sculptures Workshop & Gallery (Stop 28) provides an opportunity to see works-in-progress and visit with Matthew Welter, a pioneer in the folk art of chainsaw sculpture.

SEGMENT 7

Urban Traditions: Glenbrook to Round Hill. A leg-stretcher at Logan Shoals (Stop 31) and lake-level parking at the Cave Rock boat launch (Stop 32) provide rare insight into Washoe Indian cosmology, represented by Cave Rock. September 11—inspired firehouse carvings by chainsaw artist, Jerry Toste, can be seen at Stops 33 and 37. The historic Zephyr Cove Lodge (Stop 34) combines opportunities to dine in a historic setting, join a boat tour, and stroll through the historic residential district. In June, visitors can see needlework, knitting, embroidery, and quilting by masters from around the world during annual artists retreats hosted by the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center (Stop 35).



Segment Profiles

SEGMENT 8

Full Circle: Rabe Meadow to Heavenly Village. Take a break from the stream of non-stop traffic headed towards Stateline, the casino district of the lake. Free parking at Stop 38 offers opportunities to stroll or join local joggers on the Lam Watah interpretive trail through this undulating meadow. Nevada Beach is a mile away, stretch your legs and recapture a bit of pre-developed Tahoe in this meadow and contemplate the contrast with the casino skyline on the margins. Casino and skiing history are featured with other points of interest in the Stateline area itself.
















SEGMENT 9

Eight-Mile Excursion to Tallac Historic Site. Stops 42 and 43 are at the end of an excursion along the south shore in California to three neighboring resort estates listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is managed by LTBMU and features exhibits, a house museum, living history programs, and many cultural arts events, including the annual *Wa She Shu It Deb*, Native American Arts Festival, hosted in July by the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada. You could easily spend the day here and it is worth the visit simply to walk through the informal grounds that link these three lakeside resorts dating to the Gilded Age of Lake Tahoe.










SEGMENT 10

Skirting the Great Basin: Kingsbury Grade to Genoa. This final segment provides sweeping vistas of the Carson Valley just below and on the other side of the Carson Range that forms the divide between the Lake Tahoe Basin and the greater Great Basin. You are encouraged to turn north on Foothill Road and end your tour of Lake Tahoe, Nevada by exploring historic Genoa (Stop 48).

Enduring Traditions Symbols

Symbol	How Do I Find?	Stops
	Accessible trails	2, 22, 42, 43
	Bathrooms	1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 21, 22, 26, 27, 32, 42, 43, 48
	Boating destination	20, 22, 25, 32
	Dining	4, 5, 9, 10, 34, 39, 41, 47, 48
	Events and special programs	7, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22, 28, 35, 42, 43, 48
	Federally recognized heritage site (listed or eligible for the National Register)	23, 25, 26, 31, 32, 34, 42, 48
	Fishing	26, 32
	Lakeshore access/swimming	10, 20, 22, 24, 25, 32, 34, 42, 43
	Museums or tours	4, 10, 23, 26, 40, 42, 48
	Parking	1, 2, 4, 10, 18, 19, 21, 24, 27, 28, 31, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47, 48
	Parking (\$ indicates fee)	22, 26, 32, 34, 39
	Picnic tables	1, 2, 9, 10, 22, 26, 27, 32, 42, 43, 48
	Shopping	9, 39, 48
	Snowplay/x-country ski trails	2, 26, 29, 39, 42
	Trails	24, 29
	Trails/interpretive signage	1, 2, 6, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 31, 38, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48
	Vistas/overlooks	3, 6, 23, 30, 44
	Visitor information centers	10, 19, 36, 40, 42, 43, 48

Enduring Traditions Symbols

Symbol	I Am Interested In...	Stops
	Alpine style architecture	9, 11, 14-17, 41
	Basque sheepherder tree carvings	26, 29
	Chainsaw sculpture	4, 8, 9, 10, 11-13, 15, 28, 33, 37, 39
	Comstock logging and road building	2, 22, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 45, 46, 47
	Contemporary urban traditional culture	9, 10, 35, 42, 48
	Gambling history and lore	4, 5, 38, 42
	Gilded Age resort/recreation	24, 25, 42
	Traditional culture Washoe Indian	1, 2, 10, 24, 26, 31, 32, 38, 42
	Wooden boats	7



Glossary

Arborglyphs – Carvings by Basque sheepherders on tree trunks.

Bauernmalerei – A German decorative folk art.

Concours d'Elegance – One of the premier wooden boat shows in the country, held here every August since 1971.

Dá ow – Washoe word for “lake.

Dehgoosh – One of the many *Umbelliferae* valued by the Washoe as food or medicine.

Hakela – A Polynesian dance.

Kombatan – A form of Filipino stick-fighting known as *Escrima* or *Arnis*.

Luftmalerei – A Bavarian version of the painting style called *trompe l'oeil*. *Trompe l'oeil* paintings attempt to deceive the viewer into believing a painted image is reality—for instance, that the surrounding of a window has multiple layers, depth, and is made of wood and ceramics, when in fact it is an illusion, and the window decoration is a flat, painted surface.

Má wi Díme Daga dup – Hawk Pond, a prehistoric campsite, known to Washoe elders as “Hawk Standing Here Spring.”

Paskong – A traditional Filipino Christmas.

Sgraffito (sometimes spelled *scraffito*) – A technique of wall décor produced by applying layers of plaster tinted in contrasting colors to a moistened surface, then scratching to produce an outline drawing.

Shoogill (*Wyethia mollis*), or mule’s ear – Seeds are harvested in the fall. They were roasted for winter storage, and ground into flour. Occasional fires kept these plants healthy and pest-free.

Shoogil eatsa (“little shoogil”) (*Balsamborrhiza sagitta*) – Arrow-leaved balsam root. Aromatic leaves reference medicinal properties.

Trompe l’oeil – Wood graining, and marbling techniques.

Umbelliferae (Latin name) – Many plants in the carrot family, characterized by these umbrella-shaped flower heads, are used as food and medicines. Others are toxic. The Washoe had the precise knowledge needed to use them safely.

Wa Dak Sha (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) – Lupines are highly toxic, but this large-leaved lupine was collected and processed as a spring tonic and dried into cakes for winter vitamins and minerals.

Wa She Shu It Deh – The annual Native American Arts Festival hosted by the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada every July.

Yampa (*Perideridia sp.*) – One of the many *Umbelliferae* valued by the Washoe as food or medicine.



The journey begins here.



Segment One

STOP I

Mt. Rose Summit Welcome Center and Hawk Pond

On the west side of Hwy 431, a little more than 15 miles from Hwy 395.

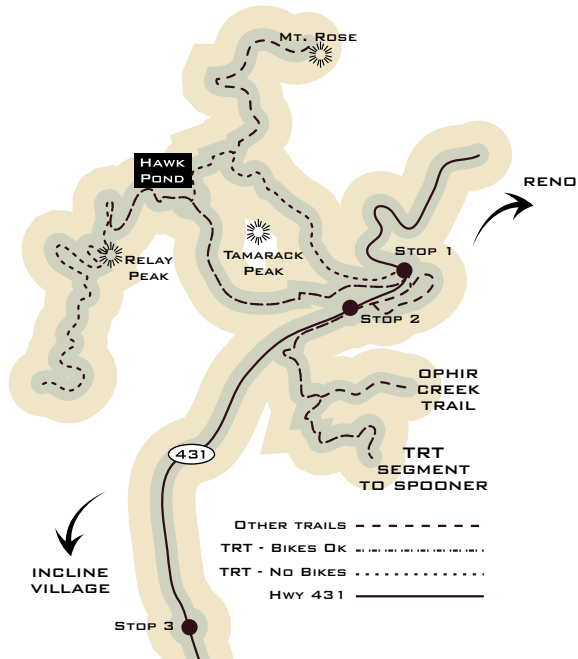
At 8900', you are on the highest pass in the Sierra Nevada open year-round to vehicles. Your first glimpse of Lake Tahoe from your car is just around the next curve. But for truly breathtaking "first views," consider a short if invigorating walk up the northern leg of the loop trail from this parking lot. But be prepared to want to linger and discover why Mt. Rose remains a locals' favorite and one of the most popular hiking destinations at Lake Tahoe.

A little more than 3 miles up the trail, a path leads past a small spring-fed pond. The small tree-covered knoll overlooking the meadow filled with wildflowers from late June-August, is a prehistoric campsite, known to Washoe elders as *Má wi Díme Daga dup*, or "Hawk Standing Here Spring."

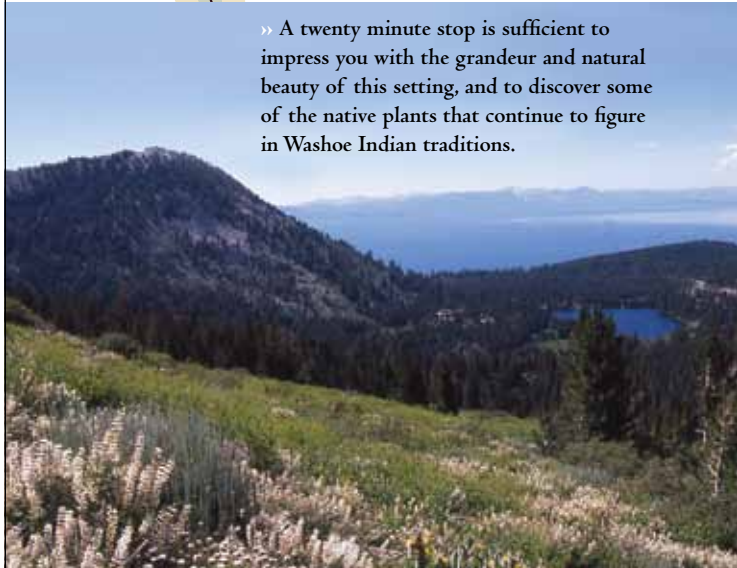


First Impressions From Mt. Rose

The rigorous 12-mile roundtrip hike to the Mt. Rose Summit (10,766') or 8-mile roundtrip hike to Relay Peak (10,338') offer ultimate views—on a clear day, as far as Mt. Shasta—but more moderate efforts are also rewarding.



» A twenty minute stop is sufficient to impress you with the grandeur and natural beauty of this setting, and to discover some of the native plants that continue to figure in Washoe Indian traditions.



Mt. Rose



» Archaeological evidence suggests hunter-gatherers discovered Hawk Pond, or *Má wi Díme Daga dup* as long as 5,000–7,000 years ago, and that Native Americans continued to camp here until the 1800s. Washoe tradition tells them these people were their own ancestors.

Sites like Hawk Pond recall Washoe heritage and contain information about the past. Most have been covered by modern construction and contemporary uses. Those left are fragile and subject to damage. Enjoy your visit and please respect the laws that prohibit digging or other disturbance, leaving it as you find it for others to enjoy.

You may find boulders here with smoothed surfaces—prehistoric kitchen counters and appliances where food was pulverized and ground. Other evidence, including basalt and obsidian stone tools were removed for analyses that sourced them to far-flung quarries, evidence that prehistoric societies—like our own today—were enriched by travel, trade, and cultural exchange.



» Mr. Steven James, with the Washoe Language Program, is one of the elders who contributed the traditional name of *Má wi Díme Daga dup*. He is conferring with Ms. Jo Ann Nevers, Washoe historian and author, about an ancient rock shelter last used in the 1940s by his own father, Mr. Roma James.

STOP 1

Take the bicycle-friendly 2.5-mile dirt road back to the parking lot to complete the 6-mile loop. (You can also hike this road in both directions for a shorter, 5-mile hike to the pond.)

STOP 2

Tahoe Meadows

About 0.5 miles south on the other side (east) of the Mt. Rose Hwy.

This stop accesses several trails, including another segment of the TRT known for outstanding views. The Ophir Creek Trail descends from here to Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley, and the 1-mile Interpretive Loop Trail is wheelchair/stroller-accessible, an easy leg-stretcher for viewing the wildflowers in the summer and identifying Washoe cultural plants. Signs interpreting natural and cultural history are a bonus.



STOP 3

Incline Village Overlook

Just under 4 miles from Stop 2. If southbound, use extra caution as you pull off on the south side of the highway for the best view of Lake Tahoe from the road. Diamond Peak Ski Resort and the golf courses, private beaches, and homes of modern Incline Village below preview the urban emphasis of the next segments.



Mt. Rose

Not much remains to mark the lives of so many generations of human beings. Much of the Washoe world was constructed of renewable and perishable plant fibers, animal bone and skin, and their history and traditions were passed by word-of-mouth.

Washoe elders teach that the survival of so many generations depended on good stewardship, applying lessons learned by listening to the land. The use and care of native plants is one way to learn from the land. Locating, harvesting, and preparing native plants, nurturing and sustaining them for future generations, are part of the traditional knowledge Washoe people teach their children.

Shoogill (*Wyethia mollis*), or mule's ear. Seeds are harvested in the fall. They were roasted for winter storage, and ground into flour. Occasional fires kept these plants healthy and pest-free (Page 33).

Shoogil eatsa ("little shoogil") (*Balsamorhiza sagitta*). Arrow-leaved balsam root. Aromatic leaves reference medicinal properties (Page 33).

Umbelliferae (Latin name). Many plants in the carrot family, characterized by these umbrella-shaped flower heads, are used as food and medicines. Others are toxic. The Washoe had the precise knowledge needed to use them safely (Page 34).

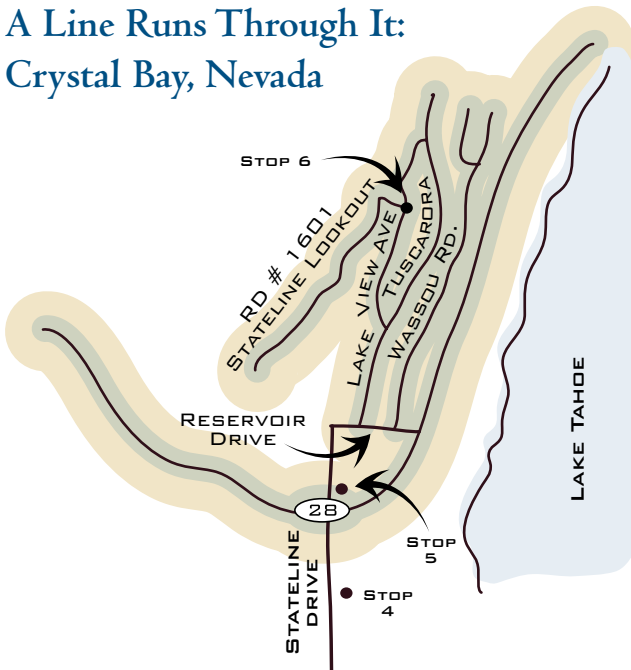
WARNING: Do NOT attempt to make medicines or food from wild plants.

» **Wa Dak Sha** (*Lupinus polypyllus*) Lupines are highly toxic, but this large-leaved lupine was collected and processed as a spring tonic and dried into cakes for winter vitamins and minerals.



Segment Two

A Line Runs Through It: Crystal Bay, Nevada



» Totem Pole in front of the Cal-Neva by Bill Carson. Paint is not only traditional, it helps preserve the wood, and must be reapplied every few years.

This icon is said to be the oldest continuously run casino in the country. Highlights include the painted Nevada-California state line that bisects the 1930s “Indian Room” and the bottom of the swimming pool outside. Note the totem pole in front and the domed crystal skylight in the Circle Bar with Rat Pack memorabilia. Plan dinner with an evening tour of tunnels connecting guest cabins once frequented by one-time owner Frank Sinatra and his guests.

STOP 4

**Cal-Neva Resort,
Spa and Casino**
2 Stateline Road
Crystal Bay, NV 89402
800-233-5551
www.calnevaresort.com
3 miles west from the junction with Hwy 431, be prepared for an abrupt turn south into the parking lot right after passing the Tahoe Biltmore on the opposite side of Hwy 28.



STOP 5

**The Soule Domain
Restaurant**
9983 Cove Street
Brockway, CA 96143
530-546-7529
www.souledomain.com
Across the highway from the Cal-Neva 1/2 block up Stateline Road.

This low-profile gem is a favorite with locals for gourmet Tahoe Cuisine in the intimate atmosphere of a restored cabin-with-a-history. Reservations are recommended, and go early for an informal tour by one of the Soule brothers, the owners and chefs.



STOP 6

Stateline Lookout

Turn right onto Lakeview Ave. from Reservoir Road accessed directly from Hwy 28 just north of the Tahoe Biltmore Casino, or from Stateline Road south of the Tahoe Biltmore. Drive on Lakeview 0.6 miles to the green gate.



» Chef Charlie Soule (pictured here) and brother Stephen acquired the cabin in 1978. They maintained its historic character while renovating, learning about its checkered history as they went along. According to local lore, Harry Riley constructed the cabin in 1927, and when he left in the early 1940s, it became a flophouse for gamblers too drunk to get home, and for cooks and late-night employees of the Cal-Neva. It also housed African-American entertainers, who could work but not stay in casinos, through the segregated 1950s. It remained empty and neglected for 20 years, until the Soule brothers came to the rescue.

Crystal Bay, Nevada

Consider working up an appetite with a 0.5 mile (but steep!) walk to this overlook constructed where a fire lookout once stood. Walk across the stateline between Nevada and California to stunning views of the north shore, complimented by signs interpreting area history and strategically placed benches.



» One of several signs that explain local history. Behind, you see anchorages in front of the communities of Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista. The Sierra Boat Company (Stop 7) is tucked behind the first point of land extending into the lake, and Tahoe City and the outlet of Lake Tahoe are obscured by the largest point in view.



Segment Three

Urban Traditions: Stateline to Tahoe City



» From left to right: the *Steinway*—1929 26' Hacker Craft, winner of four 2002 *Concours d'Elegance* awards, including Best of Show for craft over 23'—Taylor Peterson standing with father, Jeff Peterson (behind), grandmother, Lucille Peterson, and family friend and fellow antique boat enthusiast, Eric Fox. Awards notwithstanding, collectors seek the finest craftsmen and women to restore these beauties to top running order. The joy for collectors like the Petersons is in using their boats. Some of the best restoration specialists in the country are with the Sierra Boat Company.

» Chainsaw artist, Matthew Welter, fixing a nameplate on this North Lake Boulevard sculpture. Most clients select animals, rather than human figures or abstract designs for yard art.



STOP 7

Sierra Boat Company
5146 North Lake Blvd.
Carnelian Bay, CA 96140
530-546-2551

www.sierraboat.com

Master restorers and apprentices bring vintage wooden runabouts (small, open motorboats) “up to speed” and handcraft smaller wooden crafts. Check on dates for the two-day *Concours d'Elegance*, one of the premier wooden boat shows in the country, held here every August since 1971. Call ahead for special tours of works-in-progress.



STOP 8

Tree Sculpture

3/10 of a mile west on the lake side of North Lake Boulevard.

Here is one of many dead trees around the lake that chainsaw artists like Matthew Welter have transformed into rooted yard art. Visit Mr. Welter's workshop studio, *Timeless Sculptures* (Stop 28).



STOP 9

The “Big Tree” Sculpture & Cobblestone Center

Tahoe City, CA
530-583-1580
www.cobblestonetaho.com
6 miles west on North Lake
Boulevard.

The sculpted tree by master-carver Rand Oertle, friend and associate of Matthew Welter, dominates the sidewalk above The Commons, a public lakefront recreation facility. Stop for a stroll or picnic. Visit the Watson Historic Cabin and walk west to the North Tahoe Arts Center (380 North Lake Boulevard, next to fire station) for exhibits featuring local artists. Be sure to check the events link on Tahoe City’s website for cultural events, including weekly farmer’s market.



» Master weaver, Pat Nelson, and her husband/apprentice, Eric, find a steady market for hand-spun and dyed skeins of wool, popular with a growing number of knitters.

Stateline to Tahoe City



» Here, local artisans display their products and demonstrate their craft. Spinner-weaver Pat Nelson is accepting a rag rug woven by apprentice Amy Dillon. Mrs. Nelson weaves colorful rugs from selvage cuttings she buys in bulk from the Pendleton Blanket Factory. She uses techniques originated by colonial homemakers to weave rugs, and which, like quilts, recycle worn out clothing into beautiful household objects.

» Look for wet-plaster murals and *graffito* Alpine motifs in the Cobblestone Shopping Center by Fred Albrecht and Horst Essl (featured in Segment 4). Stop by Three Dog Knit, offering classes and quality yarns.



Three Dog Knit
475 North Lake Boulevard,
Suite 103
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-0001

Stateline to Tahoe City

There are information kiosks and picnic areas on the museum grounds directly on the outlet of Lake Tahoe. The Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum housed at the Gatekeepers Museum features over 800 baskets representing more than 85 tribes nationwide. The museum is a perfect setting for the annual Native American Basketweavers Market held in the fall, and for summer workshops in pine needle basketry. Check the museum website for these and other special events and exhibitions.

» Petey Walsh and Audrey Frank. Pine needle basketry is a tradition mastered by Indian and non-native weavers alike.



» These small lidded baskets averaging 2” in diameter are the creations of Brenda Frank, who is one of the instructors for the workshops. Mrs. Frank sews her baskets with artificial sinew in a slant stitch pattern, unlike her sister-in-law and instructor, Larena Burns. Mrs. Burns and niece, Audrey Frank, prefer the straight up and down “Washoe stitch” adapted from traditional willow basketry by Mrs. Burns.



STOP 10

**The Outlet of Lake Tahoe:
Gatekeepers Museum**
North Lake Tahoe
Historical Society
P.O. Box 6141
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-7622

www.northtaheomuseums.org

Turn south on 89 at the signal, cross “Fanny Bridge,” named to reflect the body part most visible when tourists lean over the bridge to see the workings of the water flow system. Turn immediately left into public parking for the museum.

Bridgetender Tavern & Grill
65 West Lake Boulevard
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-3342

www.tahoebridgetender.com

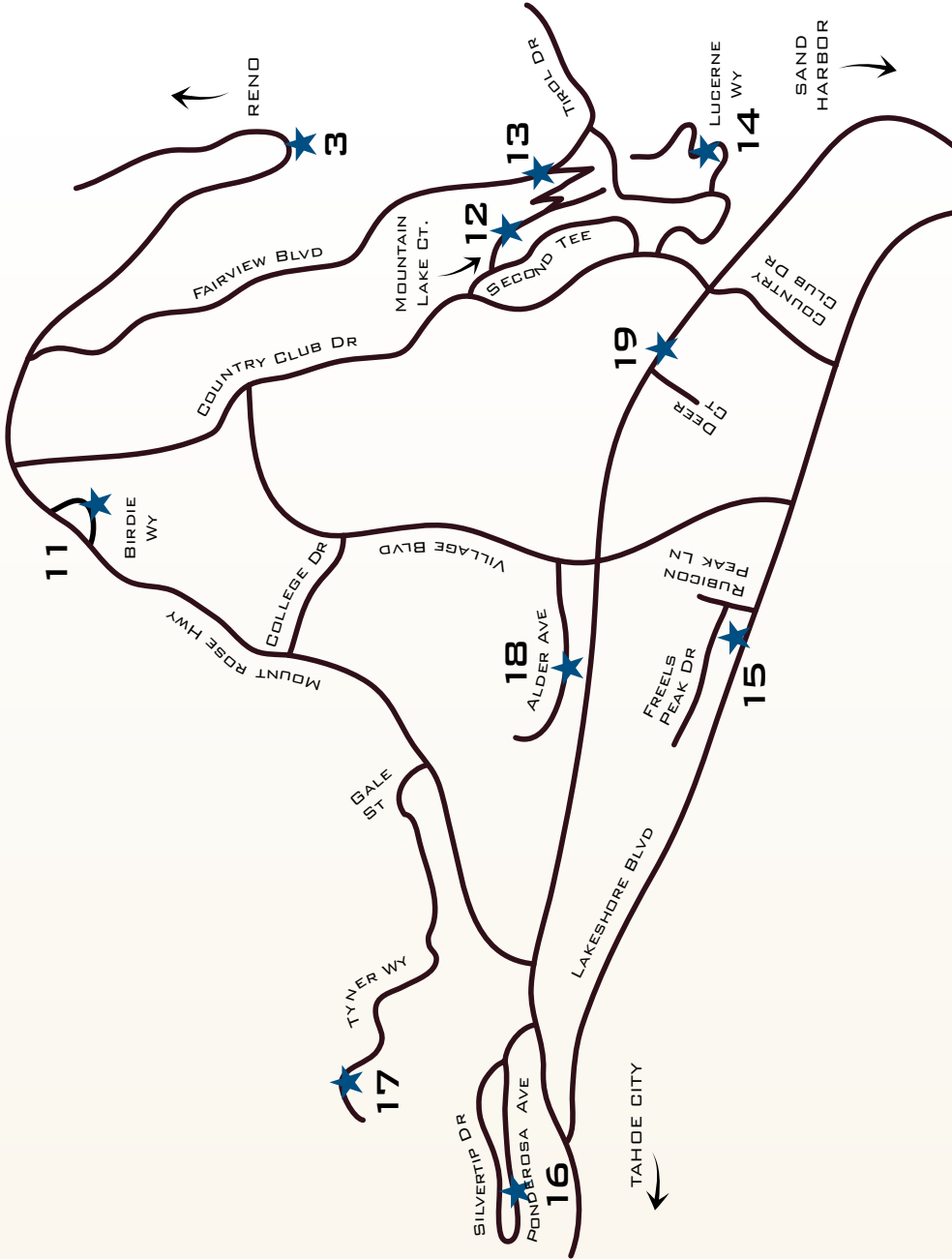
The Bridgetender is directly across the highway. A popular bar and lunch spot, the Bridgetender is also the “birthplace” of chainsaw sculpting at Lake Tahoe. Be sure to go inside and ask to see more Matt Welter carvings, whose “Bridgetender” figure is perched on top of the restaurant.



Segment Four

Patrons and Artisans: Incline Village

Please remember to stay on public thoroughfares and walkways when exploring these residential neighborhoods.



Incline Village



» (Below) Look for structural attributes and decorative arts that define the Alpine Style, including *sgraffito* murals by Fred Albrecht (Stop II).



STOP II

Birdie Way

Take the second left, 1.5 miles west from Stop 3, or the third right, 2 miles north from the intersection of the Mt. Rose Hwy and Tahoe Boulevard (Hwy 28).

The elaborate log cabin rustic style is favored by many lake residents. This example positively bristles with wooden architectural carvings and yard art. Many are the creations of chainsaw sculptor Matthew Welter and his students from Timeless Sculptures Workshop & Gallery (Stop 28).



STOP I2

Mountain Lake Court

From Birdie Way (Stop II), turn right (northeast) on the Mount Rose Hwy, then right (south) on Country Club Drive. 1.4 miles, turn left (east) onto Second Tee Drive. Turn left less than 0.1 mile onto Mountain Lake Court.



STOP 13

Fairview Blvd.

Continue south on Mountain Lake Court. Turn left onto Wilderness Court. Take the first right on First Green Drive (no street sign), then left onto Fairview Boulevard. Look for the tree sculpture on your left.



STOP 14

Tyrolia Subdivision

Head back on Fairview Boulevard, turn right onto Ski Way. Lucerne Drive, the entrance to this subdivision, is 0.4 miles on your left. Drive slowly approximately 0.2 miles to Altdorf Terrace. Turn right and climb to parking in front of the clubhouse.

This subdivision is dedicated to preserving the Alpine Style architecture specific to the chalets of Bavaria, introduced to Lake Tahoe after World War II by European skier-artisans. Explore this enclave on foot and look for *scraffito* executed by Fred Albrecht and featured artisan Horst Essl.



Incline Village



» Look for this art nouveau style wrought iron fence, the work of Austrian-born and trained blacksmith Erwin Antonitsch of Reno. The tree sculpture in front of this house, by Welter, is a unique example of abstract art in a medium dominated by animal figures (Stop 12).



» Most clients commission naturalistic carvings of wildlife for their Tahoe homes and businesses. This carving, by one of Welter's apprentices, features an eagle, second only to bears in popularity (Stop 11).

Incline Village



» This home demonstrates the key elements of the Bavarian Alpine Style. Look for use of wood above the snowline with stone or plaster cladding below; pitched roofs with extended gables supported by massive consoles to withstand heavy snowloads; windows flanked by protective shutters with cutout or painted designs; arched doorways with painted or *sgraffito* surrounds; iron grillwork; wet-plaster murals and *sgraffito* panels. Deep second-story balconies and geranium-filled window boxes are also typical.

» Colorful designs often frame windows and doors, as well as the white plaster walls of Bavarian chalets. Alpine floral, animal, folk motifs and symbols are either painted on wet plaster or, as in this example, built into the plaster in *sgraffito*, a Roman decorative art adopted by Bavarian artisans centuries ago. The artist applies layers of colored plaster right onto the wall, and must know precisely when to begin carving through the layers to create motifs in 3-D; and it all must be completed before the plaster sets. *Sgraffito* masters must work continuously from the time the layers are applied. Eighteen to 24 hours may be required (Stop 14).



STOP 15

Lakeshore Boulevard and Freels Peak Drive

Turn south on Ski Way and continue west to Country Club Drive. Turn south and cross Tahoe Boulevard (Hwy 28) to Lakeshore Boulevard. Turn right (west). Turn north on Rubicon Peak Lane then west on Freels Peak Drive. Work your way back onto Lakeshore Drive.

There is no public access to the gated private beaches along Lakeshore Drive, but no visitor can resist tantalizing glimpses of exclusive estates behind magnificent gates and enclosures, themselves masterpieces of custom craftsmanship. These and the more visible homes on the north side of Lakeshore are best studied by walking a portion of the trail on the south side of Lakeshore Drive. The loop that takes in Freels Peak Drive provides many examples, on a smaller scale, of custom Tahoe architecture. Note the importance of stone, ironwork, timber, and copper cladding. Look for influences of the Alpine Style.



STOP 16

Ponderosa-Silvertip Loop

From the east end of Lakeshore Drive, turn right (east) onto Hwy 28 (Tahoe Boulevard). Turn left (north) onto Ponderosa Avenue. Continue west, joining Silvertip to complete this loop.

The Alpine Style residence on the south side of Ponderosa Avenue bears all the attributes of the Bavarian chalet, including *sgraffito* and *luftmalerei* paintings on the white stucco exteriors, and around the doors and windows. Featured artist Horst Essl and his assistant and wife, Jean Richmond created these and many of the murals in Incline Village. Look for the religious-themed mural on the upper story of the east side of their home located on the north side of Silvertip Drive.



Incline Village



» *Sgraffito* panel by the late Fred Albrecht on the clubhouse in Tyrolian Village (Stop 14). Few artists are willing to master such physically demanding techniques, and few clients are willing to pay for such intensive labor as well as artistry. Mr. Albrecht's daughter, Christy Joyce of Carson City, mastered wet plaster and faux painting with her father but not *sgraffito*, noting it is too physically demanding; Mr. Essl attempted to train apprentices, but candidates lost interest after a single season. Without apprentices, *sgraffito*, like Basque arborglyphs, may become an endangered tradition.



» The facade of this home in Tyrolian Village exhibits signature elements of the Bavarian Alpine Style: arched windows and doors, decorative iron grilles, white plaster walls, and painted embellishments.

Incline Village



» Husband and wife Horst Essl and Jean Richmond, master and apprentice of *sgraffito* and *luftmalerei*, in front of a mural detail on their home. Born in Austria, Essl was already an accomplished skier when he apprenticed with a master house painter. Like many other Austrian, German, and Swiss skiers, Essl found his expertise in demand for the ski industry developing in the United States. Essl and Richmond came to Heavenly Valley in 1968, where Essl was a ski instructor for the next 9 years. In the summers, they created and maintained *sgraffito* sculptural elements, frescoes, floral designs and embellishments for ski communities. Essl is a master of *trompe l'oeil*, wood graining, and marbling techniques. He is also a cabinetmaker and expert in *bauernmalerei*, a German decorative folk art.

STOP 17

Tyner Way

From the intersection with Hwy 28 (Tahoe Boulevard), take the Mt. Rose Hwy north, 0.7 miles. Turn left (west) on Gale Street, then left onto Tyner Way.

Another Bavarian Alpine Style home is located at the end of Tyner Way, featuring *sgraffito* and *luftmalerei* by husband and wife Horst Essl and Jean Richmond.



STOP 18

Incline Village Library

845 Alder Avenue
Incline Village, NV 89451
775-832-4130

[www.washoecounty.us/
library/incline_village.html](http://www.washoecounty.us/library/incline_village.html)

Turn north off Hwy 28 (Tahoe Boulevard) onto Village Blvd., then left (west) on Alder Avenue.

This new building is a good example of the Rustic Style adapted to public architecture. The library hosts cultural events and exhibits, and it is a wonderful source of information.



STOP 19

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor's Bureau

969 Tahoe Boulevard
Incline Village, NV 89451
775-832-1606

www.gotahoe.com

South side of this main drag through town, just past Country Club Drive from the east, or Deer Court from the west.

Tickets for the Shakespeare Festival and other events at Sand Harbor (Stop 22), and for tours of the Thunderbird Lodge (Stop 23) are sold here.



Incline Village

» Maggi Davis of Incline Village shares her passion for quilting with a growing number of community members who meet once a month at the library to share tips and build a supportive network for quilters. She describes the group, Bee Inclined, as an informal guild that welcomes anybody so inclined. Be sure to check with the library for meeting times.



» Budding quilters demonstrate their mastery of a variety of stitches borrowed from embroidery in “crazy quilt” samplers, like this family heirloom that is nearly 150 years old.

Segment Five

The Pristine Shoreline



» Like many Washoe people, Jo Ann Nevers, elder and tribal historian, maintains a strong connection to Lake Tahoe as a cultural landmark, but also as the setting of family history. From Memorial Point, she gestures to a place where elders brought her to camp with relatives when she was a girl. Ancestors she can name, who were born before any Euroamerican had ever seen this lake, also camped here. Family members continue to collect water from a spring in this area.

» June is a good time to spot *Shoogil eatsa* in flower at Spooner Lake (Stop 26). A similar plant, *Shoogil*, begins to bloom in July. Both are in the sunflower family with edible seeds, and are abundant at Lake Tahoe. Shoogil leaves are long and taper at both ends with soft leaves that were used to wrap food for roasting and many other household uses. The seeds were an important food, and harvesters were careful to leave some behind for regeneration. Rank patches of growth were burned off to kill insects and restore vigor. *Shoogil eatsa* is valued by many Native Americans for its medicinal qualities (Page 20).



STOP 20

Hidden Beach Trail System

Parking about 0.5 miles south from where Lakeshore Drive rejoins Hwy 28 south of Incline Village.

Park lakeside just past the last house. Interpretive signs enhance the walk to secluded crescents of sand and flat boulders popular with sunbathers. Please don't park at Tunnel Creek, 0.5 miles south. The van you may spot on the east side of Hwy 28 has a permit to pick up riders finishing the Flume Trail, one of the most popular mountain bike trails in the Sierra that offer spectacular, if dizzying, views.



STOP 21

Memorial Point

About 1.5 miles south from where Lakeshore Drive rejoins Hwy 28 south of Incline Village.

Here, you can park for 20 minutes, stretch your legs and take in lake-level views of Tahoe's legendary shoreline. Or, proceed to the next stop, where you can park all day (for a fee), to take the 0.5-mile trail back to Memorial Point from Sand Harbor for more views and interpretive signs.



STOP 22

Sand Harbor State Park

The entrance is just under 1 mile south of Memorial Point.

Though this public beach is popular for family outings, celebrations, and community events, there is always room to find a quiet spot. Summer events include the annual outdoor Shakespeare Festival.



STOP 23

George Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge

5000 Hwy 28
Incline Village, NV 89451
Tour Reservations:
1-800-468-2463
www.thunderbirdlodge.org

A National Register Historic District. About 1 mile south of the entrance to Sand Harbor, passengers should spot the bunker-like boathouse at lake level. There is enough room along this stretch to pull over for closer inspection. The entrance to the estate itself is about 0.75 miles south. You must make reservations with the Thunderbird Preservation Society in order to visit. Docents full of history, folklore, and anecdotes lead tours limited to 20 people.



The Pristine Shoreline



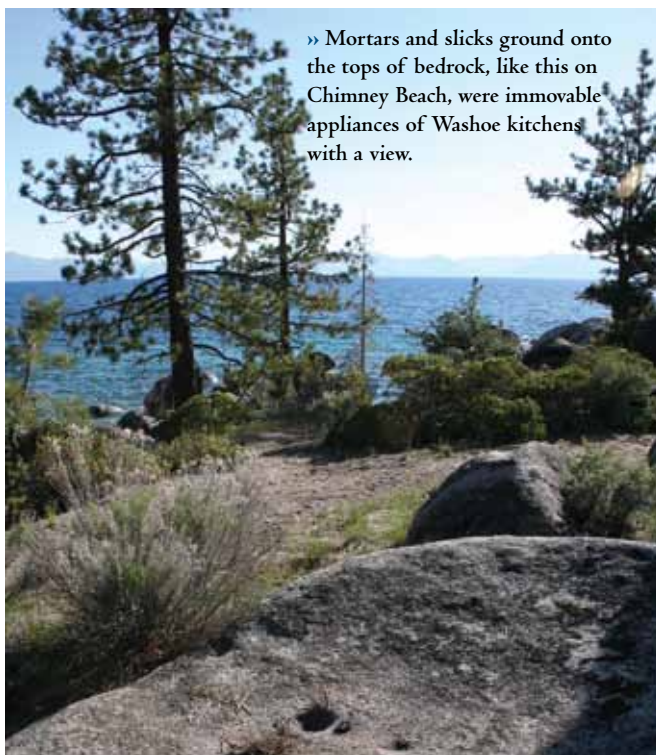
» Yampa in bloom (Stop 26). From June–July, this small meadow opposite and just north of the entrance to Spooner Lake is a field of small lacy white flowers of yampa (*Perideridia sp.*), one of the many *Umbelliferae* valued by the Washoe as food or medicine (See Page 22). They call this one *dehgoosh*. The roots were dried for the winter, and consistent harvesting loosened the soil, making for larger roots and easier digging. The “take one, leave three” rule guided harvesters to leave more

than they took. Elders continue to teach these practices and the history and philosophy they represent.

» Options include arrival by boat, shuttle service from Incline Village, or kayaking from Sand Harbor. The tour along the east shore on the *Taboe*, a vintage wooden runabout, includes lunch and a narrated cruise describing local history (Stop 23).



The Pristine Shoreline



» Mortars and slicks ground onto the tops of bedrock, like this on Chimney Beach, were immovable appliances of Washoe kitchens with a view.

» Melba Rakow with split bracken fern rhizome. Washoe basket makers harvest and painstakingly clean this ribbon-like fiber in the core of the rhizome before burying it in mud until it is dyed a uniform black for creating magnificent designs on their willow baskets (See photo on page 39).



STOP 24

Chimney Beach

About 2 miles south of Sand Harbor. Parking on the east side of Hwy 28.

The beach at the end of this 0.5-mile trail that starts across Hwy 28 from the parking area, is named for the stone chimney left from the cabin where a caretaker once lived to deter trespassers in George Whittell's day. Be aware this is a clothing-optional beach. This area is managed by the LTBMU (Page 60).

On your way down the trail, watch for bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum* va. *pubescens*) growing on the steep sandy south-facing slope just past the wooden bridge.

0.25 miles south on the west side of Hwy 28, is another parking area for trails to more walk-in beaches. These beaches are managed by the LTBMU.



STOP 25

Newhall House at Skunk Harbor

Parking for this site is limited, please do not block the gate. It is a 1.5-mile walk from the gate to Newhall House. 2.75 miles south of Stop 21, start looking on the west side of Hwy 28 for a paved pull-out where you can park. It is a short walk south along the highway to the dirt road down to the site.

The walk down to the beach goes faster than the steep walk back. Look for Comstock logging railroad features enroute, and plan at least half a day to swim, picnic, and visit this historic party house from the Roaring 20's. This site is managed by the LTBMU.

Skunk Harbor may have been named for the “skunk” engines that powered the trains carrying wood to Spooner Summit from the Glenbrook mills, but no one knows for sure. The walk down to the stone Newhall House crosses this grade and includes remnants of the extraordinary dead-end trestle over a steep ravine where trains backed to make a hairpin turn.



The Pristine Shoreline

Without George Whittell, Jr., most of this shoreline would be subdivided and developed, and most of the backcountry in private hands. Sand Harbor, Thunderbird Lodge, Skunk Harbor, Spooner Lake, the Genoa Peak Road, Cave Rock, Zephyr Cove—Whittell owned them all. Cashing out of the stock market before the Crash of 1929, Whittell had money when others didn't, and in 1936, started buying up the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. He amassed 45,000 acres. Except for Glenbrook, he owned the shoreline from Crystal Bay to south of Zephyr Cove.

» The stone house was constructed on the beach for elaborate 1920s “rustic” revelries. George Whittell acquired it after Newhall lost his money in the stock market crash of 1929. Whittell stayed here at times during construction of his Thunderbird Estate. The shingle roof is new, replaced over a two-week period in 2005 by *Passport in Time* volunteers. This program recruits participants every year for a broad range of historic preservation projects throughout the nation's National Forests.



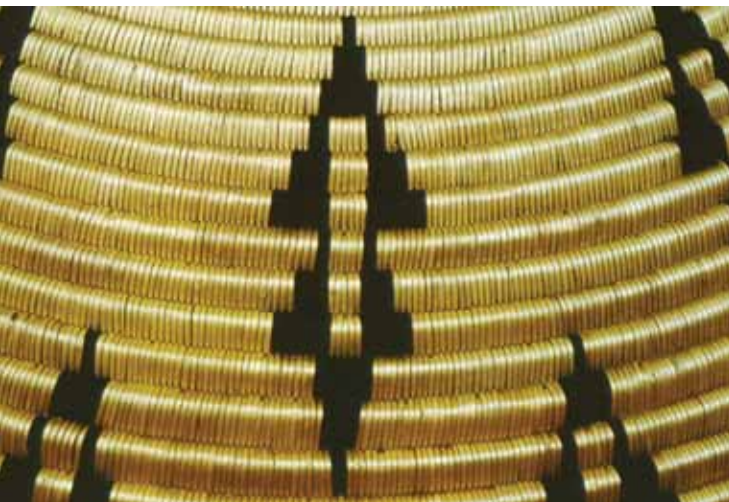
The Pristine Shoreline

» Katerina Rakow and Marie Kizer harvesting rhizomes of bracken fern, considered by much of the world a noxious weed. Ideally, rhizomes (underground runners) are collected in the fall after the first frost, when growth is dormant. Gatherers look for brown or browning fronds.

Not just any root will do. Neglected stands produce thin, twisted roots that are difficult to harvest. Ideal rhizomes are straight and long, produced by vigorous new growth in stands tended by experienced gatherers. This knowledge—the time of year to harvest, desired attributes and how to nurture them, how to ensure future harvests, how to protect yourself and the plants—is part of the cultural legacy elders pass to the next generation.



Photo Courtesy of Washoe Tribe



STOP 26

Spoooner Lake & Marlette-Hobard Backcountry

South, just shy of 1.75 miles, is the entrance to the backcountry. There is a fee.

Interpretive signs bring the history, engineering achievements, and personalities from the Comstock Logging era to life. Learn about the railroad logging system, flume routes, and why the water system developed for the Comstock enterprise is a National Civil Engineering Landmark. Check with Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park for guided hikes.

Watch for Washoe cultural plants described in Segment I and bracken fern (Stop 24) on trails around Spooner Lake (1-mile loop), along the east side of Marlette Lake, and up the North Canyon Trail, also popular for fall colors. Look for Basque tree carvings in the aspen groves (Segment 7).



Segment Six

STOP 27

Spoooner Summit Historic Marker and Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT) Trailhead

0.7 miles east on Hwy 50,
from Hwy 28; or 9.4 miles
west from Hwy 395.

There is parking and a picnic area sheltered by a small aspen grove that serves as the trailhead for the 12-mile TRT segment south to Kingsbury Grade (Stop 45). Additional parking on the north side of Hwy 50 is the trailhead for the 21-mile TRT segment north to Tahoe Meadows (Stop 2). Benches and interpretive signs make this a good stop for general orientation and area history that complements Historic Marker 261.

Note that in order to see Stop 28, you will need to continue east onto Hwy 50 from Stop 27 and continue towards Carson City. To continue the tour after visiting Stop 28 will require backtracking onto Hwy 50. Hwy 28 only goes north from Spooner Summit. Stay on Hwy 50 the rest of the tour until the “Y” at south shore.



The View from Spooner Summit

» Look for History Marker 261 embedded in this boulder for a concise history of this transportation corridor, from Washoe trek route to the nation's first transcontinental highway.



» Chainsaw carving has emerged as a major sculptural form primarily as yard art over the last 30 years. Most of the carvers at the forefront of this “new tradition” are still active. Most have a background in the timber industry, and a number of carvers hail from Oregon. Several chainsaw artists relate similar stories of apprenticeships to Indian totem pole carvers.



Spooner Summit



» Mr. Welter works from models he creates, like the one shown on the table to the right, before fleshing out his creations in wood. He recalls, “While my ‘teen-era’ chums were becoming mighty lumbermen, I had trouble cutting a straight line with my saw. Nor did I wish to, considering I had in my hands the greatest tool ever invented for carving monuments.”

» For refining his sculptures, Welter has adapted power tools commonly associated with auto body work, inspiring a newspaper reporter to call this medium, “Power Sculpting.”



STOP 28

**Timeless Sculptures
Workshop & Gallery**
5100 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775-230-1718

www.timelesssculptures.com

At the south end of Carson City, turn west onto Clearwater Drive. At the dead end, follow the unpaved road, left.

Mr. Welter welcomes browsers through his outdoor exhibit, where many of his chainsaw sculptures are on display, but call ahead to schedule a visit when he or his apprentices are in action.



STOP 29

Genoa Peak Road Forest Service Road I4N32

This unpaved road into the forest is directly south of the Spooner Guard Station, a forest service facility.

Driving into the basin on Hwy 50, towards Lake Tahoe, take the first left (there is a turn lane) immediately past the junction with Hwy 28. Do not proceed to the guard station, but turn right onto the short frontage road and continue south towards the the big metal warehouse and Forest Service Road I4N32.

Take this dirt road for about 2.25 miles. Stay right at the fork in the road, driving southeast on Forest Service Road I4N24 to Montreal Canyon. Explore the aspen groves on foot to find prime examples of Basque tree carvings (arborglyphs). These roads are passable in the summer with two-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles. But check road closures and conditions with the LTBMU before setting out. In the winter, these roads provide outstanding cross-country skiing in the winter.



Spooner Summit



» To pass the long lonely days in the high country, Basque shepherders carved *arborglyphs* on aspens as they pushed their flocks through groves to summer forage. They left their names and dates, graphics, and messages in Euskara (the Basque language) or in Spanish. Topics included news on weather, range conditions, erotica, Old Country memories, loneliness, humor, self portraits, and Basque folk motifs. Some produced evocative masterpieces, like this “Picasso of the aspens,” located in Montreal Canyon. This tradition spread with the Basque shepherders throughout the American West.



Photo Courtesy
of LTBMU

Spoooner Summit

» Waiting for lightening during a spring rainstorm. The best roadside “first views” of Lake Tahoe are on the descent from Spooner Summit. But residents also treasure these scenes cast in new light by the endless play of sky and water.



» After an indoor champagne breakfast, passengers are treated to the serenity of Lake Tahoe in the morning, as they cruise the east shore from Zephyr Cove marina (Stop 34) to Glenbrook Bay, on the Historic Glenbrook Breakfast Cruise.

» View of lakefront from the *MS Dixie II* of Glenbrook. Spooner Summit is behind.



STOP 30

Roadside Pull Out

A little over 1 mile south of the junction with Hwy 28, drive into the third pullout as you descend Hwy 50 from Spooner Summit. Pull over and leave the stream of commuters to savor this view of Lake Tahoe framed by surrounding mountains.

Across the canyon, you can see a portion of the old Lake Tahoe Wagon Road (See Stop 34) that connected the historic mill town of Glenbrook to the Comstock mines in the 1860s. Just down the highway on the way to Stop 31, passengers may glimpse this exclusive gated community that was once the hub of 19th century industrial logging.



Segment Seven

STOP 31

Logan Shoals Vista Point

On the lake side of Hwy 50 about 4 miles south of Stop 30.

In the summer, don't be surprised to see a limousine or two parked at this popular "Tahoe Wedding" spot. You can still stretch your legs, watch the sunset, or simply enjoy being close to the lake. An informal trail descends toward the lake and intersects the historic roadbed of the Lake Tahoe Wagon Road/Lincoln Hwy (Stop 27). Notice intact rockwork and other road features.

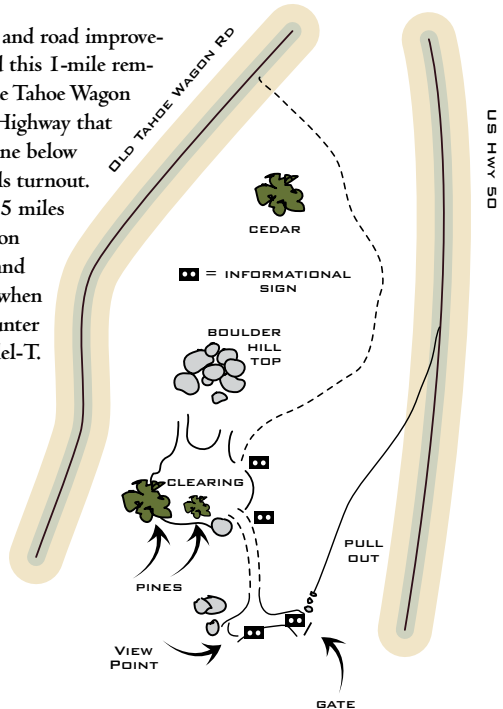


Glenbrook to Round Hill



» A sign identifies mountain peaks; another with Cave Rock in view to the south (Stop 32) explains the significance of this cultural landmark to Washoe people.

» Development and road improvements by-passed this 1-mile remnant of the Lake Tahoe Wagon Road/Lincoln Highway that hugs the shoreline below the Logan Shoals turnout. You can walk 0.5 miles in either direction from the path, and imagine a time when you could encounter a wagon or model-T.

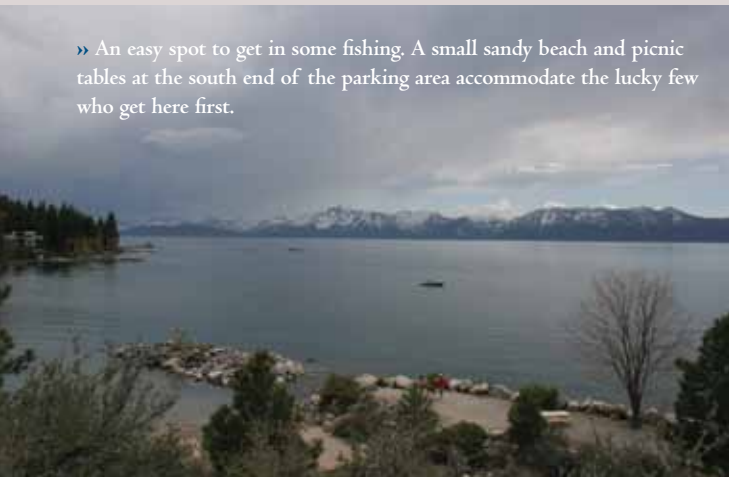


Glenbrook to Round Hill



» View from the small sandy beach at the south end of the parking area. A TCP or “traditional cultural property” is the federal designation for historic sites significant in the living traditions of a community. In this case, Cave Rock embodies beliefs and theories that are part of Washoe Indian identity and culture.

» An easy spot to get in some fishing. A small sandy beach and picnic tables at the south end of the parking area accommodate the lucky few who get here first.



STOP 32

Cave Rock Boat Launch

1 mile south, Hwy 50 passes through Cave Rock. Directly south of the tunnels, is the boat launch facility, managed by Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

Pull into this facility for a closer view of this remarkable landmark. Please be aware that technical climbing is among the activities prohibited on Cave Rock to protect Washoe traditions that make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The rock itself is managed by the LTBMU.



STOP 33

Zephyr Cove Fire Station

2.3 miles south of Cave Rock on Hwy 50, east on Warrior Way.

Jerry Toste of Pollock Pines, CA, was inspired by events of 9/11 to carve this and two other figures in tribute to firefighters everywhere. Another stands in front of the Round Hill Pines Fire Station (Stop 37). Mr. Toste is one of several woodcarvers embellishing Tahoe neighborhoods and public spaces with chainsaw art. Another of Toste's carvings can be seen in front of the Heavenly Village Complex (Segment 8).



STOP 34

Zephyr Cove Resort and Historic District

760 U.S. Hwy 50
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
775-589-4906

www.zephyrcove.com

0.3 miles south on Hwy 50. Stop in at the lodge and restaurant and walk through the Zephyr Cove. The dock is the departure point for narrated boat tours to Glenbrook Bay (Stop 30) other historic-themed tours and pleasure cruises, including the *MS Dixie II*.



Glenbrook to Round Hill



» Newlyweds Amgad and Nayla Sakla of Irving, Texas, pose with a Totse bear in the Heavenly Village plaza (Stop 39). Every year, hundreds of couples choose to get married or honeymoon at Lake Tahoe.

» Park behind the restaurant and walk south through the resort grounds to rental cabin #4. Walk through the gap in the wooden 6' fence and explore this enclave of modest vaca-

tion cabins, constructed during the late 1920s–1940. Note the varied use of local materials, hallmarks of vernacular rustic resort architecture. Logs, bark siding, shingles, and rock are used to create variations on the cabin theme of pitched roofs and gabled ends. Compare these earlier expressions of the Rustic Style to the elaborated modern version on Birdie Way (Stop 11). Note similarities to the Alpine Style (Segment 4).



Glenbrook to Round Hill



» Descend the 180+ steps from the parking lot to the shoreline on this stone staircase. Known as “Robin’s Flight,” it was constructed with funds donated in 1937 by Mrs. H. T. Dobbins (Robin). The flower planters that divide the staircase were intended as fish tanks. Practical and decorative landscape features of local rough-hewn granite are key attributes of historic rustic resort architecture that designers continue to incorporate in modern interpretations of this enduring architectural style.

» Tahoe quilter, Linda Graeber, appliques a quilt block. Note ornate scissors kept at the ready, attached to a bangle. Some quilters “wear” these essential and easily misplaced tools on lanyards.



STOP 35

Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center
660 Hwy 50
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
775-588-6759 ext. 100
www.zephyrpoint.org
0.5 miles south of the Zephyr Point Resort, turn west on Presbyterian Drive.

The best time to visit is during the open house that ends each of the Artists’ Retreats hosted by the center every summer. On display are masterworks in needlecraft and the products of these intensive 4-day instructional workshops. You can visit with the artists as they finish their projects.



STOP 36

Tahoe-Douglas Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center
195 Hwy 50
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
775-588-4591

1.6 miles from Stop 35, turn into the Round Hill Mall on the east side of the highway.

A small museum and well-stocked information center makes this a good place to check for updates on events and to pick up brochures and handouts (See “More Information”).



STOP 37

Round Hill Pines Fire Station

From the Visitor Center, 0.2 miles south on Hwy 50, west on Elks Point Road. The fire station is immediately on your left (south). See Stop 33.



Glenbrook to Round Hill



» Firefighter figures carved by chainsaw artist Jerry Toste, for the Zephyr Cove and Elks Point Fire Stations.

» Diane Nelsen, of Round Hill Pines, is a master of spinning on the big wheel, or walking wheel. This one was constructed by her husband, Alex Forbes.



Segment Eight

Full Circle: Rabe Meadow to Heavenly Village



» Mateo Masellones was a year old when his father, drawn by the beautiful environment and employment in the casino industry at Stateline, relocated the family to South Lake Tahoe from Stockton, California, in the 1970s. Today, Mateo is a third degree black belt and instructor of *Kombatan*, a form of Filipino stick-fighting known as *Escrima* or *Arnis*. His brother, Danny, helps organize the community celebration of a traditional Filipino Christmas, or *Paskong*, that includes singing Filipino language carols door-to-door, and culminates in a grand feast with traditional food, music, and dance. The feast is sponsored by St. Teresa's Church and hosted by Harvey's or Harrah's casino in early December. Visitors are welcomed to attend.

STOP 38

The Lam Watah Trail

Turn west on Kahle Drive, 1 mile south from Elks Point Road. Park in the small lot immediately on your right (north).

About 0.3 miles south of Elks Point Road, on the lake side of Hwy 50, look for a forested knoll in a small meadow that opens onto a rolling expanse with views of the lake obstructed only by scattered granite outcrops and patches of aspen. The Lam Watah Trail follows the gradual descent all the way to Nevada Beach, about a mile away. But only a short stroll from the parking lot, vistas conjure the world Washoe families viewed from their summer camps, 150 years ago.

Turn south, and Mont-Bleu (formerly Caesars), Harveys, and Harrah's are in view, and on the mountainside behind, the straight line of the gondola tramway operated by Heavenly Mountain Resort, the largest ski resort in the country.



STOP 38

On Your Way

As you pass through the glitz and 24-7 world of casino life and Stateline, passengers can look for the following points of interest that appear in rapid succession on the east side of Hwy 50:

Friday's Station

Just past the Kingsbury Grade (Hwy 207), look for a two-story white building, set back from the highway behind an expanse of green lawn. On private land, this is one of the very few remaining remount stations from the days of the short-lived Pony Express.

Pony Express Rider Bronze Statue

In front of Harrah's Tahoe Hotel-Casino, commissioned by Bill Harrah in 1963. It is hard to believe that riders thundered past this very spot on a dusty track on their way to or from the remount station, "Fridays" not even a mile away.



Rabe Meadow to Heavenly Village



» The ski and casino industries continue to attract people from around the world with diverse talents and arts to share with their adoptive communities. Nancy McGuinness (second from the left, is performing the *Hakela*, a Polynesian dance). Mrs. McGuinness left Havana when she was 11 years old, after she'd already been "infected by dance." She married an Irishman from Markleeville—"like Desi and Luci, only backwards" and moved to South Lake Tahoe, drawn by job opportunities in the casino industry at Stateline. Mrs. McGuinness is passionate about dance and has been teaching Cuban Flamenco and Afro-Cuban traditional dances at the Lake Tahoe Community College for many years.

» Sylvia Doignon from Mexico City, and her husband, French Chef Jean-Pierre Doignon, came for a skiing holiday in 1978. They fell in love with Lake Tahoe and decided to stay, opening Le Bistro, an award-winning gourmet restaurant in Incline Village. Like her father in Mexico, Mrs. Doignon is a licensed practitioner of homeopathic medicine. She also volunteers for the Boys and Girls Club in Kings Beach, where she teaches ballet folkloricos that represent different regions of Mexico. Her students perform during Cinco de Mayo and other holidays in the surrounding communities. She also sews the costumes. Her favorite is the white skirt (she is modeling) and blouse for the dance from Veracruz.



Rabe Meadow to Heavenly Village



» European skiers, like Mr. Martin Hollay, who came to the United States after World War II, were pivotal in the development of skiing in this country, and of destination resorts like Heavenly Valley (now Heavenly Mountain Resort). Born in 1920 in Budapest, Mr. Hollay was a glove maker and first-class ski racer when he left Hungary in 1956. He found work with a glove maker in San Francisco, where he met skiers from Norway, who told him about the New Year's ski race at Heavenly Valley in 1958. He took first place and decided to stay. He has lived at Tahoe ever since, working for Heavenly for 30 years. He continues to handcraft leather gloves and hats when he isn't hiking or skiing.

STOP 39

Heavenly Village

The Shops at Heavenly Village

1001 Heavenly Village Way
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

www.theshopsatheavenly.com

On the east side of Hwy 50, 1.2 miles south from Kahle Drive, or 0.3 miles south from the state line into California. To access the parking garage, turn east onto Heavenly Village Way (formally Park Avenue), then left on Bellamy Court.

Heavenly Resort

www.skiheavenly.com

You can ride the Gondola, year-round, to breathtaking views, and in the winter, access ski runs in both states. The village at the base of the gondola is a mega complex of hotels and "40 unique shops, eateries, and entertainment venues," including cinemax theaters and an outdoor skating rink. A chainsaw carving by Jerry Toste of bears gamboling up a tall pine tree stands in front of the clock tower plaza (Stops 33 and 37).



Segment Nine

STOP 40

Lake Tahoe Historical Society Museum

3058 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151
530-541-5458

www.laketahoemuseum.org

The South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, shares this parking lot, and is located two miles southwest of Heavenly Village Way, turn east into the parking lot.

You'll spot the colorful mural on this small building depicting the historic Valentine's Day in 1844, when John C. Fremont and his cartographer, Charles Pruess, climbed Red Lake Peak (off Carson Pass, Hwy 88). They were the first to officially locate Lake Tahoe (with another name) on a map. While the museum may be small, the exhibits offer insights into local history, and docents know local lore. Pick up the Museum's self-guided driving tour to historic locations on the south shore. Open: Memorial Day through Labor Day, Tuesday–Saturday, 10 am–4 pm.

The mural is one of nine located in South Lake Tahoe described in a brochure, *Heritage Murals of Lake Tahoe: A Self-Guided Tour*, available from the museum or the South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, next door.



Eight-Mile Excursion to the Tallac Historic Site

Pioneer Trail angles south off Lake Tahoe Blvd, 0.2 miles southwest of Heavenly Village Way. This “back way” around south shore follows the alignment of the Bonanza Road, one the early toll roads between the California gold towns and the Nevada Comstock, thus its name. It is the kind of alternate route locals take to avoid traffic that rarely saves time, but seems to, because “at least you're moving.” You'll want to stay on Lake Tahoe Boulevard for the next stops.



» Mike Williams, a Northern Paiute master of traditional tule mats, duck decoys, baskets participates in the annual *Wa She Shu It Deh*, Native American Arts Festival at the Tallac Estates (Stop 42).

Eight-Mile Excursion to the Tallac Historic Site



» The Swiss Chalet Restaurant (Stop 41) is an example of Alpine Style commercial architecture and design. Note the arched windows, iron grille-work, and *luftmalerei* (wet-plaster painted embellishments) by master, Fred Albrecht.

» *Sgraffito* element by Fred Albrecht (Stop 41). Mr. Albrecht moved to Lake Tahoe in 1968, drawn like many of his countrymen to the sunny skies, ski slopes, and dramatic alpine setting reminiscent of Austria. A master of *sgraffito* and *luftmalerei* decorative traditions, he is the first to introduce these arts to an emerging Tahoe Alpine Style (Stop 14).



STOP 41

Baumann's Swiss Chalet Restaurant & Bar

2544 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-544-3304

www.baumannswisschalet.com
1.2 miles south of the Lake Tahoe Museum, or 3.2 miles southwest of Heavenly Village Way, on the east side of Tahoe Boulevard, between Sierra Boulevard and Stockton Way, then left on Bellamy Court.



STOP 42

The Tallac Historic Site

530-541-4975
www.valhallatahove.com
Hwy 89, 3 miles south of the museum on Lake Tahoe Blvd., turn north onto Hwy 89 towards Emerald Bay, at the intersection known to locals as the "Y." Parking is 3.1 miles, the second right after passing Camp Richardson Resort (see next "Points of Interest").



STOP 42

Discover this gem on your own, join conducted tours, or best yet, attend a special event or program. Walking trails link the grounds of three adjoining estates listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The lake-side setting and informal grounds invite lingering. Interpretive signs and exhibits make self-guided exploration a pleasure, and you can enhance your experience with docent-led tours and interpretive programs. Living history events depict the lifestyles of the very rich and those who served them during the Gilded Age through the roaring 1920s.

You will encounter from the parking area west to east: The Baldwin house (1921) is the museum and educational center for the site. Exhibits and programs feature the families associated with these estates, and a unique exhibit installed by the Washoe Tribe, representing their history from their point of view.

Eight-Mile Excursion to the Tallac Historic Site



» Brenda Frank's pine needle baskets often take first prize for the category of baskets made with "nontraditional" materials in the juried basket competition that is the centerpiece of the *Wa She Shu It Deb*, Native American Arts Festival hosted every July by the Washoe Tribe. Ms. Frank's sister-in-law, Larena Burns, who took up pine needle basketry in the 1980s, was the first Washoe weaver to do so. Using pine needles as the material to make Washoe baskets is a tradition unique to this family. (Stop 10).



» Nora Esparza with her first Washoe basket, a miniature cradleboard that took a first in the junior division in 2003. She was eleven years old at the time.

Eight-Mile Excursion to the Tallac Historic Site



» Plant materials Washoe weavers use to overlay designs on their willow baskets. The blackened fibers extracted from rhizomes of bracken fern are collected in the fall around Lake Tahoe (Stop 24).

Points of Interest

Camp Richardson Historic Resort (1926)

1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96158
800-544-1801 | 530-541-1801 | www.camprichardson.com

You can walk from Valhalla onto the beachfront of this equally historic resort with the decidedly different feel of a working tourist destination. You will notice that many of the cabins are named for automobiles due to the focus of this facility, since its inception, on promoting automobile travel. This was a clever marketing scheme to attract middle class clientele, who were just discovering the freedom brought about by this mode of transportation (Segment 7).

Fallen Leaf Lake Road

From the Kiva parking lot, directly south across Hwy 89. If your car is small and the driver patient, this narrow, windy road, that practically scrapes the sides of some the cabins strung along the lake, takes you back to another era. Most of these “recreation residences” have been owned by the same families for three to four generations. For them, “going to Tahoe” is a family tradition: simple and rustic accommodations, low-key recreation and entertainments, and reconnecting with neighboring families with similar traditions and property at the lake—Fallen Leaf Lake, that is.

STOP 42

The Pope Estate (1894) next door is restored as a house museum with tours and living history events, including the annual Great Gatsby Days, a three week-long celebration.

Valhalla (the Heller Estate) (1923) is the community events center where exhibits, demonstrations, and performances showcase the arts, including an annual quilt show and the *Wa She Shu It Deb*, Native American Arts Festival sponsored by the Washoe Tribe every July. The Tahoe Tallac Association sponsors arts events and workshops here throughout the summer, and a Holiday Faire in November. Valhalla can also be rented by the public for weddings and other celebrations.

STOP 43

Taylor Creek Visitors Center and Amphitheater

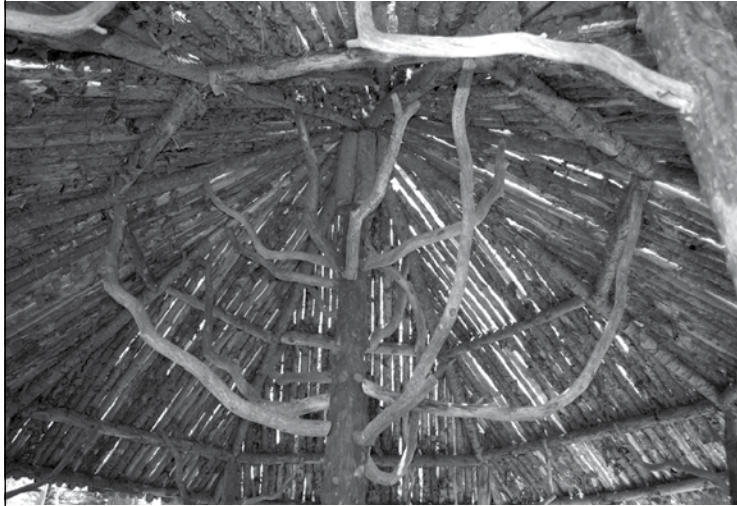
Open seasonally Memorial
Day through October
530-543-2674

0.1-mile west on Hwy 89
from the Kiva parking lot
for the Tallac site.

The LTBMU staff
at this visitor center can
answer almost any question
about outdoor recreation
at Lake Tahoe. There are
trails with interpretive
media, viewing platforms
overlooking the Taylor
Creek marsh, and access to
a sandy beach. The profile
stream chamber permits
a peek of underwater life
and features award-winning
murals that recreate forest
ecology. Guided walks and
interpretive programs are
planned throughout the
summer and amphitheater
events feature storytell-
ing and other cultural
performances. A Tahoe
tradition the site celebrates
with week-long events every
fall, is the return of kokanee
salmon to spawn in the
shallows of Taylor Creek.



Eight-Mile Excursion to the Tallac Historic Site



» Many hours went into finding and fitting just the right branches to underpin the roof of this gazebo restored by volunteers (Stop 42). Unpeeled logs and branch-work were popular elements of mountain resort architecture during the Gilded Age. Clients favored luxury with a rustic veneer, obtained by emphasizing local, natural materials.



» The Tallac site (Stop 42) is a place of extraordinary architectural interest and historic significance, but it is people that bring the site to life. Bill Miller of Pioneer, California, is in his 9th season as a Tallac Site volunteer. Every year, people from around the country donate thousands of hours to upkeep and restoration projects, and assist with tours and special programs. Contact the Tahoe Heritage Foundation or Passport in Time.

Points of Interest

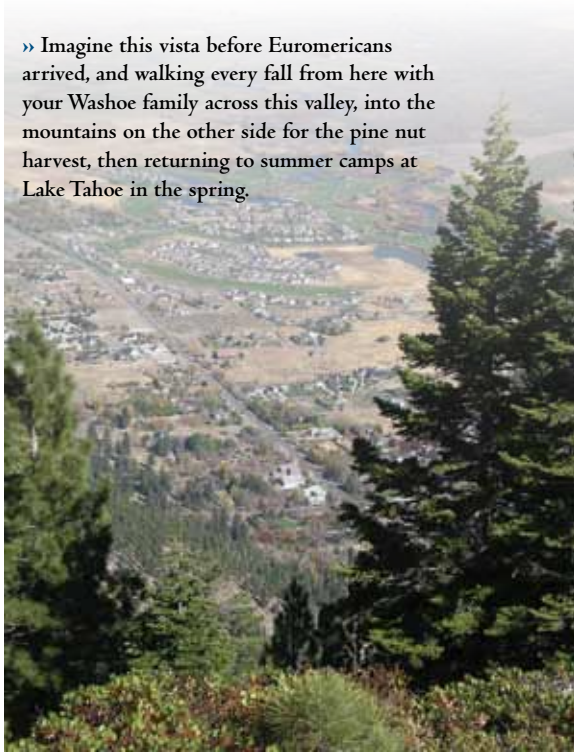
If you are driving to the west shore on Hwy 89 from here, watch for the patches of bracken fern (Stop 24) before the road starts climbing to the stunning drive with several pullouts around Emerald Bay.

Segment Ten

Skirting the Great Basin: The Kingsbury Grade to Genoa

» Imagine this vista before Euroamericans arrived, and walking every fall from here with your Washoe family across this valley, into the mountains on the other side for the pine nut harvest, then returning to summer camps at Lake Tahoe in the spring.

Photo Courtesy of Ralph Courtmay



This vast landscape would be filled with landmarks, springs, and rest stops as familiar as neighborhood streets and buildings. You would learn, from the stories accumulated by hundreds of generations of ancestors, the signs that plants were ready for harvesting, or that weather was rolling in; about safe places and those to avoid. Now imagine you are among the first Euroamericans to cross these valleys just over 150 years ago. You are a stranger in strange land, awed by the natural world you consider an untamed, unnamed wilderness abundant with fish and game, mountain streams, powerful rivers, meadows with wild grasses growing to the stirrups of your saddle, wetlands and waterfowl, and in the high country, forests full of timber.

This final segment begins 0.2 miles south of Kahle Drive (Stop 38) on SR 207, or the Kingsbury Grade.

Note that access to Stagecoach Lodge of Heavenly Mountain Resort is near the top of this grade, about 3 miles from the junction with Hwy 50. Just past, is Daggett Pass (7334'). From here, the road descends into the Great Basin in wide swoops that afford panoramas of the Carson Valley and on the other side, the Pine Nut Mountains.

STOP 44

Carson Valley Outlook

About 3.5 miles below Daggett Pass, look for a “Slow Vehicle” turnout.

Pull over to perch above the western edge of the Great Basin. This vast province stretches eastward from here in a sequence of valleys and mountain ranges, all the way through Nevada and into Utah. As you resume your descent, you leave the forests of the Sierra Nevada to enter the high-altitude deserts of Great Basin valleys. At the bottom, we recommend turning north onto SR 206, and ending the tour at Genoa. Stops include locations signed with State of Nevada Historic Markers.



STOP 45

Kingsbury Grade/ Daggett Pass

(Historic Marker I17)
2.6 miles north of the present Kingsbury Grade is the historic marker where the original toll road came down the precipitous canyon.

The Kingsbury Grade over Daggett Pass was one of several toll roads that linked Sacramento and Virginia City during the Comstock mining boom in the 1860s. The toll for a wagon and four horses to and from Shingle Springs, California to Henry Van Sickle's Station just north of this spot, was \$17.50—an amount equal to 2.5 days wages for a carpenter; 5 days pay for a farm laborer or miner; nearly two weeks' salary for a female school teacher; and 17.5 days pay for an Indian laborer.



Skirting the Great Basin: The Kingsbury Grade to Genoa

As you absorb your surroundings, consider how Euroamericans transformed the landscape, initially with industrial-scale logging and fluming during the Comstock mining era, then with settlement and recreational development. Then consider the consequences of contact and exchange among the different people of the world attracted to this frontier of boundless opportunity. How did they communicate? How did they maintain their identities? What cultural viewpoints and practices did they share with others? What new traditions did they start?



» SR 206, aptly named Foothill Road, runs along the very edge of Carson Valley, stitching the western selvage of the Great Basin under the hem of the Sierra Nevada. Here, pine gives way to sage, or is it the other way around?

Skirting the Great Basin: The Kingsbury Grade to Genoa



» The “Big Red Barn” on the Van Sickle Station Ranch is the centerpiece of Nevada’s only full production winemaking facility. Learn more about the barn—the oldest in the state—and future plans for a destination winery by contacting the Tahoe Ridge Winery or stopping by their public tasting room, located on 2285 Main Street in Genoa (Stop 48). You may be able to arrange a tour of the barn if you call well ahead of your visit. The Haldbardiers try to accommodate growing public interest inspired by the Smithsonian’s Barn Again traveling exhibit in 2003.

» Rick and Kathy Haldbardier, owners and developers of Tahoe Ridge wines, plan to expand their production facilities in the Big Red Barn to include wine tasting and dining. Guest cottages and gardens will accommodate travelers in the tradition of the historic Van Sickle Station Hotel. Such adaptive reuse can breathe new life into historic structures, preserve rural landscapes, and revitalize traditional lifeways.

Photos Courtesy of the Halbardiers



STOP 44

Van Sickle Station Ranch

0.5 miles north, on the west side of Foothill Road.

The stone ranch house was constructed in 1944 of local granite and hand-hewn timbers salvaged from the historic Van Sickle Station Hotel, one of the original way stations along the toll road system that linked the Comstock to California gold towns. The red barn at the north end of this property is what remains of the original Comstock-period Van Sickle establishment.



STOP 47

David Walley’s Resort and Spa 2001 Foothill Road Genoa, NV 89411 775-782-8155

www.davidwalleys-resort.com
Historical Marker 120. Look for the entrance on the east side of Foothill Road, 0.5 miles north. Other services and amenities are for guests only.

Favored first by the Washoe for bathing, socializing, healing, and spiritual renewal, this hot spring was developed in 1862 by David and Harriet Walley into a luxury spa, to “sooth away the cares and pressures of success.”

STOP 47

Their 40-room hotel included a ballroom, gardens, bathhouses, and a resident physician and masseur. The hotel burned to the ground in 1935, but a series of owners have continued to operate the springs with varying amenities through the years.

Consider stopping here for a half-day soak in hot spring pools of varying temperatures that overlook the wetlands and valley. Of course, there are a variety of accommodation and spa packages available for longer stays. Contact David Walley's Hot Springs and Resort for details.



Skirting the Great Basin: The Kingsbury Grade to Genoa



Skirting the Great Basin: The Kingsbury Grade to Genoa



» Kathy Nau is one of the owners of It's All About Quilting, housed in the historic "Pink House," where Lillian Virgin Finnegan, the founder of Genoa's traditional Candy Dance, lived until her death in 1938.



» Genoa's Courthouse Museum is open May through October.

STOP 48

Genoa

1.5 miles north of David Walley's Resort and Spa.

Genoa (pronounced Genóa) was established in 1851 as a trading post by Mormon emigrants and remains the oldest community in Nevada. It continues to thrive with an influx of retirees building along the outskirts and small businesses that cater to visitors. The town center is a National Register Historic District. A self-guided walking tour is available at the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Authority, as well as locations in Genoa.

The museum, the restored Mormon era fort, Victorian era homes and cottage gardens, and period appropriate Main Street make this a major destination to explore at your own pace. The town hosts several events, including the annual Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Festival. Check the "Contacts" and "Calendar of Events" sections.



Photo Courtesy of Kathy Hess



How to Sound Like a Local

- The Basin** Indicates locations “inside” the basin of mountains that surround and channel drainages into Lake Tahoe. In a very real sense, everything that happens inside this watershed affects the lake.
- The Lake** For people from the bay area, “The City” can only mean San Francisco. If you’re from Reno, Carson City, Gardnerville, Minden, Truckee, or even as far away as Sacramento, “The Lake” can only mean Lake Tahoe.
- LTBMU** Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit of the USDA Forest Service. The LTBMU manages roughly 80% of the land in the Tahoe Basin. Water quality, forest health, and recreation management are the unit’s top priorities. The stewardship of cultural resources on this public land is under the direction of the Heritage Resource Program, part of the recreation umbrella.
- Stateline** The line that divides the lake (unevenly) between Nevada and California runs through the Cal-Neva Resort (Stop 4), straight into the lake, and emerges on the southeastern shore. So there are two statelines, but the one that locals refer to as “Stateline” crosses Hwy 50, 2 miles south of Elks Point Road. (Stop 37) Both state lines are areas where the first commercial casinos were developed in the 1920s and 1930s, taking advantage of separate jurisdictions to “step over the line,” to comply with state laws against gambling in California, and loosely regulated in Nevada.
- Tahoe** Washoe people referred to their summer residences around Lake Tahoe simply as *do ow a ga*, “edge of the lake.” Tahoe is derived from their word for “lake,” *da ow*. So Lake Tahoe actually means “Lake Lake.”
- TCP** Traditional Cultural Property: a heritage resource or cultural place important to the cultural life of existing communities. TCPs may be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.
- TRT** The Tahoe Rim Trail was begun in 1981 and now circles the lake in 165 miles accessed by 9 trailheads. Two are featured in this guide (Stops 2 and 27). The trail is managed by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, a non-profit organization, and maintained by volunteers from surrounding communities.
- The “Y”** There are two. One is on the north shore where Hwy 89 and SR 28 meet in Tahoe City; the other is on south shore, where Hwy 50 joins Hwy 89.



More Information

Books

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- Grayson, Donald K. *The Desert's Past: A Natural Prehistory of the Great Basin*, Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington, DC. 1993.
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- Van Etten, Carol. *Lakers & Launches*, Sierra Maritime Publications: Lake Tahoe, CA. 1992.
- Wallis, Karen and Domiteaux, Diane. *Washoe Seasons of Life: A Native American Story*, Creative Minds Press: Lake Tahoe, CA. 2004.

Event Calendars

- <http://www.gotahoenorth.com/events>
- <http://www.laketahoe.com/events>
- <http://www.tahoeactivities.com/calendar.cfm>
- <http://www.tahoe.com/events/events-calendar/>
- <http://www.tahoestbest.com/calendar/>
- <http://www.tahoevacationguide.com/Activities/calendarofevents.html>
- <http://www.virtuالتahoe.com/playground/events.html>



More Information

Maps

PRINTED MAPS

1865 *Railroad Map of Lake Tahoe to Pacific Ocean*. KM Historic Maps.

American Map. *Reno/Carson City/Lake Tahoe NV Street Map*. American Map, 2009.

Harrison, Tom. *Lake Tahoe Recreation Map*. Tom Harrison Maps, 2009.

National Geographic. *Lake Tahoe Basin—Trails Illustrated Map #803*. National Geographic Maps, 2009. Trails are classified by use - hiking, horse and hike, mountain bike, shared use, or motorized - and includes a trail chart showing trail name, location, and allowed use. Trail mileage, private land designation, and information on general regulations, safety, Desolation Wilderness, camping, fishing, and snow parks round out the usefulness of this map. It also includes bathymetric shading of the Lake Tahoe.

Smith, Julie. *Explorer's Guide 50 Hikes in the Sierra Nevada: Hikes and Backpacks from Lake Tahoe to Sequoia National Park* (Explorer's 50 Hikes). Amazon: Kindle Edition, 2009.

White, Mike. *Top Trails Lake Tahoe: Must-do Hikes for Everyone*. Mike White, 2009.

MAPS FROM THE WEB

Incline Village

http://reno.micromaps.com/index.php?map_id=689&layer=39402&point=220116

New York Times Travel Guides Map of Lake Tahoe

<http://travel.nytimes.com/travel/guides/north-america/united-states/california/lake-tahoe/maps.html>

Reno Tahoe Convention and Visitors Authority Interactive Maps

North Lake Tahoe - http://reno.micromaps.com/index.php?map_id=689&layer=39402&point=220115

South Lake Tahoe

http://reno.micromaps.com/index.php?map_id=689&layer=39402&point=220114

USGS Downloadable Topographic Maps

http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/%28xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd&layout=0_I_75&uiarea=I%29/.do

Yahoo Interactive Map of South Lake Tahoe

http://travel.yahoo.com/p-map-474550-map_of_south_lake_tahoe_ca-i



More Information

Visitor's Information

North Lake Tahoe Visitors' Bureau: <http://www.gotahoenorth.com/>

Official Lake Tahoe Visitor Bureau Websites: <http://www.visitinglaketahoe.com/>

Ski Lake Tahoe: <http://www.skilaketahoe.com/>

Web Sites

These web sites in addition to some listed in the Contacts section include links to heritage topics.

www.glenbrookrentalprogram.com/history link to Area History

www.micmacmedia.com link to Tahoe Stories

www.stardust-tahoe.com link to Articles by Jim Hubbard

www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog click on Pasok then link to Philippine Culture. Find link to Philippine Festivals and Pasok (Christmas) under December in the calendar menu.



Contacts

Antique & Classic Boat Society, Lake Tahoe	www.acbs-tahoe.org
Cal Neva Resort	800-225-6382; 775-832-4000 www.calnevaresort.com
Camp Richardson Historic Resort	800-544-1801; 530-541-1801 www.camprichardson.com
Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.....	775-882-2766
Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Authority.....	800-727-7677 www.visitcarsoncity.org/maps
David Walley's Resort Hot Springs & Spa.....	775-782-8155 www.davidwalleys.com
Flume Trail Mountain Biking.....	775-749-5349 www.theflumetrail.com
Gatekeeper's Museum & Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum	530-583-1762 www.northtahoemuseums.org/gatekeeper.aspx
Genoa Courthouse Museum.....	775-782-4325
Genoa House Inn.....	775-782-7075 www.genoahouseinn.com
(Genoa) Town Manager.....	775-782-8696 www.genoanevada.org
Heavenly Ski Resort (Heavenly Mountain Resort).....	775-586-7000 www.skiheavenly.com
Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau.....	800-GO TAHOE; 775-832-1606 www.gotahoe.com
Incline Village Public Library	775-832-4130 www.washoe.lib.nv.us link to Incline via locations/hours/phones

Contacts

Lake Tahoe Museum	530-541-5458
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park	775-831-0494
www.parks.nv.gov/lr.htm	
Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival	800-74-SHOWS; 775-832-1616
www.laketahoeshakespeare.com	
Le Bistro Restaurant and Bar	775-831-0800
www.lebistrorestaurant.net	
LTBMU.....	530-543-2600
www.fs.fed.us/r5/lrbmu	
Mormon Station State Park	775-782-2591
www.parks.nv.gov/ms.htm	
North Tahoe Arts.....	530-581-2787
www.northtahoearts.com	
Passport In Time	800-281-9176
www.passportintime.com	
Sand Harbor (see Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park)	
Sierra Boat Company	530-546-2551
www.sierraboat.com	
Soule Domain Restaurant.....	530-546-7529
www.souledomain.com	
South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce	530-541-5255
www.tahoeinfo.com	
Spooner Lake and Marlette Back Country (see Lake Tahoe Nevada State Parks)	
Cross Country Skiing.....	775-749-5349
www.spoonerlake.com	
Tahoe Boat Cruises.....	888-867-6394; 775-588-1881
www.tahoeboatcruises.com/tbirdlodgetours.htm	
Tahoe City.....	www.visittahoe.com/events.html
Tahoe-Douglas Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.....	775-588-4591
www.tahoe.tahoechamber.org	

Contacts

Tahoe Gal.....	800-218-2464
info@tahoegal.com	
Tahoe Heritage Foundation.....	503-544-7383
www.tahoheritage.org	
Tahoe Maritime Museum.....	530-525-9253
www.tahoemaritimemuseum.org	
Tahoe Ridge Vineyard & Winery.....	800-753-4566; 775-783-1566
www.tahoeridge.com	
Tahoe Rim Trail.....	775-298-0012
www.tahoerimtrail.org	
Tahoe Yacht Club	www.tahoeyc.com
Tallac Historic Site	530-541-5227
www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/recreation/tallac/	
Taylor Creek Visitor Center	530-543-2674
www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/recreation	
Three Dog Knit.....	530-583-0001
www.threedogknit.com	
Thunderbird Lodge Historic Site	775-832-8750
www.thunderbirdlodge.org	
Timeless Sculptures	775-841-8775
www.timelesssculptures.com	
Washoe Language Program.....	775-265-7274
washoeschool@aol.com	
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.....	775-265-4191
www.washoetribe.us	
Zephyr Cove Resort and Lake Tahoe Cruises	800-238-2463; 775-549-4906
www.zephyrcove.com	
Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center.....	775-588-6759
www.zephyrpoint.org	

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775-885-2875
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Management Co.
774 Mays Boulevard, #10
Incline Village, NV 89451
775-832-2444

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Star Tree Studio
Fiber Arts & Print Making
PO Box 376
Tahoma, CA 96142
530-525-6196 (h)
loomatic@sprynet.com

Judy & Larry Romiti
Handweaving & Fine Drawing
775-833-1560
www.romitiart.com

Hans Standteiner & Sons
(Toni and Hans, Jr.)
Mountain Forge -
Decorative Iron
1740 River Road
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530-583-5389 (business)

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2354 Blair Road
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
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The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, is funded by the Nevada State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and other private and public sources.

Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada

Claudia Vecchio
Director, Department of Tourism and
Cultural Affairs

OUR VISION

That Nevadans understand the impact and central role of the arts in our lives, our communities and our state.

OUR VALUES

That we work together to strengthen the environment for artists and arts organizations to accomplish this vision.

OUR OUTCOME

A culturally vibrant state, from the most isolated and small rural communities to the urban centers of Reno/Sparks and Las Vegas.

MISSION

To enrich the cultural life of the state through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans.

GOALS

- Increase public access, participation and investment in Nevada's arts and culture.
- Incorporate the arts as an essential element in the educational experience of all Nevadans.
- Strengthen the environment in which artists' work and contributions are valued and supported.
- Encourage and support diverse organizations that produce, present and promote excellence in the arts.



Nevada Arts Council

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