

Carson City

The capital — the State Capitol, the Kit Carson Trail and the V&T Railroad

Carson City is the capital of Nevada, a 1858 town on the Kit Carson Trail with the 1871 State Capitol, the Nevada State Museum and the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. It is 30 minutes from Lake Tahoe and 40 minutes from Reno.

At a glance

STATE CAPITOL	1871, the second-oldest west of the Mississippi
V&T RAILROAD	The 1869 short line, reborn as a tourist train
TO TAHOE	30 min to the east shore

When to go

May to October for the train and the Capitol tours; winter for Tahoe skiing. September is the best month — warm, clear and the fall colours on the Carson Range.

Getting around

The Capitol, the Museum and the Kit Carson Trail are walkable in 20 minutes. A car is needed for Virginia City (20 min) and Lake Tahoe (30 min).

What to see

State Capitol	The 1871 sandstone building — free tours, the Senate and Assembly chambers.
Nevada State Museum	The 1870 Mint building, with the Coin Press No. 1 and the Ichthyosaur fossil.
State Railroad Museum	The restored V&T Railroad locomotives, with weekend steam rides to Virginia City.
Kit Carson Trail	A 3-km walking trail past 30 historic homes and museums, with a map at the visitor center.
Stewart Indian School	The 1890 boarding school — now a museum and cultural center, 3 min south.
Virginia City	20 min east: the silver boomtown, with the V&T Railroad and the Bucket of Blood saloon.
Lake Tahoe East Shore	30 min: Sand Harbor and the Flume Trail, the clearest water in the lake.
Carson River	A kayak run from Carson City to Dayton, with eagles in winter.

Tours worth booking

Grand Canyon West helicopter with Skywalk entry 6 hours · Adventure · 4.8/5 (9400 reviews)

Grand Canyon South Rim day trip by air 10 hours · Adventure · 4.7/5 (5200 reviews)

Hoover Dam tour with Lake Mead views 5 hours · Culture · 4.7/5 (6800 reviews)

Red Rock Canyon sunrise hike and scenic loop 4 hours · Nature · 4.9/5 (2600 reviews)

Valley of Fire day trip with a photographer 7 hours · Nature · 4.8/5 (3100 reviews)

Death Valley National Park full-day tour 11 hours · Nature · 4.7/5 (4300 reviews)

Where to stay

Aria Resort & Casino CityCenter · Design · From \$220

Waldorf Astoria Las Vegas CityCenter · Luxury · From \$340

Vdara Hotel & Spa CityCenter · Adults-only · From \$170

Boulder Dam Hotel Boulder City · Historic · From \$120

Hampton Inn Carson City Carson City · Downtown · Family · From \$110

The Union, Carson City Carson City · Downtown · Boutique · From \$140

Day-by-day itineraries

Carson City in 1 day suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/carson-city/1-day-itinerary

Carson City in 2 days suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/carson-city/2-day-itinerary

Carson City in 3 days suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/carson-city/3-day-itinerary

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