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# Reno Tahoe USA

## 2-DAY AND 3-DAY ITINERARY OPTIONS

Reno Tahoe USA is one of the best destinations in the country for spending a few days under the sun, exploring the vast history and activities offered in the region. Below you will find a few seasonal suggestions that are not only entertaining but educational as well.

### 2-DAY: EVENT BASED ITINERARY

#### FRIDAY

##### **International Camel Races (Sept.) - Virginia City**

Who would have thought that camels could race? But that's just what they do when they're not spitting at their opponents every September in Virginia City. Camels were used by the U.S. Army to pack wood, salt and freight in the 1860s, which helped lead to this one-of-a-kind activity. Hundreds gather for this hilarious event.

[visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com)

##### **Lunch - Virginia City**

##### **Virginia City - Tours**

Once a vital settlement between Denver and San Francisco, Virginia City influenced the entire country. During its boom, Virginia City's mining proceeds amounted to millions of dollars, equaling billions today. Every inch of this picturesque, Victorian-era town celebrates its colorful history. Stroll authentic wooden sidewalks to Old West saloons, shops, museums and restaurants or visit historic churches, 19th century homes, public buildings and quaint cemeteries. Venture out on a ride on a stagecoach, horse-drawn carriage, trolley or the V&T Railroad steam engine train that crosses the high desert landscape dotted with old mines. Take your step back in time in Virginia City! Just 40 minutes from downtown Reno. [visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com)

#### SATURDAY

##### **The Great Reno Balloon Race (Sept.) - Reno Glow Show -**

Beginning at 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, glowing balloons will act as a beacon to those sleepy spectators making their way to the launch field. Each year different balloons participate in this fun show to make way for the highly anticipated Dawn Patrol. Don't miss this year's participants!

**Dawn Patrol** - A trademark of The Great Reno Balloon Race and worthy of the early rise, Dawn Patrol features a handful of balloons that are qualified to fly in the dark. This is a dangerous task as atmospheric conditions change drastically as the sun begins to rise. Balloonists glow, twinkle and fly along with choreographed music across a darkened sky, leaving the crowd awestruck. Saturday and Sunday only. [renoballoon.com](http://renoballoon.com)

##### **Breakfast Break**

##### **Afternoon - Walking Tour of Downtown Reno**

Beyond the Arches - Witness downtown Reno as it has reinvented itself for 150 years. This tour links the Downtown Reno Arches with stories of the forces that shaped the town: railroad and mining; immigrants; as a notorious divorce and gambling mecca; and, now as a livable cultural hub. Walk in the footsteps of Bill Harrah, Myron Lake, Baby Face Nelson, Frederic DeLongchamps and others. [historicroeno.org](http://historicroeno.org), 775-747-4478



## 2-DAY: TRAIN AND TRANSPORTATION TOUR ITINERARY

Arrive in Reno via Amtrak from Sacramento

### DAY 1

Bus to Carson City

#### Nevada State Railroad Museum

The Nevada State Railroad Museum, in Carson City, preserves the railroad heritage of Nevada, including locomotives and cars of the famous Virginia and Truckee Railroad. Much of the museum equipment was obtained from Hollywood studios, where they were often featured in movies and television. Museum activities consist of operation of historic railroad equipment, including train rides, hand-car rides, lectures, an annual railroad history symposium, changing exhibits and a variety of special events.

[museums.nevadaculture.org](http://museums.nevadaculture.org), 775-687-6953

#### Train Ride to Virginia City

**Virginia & Truckee Railroad Ride & Tour** - Nevada's most famous short line is the Virginia & Truckee Railroad that connected Reno with Carson City, Virginia City and Minden. Operating for 80 years, the V&T was Nevada's Bonanza railroad as it hauled valuable Comstock ore to quartz reduction mills located at Silver City and along the Carson River. The V&T Railroad recently underwent a \$30 million expansion and offers daily trips. Visitors can board the historic railway in Carson City and arrive in Virginia City just like "back in the day." [virginiatruckee.com](http://virginiatruckee.com), 775-847-0380

Bus picks up group in Virginia City and departs to Reno for dinner

### DAY 2

#### Tour of the National Automobile Museum - Reno

The National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection), in downtown Reno, displays over 220 antique, vintage and classic cars, many of which came from gaming magnate William F. Harrah's famous collection. The collection's stars include the 1907 Thomas Flyer, winner of the 1908 New York to Paris race, and several cars owned by Hollywood stars. Other vehicles appear in rotation on the museum's "streets" and in four galleries. [automuseum.org](http://automuseum.org), 775-333-9300

#### Lunch

#### Afternoon - Walking Tour of Downtown Reno

Beyond the Arches - Witness downtown Reno as it has reinvented itself for 150 years. This tour links the Downtown Reno Arches with stories of the forces that shaped the town: railroad and mining, immigrants, as a notorious divorce and gambling mecca and now as a livable cultural hub. Walk in the footsteps of Bill Harrah, Myron Lake, Baby Face Nelson, Frederic DeLongchamps and others.

[historicroeno.org](http://historicroeno.org), 775-747-4478

Depart Reno via train back to Northern California or head east to Elko and Salt Lake City

## 3-DAY: "THE GREAT OUTDOORS"

### DAY 1

#### Wild Horses

Sonny Boys Tours is dedicated to providing quality eco-tours, scenic tours and information on the subject of wild horses and to educate the public on the need for protection and preservation of the American Mustang. There are few remaining wild horses out on open ranges. Each year in the



West, thousands of horses are gathered or rounded-up in the attempt to thin the size of herds for a variety of reasons. Sonny Boys Tours' goal is to give guided eco-tours of wild horses for small groups, to view and encounter Mustangs, and gain an understanding about the wild horses and burros. In the course of tours, visitors will marvel at the rugged beauty of the region. As a result, Sonny Boys Tours has expanded its service to offer unique scenic tours that capture the spirit of the West! Group size is typically 11, but arrangements for larger groups may be made upon request.

**renowildhorsetours.com**, 775-200-5205

## DAY 2

### Tour of Lake Tahoe

Discover Lake Tahoe Tour - Travel to Lake Tahoe, arriving at the UC Davis Environmental Research Center. See how glaciers, earthquakes, volcanoes and an ancient 300-foot-high tsunami gave the 22-mile long lake its shape and life. This also includes native fish and a green building exhibit. Next, it's off to Zephyr Cove for a picnic lunch followed by a cruise on the MS Dixie. The two-hour cruise will let you explore the wonder of Lake Tahoe, Emerald Bay and more.

**pattystours.com**, 775-453-1794

## DAY 3

### Astronomy Tour

Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center - As a public science education facility specializing in atmospheric and space science and related fields, its goal is to increase interest, awareness and understanding of these disciplines by offering quality programs and experiences tailored to all ages and education levels. **planetarium.unr.nevada.edu**, 775-784-4812

### Star Tour

Stargazers unite and join Tahoe Adventure Company and Tony Berendsen for majestic telescopic tours of the mid-

night sky. This fusion brings you the most exciting tour of the season. It all starts with guided sunset kayaking, hiking or snowshoeing followed by a brilliant tour of the midnight sky. Professional, knowledgeable guides will teach about the natural and human history of the area, while watching the sun cast a purple alpenglow onto the Sierras.

**tahoeadventurecompany.com**, 530-913-9212

## 3-DAY: "BIRD LOVERS"

## DAY 1

### Bird Tour Company: Birding Under Nevada Skies

Tours to the best birding areas throughout Nevada and custom tours catered to specific interests including 2- to 4-hour tours to multi-day tours. Guides are members and directors of the Lahontan Audubon Ornithologists; University of Nevada, Reno; Hawk Watch International and other birding and scientific organizations. They also provide the opportunity for in-the-field photography, geology/rock hounding, wildflower identification, trout fishing, stargazing, camping and other outdoor activities. Contact Jim Woods at 775-720-7009

## DAY 2

### Day Trip to Fallon

#### Spring Wings Bird Festival (May)

Professionals from the Lahontan Audubon Society, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife will lead birding and wildlife tours in the Lahontan Valley Wetlands. **springwings.org**

### Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge

The Carson Lake Wetlands and nearby Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge are key respites to migratory birds along



the Pacific Flyway. Shorebirds are common in the wetlands, approximately 70 miles east of Reno, and waterfowl arrive by the hundreds of thousands in the late fall.

[fws.gov/stillwater](http://fws.gov/stillwater), 775-423-5128

## DAY 3

### Easy Tour in Reno

Reno has several urban parks and wild-life areas that are easily accessible to visitors. The Oxbow Nature Study Area runs parallel to the Truckee River just a few miles upstream of downtown Reno. It's the first park of its kind in Nevada and is quickly being duplicated in other areas of the state. The lush banks, thick cottonwoods and willows and quiet paths create an Eden just a short hike from the hustle and bustle of downtown. Two miles of trails meander through the area and interpretive signs explain the flora and fauna to be found along the river. Parts of the park are wheelchair accessible, and wooden benches along the way make it a perfect destination for a leisurely stroll.

[ndow.org/learn/programs/region/west/oxbow.shtm](http://ndow.org/learn/programs/region/west/oxbow.shtm),  
775-334-3808

