



Lake Tahoe

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Moody's Bistro & Lounge (p391)
- ➔ Cafe Fiore (p379)
- ➔ Fire Sign Cafe (p384)
- ➔ Rustic Lodge (p393)
- ➔ Old Granite Street Eatery (p398)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Cedar House Sport Hotel (p391)
- ➔ Hostel Tahoe (p394)
- ➔ PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn (p388)
- ➔ Deerfield Lodge at Heavenly (p377)
- ➔ Clair Tappaan Lodge (p390)

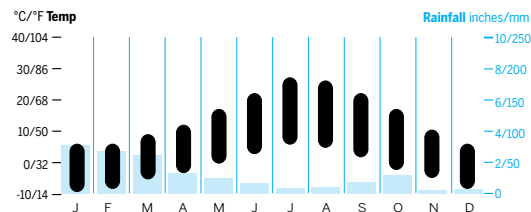
Why Go?

Shimmering in myriad shades of blue and green, Lake Tahoe is the USA's second-deepest lake. Driving around the lake's spellbinding 72-mile scenic shoreline will give you quite a workout behind the wheel. Generally speaking, the north shore is quiet and upscale; the west shore, rugged and old-timey; the east shore, undeveloped; the south shore, busy and tacky, with aging motels and flashy casinos; and nearby Reno, the biggest little city in the region.

The horned peaks surrounding the lake, which straddles the California–Nevada state line, are year-round destinations. The sun shines on Tahoe three out of four days in the year. Swimming, boating, kayaking, windsurfing, stand-up paddleboarding and other water sports take over in summer, as do hiking, camping and wilderness backpacking adventures. Winter brings bundles of snow, perfect for those of all ages to hit the slopes at Tahoe's top-tier ski and snowboard resorts.

When to Go

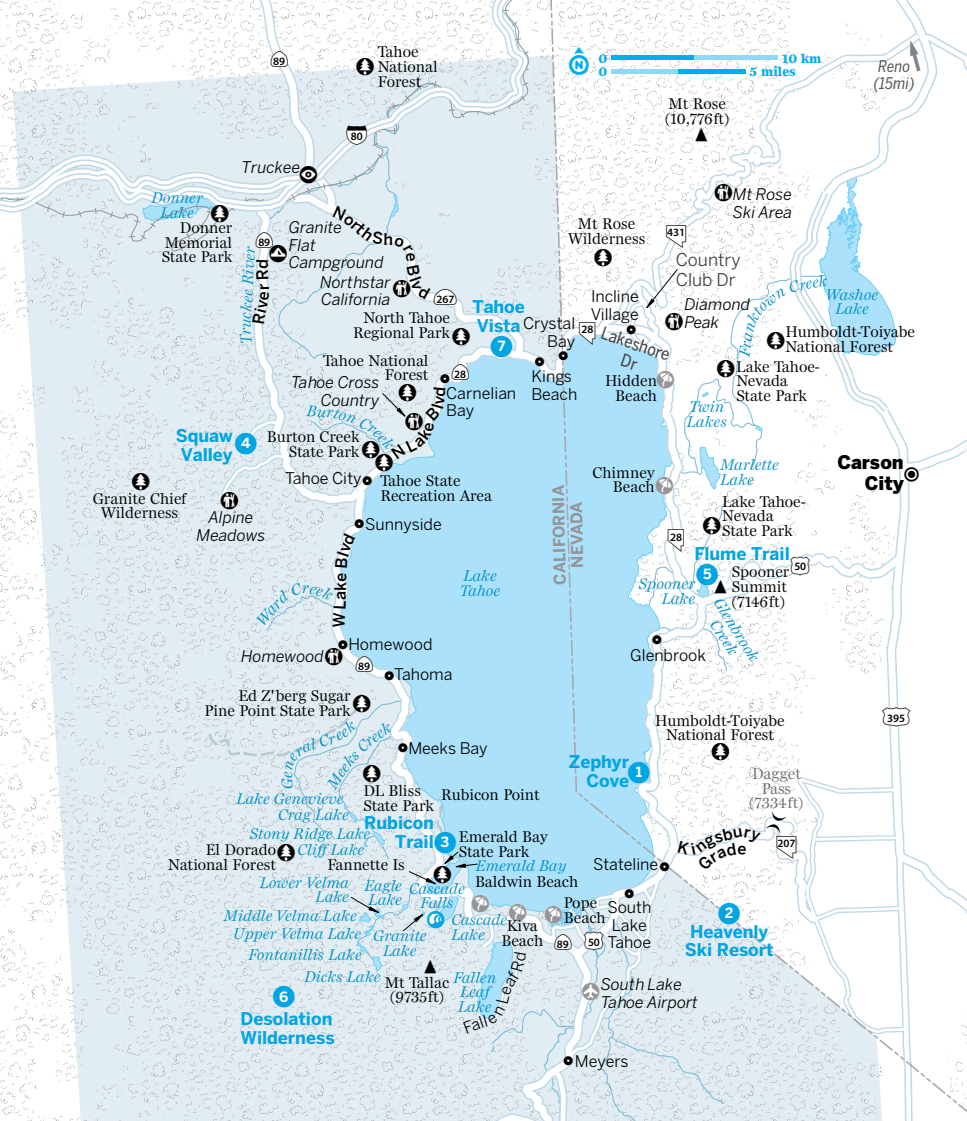
South Lake Tahoe



Jul & Aug Beach season; wildflowers bloom, and hiking and mountain-biking trails open.

Sep & Oct Cooler temperatures, colorful foliage and fewer tourists after Labor Day.

Dec–Mar Snow sports galore at resorts; storms bring hazardous roads.



Lake Tahoe Highlights

- 1 Survey the expanse of Lake Tahoe from aboard a kayak or from the sandy beach at **Zephyr Cove** (p371).
- 2 Swoosh down the vertiginous double-black-diamond runs of **Heavenly ski resort** (p366).
- 3 Trek the **Rubicon Trail** (p382) from Vikingsholm

Castle on sparkling Emerald Bay to DL Bliss State Park.

- 4 Swim in an outdoor lagoon or ice-skate above 8000ft near the cable-car line in **Squaw Valley** (p387).
- 5 Thunder down the **Flume Trail** (p396) on a mountain bike to tranquil Spooner Lake.

- 6 Escape summer crowds with an overnight backpack to alpine lakes and high-country meadows in the **Desolation Wilderness** (p371).
- 7 Cozy up with your family around a lakefront beach firepit or inside a comfortable cabin at **Tahoe Vista** (p392) on the no-fuss northern shore.