



Lake Tahoe

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Best Places to Eat

- » Moody's Bistro & Lounge (p380)
- » Café Fiore (p367)
- » Wild Goose (p382)
- » Fire Sign Café (p373)
- » Dockside 700 Wine Bar & Grill (p375)

Best Places to Stay

- » Cedar House Sport Hotel (p379)
- » Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn (p376)
- » Tahoma Meadows Bed & Breakfast Cottages (p372)
- » Deerfield Lodge at Heavenly (p365)
- » Clair Tappaan Lodge (p379)

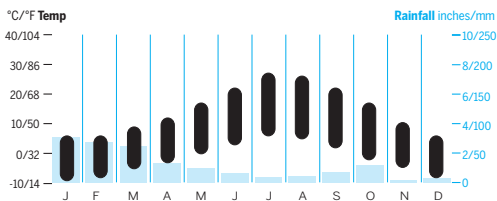
Why Go?

Shimmering in myriad shades of blue and green, Lake Tahoe is the USA's second-deepest lake and, at 6255ft high, it's also one of the highest-elevation lakes in the country. Generally speaking, the north shore is quiet and upscale; the west shore, rugged and old-timey; the east shore, undeveloped; and the south shore, busy and tacky, with aging motels and flashy casinos. Driving around the lake's spellbinding 72-mile scenic shoreline will give you quite a workout behind the wheel.

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 paddle boarding 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 Surveying the shimmering expanse of Lake Tahoe aboard a kayak or from the sandy beach at **Zephyr Cove** (p361)
- 2 Swooshing down the vertiginous double-black-diamond runs of **Heavenly ski resort** (p354)
- 3 Trekking the **Rubicon Trail** (p371) from Vikingsholm

- 4 Swimming in an outdoor lagoon, or ice-skating above 8000ft atop the cable-car line in **Squaw Valley** (p376)
- 5 Thundering down the **Flume Trail** (p384) on a mountain bike to tranquil Spooner Lake.

- 6 Escaping summer crowds with an overnight backpack to alpine lakes and high-country meadows in the **Desolation Wilderness** (p362)
- 7 Cozying up with your family around a lakefront beach firepit or inside a cozy cabin at **Tahoe Vista** (p381) on the no-fuss northern shore