



Lake Tahoe

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Tahoe City	443
Squaw Valley	446
Truckee & Donner Lake	447
Northern Shore	451
Eastern Shore	454
Reno (Nevada)	455

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Moody's Bistro & Lounge (p451)
- ➔ Cafe Fiore (p438)
- ➔ Fire Sign Cafe (p443)
- ➔ Fat Cat (p445)
- ➔ Old Granite Street Eatery (p458)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Cedar House Sport Hotel (p450)
- ➔ Hostel Tahoe (p453)
- ➔ PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn (p447)
- ➔ Deerfield Lodge at Heavenly (p435)
- ➔ Sorensen's (p435)

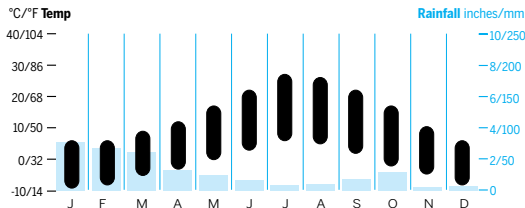
Why Go?

Shimmering in myriad shades of blue and green, Lake Tahoe is the USA's second-deepest lake and, at 6255ft high, it is also one of the highest-elevation lakes in the country. Driving around the spellbinding 72-mile scenic shoreline will give you quite a workout behind the wheel. Generally, 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 every four days. Swimming, boating, kayaking, windsurfing, stand up paddle surfing (SUP) and other water sports take over in summer, as do hiking, camping and wilderness backpacking adventures. Winter brings bundles of snow, perfect for hitting Tahoe's top-tier ski and snowboard resorts.

When to Go

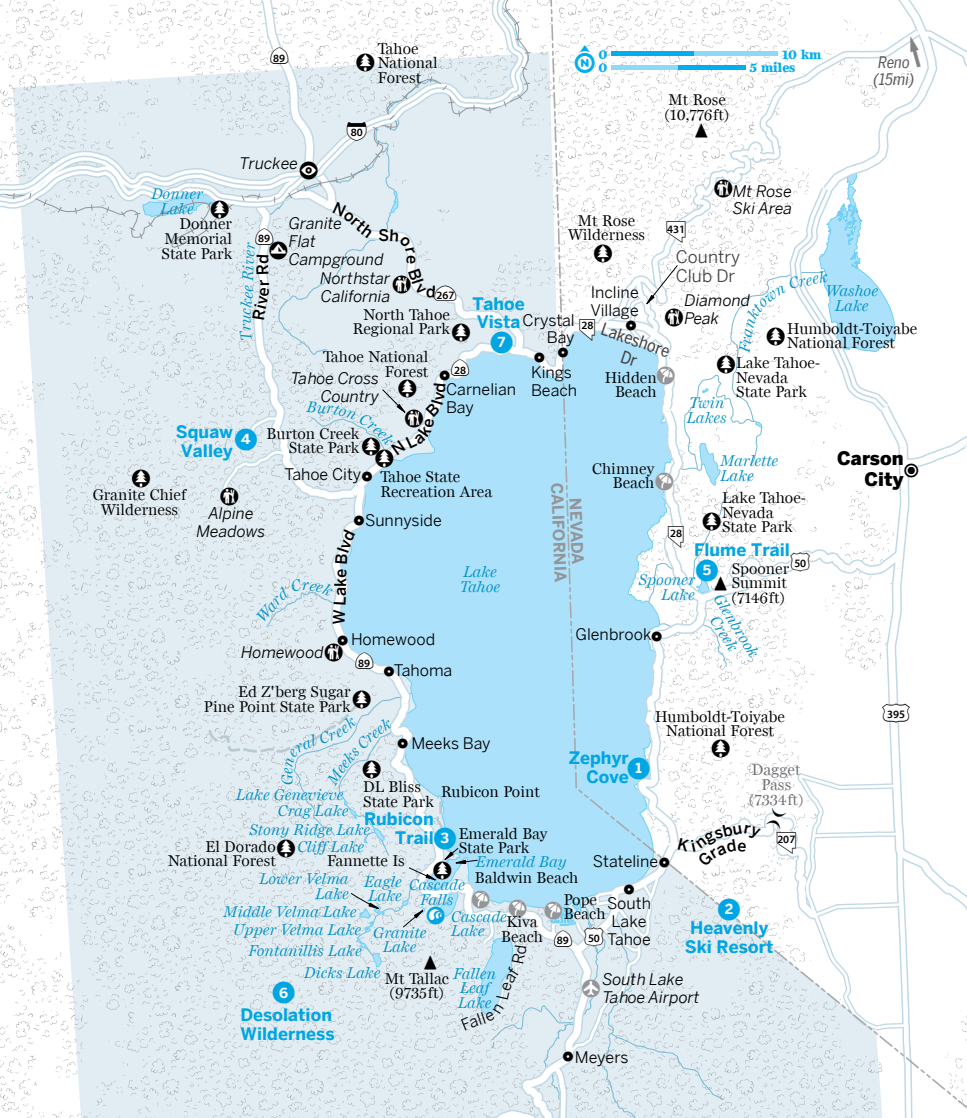
South Lake Tahoe



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 from a kayak or from the sandy beach at **Zephyr Cove** (p431).

2 Swooshing down the vertiginous double-black-diamond runs of **Heavenly** (p427) ski resort.

3 Trekking **Rubicon Trail** (p440) from Vikingsholm

Castle on sparkling Emerald Bay to DL Bliss State Park.

4 Swimming in an outdoor lagoon or ice-skating above 8000ft atop the cable-car line in **Squaw Valley** (p446).

5 Thundering down **Flume Trail** (p455) 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** (p436).

7 Cozying up with your family around a lakefront beach fire pit or inside a comfortable cabin at **Tahoe Vista** (p452) on the no-fuss northern shore.