Visit the Old West and The World Famous Camel/Ostrich Races
September 4 to 7, 2025 (check out on 7th)

What/Why: Visit and photograph the old west of Carson City, Dayton, and Virginia City. Images of turn of the century western style buildings and old west streets. Landscape caters to the high desert, find the right spot for sunrises and sunsets. Check out the Carson River as it runs through Dayton where you can take a self-guided tour photographing the unique western style homes.

Carson City is Nevada's state capital, and you will find many photo opportunities. One of the highlights is the Carson City Nevada State Museum where you'll find the original US Mint with its coin presses.

Around Carson City you will find many smaller towns of interest. Some of you may drive up to Washoe Lake, potentially wild horse sighting a possibility. Wild horses do wander into some of the areas we are recommending, so have your cameras ready.

Virginia city is known as the mining town where many fortunes were made. The city's mansions, opera house and other iconic buildings show the wealth of its time. Want to know more, check out the mines, railroad, and many museums. For those of you that find cemeteries a photographic opportunity one of the best historic is the Silver Terrace Cemetery or "boot hill."

We include something different on this field trip. Virginia City is known for its International Camel/Ostrich Races. We are recommending attending the event on Sept 6th. It's not often you'll get a chance to see this type of race. Take advantage to photography this unique race.

Photo Opportunity/Theme

1) Nature/landscape and old western towns.
2) Street photography – with an old west feel.
3) Old West buildings and history (Carson City, Dayton, Virginia City, Genoa)
4) Camel/Ostrich races in Virginia City.
5) Museums of the old west, US mint, trains, etc.

Where: Carson City, Virginia City and Dayton Nevada.

When: September 4 to 7th. Check out on 7th.

Where to stay: We are recommending **Courtyard by Marriott, Carson City** at 3870 S Carson St, Carson City, NV, 89701. Rates run about $205-240/night. **Phone:** (775) 887-9900
Courtyard Carson City - Hotel With Fitness Center & Pool

Disability/Handicap Accessibility

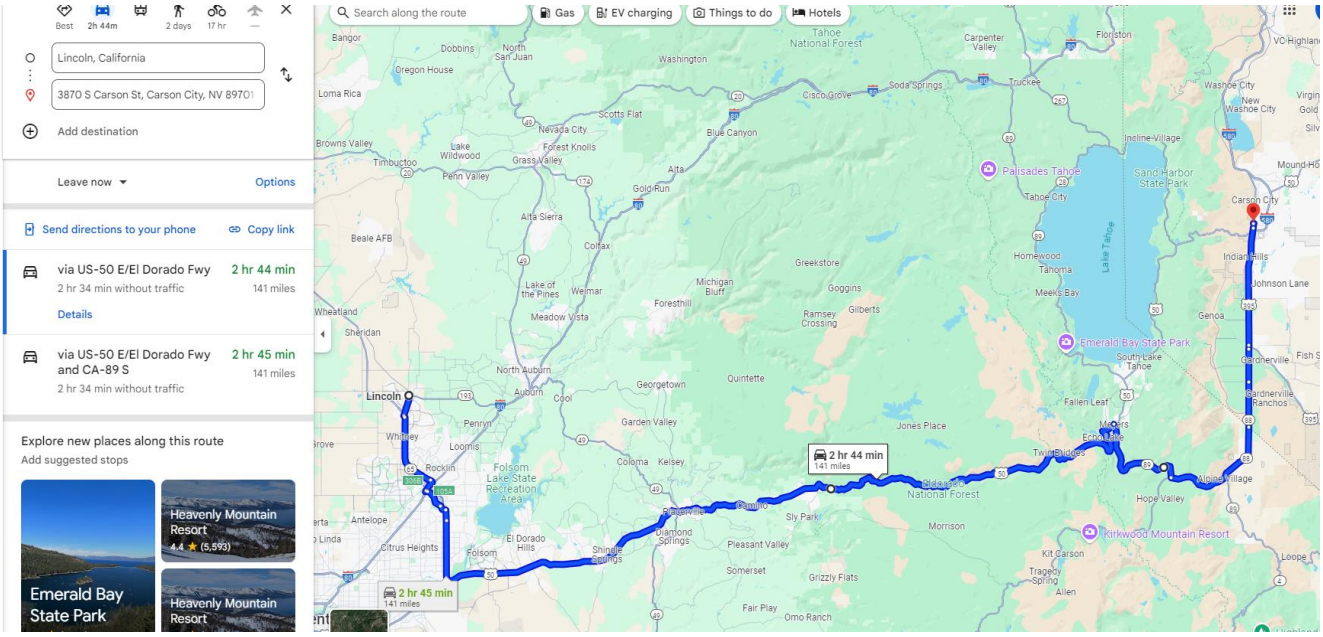
- **Courtyard by Marriott, Carson City** is Handicap accessible.
- Most of the town areas and museums are handicap accessible. Recommend going to location website to confirm accessibility.
- Carson City, The city offers a variety of accessible places, including natural wonders, state parks, casinos, and historical sites.
- Most places in Virginia City are handicap accessible. The visitor center, hotels, shops, and museums are accessible, and ramps for wheelchairs have been installed in many buildings. The state offers an inclusive adventure for everyone, with robust laws supporting handicap accessibility. The Virginia Tourism Corporation provides a website describing the accessibility features of travel attractions, lodging, and dining establishments statewide.
- Dayton State Park
    - **Accessible parking** at major trailheads and visitor centers.
    - **Paved trails** within the park that are wheelchair accessible.
    - **Accessible visitor centers** equipped with ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms.

Group Social Events

- September 4th, 6pm – Welcome Dinner at Bamboo Garden. 4250 Cochise St, Carson City,
- September 5th, 6pm – Dinner, to be announced.
- September 6th, 6pm - Sunset at Silver Terrace Cemetery, “boot hill”, photo shoot at dusk.
    - Cemetery Hours: 10am to 7pm
    - Meet at the gate of Silver Terrace Cemetery
    - Grab something to eat before or after.

Area Photograph Recommendations

Day 1 Recommendation: Lincoln to Carson City (driving into Carson City from Sun City)
As you leave Lincoln and head to Carson City, you might want to do a southern route using highway 50 to Meyers, turn onto highway 89. Then take 88 to 395 north to Carson City.
You will by-pass South Lake Tahoe and will travel though more scenic areas.



Place/Town to stop at:

- Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park [Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park – A public park.]
- Genoa, one of the oldest towns in NV.
    - Visit Mormon Station State Historic Park, some neat building to photographic.
    - Explore the Genoa Courthouse Museum
    - Have a drink at the iconic Genoa Bar. The Genoa Bar is famous for being the oldest bar in Nevada.

Day 2 – Around the Carson Area

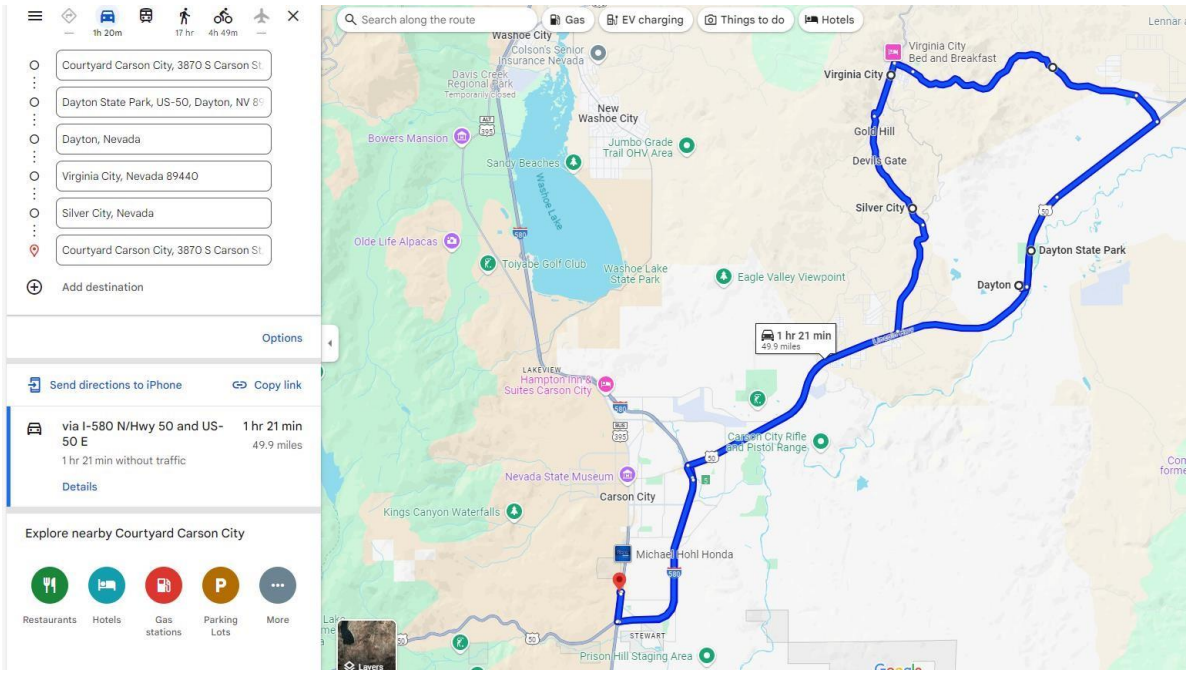
There are several things to photograph in and around Carson City, here are some suggestions.

- Kit Carson trail walk/Carson City mansions. [Kit-Carson-Trail-Map-FINAL-WebVersion.pdf]
  *this might attract a group going together. Group stop for lunch together, those on the walk.
- 59+ murals. Photograph the murals around Carson City. Download Pdf to see locations of murals. [Final-Murals-and-Music-Festical-Map-Schedule.pdf]
- Nevada State Museum/Mint [HISTORIC CARSON CITY MINT | Nevada State Museum | Carson City]
- Railroad museum. [Home | Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City]
- Stewart Indian Culture Center and Museum (closed Saturday & Sunday) https;//stewartindianschool.com/
- Nevada State Capitol Building **[Nevada Capitol Building - Visit Carson City]**

- Bowers Mansion, The Historic Bowers Mansion is located within Bowers Mansion Regional Park. Mansion tours are only on the weekend; grounds are open during the week. Located at 4005 Bowers Mansion Road, New Washoe City, NV Bowers Mansion
- Carson Valley (Minden and Gardnerville) Carson Valley Trails Association
  Here's a more detailed look at each location:
- **Washoe Lake State Park:** Enjoy tranquil views and peaceful vibes with stunning lake scenery. 4855 Eastlake Blvd, New Washoe City, NV
- **King Canyon Waterfall:** A scenic hike to the west side of Carson City will reward you with a beautiful waterfall. Kings Canyon Rd, Carson City, NV
- **Carson River at River Fork Ranch:** Landscape photographers will love the views of the Carson Range, wetlands, meadows, and riparian habitats. 399 Genoa Ln, Minden, NV 89423
- **Pine Nut Mountains:** OFF ROAD. The Pine Nut Mountains are a **north–south mountain range in the Great Basin**, in Douglas and Lyon counties of northwestern Nevada, United States. Find solitude and stunning rock formations, diverse geology, and desert geography in this remote area. The Dirt: Pine Nut Mountains | OFF-ROAD Nevada

Day 3 – Scouting Virginia City, Dayton/Carson River, and the Camel Race

On this day we encourage photography the Town of Dayton, Virginia City and seeing the camel/ostrich races. You will need to purchase tickets for the race.



- Start off by heading to Dayton. There are several old western buildings. The Dayton Historical Walking Tour brochure is available at the Dayton Museum in the historic Dayton schoolhouse. More information [Walk through Dayton history in an afternoon | Serving Northern Nevada]
- Dayton State Park, The park features the remains of the Rock Point Mill built in 1861, a remnant of Dayton's mining glory days. Old stone walls from the mill, one of the first to process ore from the Comstock Lode, still stand among cottonwood, sagebrush, and willows. Access to Carson River. [Dayton State Park | State Parks]
- From Dayton to Virginia City take the Six Mile Canyon Road. Continue 50 north, Six Mile will be on the left. It's a more scenic drive to Virginia City.

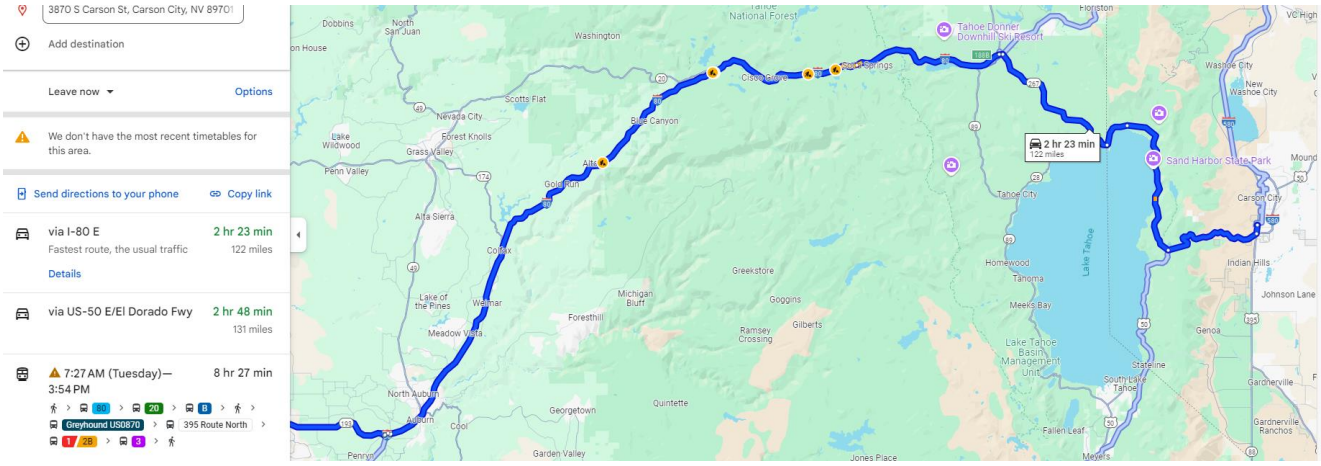
- If you plan to add the Camel/Ostrich race you will need tickets. There are races at 10am or 2pm. If you are planning to see Dayton in the morning, you'll want to attend the 2pm race.
    - Camel Race Sept 6th (Saturday). Try for the 2pm show. [International Camel & Ostrich Races - Virginia City]
      [66th Annual International Camel & Ostrich Races*2025]
    - Ticket chooses include the following:
        - VIP Bleacher Seating: $72 includes fee.
        - Premium Shaded Seating: $34 includes fee.
        - General Senior: $17 includes fee.
        - Free shuttle service, Park at the Virginia City Fairgrounds & Arena. Shuttle runs from fairground. It's a 15-minute walk.

- Other Stuff in Virginia City
    - Piper Opera House tour Tours - Piper's Opera House - Virginia City, Nevada Need to call and ask about tours/groups
    - Mackay Mansion Mackay Mansion | Nevada | Therealmackaymansion
    - Museum of the Comstock Comstock History Center | Things to Do in Virginia City, Nevada
    - Historic Fourth Ward School Museum Historic Fourth Ward School Museum • Virginia City, NV
    - The Way It Was Museum The Way It Was Museum
    - Chollar Mansion Chollar Mansion : Photo Details :: The Western Nevada Historic Photo Collection
    - Chollar Mine Tours Chollar Mine Tours - Historic Mine Tours in Virginia City, Nevada
    - Virginia & Truckee Railroad Company Ride the V&T Railroad!
    - The Castle The Castle, Virginia City Nevada - AllTrips
    - Silver Terrace Cemetery or "Boot Hill." Silver Terrace Cemetery

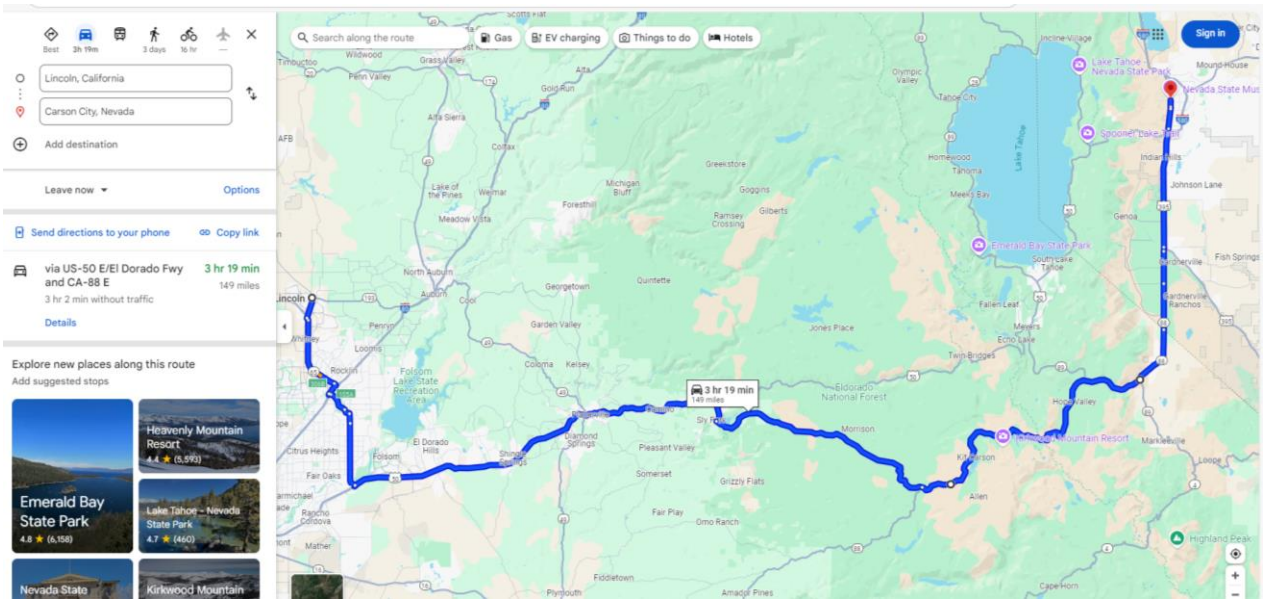
- Outside of Virginia City
    - Fort Churchill. Fort Churchill State Historic Park | State Parks
    - The Donovan Mill is a historic gold and silver processing Mill in the Comstock Mining District. 900 Main St, Silver City, NV, off highway 342 (between Carson City and Virginia City)

Day 4 – Come Home • Check out and head-home.

- Two options:
    1. North route through King Beach, capture lake photos. Take 395 south then turn right onto 50. Follow until you get to highway 28, make right. This will take you north along Lake Tahoe. Things to photograph – Bonsai Rock, Sand Harbor State Park (fees). When you get to 267, take a right. This connects you to 80. If your around Kings Beach for lunch, grab a burger at Char Pitt, 8732 N Lake Blvd, Kings Beach.



2. Southern route, go through Carson Valley, other scenic area on the drive home. From Carson City, take 395 south. Then 88 south, this route takes you past lakes and other scenic areas. Take a right onto Mormon Emigrant Trail. This will get you to Highway 50.



How to photograph The Old West – Towns

1. Capture the iconic imagery of the Old West, including cattle drives, handmade homes, and dusty Wild West towns.
2. Use black-and-white tonality for a nod to the past.
3. Consider tintype portraits, which were instrumental in telling the visual story of the American frontier.
4. Explore historical records from agencies like the National Archives.
5. Shoot in inclement weather, sunsets, sunrise atmosphere to impact images.
6. Use dust to soften harsh light and create ambience.
7. Use shadows to give depth of feel.
8. Use a wide-angle lens to capture tight spaces.
9. Try different angles and perspectives.
10. Visit during off-peak hours to avoid crowds or lessen the amount of people to edit out in post processing.
11. Research the historical context and architecture of a building.
12. Explore obscure building like jails, sheriff's office, general stores, saloons, boarding houses, stables, etc.

We encourage you to do your own research as well, lots of things out there to read. Here's a few things.

Creating an Old West Photograph | Photo Editing
how to photograph old west towns - Search Images
Focus: 5 top tips for photographing historic buildings

Camera Equipment:

- All lenses should be available to you (wide, close-up, medium, telephoto).
- Flash for indoors.
- Filters – ND. If your shooting in black/white, color filters.
- Tripod, monopod and remote release.

Other Gear

- Clothing – weather ranges from the 50's to the mid 80's. Dress in layers.
- Walking/hiking shoes or boots with good support and grip.
- Flashlights or other lighting gear if you're planning early morning/evening photo work.
- Walking sticks, portable chairs, or other supports if you plan to hike.
- First aid kit, sunglasses and hats, sunscreen.

- Some areas will NOT have cell phone coverage. Apple phones have SOS – satellite capability. **Check your phone to see if it has emergency call out capabilities.**

Terrain of the Area:

- This is the high desert area.
- Depending on what you are planning to do, walking can be on flat pavement to trail grade paths. As you plan what you'll be doing, suggest researching the area.

Other References

Details on Kit Carson Trail - Visit Carson City

Carson Valley Visitors Authority

Annual Events | Main Street Gardnerville

10 Charming Small Towns In Nevada Perfect For A Fall Day Trip From Vegas

Gardnerville, Minden, Topaz Lake | Carson Valley Visitors Authority