

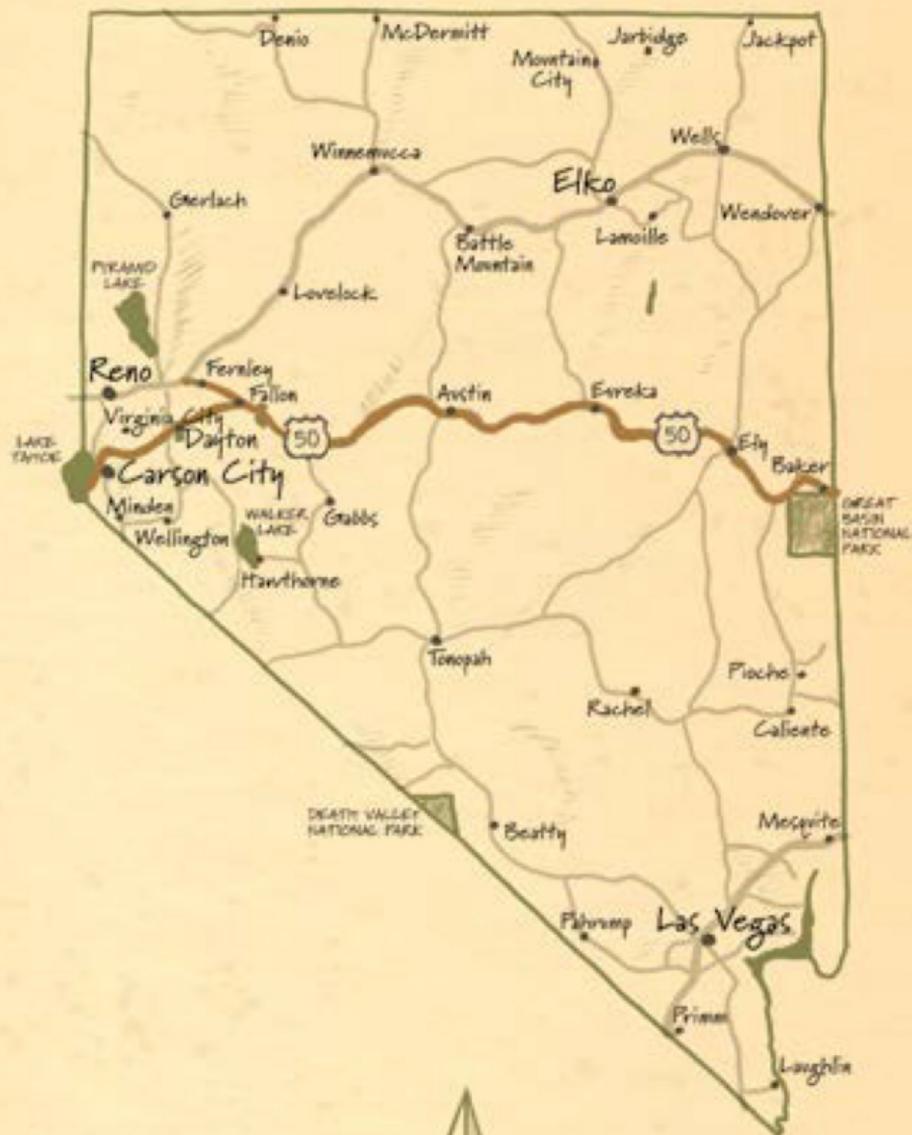
THE OFFICIAL



SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Loneliest Road in America

#LONELIESTROADINAMERICA



EMBARKING ON THE *“Loneliest Road in America”*

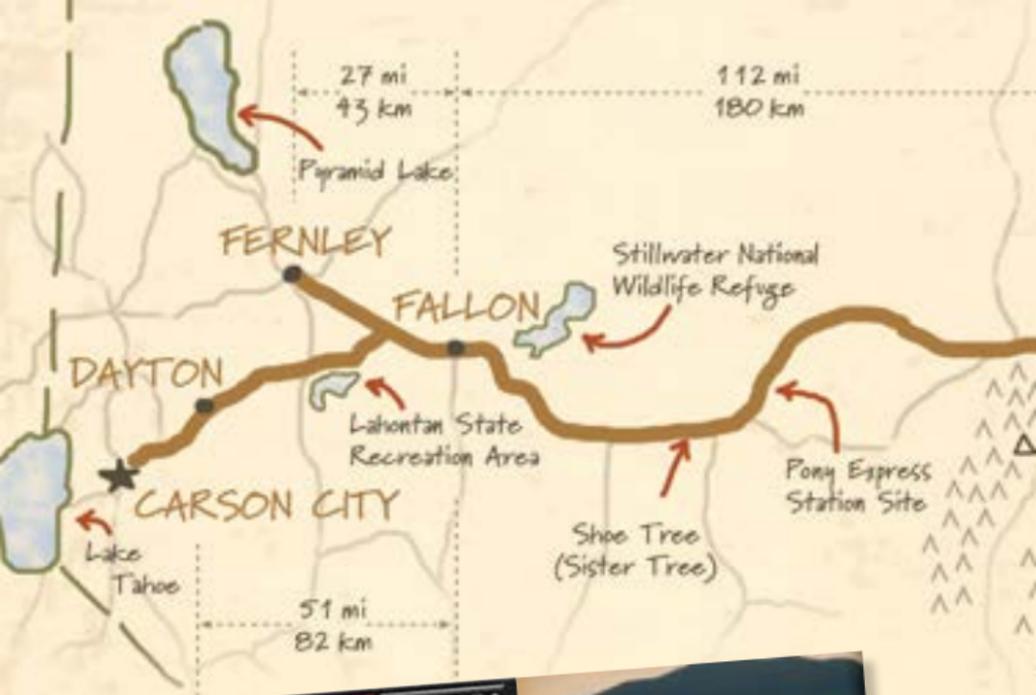
In July 1986, Life magazine described Nevada’s Highway 50 as the “Loneliest Road in America.” The article said there were no attractions or points of interest along the 287-mile stretch of road and “warned” drivers not to risk traveling the route — unless they had “survival skills.”

However, Nevadans knew better then and know better now. True, Highway 50 is wide and open. But isn’t that part of the fun? As it happens, the route is also one of the state’s most scenic and historic corridors. As you travel this famed road, you can almost hear the gallop of the horses along the Pony Express, see the wagon trains on the Overland Stagecoach trails, and feel the quest for riches while passing through some of the best-preserved 19th-century mining towns in the state.

Highway 50 epitomizes Nevada’s spirit of discovery — with rugged character, born of an authenticity you can still see and hear and feel. One bound to draw you off the beaten path to the hidden treasures found in the small towns, valleys, and mountain passes. You’ll find that much of the surprising natural beauty and scenic splendor of Nevada remains unspoiled by crowds, yearning to be experienced and enjoyed — maybe even all to yourself.



Good Luck!



“We don’t recommend it.”

The warning — and challenge! — was laid out in the July 1986 edition of Life Magazine: U.S. 50 from Ely to Fernley is the LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA.



“ ‘It’s totally empty,’ says a AAA counselor. ‘There are no points of interest. **We don’t recommend it.**’ The 287-mile stretch of U.S. 50 running from Ely to Fernley, Nev., passes nine towns, two abandoned mining camps, a few gas pumps and the occasional coyote. ‘We warn all motorists not to drive there,’ says the AAA rep, ‘**unless they’re confident of their survival skills.**’ ”

Game on.

Survival of the Adventurous

A trip across Highway 50 is for people who want a little real-deal adventure in their travels. **Those who hear folks say “the journey is just as important as the destination” and actually take it to heart.** Those who know that the truly worthwhile experiences and memories always come with a bit of risk, and that the experience of a lifetime might be a few more miles down the road or just over the next summit.



Look for these signs — coming soon! — in each town to learn more about each location on The Loneliest Road!



This storied road is your link to unsurpassed recreational opportunities including hiking, biking, climbing, camping, RV-ing, off-roading, motorcycling, horseback riding, sandboarding, stargazing, saloon-hopping, and even hot springing. No matter your pleasure, while you're out here chasing it, you're bound to enjoy exploring the road's scenic, endless vistas; friendly full-service communities; and wonderfully historic towns filled with stories and characters who can spin a yarn that'll keep you mesmerized for hours and yearning to learn more.

Highway 50 is rich in diverse experiences and unexpected **adventures that are waiting to be discovered by travelers like you** — those who consider themselves participants, not just tourists; people who want to fully experience a place, not simply see it.

Are you a survivor?

HOW TO BECOME A LONELIEST ROAD *Survivor*

We believe anyone who's ventured across Highway 50 deserves some recognition and we want to be sure you get more than just bragging rights for your achievement. So, let's make it official!

Here's how:

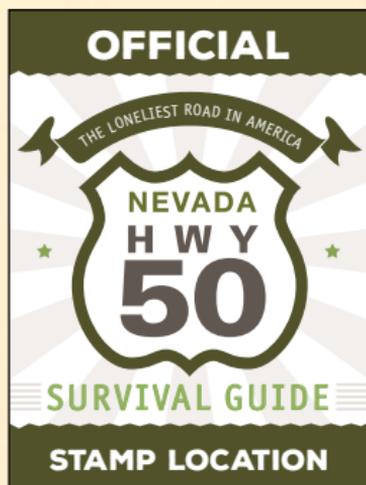
1. LOOK FOR SIGNS

Take this Highway 50 Survival Guide to any participating chamber of commerce, business, museum, or visitors center in Carson City, Dayton, Fernley, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, Ely, or Baker that displays the sign: **"Official Stamp Location"**

A partial list of participating locations can be found in the back of this booklet.

2. GET STAMPED

At each stop, have the back flap in your guide validated with that community's official stamp.



Feeling social?

#LonliestRoadInAmerica

Whether you're sharing a FOMO-inducing selfie or some seriously #nofilter-worthy slice of scenery, be sure to tag it **#LoneliestRoadInAmerica**. And feel free to grab our attention — we're **@TravelNevada** on all your go-to networks. If we love your post, we just might ask to re-share it and make you Insta-famous.

*Be aware, not all points along the road have cell/Internet service. However, no cell service, no Wi-Fi? No problem. Before you head off the grid, download the **TravelNevada app** for tips on nearby attractions, museums, cafes, bars, motels, shops and more — no matter where you are.*



3. GOT FIVE? SEND IT IN!

Once you have the flap stamped in **AT LEAST FIVE** of the eight communities, fill in your name and address, tear off the back flap that doubles as a postage-paid postcard, and drop it in the mail to the Nevada Division of Tourism. In return, you'll receive an **official Highway 50 Survivor souvenir and certificate** to commemorate your successful journey across the Loneliest Road in America.

Ready for a real Nevada road trip?

Then crack the windows, crank up the tunes, get out there and enjoy your journey.

CARSON CITY

At the start or the end of your journey, Carson City provides the ideal base camp for your adventure. Abundant lodging facilities, shopping, dining, and sightseeing activities are all tucked alongside the spectacular eastern Sierra Nevada. Nestled in the northwestern part of the state, just a short jaunt from both Lake Tahoe and Reno, Nevada's capital was built on the cornerstones of mining, logging, and the mighty railroad. And while the city has all the modern amenities a state capital could hope for, its roots are evident nearly everywhere you look, most prominently in its picturesque downtown corridor.

Some highlights in Carson City include:

- ✓ The heart of Downtown beats with walkable streets lined with art, shops, bars, bistros, taphouses, and coffee shops.
- ✓ The Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City hosts an extraordinary collection of railroad equipment, artifacts, and related exhibits.
- ✓ Housed in the historic Carson City Mint, the Nevada State Museum celebrates the state's natural and cultural heritage through diverse exhibits.
- ✓ Travel back in time on a scenic ride aboard the V&T Railroad starting just above the Carson River Canyon.

STAMP

**Carson City Convention and
Visitor's Bureau**
800-NEVADA-1 • visitcarsoncity.com



DAYTON

On Highway 50 just east of Carson City is Dayton, a place where history buffs and lovers of all things Old West will enjoy. Prospectors and settlers were drawn to the fertile valley because of both the Carson River and the promise of gold. In fact, the first discovery of gold in Nevada was found in what is known today as Old Town Dayton. Today, visitors to the area are charmed by its nostalgic board sidewalks, as well as the shops, dining establishments, and homes located in buildings from Dayton's historic past.

Some places of interest in Dayton include:

- ✓ The Dayton Museum tells the story of Dayton through displays in Nevada's second oldest schoolhouse, a structure that was built in 1865 during the town's booming heyday. The museum is open by appointment and during limited hours on weekends seasonally.
- ✓ Dayton State Park provides a perfect spot for visitors to enjoy a picnic along the Carson River and also offers fishing and bird watching opportunities. The Rock Point Mill, built in 1861, once was used to process rich silver ore from nearby Virginia City. Remnants of the mill are still visible within the park.

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Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
775-246-7909
daytonnvchamber.org



FERNLEY

Born first as a railroad camp, the city of Fernley was established in 1904 and later developed into an agricultural and ranching community. Today, its proximity to Reno and the big things happening in the Truckee River Canyon has helped the city continue to flourish. Located on Alternate Highway 50, where the Loneliest Road in America intersects with Interstate 80, Fernley offers plenty of roadside motels, casinos, restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations. Here, eastbound travelers can stock up on supplies before heading out onto the Loneliest Road.

Other area attractions visitors may want to explore are:

- ✓ Lahontan State Recreation Area, with its 69 miles of shoreline, covers 12,000 surface acres when full and features boating, fishing, and water skiing as well as camping, picnicking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing. Canoeing to Fort Churchill from the lake makes for a great day trip when conditions allow.
- ✓ Nearby Pyramid Lake is located within the reservation boundaries of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Encompassing 125,000 acres, it is a remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan, the colossal inland sea that once covered most of Nevada. The sight alone is staggering — a gigantic expanse of blue or gray, depending on the skies above, surrounded by unusual Tufa rock formations.

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Fernley Chamber of Commerce
775-575-4459 • fernleychamber.org



FALLON

Fallon is one of Nevada's major agricultural centers, famous for its delicious "Hearts of Gold" cantaloupes. Thirsty visitors can sample some of the nation's only estate-grown "From Ground to Glass™" wines and spirits at Frey Ranch Estate Distillery. The region is also one of the state's premier bird-watching areas, particularly at the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge, 15 miles north of Fallon.

Visitors will find a number of historic attractions and recreational opportunities in the Fallon area:

- ✓ Fort Churchill, 10 miles south of the intersection of Highway 50 and U.S. 95, was built in 1860 by the U.S. Army to provide protection for western Nevada settlers. Now a state park, it offers a visitor center, campground, and a beautifully groomed trail system.
- ✓ Grimes Point/Hidden Cave, 10 miles east of Fallon, is an archaeological site containing prehistoric American Indian petroglyphs.
- ✓ Sand Mountain, 32 miles east of Fallon, is a two-mile-long ridge of sand rising several hundred feet that is popular with off-roaders and even sandboarders.

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**Fallon Convention & Tourism
Authority**
775-423-4556 • visitfallonnevada.com



AUSTIN

Once one of Nevada's most prosperous mining camps, Austin has managed to retain its 19th-century character. Today, Austin is one of central Nevada's most popular mountain-biking areas and a gateway to the towering Toiyabe Mountains, which offer pristine hiking, fishing, and overnight camping.

Among the reminders of the town's glorious past:

- ✓ Austin's churches include St. George's Episcopal Church, consecrated in 1878 and still in use; as well as the former St. Augustine's Catholic Church and the former Methodist Church, both built in 1866.
- ✓ Towering over endless valley vistas at Austin's western rim, Stokes Castle was modeled after a real tower in Rome for a well-heeled mining magnate in 1897 — to make Wild Western life a little more livable for his luxury-accustomed wife. Today it stands as a solid monument to mining-era grandeur and fleeting excesses.
- ✓ A walk around downtown Austin reveals cafés, saloons, gem and turquoise shops, and an interpretive park with some spiffy restroom facilities.
- ✓ Historic Pony Express and Overland Stagecoach sites are located along Highway 50 between Austin and Fallon. Sites can be found at Cold Springs, Middlegate, and Sand Springs.

**Greater Austin Chamber of
Commerce**

775-964-2200 • austinnevada.com



STAMP



EUREKA

Few Nevada mining towns have survived the ravages of time as well as Eureka, a mid-19th century silver mining center. While success in many boomtowns was often short-lived, Eureka continued to prosper, eventually boasting a whopping fifty mines yielding lead, silver, gold and zinc. Today, most of the ore action has dwindled, but the town's spirit hasn't. In what locals call the "The Friendliest Town on the Loneliest Road," you'll find excellent places to stock up on supplies, enjoy a tasty meal, geek out on some real-deal history, or take a load off and stay the night.

Visitors will find some of Nevada's best-preserved and most faithfully-restored historic sites, including:

- ✓ Eureka Opera House, built in 1879, is a picturesque brick structure that has been fully restored and now serves as a convention center and gallery.
- ✓ Eureka Courthouse, which opened in 1879, has been restored and is still the county courthouse.
- ✓ Eureka Sentinel Museum houses a collection of local and regional historic displays and artifacts in the former Eureka Sentinel newspaper offices, built in 1879.
- ✓ Eureka's cemeteries, located southeast of the town, include more than a half-dozen burial grounds representing various social organizations, religious, and ethnic groups.

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Eureka Opera House

775-237-6006 • co.eureka.nv.us



ELY

This historic mining and railroad community has evolved into one of eastern Nevada's recreational hubs. Within miles of this full-service community, you'll find Cave Lake State Park, a popular spot for fishing, hiking, camping, and mountain biking, as well as the Schell Creek Range, noted for its hunting.

Other Ely area attractions:

- ✓ The East Ely Railroad Depot Museum offers a glimpse of railroad history, frozen in time. The adjacent Nevada Northern Railway is an early 20th-century shortline railroad that once served local copper mines. Today visitors can explore the grounds and ride the train on selected dates.
- ✓ White Pine County Public Museum is a repository of historic displays tracing the area's history and development. Several local historic buildings have been relocated to the museum grounds.
- ✓ Ward Charcoal Ovens is a state park housing six 30-foot high, beehive-shaped stone ovens built in 1876 to provide charcoal for local mines. The park offers picnicking and rustic hiking and biking trails.

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Bristlecone Convention Center
775-289-3720 • elynevada.net



BAKER AND GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

At the eastern end of Highway 50 in Nevada is the small, artsy hamlet of Baker. Fresh gourmet cuisine, artisan cocktails, fine beer and wine, and cozy motel rooms welcome road-worn visitors at Stargazer Inn & Kerouac's Restaurant. Baker also serves as the entrance to Great Basin National Park, home of Lehman Caves, which contain rare and fascinating limestone formations.

The park's attractions also include Wheeler Peak, site of a permanent glacier, and several groves of Bristlecone pine trees, the world's oldest living organisms. Visitors will find developed hiking trails, campgrounds, and an interpretive center.

Don't go to bed early! "Half the park is after dark." With some of the darkest skies in the continental United States, all you need is your naked eye to spot the Milky Way — a reason why astro-philes flock here for September's annual astronomy festival.

STAMP



Great Basin National Park
775-234-7331 • greatbasinpark.com



Stamps are available at businesses that proudly display the sign: **“Official Stamp Location”**

AUSTIN

Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
122 Main St., Austin, NV 89310
775-964-2447 • austinnevada.com

Austin Courthouse
122 Main St., Austin, NV 89310
775-964-2447 • austinnevada.com

BAKER

Border Inn
Utah/Nevada border, Highways 6 & 50
Baker, NV 89311
775-234-7300 • greatbasinpark.com

CARSON CITY

Carson City Visitor's Bureau
716 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701
800-NEVADA-1 • visitcarsoncity.com

DAYTON

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
555 Hwy. 50 East, Dayton, NV 89403
775-246-7909 • daytonnvchamber.org

ELY

Bristlecone Convention Center
150 Sixth St., Ely, NV 89301
775-289-3720 • elynevada.net

Nevada Northern Railway Museum
11th St. and Ave. A, East Ely, NV 89315
775-289-2085 • nnry.com

White Pine Chamber of Commerce
636 Aultman St., Ely, NV 89301
775-289-8877

White Pine County Public Museum
2000 Aultman St., Ely, NV 89301
775-289-4710

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House
31 S. Main St., Eureka, NV 89316
775-237-6006 • co.eureka.nv.us

Eureka Sentinel Museum
10 N. Monroe St., Eureka, NV 89316
775-237-5010

FALLON

Churchill County Museum & Archives
1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-3677 • ccmuseum.org

Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-4556 • visitfallonnevada.com

Greater Fallon Chamber of Commerce
85 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-2544 • fallonchamber.com

FERNLEY

Fernley Chamber of Commerce
70 N. West St., Fernley, NV 89408
775-575-4459 • fernleychamber.org

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF VALIDATION POINTS, CONTACT:

info@PonyExpressNevada.com
888-359-9449
PonyExpressNevada.com

For more information on other Nevada destinations,
visit TravelNevada.com or call **800.NEVADA.8**
to request your FREE Nevada Visitor's Guide.

Thank you for visiting!



TRAVELNEVADA

401 North Carson Street • Carson City, NV 89701 • 775.687.4322

