

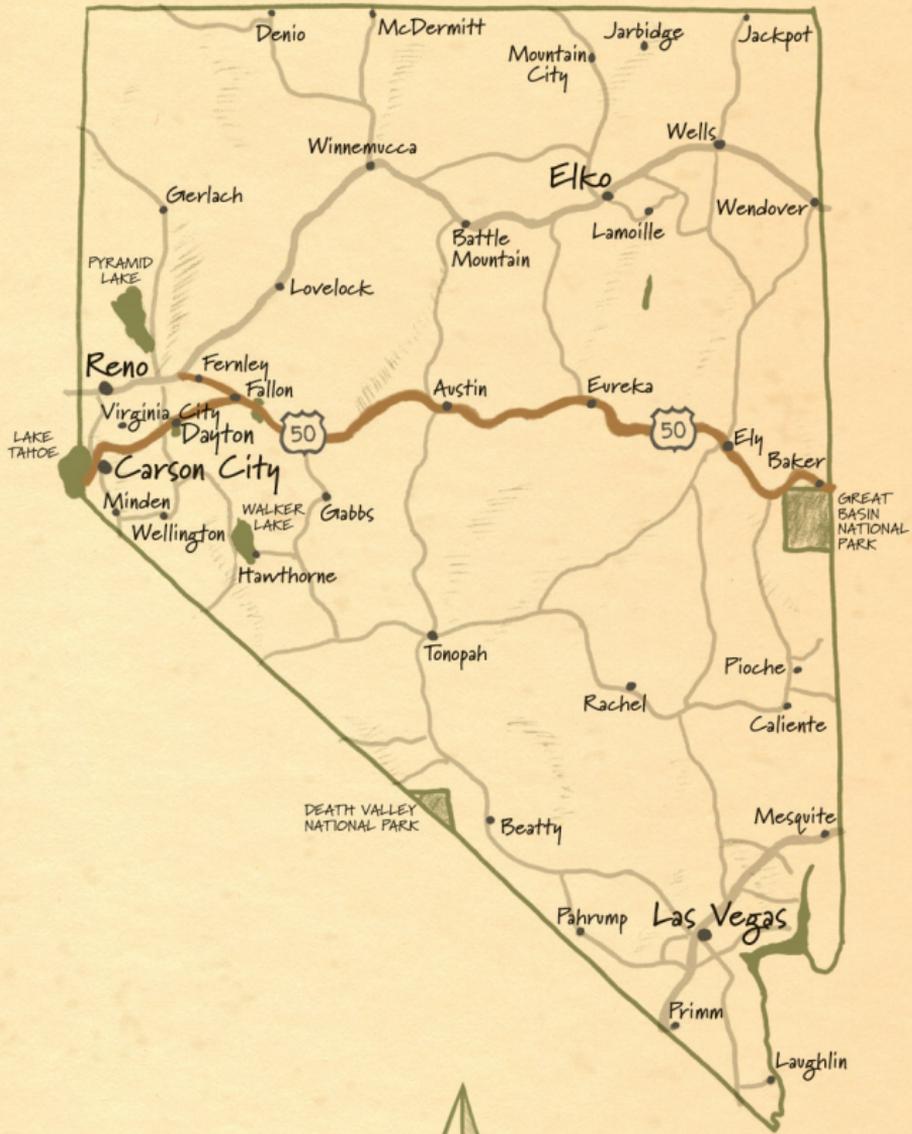
THE OFFICIAL



SURVIVAL GUIDE

THE LONELIEST ROAD IN AMERICA

NEVADA



HIGHWAY 50 SURVIVAL GUIDE

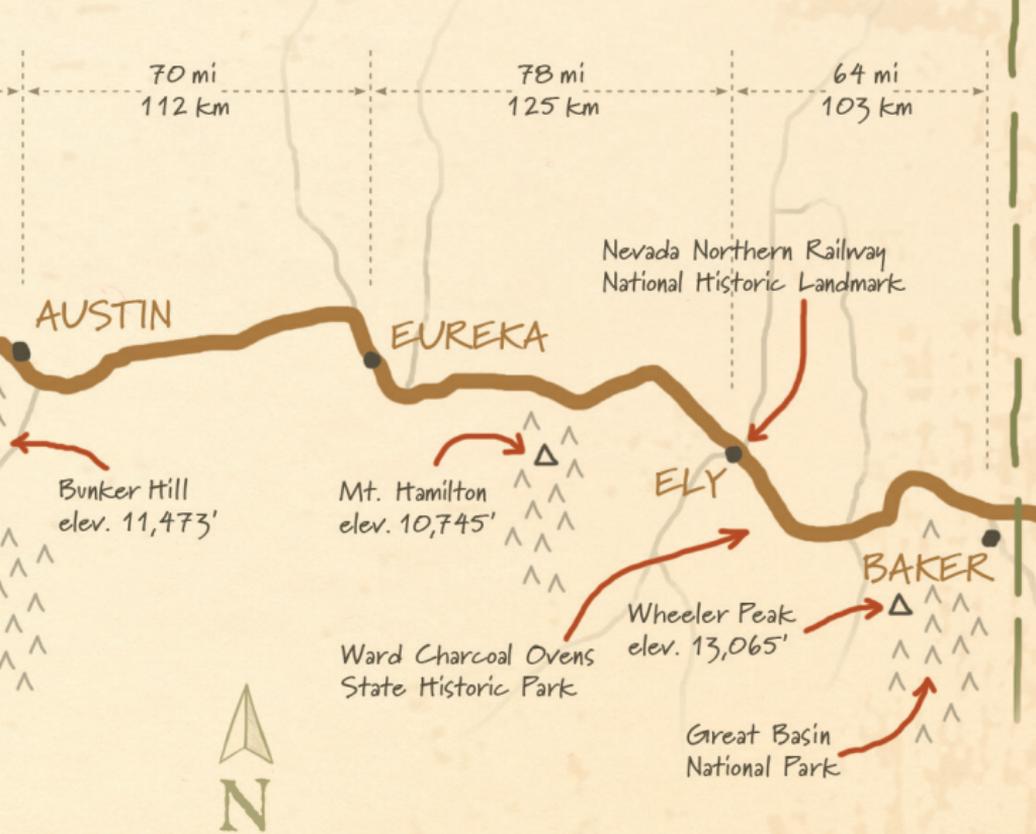
In July 1986, Life magazine described Nevada's Highway 50 from Ely to Fernley as the "Loneliest Road in America." The reporter said there were no attractions or points of interest along the 287-mile stretch of road and recommended that drivers have "survival skills" to travel the route.

But Nevadans knew better then and know better now. True, Highway 50 is wide and open – but it's 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 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. This spirit of discovery will draw you off the beaten path to the hidden treasures found in the small towns and through mountain crevasses. You'll find that much of the unexpected natural beauty and scenic splendor of Nevada has been undiscovered by crowds and is waiting to be experienced and enjoyed.



Life magazine describing Nevada's U.S. 50 as the Loneliest Road in America, July 1986:



“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.’”



HIGHWAY 50 SURVIVAL GUIDE

A trip across Highway 50 is for people who want a little adventure in their travels. Those who know that the journey is just as important as the destination, 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 mountain pass.

This famed road is your link to unsurpassed recreational opportunities including hiking, climbing, mountain biking, motorcycle touring, off-roading, horseback riding, sandboarding, and camping. RVers will enjoy exploring the road's scenic, wide-open 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 experience a place, not simply see it.



HERE'S HOW TO BECOME A LONELIEST ROAD SURVIVOR

We realize 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, 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 "Validate Your Highway 50 Survival Guide Here." A partial list of participating locations can be found in the back of this booklet.

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



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 Commission on 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.



You have lots of opportunities to showcase your trip on social media channels (be aware, not all points along the road have cell/Internet service). When you can, send your photos and stories to MyStory@TravelNevada.com, log your journey on Nevada's Facebook page, post your images to Pinterest, convey your position on Foursquare, or stop at a Highway 50 kiosk in participating towns along the way.

Good luck. Enjoy your journey. As a friendly reminder - use the restroom and be sure to fill up your vehicle whenever the opportunity arises. You're in for the adventure of your life.

WELCOME TO HWY 50

CARSON CITY

At the start or the end of your journey, Carson City provides the ideal base camp for your adventure. Myriad lodging facilities, shopping, dining, and sightseeing activities are all tucked alongside the spectacular 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 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.

**INFO: 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 and 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.

**INFO: Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce,
775-246-7909, daytonnvchamber.org**



FERNLEY

Born as a result of railroad construction, the City of Fernley was established in 1904 and later developed into an agricultural and ranching community. Today, its proximity to Reno 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, and gas stations. Here, 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.

**INFO: Fernley Chamber of Commerce,
775-575-4459, fernleychamber.org**



FALLON

Fallon is one of Nevada's agricultural centers, famous for its delicious "Hearts of Gold" cantaloupes. 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 Native American petroglyphs. They're right along the trail, so keep your eyes open!
- Sand Mountain, 32 miles east of Fallon, is a two-mile-long mound of sand rising several hundred feet that is popular with ATV riders and sandboarders.
- Fallon is home to dozens of wide-ranging events throughout the year. Highlights include the Spring Wings Bird Festival, Hearts O'Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Lattin Farms Fall Festival, Octane Fest, and a number of rodeos.

**INFO: 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 gateway to the Toiyabe Mountains, which offer pristine hiking 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; the former St. Augustine's Catholic Church, erected in 1866; and the former Methodist Church, also built in 1866.
- Stokes Castle, located at the western edge of town, is an unusual, three-story rock tower (now abandoned) built in 1897 by a member of the family that owned many of the town's mines.
- Gridley Store was constructed in 1863 by merchant Reuel Gridley, who is best remembered for losing an election bet and carrying a sack of flour through town. He auctioned the sack numerous times to raise money for the Sanitary Fund, forerunner of the Red Cross, eventually raising thousands of dollars.
- 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.

**INFO: Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce,
775-964-2200, austinnevada.com**



EUREKA

Few Nevada mining towns have survived the ravages of time as well as Eureka, a mid-19th century silver mining center.

Visitors will find dozens of historic sites in one of Nevada's best preserved mining towns:

- 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.

INFO: 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:

- Nevada Northern Railway is an early 20th century shortline railroad that once served local copper mines. In addition to touring the former depot, railroad offices and rail yard, visitors can 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.

**INFO: Bristlecone Convention Center,
775-289-3720, elynevada.net**





BAKER / GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

At the eastern end of Highway 50 in Nevada is the tiny hamlet of Baker, offering limited services and accommodations. Baker serves as the entrance to Great Basin National Park, home of Lehman Caves, which contain 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 things. Visitors will find developed hiking trails, campgrounds, and an interpretive center.

INFO: Great Basin National Park,
775-234-7331, greatbasinpark.com



Stamps are available at businesses that proudly display signs proclaiming, "Validate Your Highway 50 Survival Guide Here."

AUSTIN

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 Convention and Visitor's Bureau
1900 S. Carson St., Ste. 100, 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

THANK YOU
FOR VISITING
HWY 50

NEVADA A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.