Lake Tahoe spans the border of California and Nevada and is the second deepest lake in the United States. The local Paiute Indians’ traditional name for the lake was Taahoo or “big water.” Late 19th century partisan politics led to a fight over the name, and a newspaper error created the current spelling. Carson City, Nevada’s state capital, is the largest city close to the lake and was named for the famous frontiersman Christopher “Kit” Carson. In California, South Lake Tahoe and Truckee are the largest cities near the lake. Truckee was named for a Paiute Indian chief.

The Nevada State Museum located in Carson City occupies a former United States Mint and exhibits an original coin press as well as a replica ghost town and mining exhibition. Other museums include the Nevada State Library and Archives, Nevada State Railroad Museum, the Children’s Museum of Northern Nevada, Warren Engine Company No. 1 Museum, Foreman-Roberts House Museum, and the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center.

The Brewery Arts Center in Carson City hosts concerts, plays, and art exhibits. Casinos are located in Incline Village, Crystal Bay, and Stateline, NV, and offer concerts and shows in addition to slot machines and table games. The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival is held in July and August at Sand Harbor State Park. Sierra Nevada College hosts Summerfest, a music and art festival.

Located in South Lake Tahoe, CA, the Lake Tahoe Historical Society’s History Museum features Native American artifacts and exhibits about pioneer life. The Lake Tahoe Community College produces several plays during the year, and the Community Choir performs throughout the year. The Tallac Historic Site contains the remains of the Tallac Resort and the Pope, Baldwin, and Valhalla Estates. The Pope Estate displays changing art exhibits, and The Baldwin Museum focuses on early life at Tahoe. Built in 1923, Valhalla is the site of summer concerts and plays in the Valhalla Grand Hall and Boathouse Theatre. The Valhalla Summer Arts Music Festival runs from late June through September and includes concerts and art exhibits and workshops.

Truckee’s 20 mile museum consists of 29 interpretive signs placed along Old Highway 40 that highlight the town’s history and activities. The Donner Summit Historical Society focuses on those who crossed the Sierra Mountains at the Donner Pass. Emigrant Trail Museum exhibits early life in Truckee. Other museums include the KidZone Museum, North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, Truckee Railroad Museum, and the Truckee-Donner Historical Society and Old Jail Museum. The nearby Olympic Museum is located at the Squaw Valley Ski Resort site of the 1960 Winter Olympics.

Attractions in Tahoe City include the Museum of Sierra Ski History and 1960 Winter Olympics, Tahoe Maritime Museum, and the historic Watson Cabin. The Gatekeeper’s Museum is a reconstruction of the original Gatekeeper’s Cabin, the home of the water master who controlled the flow of water out of Lake Tahoe, and now showcases Tahoe history.

Lake Tahoe is a major tourist attraction in both Nevada and California and is home to many alpine and cross-country ski resorts. Public and private sled parks are scattered throughout the area. Snow tubing, snowmobile riding, and snowshoeing are also popular. The annual Great Ski Race is the biggest Nordic race west of the Mississippi.

Other outdoor activities include boating, water sports, and fishing in Lake Tahoe, which is surrounded by more than 60 beaches. Golf and horseback riding are other popular sports in the region. Carson City has 21 parks and recreational facilities. Park amenities include playgrounds, fields, basketball, on leash and off leash dog parks, skateboard, volleyball, horseshoe, climbing wall, fishing pier, softball fields, soccer fields, BMX tracks, sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, Carson Rifle and Pistol Range, and Pony Express Airpark for flying radio controlled airplanes. Mills Park Picnic features the Virginia Orcutt Skateboard Park, Carson & Mills Park Railroad, the historic Wangnema House, and the Carson City Community Center and Aquatic Facility.

South Lake Tahoe has two beaches, Bijou Golf Course, a recreation and swimming pool complex, and South Tahoe Ice Arena.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

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**EDUCATION**

Carson City School District educates approximately 7,300 students in 6 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 1 high school. Incline Village Schools district serves 965 students, and Douglas County School District serves over 6,000 students in 7 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

In California, the Lake Tahoe Unified School District educates 3,500 students in 4 elementary, 1 middle, and 4 high schools. Tahoe Truckee Unified School District also serves 3,500 students with 5 elementary, 2 middle, and 2 high schools.

Higher education is available at Sierra Nevada College, a private liberal arts college located in Incline Village. Lake Tahoe Community College is located in South Lake Tahoe. Sierra Community College has a campus in Truckee.

**HEALTH CARE**

The Lake Tahoe area is served by five hospitals with over 330 licensed acute care beds. The largest concentration of health care services is in Carson City, which also has a surgical hospital, a long-term acute care facility, and an inpatient behavioral health facility.

**CITY STATS**

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<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<th>Per Capita Personal Income Sacramento-Roseville—Arden-Arcade</th>
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