



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The 12-mile Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive begins east of the Visitor Center and ends at a campground and trailhead at an elevation of about 10,000 feet on the northern flank of Wheeler Peak. From there you can hike several marked trails to Teresa and Stella Lakes; the Bristlecone Pine Forest; the glacier at the base of Wheeler Peak; and to the summit of Wheeler Peak (elevation 13,063-feet). Backpacking, hiking and camping are permitted in other areas of the Park.

Three campgrounds are located along the scenic drive. Wheeler Peak Campground (9,950-feet) offers 37 sites. Upper Lehman Creek Campground (7,800-feet) has 24 spaces and Lower Lehman Campground (7,500-feet) has 11 spaces (6-pull through) and is open all year.

Baker Creek Campground (8,000-feet), located south of the Visitor Center, has 32 spaces. Seven miles of marked trails leading to Baker Lake and Johnson Lake start at the trailhead just south of Baker Creek Campground.

Lexington Arch, located near the southeast border of the Park, is a natural limestone arch more than six stories high. An unpaved road leads to a trailhead from which you can hike one mile to the picturesque arch.

There are no developed cross country ski trails within the park, but winter provides excellent opportunities for backcountry skiing.

ATTRACTIONS

Ely/Nevada Northern Railway Museum —

About an hour from the Great Basin National Park, Ely offers a wide range of services, including hotels, restaurants, casinos and service stations. Ely information, (702) 289-8877.

Located in Ely, the historic Nevada Northern Railway Museum is housed in the former Nevada Northern Railway depot. The Museum is opened for guided tours on weekends from May to October, with rides on vintage equipment on selected weekends. 1100 Avenue A, East Ely, (702) 289-2085.

White Pine County Public Museum —

Located in Ely, this fine museum features historic photographs, Native American artifacts, mining equipment and displays that tell the rich mining history of the region. 2000 Aultman Street, Ely, (702) 289-4710.

Cave Lake State Park — One of Nevada's most scenic parks, Cave Lake offers fine fishing on a 32-acre reservoir, camping, hiking trails and picnic areas. The 1,820-acre park is located 15 miles south of Ely via U.S. Highway 6 and Success Summit Road.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site —

Visitors will find six massive beehive-shaped kilns, built in 1876, that are the best surviving examples of the type of stone ovens used to convert wood into charcoal for local mining smelters. The ovens are located 17 miles south of Ely via U.S. Highway 6.

Baker — Located five miles from the entrance to the Great Basin National Park, this quiet rural community offers a variety of services including a small motel, restaurant, post office and service station.

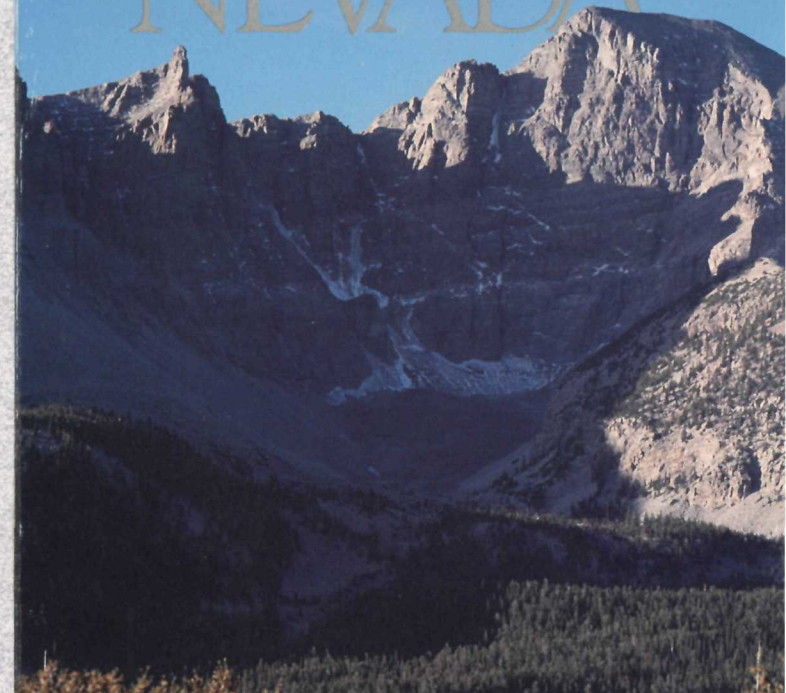
Pioche/Caliente — These two historic communities, located south of the Great Basin National Park on U.S. Highway 93, are the gateways to four Nevada state parks (Cathedral Gorge, Spring Valley, Echo Canyon and Beaver Dam). Caliente information, (702) 726-3129; Pioche information, (702) 962-5544.

Eureka — One of Nevada's greatest 19th century mining camps, Eureka is a picturesque community that has retained much of the flavor of its early days. Explore the beautiful Eureka Courthouse, Eureka Sentinel Museum or Eureka Theatre. Eureka information, (702) 237-5484.

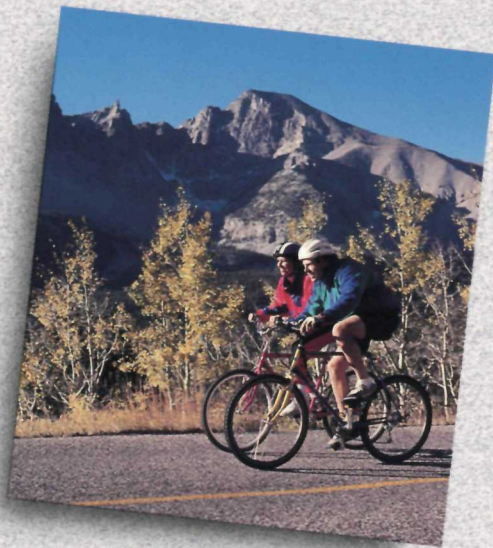
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GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEVADA



Discover
Both Sides of
Nevada

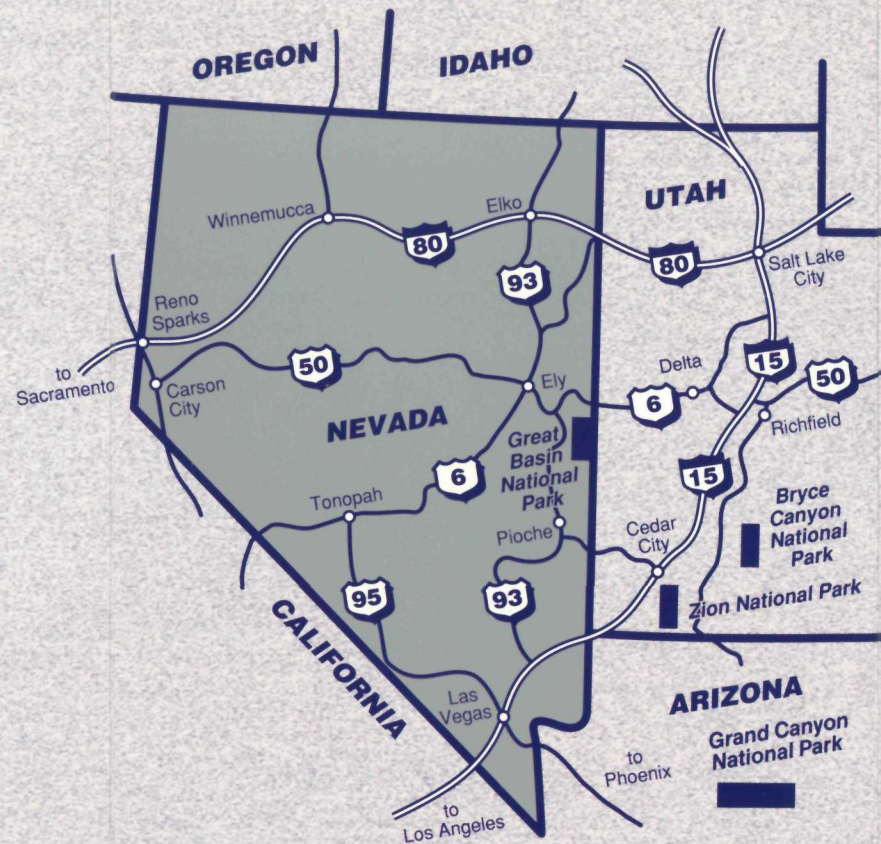


GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Established in 1986, Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada is a tribute to the unique Great Basin region in the western United States. The area was named Great Basin by explorer John C. Fremont because its rivers and streams flowed inland, soaking into the earth, evaporating, or forming lakes, with no outlet to the sea. However, rather than being one large basin, the Great Basin is actually an extensive series of mountain ranges and wide valleys spread over Nevada, Utah, and portions of California, Oregon and Idaho.

The 77,092-acre Great Basin National Park commemorates many of the features common to the Great Basin, including dramatic mountain peaks, lush meadows, clear mountain streams and alpine lakes, fascinating limestone caves, and sweeping scenic vistas.

The park also boasts an exceptionally wide range of plant and animal habitats extending from the Pinion-Juniper Life Zone, characterized by jack rabbits, scrubjays, and sagebrush, to the frigid Alpine Life Zone at the higher elevations.



VISITOR CENTER

The Visitor Center, open all year, is located five miles west of the community of Baker, Nevada, on State Route 488. U.S. Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 50 are 10 miles north and U.S. Highway 93 is 40 miles west.

The center contains displays describing the Great Basin's plant and animal life, geologic development and history. A gift store/snack shop is open April through October. Center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day). Visitor Center (702) 234-7331.



LEHMAN CAVES

The Lehman Caves are another special attraction of the Great Basin National Park. Discovered in 1885, these caves are among the most highly decorated limestone solution caverns in the western United States. They contain an array of stalactites, stalagmites and other unique formations developed over hundreds of thousands of years as water seeped into the caves depositing calcite crystals. Guided 90-minute tours of Lehman Caves are conducted daily from the Visitor Center.

The tour follows a paved trail for six-tenths of a mile through a variety of chambers, including the Gothic Palace, the intriguing Cypress Swamp, and the Grand Palace. The temperature remains about 50 degrees all year, so warm clothing is recommended. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

