



NEVADA'S
INDIAN TERRITORY



It's a land of natural and cultural treasures. A land where pelicans splash around in the middle of the desert. Where antelopes are sometimes spotted racing alongside a car or a bighorn sheep sipping from a spring. Where sunsets and sunrises transform mountains into pillars of fire. And where ancient fish swim in desert lakes. Most importantly, a land where American Indians celebrate their past while building a hopeful future.

Nevada's Indian Territory is home to four major American Indian tribes: the Washoe, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone, who all feel a deep connection to the environment and all its gifts. These tribes sustained their ethnic identity longer than in other areas because it took longer for Euro-Americans to settle there.

You're invited to explore Nevada's Indian Territory, to immerse yourself in the culture and the majestic landscape, and to meet the strong and brave people whose ancestors were stewards of this land for millennia.





Wa She Shu

Washoe

“People from Here”

The Washoe have inhabited Nevada’s Great Basin for at least 9,000 years, and tribal lore says they have lived here since time began. Unlike other Nevada tribes whose native language is a form of Uto-Aztecan, the Washoe’s native tongue is a Hokan-type language. The word Tahoe is a mispronunciation of the Washoe word for “the lake” (*Da ow*).

When the snows melted in spring, the Washoe gathered at Lake Tahoe’s edge (*Da ow aga*), where they blessed the water and themselves, a tradition continuing today. One of their most sacred cultural and spiritual sites is Cave Rock—known as *De’ek wadapush* (rock standing gray)—on the southwestern shore.

The Washoe recognize the importance of preserving their traditional way of life while remaining an important part of modern society. They continue to hold traditional celebrations—such as rabbit drives—and like all Nevada’s tribes are teaching their youth to speak their native language.

Meeks Bay Resort and Marina

Once a gathering place on ancestral Washoe land, Meeks Bay at Lake Tahoe welcomes each guest as a friend. Comfortable lakefront lodging and modern campsites are available. Guests are invited to sunbathe on Tahoe's finest white sand beach, fish for makinaw trout or take advantage of the boat ramp and water sport facilities. The Visitor Center has a snack bar, convenience store and gift shop. It is also the perfect trailhead for entering Desolation Wilderness, Sugar Pine Point State Park, and other areas related to Meeks Bay Meadow. For more information, visit meeksbayresort.com.



Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Celebrate Father's Day weekend with the entire family and experience American Indian heritage, history and pride at the Stewart Father's Day Powwow. The former Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada, comes alive every June with over 200 dancers and numerous quality American Indian artisans; it is a time for alumni, former employees and their families and friends to gather at the campus. The Stewart Father's Day Powwow benefits preservation of the historic Stewart Indian School and is open to the public. For more information, please visit StewartIndianSchool.com.



Wa She Shu It Deh

Wa She Shu It Deh is held at the Tallac Historic Site at South Lake Tahoe each summer. The festival began as an opportunity to promote the basketry of the Washoe Tribe and showcase their beautiful fancy basketry. It has since continued to grow and now features basketry demonstrations, music, fine art, photography, dance performances and storytelling. For more information, visit washoetribe.us.



Stewart Indian School Trail

The Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada was the only off-reservation boarding school in Nevada for American Indians from 1890 to 1980 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the Stewart Indian School Trail offers visitors a self-guided cell phone walking tour of the campus. Along the trail, visitors can access the audio tour and hear stories from alumni and former employees who experienced life at the Stewart Indian School. At the beginning of the trail there is an informational kiosk where brochures are available to help guide visitors through the campus. To hear the audio stories from the trail and for more information on the preservation of the historic Stewart Indian School, please visit StewartIndianSchool.com.





Numu
Northern
Paiute
“The People”

Deeply grounded in their environment, the Northern Paiutes believe that power (*pooha*) resides in natural objects such as animals, plants and geographical features. This strong connection to the environment is evident in the names of different bands. For example, Pyramid Lake Paiutes are called *Kuyuidokado* (cui-ui eaters), after the cui-ui fish, found nowhere else in the world.

The Northern Paiute live in areas including Lovelock, McDermitt, Mason Valley, Smith Valley, Pyramid Lake, Reno-Sparks, Stillwater, Fallon, Summit Lake and Walker River. Unlike many American Indians throughout the country, the Pyramid Lake Paiute and the Walker River Paiute never faced complete relocation. Their ancestors have lived there for millennia. The Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation is home to the only scenic byway in the country completely within a tribal reservation.

The Northern Paiute all share the desire to make the present and the future better than their challenging past while teaching younger generations appreciation of their cultural and linguistic heritage.

Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitor Center

The Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitor Center is located on the south side of Pyramid Lake, in the town of Nixon. The cultural center offers a great display of local American Indian artifacts that show the history of the *Kuyuidokado* people. Please call 775-574-1088 for hours and days of operation.



Sacred Visions Powwow

Held at the Big Bend Ranch in Wadsworth, Nevada, each July, the Sacred Visions Powwow brings all the children of the "Stone Mother" back home and keeps alive the traditions and culture within the community for the elders, youth and all generations to follow. The event includes competition dancing, vendors, a fun run/walk and a princess competition, and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit SacredVisionsPowwow.com.



Pine Nut Festival

Every third weekend of September, several hundred American Indians and visitors gather at the Walker River Paiute Tribe Reservation in Schurz to participate in a spiritual ceremony that celebrates life and the harvest. The festival's many events include a powwow, hand games and a pine nut blessing and dance. During the pine nut dance, dancers move on sacred ground in a circle around a staff with eagle feathers and tobacco offerings for what is called the pine nut blessing. The spiritual ceremony dates back more than one hundred years to a time when the pine nut was winter subsistence for Great Basin Indians. Today, the dance is a way to honor the tribe's ancestors, preserve native traditions and revive spiritual practices. For more information, visit wrpt.us.



Numaga Indian Days Powwow

Each Labor Day weekend, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony hosts its nationally acclaimed Numaga Powwow. This free family event features some of the best American Indian dancers, singers and drummers in the country. The powwow is named after Chief Numaga, the famous Paiute chief, known for peace. Chief Numaga was a great 19th century leader who had the courage and the vision to counsel against war. Facing severe threats to his people by invading white forces, Numaga repeatedly chose peace. His successful negotiations helped set a precedent for future disputes. Translated from the English language, Numaga means "The generous one." For more information, visit rsic.org.





Nuwu

Southern Paiute

“The People”

Since at least 1100 A.D., the Southern Paiute lived in 15 bands across southeastern Nevada and neighboring states. To survive the desert environment, they drank from springs, hunted wild game and harvested plants.

Two groups of federally recognized Southern Paiute bands live in Nevada: the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiute Band. The Pahrump Band of Paiute also live in the area. The native languages of the Southern Paiutes and Northern Paiutes are different but related.

The Southern Paiutes operate the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort with three 18-hole courses—each rated 4 ½ stars by *Golf Digest*—and a restaurant with views of the Sheep Mountains. In addition, the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza with its 2,500-square-foot casino and fireworks store greets visitors on their way to Valley of Fire State Park. The Moapa Band of Paiutes also are developing the first large-scale solar project on tribal land, which will provide tribal revenue and jobs.

Snow Mountain Powwow

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe celebrates American Indian culture with its annual Snow Mountain Powwow. Dancers in colorful traditional dress, artisans and singers from across the United States and Canada gather at this three-day event. The powwow offers a unique shopping experience with jewelry, pottery, flutes, traditional Indian music and baskets available for purchase. Food items include frybread served with honey and Indian tacos. Some of the best dancers in Indian Territory perform at this event. For more information, visit lvpaiutetribe.com/powwow.



Lost City Museum

The Lost City was a series of Ancestral Puebloan ruins near Overton, Nevada. The museum was constructed in 1935 to house the artifacts that were excavated before Lake Mead covered them. Visitors can learn about the Ancestral Puebloans and view the artifacts as well as learn about the geological and cultural history of the area. There is an excavated pit-house as well as replica pueblos. Special events include American Indian Day in early November with Native dancers, craftspeople and food. For more information, visit museums.nevadaculture.org.



Southern Paiute Veterans Powwow

Each November the Moapa Veterans Powwow is held at the Southern Paiute Veterans Memorial Park in Moapa, Nevada. The event honors veterans including those from Southern Nevada, Southern Utah, and Northern Arizona and has grown to become bigger and better each year. The public is welcome and invited to attend and join in honoring our nation's veterans. For more information, visit sopva.com.



Valley of Fire State Park

Valley of Fire is located in the Mojave Desert and is the oldest Nevada State Park, dedicated in 1935. It covers an area of approximately 35,000 acres and was named for its magnificent red sandstone formations that were formed from great shifting sand dunes during the age of the dinosaurs more than 150 million years ago. The visitor center offers books, souvenirs, and exhibits on Valley of Fire and the surrounding area. For more information, visit valley-of-fire.com.





Newe
Western
Shoshone
“The People”

The Western Shoshone

are grounded in the land, and their bands are named for the type of food that traditionally was their predominant source of sustenance. In Ruby Valley, Nevada, the Shoshones are called the *Mahagwadūka* (*Mentzelia* seed eaters) or the *Watatika* (ryegrass seed eaters) and in Railroad Valley they are known as the *Tsaiduka* (tule eaters).

The Western Shoshone live in colonies and reservations throughout the state including Battle Mountain, Elko, Wells, Fallon and on the Duckwater Indian Reservation. They are keenly aware of the importance of preserving the environment and all its fruits for future generations. For their efforts in restoring critical habitat of the Railroad Valley springfish and reintroducing this endangered fish, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe earned the 2010 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Program Recovery Champion Award.

Elko Band Powwow

The Elko Powwow is held in October by the Elko Band Council. This event features American Indian drumming, singing, dancing, arts and crafts and hand games. Hundreds of native dancers in colorful regalia compete in a particular dance style and must be in an outfit appropriate for the competition. For more information, visit elkobandcouncil.org.



The California Trail Interpretive Center

Located eight miles west of Elko on I-80, the California Trail Interpretive Center offers vivid stories of the many pioneers who endured the 2000-mile trek to California—some seeking land, some gold, others seeking adventure and some for reasons we may never know. Visitors can view life-size dioramas, original murals, exhibits on the native peoples and multimedia productions. Hike accessible trails, walk through a wagon encampment and see a Shoshone village. Hear the words of the pioneers and learn of the successes of the Bidwell–Bartleson Party and the events that lead to the Donner Party disaster. For more information about the center, visit californiatrailcenter.org.



Duckwater Annual Festival

Each June, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe holds their “Spring Festival.” This event includes a barbecue, powwow, drum contest, hand games, horseshoe tournament and more. The powwow is a great opportunity for the tribe and visitors to get together to join in dancing, visiting, renewing old friendships and making new ones. This is a time to remember and share the old ways and preserve a rich heritage. Through the songs and the spirit of the drum, ancestral values are communicated along with cultural integrity and solidarity. For more information, visit duckwatertribe.org.



Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango

Sponsored by the Ely Shoshone Tribe, the Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango is held each July and features dancing, drummers, singers and traditional events. There are vendor booths where visitors can buy fine arts, supplies and food that includes frybread and Indian tacos. Also taking place at the festivities are a hand game tournament, archery tournament and horseshoe tournament. For more information, visit elyshoshonetribe-nsn.gov.



Federally recognized tribes of Nevada

Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe

208-759-3100
shopaitribes.org

Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

775-863-0227
duckwatertribe.org

Ely Shoshone Tribe

775-289-3013
elyshoshonetribe-nsn.gov

Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe

775-423-6075
fpst.org

Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

775-532-8259

Fort Mojave Tribe

Partial Nevada Land Base
760-629-4591
mojaveindiantribe.com

Confederated Tribes of Goshute

435-234-1138
goshutetribe.com

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

702-386-3926
lvpaiutetribe.com

Lovelock Paiute Tribe

775-273-7861
lovelockpaiutetribe.com

Moapa Band of Paiutes

702-865-2787
moapapaiutes.com

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

775-574-1000
plpt.nsn.us
pyramidlake.us

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

775-329-2936
rsic.org

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

775-827-9670
summitlaketribe.org

Te-Moak Shoshone Tribe

775-738-9251
temoaktribe.com
Battle Mountain Indian Colony
Elko Band Council
elkobandcouncil.org
South Fork Indian Colony
Wells Indian Colony

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe

Partial Nevada Land Base
760-872-3614
timbisha.com

Walker River Paiute Tribe

775-773-2306
wrpt.us

Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California

775-265-8600
washoetribe.us
Carson Indian Colony
Dresslerville Indian Colony
Stewart Indian Community
Woodfords Indian Community

Winnemucca Colony Council

702-722-3833
winnemuccaindiancolony.weebly.com

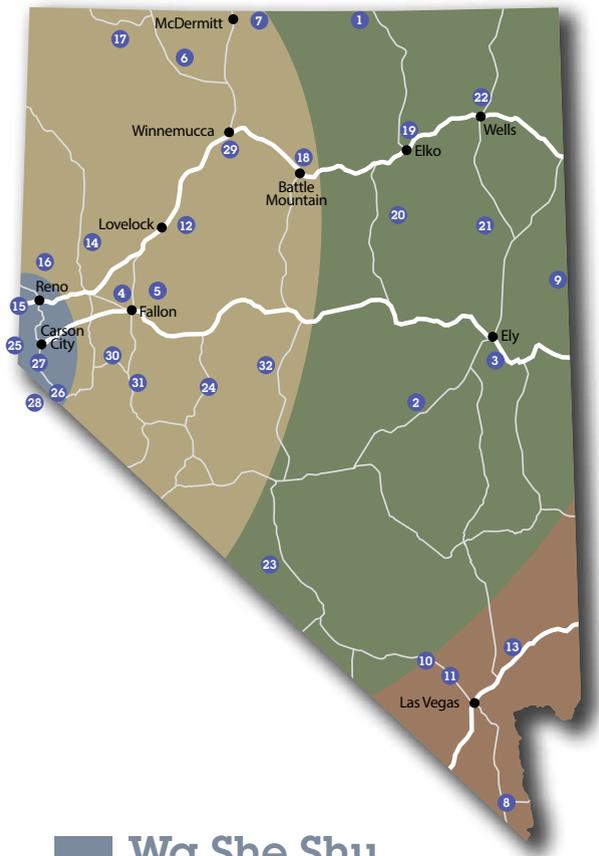
Yerington Paiute Tribe

775-463-3301
ypt-nsn.gov

Yomba Shoshone Tribe

775-964-2463
yombashoshonetribe.org

Indian Reservations and Colonies of Nevada



Wa She Shu
Washoe

Numu
Northern Paiute

Newe
Western Shoshone

Nuwu
Southern Paiute

- 1 Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- 2 Duckwater Indian Reservation
- 3 Ely Indian Colony
- 4 Fallon Indian Colony
- 5 Fallon Indian Reservation
- 6 Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation
- 7 Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation
- 8 Fort Mojave Indian Reservation
- 9 Goshute Indian Reservation
- 10 Las Vegas Indian Reservation
- 11 Las Vegas Indian Colony
- 12 Lovelock Indian Colony
- 13 Moapa Band of Paiutes
- 14 Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation
- 15 Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- 16 Hungry Valley Community
- 17 Summit Lake Indian Reservation

TE-MOAK SHOSHONE TRIBE

- 18 Battle Mountain Indian Colony
- 19 Elko Band Council
- 20 South Fork Indian Colony
- 21 South Fork Indian Colony
- 22 Wells Indian Colony
- 23 Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe
- 24 Walker River Indian Reservation

WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA & CALIFORNIA

- 25 Carson Indian Colony
- 26 Dresslerville Indian Colony
- 27 Stewart Indian Community
- 28 Woodfords Indian Community
- 29 Winnemucca Indian Colony
- 30 Yerington Indian Reservation
- 31 Yerington Indian Colony
- 32 Yomba Indian Reservation

FAQs

What does the term “federally recognized” mean?

Only tribes who maintain a legal relationship to the U.S. government through binding treaties, acts of Congress, executive orders, etc., are officially “recognized” by the federal government. Once “recognized” a tribe has a legal relationship with the United States. There are currently more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the United States, including some 200-village groups in Alaska. However, there are still hundreds of tribal groups undergoing the lengthy and tedious process of applying for federal recognition.

What does “tribal sovereignty” mean and why is it so important to American Indians?

Tribal sovereignty describes the right of federally recognized tribes to govern themselves and the existence of a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Thus a tribe is described as a dependant nation with the right to form its own government, adjudicate legal cases within its borders, levy taxes within its borders, establish its membership and decide its own future fate. The federal government has a trust responsibility to protect tribal lands, assets, resources and treaty rights.

What is a reservation?

In the U.S., there are several kinds of reserved lands; two more well known include military and Indian reservations. An Indian reservation is a land base that a tribe reserved for itself when it relinquished its other land areas to the U.S. through treaties. More recently, Congressional acts, executive orders and administrative acts have created reservations.

Who is an American Indian?

As a general principle an American Indian is a person who is a descendant of recognized native groups and an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe or village. While there exists no universally accepted rule for establishing a person’s identity as an American Indian, the criteria for tribal membership differs from one tribe to the next. As sovereign governments, each tribe determines its own eligibility and membership standards and criteria. To determine a particular tribe’s membership eligibility, one must contact that tribe directly. For its own purposes, the Bureau of the Census counts anyone as an Indian who declares to be such. By recent counts, there are currently more than two million American Indians, including Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians.

Why are American Indians sometimes referred to as Native Americans?

When referring to American Indians or Alaska Natives, it is appropriate to use the terms American Indians and Alaska Natives. These terms denote the cultural distinction between the indigenous people of the continental United States and those of Alaska. While the term “Native Americans” came into usage in the 1960s out of respect for American Indians and Alaska Natives, usage of the term has expanded to include all Native people of the United States and its territories, including Native Hawaiians and American Samoans.

What is an Indian tribe?

An Indian tribe was originally a body of people bound together by blood ties who were socially, politically, and religiously organized, who lived together in a defined territory and who spoke a common language or dialect. In the eyes of the U.S. government a body of people as described above must be federally recognized to be considered a tribe.

American Indian Art Museums, Galleries & Gift Shops

For generations, American Indians have passed on rich artistic traditions, knowledge and skills. American Indian culture is woven into the fabric of Nevada's heritage. Washoe, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone art colors our homes, schools, businesses and museums.

Treasured artifacts blend with modern American Indian art in museums and galleries across Nevada. From brightly colored beadwork to finely crafted basketry, each piece contributes to the ongoing story of the Washoe, Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone people.

For a listing of American Indian artists and artisans that live in Nevada, please visit our artist listing page at:

NevadaIndianTerritory.com/artists



Purchasing Authentic Art

Under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, all American Indian/Alaska Native arts and crafts products must be marketed truthfully regarding the American Indian heritage and tribal affiliation of the artist or craftsperson.

Shop Wisely – Tips For Buying

1. When purchasing from a dealer, shop wisely and choose one with a good reputation.
2. Request a written guarantee or written verification of authenticity.
3. Get a receipt that includes all the vital information about your purchase, including price and maker's tribal affiliation.
4. Familiarize yourself with different materials and types of American Indian arts and crafts, as well as the indicators of a well-made, handcrafted piece.
5. Realize that authentic handmade pieces may be expensive. If a price seems too good to be true, be sure to ask more questions about the item and its maker.

(Taken from the U.S. Department of Interior, Indian Arts and Crafts Board.
www.iacb.doi.gov)

Visitor Guidelines

Nevada's tribal communities welcome visitors. The following guidelines will help travelers enjoy their visit while honoring the people, lands and culture. A visit to the tribal administration offices for additional information is recommended.

American Indian communities comprise a diversity of tribal members who practice varying degrees of tradition. Traditionalists expect tribal members and visitors to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of tribal religion and ceremonies. With this in mind, it must be recognized that a code of conduct practiced at one community or event may not be appropriate at another.

Some communities may have policies about picture taking, sketching and audio/video recording. Visitors should always ask for permission.

Moral precepts in appropriate dress, speech and behavior, and adherence to them, are highly regarded at ceremonial events. An unkempt appearance can be offensive where many people wear their finest.

Do not disturb sites that contain devotions or offerings. These include pipes, bundles, ties, flags of colored material, food offerings and other items. These sites are considered sacred.

The ancestors of today's tribes left many artifacts and ruins behind. Resist the impulse to pick up souvenirs. American Indian remains and artifacts are protected federally by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which carries stiff penalties for violations.



NEVADA'S INDIAN TERRITORY

5366 Snyder Avenue
Building #3, Stewart Facility
Carson City, Nevada 89701

For Indian Territory **events, tribal enterprises and updates**, please visit:

NevadaIndianTerritory.com



Please visit our American Indian Cultural Exhibit at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

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Tomoc Productions
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Nevada Arts Council
Lost City Museum
California Trail Center
State of Nevada Indian Commission
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Southern Paiute Veterans Association

TravelNevada.com

NEVADA
A WORLD WITHIN.
A STATE APART.