

# Top 10 Summer Activities in Tahoe

Lake Tahoe, 1 Day

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# **Guide Description**



AUTHOR NOTE: If you're in Tahoe on a warm summer's day, it would be a crime not to spend it outside. Save the casinos and nightclubs for after sunset. Whether you want to be on the water (jet skiing, parasailing, kayaking or rafting), hiking or just lounging on a beach, Tahoe offers a wealth of opportunities. Thrill-seekers, vacationing families and couples on a romantic weekend will all find the perfect way to spend their day in Lake Tahoe.

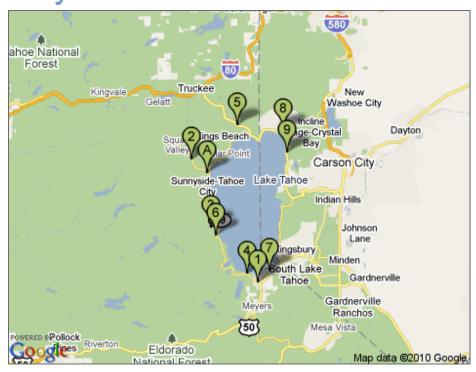


## Day 1 - Lake Tahoe

Bayview Trail Views of Emerald Bay and the lake
<b>Truckee River Rafting</b> A quiet float down the Truckee
King's Beach State Recreation Area Popular beach in both summer and winter
Para-Sail Lake Tahoe Soar like an eagle
Tahoe Paddle and Oar Glide through crystal blue waters
Glide through crystal blue waters  Eagle Lake Hike
Glide through crystal blue waters  Eagle Lake Hike Panoramic views  Lakeview Sports Bike & Jet Ski Rental
Glide through crystal blue waters  Eagle Lake Hike Panoramic views  Lakeview Sports Bike & Jet Ski Rental Get ready to play  Sand Harbor



## Day 1 - Lake Tahoe



QUICK NOTE

#### contact:

tel: 530-573-2674 www.fs.fed.us/recreation/fore st\_descr/ca\_r5\_laketahoebm u.html

#### location:

870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1

South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

## 1

## **Bayview Trail**

DESCRIPTION: This trail is located on the southwest shore of Lake Tahoe. Offering magnificent views of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe, this steep trail leads you up the side of Maggie's Peak into Desolation Wilderness. Stop at Granite Lake for a short rest along the way. In 2.7 miles this trail intersects with the Eagle Falls Trail. Corral and watering facilities for horses are available at the trailhead. A wilderness permit is required for this trail. Day hikers can obtain a permit at the self-service stations located at the trailheads. From South Lake Tahoe take Highway 89 north approximately 8 miles to the Bayview Campground across from Inspiration Point. Parking is located at the far end of the campground.



Tahoe Guy/Flickr

#### contact:

tel: +1 877 583 0123 http://www.truckeeriverraft.co m/

#### location:

185 River Road Tahoe City CA 96145



## Truckee River Rafting

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Remember to keep Tahoe and the Truckee River clean. Please don't litter.

DESCRIPTION: From Tahoe city to River Ranch (near Alpine Ski resort) this meandering, five-mile river trip takes you through Tahoe's gorgeous, wooded river banks. The Truckee river is a tame ride (no white water rapids and fairly shallow the whole trip through), but so scenic and calm, it's hard to think of a better way to spend a warm summer's afternoon in





4

Tahoe. Be warned: the water is cold - it's snowmelt after all - so choose a sunny day for your float. The trip usually take 2-3 hours, depending on the level of the water. This is a great family activity. Paddles and life vests are included. © NileGuide

#### contact:

tel: 530-525-7232 fax: 530-525-6730

http://www.cal-parks.ca.gov

#### location:

P.O. Box 266

Tahoma CA 96142-0266



# King's Beach State Recreation Area

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

You must pay to park in the beach's parking lot, but sometimes you can find free parking on the side of the road. Do not park at a local business and walk to the beach, they will ticket you.

DESCRIPTION: Near Tahoe City, King's Beach is a must for anyone traveling to Tahoe during the summer. A sand beach as well as its easy access to water sports like kayaking, boating, jet skiing and parasailing make it one of the area's most popular summertime destinations. The beach features 700 feet of lake frontage area as well as Ponderosa Pine and small brush. Lake Tahoe is the second-deepest lake in all of the United States (second only to Oregon's Crater Lake) and is known for the clarity of its water and the beauty of its surrounding mountains. There is no better way to get aquainted with Lake Tahoe than a stroll down the beach and a dip in the water. The park is located twelve miles northeast of Tahoe City on Highway 28. © NileGuide



Bala/Flickr

#### contact:

tel: (530) 544-2942

#### location:

1900 Jameson Beach Road South Lake Tahoe CA 96158

#### hours:

9a-4p M-Su May-Sep



### Para-Sail Lake Tahoe

DESCRIPTION: You can enjoy the calm, quiet and panoramic beauty of the snowcapped Sierras and the breathtakingly beautiful blue waters of Lake Tahoe as you soar high above. You will feel a sudden excitement as you are gently lifted off the deck of a specially designed winch-boat and begin to soar hundreds of feet above this third-deepest lake in North America. You will enjoy yourself as you fly the skies like an eagle and return safely and gently to the boat without ever getting wet. The place offers single and tandem flights. © wcities.com



Rojer/Flickr

#### contact:

tel: +1 530 581 3029 http://www.tahoepaddle.com/ home

#### location:

8299 North Tahoe Beach Centre Kings Beach CA 96143



## **Tahoe Paddle and Oar**

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Tahoe can get windy in the afternoon, book a morning trip.

DESCRIPTION: Relax and paddle through the blue waters of Lake Tahoe in a single or double kayak, canoe or sea cycle. You can tour Crystal Bay by yourself, or go with a group to explore some of the lake's hidden caves. This will be one



Photo courtesy of TahoeMeadows.com



www.nileguide.com

unique summer adventure that you won't want to miss. Located at Kings Beach, this full-service paddle and sports store has the largest selection of rental boats on the lake. © wcities.com

#### contact:

tel: +1 888 434 1262

#### location:

Highway 89 at Emerald Bay South Lake Tahoe CA 96143



### Eagle Lake Hike

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Eagle Lake is a great place to swim in the summertime, but only if you like frigid water.

DESCRIPTION: This easy walk is only about a two-miles round trip to the lake and back. Start at Emerald Bay. The breathtaking views of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe make this a must-do trip. After you cross the steel footbridge at Eagle Falls, continue on through the Desolation Wilderness. The terrain varies from steep sections to flat trails on this beautiful hike through dense sections of forest. The weather can change quickly; so be prepared with the proper clothing and equipment. You must self-register at the kiosk located at the trailhead when you take this hike. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of gdargaud.net

#### contact:

tel: +1 530 544 0183

#### location:

3131 Harrison Avenue South Lake Tahoe CA 96150



# Lakeview Sports Bike & Jet Ski Rental

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

The bike path can get crowded in the summer.

DESCRIPTION: This shop is in an excellent location, where the Lake Tahoe Bike Path begins at Eldorado Beach. The staff sells and rents everything you need for both summer and winter sport. Kids bikes, trailers, helmets, free maps, expert advice and bike repair can be found at this great store. Ski and snowboard rentals, too! It also offers free shuttle bus service from the store to your favorite ski area. © wcities.com



boltron/Flickr

#### contact:

tel: +1 775 831 0494 http://parks.nv.gov/lt.htm

#### location:

2005 State Route 28 Incline Village NV 89402



#### Sand Harbor

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

The rule of thumb for Sand Harbor is to get there before 10 a.m. on summer weekends. Parking fills up fast.

DESCRIPTION: This area is considered by many to be the most beautiful beach at Lake Tahoe. All the amenities for an enjoyable stay can be found including boat launches and picnic areas. You can also check out some of the gorgeous homes along the shore like the Wattel Mansion, home of one of California's former governors. The beach is the setting for the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival that takes place





during the last five weeks before Labor Day. Parking and boat launching fees. © wcities.com

#### contact:

tel: +1 775 832 1616 fax: +1 775 298 0021

http://www.laketahoeshakesp

eare.com/

#### location:

Sand Harbor State Park Lake Tahoe NV 89452

#### hours:

Box office: M-F 9a-5p



## Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Be ready to get in line for an hour or so before the show. Bring a picnic and wine!

DESCRIPTION: The Lake Tahoe Shakespeare festival takes place annually during the last five weeks before Labor Day. Show up early to enjoy pre-performance entertainment, and bring your own blanket, beach chair (make sure it's low-backed) and food with which to enjoy the beauty of Sand Harbour and the talent of the performers. Chairs are available for rent, and refreshments are also for sale. © wcities.com



#### contact:

tel: +1 888 434 1262 http://www.visittahoecity.com/

#### location:

Hwy 28 and Hwy 89 Tahoe City CA 96145



### Tahoe City

#### **OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Tahoe City lies at the "Y" of Hwy 89 and Hwy. 28.

DESCRIPTION: This little town on the west shore of the lake is home to many shops and popular restaurants, all within walking distance of one another. The only outlet to Lake Tahoe is the spillway underneath Fanny Bridge. The bridge was so named because passersby on the highway saw numerous people constantly leaning over the bridge looking at the hundreds of fish in the waters below. Across the highway you will find miles of hiking and biking trails, and places to rent rafts and float tubes so you can float downstream on the Truckee River. © wcities.com





## Lake Tahoe Snapshot

#### **Local Info**

Lake Tahoe is an original. The"Jewel of the Sierras" is the third deepest lake in the world at 1,645 feet, and its crystal blue water shines brightly in both winter and summer inviting visitors to relax and enjoy the beauty. The Lake Tahoe area was recently voted the best ski area in the United States by Orbitz. And the locals couldn't agree more.

Lake Tahoe straddles two states, Nevada and California. And each portion of the lake has a different vibe. Like the Native Americans who summered in the region and called it"big sky lake", we will come up from the Nevada side, drop into California and then back into Nevada.

#### Nevada and Highway 50

For your first view of "The Lake", nothing is better than taking Highway 50 up fromCarson City, the capital of Nevada. Even people who have lived here for years, still catch their breath when witnessing this blue beauty hovering among mountains and pine forests. The trip continues with a tour around the 72 miles of shoreline. Each place you go, you will not lose sight of the lake that Mark Twain called the "fairest picture the whole earth affords".

Traveling toward Stateline, and home to the gaming center of Tahoe you will drive passed theLogan Shoals Vista Point and through the tunnel atCave Rock, which is sacred to the native tribes in the area. You will then pass by Zephyr Cove where you can camp, rent water and snow toys, eat at numerous restaurants or just enjoy one of the nicest beaches in the area. Zephyr Cove is also where vou can catch a ride on theMS Dixie II, a full-size paddlewheeler(that Mark Twain would be proud of) or the Woodwind II, a catamaran that sails during the summer months. Stateline is home toHarrah's,Harvey's,Montbleau and theHorizon casino resorts. Here you can eat, game, relax in a spa, golf at theEdgewood Tahoe Golf Course or enjoy the lake without having to leave the area.

California and Highway 89 North

As you leave Stateline and head into California and South Lake Tahoe you will pass by Heavenly Village andHeavenly Ski Resort which has agondola with some of the best views of the lake. Coming into South Lake Tahoe you will find numerous hotels, resorts, restaurants and other ways to enjoy Tahoe and the views.

South Lake Tahoe is known for the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Area and has several bike and pedestrian trails that run alongside the road. As you head out of SLT, onto Highway 89 North and into the Tahoe National Forest and Tahoe Basin, you drive through some of the more rugged and beautiful areas of the lake. Here you will find less restaurants, but beaches like Pope Beach and Baldwin Beach, camping or dining atCamp Richardson, theMt. Tallac Trailhead and the Spring Creek Recreation Area. All this beauty leads up to Emerald Bay, at the southern tip of Tahoe. This deep green bay embraces the only island on the lake, Fannette Island. From here you can hike down toVikingsholm Castle as well as get great views of both Emerald Bay and the nearbyCascade Lake. TheEagle Falls trailhead and access to the Desolation Wilderness is here as well. This area can be precarious during snowstorms and sometimes the road will be closed due to avalanches.

#### California and Highway 28

As you continue up Highway 89 to the West Shore, you will come acrossD.L. Bliss State Park, Meek's Bay and campground, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Tahoma, Homewood Mountain Ski Resort and the tiny but local favorite, Granlibakken ski resort. Most of the West Shore is privately owned and the piers inviting you to take a stroll over the water are gated. However, this area also has several bike-friendly trails that run from here to Tahoe City and up to Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Tahoe City is at the Y" of Highway 89 and 28. Highway 89 heads north towards Truckee on Interstate 80 and passes by Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley USA, home of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, and Highway 28 heads back toward Nevada. Tahoe City is a laid back town near the outlet of the Truckee River and offers dining and bars, rafting, golfing and shopping.

#### Back to Nevada

Beyond Tahoe City, Tahoe Vista and Carnelian Bay, the turnoff for Highway 267 also goes to Truckee over the Brockway Summit and passes byNorthstar-at-Tahoe ski resort. If you stay on 28 you will head back into Nevada throughKings Beach which offers hotels, restaurants and a public beach. Highway 431, or the Mount Rose Highway, passes by the local favorites ofTahoe Meadows, theMount Rose Summit trail,Mount Rose Ski Tahoe resort and into the Galena area of South Reno, home to Jack Nicklaus's Montreaux Golf and Country Club.

The quiet, laid back town of Incline Village has some of the local favorites in food and drink. SkiDiamond Peak, play a round of golf at theIncline Village Golf Course or access the lake at theLake Tahoe State Park from Hidden Beach orSand Harbor. Sand Harbor is the prettiest beach on the lake and home to the annualLake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Farther along the road you will see a parking area forSecret Harbor, a clothing-optional beach about a mile hike from the road.

This is near the end of your circle of Tahoe. You can drive back down Highway 50 to Carson City which connects along Highway 395 to Reno and Sparks, or you can take the loop again! Lake Tahoe is big and full of out-of-the-way treats. It might be best to take the lake in sections. But after your first visit, you are bound to come back and join the locals in helping to "Keep Tahoe Blue."

#### **Fun Facts**

Top 12 Lake Tahoe Facts

- 1. Donner Pass andDonner Lake are named after the ill-fated Donner Party. This group of settlers attempted to cross the mountains in the winter of 1846-47. Most of them were trapped by the snow and several of them resorted to cannibalism to survive.
- 2. Strange Fact: Truckee, California often registers the lowest temperature in the nation, but not during the winter season. During the spring/summer seasons of 1991, 1993 and 1994, Truckee claimed the honor of coldest spot in the nation, excluding
- 3. The deepest snowpack recorded at Tahoe was over 30 feet deep in 1890.
- 4. Interesting Fact: If Lake Tahoe was tipped over, the water would cover



## Lake Tahoe Snapshot continued

California to a depth of fourteen and a half inches.

- 5. Weird Fact: Many drowning victims are never recovered from Lake Tahoe. The cold water at lower depths preserves the bodies and prevents the formation of gases that would otherwise float them to the surface.
- 6. Interesting Fact: As an"interstate navigable waterway," Lake Tahoe is protected by the U. S. Coast Guard and
- is reputed to be the most desirable Coast Guard duty station in the world.
- 7. Tahoe has nine mountains with peaks over 10,000 feet includingMt. Rose, Jobs Peak and Freel Peak.
- 8. The Tahoe area averages more than 300 days of sun each year.
- 9. Tahoe has 18 alpine and cross country ski resorts and over 50 championship golf courses.
- 10. Random Fact: Virginia City is known as "The Liveliest Ghost Town in the West.
- 11. The floor of the Tahoe basin(the bottom the lake) is near the 4,580 foot elevation, lower than the surface of the Carson Valley to the east.
- 12. Fun Fact: Sixty three streams flow into Lake Tahoe.
- © NileGuide

#### Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	6	7	9	12	16	22	26	26	22	16	10	6
Average Mean	0	1	3	5	9	14	17	17	14	9	4	1
Average Low	-5	-4	-3	-1	2	6	9	9	7	2	-2	-4
Temperature F												
Average High	42	44	48	53	62	71	78	78	72	62	49	43
Average Mean	33	34	37	41	49	57	63	63	58	49	39	33
Average Low	24	25	27	30	36	43	49	49	44	36	29	24
Rainy Days	9	7	9	5	5	5	2	2	2	5	7	9
Rain Fall (cm)	7.3	6.8	6.0	2.2	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.2	2.2	2.9	5.5	5.6
Rain Fall (in)	2.9	2.7	2.4	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.2	2.2	2.2

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