



north lake tahoe

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL GUIDE





C O N T E N T S

Take the Pledge	1
Protect Lake Tahoe	2
Responsible Travel & Tourism	3
Helpful Hints	5
<i>Industry-Specific Information</i>	9
Sustainable Activities	11
Activity Suggestions	16
Before You Visit North Lake Tahoe	18
Stay in Touch	19
Resources	20

TAKE THE PLEDGE

North Lake Tahoe's natural wonders have drawn visitors from around the world for generations. From alpine blue waters to expansive mountain peaks, the Sierra landscape is truly awe-inspiring. To protect and preserve our beloved environment, please commit to six travel pledges that will amplify environmental stewardship efforts. Rooted in preservation tactics, education and mindfulness, the pledge reminds visitors and locals alike to travel with awareness and observe the impact of your individual actions.



YOU CAN HELP US PROTECT LAKE TAHOE

The North Lake Tahoe region is a treasured community, both by locals and visitors alike. Even the simplest of actions can help us protect and preserve the environment, ensuring our natural playground stays this beautiful for generations to come.

Our Traveler Responsibility Pledge is one way the local community is showing its commitment to being a positive force for environmental stewardship. Layered into the pledge are actionable steps to leave no trace no matter the adventure. We invite visitors to engrain themselves in the region, becoming stewards of Lake Tahoe and demonstrating mindful travel practices. Let's work together to reduce our footprint and promote sustainable practices.

Thank you for choosing North Lake Tahoe. We are most grateful for your continued support and wish you the very best during your stay and beyond.



Andy Chapman

President/CEO
Travel North Tahoe Nevada



Tony Karwowski

President/CEO
North Lake Tahoe
Resort Association

A couple is kayaking on a clear blue lake. The man is in the back, and the woman is in the front, both wearing blue life jackets and sunglasses. They are holding black paddles. The background shows a rocky shoreline with green trees under a bright blue sky. A light blue topographic map overlay is visible on the left side of the image. The text 'RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL & TOURISM' is centered in a white box with a thin black border.

**RESPONSIBLE
TRAVEL & TOURISM**

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL & TOURISM

Being a responsible traveler is now more important than ever. The magic of North Lake Tahoe lies in the culture of the community and the natural beauty that surrounds it. To us, a responsible traveler is aware of the effects their travel has on the destination and the culture – both positive and negative.

So, before embarking on your journey to our beloved region, we ask you to join us in preparing and embracing the mindset of a responsible traveler. Not only do we need to think about our footprint when traveling, but we also need to put safety and compassion at the forefront. We have outlined some tips we hope you'll consider before your adventures begin. Small changes can make a world of difference.



BECOME A STEWARD OF LAKE TAHOE

- ▶ Leave spaces better than you found them.
- ▶ Adhere to instructions and signage.
- ▶ Lend a hand during one of our community clean-up days.
- ▶ Ride public transportation like our TART services.
- ▶ Support small businesses and events.



RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Preserve North Lake Tahoe's beauty.
- ▶ Leave no trace by packing out what you brought in.
- ▶ Dispose of trash in designated receptacles.
- ▶ Stay on trails to not disturb landscape.
- ▶ Be mindful of your and pets' actions.
- ▶ Say no to plastic and bring your own reusable water bottle and shopping bags.
- ▶ Adhere to boat inspection regulations.



STAY EDUCATED

- ▶ Check weather conditions beforehand and make sure to have the appropriate safety equipment.
- ▶ Prepare in advance when visiting the outdoors like downloading maps and checking regional area conditions/closures
- ▶ Call businesses before your trip to learn about hours of operation, protocols and any other pertinent information.
- ▶ Sign up for county and state text alerts to stay connected to travel advisories and emergency updates.



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- ▶ Observe wildlife from a respectful distance to ensure your and their safety.
- ▶ Never feed animals or leave food/garbage behind.
- ▶ Follow instructions on how to dispose of trash correctly, especially with bear boxes.



BE FIRE SAFE

- ▶ Consult fire restrictions before lighting a campfire or starting a grill.
- ▶ Know the permitting rules ahead of burning anything outdoors.
- ▶ Never use fireworks.
- ▶ Be sure to soak, stir and feel fire ashes before disposing.
- ▶ Maintain your vigilance and be prepared in the event of an emergency.



DEMONSTRATE MINDFUL TRAVEL

- ▶ Practice kindness, patience and commit to following health and safety protocols.
- ▶ Be a good neighbor by keeping noise down and parking in designated areas.
- ▶ Travel with awareness and observe the impact of your actions.



**HELPFUL
HINTS**

HELPFUL HINTS

Before you make your trip to North Lake Tahoe, whether for the day or for a few nights, make sure you have necessities with you and have made arrangements to ensure a safe trip.

WHAT TO BRING

► Gear

- » If bringing your own aquatics gear (i.e. kayaks, boats, etc.) make sure they are in line with lake guidances and regulations.

► Reusable Items

- » Bring reusable water bottles, utensils and shopping bags as grocery stores charge for bags. Plus it helps eliminate waste.

» Patience

- » Businesses are navigating procedures and protocols to ensure your safety and the safety of their employees.

- » Connect with your lodging property to ask any questions you may have before your stay.
- » Pre-book guided tours and pack your own equipment.
- » Make dining reservations and confirm services and hours align with your trip expectations.

► Stay up-to-date on social media channels and business' websites for real-time information

► Set up tap-to-pay with your phone/smartwatch or contact-less credit card

► Help protect Lake Tahoe's beauty and health by sharing your observations in the Citizens Science App

[LEARN MORE >](#)

► Read our blogs for trip inspiration:

[LEARN MORE >](#)

► Sign up for Emergency Service alerts

[CALTRANS >](#)

[NEV DEP OF TRANSPORTATION >](#)

[CAL FIRE >](#)

[NEVADA FIRE >](#)



GETTING HERE

▶ Reno-Tahoe International Airport

- » Conveniently located just 45 minutes away, the Reno-Tahoe International Airport offers various non-stop flights serviced by multiple airlines, with convenient connections from virtually any city in the US and abroad.
- » Travelers are recommended to check-in online and arrive 90–120 minutes prior to departure.

LEARN MORE >

▶ North Lake Tahoe Express

- » Provides transportation to Reno-Tahoe International Airport and the North Lake Tahoe region.
- » Features routes with Reno-Tahoe International Airport and the North Lake Tahoe region with local transit connections through TART Connect.
- » Enjoy a seamless transit experience to help reduce private car use in the North Lake Tahoe region.

LEARN MORE >

▶ Ride Sharing Apps

- » This is an option across North Lake Tahoe, but please expect limited capacity in the region.

▶ Private Car Service Companies

- » A great way to support local businesses.
- » If your group is interested in a non-shuttle or group booking, this is a great option.

LEARN MORE >



WHEN YOU ARRIVE

► Mountaineer Service

- » With the free Mountaineer Mobile App, guests and residents can request on demand shuttle service within Palisades Tahoe during the winter operating schedule.
- » Most up-to-date hours of operation are always found in the app.

LEARN MORE >

► Connect with experts by stopping at one of the two Visitors Centers. They can provide:

- » Itinerary suggestions
- » Maps
- » Restaurant recommendations
- » Insider tips about lake and mountain experiences

► Use Tahoe Area Rapid Transit (TART)

- » Please check services and routes via their website. Note that services change per season.

LEARN MORE >

► Look for instructional signage and adhere to it.

Our friends at Take Care Tahoe created signage to help remind you of best practices. Below are examples, and you can see all tips at [TakeCareTahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org). Please respect business' requests – they're doing it for your safety and the safety of their employees.

TAKE CARE TAHOE >



INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

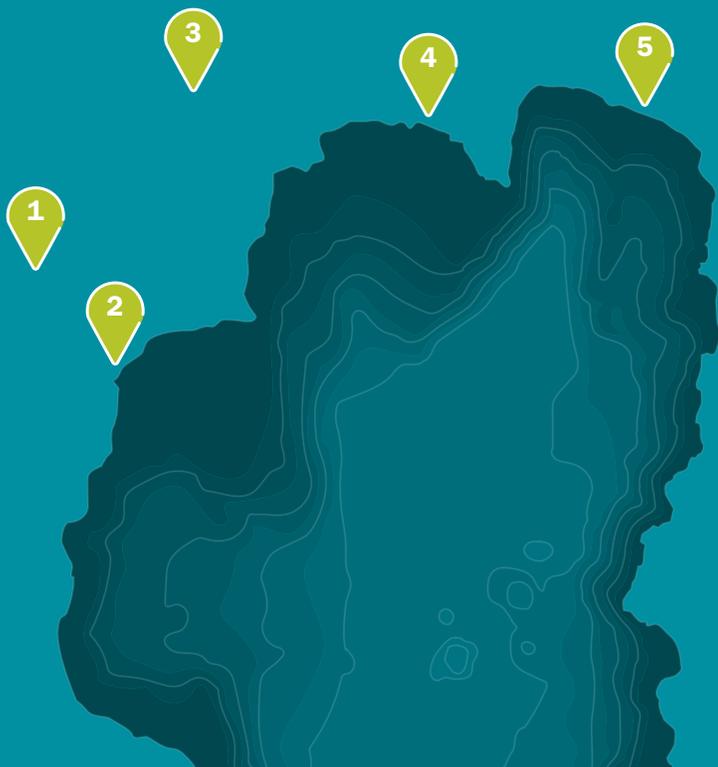
DINING

From lake views to mountain backdrops, North Lake Tahoe is home to some of the most enticing dining options in Northern California and Nevada. Whether you want to grab a quick bite before hitting the beach or are simply planning a memorable foodie getaway, North Lake Tahoe offers everything from casual bistro-style restaurants to fine dining. Plus, everything comes with a side of breathtaking scenery.

- ▶ Choose local restaurants to support the North Lake Tahoe community.
- ▶ Check out the Tahoe Food Hub which provides locally-owned restaurants with fresh, in-season ingredients for local chefs to make magic with.
- ▶ Call ahead and make reservations if available.
- ▶ Enjoy outdoor scenery by taking your meals to go.
- ▶ Make sure to pack up any trash to keep the splendors of Lake Tahoe pristine.

SHOPPING

Shopping in North Lake Tahoe takes you on an odyssey into five charming areas filled with artisan treasures hard to find anywhere else. Each of the resorts and towns offer a distinct selection of local boutiques, shops and markets that make it delightfully fun to support local businesses.



1 OLYMPIC VALLEY

Whether you're in the market for ski or summer gear, tasty confections or custom-made gifts, Olympic Valley is home to some of the most luxurious and quality shopping in the region.

2 TAHOE CITY

Experience a one-of-a-kind lakeside shopping trip in Tahoe City. Discover art galleries, museums, gift shops, boutiques, toy shops and other local eccentricities, sure to satisfy shoppers who want to take home a unique piece of North Lake Tahoe.

3 NORTHSTAR CALIFORNIA

Northstar's family-friendly shopping Village offers the perfect day trip getaway no matter the season. Enjoy a skating rink, fire pits, diverse dining establishments and high-end retail options with knowledgeable staff.

4 KINGS BEACH

Soak in views of North Lake Tahoe as you stroll this region filled with stores offering locally-made goods such as furniture, pottery, stand-up paddleboards and home décor.

5 INCLINE VILLAGE

The boutiques in Incline Village offer local charm in addition to hand-crafted jewelry, bohemian-style clothing and other eclectic treasures.

OUTDOOR

With its sparkling blue waters, phenomenal mountain scenery and endless recreation, North Lake Tahoe is a destination committed to protecting the environment and leading the way in sustainability.

▶ **Lake Tahoe**

- » One of the clearest bodies of water in the world, due to its significant depth, low watershed rate and granite composition.
- » UC Davis TERC launched the Citizen Science Tahoe app, which encourages visitors to tap in what they see at Lake Tahoe. Data is shared with scientists to better understand conditions from various locations around the lake and from multiple dates throughout the year.
- » Many communities take their tap water directly from Lake Tahoe, which has been named the best drinking water in the country. The water is drawn deep below the surface and far from the shore.

▶ **Forest and Wildlife**

- » The Lake Tahoe Basin is home to over 290 animals and more than 1,000 plant species.
- » It is also home to many different types of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects – including Tahoe residents such as the Sierra Red Fox, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and the Mountain Beaver.
- » To keep wildlife wild, never feed the animals. Once a wild animal becomes food-conditioned it loses its natural fear of people and public places.
- » Observe wildlife from a respectful distance to ensure their safety and yours.



A man and a woman are running a dog on a rocky trail. The man is wearing a white t-shirt with 'izm' written on it, a grey cap, and sunglasses. The woman is wearing a yellow tank top, white shorts, and pink sunglasses. The dog is a fluffy, light brown breed with a red bandana. They are running on a dirt path with large rocks. In the background, there is a large blue lake, green trees, and snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky. A faint topographic map overlay is visible on the right side of the image.

**S U S T A I N A B L E
A C T I V I T I E S**

SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

If you're looking for some fun Lake Tahoe activities, North Lake Tahoe offers mile after mile of stunning panoramas and every type imaginable. Unwind on the lake with a picturesque kayak or stand up paddle in the summer. Snowshoe or ride a snow bike on the trails in the winter, take a zip-line in the fall or stroll the towns in the spring. There is something for every season and every person. Remember to explore and experience the region safely and responsibly.

▶ **Check for restrictions or closures due to inclement weather conditions**

▶ **Play during off-peak hours**

- » Try a sunrise hike, a morning round of snowshoeing or stargazing at night.

▶ **Reusable materials**

- » Bring reusable materials like utensils and water bottles. Stay well hydrated when outdoors.

▶ **Pack out trash**

▶ **Call ahead**

- » Confirm rental equipment will be available and find out which items (helmets, gloves, etc.) you may need to bring with you.

▶ **Park safely**

- » If parking on the side of the road, make sure you're in an appropriate and legal area. There is no parking on the side of the road November – April.

HIKING AND BIKING

- ▶ **Lots of cars** at a trailhead means the trail is busy. Find another place to explore.
- ▶ **Don't congregate** at trailheads.
- ▶ **For up-to-date information** about trails, visit:

[PLACER COUNTY TRAILS >](#)

(the California side of North Lake Tahoe)

[WASHOE COUNTY TRAILS >](#)

(the Nevada side of North Lake Tahoe)



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

- ▶ **Carefully review** pre-arrival information for activities.
- ▶ **Drink Tahoe Tap**
 - » Bring refillable water bottles to stay hydrated during your activities.
- ▶ **Digital forms**
 - » When possible, fill out release forms digitally before arrival.

GOLF COURSES

- ▶ **Tee times** may be required in advance.
- ▶ **Select a tee time** during less busier periods for a discounted price.

BOATING

- ▶ **Lake Tahoe “Tahoe Only” boating**
 - » Boating on Lake Tahoe is open to all boats with an aquatic invasive species inspection seal.
 - » Seals can be acquired at any of the regional watercraft inspection stations. All motorized watercraft are required to get an inspection.
 - » Make sure you clean, drain and dry your boat and all compartments to save time at inspection stations.
 - » Paddlers and non-motorized watercraft can self-inspect and proceed to launch as long as they are free of aquatic invasive species.
 - » For the most updated boat launch and watercraft inspection information, visit:

[INSPECTION & LAUNCH INFO >](#)

- ▶ **Donner Lake boating**
 - » Submit a self-inspection form to the City of Truckee to receive your Aquatic Invasive Species sticker.

NON-MOTORIZED WATER SPORTS

Non-motorized watercrafts, like kayaks and paddleboards, are currently allowed on Lake Tahoe.

- ▶ **Clean, drain and dry**
 - » Self-inspect your personal watercraft, every time prior to launching, to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- ▶ **Always wear a life jacket**
- ▶ **Rafting the Truckee River from Tahoe City**
 - » Book your rafts early.
 - » Note that alcohol is prohibited during the 4th of July holiday.

STATE PARKS AND BEACHES

- ▶ **Note that alcohol is prohibited during the 4th of July holiday.**
- ▶ **Check for restrictions or closures**

▶ **Limited parking**

» Some state parks will have limited parking. Walk or bike if you can.

▶ **Furry-friend rules**

» Check if dogs are allowed and, if so, follow the rules and use a leash.

» If it's your dog, then it's your doody – please clean up, dog waste is an environmental pollutant.

▶ **For up-to-date information about State Parks, visit:**

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS >

TAHOE PUBLIC BEACHES >

NEVADA STATE PARKS >

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING, SNOWBOARDING & SNOWMOBILING

▶ It's imperative to be well versed in avalanche safety and search and rescue techniques before venturing out of ski area boundaries.

» It can take hours or days for rescue personnel to assist when there's trouble in the backcountry. You need to be responsible for your own actions.

BACK COUNTRY TRAINING >

COURSE PROVIDERS >

▶ All members of your group must have basic avalanche rescue gear – transceiver, shovel and probe. Regularly practice using all safety equipment before taking it into the backcountry.

» If snowmobiling, make sure safety gear is attached to your body, not your sled.

▶ Check with the Sierra Avalanche Center for up-to-date conditions and snowpack stability.

▶ Never travel in the backcountry on the day after a big storm. Allow snowpack to settle for at least 24 hours.

▶ See the Resources page for links to additional information.

MORE INFORMATION >

SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

▶ Many lodging properties and ski resorts have instilled skiing and snowboarding green practices including lighting, energy and water preservation.

▶ Adhere to resort requests to ensure a safe skiing and riding experience.

▶ Learn more about the largest concentration of ski resorts in North America with 12 downhill resorts in North Lake Tahoe to choose from.

LEARN MORE >



ALPINE VILLAGES

- ▶ **The villages** in North Lake Tahoe have their own unique character and charm.
- ▶ **Après ski** is the long revered tradition of ending your day on the slopes with friends and family, perhaps an adult beverage or two, all while trading tales of your snow-filled adventures.
 - » Consider exploring the towns of North Lake Tahoe throughout the region to spread out while supporting local businesses.
 - » Use this **handy guide** to experience North Lake Tahoe like a local and sip to the good life. But make sure to consider modifications to continue with safe practices.

SNOW BIKING

- ▶ Bring repair gear so you can be self-sufficient in case of a flat.

SLEDDING

- ▶ Many ski areas feature groomed snow-play areas and tubing lanes.
- ▶ Respect signage and only sled in approved areas.
- ▶ No sled left behind. Take all garbage with you after a fun day on the hills.

ICE SKATING

- ▶ Call or visit location websites for more information.
- ▶ Helmets are encouraged.



SNOW SHOEING

- ▶ Experience snowy terrain almost anywhere. If using pre-existing trails, remember:
 - » Lots of cars at a trailhead means that the trail is busy. You may want to consider another place to explore.



A C T I V I T Y S U G G E S T I O N S

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Looking for some activity inspiration during your time in North Lake Tahoe? Well we have you covered. Here are a few suggestions to inspire and delight!

ITINERARY SUGGESTIONS

Depending on the season and your interests, we've created some itineraries and activity suggestions with ideas on how to spend your days in North Lake Tahoe along with recommendations to some of our favorite spots.

[VIEW ITINERARIES >](#)

[SEE ALL TREASURES OF TAHOE >](#)

[BLOGS >](#)

[WEBCAMS >](#)

RESPONSIBLE TRAVELER BINGO

Think, act and explore like a local by being a steward of North Lake Tahoe. Adventuring through the region is more rewarding than ever thanks to our Responsible Traveler BINGO challenge. You can share this game with co-workers, friends, teachers and anyone who is all-in on a healthy and positive Tahoe experience.

[PRINT BINGO CARD >](#)



Ride a TART bus	Say no to plastic and yes to reusable water bottles	Drink Tahoe tap	Share lunch with a friend, not wildlife	Join a community clean-up day
Shop at a local business	Toss trash in a designated receptacle	Write a business review online or post about a local business on a social media account	Watch a fire safety video	Watch a sunset on the beach
Say a friendly "hello!" to a stranger	Fill day with only human-powered activities	F R E E	Enjoy a meal with seasonal ingredients	Sign up for county and state text alerts
Snap a selfie with Penny the Bear	Rent or ride your own bike	Use a reusable tote when shopping	Plan a mid-week getaway	Take the Traveler Responsibility Pledge
Use a reusable tote when shopping	Stroll along a crystal blue shoreline	Take a picture on your favorite trail	Purchase a North Lake Tahoe gift card	Name the six traits of a responsible traveler

BEFORE YOU VISIT NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Before you visit North Lake Tahoe, we encourage you to learn more about our local sustainability partners. They help in providing information on future trip planning around shoulder seasons to reduce overcrowding and overall impact on the destination.

[VISITORS GUIDE >](#)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Stay updated through local organizations including information on tourism, events, the Take Care Tahoe and Keep Tahoe Blue campaigns, UC Davis educational opportunities, Tahoe Fund sponsorships, and information on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Other ways to participate include donating or volunteering your time to our local partners.

[TOURISM CARES >](#)

[KEEP TAHOE BLUE >](#)

[ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER >](#)

[TAKE CARE TAHOE >](#)

[TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY >](#)

BUY A GIFT CARD OR DO SOME ONLINE SHOPPING

Supporting small businesses in North Lake Tahoe has never been easier due to a recently launched gift card and online shopping site. The new purchasing portal fosters a “Shop Local, Shop Small” message and features gift cards and links to online shopping from more than 100 local businesses, including lodging properties, retailers, activity providers and restaurants. The program is a simple but effective way to support the north shore business community and start planning your next trip.

[SHOP NOW >](#)

EVENTS

North Lake Tahoe is home to a variety of unique events year-round, including Made in Tahoe, Spartan Race and Winter Wondergrass. Check out the events calendar for upcoming events taking place throughout the region.

[ALL EVENTS >](#)

PASS THE TIME PIECE-FULLY WITH A TAHOE PUZZLE

We've developed a series of digital puzzles to remind you of what it is you love about North Lake Tahoe. Each puzzle offers a breathtaking visual of one of Tahoe's iconic landmarks. Use your discerning eye to assemble the pieces and enjoy!

[EAST SHORE BEACH >](#)

[EAST SHORE SUNSET >](#)

[SUMMER HIKE >](#)

[FALL HIKE >](#)

[WINTER NIGHT >](#)

[PADDLEBOARD >](#)

[THUNDERBIRD LODGE >](#)



STAY IN TOUCH

STAY INSPIRED AND IN TOUCH VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

There's so much we share in common - including our great love for this special place that stands as the crown jewel of the Sierra Nevada. We'll continue to share relaxing scenes, videos, and thoughts from North Lake Tahoe, and invite you to share in the discussion with us across our various social channels.



[f TahoeNorth](#) • [@tahoenorth](#) • [@TahoeNorth](#) • [GoTahoeNorth](#) • [@northlaketahoe](#)

RESOURCES

State of California Information

- » Placer County: <https://www.placer.ca.gov>
- » Visit California: <https://www.visitcalifornia.com>
- » California State Website: <https://www.ca.gov>
- » California State Parks: <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>
- » California State Emergency Services: <https://emsa.ca.gov>
- » California Fish and Game Wildlife: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>
- » California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>
- » California Tahoe Conservancy: <https://tahoe.ca.gov>
- » California Department of Transportation: <https://dot.ca.gov/>

State of Nevada Information

- » Washoe County: <https://www.washoecounty.us>
- » Travel Nevada: <https://travelnevada.com>
- » Nevada State Website: <https://nv.gov>
- » Nevada State Parks: <http://parks.nv.gov>
- » Nevada Department of Forestry: <http://forestry.nv.gov>
- » Nevada State Emergency Services: <https://dem.nv.gov>
- » Nevada Fish and Game Wildlife: <http://www.ndow.org>
- » Nevada Department of Public Health: <https://dph.nv.gov>
- » Nevada Department of Transportation: <https://www.dot.nv.gov>

North Lake Tahoe Information

- » Tahoe National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tahoe>
- » Take Care Tahoe: <https://takecaretahoe.org/>
- » Tahoe Area Rapid Transit: <https://tahoetrucketransit.com>
- » Tahoe Boat Inspections: <https://tahoeboatinspections.com/>

Reno Tahoe International Airport

- » <https://www.renoairport.com/>

Wildfire Resources

- » California: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/>
- » Nevada: https://dem.nv.gov/fire_information/

Travel Responsible

- » VCA: <https://www.visitcalifornia.com/things-to-do/travel-california-respect-california/>
- » Travel NV: <https://travelnevada.com/rec-safe-nevada-outdoor-adventures/>



north lake tahoe
it's human nature

GoTahoeNorth.com



**Tahoe City Visitor
Information Center**

100 North Lake Blvd.
Tahoe City, CA 96145
800.824.6348

Open Daily | 9am - 5pm

**Incline Village / Crystal Bay
Welcome Center**

969 Tahoe Blvd.
Incline Village, NV 89451
775.832.1606

Open Daily | 9am - 5pm