



north lake tahoe

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**  
**INFORMATIONAL GUIDE**





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The background image is a scenic landscape of North Lake Tahoe. In the foreground, a person is walking on a sandy path through a rocky, forested slope. The middle ground shows a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, the calm blue waters of the lake stretch towards distant, hazy mountains under a clear sky.

## GET BACK TO NATURE

It's human nature to seek a connection with the outdoors and North Lake Tahoe is an ideal destination to do just that. Lots of open space. Endless outdoor activities. Fresh air and plenty of opportunities to get away in your own backyard. From towering tree-lined mountains to crystal blue shorelines, there's no better place to reconnect with nature. As we all start to lace up our boots, dust off our kayaks and zip up our backpacks, it's time to give in to our innate need to explore, wander and revel in the beauty that we've been missing. But we also need to remember to be responsible travelers. North Lake Tahoe hopes this guide provides you the necessary tools to understand what to know before you go.

# WELCOME. WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU BACK.

Like many communities, the North Lake Tahoe region was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. North Lake Tahoe's economy and workforce is rooted in tourism and for decades our communities have been supported and enhanced by visitors and part-time residents alike. By visiting North Lake Tahoe, shopping locally and experiencing our culinary offerings, you are contributing to the viability of our incredible mountain destination.

Local businesses continue to go above and beyond to put new protocols in place that adhere to state guidelines for the safety of guests and residents. They have demonstrated unwavering resilience in this most challenging time and like us, are thrilled to welcome you back.

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*  
Incline Village Crystal Bay  
Visitors Bureau



**Jeffrey Hentz**

*CEO*  
North Lake Tahoe Resort Association,  
Chamber of Commerce & CVB

A full-page photograph of a man and a woman kayaking on a calm lake. They are both wearing blue life jackets and smiling at the camera. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a pink cap and sunglasses, holding a black paddle. The man is behind her, also smiling. The background shows a rocky shoreline with green trees under a bright blue sky with wispy clouds. A light blue topographic map overlay is on the left side of the image. A white rectangular box is centered over the text.

# RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL & TOURISM

# RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL & TOURISM

In this new landscape of life during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, 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.



## SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Wash your hands, often.
- ▶ Avoid touching your nose, eyes or mouth.
- ▶ Keep 6 feet of physical distance from others.
- ▶ Wear a mask or face covering when in public.
  - » It's required in California and strongly recommended in Nevada.
- ▶ Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.
- ▶ Consider take-out and curbside services.



## STAY EDUCATED

- ▶ Be well informed about the disease and the risks associated with it. See the [Resources page](#) for links to local and national resources for the most up to date information.
- ▶ Check in with businesses in advance to learn about their current modifications before arriving.



## ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- ▶ Fully weigh the implications of being away from home and be aware of the limited resources in our small, but mighty, mountain community.
- ▶ Be aware that North Lake Tahoe has a small healthcare system.
- ▶ Don't travel if you're sick. A lot of businesses are relaxing cancellation policies so you can feel comfortable staying home if you don't feel well.



## EXPERIENTIAL TIPS

- ▶ Have patience as businesses navigate this uncharted territory.
- ▶ Respect business's requests.
- ▶ Seek and enjoy cultural experiences.
- ▶ Eat locally.
- ▶ Shop locally.
- ▶ Support community non-profits.



## ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

- ▶ Leave no trace – trash belongs in the can.
- ▶ Use reusable bottles – drink Tahoe tap.
- ▶ Say no to the straw.
- ▶ Respect wildlife – do not feed the bears.
- ▶ Only start a campfire in approved locations.



## 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

#### ► **Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the whole family**

- » Make sure to include masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and a thermometer.

#### ► **Cleaning supplies**

- » Depending on the day, cleaning supplies can be scarce at grocery stores. To guarantee having supplies on hand, bring them from home. Consider bringing paper towels, wet wipes and cleaning spray.

#### ► **Medications**

#### ► **Patience**

- » Businesses are navigating new procedures and protocols to ensure your safety and the safety of their employees. Be patient, expect things to take just a little bit longer than normal.

### THINGS TO DO IN ADVANCE

#### ► **Call ahead**

- » Connect with your lodging property to ask any questions you may have, from cleaning procedures to touchless check-in.
- » Pre-book guided tours and pack your own equipment.
- » Make dining reservations and confirm services and hours align with your trip expectations.

#### ► **Take responsibility to learn what businesses are doing to keep consumers safe**

- » Many businesses will be excited to share how they are going above and beyond.

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

#### ► **Set realistic expectations**

- » Expect things to move a little slower as everyone gets used to the new safety measures.

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



## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- ▶ **Wear a mask** and don't forget the rest of your PPE in the room or car.
- ▶ **Physical distance** and recreate only with the people in your home.
- ▶ **Use touchless payment or pre-pay** in advance when possible.
- ▶ **Anticipate closures** of shared facilities and restrooms.
- ▶ **Tahoe Area Rapid Transit (TART)** is operating.
  - » Services have been reduced and routes are subject to change.
  - » Passengers are asked to load through the rear door.
  - » Masks and physical distancing on the buses are strongly encouraged.
- ▶ **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's requests – they're doing it for your safety and the safety of their employees.

TAKE CARE TAHOE >

### Go big on distancing



Six feet and a mask, please.  
Even outside. Especially inside.  
[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

### Go small or go home



It's the wrong time to push your limits.

[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

### Expect Closures



Many restrooms are closed, and trash  
services limited. Plan accordingly.  
[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

### Air Five!



Please step off the trail to maintain  
a six-foot distance when passing.  
[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

### Go big on distancing



Six feet, please.  
Even on trails.  
[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

### No germs left behind



Please Leave No Trace, wash hands  
frequently and bring sanitizer.  
[takecaretahoe.org](https://www.takecaretahoe.org) #takecaretahoe

Take  
care.

# INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC TIPS

## BUSINESS UPDATES

In an effort to provide the most updated information in one spot, we're working closely with the business community to offer a list of open businesses and any modifications they are making. This [Current Business List](#) is being updated on a daily basis. However, please double-check business websites or give them a call for specific information as things are changing rapidly.

CURRENT BUSINESS LIST >

## LODGING

- ▶ **Review pre-arrival procedures** for modifications.
- ▶ **Be prepared** to park your own car and carry your own luggage.
- ▶ **Look for signage** in shared spaces for directions on maintaining physical distancing.
- ▶ **Housekeeping** will look different.
  - » Expect rooms to be vacant for 24–72 hours prior to arrival and thoroughly cleaned following CDC guidelines.
  - » Many will not offer cleaning services during your stay (unless by special request).

## RESTAURANTS

- ▶ **Take out** is a safe option for visiting your favorite North Lake Tahoe restaurant. Many restaurants have adjusted offerings to now provide these services, including delicious cocktails to go.
- ▶ **Dining in** – Be ready for some changes at your favorite North Lake Tahoe eateries.
  - » Many restaurants are requiring advanced reservations, so be sure to book ahead of time. Capacity will be limited due to physical distancing modifications.
  - » Wear a mask while not eating.
  - » Be on the lookout for signage directing you to the best way to enter and exit the restaurant, as well as the restrooms.
  - » No lines inside – many restaurants will be asking you to wait outside to avoid crowding.
  - » No sharing – communal condiments will be replaced with one-time-use items.
  - » Be prepared for shifts in menus, from items featured to the physical form they will take (online only, paper, large signs).

## RETAIL

- ▶ **Look out for signage** with instructions on entering/exiting the store and physical distancing markers in check-out lines.

## FARMERS MARKETS

- ▶ **One shopper per household** – Shop quickly and limit your visit to 30 minutes or less.
- ▶ **No on-site consumption** – Food purchases must be ordered to go, including hot food.

## CASINOS

- ▶ **Nevada casinos are open**
- ▶ **Limited players at tables** – Three players at blackjack and other table games, four players at roulette and six players at a craps table.
- ▶ **Stringent cleaning procedures are in place** – Many resorts plan to disinfect dice between shooters, clean chips periodically and change card decks frequently.

A man and a woman are running on a dirt trail, with a dog running alongside them. The man is wearing a white t-shirt with 'igm' on it, a grey cap, and sunglasses. The woman is wearing a yellow tank top, white shorts, and pink sunglasses. The dog is a small, scruffy, light brown breed with a red bandana. They are running on a dirt path with large rocks and green shrubs. In the background, there is a large blue lake, distant mountains, and a clear blue sky with a few clouds. A faint, stylized line drawing of a mountain range is visible on the right side of the image.

# OUTDOOR RECREATION

# OUTDOOR RECREATION

Not only is getting outside to enjoy nature allowed (and probably why you're visiting North Lake Tahoe), both the CDC and the states of California and Nevada are encouraging you to spend time in the outdoors. But, remember to explore and experience the outdoors safely and responsibly.

- ▶ **Check for restrictions or closures**
- ▶ **Recreate with only those from your household**
- ▶ **Wear a mask**
  - » Masks are required while visiting all public locations in California, and strongly recommended in Nevada, even outdoors.
- ▶ **Go small or go home**
  - » Medical services are stretched thin. Stay close to access points and skip difficult terrain.
- ▶ **Keep it moving on the trails**
- ▶ **Play during off-peak hours**
  - » Try a sunrise hike or stargazing at night.
- ▶ **Bring personal protective gear**
- ▶ **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.
  - » Ask about curbside pickup and delivery.
- ▶ **Park safely**
  - » If parking on the side of the road, make sure you're in an appropriate and legal area.
- ▶ **"Air Fives" are the celebration of choice**

## HIKING AND BIKING

- ▶ **Lots of cars** at a trailhead means the trail is busy. Find another place to explore.
- ▶ **Don't congregate** at trailheads.
- ▶ **Choose wisely**
  - » Pick wide trails instead of single track, and loop trails rather than out-and-back trails.
- ▶ **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)



## BOATING

### ► Lake Tahoe boating

- » Boating on Lake Tahoe is open to boats that have been through the Aquatic Invasive Species inspection process.
- » Watercraft inspections are open for all boats by appointment.
- » Face coverings are mandatory while outside a vehicle during the inspection process.
- » Properly certified rental boats are available from local marinas.
- » For the most updated boat launch and watercraft inspection information, visit:

LAUNCH OPENING DATES >

### ► 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

- » Rafting companies will be running at 50% capacity, so book your rafts early.
- » Advanced reservations are mandatory, no walk-ins will be allowed.

## STATE PARKS AND BEACHES

### ► Check for restrictions or closures

- » Some state parks are discouraging sitting and/or sunbathing, so know the rules before you arrive.
- » Anticipate restrooms, public-facing facilities, playgrounds and trash receptacles to be closed or limited.

### ► 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 >

NEVADA STATE PARKS >

TAHOE PUBLIC BEACHES >

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

- ▶ **Carefully review** pre-arrival information for activity-specific modifications.
- ▶ **Bring** your hand sanitizer, gloves and masks.
- ▶ **Drink Tahoe Tap**
  - » Bring water to stay hydrated during your activities.
- ▶ **Digital forms**
  - » When possible, fill out release forms digitally before arrival.
- ▶ **Outside check-ins** will be more common.

## GOLF COURSES

- ▶ **Tee times** are required in advance.
- ▶ **Bring your own clubs** if possible to avoid additional risk, and if that's not possible, confirm in advance that the course you're visiting has rentals available.
- ▶ **Golf carts and PPE**
  - » Be prepared to ride alone unless golfing with a member of your household.
  - » Masks are required on all courses in California and strongly recommended for courses in Nevada.
  - » Bring along your own disinfectant, for cart surfaces and golf clubs, and hand sanitizer.
- ▶ **Courses are encouraging “gimmies”** on the green to reduce crowding near the hole.
- ▶ **Communal course items**
  - » Be prepared to skip flagstick removal on the green or using items such as rakes, ball washers, etc.





**COVID-19 FRIENDLY  
ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS**

# COVID-19 FRIENDLY 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 >](#)

## NORTH LAKE TAHOE BINGO

Get out and have some fun while still adhering to the physical distancing guidelines. Explore North Lake Tahoe with your family and take pictures of the items you find on the list! Print out this BINGO card and set off on a driving, biking or walking adventure around North Lake Tahoe. Fill out the whole card and you'll have experienced food, art, history, adventure and fun.

[PRINT BINGO CARD >](#)

Take a picture in the HUGE Squaw Valley chair in the Village	Eat dessert FIRST!	Buy a Gift Card from your favorite Tahoe eatery or shop	Find Howdy the Bear in the Village at Northstar	Find Monkey Rock and take a picture next to it
Eat a taco	Order delivery pizza	Cheers! Try a local Tahoe beer or kombucha	Order takeout from a restaurant you've never eaten at	Pick up some curbside coffee and pastries before a morning walk
Take a picture on your favorite Tahoe trail or walk	Find a car with ski racks on it	F R E E	Find the Penny bear (Hint: It's in Tahoe City)	Indulge in one of many cocktails around the lake
Take a picture in front of the Squaw Olympic Flame	Spot some Tahoe wildlife and shoot a picture	Take a bike ride along the Tahoe East Shore Trail	It's time for a sweet treat!	Spot a "Keep Tahoe Blue" sticker on a car
Leave an online review for your favorite Tahoe business	Pick up dinner curbside and eat somewhere with a beautiful view	Find a piece of public art in King's Beach and strike a pose in front of it	Hike to Eagle Rock and bring a picnic from home	Drink Tahoe Tap!

# DAYDREAMING OF NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Still deciding if you're ready to visit right now? We completely understand. Right now is a time to listen to your gut, follow your heart and do what makes you the most comfortable. So if you're staying put for a while but are craving North Lake Tahoe, we have you covered. Here are some ways to support and love the region from afar until the time is right.

## 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 >](#)

## VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

Through podcasts, movies, workouts, yoga, arts, music and virtual clubs, North Lake Tahoe invites you to escape and experience the region, through the comfort of your home. Get inspired, virtually, enjoying our destination from afar.

[EXPLORE TAHOE VIRTUALLY >](#)

## PASS THE TIME PIECE-FULLY WITH A TAHOE PUZZLE

It can be hard to relax and find a sense of peace during this period of uncertainty. We find that piecing together a puzzle can have a calming effect on the mind and bring us back to the present when we might otherwise find ourselves preoccupied with other thoughts. So we developed a series of digital puzzles to help you relax and remind you of what it is you love about the region. Each puzzle offers a breathtaking visual of one of Tahoe's iconic landmarks.

Be patient, use your discerning eye to assemble the pieces and enjoy.

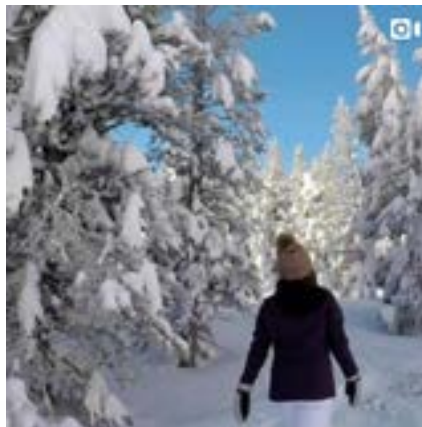
[FALL HIKE >](#)[EAST SHORE BEACH >](#)[EAST SHORE SUNSET >](#)[SUMMER HIKE >](#)[WINTER NIGHT >](#)[PADDLEBOARD >](#)[THUNDERBIRD LODGE >](#)



In an effort to evoke community spirit and support business resiliency during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Lake Tahoe residents joined together to express messages of positivity and hope through the Stronger Together video series. From entrepreneurs and artists to local agencies and small business owners, the community continues to rally in support of one another during this time. And when you visit North Lake Tahoe, you become part of our community. Please consider uploading your own Stronger Together video on the #TahoeLove community page or post to your own pages with #TahoeLove. We are stronger together and we'd love for you to share your words of encouragement with us!

## STAY INSPIRED AND IN TOUCH VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

As we wait for better days to come, there's still 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 LakeTahoeNorth](#) • [@tahoenorth](#) • [@TahoeNorth](#) • [GoTahoeNorth](#)

# RESOURCES

## State of California Information

- » California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Resilience Roadmap  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>
- » Retail Guidance & Checklists  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-retail.pdf>
- » Hotel & Lodging Guidance & Checklists  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-hotels.pdf>
- » Placer County Reopening Requirements  
<https://www.placer.ca.gov/6582/Business-Checklists>
- » California State Parks  
[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30350](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350)
- » California Department of Public Health  
<https://bit.ly/3egJmqJ>

## State of Nevada Information

- » Nevada Travelers & Visitors Information  
<https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/nevada-united/>
- » Washoe County Roadmap to Recovery  
<https://covid19washoe.com/businesses/>
- » Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
<http://dcnr.nv.gov/>
- » Nevada Gaming Control Board  
<https://gaming.nv.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=16703>
- » Nevada State Parks  
<http://www.parks.nv.gov>

## North Lake Tahoe Information

- » Tahoe National Forest  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tahoe/home/?cid=fseprd725833>
- » Take Care Tahoe  
<https://takecaretahoe.org/covid-19/>
- » Tahoe Area Rapid Transit  
<https://tahoetruckeetransit.com/alerts/what-riders-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-virus-and-using-public-transit/>
- » Tahoe Boat Inspections  
<https://tahoeboatinspections.com/>

## Truckee Information

- » Town of Truckee COVID Update Page for Travelers  
<https://www.truckee.com/covid-19-updates/>

## South Lake Tahoe Information

- » Tahoe South COVID Healthy Travel Information Page  
<https://tahoesouth.com/healthy-travel-information/>

## Reno Tahoe International Airport

- » <https://www.renoairport.com/airport-authority/coronavirus>

## CDC Travel Information

- » <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>



north lake tahoe  
it's human nature

[GoTahoeNorth.com](http://GoTahoeNorth.com)

**Tahoe City Visitor  
Information Center**

100 North Lake Blvd.

Tahoe City, CA 96145

800.824.6348

Open Daily | 9am - 5pm

**Incline Village Visitor  
Information Center**

969 Tahoe Blvd.

Incline Village, NV 89451

800.824.6348

Open Daily | 10am - 4pm