

The Douglas High School Social Studies Department would like to share some of their favorite “local” historical places of interest. Many of these locations make for a great family outing and will help your student understand the importance of history to our local region. We encourage families to visit as many of these places as possible. Many of these sites are free, while others ask for a small contribution. Regardless of cost, the experience is priceless. Take a picnic lunch, create your own scavenger hunt, learn something new, make memories, and remember to take lots of pictures. Your history teacher will appreciate you sharing your experience with the class.



Carson Valley

Dangberg Home Ranch:

It is a great place to learn about the history of Nevada and the Carson Valley from 1856 until the 20th Century.

<http://www.dangberghomeranch.org/>

Mormon Station and Genoa:

See the importance of Nevada's oldest settlement and its influence on the local community as pioneers settle the west.

<http://www.genoanevada.org/mormonstationstatepark.htm>

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center:

Dedicated to preserving our local history. Get involved in their Young Chautauquan program and live history!

<http://historicnv.org/>

Courthouse Museum, Genoa:

Constructed shortly after Nevada's statehood, the courthouse has a long history. Used as a courthouse, a school, and eventually turned into a museum in 1969.

<http://historicnv.org/>

Daytrips Outside of the Carson Valley

Nevada State Capitol Complex:

Built in 1870, the Nevada State Capitol Building has been the center of Nevada's civil history. The complex includes the Capitol Building, State Legislature and Supreme Court buildings, and the State Library and Archives. Self-guided tours are available, or contact them directly if you are interested in a guided tour. You can also witness Nevada's government in action.

<http://visitcarsoncity.com/thingstodocarsoncity/capitol-building/>

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/>

Virginia City:

More than a candy store.

<http://www.visitvirginiacitynv.com/>

<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/virginiacity.html>

V & T Railroad:

Take a ride on one of the most important railroads in the west.

<http://vtrailway.com/>

<http://virginiatruckee.com/>

Fort Churchill Historic State Park:

Formally a United States Army Fort and Pony Express stop, Fort Churchill State Park has preserved an important part of Nevada's history dating back to the 1860s. Great day trip!

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/fort-churchill>

Nevada State Railroad Museum:

See vintage railroad artifacts, train restoration, and catch a ride on an actual steam locomotive. Railroads were an important part of Nevada's history. Great experience for little ones.

<http://nvdcca.org/nevadastaterailroadmuseumcarsoncity/>

Nevada State Museum:

Take a look at Nevada's history from its earliest inhabitants through the modern era. Take a look at the natural artifacts collections and the coin press that stamped out the famous Carson City silver dollars.

<http://nvdcca.org/nevadastatemuseumcarsoncity/>

National Automobile Museum:

This should be on any car aficionado's bucket list. The museum is located near the Aces Ball Park in Reno. You will see many of the great automobiles from our nation's past, restored to their glory days. The collection includes celebrity owned vehicles and some rare priceless autos.

<http://www.automuseum.org/>

Nevada Museum of Art:

Not just art. Periodically, the NMA exhibits awesome artifacts from the ancient world.

<http://www.nevadaart.org/>

Bodie, California:

One of the best preserved ghost towns in the area dating back to the regional mining booms of the late 1800s and early 1900s. This is an awesome day trip from the Carson Valley. Please keep in mind that the park's roads often close due to weather. Please check their website for information. Bring your camera. You may also experience the region's wildlife.

http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=509

Tallac Historic Site, Lake Tahoe:

The Tallac Historic Site was recently featured as one of the Top 20 Things to Do in Lake Tahoe by the Blog for Lifestyle and Travel!

<http://www.tahoheritage.org/events-and-programs-2/tallac-historic-site/>

Lake Tahoe Museums, Tours, and Historic Sites:

Numerous Museums and historic sites can be found surrounding beautiful Lake Tahoe.

<http://www.tahoevacationguide.com/Activities/museums.html>

<https://www.gotahoenorth.com/north-lake-tahoe/history-and-facts/historical-sites-museums-tours/>

Donner Memorial State Park:

Located off of Interstate 80, just west of Reno, Donner Memorial State Park depicts the history of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, including Native Americans, the infamous Donner Party, and the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=503

Weekend Getaways

California's Gold Country:

Explore the events of 1849 and the rush to strike it rich. The California Gold Discovery doubled the world's gold supply in a few short years. Make this a weekend trip.

<http://www.visitcalifornia.com/feature/9-family-friendly-gold-rush-adventures>

Amtrak through the Sierras:

Amtrak departs daily between Reno and Sacramento. Plan a trip through the most treacherous sections of the Transcontinental Railroad. Volunteer guides are often aboard, narrating the difficult task of building the railroad and its impact to Nevada and California. Once departing in Sacramento, you are a short walk from Old Sacramento and the California State Railroad Museum where you can further explore your love of trains. Great weekend getaway!

<http://amtrak.com>

<https://www.californiarailroad.museum/>

Manzanar War Relocation Center:

In 1942, the United States government ordered more than 110,000 men, women, and children to leave their homes and detained them in remote, military-style camps. Manzanar War Relocation Center was one of ten camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II. This is a longer day trip down 395. Located along one of the most scenic drives in America. You may also consider making a long weekend out of it and visit other nearby sites including National Parks, great fishing opportunities, camping, and wildlife viewing.

<https://www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm>

Nevada Historical Markers:

With 266 historical markers statewide, this website will direct you to the locations of many of Nevada's most important historical sites. Over one dozen can be found in the greater Carson Valley Area. Take a drive and see if you can find them all.

<http://shpo.nv.gov/nevadas-historical-markers/historical-markers>