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ROAD TRIP NEVADA · LAS VEGAS TO GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

The Great Basin road trip bonanza

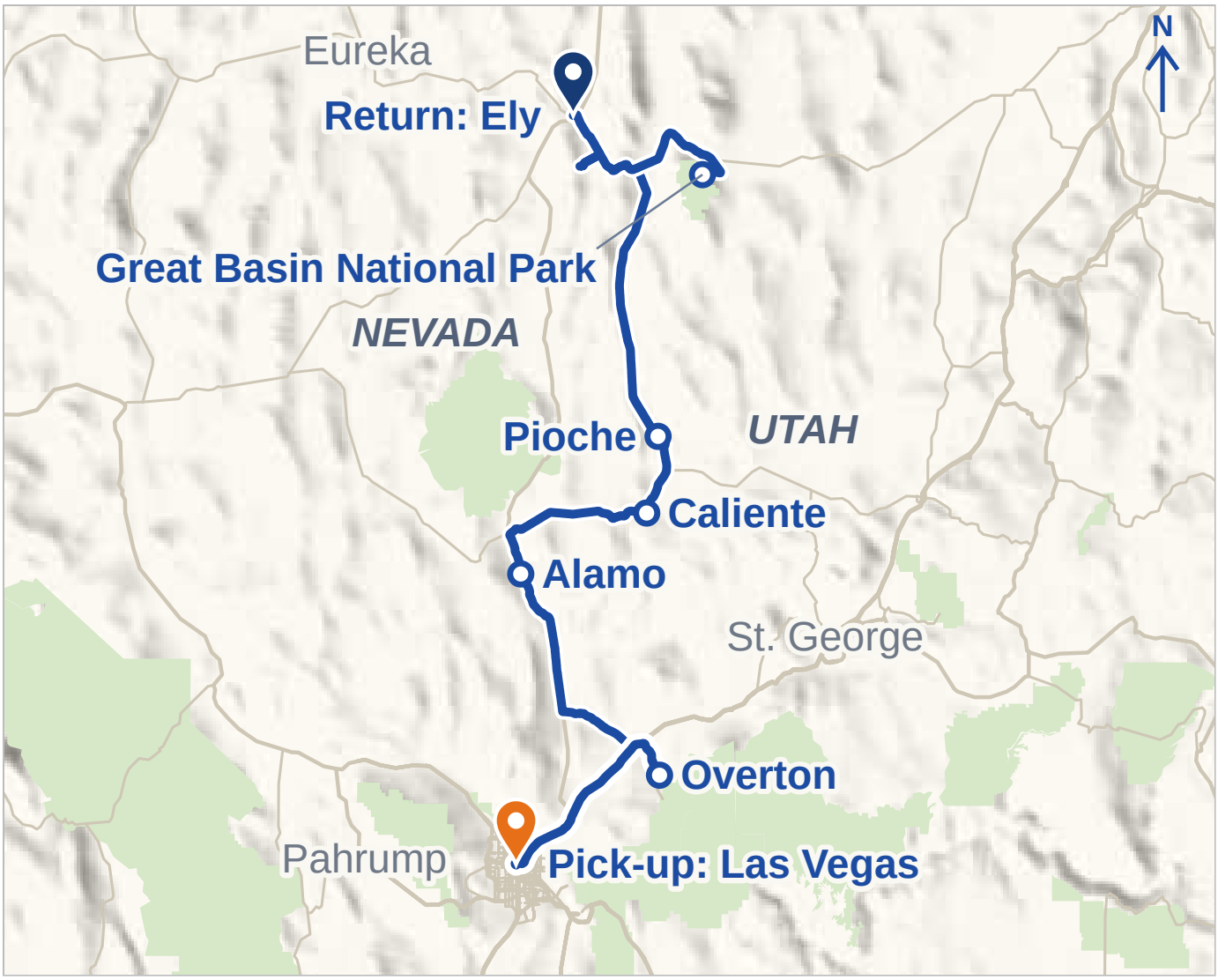
From spectacular alpine lakes to limestone caverns, a small glacier, the oldest living trees on earth and some of the darkest skies in the lower 48, Great Basin is chock-full of national treasures yet remains one of the least visited areas in Nevada.

DISTANCE	DRIVES	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 695 km (430 mi)	6 drives, at your own pace	One way, Las Vegas to Ely	About 10 h by car

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
195 km (120 mi), Pioche to Great Basin National Park	Car or motorhome



Bristlecone pines below Wheeler Peak, Great Basin National Park · Illustrative image



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (USGS 3DEP, SRTM).

Great Basin Route is a winner

A world of discovery: Nevada's eastern edge beckons in the Great Basin National Park. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

One of the most important and unwritten rules of taking a campervan or RV on the road is to always make your highway adventure as magical and thrilling as possible!

You can't get much more thrilling than kicking off your Great Basin Route road trip in Las Vegas and heading to the remote Great Basin National Park where you'll see plenty of historical towns, open plains, eight state parks and the deepest of blue skies along the way.

The drive up the US 93 from Vegas to the Great Basin National Park in theory takes around 4.5 hours and is just under 480 km (300 miles), before heading on to the unique towns of Ely or Baker, in White Pine County Nevada. Our journey will take somewhat longer and throw up an endless serving of sights along the way to make the drive and detours definitely worthwhile.

Other great things to explore in Nevada's Great Basin National Park. (https://travelnevada.com/discover/25824/great-basin-national-park)

Picking up in Las Vegas

If you're flying in from overseas, stay the night in Las Vegas and collect your vehicle the next day (collecting on the day you fly in). For an RV, allow at least an hour at the branch for the paperwork and the walk-around (how long pick-up takes), and check the vehicle for damage before you drive away (what to check at pick-up). Branch addresses: RV rental branches in Las Vegas.

DRIVE

105 km (66 mi) from Las Vegas

about 1 h 20 min by car · about 1 h 40 min by motorhome

Via **Las Vegas Freeway**

Las Vegas to Overton

Nevada Museum magic

The past explained: The Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

Nevada is blessed with some impressive museums including 2 state museums, one in the state capital, Carson City, and the other in Vegas. Get ready for some serious road tripping by visiting the Nevada State Museum (https://www.lasvegasnvmuseum.org/) located at 309 S. Valley View Blvd in Springs Preserve and learn more about the state's natural and cultural heritage as you begin the journey out of Las Vegas.

The museum introduces visitors to a wealth of men's history and natural history, including artefacts that showcase Las Vegas's rise to fame.

Once you leave Las Vegas, head north on I-15 for an hour and turn right onto NV-169, the Moapa Valley Blvd, and you'll find yourself at the town of Overton, which is home to the Lost City Museum and offers visitors a chance to get up close and personal with a reconstructed Puebloan house-site and the history of the ancestral Puebloans.

Ancient Americans: Learn more about Ancestral Puebloans who lived in the Moapa Valley between 300-1200CE. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

DRIVE

130 km (81 mi) from Overton

about 1 h 50 min by car · about 2 h 10 min by motorhome

Via **Great Basin Highway**

Overton to Alamo and the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

Retrace your steps to I-15 and cut north on NV-168 to rejoin US-93 at Coyote Springs. The next stop on your road trip should be the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge at Alamo, which has gorgeous lush green meadows, blue lakes and an abundance of wildlife, including over 260 species of birds for bird watchers.

A cacophony of Wildlife: During Spring and Fall Pahranagat is home to thousands of waterfowl blanketing the lakes and marshes in a noisy, honking commotion. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

DRIVE

89 km (55 mi) from Alamo

about 1 h 20 min by car · about 1 h 30 min by motorhome

Via **Great Basin Highway**

Alamo to Caliente

Best known as the '*City of Roses*' based on their ability to grow wildly in this area of Nevada, the city of Caliente serves as a very welcome place to rest for many road trippers. You can also check out the Beaver Dam State Park, Kershaw-Ryan State Park and Cathedral Gorge State Park. Or if you feel like making a quick detour, the Rainbow Canyon Scenic Drive begins just south of Caliente.

DRIVE

41 km (25 mi) from Caliente

about 40 min by car · about 50 min by motorhome

Via **Great Basin Highway**

Caliente to Pioche via Cathedral Gorge State Park

The Cathedral Gorge State Park is only 24 km (15 miles) north of Caliente and you can't go wrong with a quick trip to the Miller Point Overlook for stunning views and easy hikes into the canyons.

Caves, courthouses and campgrounds

If you like the old-west charm and taking a look around a historic community, stop at the town of Pioche. There you can take a look at the Million Dollar Courthouse, check out Boot Hill Cemetery, Thompson Opera House and the local art gallery.

DRIVE

195 km (120 mi) from Pioche

about 2 h 20 min by car · about 2 h 40 min by motorhome

Via **Great Basin Highway**

Pioche to Great Basin National Park

Going underground: Take a tour of the mighty Lehman Caves. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

Once you leave the Pioche, you'll head straight to the Great Basin National Park, which is truly Nevada's shining glory. The park is home to ancient trees, unique Lehman cave formations, ancient bristlecone pines and the 3,960 m (13,000 ft) Wheeler Peak. The journey to the Great Basin National Park is ideal for road tripping, as it allows visitors to enjoy hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, fishing and stargazing.

Stay

There are also five campgrounds to choose from, including Wheeler Peak Campground, Baker Creek Campground, Grey Cliffs Campground, Lower Lehman Creek Campgrounds and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds.

DRIVE

135 km (83 mi) from Great Basin National Park

about 2 h 30 min by car · about 3 h by motorhome

Via **Grand Army of the Republic Highway** | **Partly unsealed**

Great Basin National Park to Ely via the Ward Charcoal Ovens

What's cookin' in Ely & surrounds

Beehive shaped charcoal ovens were used from 1876 through 1879 to help process rich silver ore. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

If you're heading to Ely or Baker, you can also check out the Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park on the way, which is beautiful scenic forest retreat perched in the Egan Mountain Range in eastern Nevada, 32 km (20 miles) south of the town of Ely.

The park features six beehive-shaped charcoal ovens that were used from 1876 to 1879 to process silver ore discovered in the area.

Stay You can also enjoy camping and park your campervan for a few nights at the Willow Creek campgrounds.

Enjoy the Great Basin, and its dark skies.

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