DriveNow

Helping travellers since 2003 find the best deals on campervan and car rental

ROAD TRIP NEVADA · NORTH-EASTERN NEVADA

Rubies Route is the jewel in the crown

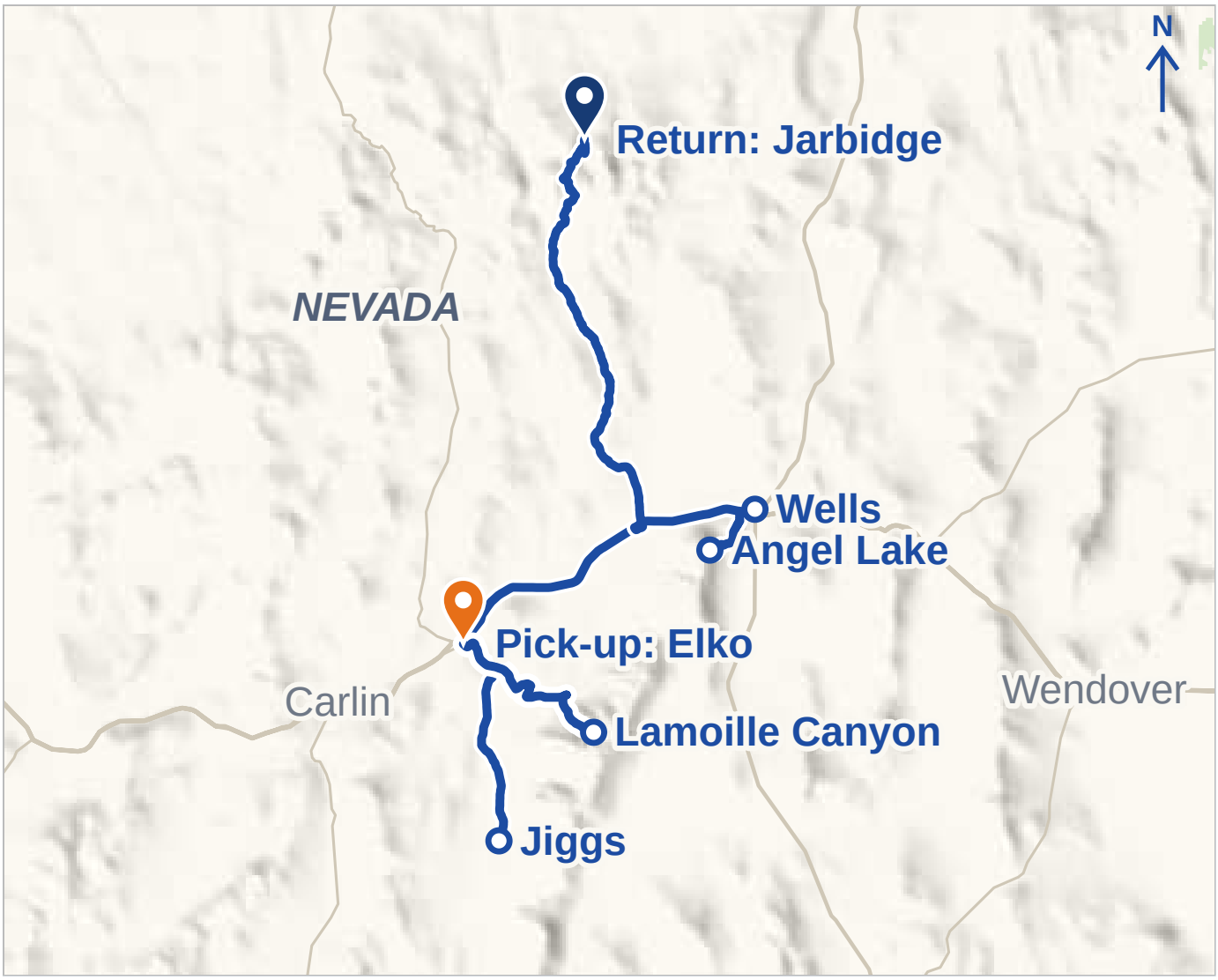
Rubies Route is one of exquisite beauty in Nevada USA. The Rubies Route weaves its way through fascinating places in the north eastern area of the state including Lamoille, Elko, Jiggs, Wells and Jarbidge. What makes it so beautiful? Here's a snapshot.

DISTANCE	DRIVES	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 440 km (275 mi)	5 drives, at your own pace	One way, Elko to Jarbidge	About 8 h 30 min by car

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE	BEST TIME
160 km (100 mi), Angel Lake to Jarbidge	Car or motorhome	June to October



Lamoille Canyon, Ruby Mountains, Nevada · Illustrative image



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

Nevada's nature drive

Plenty of character: Rubies Route promises fascinating stop-offs including the Jarbidge Trading Post. Credit: TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

For many road trippers, that moment when you take the wheel of your Nevada car rental, hit the open road and explore the world at your own pace with the wind in your hair is an adventure in itself.

If you adore being at one with nature and love nothing better than seeing lush green valleys and meadows, glacier carved peaks and canyons, quaint small towns, blue lakes, mighty mountains and plenty of flora and fauna on your road trip – you can't go past the jewel in Nevada's crown – the Rubies Route.

Roadtripper's dream

Located in north-eastern Nevada, the wildness and remoteness of the Rubies Route makes it hard to keep your eyes on the road due to the gorgeous landscape and panoramic views that follow you on your drive all the way through such treats as Lamoille, Elko, Jiggs, Wells and Jarbidge.

Season The best time to go travelling around the Rubies Route is June through to October.

Check first:
The Lamoille Scenic Byway and many smaller roads, including throughout the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the Ruby Mountains and the Jarbidge Wilderness are snow bound and unplowed during the winter.

Picking up your vehicle

Check the vehicle for damage before you drive away, and make sure anything you find is on the condition report (what to check at pick-up).

DRIVE

50 km (31 mi) from Elko | **about 1 h** by car · about 1 h 10 min by motorhome

Via **Lamoille Highway**

Elko to Lamoille Canyon

Easy on the eye: When passing through Elko take in the mesmerising murals. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

There is nothing better than taking a 19 km (12-mile) scenic drive through the large glaciated U-shaped Lamoille Canyon, which is the largest scenic valley in the Ruby Mountains, and boasts some spectacular sights and sounds.

If you're heading to Lamoille Canyon from the town of Elko where you must stop for a while to absorb the artistic charms of the town's murals, then take Nevada State Route 227 (Lamoille Highway), which will take you on a 35 km (22-mile) drive over a pass and through the small community of Spring Creek. Once you get to the base of Ruby Mountains, make a right onto Forest Service Road 660 (Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway.)

The lush beauty of Lamoille Canyon

Canyon magic: Park your wheels and hit the trails in Lamoille Canyon. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

Stay

If you want to get out and explore everything the route has to offer, you can drop off your vehicle at Thomas Canyon campground (https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/htnf/recarea/?recid=65570) located inside Lamoille Canyon.

Then it's time to soak up the surrounds. If you feel like going for a hike, the Thomas Canyon campground is also located close to the Ruby Mountains, which has over 480 km (300 miles) worth of hiking trails.

Not only does the Ruby Mountains have lush green meadows filled with wildflowers as far as the eye can see, jagged peaks and brilliant blue lakes, you can also go four-wheel driving, mountain biking or horse riding around the mountain, and catch that night's dinner if fishing is your thing.

Check these great route ideas for Rubies Route (https://travelnevada.com/road-trip/rubies-route/).

DRIVE

74 km (46 mi) from Lamoille Canyon

about 1 h 10 min by car · about 1 h 20 min by motorhome | Via **SR 228**

Lamoille Canyon to Jiggs

Dozens of lakes & fish galore

Mountain life: Take your pick from fishing, hiking, horse riding and more on Rubies Route. Credit: TravelNevada (https://www.travelnevada.com/)

If you enjoy fishing, you can stop at Elko on your drive and try your chance at hooking a fish at one of its two-dozen alpine lakes. Elko is only a 30-minute drive from the start of the Lamoille Canyon and about 50 minutes from the trailheads that lead to the Ruby Mountains.

DRIVE

135 km (82 mi) from Jiggs

about 1 h 30 min by car · about 1 h 50 min by motorhome

Via **Dwight D. Eisenhower Highway**

Jiggs to Wells

If you're looking for something a bit more relaxing than hiking or fishing during your road trip, you can visit the beautiful hidden hot springs in Wells which is basically a natural hot tub in the mountains and only a 50-minute drive from the town of Elko.

DRIVE

20 km (13 mi) from Wells | **about 50 min** by car · about 1 h by motorhome

Via **Angel Lake Road**

Wells to Angel Lake

Stay

Don't forget to visit Angel Lake, a gorgeous glacial lake in the northern part of the East Humboldt, not far from Wells, and located near Angel Lake campground (https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232015).

DRIVE

160 km (100 mi) from Angel Lake

about 4 h by car · about 4 h 45 min by motorhome

Via **Deeth-Charleston Road** | **Partly unsealed**

Angel Lake to Jarbidge

The Rubies Route ends in Jarbidge, home of the Jarbidge Trading Post.

Enjoy the jewel in Nevada's crown.

DriveNow Disclaimer

DriveNow receives no money or commission for any holiday park, campground, hotel, restaurant, cafe, pub, tour or attraction named on this page. We include them because they suit a campervan trip, and we check them from time to time.

DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

Printed from https://www.drivenow.com.au/itineraries/usa/nevada-rubies-route-self-drive on 13 November 2026. Check the page for the latest version before you travel.