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ROAD TRIP NEVADA · SAN FRANCISCO TO RENO

The Road From San Francisco To Reno

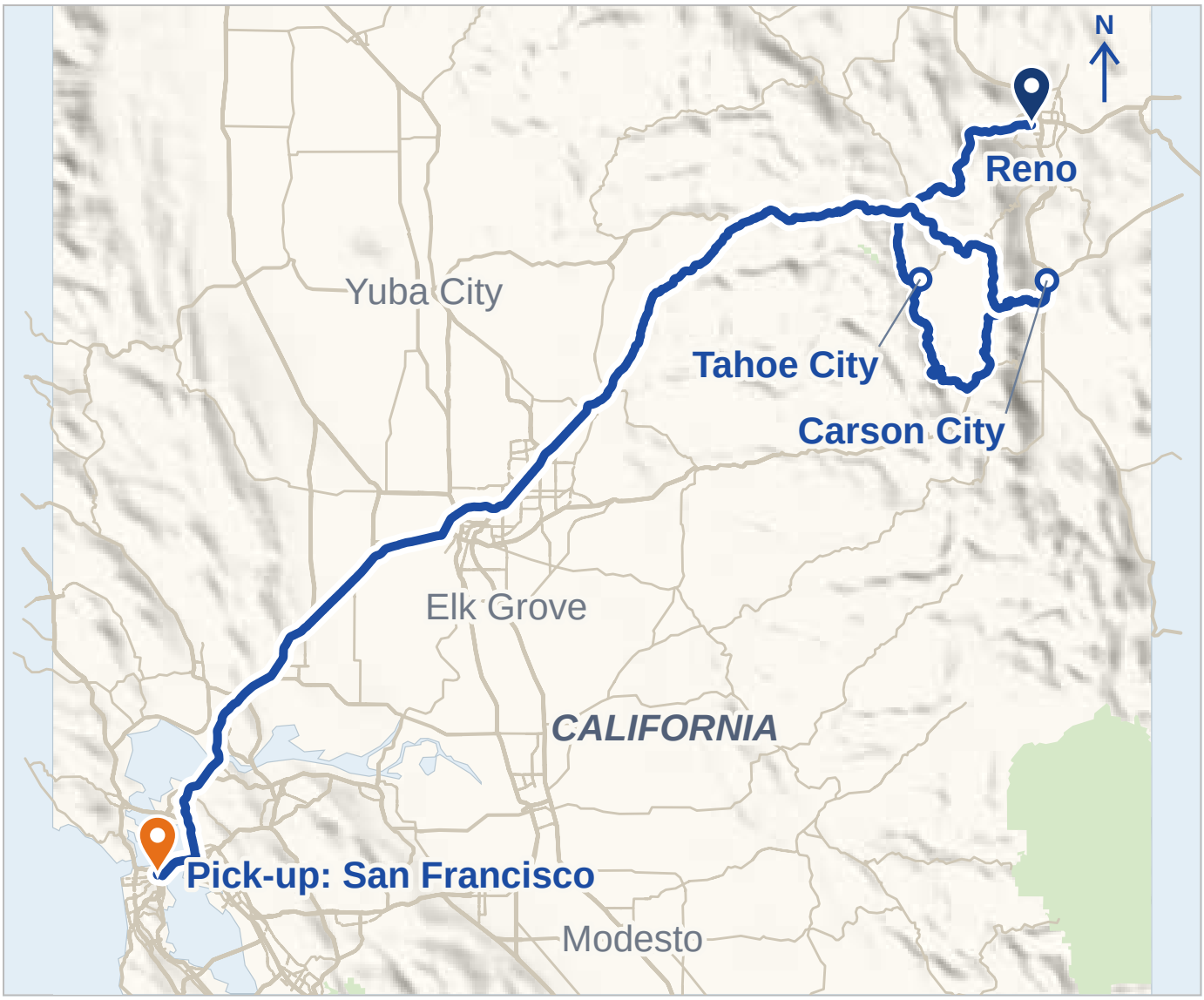
American road trips come in all shapes and sizes and the good news is you can often devise your own itinerary. If you're looking for variety in a road trip only 354 km (220 miles) long, don't look past flying into San Francisco, grabbing some keys to your DriveNow motorhome rental and heading for Reno, one of Nevada's best and the "*biggest little city in the world*".

DISTANCE	DRIVES	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 545 km (335 mi)	**3 drives, at your own pace**	**One way, San Francisco to Reno**	**About 8 h by car**

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
370 km (230 mi), San Francisco to Carson City	**Car or motorhome**



Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe · Illustrative image



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

Picking up in San Francisco

If you're flying in from overseas, stay the night in San Francisco and collect your vehicle the next day (collecting as soon as you fly in). For an RV, allow time 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).

DRIVE

370 km (230 mi) from San Francisco

about 5 h by car · about 6 h by motorhome | Via **Alan S. Hart Freeway**

San Francisco to Carson City

Carson City here we come

Once you bid farewell to and leave the Golden Gate Bridge, it's only a quick journey before you reach Carson City, so make sure you bring plenty of snacks for your drive.

Some of the best things in life are those kept simple and the road trip from San Francisco to Reno is a cruisy adventure in which you can space out your 4 hour journey with a few exciting stops in Carson City and Lake Tahoe along the way.

By taking Route 80, you'll gain all the scenic highlights of Tahoe National Forest, visit the Soda Springs near the town of Truckee, absorb the incredible views at Lake Tahoe and stop for a bite to eat at Carson City.

Explore Nevada's history at the state Museum in Carson City credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada

Explore Carson City

Get prepared for your drive to Lake Tahoe in Carson City by exploring everything the city has to offer, such as the Nevada State Museum, the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Bowers Mansion Regional Park, Brewery Arts Centre, Dayton State Park and maybe even have some lunch or go hang gliding. Once you've seen all the sights and sounds in Carson City, it's time for your next big road trip adventure to Lake Tahoe.

DRIVE

98 km (61 mi) from Carson City

about 2 h by car · about 2 h 20 min by motorhome | Via **Emerald Bay Road**

Carson City to Tahoe City around Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Scenic Drive

Breathe it all in ..... slowly: The views of Lake Tahoe are breathtaking. Credit: Travel Nevada

The Lake Tahoe Scenic Drive is a beautiful paved drive that takes you through a 109 km (68-mile) loop around Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada. Following three highways, US 50, NV 28 and US 89, the scenic drive takes you through the towns of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, Incline Village, Kings Beach and several other small towns.

Every picture tells a story: Prepare for some incredible mountain and lake views. Credit: Sydney Martinez/TravelNevada

Drive the loop in reverse

The best part about the Lake Tahoe Scenic Drive is the drive can begin anywhere and you will still get to see Tahoe Lake's crystal clear waters and mountain scenery.

Spice up your road trip by taking the loop in reverse and you will find no shortage of activities that will allow you to experience adventures while driving around Lake Tahoe by saving Tahoe to Reno for last and exploring Carson City first.

There is no shortage of things to do and see on your looping drive around Lake Tahoe.

The popular Tahoe Rim Hiking Trail can be reached by taking the short side trip to one of the passes along the lake. You can spend your day hiking through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, getting the birds-

eye view of the lake from the Heavenly Gondola or kayaking in Emerald Bay.

Stay There are also many developed campgrounds all along the lake at various California and Nevada State Parks where you can park your vehicle for a quick or overnight rest stop.

DRIVE

75 km (47 mi) from Tahoe City

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

Via **Alan S. Hart Freeway**

Tahoe City to Reno via Truckee

All action in Reno

Hot spot for art lovers: There's much to explore in Reno including The Generator. Picture: TravelNevada

Then it's time for the last leg of your trip to Reno and it will only take an hour before you reach your destination, which will also take you through the town of Truckee.

Finish your road trip with a bang by checking out Pyramid Lake, shop at the Midtown District, see Broadway in Reno, The Generator for art lovers, and the Reno Arch.

Event If you're lucky, you may get to see some of the wonderful events Reno holds every year, like The Great Reno Balloon Race, Burning Man and Hot August Nights. The Reno Air Races, long part of that list, moved to Roswell, New Mexico, after 2023.

For more great ideas on exploring Lake Tahoe check out travelnevada.com/road-trip/lake-tahoe-loop (https://travelnevada.com/road-trip/lake-tahoe-loop).

Returning in Reno

Return your vehicle by the time on your booking and allow time for the return inspection (what's checked when you return it). If you have a flight to catch, leave plenty of time between the return and the airport.

Enjoy the road from San Francisco to Reno.

DriveNow Disclaimer

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