

The Lake Tahoe Area

“It must surely be the fairest picture the whole world affords,” exclaimed Mark Twain when he saw Lake Tahoe, famed for its crystal-clear water, for the first time in 1862. Indeed, TripAdvisor ranks Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America, as No. 10 on its exclusive list of “First Choice Destinations Worldwide.” It lies 6,225 feet above sea level and is 22 miles long and 12 miles wide. Set aside several hours if you would like to take the leisurely 72-mile drive around the lake.

Listed below are just a few of the “must sees” for this world-class area. If you are limited in time, drive northeast from Rocklin on Highway 80 and stop at the Donner Lake Scenic Overlook. Then for a bit of nostalgia, take a short detour and visit beautiful Squaw Valley (a 1½-hour drive from Rocklin) before heading to Lake Tahoe and down its western perimeter to Emerald Bay. There are several towns and villages scattered around the lake, including Incline Village, Kings Beach and Tahoe City on the North Shore and South Lake Tahoe on the South Shore.

Emerald Bay State Park – 530-541-3030 – http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=506
22 miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89

With its beautiful, blue-green water and rugged coastline, **Emerald Bay** is one of the most photographed places in the world! Designated in 1969 as a National Natural Landmark for its beauty and as an example of mountain-building processes, Emerald Bay is Lake Tahoe’s jewel! In the center of the bay sits Fannette Island, best seen from the Emerald Bay lookout. Emerald Bay is also an underwater park, protecting the various boats, barges and other items on the bay’s bottom.

Vikingsholm, a 38-room replica of a Scandinavian castle, is part of the park. The building is considered one of the finest examples of Scandinavian architecture in the world. The roof of the mansion is made of sod and is covered with wildflowers in the spring. The mansion is just a short hike downhill from the lookout. Tours of the mansion are offered in September from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour. Adults are \$10 per person; youths aged 7 to 17 years are \$8; children 6 and under are free.

Zephyr Cove Cruises – 1-800-987-9852 – <http://www.zephyrcove.com/cruises.aspx>

M.S. Dixie

The 570-passenger *M.S. Dixie* paddle wheeler is the largest vessel traveling Lake Tahoe. Enjoy your choice of two tours. The two-hour “Emerald Bay Cruise” offers many photo opportunities on the way to beautiful Emerald Bay. As you cruise to and from Emerald Bay, you’ll learn how it was formed and some of its fascinating history. Lunch is available for purchase. Adults are \$47 per person, and children aged 3 to 11 are \$10 each. Another choice is the “Captain’s Dinner Dance Cruise.” As you sail into the sunset, you’re on your way to a lovely evening of dinner and dancing. Parties wishing to be

seated together should be on the same reservation. Adults are \$75 per person; children aged 3 to 11 are \$25. The *MS Dixie* is docked at 760 Highway 50, Zephyr Cove, NV.

Tahoe Queen

The 312-passenger *Tahoe Queen* is an authentic Mississippi paddle wheeler. The *Tahoe Queen* offers daytime scenic cruises that feature South Lake Tahoe history on the way to Emerald Bay. Adults are \$47 per person, and children aged 3 to 11 are \$10. The “Sierra Sunset Dinner Cruise” offers an unforgettable evening cruise complete with famous Tahoe sunsets, breathtaking views, local cuisine and live music. Adults are \$69 per person, and children aged 3 to 11 are \$25. The *Tahoe Queen* is docked at 900 Ski Run Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Tahoe Treetop Adventure Park – 530-386-1375 – <http://www.northtahoeadventures.com>
Granlibakken Resort, 725 Granlibakken Road, Tahoe City, CA 96145

Come and experience the first aerial treetop adventure park in California! Started in Europe and now available in California, the **Tahoe Treetop Adventure Park** offers 65 tree platforms connected by a variety of bridges and/or zip lines. A variety of courses—suitable for those aged 5 and over and for all levels of athleticism—are available. Sessions are offered on weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The sessions will last 2½ hours each and are priced at \$45 per person for those aged 13 and over and \$35 per person for those 5 to 12. Maximum participant weight is 260 pounds. Advance reservations are recommended.

Gondola Ride at Heavenly – 775-586-7000 –
<http://www.skiheavenly.com/activitiesdetail/Heav+-Heavenly+Scenic+Gondola+Rides.axd>
Heavenly Mountain Village, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

For an exhilarating experience, try a gondola ride up Heavenly Mountain. The ride, which lasts about 12 minutes, takes you over two miles up the mountain. Soak in the amazing view as you travel. Make sure you get out at the mid-station deck (at an elevation of 9123 feet) to enjoy spectacular views of the Tahoe basin. At the very top enjoy a delicious meal at the restaurant while taking in the breathtaking view. Hiking trails are available if you are feeling adventuresome and energetic. Adults are \$38; teens aged 13 to 17 are \$32; children aged 5 to 12 are \$20; seniors over 65 are \$32; and children 4 and under are free.

Squaw Valley – 530-584-1000 – www.squaw.com
1750 Village East Road, Olympic Valley, CA 96146

Scenic Squaw Valley has a special place in the hearts of many members of the Church of God. Surrounded by soaring peaks, this beautiful area near Lake Tahoe was the home of the 1960 Winter Olympics. In the heart of Squaw Valley stood Blyth Arena, home to the figure skating competitions and ice hockey games during those Olympic Games. Soon after, Blyth Arena also became home to the Feast of Tabernacles. For years, members of the Worldwide Church of God traveled to this beautiful spot to celebrate God’s Feast.

The arena was demolished in 1983 after the roof collapsed due to heavy snow accumulation. In recent years, the area has been renovated to include construction of a village, complete with shops, lodging and restaurants. Take the cable car up to the 8,200-foot elevation of High Camp, where you can skate at the Olympic Ice Pavilion, hike trails, swim or enjoy lunch or dinner at the Poolside Café. Squaw Valley is eight miles south of I-80 on Highway 89 and 90 miles from Rocklin.

Donner Memorial State Park and Emigrant Trail Museum – www.parks.ca.gov
12593 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, CA 96161

Donner Memorial State Park commemorates the Donner Party, a group of 81 pioneers who became trapped in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the winter of 1846-47. Barely more than half the party survived in the worst winter in the history of the Sierras. Emigrant Trail Museum brings to life the details of the Donner Party's story, as well as the story of railroad development through the Sierras. The day-use parking fee includes admission to the museum.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery – 916-358-2884 – <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/hatcheries/nimbus/>
2001 Nimbus Road, Gold River, CA 95670

Year after year, salmon and steelhead return from the Pacific Ocean to their birthplace in the cool, running waters of the American River. It is an awe-inspiring process to behold as these beautiful fish valiantly fight strong currents and obstacles to be able to produce their young in their home waters. Although the fish ladders do not open until early October, hundreds of salmon will be arriving from the ocean during the week of the Feast to await the cooler water temperatures that will allow them to continue their journey to lay their eggs. As you walk along the trails by the river, you will easily be able to view these majestic fish.

Take a self-guided tour of **Nimbus Fish Hatchery**, which produces 4,000,000 chinook salmon and 430,000 steelhead trout each year. Watch the egg-taking process through the viewing windows in the visitor center and enjoy feeding the young fish in the ponds. This is a working hatchery, so chances are that you will see the staff involved in some of the many tasks needed to raise 4 million salmon each year. The hatchery is just off Highway 50, 18 miles east of Sacramento and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.