

**W**

**elcome to Nevada City, the colorful and inviting town that has prepared for its future by preserving its past.**

Nevada City is the prettiest and most interesting of California Gold Rush towns. Here you will find quality restaurants, comfortable lodgings, live theatre and a variety of fine shops, boutiques, galleries, museums and wineries all flavored with old-fashioned Nevada City hospitality.

For a glimpse of California's golden past complemented by modern cultural and recreational diversions, Nevada City ranks with Northern California's best. Nevada City is a recognized cultural and entertainment capital of the Sierra Foothills.

Bordering the Tahoe National Forest and ringed by deep green pine-covered hills, Nevada City is situated just minutes from many Sierra lakes and rivers.

**T**oday's Nevada City population is just 3,088 but it wasn't always so peaceful. In 1850, there were 10,000 boisterous souls living here, and in the general election of 1856, the 2,082 ballots cast in Nevada City were exceeded only by Sacramento and San Francisco.

First-time visitors are attracted by the old mining town appearance. Indeed, the preservation of the historic flavor is important to the citizens of Nevada City.

Realizing the value of preserving city history for generations to come, civic leaders in 1985 were successful in having the entire downtown area listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The downtown historic district includes a total of 93 buildings. Eight individual buildings are also listed on the register and Nevada City contains another 18 state and local landmarks. There is even a plaque in the National Hotel parking lot which is dedicated to the town's one-time red light district and its unique contribution to the Gold Rush.

As the county seat, Nevada City served for years as the commercial, governmental and professional

center of Nevada County. Since the turn of the century, however, it has gradually relinquished retail trade to nearby Grass Valley and has actively developed leadership in tourism and the arts.

A peaceful off-the-beaten-path location, on state highways 49 and 20, but away from the busy interstate highway system, has allowed Nevada City to retain its old-fashioned charm.

Today, visitors enjoy exploring the town's narrow streets and century-old buildings. Nevada City nightlife, featuring several noted restaurants and near year-around live theatre, attracts regular visitors from Sacramento, Reno and the Bay area.

## **NEVADA CITY**

### ***Where the Past is Always Present***

**N**evada City developed along the banks of Deer Creek beginning in 1849. The town was first known as Deer Creek Dry Diggins and later as Caldwell's Upper Store. Early reports told of miners who pulled a pound of gold a day from the creek. Several major fires in the 1850s and early 1860s convinced the townspeople to use more brick in rebuilding their structures.

Civic leaders named the town Nevada, Spanish for "snow-covered," in 1850 and the next year the newly-incorporated city became the Nevada County seat. The town's name was later changed to Nevada City after its title was borrowed by a new state to the east.

Nevada City has had its share of firsts and famous people. Mark Twain lectured here. Former U.S. President Herbert Hoover lived and worked here as a gold miner. Three former U.S. senators, George Hearst, Aaron A. Sargent and William Morris Stewart, lived in Nevada City.

The consolidation of water companies that formed the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. occurred here and PG&E's first general office was located in the National Hotel. The area boasts many inventions in the fields of mining, water and electricity.

In recent years, the Nevada City lifestyle has attracted writers, artists and musi-cians. The area also draws new-tech business entrepreneurs who are able to work away from the stresses of big city life.

**W**hile many California Gold Rush towns have disappeared into the pages of history, Nevada City has rebounded time and again to emerge as a unique blend of yesterday and today. Nevada City's current cultural and economic renaissance is proof of the town's indomitable spirit.

After more than a century of pioneer heritage, Nevada City remains the most complete gold town in California. It is both a genuine small town and living museum.

### **Nevada City Statistics**

County Seat, Nevada County, California

Population: 3,088

Elevation: 2,500'

Climate: Four beautiful seasons

Average annual precipitation: 55 inches

## Points of Interest

- (1) **SOUTH YUBA CANAL BUILDING, OTT'S ASSAY OFFICE.** The oldest business buildings in Nevada City. The South Yuba Canal Building (1855) houses the Chamber of Commerce. Ott's (1857) houses a specialty shop. This is where James J. Ott assayed ore in 1859 that led to the Comstock Lode silver rush in Nevada.
- (2) **FIREHOUSE NO. 1.** One of the most photographed buildings in the Gold Country. Built in 1861, now a museum.
- (3) **THE NATIONAL HOTEL.** The state's oldest continuously-operating hotel consists of four buildings (1854 and 1856-57).
- (4) **THE NEVADA THEATRE.** This 1865 brick structure is the oldest building in the state erected as a theatre.
- (5) **FIREHOUSE NO. 2.** Built in 1861, this venerable brick firehouse near the top of Broad Street housed one of Nevada City's first volunteer fire companies.
- (6) **MINERS FOUNDRY CULTURAL CENTER.** Now a community center, the foundry, built in 1856, contributed technology for mining, skiing and other industries.
- (7) **NEVADA CITY WINERY.** The award-winning winery is located in new and restored quarters next to Miners Foundry. Tasting and sales available.
- (8) **SARGENT HOUSE.** Built in 1856 by civic leader and former U.S. Senator Aaron A. Sargent, this historic treasure is a private residence.
- (9) **THE PINE STREET BRIDGE.** This old-fashioned bridge across Deer Creek was built in 1996, a replica of the 1903 span. The first bridge here was built in 1862.
- (10) **NEVADA COUNTY COURTHOUSE.** The original 1855 courthouse burned in 1856 and was rebuilt by 1864. The annex was completed in 1964.
- (11) **INDIAN SPRINGS WINERY.** Nevada County's largest vineyard operates a downtown tasting room where its award-winning wines may be sampled.
- (12) **STONEHOUSE RESTAURANT.** The old brewery dates to 1857; its granite walls to 1882.
- (13) **CHINESE QUARTER.** Several Chinese businesses were located along upper Commercial Street in the 1850s-1870s.
- (14) **NEVADA CITY CARRIAGE COMPANY.** Home of the downtown carriage operator.

### OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

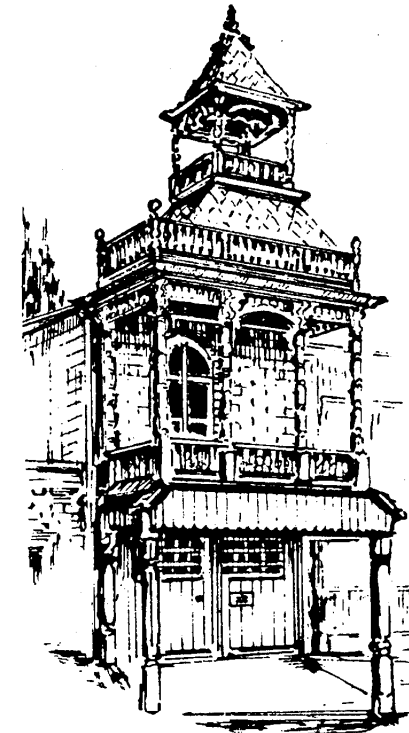
NEVADA COUNTY NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD MUSEUM (2002), No. 5 Kidder Court, off Bost Avenue.  
NEVADA COUNTY TRACTION CO. Rail Tours. Northern Queen Inn, Railroad Avenue.  
NEVADA CITY METHODIST CHURCH (1864), 433 Broad St.  
ST. CANICE CATHOLIC CHURCH (1864), 317 Washington St.  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1874), Nevada & High streets  
NEVADA CITY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (1864), 300 Main St.  
RED CASTLE INN (1860), 109 Prospect St.  
NEVADA LODGE NO. 13, F&AM, 108 1/2 No. Pine St.  
SEARLS HISTORICAL LIBRARY, 214 Church St.  
PIONEER CEMETERY (1851), Upper West Broad St.  
CALANAN PARK, Lower Broad and Union streets  
PIONEER PARK, Park Ave. to Nimrod St.  
SUGARLOAF MTN., Landmark hill directly north of town  
BANNER MTN., elev. 3,899 ft., highest local peak, 3 miles.

## Nevada City

### *This is The Life...*

**JANUARY.** Skiing, snowboarding, 45-minute drive, SYRCL Wild & Scenic Film Festival  
**FEBRUARY.** The annual Mardi Gras celebration is held in February or early March  
**MARCH.** A wildflower walk or mountain bike ride along the South Yuba River.  
**APRIL.** International Teddy Bear Convention. Music in the Mountains Spring Fest. Fishing!  
**MAY.** Dine out and enjoy live theatre at Miners Foundry or the Nevada Theatre.  
**JUNE.** The famous Nevada City Bicycle Classic in downtown Nevada City. Bluegrass Festival at the fairgrounds.  
**JULY.** Fourth of July parade (even number yrs. in NC). Summer Nights in Nevada City festival.  
**AUGUST.** The Yuba River. County Fair at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley.  
**SEPTEMBER.** Constitution Day Parade and Celebration in Nevada City. Draft Horse Classic at the fairgrounds.  
**OCTOBER.** See the vibrant fall colors of Nevada City. Don't forget your camera.  
**NOVEMBER.** Thanksgiving weekend brings the annual Artisans Festival at Miners Foundry.  
**DECEMBER.** Nevada City celebrates Victorian Christmas three Wednesday evenings and two Sunday afternoons.

# Walking Tour



Firehouse No. 1 Museum

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## Nevada City Walking Tour

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