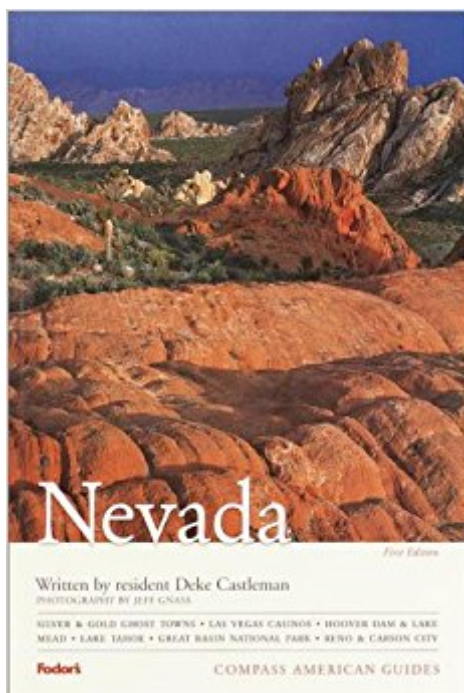


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Compass American Guides: Nevada, 1st Edition (Full-color Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Fodor's Compass Nevada 1ed. Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-depth coverage of the history, culture, and character of America's most spectacular destinations. Covering everything there is to see and do as well as choice lodging and dining, these gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of the region they're visiting. Outstanding color photography, plus a wealth of archival images
Topical essays and literary extracts
Detailed color maps
Great ideas for things to see and do
Capsule reviews of hotels and restaurants

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INTRODUCTION Nevada is a state of illusions. Most people's impressions of Nevada tend to be stereotypical, flimsy, false: that Nevada is a never-ending desert wasteland; or that the great desert has been tamed by oases of infinite water and perpetual growth and streets paved with gold; or that those oases are real, and not just false fronts, mirages. Though it's easy to misjudge this place, especially by the view from the road, a little closer look reveals its subtle beauty and great variety. Nevada has a dozen mountain peaks higher than 12,000 feet, another 20 higher than 10,000, and a couple score above 8,000. Hang out this high in the big ranges and it's no illusion: you can see the forest for the trees. There's gold in them hills, too -- the Nevada "wasteland" conceals some of the most concentrated mineral wealth in all the world (Nevada's nickname is the Silver State). The big mining companies have no illusions about what's valuable in the desert. For an urban enviro it's a quasi-religious experience; for the companies it's hard assets. All in all, the illusion of Nevada itself is entertaining and astounding. If you come here forewarned that Nevada's surfaces are deceiving, you'll be prepared to dive a little deeper. Like an open-pit goldmine, you have to dig deep to get to the bottom of Nevada, to wrest a genuine reality out of the reluctant landscape. And that's the fun of it. After all, a wise man once said, "An illusion can bring you closer to the truth."

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