

See how you can reserve by credit card, save at the restaurant, and get in a guided hike below:

### **Packages**

- 1. IT'S THE ECONOMY Special** - first person breakfast and dinner add \$15 (+taxes), each additional person add \$19 (+taxes)
- 2. BAKER FOOD STAMPS (Scrip)** 15% Savings on pre-paid increments for all products and services except rooms at the resort - the restaurant (all food and beverages including Espresso & bar), groceries, deli, bakery, arts, antiques, & crafts at the Gallery, sports equipment rentals, and guided tours. **Increments of \$25, \$50, & \$100+ (pay \$21.25 for \$25, pay \$42.50 for \$50, pay \$85 for \$100). Full amount must be used – If there is an unused portion you may use it in the future or pass to a friend to use! You will receive a full refund on scrip if the room reservation is cancelled for any reason. Sales tax, & tips are extra.**

Tips are paid separately and, as a courtesy to the wait staff, are paid on the full amount of the check.

Rooms 1, 2, 5, 7, each with a double bed and room 6 with 2 twin beds, \$49

Rm 4: 2 dbl beds, \$59

Rm 3: 2 dbl beds and a twin bed in an attached room \$69

Efficiencies 1, 2, 3: each with 1 queen bed & a kitchenette \$69 for one person, with micro, frig, toaster, coffee maker).

All rooms have private baths. See room and food packages below. We have 5 RV spaces with full power, water, and waste disposal for \$22/night.

Primitive Camping on site \$8/night (toilets and showers abt 300' away). Free if party eats at the restaurant.

***All rooms and the restaurant, patios, and the private gardens are non-smoking.*** Pet friendly.

**CANCELLATION & PAYMENT POLICIES:** We require the first night paid for each room reserved. When you purchase a package, the entire package is paid for at the time of the reservation. 2 weeks cancellation notice for reservations made 30 days out. Full payment for reservations made within 2 weeks. Holidays also require 2 weeks cancellation notice regardless when reservation is made. Otherwise 48 hours. **You will receive a full refund on scrip or the food portion of a package if the room reservation is cancelled for any reason.**

**You may pay by credit card thru email as noted below, or call and leave your information. Also, let me know if you would like a savings package and which denomination when you reply. Note that the sirloin steak and wild salmon dinner items have an \$8 surcharge if you choose a package.**



We're back home in Wyoming--safe, snowy, and sound. Thank you once again for your accommodations this week. We enjoyed our visit to the park, and it was a treat to eat delicious meals and chat with fellow travelers. We'll remember the LectroLux Cafe!

I admire your imagination to make something special out of a small business in a beautiful but isolated part of the U.S.

Terry, it was neat to see from your email who you are. I ate lunch at your great little cafe/art gallery/library a few years ago and remember it well. Was tempted to hang out for a number of days, but was enroute to a meeting in San José with too little time. What a great place you have and great food, and I see you're doing great things in that gorgeous part of the world. I'm jealous of you living there...

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**Joyce** Dear Terry - Thank you so much for the delightful stay at your inn. We enjoyed the garden, the birds, the doggie, and even the skunk. The food was delightful; unfortunate that we are getting too old to devour great quantities, as we would have loved to sample each item.

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**Bob & Sheleagh:** “This is from Bob and Shelagh, two bicyclists who stayed in the Hideaway Cottage during bad weather in Apr - and ate most of our meals at your marvelous place. Just saw your ad in ACA magazine. I have been telling everyone about Baker, and now I have the ad to make it easier. We love your place - it was such a treat, after traveling all through Utah, to find such wonderful food and WINE!!!!

## **Guided Great Basin Hikes from the Silver Jack in Baker**

***Lunches available at the LectroLux Café – Best to order the day before, pick up at 6:30am.***

**Easy**

**Native-American Rock Paintings** – Rare look at mostly inaccessible rock art (1,00AD and before) in a hidden wash. The wash is dotted with seasonal wildflowers. Easy walk, about 3 hour trip.

**Crystal Peak** \$50 Shared with 2-4 people (3-4 hours, random walking) - You'll find this trip magical. The peak is an out crop of volcanic tuff about 1,000' high about 33 million years old that is nearly white and seen from miles around. Plant life struggles on the slopes and reminds us of a bonsai garden; some of the trees that are 1.5 feet high may be 10-20 years old. All plant life is reduced to almost 1/3 or less of its normal size. The peak is a geologic anomaly in the area and should not be missed!

What looks like eyes on the Peak from a distance are pockets in the tuff. Geologically speaking these pockets are “tafoni” (honeycomb structures caused by cavernous weathering) carved by water erosion. The pockets can serve as steps to climb the peak but be sure-footed as the tuff is fragile and brittle. Be careful with your step: there is a good bit of loose small pebbles which one can slip on this easily and the surfaces are sharp. The rock is 30 percent porous which allows water to carve the tuff easily. The era in which this volcano formed is the Oligocene (33-23 million years ago).

Tafoni are rounded pits, some big enough to put your head into. They form by cavernous weathering, which starts when water brings dissolved minerals to the rock surface. When the water dries, the minerals form crystals that force small particles to flake off the rock.

The juniper forest surrounding the peak is very old and is a museum in and of itself. The trunks of dead trees (mostly Utah Juniper or cedar– *juniperous osterspemous*) are a sculpture garden (Who Needs Artists When You Have Nature?) and are worth wandering through. It is immensely quiet

here. Rarely, a jet plies the skies but be sure to stand still silently and hear the world before technology, and before humans.

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**Abandoned Blackhorse Gold Mine** \$50 Shared with 2-4 people – (2.5-3 hours) Blackhorse Mine (original home of the LectroLux Café building!) Black Horse is located northeast of Sacramento Pass, about eight miles from Osceola. White Pine News March 23, 1906 stated that Thomas Watkins had made a strike over a month before, but the strike was not divulged until the previous week. Residents of Osceola were let in on the secret first, and after they had located all the claims they wanted, the find was made public.

The vein was found in Pre Cambrian quartzite, abt 600 million years old.

As with tales of other mining districts, historians have romanticized the discovery and naming of Black Horse. The tale often begins with a lone prospector from Osceola who was caught in wind and rain in 1906 and discovered gold. Shelter was found under an overhanging ledge and as any prospector knows, you do not just wait out the rain. A few taps on the rock were made while waiting and what was chipped off looked interesting. An assay of his samples proved high gold content and a rush developed, led by miners in nearby Osceola.

### **Moderate**

**Mt Moriah Wilderness – The Table** \$75 Shared with 2-4 people (5-6 hours) - This is one of the last pristine places in the country and one of the most scenic hiking areas in NV & UT. While not readily accessible, one can drive to within 2 miles and hike in, or hike as much as 9 miles one way; the 9 miler is usually done by those camping on The Table overnight, a surreal backcountry experience. The views are expansive: the Wasatch Range about 200 miles NE can be seen and many ranges hundreds of miles away are also in view.

Mt. Moriah is in the North Snake Range in Eastern central Nevada and includes the Mt. Moriah Wilderness (Declared by Congress, 1989). The Table is a 3 square mile relatively flat outcrop at 11,000' of Lower Cambrian Pioche Shale (over 1/2 Billion years old) and Lower Cambrian Prospect Mountain Quartzite (about 3/4 of a billion years old) while Mt. Moriah towers closely above at 12,067'. The Table is a unique world of subalpine vegetation lined with bristlecone and limber pine. Dry pinyon-juniper forestland dominates a large part of the lower elevations here.

### **Challenging**

**Notch Peak** (7-9 hours) \$100 Shared with 2-4 people The Notch is the second highest rock wall after El Capitan, Yosemite. According to William Lee Stokes in his *Geology of Utah* (1988), Notch Peak "rises vertically almost 4,450 feet and is one of the highest cliffs in North America." Rock climbers consider the face one of the finest and most challenging climbs in Utah. Striking bands of gray and white limestone decorate the sheer rock face, and twisting canyons give it dimension.

The hike is up the back side in a wash with spectacular walls where huge trees grow out of the rock. While much of the Notch Peak unit is dominated by pinyon pine-juniper or sagebrush-shadscale communities, aspen and conifers grow at higher elevations. In addition, the highest ridges support a healthy population of **ancient bristlecone pine**. The area contains three sensitive plant species: two species of wild buckwheat, *Eriogonum ammophilum* and *Eriogonum nummulare*, and a milkvetch, *Astragalus callithrix*, which are candidates for listing by the Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered; a rare plant known as *Primula domensis* is also found here. Wildlife in the Notch Peak area includes mule deer, antelope, cougar, coyote, badger, chukar, and a variety of raptors. The area

provides crucial habitat for golden eagles and for the endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon. At 9,600' the views are spectacular.

Clothing, Water, Food Requirements – weather dependent: good hiking boots, long pants, windbreaker, gloves optional, 2 litres water, at least a snack, lunch for longer hikes.

## **Prices are estimates. Final cost will be determined by number in group, and vehicles needed.**

### **Other activities in Our Area:**

**Wheeler Peak on best 40 hikes “of all time” <http://www.tipsfromthelist.com/article11819.html>**

1. Visit the Bristlecone Pines. Bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) can grow more than 4,000 years, and they survive best when only part of the tree is alive to conserve resources. The easiest accessible bristlecone pine grove in the area is found on the bristlecone trail (2.6 miles round trip) in Great Basin National Park. The oldest bristlecone in the world, Prometheus, was once found here, but was cut down by a researcher in the 1960s. Most bristlecone groves are found on limestone rock, but this one is on quartzite, which is falling from the surrounding high mountains. The cold winds that blow off the remnant glacier (located at the end of the same trail), help provide the intense environmental conditions in which the bristle cones excel.

Alternatives: The bristlecones on Mt. Moriah's Table (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest)

Spectacular, stretching out across the high elevation plateau. Accessible via 4WD from the west side and a short hike, or a longer hike from the east side. Another notable bristlecone grove is the one found near Mt. Washington, also in Great Basin National Park.

Accessed via the west side of the Snake Range in 4WD vehicle or on foot, some of these bristlecones were burned in a 1999 fire, lending an even eerier cast to the scene. When the snow hits the ground and the higher elevations are not easily reached, a young bristlecone pine is growing in the parking lot at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

2. Venture Underground. The Great Basin is not widely known for its caves, but this area has an interesting array: horizontal and vertical, wet and dry, plain and well-decorated. In this last category falls Lehman Caves (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/lehmancaves.htm>), through which you can take a National Park Service guided tour for 30, 60, or 90 minutes. Open year-round and a pleasant 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the cave is famous for its numerous cave shields, bulbous stalactites, and other speleothems.

Alternatives: Crystal Ball Cave ([http://desertislands.org/crystal\\_ball.htm](http://desertislands.org/crystal_ball.htm)), located 30 miles to the north, also is open for tours (by reservation only; contact Jerald and Marlene Bates at (435) 693-3145. More primitive than Lehman Caves, bring a flashlight and good walking shoes to traverse the natural cave floor. When you are in Crystal Ball Cave, you feel like you are in the middle of a geode, with sparkling nailhead and dogtooth spar coating nearly every surface. These crystals formed when supersaturated calcite water sat in the cave for a long period. Paleontological excavations (<http://www.usd.edu/~theaton/greatbas/cbcave.html>) have revealed a vast number of animals in the cave that no longer occur in the area such as camels, short-faced skunks, sabre-toothed cats, large-headed llamas, and more. They frequented the area during wetter periods, when Lake Bonneville filled the adjacent valley. A great side-trip after your cave tour is a soak in nearby Gandy Warm Springs. Coming out of the same mountain that Crystal Ball Cave is located in, the 82-degree water is just the right temperature for cooling off on a hot summer day.

3. Visit the Baker Archeological Site. The Fremont Indians created a village, sometimes referred to as the Baker Village (<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/archeologicalsite.htm>), about 700 years ago. Located about two miles from the present-day town of Baker, they farmed what used to be a wetter area. Over 15 buildings were constructed in an unexplained complex design, and were uncovered during 1991-1994 archeological excavations. An interpretive sign and self-guided trail are available, along with periodic guided tours offered by Bureau of Land Management volunteers.

Alternative: The Fremonts (and other Native Americans like the Shoshones) went up to higher elevations to hunt and collect pine nuts. One record of their presence is at Upper Pictograph Cave near Baker Creek. Most of the pictographs are on the outside of the cave; to enter the cave you need to get a permit. During the fall you can collect the tasty pine nuts (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/Plan/pinyon.htm>).

4. Listen for Bugling Elk. During the fall rutting season, you may hear the loud bugles of elk in Strawberry, Weaver, or Snake Creeks as they battle for the right to mate. A lot more wildlife abounds, too. The list of charismatic fauna includes: Rocky Mountain bighorn

sheep (found usually near Mt. Moriah's Table, Old Man's Canyon, and Mt. Washington), pronghorn antelope (on the benches (area between valley bottom and trees of the mountains)), yellow-bellied marmots (along Baker Creek road), mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, kit fox, red fox, gray fox, rattlesnakes, horned lizards, and Bonneville cutthroat trout (in many streams of both the North and South Snake Ranges).

Alternatives: The birdwatching in and around Baker is better than you might expect for the middle of the desert. Two Important Bird Areas have been designated, Great Basin National Park, and the David E. Moore Wildlife Sanctuary (<http://www.nevadaudubon.org/Iba/Moore%20IBA.htm>). Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is a mecca for birders (<http://fishsprings.fws.gov/>). Pruess Lake south of Garrison, Utah is also a good spot to see some waterbirds (<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/garrison.htm>).

5. Compete in the Annual Turkey Shoot. Experience a bit of local culture by participating in the Turkey Shoot fundraiser for the local ambulance department. Held on a Saturday in November, many categories (short and long distance, different types of fire arms, more) are held. It's a minimum fee to enter, and the winner of each contest wins a turkey.

Alternatives: Every Labor Day weekend, the Snake Valley Volunteer Fire Department sponsors a picnic and dance (<http://www.greatbasinpark.com/events.htm>) with the help of the Border Inn. Many past residents return for Snake Valley Days. On Fourth of July, the nearby community of Eskdale holds an impressive musical program followed by a fireworks show that equals many of towns that have 50 times the population. Announcements of upcoming events are posted on the bulletin board at the post office.

6. Ride the Train. The Northern Nevada Railway (<http://www.nevadanorthernrailway.com/>) made mining profitable in and around Ely, Nevada. Lovingly preserved, the railway still operates, with steam and diesel engines providing trips year round. An extensive railroad museum is operated in Ely.

Alternative: Cars have replaced railroads in importance, and the long, lonely highways in Nevada provide thrilling opportunities for speed. Two races are held on Highway 318 south of Ely every year, one in May and one in September. Before the race (<http://www.silverstateclassic.com/318-hwy-event-description.htm>),

cars line the park in downtown Ely for everyone to admire.

7. Hike Wheeler Peak. The second highest peak in the state, Wheeler Peak, is located just outside of Baker (<http://www.summitpost.org/mountain/rock/150191/wheeler-peak.html>). Rising to 13,063 feet, the peak is accessible from a fairly good trail that begins near the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. The trail gains about 3,000 feet in four miles and takes 3-5 hours to ascend.

Alternatives: Mt. Moriah at 12,067 is the highest peak on the north Snake Range. From the east it is a challenging hike accessible from one of the many canyons. From the west you can drive a 4WD road up to about 10,500 feet, making the hike doable in a morning or afternoon. Over seven other named peaks rise more than 11,000 feet in the Snake Range. For those wanting a shorter hike, the alpine lakes loop trail is a pleasant two-hour stroll in Great Basin National Park, or try one of the many other trails (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/Plan/hiking.htm>).

8. Visit a Ghost Town. The nickname for Nevada is the Silver State, due to the copious amounts of mining that occurred all over the state. One of the better-preserved ghost towns in the area is Osceola (<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/osceola.htm>), located about 15 miles west of Baker and reached by marked turnoffs on Highway 6/50. Gold was found in Osceola in 1872, but it reached its heyday when placer mining developed. Due to a lack of water, ditches were built on both sides of the Snake Range to divert water from several creeks to Osceola. With a population of more than 500 in the mid-1880s, the town boasted a "ride-in" saloon (among several saloons), the first telephone in Nevada, and one of the first electrical systems. Nevertheless, the gold petered out, the water proved to be insufficient, and fires demolished parts of town. Today a few collapsing structures and foundations remain, along with a cemetery. More recent mining activity is found on the west side. One other nugget of information: the largest gold nugget found in the state of Nevada came from Osceola.

Alternatives: Many other mining towns and districts came and went in the Snake Valley area. One that still has a few people living in it is Goldhill (<http://www.onlineutah.com/deepcreekhistory.shtml>), located a scenic two-hour drive north of Baker. As you might guess, gold was found here, along with an array of other minerals, and transported out via the Deep Creek railroad. On the way to Goldhill, you will cross the historic Pony Express Trail (<http://www.nps.gov/poex>), which linked Missouri to California. The short-lived venture, which carried mail 1,500 miles in only 10 days, was amazing in the coordination and infrastructure that it required. The ride is recreated every June near the time of the full moon.

9. Mountain Bike or Explore with an OHV. The lower mountains in the area provide great locations for exploring via mountain bike or off-highway vehicles (OHV). One location is the Sacramento Pass Recreation Area, with about 35 miles of roads leading to Osceola, Weaver Creek, and Black Horse.

([http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us\\_national\\_park/nv/bik\\_gb.htm](http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us_national_park/nv/bik_gb.htm)).

Designated OHV trails in the Burbank Hills (98 miles) and around Conger Mountain (127 miles) are marked and traverse an often-overlooked part of Snake Valley. Many of the roads are also suitable for high clearance vehicles. Maps can be downloaded (<http://www.stateparks.utah.gov/ohv/odm.htm>) or requested from the Delta Chamber of Commerce.

Alternative: Hike, bike, or ride a horse on part of the 6,800-mile long American Discovery Trail (<http://www.discoverytrail.org/>), the only coast-to-coast non-motorized recreation trail. The trail follows a combination of roads and trails, entering the area next to Crystal Peak, crossing the Ferguson Desert to Garrison, ambling up the highway to Baker, then out along Highway 6 & 50 to Weaver Creek and Osceola and into Spring Valley. It was first completed in its entirety in 2005 (<http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=115499>).

10. Find Fossils and Gemstones. One of the best things about the Great Basin is that there aren't many trees in the way of the ground. The geology is varied, and a large number of fossils (<http://www.mines.utah.edu/geo/utahfossil/>) and gemstones can be found within a couple hours' drive. Some of the best known places are Fossil Mountain (Trilobites), Topaz Mountain (Topaz), Antelope Springs (trilobites), Crystal Peak (White Quartz), Sunstone Knoll (Sunstones), Painter Springs (Garnets, Pyrite, Muscovite, Quartz), Conger Springs (Crinoids, brachiopods), Black Rock (Black Obsidian), Drum Mountains (Agate), Indian Pass (brachiopods, horned coral), Skull Rock Pass (graptolites, trilobites, brachiopods, echinoderms)

([http://www.utah.com/hike/rock\\_hounding.htm](http://www.utah.com/hike/rock_hounding.htm)), and

Fish Springs/Dugway (Geodes). (<http://geology.utah.gov/utahgeo/rockmineral/index.htm>).

Alternative: If you'd rather look at rocks and minerals rather than search for the, the Great Basin Museum in Delta (<http://www.millardcounty.com/gbmuseum.html>) has a nice selection, along with exhibits about the early history of the county and information about the nearby Topaz Internment Camp.

#### **A few of the many Customer and Critics' Comments about us received by email, on the phone, or comments at the restaurant:**

Restaurant Guest: having breakfast at your groovy cafe was an unexpected treat.

#### **Frommer's Review March, 2009**

This well-maintained family-owned and -operated motel is the closest lodging to the national park. Basic motel rooms have either one or two double beds, and one unit has two double beds plus a twin bed in a separate room. Some units have shower-tub combinations, while others have showers only. There is an attractive patio with a fountain where guests sit, chat, and watch the hummingbirds. The attached restaurant/gallery local art and high-quality crafts.

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/greatbasinnationalpark/H44812.html#ixzz0ILr7gPPD&D>

Terry, My husband Herb and I wanted to thank you for being so gracious . We had a great time and you have a great eclectic establishment. Everyone in the club said they had a great time and Chris your server was so nice to us and so willing to go along with our requests.

Guzzi Grappa Motorcycle Group: What another GREAT year! It's because of Terry, Pat, and Mark that this event started. It is because of people like you, that it succeeds. It was an awesome group of people to be a part of this past weekend. ***We couldn't do it without Terry and his support and trust.***

We're back home in Wyoming--safe, snowy, and sound. Thank you once again for your accommodations this week. We enjoyed our visit to the park, and it was a treat to eat delicious meals and chat with fellow travelers. We'll remember the LectorLux Cafe!

I admire your imagination to make something special out of a small business in a beautiful but isolated part of the U.S. Terry, it was neat to see from your email who you are. I ate lunch at your great little cafe/art gallery/library a few years ago and remember it well. Was tempted to hang out for a number of days, but was enroute to a meeting in San José with too little time. What a great place you have and great food, and I see you're doing great things in that gorgeous part of the world. I'm jealous of you living there...

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**Inn guest: "You have the best pizza in Nevada!"**

I stayed in your RV Park just over a year ago while we were travelling around the USA . We had an excellent evening meal and another great meal in the morning in your café. I wondered if you would be prepared to send a portion of your home made Granola to the UK as it was the best Granola I have had. If you are prepared to do this let me know how much it will be including postage and packing. Regards Damian P

**Bob & Shaleagh:** "This is from Bob and Shelagh, two bicyclists who stayed in the Hideaway Cottage during bad weather in Apr - and ate most of our meals at your marvelous place. Just saw your ad in ACA magazine. I have been telling everyone about Baker, and now I have the ad to make it easier. We love your place - it was such a treat, after traveling all through Utah, to find such wonderful food and WINE!!!!

## Top 10 Things to Do around Baker, NV

1. Visit the Bristlecone Pines. Bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*) can grow more than 4,000 years, and they survive best when only part of the tree is alive to conserve resources. The easiest accessible bristlecone pine grove in the area is found on the bristlecone trail (2.6 miles round trip) in Great Basin National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/>).

The oldest bristlecone in the world, Prometheus, was once found here, but was cut down by a researcher in the 1960s. Most bristlecone groves are found on limestone rock, but this one is on quartzite, which is falling from the surrounding high mountains. The cold winds that blow off the remnant glacier (located at the end of the same trail), help provide the intense environmental conditions in which the bristlecones excel.

Alternatives: The bristlecones on Mt. Moriah's Table

(Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest)

([http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us\\_wilderness\\_area/nv\\_mt\\_mo.htm](http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us_wilderness_area/nv_mt_mo.htm)) are also spectacular, stretching out across the high elevation plateau. Accessible via 4WD from the west side and a short hike, or a longer hike from the east side. Another notable bristlecone grove is the one found near Mt. Washington, also in Great Basin National Park. Accessed via the west side of the Snake Range in 4WD vehicle or on foot, some of these bristlecones were burned in a 1999 fire, lending an even eerier cast to the scene. When the snow hits the ground and the higher elevations are not easily reached, a young bristlecone pine is growing in the parking lot at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

2. Venture Underground. The Great Basin is not widely known for its caves, but this area has an interesting array: horizontal and vertical, wet and dry, plain and well-decorated. In this last category falls Lehman Caves (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/lehmancaves.htm>), through which you can take a National Park Service guided tour for 30, 60, or 90 minutes. Open year-round and a pleasant 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the cave is famous for its numerous cave shields, bulbous stalactites, and other speleothems.

Alternatives: Crystal Ball Cave ([http://desertislands.org/crystal\\_ball.htm](http://desertislands.org/crystal_ball.htm)), located 30 miles to the north, also is open for tours (by reservation only; contact Jerald and Marlene Bates at (435) 693-3145). More primitive than Lehman Caves, bring a flashlight and good walking shoes to traverse the natural cave floor. When you are in Crystal Ball Cave, you feel like you are in the middle of a geode, with sparkling nailhead and dogtooth spar coating nearly every surface. These crystals formed when supersaturated calcite water sat in the cave for a long period. Paleontological excavations (<http://www.usd.edu/~theaton/greatbas/cbcave.html>) have revealed a vast number of animals in the cave that no longer occur in the area such as camels, short-faced skunks, sabre-toothed cats, large-headed llamas, and more. They frequented the area during wetter periods, when Lake Bonneville filled the adjacent valley. A great side-trip after your cave tour is a soak in nearby Gandy Warm Springs. Coming out of the same mountain that Crystal Ball Cave is located in, the 82-degree water is just the right temperature for cooling off on a hot summer day.

3. Visit the Baker Archeological Site. The Fremont Indians created a village, sometimes referred to as the Baker Village (<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/archeologicalsite.htm>), about 700 years ago. Located about two miles from the present-day town of Baker, they farmed what used to be a wetter area. Over 15 buildings were constructed in an unexplained complex design, and were uncovered during 1991-1994 archeological excavations. An interpretive sign and self-guided trail are available, along with periodic guided tours offered by Bureau of Land Management volunteers.

Alternative: The Fremonts (and other Native Americans like the Shoshones) went up to higher elevations to hunt and collect pine nuts. One record of their presence is at Upper Pictograph Cave near Baker Creek. Most of the pictographs are on the outside of the cave; to enter the cave you need to get a permit. During the fall you can collect the tasty pine nuts (<http://www.nps.gov/grba/Plan/pinyon.htm>).

4. Listen for Bugling Elk. During the fall rutting season, you may hear the loud bugles of elk in Strawberry, Weaver, or Snake Creeks as they battle for the right to mate. A lot more wildlife abounds, too. The list of charismatic fauna includes: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (found usually near Mt. Moriah's Table, Old Man's Canyon, and Mt. Washington), pronghorn antelope (on the benches (area between valley bottom and trees of the mountains)), yellow-bellied marmots (along Baker Creek road), mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, kit fox, red fox, gray fox, rattlesnakes, horned lizards, and Bonneville cutthroat trout (in many streams of both the North and South Snake Ranges).

Alternatives: The birdwatching in and around Baker is better than you might expect for the middle of the desert. Two Important Bird Areas have been designated, Great Basin National Park, and the David E. Moore Wildlife Sanctuary (<http://www.nevadaudubon.org/lba/Moore%20IBA.htm>). Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is a mecca for birders (<http://fishsprings.fws.gov/>). Pruess Lake south of Garrison, Utah is also a good spot to see some waterbirds (<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/garrison.htm>).

5. Compete in the Annual Turkey Shoot. Experience a bit of local culture by participating in the Turkey Shoot fundraiser for the local ambulance department. Held on a Saturday in November, many categories (short and long distance, different types of fire arms, more) are held. It's a minimum fee to enter, and the winner of each contest wins a turkey.

Alternatives: Every Labor Day weekend, the Snake Valley Volunteer Fire Department sponsors a picnic and dance (<http://www.greatbasinpark.com/events.htm>) with the help of the Border Inn. Many past residents return for Snake Valley Days. On Fourth of July, the nearby community of Eskdale holds an impressive musical program followed by a fireworks show that equals many of towns that have 50 times the population. Announcements of upcoming events are posted on the bulletin board at the post office.

6. Ride the Train. The Northern Nevada Railway (<http://www.nevadanorthernrailway.com/>) made mining profitable in and around Ely, Nevada. Lovingly preserved, the railway still operates, with steam and diesel engines providing trips year round. An extensive railroad museum is operated in Ely.

Alternative: Cars have replaced railroads in importance, and the long, lonely highways in Nevada provide thrilling opportunities for speed. Two races are held on Highway 318 south of Ely every year, one in May and one in September. Before the race

(<http://www.silverstateclassic.com/318-hwy-event-description.htm>),

cars line the park in downtown Ely for everyone to admire.

7. Hike Wheeler Peak. The second highest peak in the state, Wheeler Peak, is located just outside of Baker (<http://www.summitpost.org/mountain/rock/150191/wheeler-peak.html>). Rising to 13,063 feet, the peak is accessible from a fairly good trail that begins near the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. The trail gains about 3,000 feet in four miles and takes 3-5 hours to ascend.

Alternatives: Mt. Moriah at 12,067 is the highest peak on the north Snake Range. From the east it is a challenging hike accessible from one of the many canyons. From the west you can drive a 4WD road up to about 10,500 feet, making the hike doable in a morning or afternoon. Over seven other named peaks rise more than 11,000 feet in the Snake Range. For those wanting a shorter hike, the alpine lakes loop trail is a pleasant two-hour stroll in Great Basin National Park, or try one of the many other trails

(<http://www.nps.gov/grba/Plan/hiking.htm>).

8. Visit a Ghost Town. The nickname for Nevada is the Silver State, due to the copious amounts of mining that occurred all over the state. One of the better-preserved ghost towns in the area is Osceola

(<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/osceola.htm>),

located about 15 miles west of Baker and reached by marked turnoffs on Highway 6/50. Gold was found in Osceola in 1872, but it reached its heyday when placer mining developed. Due to a lack of water, ditches were built on both sides of the Snake Range to divert water from several creeks to Osceola. With a population of more than 500 in the mid-1880s, the town boasted a "ride-in" saloon (among several saloons), the first telephone in Nevada, and one of the first electrical systems. Nevertheless, the gold petered out, the water proved to be insufficient, and fires demolished parts of town. Today a few collapsing structures and foundations remain, along with a cemetery. More recent mining activity is found on the west side. One other nugget of information: the largest gold nugget found in the state of Nevada came from Osceola.

Alternatives: Many other mining towns and districts came and went in the Snake Valley area. One that still has a few people living in it is Goldhill (<http://www.onlineutah.com/deepcreekhistory.shtml>), located a scenic two-hour drive north of Baker. As you might guess, gold was found here, along with an array of other minerals, and transported out via the Deep Creek railroad. On the way to Goldhill, you will cross the historic Pony Express Trail (<http://www.nps.gov/poex>), which linked Missouri to California. The short-lived venture, which carried mail 1,500 miles in only 10 days, was amazing in the coordination and infrastructure that it required. The ride is recreated every June near the time of the full moon.

9. Mountain Bike or Explore with an OHV. The lower mountains in the area provide great locations for exploring via mountain bike or off-highway vehicles (OHV). One location is the Sacramento Pass Recreation Area, with about 35 miles of roads leading to Osceola, Weaver Creek, and Black Horse.

([http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us\\_national\\_park/nv/bik\\_gb.htm](http://gorp.away.com/gorp/resource/us_national_park/nv/bik_gb.htm)).

Designated OHV trails in the Burbank Hills (98 miles) and around Conger Mountain (127 miles) are marked and traverse an often-overlooked part of Snake Valley. Many of the roads are also suitable for high clearance vehicles. Maps can be downloaded

(<http://www.stateparks.utah.gov/ohv/odm.htm>) or requested from the Delta Chamber of Commerce.

Alternative: Hike, bike, or ride a horse on part of the 6,800-mile long American Discovery Trail (<http://www.discoverytrail.org/>), the only coast-to-coast non-motorized recreation trail. The trail follows a combination of roads and trails, entering the area next to Crystal Peak, crossing the Ferguson Desert to Garrison, ambling up the highway to Baker, then out along Highway 6 & 50 to Weaver Creek and Osceola and into Spring Valley. It was first completed in its entirety in 2005 (<http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=115499>).

10. Find Fossils and Gemstones. One of the best things about the Great Basin is that there aren't many trees in the way of the ground. The geology is varied, and a large number of fossils (<http://www.mines.utah.edu/geo/utahfossil/>) and gemstones can be found within a couple hours' drive. Some of the best known places are Fossil Mountain (Trilobites), Topaz Mountain (Topaz), Antelope Springs (trilobites), Crystal Peak (White Quartz), Sunstone Knoll (Sunstones), Painter Springs (Garnets, Pyrite, Muscovite, Quartz), Conger Springs (Crinoids, brachiopods), Black Rock (Black Obsidian), Drum Mountains (Agate), Indian Pass (brachiopods, horned coral), Skull Rock Pass (graptolites, trilobites, brachiopods, echinoderms) ([http://www.utah.com/hike/rock\\_hounding.htm](http://www.utah.com/hike/rock_hounding.htm)), and Fish Springs/Dugway (Geodes). (<http://geology.utah.gov/utahgeo/rockmineral/index.htm>).

Alternative: If you'd rather look at rocks and minerals rather than search for the, the Great Basin Museum in Delta (<http://www.millardcounty.com/gbmuseum.html>) has a nice selection, along with exhibits about the early history of the county and information about the nearby Topaz Internment Camp.