Central Nevada Museum

Step into our past and explore the rich and colorful history of Central Nevada

Centrally located between Reno (228 miles) and Las Vegas (211 miles)

Central Nevada Museum
1500 Logan Field Road, Tonopah, NV 89049

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Business Hours
Open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed on state and Federal holidays.

FREE admission

Authentic old west heritage and the personalities of adventurous days gone by.

The Central Nevada Museum occupies a unique place in the retelling of the annals of the West. The famous, not so famous, and infamous all left their mark in Central Nevada, including Howard Hughes, film mogul and industrial magnate; George "Tex" Rickard, the man who built Madison Square Garden; Jim Casey, the entrepreneur who founded United Parcel Service; lauren Wyatt and Virgil Earp; and Barbara Graham, one of only four women executed by gas chamber in California. The stories of Jim Butler, the man who discovered the silver that led to the founding of Tonopah, and many other men and women who got their start in Central Nevada and rose to prominence in Nevada can all be found here.
The rich and exciting history of Central Nevada.

A Dream Realized
The Central Nevada Museum was founded in 1981 by the Central Nevada Historical Society. Construction was financed through a grant from the Fleischmann Foundation, Renco, Nevada. The museum is operated under the direction of the Central Nevada Historical Society and Nye County.

The Central Nevada Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history of Central Nevada in Nye and Esmeralda Counties as well as surrounding areas. All collections belong to the Central Nevada Historical Society.

Prehistoric to Present
Indoor exhibits feature Tonopah, "Queen of the Silver Camps" and Goldfield, "The Greatest Gold Camp Ever", boomtowns of the late 1800s and early 1900s, Native American artifacts, fossils, wildlife, mineral collections, art, mining in Central Nevada, railroads, ranch life, and Tonopah Army Air Field (TAFF) artifacts and photos, in addition to ethnic groups and subjects on everyday life in a mining boom camp.

Research Library, Conference Room, and Gift Shop
This Central Nevada Museum houses a spacious conference room, an extensive research library and photo collection, archival materials, albums, books, many digital newspapers of the area, maps, videos, and DVDs. Genealogy files and research personnel are also available. The library is open to the public during regular museum hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The museum gift shop features a complete line of books representing the history of Central Nevada.

Outdoor Exhibits
The outdoor exhibits include an old west town featuring miner’s cabins, a saloon, blacksmith shop, railroad yard, early mining equipment with a 30-stamp mill, ore cars, and much more.