



Discover Lake Tahoe

Before & After Destination Impact 2025

The Destination Impact team has compiled a list of resources, activities, and experiences to help you explore Lake Tahoe and its surrounding areas—whether you're planning to arrive early, stay after our gathering, or simply want to learn more about the region during your visit.

Please note that any costs associated with activities or transportation outside of the official DI gathering are the responsibility of individual attendees. These are suggestions to help you get the most out of your time in Lake Tahoe.

Learning about Lake Tahoe

- Philanthropy – Things to Read

- General – Things to Read

- General - Things to Watch

Hikes, Trails, and Outdoor Adventures

- Walking and Hiking Trails

- Palisades Summer Aerial Tram

- Mountain Biking

- Treetop Adventure Course at Granlibakken

- Boating

- Boat Cruises

- Kayaking & Paddleboarding

Local & Cultural Experiences

- Gatekeepers Museum

- Watson Cabin

Vikingsholm Castle
Tallac Historic Site
Drinks & Dining

Learning about Lake Tahoe

As we prepare for our trip to Lake Tahoe, we've pulled together a set of resources to help you learn more about the region. Whether you want to explore the local philanthropic efforts, dive into Tahoe's unique history, culture, and environmental challenges, or watch short videos that highlight the area's beauty and significance, we've gathered materials to deepen your connection to this stunning destination and its residents.

Philanthropy – Things to Read

- [Philanthropy and collaboration are driving environmental improvements at Lake Tahoe](#) (~5 min). Philanthropy plays a key role in protecting Lake Tahoe's environment. This [Tahoe Fund](#) op-ed shows how donor support has accelerated projects like restoring wetlands along the Upper Truckee River and testing wildfire-prevention technology. In 2023, the Tahoe Fund granted \$1.4M to over 50 projects, leveraging public funds to improve forest health, lake clarity, recreation, and transportation.

General – Things to Read

- [Billionaires keep trying to buy up Tahoe, but the land has never been theirs](#) (~10 min). This *SFGate* article focuses on Meeks Bay, a historic Washoe site, and the tribe's deep-rooted connection to *Dáꞑaw* (Tahoe). It recounts centuries of seasonal camps, colonization, and the Washoe Tribe's ongoing fight to reclaim and protect their ancestral lands.

General - Things to Watch

- [Waṣ̌i-ṣ̌iw ʔitdeʔ \(Washesu It'deh\) – “The Land of the Peoples from Here”](#) (~ 5 min) A short documentary produced by the Washoe Tribe and the National Forest Foundation. It highlights the history and culture of the Washoe people in the Lake Tahoe region and their enduring role as its environmental stewards. The video blends stunning shots of Tahoe's landscapes with Washoe elders' insights, emphasizing that the Washoe have lived around *Dáꞑaw* (Tahoe) “since time immemorial” and are actively involved in protecting their sacred land today.
- [Washoe Fishing Camps at Lake Tahoe](#) – (~3 Minutes). This NPR *Time & Place* segment shares how the Washoe migrated seasonally to Tahoe for fishing and gathering. Despite settler disruption, many families kept the tradition alive into the 20th

century. The segment includes a first-hand account from Washoe elder Winona James. Read the complete oral account from Winona James [here](#).

Hikes, Trails, and Outdoor Adventures

The Lake Tahoe region offers a wide range of opportunities to explore its natural beauty before or after Destination Impact. Below are several options for hiking, biking, and getting out on the water. Please note that any costs related to these activities are the responsibility of individual attendees, and advance reservations are recommended for select experiences.

Walking and Hiking Trails

- The Tahoe Rim Trail spans 165 miles around the lake and includes access points within walking distance of Granlibakken. Hikers can choose short loops or more extended sections that provide access to high ridgelines, alpine meadows, and panoramic views.
- **Location:** Trailheads near Granlibakken
- **Resources:** Visit the [Tahoe Rim Trail Association](#) for maps and trail conditions
- **Notes:** Trail sections range from beginner-friendly to strenuous

Palisades Summer Aerial Tram

This 10-minute ride climbs to Palisades Tahoe's High Camp, located at 8,200 feet above sea level. The tram offers sweeping views of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding Sierra Nevada, starting from the base of the iconic Tram Face.

Location: Short drive from Granlibakken

Notes: Discounted tram tickets available for Granlibakken guests — ask at the front desk or check your pre-stay email

Mountain Biking

Biking in the Lake Tahoe region offers an immersive way to explore its natural landscape, local history, and alpine terrain. Trails near Tahoe City range from paved lakefront paths to rugged mountain descents.

Overview:

- Paved trails like the *West Shore Bike Cruise*, *Historic Truckee River Path*, and *East Shore Trail* offer scenic, accessible routes along the lake and river
- More advanced riders can explore single-track and forest trails, including the iconic *Flume Trail* and sections of the *Tahoe Rim Trail*
- Two nearby ski areas — [Northstar](#) and [Woodward Tahoe](#) — operate summer lifts for mountain bikers seeking lift-access downhill trails

Resources: [BikeTahoe](#) is a helpful tool for exploring both paved and dirt trail options around Granlibakken

Notes: Trail maps and bike rentals are available locally

Treetop Adventure Course at Granlibakken

This forest canopy adventure course is located on Granlibakken's 74-acre property and includes zip lines, rope bridges, and suspended platforms. Courses are designed for a range of physical ability levels and offer a unique perspective on the local terrain.

- **Location:** Onsite at Granlibakken
- **Reservations:** Strongly recommended
- **Notes:** Moderate to high physical activity

Boating

- Lake Tahoe's clear waters can be explored via a range of rental options, including motorized boats and human-powered craft. Local vendors offer flexible booking options for those interested in spending time on the lake.
- **Activities:** Powerboats, pontoon boats, kayaks, paddleboards
- **Nearby Providers:** [Sunnyside Water Sports](#), [Tahoe City Marina](#), [GetMyBoat](#)
- **Notes:** Advance booking recommended during peak times

Boat Cruises

- Several companies offer guided cruises on Lake Tahoe, departing from nearby Tahoe City. Options range from daytime sightseeing to sunset sails, including classic vessels like the Tahoe Gal and wind-powered options with Tahoe Sailing Charters.
- **Options:** Daytime, sunset, and private charter experiences
- **Notes:** Reservations recommended; also consider self-guided rentals for more flexibility

Kayaking & Paddleboarding

Glide across the clear waters of Lake Tahoe on a kayak or stand-up paddleboard for a peaceful, immersive way to take in the region's natural beauty. Follow the shoreline, explore hidden coves, and experience the lake from a new perspective.

Resources: Visit [Lake Tahoe Water Trail](#) for maps, safety information, and route planning for paddling excursions

Nearby Rental Shops:

- [Tahoe City Kayak & Paddleboard](#) (Tahoe City)
- [West Shore Sports](#) (Sunnyside & Homewood)
- [Clearly Tahoe](#) (Sand Harbor) provides guided tours and rentals for clear-bottom Kayaks.

Local & Cultural Experiences

[Gatekeepers Museum](#)

A local history museum showcasing one of the largest collections of Native American Washoe baskets in the U.S. and exhibits on Lake Tahoe's maritime and resort history. This log-cabin museum offers a glimpse into Tahoe's past with photographs and artifacts of the Washoe people and early colonial settlement.

- General - \$10 | Seniors- \$9 | Students/Children - Free
- Open 11:00am - 4:00pm
- 4 min drive

[Watson Cabin](#)

The oldest log structure in North Lake Tahoe, built in 1908 by Robert Watson. Now a small museum, it preserves memorabilia in an original early-20th-century Tahoe home. Open seasonally in summer, it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places

- Free Admission
- 5 min Drive

[Vikingsholm Castle](#)

A Scandinavian-style stone "castle" that is nestled at Emerald Bay State Park. Vikingsholm was built in 1929 as a summer home. Guided tours inside are offered daily from late May through September, allowing you to explore the interior and hear the story of Lora Knight, the philanthropist who built it. Vikingsholm can be reached by walking a one-mile trail from the parking lot on Highway 89. The home is open daily for tours in the summer months from June to September.

- \$10.00 per vehicle to enter Emerald Bay State Park
- 50-minute drive
- **Note:** Access to Vikingsholm is via a steep one-mile pedestrian trail that drops 400 feet in elevation. There are visitor warnings posted for visitors with mobility or medical conditions, as there are no rides out of this hike.

[Tallac Historic Site](#)

The Tallac Historic Site consists of three estates built between 1894 and 1923. Once private summer homes, the properties were bought by the USDA Forest Service between 1965-1972. The goal was to increase public access to Lake Tahoe. However, the estates became the focal point, as historians championed their preservation. The site includes the Tallac Museum.

- Grand Estate Tour- Adult - \$27.38 | Child- \$11.63|
- 1 hour drive

Drinks & Dining

We know you can browse Google, Yelp, Open Table or other resources to find many great restaurants and bars. Here are a few that stood out to us as we browsed around.

Dining In Tahoe City

- [**Christy Hill**](#) - An upscale lakeside spot perched with stunning views. Their seasonal menu focuses on local and sustainably raised ingredients and California contemporary cuisine. Every table has a panoramic lake view.
- [**Jake's on the Lake**](#) - This lively lakefront restaurant offers spectacular waterfront views alongside fresh fish, steaks, and tropical cocktails. Family-owned and operated, Jake's is known for its warm vibe and a menu that showcases local produce and Pacific Rim dishes.
- [**Slyva**](#) - A sleek, modern eatery offering globally inspired cuisine with locally sourced ingredients. Known for its excellent service and innovative dishes, Slyva provides a stylish atmosphere.
- [**Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique**](#) - Wolfdale's offers a unique menu that blends Asian, European, and Californian influences. Known for its creative dishes and wine list.
- [**River Grill**](#) - River Grill features delicious seafood and grilled meats, complemented by an extensive wine list. The restaurant's riverside location adds charm, making it a perfect choice for a relaxed dinner.

Casual Bites in Tahoe City

- [**Za's Lakefront**](#) - A casual lakeside eatery combining lake vistas with a menu of wood-fired pizzas, pastas, and seafood. The atmosphere is laid-back. Locals love Za's for its friendly service and the chance to enjoy gourmet pizza and a glass of wine while watching the sun set over the lake.
- [**Shadyside Lounge**](#) - A charming local spot perfect for a casual drink or light meal. Shadyside Lounge blends '50s lakeside lounge culture and '70s ski nostalgia with a unique cocktail menu and a twist on Mexican food. It is a popular hangout for both locals and visitors.
- [**The Bridgetender**](#) - A laid-back spot next to the Truckee River offering a great selection of burgers, sandwiches, and fish tacos. The Bridgetender's casual ambiance, complete with its outdoor seating, makes it a great place to relax.
- [**Mountain Slice Cafe & Creamery**](#) - Mountain Slice serves NY-style pizza and Detroit-style pizza along with a rotating selection of locally-made ice cream.
- [**Tahoe House Bakery & Gourmet**](#) - A European-style bakery and café offering fresh-baked pastries, sandwiches, and coffee. Known for its quality ingredients and friendly service, Tahoe House is a perfect place to grab breakfast or lunch while enjoying the laid-back atmosphere of Tahoe City.

- [**Sunnyside Steakhouse & Lodge**](#)- A classic steakhouse located inside the Sunnyside lodge, offering hearty meals and classic American fare. With stunning lake views, Sunnyside is perfect for casual dining with an upscale feel.
- [**Stony Ridge Uncommon Kitchen**](#) – Tucked behind New Moon Natural Foods, this full-service deli counter offers a variety of globally inspired deli sandwiches and sushi, including vegan and gluten-free options. Known for its creative menu, it's a hidden gem less than 2 minutes away from Granlibakken Lodge.

Night Out Spots & Breweries

- [**Tahoe Wine Collective**](#)- A cozy wine bar and bottle shop offering an extensive selection of local and international wines. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, with a friendly staff happy to help you discover new favorites. The perfect spot for a relaxed evening.
- [**Uncorked Tahoe City**](#)- A unique wine bar that features an impressive selection of wines by the glass and bottle. With a cozy ambiance and a small but flavorful menu of light bites, Uncorked is a great spot for a night out with friends or a romantic evening.
- [**Tahoe Taphaus**](#)- A craft beer bar and gastropub offering a rotating selection of local brews and unique bites, like naanwiches and burgers. The laid-back atmosphere makes it perfect for beer enthusiasts and foodies who want to sample the best of the local beer scene.
- [**Tahoe National Brewing Company**](#) – This brewery offers a variety of house-brewed beers. They have a rotating seasonal menu inspired by specific regional cuisine using locally sourced ingredients. It's a great spot to relax with a drink and enjoy the local flavors.

At the Granlibakken Lodge

- [**Cedar House Pub**](#)- Located at the lodge, this cozy pub offers a variety of comfort food with a twist and a selection of beers, wines, and cocktails.
- [**Cedar House Deck**](#)- For a casual meal or drink with a view, the Cedar House Deck provides a laid-back al fresco dining with gorgeous mountain scenery. Enjoy a variety of appetizers, drinks, and light bites in a relaxed outdoor environment, perfect for soaking in the fresh Tahoe air.
- [**Granhall Breakfast Buffet**](#)- A hearty breakfast buffet offering a wide selection of fresh options to fuel your day.