**Nevada**

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For other uses, see [Nevada (disambiguation)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada_(disambiguation)).

"Silver State" redirects here. For other uses, see [Silver State (disambiguation)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_State_(disambiguation)).

[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [39°N 117°W / 39°N 117°W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Nevada&amp;params=39_N_117_W_region%3AUS-NV_type%3Aadm1st_scale%3A3000000)

**Nevada**

### [State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) State of Nevada

[Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Nevada) [Seal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_Nevada)

[Nickname(s):](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_nicknames) The Silver State (official); Sagebrush State; Battle Born State

[Motto(s):](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_and_territory_mottos) All for Our Country [Anthem:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_songs) "[Home Means Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Means_Nevada)"

Map of the United States with Nevada highlighted

**Country** [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)

[Nevada Territory, Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah_Territory)

### Before statehood

[Territory, Arizona Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_Territory)

[**Admitted to the Union**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_date_of_admission_to_the_Union#List_of_U.S._states)October 31, 1864 (36th)

[**Capital**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_capitals_in_the_United_States)[Carson City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carson_City%2C_Nevada)

[**Largest city**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states%27_largest_cities_by_population)[Las Vegas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas)

[**Largest metro**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas)[Las Vegas Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas_Valley)

### Government

* [**Governor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor_of_Nevada)[Steve Sisolak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Sisolak) ([D](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)))
* [**Lieutenant Governor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Nevada)[Kate Marshall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Marshall) (D)

[**Legislature**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature)[Nevada Legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada_Legislature)

* + [**Upper house**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house)[Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada_Senate)
  + [**Lower house**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house)[Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada_Assembly)

[Catherine Cortez Masto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Cortez_Masto)

### [U.S. senators](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_senators_from_Nevada)

[**U.S. House delegation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives)

**Area**

(D)

[Jacky Rosen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacky_Rosen) (D) [1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada%27s_1st_congressional_district): [Dina Titus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dina_Titus) (D)

[2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada%27s_2nd_congressional_district): [Mark Amodei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Amodei) ([R](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)))

[3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada%27s_3rd_congressional_district): [Susie Lee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susie_Lee) (D)

[4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada%27s_4th_congressional_district): [Steven Horsford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Horsford) (D) ([list](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_congressional_delegations_from_Nevada))

* + **Total** [110,577](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) sq mi (286,382 km2)
  + **Land** 109,781.18 sq mi (284,332 km2)
  + **Water** 791 sq mi (2,048 km2) 0.72%

**Area rank** [7th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area)

### Dimensions

* **Length** 492 mi (787 km)
* **Width** 322 mi (519 km)

**Elevation** 5,500 ft (1,680 m)

[**Highest elevation** (Boundary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boundary_Peak_(Nevada)) 13,147 ft (4,007.1 m) [Peak[1][2][3][a])](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boundary_Peak_(Nevada))

[**Lowest elevation** (Colorado](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_River)

[River at California border[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_River) [3])

481 ft (147 m)

### Population

* **Total** 3,080,156 (2,019)
* **Rank** [32nd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_territories_of_the_United_States_by_population)
  + **Density** 26.8/sq mi (10.3/km2)
* **Density rank** [42nd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_and_territories_of_the_United_States_by_population_density)
* [**Median household income**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Household_income_in_the_United_States#Income_by_state) $58,003 [4]
  + **Income rank** 27th

[**Demonym(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym)Nevadan

### Language

* [**Official language**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_the_United_States)None

[**Time zones**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_zone)

**most of state** UTC−08:00 ([Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Time_Zone))

* + **Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** UTC−07:00 ([PDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Daylight_Time))

[**West Wendover**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Wendover%2C_Nevada)UTC−07:00 ([Mountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Time_Zone_(North_America)))

* + **Summer (**[**DST**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time)**)** UTC−06:00 ([MDT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Daylight_Time))

### [USPS abbreviation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_abbreviations#Postal_codes) NV

[**ISO 3166 code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166)US-NV

### [Trad. abbreviation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_abbreviations#Current_use_of_traditional_abbreviations) Nev.

**Latitude** 35° N to 42° N

**Longitude** 114°2′ W to 120° W

**Website** [www.nv.gov](http://www.nv.gov/)

### [Nevada state symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nevada_state_symbols)

The [Flag of Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Nevada)

The [Seal of Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_of_Nevada)

### Living insignia

[**Bird**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_birds)[Mountain bluebird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_bluebird) (*Sialia currucoides*)

[**Fish**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_fish)[Lahontan cutthroat trout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahontan_cutthroat_trout) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*)

[**Flower**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_flowers)[Sagebrush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagebrush) (*Artemisia tridentata*)

[**Mammal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_mammals) [Desert bighorn sheep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_bighorn_sheep)

[**Reptile**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state_reptiles)[Desert tortoise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_tortoise) (*Gopherus agassizii*)

[**Tree**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_trees)[Bristlecone pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristlecone_pine) (*Pinus monophylla*)

### Inanimate insignia

[**Mineral**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals%2C_rocks%2C_stones_and_gemstones)[Silver](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver)

[**Rock**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals%2C_rocks%2C_stones_and_gemstones)[Sandstone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandstone)

**Other** Element: [Neon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neon)

### [State route marker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbered_highways_in_the_United_States#State_highways)

[**State quarter**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50_State_Quarters)

Released in 2006

[Lists of United States state symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_United_States_state_symbols)

**Nevada** (/nɪˈvædə/ or /nɪˈvɑːdə/) is a [state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) in the [Western United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_United_States).[5] It is bordered by [Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) to the northwest, [Idaho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho) to the northeast, [California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California) to the west, [Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona) to the southeast, and [Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah) to the east. Nevada is the [7th most extensive](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area), the [32nd most populous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population), but the [9th least densely populated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population_density) of the

[U.S. states. Nearly three-quarters of Nevada's people live in Clark County, which contains the Las Vegas– Paradise metropolitan area,[6] including three of the state's four largest incorporated cities.[7] Nevada's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas%E2%80%93Paradise%2C_NV_MSA) capital is [Carson City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carson_City%2C_Nevada).

Nevada is officially known as the "Silver State" because of the importance of silver to its history and economy. It is also known as the "Battle Born State" because it achieved statehood during the [Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War) [(the words "Battle Born" also appear on the state flag); as the "Sagebrush State", for the native plant of the same name; and as the "](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagebrush)[Sage-hen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sage_grouse) [State".[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagebrush)

Nevada is largely [desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert) and semi-arid, much of it within the [Great Basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Basin). Areas south of the Great Basin are within the [Mojave Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojave_Desert), while [Lake Tahoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Tahoe) and the [Sierra Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Nevada_(U.S.)) lie on the western edge. About 86% of the state's land is managed by various jurisdictions of the [U.S. federal government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States), both civilian and military.[9]

Before European contact — and still today, [American Indians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) of the [Paiute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paiute), [Shoshone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone), and [Washoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washoe_people) tribes inhabited the land that is now Nevada. The first Europeans to explore the region were Spanish. They called the region *Nevada* (snowy) because of the snow which covered the mountains in winter. The area formed part of the [Viceroyalty of New Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viceroyalty_of_New_Spain), and became part of Mexico when it gained independence in 1821. The United States annexed the area in 1848 after its victory in the [Mexican–American War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican%E2%80%93American_War), and it was incorporated as part of [Utah Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utah_Territory) in 1850. The discovery of silver at the [Comstock Lode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comstock_Lode) in 1859 led to a population boom that became an impetus to the creation of [Nevada Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada_Territory) out of western Utah Territory in 1861. Nevada became the 36th state on October 31, 1864, as the second of two states added to the Union during the Civil War (the first being [West Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Virginia)).[10]

Nevada has a reputation for its libertarian laws. In 1940, with a [population](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_historical_population) of just over 110,000 people, Nevada was by far the least-populated state, with less than half the population of the next least-populated state.[11] However, legalized [gambling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gambling) and [lenient marriage and divorce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_law) laws transformed Nevada into a major tourist destination in the 20th century.[12][13] Nevada is the only U.S. state where [prostitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution_in_Nevada) is legal, though it is illegal in Clark County (Las Vegas), [Washoe County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washoe_County%2C_Nevada) (Reno) and Carson City (which, as an independent city, is not within the boundaries of any county). The tourism industry remains Nevada's largest employer,[14] with mining continuing as a substantial sector of the economy: Nevada is the fourth- largest producer of gold in the world. [15]

Mountains west of Las [Vegas in the Mojave Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojave_Desert)

A valley near [Pyramid Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid_Lake_(Nevada))

# Contents

1 Etymology and pronunciation 2 Geography

* 1. Climate
  2. Flora and fauna 3 Counties

1. History
   1. Before 1861
   2. Separation from Utah Territory 4.3 Statehood (1864)

4.3.1 Gambling and labor 4.3.2 Nuclear testing

1. Demographics
   1. Population
   2. Settlements
   3. Locations by GDP per capita 5.4 Religion
2. Economy
   1. Mining
   2. Cattle ranching
   3. Largest employers 7 Infrastructure
   4. Transportation
   5. Energy
3. Law and government 8.1 Government

8.1.1 State agencies

* 1. Law
     1. Prostitution
     2. Divorce
     3. Taxes
     4. Gay rights
     5. Incorporation
     6. Financial institutions 8.2.7 Alcohol and other drugs 8.2.8 Smoking

8.2.9 Crime

1. Politics
   1. State politics
   2. National politics
   3. Elections
2. Education
   1. Public school districts
   2. Colleges and universities 10.3 Research institutes
3. Parks and recreation areas
   1. Recreation areas maintained by the federal government 11.1.1 Northern Nevada

11.1.2 Southern Nevada

* 1. Wilderness
  2. State parks

1. Culture
   1. Entertainment and tourism 12.2 Sports

12.2.1 List of teams

12.2.1.1 Major professional teams 12.2.1.2 Minor professional teams 12.2.1.3 Amateur teams

12.2.1.4 College teams

1. Military
2. Future issues
3. State symbols
4. See also
5. Notes
6. References
7. External links

# Etymology and pronunciation

The name "Nevada" comes from the Spanish *nevada* [neˈβaða], meaning "snow-covered".[16]

Most Nevadans pronounce the second syllable with the "a" as in "trap" (/nɪˈvædə/) while elsewhere it is pronounced with the "a" as in "palm" (/nɪˈvɑːdə/).[17] Although the latter pronunciation is closer to the [Spanish pronunciation, it is not the pronunciation preferred by most Nevadans. State Assemblyman Harry Mortenson proposed a bill to recognize the alternate (quasi-Spanish) pronunciation of Nevada,[18] though](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Mortenson) the bill was not supported by most legislators and never received a vote. The Nevadan pronunciation is the one used by the state legislature. At one time, the state's official tourism organization, TravelNevada, stylized the name of the state as "Nevăda", with a [breve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breve) over the *a* indicating the locally preferred pronunciation[19] which was also available as a license plate design until 2007.[20]

# Geography

A topographic map of Nevada

Nevada is almost entirely within the [Basin and Range Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basin_and_Range_Province) and is broken up by many north-south mountain ranges. Most of these ranges have [endorheic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endorheic_basin) valleys between them, which belies the image portrayed by the term [Great Basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Basin).

Much of the northern part of the state is within the Great Basin, a mild desert that experiences hot [temperatures in the summer and cold temperatures in the winter. Occasionally, moisture from the Arizona Monsoon will cause summer thunderstorms; Pacific storms may blanket the area with snow. The state's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona_Monsoon) highest recorded temperature was 125 °F (52 °C) in [Laughlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laughlin%2C_Nevada) (elevation of 605 feet or 184 meters) on June 29, 1994.[21] The coldest recorded temperature was −52 [°F](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fahrenheit) (−47 [°C](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celsius)) set in San Jacinto in 1972, in the northeastern portion of the state.[21]

The [Humboldt River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt_River) crosses the state from east to west across the northern part of the state, draining into the [Humboldt Sink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt_Sink) near [Lovelock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lovelock%2C_Nevada). Several rivers drain from the Sierra Nevada eastward, including the [Walker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walker_River_(Nevada)), [Truckee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truckee_River), and [Carson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carson_River) rivers. All of these rivers are [endorheic basins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Endorheic_basin), ending in [Walker Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walker_Lake_(Nevada)), [Pyramid Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid_Lake_(Nevada)), and the [Carson Sink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carson_Sink), respectively. However, not all of Nevada is within the Great Basin. Tributaries of the [Snake River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River) drain the far north, while the [Colorado River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_River), which also forms much of the boundary with [Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arizona), drains much of southern Nevada.

The mountain ranges, some of which have peaks above 13,000 feet (4,000 m), harbor lush forests high above desert plains, creating [sky islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sky_island) for endemic species. The valleys are often no lower in elevation than 3,000 feet (910 m), while some in central Nevada are above 6,000 feet (1,800 m).

The southern third of the state, where the Las Vegas area is situated, is within the [Mojave Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojave_Desert). The area receives less rain in the winter but is closer to the Arizona Monsoon in the summer. The terrain is also lower, mostly below 4,000 feet (1,200 m), creating conditions for hot summer days and cool to chilly winter nights.

Nevada and California have by far the longest diagonal [line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Line_(geometry)) (in respect to the cardinal directions) as a state [boundary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border) at just over 400 miles (640 km). This line begins in [Lake Tahoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Tahoe) nearly 4 miles (6.4 km) offshore (in the direction of the boundary), and continues to the [Colorado River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_River) where the Nevada, California, and Arizona boundaries merge 12 miles (19 km) southwest of the Laughlin Bridge.

The largest mountain range in the southern portion of the state is the [Spring Mountain Range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Mountains), just west of Las Vegas. The state's lowest point is along the Colorado River, south of Laughlin.

Nevada has 172 mountain summits with 2,000 feet (610 m) of prominence. Nevada ranks second in the United States by the number of mountains, behind Alaska, and ahead of California, Montana, and Washington. Nevada is the most mountainous state in the contiguous United States.

## Climate

[Köppen climate types](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K%C3%B6ppen_climate_classification) in Nevada

Nevada is the driest state in the United States.[22] It is made up of mostly desert and semi-arid climate regions, and, with the exception of the [Las Vegas Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas_Valley_(landform)), the average summer [diurnal temperature range](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diurnal_temperature_range) approaches 40 °F (22 °C) in much of the state. While winters in northern Nevada are long and fairly cold, the winter season in the southern part of the state tends to be of short duration and mild. Most parts of Nevada receive scarce precipitation during the year. The most rain that falls in the state falls on the lee side (east and northeast slopes) of the Sierra Nevada.

The average annual rainfall per year is about 7 inches (180 mm); the wettest parts get around 40 inches (1,000 mm). Nevada's highest recorded temperature is 125 °F (52 °C) at [Laughlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laughlin%2C_Nevada) on June 29, 1994 and the lowest recorded temperature is −50 °F (−46 °C) at [San Jacinto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Jacinto%2C_Nevada) on January 8, 1937. Nevada's 125 °F (52 °C) reading is the third highest statewide record high temperature of a U.S. state, just behind Arizona's 128 °F (53 °C) reading and California's 134 °F (57 °C) reading.

Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected cities in Nevada[23]

### Location July (°F) July (°C) December (°F) December (°C) Max Min Max Min Max Min Max Min

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Las Vegas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas%2C_Nevada) | 106 | 81 | 41 | 27 | 56 | 38 | 13 | 3 |
| [Reno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reno%2C_Nevada) | 92 | 57 | 33 | 14 | 45 | 25 | 7 | –4 |
| [Carson City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carson_City%2C_Nevada) | 89 | 52 | 32 | 11 | 45 | 22 | 7 | –5 |
| [Elko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elko%2C_Nevada) | 90 | 50 | 32 | 10 | 37 | 14 | 2 | –9 |
| [Fallon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallon%2C_Nevada) | 92 | 54 | 33 | 12 | 45 | 19 | 7 | –7 |
| [Winnemucca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnemucca%2C_Nevada) | 93 | 52 | 34 | 11 | 41 | 17 | 5 | –8 |

[Laughlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laughlin%2C_Nevada) 112 80 44 27 65 43 18 6

## Flora and fauna

The vegetation of Nevada is diverse and differs by state area. Nevada contains six [biotic zones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biotic_zone): [alpine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alpine_vegetation), [sub-alpine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sub-alpine), [ponderosa pine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponderosa_pine), [pinion-juniper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyon-juniper_woodland), [sagebrush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sagebrush) and [creosotebush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creosotebush).[24]

# Counties

Further information: [List of counties in Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Nevada)