Lincoln County
Driving Tours and Walking Tours of Alamo, Caliente, Panaca and Pioche

Early History

Eastern Nevada was home to Native Americans for thousands of years before European exploration. The early Basketmakers and later Fremont people lived in the lush valleys, where they grew crops of corn, beans and squash, and lived in permanent "pueblos." The more nomadic Southern Paiute appeared in the area around 900 A.D., building no permanent dwellings, but moved with the seasons to hunt and gather nuts, berries, seeds and roots. The Fremont people disappeared by 1200 A.D., reducing the competition with the Paiutes for the same game species which at one time included bison.

In 1863, Missionary William Hamblin was scouting new areas for settlement, and while he was in Meadow Valley, a Paiute Indian showed him some rocks which he called “panagari” or “panacker”. In March of 1864, Hamblin brought some men with him and established claims on the “panacker ledge,” which was located eight or ten miles north of the valley itself. A specimen of the silver ore was sent to Salt Lake City, and the area was deemed worthy of more exploration. J.N. Vandermark and Stephen Sherwood undertook the first expedition, and along with Hamblin they organized the Meadow Valley Mining District in April, 1864. In May, 1864, Francis Lee and six other families moved from Santa Clara, Utah, to Meadow Valley, where they established an agricultural settlement that they called Panaca. Approximately 60 miles west of Meadow Valley, the Pahranagat mining District was formed in 1865, and William H. Raymond moved a mill from Los Angeles to process the ores.

In 1869, Francois Pioche, a San Francisco businessman, bought out some of the claims of the Meadow Valley Mining Company. A town sprang up around the claims on the “panacker ledge,” which became known as Pioche’s City, or Pioche. More prospectors drifted into the area and staked claims, sometimes overlapped prior ones. Mine owners resorted to hiring guards and gunfighters to protect their mining claims. Guns were the only law, and Pioche made Bodie, Tombstone, and other better known towns pale in comparison with its violence. It has been claimed that seventy-five men died “with boots on” before anyone in Pioche died of natural causes.

When first settled in 1864, the area was still a part of Utah Territory. Nevada officially became a state in October, 1864. Upon a request by the Nevada State Legislature in 1866, the boundary was revised, and Congress allowed an additional degree of longitude to be added to the eastern border of Nevada. This became Lincoln County, and its boundaries changed three more times over the course of the next 43 years. In 1871 the County Seat was moved to Pioche, where it remains today.

The population has varied over the past century, with the surges and downturns in mining, railroad activity, and tourism. Today, the County population is under 4,000 people, with primary occupations in agriculture and cattle ranching, railroad, small-scale mining, and government services. We welcome you to come and experience the small-town atmosphere and enjoy the many scenic and historic attractions of the area.
Driving Tours

1. **Lower and Upper Pahranagat Lakes**
   
   Approximately 7 miles south of Alamo, turn west at the identification signs.
   
   South of the town of Alamo, run-off water from Ash Springs flows into an idyllic, pastoral, fifty-acre lake. This lake is called Upper Pahranagat Lake and is just over two miles long and a half mile wide. It is encircled with trees, brush and grasses, and the surrounding land is designated as a National Wildlife Preserve. The area has become a permanent home for birds such as duck, geese, quail, blue cranes, swans, pelicans and many varieties of smaller birds.

   The overflow from the Upper Pahranagat Lake is carried downstream about four miles to Lower Pahranagat Lake. This lake is slightly less than a mile and a half long and about a half mile wide.

   During the summer months, water is used for irrigation and reduces the level of both lakes. However, fishing in early spring and summer is excellent.

2. **Alamo - A Historic Pahranagat Valley Town**
   
   Continue north about 7 miles from Upper Pahranagat Lake or south 9 miles from Ash Springs on U.S. 93 to the historic town of Alamo. See the Alamo Walking Tour in this brochure for individual attractions.

   Alamo, the principal town of Pahranagat Valley, was formed around 1900 by Fred Allen, Mike Botts, Bert Riggs and William T. Stewart. It was settled largely by individuals and families from Fredonia, Arizona. The town is located on U.S. 93, about 93 miles north of Las Vegas. The post office was established on May 12, 1905. It is thought that the name of the town was derived from the Spanish term “alamo” meaning “poplar”, and denotes the presence of the poplar or cottonwood trees in the area.

3. **Ash Springs**
   
   Drive north on U.S. 93 from Alamo or south on U.S. 93 from the junction of S.R. 375/318 and U.S. 93 to Ash Springs.

   There are an abundance of springs in the Pahranagat Valley. The waters at Ash Springs are very warm, indicating an underground lime formation. Stream channels have been built to carry this water to the numerous ranches in the valley below. A cool, natural swimming pool is available for local residents and visitors.

4. **Delamar**
   
   Pull off of U.S. 93 approximately 16 miles west of Caliente and drive about 15 miles south on a gravel/rock road to the present day ghost town site of Delamar. Road not recommended for passenger cars.

   Shortly after farmers from the Pahranagat Valley discovered gold in 1890, the Ferguson Mining District was formed. Reports reached Pioche of assays ranging from $75 to $1000 value for a ton of ore, resulting in a rush of miners to the Ferguson District. Golden City and the town of Helene were the first small temporary encampments.

   The camp of Delamar grew rapidly after Captain John Delamar of Montana purchased the principal claims in 1893 for $150,000. The first post office was opened in June, 1894, and by the end of 1895 the camp had become a town containing many businesses and dwellings, built with the surrounding native stone. By 1897, Delamar’s 3,000 residents supported numerous stores, saloons, theater and a variety of professional businesses. However, because of what was called “Delamar Dust,” the silica dust inhaled by the miners, Delamar acquired the reputation of “The Maker of Widows.”

   Two years after a fire destroyed half of the town in 1900, Captain Delamar sold his mines which had produced an estimated $8.5 million in gold. The new owners, controlled by Simon Bamberger, continued to out-produce all other mines in the state until about 1909, at which time the operation was closed and only reopened briefly from 1929 to 1934. Partially standing rock buildings, mill ruins, a cemetery and ghosts from the past remain. Visitors should be warned that the Delamar town site, like many other old mining camps, is on private ground near dangerous mine workings and access is limited due to current mining activities.

5. **Caliente - Historic Railroad Town**
   
   Continue east approximately 16 miles on U.S. 93 from the Delamar turnoff, or southeast 15 miles from Panaca on U.S. 93 to the historic railroad town of Caliente. See the Caliente walking tour information in this brochure for individual attractions.

   The meadow area around the junction of Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek was originally settled in the early 1860’s by Ike and Dow Barton, two Negro slaves who had escaped from Arkansas. In the early 1870’s the area was known as Dutch Flat, with Jackman Ranch being established. In 1874, ranchers Charles and William Culverwell purchased the Jackman Ranch and renamed it Culverwell Ranch. It was later referred to as “Culverwell.” Along with ranching, the family earned a living by providing hay for the mining camps in Pioche and Delamar.

   A dispute between two major railroad companies began when E.H. Harriman of the Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific, pushed track from Utah to the site of Culverwell. Even as Harriman’s crews worked on the line, the newly formed San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad owned by Senator William Clark, claimed the same territory. These rival groups had sought the right-of-way in a canyon only big enough only for
a single set of tracks. The Union Pacific had grade stakes set all the way into Culverwell and on toward Pioche, but their rival group gobbled up enough of the narrow canyon to set a road block in the path of Union Pacific.

In 1901 William Culverwell ended the Harriman-Clark battle with his shotgun. As owner of the land, Culverwell allowed one railroad grade to be built through his property. The two factions eventually reconciled, Union Pacific assumed control of the project. Culverwell became “Calientes” (the Spanish word for hot) after the hot springs found in a cave at the base of the surrounding mountains. The town was surveyed, and on August 3, 1901, a post office opened and postal officials renamed the town Caliente, dropping the “s”. The railroad line was completed in 1905, and by 1910, Caliente was the largest town in Lincoln County with 1,755 residents.

A two-story wooden structure served as a train depot until burning down in one of Caliente’s disastrous fires. In 1923, the impressive Caliente Train Depot was built, a classic Mission-style building constructed of tan stucco. This two-story building included the railroad station, private offices and a community center on the first floor, while the second level featured a hotel.

Within a few years, Caliente grew to more than 5,000 residents. For more than 40 years, Caliente was one of the major division points on the railroad line. When steam engines were replaced by diesel locomotives in the 1940’s, the division point moved to Las Vegas. Without the depot as a main railroad stop, the town’s growth dwindled but not its spirit.

A town steeped in history, Caliente has many stories to tell and was one of the favorite writing spots for western novelist Zane Grey.

6. Kershaw Ryan State Park
Turn south at the Kershaw Ryan State Park sign near Caliente’s western city limits and travel about three miles south on S.R. 317 until you reach the park.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park is situated in a colorful narrow canyon at the northern end of Rainbow Canyon. Wild grape vines climb up the sheer rock cliffs, and Gambel oaks, cottonwoods and elms provide a shady retreat.

The Samuel Kershaw family homesteaded the canyon in the 1870’s and sold to James Ryan in the early 1900’s. Ryan donated the “Kershaw Garden” as a public park in 1934, and the Civilian Conservation Corps developed a picnic site and a small wading pool that year. Floods in 1984 destroyed much of their work, and the park was closed for more than a decade. Facilities rebuilt in the mid-1990’s include two picnic areas, a restroom and trails.

The day-use picnic area has large shade ramadas and picnic tables.

7. Meadow Valley Historic Site
Bamberger and Delamar Power Plant and Pump Station
This site is located approximately 10 miles south of Caliente on S.R. 317 on the west side of the road. The Bamberger and Delamar Power Plant and Pump Station provided water to the historic mining town of Delamar. On the east side of the road is the remains of one of the more profitable 1920’s bootlegging operations. It is believed that approximately $15,000 (1920’s value) of gold and silver was buried in this general area and was never found.

Robber’s Roost and Grapevine Canyon
Robber’s Roost is the location of some of the most fascinating stories of outlaw bands and their hideouts. Unfortunately it is not marked, but is located approximately 12 to 13 miles south of Caliente on S.R. 317 and several miles north of Elgin. Notables such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid used this area for escape purposes. Routes out of the canyon can be traversed by horse or by foot.

Indian Caves and Petroglyphs
These Indian caves and petroglyphs are not on the main roads and require a guide from the Visitors Center. They are excellent examples of historic Indian art and graphic communication.

8. Beaver Dam State Park
Beaver Dam State Park is located approximately 38 miles from Caliente. Travel six miles north on U.S. 93 to the Beaver Dam State Park sign, turn east and travel 19 miles on an improved gravel road and then 13 miles on a dirt road.

The park allows for 38 camping units, has year round flowing streams with good drinking water and claims excellent in-season hunting and fishing areas. It is open from April 15 to October 15. In addition to the scenic pinion-juniper country area and recreational amenities, within a few miles of the dam area is the historic town of Barclay. The town features ranch houses built in the 1870’s through 1900’s along with an old school house. Directions are posted on signs along the main roads.

9. Panaca - Oldest Surviving Town in Eastern Nevada
The community of Panaca is located midway between Pioche and Caliente about fifteen miles north of Caliente on S.R. 319. It is situated in the Meadow Valley Wash.

A quaint Mormon farming community dating back to the 1860’s, Panaca is the oldest surviving town in eastern Nevada. Rich in tradition and agricultural beauty, many of today’s townspeople are direct descendants of the original settlers. Visitors interested in 19th century architecture can enjoy a variety of beautifully designed buildings.

Panaca is a favorite stop for people traveling to Cathedral Gorge State Park which offers year-round camping and exploration. Many nearby ghost towns can also be explored. The Lincoln County Airport is situated about two miles west of Panaca and can accommodate small aircraft.

10. Cathedral Gorge State Park
Cathedral Gorge State Park is located approximately one mile northwest of Panaca on U.S. 93. Turn west at the state park sign.

This is an area of majestic eroded cliffs with spectacular spires, towers and columns. It is defined by a long narrow valley cut into tan bentonite clay formations. Erosion has created unique patterns on the Gorge walls. During the 1920’s, Shakespearian Passion Plays were held at
11. Bullionville - Historic Mining Camp

Continue north from Panaca about one mile and from Cathedral Gorge about a quarter mile north on U.S. 93. The site is about another quarter mile east of U.S. 93 via a graded road. It is about ten miles south of Pioche on U.S. 93. A historic marker on U.S. 93 identifies the site.

Originally a camp named Ely City, this site was renamed Bullionville and was established shortly after the relocation of the Fivestamp Raymond and Ely Mill in February of 1870. Because of the abundant water supply (which was not the case in Pioche), most of the mills serving Pioche were built here over the next two years.

In 1972, construction began on the twenty-one mile long narrow gauge system “Pioche & Bullionville Railroad.” By 1873, this railroad began transporting ore from the mines to the mills. While the town of Panaca is the oldest surviving town of Eastern Nevada, this rail line claims to be the second oldest “internal” rail system built in Nevada.

Today, little is left of the town of Bullionville except wind and wandering ghosts of the past. Five mills and a substantial number of homes and businesses were built here during the peak period of 1872 to 1875. The last remaining mill stopped running in 1880 along with the railroad. Brief revivals occurred up until about World War I.

12. Highland /Caselton - A Historic Mining Camp

Located southwest of U.S. 93, about 3.5 miles north of Pioche. Take the Caselton Road west from U.S. 93.

In 1868, silver was discovered on the eastern side of Highland Range, west of Pioche. A boarding house, brewery, saloon and various other dwellings were built the following year. Wagons transported ore to the smelter at Bristol, twenty miles to the north. About twenty-five tons of ore were taken out each day for months at a time until the camp died in the 1870’s. Broken brick, stone and twisted steel identify the site today. The town of Caselton, established in the 1920’s by Combined Metals Reduction Company on the south slope of Ely Mountain, is within a few miles from the original Highland mining camp. Caselton was named for J.A. Caselton, an official of the National Lead Company. The town and its flotation mill were built by Combined Metals in 1941 and the lime kiln operation was added in the mid-1950’s.

13. Pioche - Historic Mining Center

Pioche is located approximately 11 miles north of Panaca and about 110 miles south of Ely on U.S. 93. Motel, hotels and R.V. spaces provide adequate sleeping accommodations with a complete business community of service stations, restaurants and shops. See the Pioche walking tour in this brochure for individual attractions.

In 1864, William Hamblin, a Latter Day Saint missionary, was led to silver deposits in the vicinity of Pioche by a Native American Paiute. In 1868, San Francisco financier Francois L.A. Pioche purchased claims and constructed a smelter in the area, forming the Meadow Valley Mining Company. The mining camp was called “Pioche’s City” and later became known as Pioche.

The town rapidly became the largest mining town in southeastern Nevada in the early 1870’s. Population estimates showed 10,000 people by 1871. The town quickly gained fame for its “toughest town” reputation. Due mostly to confusion over the exact location of mining claims, mine owners finally resorted to hiring guards. Hired gunmen were imported at the rate of about twenty a day during boom times to fight mining claim encroachments. Mine owners often paid the gunmen a salary of $20 per day – a more certain investment for owners than settling disputes in court where bribery often determined the final outcome. The sheriff’s office was reputed to be worth $40,000 a year in bribes alone.

Various locations within Cathedral Park. In Nevada’s Centennial year of 1964, a history play about the settling of Panaca by early pioneers was presented here. Scenic overlooks, shaded picnic areas and a tree canopied campground for 22 units are provided for visitors. The park includes a sewage dump, good drinking water, restrooms, showers and is open year round.
Guns were the only law, and Pioche made Bodie, Tombstone, and other better known towns pale in comparison. It has been reported that seventy-five men were buried in the cemetery before anyone in Pioche had time to die a natural death. According to one reputable source, nearly 60 percent of the homicides reported in Nevada during 1871-72 took place in and around Pioche.

A favorite example of the town's bloody character recalls the arrival of young Illinois lawyer and his bride in 1871. Stepping off the afternoon stagecoach, a flurry of shooting broke out and before the couple could sprint into the hotel, three men were sprawled dead, still twitching in the dirt street. The bride didn’t even bother to unpack, and within minutes of her arrival hopped back aboard the stagecoach and headed home to her mother.

Not even the building of the county courthouse was exempt from corruption. Pioche was designated the county seat in 1871 and courthouse plans were initiated. The county contracted to build the courthouse at a cost of $26,400. In order to raise the needed money, $25,000 worth of bonds were sold at a discounted rate of $20,000. By the time it was completed a year later, costs had escalated to more than $88,000 because of alterations, cost overruns, mismanagement and kickbacks. To finance payment the courthouse, the Board of Commissioners issued certificates of indebtedness at a high rate of interest, and by the 1880's the debt had risen to $181,000. By the end of the century it exceeded more than $670,000. The final payment was made in 1937; four years after the building had been condemned. The total cost of the Lincoln County Courthouse was nearly $1,000,000.

One of the worst fires in the West took place in Pioche in 1871. It began in a restaurant during a celebration commemorating Mexican independence and quickly spread. When it reached the Felsenthal Store, a stone fireproof structure where 300 barrels of blasting powder were stored, the subsequent explosion shot nearly 400 feet into the air, blowing a 1,000-pound door clear out of town and showering the town with flaming debris. The explosion of debris killed thirteen and injured forty-seven, and the accompanying fire left virtually the entire population homeless.

The fortunes of Pioche diminished in the 1880's due to the shutdown of the principle mines in 1876. During World War II, an economic boom occurred when Pioche was the second largest lead and zinc producer in the nation. Present day Pioche has little mining activity, and in being the county seat, the main focus is now government.

14. Echo Canyon State Park
Take S.R. 322 traveling east from Pioche about four miles, then south about eight miles on S.R. 323 to the Echo Canyon State Park – all on paved road.

Echo Canyon State Park is one of five state parks located in Lincoln County and is a popular area for camping, fishing, hiking and enjoying the beautiful scenery of eastern Nevada. It is located twelve miles east of Pioche, via S.R. 322 and S.R. 323, and is only about twelve miles from the Nevada-Utah border. The park ranges from an elevation of 5,200’ to 5,600’.

The park has facilities including 41 camping sites, boat launching, fishing, fish cleaning station, hiking and hunting. It is open all year and provides a sewage dump.

15. Ursine - Historic Mormon Town
Continue north on S.R. 322 about thirteen miles from the Echo Canyon turnoff, or it is about 17 miles northeast of Pioche via the Eagle Valley Road (S.R. 322) to the town of Ursine, also commonly known as Eagle Valley.

Ursine is a historic farming community located in Eagle Valley, sixteen miles northwest of Pioche. It was originally settled by a small colony of Mormons in 1863. This “one street community” at the head of Eagle Valley Canyon, was developed as a farming and stock-raising area. It has a recreation hall, which also served as a school and church building, and many homes that have been occupied since the late 1800’s. The Ursine post office was in operation from about 1895 to 1980.

16. Spring Valley State Park
Travel 20 miles east of Pioche (about three miles northeast of Ursine) and to Spring Valley State Park.

Spring Valley State Park is open year-round and provides excellent water recreation at the sixty-five acre Eagle Valley Reservoir. Visitors can enjoy boating, fishing, water skiing, hiking, picnicking and exploring the historic pioneer ranch house buildings and surrounding range land. Boat launches, 43 camp sites, rest rooms, sewage dump and good drinking water are available.

17. Bristol - Historic Mining Camp Town
Travel about 16 miles north of Pioche on U.S. 93, then west on a graded road for about 10 miles.

As early as 1870, Mormon settlers discovered silver on the western flank of the Bristol Range. This gave rise to a camp called National City, established in April of 1871.
The mining camp was renamed Bristol City in 1878 with the establishment of the Bristol post office. By 1882, the town of Bristol had five stores, eight saloons, two hotels with restaurants attached, numerous other shops and businesses and "more prospective millionaires than any other camp of comparable size." While the Bristol Mine still has potential ore, the site has been a ghost town for many decades.

18. Bristol Coal Kilns
Travel about 16 miles north of Pioche on U.S. 93, then west on a graded road for about 6 miles. The Bristol Coal Kilns were built in the 1870's out of native stone for the purpose of making charcoal from juniper wood. The charcoal was used for smelting ore and operating blacksmith shops. The kilns operated for many years and are unique in design, craftsmanship and large size.

Although more than a hundred years have passed, many wood cutting sites can still be found in the juniper forests near the kilns. Huge tree stumps are reminders of the vast amount of labor and resources used to produce the charcoal.

Evidence of the milling operation at Bristol Wells is visible in the smelter tailings, even though all of the buildings are now gone, leaving only picturesque ruins and a stone house.

19. Great Basin National Park
Travel north of Pioche on U.S. 93 and then east about 31 miles on U.S. 50. At this point, travel south about six miles on S.R. 487 to Baker and then west about six miles on S.R. 488 to the Lehman Creek main campground. Traveling from Ely, The Great Basin National Park is about 67 miles east near the town of Baker, Nevada.

Great Basin National Park was first known as Lehman Caves National Monument and the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area. It was designated as Nevada's first national park in 1987. Lehman Caves are located on the east side of the Snake Range of Mountains near Wheeler Peak, and are open all year for guided tours of its majestic underground formations.

The campgrounds are open during the summer months. Picnicking, backpacking, hiking and fishing are permitted in designated seasons. The road to Wheeler Peak Campground is paved, and the campground has drinking water and thirty-seven camp sites which allow for a fourteen-day stay. Recent remodeling and improvements have been made at this beautiful National Park.

20. Ward Charcoal Ovens
Take U.S. 50 (and 93) from Ely about five miles south to the identified turn-off and then travel south about ten miles via dirt road. From Pioche, take U.S. 93 north and travel west to the Ward Charcoal Ovens historic marker (about 100 miles earth of Pioche on 93). From this point, travel west about seven miles on the dirt road.

When the mining camp of Ward was booming in 1876, six tall charcoal kilns were built of native stone three miles south of town. Today, at Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site, visitors can see the kilns that provided charcoal for the smelter at the camp. The ovens are big: 30 feet tall and 27 feet in diameter at the floor, with walls two feet thick at their base. Each oven was capable of holding about thirty-five cords of wood.

21. Cave Lake State Park
From Ely, travel on Highways 93/50/6 about six miles south, then turn east, traveling about eight miles east via the Success Summit Road to the Cave Lake State Park.

At this 32-acre reservoir, visitors can fish for rainbow and brown trout or enjoy canoeing and swimming. Boaters are welcome but boats must not exceed 5 mph or create a wake. Hikers can explore the scenic meadows and mountains nearby. The area is home to migratory mule deer and elk as well as coyotes, cougars and foxes. Sheep herders make summer camp in the area. Deer hunters use the park's campsites as base camps in the fall, but no hunting is permitted within park boundaries.

Visitors can expect weather consistent with the park's high elevation, namely harsh winters and mild summers. Travelers are advised to check road conditions before entering the park in winter months. When weather and road conditions permit, ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice-skating are popular winter activities.

22. Ely - Historic 1870's Mining Town
The town of Ely is located in southwest, central White Pine County, at the junction of U.S. 50, U.S. 6, and U.S. 93. It is approximately 110 miles north of Pioche.

Mining activities, rail line and tourism have contributed to present day Ely's population and size. Additional attractions, such as the historic towns of McGill, Ruth, and Garnet Hill, can be visited by today's Nevada Northern Railroad which is operated as a tourist shuttle/attraction during the warm weather months. We recommend a visit to the White Pine Chamber of Commerce office for more information, telephone (702) 289-8877.

23. Whipple Cave
This cave is located on S.R. 318 about 29 miles south of L and about 63 miles north of Hiko and east of S.R. 318 about seven miles.

The major attraction of Whipple Cave is a room one hundred feet in width and height, and about five-hundred feet long. Within this underground cave room is a stalagmite called the “Great Column” which extends from the floor to the over-arching roof. John L. Whipple is the discoverer and developer of this natural phenomenon.
24. Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area

This site is located on S.R. 318 about 38 miles south of Lund and about 54 miles north of Hiko and several miles west of S.R. 318 at the location of the road marker identifying this area.

The Kirch Wildlife Management Area includes Adams McGill Reservoir (260 acres), Dacey Reservoir (100 acres), Hay Meadows Reservoir (about 280 acres), Cold Springs (360 acres), and Tule Reservoirs (300 acres). These are all part of the White River drainage basin. This recreation area has excellent bass and trout fishing as well as hunting, boating and bird watching.

25. Hiko - Historic County Seat and Mining Town

Hiko is located on S.R. 318 about five miles north of S.R. 375 and about 17 miles north of the town of Alamo.

The town of Hiko, first established in the late 1860’s, is located in the north end of the Pahranagat Valley. In March of 1865, Indians of the Pahranagat Valley revealed the location of silver to several white settlers. By October of that same year, a camp was established at Hiko. The name is said to have been a Shoshone Indian word meaning “white man” or “white man’s town.”

A “rush” occurred in early 1866 producing a population of a few hundred residents. During this time, William Raymond purchased many “squatter’s claims” and laid out a town site after obtaining the necessary capital in the East. The new facility, including a five-stamp mill, started up in November, 1866. However, because of the absence of skilled workers, this effort soon failed and by 1871, the mill and county seat had moved to Pioche. The only evidence of this early mining activity today is the stone ruins and graveyard.

26. Rachel - The “Newest” Town

Rachel is on S.R. 375 and located 40 miles west of the junction of S.R. 318 and U.S. 93 in western Lincoln County.

Originally called “Sandy” because of its long expanse of sand, Rachel is the youngest town in Nevada and is considered the “UFO Capital of the World.” The town was named after Rachel Jones, the first child born in the community founded by D.C. Day in 1978. The community has been featured in magazines, books, television shows and many major newspapers as the center of UFO activity, drawing Sci-Fi fans and visitors from all over the world. The result of this publicity was the renaming of Highway 375 as “The Extraterrestrial Highway” by the Nevada State Legislature. For the inquisitive, part of the Nevada Test Site is situated in southwestern Lincoln County, close to Rachel. However, for obvious reasons, there are no guided tours and warning signs are posted for visitors who get a little too curious.

With only about one hundred people in the entire valley, Rachel does not even have a post office. There is, however, a gas station/convenience store at one end of town, a restaurant/bar/motel at the other, and an RV park. Although there are least five permanent houses, most people live in mobile homes on patches of scrub desert. The town is located at the southern end of the Sand Springs Valley, an otherwise empty, bowl-shaped valley about twenty-five miles wide. In and around this little town, alfalfa is grown and cattle raised. Western history buffs may want to explore the mountains surrounding Rachel. Paiute Indian artifacts such as arrowheads, petroglyphs and other signs of encampments can be found. Not far from Rachel are said to be ghost towns full of spirits of deceased cowboys. Inquire locally for directions – the friendly folks at Rachel invite everyone to explore their town and the surrounding area.
Walking Tours

Alamo

1. The Earl Wadsworth Home was built in 1920 and is typical of this type of concrete block “Plain Early 20th Century Vernacular” house style of the period. While the house was later purchased by the Albert Frehner family, the Wadsworth family was one of the earliest Mormon families in Lincoln County.

2. The Delamar Ice House was originally located in the historic 1890’s mining town of Delamar. It is thought that Earl Wadsworth moved the ice house from Delamar to Alamo in 1920. Various Panaca families such as the Lees, Edwards, and Wadsworths, were involved in cutting and hauling ice to Delamar.

3. The David L Stewart House was built by Mr. Stewart as a hotel around 1930. This appears to be the only Craftsmen/Cottage style building in the area that is of this quality. The present owner, Earl Wadsworth, is a descendant of an early Lincoln County family.

4. The Nam School is a typical 1900’s “Classic Box” style of architecture with it’s hip roof, gabled front porch and a small hip roofed bell enclosure at the highest point. It was built in 1917 by George Syphus, Henry Bolting and community volunteers.

Caliente

1. The Union Pacific Railroad Station, built in 1923, was designed by John and Donald Parkinson from Los Angeles. It was originally used as a hotel, restaurant, telegraph office, as well as a train
2. The Train Service Store was built in the 1920’s to serve passengers in addition to the service given in the train depot. It is thought that Charles Culverwell Senior owned and operated this store. This is the general location of the early ethnic wars and fights between the Japanese and Chinese railroad laborers. The current owners are Steve and Chuck Culverwell.

3. The Culverwell Stone House appears to be constructed in the 1860’s or 1870’s as one of the earliest stone shelters in the area. It is thought that Charles and William Culverwell may have built one or more of these stone shelters when they first arrived. They were built into a hillside and measured between 12’ to 15’ square. They were generally cool in the summer and warm in the winter because of the partial integration of the structure into the hillside.

4. The John Miller Buildings (land originally owned by Mr. Culverwell) were built in 1907 as a bank with a hotel above, but never actually served as a bank or a hotel. At one time it was used as a cleaners and a saloon called the “Bucket of Blood Saloon,” as well as a variety of other ‘lively’ uses. It is now owned by Gottfredson’s and is operated as a furniture and appliance store.

5. The Caliente Business District was originally located at the north and south areas of the railroad tracks (shortly after 1900.) Early photos illustrate the scattered stores, saloons and other places of business. The San Pedro Saloon best illustrates this period. Two major fires occurred that burned down most of the present day business area. The businesses rebuilt both times and most of the present -day businesses have origins that date back to around 1928. However, portions of buildings, such as stone or brick walls, date as far back as 1905 to 1910. The buildings that survived the fires include most of the Underhill block, east of the Caliente Food Town, and the block west of South Spring Street. Portions of business buildings on the north side of the tracks have been rebuilt.

6. The J.C. Crawford Stone House appears to be constructed in the 1860’s or 1870’s as one of the earlier stone shelters in the area. It is thought that one of the early cattlemen such as Ike or Dow Barton, freed slaves, may have built this structure or one of the other stone shelters in the area. In more recent times, these stone shelters were used for pantries, cold storage and general storage.

7. The Richards Railroad Hotel was built about 1910 to 1915 by Mr. Underhill and was used primarily as living quarters for railroad workers.

8. The “Undo” Stone Residence was built in 1905 and is constructed of local stone. While it was originally only one story with a flat roof, a second story was added by 1920. It was used as a residence and a saloon.

9. The Underhill General Merchandise Store was built around 1905 and is constructed of stone with some wood framing. Mr. Underhill used it primarily as a general store and a hardware store.

10. The Underhill Rods Apartments were built between 1906 and 1907 and are constructed entirely of stone.

11. The Liston Home was built in 1905 or 1906 and is also constructed of stone. It is an excellent example of the early 1900’s “Classic Box” style of architecture.
12. The Caliente Stone School is a landmark within Caliente and is significant with respect to the many adaptive uses that the building has undergone while maintaining the exterior stone wall construction intact. The school was constructed in 1905 and is another excellent example of the early 1900’s “Classic Box” style of architecture. It is now used as the Caliente Methodist Church.

13. The Caliente Elementary School was constructed by George Syphus and Henry Bolting in 1922 to accommodate growing enrollment during the early 1920’s.

14. Union Pacific Railroad “Company Row” Homes are excellent examples of the housing that the railroad provided for many of its workers. These homes were built in two different time periods. The first eighteen houses were constructed in 1905 and were wood framed with two floor plans. The single story house is generally a two to three bedroom unit and the two story plan includes three and four bedrooms.

15. The Cornelius/Scott Hotel played host to many visiting dignitaries and notables. President Herbert Hoover visited the area on numerous occasions. The hotel was built in 1928 during the economic growth period in the 1920’s. It originally had an exterior covered canopy with a railing around the top of the canopy.

Panaca

1. The Panaca Mercantile was constructed of adobe and opened for business on December 8, 1888 by the Mormon “Panaca Cooperative Mercantile Institution” comprised of approximately one-hundred and fifteen stockholders. Their purpose was to satisfy bartering, merchandising and marketing needs. Wagons from Salt Lake City, drawn by six-mule teams, carried stock to the area. On the return route, they carried produce from Panaca and other locations back to Salt Lake City.

2. The Wadsworth Store was built in the 1880’s by James Allen Wadsworth and was constructed of adobe. It underwent graceful adaptive reuse by being converted into a general mercantile, and in its later years, a school.

3. The Turnbaugh Home appears to have been built in the 1870’s by the Isaac Turnbaugh family.

4. The James Alan Wadsworth Home was originally constructed of adobe by James Allen Wadsworth in the late 1860’s. It has been used as a residence and boarding house.

5. The Heaps Cabin appears to have been built in the early the 1870’s. Lorenzo and Alice Heaps came to Panaca in 1871 and most likely built their cabin that same year.

6. The N.J. Wadsworth First Home was constructed of adobe and is thought to have been built in approximately 1881 at about the same time or shortly after the Wadsworth Mercantile was built.
7. **The N.J. Wadsworth Second Home** was built in 1895 of brick and natural stone and appears to be a combination of ornate Victorian and Victorian Italianate styles. Its significance relates to the quality of workmanship and to the personality of N. J. Wadsworth. On many occasions, people would gather in the front yard to listen to the Wilcox Orchestra practice in the parlor.

8. **The Christian Peter Ronnow Home** was first built in Panaca about 1866 or 1867. The original shelter was only one room and was constructed of rough rock with a dirt roof. A shed with a willow roof, at the back of the house, was used for a kitchen in the summertime. Joseph Ronnow was born in this home on June 21, 1869. Christian Peter Ronnow was sent on a two year mission that same year, and when the family returned in about 1871 or 1872, he built a threeroom, unfired brick and adobe house that featured a front and a back porch. As the family continued to grow, the home was enlarged to eight rooms.

9. **The F. E. Wadsworth Home** is thought to have been built about five years after his marriage to Florence Aveson in 1912.

10. **The John Wedge Home** was built around 1865 or 1866 and was a stone/hand hewn log structure sunk partially into the earth. It sits adjacent to the 1870’s adobe structure used as a home for many years. An additional wood frame addition was later added to the back.

11. **The Dan Mathews Home** was built in 1879 and was constructed of brick. It appears to combine decorated pioneer Victorian with Victorian gothic detailing above the windows that has been removed over the years.

12. **The Panaca Pubic Square** includes a meeting house built in 1868 for Sabbath meetings, a school building, recreation hall and public meetings of all kinds. This building is still standing and was in continuous use until 1940 when the Town Hall was remodeled to become a chapel and recreation center. Also, the Panaca Elementary School, constructed in 1909, and the Lincoln County High School, constructed in 1911, were both located in this public square area. However, both of those buildings are gone and appear to have been burned. They have been replaced with newer buildings for the elementary and high school students.

13. **The John Barton Atcheson Home** was finished around 1867 and appears to be the second largest frame house built in Panaca. The Lee Hotel, just one block west, was completed earlier the same year.

14. **The William Edwards Home** was built on April 10, 1891, shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth Alice Wadsworth. The house and barn are partially standing today. In its poor condition, it appears to reflect a very plain Victorian style. To the north of the Will Edwards home and barn, a stone grist mill was constructed in the 1870’s, prior to the construction of the Edwards home and barn.

15. **The Lester Lee Home** appears to have been built between 1910 and 1915. It is a somewhat plain Victorian style with modest machine produced porch trim. The house was later occupied by the Charles P. Mathews family.

16. **The Samuel and Jane Lee Home** was constructed of adobe and appears to have been built in the 1870’s. This is a vernacular style of architecture that uses local materials and adobe.

17. **The Osborn and Ervin Lee Homes** are very similar, and appear to have been built around 1917. They are both built in an early 1900’s “Classic Box” style. A dormer and front porch rail are featured at Ervin’s home.

18. **Henry Mathews Home** includes several stages of shelter. The earliest shelter was a dugout home that was generally about six feet deep and twelve feet square with a slanting roof. Crevices between the roof poles were filled with small compact bundles of bushes held in place by weaving together young willows. Dirt, which was excavated from the cellar, was then placed on the roof. Adobe and lumber replaced this dugout which is still located in the back. A later, two story brick/adobe ornate Victorian home was constructed in the late 1870’s immediately to the west.
19. The Lee Hotel is a wood frame structure built in late 1869 or early 1870. It is a typical two story New England Pioneer style building with board and bat construction similar to the Atcheson home to the east. Lumber for this home was made by whip saw from logs hauled from the mountains east of Panaca. Its significance is that it was the one and only hotel and stage stop in Panaca’s early days. It is thought that John Wedge was also the proprietor for awhile in the early 1870’s. It was built and lived in by Francis Lee and Jane Valejinson Lee.

20. The Charles Mathews Home was a small, single story, wood framed house constructed by Charles Mathews in the 1880’s. It appears to be near the site of the original 1864-65 Mormon fort enclosure.

21. The Wham Edwards Home was constructed around 1865. It is thought that this is one of the first adobe structures that is still standing and occupied.

22. The Mark Mathews Home is a wood framed home that was built in the 1880’s. It is a simple, plain New England Pioneer style structure with horizontal wood siding.

23. The William Edwards Home is constructed in the vernacular adobe/brick style of the late 1860’s, but it has some Victorian characteristics as well.

24. The George Lee Edwards Home was constructed in 1912 by owner George Edwards. Mr. Syphus was responsible for the concrete block work and Mr. Boiling the carpentry.

25. The Luke and Christians Syphus came to Panaca in 1867 and built a small earth shelter similar to the one described in the Henry Mathews house. This was followed by the adobe and stone structures that are vacant today.

Pioche

1. The Million Dollar Courthouse was designed by Edward Donahue and was built in 1871. It is constructed of brick and stone and borders on the “Classic Revival” style of architecture with its detailing and proportion. Originally budgeted for $16,400, the courthouse politicians produced “cost over-runs” from the beginning and delayed payments with mounting interest soon ballooning the price to one-million dollars by 1936 when it was finally paid off.

2. McCannon/Cedar Streets are where the first prominent families built prestigious homes, some of which are still in use today. Several of the homes were built by mining bosses, while others were occupied by doctors and lawyers. These streets were considered to be the fashionable place to live in early day Pioche.

3. The Miner’s Union Hall is presently the Episcopal Church. It is a three story wood framed structure with a gable roof. This building was built to fit into the landscape and is a typical example of “Plain Early” 20th Century style. The Miners Union was a center of social activities in this community for nearly 50 years, ending some 40 years ago.
4. **Meadow Valley Street** was the original entry street from Meadow Valley to the south of Pioche’s business district. Many of the miner’s cabins were located on the southeast end, and on the northwest end business flourished. It was one of the main business streets with the Catholic Church, Hanley’s Opera House, two livery stables, blacksmith’s shop, bakery, and dentist office being some of the first businesses located here. A few of these buildings were moved to Delamar when the boom of 1909 happened there.

5. **Main Street** runs from the famous Treasure Hill to the current Lincoln County Courthouse. From the days of mud and ruts to it’s present day concrete walks and asphalt paving, there have been thousands of exciting, tragic, happy, and wonderful events that have occurred along this Main Street. People from all over the world have traversed this small area and been charmed by the charisma of it. Some have stayed. Many have returned again and again. With its gun fights and killings, Pioche became known as the roughest, toughest mining camp in the West. Most of this happened on Main Street.

6. **The Lincoln County Museum** is housed in the building built by A.S. Thompson around 1900. A victim of a fire, it was rebuilt once, then later remodeled in 1929 to make it more modern. On the death of Charles Thompson, Sr., the building was sold to James Gottfredson, Sr. and he operated a mercantile and clothing store for a time. Later, the store was closed and the Gottfredson family donated the building to Lincoln County for a museum. Over the years, it has evolved into one of the best museums of its kind in the state of Nevada.

7. **The Pioche Odd Fellows lodge** was built in 1872 and has been used for many lodge functions, community dances, parties and social gatherings.

8. **The Nevada Club** generally dates back to the early 1900’s. It is on the site of the original Pioche assay office that had been destroyed by a fire. The present structure is constructed of brick, concrete and stone to reduce the fire hazard potential.

9. **The Pioche Hotel** dates from the turn of the century. The hotel was operated by Virginia Cottino and Family until the mid-1950’s. It is now a private residence.

10. **The Commerce Cottage** was one of several lending libraries in Pioche that was operated by commercial establishments in the late 1800’s. In 1940, the Lincoln County Library system was started with the purchase of this building which had been a jewelry store. It served as a library for ten years. After a number of years of neglect, this building was refurbished in 1984 to become the Pioche Chamber of Commerce “Commerce Cottage” and information center.

11. **The Pioche Record** is the second oldest continuously printed weekly newspaper in the state, which was started in May 1870. Through the years it has changed owners and editors many times. The newspaper office was located for many years in the current “Grandpa’s” on Main Street, a building that appears to date from the early 1900’s. The Pioche Record is now known as The Lincoln County Record and is headquartered at the 1001 Ranch along U.S. 93 between Caliente and Panaca. Two of its most notable editors have been E. L. Nores, who bought the paper about 1920 and ran it for many years; and Thos. L. Clay, a retired attorney, who bought it about 1970 and ran it until his death in 1979.

12. **The Stockham House** is one of the rare survivors of age and fire in this part of Main Street. It was built in 1866 and has been used as a residence, boarding house, hotel, church, and now houses the Francois L.A. Pioche Art Gallery.

13. **Pioche’s First U.S. Post Office and Western Union office** was built in 1864 of stone to resist fire. The front was later remodeled and modernized several times, but in 1985 the owners, the John Christian Family, had the front rebuilt to its original design. It has served as a cafe, and other businesses and in recent times housed the Lincoln County Telephone System business. It is presently used as a supply and storage area by Christians.

14. **The Alamo Club** was originally built in the mid 1800’s and was The Pioche Bank. It is noted for the large bank vault in the rear of the building. Throughout the years the business has hosted many notables and derelicks alike. Some say Doc Holladay and Butch Cassidy were in this building at one time. Ernie Ferri operated the Alamo Club bar and gambling business for about 30 years, and upon his death, his wife Lena continued to run the business. The Ferris owned the oldest continuous gaming and liquor license in the state of Nevada for many years until the 1988 sale.
15. Stever’s Store and Beauty Shop, originally built in the late 1860’s, was partially burned and then rebuilt several times. It served as Stever’s Apparel Store and The Garden Bar.

16. The Pioche News Stand was originally built in the 1860’s, and was partially burned then rebuilt in the early 1870’s and in 1919. The false front Pioneer style and treatment of the fake brick tin appears to date from the early 1900’s. The first telephone system was operated from this building and was owned by J.W. Christian. For many years, part of this building was used as Pioche Post Office. The Rag Doll gift shop now occupies this area. The News Stand and Phone Company area is now used as storage by the owners, the Christian Family.

17. The Pioche Mercantile was originally known as Hodges & Cook Mercantile until the business was acquired from Edwin Christian by the present owners Jerome and Tom Sears. They are the descendants of J.L. Sears, a telegrapher that came to Pioche in about 1873 from New York. For about 40 years, the Christian Brothers, Edwin and Lloyd, operated the store following death of their father in about 1925. For years they handled groceries and would order any amount of needed mail order supplies.

18. The Bank Club Building, Lincoln County Market, and Treasure Chest have all weathered the storms of Main Street including fires and the mining boom and bust cycles. Many businesses have come and gone in these buildings. John Valenti operated the Bank Club bar and cafe for many years and The Lincoln County Market housed the Navajo Bar before being converted into the Stop and Shop grocery market. The Treasure Chest was first Welland’s Mercantile, then Gottfredson’s Dry Goods, then Cowley’s Drug Store and later the Baptist Church-Treasure Chest.

19. The Commercial Club/Amsden Buildings were built about 1865 and are located at the junction of Main and LaCour streets and were once the hub of community activity. Pioche’s old Fire House is adjacent to the Amsden building and it served for nearly 40 years as the fire house and apartment for the fire chief. Attorney A. L. Scott owned the Commercial Club Building for about 50 years beginning around 1916. He conducted his law practice on the first floor and lived in the basement area.

20. The Leader Store Building is the impressive building on the west corner of Meadow Valley and Main Street. It was owned for many years by the Ben Cohen family and operated as a dry goods store. It now houses several business offices including the Lincoln County Florist. Next door is a massive stone building once used as a bar, the Allen’s Cash Store, and a warehouse for the Leader Store business – it now stands empty.

21. The Overland Bar and Hotel Building was built in 1940 by Bob Free. It has been burned and rebuilt several times over its colorful past. It originally had a bowling alley in the basement, and the west half was rented to the Allen’s Cash Store for more than 30 years. This part is now a cafe and dance hall. The building is now owned by Bill Brown.

22 The Brown/Thompson Opera House has survived from its 1873 construction date. It is entirely constructed of wood and has a classic revival style combined with an early pioneer board construction. It was built by Alecck Brown in March of 1873 and renamed the Thompson’s Opera House in April of 1892. It was later used as a movie theatre. After the new movie house, The Gem Theater, was built, the Opera House was used for weekly dances for many years.

23. The Pioche Livery Stable and The Tin Fabrication Shop were both owned and operated by Mr. J. Eisenmann and constructed in the early 1870’s. Across the street from the Tin Fabrication Shop, you will see the Wells Fargo Building, with the sign “City Garage” on its front. This stone building is now owned by Bill Orr and the sign on the front is from the Orr’s Garage (#24) at the junction of Main and LaCour Street, at the hub of Pioche’s business district.

24. The Orr Garage was built in the early 1870’s and was constructed of stone. Its original use may have been as a blacksmith shop or harness shop. In later years, from about 1915, it was used as an auto repair garage.

26. Pioche School was built in 1909 and is a Mission style of architecture. It now holds classes for Kindergarten through Sixth grades. It is somewhat unique in that the only other Mission style building in Lincoln County is the UPRR depot station in Caliente. The gymnasium was added to the school in 1929, and the east wing of classrooms in the 1940’s. Noteworthy is the fact that this is the oldest continuously used school building in the state of Nevada.
27. The Pioche Town Hall Shown below during construction, it was built in 1936-37 by the Mormons with donated labor, material and money as the first LDS meeting house in Pioche. It was dedicated in 1950 when it was completely finished and paid for. In 1986 when the new LDS chapel was built, the old building was sold to the Town of Pioche for a public meeting place. Now known as the Pioche Town Hall, it serves many organizations for weekly or monthly meetings and social events. The most noteworthy activity held here is the “Pioche Heritage Days,” when presentations are made the last weekend of July each year.

28. Boot Hill Crime was rampant in Pioche in the early 1870’s. During the first settling of Pioche, it was said that seventy-two men “were killed with their boots on” before anyone died a natural death. Many of these men are buried in the “Old Boot Hill” Cemetery.

29. The Lincoln County Court House was constructed in 1938 to replace the historic court house on the hill. It is a simplified version of the modern Art-Deco style, and it continues to house all of Lincoln County’s government functions. Excellent park facilities are located adjoining the courthouse with a swimming pool, tennis court, horseshoe pits, playground and picnic areas.

30. The Masonic St. John Lodge, constructed of stone and brick, is one of Nevada’s oldest lodges in continuous operation since 1873. It is a typical False Front Pioneer style.

31. The Mountain Yew Hotel was built in 1895 by the Ely Valley Mines to house their guests. It is a combination of styles including Shingle style and early 1900’s “Classic Box.” The building is presently in need of restoration.

32. Treasure Hill (Nevada Centennial Marker No. 5.) Silver ore was discovered in this range of mountains in 1864, but no important developments took place until 1869 when mines were opened and the Town of Pioche appeared. Pioche soon became the scene of a wild rush of prospectors and fortune seekers and gained a reputation in the 1870’s for tough gunmen and bitter lawsuits. Over five-million dollars in ore was taken out by 1872, and by 1900 Pioche was nearly a ghost town. Designated the seat of Lincoln County in 1871, Pioche survived hard times as a supply and government center for a vast area. In later years, notably during World War II, profitable lead and zinc deposits were developed.

33. Pioche Aerial Tramway This aerial tramway operated in the 1920’s and 1930’s carrying ore from the mines on Treasure Hill to Godbe’s Mill in the valley. Built by Pioche Mines Company, the tramway was mainly gravity powered with the aid of a five horsepower motor. The ore in the full buckets rolled toward the mill and provided the momentum to return the empty buckets to the bin. In 1928 the cost of delivering ore to the mill via this tramway was six cents per ton.
Community Information

Alamo
The unincorporated town of Alamo is the southern-most community in Lincoln County, consisting of about 720 acres in size, with an elevation of 3,449 feet above sea level. There are about 400 homes in Alamo and about 900 people presently living there. The town has a dirt airplane landing strip located two miles west of town.
The average daily temperatures: The July average high is 96.6 degrees Fahrenheit and the January average low is 28.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Average rainfall is 6.5 inches with a 146 day growing season.

Caliente
Caliente is the only incorporated community in Lincoln County and is located in southeastern Nevada about 155 miles north of Las Vegas on about 1,022 acres at 4,300 feet above sea level. There are about 500 homes in Caliente and about 900 residents.
The average daily temperatures are: The July average high is 91 degrees Fahrenheit and the January average low is 36 degrees Fahrenheit. Caliente gets about 8.71 inches of annual rainfall and 12.1 inches of annual snowfall with a growing season of 140 days. Caliente is located on the mainline of Union Pacific Railroad and is served by Amtrak twice each day with east and west bound passenger trains.
All communities in Lincoln County have fire, ambulance, medical, and police dispatch service available through the 911 emergency telephone network. Rail passenger service is available in Caliente twice each day via Amtrak. For more information, you may call 1-800-USA-RAIL.

Panaca
The town of Panaca is unincorporated and located in central Lincoln County about 165 miles north of Las Vegas with an elevation of 4,729 feet above sea level. There are about 350 homes in this town with about 800 people living there.
The average daily temperatures are: The July average high is 92.3 degrees Fahrenheit and the January average low is 18.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual rainfall is 11.5 inches, annual snowfall 18.9 inches and 138 day growing season.
Lincoln County Airport is located one mile west of Panaca with a lighted runway 4,800 feet long that is paved and has fuel available.

Pioche
Pioche is the northern-most community in Lincoln County located about 185 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 93. This town has about 500 homes and roughly 900 residents. Pioche is the county seat of Lincoln County.
The average daily temperatures are: The July average high is 88.9 degrees Fahrenheit and the January average low is 20.9 degrees Fahrenheit. Pioche gets an annual rainfall of 13.37 inches and 47.5 inches of snow each year and has a 140 day growing season.

Useful Numbers

Alamo
Lodging
Meadow Lane Motel  725-3371
RV Parks
Alamo Auto Motel  725-3336
Alamo Truck Stop  725-3337
"R" Place RV Park  725-3545

Caliente
Lodging
Caliente Hot Springs Motel  726-3777
Midway Motel  726-3199
Rainbow Canyon Motel  726-3291
Shady Motel  726-3106
RV Parks
Agua Caliente RV Park  726-3399
Young’s RV Park  726-3418 or 726-3418

Panaca
RV Parks
Dotson’s Trailer Park  728.4454

Pioche
Lodging
Hutchings Motel  962-5404
Overland Hotel  962-5895
Motherlode Motel  775-962-5159
RV Parks
Eagle Valley RV Park  962-5293
Roll Inn RV Park  962-5566

Rachel
Lodging
Little A’Le’Inn  729-2515

Emergency Numbers

Lincoln County Sheriff  962-5151
Fire Department - Any community  911
Ambulance - Any community  911
Caliente Police Department  726-3111
G. C. Dils Medical Center - Caliente  726-3171
Nevada Highway Patrol - Dial Operator ask for Zenith 1-2000
Lincoln County Transportation - Bus  726-3148
Directions

To reach Lincoln County:

**From Las Vegas** take Interstate 15 traveling northeast from Las Vegas to U.S. 93 and travel north to Lincoln County (93 miles from Las Vegas to Alamo).

**From Reno** take Interstate 80 traveling east from Reno to U.S. 50 east to Ely and then south on U.S. 93 to Lincoln County (417 miles from Reno to Pioche), or you may choose U.S. 95 through Tonopah, then east and south on S.R. 375 to Hiko and then on to U.S. 93 through Lincoln County (426 miles from Reno to Caliente this way).

**From Salt Lake City** take interstate 60 traveling west to just past the Utah-Nevada border and then U.S. Alternate 93, south to Lincoln County via Lages, and regular route U.S. 93 thru Ely. A second route is to travel south on Interstate 15 to U.S. 6, through Delta, Utah, and then southeast to U.S. 93, which takes you past the Great Basin National Park. A third route is to travel south on Interstate 15 to Cedar City and then continue west on Utah S.R. 56 to Panaca.

Funding Sources

Nevada Commission on Tourism
Lincoln County Room Tax Board

Contributing Individuals

Lincoln County wishes to sincerely thank the many individuals and groups that contributed to the collective effort to provide information and photos to make this brochure possible. Also, a special thanks and credit is given to the University of Nevada Special Collections in Reno and Las Vegas, as well as the Nevada Historical Society Collections in Reno, the Pioche Chamber of Commerce and Bette Cots Collections.

It should be emphasized that this brochure contains only a partial listing of the attractions in Lincoln County. More information can be obtained by calling Nevada’s Historical Preservation office in Carson City at 1-885-5138.