



The City of Wells is Small... Yet Entertaining!

More information about local areas of interest...

A Brief History of Wells...

Deep clear springs and lush meadows made Wells, Nevada, a natural rest stop for the Western Shoshone as they followed migrating game and pine nut harvests. They were soon followed by emigrants on their way to the land of golden dreams in California. From the late 1840s to the early 1870s, the wells rivaled any resting place on the California Trail. The pioneers called it the Humboldt Wells. From there, the pioneers moved on to face the toughest leg of a long journey – crossing the deadly arid 40-mile desert to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the gateway to California.

When the Transcontinental Railroad united the nation, Wells was one of the towns that sprang up. Railroaders, merchants, miners, ranchers, farmers, and educators all benefited. Front Street in Wells, Nevada, dates back to Christmas of 1869 when the Bulls Head Saloon opened trackside as the fledgling town's first tavern. A little of old west Front Street survives to provide a glimpse of its 19th Century origins.

Cattle herds passed into and through Nevada before the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. So many herds trailed up from Texas and into Nevada that observers described Elko County as a sea of cattle. And with the cattle, came cowboys, cattle rustlers, law officers and ranchers to give Wells and vicinity a fascinating cast of colorful characters and events.

Wells continued to be a popular resting point along old US Highway 40 in the 1950s. Once known as the Victory Highway, the stretch of the "Fabulous Forty" through Wells features classic motor courts dating back to when gasoline was less than 25 cents a gallon.

Today, in the immediate vicinity of Wells, you can still see the wetlands and the ruts of the California Trail descending to the Humboldt Wells, Indian burial grounds, the Ruby Massacre site, and the original grade of the Central Pacific Railroad and ghost towns like Metropolis. Today, the people who make Wells their home embrace its rich history and beautiful scenery while enjoying the comforts of small town life. They invite you to do the same – as a new resident, or as a visitor just passing through.

To read more details of Wells' captivating history, pick up the Old Town, Front Street Walking Tour guidebook or the Metropolis Ghost Town brochure at the Chamber Office on Sixth Street in Wells.

Ruby Mountain Brewery

Ruby Mountain Brewing Company is located on Angel Creek Ranch in Clover Valley, at the base of the East Humboldt Mountains. Established in 1994, the microbrewery's award winning beers are available in bottles and in draft in Nevada and Idaho. The brewery is located 8.3 miles from Wells. From I-80, take Hwy. 93 south for 5.3 miles to the junction of State Road 232 (Clover Valley Road), turn right and drive west three miles to the first ranch. Tours are available by appointment only. For additional info, call 775-752-2337.

Emigrant Trail Interpretive Center

Relive life as a pioneer on the California Trail while visiting the Emigrant Trail Interpretive Center in Wells, then visit nearby trail ruts. Artifacts, tours and a gift shop are located at the center at 436 6th Street in Wells. Call 775-752-3540 for more details.

Humboldt Wells

At the headwaters of the Humboldt River, emigrants watered and picked up the river they would follow for the next 30 days or so. The wetlands and the ruts of the California Trail descending to the Humboldt Wells are still visible. In Wells, from the corner of 8th Street & Lake Avenue, take 8th Street west about a mile and look to the right.

Starr Valley and Deeth

Starr Valley, with ranches nestled at the foot of the beautiful East Humboldt Mountains, was settled in the early 1870s, mainly by Civil War veterans and soldiers from nearby Fort Halleck. Deeth, now nearly a ghost town, was a bustling railroad town of several hundred people. It served as a shipping center for cattle from area ranches and gold and silver from rich mines to the north.

Enjoy a scenic drive through Starr Valley by taking I-80 eight miles west of Wells to the Welcome Exit (Exit 343). Turn south to follow the Starr Valley Road. The Starr Valley Road reconnects with I-80 at Exit 333. To go directly to Deeth, take the next exit off of I-80 (Exit 333), then turn south for one mile and follow the signs.

Clover Valley

Along Clover Valley Road are family ranches in operation since the 1860s. Descendants of early pioneers are still there helping each other to live off the land and maintain the cowboy way of life. Original pioneers rest in two graveyards, one overlooked by a natural rock formation called the "Hole in the Mountain." Go 5 miles south on US Hwy. 93, then turn west to follow Clover Valley Road (Nevada 232) which runs south about 17 miles, passing 18 ranches and several residences. The road turns to gravel and then bends east 3 miles to rejoin US 93.

Chimney Rock Municipal Golf Course

This fine municipal course facility features all the hallmarks of Nevada golf. Designed by Arthur Jack Snyder, ASGCA, it opened in 1976. It is a 9-hole regulation length, blue grass course nestled in the foothills of the East Humboldt Mountain range. It has a 20-tee driving range and carts. Lessons are also available. The Club Championship tourney is held each year in August. The clubhouse features an excellent restaurant and bar. Call 775-752-3928 for hours and fees.

Angel Lake

Picturesque Angel Lake is just 12 miles from Wells. To get there, take Humboldt Avenue south, turn right at the Angel Lake sign (just south of I-80), and follow the road to Angel Lake. Picnic tables and restrooms are available in-season. The Angel Lake recreation area consists of a 26 single-family unit campground, an 11-unit picnic area, and the trailhead for the Grays Lake trail. All of these areas are located in "snow bank" aspen at about 8,500 feet. The lake is stocked by the Nevada Division of Wildlife and is a popular fishing spot. Occasionally, mountain goats and bighorn sheep can be seen near the lake. Because of its elevation, this area is popular during the summer when valley temperatures rise.

Metropolis Ghost Town

Pick up the award-winning informative brochure about the Metropolis Ghost Town at the Chamber Office at 436 6th Street in Wells. Then follow the directions to experience it first-hand.

Soon after cattle king Colonel E.P. Hardesty sold the U7 Ranch northwest of Wells, the Pacific Reclamation Company bought land and, in 1911, advertised what they promised would be a planned community of 7,500. A four-block business district with concrete sidewalks sprang up and the railroad laid track to the booming town. The grandest three-story hotel between Reno and Salt Lake opened, followed by the brick high school. Pacific Reclamation profited by selling land but water rights were not secured, so Metropolis withered. Today sagebrush stands higher than most of the ruins, exceptions being what remains of the high school, the hotel and a monument to mark the passing of hard-working pioneers doomed to see their dreams evaporate into the high desert air.

Directions to Metropolis:

From Lake Ave. & 6th Street, proceed north on Lake Ave. crossing the railroad tracks. Immediately after crossing the tracks, turn left on Eighth St. and drive west two blocks where Eighth bends around slightly before continuing west two miles where it takes a hard right crossing the Humboldt River. Continue north and turn left onto the first good gravel road. Follow the winding gravel road northwest. As you approach the meadow and the ranch, you'll be able to see the school arch in the distance.

Annual Events in Wells

Don't miss the variety of events held in Wells each year:

- High School Rodeo - First weekend in May
- Barrel Races - June
- Angel Lake Kids' Fishing Derby - Third Saturday in July
- Missoula Children's Theater - June or July
- Parade and Boys & Girls Club Park Festivities - July 4th
- Fun Run Car Show - last weekend in July
- Ruby Mountain Relay Race and Rib Cook-Off - first weekend in August
- Junior Rodeo - held in mid-August
- Annual Race to the Angel - September
- Quilt Guild Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair - Saturday before Thanksgiving

Local Churches in Wells

Assembly of God Church.....	775-752-2097
Christian Fellowship.....	775-275-0259
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.....	775-752-3763
Lutheran Church.....	775-752-3191
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.....	775-752-3191
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.....	775-752-3400
Wells Baptist Church.....	775-752-2377
Wells Community Presbyterian Church.....	775-752-3191

For more information about Wells, please go to the Chamber Office at 436 6th Street in Wells, or call 775.752.3540. Also visit www.wellsnevada.com.