



## FUN FACTS

**San Francisco:** The Chinese fortune cookie was invented here, not in China. Not a single SF bank failed here during the Great Depression, and they even built both the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges during that time. In 1906 an earthquake and fire destroyed 3/4ths of the city.

**Vacaville:** Home to many produce companies and farms, be sure to check out the fruit stands here for some road trip snacks! Also, if you're feeling your sweet tooth, the Jelly Belly Factory hosts free tours and tastings.

**Sacramento:** The state capital of California, but it's actually California's sixth capital since 1854. More almonds are processed here than anywhere in the world. If you have some time, check out the Sacramento Zoo, the capital building, and the American River bike trail.

**Lake Tahoe:** The second deepest lake in the USA and the 10th deepest in the world. If you poured Lake Tahoe into an area the size of CA, it would not only completely fill the space but be 14 inches deep. The lake water is one of the purest in the world, only .004% less pure than distilled water.

**Reno:** One of the sunniest places in the country, and they're using that solar power to build the biggest building on earth here, a new Tesla factory. Also, the first blue jeans were invented here. Look up! Reno also hosts the largest hot air balloon event in the world.

**Winnemucca:** Nevada is the largest gold producing state in the nation, and second in the world behind South Africa. You can mine your own right here in Winnemucca! The Thunder Mountain Monument, a series of sculptures by Frank Van Zant who built them to survive an impending apocalypse.

**Elko:** Home of the world famous cowboy poetry gathering. Also, due to an influenza outbreak in 1918, the county still requires everyone walking the streets to wear a mask (although this is not enforced anymore).

**Wells:** An 6.0 earthquake in 2008 damaged much of the city because of its close proximity to the fault line. If you have time, check out Metropolis, a ghost town just outside of Wells.

**Wendover:** The cowboy sign of Wendover Will was created for a casino in the 1950s, and is now a landmark for the town on the border of Utah.

**Salt Flats:** You can drive out on here and take pictures (highly recommended doing this). It's also a famous place for racing. The world ground speed record was broken here of 622 mph in 1970 by a car called Blue Flame propelled by a rocket!

**The Great Salt Lake:** Between 11 and 30% salt, this lake is more than 10x saltier than the ocean but still is home to much life, and scientific research. Salt crystals preserve life from 250 million years ago. Home to the Spiral Jetty, and possibly the North Shore Monster, half horse/half crocodile?

**Salt Lake City:** Founded by Mormon pioneers in 1847. Skiing is famous here (and close by), with arguably the 'best powder on earth'.