

## **NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY: HISTORY, CULTURE & ART**

### **Nevada Northern Railway Museum, National Historic Landmark**

1100 Avenue A, Ely, NV 89315, 866-40-STEAM 775-289-2085 [www.nnry.com](http://www.nnry.com)

The Nevada Northern Railway, established in 1905, is a National Historic Landmark, located in Ely, Nevada. According to the Smithsonian Curator Emeritus, it is "the best preserved historic railroad in the country...bar none." It is, indeed, a national treasure.

The Nevada Northern Railway Museum includes approximately 60 acres of original and authentic grounds, track and buildings to explore. This "living," interactive museum features operating steam and diesel train rides. All train rides include a tour of the grounds and Enginehouse; with guided tours explaining the important history of the railroad, including its significance to copper mining and America as a whole.

Train rides include Haunted Ghost Trains, Polar Express, and summer/fall themed trains. Unique programs include: "BE the Engineer," to actually operate a locomotive – even with the train (freight cars) attached; Railroad Reality Weeks for adults and adults/teens (summer), Winter Photo Shoots in February, which capture the history of the railroad; Bunkhouse & Caboose Overnights and Cab Rides with the Engineer. Group Rates and Private Charters are available, in addition to Annual Memberships. The grounds are open year-round.

This quintessential symbol of the pioneering American spirit has been embraced by a variety of diverse cultures over the course of history. The Steptoe Valley Flyer carried about 4.5 million people, mainly immigrants, into White Pine County from 1910-1941. Many worked on the railroad and in the mine; and many descendants still live in the area today. A selection of restored 1908 railroad employee cottages, each reflecting a different culture, can be seen at Renaissance Village downtown; which is transformed into the North Pole for Polar Express.

The Nevada Northern Railway Museum is an inspiring example of American history and culture; and, in recent years, art, as well. It is interesting and fun to children and adults from all over the world. People have visited from as far away as Japan, New Zealand, France, Germany, and Great Britain.

Two annual, special events focus on art. The art of photography is featured during February's Winter Photo Shoots; preserving history and resulting in many award-winning shots. The Nevada Northern is captured on canvas during the annual Plein Air Outdoor Arts Festival, Labor Day Weekend each year. Artists and artisans actively paint and craft on site. It's a unique opportunity to watch art (painting and crafts) created right before your eyes.

The Nevada Northern Railway Museum is featured regularly on The History Channel's "Modern Marvels" and "American Restoration," PBS and travel guide books all over the world.