

# 7 Reasons Why You Should Visit Pyramid Lake, NV

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**1. It Has a PYRAMID!** -When I found out that there was a lake in Northern Nevada with its own pyramid, I was curious. After all, I wasn't in Vegas or Egypt. I was in Reno, a city generally known for gambling, 24/7 drinking and being the bratty little brother to Las Vegas. The fact that the pyramid is natural and not man-made was even more interesting. Why on earth is there a pyramid in a lake in Northern Nevada? {que Twilight theme song here}

**2. Pelican Mating Grounds** -aside from the mysterious pyramid, there is also a small island (Anaho Island) in the lake (close to the Pyramid). Anaho Island doesn't look like anything special, that is until March/April each year when thousands of birds fly in. What kind of birds? Well, the American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorants, California Gulls, Caspian Terns, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-herons & Snowy Egrets.

Pyramid Lake is the home to the 2nd largest American White Pelican colony in the Western United States. The pelicans hang out for a couple of months on the island, so if you're going to

be around Reno this spring. Check it out! Oh, and don't forget to bring your camera, best lens and some binoculars with you.

**3. The Lake is HUGE!** -Okay, maybe huge is an exaggeration, but it is quite large. 125,000 acres large! There is nothing quite like driving over a hill and being greeted by a shimmering blue lake. When the weather is good, the water can be calm and the lake looks like glass, reflecting everything around it.

If you're planning a visit to Pyramid Lake, be sure to leave your day open. It's too large, important and full of history to be seen in just a few hours.

**4. Pyramid Lake has a World-Class Fishery** -Pyramid Lake is a huge hit with anglers world-wide and its no wonder. The lake is home to cutthroat trout as large as 20 pounds or more (The largest trout captured in the lake was 40 lbs. It was caught in the 1930's). Pyramid Lake is also home to Cui-ui fish. The [Paiute \(Numu\) Natives](#) who inhabit the land around Pyramid Lake are also known as *Kuyuidokado*(Cui-ui Eaters).

The Northern Paiute people are working hard to re-populate the Cui-ui species after there was a serious decline due to water diversions upstream in the 1920's.

Anglers do not require a licensee to fish in Pyramid Lake, however they do need to purchase a day permit. Permits cost \$10.

**5. Eco-Tourism Efforts** -The Paiute people are striving hard to keep Pyramid Lake open -as in wide open spaces. Unlike Lake Tahoe, Pyramid Lake is completely open. There are no homes or businesses crowding around the lake.

Pyramid Lake is an important part of the Northern Paiute history. The land around the lake is home to several caves with ancient petroglyphs, and artifacts. In fact, the land is so rich in archeological history that the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe is working hard to keep the land pure and as un-touched as possible.

Over the next few years, Pyramid Lake will be introducing more eco-tourism options. It's definitely something I'm looking forward to.

Did you know that the town of Nixon on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reserve owns more solar panels per person than any other community in the United States?!

**6. Water Babies & The Stone Mother!** -Pyramid Lake is no stranger to ancient legends. The most famous of these are the Water Babies & the Stone Mother.

Two sisters were by the river washing. One of the sisters had an infant nearby. While they were busy, a serpent emerged from the lake. The serpent ate the baby and assumed its form. When the mother went to feed her child, the serpent (which looked like her baby) started to devour the young mother. The girl's sister and tribe members tried to get the serpent to release its grip on the mother, but they were unsuccessful. A Medicine Man was called, and he made a deal with the serpent. If the serpent let the mother go and restored her to her full health, the serpent would be free to inhabit the lake.

There have been reports of people hearing the cries of an invisible baby when they're at the Lake. Some have even heard the laughs of children.

The legend of the Stone Mother is not as morbid as that of the Water Babies, but it's still a sad one. The shortest version is that after traveling to Pyramid Lake to meet the man ruler of the lake, the Stone Mother was in awe. The man ruler was so handsome! They were married and had many children. Many of their children were unruly and the man ruler became angry. He decided to separate his children. The man ruler sent his oldest son west with one of the girls. They became the Pitt River Indians. He sent another couple east and they became the Bannocks. The remainder of the children stayed home. The woman was so upset over the separation that she wept.

The woman stayed with her children (the Paiutes), but was still very sad. She sat near a mountain and cried day after day after day. Eventually her tears turned into a lake. Pyramid Lake. Eventually the woman turned to stone and is now known as Stone Mother.

**7. It's GORGEOUS!** -I could spend paragraphs describing the beauty of Pyramid Lake. But, why use words when I can show you pictures!! Feast your eyes on these!





Pyramid Lake is a lake full of history, legend, tradition, culture and drama. Unlike Lake Louise, Lake Tahoe and other famous lakes, Pyramid Lake has not been overrun with businesses. It's still in a completely natural environment. The Paiute people take a lot of pride (and care) in the lake, and the fact that they are reluctant to turn it into the next Lake Tahoe is one of the reasons why I love them.

You can purchase a pass for Pyramid Lake from most businesses in Reno or Sparks. Or, you can [visit their website](#) and purchase your pass online. Day use passes cost just \$6 per vehicle. A steal of a deal. There are also options for camping and fishing!

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### **Pamela**

Solo traveler, spunky woman and photographer. Pamela writes for SpunkyGirl Monologues, as well as a weekly article for CheapOair Canada Travel Blog. Pamela currently resides in Banff, Alberta and will be returning to Asia in October 2011.

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