



HENDERSON PAVILION

# EXPLORE A WORLD OF GREAT ADVENTURES, SHOPPING, DINING, PARKS, SCHOOLS & MORE!

BY *Elisabeth Daniels*

**A**n oasis for outdoor enthusiasts, art lovers, foodies, and families looking for “a place to call home,” Henderson offers small town values with big city amenities. With a flourishing economy, upscale master-planned communities, abundant green spaces, top notch restaurants and casino-resorts, and easy access to several of the country’s national

and man-made treasures, Henderson is one of Southern Nevada’s most popular cities. Which is why it’s no surprise the city has been ranked one of the best cities for an active lifestyle (WalletHub.com, January 2020), one of the best cities to start a business (WalletHub.com, May 2015), and one of CNN Money’s best places to live.

Just 16 miles southeast of the Strip, Nevada’s second-largest city has allocated 1,300 acres to parks and recreation—with

69 neighborhood and community parks (including five school parks), lighted sports fields, 11 aquatic facilities, and seven recreational centers. The city has prioritized its outdoor spaces, and it shows. Even dog lovers will be happy to have their own splash pad at the Bark Park at Heritage Park, for dogs only. Nearly 70 percent of residents live within a half mile of a park or recreational spot. In fact, Henderson has been nationally recognized for its parks and recreation system, receiving the National Gold Medal for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Administration in both 1999 and 2014.

The city boasts three hospitals and a four-year state college along with low crime, a low cost of living, and appealing weather.

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PAVILION, MCCULLOUGH HILLS; CITY OF HENDERSON; BIRD PRESERVE; HENDERSON BIRD VIEWING PRESERVE

Henderson is home to a broad range of quality educational options, ranging from pre-school, elementary schools, and high schools – including Henderson International School (1165 Sandy Ridge Ave.), Elise L. Wolff Elementary School (1001 Seven Hills Drive), and Foothills Montessori School (1401 Amador Lane) – as well as several colleges and universities. Nevada State College (1125 Nevada State Drive), a baccalaureate college, is attended by a majority of first-generation, non-traditional college students. Roseman University of Health Sciences (11 Sunset Way) is a private university which confers degrees in nursing, pharmacy, and business. The College of Southern Nevada also maintains a branch campus in Henderson, along with California’s National University, Touro University Nevada, and Devry University. Also operating in the city are several for-profit colleges, such as the International Academy of Design & Technology, The Art Institute of Las Vegas, and the Nevada branch of the ITT Technical Institute.

The city has continued to develop its culture and community with a vibrant library system. Paseo Verde Library (280 S Green Valley Pkwy), one of four libraries in the Henderson Library complex, features a staffed genealogy room and a coffee shop.

Amenities like these ensure that Henderson will be a highly desirable destination for visitors and residents alike for years to come.



## Top 10 Ways to Stay Active in Henderson

### »» The River Mountains Loop Trail ([rivermountainstrail.org](http://rivermountainstrail.org))

is a 35-mile route that cuts a 10-foot-wide swath around the River Mountains, connecting Boulder City, Henderson, and the desert in between. Popular with bicyclists, runners, and hikers, much of the paved trail goes through an unspoiled desert setting, with opportunities to see bighorn sheep and other wildlife in their natural habitat. A third of the trail passes through Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and an equestrian trail run parallels a 15-mile stretch of the route. Motorized vehicles are prohibited, and only a few spots require crossing roads.

»» Sitting on 140 acres near Sunset Road and Boulder Highway is the **Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve (350 E Galleria Drive)**. With nine ponds as well as marshes and creeks, the preserve hosts thousands of migratory

waterfowl and a variety of desert birds. The dirt paths crisscrossing the preserve are soft and level, but expect to do a lot of walking and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. No binoculars? No problem. The visitor center has a few available to loan.

»» **McCullough Hills Trail** is an 8.5-mile hiking path in the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. The trail features gradual climbs, sweeping views and desert vegetation. Look for creosote bush, white bursage, littleleaf ratany, bunchgrass and the occasional silver cholla and beavertail cactus. To accommodate hikers, bikers and horseback riders, there are places where three paths run parallel, and paths are marked to indicate which trail is for which group.

»» Whether you’re a newbie or a seasoned climber, you’ll find something to suit your climbing needs at **Origin Climbing and Fitness (7585 Commercial Way)**. With 23,000 square feet of space, there’s plenty of room to spread out while getting trained in rope climbing, bouldering and yoga. Origin’s





BLAZIN' PADDLES ON THE COLORADO RIVER

5-week Climbing Academy teaches young climbers, ages six and up, foundational skills and techniques. Courses like Belay Basics and Lead Climbing Basics help adult climbers master ascents and descents.

»»» Kayak through the beauty of the Black Canyon on the Colorado River with a guided tour from *Blazin' Paddles* (911 American Pacific Drive, #120). Tours include professionally guided half-day or full-day options, both of which include state-of-the-art paddling equipment. With two departure times offered, the half-day tour takes you four miles roundtrip with a

chance to see Bighorn Sheep. Or, spend a whole day on the river and paddle by Hoover Dam while enjoying cliff views and a variety of wildlife up close and personal.

»»» If a private paddle on the Colorado River is what you're angling for, stop by *River Dogz* (34 Via Vasari, Unit 102). Equipment options include kayaks, paddle boards and hydro bikes, and all levels are welcome. Choose from tours of Lake Mead, Hoover Dam Hot Springs, Willow Beach, Valley of Fire and more. Strengthen that core and make all your paddling experiences better with SUP Paddle Fit training on Willow Beach.

**(Nawghaw Poa Road).**

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area can be explored by mountain bike, horseback, or by hiking. With more than 300 rock art panels, the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is one of the most significant, scenic, and important cultural resources in southern Nevada. There are nearly 1,700 designs representing native cultures dating from Archaic to historic era. Just remember to look but not touch because making rubbings can damage the petroglyphs.

»»» Situated away from the hustle and bustle of busy Stephanie Street, the 100-acre *Cornerstone Park* (600 Wigwam Pkwy.) has large pavilions, lighted basketball and volleyball courts, and covered picnic areas. A corporate plaza and warming kitchen make it ideal for teambuilding events. The 31-acre lake is not for swimming but makes for a pretty view as you walk or jog.

»»» Spend the day at *Lake Las Vegas*. Start your adventure at Le Café Du Lac (40 Costa

CORNERSTONE PARK



DOWNTOWN HENDERSON



it's transformed into a winter wonderland of lights, festive decorations, Santa visits and carolers.

» An assortment of bounce houses, basketball hoops, slides and video games make **Bouncy World (225 N. Stephanie Street)** an indoor bounce playland for kids. A sitting area for adults includes comfy furniture and television. Socks are required in this "shoe free" zone, but they're available for purchase if you forget to bring a pair. Food and drink are available on site.

» **Pinot's Palette (The District at Green Valley Ranch, 2260 Village Walk Drive #104)** is a paint-and-sip studio that hosts upscale public and private painting events. At the studio bar, patrons can choose from wine, beer, soda, and water. Perfect for date nights, birthdays, and girls' nights out, each class can accommodate up to 72 guests. With two artists instructing

Di Lago) with coffee and a pastry baked fresh every morning by their French chef. Then wander through the storybook-like village before heading out on the lake for some fishing. For lunch, enjoy South-of-the-Border cuisine at Sonrisa Grill (30 Via Brianza). Browse the village's unique boutiques before winding down with a leisurely dinner of Italian fare at family-owned Luna Rossa Ristorante (10 Via Bel Canto).

» The first private Jack Nicklaus Signature Course in Nevada, **Southshore Golf Club (100 Strada Di Circolo)** is an award-winning, members-only course. Inspired by the unique topography of Lake Las Vegas, the 6,925-yard course's layout is dramatic, with elevations stretching from 1,410 to 1,750 feet. Generous fairways, up to five tee boxes per hole, strategic bunkering and forced carries over canyons and water create a one-of-a-kind golfing experience.

## Top 10 Unique Pursuits in Henderson

» History and entertainment come together in the **Water Street District (waterstreetdistrict.com)**. Unique restaurants, classic casinos and exclusive boutiques comprise the historic heart of Henderson, all within a few walkable blocks. A self-guided walking tour takes visitors through the development of Henderson and reveals fun facts, such as how Water Street was named, the major impact of Basic Magnesium Inc., and how a place that was started as a temporary home for company workers grew into Nevada's second largest city.

» Sample the sweet life at **Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Garden (2 Cactus Garden Drive)**. On

the tour of this factory named for the mother of famous chocolatier Forrest Mars Sr., you can watch chocolate being made according to Ethel's original, unchanged recipe. Walk off any calories from the tasty treats by strolling through the three-acre botanical garden. With over 300 types of cactus, this is a popular holiday spot when



BOTANICAL CACTUS GARDEN AT ETHEL M CHOCOLATE FACTORY

RIVER: BLAZINI; PADDLES: CORNERSTONE; BRENT HOLMES; WATER STREET: SCOTT LIEN; BOTANICAL GARDEN: ETHEL M CHOCOLATE FACTORY



DOWNTOWN HENDERSON



LION HABITAT RANCH

and plenty of elbow room, every student leaves with a piece they're proud to hang on the wall.

It's not often you can see lions outside of a show on the Strip, but at the **Lion Habitat Ranch (382 Bruner Ave.)**, the great cats roam a 6-acre ranch. With glass enclosures and safety barriers, the security of the patrons and animals is a priority—while still allowing visitors an opportunity to interact with the felines, ostriches, and emus. There's even a painting giraffe named Ozzie, who holds a paintbrush in his mouth to add color to canvas. A friendly, knowledgeable staff combined with a reasonable admittance fee means this is an outing the whole family will love.

If you've ever dreamed of being a fighter pilot, you'll want to book some time at **Sky Combat Ace (1420 Jet Stream Dr, Street 100)**. This is no simulation. In this aerial combat experience, you'll be flying the plane under the

supervision of a highly trained, actual Air Force fighter pilot. After you land, stop into the hangar for refreshments, game and aviation memorabilia.

Travel 100 years back in time on Heritage Street at the **Clark County Heritage Museum (1830 S Boulder Highway)**. Five fully

furnished buildings are frozen in time, ready to be explored. Dating from the early 1900s and to the 1950s, there are houses, a wedding chapel and a printing shop. Follow the Mojave Desert Trail to a genuine ghost town. Then back inside for a host of other historical exhibits and Vegas trivia.

As the longest running casino in Nevada, the **Railroad Pass Casino (2800 S. Boulder Highway)** has been welcoming travelers and gamblers for decades. After an afternoon of gaming, refuel at

the Box Car Buffet. The menu changes daily and celebrates culinary traditions from around the world, including China, Mexico, and Italy.

Located in historic downtown Henderson, **Gold Mine Tavern (23 S Water Street)** has been serving locals and tourists for over 45 years, making it the oldest bar in the city. Aside from the cold beer and cocktails, the 80-foot wood bar is big draw, along with the old pictures on the wall that document the bar's history. In a nod to the employees that keep the city running, Gold Mine hosts a daily happy hour every day from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Golfing high above the Las Vegas Valley is part of the appeal of Anthem Country Club (1 Club Side Drive). Designed by Hale Irwin and Keith Foster, this championship golf course includes waterfalls, six lakes, and panoramic mountain views. In addition to the 18-hole course, membership offers access to six tennis courts, basketball court, sand volleyball court, fitness center, fitness classes, resort-style swimming pool, Mixed Grill, Desert Sky Dining Room, Fountain's Café, Clubhouse and all events and activities.



CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM

WATER STREET; SCOTT LIEN; CLARK COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM; COURTESY, LION HABITAT; COURTESY, KITCHEN TABLE; WEISS; STEAMIE WENIE; BRENT HOLMES

KITCHEN TABLE



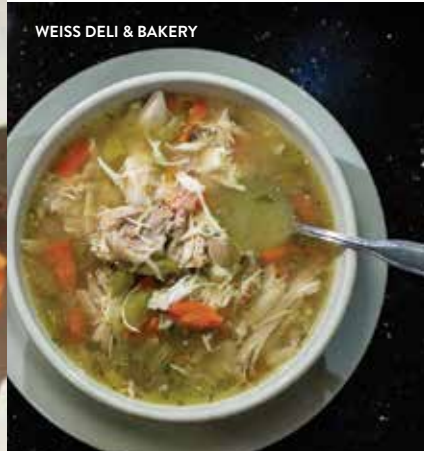
## Top 10 Places to Eat & Drink in Henderson

» Serving internationally inspired breakfast and lunches, ***Kitchen Table*** (1716 W *Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Suite 100*) is the brainchild of Former Circo and Le Cirque opening chef Antonio Nunez and Javier Chavez of Whist Stove. The eatery boasts an open kitchen and seating for nearly 100 guests. Try the gluten-free sweet bread, served with house-made jam or bacon & egg shooters with house mayo, pickled jalapenos, and crispy bacon.

» Fighting a cold? A visit to kosher ***Weiss Deli & Bakery*** (2744 N *Green Valley Pkwy*) for some chicken noodle soup is a must. When you're feeling better, sample the deli's baked goods. Favorites include apple fritters and challah bread.

» The humble hot dog is elevated to a gastronomic art form at ***The Steamie Weenie*** (1500 N *Green Valley Pkwy #130*). Here, each bun is considered a canvas, as illustrated by creations like The Coney, a premium Vienna Beef frankfurter with their special hot dog chili, diced onions and yellow mustard; the State Fair Corndog, a quarter-pound turkey frank hand-dipped in the same batter that's used at

WEISS DELI &amp; BAKERY



THE STEAMIE WEENIE

the Iowa State Fair; and the PBB & JJ, a bacon-wrapped Nathan's frankfurter with creamy peanut butter and jalapeno jelly. Everything here rings in under \$7.

» After refining his culinary skills as Executive Chef at Bally's, Todd Clore opened ***Todd's Unique Dining***

(4350 E *Sunset Rd, Suite 102*) with his wife Terri, offering an innovative menu of contemporary cuisine. You'll often find Todd waiting tables in this intimate venue, perhaps serving his signature "on fire" grilled skirt steak, which is so spicy it makes your eyes water. Reservations are recommended.

» You don't normally think of apple pie as refreshing, but when it's Grandma's Apple Pie Moonshine over ice, it cools better than a dip in the pool. Pick some up at Las Vegas Distillery (7330 Eastgate Rd, Unit 100), the first artisan spirit manufacturer in the state. While you're there, sample the whiskey, vodka, rum and gin at a tasting or take a tour of the distillery.

» Mixing Old Vegas charm with a modern vibe, *Elixir* (2920 N Green Valley Pkwy #611) features interesting house-made cocktails and hand-crafted food made from the freshest ingredients. Start your evening off with a Melonbomber, made with Midori, New Amsterdam, Tropical Red Bull and orange juice before digging into The Bloody "Mary-Nated" Steak\*, a arinated flat iron with olive tapenade, bacon, blue cheese, garlic herb mashed potatoes, sautéed greens, and Bloody Mary cream sauce, which will set you back only \$15.95.



MOTHERSHIP COFFEE

» *Cozy Coo Coo's Gourmet Coffee Café* (19 Pacific Ave) is a locals' favorite. Breakfast is served all day. Drinks run the gamut from buzzy (the Jumping Jentri, an energy-packed concoction with green tea, ginkgo and Red Bull) to decadent (a Brownie

Frappe with actual chunks of brownie). The California, made with fresh avocado, turkey, smoked bacon, Swiss cheese, and sprouts, can be served on a French roll or in a wrap and receives high marks from reviewers.

» Nitro coffee is the signature beverage at *Mothership Coffee* (Green Valley Plaza, 2708 N Green Valley Pkwy). It comes in two variations. Infused with nitrogen, this single origin, cold-brewed comes on tap. It's described as smooth, fluffy and incredibly caffeinated. The hopped nitro brew, made with hops but is non-alcoholic. Pair your caffeine with a vegan Twinkie made with coconut whipped cream and dark chocolate.

» *Born and Raised Sports Bar and Tavern* (10050 S Eastern Ave) is all about taking the sports bar

experience up a level. This the second BAR location for owner and native Las Vegas Scott Godino Jr., and it retains the full menu and popular happy hour offerings of the original. More importantly, it continues its emphasis on providing an exceptional customer experience.

» As the story goes, Granny put Lucille to work in her lunch shack as soon as Lucille was tall enough to clear tables, sharing her secret recipes with her granddaughter in the process. Now *Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ* has locations in California, Arizona and Nevada and is known for its special spice rubs and savory wet 'mops' and sauces. The Henderson location (2245 Village Walk Dr) combines the fall-off-the-bone goodness of Granny's original barbeque with the upscale ambiance of the District at Green Valley Ranch.



COO COO'S GOURMET COFFEE CAFÉ