

Elko, Nevada

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Elko (Shoshoni: **Natakkoa**, 'Rocks Piled on One Another')^[2] is the largest city and county seat of Elko County, Nevada, United States.^[3]^[4] The population was 18,297 at the 2010 census. The city straddles the Humboldt River.

Elko is the principal city of the Elko Micropolitan Statistical Area, a micropolitan area that covers Elko and Eureka counties^[5] and had a combined population of 48,594 at the 2010 census.^[6] It is the largest city for over 130 miles (210 km) in all directions, making it, as its city motto states, "The Heart of Northeast Nevada".

It is home to Great Basin College, as well as to the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office serving most of northern and central Nevada.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Geography
- 3 Climate
- 4 Demographics
- 5 Economy
- 6 Arts, culture and tourist attractions
 - 6.1 Annual cultural events
 - 6.2 Museums and other points of interest
- 7 Media
 - 7.1 Newspapers
 - 7.2 Cable Television
 - 7.3 Television
 - 7.4 Radio
 - 7.5 Telephone
- 8 Infrastructure
 - 8.1 Transportation
- 9 Notable people
 - 9.1 Cultural references in art
- 10 References
- 11 External links

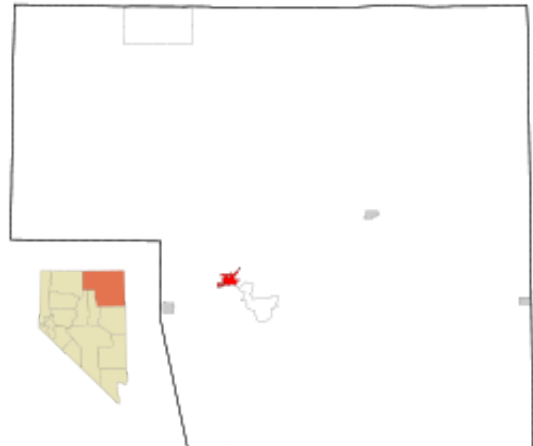
Elko, Nevada

City



Downtown Elko

Motto: The Heart of Northeast Nevada[1]



Location of Elko, Nevada



Location in the United States

Coordinates: 40°50'N 115°46'W

Country	United States
State	Nevada
County	Elko
First settled	1868

History



Elko was settled with the coming of the railroad, which still runs past downtown Elko near the Humboldt River to this day

Though Elko lies along the route of the historic California Trail, it was first inhabited only in 1868, when it was at the east end of the railroad tracks built by Central Pacific Railroad (the

portion of the First Transcontinental Railroad built from California to Utah). When the railroad crews moved on, Elko remained, serving as a center for ranching, mining, rail freight and general supplies.^[7]



View southwest along the Humboldt River from the 9th Street Footbridge in downtown Elko

Elko is said to have been named by Charles Crocker, a superintendent of the Central Pacific Railroad. He was especially fond of animal names and added the letter "o" to Elk. There is no definitive evidence of this naming history, but it has become the widely accepted version.^{[4][7]}

Designated County Seat	1869
Incorporated (city)	1917
Government Mayor Senate Assembly U.S. Congress	Chris Johnson Dean Rhoads (R) John Ellison (R) Mark Amodei (R)
Area Total Land Water	14.5 sq mi (37.5 km2) 14.5 sq mi (37.5 km2) 0.0 sq mi (0.0 km2)
Elevation	5,066 ft (1,544 m)
Population (2010) Total Density	18,297 1,153.3/sq mi (445.3/km2)
Time zone Summer (DST)	Pacific (PST) (UTC-8) PDT (UTC-7)
ZIP Codes	89801-89803
Area code(s)	775
FIPS code	32-22500
GNIS feature ID	0845452
Website	www.ci.elko.nv.us (http://www.ci.elko.nv.us/)
Nevada Historical Marker	
Reference no.	106

The first Elko County Courthouse was built in 1869. Elko was officially incorporated as a city in 1917.

In 1925, the Kelly Act (also known as the Airmail Act of 1925) authorized the U.S. Post Office to contract with private airlines for the feeder routes that fed the main transcontinental route. The first commercial airmail flight in the United States was on the 487 mile Airmail Route #5 from Pasco, Washington to what would become Elko Regional Airport on April 6, 1926. The flight was piloted by Leon D. Cuddeback and included a brief stop in Boise, Idaho to pick up more mail.^[8]

The 1910 replacement for the original courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. Post Office-Elko Main, built in 1933, is also listed.

Geography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 14.5 square miles (38 km²), all land; though the path of the Humboldt River fills from time to time.

Climate

Elko's climate is semi-arid (Köppen climate classification *BSk*). January is normally the coldest month of the year, with a daily average temperature of 25.1 °F (−3.8 °C), and July the hottest of the year, with a daily average of 70.2 °F (21.2 °C). There are an average of 1.8 days with 100 °F (37.8 °C) highs, 44 days of 90 °F (32.2 °C) highs, 24 days that do not top freezing, 198 nights with freezing lows, and 12 nights with sub-0 °F (−17.8 °C) lows; the growing season here is short, as the average window for freezing temperatures is September 10 through June 9. Annual precipitation averages 9.89 inches (251.2 mm), falling on an average of 81 days, whilst annual snowfall averages 41.5 inches (1.05 m). There are normally 130 sunny days each year.^[9] The highest temperature on record is 107 °F or 41.7 °C, most recently on July 4, 1981, and the lowest on record is −43 °F or −41.7 °C on January 21, 1937.

The most rainfall in 24 hours was 4.13 inches (104.9 mm) on August 27, 1970, and the most precipitation in one month 5.71 inches (145.0 mm) – all as snow – in January 1916. The most rainfall in one calendar year was 18.34 inches (465.8 mm) in 1983, and the least 4.35 inches (110.5 mm) in 1919, though from July 1923 to June 1924 only 3.72 inches (94.5 mm). The most snowfall in one month was 69.0 inches (1.75 m) in January 1890, with the most in one season being more than 91.00 inches (2.31 m) from July 1889 to June 1890 (some days being missing) and the least 6.00 inches (0.15 m) from July 1939 to June 1940.^[10] The greatest depth of snow on the ground is 24 inches or 0.61 metres on February 5, 1932, though an average winter will see a maximum snow cover of 7 inches or 0.18 metres.

Climate data for Elko, Nevada (Elko Regional Airport), 1981–2010 normals													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	65 (18)	70 (21)	78 (26)	87 (31)	97 (36)	104 (40)	107 (42)	107 (42)	99 (37)	92 (33)	83 (28)	65 (18)	107 (42)
Average high °F (°C)	36.3 (2.4)	41.4 (5.2)	51.6 (10.9)	59.4 (15.2)	69.2 (20.7)	80.0 (26.7)	90.3 (32.4)	88.5 (31.4)	78.5 (25.8)	64.5 (18.1)	48.2 (9)	37.2 (2.9)	62.09 (16.73)
Average low °F (°C)	13.9 (−10.1)	18.4 (−7.6)	26.2 (−3.2)	31.0 (−0.6)	37.6 (3.1)	44.4 (6.9)	50.1 (10.1)	47.9 (8.8)	39.1 (3.9)	28.7 (−1.8)	21.2 (−6)	14.7 (−9.6)	31.1 (−0.51)
Record low °F (°C)	−43 (−42)	−41 (−41)	−15 (−26)	−2 (−19)	8 (−13)	12 (−11)	28 (−2)	20 (−7)	9 (−13)	0 (−18)	−16 (−27)	−41 (−41)	−43 (−42)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	1.12 (28.4)	0.84 (21.3)	0.99 (25.1)	0.97 (24.6)	0.96 (24.4)	0.65 (16.5)	0.37 (9.4)	0.37 (9.4)	0.57 (14.5)	0.75 (19)	1.11 (28.2)	1.20 (30.5)	9.89 (251.2)
Average snowfall inches (cm)	10.3 (26.2)	6.6 (16.8)	5.2 (13.2)	3.4 (8.6)	0.5 (1.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.1 (0.3)	0.6 (1.5)	5.0 (12.7)	9.9 (25.1)	41.5 (105.4)
Avg. precipitation days (≥ 0.01 in)	9.1	8.3	8.8	8.8	8.1	4.8	3.4	3.4	4.2	5.3	7.7	9.2	81.1
Avg. snowy days (≥ 0.1 in)	7.4	5.7	4.8	3.3	0.8	0	0	0	0	0.7	4.0	7.2	33.9
Source: NOAA (extremes 1890–present) ^[11]													

Demographics

As of the census^[14] of 2000, there were 16,708 people, 8,505 households, and 5,287 families residing in the city. The population density was 1,153.3 people per square mile (445.2/km²). There were 6,948 housing units at an average density of 479.6 per square mile (185.1/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 83.2% White, 0.3% African American, 2.7% Native American, 1.0% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 8.6% from other races, and 2.94% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 17.4% of the population.



View of Elko from "E" Mountain

There were 8,505 households out of which 40.6% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.8% were married couples living together, 9.8% had a female householder with no husband present, and 29.8% were non-families. 23.5% of all households were made up of individuals and 5.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.72 and the average family size was 3.26.

In the city the population was spread out with 31.1% under the age of 18, 9.8% from 18 to 24, 31.2% from 25 to 44, 21.0% from 45 to 64, and 7.6% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 31.5 years. For every 100 females there were 104.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 105.3 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$48,656, and the median income for a family was \$52,263. Males had a median income of \$42,155 versus \$26,823 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$19,680. About 6.1% of families and 8.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 8.9% of those under age 18 and 8.4% of those age 65 or over.

Economy

Elko's economy is based heavily on gold mining, with ranching and tourism providing additional jobs. The city is considered the capital of Nevada's goldbelt. The state of Nevada produces more gold than all but four countries, most of which is mined near Elko. This has caused the town to have a boom and bust economy consistent with the rises and declines in the price of gold. The town is surrounded by hundreds of abandoned mining camps, and viewing them is a popular local activity. A gold boom in the 1980s that ended in a bust in the late 1990s left the town with large numbers of abandoned homes and left the local governments struggling to survive on reduced tax revenues. With a new gold boom starting in 2009, city officials have been reluctant to hire new employees and have decided to build a reserve in the city budget to prepare for the next bust.^[15]

Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1870	1,160	—
1880	752	−35.2%
1890	766	1.9%
1900	849	10.8%
1910	1,677	97.5%
1920	2,173	29.6%
1930	3,217	48.0%
1940	4,094	27.3%
1950	5,393	31.7%
1960	6,298	16.8%
1970	7,621	21.0%
1980	8,758	14.9%
1990	14,736	68.3%
2000	16,708	13.4%
2010	18,297	9.5%
Est. 2014	20,300 ^[12]	10.9%

U.S. Decennial Census^[13]



View northeast along 5th Street (SR 535) in downtown Elko



Goldstrike mine, a large gold mine near Elko

Elko has struggled to bring in other industries, mostly because of its isolation, and the surrounding harsh desert environment. Hunter S. Thompson quipped that in Elko, "The federal government owns 90% of this land, and most of it is useless for anything except weapons testing and poison-gas experiments".^[15]

Arts, culture and tourist attractions

Annual cultural events

Elko is also the home of the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and has been for the last 27 years.^[16] This festival is held each January and is a week-long celebration of life in the rural West, features poetry, music, stories, gear, film, photography, and food.

Every July, since 1963, Elko is host to the National Basque Festival.^[17] in 2013 they will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Humorously referred to as the "Basquo Fiasco," it is a celebration of traditional Basque culture and its ties to the Elko community. The festival includes strongman competitions, handball, a running of the bulls, traditional food and wine, and Basque Dancing.

The annual Elko Motorcycle Jamboree, also known as the "Rumble in the Rubies Motorcycle Rally"^[18] is usually held in June.



Elko Hot Hole, a hot spring on the southwest edge of the city

Museums and other points of interest

Elko is the home to the Western Folklife Center,^[19] which is regional nonprofit organization that works to expand understanding of the everyday traditions of people who live and work in the American West. The Western Folklife Center is located Downtown in the old Pioneer hotel.

A number of casinos are also located in Elko, including Stockmen's Casino & Hotel, the Commercial Casino, the High Desert Casino, Gold Dust West, the Red Lion Casino, and the Gold County Inn & Casino. The Commercial Casino is notable for having a stuffed 10-foot-tall (3.0 m) polar bear on display. For many years the Red Lion

brought gamblers to Elko from many parts of the country through flights on Casino Express. The flights to Elko ended in February 2006.

Elko is also home to legal prostitutes and contains active brothels. Under Nevada law, any county with a population of less than 400,000 is allowed to license brothels if it so chooses.^[20]

Several geothermal features are also located in Elko, the largest of which is the Elko Hot Hole. These features were utilized by travelers on the California Trail and subsequently by settlers.^[21]

Notable attractions in the Elko region include the Ruby Mountains, within which is located the popular Lamoille Canyon. To the north, the Jarbidge Wilderness is among the least visited and cleanest wilderness areas in the United States.

Media

Newspapers

- Elko Daily Free Press (<http://elkodaily.com/>)
- Elko Independent

Cable Television

Satview Broadband Ltd

Television

- Elko Television District
- KENV-TV (<http://www.kenvtv.com/default.aspx>) (NBC channel 10)

Radio

Elko Broadcasting:

- KELK 1240 AM - Adult Contemporary
- KLKO 93.7 FM - Adult Hits

Ruby Radio:

- KBGZ 103.9 FM - Country
- KHIK 96.7 FM - Hot Adult Contemporary
- KZBI 94.5 FM - News/Talk

Other:

- KTSN 1340 AM - Talk
- KRJC 95.3 FM - Country

Telephone

- Frontier Communications (<http://www.frontier.com/>)

Infrastructure

Transportation



The iconic "White King" at the Commercial Casino in downtown Elko



KENV TV studios in Elko

Elko is the largest city between Salt Lake City and Reno located along Interstate 80. In addition to the interstate, Nevada State Route 225 (Mountain City Highway) connects Elko to Owyhee and southern Idaho, while Nevada State Route 227 (Lamoille Highway) extends southeast to Spring Creek and Lamoille.



Interstate 80 in Elko

Passenger service to Elko is available on Greyhound Lines, while Amtrak's twice-daily *California Zephyr* serves Elko Train Station and SkyWest Airlines serves Elko Regional Airport from Salt Lake City operating as the Delta Connection.

Historically, Elko was the home base of a jet air carrier, Casino Express Airlines, which operated Boeing 737-200 jetliners to many cities in the U.S. on a scheduled charter basis in support of the local

casino industry. Casino Express changed its name to Xtra Airways and relocated its headquarters to Boise, Idaho.

Elko also was previously served by United Airlines with scheduled passenger jet service during the 1970s and early 1980s. According to Official Airline Guide (OAG) flight schedules as well as the airline's system timetables, United operated Boeing 737-200 jetliners into the Elko Regional Airport on a year-round basis with a daily roundtrip routing of San Francisco (SFO)-Reno (RNO)-Elko (EKO)-Ely (ELY)-Salt Lake City (SLC). United eventually discontinued all service to Elko.



Elko Airport terminal

Notable people

- Lewis R. Bradley, Second Governor of Nevada, from 1871 to 1879; resident of Elko^[22]
- Dave Pratt, radio host, grew up in Elko before moving to Phoenix, Arizona^[23]

Cultural references in art

- Elko was the main setting for Roland Smith's novel *Zach's Lie*.
- Elko is the setting for Spring Creek author Patrick Harris' superhero series *The Waterman Chronicles*. Popular locations are featured, including the city's museum, downtown district, and surrounding landmarks.
- Elko was one of the settings and filming locations of the 2005 film *Don't Come Knocking*, directed by Wim Wenders, and co-written by Wenders and Sam Shepard. The character Howard Spence (Shepard), a troubled actor in western films, runs off from a film set and visits his mother in Elko.
- Elko and Elko County are major settings in Dean Koontz's novel *Strangers*.
- Elko is where the ill-fated brothers end up in Willy Vlautin's first novel *The Motel Life*.
- "Fear and Loathing in Elko" is a short story by Hunter S. Thompson.
- Elko is mentioned as the one place he would like to be if he could choose, by the lead character, "Phil the Weatherman", played by actor Bill Murray, in the very beginning of the movie, *Groundhog Day*.
- Americana band Railroad Earth have a song entitled "Elko," with lyrics depicting the prostitution, gambling, and drinking. They also have an album entitled *Elko* (a live performance).
- The early events of the sixth-season X-Files episode "Drive" took place in Elko and the vicinity,

though they were not filmed in the area.

- Elko is the setting of the eponymous short film *Elko*, which is about a disturbed young woman who places an ad online requesting that she be murdered.^[24]

References

1. "Welcome to the City of Elko" (<http://www.ci.elko.nv.us/>). Ci.elko.nv.us. Retrieved September 12, 2013.
2. Beverly Crum & Jon P. Dayley, *Shoshoni Texts* (1997, Boise State University), pg. 167
3. "Find a County" (<http://www.naco.org/Counties/Pages/FindACounty.aspx>). National Association of Counties. Retrieved 2011-06-07.
4. "Profile for Elko, Nevada, NV" (<http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=17670>). ePodunk. Retrieved September 26, 2012.
5. MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS AND COMPONENTS (http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metro_general/2006/List5.txt), Office of Management and Budget, 2007-05-11. Accessed 2008-07-27.
6. "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2011-05-14.
7. Hickson, Howard (Fall 1983). "Elko, Nevada: 1868-1968". *Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* **83** (4).
8. Hickson, Howard (Fall 1970). "Dirt Runways: Elko Airport - The Early Years (1919-1926)". *Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* **1** (2).
9. climate-zone
10. "ELKO WB AIRPORT, NEVADA - Climate Summary" (<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?nv2573>). wrcc.dri.edu. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
11. "NowData - NOAA Online Weather Data" (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/climate/xmacis.php?wfo=lkn>). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Retrieved April 18, 2012.
12. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014" (<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2014/SUB-EST2014.html>). Retrieved June 4, 2015.
13. "Census of Population and Housing" (<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>). Census.gov. Retrieved June 4, 2015.
14. "American FactFinder" (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved 2008-01-31.
15. Ashley Powers (September 20, 2011). "Elko, Nev., takes the gold boom with a grain of doubt" (<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/sep/20/nation/la-na-nevada-gold-20110921>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved September 23, 2011.
16. "Western Folklife Center - National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Home Page" (<http://www.westernfolklife.org/site1/index.php/25th-Gathering.html>). westernfolklife.org. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
17. "Elko Convention and Visitors Authority, Elko Nevada" (<http://www.elkocva.com/basquefestival.shtml>). elkocva.com. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
18. "Elko Motorcycle Jamboree - Rumble in the Rubies" (<http://www.elkomotorcyclejamboree.com/>). elkomotorcyclejamboree.com. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
19. "Western Folklife Center - Home" (<http://www.westernfolklife.org/>). westernfolklife.org. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
20. "NRS: CHAPTER 244 - COUNTIES: GOVERNMENT" (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-244.html#NRS244Sec345>). leg.state.nv.us. Retrieved June 6, 2010.
21. "Elko Hot Springs" (<http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/Geothermal/site.php?sid=Elko%20Hot%20Springs>). University of Nevada-Reno. Retrieved June 18, 2014.
22. "Nevada Governor Lewis Rice Bradley" (http://www.nga.org/cms/home/governors/past-governors-bios/page_nevada/col2-content/main-content-list/title_bradley_lewis.html). National Governors Association. Retrieved September 26, 2012.
23. Larry Rodgers "DJ diary Valley radio legend Dave Pratt's new autobiography has charitable spin" (<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/arizonaliving/articles/2008/11/18/20081118pratt1118.html>). "The Arizona Republic. Nov. 18, 2008.
24. "Elko (2011) - IMDb" (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2124781/>). Retrieved 2014-10-02.

External links

- City of Elko official website (<http://www.ci.elko.nv.us/>)
- Elko Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.elkonevada.com/>)
- National Weather Service WFO Elko (<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lkn/>)
- Elko Convention and Visitor's Authority (<http://www.elkocva.com/>)
- County of Elko (<http://www.elkocountynv.net/>)
- Elko County Economic Diversification Authority (<http://www.eceda.com/>)
- Elko County Library (<http://www.elkocountylibrary.org/>)
- Western Folklife Center (<http://www.westernfolklife.org/>)
- Northeastern Nevada Museum (<http://www.museumelko.org/>)
- Great Basin College (<http://www.gbenv.edu/>)
- Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital (<http://nnrhospital.com/>)
- Elko Update (<http://elkouupdate.com/>)
- City-Data.com (<http://www.city-data.com/city/Elko-Nevada.html>) Comprehensive Statistical Data and more about Elko
- Western Folklife Center SAH Archipedia Building Entry (<http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/NV-01-NO53>)



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Elko, Nevada***.



Wikivoyage has a travel guide for ***Elko***.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Elko,_Nevada&oldid=671348624"

Categories: 1917 establishments in the United States | Cities in Elko County, Nevada | Cities in Nevada | County seats in Nevada | Elko, Nevada | Populated places established in 1868

- This page was last modified on 14 July 2015, at 03:31.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.