

Traveling is a bit different in the Covid era

I recently experienced that it is not all that daunting to travel in this strange time of Covid. Yes, there was certainly the need to wear a mask almost everywhere but in your hotel room; however, after two years of mask wearing, it's become rather a habit.

I traveled with a group of 12 from our area to enjoy New York City in mid-December to experience the city during the holiday, and yes, while it is annoying to always have to show your identification and proof of vaccination status before entering any restaurant or attraction, you just have to set your mind that this precaution is for the good of all.

And, yes, the airlines are very strict about their mask policy allowing removal only to eat or drink. Since there are no longer domestic flights with food service, that meant eating a cookie was not enough time even to take a deep breath if you even wanted to. Pretzels give you time for an additional breath or two.

I did not see one unmasked person on the airplane or in the terminal when transferring between gates to catch another flight. While we hear the news stories about the one or two dissenters, the general traveling public follow the safety protocols.

New York City was not any less exciting because of all the strict Covid



Marilyn Foster
Travels with Marilyn

policies, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I enjoyed the famous holiday performance by the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall and a Broadway show. When in the sightseeing bus, we all masked up respecting each other. Cleaning policies were in place with sanitation supplies always at the ready.

If you want to travel, currently, the major cities require we all comply with their policies, so they need not shut down the hospitality industry again. In many ways, our own state has been rather liberal and has mandated only wearing masks indoors.

Traveling during this era of Covid is not for everyone. And, for those unvaccinated, you don't even have the choice of traveling on public transportation or checking into a hotel or even enjoying what a destination has to offer. Your vaccination card has become your passport to the world. I'll admit, I don't want to get Covid after having been so careful and doing the right thing these past



SHUTTERSTOCK / CARSON CITY CHAMBER

Travelers of all ages must comply with all masking and vaccination rules to be able to travel.

two years, so I am extra careful.

My mask has become like the handkerchief of yore – always at the ready!

I'll be going to Colorado this summer and thinking now about another trip in the fall. It's good to get away and experience more than your backyard so you can better appreciate your backyard.

If you feel comfortable enough to travel and have been triple vaxed, don't let the press stories dissuade you.

The Carson City Chamber is focusing on some amazing domestic

sites that may never have crossed your mind. Everyone who has experienced South Dakota tell the stories about the fascinating scenery and wonderful national parks. The tour of the Midwest to include Chicago and a 2-night stay at the historic Mackinac Island Hotel is a winner for those who love Americana history. In the fall, there's a great tour featuring New Orleans, Nashville, and Memphis – the most incredible music cities in the world! The annual holiday tour in December 2022 will be to Santa Fe, New Mexico and we're making plans for April of 2023

to discover the Bluegrass Country and Smoky Mountains.

As more tours are planned, I will feature them. Right now, I still have New York on my mind and in a few more months, I will be "Rocky Mountain High" riding the famous trains in this beautiful state. I love everything about traveling and hope you will join me on a future tour.

Marilyn turns 93 today and still is planning trips. You may email her to wish her a Happy Birthday or to ask a question at MarilynFoster@carsoncitychamber.com.

STATE

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Transportation is a pressing issue for Lyon and surrounding counties with that steady stream of trucks, Page said. Lyon is working with the Nevada Department of Transportation to better coordinate between local and regional roads, shaping the future of Highway 50.

MINERAL COUNTY

Mineral county has just under 5,000 residents, according to the most recent U.S. Census. Commissioner Cassie Hall said that the population reflects four percent growth from the last census, and the county is projected to have 11 percent growth by 2025.

At the same time, Hall said that some of the challenges that the county will need to field in the next years are a retiring population and high turnover rates.

"It's astonishingly apparent that we have underutilized grants in past years. ... We are hiring a grants administrator this next month," she said.

Looking forward, Mineral is rekindling a partnership with Western Nevada College for workforce development, and it's looking to off-road vehicles to bring tourism to the area. The county is also anticipating expansion of the Luning Solar Energy Center.

Hall joked with the audience, "We are making diligent strides toward creating mission statements and vision

statements so that next year we can have fancier (PowerPoint) slides for you."

STOREY COUNTY

County manager Austin Osborne said that from 2008-19, Storey provided more than \$400 million in property tax abatements. It's part of the county's strategy for drawing businesses and workers into the region.

Some of Storey's fastest growing sectors include management, tech, mathematics, and engineering.

Not only that, he and his staff created a new fast-track permitting process for developers. Community development guarantees that it will issue grading permits within 7 days and building permits

within 30 days if the project meets all the county building requirements.

Osborne also touched on the ongoing Tahoe Regional Industrial Center Development Agreement, which he cited as one of Storey County's biggest keys to success. It's a 50-year contract between Storey and developer Roger Norman. Norman helped fund infrastructure in the TRIC, and Storey is paying him back \$48 million on top of tax abatements with no interest.

During 2021, the county also attracted visitors with fireworks shows during the 4th of July and Christmas. A monster truck show in Virginia City brought 20,000 travelers to the area.

"The point is, Nevada is on the radar. We get things done. We're open, but ... we're still using common sense to keep people safe," Osborne said.

Looking ahead to 2022

and beyond, Storey is investing more in flood mitigation, senior services, and emergency response facilities. The county is anticipating residential growth near Painted Rock.



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