



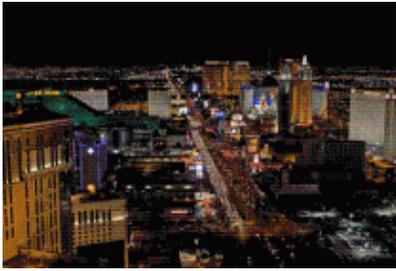
A Day on the Las Vegas Strip

Las Vegas, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: The quick one day trip for those looking for the coolest and most hip places in Vegas. Beginning with breakfast, this trip will work its way from the North to the South end of the Strip concluding with a top-notch nightclub.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Las Vegas

DAY NOTE: One day is just enough to get a taste of fine dining, thrills, gambling and old time fun. This trip focuses on the Strip beginning at the north end and proceeding to the southernmost, Mandalay Bay.



Peppermill Fireside Lounge

For the romantic in you



Stratosphere Tower

America's tallest observation tower



Insanity Ride

A spin above the rest!



Caesars Palace Hotel Casino

Original high-roller casino



Gondola Rides at the Venetian

Cruise through Venetian canals



Emeril's New Orleans Fish House

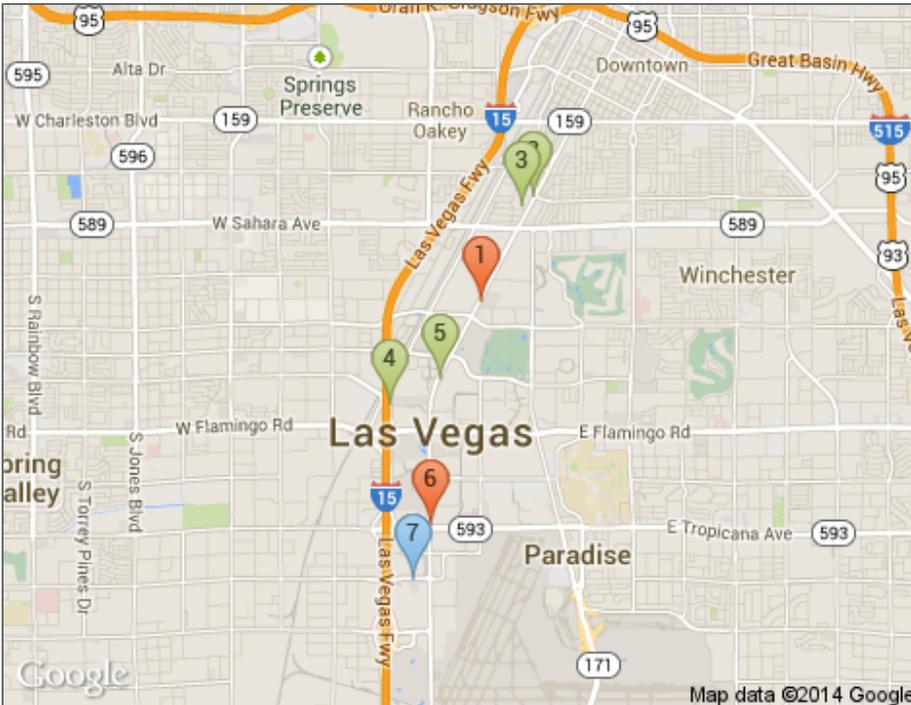
Seafood With A Cajun Flair



Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino

Best of the best

Day 1 - Las Vegas



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: One day is just enough to get a taste of fine dining, thrills, gambling and old time fun. This trip focuses on the Strip beginning at the north end and proceeding to the southernmost, Mandalay Bay.

contact:

tel: 7027354177

fax: 702 735 8923

<http://www.peppermillasvegas.com/>

location:

2985 Las Vegas Boulevard
Las Vegas NV 89109-1903

hours:

24 hrs

1 Peppermill Fireside Lounge

DESCRIPTION: This swanky nightclub, on the dazzling strip of Las Vegas, is a popular location for the late night birds to drop by. Charming waitresses, delectable drinks, cozy booths and an elegant bar with video screens amidst the carefully created darkness are just a few of the attractive features. Food is tasty and comes in generous portions. A special Martini Menu accompanies the drink list. Equipped with a friendly staff and a lively atmosphere, this 24-hour open venue, which has received several accolades from the media, is a much sought-after spot. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Start our your day at the Peppermill for a big breakfast in the style of old Las Vegas. Located on the North end of the Strip, you will be in a good position to begin the day.



Photo courtesy of Peppermill Fireside Lounge

contact:

tel: +1 702 380 7777 / +1 800 998 6937
http://www.stratospherehotel.com/Tower

location:

2000 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas NV 89104

2 Stratosphere Tower

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Fun, family-friendly place to visit. Rides are closed during bad weather.

DESCRIPTION: The Stratosphere is America's tallest observation tower (1,149 feet) and one of the tallest structures west of the Mississippi River. At the very top, the daring get their adrenaline going on one of the thrill rides: The Big Shot, which shoots its riders into the air; the X-Scream, a teeter-totter that dangles you over the side; the Insanity, which spins you over a thousand feet of thin air; and the Sky Jump, where you can free-fall your way to the bottom.

You don't have to be a thrill seeker to visit the top of the Stratosphere. A rotating restaurant, the Top of the World Restaurant, takes advantage of the view to offer a memorable meal. You'll also find bars and lounges here. Tickets to the top of the Stratosphere are \$16. An indoor and outdoor observation deck are available. The Stratosphere's wedding chapel also offers services at the top.

© NileGuide

MY NOTE: Whether you try the rides at the top or just take a look at the changing Las Vegas skyline, a visit to the tower is a must for first time visitors.



contact:

tel: +1 702 383 4790 / +1 702 380 7777 (Hotel)
http://www.stratospherehotel.com/thrills/insanity_the_ride.cfm

location:

2000 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas NV 89104

3 Insanity Ride

DESCRIPTION: This ride is available from the top of the Stratosphere Hotel Casino. It takes advantage of the height of the hotel and offers a hair-raising experience to those brave enough to try it. Riders scream out their lungs as their seats spin at the rate of 40 miles per hour at a height of 906 feet—facing the ground! For further information check the website. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: This is the best ride the Stratosphere has to offer. If you are inclined to try at least one of the rides at the top of the world, this is the best one.



Photo courtesy of Rain Rannu

contact:

tel: +1 702 731 7110 / +1 877 427 7243
fax: +1 702 731 6636
http://www.harrahs.com/casinos/caesars-palace/hotel-casino/property-home.shtml

location:

89109

4 Caesars Palace Hotel Casino

DESCRIPTION: Opened in 1966, this is the granddaddy of elegance. A 45,000-square-foot casino has the latest video and live games. You can find slot machines here that take USD5,000 tokens. There are nine unique restaurants—for a real treat, enjoy the Japanese cuisine. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: About mid-strip on the West side is Caesar's Palace. Inside you will find one of the most energetic casino



environments as well as the Forum Shops which offer some of the best shopping in town.

contact:

tel: +1 702 414 4500

fax: +1 702 414 1100

<http://www.venetian.com/pages.aspx>

location:

3355 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

5 Gondola Rides at the Venetian

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The famous wax statues of Madame Tussauds Las Vegas are a short walk from the Grand Canal Shoppes.

DESCRIPTION: The Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian Hotel Casino are a Vegas-ized version of Old Venice. St. Mark's Square is filled with swanky restaurants like Wolfgang Puck's Postrio or upscale Italian food at Canaletto. Upscale retailers like Dooney & Bourke, Kenneth Cole, and Banana Republic fill the village-like mall. Here you'll find "Streetmosphere," the Venetian's term for the wandering, costumed street performers who sing and imitate statues. But without canals and singing gondoliers, Venice would be incomplete.

The Las Vegas Venice's canals travel through the Grand Canal Shoppes and emerge outside in front of the Venetian. Two rides are offered: one inside, one outside (outside dependent upon the weather). Rides are \$16 for adults, and be sure to look your best for your photo opportunity (extra for pictures at the end of the ride). Rides last 10 to 15 minutes.

Inside the Grand Canal Shoppes, you can watch the gondolas to get an idea of what the ride is like. Stop at the area next to the Taqueria Canonita (or go inside the restaurant and ask for a table "outside" on the patio, overlooking the canal) and you'll have a great view of the gondoliers singing to their passengers before they turn around to head to the dock.

A special wedding gondola is available for wedding ceremonies. Old Venice inspires romance, and the Venetian Las Vegas hasn't missed this. It's the perfect Las Vegas resort for the Las Vegas production of "Phantom of the Opera," an abridged version of the original production.

A gondola ride may be romantic, but it's also fun for families. Rides are free for children under two. The Grand Canal is fun for kids, especially the "Streetmosphere." Whatever your age, the faux architecture, ever-changing sky, and charming little bridges across the canals are fun to look at.

© NileGuide

MY NOTE: On the East side of the Strip is the Venetian. More shopping here as well as a relaxing Gondola ride through the inside canals with your own personal gondolier. Relax those aching feet after shopping and regroup for a night on the town.



wcities

contact:

tel: 702/891-7374
fax: +1 702 891 7338
www.emerils.com

location:

3799 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:

Daily 11:30am-2:30pm and
5:30-10:30pm

6 Emeril's New Orleans Fish House

DESCRIPTION: As with Wolfgang Puck, the ubiquitous Emeril Lagasse has probably spread himself too thin. Although we thoroughly enjoy his shows on the Food Network and can attest that his flagship restaurant in New Orleans remains as good as ever, this Vegas outpost seems to have slipped. Part of that may be our prejudice about seafood restaurants in the desert -- yes, we know about airplanes and refrigeration, but we rarely have good fish in Vegas, so there you go. For that matter, at our last meal here, the most successful dish was the Creole-spiced aged rib-eye, drizzled with a horseradish Worcestershire sauce (with Emeril's famous kick that is neatly tempered by the mashed potatoes). A salad of duck comfit left us feeling the duck would be better on its own, but the sweet toasted-pecan vinaigrette was so good, it reconciled one diner toward eating previously loathed spinach. A signature dish remains the foie gras-topped ahi tuna, a combination that makes no more sense to us now than it did when we first tried it (because it tasted just fine with the side of spaghetti sauce). But the portions of foie gras can be generous, so you could just deconstruct it into a two-part appetizer. Still, you should try Emeril's famous lobster cheesecake appetizer, a savory delight like nothing you've tried before. The garlic-and-herb butter sauce that comes with the barbecued shrimp will have you mopping your plate with bread and asking for more of the petite rosemary biscuits that accompany it. And a slice of the banana-cream pie with banana crust and caramel drizzle is simple in its decadence. © Frommer's



wcities

MY NOTE: A visit to the MGM Grand cannot be avoided. Depending on your energy level, there is more shopping and more gambling and also a lion exhibit in the middle of the casino. It should be getting close to dinner by now - Emeril's is a novelty for many having seen his programs on the Food Network. Its a little pricey but its just one day, right?

contact:

tel: +1 702 632 7777 / +1 877
632 7800 (Toll free)
http://www.mandalaybay.com

location:

3950 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89119

7 Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino

DESCRIPTION: Tropical lagoons, sandy beaches and island landscaping await at this premier vacation spot. The standard guest rooms are tastefully decorated and spacious. You will enjoy a large bath with imported stone accents and a soaking tub. The 135,000 square-foot casino is lush with foliage and flowing water. Dining choices include the Border Grill, Rock Lobster, Aureole, Fleur de Lys and Trattoria del Lupo, a Wolfgang Puck experience. Rumjungle provides an exciting and unique night on the town. The Moorea Beach Club located in the premises is open only to guests and offers lots of amenities. © wcities.com



MY NOTE: Complete your evening at the South end of the Strip in the always popular Mandalay Bay. If you get there early, take an hour to tour Shark Reef. Otherwise there are cocktail bars, more shopping and restaurants, a Starbucks, The House of Blues has nightly events and

Rumjungle is a great place to dance, mingle, and get crazy. This party will go on all night so prepare yourself.

Las Vegas Snapshot

Local Info

Las Vegas defies definition. This city in the desert is a gambling capital, vacation paradise, adventure destination, and premier business convention center rolled into one. Las Vegas is the city of neon and the city that never sleeps. Reality takes a hike when you enter the world of glittering casinos, and the hours trickle away in this realm of slot machines, roulette wheels, and high-stakes poker rooms. If you want to keep track of the time, be sure to wear a watch. Casinos don't have clocks, and they are open 24/7, year-round.

Las Vegas hotels range from utilitarian to luxurious, and options for entertainment come in every variety, from adults-only to family-friendly. As a business destination, Las Vegas wins hands-down with the volume of facilities and services available for either large conventions or small business get-togethers. Upscale eateries by chefs like Wolfgang Puck and Emeril Lagasse are found throughout Las Vegas, both on and off the Strip. Award-winning shows from Cirque du Soleil and adaptations of Broadway hits such as *The Phantom of the Opera* grace the hotels' showrooms. Late-night entertainment is plentiful and diverse. Beyond the casinos, the Mojave Desert holds adventures like world-class rock climbing and mountain biking.

The Strip: Las Vegas Boulevard

The fabled five-mile area known as the Las Vegas Strip holds more hotel rooms than any other city in the world. You'll find famous and remarkable hotels, each with its own theme and ambiance. Bellagio's dancing fountains and Italian Renaissance aura ooze luxury. Caesars Palace recreates the glory of Rome, Vegas-style. The Venetian takes on another Italian city and era, duplicating Old World Venice, complete with canals and gondoliers. Old standbys include the Flamingo and the Mirage, with its white tigers and erupting volcanoes. See the Paris Las Vegas with outstanding replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and magnifique Parisian atmosphere and charm. Treasure Island offers daily live pirate battles, free of charge. At the "bottom" or south end of the strip, risen from the ashes of the Hacienda Hotel, the magnificent Mandalay Bay takes

you to the tropics, including a pool with waves you can actually surf. At the top of the Strip, you will find the Stratosphere Tower visible from miles away. It is the highest free-standing building in the western half of the United States, with views from the top that are indescribable.

You don't have to stay right on Las Vegas Boulevard to enjoy neon and glitz. Just off the Strip, places like the Rio, the Palms, and the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino are only a taxi ride away and offer easier access to areas beyond the Strip.

Downtown: Fremont Street

The original Las Vegas, where people hung out in the '30s and early '40s, is still thriving, but with a new face known as the Fremont Street Experience. The Fremont Street Experience closed the fabled street to vehicle traffic, and its 90-foot overhead canopy contains state-of-the-art LED lights that create jaw-dropping images. Some tourists actually prefer this area to the Strip because room prices are generally lower. It's an easy walk from one casino to the next, and it's reminiscent of the early, nostalgic days of Las Vegas. The Neon Museum has a permanent display along Fremont Street featuring Old Vegas signs, from Vegas Vic to Aladdin's Lamp. Nightly light shows on the canopy of the Fremont Street Experience are free, and street vendors hawk everything from spray-paint art to henna tattoos. In addition, there are famous hotels such as The Plaza (formerly known as Union Plaza), overlooking Fremont Street, and the classic Golden Nugget. For nostalgia buffs, there is also the Golden Gate Hotel Casino, renovated to its earlier classic glory and appearance and still famous for the 99-cent shrimp cocktail.

Beyond the Strip

In the last two decades, Las Vegas has added residents at an astonishing rate, creating outlying neighborhoods full of homes and, of course, hotels and casinos. To the west of the Strip, Summerlin sits just outside Red Rock Canyon and contains three hotel/casinos, along with several golf courses. East of the Strip, Henderson/Green Valley puts visitors a quick drive away from Lake Mead National Recreation Area and is home to the trendy Green Valley

Ranch Resort, which starred in its very own reality TV show for a while. In North Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Motor Speedway draws racing fans from all over the United States, and places like the Cannery give them a place to stay close to the track.

If playing the tables isn't risky enough for you, you may want to try some of Las Vegas' outdoor adventures. Red Rock Canyon is ranked among the top five rock climbing destinations in the world and contains over 2,000 climbing routes. Bootleg Canyon in Boulder City is home to a network of mountain biking trails and a new zip-line adventure that speeds riders along a suspended cable high above the canyon.

Las Vegas Weather

Las Vegas is located in the Mojave Desert, which means that from roughly mid-May to late October, you can expect very hot temperatures, often over 100 degrees. The climate is quite dry, except during brief rainstorms—in which case be careful of flash flooding. If you're planning any outdoor activities, drink lots of water, wear sunscreen, and go as early in the day as possible. Better yet, save your desert explorations for the winter months, approximately November through April.

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Hotel Insights

Las Vegas Hotels Highlights

Deciding where to stay in Las Vegas can be challenging, simply because of the sheer number of choices. You'll want to consider the atmosphere, theme, and location of your accommodations. Room rates run the gamut from decadent to budget priced. With few exceptions, Las Vegas hotels offer everything you might need on-site—restaurants, shows, shopping, spas, sometimes even bowling alleys and movie theaters, and, of course, casinos. Once you arrive, you won't have to leave your hotel unless you want to.

The Las Vegas Strip

On the Strip, luxury permeates the new Wynn Las Vegas and its neighbor, Encore. Built on the site of the old

Las Vegas Snapshot continued

Desert Inn, Wynn and Encore have been showered with both praise and awards for their five-star accommodations. Further south on the Strip, the Bellagio is probably best-known for its dancing fountains, but the amazing synchronized water show is secondary to the interior of the hotel. The Chihuly glass creation over the lobby is fascinating, and is a good indication of the Bellagio's attention to detail. Other notable Las Vegas luxury hotels include the Mandalay Bay and The Hotel at Mandalay Bay (which are interconnected), the Venetian, and Caesar's Palace. The Trump International, which does not offer gaming, is another consideration for travelers looking for pampering, sophistication, and opulence.

If your budget calls for less extravagance, you have plenty of options, such as the Paris Las Vegas, New York-New York, Excalibur (the medieval theme is terrific for families), Luxor (otherwise known as the big pyramid), Treasure Island, or the Sahara, all of which are located on the Strip. Except for the Sahara, each of these hotels entertains visitors with distinct themes from other cities and/or other time periods. The Paris recreates the famous French city on a small scale, complete with an Eiffel Tower. Both the New York-New York and the Sahara have rollercoasters, and the Sahara offers the Las Vegas Cyber Speedway for your inner race car driver. The Treasure Island's nightly pirate show has always been popular, and they recently changed the show to "Sirens of the TI," so the show now includes a perennial Las Vegas favorite: scantily clad dancing girls. For a G-rated show, you can always go nextdoor to watch the volcano erupt at The Mirage.

Downtown

Staying downtown will give you more of that Old Vegas feeling, without pyramids or rollercoasters. Downtown is a good place to stay if your major reason for visiting Las Vegas is strictly to gamble. None of Downtown's hotels have been imploded (yet), so favorites like the Golden Nugget, Binions, and the Plaza (formerly the Union Plaza) are still there. Downtown's nod to the modern era is the Fremont Street Experience, which closed Fremont Street to traffic and connected the hotels with an overhead canopy that displays nightly light shows. If you're traveling with kids, however, Downtown hotels don't offer much

in the way of entertainment for the under-21 age group.

Off the Strip

Off the Strip and in Las Vegas neighborhoods, the hotel casinos are smaller, and will appeal to visitors who want to stay away from the crowds on the Strip. The hip, upscale Palms is just a few blocks west of the Strip, as is the all-suites Rio. Station Casinos offers a chain of hotel casinos throughout Las Vegas, including the Gold Coast, the Texas, and Boulder Station. The Orleans, a few blocks west of the Strip, frequently hosts reasonably-priced concerts and events. Non-gaming hotels include the Alexis Park and the Renaissance, and most major chains, such as Marriott and Holiday Inn, have non-gaming hotels in Las Vegas.

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Restaurants Insights

The good news about Las Vegas restaurants is that the city has officially shed its status as a restaurant backwater. The bad news is that eating out in Las Vegas isn't nearly as cheap as it used to be.

Las Vegas is now home to a variety of accomplished, award-winning chefs, some of whom will be well-known to foodies. Wolfgang Puck was one of the first celebrity chefs to set up shop in Las Vegas, beginning with Spago at Caesar's Palace; Puck now has five Strip restaurants, including Postrio at the Venetian Hotel in the Grand Canal Shoppes. Thomas Keller has a place at the Venetian, Bouchon, which serves the fabulous bistro food he made famous in Napa Valley. Other culinary heavy-hitters in Las Vegas include Hubert Keller's Fleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay; Joel Robuchon's eponymous restaurant at the Mansion at MGM (also his L'Atelier, for more casual dining); and Alex Strada's Alex at Wynn. Emeril Lagasse has four restaurants in Las Vegas, most recently opening a sports bar and grill, Lagasse's Stadium, at the Palazzo.

Some Las Vegas restaurants integrate great food with beautiful décor and feasts for your eyes. Aureole at Mandalay Bay is known for its food and its wine angels, who fly through the wine racks to retrieve your

selection of wine. Mix is acclaimed for its view and interior design just as much as for its food. Atop the Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas, you can enjoy French cuisine at the Eiffel Tower Restaurant while watching the Strip below you. For a more expansive view, the Top of the World Restaurant at the top of the Stratosphere will serve you gourmet entrees while you take in the view from the tallest structure west of the Mississippi—and the restaurant rotates.

In the years before Las Vegas restaurants went seriously upscale, the city's better restaurants were known for thick steaks. The Golden Steer has been in business for over 50 years, and it's the perfect place to get a feel for the days before megaresorts. Downtown, Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens is another long-time Las Vegas favorite. Also located Downtown, Chicago Joe's and Dona Maria's Tamales offer diners authentic Italian and Mexican food, minus celebrity anything. West of the Strip, Rosemary's award-winning food draws both visitors and locals—it's in a rather nondescript shopping mall, but diners will be too enchanted with the food to notice anything else.

Naturally, if you're in Las Vegas, you'll have to try a buffet. Even though they're no longer the cheapest choice for meals, Las Vegas buffets are now known for their varied selections of food. The Golden Nugget was one of the first buffets to raise the price but also the quality of their food, and The Buffet is still worth visiting. The Mirage's Cravings, Bally's Sterling Sunday Brunch, and the Rio's Village Seafood Buffet are great places to experience the new and improved Las Vegas buffet.

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Things to Do Insights

Finding things to do in Las Vegas is easy.

The Strip is dedicated to entertainment, from its lavish hotel casinos to its animal exhibits. Beyond the Strip, you'll find museums, an Arts District, and beautiful desert scenery.

Wander through any of the Strip's resorts to find plenty of gambling opportunities (you may want to join the casino's "club" for a variety of deals, if they have one). If you're not interested in gambling, almost every hotel has a spa designed to massage and

Las Vegas Snapshot continued

pamper. Caesar's Palace, Planet Hollywood, and the Venetian have elaborately themed and designed shopping areas, complete with overhead skies in the ceiling that change from day to night periodically. Caesar's has talking statues and the Venetian features canals and gondolas. Animal lovers may enjoy the Mirage's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, the Mandalay Bay's Shark Reef, or the MGM Grand's Lion Habitat. Rollercoasters are a feature of New York-New York, the Sahara, and the Stratosphere. Downtown, the Fremont Street Experience and Neon Museum give visitors all the bright lights they can handle along a pedestrian walkway that connects the Downtown casinos together.

Las Vegas museums offer a great deal of history about Southern Nevada. The state's oldest non-native building is located at the Old Mormon Fort (only a partial wall remains within another building). The Springs Preserve is a new museum that features walking trails along with environmentally-friendly buildings and hands-on exhibits about Southern Nevada. The Atomic Testing Museum details the history of the atomic bomb. The Downtown Arts District, along Charleston Avenue, is a growing community of galleries and restaurants. On the first Friday of every month, they hold a street festival.

Exploring the desert surrounding Las Vegas will take you to red sandstone cliffs and rock formations, rare desert springs, and a massive man-made lake. Lake Mead, the reservoir created by Hoover Dam, sits adjacent to the Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada's first state park. Look for bighorn sheep in this area. Red Rock Canyon, to the west of Las Vegas, is a popular destination with rock climbers, hikers, and horseback riders. To escape from the desert heat, visit Mt. Charleston, also known as Spring Mountain National Recreation Area. Las Vegas is also a good place to use a base

camp for day trips in Death Valley, Zion National Park, and the Mojave National Preserve. Helicopter or plane tours to one of the rims of the Grand Canyon are also popular. The South and North Rims are part of the national park, and the West Rim, which is on Hualapai tribal land, features the Skywalk, a glass walkway that juts out over the canyon.

For guided tours:

Las Vegas Tours Haunted Vegas Tour (<http://www.hauntedvegastours.com/>) Papillon-Neon Light (+1 888 635 7272/<http://www.papillon.com/>) Scenic Airlines (+1 702 638 3300/<http://www.scenic.com/>) Sundance Helicopters (+1 800 653 1881/<http://www.helicoptour.com/>)

Grand Canyon Tours Adventure Photo Tours (+1 702 889 8687/<http://www.adventurephototours.com/>) Eagle Canyon Airlines, Inc (+1 800 634 6801/<http://www.scenic.com/>) Grand Canyon Airlines (+1 866 235 9422/<http://www.grandcanyonairlines.com/>) Grand Canyon Coaches (+1 702 577 9056/<http://www.grandcanyoncoaches.com/>) Scenic Airlines (+1 702 638 3300/<http://www.scenic.com/>)

Death Valley Tours Adventure Photo Tours (+1 702 889 8687/<http://www.adventurephototours.com/>) Pink Jeep Tours (+1 888 900 4480/<http://www.pinkjeep.com/>)

Horse Back Riding Tours Cowboy Trail Rides, Inc. (+1 702 387 2457/<http://www.cowboytrailrides.com/>) Sagebrush Ranch Adventures (+1 866 552 7838/<http://www.sagebrushranchadventures.com/>) Sunset Cowboy Dinner Ride (+1 877 444 4464/<http://www.awesomeadventureguide.com/>)

Adventure Tours All Las Vegas Tours Inc. (+1 800 566 5868/<http://www.alllasvegastours.com/>) Sun Buggy Fun Rentals (+1 866 728 4443/<http://www.sunbuggyfunrentals.com/>) Sunset

Cowboy Dinner Ride (+1 877 444 4464/<http://www.awesomeadventureguide.com/>)
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Fun Facts

1. The legal age for gambling and drinking in Las Vegas is 21. No exceptions.
2. Prostitution is not legal in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located. It is legal in the neighboring county of Nye, a short drive away.
3. Interesting fact: The Shark Reef at the Mandalay Bay is North America's only predator-based aquarium. It's also Nevada's first and only animal facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
4. Las Vegas is about 280 miles from the South Rim of Arizona's Grand Canyon.
5. Las Vegas is in the Mojave Desert, North America's smallest desert.
6. Average rainfall in Las Vegas is about 4.5 inches.
7. Fun fact: The Clark County Marriage License Bureau is open seven days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to midnight.
8. In 2009, over 36 million visitors came to Las Vegas.
9. Random fact: According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas has 148,941 hotel rooms available.
10. Gambling became legal in Las Vegas in 1931.
11. The Stratosphere is the tallest observation tower west of the Mississippi River. Original plans called for it to be even taller.
12. Weird fact: Boulder City, just outside of Las Vegas, is one of only two Las Vegas towns that do not allow gambling. (The other town is Panaca.)

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