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DrPleishner

Haunted Las Vegas

Las Vegas, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: At least four Strip hotels are supposedly haunted—Bally's, by the ghosts of the people killed in the 1980 fire; the Hilton, by Elvis; the Flamingo, by Bugsy Siegel; and the Luxor, by the ghosts of a construction workers who died there. Liberace hangs around Tivoli Garden, and the Clark County Heritage Museum has had a few paranormal investigations. The Old Mormon Fort is supposed to have a soldier ghost, and the Boulder City Hotel is reportedly quite haunted. For an official tour of all of Las Vegas' haunted places, take the Haunted Las Vegas Tour. If you're in town during October, visit the Adventuredome, which turns into Frightdome during October. ~Picture of the Boulder Dam Hotel.~

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Las Vegas

	Flamingo Las Vegas The casino built by Bugsy Siegel
	Luxor Ancient Egyptian pyramids
	Bally's Las Vegas An Original Superstar
	Carluccio's Tivoli Gardens
	Clark County Museum A museum with a street of authentic Old Vegas homes
	Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park Las Vegas' original Mormon settlement
	Haunted Vegas Tour and Show Haunted places all around Las Vegas
	The Adventuredome Small Indoor Theme Park

Day 1 - Las Vegas

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: 702/733-3111

fax: 702/733-3353

http://www.flamingolasvegas.com

location:

3555 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

1

Flamingo Las Vegas

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This classic Vegas hotel casino is in a prime Strip location and offers great deals on rooms.

DESCRIPTION: The Flamingo is the Strip's senior citizen, boasting a colorful history. It's changed a great deal since Bugsy Siegel opened his 105-room oasis "in the middle of nowhere" in 1946. It was so luxurious for its time that even the janitors wore tuxedos. (Hey, new Vegas? That's class.) Jimmy Durante was the opening headliner, and the wealthy and famous flocked to the tropical paradise of swaying palms, lagoons, and waterfalls. Renovations and expansions over the years aren't going to make Siegel's a "real class joint" cause you to forget about, say, the rooms at The Palazzo, but they have freshened the joint up -- including making it somewhat easier to reach the outside world, which in the past was often difficult. A recent addition is a branch of singer Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville nightclub, a theme locale that makes us wince when it's in, say, New Orleans, but this one, here in Vegas? Not bad! By Vegas standards, the old girl is Paleozoic, but not only is it hanging in there, some of the changes have made us reconsider it entirely. Gradually, all their dated rooms are getting upgraded. The first set off the conveyor belt are flatly terrific. Rushing headlong into the Dean Martin/Rat Pack retro vibe, they are kicky candy modern, with hot pink (the signature Flamingo color!) accent walls, hot pink lights in the bathroom where you can also find TV screens embedded in the mirror, candy-striped wallpaper, black-and-white photos of The Flamingo from its early days, squishy white beds with chocolate accents and vinyl padded headboards, huge flatscreens with HDTV, iPod docking stations, and more. Two-bedroom suites scream classic playboy bachelor pad. It's ring-a-ding fun and Dino would surely have approved, well worth the extra \$50 currently charged for the upgraded rooms. It's uncertain whether further room renovations will follow this design, but thus far, the hotel has inspired confidence. **The Flamingo Paradise Garden Buffet** is a decent choice. There are also several bars, plus a huge casino and the improv production show **The Second City**. And the monorail has a stop out back. For those planning some leisure time outside the casino, The Flamingo's exceptional pool area, spa, and tennis courts are big draws. Five gorgeous swimming pools, two whirlpools, and water slides are located in a 15-acre Caribbean landscape amid lagoons, meandering streams, fountains, waterfalls, a rose garden, and islands of live flamingos. Ponds have ducks, swans, and koi, and a grove of 2,000 palms graces an expanse of lawn. Although the water can be a little chilly, kids should be able to spend hours in the pool area. A health club (\$10 per day for machines only; \$20 for spa and health club) offers a variety of weight machines, treadmills, stair machines, free weights,



wcities

sauna, steam, a TV lounge, and hot and cold whirlpools. Spa services include massage, facials, salt glow, and body wraps. **Facilities:** 8 restaurants; casino; showrooms; wedding chapels; 5 outdoor pools; 3 night-lit tennis courts; health club; spa; small video-game arcade; car-rental desk; UPS store; shopping arcade; 24-hr. room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; executive-level rooms © Frommer's

contact:
tel: +1 702 262 4102 / +1 888 777 0188
fax: +1 702 262 4404
<http://www.luxor.com>

location:
3900 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89119

2 Luxor

DESCRIPTION: At Luxor, the Pyramid Hotel in Las Vegas, you'll enjoy extravagant décor. In addition to spectacular city views, you'll be treated with Luxor's signature 24-hour room service, valet services, and first-rate staff. Choose a deluxe room, spa suite, tower luxury one-bedroom suite, tower premier one-bedroom suite, or player suite.



contact:
tel: 702/739-4111
fax: 702/967-3890
<http://www.ballys.com>

location:
3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

3 Bally's Las Vegas

DESCRIPTION: With all the fancy-pants new hotels in town, it's hard to keep up with the Joneses, or the Wynns, as the case may be. And here's poor Bally's, with a perfect location, and it's got no big fountain or Eiffel Tower or anything to make a passerby think "Gotta go gamble there," much less a tourist booking long distance to think "Gotta stay there." And we aren't really going to make you change your mind, though we might give you a reason to consider it. After all, you can get a room for a ridiculously low rate these days (not reflected in the official rack rates below, but give them a try), and those rooms, which are larger than average, have been redone to an admirable degree, with some swell touches, including modern curvy couches, big TVs, and marble this and that. The public areas still feel a little dated, but the hotel is connected to its sister property, Paris Las Vegas, which is swanky and modern enough. Also, it's a stop on the monorail system, so you'll be able to go just about everywhere by foot or by swift train, and, thanks to those nice rooms, you've got someplace pleasant to return to. Bally's has the usual range of dining choices and is justly renowned for its **Sterling Sunday Brunch**. The casino is large, well lit, and colorful, and there's also a headliner showroom and the splashy **Jubilee!** revue. **Facilities:** 13 restaurants; casino; showrooms; outdoor pool; 8 night-lit tennis courts; golf desk; health club; spa; video-game arcade; concierge; tour desk; car-rental desk; business center; shopping arcade; salon; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: 702/795-3236
http://lasvegas.citysearch.com/profile/external/11470949/las_vegas_nv/carluccio_s_tivoli_gardens.html

location:

1775 E. Tropicana Blvd
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:

Tues-Sun 4:30-10pm

4 Carluccio's Tivoli Gardens

DESCRIPTION: A bit of a drive, but well worth it for those seeking an authentic (read: dining in a restaurant that's been around more than 10 years) Vegas experience. This joint used to be owned by none other than the Rhinestone King himself, Liberace. See, it was formerly Liberace's Tivoli Gardens, and he designed the interior himself, so you can guess what that looks like (it was reopened a few years after his death, and they kept the decor pretty much intact). This kind of history is more and more rare in this town with no memory, plus it's right next door to the Liberace Museum, no coincidence, so go pay your giggling respects in the late afternoon and then stop here for dinner. Expect traditional Italian food (pasta, pasta, pasta, and scampi), but done very, very well. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Carluccio's Tivoli Gardens

contact:

tel: 702/455-7955
<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/parks/Pages/clark-county-museum.aspx>

location:

1830 S. Boulder Hwy
Las Vegas NV 89015

hours:

Daily 9am-4:30pm

5 Clark County Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The homes, depot, and train at the Clark County Heritage Museum are all authentic--not recreations. Admission is only \$2.

DESCRIPTION: Someday, one of these casino moguls (yeah, we're lookin' at you, Trump) is going to take just some of those megamillions they are pouring into yet another Strip hotel and put it into the museum that this bizarre town, and its ridiculously rich 100-year history, deserves. Until then, this dear little place will have to do its best -- and that best is actually pretty good. With everything from dioramas of dinosaurs to a small street filled with original buildings, including the 1932 Boulder City train depot, this is a throwback to ghost towns and other low-tech diversions. Sweet, informative, and you can't beat the price. Note that hot days will make the outdoor portions less than bearable. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Terrisa Meeks

contact:

tel: +1 702 486 3511
fax: +1 702 486 3734
<http://parks.nv.gov/olvmf.htm>

location:

500 E Washington Ave
Las Vegas NV 89101

6 Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Site of the oldest non-native buildings in Las Vegas.

DESCRIPTION: Before Bugsy Siegel made it to town, the Mormon Church created this tiny settlement in 1855. It boasts the oldest European-American building in Nevada. The site was purchased by the State of Nevada in 1990 and restored as a state park. Tours are now available that outline the harsh life that the first settlers endured. The place was once a rest stop for those heading to California to seek their fortune during the gold rush. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

<http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Las-Vegas/Haunted-Vegas-Tour-and-Show/d684-2434HAUNT>

location:

Las Vegas NV 89109

7 Haunted Vegas Tour and Show

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to bring your camera to document any ghosts you may see--you can also submit your pictures for posting on the Haunted Vegas website.

DESCRIPTION: This spirited and spooky Haunted Vegas Tour will take you to the haunting grounds of Bugsy Siegel, Liberace, Redd Foxx and Elvis. Robert Allen, creator of the tour now makes it possible to visit such eerie sites by offering a guided Haunted Vegas Tour and Show, featuring Sin City's Darkest Ghostly Secrets. Additionally, experience the supernatural at the Las Vegas Seance that provides a spine tingling look into the dark and mysterious side of the afterlife. According to Allen, who consulted with Tim Cridland, a paranormal historian and Janice Oberding, author of the book "Haunted Nevada", there are more than 21 places where paranormal activity has been documented in Las Vegas. The Haunted Vegas Tour covers such sites as the "Motel of Death," where numerous celebrity deaths have occurred, and the former home of a Las Vegas legend whose ghost continues to haunt despite numerous attempts to exorcise it. © Viator



viator

contact:

tel: 702/794-3939
<http://www.adventuredome.com>

location:

2880 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:

Park hours vary seasonally but are usually Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-midnight; Sun 10am-9pm

8 The Adventuredome

DESCRIPTION: Las Vegas poses some challenges for families--namely, what to do with the kids. The Adventuredome at Circus-Circus is the Strip's only remaining theme park, and while it might not have the size or technology of larger theme parks like those in Southern California or Orlando, it's a good place to spend an afternoon with the kids. One of its best features is that it is indoors, a major bonus during the summer. You'll find rollercoasters (including the world's largest indoor, double-loop rollercoaster), laser tag, and miniature golf, all in a small indoor theme park that has the same circus midway feeling reflected in the rest of the property. If you're looking for upscale, top-of-the-line, brand-new rides, you may be disappointed--Circus Circus is known as a budget destination almost as much as a family destination. Circus Circus and Adventuredome are on the northern part of the Strip, closer to downtown and the grittier side of Las Vegas, which may turn some visitors off. But if you're hoping to find a reasonably-priced, G-rated place away from the slot machines and poker tables, Adventuredome has five acres of family-appropriate entertainment. Visitors can purchase all-day passes or buy tickets to individual rides for \$4-\$7 per ride. Signature rides include the Canyon Blaster, a 55 m.p.h. double-loop rollercoaster; Disk 'O, which spins riders in circles; Rim Runner, the requisite water ride; Chaos, a whirling, spinning ride that sends you in several different directions; and the Inverter, a ride that will flip you over and make you scream. In October, the Adventuredome loses its family-friendly ambiance when it transforms into Fright Dome. Fog machines,



Photo courtesy of The Adventuredome

haunted houses, and professional actors come together to turn the park into a place too scary for those under 12. Be prepared for crowds and lines; this attraction is also popular with the locals, especially teens.

© NileGuide

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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