



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



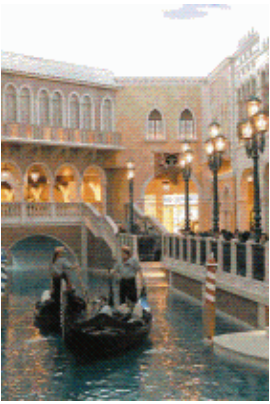
Pampered Weekend

Las Vegas, Primm, Henderson, 3 Days

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Guide Description













AUTHOR NOTE: Spas and relaxation with some fine dining define this trip.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife








Day 1 - Las Vegas

DAY NOTE: The Mandalay Bay resort and newer THEhotel at Mandalay Bay will pamper you and make you feel like a VIP. This trip features spas and decadent pampering.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Mandalay Bay A tropical-themed hotel with a incredible pool area |
|  | The Eiffel Tower Spectacular view of Las Vegas |
|  | Guggenheim Hermitage Museum Art in Sin City |
|  | Gondola Rides at the Venetian Cruise through Venetian canals |
|  | Charlie Palmer Steak |
|  | Re Gallerie Amazing lithograph machine |
|  | Addi Galleries Winifred Addi does it again |
|  | Penske-Wynn Ferrari/Maserati For the auto enthusiast |
|  | Fountains at Bellagio The Bellagio's famous dancing waters |
|  | Spa Mandalay On the beach |







Day 2 - Las Vegas, Henderson, Primm

DAY NOTE: Today you rent an exotic car and take a drive between events. From Henderson and the Ethel M tour back to the Strip and off-strip locations.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Rent-A-Vette Exotic Cars Exclusive vehicles |
|  | Ethel M Chocolates |
|  | Masquerade in the Sky Unique carnival experience |
|  | The RockSpa and Salon Hip and modern spa and gym at the Hard Rock Hotel |
|  | Rumjungle Great place to dance |
|  | Fashion Outlets Las Vegas Designer Outlets of the Desert |
|  | Mandalay Bay A tropical-themed hotel with a incredible pool area |

Day 3 - Las Vegas

DAY NOTE: Relax with great food, elegance, art and culture.

| | |
|---|---|
|  | China Grill Specialties worth exploring |
|  | Top of the World Restaurant Ultimate room with a view |
|  | Olives Visit the Mediterranean |
|  | Stratosphere Tower America's tallest observation tower |
|  | Shark Reef North America's only predator-based aquarium |
|  | Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art Art on the Las Vegas Strip |

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife



Palms Casino Hotel

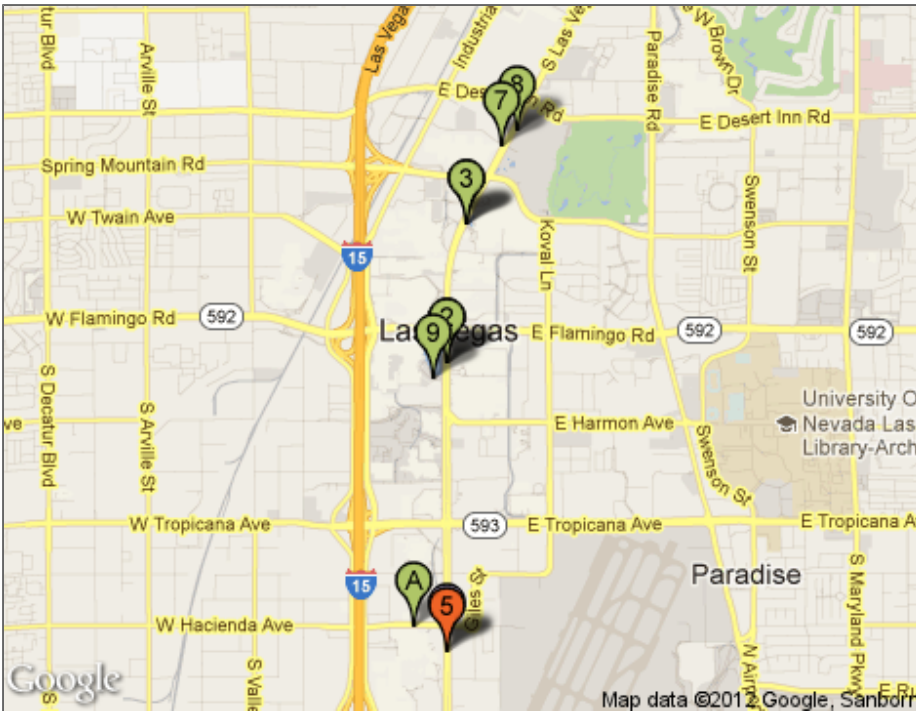
Sleek, trendy favorite of celebrities, just off the Strip



Mandalay Bay

A tropical-themed hotel with a incredible pool area

Day 1 - Las Vegas



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: The Mandalay Bay resort and newer THEhotel at Mandalay Bay will pamper you and make you feel like a VIP. This trip features spas and decadent pampering.

contact:

tel: 877/632-7000

fax: 702/632-7228

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

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89119

1 Mandalay Bay

DESCRIPTION: Mandalay Bay brings the tropics to Las Vegas. Palm trees, a beach, and a hint of coconut in the air give guests the feeling that they've landed in South Pacific instead of the Southwestern United States. It's not just the atmosphere that makes Mandalay Bay a popular Vegas resort. It's upscale but friendly, hip but good for kids. Somehow, this resort manages to really embody the idea of something for everyone, and it does it well.

Deluxe rooms are large—over 500 square feet—and feature upgraded and updated amenities, including pillow-top mattresses and flat screen television. More importantly, the rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows. Suites come in seven different styles, and hospitality suites are available. A resort fee covers incidentals like Internet access and phone calls.

Mandalay Bay's pool area is so inviting that a person could easily skip doing anything other than relaxing on its sandy beach. The pool area is just short of a water park and includes a lazy river and a wave pool. Adults-only areas are available, and a European-style (tops optional) is also offered.

Over twenty restaurants are onsite. Choices range from fast food to award-winning places like Aureole. Guests staying at Mandalay Bay don't need to worry about finding a place to eat.

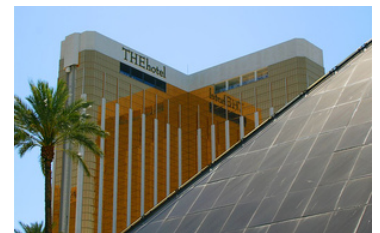


Photo courtesy of cayusa

The Shark Reef is a small exhibit/aquarium that showcases sharks, rays, reptiles, and fish. An exclusive boutique mall at Mandalay Place offers upscale shops and restaurants. A tram connects Mandalay Bay to the Excalibur and Luxor, so guests can easily explore these neighboring properties.

Mandalay Bay is located on the south Strip and is close to the MGM Grand, New York-New York, and the Tropicana. Visitors who don't mind walking will find it easy to navigate the area on foot.

© NileGuide

contact:

tel: +1 702 946 7000

fax: +1 702 946 4405

<http://www.parislasvegas.com>

location:

3655 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:

Daily 9:30am-12:30am,
weather permitting

2 The Eiffel Tower

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Reservations are strongly recommended at the Eiffel Tower Restaurant on the 11th floor, which is open for lunch and dinner.

DESCRIPTION: Paris, France, may be regarded as the most romantic city in the world, but Las Vegas has managed to recreate the City of Love on a small scale. In addition to the Parisian touches throughout the property--cobblestones, an Arc de Triomphe, and a half-sized replica of the Eiffel Tower.

A ride to the top of the tower takes you 460 feet above the Strip. A glass elevator gives visitors a full view as they rise in altitude. Tour guides are available to answer questions, and once you're at the top platform, you can stay as long as you want to take in the view of Las Vegas. Many consider this to be the best place to watch the Bellagio's Fountains, which are just across the street. Tickets to the top of the Eiffel Tower aren't cheap--\$10.50 during the day and \$15.50 at night (with discounts for children and seniors)--but that's still much less expensive than a plane ticket to Paris, France.

On the 11th floor of Paris Las Vegas' Eiffel Tower, visitors will find the Eiffel Tower Restaurant and Bar. Consistently picked as one of Las Vegas' most romantic restaurants, the Eiffel Tower Restaurant serves, of course, French food. Across the street, the Bellagio's Fountains dance regularly, a fitting backdrop to this romantic setting. If you plan on popping any big questions--ones that normally come with diamond rings--this is certainly a place to make any proposal memorable.

© NileGuide

MY NOTE: You can watch the Bellagio fountains dance from here.

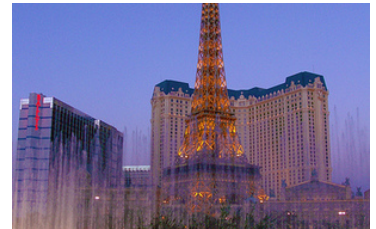


Photo courtesy of Steve Moses

contact:

tel: +1 702 414 2440 / +1 414
2493 (Tickets)

fax: +1 702 414 2442

3 Guggenheim Hermitage Museum

DESCRIPTION: The Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, with its clear-cut, modern décor, and an impressive 35 ton, 70 foot high door plays host to this replica of London's famous attraction - Madame Tussaud's. Velvet walls display art ranging from Picasso to Reubens. © wcities.com

[http://www.guggenheimlasveg
as.org/](http://www.guggenheimlasveg
as.org/)

MY NOTE: Before or after your Gondola ride.

location:

3355 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

contact:

tel: +1 702 414 4500
fax: +1 702 414 1100
[http://www.venetian.com/pag
es.aspx](http://www.venetian.com/pag
es.aspx)

location:

3355 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

4 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: Your gondolier will sing if you wish.



wcities

contact:
tel: 702/632-5120
www.charliepalmersteaklv.com

location:
3960 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:
Daily 5-10:30pm

5 Charlie Palmer Steak

DESCRIPTION: There are many, many steakhouses in Vegas, as if there were some natural law stating that any hotel without one will suffer from entropy and eventually collapse into a black hole. Discerning palates know there can be a significant difference between steakhouses; discerning wallets might not care. If you find yourself among the former, do try Charlie Palmer's, probably the best of the costlier shrines to beef. Those with the latter can be reassured that with entrees weighing in at around 22 to 45 ounces each, diners can legitimately -- and in the name of decency ought to -- share portions, which makes this a much more affordable experience than it might appear at first glance. And why not? Those enormous slabs o' meat are as tender as anything because with the big bucks, you do get the best cuts. We prefer the flavorful rib-eye to the other favorite, the Kansas City. Be sure to try the spinach salad topped with truffled fried egg and warm bacon vinaigrette as a starter (it gets a plus for presentation), and split sides like citrus-braised asparagus or a truffled potato purée (we are such suckers for what we call "gourmet baby food"). Desserts are stylish creations, and the entire thing is set in a generic fancy Vegas restaurant space that can be a bit noisy and crowded, so if romance is on the agenda, ask for one of the two-person tables in the back. Charlie Palmer, by the way, is the chef mind behind Aureole on the other side of Mandalay Bay; this makes two-for-two for this one celeb chef. © Frommer's



citysearch

MY NOTE: This is elegance unmatched anywhere.

contact:
tel: +1 702 946 7000

location:
3655 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:
10a-11p

6 Re Gallerie

DESCRIPTION: Other art galleries offer lithographs of the great masters. This unique art gallery has a working lithograph press in the window where visitors can watch as fresh lithographs are printed before their eyes. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Won't be a long stop.

contact:
tel: +1 702 732 2901

location:
3200 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

7 Addi Galleries

DESCRIPTION: Fashion Show Mall has added a unique experience to the Las Vegas shopping scene, and this fine gallery has to be the star of the show. Director Winifred Addi has outdone herself with a magnificent place to display stellar works of art. © wcities.com



MY NOTE: If you are an art enthusiast.

contact:

tel: +1 702 770 2000
fax: +1 702 770 2005
<http://www.penskewynn.com/>

location:

3131 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

8 Penske-Wynn Ferrari/Maserati

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The only factory-authorized Ferrari/Maserati dealership in Nevada. Limited numbers of visitors are allowed in; \$10.00 admission. No photography allowed.

DESCRIPTION: All auto enthusiasts will love visiting this dealership, where you can get up close and personal with some of the most expensive cars in the world. The display section is housed at the lobby level of the luxurious Wynn. Whether you are a guest of the hotel or not, it doesn't matter; just drop by to ogle at the exotic Ferraris and Maseratis. A minimal fee, charged at the entrance, is nothing compared to what you get in return. And guess what? If you crack the jackpot, you might just find yourself driving one of these magnificent machines! © wcities.com

MY NOTE: At Wynn. Take a walk around the Wynn while you're there. Plenty of beauty.



Photo courtesy of Penske-Wynn Ferrari/Maserati

contact:

tel: +1 702 693 7111
http://www.bellagio.com/pages/frameset_noflash.asp

location:

3600 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89109

9 Fountains at Bellagio

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Shows begin at 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and noon on weekends; shows are every half an hour until 8:00 p.m., and after that every 15 minutes until midnight. Inclement weather can cause cancellations.

DESCRIPTION: The Bellagio's Fountains sound like a simple concept: shooting jets of water timed to music. But what sounds simple is actually a complex choreography of technology, sound, and water. Designed by WET Design, an international company that specializes in elaborate water displays, the Bellagio's Fountains are spread over the nine-acre lake in front of the Bellagio. Over 1,200 nozzles and 4,500 lights work together to shoot water 400+ feet in the air—but that's not all the fountains do. They sway, they dance, and they wow the crowds that gather to watch them.

Shows start in the afternoon, but the best time to see the fountains is at night. The combination of music and the illuminated dancing water is enchanting. Many people have already seen the fountains on television shows or in movies (most famously, the George Clooney remake of "Ocean's 11"). Romantic, spectacular, and iconic, the Bellagio's Fountains are a free Las Vegas attraction that's appropriate for anyone of any age.

An underground well supplies most of the water for the fountains. Prior to the Bellagio, the Dunes and its golf course

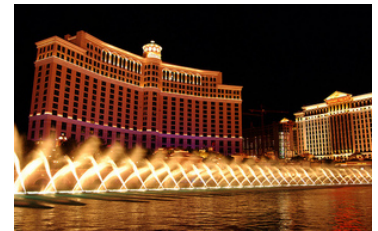


Photo courtesy of Kashyap Hosdurga

were located here—thus, the well, which watered the golf course. The Dunes was imploded to make way for the Bellagio.
© NileGuide

MY NOTE: You will catch it at least once while in the area.

contact:

tel: +1 877 632 7800 / +1 877 632 7300 (For Appointments)
<http://www.mandalaybay.com>

location:

3950 Las Vegas Boulevard
South
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:

Call for details

A Spa Mandalay

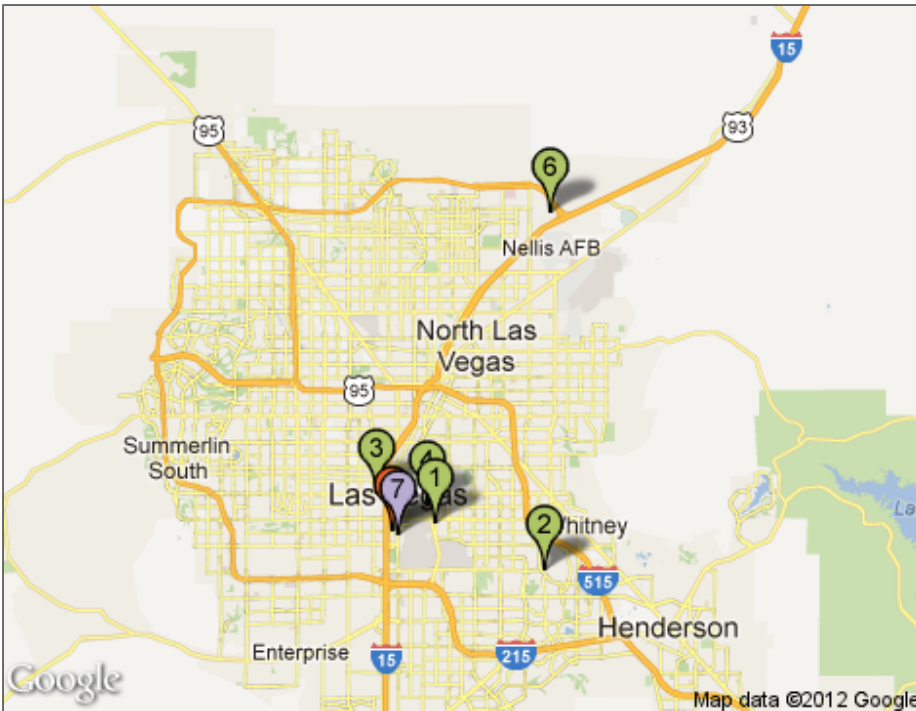
DESCRIPTION: After braving the wave pool in the hot Las Vegas sun, take a trip to paradise at the spa. Over 3,000 square feet of exercise facility and private treatment rooms overlook the 11 acres of beach area at Mandalay Bay. Salt and herbal body wraps, aromatherapy, massage, facials, saunas, steam room and a personal trainer will make your visit here refreshing and trouble-free. Try a reflexology session and your tired feet will thank you. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: You can have a treatment or explore the beach environment. Since you are staying here, you can come every day if you want.



citysearch

Day 2 - Las Vegas, Henderson, Primm



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Today you rent an exotic car and take a drive between events. From Henderson and the Ethel M tour back to the Strip and off-strip locations.

contact:
tel: +1 702 736 2592 / +1 800 372 1981
<http://www.rent-a-vette.com>

location:
5021 Swenson Street
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:
8a-5p M-Su

1 Rent-A-Vette Exotic Cars

DESCRIPTION: This is no ordinary automobile rental company, but one which allows the discriminating tourist an elegant and exotic way to tour Las Vegas. Drivers for most cars must be over 25, with certain exclusive vehicles requiring drivers to be over age 30. If you really need speed, the Lamborghini Diablo can be rented. Hotel and airport pick-up are available. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: If you can put up a little cash, drive around town in style.



Photo courtesy of Rent-A-Vette Exotic Cars

contact:
tel: 888/627-0990
www.ethelschocolate.com

location:
2 Cactus Garden Dr
Henderson NV 89120

hours:
Daily 8:30am-7pm

2 Ethel M Chocolates

DESCRIPTION: This tourist attraction draws about 2,000 visitors a day. Ethel Mars began making fine chocolates in a little candy kitchen in the early 20th century. Her small enterprise evolved to produce not only dozens of varieties of superb boxed chocolates, but also some of the world's most famous candies: M&Ms, Milky Way, 3 Musketeers, Snickers, and Mars bars. Alas, the tour lasts only about 10 minutes and consists entirely of viewing stations with an



Photo courtesy of Ethel M Chocolates

audiotape explaining the chocolate-baking process. You learn very little. But the place does look like a bakery rather than a factory, which is nice, as no one wants to see their chocolates handled without love. Even more sadly, you get only one small chocolate as a sample -- delicious, but hardly satisfying. Surely, this is by design; now overwhelmingly in the mood for sugar, you are more likely to buy some of their expensive chocolate.

Note: Come before 2:30pm, which is when the workers start to pack up and go home. What's really worth seeing is outside: a lovely and extensive **2 1/2-acre garden** displaying 350 species of rare and exotic cacti with signs provided for self-guided tours. It's best appreciated in spring, when the cacti are in full bloom. There's a little gazebo in which to sit and enjoy the garden, which would be quite peaceful were it not for the busloads of tourists in the area. Behind the garden, also with a self-guided tour, is Ethel M's "Living Machine," a natural wastewater treatment and recycling plant that consists of aerated tanks, ecological fluid beds, constructed wetlands, reed beds, and a storage pond. © Frommer's

MY NOTE: In Henderson, but no problem if you have that Viper rented.

contact:

tel: +1 800 752 9746
http://www.lasvegasshows.biz/Las_vegas_shows/free_las_vegas_shows/masquerade.htm

location:

3700 West Flamingo Road
Las Vegas NV 89103

3 Masquerade in the Sky

DESCRIPTION: This unique experience takes place in the Masquerade Village of the Rio Suites seven times daily from 3:30pm through 10pm. The 15-minute show consists of 36 performers, five floats, elaborate carnival costumes, and exciting music, singing and dancing. Beads are thrown to on-lookers Mardi Gras style. You can even be a part of the parade if you choose, for an unforgettable experience. If you just want to relax and enjoy the show, it is free for all ages and can be viewed from the main floor and the mezzanine floor balconies. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: While you have the car, go slightly off strip for a great free show.

contact:

tel: +1 702 693 5554
<http://www.hardrockhotel.com>

location:

4455 Paradise Road
Las Vegas NV 89169

4 The RockSpa and Salon

DESCRIPTION: While you may not be running on a treadmill next to Cher or pumping iron with Ozzy Osbourne, this spa is definitely a trend setting work out joint. Featuring the latest free weights, stair climbers, treadmills, cross-trainers and cardio-equipment, you'll also find peace and tranquility with a massage, facial, aromatherapy, rubs and scrubs, hydrotherapy and whatever your sweating heart will desire. There is also a full-service beauty salon. This is a more modernized and hip spa than some would prefer, but then again, why else would you be at the Hard Rock! © wcities.com

MY NOTE: If you are into celeb interaction, the Hard Rock is a great place to recover from a hangover or relish in faux fame.



Photo courtesy of The RockSpa and Salon

contact:

tel: 877 632 5300 / 702 632 7777

fax: +1 702 632 7234
<http://www.mandalaybay.com/dining/lounges.aspx>

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:

Mo from 11:00 AM to 04:00 AM, Tu from 11:00 AM to 02:00 AM, We from 11:00 AM to 04:00 AM, Th from 11:00 AM to 02:00 AM, Fr to Sa from 11:00 AM to 04:00 AM, Su from 11:00 AM to 02:00 AM

5 Rumjungle

DESCRIPTION: This fun place has won the Critic's Award for Best Place to Dance and Best New Hotel Restaurant given by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The Mandalay Bay Resort houses a refreshing two-story jungle complete with waterfalls and the world's largest rum bar. The Lava Flow is a flaming volcano-bowl filled with dark rum, crushed pineapple, mango, brandy and orange juice. Try the Fire Pit, an eight-course meal including skewered kabobs of meat.

CLOSED
© wcities.com

MY NOTE: Skewers at dinner, dancing at night. This place is exciting and trendy.



wcities

contact:

tel: 888/424-6898
fax: +1 702 874 1560
www.fashionoutletlasvegas.com

location:

32100 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Primm NV 89019

6 Fashion Outlets Las Vegas

DESCRIPTION: Dedicated bargain hunters (we stop here every time we drive by) may want to make the roughly 40-minute drive along I-15 to this big outlet complex, right on the border of California and Nevada. There's also a shuttle from the MGM Grand or the mall at Planet Hollywood. Round-trip fare is \$15 and includes a savings book for discounts at the outlets. Also, check the website for a shuttle discount coupon. On your left is a large factory outlet with some designer names prominent enough to make the trip worthwhile -- Kenneth Cole, Versace, Coach, Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, even a rare Williams-Sonoma, among several others. Why so far out of town? Our guess is because some of these companies have full-price boutiques in various hotels and malls, and they don't want you ignoring those in favor of discounted items. Open daily from 10am to 8pm. © Frommer's



contact:

tel: 877/632-7000
fax: 702/632-7228
<http://www.mandalaybay.com/>

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89119

7 Mandalay Bay

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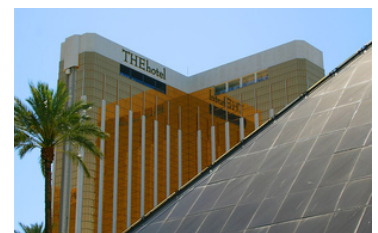


Photo courtesy of cayusa

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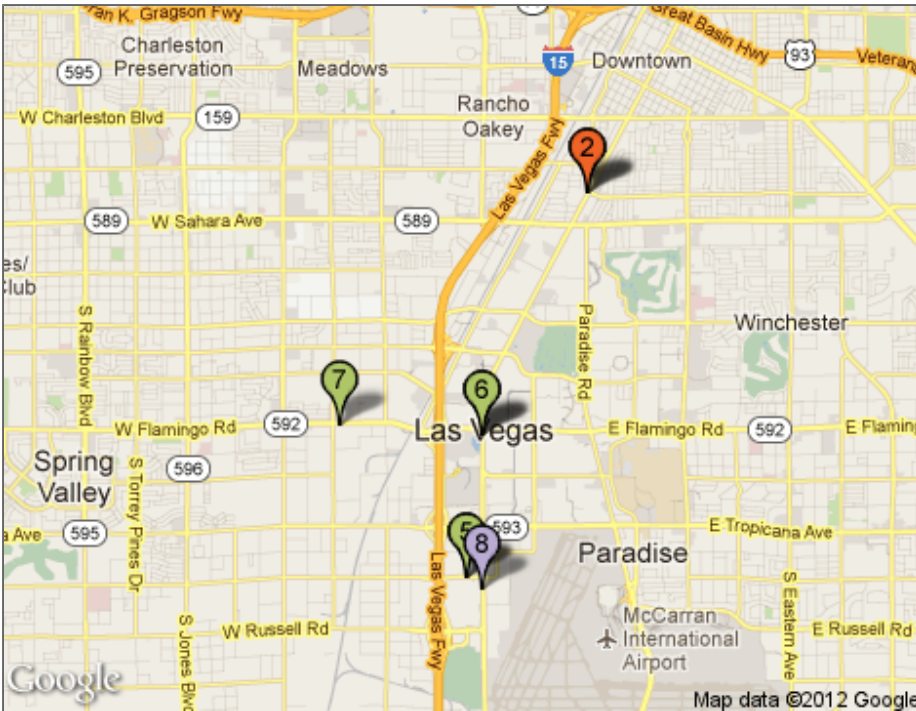
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© NileGuide

Day 3 - Las Vegas



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Relax with great food, elegance, art and culture.

contact:

tel: 702 632 7777
<http://www.mandalaybay.com/dining/restaurants.aspx>

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas NV 89119

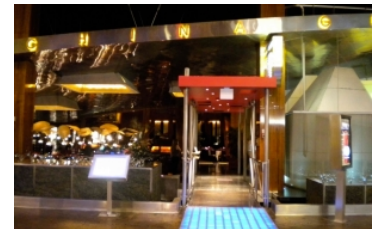
hours:

Su to Th from 05:00 PM to 11:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 05:00 PM to 12:00 AM

1 China Grill

DESCRIPTION: Designed by Geoffrey Beene, this is a hip place to dine at Mandalay Bay Resort. Entering the restaurant, you walk over a drawbridge, which is directly above lighted waterfalls. The food is a fusion of tastes and very Pacific Rim. Appetizers include Duck Pancakes with shitake mushroom sauce. Recommended main entrees include Tasmanian Spiced Lamb Loin with citrus hearts of palm salad, or Sizzling Whole Fish with Chinese black bean and red chili sauce. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Your final night at your home hotel.



wcities

contact:

tel: 702 380 7711
http://www.stratospherehotel.com/stratosphere_top_of_the_world_restaurant.html

location:

2000 Las Vegas Blvd S
Las Vegas NV 89104

hours:

2 Top of the World Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: Located atop the 800-foot high Stratosphere Tower, this restaurant offers a view of Las Vegas that is unmatched. The room rotates slowly at 360 degrees per hour so you can see the entire city from every angle. The service is superb and the excellent menu features steaks, fresh fish and lobster. Cocktails and a moderately priced wine list are available. Truly, this is an unforgettable dining



photo courtesy of Las Vegas Restaurants

Lunch: 10a-3p M-Su,
Dinner: 5:30p-10:30p Su-Th,
5:30p-11p F & Sa

experience. Afterwards, you can ride the rollercoaster at the top. © wcities.com

MY NOTE: Dinner or cocktails with a view and less noise and chaos than the viewing deck.

contact:
tel: 702/693-7223
www.toddenglish.com

location:
3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:
Daily 11am-10:30pm

3 Olives

DESCRIPTION: If there were an Olives in our neighborhood, we would eat there regularly. A branch of Todd English's original Boston-based restaurant, Olives is a strong choice for a light lunch that need not be as expensive as you might think. Here's how to enjoy a moderately priced meal here: Munch on the focaccia bread, olives, and excellent tapenade they give you at the start, have a lovely salad (maybe of Bibb lettuce, Maytag bleu cheese, and walnut dressing), and then split a flatbread -- think pizza with an ultrathin crust (like a slightly limp cracker), topped with delicious combinations such as the highly recommended Moroccan-spiced lamb, eggplant purée, and feta cheese, or our other favorite, fig, prosciutto, and Gorgonzola. They are rich and wonderful -- split one between two people, and you have an affordable and terrific lunch. Or try a pasta; we were steered toward the simple but marvelous spaghetti with roasted tomatoes, garlic, and Parmesan, and were happy with it. The constructed, but not too fussy, food gets more complicated and costly at night, adding an array of meats and chickens, plus pastas such as butternut squash with brown butter and sage. © Frommer's



wcities

MY NOTE: Lunch here after the Gallery.

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

4 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: You can see all the way to Mandalay Bay. It is worth the elevator line.

contact:

tel: +1 702 632 4555 / +1 702 632 7777

http://www.mandalaybay.com/entertainment/shark_reef.aspx

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89119

hours:

Sun-Thurs 10am-8pm; Fri-Sat 10am-10pm. Last admission 1 hr. before closing

5 Shark Reef

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Fun attraction for the whole family.

DESCRIPTION: The Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay is an attraction that appeals to adults and kids. Tucked away in the back of Mandalay Bay by their conference rooms, the Shark Reef is a small exhibit, but stocked with a very unusual combination of creatures.

The jungle-ish feeling of the Shark Reef is enhanced by mist and faux stone artifacts, which go well with the giant reptiles and crocodiles. You'll see piranhas, eels, and jelly fish, and the baby sting ray display gives you the chance to touch the animals. The star attraction is the shark tank, but you'll see more than sharks here. This is where a ship wreck and a submarine meet. Large windows into the aquarium are all around, and you'll see more than one type of shark swimming past. Giant sea turtles are also drifting around in there, and the best way to see everything is to stop and take a while to watch what's swimming above and below you. Don't be afraid to wander back into the galleries before; it does feel like the ride comes to an end too soon, so to speak, so you can go back and take a second look. The wands that are offered are worth the time it takes to stop and listen to each presentation. You'll learn more than you expected--and in Las Vegas, no less. The Shark Reef is an accredited aquarium, the only one in Nevada, and it's also the only predator-based aquarium in North America.

© NileGuide

MY NOTE: If you are tired of gambling and eating and getting massages.... this is a fun diversion.



wcities

contact:

tel: 702/693-7871

<http://www.bellagio.com/amenities/gallery-of-fine-art.aspx>

location:

3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89109

hours:

Sun-Thurs 10am-6pm; Fri-Sat 10am-9pm. Last admission half-hour prior to closing

6 Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

With the closing of the Venetian's Hermitage, the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art is the only art gallery of its kind on the Strip.

DESCRIPTION: Everyone (ourselves not nearly least among them) scoffed when then-Bellagio owner Steve Wynn opened an art gallery on his fabulous property. Sure, Wynn's been a serious and respected fine-arts collector for years, and consequently there was good stuff on display (though there are no masterpieces, there certainly are serious works by masters), but who would go see art in Las Vegas? Tons of tourists,



Photo courtesy of Smart Destinations

as it happens, so many that they had to almost immediately relocate the gallery to a larger space. When the MGM MIRAGE company bought Wynn's empire, the future of the gallery, which did rely on his collection (he took most of it with him), was in doubt. Surprise again, you scoffers (and that again includes us). The gallery is not only open again, but it's also getting written up by real art critics, thanks in part to such well-chosen shows as Warhol, Monet, Picasso ceramics, and Ansel Adams retrospectives, and an exhibit from the collection of none other than Steve Martin -- yes, we mean the stand-up-comedian-turned-actor-turned-playwright/author. See, he's a longtime, well-respected collector, too, and, consequently, there were real-life reviewers, hushed with happy reverence, who took the entire show seriously indeed. Now, will there be as interesting a show when you go? Beats us. (When we wrote this, it was a collection of American Modernism organized with Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.) Then there's that ticket price. Do let us point out that the Louvre -- needless to say, quite a bit larger and with, one can safely say, some notable works -- is about \$5 cheaper than the entry fee to this museum. © Frommer's

MY NOTE: Always elegant. Small and intimate.

contact:

tel: +1 866 942 7770
fax: +1 702 942 7001
<http://www.palms.com>

location:

4321 W. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas NV 89103

hours:

Daily 11am-2am

7 Palms Casino Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Home of the Playboy Club (on the 52nd floor of the Fantasy Tower), the Las Vegas Film Festival and the playground of the rich and famous, the Palms Casino Hotel is where the action is. Whether enjoying glamorous nightclubs like the Ghostbar, 55 stories above Vegas, great dining at one of Chef Andre Rochat's fine restaurants, or watching the premier of another great movie at one of the 14 Brenden Theaters, the Palms Casino is where it's at! © NileGuide

MY NOTE: Just off the strip, catch a movie, have lunch, visit the Ghost Bar on the 55th floor for a look beneath you through a glass bottomed floor, enjoy the pool club in the summer.... something for everyone.



citysearch

contact:

tel: 877/632-7000
fax: 702/632-7228
<http://www.mandalaybay.com/>

location:

3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S
Las Vegas NV 89119

8 Mandalay Bay

DESCRIPTION: Mandalay Bay brings the tropics to Las Vegas. Palm trees, a beach, and a hint of coconut in the air give guests the feeling that they've landed in South Pacific instead of the Southwestern United States. It's not just the atmosphere that makes Mandalay Bay a popular Vegas resort. It's upscale but friendly, hip but good for kids. Somehow, this resort manages to really embody the idea of something for everyone, and it does it well.

Deluxe rooms are large—over 500 square feet—and feature upgraded and updated amenities, including pillow-top mattresses and flat screen television. More importantly, the rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows. Suites come in seven



Photo courtesy of cayusa

different styles, and hospitality suites are available. A resort fee covers incidentals like Internet access and phone calls.

Mandalay Bay's pool area is so inviting that a person could easily skip doing anything other than relaxing on its sandy beach. The pool area is just short of a water park and includes a lazy river and a wave pool. Adults-only areas are available, and a European-style (tops optional) is also offered.

Over twenty restaurants are onsite. Choices range from fast food to award-winning places like Aureole. Guests staying at Mandalay Bay don't need to worry about finding a place to eat. The Shark Reef is a small exhibit/aquarium that showcases sharks, rays, reptiles, and fish. An exclusive boutique mall at Mandalay Place offers upscale shops and restaurants. A tram connects Mandalay Bay to the Excalibur and Luxor, so guests can easily explore these neighboring properties.

Mandalay Bay is located on the south Strip and is close to the MGM Grand, New York-New York, and the Tropicana. Visitors who don't mind walking will find it easy to navigate the area on foot.

© 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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