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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

DrPleishner

Ten Hidden Gems in Las Vegas

Las Vegas, 1 Day

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is home to bighorn sheep, miles of dirt roads, remote camping spots, and springs. West of the DNWR, the Spring Mountains are an isolated patch of mountains in the Mojave Desert. Off-road enthusiasts will enjoy the 4WD Bitter Springs Trail outside the Valley of Fire. In town, stop at the Gambler's Bookstore for gambling tips, or see Steve Wyrick, one of Las Vegas' newer magicians. The Boulder Dam Hotel, in downtown Boulder City, has a restaurant and museum. Either the Swiss Café or Firefly are terrific, off-the-beaten path restaurants. And when was the last time you went to a drive-in movie theater? ~Picture of Spring Mt. NRA~

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Las Vegas

Desert National Wildlife Refuge
US's largest wildlife refuge, outside of Alaska

Spring Mountain National Recreation Area
The locals call it Mt. Charleston

Mt. Charleston Hotel
Charm in Kyle Canyon

Bitter Springs Trail Backcountry Byway
Discover old mining properties such as remnants of the old American Borax mill.

Steve Wyrick Magic Show at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino
Show

Gambler's Book Club
Everything you need to research gambling

Swiss Cafe and Patio Garden
Rave reviews

Century Las Vegas Drive-Ins
Do drive in!

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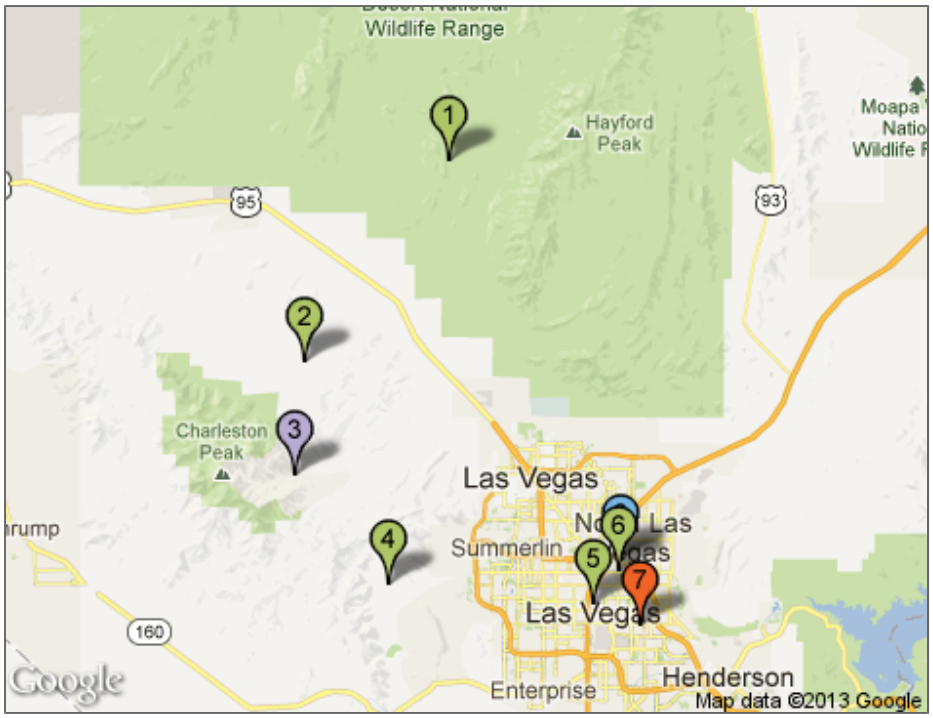
Day 1 - Las Vegas



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 702-879-6110
http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/

location:
HCR 38, Box 70
Las Vegas NV 89124

1 Desert National Wildlife Refuge

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Stop at the Corn Creek Station to see ponds, the remnants of orchards and a cabin, and wildlife. Very popular spot for bird watching.

DESCRIPTION: Facilities in this USDI Fish and Wildlife National Refuge includes; wildlife viewing, bird watching, nature study, viewing historical sites, scenic viewing, camping, picnicking, walking and geology. From Las Vegas take either U.S. Highway 95 or U.S. Highway 93 north.

Photo courtesy of Desert National Wildlife Refuge

contact:
tel: 702-873-8800
http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet/!ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9_AI8zPyhQoYAOUjMeXDfODy-HWHg-zDrx8kb4ADOBro-3nk56bqF-RGGGSZOCoCAPi8eX8!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfMjAwMDAwMDBBODBPSEhWTjJNMDAwMDAwMDA!/

2 Spring Mountain National Recreation Area

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Stop at the visitor's center to learn how to identify Bristlecone Pines from other types of pines.

DESCRIPTION: Less than an hour from the Las Vegas Strip, the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area is an island of mountains in the middle of the desert. Mt. Charleston, which is how the local collectively refer to the entire area, is actually the name of the highest peak in the Spring Mountain Range. At a little under 12,000 feet, it's also the third highest peak in Nevada.

Photo courtesy of Whit Andrews

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location:
State Rt. 156/157/158
Las Vegas NV 89124

Two major canyons welcome visitors: Kyle Canyon, where you'll find a village (no grocery store) and two lodges. Lee Canyon is home to homes and snow play areas, including a ski and snowboarding lodge.
Hiking trails can be found in both canyons, and a hike to the peak of Mt. Charleston will take you into designated wilderness. You're likely to see more birds than any other type of wildlife, but look for deer and lots of squirrels. Elk herds also live here, although they are rarely seen. This is a very dry mountain, so if you're hiking, bring water. Water sources are few on Mt. Charleston.
State Highway 158 connects Kyle Canyon to Lee Canyon, making it easy to turn a trip to Mt. Charleston into a scenic loop. Look for picnic areas, campgrounds, and viewing turnouts throughout the entire area. A small visitor center can be found on Kyle Canyon Road, or SR 157.
Officially a part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, SMNR is home to the bristlecone pine (Pinus longavea), which are some of the world's longest-living plants--the oldest are thousands of years old.
Temperatures here are often 20 degrees cooler than in Las Vegas, and during winter the area is covered in snow. This is the only place close to Vegas where you can ski in winter, and the mountain roads are clogged with locals after the first snowfall--something the residents of Las Vegas don't get to see often.
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contact:
tel: +1 702 872 5500
fax: +1 702 872 5374
http://www.mtcharlestonhotel.com

location:
2 Kyle Canyon Rd
Mt. Charleston NV 89124

3 Mt. Charleston Hotel

Hotels.com

DESCRIPTION: Built in the early 1980s, the New Mt. Charleston Hotel, Event and Conference Center went through a multi-million dollar renovation. This charming log-built hotel, nestled in Kyle Canyon, is atmospherically a world away from the buzz of Las Vegas-a 35-minute drive from downtown. The newly renovated guest rooms feature electric fireplaces, feather beds and views of the encompassing Spring mountains. The Mt. Charleston opened a year-round outdoor ice-skating rink, complete with ice skate rentals, a hot chocolate stand and fire pit to keep skaters warm in the winter. Dining is available in the hotel's bistro which features gourmet coffee, homemade pastries and light breakfast and lunch offerings, as well as a new and large outdoor patio opening up to the duck pond. It also features a steakhouse, offering full-service dining, and a lounge with overstuffed couches, plasma television and numerous fireplaces along with its specialty award-winning drink menu. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: 702-515-5000
fax: 702-515-5023
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm_programs/lvfo_recreation/backcountry_byways.html

location:
I15 Valley of Fire Exit to Marked Dirt Road
Las Vegas NV 89130-2301

4 Bitter Springs Trail Backcountry Byway

Photo courtesy of Julie Vazquez

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Be prepared for this route through beautiful desert back country. This road is best attempted by experienced off-road drivers, and four wheel drive is a must. Strongly consider teaming with another driver for additional safety.

DESCRIPTION: The byway begins at the Valley of Fire State Park and is 28 miles long. From the Valley of State Park the route runs along the foothills of the Muddy Mountains, through several dry washes, past abandoned mining operations and terminates on North Shore Drive in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Verdant desert streams, evidence of borax mining operations and geological formations rare for this region of Nevada delight byway travelers. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.

contact:
http://www.partner.viator.com/en/6793/tours/Las-Vegas/Steve-Wyrick-Magic-Show-at-the-Planet-Hollywood-Resort-and-Casino/d684-5004MAGIC

location:
Las Vegas NV 89109

5 Steve Wyrick Magic Show at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino

viator

DESCRIPTION: Prepare to witness some of the most mind-blowing magic you will see anywhere in the world at the Steve Wyrick Real Magic Show in Las Vegas. See a Lear Jet 35 and AS 350 helicopter appear out of nowhere and a pure steel chopper disappear right before your eyes.
Located in the Steve Wyrick Theater at the Miracle Mile Shops at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino, Wyrick incorporates his signature, larger-than-life illusions into this theatrical experience, but it is his personal touches that make the show truly unique!
Choose from Reserved Seats or upgrade to the Premium Seat Option, which includes a VIP Lanyard, Book of Magic Tricks and a $10 discount coupon for the Magic Shop. © Viator

contact:
tel: 800/522-1777
fax: +1 702 382 7594
http://www.gamblersbook.com

location:
5473 S. Eastern
Las Vegas NV 89119

6 Gambler's Book Club

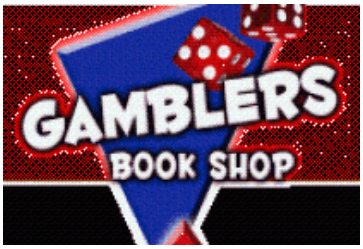

Photo courtesy of Gambler's Book Shop

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
The shop on Eastern is a new location for the store, which was downtown at Charleston and 11th for over 30 years.

DESCRIPTION: Here you can buy a book on any system ever devised to beat casino odds. Owner Edna Luckman carries more than 4,000 gambling-related titles, including many out-of-print books, computer software, and videotapes. She describes her store as a place where "gamblers, writers, researchers,

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statisticians, and computer specialists can meet and exchange information." On request, knowledgeable clerks provide on-the-spot expert advice on handicapping the ponies and other aspects of sports betting. The store's motto is "knowledge is protection." Open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 5pm.
© Frommer's

contact:
tel: 702 454 2270

location:
3175 East Tropicana Boulevard
Las Vegas NV 89109

7 Swiss Cafe and Patio Garden

DESCRIPTION: This charming eatery has received raves as "One of Las Vegas' Top 40 Restaurants" by Zagat Survey plus many accolades from the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The delightful menu features dishes from three regions in Switzerland: French, German and Italian. Your appetizer choice might be the Roast Duck Salad with Raspberry Walnut Dressing. The Bavarian Rib Chop stuffed with crab dressing is excellent. Swiss Schnitzel with Cognac Sauce goes. An nice selection of imported and domestic wines is available. CLOSED.
© wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 702 646 3565

location:
4150 West Carey Avenue
Las Vegas NV 89030

8 Century Las Vegas Drive-Ins

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
One of the few remaining drive-in theaters in the United States.

DESCRIPTION: This Las Vegas drive-in is quite popular, as it is the only one remaining in the area. With six screens showing the best of Hollywood films, this place can accommodate up to 950 cars. For film timings, ticket prices and further information just call. © wcities.com

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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 asThe 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 theFlamingo and theMirage, with its white tigers and erupting volcanoes. See theParis Las Vegas with outstanding replicas of the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe andmagnifique 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 magnificentMandalay Bay takes you to the tropics, including a pool with waves you can actually surf. At the top of the Strip, you will find theStratosphere 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 theRio, thePalms, and theHard 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 theFremont 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. TheNeon 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 asThe Plaza(formerly known as Union Plaza), overlooking Fremont Street, and the classicGolden 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 outsideRed 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 fromLake Mead National Recreation Area and is home to the trendyGreen Valley Ranch Resort, which starred in its very own reality TV show for a while. In North Las Vegas, theLas Vegas Motor Speedway draws racing fans from all over the United States, and places like theCannery 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 inBoulder 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 newWynn Las Vegas and its neighbor,Encore. Built on the site of the old

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Desert Inn, Wynn and Encore have been showered with both praise and awards for their five-star accommodations. Further south on the Strip, theBellagio 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 theMandalay Bay andTHEhotelat Mandalay Bay(which are interconnected), theVenetian, andCaesar's Palace. TheTrump 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 theParis Las Vegas,New York-New York,Excalibur(the medieval theme is terrific for families),Luxor(otherwise known as the big pyramid),Treasure Island, or theSahara, 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 errupt atThe 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 theGolden Nugget,Binions, and thePlaza(formerly the Union Plaza) are still there. Downtown's nod to the modern era is theFremont 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, upscalePalms is just a few blocks west of the Strip, as is the all-suitesRio.Station Casinos offers a chain of hotel casinos throughout Las Vegas, including the Gold Coast, the Texas, and Boulder Station. TheOrleans, a few blocks west of the Strip, frequently hosts reasonably-priced concerts and events. Non-gaming hotels include theAlexis Park and theRenaissance, and most major chains, such asMarriott andHoliday 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 withSpago at Caesar's Palace; Puck now has five Strip restaurants, includingPostrio 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'sFleur de Lys at Mandalay Bay;Joel Robuchon's eponymous restaurant at the Mansion at MGM(also hisL'Atelier, for more casual dining); and Alex Strada'sAlex 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 though 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 theEiffel Tower Restaurant while watching the Strip below you. For a more expansive view, theTop 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. TheGolden 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 andDona 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'sCravings, Bally'sSterling Sunday Brunch, and the Rio'sVillage 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

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pamper.Caesar's Palace,Planet Hollywood, and theVenetian 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'sSecret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, the Mandalay Bay'sShark Reef, or the MGM Grand'sLion Habitat. Rollercoasters are a feature ofNew York-New York, theSahara, and theStratosphere. Downtown, theFremont Street Experience andNeon 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 theOld Mormon Fort(only a partial wall remains within another building). TheSprings Preserve is a new museum that features walking trails along with environmentally-friendly buildings and hands-on exhibits about Southern Nevada. TheAtomic 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 byHoover Dam, sits adjacent to theValley 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 asSpring 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/) Papillion-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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