

Travel Savers

Las Vegas: Glitzy Getaway

Standing on the Las Vegas strip, lorded over by the neon dazzle of the MGM Grand, the Luxor, Caesars, The Palms, is like being dropped into a movie set with you as the star.

Whether you travel to Vegas to flirt with Lady Luck, or to sample the inimitable entertainment, you don't have to be a high roller to have a high time in this desert city.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

By day, Vegas offers cultural exclusives such as the Liberace Museum, home to the legendary entertainer's extravagant jewelry, costumes, pianos and collection of rare automobiles. If the city's Elvis impersonators don't fully satisfy your desire to connect with the King, stop into the Elvis-a-Rama Museum for a close-up of his personal belongings, \$4 million worth. Higher culture can be found at the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art and the Venetian's Guggenheim Hermitage.

Head downtown for the Fremont Street Experience, a five-block pedestrian promenade with a canopy cover of two million lights. A spectacular light and sound show starts at dusk — and it's free.

Stretch your betting dollars at the nickel and quarter slots at downtown casinos like the Golden Nugget and the Horseshoe. Or take a chance on marriage at any one of the chapels that stage weddings from whimsical to wacky. A wedding license costs \$55 and there's no waiting period.

If you find you need a respite from all the noise and activity, Vegas is — surprise — a spa town. The Spa at the Palms runs fall specials, and the Canyon Ranch Spa Club at the Venetian offers full-day or weekend packages. Reserving a Spa Suite at the Venetian may offer the ultimate in-room escape.

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During the low season in Las Vegas, visitors can live high and still spend little.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Before you book a flight, look into the myriad hotel-and-airfare package deals being offered now, during the low season. You may find you can afford a more upscale hotel than you imagined. Ask your travel agent or visit online travel sites such as Expedia.com, Cheaptickets.com or Hotwire.com, which have been promoting Las Vegas deals.

FOOD & DINING

All-you-can eat buffets are still the rage in Las Vegas, and still offer the best bang for your buck. Nearly all the hotels offer breakfast, lunch and dinner options. You'll also find affordable, 24-hour cafes catering to your round-the-clock appetite. If you want to splurge and drop some serious dollars on fine dining, the Picasso at Bellagio and Renoir at The Mirage are two of the city's five-star restaurants.

ENTERTAINMENT

Las Vegas exists to entertain you, so take full advantage by filling your nights with shows you can't see anywhere else, like Cirque du Soleil's newest, "Zumanity," a "human zoo" of love and sensuality, at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino. Or enjoy an evening with "Mr. Las Vegas," Wayne Newton, at the Stardust Resort & Casino. Celine Dion headlines five nights a week at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace and the "Blue Man Group" does its zany performance art at the Luxor every night. Just for laughs, check out well-known and shooting stars at comedy clubs like the Comedy Stop at the Tropicana, or the Improv Comedy Club at Harrah's.

Expert Travel Tip

Courtesy of Marina Nicola, Public Relations Specialist, Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority: "Purchasing a package is just one of the many ways for visitors to get a great deal on entertainment in Las Vegas. For example, many hotels bundle their services with dinner-for-two deals, show tickets and other valuable add-ons."

Did You Know?

If you're looking for a bargain on air fare, your best bet is to fly at times of the day and week when most business people are not traveling. Try leaving Tuesday through Thursday, early in the morning, or at lunch time, or late at night. If you've got the flexibility, opt for a deeply discounted last-minute deal on Cheaptickets.com or one of the other travel Web sites, including airline sites, that offer them. Most such deals are posted to the sites on Wednesday mornings.

Reader's Choice

Are you a Travel Saver? Readers are invited to brag about the bargains they've found while eating, staying and playing at places near or far. If we publish your item on the Travel Savers page, **we'll send you a check for \$25** and credit you by name. You must include your address and phone number, as well as the name, address and phone number of any hotel, restaurant or attraction you mention, for fact-checking purposes. Photos are welcome but cannot be returned. Send items to: Travel Savers, c/o Hollister, 3 E. Wynnewood Rd., Wynnewood, PA 19096-1917; or email to contactus@hollister1.com and type "Travel Savers" in the subject line.