

There are many reasons why “what goes on in Vegas stays in Vegas.” You can get married easily (maybe too easily), spend all night at casinos, sing along to a show, eat well—you’ll come home to relax...Read and take this **Inside Scoop** full of handy tips.

travel: delighting in the spirit of adventure • a vacation from home to explore places that are not your home • knowing life is different, knowing this is a joy of travel • enjoying the journey, not just the destination • a privilege best used with patience, humour and curiosity • fun • coming home with great tales •

Dig This...

From the strange but true file (it IS Las Vegas), one of the quirkiest experiences you can do is Dig This—driving bulldozers or excavators. For bachelor or bachelorette parties and yes, tourists aged “8 to 108,” you and your friends can play with big machines in the dirt. www.digthisvegas.com

Your Counsellor

Our knowledge and experience help turn dreams into first-rate vacations. Ask your counsellor about any details, including:

- tickets to top-notch shows
- cancellation/interruption & medical insurance
- Side trips to Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon or horseback at Red Rock Canyon.

Maritime Travel

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Inside Scoop: Las Vegas

Know before you go: travel isn't just your destination, it's also the journey

Where else can you see a circus, visit New York, Paris, a pyramid and Venice the same day? Whether headed to the casinos or shows, Las Vegas is another US city that never sleeps. There's so much to do (some of it a cheesy kind of charm) it will feel like a vacation when you finally make it home. Some helpful tips:

- We know you want value in balancing choices with your budget; no matter what, relax and enjoy. Unless you pay for upgrades, requests such as for a suite are only requests. These are premium (why upgrade fees apply).
- At 100F/38C June to August seek out air-conditioning; at 55F/13C December to February, it's reasonable and dry (it's a desert).
- Vegas is in the Pacific Time Zone (think Vancouver) and observes Daylight Saving Time.
- Check with your cell phone provider for roaming packages. Internet access is at hotels and major sites.
- Major credit cards are accepted pretty much everywhere as are debit cards. ATMs abound: check with your bank for debit card withdrawal fees. Log the dates you'll be away with your credit card company.
- Vegas is an easy place to spend money—if you're going on excursions (Grand Canyon?), book in advance with your counsellor to get spots with our recommended firms.
- We strongly recommend Maritime Travel cancellation/interruption and medical insurance.
- You must have a valid passport www.cic.gc.ca/english/passport. Keep a copy of its ID page or snap a cell phone picture.

Above all, travel with a positive attitude—having patience and a spirit of adventure will carry you through anything!

There's no lack of entertainment, nightlife, shows or restaurants—some of the best sights are in sitting down for a bit and people-watching. **Buffets** are legendary and used to have a reputation of being low-priced, but most hotels still offer good value with lots of variations. Eating at lunch is a terrific way to save money. There's many specialty restaurants, try a Gospel Brunch (House of Blues; reserve/line up early), a high-end spot or even two dozen cheesecake flavours (Cheesecake Factory). The **Neon Museum** is unique, the last resting spot for neon signs. www.neonmuseum.org For night views, go to a rooftop bar or take the elevator to the **Stratosphere** (bungee jumping site). Why, yes, you can get married by an Elvis impersonator! There are numerous chapels, even a drive-through. Ask your counsellor for details and options.

Pack Strategically

The world is overrun with black bags: put coloured tape or ribbon on your luggage to spot it quickly. Put your name outside and inside and remove old tags. In your carry-on, pack valuables such as jewellery; over-the-counter and prescription drugs in original containers. Although you might love the nightlife and fancy heels, pack comfy shoes for walking.

Pack most liquids/lotions/gels in checked bags (inside plastic bags)—due to carry-on restrictions, the maximum size container is 100ml (3.4oz). All must fit in 1 clear/resealable plastic bag of no more than 1 litre (often available at airport security), then place the bag in the tray provided. Items regular travellers pack in carry-on: pen/notebook, hand wipes, munchies (no fruit, meat, veg over borders).

Permitted in carry-on: cell phones, laptops, canes, disposable razors and nail clippers. Items you can't take on include corkscrews and sports gear such as racquets and golf clubs; check with your airline for restrictions.

Tip: Shopping on “the strip” (Las Vegas Boulevard) can be pricey—while there are malls, standard chains and tacky souvenirs (do you need that key chain?), you might want to save \$\$ to enjoy the wide array of shows each night—whether headliners, solo artists, major bands, magic or Cirque du Soleil shows, there's truly more than you can enjoy in one visit. Friday nights are a good night to score tickets (most conference-goers go mid week). Book tickets in advance with your counsellor so you won't be disappointed.

www.visitlasvegas.com

SO Much To Do

Your Airline

As your plane might be coming in from elsewhere and delayed, confirm your flight prior to departure. delayed, confirm your flight prior to departure. CATSA can prohibit items as security risks www.catsa.gc.ca/home and note: "Travellers should arrive at the airport earlier than usual, exercise patience and **contact their airline for further information on their flight(s).**" Airline staff are on duty some 2-3hrs prior: due to staffing and security, check-in (and bag-check) closes 1hr before departure. If late, you're not entitled to board (or refund). Unless booked ahead, seats are first-come first-served. **Baggage:** Size/weight restrictions for checked and carry-on varies: check with the airline. **Departure:** Know your limits and exemptions, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travel-voyage/bgb-rmf-eng.html such as on duty free alcohol.



Get Packing Checklist and General Planning & Packing Tips

at www.maritimetravel.ca/inside-scoops

- Your sense of adventure & humour!

When You Arrive

McCarran airport (LAS) is close to the strip where most hotels and attractions are, which you'll see when you land (a great night view). If an airport transfer isn't in your package (usually a voucher; have it and your hotel voucher out), a taxi could be cheaper than a shuttle depending how many people are in your group.

- Avoid timeshares; some hotels have presentations: there's no "free" trip.
- Getting around is easy—wear comfy walking shoes and have small US bills for the strip's Deuce (two-level) or city buses. www.rtcnv.com/touristms/routes.html You can't see everything in a day so do sections, e.g., Stratosphere at the north end, mid-section, the lower strip (and south end's famous sign). The Deuce goes from Fremont St. to the south end Las Vegas Outlet Center.
- Yes, those 21 and over can walk around with alcoholic drinks. The cutest to bring home are ceramic balloons from Paris Las Vegas or plastic Eiffel Tower.
- Ride the High Roller for 360° views of the city and mountains. The glass pods offer a quiet getaway—and yoga!



Websites and emails in blue are hyperlinked; just click!

Canadians citizens: Emergency? See <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-assistance>. Contact Global Affairs 1-800-387-3124 in Canada/US or 1-613-996-8885 (collect if needed), sos@international.gc.ca.

Top Recommended Sites

Bellagio Hotel's free evening fountain light and sound show is one of the best things on the strip. If you plan to eat, you'll have a great view during dinner across the street outside at Mon Ami Gabi, **Paris Las Vegas**. Check out its Eiffel Tower replica: built at half-scale, the detail is intriguing and the view from it is terrific. **Mirage Hotel's Volcano** fires nightly (7pm, 8pm, 9pm). Through the Mirage lobby, **Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden & Dolphin Habitat:** if you crave a bit of nature and peace (albeit with helicopter tours overhead) then head to this enclave in two areas—the garden with tigers and other wild cats and the dolphin pools. You can upgrade to a VIP tour or be a dolphin trainer (for an extra fee, book ahead with your counsellor). **Imperial Palace's Auto Collection** is one of the world's largest and finest car collections showcasing antique, classic, muscle and special-interest cars (if you win big at a casino buy your favourite). **Stratosphere Tower's Insanity, Big Shot, Sky Jump and X-Scream** (named for good reasons) are unlike any other rides: hang 900ft above the strip, shoot up 160ft (width of NFL football field) in 2.5 seconds and bounce or be spun upside down...not for the faint of heart or good after a queasy night out (plan for a sit down after).

Golfing is great here—try **Angel Gate Golf Club's** 9-hole night course (with lights). If you didn't get a good view out of your plane window, book a **helicopter tour** of the city: best at dusk into night! There are numerous **nightclubs**, most with unique aspects (trying to outdo each other), light shows and specialty drinks. Most hotels have casinos; they want to keep you there so there are no clocks! Set a limit to spend and stick to it (Vegas isn't so much fun in jail or after losing your mortgage money...).

With the explosion of activities to do, the north end/downtown felt neglected, hence **The Fremont Street Experience**. <https://vegasexperience.com> A portion of the street was covered with screens so shows are projected at night, but otherwise it's pretty much like the strip. The **Venetian** is a wanderer's treat with gondola rides under bridges and past cafés with photo-taking (for a fee), a gondolier might serenade you on this brief water tour. **Treasure Island** offers a pirate show. **Tips:** This is a sneaker state...don't worry what you look like. While hotels seem as if they might be close, their sites are massive and it takes time to walk among them. Even walking to the monorail can be a hike www.lvmonorail.com. NEVER ever jaywalk across the strip: fines are hefty (yes it's fake grass on the boulevard). With the heat, wear a hat and sunglasses and drink lots of water (enterprising vendors often pop open a cooler and sell cold bottled water on overpasses). If you desperately need late night (ahem, early morning) pizza, seek out **Secret Pizza** at the **Cosmopolitan Hotel**, open until 4am. Look for the hallway of album covers (remember those?).

Go Ahead, Take the Kids

In trying to broaden its appeal, Las Vegas began marketing its attractions to families so there are things to do with kids that don't involve the more adult pursuits. While some hotels and attractions such as **Circus Circus** and **Excalibur** can keep kids busy, you won't want to stay in your hotel the entire time (take hats and sunscreen).

- The legal drinking and gambling age is 21 (no matter if your age of majority is 18 or 19). All bars and VIP/topless hotel pools are only for those over 21. Pools are terrific but being outdoors, many are not open December to March or when below 60F/15C. There are fees for cabanas and daybeds.
- See the Red Rock Canyon from a horse—great for all ages. Ask your counsellor.
- Because casinos are designed to keep people inside, it can be disorienting to find your way out; kids are allowed to walk through casinos with you but make sure they stick to walking the marked pathways and don't linger. When walking along the strip, don't accept the small cards advertising adult services, that people snap to get your attention. The kids will see them as they litter sidewalks.
- Take student ID; some bus drivers make 12yr-olds (who don't look even close to 17) pay adult fares. Student IDs can also be used for some child buffet discounts.

Our 24/7 Emergency Service

We constantly survey airlines, local tour companies and hotels to ensure they meet our customer service standards, so don't let a problem ruin your holiday. Nearly all issues can be handled quickly on site—first seek help from the venue's local staff. Otherwise, call our Emergency Travel Service at **1-888-551-1181**. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. Schedule changes can occur and airlines and tour operators have the right to change flight and/or tour times, alter, combine services or substitute accommodations. Your counsellor will work with you to ensure you receive information as soon as possible and ensure satisfaction. See your brochure and ticket terms and conditions.

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