

# Las Vegas Family Fun



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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# Tour Summary

No other city in the United States has the instant recognition of glitzy Las Vegas, Nevada. Unique for its almost exclusive reliance on the casino entertainment industry, Las Vegas is a city constantly redefining itself as developers try to out-dazzle their competitors. The result is a mishmash of towering casino-hotels and blazing bright signs. Some of the shows, as well as some of the drinking establishments, are one-of-a-kind. However, if we look beyond downtown and the Strip we will find Las Vegas is situated in a beautiful desert environment where family fun and outdoor adventure abounds.

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# Introduction





Say the word “Vegas” and one thing comes to mind; the “Strip” on Las Vegas Boulevard. Hotel-casino developers constantly attempt to out-dazzle their competitors with increasingly larger and more expensive creations. But if you look beyond the Strip you will discover a beautiful desert all around the city.



Most out-of-town visitors arrive at the McCarran International Airport. Close to the Strip and the original downtown of Las Vegas, a cab ride to most hotels is fairly affordable. Other visitors drive their own vehicles via Interstate 15, bisecting the Las Vegas Valley.



There are two faces to the city. The older downtown is where Elvis and Sinatra embraced the image of a glamorous casino lifestyle. The original Welcome to Las Vegas sign harkens back to this era, and is now a popular tourist attraction.



The revitalized downtown has become an attraction in its own right, with an attempt to make Fremont Street hip and appealing. Under the large, lighted canopy at the “Fremont Street Experience” are several



stages where free concerts are performed.  
We'll explore the many faces of downtown  
in one chapter.



Another chapter will take us through the nearby Red Rock Canyon where we will explore the myriad of possibilities for a day of fun in this unusual high desert mountain environment.



A rental car or private vehicle is the best way to visit Red Rock Canyon which is only 20 miles from downtown, visible here in the center of the valley. Recent development has expanded the urban sprawl of Las Vegas Valley in every direction, all the way to the mountains.

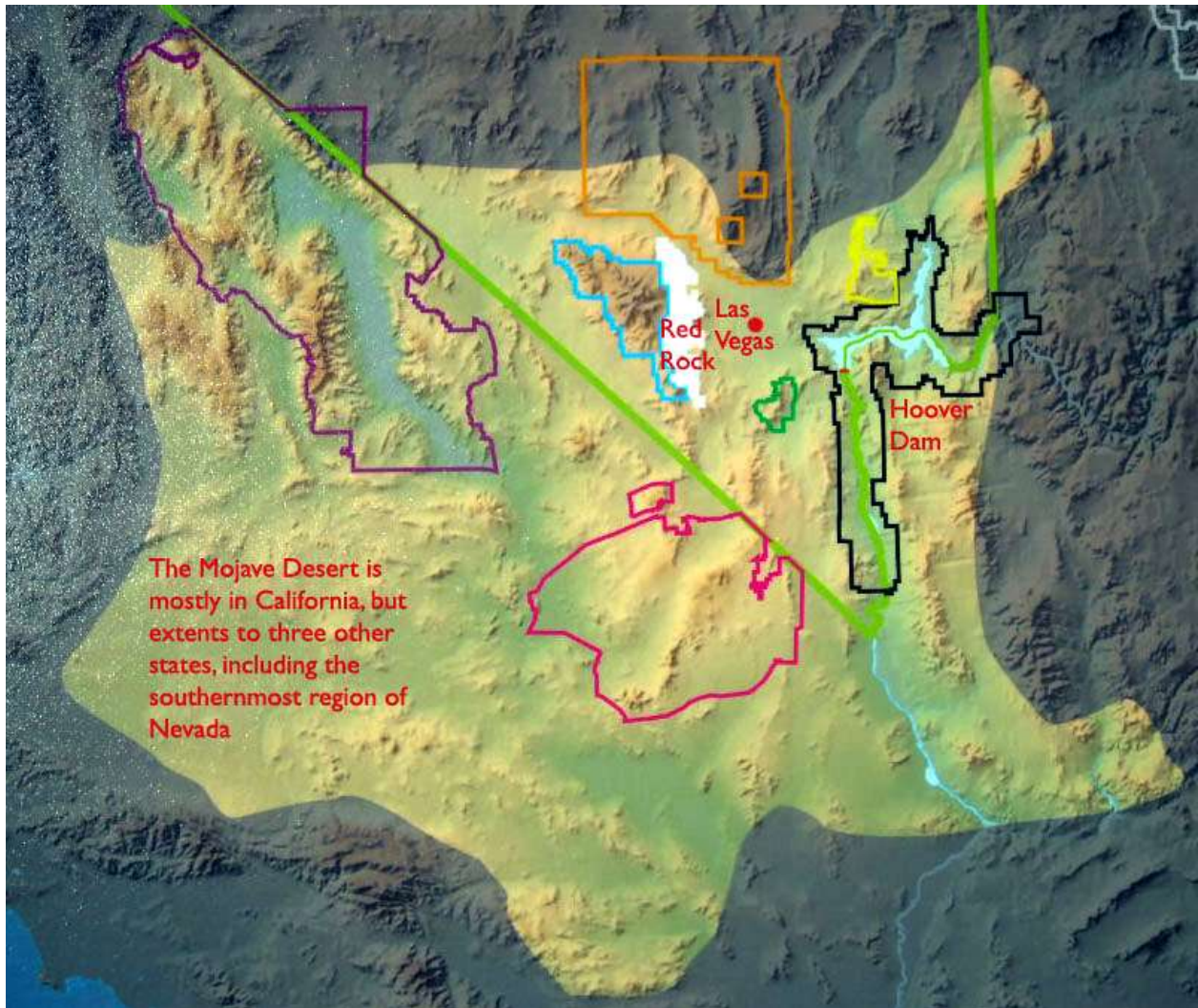


Las Vegas would not be able to support a population of nearly two million people if not for the fresh water flowing down the Colorado River, only 30 miles away from downtown.



The Boulder Dam was a marvel of engineering when it was started in the 1930s. Renamed "Hoover Dam" shortly after completion, it blocked the Colorado River flow and slowly created the massive

Lake Mead. Clean energy continues to be generated from the dam, as it slowly releases the vast reservoir of water to a thirsty desert city.



The Las Vegas Valley, including the surrounding Red Rock Canyon and all of Lake Mead, are included in the northwestern Mojave Desert environment. The Mojave has the characteristics of high desert elevations, where Joshua trees grow

and dramatic mountain ranges host a variety of wildlife.

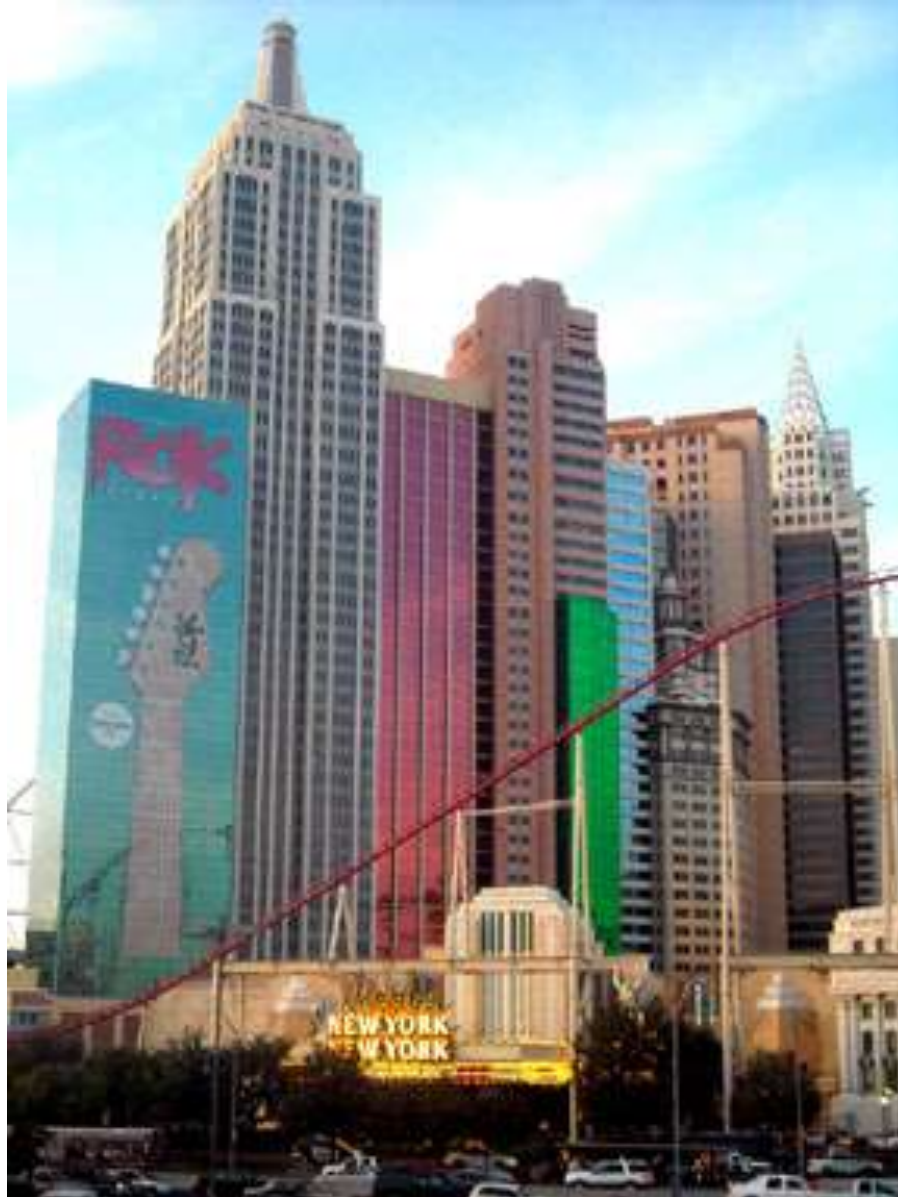




Back in the city, we'll jump around for a cocktail or two, take in a show, and have a look around town...



...and we'll ascend the tallest structure west of the Mississippi to take some thrill rides on the top of the 112-story Stratosphere tower.



Then we'll tour the monolithic casinos along Las Vegas Boulevard, the famous Strip, where familiar environments are recreated as gambling resorts, like New York, New York.



Las Vegas is a fantasy world where anything in a developer's imagination can be realized. From a King Arthur castle to the Eiffel Tower, from the Luxor black-glass pyramid to mock pirate-ship battles outside

Treasure Island, this is a city that caters almost exclusively to tourism and entertainment.

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