

history of the mob in las vegas

History of the Mob in Las Vegas: Unveiling the Underworld Legacy

history of the mob in las vegas is a fascinating tale that intertwines crime, glamour, and the rapid growth of one of America's most iconic cities. From the 1940s through the 1970s, organized crime syndicates played a pivotal role in shaping the Las Vegas Strip, turning a dusty desert town into the entertainment capital of the world. Understanding this chapter of Las Vegas history not only sheds light on the city's dramatic rise but also reveals the complex relationships between mobsters, casino owners, entertainers, and local officials.

The Emergence of Las Vegas as a Gambling Hub

Before diving into the history of the mob in Las Vegas, it's important to recognize the unique conditions that made the city ripe for organized crime. In 1931, Nevada legalized casino gambling, a bold move during the Great Depression that aimed to attract tourists and stimulate the economy. This decision set the stage for Las Vegas to become a hotspot for gambling, but it also caught the attention of criminal syndicates looking to capitalize on the booming industry.

Las Vegas was, at the time, a small town with vast stretches of open desert. Its proximity to Los Angeles and other major cities made it an ideal getaway spot. However, the lack of strong local law enforcement and the novelty of legalized gambling created a perfect environment for mobsters to establish a foothold.

The Mob's Initial Forays into Las Vegas

Key Figures and Early Investments

The first major wave of mob involvement in Las Vegas came from notorious gangsters who sought to invest their illicit earnings into legitimate fronts. Some of the most influential figures included Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, Meyer Lansky, and Tony Accardo. Bugsy Siegel, in particular, is often credited with launching the mob's Las Vegas empire.

Siegel's investment in the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in 1946 was a turning point. Though the project was plagued by cost overruns and delays, the Flamingo eventually became a glamorous hotspot, attracting celebrities and high-rollers alike. This success demonstrated the potential profitability of Las Vegas casinos and encouraged further mob investment.

The Role of the Chicago Outfit and Other Crime Families

The Chicago Outfit, a powerful organized crime group, played a significant role in shaping the Las Vegas underworld. They, along with New York's Five Families and other syndicates, collaborated and competed to control various casinos and rackets in the city. Their influence extended beyond casinos to include labor unions, construction, and even law enforcement corruption.

This network of mob families operated with a mix of cooperation and rivalry, often using intimidation and violence to maintain control. The infiltration of legitimate businesses provided a veil of respectability, making it difficult for authorities to dismantle their operations.

The Mob's Impact on Las Vegas Culture and Infrastructure

Building the Strip: Casinos as Mob Fronts

The iconic Las Vegas Strip owes much of its early development to mob money. Casinos such as the Sands, the Sahara, the Desert Inn, and the Riviera were either built or financed by organized crime figures. These establishments were more than just gambling halls—they were lavish entertainment complexes featuring top performers, fine dining, and luxurious accommodations.

The mob's investment transformed Las Vegas into a glamorous destination, attracting tourists from all over the world. They understood the importance of spectacle and entertainment, which helped to legitimize their holdings and mask illicit activities.

Influence on Entertainment and Celebrity Culture

Mob-controlled casinos often featured renowned entertainers like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr., who were part of the Rat Pack. The relationship between entertainers and the mob was symbiotic—celebrities drew crowds, while the mob provided lucrative venues and protection.

This era ingrained a certain mystique into Las Vegas nightlife, blending glitz with a hint of danger. The mob's behind-the-scenes control helped shape the city's reputation as a place where anything could happen.

Law Enforcement and Government Response

Investigations and Senate Hearings

As the mob's presence in Las Vegas grew, so did concerns among federal authorities. The 1950s and 1960s saw increased scrutiny from the FBI and the Senate's McClellan Committee, which investigated organized crime's infiltration into labor unions and casinos.

These hearings exposed many mob figures and their methods, though dismantling the operations proved challenging due to corruption and intimidation. Still, the investigations brought public awareness to the scale of organized crime's influence in Las Vegas.

The Role of the Nevada Gaming Control Board

In response to growing concerns, Nevada established the Gaming Control Board in 1955 to regulate the gambling industry more thoroughly. This agency aimed to ensure casinos were operated by reputable individuals and to keep criminal elements at bay.

Over time, the board's stringent licensing requirements and investigations helped reduce mob influence. Legitimate corporate ownership gradually replaced mob-controlled casinos, signaling a shift in Las Vegas's landscape.

The Decline of Mob Dominance and Legacy

Corporate Takeover and Changing Times

By the 1980s, the era of mob-controlled casinos was winding down. Corporate enterprises began to dominate the Strip, investing billions in mega-resorts with transparent ownership structures. This change was driven by increased federal law enforcement pressure, improved regulatory oversight, and the desire for a more family-friendly, corporate-friendly image.

Despite the decline, the mob's imprint on Las Vegas remains undeniable. Many of the city's earliest casinos and entertainment traditions trace back to mob involvement.

Cultural Reflections and Popular Media

The history of the mob in Las Vegas has inspired countless books, films, and TV shows. Movies like "Casino" and documentaries about the Rat Pack era capture the allure and

danger of this period. These cultural artifacts keep the story alive, offering insight into how organized crime shaped not only Las Vegas's economy but also its identity.

For visitors and historians alike, exploring this chapter of Las Vegas history adds depth to understanding the city beyond its bright lights and glamour.

Insights Into Understanding the Mob's Influence Today

While the mob no longer holds sway over Las Vegas casinos, the legacy of their involvement offers valuable lessons. For one, it highlights how unregulated industries can attract criminal elements seeking to launder money and exert control. It also underscores the importance of robust regulatory frameworks and law enforcement vigilance.

For those interested in the history of Las Vegas, guided tours and museums often include segments focusing on the mob's role, providing a fascinating glimpse into the city's shadowy past. Learning about this history enriches the experience of visiting Las Vegas, revealing layers of complexity beneath the surface.

The story of the mob in Las Vegas is a vivid reminder of how crime and commerce can intertwine, influencing the growth of a city in unexpected ways. Today's Las Vegas stands as a testament to transformation—from a mob-run gambling haven to a global entertainment powerhouse—encapsulating a uniquely American saga of ambition, risk, and reinvention.

Frequently Asked Questions

What role did the mob play in the development of Las Vegas?

The mob played a significant role in the development of Las Vegas, particularly from the 1940s to the 1970s, by financing and controlling many of the early casinos and hotels, which helped transform the city into a major entertainment and gambling hub.

Who were some of the most notorious mob figures involved in Las Vegas?

Notorious mob figures involved in Las Vegas included Benjamin 'Bugsy' Siegel, Meyer Lansky, Tony Spilotro, and the Chicago Outfit, who were instrumental in establishing and managing casino operations and organized crime activities in the city.

How did Bugsy Siegel influence Las Vegas history?

Bugsy Siegel is credited with opening the Flamingo Hotel in 1946, one of the first luxury

casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, which set a new standard for resort-style gambling and helped attract wealthy tourists, marking a turning point in the city's growth.

What led to the decline of mob control over Las Vegas casinos?

The decline of mob control over Las Vegas casinos was due to increased law enforcement efforts, federal investigations, the introduction of corporate ownership of casinos, and the rise of legitimate business interests in the 1970s and 1980s.

How did the mob's influence shape Las Vegas culture and economy?

The mob's influence shaped Las Vegas culture by creating a glamorous yet notorious reputation, intertwining organized crime with entertainment, and significantly impacting the local economy through casino revenues and tourism during their peak control.

Are there any remnants of mob influence visible in Las Vegas today?

While organized crime no longer controls casinos, remnants of mob influence remain in Las Vegas through historical landmarks, museums, and tours that highlight the mob's role in the city's past, as well as popular culture references in films and literature.

Additional Resources

****The History of the Mob in Las Vegas: An Investigative Review****

History of the mob in Las Vegas is a complex narrative interwoven with ambition, power, and the shaping of one of America's most iconic cities. From its early days as a dusty desert outpost to becoming a glittering global entertainment capital, Las Vegas owes much of its development to organized crime syndicates that saw opportunity in the city's lenient gambling laws and strategic location. Analyzing this history reveals not only the influence of notorious crime families but also the evolution of Las Vegas from a mob-controlled town to a corporate gambling powerhouse.

The Origins of Organized Crime in Las Vegas

The roots of the mob's involvement in Las Vegas date back to the 1930s, shortly after Nevada legalized gambling in 1931. This legalization created fertile ground for criminal enterprises, particularly during the construction of the Hoover Dam, which brought a surge of workers and money to the area. The combination of legalized gambling and an influx of cash attracted mobsters who sought to capitalize on the burgeoning market.

At the forefront were families from Chicago, New York, and other major cities, including

the Chicago Outfit and the New York Mafia. They recognized Las Vegas as a lucrative hub for money laundering, illegal gambling operations, and other rackets. The city's relatively small law enforcement presence and lenient regulations made it an attractive playground for organized crime.

The Role of Key Mob Figures in Las Vegas

Among the most influential figures in the history of the mob in Las Vegas is Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, often credited with transforming Las Vegas into a glamorous gambling destination. Siegel was instrumental in the development of the Flamingo Hotel in 1946, one of the first luxury casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. Though the project was initially plagued with cost overruns and delays, it set a precedent for future casino development.

Other notable mobsters include Meyer Lansky, who provided financial backing and helped establish the syndicate's control over multiple casinos. Lansky's expertise in money laundering and finance was critical to the mob's sustained influence. Additionally, the Chicago Outfit, under leaders like Tony Accardo and Sam Giancana, was deeply involved in operations in Las Vegas, often collaborating with local figures to maintain control.

Mob-Controlled Casinos: Expansion and Influence

During the 1950s and 1960s, the mob's grip on Las Vegas reached its zenith. A number of casinos were either owned outright or heavily influenced by organized crime, including:

- The Stardust
- The Sands
- The Desert Inn
- The Riviera
- The Tropicana

These establishments were not only gambling venues but also centers for laundering illegal profits from drug trafficking, loan sharking, and other criminal activities. The mob's involvement extended beyond ownership to manipulating casino operations to maximize profits, often cheating customers or skimming money before it reached official accounts.

The mob's influence permeated local government and law enforcement, with many officials turning a blind eye or actively cooperating with crime syndicates. This symbiotic relationship ensured that organized crime could operate with relative impunity, reinforcing the mob's dominance in the city.

The Impact of Mob Control on Las Vegas Development

While the mob's presence is often framed negatively, it undeniably contributed to the rapid growth of Las Vegas. Mobsters invested heavily in infrastructure, entertainment, and hospitality, turning the city into a national attraction. The lavish shows, high-stakes gambling, and luxury hotels attracted tourists from across the country.

However, this came at a cost. The association with organized crime tainted Las Vegas's reputation and brought increased scrutiny from federal authorities. Corruption, violence, and illicit dealings were rampant, creating an undercurrent of danger beneath the city's glamorous surface.

The Federal Crackdown and Decline of Mob Influence

By the late 1960s and into the 1970s, federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the newly empowered Nevada Gaming Control Board, intensified efforts to curtail mob activities. The introduction of stricter gaming regulations and oversight mechanisms was designed to wrest control from organized crime and promote legitimate business practices.

High-profile investigations and prosecutions targeted prominent mob figures, disrupting their operations. The Kefauver Hearings in the 1950s initially exposed the extent of organized crime's influence, but it was the continued pressure through the 1970s and 1980s that significantly weakened the mob's hold.

Transition to Corporate Ownership

As the government cracked down on mob-controlled casinos, ownership began to shift toward publicly traded corporations and legitimate businessmen. Figures like Howard Hughes played a pivotal role in this transition by acquiring casinos and investing in the city without mob ties.

This shift marked a turning point in Las Vegas's history, as the city moved from a shadowy mob playground to a modern entertainment capital governed by corporate ethics and transparency. The decline of mob influence also helped attract a broader range of tourists and investors, further fueling the city's growth.

The Legacy of the Mob in Modern Las Vegas

Although the mob no longer controls casinos in Las Vegas, its legacy remains embedded in the city's identity. The glitz and glamour popularized by mob-era casinos set the tone for the entertainment industry that thrives today. Mob stories continue to captivate the public

imagination, inspiring films, books, and tours that explore this fascinating chapter of American history.

Today's Las Vegas is a city built on innovation and regulation, but its early years are inseparable from the history of the mob in Las Vegas. The evolution from mob-controlled operations to corporate governance reflects broader trends in American society concerning crime, law enforcement, and economic development.

Comparisons with Other Mob-Influenced Cities

Unlike cities such as Chicago or New York, where organized crime diversified into multiple sectors, Las Vegas's mob influence was predominantly concentrated in gambling and hospitality. This specialization created a unique dynamic where the mob's fortunes were closely tied to the success of casinos.

Furthermore, the geographic isolation of Las Vegas allowed the mob to operate with less interference compared to larger urban centers. However, this also made the city more vulnerable to federal intervention once authorities decided to act.

Conclusion: Understanding the Complex History of the Mob in Las Vegas

The history of the mob in Las Vegas is a story of transformation — from illicit control and corruption to legitimate enterprise and regulation. Investigating this history reveals how organized crime shaped the city's early development, influenced its culture, and ultimately gave way to a new era of corporate gaming and tourism.

As Las Vegas continues to evolve, the shadow of its mob past serves as a reminder of the complex forces that have shaped its unique character. For historians, criminologists, and visitors alike, understanding the history of the mob in Las Vegas provides valuable insight into the interplay between crime, business, and urban development in 20th-century America.

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history of the mob in las vegas: The Mafia at Apalachin, 1957 Michael Newton, 2014-01-10

On November 14, 1957, state troopers raided an estate in Apalachin, New York, and arrested 59 affluent men, with nearly as many more escaping through the surrounding woods. The next morning's headlines hailed the gathering as a summit meeting of organized crime, alerting America to the reality of a national Mafia whose existence had been hotly debated. This first in-depth study of that historic meeting chronicles how it changed the course of American history by inspiring federal legislation to crack down on labor racketeering; forcing drastic policy revisions within the U.S. Department of Justice; and prompting charges of criminal fraud in one of America's most heatedly contested presidential elections. By explaining the context and consequences of the raid, this volume establishes the gathering at Apalachin as a pivotal event in the history of syndicated crime and of the government's response to the Mafia.

history of the mob in las vegas: A Comprehensive History of American Law Enforcement

Tomas C. Mijares, 2024-04-22 This book provides knowledge on the history of law enforcement and its development and explains the factors leading to the evolution of the modern police officer. The first chapter provides information about the book's purpose and methods of data collection and analysis. The next two chapters summarize ancient forms of law enforcement in Europe and the Middle East. Chapters Four through Ten describe the eras of American history from the early settlements to the modern metropolitan areas and how law enforcement evolved to serve and protect through these eras. Chapters Eleven and Twelve explain the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and how this legislation affected law enforcement through increased availability of equipment and opportunities for education for all personnel in the criminal justice system. Chapters Thirteen through Fifteen describe specific problems that have developed throughout modern American society and how law enforcement has responded to these problems. Chapter Sixteen summarizes the evolution of police technology and how it affects the most visible member of policing: the patrol officer. Chapter Seventeen reviews the recent criticism and politicization of law enforcement. The final chapter provides conclusions that can be reached about the past and recommendations for improvement in the future. Whether the reader is a college student preparing to enter a career in criminal justice or a seasoned professional, this book will help avoid systemic mistakes of the past. For politicians, journalists, educators, and other people whose professions take them close to law enforcement personnel, this book will explain the evolution of those who have chosen to serve and protect and how they have gone from captured slaves to caring professionals.

history of the mob in las vegas: Ghosts and Legends of the Vegas Valley Heather Leigh, PhD,

2023 Beneath the glittering façade of the Strip lies a ghostly history. The mob, celebrities, gamblers and travelers have all left their mark on the Vegas Valley. From Bugsy Siegel to Tupac Shakur, famous--and infamous--ghosts mingle with the crowds that flock to Las Vegas. Rumor has it that the spirits of Redd Foxx and Elvis linger in their favorite places, while Liberace is said to appear in all the museums celebrating his life. Paranormal activity abounds within the adobe walls of the Old Mormon Fort, home of the oldest standing structure in Nevada, and the desert wind carries tales of tommyknockers in the mines. Join author Heather Leigh as she shines a light on the dark history behind the Neon Capital of the World.

history of the mob in las vegas: American Mafia: The Rise and Fall of Organized Crime In Las Vegas Mark W. Curran, 2021-11-10

Research journalist Mark W. Curran tells the story of how organized crime built the town of Las Vegas into the glittering mecca it is today. Learn how the mob built the most dazzling and decadent city in the West before being dismantled by federal prosecutors hell-bent on taking them down. Through archival photos and first hand accounts from those who participated, American Mafia: Las Vegas takes you inside the story from the people who know it best. Based on the documentary 'American Mafia: The Rise and Fall of Organized Crime In Las Vegas' Interviews Featuring: Larry Henry - Broadcast Journalist/Columnist 'The Mafia Chronicles' Jeffrey Burbank - Author 'Las Vegas Babylon'/The Washington Post Gary Jenkins - Crime

Investigator/Mafia Expert/Host of Gangland Wire Michael Green - Asst. Professor of History - University of Nevada, Las Vegas Dr. J. Michael Niotta, PhD. - Author/Crime Historian/Mob Authority Eric Dezenhal - Author 'The Devil Himself'/Mafia Crime Historian

history of the mob in las vegas: *Famous Gamblers, Poker History, and Texas Stories* Johnny Hughes, 2012-08-21 You have a great writing style, very credible, and entertaining. Those were dangerous times. Almost all of the guys are gone. A great book!... Doyle Brunson, Poker Hall of Fame, author. Hes as good a writer as he is a player. When it comes to poker tales...Johnny Hughes is your man.... Anthony Holden, London, President of the International Federation of Poker, author ... a captivating raconteur and avid historian...brings them to life with a unique flair and panache...(He) paints word pictures with witty, lush brush strokes reminiscent of Tom Wolfe... Paul Dr. Pauly McGuire, author ..the William Manchester of poker historians...a Hughes narrative is like lighting a lantern into the darkest recess of pokers subculture...provides the very best portrait of these unique real-life characters of anyone on record... Nolan Dalla, Media Director. World Series of Poker, author. ...the true story...of the beginnings of the phenomenon that poker has become... Crandell Addington, Poker Hall of Fame. Reading...is only paralleled by listening to him tell those stories in real time...like putting yourself in the same room as it all unfolded...when the mob ruled Las Vegas...the real stories... Ryan Sayer, OnTilt Radio, C.O.O.,and Host. www.JohnnyHughes.com

history of the mob in las vegas: *An Economic History of Organized Crime* Dennis M. P. McCarthy, 2011-05-15 This book is a comparative study of organized crime groups from five different parts of the world: Europe; North America; Central America/South America/Caribbean basin; Africa; and Asia/Western Pacific. Each part contains two case studies and a shorter essay, a vignette. From Europe the case studies focus on the Italian mafias and the Russian mafia; the vignette, on the Albanian mafia. From North America the case studies highlight the US Mafia and the Mexican drug cartels; the vignette, organized crime in Canada. From Central America/South America/Caribbean basin the case studies concentrate on the Colombian drug cartels and gangs of the Caribbean; the vignette, on organized crime in Cuba. From Africa the case studies examine resource wars and Somali piracy; the vignette, relations among international drugs trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism in North and West Africa. And from Asia/Western Pacific the case studies spotlight the Chinese Triads and Japanese Yakuza; the vignette, relations among international drugs trafficking, organized crime, and terrorism in Afghanistan. Written in non-specialist language, *An Economic History of Organized Crime* provides an original overview of a crucial problem of our times: the growing scourge of global organized crime. This book can be read with profit by the general public, but it also has value for academic specialists and professionals in law enforcement.

history of the mob in las vegas: *Mafia: The History of the Mob* Nigel Cawthorne, 2012-06-26 Organized crime is perhaps the most fascinating phenomenon of our time. From Al Capone, who boldly claimed his bootlegging activities were a public service, to the flamboyant Teflon Don, John Gotti, the criminals of the underworld have garnered headlines and captured our imagination with their violent and extravagant lifestyles. Mafia is an absorbing introduction to the mob's most influential personalities - their lives, loves and terrible crimes. It also provides an in-depth history of the role of the Mob in Sicily and America. For anyone who wants to know the truth about organized crime and understand the violent forces that have shaped it over the last century, this book is an indispensable guide.

history of the mob in las vegas: *History of Nevada* Russell R. Elliott, 1987-01-01 Maintaining the same high standards of the first edition, published in 1973, this new, revised edition is still the most comprehensive one-volume history of a state that was once thought of as a bridge to somewhere else. In revising, Elliott summarizes the state's economic, political, and social history since 1973 and strengthens a major point he made then: that Nevada's acceptance of liberal marriage and divorce laws and of legalized gambling brought economic stability to a state singularly devoid of stable economic resources. -- from Book Jacket

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Howe Bancroft, 1889

history of the mob in las vegas: The Black Book and the Mob Ronald Farrell, Carole Case, 1995-09-01 A tale of good and evil, of corruption and deceit, of prejudice, politics, and power, this compelling account scrutinizes the immensely lucrative Nevada gambling industry's struggle to maintain legitimacy—or at least the appearance of it. Ronald A. Farrell and Carole Case tell how state regulators created the “Black Book” in the 1960s, a list of “notorious and unsavory” persons banned forever from owning, managing, or even entering casinos in the state. The regulators dramatically pursued and publicly denounced former lieutenants of Al Capone, alleged overlords of the American Mafia, nationally known professional gamblers, and major casino owners, as well as small-time bookies and hoods, reputed sports fixers, and gambling cheats. To date, thirty-eight names have been entered in the Black Book, including Sam Giancana, Anthony Spilotro, and Frank “Lefty” Rosenthal. Farrell and Case contend, however, that the denunciations were a melodrama, meant to show that the government was cleansing the city of corruption. Through the Black Book, the regulators focus public attention on “the Mob,” rather than on a multitude of competing criminal interests already in the gaming industry. The authors uncover evidence of ethnic discrimination by the regulators, including selective prosecution of Italian Americans whose notoriety fit popular Mafia stereotypes. The Black Book and the Mob records hearings of the regulatory commission and the voices of lawyers, government officials, casino owners, and the people named in the Black Book itself. This Las Vegas story is a rebuke to the gaming industry and a cautionary tale for many states and communities now weighing the legalization of casino gambling.

history of the mob in las vegas: Speaking Ill of the Dead: Jerks in New Mexico History Sam Lowe, 2012-03-06 Each volume in this series features approximately fifteen short biographies of notorious bad guys, perpetrators of mischief, visionary if misunderstood thinkers, and other colorful antiheroes from the history of a given state. The villainous, the misguided, and the misunderstood all get their due in these entertaining yet informing books.

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history of the mob in las vegas: The Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas 2010 Bob Sehlinger, 2009-08-18 In 2008, Las Vegas hosted 37.5 million visitors according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. Global Travel Industry News and Forbes Traveler rank Las Vegas as the #2 most popular U.S. destination to visit calling it America's favorite playground. The Unofficial Guide to Las Vegas ranks over 100 hotels and casinos- the most offered by any other guidebook for the destination, providing complete detailed descriptions of each casino hotel.

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history of the mob in las vegas: Boss of Murder, Inc. Michael Newton, 2020-03-25 Umberto Anastasio, better known as Albert Anastasia, was an Italian-American mobster and hitman who became one of the deadliest criminals in American history and one of the founders of the modern American Mafia in New York City. For all-out savagery and ruthlessness, few other leaders of the Mafia worldwide have rivaled Anastasia, known to peers as The Mad Hatter and to journalists as The Lord High Executioner. After escaping a death sentence in 1921 and multiple other arrests for murder, he later served as director of the national crime syndicate's contract murder department (Murder, Inc.) from 1931 until informers brought it down ten years later. By 1951 he led one of New York City's Five Families, a post he held until his public barbershop assassination in October 1957. This first-ever book-length biography of Anastasia traces the mobster's life and the ripple effects his career had on the American crime world. The story also tracks his brothers and their families, while debunking certain widespread myths about their parentage, various deportations, trials, convictions,

and eventual retirement from the mob, dead or alive.

history of the mob in las vegas: Fodor's Las Vegas Fodor's Travel Guides, 2017-10-10

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for over 80 years. With new hotels and attractions, not to mention new shows and headliners, the number of visitors to Las Vegas reached a record 42.9 million in 2016. Fodor's writers have been on the scene, uncovering the hottest trends in dining, lodging, nightlife, and more, both on and off the Strip. Fodor's Las Vegas includes: **UP-TO-DATE COVERAGE:** From top to bottom, this edition of Fodor's Las Vegas has been completely revised, with new hotels, restaurants, attractions, shops, and shows on the Strip and beyond. **SPECIAL FEATURES:** Illustrated features provide an in-depth look at the city's colorful history and lead readers on a journey down the Colorado River. **INDISPENSABLE TRIP-PLANNING TOOLS:** A Las Vegas Planner helps readers choose the best times to travel to Las Vegas and choose transportation. Features cover the best things to do for free in this increasingly expensive resort city. Travel advice on regional scenic wonders such as the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam has information for planning a spectacular side trip. A Basic Strategy chart for Blackjack helps gamblers make the most of their money at the tables. **DISCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS:** Fodor's Las Vegas offers savvy advice and recommendations from local writers to help travelers make the most of their time. Fodor's Choice designates our best picks, from hotels to nightlife. **COVERS:** All major hotels on and off The Strip, Downtown Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, Death Valley, Area 51.

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