

OUTDOORS EVENTS

Mt. Charleston Area

Summer

Just for the ride to Mt. Charleston Hotel or all the way to the lodge-Free
Hiking in numerous places- **Free**

FAMILY HIKING See: http://www.hikinglasvegas.com/Family_hikes.htm

(Best time of year to hike: Summer)

- Bristlecone Trail 1- Best done in the fall when the leaves are changing.
- Desert Overlook- 1 - A good hike for beginners or children.
- Echo Loop- 1- Easy loop hike for beginners.
- Fletcher Canyon-1 - Classic Mountain hike. Year round water.
- Little Falls-1 - Easy trek through the forest to a seasonal waterfall.
- Robber's Roost-1 - Easy hike to cave where Mexican bandits hide out.
- Stanley B. Springs-1 - Springs, mines, and caves!!!

Winter

Sledding down the hills in Lee Canyon after a snow- Free
Snowboarding and skiing if you want to spend money. Foxtail Snow play Area is the only, recommended site. **Free**

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area – Visitors Center, Exhibit Area, Scenic Drive, Biking, Climbing and Hiking- \$5 per car

FAMILY Hiking:

(Best time of year to hike: Fall and Spring)

- Arnight Trail- 1 - Prettiest when the desert is in bloom (April - May.)
- Cave Canyon- 2- Hike to a cave.
- Dale's Trail- 1 - Another easy BLM trail that is best done when the desert is in bloom.
- Fern Canyon-1 - Magnificent canyon hike with year-round water in the pools.
- First Creek Water Fall-1- Take the family to see a seasonal waterfall in the desert.
- Keystone Thrust- 1- Easiest and shortest hike to the famous Keystone Thrust fault line.
- La Madre Springs-1 - Hike travel to a water source for animals in the area.
- Las Vegas Overlook-2- Great views of Las Vegas and Red Rock peaks from the top.
- Little Red Rock-1 - This is more of a destination than a hike.
- Lost Canyon- 1- Good beginner's hike with a seasonal waterfall.
- Pine Creek-1 - Great beginner's bouldering route that ends at a pool.
- Sandstone Quarry Loop-1 - Easy desert hike.

Lake Mead

Lake Mead is the 16th largest man-made lake in the world and the largest man-made lake in the Western Hemisphere. It was created by the Hoover Dam along the Colorado River. Hiking, beaches, fishing. \$5 per car. Go to the pier and feed the carp.

FAMILY HIKING:

(Best time of year to hike: Winter)

- Anniversary Narrows- 1 - The Narrows is something that you must see.
- Callville Bay- 1 - Easy hike around the bay.
- Cleopatra Wash- 2 - Fun hike that follows a scenic wash to a cove on Lake Mead.

- Historic Railroad Tunnels- 1- The trail follows an old railroad track.
- Northshore Summit- 1 - A short hike the whole family can enjoy.
- Redstone Trail-1 - Very easy beginner's hike.

Valley of Fire State Park is located only six miles from Lake Mead and 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15 and on exit 75. Popular activities include camping, hiking, picnicking and photography. The park offers a full-scale visitor center with extensive interpretive displays- \$5 per car.

The Corn Creek field station is NOT a challenging hike (1/2 hour). There are some really nice meandering trails which take you over and along the creek, several ponds, by some historic ranch buildings, and under shady trees. From Las Vegas, take U.S. 95 North towards Reno or the Mt. Charleston area. Traveling on 95, drive past the turn to Mt. Charleston (Kyle Canyon Rd.), and continue on the freeway, while looking for the small brown sign CORN CREEK Once you've turned off the freeway, you'll go 4 miles on a gravel road to the Corn Creek field station. **Free**

Virgin River Gorge Nature Trail - 0.2 miles; easy- Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area- 80 mile north of Mesquite NV. http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/recreation/camping/dev_camps/vrg.html

Hoover Dam -The Bureau of Reclamation has conducted tours through the Hoover Dam and power plant since 1937. You should do this at least once in your life time. Adults \$11, Youth \$9, Parking \$7 (cash only). Visors Center is \$8. U.S. Highway 93, Boulder City. (702) 597-5970
<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/service/index.html>

Sunrise Mountain – East of Las Vegas. Just look to see where the sun rises. Hiking no facilities – **Free**

Sheep Mountains - Located 20 miles directly north of Las Vegas, the Sheep Mountain Range runs in a north-south direction extending from the Las Vegas Valley. Off-roading, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and hiking. Despite being so close to Las Vegas, no water, food or gasoline is available. **Free**

Floyd Lamb State Park Four stocked ponds, picnic areas, barbecues, scenic paths, volleyball and horseshoe facilities are on this 2,040-acre park northwest of Las Vegas. Visitors can explore the Tule Springs Ranch, known as one of the North American west's best examples of Pleistocene paleontological sites. The Tule Springs area was once populated with large mammals, similar to those in Africa. Fossil remains of mammoths, bison, horses, camels, giant sloths and other animals have been found in Tule Springs. More recently, Tule Springs served as a watering hole for Indians and prospectors. In 1916, John Herbert (Bert) Nay became the first non-Indian to file for water rights. From Las Vegas, take U.S. 95 north, about 40 miles to exit right on Durango, then right on Brent. 9200 Tule Springs Road. (702) 486-5413.

Spring Mountain Ranch & Park Hiking and picnicking plus the main ranch house is open daily from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Here the visitor will find information about the ranch and surrounding areas, and can take a self-guided tour of the ranch house interior. Park Docents are on duty to answer questions-\$5 per car. <http://parks.nv.gov/smr.htm>

CAMPING

Various Nevada state parks are listed below: See their web site for times, locations and cost.
<http://parks.nv.gov/regionsoff.htm>

There are several national parks in nearby Utah. Locations and cost can be found at:
<http://www.utah.com/nationalparks/>

GARDENS AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

See Gardens Around the Valley http://www.snwa.com/html/land_gardens.html

The Las Vegas Valley is home to an array of community demonstration gardens. Visit these resources to get the inspiration you need to create your water smart landscape.

Acacia Demonstration Gardens 50 Casa Del Fuego St., Henderson, 267-4000

The [Acacia Demonstration Gardens](#) was created through a cooperative partnership between the City of Henderson and the Conservation District of Southern Nevada. The Acacia Gardens hosts a variety of desert landscaping options on nearly 3 acres. Visit the meditation, cactus or wildlife-friendly gardens. Also enjoy trails, kiosks and interpretive displays. Open daily from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Battle Born Peace Gardens, Nevada Veterans Nursing Home 100 Veterans Memorial Dr., Boulder City, 332-6864 This garden covers 12 acres surrounding the Veterans Nursing Home. Walking paths take you from the serenity of the courtyard areas to the functional desert landscaping area. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gardens at the Springs Preserve

333 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, 258-3205 With more than 1,000 species of plants, the Gardens is one of Las Vegas' hidden treasures. The [Gardens](#) offers eight acres of water smart landscaping ideas and adult education classes on a variety of topics including design, construction and maintenance.

Ethel M Botanical Cactus Gardens

2 Cactus Garden Dr., Henderson, 435-2655 Ethel M Chocolate's breathtaking Botanical Cactus Garden is one of the largest collections of its kind. The Cactus Garden features four acres of water-efficient ornamentals, cacti and other succulents. Open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

http://www.ethelm.com/about_us/cactus_garden.aspx

Forestry Tree Nursery

9600 Tule Springs Rd., Las Vegas, 486-5411 The Nevada Division of Forestry grows plants for conservation purposes, including erosion control, habitat preservation and wind breaks. The [nursery program](#) encourages conservation by offering quality shrubs and trees grown to sizes suitable for conservation plantings on public and private lands. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

McDoniel Elementary School

1831 Fox Ridge Dr., Henderson, 799-7788 A community effort led by the Water Authority's Youth Advisory Council created this beautiful water-efficient garden, which doubles as a living laboratory for students. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

North Las Vegas Desert Demonstration Garden 2200 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, 633-1175

This one-acre garden features more than 75 varieties of water-smart plants. The garden replaces more than 41,000 square-feet of water-thirsty grass, saving the community more than 2.2 million gallons of water each year. Open daily.

Pahrump Desert Demonstration Gardens 1651 E. Calvada Blvd., Pahrump, 775-727-5532

This one-acre gardens is part of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The gardens features water-efficient, desert-adapted plants. Open daily during daylight hours.

Palo Verde High School 333 Pavilion Center Dr., Las Vegas, 799-1450 Palo Verde High School

upgraded 16,000 square feet of unused turf into a demonstration garden, which features three zones that

mimic the terrain of the Sonoran, Mojave and Chihuahuan deserts. Open Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

University of Nevada Las Vegas Arboretum UNLV Campus 4505 Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas 895-3392 The UNLV Arboretum includes the entire 335-acre university campus and a two-acre Xeric Garden. You can find the Xeric Garden near the entrance to the Barrick Museum of Natural History and the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies. Open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Winchester Park Mojave Desert Garden 3130 S. McLeod Dr., Las Vegas, 455-7340
A volunteer group helped transform 13,000 square feet of grass into a desert garden. Take a tranquil walk through this garden to inspire your own landscape design. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Xeriscape Park Buchanan and Royal Birkdale Streets, Boulder City
This half-acre desert demonstration garden features plants and trees indigenous to the area. It also includes a small playground for children. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
For more information about gardening events, check the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension [calendar of gardening events](#).

Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary offers a home for animals of all types. Here, you can see birds of many species, including quail, ducks, ostriches, parrots; and various animals like turtles, goats and burros. 9 am to 5pm **Admission:** Adults \$5 ,Children under 12 \$1, Senior 65+ \$4 , Military (ID required) \$4 north of Las Vegas, near the Floyd Lamb State Park, it's easy to reach off I-95. <http://naturesanctuarygilcrease.org/>

Gilcrease Orchard is located in the north end of Las Vegas. The orchard spans over 50 acres, with more than 6000 apple, pear and peach trees. In the summer a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, pumpkin, cucumber and squash are grown. **Pick Your Own** is the primary way most of the fruit and vegetables are harvested. This gives Las Vegas and their children the only local opportunity to come be a part of a working farm. **Open** Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. *Whispering Sands Drive and Tenaya Way Las Vegas, NV 89131 Phone: 702 409-0655*

MUSEUMS

Clark County Heritage Museum With everything from dioramas of dinosaurs to a small street filled with original buildings, including the 1932 Boulder City train depot, this is a throwback to ghost towns and other low-tech diversions. Sweet, informative, and you can't beat the price. Note that hot days will make the outdoor portions less than bearable. Admission \$1.50 adults, \$1 seniors and children 3-15, free for children 2 and under

Natural History Museum- 900 Las Vegas Blvd North. (Near Washington) Conveniently located across the street from the Lied Discovery Children's Museum (described below), this humble temple of taxidermy harkens back to elementary-school field trips, circa 1965, when stuffed elk and brown bears forever protecting their kill were as close as most of us got to exotic animals. Admission \$8 adults; \$7 seniors, students and military; \$4 children 3-11; free for children under 3. For a coupon- <http://www.lvnhm.org/coupon>

The Atomic Testing Museum -755 E. Flamingo From 1951 until 1992, the Nevada Test Site was this country's primary location for testing nuclear weapons. Aboveground blasts in the early days were visible to the tourists and residents of Las Vegas. This well-executed museum, library, and gallery space (a Smithsonian affiliate) offers visitors a fascinating glance at the test site from ancient days through modern

times, with memorabilia, displays, official documents, videos, interactive displays, motion-simulator theaters (like sitting in a bunker, watching a blast), \$12 adults; \$9 seniors, military, students with ID, and Nevada residents; free for children 6 and under. <http://www.atomictestingmuseum.org/pid12museum.html>

Springs Preserve 3333 S. Valley View -Set amidst nature and hiking trails, plus man-made wetlands, which is an interesting concept, the focal point is a large interpretive center that gives the history of Las Vegas from a land- and water-use perspective. \$9.95 adults, \$8.95 seniors and students with ID, \$4.95 children 5-17. Free admission to trails. <http://www.springspreserve.org/>

Nevada State Will open on October 28, 2011 at the Spring Preserve. Admission is included in the admission to the Preserve. The museum is full of interesting displays, from one depicting the desert wildlife that is indigenous to the area to another about life in Nevada during nuclear testing. Spanning the long, rich history of the 41st state, the exhibits range from the ice age to present day.

The Lost City Museum, is located south of [Overton Nevada](#). The museum houses an extensive collection of Virgin Anasazi artifacts. Built on the ruin of an actual Virgin Anasazi pueblo, the museum has a reconstruction what that pueblo may have looked like many centuries ago. \$3 entry fee. http://museums.nevadaculture.org//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=397&Itemid=125

Las Vegas Art Museum Big name traveling exhibits of modern and contemporary art. 9600 West Sahara Avenue. (702) 360-8000. www.lasvegasartmuseum.org/

Lied Discovery Children's Museum More than 100 hands-on exhibits in one of America's largest children's museums explore the arts, sciences and humanities. The first floor provides opportunities for imaginary and dramatic play, use of motor skills, group problem-solving and cooperative activities with making bubbles, freezing shadows, creating computer art, earning a paycheck and spending Discovery Money. Desert Discovery is a permanent exhibit for children age 5 and under. The second floor focuses on science, communication, and technology and opportunities for exploration, observation, cooperation, and critical thinking with Space Shuttle flights, hearing a whisper 30 feet away, experiencing wheelchair basketball, create a moving picture, and touching a tornado! 833 North Las Vegas Boulevard. (702) 382-3445. Adults \$8, Children(1-17) \$7, Under age 1 Free. <http://www.ldcm.org/>

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History On the campus of the [University of Nevada at Las Vegas](#), the Marjorie Barrick Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, researching, and interpreting objects and thematic concepts illustrating southern Nevada's natural history. 4505 South Maryland Parkway. (702) 895-3381 - <http://barrickmuseum.unlv.edu/>

McCarran Aviation Museum The Museum, open 24 hours a day, shows the history of aviation in Southern Nevada, from the first flight in 1920 through introduction of jets. The Museum's main exhibit is above baggage claim on level two, with an additional exhibit in the general and corporate aviation terminal operated by Signature Flight Support. Admission is **free**. McCarran International Airport. (702) 455-7968 <http://www.vegas4locals.com/freeaviationmuseum.html>

Old Las Vegas Mormon Museum. - 500 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV, 89101 (702) 486-3511 The first permanent non-native settlers in the Las Vegas Valley were a group of Mormon missionaries who built an adobe fort along Las Vegas Creek in 1855. They successfully farmed the area by diverting water from the creek. Today, the park includes a remnant of the original adobe fort, which contains interpretive displays. \$3 (adults) & \$2 (children 6 – 12). <http://parks.nv.gov/>

Nevada Southern Railway –Boulder City- The train ride is seven miles round trip and drives up to Railroad Pass casino and back. The entire ride is 45 minutes long, so you'll have plenty of time to take pictures. See planes land at the Boulder City airport, the lush greenery at the golf course and even a solar panel farm. You'll also see close-up views of the Southwest desert. During one point, the train comes so close to the side of the mountain you can almost touch it. **Cost:** \$10.(\$7 for seniors) and \$5 for children. Locomotive cab ride (with engineer's permission) is \$35. Cash.
It is Located in Boulder City. Take US-93 south toward Boulder City. After passing the traffic light at Veterans Memorial Drive, drive up to Yucca Street. The train station for the Nevada Southern Railway is on the right. <http://www.nevadasouthern.com/>

PARKS AND RECREATION CENTERS:

Listed below are just a few of the larger parks around the city.

Lorenzi Park Is a 60 acre park with an artificial lake, stocked with fish and bread crumb-begging ducks. Parents can bring the kids for that and also enjoy a picnic and barbecue, as well as the playground, softball field, soccer fields, basketball courts, shuffleboard, tennis courts and jogging track. **Free**

Sunset park-(2601 E. Sunset) One of the largest parks in Las Vegas, it is popular for festivals and picnics. Eight outdoor lighted tennis courts, baseball fields, basketball courts, picnic areas with barbeques, dog runs and even peace and quiet can be found here. There also is a fishing pond, popular mostly with children. **Free**

Desert Breeze - (8425 Spring Mountain Rd) it's a big park, well-equipped with ball fields, basketball courts (indoor and outdoor), dog run, playgrounds, restrooms, roller hockey and skateboarding facilities. The community center has an open gym, class and meeting rooms, indoor basketball and an impressive outdoor water park, open during summer. Many of the picnic areas, and parts of the playgrounds, are shaded. **Free**

Nature Discovery Park 2627 Nature Park Drive 20 acres - Nature Discovery Park in Aliante has quickly become one of the most popular new facilities in North Las Vegas. The site features a large man-made lake and waterfall, walking paths, a multi-story playground unit, and a dinosaur-themed nature discovery area. In addition, the park offers tennis, volleyball, and bocce courts, soccer fields, horseshoe pits, several picnic sites, and an amphitheater. **Free**

If you went to a different park every weekend it would take you it would take you over 3 years to visit them all. The City of Las Vegas has about 66 general parks and 9 Skate Parks and many Recreation and Activities Centers. See the City of Las Vegas web site. Henderson has 12 pools and 50 parks and trails. Clark County has 25 parks and 13 community recreation locations. The City of North Las Vegas list 33 parks and nature trails. This does not necessarily count recreation centers and theaters for many of these cities. The recreation centers have so much available that it cannot be summarized. Go the following web sites of schedules of events and locations.

<http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/>

<http://www.cityofhenderson.com/>

http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Find/parks_facilities.asp?id=5090

<http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/parks>

SWIMMING: Numerous swimming pools sponsored by the City of Las Vegas with Daily fees:
Ages 0 to 3: free, Ages 4 to 17: \$1, Ages 18 to 49: \$2, Ages 50+: \$1.50. Some pools are seasonal while several are enclosed. Look at the web sites listed above for a complete list.

ZOOS

Bonnie Springs Ranch/Old Nevada, with trail and stagecoach rides, a petting zoo, old-fashioned melodramas, stunt shootouts, a Nevada-themed wax museum, crafts demonstrations, and more. Western melodrama, gunfights. \$20 per car (Up to 6 people)

Southern Nevada Zoo- (1775 N Rancho) There are a variety of endangered cats as well as the last family of Barbary Apes in the United states, chimpanzee, eagles, ostriches, emus, talking parrots, wallabies, flamingos, large exotic reptiles and every species of venomous reptile native to Southern Nevada. \$8.00 adults \$6.00 for children ages 2-12. (\$2 discount coupon on their web site).

LIBRARIES

LIBRARIES – More stuff than you can think of. Home work help, festivals, classes, teen zone, events and exhibits and of course books, DVD, etc. Go to their web site at:

Las Vegas <http://www.lvcclid.org/>

Henderson <http://www.mypubliclibrary.com/>

No. Las Vegas <http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/Departments/Library/Library.shtm>

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

SCHOOLS:

If your child is in school you will have a host of activities including plays, concerts, games open houses and other activities. You need to attend at least one event other than the open house at your child's school.

ARTS

First Friday Art Celebration -Monthly art celebration featuring the work of more than 100 artists, including painting, ceramics, mixed media, photography, jewelry, textile arts and sculpture. Located in the downtown Las Vegas Arts District and surrounding neighborhood, more than 80 indoor arts, food, drink and shop venues open their doors and 50 outdoor artists, artisans and entertainers provide outside fun each month. <http://www.firstfriday-lasvegas.com/index.html>

Boulder City Arts Festival. <http://www.bouldercityhospital.org/art-in-the-park/>

PLAYS

Spring Mountain Ranch Outdoor plays- June through September. Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket and enjoy a 10-15 degree cooler summer night watching a play. Tickets bought in advance are \$10 Tickets at the gate are \$15 (IF EVENT IS NOT SOLD OUT) Children five and under are free.

Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 South Brush St., (702) 229-6383. Occasional free concerts and plays.

CONCERTS

County Building Court Yard in the summer.