

TOURS:

Cranberry World West

Amid a heavy aroma of cranberry with virtually everything painted a cranberry color, daily free tours include the Ocean Spray bottling plant's multi-media exhibits, a film in the Cranberry Theater, a demonstration kitchen, gift shop and free samples. The museum showcases antique cranberry-plucking and harvesting devices.

1301 American Pacific Drive. (702) 566-7160

Ethel M Chocolates Factory and Cactus Garden

Check out candy-making in the chocolate factory and then walk off the calories from the free samples in the cactus garden. M stands for Mars, Forrest Mars being the candy baron behind M&Ms, Mars bars and more delights. Ethel M chocolates were named for Forrest Mars' mother. Creams, caramels, cherry cordials and nut clusters are churned out during the free self-guided tours. The 2.5 acre cactus garden has 350 species of prickly desert flora. 2 Cactus Garden Drive, Henderson. (888) 627-0990

SPECIAL EVENTS BY MONTH

JANUARY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade This annual parade down Fourth Street, from Coolidge Avenue to Ogden Avenue, honors Martin Luther King, Jr. with floats, marching bands and an awards ceremony to recognize those who have contributed to the Dream. Call (702) 440-6400 for more information

Chinese New Year Sponsored by the Las Vegas Asian-Pacific Cultural Center, this annual event is celebrated with a number of different events held all over Las Vegas. Usually the beginning of February. Call (877) VISIT-LV for more information.

Black History Month A number of events in February celebrate the African-American influence on the culture and entertainment of Las Vegas, notably the kickoff breakfast at Fitzgerald's Hotel and Casino, the largest Black-owned hotel and casino in the United States, and the family cultural event held towards the end of February at Neonopolis. Call (800) 274-LUCK for more information.

February

Fremont Street Mardi Gras Cajun bands and New Orleans style partying highlight this annual event at the covered Fremont Street arcade, around the third week of April. Call (702) 678 5777 for more information. Processions made up of music, dance and plenty of fancy dress make this spectacular. The Fremont Street Experience ranges across five city blocks. Free

March

St. Patrick's Day Parade The Mayor presides over a series of parades and general partying in the downtown area, with plenty of green beer, sponsored by the Sons of Erin for the benefit of charity. Call (702) 388-1177 for more information.

Easter Egg Hunts – Many schools, community centers and Recreation Centers –Free to a few dollars.

April

Earth Day –Events all over town. Watch the newspaper or search earth day + Las Vegas.

Clark County Fair and Rodeo Las Vegas celebrates its annual regional fair of livestock, local music, amusement rides and country cooking in mid-April in the town of Logandale. Call (888) 876-FAIR for more information. <http://www.ccfair.com/>

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Boulder City Fine Arts Festival -in Boulder City's beautiful Bicentennial Park

May

Cinco de Mayo - Freedom Park is the center of festivities in this annual celebration sponsored by the Mexican Patriotic Committee, which includes clowns, parades, food booths and celebrations in local bars and parks throughout Las Vegas, held on the weekend, culminating on the Sunday, closest to May 5. Call (702) 284-6800 for more information.

Helldorado Rodeo Parade May -Downtown-Free www.elkshelldorado.com

June

Jazz in the Park - From mid-May to mid-June, Clark County Parks and Community Services and radio stations KUNV and KNPR host a series of evening outdoor concerts at the Clark County Government Center amphitheater. Call (702) 455-8200 for more information.

July

Fourth of July Fireworks Las Vegas is the place to be on the Fourth, where you can enjoy the most spectacular fireworks at a number of venues, including Cashman Field, the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, the Sante Fe Station Pavilion, Desert Breeze Park, Hills Park in Summerlin, Bicentennial Park in Boulder City, Morrell Park, the Stratosphere Lounge and the Primm Valley Casino. Call (877) VISIT-LV for more information.

Boulder City Damboree Celebration Take a short drive southeast of Henderson to Boulder City for the "Proud to Be an American" Damboree Celebration, an all day festival that features a parade, a flyover by Nellis Air Force Base, midway booths and refreshments at Broadbent Memorial Park, a flag raising, and live entertainment, concluding with fireworks, dancing and a DJ. Call (702) 293-9358 for more information.

Best in the Desert Gather at the Sunset Hotel for a 300 mile desert and mountain race from Las Vegas to Reno, over a three-day period, in the longest off-road race in the country. Call (702) 636-7111 for more information.

Mexican Independence Day A number of venues in Las Vegas host live music, food and craft booths, most notably a fair and picnic at Freedom Park sponsored by the Mexican Patriotic Committee as a fundraiser for student scholarships. Call (702) 649-1198 for more information.

September

SAN GENNARO FEAST The Feast will be held at Flamingo Rd. off the 215. Go west on Flamingo, turn left at Grand Canyon Dr. In the shopping center next to Target, Sears and JC Penny . Staged in honor of San Gennaro, this Las Vegas festival features ethnic food vendors, live entertainment, a carnival midway and family fun. Call (702) 286-4944 for more information. Children under 54 inches admitted for free, seniors only 6\$ regular admission or 5 \$ with coupon! Adults 8\$ or Print a coupon from their website to admit 2 for 12\$ (must bring 2 people)

GREEK FESTIVAL The Las Vegas Greek Food Festival brings all the aromas, sounds, tastes, and traditions of Greece to your doorstep. Your admission ticket becomes your passport as you enjoy all the

Beauty of Santorini and the fun of Mykonos. St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. \$5 for Adults Free for children 12 years of age and under Free for active duty military and their immediate family. Call (702) 248-3896 for more information

October

Art in the Park Artists, jewelers, portrait painters and other craftsmen gather in early October at Wilber, Bicentennial, North Escalante and South Escalante parks in Boulder City for a arts celebration to benefit the Boulder City Hospital Foundation. Call (702) 293-0214 for more information.

Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival- Sunset Park

Several stages will feature entertainment with costumed performers presenting more than 50 shows per day along with historical re-enactments, jousting tournaments, medieval pageantry and more than 100 artisans. Adults: \$10 each day/ \$25 3 day pass
Children (Ages 5 - 12) & Seniors (55+): \$5 each day/ \$10 3 day pass

Nevada Day-Various events around the city, sometimes a parade. October 31- **Free**

Halloween Night –What can I say. Go out and have fun.

November

America the Beautiful Music Festival Early in November on Veterans' Day Weekend, the Clark County Amphitheatre hosts a music festival to benefit Veterans Helping Veterans, featuring live bands, crafts and food vendors, games, face painting, glass blowing, and more. Call (702) 407-7589 for more information.

Las Vegas Odyssey During November, the Las Vegas Odyssey is a four-day celebration of food, wine and art, held in a variety of venues, with proceeds benefiting Le Cordon Bleu Culinary College Scholarship Program and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Call (702) 257-2345 for more information.

Strut Your Mutt Dogs run free at Dog Fancier's Park in mid-November, where they can enter contests and you can listen to a variety of instructional programs and obtain adoption assistance. Call (702) 455-8200 for more information.

Nellis Air Force Base – Open house and air show. - <http://www.nellis.af.mil/aviationnation/>

December

Ethel M Chocolate Light the Night Spectacular The Mars chocolatier family hangs thousands of lights on their desert plant garden and hosts special tours of their facility, beginning in late November and extending through early January. Call (702) 433-2500 for more information. **Free**

Christmas Parade of lights on Lake Mead -There will be approximately 50 decorated boats from 16 feet to 75 feet that will parade along the shore of Boulder Beach from Lake Mead Marina to the Hemenway launch ramp. **Free**

Magical Forest at Opportunity Village – (6300 W. Oakey, Las Vegas, NV) Great for kids, train rides, great Christmas lights and Santa. \$9 Adults, \$7 Children 3-12, Free Children 2 and under

Winter Lights Festival at Spring Reserve. Guests will enjoy entertainment from roaming performance groups, carriage rides, visits with Santa Claus and Theater The admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children.

Palm Memorial Parks. Cemeteries may not seem like a great place to go to get into the holiday spirit, but make an exception for these. Every year, menageries of animals constructed out of white Christmas lights sparkle to life at the memorial parks at 7600 S. Eastern Avenue and 6701 N. Jones Boulevard. Peaceful and beautiful, the displays offer a quiet break during the hustle and bustle of the season. Open from dusk until midnight, December 1 to 31. Admission is **free**

DAY TRIPS

Pahrump

Harvest Festival – Annual Festival in mid-September ~ Deep Pit Bar-B-Que ~ Carnival ~ Fair Exhibit ~ Booths ~ parade ~ PRCA Rodeo ~ Car Races & More!
<http://www.festivals.com/Pahrump+Harvest+Festival,+Rodeo+and+Fair-USA-NV-Pahrump-tJmItkwMq8%3D.aspx>

Pahrump Valley Museum- 410 East Basin Avenue Pahrump, Nevada The museum features a growing historical collection of yesteryear Pahrump. - Included in the collection are the original *Old Pahrump Store*, the *One Room School House*, *Old Farming Equipment*, one of the *Oldest Iron Collections*, and much, much more! **Free** – 82 Miles – 1 Hrs 10 Min.

Oatman- Oatman is a fun place to visit -- an authentic old western town with burros roaming the streets and gunfights staged on weekends. The burros are tame and can be hand fed. It is about 25 miles from Bullhead City AZ., across the river from Laughlin, NV. – 125 Miles – 2Hrs, 20 Min.
http://www.desertusa.com/oatman/du_oatman.html

Cold Creek – 45 minutes north of Las Vegas. Turn left at the Indian Springs Prison and go 14 miles up the mountain. You will find a small village of homes. You may also see horses grazing by the side of the road. They are wild horses. There is no food or gas up here but beautiful vistas and fresh air.- 37 Miles – 31 Min.

Shoshone Museum - The Shoshone Museum is located 28 miles west of Pahrump on California State Hwy 127, in the Town of Shoshone. The Museum is open 7 days a week from 8 am to 4 pm. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Rhyolite is located 4 miles west of the town of Beatty, Nevada on HWY 374. The East entrance to Death Valley, Rhyolite offers photographers, explorers and ghost town enthusiasts an enjoyable experience. Get ready for a enjoyable experience as you tour through Rhyolite, The Best Ghost Town in Nevada!! *The sculpture park is free and open to the public* <http://www.rhyolitesite.com/> - 24/7. – 123 Miles – 2 Hrs.

TECOPA HOT SPRINGS - Public and private hot mineral baths. Baths \$5, Camping without electricity \$14/ day, with electricity \$17/ day. 1 Hrr. 20 Min. – 82 Miles

Primm

Adventure Canyon at Buffalo Bill's Primm - A typical log ride but once riders splash down, the fun continues on the four-minute ride as they take part in an electronic shooting gallery. Armed with pistols handed out at the start of the ride, passengers float through scenes of the Wild West, complete with miners, desperados and outlaws. Illuminated targets mark the spots to shoot at, and riders may be surprised when some of these shady characters shoot back. It is about 40 miles south of Vegas on I-15 in Primm. Must be 46 inches tall to ride. \$6, or included in a wristband, which is \$30 for a full day, \$22 for half day. Also available are Little Wrangler passes at \$12 for children 48 inches tall and under.

STRIP/DOWNTOWN

Freemont Street Experience

Every night seems like New Year's Eve downtown, with the famed casino-lined Freemont Street now covered by a dome for nightly shows featuring 2.1 million lights and 550,000 watts of concert sound. In previous decades, downtown Las Vegas had been headed downhill, playing a definite second fiddle to the higher-end glamour of the Strip. But a \$70 million major league facelift transformed the long-time Glitter Gulch into what's now known as the Freemont Street Experience, a glittering multi-block pedestrian mall unlike any other in the world. Outdoor cafes, kiosks, and more are sheltered by a 90-foot canopy that at night features a high-tech light and sound show. There's a misting system for summer, and heaters for making things cozier, providing a year round ambiance in which to casino hop. 425 Fremont Street. (702) 678-5600. <http://www.vegasesperience.com/>

Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden is home to royal white tigers, white lions, black panthers, a snow leopard, gold tigers and a four-ton elephant. The Dolphin Habitat, adjacent to the Secret Garden, houses an extended family of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

[Mirage Las Vegas Resort](#), 3400 South Las Vegas Boulevard. (702) 791-7111

Bellagio Conservatory (in Bellagio) -- A larger-than-life greenhouse atrium, filled with seasonal living foliage in riotous colors and styles, changed with meticulous regularity. From Easter to Chinese New Year, events are celebrated with carefully designed splashes of flowers, plants, and remarkable decorations -- it's an incredible amount of labor for absolutely no immediate financial payoff. No wonder it's one of the most popular sights in Vegas. Open 24 hours. **Free**

Bellagio Fountains (outside Bellagio) -- Giant spouts of water shoot up and down and sideways, and dance their little aquatic hearts out, to pieces carefully choreographed to tunes ranging from show to Chopin. We tell people about this, they roll their eyes when they think we aren't looking, then they go see it for themselves . . . and end up staying for several numbers. Daily every half-hour, starting early afternoon, then every 15 minutes 8pm to midnight. Closed when it's windy. **Free**

The Forum Shops Fountain Shows (in The Forum Shops at Caesars) --A giant "marble" Greco-Roman statues come to creaky animatronic life and deliver a largely unintelligible speech, mostly exhorting the crowds to eat, drink, and get so merry. Daily every hour, starting at 10am.

Masquerade Show in the Sky (in the Rio) -- It's staged on floats that move above viewers' heads, but now those floats include "bedroom" and "spa" scenes peopled with what the company calls "high energy performers of seduction." This gives you an idea of the kind of action contained therein. Prepare to try to distract your kid's attention elsewhere, though if you want a better view, grab a spot on the second floor of the village. Performed several times in the evening Thursday through Sunday. **Free to view** or \$12.95 to get into costume and ride in the show (36-inch height requirement. Those 16 and under who wish to ride the floats must be accompanied by an adult.)

Planet Hollywood Hotel and Casino [Thunderstorm at the Planet Hollywood Hotel and Casino](#)

A computer generated thunderstorm hits the hallways of the Miracle Mile shopping mall.

Mirage Volcano (outside The Mirage) -- Every hour after dusk, the Mirage volcano explodes **Free**

Sirens of TI (outside TI-Treasure Island) -- The pirates are lured by singing and dancing lingerie-clad lovelies more suited to the Victoria's Secret catalog than Homer. Stuff happens, but no one really cares; **Parents, be warned:** Between the gals and their undies, and the 24-foot stark-raving-naked female figurehead on the ship right by the Strip entrance to TI-Treasure Island, Daily at 7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30pm, weather permitting. **Free**

CBS Television City the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino Watch and rate new television shows. To do research for their new shows, CBS and Viacom have set up a research center to gauge audience reactions. Shows from CBS, MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, UPN, Showtime, TNN and CMT are screened in small theaters. Audience members use touch-screen computers to record their responses. Some participants are also selected for longer focus group discussions.

M&M's World may be the most delicious attraction in Vegas. Near the corner of the Strip and Tropicana Avenue. Next door to the MGM Grand hotel-casino. Stepping into M&M's World is like waking up to chocolate heaven -- four floors of chocolate heaven that is. **Free**

Neon Museum The open-air museum was created by the city of Las Vegas to preserve these vital pieces of Vegas history **Free** for the outdoor walking tour end of the Fremont Street Experience.

www.neonmuseum.org/

Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian The Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian adds a little 'Streetmosphere' to the shopping experience, providing fun and entertainment for all that visit. **Free**

Sunset Stampede Take a symphonic journey through the Wild West at Sam's Town in the e atrium.

Wildlife Habitat at the Flamingo-The Flamingo's brilliant neon sign is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable on the Strip. And visitors can take a closer look at the creatures who inspired the bright display at the hotel-casino's very own wildlife habitat.

The Aquarium at the Silverton Located within the Silverton Hotel, a 117,000-gallon saltwater aquarium provides entertainment on a scale one can enjoy only in Las Vegas.

MGM Habitat – 3799 S. Las Vegas Blvd (MGM)-It's one of the best freebies in town. It's a large, multilevel glass enclosure in which various lions frolic during various times of day. In addition to regular viewing spots, you can walk through a glass tunnel and get a worm's-eye view of the underside of a lion (provided one is in position); note how very big Kitty's paws are. Multiple lions share show duties (about 6 hr. on and then 2 days off at a ranch for some free-range **Free**

Circus Circus has ongoing circus acts throughout the day, a vast video-game-and-pinball arcade, and dozens of carnival games on its mezzanine level. Behind the hotel is the

Excalibur also offers video, carnival, and thrill cinemas.

Caesars Palace, animated talking statues in the Forum Shops are also a kick, make a visit to the aquarium nearby in the Atlantis wing of the shops. **Free**

Secret Garden and **Dolphin Habitat** at The Mirage Experience an exotic, enchanting and wondrous world at Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat and come face to face with white lions,

white tigers, panthers, leopards, and our family of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins Adults:\$15.00, Children 4 - 12: \$10.00, Children 3 and under: no charge when accompanied by an adult

Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay is worth a look but expensive.

Adventure Dome at Circus Circus Many adventuresome rides plus Other options including a miniature golf course, laser tag, an arcade as well as clown shows, bumper cars and a number of midway booths. **Cost:** \$4-7 per ride. All-day passes to the Adventuredome are \$24.95 for adults and \$14.95 for children 33-47 inches tall (free for toddlers under 33 inches with a paying adult). Nevada residents receive a \$2 discount on the all-day pass Monday-Friday. Located at the [Circus Circus hotel-casino](#), at the intersection of the Vegas Strip and Circus Circus Drive. Height requirements vary by ride; special children's section available.

Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix 1401 N. Rainbow Bl Part arcade, part go-kart racetrack, The arcade is well stocked, with a better quality of prizes than one often finds, but we suggest not spending too much time in there and instead hustling outside to the slide, the little roller coaster, and best of all, the four go-kart tracks. Tickets \$6.50 each, \$6 for 5 or more; tickets good on all rides and at any time

OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

Cedar City UT. Near by:

Brianhead - <http://www.brianhead.com/winter> - 202 mile 3hrs.

Bryce Canyon - <http://www.nps.gov/brca/planyourvisit/index.htm> - 261 miles - 4 hrs.

Cedar Breaks National Monument - <http://www.nps.gov/cebr/index.htm> - 171 miles- 2.5 hrs.

Zion National Park - <http://www.nps.gov/zion/index.htm> - 161 miles -2.5 Hrs.

Utah Shakespeare Festival - A wonderful array of plays from Shakespeare to contempary. Pricey for families \$26 to \$71 per ticket but wonderful for a special event. <http://www.bard.org/>

Groovefest American Music Festival Towards the end of June, the Main Street Park in Cedar City, UT, less than a three hour drive northeast of Las Vegas, hosts an outdoor music festival for thousands of visitors featuring live musicians, food and craft booths, with an after-hours portion extending into the local taverns. Call (435) 867-9800 for more information.

INFORMATION HAS BEEN LIFTED FREELY FROM THESE WEB SITES:

[HTTP://LAS.VEGAS.EVENTGUIDE.COM/ANNUAL_EVENTS_OVERVIEW.HTML](http://LAS.VEGAS.EVENTGUIDE.COM/ANNUAL_EVENTS_OVERVIEW.HTML)

[HTTP://ATTRACTIONGUIDE.COM/LAS_VEGAS/](http://ATTRACTIONGUIDE.COM/LAS_VEGAS/)

[HTTP://WWW.LASVEGASSUN.COM/EVENTS/](http://WWW.LASVEGASSUN.COM/EVENTS/)

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/lasvegas/>

[HTTP://WWW.LASVEGASNEVADA.GOV/FIND/PARKS_FACILITIES.ASP?ID=5090#](http://WWW.LASVEGASNEVADA.GOV/FIND/PARKS_FACILITIES.ASP?ID=5090#)