



# Las Vegas, Nevada



In its early days, Las Vegas, Nevada, provided travelers along the Old Spanish Trail with the opportunity to replenish supplies and water from the abundant springs in the valley. Las Vegas is Spanish for “The Meadows.”

Museums in Las Vegas include the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas; Atomic Testing Museum, which focuses on the history of the nuclear tests that occurred in the area; Auto Collection at the Imperial Palace; Las Vegas Mob Experience, which focuses on the history of the Mafia in the city; Lied Discovery Children’s Museum; M&M’s World; Madame Tussauds—Las Vegas; Pinball Hall of Fame; Las Vegas Golf Hall of Fame, which celebrates golf in Las Vegas; Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art; Las Vegas Natural History Museum; and Neon Museum, which hosts a collection of historic neon signs from many famous Rat Pack—era casinos. The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History and Donald H. Baepler Xeric Garden, which demonstrates the usage of drought-tolerant plants in landscaping, are located on the campus of the University of Nevada—Las Vegas.

The city of Las Vegas is nearing completion of the Las Vegas Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, also known as “the Mob Museum,” in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The museum will be located in the historic U.S. Courthouse and Post Office, which was the site of the original Kefauver hearings into organized crime.

Most of the famous Las Vegas hotels and casinos on the Strip are located not in the city but in the county portion of the valley. These hotels and casinos on and off the Strip, in the downtown area, and elsewhere provide a plethora of entertainment venues for concerts, plays, and variety and specialty shows. Other performances are held at the Cashman Center, Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center, the Donald W. Reynolds Cultural Center, the Charleston Heights Arts Center, the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, and the campus of the University of Nevada—Las Vegas. The Smith Center for the Performing Arts in the downtown area is currently under construction. Las Vegas is the home of the Nevada Ballet Theatre, the Las Vegas Philharmonic, and the Rainbow Company Youth Theater.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

In addition to casino hotels, the downtown area has four high-rise condominium developments with many amenities and several midrise condominiums. Many residential neighborhoods adjoin the downtown area. The John S. Park neighborhood, which encompasses a historic district, was built primarily between the early 1930s and the mid-1950s. The neighborhood’s first homes were built in the Minimal Traditional style, and later homes were constructed in the Ranch style. The McNeil neighborhood contains primarily midcentury modern and ranch-style homes. Homes in the Scotch 80s, one of Las Vegas’ oldest neighborhoods, are situated on lots of at least one half of an acre. Many were designed in the desert modern style and built primarily during the 1950s and 1960s for performers at the casinos. These neighborhoods are located near the medical district. Most of Rancho Bel Air, a gated neighborhood, was built in the 1960s and 1970s and features mature landscaping and custom homes on large lots. Architectural styles vary and include English Tudor, Midcentury Modern, Contemporary South Beach, Roman, Colonial, and Mediterranean.

Las Vegas has many master-planned communities that feature various residential options that range from apartment communities to custom-built homes, shopping centers, offices, parks, golf courses, schools, and houses of worship. Some communities, such as Summerlin and Los Prados, have components that are age-restricted as retirement communities as well as family neighborhoods. Others, such as Promenade at the Meadows or Quail Estates, are designated solely as retirement communities.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Las Vegas has 65 parks. Nine parks have dog runs, and one park is designated specifically for dogs. The city has five sports complexes, nine skate parks, five outdoor pools, and one indoor pool. Other park amenities

may include baseball, softball, football and soccer fields; playgrounds; picnic areas; jogging and walking tracks; roller hockey rinks; tennis, volleyball, horseshoe, bocce, and basketball courts; and water play areas. Lorenzi Park features the Sammy Davis, Jr., Festival Plaza, which is an outdoor theatre with lawn and patio seating. Springs Preserve has botanical gardens, walking trails, and interactive exhibits depicting the area’s culture and history. Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs features tours of the historic Tule Springs ranch, four stocked ponds, picnic areas, barbecues, scenic paths, and volleyball and horseshoe facilities. Fossil remains of extinct mammoths, bison, horses, camels, giant sloths, and other animals have been found in Tule Springs.

The Las Vegas Wranglers (hockey), Las Vegas Locomotives (football), and Las Vegas 51s (baseball) are professional sports teams in Las Vegas. Other professional sports include rodeo, NASCAR, boxing, and golf.

## EDUCATION

Clark County School District serves Las Vegas and surrounding towns and has an enrollment of approximately 309,000 students. Las Vegas has 122 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, and 18 high schools, including an online virtual high school. The district operates magnet schools at all levels. Programs include aerospace and aviation, biomedical and environmental sciences, International Baccalaureate, information technologies, performing and fine arts, communications, law preparatory, health services, police and fire public services, travel and tourism, veterinary and medical sciences, computer animation, and engineering.

Higher education is available at the University of Nevada—Las Vegas, a research institution adjacent to the city that offers more than 220 undergraduate- and graduate-degree programs; a dental medicine school; and a law school. The University of Nevada School of Medicine’s comprehensive clinical campus is in Las Vegas. The College of Southern Nevada’s Charleston Campus is a community college that provides education and training in health sciences, computer science, science and mathematics, and dental hygiene.

## HEALTH CARE

Las Vegas has 4 hospital facilities with more than 1,600 acute-care beds. The city also is served by a long-term acute-care facility and a psychiatric hospital. The 6 hospitals located in the county provide an additional 1,600 acute-care beds as well as rehabilitation and psychiatric beds. The Mike O’Callaghan Federal Hospital, located on Nellis Air Force Base, serves active duty military and veterans.

## CITY STATS

**2008**

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| City Population   | 562,849   |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population                | 1,879,093 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Las Vegas—Paradise, NV, MSA | \$39,920  |