

NAMB/WEST 2008



THINGS TO SEE & DO IN LAS VEGAS

Since you'll be in the MGM Grand already, you won't want to miss the Lion Habitat at the hotel.

Free MGM Grand Lion Habitat, MGM Grand Hotel & Casino

The large, multi-level enclosure features multiple lions with trainers that keep the large cats active. The lions are rotated (about 6 hours in the habitat and then two days at a ranch) so any combination from a giant male or a pack of five females who have grown from cub to full size during their time at MGM. In addition to the regular viewing spots on the perimeter, you can walk through a glass tunnel and get a view from the ground up!

The Atomic Testing Museum

755 East Flamingo Road, 702.764.5151, www.atomictestingmuseum.org

\$12 adults, \$9 seniors/military/students with ID, free for children 6 and under

The Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation founded this museum in 1998 to preserve the legacy of the Nevada Test Site and the over 50 years of unique history associated with nuclear weapons research and testing conducted at the site. Included exhibits offer a fascinating glance at the site from ancient days through modern times and feature memorabilia, displays, official documents, videos, interactive exhibits and a motion-simulator theater.

Free Freemont Street Experience

Freemont Street, between Main Street and Las Vegas Boulevard, Downtown, www.vegasexperience.com

The Freemont Street Experience is an open-air landscaped strip of five blocks with vendors galore. But the thing you won't want to miss is the laser and light show, Viva Vision. The actual light display is 90 feet high and a little longer than four football fields. There are 12.5 million LED lights and a concert hall-quality sound system with 208 speakers that put out 550,000 watts of sound. The six-minute show is presented on the hour after dark.

Hoover Dam

US Highway 93, at the Nevada Arizona border (about 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas), www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam

Powerplant Tour, \$11 adults, \$9 seniors/ages 4-16/military, free for children 3 and under

Hoover Dam Tour, \$30 adults, seniors, juniors, military and dependents, NO children under 8 permitted

Until the Hoover Dam was built, much of the region was plagued by two problems: arid terrain that lacked irrigation for most of the year and extensive flooding in the spring and early summer when the Colorado River, fueled by melting snow from the Rocky Mountains, overflowed its banks. In 1928, Congress finally authorized construction of a dam. Completed in 1936, two years ahead of schedule (and \$15million under budget), the dam succeeded in stopping the spring floods and conserved water for irrigation and general use. Equally as important, it became a major electric-generating plant, provided low-cost and pollution-free hydroelectric power to many cities in California and Arizona and Nevada.

The dam itself is a 726-foot curved wall of concrete, 660 feet thick at the bottom and tapers to just 45 feet at the top. The dam holds back the 9.2 trillion gallons of water in Lake Mead, the reservoir created by the dam's construction.

Secret Garden & Dolphin Habitat

3400 Las Vegas Boulevard South, In The Mirage, 702.791.7111, www.mirage.com

\$15 adults, \$10 children 4-10, children under 3 free if accompanied by an adult

See famed magician Siegfried and Roy's white tigers on display in a re-creation of their natural habitat. Also featured here are golden tigers, panthers, leopards and lions. All of the animals are rotated between their habitat at The Mirage and their more spacious and lavish home with the illusionists.

The Dolphin Habitat houses a family of Atlantic bottlenose dolphins in a 2.5 million gallon facility. Consisting of four connected pools, an artificial coral reef system and sandy bottom replicate the dolphins' natural environment. The Habitat not only provides a healthy and nurturing environment for the dolphins, but also educates the public about the marine mammals and the role in the ecosystem. An opportunity to be a "Trainer for a Day" is also available.

SPEED: The Ride/Las Vegas Cyber Speedway

2535 Las Vegas Boulevard South, In the Sahara Hotel, 702.737.2111, www.nascarcafelasvegas.com

\$20 for all-day pass for both rides or \$10 each for either Cyber Speedway (simulator) or SPEED: The Ride (roller coaster) The Cyber Speedway features a three-quarter size replica of a NASCAR race car. The animated, simulated ride can feature the Las Vegas Motor Speedway or the streets of Las Vegas, including the Strip. You'll actually feel the bumps and turns and the rush as you press on the gas! At the end of the race, you'll get a report of your average speed, laps and how you compare to the other racers around you.

SPEED: The Ride is a roller coaster that will take you through a hole in the wall of the NASCAR Cafe, looping through the sidewalks and hotel marquee and up a 250-foot tower. After a moment of weightlessness at the top, you'll do the whole thing again. Backwards!

There's so much to see and do in Las Vegas. For more information, go to:
www.visitlasvegas.com the Official Las Vegas Tourism Web Site
brought to you by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

