

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips



### INSIDER TIP Neon nostalgia

The Neon Boneyard has an unusual kind of charm: on the grounds of the Neon Museum you will recognise some of the glittering signs from old movies (photo right) → p. 44

### INSIDER TIP The Berlin wall in the loo

A piece of the Berlin wall in the gents' bathroom and other unusual collectables transform the Hotel Main Street Station into a museum → p. 42

### INSIDER TIP Showgirls up close

Take a *Backstage Walking Tour* through the dressing rooms of the showgirls at Bally's Casino and marvel at the amazing costumes → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP Dress for the Wild West

The right outfit is important in Las Vegas: *Cowtown Boots* sells boots made from snakeskin, ostrich or crocodile leather → p. 65

### INSIDER TIP Martian landing strip

Mysterious UFOs and even aliens have been sighted on the *Extraterrestrial Highway* (photo above). Plus, the US Army does top secret research here in Area 51... → p. 45

### INSIDER TIP Organic hamburgers

Believe it or not, even Las Vegas is going green. At the popular restaurant *Holsteins*, the burgers are made with the best organic ingredients and the menu also includes vegan burgers → p. 56

### INSIDER TIP Lucky break

*Serendipity* – the word itself implies a “pleasant surprise” and that is exactly what this terrace venue with a view of the Strip offers alongside its heavenly sundaes and deserts → p. 61

### INSIDER TIP Stay cool

The latest trend: parties and discos at the pool. The perfect solution for hot Las Vegas summer days → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP Coffee and art

Avant-garde designs, photo-art and more are mixed with an art café to create the *Arts Factory* in the designer area at the northern end of the Strip → p. 64

### INSIDER TIP Reggae in the desert

Hot beats plus Caribbean food and drinks attract visitors to the annual Reggae Festival featuring popular Jamaican musicians like Freddie McGregor in June → p. 108

### INSIDER TIP The desert blooms

Flash floods and straw walls: the *Springs Preserve* displays natural history and environmental issues in interesting and exciting ways for children → p. 45

### INSIDER TIP Good of' times

*Golden Gate* is Downtown's oldest and smallest hotel. Its dimly lit corridors and antique Victorian ornaments evoke the casinos of yesteryear → p. 86

### INSIDER TIP Something serious

Documents, photos and statements from former employees are on display in the *National Atomic Testing Museum*. They demonstrate the astonishing naivety of early atomic research when postcards with photos of explosions were popular → p. 44

### INSIDER TIP Dive to the Titanic

The luxury liner has been lying on the bottom of the Atlantic for 100 years. The Titanic exhibition in the *Luxor* tells its story with displays including a gigantic part of the ship's side, replicas of some of the rooms as well as personal items belonging to passengers, like glasses and clothing → p. 30

### INSIDER TIP Fancy dress

The fun starts in the fitting room with jean jackets, designer pieces and glitzy dresses from stage shows. *Buffalo Exchange* sells the best selection of crazy second-hand items → p. 64



# BEST OF...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

### ● *The Strip by night*

Strolling along the brightly-lit Las Vegas Boulevard at night is a unique experience that takes you past the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, gigantic billboards and lakes. In the middle of it all, a booming drum roll announces the eruption of a volcano in front of the *Mirage* → p. 37

### ● *Rock around the clock*

In the lounges of the large casinos some very good up-and-coming bands often perform for free. Try places like the *Zebra Lounge* in the Palazzo or the *Mizuya Lounge* at the Mandalay Bay → p. 74

### ● *Play of water*

Every evening the water fountains in front of the *Bellagio* dance to the music of Pavarotti, Céline Dion and the Vienna Philharmonic. Every 15 minutes the 1,200 jets perform an impressive, choreographed *water ballet* of light and music on a massive artificial lake on the Strip → p. 34

### ● *Tips and tricks*

Do you know how to play blackjack, poker, craps and roulette? If you need to brush up on the rules, many hotels offer free *gaming lessons* where you can learn about the most important games of chance and the different playing strategies → p. 89

### ● *Vintage nostalgia*

Chevys from the 1950s, Cadillacs, antique Fords and even one of Elvis' cars await at the *Quad* – a car buff's dream. Download a coupon from the *Auto Collections* website to get a free ticket → p. 33

### ● *Hoover's walls*

The *Hoover Dam* is one of the wonders of the modern world. With all the concrete used to build the dam, you could build a road from New York to San Francisco. You have to pay for a tour but the breathtaking view from the new bridge is free → p. 46



Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

# ONLY IN LAS VEGAS

Unique experiences

### ● *The players from above*

The tower of the *Stratosphere Casino* offers the most panoramic view of the city and the desert. At 350 m (1,148 ft), it also offers action-packed attractions and thrilling rides → p. 39

### ● *Get married in the city of lights*

In a helicopter, barefoot next to the swimming pool or in a wonderfully kitschy chapel – tie the knot! Getting married in Las Vegas has its own tradition, and it is fast and cheap. Almost 80,000 couples a year cannot be wrong... → p. 92

### ● *Light show over the pedestrian zone*

Stars, crosses and triangles fly through the heavens, while a rock band sets the rhythm for the lights: the *Fremont Street Experience* light show makes a trip Downtown worthwhile → p. 41

### ● *Tiger in the Mirage*

Even though Siegfried & Roy no longer perform, their rare white tigers can still be admired – they are an attraction in the *Mirage Casino* where these remarkable wild animals live in a very luxurious enclosure → p. 37

### ● *Jacko lives!*

The latest trend is music shows – Sinatra, the Beatles etc. The youngest star on the horizon is Michael Jackson whose memory takes centre stage in the Cirque-de-Soleil show *ONE* at the Mandalay Bay. This revival is not just for moonwalkers → p. 77

### ● *Be a high roller*

Blackjack, roulette, poker – these are the games of luck which brought Las Vegas into existence (photo). So get playing! Of course, you will have to sacrifice a few dollars to lady luck. But, maybe she will smile upon you and you'll hit the jackpot → p. 88

### ● *Satisfy your hunger*

Not all of the legendary Las Vegas buffets are worth the money. But the one in the *Bellagio* is: fresh pasta, sushi, mussels, bison meat and over 100 other dishes are displayed in an array of hot and cold spreads → p. 52



# ONLY IN



# DISCOVERY TOURS

1

## LAS VEGAS AT A GLANCE



**START:** ① Mandalay Bay  
**END:** ⑬ Cosmopolitan

**Distance:**  
→ 25 km/15.5 miles

**12 hours**  
Travel/walking time  
(without stops)  
4 hours

**COSTS:** bus day ticket \$8

**WHAT TO PACK:** comfortable shoes and a sweater or jacket because the casinos tend to be quite cool

**IMPORTANT TIPS:** book tickets for a show in advance! If you want to travel by taxi instead of bus, bear in mind that taxis are not allowed to stop on the Las Vegas Strip; they wait on the driveways of the hotels and casinos.

From the most spectacular casinos to the craziest attractions, this well-planned route will introduce you to the many faces of Las Vegas. It includes stops at the

Cities have many faces. If you want to get behind the scenes to explore their unique charm and head off the beaten track or find your way to green oases, handpicked restaurants or the best local activities, then these tailored Discovery Tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

glittering rooms of the mega casinos on the “Las Vegas Strip” as well as the old gambling houses downtown. The fantasy palaces, water fountains with light shows, Venetian gondalas and gigantic ferris wheel that you will see along the way are a real feast for the eyes.

**11:00am** Las Vegas is dead in the mornings. So, save your energy and sleep in late or spend an hour at the hotel pool. Then enjoy a leisurely breakfast in your hotel or at the starting point for the tour, the ① **Mandalay Bay** → p. 84 at the southern end of the Strip where you can

① Mandalay Bay

