

Downtown Las Vegas... Where the Party Is At

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Las Vegas, Nevada is a fun time! I've always loved the atmosphere. Not necessarily for the gambling, but for the lights, the food, and the shows. You don't have to go to Las Vegas for gambling.

Nowadays, gambling is everywhere. You really go to Las Vegas for the history and the atmosphere, which is something you really don't get at a riverboat casino in the Midwest or the Southern United States.

When planning a trip to Vegas, I've always thought it to be a little silly to spend a lot of money on a hotel room that you really wouldn't use that often. Besides, how many of you out there spend your entire vacation in the hotel room?

Yes, the hotels on the strip are impressive. They are newer and shinier and have more bells and whistles, but are they economical? Many people taking a trip to Vegas want to experience all its wonders, but don't necessarily have the funds to spend.

So, for those who want to see the lights and sights of Vegas and don't want to break the bank... the downtown area and the Fremont Street Experience is the way to go.

Back in the day, Fremont Street used to be a regular street! Do you believe that?

In late 1994, September to be exact, the groundbreaking of the Fremont Street Experience occurred. It was a special day for the downtown area. It was the catalyst of what would eventually be a good kick in the pants to the downtown area's economy.

When the Fremont Street Experience was opened to the public in mid-1995, the change in the downtown area was very noticeable. Many older folks who might have been a little "stuck in their ways", did not like the new updated version of Fremont Street.

Gone were the vehicles and paved streets. Now, there were nice walkways... almost like a giant pedestrian mall with a canopy hanging directly over the heads of the tourists below. The canopy could be classified as a gigantic television screen, like a giant Omni-max theater, showing videos and music every hour. Very impressive when utilized.

The Fremont Street Experience was much different but exciting all at the same time.

Downtown Las Vegas would be filled with entertainment, great food, shopping, and activities for the family. For every casino in the downtown area, there are plenty of restaurants to frequent. Steakhouses, bar and grills, cafes... all for food lovers.

The hotel room rates are wonderful downtown. You will find the Golden Nugget, which is the fancier of the casino hotels in the downtown area, to be affordable most of the time.

Other places like the Four Queens, the Golden Gate, and the Fremont are found to be very cheap... sometimes as low as \$30 a night!! Maybe even lower depending on the time of year.

There is a nice mall for shopping and even a movie theater to escape the heat of a hot summer day. Two zip lines are now constructed over the entire length of the Fremont Street Experience which is fun for families.

The entertainment is a nightly occurrence. Bands come in from all over to put on free shows. It's a great time indeed.

Please, when thinking of your next trip to Vegas, go ahead and book a room in the downtown area. Any hotel from the Plaza down to the El Cortez will do.

They are inexpensive, clean, and the food and service are always great. You can travel on public transportation if you should want to go to the Strip from downtown. The buses transport many back and forth, to the Strip and back to downtown, all day long.

If your friends roll their eyes because you told them you are staying in downtown Vegas, ignore them.

Because trust me, you will enjoy yourselves.