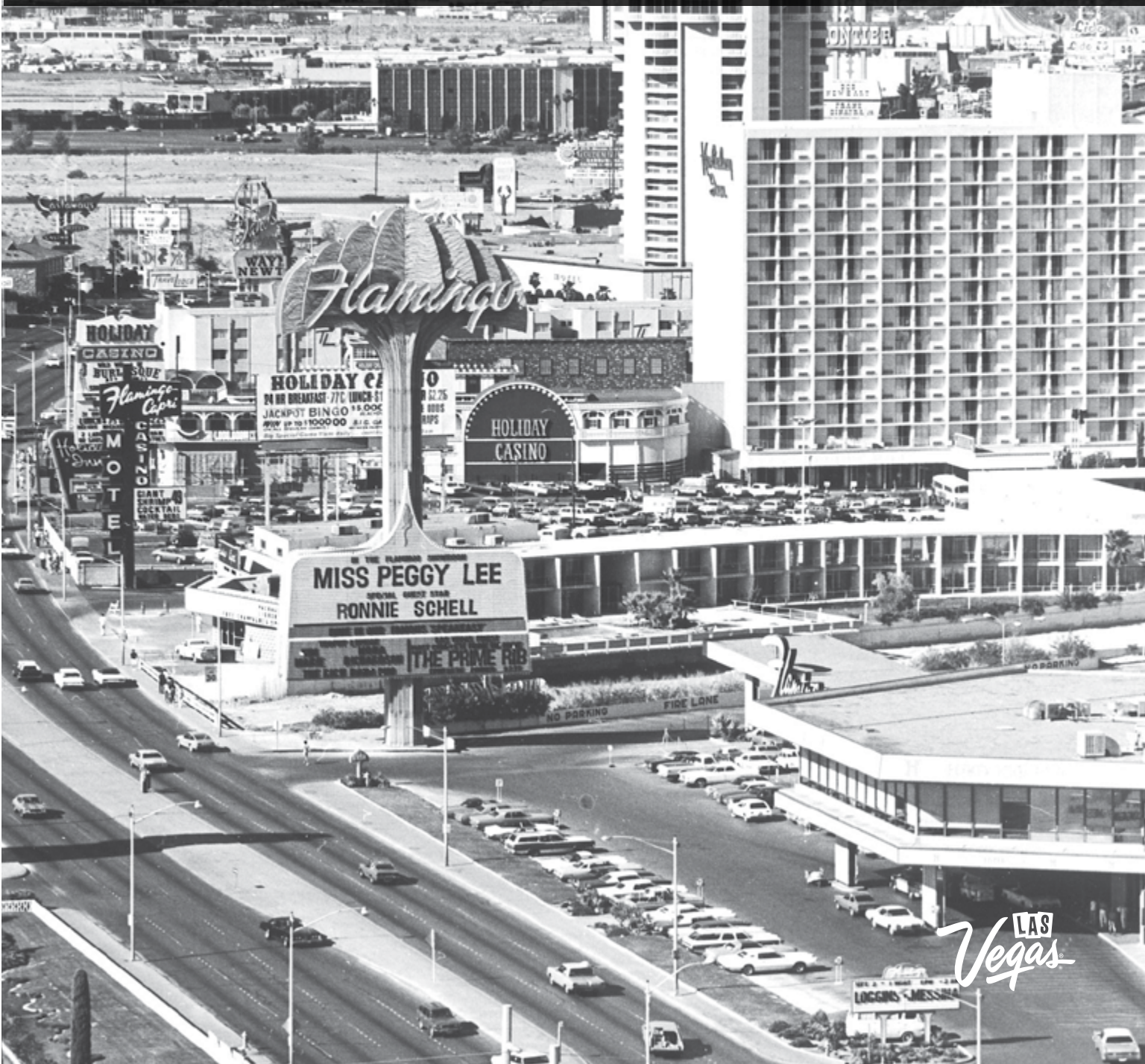


THE VEGAS INSIDER'S
LAS VEGAS HISTORY
GUIDE



LAS
Vegas

LAS VEGAS HISTORY

Southern Paiute inhabited the area long before the arrival of the first Europeans.

- 1776** "Spanish explorers" come through Southern Nevada.
- 1829** The Spanish scout Rafael Rivera becomes first European in the Las Vegas Valley.
- 1829** Antonio Armijo arrives after his scout Rafael Rivera.
- 1844** John C. Fremont arrives.
- 1855** Mormons arrive in Las Vegas and establish fort.
- 1855** First post office is established and named Bringhurst after Mission President William Bringhurst.
- 1857** Mormons abandon fort.
- 1864** Nevada is admitted into the Union by President Abraham Lincoln.
- 1865** Octavius Decatur Gass takes over old Mormon Fort and establishes Las Vegas Rancho.
- 1880** Archibald and Helen Stewart acquire Las Vegas Rancho from Octavius Decatur Gass for \$5,000.
- 1882** Helen Stewart gives birth to Evaline La Vega Stewart, named after Las Vegas.
- 1884** Archibald Stewart murdered at Kiel Ranch; first Las Vegas murder, unresolved.
- 1903** Helen J. Stewart sells Las Vegas Rancho to Montana Sen. William A. Clark for \$55,000.
- 1905** Town of Las Vegas established with the opening of the Salt Lake, San Pedro & Los Angeles Railroad.
- 1905** First train arrives in Las Vegas.
- 1907** First telephone wires installed in Las Vegas.
- 1909** Clark County, Nev., created.
First theater, the Isis, opens.
- 1910** State of Nevada bans gambling.
- 1911** The city of Las Vegas is incorporated.
- 1912** The Majestic Theater opens.
- 1914** First movie filmed – *The Hazards of Helen*
- 1920** First airplane lands in Las Vegas – Randall Henderson and his Jenny.
- 1923** First rodeo
- 1926** First commercial airline flight, Western Air Express
- 1927** First golf course built
- 1929** Las Vegas High School opens.
- 1931** Hoover Dam construction begins in Black Canyon.
Gambling legalized in Nevada.
First gaming license issued to Las Vegas resident Mayme Stocker
- 1933** Historic downtown U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse open.
- 1935** Hoover Dam dedicated by President Franklin Roosevelt.
- 1934** First Hellsdorado Days Parade held
- 1939** Basic Magnesium Plant opens.

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- 1940** Clark County population – 16,414 (Las Vegas – 8,422)
- 1941** El Rancho Vegas opens on the Strip. El Cortez Hotel opens in downtown Las Vegas. The El Rancho is destroyed by fire 19 years later.
- 1942** Last Frontier Hotel opens. (later called New Frontier and Frontier)
- 1944** Liberace makes his Las Vegas debut.
- 1946** Bugsy Siegel opens Flamingo Hotel. State levies first gaming taxes.
- 1947** Maxwell Kelch of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce establishes Desert Sea News Bureau to promote Las Vegas through photography. Name changes to Las Vegas News Bureau in 1949.
- 1948** Thunderbird Hotel and Casino opens.
Clark County buys Alamo Air Field and opens the first airport – later named McCarran International Airport.
- 1949** Created in 1947 as Desert Sea; name changed to Las Vegas News Bureau in 1949.
- 1950** Clark County population 48,289 (Las Vegas – 24,624)
- 1950** Desert Inn Hotel and Casino opens.
Silver Slipper Casino opens.
Vegas Vic is erected on Fremont Street.
- 1951** First atomic test is detonated at the NTS.
Sen. Estes Kefauver begins hearings on organized crime; first televised senate hearings – a publicity bonanza for Las Vegas.
- 1952** The Sahara Hotel and Casino opens.
The Sands Hotel and Casino opens.
- 1955** Gaming control strengthened. Gaming Control Board is created within the Nevada Tax Commission by the Legislature.
The Royal Nevada Hotel and Casino opens.
The Dunes Hotel and Casino opens.
The Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino opens.
- 1956** The Hacienda Hotel and Casino opens.
- 1957** Tropicana Hotel and Casino opens.
- 1958** The Stardust Hotel and Casino opens.
- 1959** Las Vegas Convention Center opens. The Nevada Gaming Commission is created by the Legislature.
- 1960** Clark County population 127,016 (Las Vegas – 64,405)
- 1962** The Tally Ho Hotel opens.
The La Concha Motel opens – designed by famed Los Angeles architect Paul Revere Williams.
- 1963** Westward Ho Motel Resort opens.
- 1964** The Beatles arrive in Las Vegas and perform two sold-out shows at the Las Vegas Convention Center.
- 1966** The Aladdin Hotel and Casino opens.
Caesars Palace Hotel and Casino opens.
Howard Hughes arrives to live at Desert Inn. Hughes made his first impact in Las Vegas in the early 1940s when he bought up land that is now Summerlin to build an aircraft factory.

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- 1967** Nevada Legislature passes a law allowing publicly traded corporations to obtain gambling licenses. The law is refined in 1969.
- 1968** Circus Circus casino opens; hotel opens in 1972.
- 1970** Clark County population 273,288 (Las Vegas – 125,787)
- 1973** The MGM Grand Hotel and Casino opens – world's largest hotel.
- 1975** Nevada gaming revenues exceed \$1 billion mark for first time.
- 1977** Clark County gaming revenues exceed \$1 billion mark for first time. Nevada Legislature passes a foreign gaming law allowing Nevada-based casino owners to operate casinos outside Nevada's borders.
- 1980** Clark County population hits 463,087 (Las Vegas – 164,674), as Las Vegas celebrates 75th birthday.
MGM Grand Hotel is consumed by fire – worst disaster in Las Vegas history.
- 1981** Las Vegas celebrates golden anniversary of gaming.
1981 Las Vegas Hilton Hotel fire
- 1985** First National Finals Rodeo is held in Las Vegas.
- 1989** The Mirage opens on Nov. 22 with 3,039 rooms.
- 1990** Clark County population 741,459 (Las Vegas – 258,295)
Excalibur opens on June 19. To date, it's the world's largest resort hotel with 4,032 rooms.
- 1992** First Las Vegas Bowl is held at Silver Bowl stadium.
- 1993** Flamingo Hilton announces plans to raze Bugsy's suite and office.
Dunes Hotel sells to Steve Wynn's Mirage Inc.; the north tower and Dunes sign is imploded Oct. 27.
Money won by Nevada casinos tops \$6 billion mark for first time.
ITT Sheraton Corp. purchases Desert Inn Hotel from Kirk Kerkorian's Tracinda Corp.
Dunes Hotel is imploded Oct. 27.
Grand Slam Canyon Adventuredome opens, Aug. 23.
Luxor Hotel opens on Oct. 15 with 2,526 rooms.
Treasure Island Hotel opens on Oct. 27 with 2,900 rooms.
MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park opens, Dec. 18, with 5,005 rooms and a 171,500-square-foot casino; to date, the largest resort hotel-casino in the world.
Nevada Legislature passes enabling legislation for financing of the Fremont Street Experience.
- 1994** Buffalo Bill's in Primm and Boulder Station Casino on Boulder Highway in Las Vegas open.
Plans to construct New York-New York Hotel Casino at the intersection of the Strip and Tropicana Avenue announced jointly by MGM Grand and Primadonna Resorts.
Work begins on Fremont Street Experience. Downtown Fremont Street is permanently closed to automobile traffic on Sept. 7.
The first scheduled Condor charter flight to Las Vegas from Cologne, Germany, lands on Nov. 7 at McCarran International Airport.
Sam's Town on Boulder Highway expands with the opening of a 650-room tower and lush, plant-filled atrium.

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- 1994** A 300-room hotel-casino named Boomtown opens on Blue Diamond Road at I-15.
Four skywalks are built over the intersection of Tropicana Boulevard and the Las Vegas Strip.
McCarran opens I-15 airport connector road system that tunnels under the east-west runways.
The Fiesta, the first hotel-casino in North Las Vegas, opens with 100 rooms.
- 1995** Vegas World closes its doors Feb. 1 for work on a casino complex and the Stratosphere Tower.
The first Hard Rock Hotel opens here on March 10.
\$25 million monorail begins running between MGM Grand and Bally's hotel-casinos on June 14.
Bill Bennett retires from Circus Circus Enterprises, then buys the Sahara Hotel-Casino from Paul and Sue Lowden.
ITT Corp. buys Caesars World Inc. for \$1.7 billion, including Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.
Construction begins on Steve Wynn's 46-story, \$1.7 billion, 3,000-room Bellagio, located at the intersection of Flamingo Road and the Las Vegas Strip.
Circus Circus Enterprises buys Hacienda and surrounding 100 acres.
The face of downtown Las Vegas changes forever with the Dec. 13 opening of the \$70 million Fremont Street Experience.
Las Vegas reports a 29 million visitor volume for the year. Statewide gross gaming revenue surpasses \$7.3 billion.
Clark County produces \$5.7 billion of the state's gaming revenue total.
Landmark Hotel is imploded on Nov. 7.
- 1996** Groundbreaking ceremonies for Las Vegas Hilton's Star Trek: The Experience are held on Jan. 24.
The \$13 million Las Vegas Strip beautification project, in which 76,000 palms, shrubs, flowering foliage and ground covers were planted, is finished in March.
Wayne Newton celebrates 25,000th Las Vegas performance. Siegfried & Roy celebrate 15,000th Las Vegas performance.
Work is completed on the Desert Inn Road arterial, creating the first tunnel under the Las Vegas Strip.
Stratosphere Tower, the tallest freestanding observation tower in the U.S. and the tallest structure west of the Mississippi River, opens April 30.
Hilton Hotels Corp. purchases Bally's Entertainment Corp., parent company of Bally's hotel and casino on the Las Vegas Strip, for \$3 billion.
Caesars Magical Empire, a multimillion-dollar dining and entertainment complex, opens in Caesars Palace, June 18.
Monte Carlo, a joint venture between Circus Circus Enterprises Inc. and Mirage Resorts Inc., opens June 21.
The \$72 million, 1,100-acre Las Vegas Motor Speedway with tracks for drag, stock and formula car races opens in September.
Clark County Commission grants building permits for the \$500 million, 2,900-room Paris Casino Resort on the Las Vegas Strip.
Hyatt Hotel Corp. announces plans to build a 500-room hotel on the shores of Lake Las Vegas.
Circus Circus Enterprises announces a joint venture with Four Seasons Regent to build a 400-room, five-star, nongaming hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.
The Sands Hotel, after 44 years of continuous operation, is closed, on June 30 by owner Sheldon Adelson, who announces plans to build a 6,000-room megaresort on the Las Vegas Strip site. Sands tower is imploded on Nov. 26.

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- 1996** Flamingo Hilton celebrates 50th anniversary. Caesars Palace celebrates 30th anniversary.
- State Line, Nev., at the Southern Nevada-California border, is renamed Primm in honor of the community's founder, Ernest Primm.
- Groundbreaking is held for 3,000-room Planet Hollywood Hotel Casino adjacent to the Desert Inn at Sands Avenue and the Las Vegas Strip. Construction on the joint venture between ITT Corp. and Planet Hollywood was never started.
- Circus Circus implodes Hacienda Hotel Casino on Dec. 31 to make way for megaresort.
- 29.6 million people visit Las Vegas in 1996; state gross gaming revenue totals \$7.45 billion, and Clark County population hits 1.1 million.
- 1997** The Tropicana Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip celebrates its 40th anniversary.
- New York-New York Hotel Casino opens on the Las Vegas Strip on Jan. 3. More than 100,000 people a day visit the new resort during the casino's first days in operation.
- Hilton Hotels Corp. makes a \$10.5 billion hostile takeover move on Jan. 28 against ITT Corp., which resists the bid. ITT shareholders reject Hilton takeover in favor of a more lucrative offer by Starwood Lodging. The deal involves ownership of Caesars Palace and the Desert Inn on the Las Vegas Strip.
- The 6,945-yard, par 71 Lakes Course, the first golf course located in Primm, Nev., opens on Feb. 7.
- Sheldon Adelson breaks ground in April to build the 6,000-suite, \$1.8 billion Venetian Hotel and Resort on the grounds of the original Sands Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.
- Steve Wynn, builder of Las Vegas Strip megaresorts, calls for a "go slow" approach to future expansion in Las Vegas.
- The U.S. Air Force celebrates its 50th anniversary in an unequaled display of military aviation might attended by 80 foreign, high-ranking NATO and Pacific Air command officials, and 300,000 spectators.
- Coca-Cola Co. opens its World of Coca-Cola® store in the Showcase Mall marked by a 100-foot-tall glass Coca-Cola bottle.
- The first nonstop scheduled commercial flight from Frankfurt-Mein International Airport in Germany lands on May 7 with 215 passengers at McCarran International Airport.
- Sunset Station Hotel-Casino opens on June 10.
- Players Island Resort Hotel and Spa in Mesquite is purchased by Virgin River Casino and renamed CasaBlanca on July 1.
- On Aug. 29, The Forum Shops at Caesars opened 35 new shops, stores and restaurants in a 276,000-square-foot expansion, which doubles the size of the upscale shopping mall adjacent to Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.
- The Aladdin Hotel closes on the Las Vegas Strip on Nov. 25, making way for a \$1.2 billion gambling and hotel complex. Plans call for development of a Middle East-themed shopping center; a 2,600-room hotel; as well as a joint venture with Planet Hollywood Inc. for development of a neighboring \$250 million, 2,000-room, music-theme resort. Planet Hollywood drops out of the deal in 1998.
- The Desert Inn Hotel Casino completes \$200 million renovation and expansion.
- Owners change the name of the Boomtown Hotel Casino to Silverton after Majestic Realty Co. takes control of the struggling resort from Boomtown Inc.
- Harley-Davidson Cafe opens on the Las Vegas Strip, continuing the theme restaurant proliferation.
- Caesars Palace opens new tower in December.
- Harrah's Entertainment Inc. buys Showboat Inc. in a \$1.154 billion deal.

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- 1997** The Frontier Hotel, owned by the Elardi family, is sold to Phil Ruffin, a Kansas industrialist, for \$165 million.
- Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino opens Masquerade Village and new 41-story, 1,025-room tower, giving the resort a total of 2,556 suites.
- Allen Paulson, California entrepreneur, buys the Gold River Casino Hotel in Laughlin. The property is renamed River Palms Resort.
- 1998** Star Trek: The Experience opens on Jan. 4 at the Las Vegas Hilton.
- Circus Circus officials announce that Mandalay Bay will be the name of the company's new resort at the Strip and Russell Road. The hotel's working name was Project Paradise.
- Starwood Hotels & Resorts buys ITT Corp. for \$14.6 billion. The purchase includes acquisition of Caesars Palace and the Desert Inn hotels/casinos on the Las Vegas Strip.
- Eagle Canyon Airlines buys Las Vegas-based Scenic Airlines.
- The Aladdin Hotel is imploded on April 27.
- Northwest Airlines inaugurates nonstop service on June 1 from Tokyo to Las Vegas.
- Japan Airlines inaugurates nonstop service on Oct. 2 from Tokyo to Las Vegas.
- Korean Airlines makes history in August with three nonstop charter flights from Seoul, Korea, to Las Vegas.
- Country Star restaurant on the Strip is acquired by Mirage Resorts Inc. and closes.
- Bellagio, billed as the most expensive hotel in the world (\$1.7 billion), opens on Oct. 15 on the Las Vegas Strip and initiates a policy barring persons under 18 years of age who are not registered guests of the hotel.
- Las Vegas Convention Center opens an expansion, boosting its total space to 1.9 million square feet.
- The Debbie Reynolds hotel-casino, a half block east of the Las Vegas Strip on Convention Center Drive, is sold at public auction on Aug. 5 to the World Wrestling Federation for \$9.27 million.
- The Las Vegas Motor Speedway is sold in December by founders Bill Bennett and Ralph Engelstad to North Carolina-based Speedway Motorsports Inc., headed by O. Bruton Smith, for \$215 million.
- Proposition 5 is passed by California voters in November, opening the door for casino-style gambling on American Indian reservations.
- A 66-year-old Las Vegas resident hits a \$27.58 million progressive Megabucks jackpot on Nov. 15 at the Palace Station Hotel Casino.
- The D gates open at McCarran International Airport.
- Annual gross gaming revenue in Nevada hits the \$8.1 billion mark.
- Annual number of visitors to Las Vegas totals 30.6 million people.
- On Dec. 31, Hilton Hotels Corp. spins off its gaming division to Park Place Entertainment Corp., including the Las Vegas Hilton, Flamingo Hilton, Bally's and Paris Las Vegas on the Strip.
- 1999** Harrah's Entertainment Inc. purchases the Rio Hotel-Casino Inc. for \$888 million, Jan. 1.
- MGM Grand Inc. buys Primadonna Resorts Inc., taking 100 percent ownership of New York-New York Hotel-Casino on the Las Vegas Strip and Whiskey Pete's, Buffalo Bill's and Primm Valley Resort & Casino in Primm, Nev., March 1.
- Mandalay Bay Resort opens on March 2 with 3,300 rooms.
- Four Seasons Hotel opens on March 2 with 424 rooms.

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- 1999** Japan Airlines adds a fourth nonstop flight per week in April from Tokyo to Las Vegas.
Phase I of The Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino opens on May 3 with 3,036 suites.
The Las Vegas Convention Center celebrates its 40th birthday.
Circus Circus Enterprises changes its name to Mandalay Resort Group.
The Resort at Summerlin opens on July 15.
Paris Las Vegas Casino Resort opens on Sept. 1.
Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Rod Stewart, Elton John, Tina Turner, Wayne Newton and Don Rickles are among the many entertainers booked by Las Vegas resorts to ring in the new century.
- 2000** A \$3 billion deal closes to sell Caesars World Inc., including Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip, to Park Place Entertainment.
The Resort at Summerlin changes its name to The Regent Las Vegas.
MGM Grand Inc. announces the purchase of Mirage Resorts Inc., creating the largest corporate buyout in gaming history.
Station Casinos plans a \$55 million expansion for its Texas Station in North Las Vegas.
The Clark County Department of Aviation unveils \$1 billion plan for expansion and renovation of McCarran International Airport.
The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority awards a \$113 million contract to PCL Construction Services to expand the Las Vegas Convention Center.
The two largest carriers to the Las Vegas market – Southwest Airlines and America West – add 2,762 seats.
Construction begins on Station Casinos' latest hotel-casino, Green Valley Ranch.
Virgin Atlantic Airways begins first regular flights from England to Las Vegas.
Station Casinos purchases the Santa Fe hotel-casino for \$205 million.
The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority opens an affiliate office in Sydney, Australia.
- 2001** The Orleans plans \$100 million expansion that will include the addition of a 620-room hotel tower, a 9,000-seat arena and a 40,000-square-foot casino.
Aloha Airlines announces daily round-trips to Las Vegas from Honolulu and Maui, Hawaii.
Mandalay Resort Group announces plans to add a 1.8 million-square-foot convention center to Mandalay Bay.
ESPN Regional assumes ownership of the Las Vegas Bowl from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.
- 2002** NEONOPOLIS entertainment center opens downtown at the Fremont Street Experience.
JetBlue Airways announces daily service from Las Vegas to Long Beach, Calif.
For the first time, La Cumbre, the world's largest trade show promoting travel to the United States among residents of the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America, comes to Las Vegas.
Wynn Resorts goes public with IPO for \$1.85 billion megaresort, Le Rêve.
- 2003** The \$105 million '40s-themed property, The Cannery, opens its doors.
The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority debuts its new advertising campaign, "Vegas Stories," with the tagline, "What happens here, stays here.®"
America West increases its number of daily trips between Las Vegas and Denver; Phoenix; San Diego; San Jose, Calif.; and San Francisco.

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- 2003** The Stratosphere releases plans for its latest thrill ride, a teeter-totter-like device situated nearly 900 feet above Las Vegas Boulevard, aptly called X-Scream.
- Steve Wynn changes the name for Las Vegas' newest megaresort from Le Rêve to Wynn Las Vegas.
- Las Vegas Premium Outlets opens near downtown Las Vegas.
- The Fashion Show mall completes a \$1 billion expansion, including a towering outdoor multimedia platform called The Cloud.
- McCarran International Airport introduces new electronic ticketing kiosk system.
- Mandalay Bay opens new 1,120-suite tower, THEhotel.
- 2004** Park Place Entertainment Corp. officially changes its name to Caesars Entertainment.
- Harrah's Entertainment purchases Binion's Horseshoe.
- Boyd Gaming Corp. merges with Coast Resorts.
- Mergers abound in Las Vegas. MGM MIRAGE announces plans to purchase the Mandalay Resort Group. One month later, Harrah's Entertainment announces its plans to purchase Caesars Entertainment.
- The Strip dims its lights for President Ronald Reagan's passing. Other dignitaries to receive such a remembrance upon their passing have included President John F. Kennedy; Rat Pack members Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin; and George Burns.
- The Las Vegas Hilton is sold to Colony Resorts for \$280 million.
- The Las Vegas Monorail, a \$654 million mass-transit system, opens to the public.
- Las Vegas Sands releases new details about its planned \$1.6 billion Palazzo casino resort on the Strip.
- 2005** Las Vegas celebrates its centennial year throughout 2005, beginning with a New Year's Eve fireworks display. Las Vegas celebrates its 100th birthday on May 15, 2005, with the world's largest birthday cake and a re-creation of the 1905 land auction that started the Las Vegas community as we know it today.
- Wynn Las Vegas, the destination's newest megaresort, opens on April 28.
- Visitor volume for 2004 breaks tourism records with 37.4 million.
- At \$2.7 billion, Wynn Las Vegas becomes the most expensive hotel and casino in the world.
- "Condo-mania" hits Las Vegas. A multitude of developers, ranging from Donald Trump to MGM MIRAGE, announce plans for high-rise luxury condominium projects. By 2010, 10,000 to 15,000 condominium-hotel units are expected to be added to the current room inventory.
- Las Vegas Sands breaks ground for The Palazzo, a \$1.6 billion, 3,000-room resort adjacent to The Venetian.
- MGM MIRAGE announces Project CityCenter, an urban metropolis with 4,000 hotel rooms and 1,650 condominium units. Project CityCenter will cost nearly \$5 billion, making it the largest privately funded project in the United States.
- Houston-based Landry's Restaurants takes over downtown's largest casino, the Golden Nugget.
- The National Basketball Association selects Las Vegas as the host for the 2007 All-Star game. This will be the first time this high-profile sporting event is held in a city without an NBA team.
- Megamergers galore in 2005. In June, MGM MIRAGE and Mandalay Resort Group complete its \$7.9 billion merger. One month later, Harrah's Entertainment buys Caesars Entertainment for \$9.4 billion, making it the largest casino company.

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- 2005** The destination's tagline, "What happens here, stays here,®" firmly cements itself into the American lexicon. The wildly popular phrase is included in countless television shows, such as First Lady Laura Bush's interview on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and Billy Crystal's opening monologue during the Academy Awards show.
- 2006** Boyd Gaming Corp. announces Echelon Place, a \$4 billion development project. The 5,300-room resort will be located on the 63-acre site now occupied by the Stardust.
- The Castaways, the property formerly known as The Showboat, is imploded. Within 18 seconds, the 19-story hotel is reduced to a 20,000-ton pile of rubble.
- Cirque du Soleil opens its fifth resident show, *The Beatles LOVE* at The Mirage, playing in the theater space of longtime Las Vegas magicians, *Siegfried & Roy*. The show is based on The Beatles music.
- Nevada celebrates 75 years of legalized gaming.
- Red Rock Resort Casino Spa, the newest property from Station Casinos, opens. The property is the first billion-dollar resort to be built off the Las Vegas Strip.
- Fantasy Suites opens at the Palms Casino Resort. Located on the tower's 25th and 26th floors, the Fantasy Suites take the themed hotel room to exotic extremes.
- Palms Casino Resort breaks ground on Palms Place Hotel and Spa.
- McCarran International Airport ranks fifth-busiest passenger airport, according to the Airports Council International North America's annual traffic ranking.
- Morgans Hotel Group selects Golden Gaming to operate the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino properties.
- Hooters Hotel and Casino opens in Las Vegas.
- Lady Luck Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas closes for renovation.
- Nevada becomes No. 1 in restaurant growth. A National Restaurant Association report shows that Nevada's restaurant industry is growing faster than anywhere else in the country.
- Wynn Resorts breaks ground on Encore.
- 2007** NBA All-Star 2007 comes to Las Vegas. For the first time in history, the NBA All-Star game is played in a city without a resident NBA team.
- MGM MIRAGE's CityCenter releases residences for purchase.
- Monty Python's Spamalot* debuts at Wynn Las Vegas.
- The Producers* debuts at Paris Las Vegas.
- Fremont East Entertainment District Improvement Project celebrates its groundbreaking to revitalize downtown.
- Grand Canyon Skywalk opens. This modern-day marvel becomes the first-ever cantilever-shaped glass walkway to suspend more than 4,000 feet above the canyon's floor and extend 70 feet from the canyon's rim.
- Tropicana Resort & Casino celebrates 50 years on the Las Vegas Strip.
- The Stardust Hotel & Casino is imploded.
- The Aladdin Casino Resort transforms into Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino. Desert Passage Shops becomes Miracle Mile Shops.
- Cirque du Soleil announces its seventh resident production show featuring renowned illusionist Criss Angel.
- MGM Grand's The Signature completes third and final tower.

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- 2007** Springs Preserve opens to the public. This 180-acre cultural and historic attraction, considered the "birthplace" of Las Vegas, features museums, galleries, the future Nevada State Museum and more.
- Las Vegas hosts first MTV Video Music Awards at Palms Casino Resort.
- Harrah's Entertainment announces \$1 billion expansion of Caesars Palace, including the new Octavius Tower.
- Luxor unveils renovation plans.
- FIBA Americas Championship is held in Las Vegas for the first time.
- Harrah's Entertainment and AEG announce plans for a 20,000-seat state-of-the-art sports arena.
- Silverton Casino Lodge begins \$130 million expansion.
- The Frontier Hotel & Casino is imploded to make room for a multibillion-dollar project from the Elad Group, modeled after New York's The Plaza Hotel.
- Michelin unveils first-ever restaurant and hotel selections for Las Vegas. One of only four U.S. cities to be written up by this guide, Las Vegas joins New York City, San Francisco and Los Angeles. "The Michelin Guide Las Vegas 2008" features 127 restaurants and 30 hotels.
- Plans and details announced for Anthony Marnell's M Resort, Spa and Casino
- Neon Museum begins the reassembly of the historic La Concha Motel lobby at the site of the Neon Boneyard.
- The La Concha will serve as part of a permanent museum building for the non-restored historic signs.
- Town Square Las Vegas, a new retail, dining and entertainment project, opens on Las Vegas Boulevard South
- 2008** The Palazzo celebrates its grand opening.
- Golden Nugget completes \$60 million expansion, including adding convention space and a new nightclub.
- Caesars Palace raises table game-limit ceiling to the highest in Las Vegas.
- Bette Midler becomes new resident headliner at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, replacing Celine Dion who had a successful five-year run.
- Lake Las Vegas ownership shifts to the Atalon Group.
- Sept. 1, Star Trek: The Experience closes at the Las Vegas Hilton after 12 successful years.
- Donny and Marie headline at Flamingo – October
- Aliante Station celebrates grand opening – Nov. 11
- Encore Las Vegas opens – December
- 2009** CityCenter starts accepting applications for more than 12,000 open jobs – Jan. 5
- Mamma Mia! ends its record-breaking engagement at Mandalay Bay – Jan. 4
- M Resort Spa Casino opens – March 1
- Terry Fator opens show at The Mirage – March 17
- Las Vegas Convention Center celebrates 50th anniversary – April 12
- Las Vegas celebrates third annual Vegas Uncork'd presented by Bon Appétit – May 7–10
- Hard Rock Hotel & Casino unveils new venue, The Joint, with headliner Carlos Santana – May
- Disney's *The Lion King* opens at Mandalay Bay – May 15
- The Smith Center for the Performing Arts celebrates groundbreaking – May 26

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- 2009**
- National Hockey League hosts its 2009 awards in Las Vegas at The Pearl at Palms – June 18
 - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas introduces 490-room Paradise Tower – July 31
 - Hotel 32 at Monte Carlo opens – Aug. 10
 - Charo debuts all-new show at Riviera Hotel & Casino – August
 - Pink's Hot Dogs opens first location at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas – September
 - Las Vegas participates in third annual Restaurant Week, Aug. 31–Sept. 6
 - Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and wife, Carolyn, renew their wedding vows publicly on Fremont Street 9/9/09
 - Hard Rock opens a new flagship cafe on Vegas Strip – October
 - World's largest helium balloon, Cloud Nine, takes flight above the Strip – Oct. 5
 - "Mr. Las Vegas," Wayne Newton celebrates his 50th year of entertaining audiences with a new production at the Tropicana, *Once Before I Go* – Oct. 14
 - British Airways starts daily nonstop service between London Heathrow and Las Vegas – Oct. 25
 - Clark County Museum inaugurates restores Candlelight Wedding Chapel – Nov. 14
 - Golden Nugget's new Rush Tower opens – Nov. 20
 - Vdara Hotel & Spa opens at CityCenter – Dec. 1
 - Crystals opens at CityCenter – Dec. 3
 - Wrangler National Finals Rodeo celebrates 25 years in Las Vegas – Dec. 3
 - Mandarin Oriental opens at CityCenter – Dec. 4
 - Las Vegas hosts NASCAR Champion's Week festivities for the first time ever – Dec. 4
 - Las Vegas Strip closes to vehicular traffic for the first time in marathon history for the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon – Dec. 6.
 - Country music Legend Garth Brooks comes out of retirement to perform special engagements at Wynn Las Vegas – Dec. 11.
 - ARIA Resort & Casino opens at CityCenter – Dec. 16.
 - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino opens All-Suite HRH Tower – Dec. 28.
 - Planet Hollywood opens Westgate Resorts Tower – Dec. 28.
- 2010**
- Historic neon signs installed in the cultural corridor.
 - Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health opens downtown.
 - USA Sevens Rugby Tournament moves to Las Vegas for multiyear commitment.
 - Stratosphere introduces world's highest attraction, SkyJump.
 - Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino celebrates 20th anniversary.
 - Tropicana Las Vegas begins propertywide renovation project.
 - MGM MIRAGE rebrands; becomes MGM Resorts International.
 - Las Vegas hosts Miss Universe Pageant.
 - Harrah's Entertainment rebrands; becomes Caesars Entertainment.

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- 2010** Master magician Lance Burton ends historic run at Monte Carlo.
Liberace Museum closes its doors.
75th anniversary of Hoover Dam dedication
Mike O'Callaghan–Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge opens high above Colorado River overlooking Hoover Dam.
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas opens its doors Dec. 15.
- 2011** Celine Dion returns to Las Vegas for three-year engagement.
Sahara Hotel & Casino closes May 16.
Caesars Palace conference-center expansion awarded LEED Silver Certification.
Electric Daisy Carnival debuts at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.
Binion's Gambling Hall celebrates 60 years.
- 2012** Caesars Palace opens Octavius Tower.
El Cortez celebrates 70th anniversary.
Las Vegas Hilton renamed LVH.
Mob Museum opens Feb. 14.
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts opens on March 10.
Boyd Gaming's Eldorado Casino celebrates golden anniversary.
McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas opens domestic gates at new Terminal 3 in June.
Imperial Palace renamed The Quad Resort & Casino in December.
The D Las Vegas opens (formerly Fitzgeralds Hotel).
- 2013** *Legends in Concert* celebrates 30 years on Las Vegas Strip.
World's first Nobu Hotel Restaurant and Lounge opens at Caesars Palace in March.
Terrible's Hotel and Casino completes \$7 million renovation and is renamed Silver Sevens Hotel & Casino in July.
Las Vegas Global Business District unveiled for Las Vegas Convention Center.
Cashman Center 30th anniversary celebration
El Cortez Hotel & Casino gets listed on National Register of Historic Places.
Zappos relocates headquarters to downtown Las Vegas.
Golden Gate opens new all-suite tower.
Wet 'n' Wild Las Vegas opens.
Echelon site is sold, and Resorts World Las Vegas plans revealed.
What happens here, stays here® campaign celebrates 10 years.
Las Vegas hosts four NCAA basketball conference championships for the first time.
Downtown Grand opens.
Life Is Beautiful festival debuts.
Downtown Container Park opens.
Michael Jackson ONE show opens at Mandalay Bay.

LAS VEGAS HISTORY

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- 2014** Las Vegas hosts curling competition for the first time.
The LINQ and High Roller open.
Olivia Newton-John becomes headliner at Flamingo Las Vegas.
Slotzilla opens at Fremont Street Experience.
The Voodoo Zipline ride opens at the Rio.
The Cromwell opens its doors.
Rehab at Hard Rock celebrates 10-year anniversary.
Cowabunga Bay Water Park opens.
LVH – Las Vegas Hotel is sold and renamed Westgate Las Vegas.
Monorail celebrates 10-year anniversary.
50th anniversary of The Beatles playing at the Las Vegas Convention Center.
SLS Las Vegas hotel-casino opens.
Red Bull Air Races in Las Vegas for first time.
Delano Las Vegas opens.
Downtown Summerlin shopping mall opens.