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Vegas for Non-Gamblers

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Shopping, dining, spas and more. Trust us—you won't be bored



The Venetian Resort's Grand Canal Shoppes

Even if you're not a slot machine fanatic—check that—*especially* if you're not a slot machine fanatic, Las Vegas is a year-round, exotic, exciting vacation destination. And while we don't recommend you take the kids, there's more than enough sightseeing, shopping and restaurants to keep the non-gambler happily occupied for days.

Let's start with sightseeing. The Venetian Resort is home to not one, but two outposts of New York's famed Guggenheim Museum, the Guggenheim Hermitage Museum and the Guggenheim Las Vegas. If kitsch is more your scene, you'll love Madame Tussaud's wax museum at the Venetian.

But don't feel that you have to stay within city limits. Red Rocks Canyon is an easy half-hour drive away. If you're the adventurous sort, you can plan hikes of varying degrees of skill. Or you can stay in your car and drive the scenic 13-mile loop. Hoover Dam, built during the Depression with technology that was unprecedented

for the time, is about 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

As for shopping, Las Vegas has the rightful reputation for being a luxury shopper's paradise, with branches of everything from Tiffany to Prada to Jimmy Choo shoes. And while those stores make for great window shopping, you can always head to the lesser-known outlets for unbelievable bargains. **Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas**, about 40 minutes from Vegas on the Nevada-California border, is probably the best and houses bargain merchandise from J. Crew, Banana Republic, Polo and much, much more.

A few years ago, Las Vegas restaurants and "buffet" were practically synonymous, but these days virtually every top U.S. chef and restaurant has a Vegas outpost, including Emeril Lagasse's **Delmonico Steakhouse** and Wolfgang Puck's **Postrio**, both at the Venetian. **Picasso** at the **Bellagio** is more than a fine dining experience, with its remark-

able collection of original Picasso paintings and sculptures. Hands down, the hardest decision to make while in town will be where to eat.

Vegas is no slouch when it comes to nightlife either. The options range from cabarets with showgirls to hip clubs to quiet lounges. Many of the top jazz acts end up at the **House of Blues** at **Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino**. It also hosts a fabulous Flashback Friday event, which you'll love if you came of age in the '80s. **Ghostbar** on the 55th floor of the new **Palms Casino Resort** is a lounge with a serious view.

Hotel options abound for a range of prices. Our favorite is one of the 700-square-foot rooms at the Venetian. Where else can you take a ride in a gondola, get a massage at the famed **Canyon Ranch SpaClub** and eat at Vegas' version of New York City's venerable **Lutèce**, all in one day? *wad*

For more information, call the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority at 702-892-0711 or log on to www.vegas.com.