



# LEARNING FROM LAS VEGAS

THE GREAT PROLETARIAN  
CULTURAL TRAVEL GUIDE

Gary Venturi



*Dear Traveler,*

Have you always wanted to visit Las Vegas? Have you never wanted to visit Las Vegas? Well, you're in the right place! This travel guide is for you.

I've compiled the dos and don'ts of a perfect stay in the city of lights. Or was it the city of love? This is a guide for all ages, families, couples, grandmothers, and priests. Finally, travel advice that anyone can learn from.

Across my three visits, I have found that the perfect length of a visit to Las Vegas is 36 hours (no less, and for the love of god no more). For your intense convenience, I have compiled three different itineraries for three different types of trips. You should pick the itinerary that most suits your particular neuroses, and absolutely do not deviate from it. Certainly nothing good can come of that.

I know you'll have a FABULOUS time!

Sincerely,

Gary

## YOUR CHEAP 36 HOURS IN VEGAS

A trip to Vegas isn't always cheap, but don't let that stop you! There's so much to do, even on a budget. For our frugal travelers who want to stretch their United States dollar further your path to fun lies here.

Upon arrival, you simply must stop by **Frankie's Tiki Room** (5) for a warm-up Mai Tai. Save money by skipping lunch. You've now likely gained the strength to walk yourself over to **Shang Artisan Noodle** (17) for a taste of the local cuisine. The wait will likely be too long so feel free to swing by Panda Express around the corner. It's cheaper anyway. Finally, rest your head at the **The Luxor** (15). Try a few rounds of craps. Maybe you'll make it big! If so, jettison this shitty itinerary and begin actually living on the lavish itinerary. If you can't afford a hotel room, the seats at the slot machine recline.

After a good night's rest you're ready to get back to exploring. Try a few rounds of craps. You never know. Then it's time to swing by **New York New York** (13) to ride the roller coaster. You can easily pass the time by riding the coaster for a few hours. Not sure how cheap it is but definitely a good excuse to skip lunch. One last stop at **Treasure Island** (6) for a Mai Tai (turns out you were hungry), then it's time to head back home!

I hope you enjoy your stay. Don't forget, the real friends are the dollars we saved along the way!

## YOUR LAVISH 36 HOURS IN LAS VEGAS

Many enjoy the finer things in life. Some enjoy only the finest things. You know what you need, and you know you can't find it in the dirty streets of New York City, the wretched roads of Los Angeles, or the filthy snow in Denver. Only Vegas has the glamour you know you deserve.

The early bird gets the worm, but at **The Bellagio** (9) it's a luxurious worm indeed. Take in the beautiful fountains before high noon, and take care of some essential shopping at Gucci and Chanel. It's time to mingle with the peasants for a few moments to remind yourself that other lives have some marginal value. So you head to **Caesar's Palace** (10). The Vanderpump Cocktail Garden is very much your speed. Play some craps just to watch others cry. Have you eaten yet? You're likely getting peckish now, so head to **The Venetian** (8) for an Aperol spritz. Ask for extra olives, you can afford it. Don't forget to enjoy a show or two here, I hear the Phantom of the Opera might still be playing. A good night's rest can be had in the presidential suite or by hiding in a gondola.

The cocktails at **The Cosmopolitan** (12) are a perky way to start your final day. Only a certain type are having Mai Tais before 11AM, and you're proud to call them your friends. But there is another place where the Mai Tais flow... Something about it calls to you... You head to **Frankie's Tiki Room** (5) because it goes against everything you believe. Your mother would be ashamed of you.

I hope you enjoy your stay. Try to forget about all the poor people!

## YOUR RAUCOUS 36 HOURS IN LAS VEGAS

You like to party. You know it. And there's no better place to party than Vegas. It's time to unlock the ride of your life.

Every good party has to start at **Frankie's Tiki Room** (5). Ask for Frankie, and ask for the Mai Tai bucket. If they don't know what you're talking about, ask louder. It's going to be a good day. **BrewDog** (16) is the next stop. I know what you're thinking. Beer? Ew. Don't worry. They have Mai Tais too. Enjoy the view. If you can see the Eiffel Tower it means you've not had enough to drink. The night has to end at the **MGM Grand** (14). You play the slots for the free drinks, then you break yourself into Penn & Teller. Don't laugh too loudly, but make sure you're audible. After the show, it's time to start soliciting casino patrons for parties to join. This will determine where you sleep.

Somehow you wake up in **Paris** (11). You still can't see the Eiffel Tower, and this is according to plan. *Veuve Clicquot* is effective as mouthwash. Enjoy a croissant, then it's off to the races. Namely, the zipline at **Area 15** (7). Time your drinks with your entry to the Meowwolf Omega Mart. Once you enter the upside down, tape a sign onto your chest that reads "Take me to the airport by 3PM". Find a cozy place to put your head down.

I hope you enjoy your stay! Don't forget... what were we trying to remember?

*For Mom, Dad, and Uncle Steve. I hope I made you proud.*

# FRANKIE'S TIKI ROOM

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Open 24 hours. No windows. They won't find you in here.

## VIDEO POKER

Finally. A place where you can smoke in peace. Not that you smoke anymore, you quit last year. But everyone else in here does so you can satisfy the craving. You lean over to sniff the breath of the man sitting next to you at the bar. He's too distracted by the video poker. You lean a little closer. He kisses you on the cheek. A kiss never smelled so good.

## TRAVEL GUIDE

The lack of oxygen livens your spirit. Maybe you'll stay a while. You've always wanted to write a travel guide. And you sure do know a lot about Vegas.

## MAI TAI

You do not make eye contact with Frankie. He knows what you did. He brings you a Mai Tai.



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To continue the **cheap** itinerary, go to **Shang Artisan Noodle** (17)

To continue the **raucous** itinerary, go to **BrewDog** (16)

# TREASURE ISLAND

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Swashbuckling drinks and ragtag slot machines line this seafaring resort. But beware, planks abound.

## GILLEY'S SALOON

All those crab legs made Christine thirsty, and she says they won't kick you out of Gilley's. They have Mai Tais, so you order a few. Christine orders a shrimp cocktail. She pulls out an especially long shrimp, and demands you meet in the middle. You thought this day would never come. Fine, one more Mai Tai for the road. You swear that face is familiar... Is that Frankie?

## SEÑOR FROG'S

Your feet stick to the ground, but that doesn't stop you from spinning her on the dance floor. You see your future together, as if remembering it from the past. You are the angel she's been looking for. As you dance together, you can smell an unparalleled zest for life. Or maybe that's the shrimp she's holding in her teeth. She says there's a show outside that you have to see.

## THE BATTLE OF BUCCANEER BAY

You watch the pirates falling off the masts and into the water. Christine says she wishes she was that brave. You tell her that you are. She grins. You sip your Mai Tai to mask your uncertainty. It's a beautiful day. The golden sunset bounces off **The Venetian** (8) to the sound of the cannons firing.



# AREA 15

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A psychedelic place in a psychedelic city for psychedelic people. Or, at least those aspiring.

## ZIPLINE

That zipline was fun! It was faster than you expected. A couple noodles threatened to resurface on your way down. You didn't know Oz was so good at chugging beer. He demands you join, so your Mai Tais disappear. Oh yes, they have Mai Tais. As if today could get any better. Do they taste better when you drink them quickly? Note to test this theory later. You two share a cigarette Oz bummed off the chef.

## DRINKS

Oz becomes even more convincing when he's 3 poppers in. And you're funny. You always assumed you were at your funniest after six Mai Tais. So maybe it's just any multiple of 3. Oz says he wishes his friend was here. You say let's invite him. He says he died at the Luxor a couple years ago. You suggest another zipline ride.

## ZIPLINE AGAIN

You work up the courage to tell Oz this is the most fun you've ever had. He asks how he can make it more fun for you. You tell him you've never felt so free. He knows what to do. The attendant kisses Oz's hand and unbuckles your latches. Oz goes first. Oz dies in front of the Omega Mart. He fell 100 feet onto his head. You lose your desire to ride the zipline again. Many wonder if this is another Meowwolf stunt. Isn't **Frankie's** (5) around the corner?



# THE VENETIAN

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Venice comes alive in this beautiful hotel. La Dolce Vita blooms in these hallowed halls.

## GONDOLAS

The only reason to ride the gondola is for the gondolier's beautiful voice. You've never heard such a luscious baritone. Something about the low ceiling and the fake blue sky, you're certain it doesn't sound this sublime in Venice. The smell of cheesesteaks blends with the rolling waves to slowly rock you to sleep. But then he hits the reprise on *Nessun Dorma* and it wakes you up. You wonder if the gondolier's name is Pavarotti. It feels like it's Pavarotti.

## CHEESESTEAKS

Exiting the gondola feels like hitting the ground after a long fall from the sky. You ask the *serenadore* if he's ever seen the real sky before, and if he knows what a parachute is. He says you're cute. You say the rest is history, but only to yourself. You tell him you saw a few Middle Eastern tourists queueing for the noodles, and you trust their judgment. He says he has a better idea.

## PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Is this really your first time seeing *Phantom of the Opera*? His hand feels warm in yours. Or maybe that's the cheesesteak. You both hum the *Angel of Music*. "Come and find me..." Christine seems to be calling out to you both. His hand feels even warmer.



# THE BELLAGIO

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Luxury personified. Even if you can't afford to stay here, it's worth stopping by to touch the walls.

## FOUNTAINS

You assume Oz invited you here for a reason. As Pavarotti sings in the background, you crave another Mai Tai. Oz takes off all his clothes and he's exactly as hairy as you had hoped. He asks if you're ready. You nod and strip naked as well. It begins to rain but you can't be stopped. You jump in together at the climax. Nessun Dorma sounds different underwater.

## PRADA

To be running naked and wet is to be free. You're pretty sure James Joyce said that. As you run into the hotel, security chases after you. But Oz is fast and you follow his tail. Oz pulls you into the Prada to hide. Good thinking! Once the coast is clear. One of the workers brings you towels and kisses Oz's hand. Oz kisses the worker on the head, indicating his approval. Oz picks out a new outfit for you.

## LOBBY

You walk out through the lobby, for once looking like you belong. As you arrive under the chandelier, you look up to see if it's authentic Murano glass. Oz slaps you on the butt and it stings exactly like you hoped.



# CAESAR'S PALACE

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It's a big THUMBS UP to this stunning recreation of Trastevere. A great place to meet new friends, Brutus et al.

## JULIUS CAESAR STATUE

You didn't expect to be so hungry but that's what a falling chandelier does to a man who watched his lover eat a cheesesteak out of his hands. Oh my goodness, did you just call him your lover? You hope that stayed in your head. The smell of pizza blends with his perfume. Julius' outstretched arm waves you on.

## GIOVANNI'S

Giovanni's is the best pizza in town. Of course, it's better if an Italian orders it for you. He speaks his lilting language to cashier behind the counter. The cashier responds in English, surely only as a courtesy to you. You ask him if he owns the place, and he says practically. You call him Giovanni, he winks. You've been smelling this pizza for what feels like years. But Giovanni only ordered one slice? That rascal! You suspect the only option is to meet in the middle like the lady and her tramp.

## VANDERPUMP COCKTAIL GARDEN

The garden is smaller than you expected, but you and Giovanni still find a way to run around hand-in-hand. Do they serve Mai Tais? He seems to not care. As he orders a few drinks, you ask what his favorite show is in all of Vegas. Turns out he loves Penn & Teller at the **MGM Grand** (14). Magic always made your heart flutter. Disappearing especially. Giovanni says he knows your next stop.



# PARIS

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The joy of vivre bustles through these fake streets. Napoleon couldn't tear down this beauty.

## **BUFFET**

Christine is surprisingly adept at eating crab legs. You watch as her eyes light up on her way back from the sushi bar. Do you think they have Mai Tais here?

## **EIFFEL TOWER**

You decide to take your drinks to the top of the Eiffel Tower. You squeeze in an elevator with 8 others, but all you can smell is Christine's crab breath. You look at her mouth and it looks back. You always knew crustaceans were an aphrodisiac. From the observation deck you can see the whole city. You've been trying not to smoke, but you can't quit in Paris. You look at the **MGM Grand** (14) and it looks back. But you don't look back. Christine grabs your hand.

## **CIRQUE DE SOLEIL**

You've never been to the circus before. Christine was right, the acrobats are mesmerizing. She hollers every time one jumps in the air. This causes everyone to turn and look. You like the attention. They ask you two to leave, but you're uncertain if it's because of the screaming or the crab legs Christine smuggled in.



# THE COSMOPOLITAN

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If swank was a place it would be the place where this hotel was conceived. A few genetic mutations later this hotel is born.

## MOMOFUKU

According to Christine, these are the best scallops in the country. She's never left Nevada but she's seen photos and she can tell. This makes sense to you, because she still smells like shrimp. She tosses a few scallops into your mouth. Whenever you ask her about her family, she tosses another scallop in your mouth.

## BLACKJACK

Before he died, Christine's brother used to play blackjack at the **MGM Grand** (14). She thinks of him whenever she sees someone lose. You order a few Mai Tais to take the edge off. You tell her you never lose. You suggest another drink. She wants a few too.

## THE CHANDELIER BAR

Christine isn't happy anymore. She says she likes this bar because it hangs over the lobby, and you can people watch from above, where nobody ever thinks to look. She says she likes to hang over the side, and feel like she's falling. You ask if she still dreams of **New York** (13). She says she hasn't dreamed in years. You ask if she wants mussels. She says she doesn't like seafood. She looks at you with those eyes, and that mouth. She begins to sing. Everyone below looks up to hear the music. "Think of me fondly, when you say goodbye." She jumps. We'll always have **Paris** (11).



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To continue the lavish itinerary, go to **Frankie's Tiki Room** (5)

# NEW YORK NEW YORK

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Take a bite out of the Big Apple at this vibrant hotel where dreams are made and subsequently consumed.

## **SBARRO'S**

Last time you were in Vegas, you didn't get to enjoy any pizza. It's not nearly as delicious here as it was at Giovanni's in **Caesar's Palace (10)**, but it'll do. Why did you come back? What is left here for you? You haven't tried craps yet.

## **POOL**

The sun is bright and the pool is full. You jump into the water to see what you can hear, but no music plays for you. When you resurface, you see her. She looks so familiar, as if she's calling to you. You walk up to her, wet but not naked. James Joyce would be disappointed.

## **THE BIG APPLE COASTER**

She says a roller coaster is the best way to get to know someone. So you decide to ride. As the car curves through the facsimile skyline, she tells you she plays Christine in the Phantom of the Opera. You tell her you saw it once many years ago. She says she always wanted to move to New York to perform on Broadway. You ask her if she wants to ride again.



# MGM GRAND

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What a beautiful hotel! It feels like you've entered the Emerald City and the Wizard himself is ready to greet you at any moment. The sounds of the slot machines ring like church bells calling you to mass.

## ROOMS

You wonder if you should have ever come back to Vegas, but the yellow brick road rejuvenates your spirit. Do you think Penn and Teller are still performing? You remember you forgot to gamble last time you were here. How silly! You always wanted to try blackjack.

## BLACKJACK

You meet a man playing blackjack. You call him Oz, and he doesn't correct you. You've never met a man who hits on 19. There's something alluring about his lack of caution. He keeps putting something in his mouth. You smell pizza.

## GIORGINO'S PIZZA

The pizza at Giorgino's is not as good as Giovanni's at **Caesar's Palace** (10). Here it's best to stick with the hot dogs. The MGM lion reminds you of the Sphinx in the **Luxor** (15). You wonder if the Mai Tais are free if you play one hand of blackjack. Oz is adamant you should throw a party tonight. Oz seems to know everybody and for a moment you don't think about the pyramid. Then, you see a familiar face. It's Frankie, and he brought you a Mai Tai.



# THE LUXOR

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Haven't you always wondered what it would be like to lay to rest in the grandeur normally reserved for ancient Egyptian royalty? Well, wonder no more as you are transported to the time of droughts and slaves. The Luxor is shaped like a pyramid, where every floor is a ledge overlooking the ground floor. Dizzying.

## LOBBY

Don't forget to get a king size bed. Giovanni is very particular. Giovanni is not in a good mood. You probably shouldn't have taken so many shots. You order a few Mai Tais to take the edge off. Giovanni storms off. You order a few Mai Tais to take the edge off.

## ROOMS

There's something really profound about the rooms at the Luxor. The entrance to every room is visible from every other room. The Egyptians were geniuses, no wonder they invented gunpowder. If it weren't for this architectural profundity you might have stayed long enough to see Penn and Teller. But instead you saw Giovanni walk into another man's room. Unbelievable! Especially after you specifically requested the king bed.

## HALLS

You walk 110 degrees around the interior perimeter of the building and down 2 floors to the door Giovanni waltzed into. Sometimes you wonder if the Mai Tais make your memory better. You bang on the door. You bang. You bang. "Oh Giovanni! Nessun Dorma!" He comes out, fuming. How does he always look so good? Behind him you see his Egyptian lover, reclining like a cat in the sun. You grab Giovanni, and pull him closer. He pushes you away. Weren't you his Italian Pale Ale? You pull him back. He's quite light for a baritone. He pulls back. You pull harder. He pushes you to the ledge, and you pull him into you. For a moment, it feels like you are making love. The next moment, he's fallen over the ledge. You swear he sings the reprise on his way down. Luckily the airport is nearby.



# BREWDOG

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An outpost of a renowned Scottish brewery, you'll find beer, more beer, and also other types of beer. There is also food and a view of the strip, if you know where to look.

## BEER

Do Italians like IPAs? You tell him you'll be his Italian Pale Ale. You grimace at your honesty. He laughs, so everything is ok. What if you two didn't run away together? How sad would that be?

## VIEW

The view is beautiful. You kiss the view. You pinch the view's butt. The view slaps your hand away. But then the view pinches your butt too. Hopefully that left a mark. You and the view look out over the sunset. Not a cloud in sight. But you dare not open your eyes. He puts a cigarette in your mouth and lights it.

## MORE BEER

Giovanni finally drops the big question. You say that, yes, you'd love to explore the wonders of the night and perform intermittent skin-on-skin contact. To celebrate the moment, Giovanni orders shots. You didn't know they had shots here. You ask the bartender if they have any Mai Tais. He says of course, they always have Mai Tais for you. You say that's a funny way to put it. The bartender says you're a funny way to put it. You don't deny it. Bartender tells you his name. Frankie seems nice. You order another Mai Tai as a courtesy to those around you. Giovanni comes back with more shots than you expected. There are more wonders of the night than you expected.




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To continue the raucous itinerary, go to **MGM Grand** (14)

# SHANG ARTISAN NOODLE

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Tourists have taken over this local staple, and for good reason.

## WAITLIST

You get on the waitlist. Party size? You select 2. Your heart flutters. Expected wait: 129 minutes. Imagine what you will learn about each other. Maybe even his name. Oz says he has a better idea, and walks into the back of the restaurant and straight into the kitchen.

## NOODLES

Oz walks out of the kitchen with his arm around the chef's shoulder and a bag of noodles tied to his waist. The chef has tears of laughter running down his face. Oz bids farewell to the chef, who waves as if Oz were setting sail on the Titanic. Oz whispers into your ear that he has a secret recipe. The moisture from his mouth tickles your lobe. As you walk around the corner, the rain stops.

## PANDA EXPRESS

In the parking lot, Oz mixes the orange chicken into the bag of noodles. You notice his skills with the chopsticks. Just as your hypnosis was becoming irreversible, he pops a piece of chicken into your mouth. It's time for the noodles. It's easier to perform a lady and the tramp with noodles. The sun has fully set, and you can't help but remember your last fateful bella notte.





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