



ENGLISH EDITION

LAS VEGAS STARTER GUIDE

The local advice you will be glad you knew before arriving

A practical guide from Mandy in Las Vegas and Valentijn in the Netherlands—for families, couples, weddings, and anyone who wants a smoother Vegas trip.

The Vegas reality nobody tells you

The Strip is ALWAYS farther than it looks

Hotels may look next door, but resorts are enormous. Routes often include pedestrian bridges, casinos, and shopping areas. A place that looks close can easily be a 25- to 40-minute walk. Plan by neighborhood and use a taxi, rideshare, or the Deuce for longer hops.

Avoid zigzag days

Group Bellagio, Caesars Palace, and The Cosmopolitan; visit Venetian, Wynn, and Fashion Show together; give Downtown and the Arts District their own half-day.

Heat changes the plan

From May through September, even a short walk can feel demanding. Carry water, wear good shoes, and schedule outdoor plans early. Pools, lunch, shopping, and indoor attractions work better at midday.

Allow for resort time

Getting from your room to a rideshare pickup can take 10 to 20 minutes. Leave a generous buffer before shows and dinner reservations.

Eat where locals actually go

Chinatown / Spring Mountain Road

One of the city's strongest dining districts: sushi, ramen, Thai, Korean barbecue, dim sum, French tasting menus, pizza, and late-night spots. Pick one plaza and arrive by rideshare; restaurants are clustered.

The Arts District

Come for coffee, brunch, pizza, breweries with food, independent restaurants, vintage stores, murals, and First Friday. It feels completely different from the Strip.

Summerlin and Henderson

Good choices for a calmer, more neighborhood-oriented meal. Pair them with Red Rock Canyon, shopping, or an afternoon outside the tourist corridor.

Dining on the Strip

Food halls and casual restaurants are easy for families. For fine dining, book early, check the dress code, and allow extra time for parking and long indoor walks.

Our special restaurant connection

The Capital Grille

A classic steakhouse for a special night, across from Wynn at Fashion Show. Expect dry-aged steaks, seafood, wine, and Strip views. Business casual or resort evening wear is a safe dress choice.

Requesting a preferred table

Because our son works there, we can help request a great table and personally flag the reservation. Seating remains subject to availability and can never be guaranteed.

Help us make the best request

Send the date, preferred time, party size, occasion, dietary needs, and whether you value a quieter table or a view. For wedding dinners or larger groups, we can also ask about private dining.

Book ahead

Friday and Saturday nights, holidays, and major event weekends fill quickly. Tell us as early as possible.

Tipping culture in Las Vegas

Table-service restaurants

15–20% is customary when food or drinks are served; 18–20% often feels like the everyday Vegas range. First check whether gratuity or a service charge is already included, especially for larger parties.

Bars and casino drinks

Allow about \$1–2 per drink or 15–20% on a tab. A tip is still customary when a casino cocktail is described as “complimentary.”

Taxis and rideshare

Around 15–20% is a common guide. Consider a little extra when the driver handles luggage or provides exceptional help.

Hotel service

Bell staff: about \$2–5 per bag. Housekeeping: about \$3–5 per night, ideally left daily with a note. Valet: about \$3–5 when the car is returned. These are practical guidelines, not mandatory fees.

A balanced three-day plan

Day 1 — land softly

Check in, enjoy the pool or rest, explore your own resort cluster, have an early dinner, then see the Bellagio Conservatory and fountains.

Day 2 — one headline experience

Choose a family attraction, shopping, or pool time in the morning; rest after lunch; then enjoy a show, special dinner, or The Capital Grille.

Day 3 — see another side

Visit Red Rock Canyon in the morning, or explore Downtown and the Arts District. Finish with a local restaurant away from the Strip.

The golden rule

Plan one main experience, one memorable meal, and one flexible block each day. Vegas is better when every hour is not scheduled.

Transport, safety, and preparation

The Deuce

The double-decker bus serves Las Vegas Boulevard and Downtown. Check current routes, fares, and service alerts with RTC before traveling.

Rideshare and taxis

Use official pickup zones. They may be inside a garage or behind the resort, so locate the zone before requesting your ride.

Rental cars

Useful for Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, and longer day trips. Confirm hotel parking costs and never leave valuables visible.

Before departure

Check passport requirements, current entry rules, and ESTA status through the official U.S. website. Save confirmations, addresses, insurance details, and emergency contacts offline.

Useful links & references

Hours, prices, routes, and requirements can change. Recheck important details shortly before departure through these official sources.

Visit Las Vegas

<https://www.visitlasvegas.com/>

RTC / The Deuce

<https://rtcws.rtcnv.com/routepdf/deuce.pdf>

The Capital Grille Las Vegas

<https://www.thecapitalgrille.com/locations/nv/las-vegas/las-vegas/8020>

Official ESTA information

https://www.help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1437?language=en_US

Harry Reid International Airport

<https://www.harryreidairport.com/>

Red Rock Canyon

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/nevada/red-rock-canyon>

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

<https://www.nps.gov/lake/>

National Weather Service Las Vegas

<https://www.weather.gov/vef/>

Already booked? Make Vegas personal.

Ask about the Premium Personal Vegas Guide, tailored to your hotel, dates, family ages, dietary needs, wedding plans, and confirmed bookings. Included with complete trip planning or available as a low-cost standalone service.