

Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Wynn Las Vegas (p200)
- Venetian (p200)
- Signature at MGM Grand (p203)
- Palms (p209)
- Golden Nugget (p206)

SLEEPING

Vegas hits the jackpot, with a grand total of over 135,000 guest rooms. If a bankroll is burning a hole in your pocket, a little luxury here can be had more cheaply than almost anywhere else in the world. Of course, an exquisite penthouse villa overlooking Las Vegas Blvd (aka ‘The Strip’) with perks like 24-hour butler service still costs \$10,000 per night. But if it’s your first trip to Vegas, almost any casino hotel will bedazzle. That said, you’ll still want the most bang for your buck, so don’t go by name recognition alone – some of the most famous casino hotels have the least fabulous rooms.

Megaresorts on the Center Strip (p199) are where the most action is, and you’ll pay a premium to sleep there. But the South Strip (p202) can be as much of a blast, not to mention more affordable. Hotels on the North Strip (p204) advertise bargain-basement prices, but have the most disappointing rooms and location. Avoid this dead zone unless you’ve locked in an amazing deal. Downtown (p206) is for die-hard gamblers, locals and repeat visitors who’ve tired of the Strip scene; it’s now experiencing something of a revival. Especially on weekends, when room rates skyrocket on Las Vegas Blvd, you may find better deals at casino hotels just off the Strip, either to the west across I-15 (p209) or east along Paradise Rd (p207); some even provide free shuttle services to and from the Strip for guests. Casino hotels in outer neighborhoods (p210) can be worth the drive, as long as you have your own car and you’re willing to make the journey.

Every casino hotel has its own personality, as described more fully in the ‘Navigating Las Vegas’ chapter (p46). A time-tested low-roller strategy is to stay in less-luxurious places next to the casino-hotel megaresorts where you plan to spend most of your time. Stepping down in price doesn’t require forfeiting all amenities either. Better-equipped rooms with more features at nongaming hotels can lock in much lower rates than at casinos. Alternatively, more modest casino hotels off the Strip may offer comfy rooms for better prices than dingy digs downtown or at chain hotels and motels in unsavory locations like near the airport, because the former make back big bucks in their gaming areas, whereas those other joints just don’t have enough blackjack tables and slot machines to recoup their losses.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Don’t be surprised that many of the hotel room amenities you’re used to are missing in Las Vegas. Most casino-hotel rooms do not have coffeemakers, refrigerators or individual climate controls. This is intended to drive you out of your room and back into the casino. For the same reason, room service can be agonizingly slow – it’s often faster (and much cheaper) to go downstairs to the hotel’s 24-hour coffee shop.

Even so-called ‘standard’ guest rooms at casino hotels may have luxurious bathrooms with marble tubs, a few high-tech bells and whistles like flat-screen TVs and CD player alarm clocks, and attention lavished on details. Impeccable service 24/7, a concierge with

a can-do attitude, and expedited check-in/check-out are par for the course. Nowadays the hottest trend at megaresorts is private all-suite accommodations that come with VIP check-in, dedicated concierge floors, luxury linens, name-brand bath amenities, jetted spa tubs, balcony terraces and much more.

Better hotels offer in-room internet access (☑), but usually only for a hefty fee (typically \$10 to \$14 per 24 hours) via high-speed wired or wireless connections for laptops and WebTV keyboards for visitors who don’t bring their own laptops. Cheaper accommodations may not even have telephone data ports for dial-up internet connections. For wi-fi hot spots around the city, see p241.

The swimming pool icon (🏊) is used for hotels with indoor or outdoor pools. The latter are typically closed from October or November through March or April, although heated indoor pools are available for a dip year-round.

Most hotels offer nonsmoking rooms, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that the rooms will be entirely smoke-free. If that worries you,

PRICE GUIDE

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|--------|--|
| \$\$\$ | starting over \$200 a night |
| \$ | starting between \$100 and \$200 a night |
| \$ | starting under \$100 a night |