

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

LAS VEGAS: A KIDS PARADISE

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Long known as an adult playground, Las Vegas has transformed itself over the past few years. Yes, it still has the casinos, the clubs, and the adult scenes that make it a draw for the 21-and-older crowd. But it's also a fantastic kids destination.

SlotZilla Zipline at Fremont Street Experience

Zipline high over downtown Las Vegas two ways: choose between the standard zipline (you must weigh at least 50 pounds), or you can fly like Superman (you must weigh at least 80 pounds). You'll go 40 mph over two pedestrian-filled, light-flashing blocks via this zipline, which was launched just a few years ago.

Indulge in a slice of the 1½-pound, 24-layer chocolate cake at Strip House at Planet Hollywood

If you're going to overeat, then Vegas is the place to do it. At the Strip House, they've got a 24-layer cake. No typo there. It weighs a whopping 1½ pounds (we suggest sharing).

Las Vegas High Roller Observation Wheel

This used to be the world's tallest observation wheel until Dubai took that honor. Now, at 550 feet above the Strip, it's the tallest in the United States, and offers views of the entire valley and Strip sans motion sickness during the half-hour spin (we get motion sickness from just about everything, and didn't experience it here). There are a few ways to do this, including Happy Half Hour — for those 21 and older — which takes place in its own cabin. Kiddos and their families will get their own cabin sans the drinks — but with the same high experience.

Brilliant! Exhibit at Neon Museum

Lights, music, the best of Vegas. The Neon Museum collects Vegas's original lights and signs, and showcases them with music in a very special half-hour production. It'll make you feel nostalgic for the olden days of Vegas, even if you weren't alive back then. Kids (and adults) are free to dance and move about as they please during the show.

Gondola University at The Venetian

Want to learn how to be a gondolier? Nine people per day (sign up in advance) can learn this skill (way harder than it looks, but plenty of

fun) during a gondola training class at The Venetian, open to anyone 13 and up. With the help of a master gondolier, you'll get to take your family and friends for a ride on the actual water.

Vegas Night Flight with Maverick Helicopters

Kids aren't allowed to gamble in Vegas. But they can fly over it, which feels even more powerful (and may even be less expensive than gambling). The 15-minute-long ride is long enough to give you the absolute best views of the Strip, along with bragging rights and plenty of time to pose in and out of your helicopter.

Breakfast buffet at Wicked Spoon at The Cosmopolitan

This is a picky eater's (translation: a kid will find something to eat) dream. At breakfast, you can find all the regular breakfast eats, along with sushi, Chinese food, prime rib, chicken, a dozen gelato flavors and toppings, an entire dessert area, and more.

Adventuredome at Circus Circus

It's an entire amusement park within a hotel. They've got everything from a roller skating rink (this is new) to an arcade, indoor bungee jumping, miniature golf, a laser challenge, a roller coaster, bowling, and more. You could easily spend an entire day here.

Coca-Cola International Beverage Bar

On the second floor of the Coca-Cola Store (north of the MGM Grand), sit at the bar, where kids are welcome. Order the Tastes of the World tray, and sample 16 non-alcoholic sodas from around the world. Hint: these include the Bibo Pine Nut from South Africa, the Fanta Kolita from Costa Rica, and the Smart Watermelon from China to name a few.

Wet 'n' Wild Water Las Vegas

Take a 15-minute ride off the Strip to this water park, which has a six-story drop slide off a "canyon," a 36-foot catapult via a 110-foot tunnel, a wave pool, racing slides, and a few slightly calmer rides for the younger kids (and adults who don't want to fear for their lives).

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The SlotZilla Zipline at Fremont Street Experience allows visitors to fly like Superman high over downtown Las Vegas.

HERE

SLEEP IN A GLASS HOUSE

Spend a night in an Airstream trailer, a glass house, or a covered wagon at Sandy Pines Campground in Kennebunkport. The lake-side destination opens for the season this month and features six new glamping structures on the waterfront, including an Airstream trailer with a 1960s Hollywood-style interior, a 13-foot-tall glass dome, two Conestoga covered wagons, a modernist glass house, and a bohemian-style shepherd's hut. All have a king- or queen-size bed, heat and air conditioning, lighting, and an outdoor dining area, and start at \$199 per night. The campground has also added spacious family camp cottages, each of which has a king-size bed, twin-size bunk bed, mini fridge, air conditioning, and private fire pit (starting at \$129 per night), and safari-style family glamping tents that sleep up to four (starting at \$199 per night). Themed weekends range from the Vintage Camping Weekend (June 14-16) to National S'mores Weekend (Aug. 9-11). www.sandypinescamping.com

DON'T MISS THIS STREET FEST

Visit downtown Providence June 6-9 for a multi-arts festival that features live music, street dancing, food vendors, and visual art installations. The four-day PVDfest takes over the public spaces, parks, and outdoor stages downtown and features local and international artists. See the Syncopated Ladies, an all-female tap squad sensation, Grupo Niche, a hit salsa group,



DOUGLAS MERRIAM

and Quadro, an Italian vertical theater group that will perform a blend of theater, circus acrobatics, and dance on a suspended aerial stage. The free event runs June 6, noon to 10 p.m.; June 7, 5-11 p.m.; June 8, noon to midnight; and June 9, noon to 6 p.m. www.pvd-fest.com



JOHN ALTDORFER

THERE

CALLING ALL RED SOX FANS

See the team's 2018 World Series Trophy on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y. — and even get your photo taken with it. The museum hosts a special Red Sox Weekend July 6-7, when it showcases the trophy and other Red Sox artifacts, photographs, and ephemera from the team's ninth World Series title. See the bat used by World Series MVP Steve Pearce in Game 4, a jersey worn by David Price in Game 5, the cap and spikes worn by pitcher Nathan Eovaldi throughout the series, the ball/strike indicator used by home plate umpire Ted Barrett during the longest game in World Series history, and a hood worn by team manager Alex Cora in Game 5. 607-547-7200, www.baseballhall.org

FLORIDA'S NEWEST DIVE SITE

A cruise liner became the newest artificial reef for divers when it was sunk 12 miles off the coast of Florida earlier this month. The El Dorado cruise liner, which was damaged by Hurricane Michael, joins more than 50 ships, barges, artificial reefs, and natural limestone reefs off the white-sand Panama City Beach on Florida's Gulf Coast. Here, in the emerald-green waters, it will become part of the habitat for the area's sea turtles, goliath grouper, red-

fish, bottlenose dolphins, and octopus. Local operators, including Diver's Den, the Dive Locker, and DownTime Dive Charters, take divers to this and other popular dive sites. www.visitpanamacitybeach.com

EVERYWHERE

A COZY BUT VERSATILE SLEEPING BAG SYSTEM

The new Zenbivy Light Bed has you covered in virtually all travel situations, whether you're couch surfing or camped out in your car, tent, or hammock. It comes with an 800-fill down quilt and a bottom sheet with a built-in hood that slips over and fastens around your favorite camping mattress using two small straps and buckles (or try one of Zenbivy's new inflatable mattresses, sold separately). The magic of this innovative system comes in the versatility of setup: Drape the quilt over you and leave unattached (perfect on warmer nights and for the greatest freedom of movement — or even on those long-haul flights); close up the footbox in a rectangular configuration to provide more warmth without restricting foot space; or fully attach the quilt to the bottom sheet using hook-and-loop closures along both sides and then cinch the footbox closed to create a cozy mummy-style cocoon. Play with the setup before hitting the road (and check out the helpful online how-to videos). The Zenbivy Light Bed comes



in 10- and 25-degree versions. \$359-\$459 for bed, depending on rating; \$89-\$200 for mattress. zenbivy.com

KARI BODNARCHUK