



LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX

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HOW TO GET TO THE VENUE

✈ FROM THE NORTH

Take the 15 freeway into Las Vegas, and look for the Sahara Boulevard exit. Follow the flyover heading west on Sahara. From there, head through the first light at Las Vegas Boulevard to Paradise Boulevard, then make a right. The Convention Center will be on your left, past the Westgate Las Vegas.

🚗 FROM THE SOUTH

Take the 15 freeway into the city and take the Spring Mountain Road exit. Pay attention to the signs, and follow them to Highland Drive. At the light when you reach Highland Drive, make a left to merge onto Desert Inn Road. Follow Desert Inn through the light at Las Vegas Boulevard, and make a left onto Paradise Boulevard. The Convention Center is immediately on the right.

✈ FROM THE McCARRAN INT.

From Terminal 1 (domestic flights): Follow Wayne Newton Boulevard until it becomes Swenson Street. Head north on Swenson Street and follow it past the Thomas & Mack Center to Desert Inn Road, which is about 3 miles. Make a left onto Desert Inn Road, then a right at the next light, which is Paradise Boulevard. Then, make a right into the venue's parking lot.

From Terminal 3 (international flights): Similar to the Terminal 1 directions, except the roads that run around Terminal 3 run parallel to Russell Road. Once you leave the terminal, you will briefly merge onto Wayne Newton heading north, which will then become Swenson Street.

Of note: A shuttle does run from most of the casinos to the airport. More information about booking a ride can be found at <http://www.showtimetourslv.com/AirportShuttle>.

TELL ME ABOUT THE VENUE...

The Las Vegas Convention Center is playing host to the event for the second time. Parking at the venue is \$10, with no in-and-out privileges. There are food options on site, but they are basic convention center food and tend to be expensive. The event will be in the center halls (C3) and in meeting rooms N101-N117. All rooms are clustered in the middle of the building. Also worth noting: The first day of Grand Prix Las Vegas overlaps with another major convention at the building. The World Tea Expo — a trade show for people who buy and sell tea — will be completing its five-day run on Wednesday in the adjacent north halls (the rooms where GP Vegas 2015 were located.) This could make parking a challenge that day if you're commuting to and from the event.



HOW TO GET AROUND

THEIR PRICE TABLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- SINGLE: \$2.00
- 2-HOUR: \$3.00
- 24-HOUR: \$5.00
- 7-DAY: \$20.00
- 15-DAY: \$34.00

Specials and possible reduced fares may be available on the RideRTC app as well.

RTC BUSES & LIGHT-RAIL

The primary mass transit system for Las Vegas can reach most places in the city, but is time consuming. For more information, including system map, visit <https://www.rtcnv.com>. In particular, what many will be looking for will be the Strip & Downtown Route, which runs every 15 to 20 minutes depending on the time of day.

For more information:
<http://www.rtcnv.com/ridethestrip/routes.html>.

MONORAIL

The Las Vegas Strip has a monorail system that runs from SLS Las Vegas to the MGM Grand. You can reach almost all attractions along the Strip using this system.

Cost for a single ride on the monorail is \$5, and day passes are \$12.

TAXI SERVICES (UBER & LYFT)

The Strip and surrounding areas are usually crawling with taxis that can take you anywhere you need to go ... for a price.

Free parking *used* to be as Las Vegas as gambling and Cirque du Soleil shows. Unfortunately, that stopped being the case last year. MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment, which combined own most of the casinos on or around the Strip, started charging between \$10 and \$20 for parking last year. The Cosmopolitan followed suit in May. Expect to pay for parking at most venues on the Strip or, if you go to Downtown Las Vegas instead, the Fremont Street Experience.

WHERE TO STAY

You can't throw a stone in Las Vegas without putting it through the window of a hotel room. There are a lot of options to choose from, from the ritzy and expensive to the... not so much. Rather than run down options across the spectrum, here are the some hotels/resorts with easy access to the Las Vegas Convention Center. If these options are not what you're looking for, try lasvegas.com, which is a clearinghouse for Las Vegas hotel rooms at major casinos. Other room sites, such as Expedia and Kayak, also have deals as well.

THE WESTGATE 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Distance: Across the street, the Westgate is the closest hotel to the Grand Prix venue, and is also where the event's room deal is being offered. It also has a Monorail stop, which connects it to the rest of the major tourist attractions on the Strip without the need for a long walk. The casino has one of the biggest sports books in the area.

Price: Rooms start at \$120 a night (see "Judge Apps" about discounted room rate)

Of note: The Westgate plays host to a Prince tribute show called "Purple Reign" Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets start at \$50.



WHERE TO STAY CONTINUED...



CIRCUS CIRCUS 2880 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Distance from venue: 1 mile (20 minute walk: Take Elvis Presley Way across Paradise Rd., cut through the Westgate Las Vegas or walk down Paradise Rd., and cross the street to the Convention Center.) Circus Circus is one of the oldest hotel on the Strip, having opened in 1968, and it very much has an old-school Las Vegas aesthetic.

Price: Rooms start at about \$100 a night.

Of note: A large part of the 1998 Terry Gilliam-directed movie "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" was filmed at Circus Circus.



WYNN HOTEL 3131 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Distance: 1.5 mile walk (Go north on Las Vegas Boulevard, make a right on Convention Center Boulevard and follow it to the venue.) If you're looking for a ritzier option that's close to the venue, the Wynn is among the best on the Strip as far as resorts go.

Price: Rooms start at about \$190 a night.

THE EXCALIBUR 3850 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

THE MGM GRAND 3799 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

THE PARIS 3655 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

None of these three are necessarily close to the Las Vegas Convention Center, but they are at the end of the line for the Monorail, making them viable options to stay at. The Excalibur runs on the cheaper side, while Paris and the MGM Grand will likely be more expensive. The monorail station is located at the MGM Grand.

Price: The Excalibur start at about \$90, The MGM and The Paris start at about \$170.

A note on AirBNB: Be advised that most decent AirBNB options in Las Vegas are going to be 20 minutes or more from the venue. Without decent public transportation, it could cost more to stay in a place like Summerlin or North Las Vegas and commute, especially if you don't have a car at the event.



FEAST OR FAMINE WHERE TO EAT

Welcome to my most anticipated portion of this travel guide, Where to eat! I've decided to divide this portion into two separate sections; Feast and Famine. Feast will include places that you should try at least once, but you might only make it to one of these locations this GP. Famine on the other hand will be food options with your budget in mind. These food locations are all over Las Vegas, sadly there just isn't too much to eat near the convention center. I could write an endless list of food places

FEAST MY 10 FAVORITE PLACES AVERAGING OVER \$20

1. ABRIYA RAKU *5030 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, NV 89146* *702-367-3511 | <http://raku-grill.com/>*

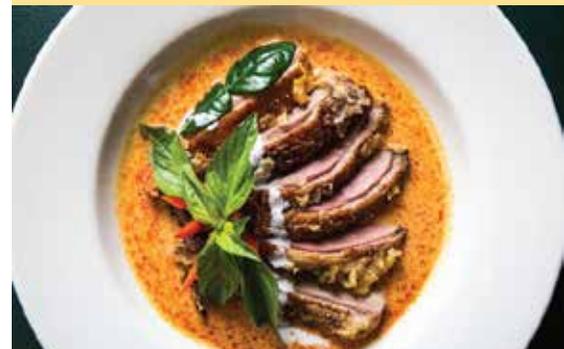
If you ask any chef in Las Vegas where to eat, they'd tell you Raku. Abriya Raku translates to "Charcoal Grill House Enjoyment" and that is exactly what it is. The finest small portion Japanese Skewers grilled to perfection. Individual dishes start at \$3, but the average person will easily eat 5 plus. However I would recommend the Omakase (Chef's Choice) and your perception on food will change, sadly at \$75/\$100 a person, this can easily price out many an eater. Be sure to call ahead and make a reservation, Raku only has a meager 48 seats and it can be booked up days in advance.

2. LOTUS OF SIAM *953 E Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104* *702-735-3033 | <http://lotusofsiamlv.com/>*

Hands Down the Best Thai restaurant in Las Vegas, and maybe even the West Coast! Don't be fooled by the extremely shady parking lot you pull into to find this back alley treasure. The food here is prepared by master chef Saipin Chutima who specializes in Northern and Eastern Thai food. By itself the food here isn't too badly priced, however, Lotus of Siam has an amazing wine bar that has a perfect match to anything you order.

3. OTHER MAMA *3655 S. Durango #6, Las Vegas, NV 89147* *702-463-8382 | <https://www.othermamalv.com/>*

My favorite raw bar in Las Vegas. Other Mama is a hipster twist to the classic raw bar seafood. Head chef Daniel Krohmer dishes out crowd-favorites like ceviche of octopus, shrimp, white fish with habanero, spicy tuna tartare served with waffle fries, and french toast with caviar.



THE FEAST GOES ON

4. YUI EDOMAE *3460 Arville St. #HS, Las Vegas, NV 89102*

702-202-2408 | <http://www.yuisushi.com/>

If you love sushi but you think “All you can eat sushi” is hot trash, then your sophisticated palate will be in for a treat. Yui and master chef Gen Mizuguchi are what Netflix makes documentaries about. Your mouth will taste pure harmony, however your wallet will not.

5. HERBS AND RYE *3713 W. Sahara, Las Vegas, NV 89102*

702-982-8036 | <http://www.herbsandrye.com/>

Not the best steakhouse in Vegas, but my favorite steakhouse. Delicious steaks cooked to perfection with well made hand crafted cocktails. Come by for one of their two Happy Hours for half priced steaks and drinks. Happy Hours are from 5PM - 8 PM and Midnight - 3 AM.

6. MIZUMI *3131 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109*

702-770-3320 | <http://www.wynnlasvegas.com/Dining/FineDining/Mizumi>

Chef Devin Hashimoto serves up traditional Japanese and Korean dishes at this Wynn Resort restaurant. Make sure to order the “Kakuni”, a wagyu short rib soaked in a cream sauce that melts in your mouth. Located inside the Wynn Resort.

7. YONAKA *4983 W. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89103*

702-685-8358 | <http://www.yonakajapaneserestaurant.com/>

A modern tapas style restaurant using traditional Japanese ingredients incorporated with international flavors and inspirations. Be sure to stop by for Happy Hour to save some money and have a chance to try everything, brussels sprouts and negihama are must tries.

8. PICASSO *3600 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109*

702-693-8865 | <https://www.bellagio.com/en/restaurants/picasso.html>

Food and art come together in this award-winning Bellagio restaurant. Dine on signature dishes like warm quail salad and roasted milk-fed veal chops, all while surrounded by a variety of original Pablo Picasso artwork. Located in the Bellagio.

9. SAKANA *3949 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89119*

702-733-0066 | *website N/A*

Vegas is home to an exuberant amount of “All you can eat sushi” spots, but Sakana has taken the top seat in my book. Their fish to rice portion is perfect (with the fish always overlaps the rice) plus they have an all you can drink option... Kanpai!!!

10. SAGE *3730 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109*

702-590-8690 | <https://www.aria.com/en/restaurants/sage.html>

Art Deco designed restaurant with a seasonal menu. Located in the Aria hotel, chef Shawn McClain focus’ on farm-to-table dining with hand crafted cocktails, plus they serve 10 different types of absinthe on a roving cart.



FEAST OR FAMINE CONTINUED

FAMINE MY TOP 10 QUICK EATS UNDER \$20

1. TACOS EL GORDO *3940 Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109* *702-982-5420 | <http://tacoselgordobc.com/>*

Authentic, cheap tacos originating from Tijuana, Mexico. Open to 2 AM on weekdays and 4 AM on weekends. Be sure to try the tacos al pastor. When you get there you will que up into one of three lines. One line is for al pastor, one is for asada and chicken, however stay away from the center line unless you enjoy organ meat.

2. BABYSTACKS CAFE *2400 N. Buffalo Dr. #145, Las Vegas, NV 89128* *702-541-6708 | <http://www.babystackscafe.com/>*

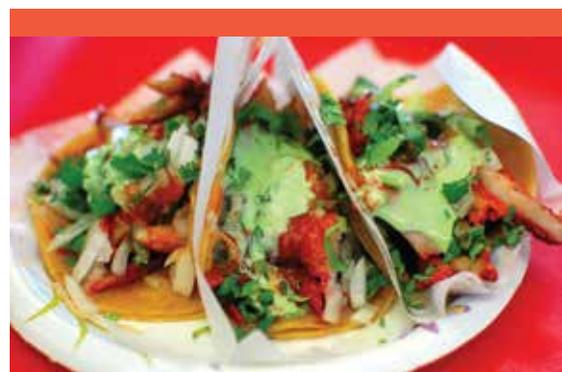
Hands down my favorite breakfast place in Vegas. Hawaiian style breakfasts with a massive menu of gourmet pancakes. Order Lolo Rick's Adobo Fried Rice omelette with a side of Orange Creamsicle pancakes and you will be set for the day. With 4 locations around Las Vegas, you should be able to stop by at least once during the event.

3. RAISING CANE'S *1120 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119* *702-453-2263 | <https://www.raisingcanes.com/>*

Fast food chicken finger joint that has a sauce that is to die for. There is an argument on which is better, Raising Cane's or Chick-fil-a, my vote is for Chick-fil-a, but Raising Cane's comes without moral guilt. There is one located a short drive from the convention center off of Flamingo and Maryland Parkway.

4. IN-N-OUT BURGER *Las Vegas Blvd S # L24, Las Vegas, NV 89109* *800-786-1000 | <http://www.in-n-out.com/>*

West Coast staple, double-double animal style, Neapolitan shake, and fries, need I say more? Go to their newest location at the Linq and maybe have a drink on the Highroller. There's also various locations around the city.



FAMINE, CHEAP EATS FOR ALL

5. SKINNYFATS 6261 Dean Martin Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89118
702-979-9797 | <https://www.skinnyfats.com/>

If you ever talk to Xander Forral, #afrojudge, he will sing you the praises of Skinnyfats. The concept behind Skinnyfats is simple, two menus: the “skinny” side with health conscious items, and the “fat” side, with food that packs on the calories. Both sides are extremely flavorful and have choices to satisfy anyone.

6. BACHI BURGER 470 E. Windmill Ln #100, Las Vegas, NV 89123
702-242-2244 | <http://bachiburger.com/>

A burger spot elevated with an Asian twist. Burgers with eggs, kimchi, and amazing sauces, what else needs to be said. Don't pass on the oxtail chili cheese fries.

7. MONTA NOODLES 5030 Spring Mountain Road #6, Las Vegas, Nv 89146
702-367-4600 | <http://www.montaramen.com/>

Kurume-style ramen served in savory pork broth, yum. With a mere 10-items on the menu, sometimes simple is the best option. Load up your noodles with a variety of toppings, and be sure to order the extra noodles... Itadakimasu!

8. BORN & RAISED 7260 S Cimarron Road, Las Vegas, NV 89113
702-685-0258 | <https://www.bornandraisedlv.com/>

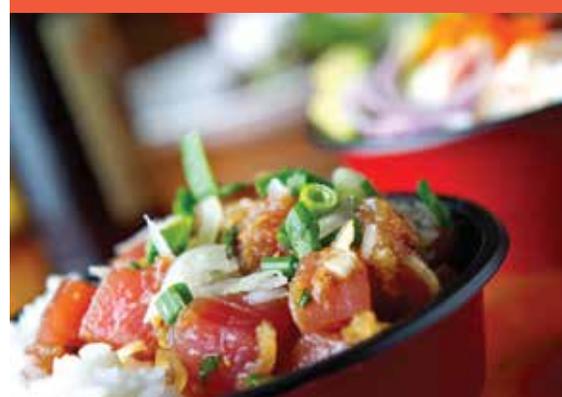
Beer, Beer, Beer and great food. If you arrive in Vegas early make sure to stop by on a weekday, to enjoy their \$5 Happy Hour, over 20 plates for \$5 a piece, I usually get 4 and a couple beers. I've never had a item from Head chef Aaron Raeder's menu that I didn't enjoy.

9. NAKED CITY PIZZA 4608 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89169
702-722-2241 | <http://www.nakedcitylv.com/>

Cheese, toppings, sauce, and crust. Not much you can do with pizza, but you know when you've had a good pizza and you know when you've had a bad pizza. Naked City Pizza is damn good pizza.

10. PAINA CAFE 6870 Spring Mountain Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89146
702-272-2790 | <http://www.painacafe.com/>

The latest craze in the food world is “Poke” mania. And Paina's Honolulu location claims the fame of starting it all. Paina offers fresh fish, flavorful toppings and just the right amount of sauce. Sunday mornings they offer a Hawaiian brunch that is definitely a treat.



COFFEE

YOU NEED TO HAVE IT

Most casinos have a decent coffee shop located inside, the venue has a Starbucks on site, and there is a decent coffee shop inside the Westgate Las Vegas. If you're looking for a good quality cup of coffee and you're willing to travel (or you're looking for one after your shift), here are some suggestions.



BAD OWL COFFEE

10575 S Eastern Ave #160,
Henderson, NV 89052

Hours: 7AM-10PM Sunday
through Thursday; 7AM-
9PM Friday and Saturday

Top-notch coffee and snacks
in a Harry Potter-themed
coffee shop. They have the
best Madeines in the city,
says one judge and recent
transplant.



PUBLICUS

1126 E. Fremont Street,
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Hours: 7AM-10PM

As you read this know that,
I was hanging out with the
fine people of PublicUs,
enjoying their perfectly
brewed coffee, and fantastic
brunch fare. Definitely a
coffee house for the more
artistic sort of people.



MADHOUSE COFFEE

10575 S Eastern Ave #160,
Henderson, NV 89052

Hours: 24/7, Always open

Good quality coffee shop
decked out with funky
decor. It has a full menu of
sandwiches, pasta, salads and
snacks, this location is open
24 hours and is sure to draw
a lot of students and hipster
types.



MOTHERSHIP COFFEE

2708 N Green Valley Pkwy,
Henderson, NV 89014

Hours: 7AM-6PM

Gourmet coffee shop with
the hours of a bank, but has
an absolutely delicious menu
and is well worth the effort.
The hopped cold-brew is a
great choice and a personal
favorite.

WHERE TO GO

LOCAL SHOPS TO CHECK OUT

A lot of people will be flying or driving into town on Monday or Tuesday. If you're looking for something Magic related to do ahead of the event, check out these stores (schedule is subject to change without notice)

DARKSIDE GAMES

9620 S Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas,
NV 89123; 702-834-4113; 12PM-12AM
Monday: Commander, \$8, starts at 7PM;
Tuesday: Standard, \$8, starts at 7PM OR
Modern, \$10, starts at 7:30PM

CHEESEBOY COMICS

8060 S Rainbow Blvd #125, Las Vegas,
NV 89139; 702-938-5020; 11AM-7PM

POWER 9 GAMES

2575 E Craig Rd Suite C, North Las Vegas,
NV 89030; 702-643-8889; 11PM-9PM
Tuesday: SCG Game Night Draft, \$15,
starts at 6PM

TCG JUNKIE

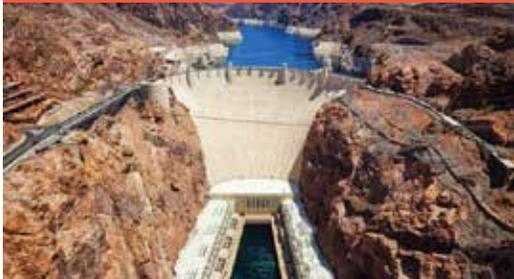
1631 E Sunset Rd c102, Las Vegas,
NV 89119; 702-359-1028; 12PM-12AM

ACTION COMICS

210 N Boulder Hwy, Henderson,
NV 89015; 702-387-5566; 11AM-9PM
Tuesday: Draft Night, PRICE N/A,
starts at 5PM

THE LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

There's the obvious place to go: The Strip, which is Las Vegas' preeminent tourist attraction, is a block away from the Las Vegas Convention Center in all of its glitz and glamour. The city's second-tier row of casinos — the Fremont Street Experience — is a short 10 minutes taxi ride away. But there's a lot more to Las Vegas than glamorous and expensive casinos where the alcohol flows freely. Here are several other options — some on the Strip, some off — that don't necessarily have anything to do with partying or hanging around the interior of the casinos.



HOOVER DAM

The storied dam built in the 1930s to tame the mighty Colorado River sits on the border between Nevada and Arizona to the southeast near Boulder City, roughly 45 minutes away. Dam tour tickets can be purchased on site, and parking is \$10. Tours run during the day, ending at 4:30 p.m. For a day outside hiking, swimming or boating, there's Lake Mead, the massive lake created by the dam, which offers all sorts of entertainment options. For more information on the dam, go to <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam>.



THE HIGH ROLLER

Located at the Linq and reachable via the Monorail, the High Roller is a massive ferris wheel that is among the tallest structures in the Vegas Valley. From the top, you can see for miles, and is worth it as part of any sight-seeing trip. It is the world's largest observation wheel at 550 feet, with a ride running you between \$20 and \$35 if purchased on site, depending on when you go. Of note, the New York New York casino also has a major roller coaster you can ride for a nominal fee. For more information on the High Roller, including ticket information, go to <https://www.caesars.com/linq/high-roller>.



THE STRATOSPHERE

Another observation deck, but with more things to do. The Stratosphere has carnival thrill rides from several hundred feet up, as well as other things to do. Much like its ferris wheel neighbor, the Stratosphere — at 1,149 feet — is one of the tallest observation towers in the country. Tickets going up are \$20. For more, visit <http://www.stratospherehotel.com>.

ATTRACTIONS CONTINUED



LAS VEGAS SIGN

The iconic attraction in Las Vegas. Everyone knows what it is, and many tourists want their picture taken at it. You can too, if you want. Located on Las Vegas Boulevard south of Mandalay Bay between a golf course and McCarran International's personal jet terminal. You can't miss it if you're heading that direction on Las Vegas Boulevard.



BELLAGIO FOUNTAINS

Yes, it's on the Strip, and that means it can be a pain to reach. But it's also a major spectacle and one of the defining attractions of the city, and it might not be there much longer. MGM is looking into replacing the 8-acre attraction with more shopping, according to recent reports. Also at the Bellagio, the botanical gardens will have recently put up its summer display. For more on the fountains and the botanical garden, visit <https://www.bellagio.com/en/entertainment/fountains-of-bellagio.html>.



EDC (ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL)

In keeping with tradition, Grand Prix Las Vegas is running opposite the Electric Daisy Carnival, the preeminent electronic dance music festival in the world. The event at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway off the 15 freeway on the way out of town runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For more, see <http://lasvegas.electriddaisyfestival.com/>.

For More: As usual, LasVegas.com has a list of things to see and do in the Vegas Valley that goes beyond this one. See it at: <http://www.lasvegas.com/things-to-do/greater-las-vegas/>

Other Attractions of Note: The Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay; Top Golf, a massive and gaudy driving range next to the Strip; Blue Man Group at the Luxor; Penn and Teller at the Rio.

LAS VEGAS GRAND PRIX 2017 TRAVEL GUIDE

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MAGIC
The Gathering
GRAND PRIX **LAS VEGAS**
FIVE DAYS OF MAGIC!