



LAS VEGAS

EYE INSTITUTE

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Downtown Las Vegas



The craziness and magic that is Vegas all started in Downtown Las Vegas, and it is still the place to go for some of the most unforgettable experiences that Las Vegas has to offer. Here is where vintage Vegas and new Vegas come together in a mash-up that has spawned unique nightlife, such as costume bars and biker bars; dynamic dining, such as delicious doughnuts and vegan favorites; and wild events, such as the Fremont Street Experience. Downtown Las Vegas is where you'll find the most Vegas for your buck, from reasonably priced beverages and rooms to thrilling activities like ziplining through the neon lights of Fremont Street. In addition to that, the phrase "Downtown Las Vegas, Las Vegas Downtown" is just plain enjoyable to utter.

DUSTY OLD FRONTIER TO GLITTERING GULCH

In the early 1900s, Old Las Vegas was originally established as a railroad town on the Western Frontier. The Golden Gate, which is located on Fremont Street and was the first hotel and casino in the city to open its doors in 1906 and is still operating today, is the oldest establishment in the city.

Even though the city's growth was stalled during the 1920s due to prohibition, there were still a large number of speakeasies, gaming halls, and brothels that continued to operate underground. The Northern Club was one of these establishments that had a reputation for being a hub for drinking and gambling that was beyond the law. It was the first casino in Nevada to be granted a gaming license after gambling was made legal again in 1931, and its owner, Mayme, was also the first woman to be granted a license to operate a casino in the state.

The building of the Hoover Dam in the 1930s drew hundreds of construction workers to this small town in the desert. Fremont Street, which at the time was the only paved road in town, quickly became the most popular place for tourists to go for recreation. Visitors from all walks of life were drawn to Fremont Street by the recently legalized gambling halls, affordable liquor, and titillating showgirl reviews. As a result, Fremont Street became known as "Glitter Gulch" due to the flashing electric lights that were displayed on the exterior of each casino.

THE ORGANIZED CRIME FAMILY ARRIVES.

Even though there was already a presence of organized crime in Las Vegas during prohibition, its vice grip on the city didn't begin until the notorious mob boss Bugsy Siegel started taking control of properties in the city in the 1940s. The Northern Club was one of his first footholds in the city, and it was where he established his presence.

Another hotel that Bugsy and his team purchased in 1945 was known as The El Cortez, and it was considered to be one of the most lucrative casinos in the surrounding area. After a year, the original owner purchased it back at a profit so that he could use the money to help construct his newest resort, the Flamingo.

In 1951, new players such as the legendary mob boss Benny Binion made their way into Downtown Las Vegas. The extraordinarily high table limits at Binion's Horseshoe attracted customers away from other casinos on Fremont Street, leading to death threats being made against Benny, who ran the business. As a result, Binion's Horseshoe became one of the most profitable casinos on Fremont Street. It was well known that Binion's treated every customer as if they were high rollers and provided lodgings of the highest quality. High-profile celebrities like as Lucille Ball, Clark Gable, and Humphrey Bogart frequently stayed in the executive suite of the adjoining Hotel Apache.

Benny Binion was also the founder of the World Series of Poker in 1970. The event was held at Binion's Horseshoe for a number of years after it was first held there. A long-running custom in Las Vegas that continues to attract people from all around the world today.

The new hotels on Fremont Street, which are now controlled by powerful gangster families, have distanced themselves from the frontier town atmosphere of days gone by and instead built stunning casinos that cater to a more affluent clientele. On Fremont Street, the Golden Nugget was one of the first new buildings to be constructed in this design, making it an early adopter of the trend. It was the brainchild of Guy McAffee, a former law enforcement officer in Los Angeles who went on to have a successful career as a professional criminal. It featured luxurious furnishings, high-limit tables, and the unofficial reputation of being the "biggest casino in the world." Naturally, a large number of tourists visited the brand-new opulent resort, which resulted in an increase in revenue.

The Fremont Hotel was the first "elegant hotel" in Glitter Gulch. It was established in 1956 by Edward Levinson, a mobster from Detroit, with the assistance of loans from the Teamsters. When it first opened, it was the tallest structure in Nevada,

and it was one of the only Downtown hotels that could compete with the Strip in terms of the quality of its entertainment options. At the time, Wayne Newton, who would later become known as "Mr. Las Vegas," was one of these performers. Newton was only a teenager at the time.

FROM OLD GLAMOUR TO MODERN SIGHTS

Glitter Gulch has been portrayed as the perfect representation of Las Vegas in a number of classic movies. Just a few examples include Elvis Presley's "Viva Las Vegas," the James Bond film "Diamonds Are Forever," and the comedy "Vegas Vacation" featuring comedian Chevy Chase.

Even though the entire end of the mob's reign wouldn't occur until the 1980s, the 1960s and 1970s saw an increase in the number of firms that began to buy out and replace the enterprises that were run by the mafia. When it first opened its doors in 1971, the Plaza Hotel and Casino quickly established themselves as the largest hotels and casinos in the world. Additionally, Fremont East turned into a hangout for families. When locals needed to kill some time in the afternoon, they began to gravitate toward department stores, movie theaters, and grocery stores as their destinations of choice.

The grocery stores that used to be located on Fremont Street and in the Las Vegas Arts District have been replaced by bars and restaurants in their place. These streets are now considered part of the Las Vegas Arts District. The Fremont Street Experience is another name for this popular strip in Las Vegas. This revival of Downtown Las Vegas is likely to continue to astonish tourists for many years to come because to the renovated historic hotels, the big restorations that were performed in the 1990s, such as the dazzling Fremont Street Experience, and the fresh new constructions, such as the Circa Resort. This renaissance of Downtown Las Vegas is going to continue to astound visitors because of all of these factors.

Company Description

Las Vegas Eye Institute is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care in the Las Vegas Valley.

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