

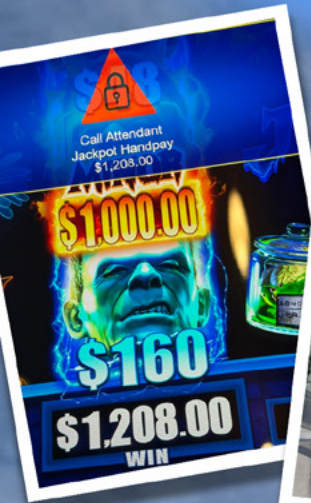
STUUYLAD'S

GUIDE TO *Fabulous*

LAS VEGAS

NEVADA

A BEGINNERS
GUIDE TO VEGAS



MARCH 2025



WELCOME BACK

Welcome back, As I'm currently writing this it is March 2025, I thought I would update this guide as a lot has changed since I first did this.

If you have read the first guide you will notice that I have left some things as they are and updated with new information on new bars, restaurants, shows and anything I feel you might find useful.

Now, as some of you may be aware I have been to Vegas 19 times, I am **NOT** an expert or a travel guide, I have never claimed to be and never will. However, I have been around to know a few things about Vegas and things you as a noob to Vegas may find of interest.

Just a quick piece of info, In this guide I have made it interactive with video links, so in certain sections I have embedded links to my facebook and youtube channel, you can click on the link and it will take you to that specific video that we are talking about, You may see things referred to as [FaceTube](#), That is my Youtube channel I just called it FaceTube, Don't ask, I was drunk! Also that link is clickable, Try it and please subscribe to my channel, It is FREE to do and lots of Vegas content is posted over there.

Also please do give me a follow on my socials, it really helps me out.
[Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#)

So lets get started with a new section, Surprisingly its named NEW FOR 2024/2025
So original LOL

VIVVAAAAAAAAAAAA



BEFORE VEGAS



Before you travel to Las Vegas or anywhere in the USA for that matter, you will need to apply for an [ESTA](#).

This grants you permission to travel to the United States of America. The application process is usually very quick although I would recommend applying well in advance of your travel. Once the ESTA has been granted, you do not need to take any paperwork with you as the ESTA is attached to your passport number. If you have any criminal records, you may be denied an ESTA and would need to seek further advice.

Having a credit or debit card is vital, as an incidental deposit will be charged to your card when you check-in from the hotel front desk. The amount ranges from \$200 - \$600 based on previous experiences

I would also advise downloading the Uber App on your phone rather than jumping in a normal cab as the prices are fixed in Uber and you know what price you are paying.



Click to apply for your ESTA

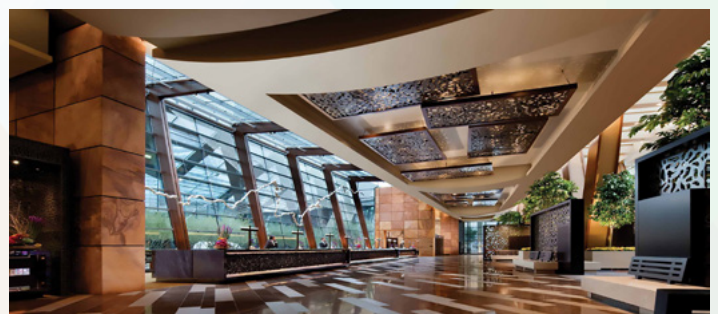


WHEN YOU ARRIVE

When you leave the Airport, if you have not prebooked your transfer, I would recommend booking an Uber via the Uber App on your phone. I have found these to be cheaper than the traditional cabs found outside the Airport and you cannot be charged any surprise hidden fees.

As previously mentioned upon check-in, the hotel will request your card to take an incidental deposit which is returned upon checkout. This charge is to cover any potential damages in your room and also if you sign charges to your hotel room/tips, these will be calculated and will be deducted from the deposit amount upon checkout.

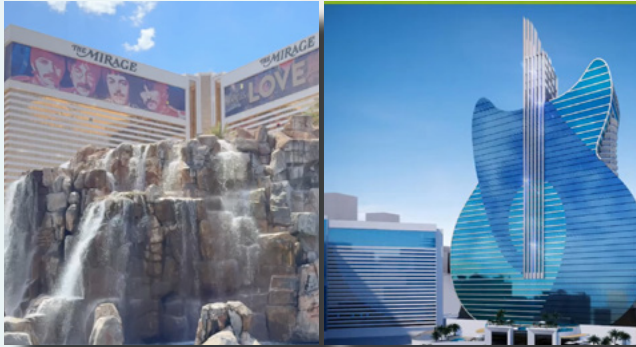
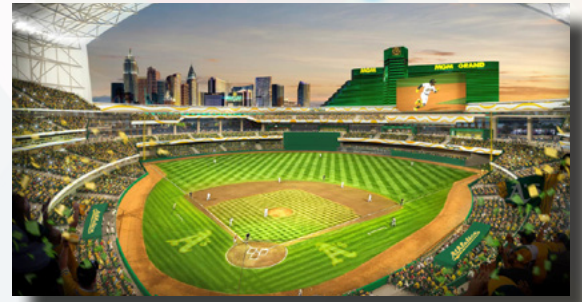
When checking in, you can always try the popular "\$20 trick". **What is the trick?....** When checking in, place your debit card & a \$20 bill inside of your passport and politely ask "is there any upgrades available" *with a big smile*. If upgrades are available, the staff at the front desk will take the \$20 "tip" and upgrade you free-of-charge. If no upgrades are available, they will give you your ID, card and \$20 bill back in your passport. This is definitely worth a shot as I have seen this work numerous times!



WHATS NEW IN 2024 - 2025?

So what is new in Vegas for 2025? Well a LOT!
Lets start with some iconic hotels that have been demolished and in the middles of HUGE takeovers

The tropicana is now no more, The tropicana was built in 1957 and was demolished in 2024, The A`'s stadium is reportedly being built and was set to completed by 2028, the last time I visited in Jan 2025 nothing has been started on the site from what I could see! Time will tell



The Iconic Mirage which opened its doors in 1989 has been bought by Hard Rock, The famous volcano is now no more aswell as the atrium, this will be replaced by Hard Rocks giant Guitar, The main block will not be demolished buty will go through a major renovation The hard Rock is due to open sometime in 2027

- The Cosmopolitan finally transitioned over to MGM Resorts, guests can now use MGM reward cards and all the benefits of MGM in the Cosmopolitan.
- The Delano has been rebranded to the W Las Vegas
- Circus Circus is up for sale for a modest \$5Billion!
- Fontainebleau finally opened in Dec 2023, I have visited a few times and sadly it is always very quiet and looks to be struggling along with Resorts World.

Some of the newer things and places I have tried in 2024/2025 are:

- **Twisted Sourdough Pizza** - To get here you need to take an Uber but OMG it is definitely worth it! The pizza comes like an ice cream cone and filled with toppings of your choice, I also went for the target's mozzarella stick oin the WORLD! and what a cheese pull it was - I 100% recommend this place.
- **Giordanas world famous Pizza** - Possibly the BEST pizza I have ever had, It was Huge, pretty expensive but it will fill 2 people and still have left overs.
- **Ole Red** - If you like country music and live bands then this is the place for you! It has 4 floor and the top floor is an outdoor terrace with some amazing views of the strip
- **Stage Door Casino** - Possibly the seediest, roughest looking dive you will ever come across BUT the drink are stupidly cheap at \$1 a bottle and \$2 hotdog! Even though It was a dive I do recommend it as the staff and customers were all very freindly and worth going for the expericence



Other new restaraunts,clubs and bars that I have not visited yet :

- **Gordon Ramsay Burger** - A brand new burger bar in the Flamingo hotel, this has extra dishes on that the other restaraunts do not.
- **Pinkys By Vanderpump** - Located at the Flamingo, A very posh cocktail bar, also sells food with a pretty generous menu, I have never been into any of these and I probably would not as its not really my thing.
- **Swingers Crazy Golf** - Located in the Mandalay Bay, an adult themed crazy golf with LOTS of alcohol, seems a good laugh but I have heard the prices are pretty steep for what it is.
- **Netflix Bites** - A Netflix themed restaraunt at MGM and I must say It does look amazing, I am definitely visiting in my next trip!
- **Miracle eats** - Located in miracle mile shops - Well It was supposed to be completed In Dec 24 and as of yet it is still not fully complete, a few units have opened but not fully, when it is it will be a brand new food court with lots of restaraunts and bars.
- **Atomic Golf** - Located in the Strat(I have actually been here with sarah and we loved it) Very similar to Top Golf at the MGM, I have done both and I really enjoye them both, great atmosphere, loys of drinks and the food was really good

I have literally only scratched the surface of the new attractions and oher things opening weekly in Las Vegas I have include some of the main things that I could think of, everytiem i visit a new club,bar or restaraunt has opened or has closed for another!

If I have missed anything and you would like to see it on here the let me know and I can include it on.

If you have a las Vegas page or group please share this and If you know of any small business that might want to include their business details on this guide then I would be more than happy to include it on a full page spread for them and hopefully help them gain more custom.

DOS

- Do get out and explore Vegas! - Don't be afraid to just walk into other hotels.... you can pass through each and every hotel on the Vegas strip, even if you aren't staying there.
- If possible, do try and book a hotel as central to the main strip as possible as Vegas is a huge place and even though it may look like a 5 minute walk, I definitely can guarantee you it will be at least 30 minutes!
- If you are planning to exploring the entire strip, then do pack some comfortable footwear. I have seen myself walking up to 12 miles per day... as mentioned, Vegas is huge!
- If you are like myself and get chub rub between your thighs, then definitely do bring some cycling shorts for underneath your bottoms and plenty of talc!

DONTS

- Do not accept free gifts on the main strip - Nothing in Vegas is free... from my experience, the free gifts I've been offered have been CD's and small bracelets and necklaces. These are NOT free... the vendor will expect a tip for these and if refused, often become aggressive
- Do not wonder off the main strip - Certain parts of the city are not safe for tourists and I highly advise you to stray away from the strip, especially at night & when you're alone!
- Do not jaywalk! If the police see you, you are in trouble and you could be arrested. Always remember to use designated pedestrian crossings whilst you're in Vegas
- Do not stop for photographs - You'll get people dressed up stopping you and asking you if you want a photo. If you do, then they will expect a tip - normally \$20 per person... avoid!

MAIN TIPS

- Vegas is well known for businesses expecting generous tips from tourists whilst on their holiday. I strongly advise bringing plenty of \$1 and \$5 bills and keeping them purely for tips. If you do sign anything to your hotel room, then the tips will be added and deducted from your incidental deposit you made when checking into your hotel, be sure to have your ID at all times with you as you will need this when signing to your room.
- If you are dining in a restaurant and wish to charge your bill to your hotel room, make sure the restaurant supports MGM Rewards before ordering otherwise you would need to pay cash before leaving.
- I would advise carrying your ID with you whilst visiting the strip as any casino, club/bar can request this at any time. I have been asked for ID many times whilst visiting Vegas. In addition, if you are purchasing alcohol from CVS, Walgreens, Target etc, you will be required to show your ID before you can purchase.
- I would advise not purchasing drinks from street vendors with ice carts as the prices are always inflated and the drinks are always smaller - Definitely avoid if you can. I personally would only get a water if I were desperate during the summer months as it can get extremely hot and you can dehydrate quickly.
- For me personally, I would not purchase show tickets from street sellers as the prices can be hiked or may not be genuine. Try and purchase direct from the event/hotel. I have previously purchased tickets from the CVS shop on the strip, which is 100% legitimate and can offer some great deals and discounts.



MGM REWARDS

Let's talk about MGM Rewards and how they work.....

On my first visit to Vegas, I signed up to the MGM Rewards card and now I only stay at MGM Properties to maximise the benefits and savings I receive whilst on my holiday.

Imagine the MGM Rewards Card as a Boots Points Card.... the more you spend in Boots, the greater your rewards will be!

So how does it work exactly?

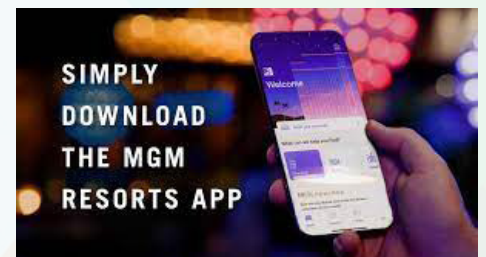
The card works on a tier basis so as you spend more, you gain points until you hit enough to progress to the next tier. Each tier carries has its own benefits. The tiers are Sapphire, Pearl, Gold, Platinum & Noir. It is worth noting Noir is an **invite-only** tier.

Over the multiple trips I have had, I have always used my Rewards Card whenever I've spent money on food & beverages and also on the casino floor. This has allowed me to progress to the Platinum tier, which has granted me many comped stays to any MGM properties along with comped resort fees and also a resort credit which can be used on any MGM property.



Remember, Always Use Your Card When:

- **Purchasing food**
- **Purchasing beverages**
- **Playing Slot Machines**
- **Playing Video Poker**
- **Playing On The Casino Tables**



TIPS IN THE CASINO

One of the main mistakes I made when I first went into the casino was buying drinks straight from the bar, the drink prices at the bars are very expensive, so here are a few tips to get them for a lot less or even **free!**

- If you play on the slots, firstly make sure you have your player's card and use it in the slots to get them points, You will notice drink servers going around the floor asking if you want a drink/cocktail – you can go ahead and order a drink from them but just look to be playing the machine, In theory, you can put \$10 in the slots and easily get 2-4 drinks then cash out the \$10, the drink service is a little slower around the slots due to the vast number of slots, however if you give them a couple of dollars tip they always seem to come around quicker.
- If you play video poker at the bars – again make sure you use your player's card for them points, to get your drinks comped you will need to put in a minimum of \$20 and play whatever games are on that machine, Whenever I do this I always drag it out and make sure I get my drinks worth while playing the video poker machines, there have been a few occasions where I've had a good amount of drinks and won money so it was a win win situation for me!
- If you choose the tables – By tables I mean roulette, blackjack, poker, etc. Again, when you cash in your money make sure you hand your player's card to the dealer, the pit boss will swipe your card and record your play, and this will contribute to building up your tier points. You again will see the drink servers coming around taking orders for drinks, again take advantage of these comped drinks, I usually tip the server once and they keep coming around and you can continue getting your drinks whilst you are playing on the tables.
- If I have good luck on the tables and win, I normally tip the dealer as a thank you, you do not have to tip but in Vegas, all staff rely on tips, and it's pretty customary to do this.

The final tip is not for the casino floor but for your hotel room.

- If you have a minibar in your room, **DO NOT** touch or remove anything from the fridge, all the items are on a sensor so if you even just remove it to look, your room will be charged for the item. The prices of the minibar are very expensive so definitely avoid this!



FREE THINGS TO DO

I previously mentioned that nothing in Vegas is free, and that is true **BUT**, there is a few things you can watch and visit completely free.

- [Bellagio Fountains](#) - Located outside the Bellagio hotel, these amazing fountains run every 30 mins from 3pm and every 15 mins from 7pm, definitely one to watch.
- [Bellagio Botanical Conservatory](#) - Each season this 14,000 sqft botanical garden is transformed, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The displays are always breath-taking and a must so for some great photos, I would 100% recommend this.
- [The Atlantis Fire & Ice show](#) - Located at the Forum shops in Caesar's Palace. This show runs Thur-Mon on the hour from 12 noon until 8pm. This is a show of ice and fire with some excellent SFX and amazing visuals.



- [Street Performers](#) - All street performers are free to watch, you will find lots of street performers all over the main Vegas strip and lots on Fremont Street, as mentioned they are free to watch, however you **do not** need to tip them unless you liked the performance and wanted to - it is not mandatory.
- [Top Golf Pool](#) - Located at the back of the MGM, Top Golf is a driving range with a difference, over 4 floors of golf, sports, pools and of course lots of food and drink. If you dont want to go onto the range you can still come here free of charge to chill by the pool. You will of course have to buy a drink if you do want one, otherwise it is **FREE!**

- [Container Park](#) - Container Park is located just off Fremont Street, The Park has a kids area with a treehouse, giant lego and football - all of which is free. There are many eateries and bars. These of course are not free and you will have to pay for these. So if you want some spicy sauce, a cocktail, a burger or to do your tax returns, you can do it **ALL** here at Container Park.

CHEAP FOOD AND DRINKS

- **Blondies Sports Bar** - Located in the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood, probably the cheapest breakfast on the main strip at just \$4.99 and \$5.99 breakfast burritos.... delicious and very filling! Bottomless Mimosa's are \$25.99 and of course, happy hour Mon - Fri between 3pm - 6pm, \$20 on domestic drinks!
- **Earl Of Sandwich** - Also located in the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood, the Earl Of Sandwich offers a variety of sandwiches and burritos to salad bowls.. all reasonable prices. During the couple of times I have visited, the prices have increased but still reasonable.



- **Nacho Daddy** - Located just off the main strip at E Harmon Ave, this place offers a great selection of Mexican dishes including amazing breakfast sliders and breakfast quesadillas at great prices. Whilst they are not the cheapest, they also are not expensive for the servings. Note: this restaurant doesn't use knives and I don't know why!! They also offer beer flights at really good prices. Even though this is a little off the strip, it is within walking distance, safe and I highly recommend visiting this place.



- **CVS, Walgreens & Target** - If you are hungry but not wanting a sit-down meal, then these shops are really cheap and you can grab snacks, sandwiches, drinks and sweet treats all at really cheap prices. If you want to grab a quick beer, then these are the places to get them as a 24froz can of beer will be around \$4 in most restaurants. In most restaurants, you will likely pay around \$15 and will more than likely be less than 24froz! Sandwich prices can range on average around \$3 - \$7 however, chocolate bars tend to be bit more expensive than you would expect to pay in the UK.
- **Ocean One Grill** - Cocktails are 3 for \$12 and \$3 beers!
- **Stage Door** - One of the cheapest places in Vegas..... a \$1 Budweiser... yes \$1!
- **Flights** - 3 flights of any Cocktail for just \$15.
- **AmeriCAN** - \$5 Vodka Shots... All day every day!
- **BrewDog** - \$7 happy hour or pay \$5 to buy 64oz growler and you can fill that up unlimited for the price of just 1 drink... with 56 on the tap, plenty of choice! Video [Here](#)

BEST & WORST PLACES IVE EATEN AT

Lets start off with the best...

- **Gallaghers Steak House** - This gigantic Tomahawk Steak is up there with one of the best steaks I've ever had! Served with loaded mashed potato and vegetables - Not cheap but unreal!
- **Posh Burger** - Without doubt THE BEST burger, I have ever tasted in my life! With wagyu beef, truffle, foie gras and gold dust, these ingredients together create the burger of all burgers.
- **Tom Collicios Craftsteak** - Located in the MGM Grand, Craftsteak again is up there with one of the very best steaks I have eaten. The 12oz Rib of Eye Snake River Farm Wagyu Steak was cooked to perfection without a piece of fat in sight. The loaded mash and roasted carrots were also cooked so well. All-in-all a perfect steak... Let's not forget the banging desert!
- **Bavettes** - Located in the Park MGM, Bavettes served me a beautiful 20oz Bone-In Ribeye Steak, which was a beautiful cut with practically no fat and an amazing loaded mash. I gave this meal a solid 9.9/10 (may have been a little drunk).
- **Sadelles** - Located in the Bellagio, Sadelles always serve cracking food.. Whether it is breakfast, lunch or dinner, the standard is always the same. With no exception for my Steak & Eggs breakfast, obviously not the best steak I have had, however for a breakfast, this was a perfect start to the day!

Although there is some I have missed off this guide, other places to visit include [Toms Watch Bar](#), Salt & Ivy, Peppermill Restaurant, Hennessey's Tavern, [Buffalo Wild Wings](#), [Raising Caine's](#), Crack Shack and many more!

BEST & WORST PLACES IVE EATEN AT

Now we move on to the worst...

- [Public House](#) - The worst served steak that I have ever been served! As you can see in the video, it was saturated in water from the onions, however, they did recook it, and it was slightly better but still one of the worst steaks ever.... very disappointed for the \$39 it cost... BUT my server was very polite and apologetic.
- [America Restaurant](#) - Visited for breakfast, ordered a steak & eggs meal... Well, where do we begin? The meal was awful, really cheap cut of steak which hadn't been seasoned whatsoever, very bland and tasteless. Avoid this meal!
- [Pyramid Cafe](#) - Again, I ordered a steak & eggs meals and was it better than the America Restaurant? The answer to that is.... NO! Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, guess what IT GOT WORSE! Other meals I've had from here have been fairly decent, but avoid the Steak & eggs!
- [McDonalds](#) - The breakfast menu... very questionable... actually no... disgusting! Watch the video and see for yourself.
- [La Pizzeria](#) - Located in Park MGM at the Eataty food courts, at first glance these pizzas in the counter looked absolutely amazing - But looks can be deceiving. I ordered 2 slices which cost a whopping \$36 and that's without my drink! When I picked it up I got a shock... it looked nothing like what was in the counter! Cold, stodgy, and not very tasty. La Pizzeria done me over and I personally would not recommend or come back here.
- [Starbucks](#) - So in the USA, you expect the food to be bigger and better... Is this the case?... Well in this case, NO! I tried the breakfast menu and was so disappointed with what I got.. but I decided everyone deserved a 2nd chance and tried it again [here](#).

THINGS I RECOMMEND YOU DO IN VEGAS

These are just a few things I have done whilst here in Vegas and I would recommend them-

- [Top Golf](#) - Even if you don't want to hit the range you can still chill, have some food & drink, even go for a swim in the pool. But I would recommend going on the range as it is a LOT of fun.
- [NYNY Rollercoaster](#) - Located inside NYNY hotel, this is a must-do whilst In Vegas, the coaster is a lot of fun with some tight twists & turns

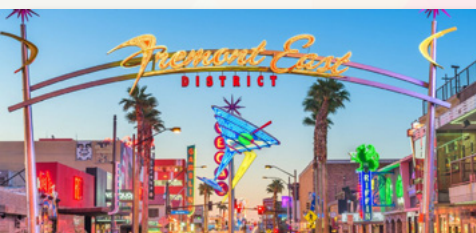


- [The Strat Sky Pod & The Thrill rides-](#) The Strat is a must-do whilst in Vegas, The tallest building in Vegas with 3 thrill rides and a jump from the skyspod! Definitely put this on your to-do list!

- [Gold & Silver Pawn Shop](#) - Famous from TV this Pawn shop located not far from the Strat is a very popular choice for tourists from all over the world, I would avoid the trips here and make your own way down in an Uber taxi as you can then visit next door in [Rick's Rolling BBQ & Tavern](#).



- [The Fremont Street Experience](#) - Fremont Street is located downtown and has some of the oldest hotels & casinos in Vegas, from the famous Binnions to Four Queens. Fremont by night is an absolute CRAZY place where you will see all kinds of different street acts, 3 stages with LIVE music, and one of the biggest LED TVs in the roof you will ever see in your life. While in Vegas this is a must-do.



- [David Copperfield](#) - Inside the MGM Grand, David Copperfield has a show everyday, we have seen a couple of different ones and they always blow your mind! The illusions are truly amazing and leave us thinking WHATT!!

THINGS I RECOMMEND YOU DO IN VEGAS

- [The Mad Apple](#) - Inside of NYNY, this is an amazing show with [comedy](#), singing, dancing, and some amazing [acrobatics](#) and stunts!! I absolutely loved this show and so did Sarah.

- [The Linq Zipline & High Roller](#) - Yes Yes Yes!! Get both done!!! This is an experience of flying through the Linq promenade and having cocktails in the VIP booth in the High Roller wheel, this is one you will not forget!



- [The MSG Sphere](#) - This is the newest arena to open in Vegas. A giant sphere made of 1.3M LED and can display anything is truly breathtaking in real life when you see it! This is walking distance from the strip and I would definitely recommend it.

- [Circa & Stadium Swim](#) - Located in Freemont Street a fairly new hotel with probably the biggest bar in the world and THE biggest sportsbook in the world! Without a doubt one of the best [pool areas](#) in my opinion, this hotel definitely needs a good few hours of your attention.



- [Candy Martini Bar](#) - Without doubt the coolest cocktails I've seen! Sarah had wanted one of these for a while, and definitely worth stopping by and experiencing this for yourself.



- [Skyfall Bar](#) - Located on the 64th floor of the Mandalay Bay this vantage point is one the BEST if not the best view of the entire Vegas strip! You can come here to relax and grab a cocktail or have a meal overlooking the breathtaking view of the fabulous Las Vegas strip.

I could go on with all of the things I recommend but I just don't have enough time or space in this guide left, others do include Helicopter over the Strip, Gunrange, Brewdog Experience, Paradox, Party Bus down the Strip.

MGM PROPERTIES IVE STAYED AT

When I visit Vegas, I only ever now stay at MGM Properties, I like the level of service I receive and always feel welcome at the MGM Properties, Here is the properties I have stayed at-

- [Newyork Newyork](#) - I have stayed at this property 4 times, I like the theme of this hotel, The rooms have all recently had a face lift and have always been very clean and spacious.
- [MGM Grand](#) - This is a classic property and one most people have heard of, this is a special hotel to us as we got married in the MGM Grand Chapel in 2020, Me and Sarah both really like this hotel.
- [Luxor](#) - Stayed here just once and even though it's a kind of dated hotel we really enjoyed our stay, we had an amazing room with great views.
- [Delano](#) - Located next to Mandalay Bay the Delano is a hotel without a casino, this is a beautiful hotel and the room We had was absolutely outstanding, with this hotel we had access to ALL 3 of the [lounges](#) 24/7.



MGM RESORTS
INTERNATIONAL™

MGM PROPERTIES IVE STAYED AT

- [Aria](#) - Possibly the most luxurious hotel I have stayed in, everything about his hotel was amazing, beautiful throughout with very modern rooms.
- [Park MGM](#)- First time at this property, My room was on the top floor which is known as the Nomad - A euro themed hotel, lovely decor but very strange with a bath in the middle of the living area! But still a beautiful room.
- [Bellagio](#) - One of the most well know hotels in Vegas becuase of the iconic fountains and located pretty much central. This is a perfect hotel of choicem and I absolutely LOVE this property.



Thanks for reading my beginners guide to Vegas. Hope you have found it useful and can use some of the tips for your first trip to Vegas.

STUUYLAD



