

Get it. Do it. See it.

guide

VEGAS, BABY

Whether you're looking to party, eat, dance or just do some crazy #(*\$, Las Vegas has new offerings that rock.

Words CARLY FISHER

As revelers at Kaos nightclub at the Palms evince, Vegas is hardly suffering from an energy crisis.

Do it

Las Vegas has lived many lives, but its reputation as hedonistic oasis in the desert remains unshakable. Impulsive choices are the perpetual allure of this Wild West outpost, whether it's doubling down at the blackjack table or waking up with a hangover and a wedding ring. "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas" is no longer the official slogan, but that doesn't mean reckless decadence has gone out of fashion here.

Some things never change—you can still get married by an Elvis impersonator without a legally binding contract—but there's fresh energy driving this legendary party city. The place that birthed artist residencies for Liberace, Sinatra, Elvis, Barry Manilow and Wayne Newton is now a part-time home to headliners like Cardi B, Lady Gaga, Travis Scott, Gwen Stefani and Mariah Carey. The EDM party scene that lured people to Dubai, Ibiza and Berlin has returned to the Strip. Countless outposts of the world's hottest restaurants call Las Vegas Boulevard home, including eats from celebrity chefs like José Andrés of Bazaar Meat, David Chang of Momofuku Las Vegas and even Guy Fieri, if that's your thing.

There's plenty to do off the Strip, too. You can find unique indie shows, edgy burlesque and good eats in Paradise, Henderson and Spring Valley. Or rent an ATV to bounce through the Mojave, or zip down a course in a race car or luxe sports car. Nearly every type of transportation is available to cross the Grand Canyon off your bucket list. And if you have the desire (and available credit), Vegas is the place to make any hedonistic dream come true. In that vein, here are 10 ways to turn your next trip into a real trip.

Fear and loathing (without the drugs). You don't need psilocybin like Seth Rogen and Paul Rudd in *Knocked Up* to have an extra-worldly night in Vegas. Spiegelworld, an immersive theater company, brings its experimental shows to the Strip. *Opium*, a psychedelic adults-only production at the Cosmopolitan, whisks its audience on a kitschy-sexy alien disco space ride. *Absinthe*, Spiegelworld's show at Caesar's Palace, invites guests to visit 19th century Europe for a mystical circus filled with enough burlesque to make Moulin Rouge blush.

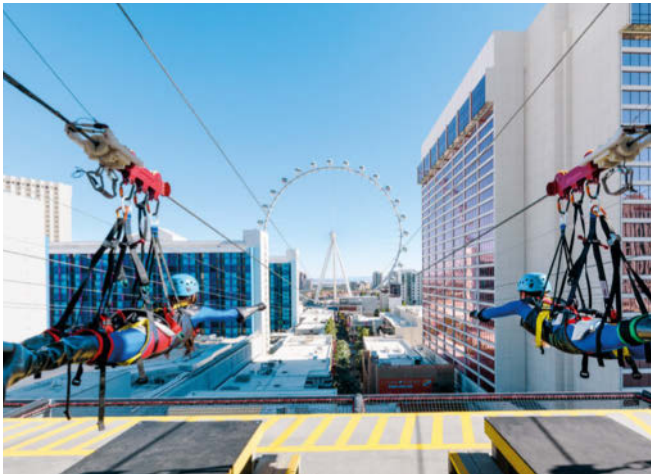
Dayclubs are the new nightclubs. Vegas is made for nighttime hijinx, but in the afternoon, if you're not crushed by a hangover, you can sit poolside surrounded by state-of-the-art sound systems. Kaos Dayclub, the latest addition to the remodeled Palms, stretches 73,000 square feet around two main pools, numerous side pools and 39 cabanas—all surrounding a behemoth 60-foot bronze Damien Hirst statue called "Demon with Bowl." The huge Encore Beach Club at the Wynn hosts DJ residents like David Guetta, RL Grime and Flosstradamus. And for the

best LGBT pool party in town, stick around for Temptation Sundays at the Luxor.

Nightclubs are still cool.

The nightlife here is legendary, with long lines and last-minute headliners. Jewel Nightclub at the Aria Resort & Casino, 1Oak at the Mirage and Hakkasan Las Vegas Nightclub at the MGM Grand host a serious EDM crowd—queuing for Steve Aoki, Calvin Harris, Tiesto, Zedd, Xzibit and Desiigner. Squeeze in a set from Drake, Diplo or the Chainsmokers at XS at the Wynn, or see DJ Mustard spin at Marquee Nightclub at the Cosmopolitan. Bonus: Some dayclubs transform into outdoor nightclubs, so you can take a midnight swim at spots like Encore Beach Club.

See Gaga, Christina and Mariah in a weekend. Why wait for pop icons to come to your local arena when you can see them in Vegas? Lady Gaga, Christina Aguilera and Mariah Carey all have residencies here—it's possible in theory to catch more than one at a time if you plan way ahead. Or extend your pilgrimage to see Gwen Stefani, Cher, Aerosmith or Rod Stewart.



Channel your inner superhero—and hit up to 35 mph—at Fly Linq zipline.



Marriage, meet IG: The Joshua Vides chapel at the Palms.



Wander through a neon-lit graveyard.

Ever wondered where the relics of Vegas's past go to die? Pay homage to the ghosts of the Stardust, Horseshoe and old steakhouses at the Neon Museum. There you can learn a lot about this noble gas and cultural symbol, and then admire more than 200 original signs that light up at sunset. Elsewhere, some of the vintage stalwarts immortalized in Martin Scorsese's *Casino* are still alive and well on Fremont Street, where legends like the Golden Nugget, Binion's Gambling Hall and the Fremont Hotel & Casino still thrive. Between the free concerts from '90s headliners like Nelly, the Wallflowers, Vanilla Ice and Coolio and the nonstop screams of people whisking down the SlotZilla zipline and zoomline, this anachronistic antidote to the Strip is packed year round.

Have a surrealist dinner.

Are your eyes bigger than your stomach? Find out by booking a table at Blackout, a mystery dining experience where your seasonal, plant-based prix fixe meal is enjoyed in the dark. Too weird? Cheer up: Vegas is full of incredible food options.



Chef Pierre Gagnaire's U.S. debut, Twist.



Rally for Sun Buggy's Baja Chase.

DIY your own foodie crawl by hitting up Pizza Rock, an artisan pie shop from 12-time pizza world champion Tony Gemignani, experiencing the world-renowned 48-seat robata spot Aburiya Raku or visiting the countless celebrity-chef-backed restaurants, which include culinary legends like Charlie Palmer's Aureole at Mandalay Bay, Roy Choi's Best Friend at the Park MGM and French chef Pierre Gagnaire's debut U.S. restaurant, Twist, at the Waldorf Astoria.

Elope like a proud tourist.

For better or worse, Vegas is a place where many still go to tie the knot—including a few who didn't intend to. While traditionalists may prefer to hit up 24-hour-spot A Little White



Chapel as a special drive-up destination for 3 a.m. declarations of commitment, new schoolers might prefer how Guatemalan-American graphic designer and visual artist Joshua Vides reinterprets classic kitsch into an immersive contemporary installation titled "Till Death Do Us Part" inside the Pearl Concert Theater at the Palms Casino Resort. The black-and-white wedding chapel looks like a living graphic novel, which means even if your quickie union doesn't last, at least you'll still have a cool IG post.

Drive it like you stole it.

Did you secretly harbor a fantasy of starring in *2 Fast, 2 Furious*? Make your own wishes come true by booking a race car driving experience at Dream Racing, Speedvegas or Exotics Racing—where you can burn rubber in an exotic Ferrari, Lamborghini or Porsche. Or get dirty off the tarmac by booking a 4WD, ATV or UTV tour of the Mojave Desert, Red Rock Canyon or Death Valley through outfits like Sun Buggy & ATV Fun Rentals, Las Vegas ATV Tours and DeTour Vegas.

Get high (in the sky).

The Linq Promenade at Caesar's Palace is home to Fly Linq, a 1,121-foot zipline that allows you to soar seated, superhero or backwards over 12 stories at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. If drinks and a view are more your speed, hit up the Linq's High Roller Ferris Wheel, which soars 550 feet above the Strip. There's no shortage of chopper rides in Vegas, but if you don't want to spend a few Benjamins or commit a full afternoon to soaring over the Grand Canyon, operators like Sundance Helicopters and Canyon Tours offer evening lifts for less than \$100.

Go down a rabbit hole.

Las Vegas is a weird and wonderful place, where something strange is often hiding in plain sight. One lovely treasure is the *Twilight Zone*-themed mini golf at Bally's. While this spot isn't a seen-and-be-seen party hub, it's undeniably cool. After all, playing 18 holes of putt-putt on a glow-in-the-dark course backed by kitschy cautionary tales from the 1960s is an experience you won't find anywhere else—and incredibly Instagram-worthy.