



Along the Strip you will see the Arc de Triomphe, the Opera House and the Campanile di San Marco and the Doge's Palace, direct from Venezia, courtesy of the Venetian Resort. With all this happening in the first half-mile, you can envision the entertainment value in a trip along the Strip. You can walk it, too, for a leisurely but equally mind-boggling experience, and one that is more heart healthy as well. Perhaps you might take time out for a romantic gondola ride through the streets of Venice or stroll through the Showcase Mall next to the MGM Grand Casino, or stroll through the Egyptian artifacts at the Luxor Casino.



Las Vegas is surrounded by natural and man-made wonders as well. Hoover Dam has long been considered one of the great

engineering marvels of the 20th century. Built between 1931 and 1936, the massive 726 foot gravity arch dam, the second highest in the U.S., harnessed the Colorado River. In doing so, it provided the irrigation, electricity and flood control that helped create the population boom of the American Southwest. Post September 11 realities have restricted what visitors may see and do at the dam, but it is still one of those sights that take your breath away. Just try looking over the edge. Lake Mead is the second man made wonder, backing up more than 100 miles behind the dam it is the world's longest man-made lake and as a national park encompasses more than 1.5 million acres. It is a paradise for lovers of recreation and nature, with boating, skiing, fishing, camping and some of the most beautiful flora and fauna anywhere in the country.



Weird and wonderful red-rock formations and vast expanses of high desert forested with Joshua trees and roamed by wild burros and bighorn sheep can all be found within an hour's drive of the city. At the north end of Lake Mead lies the Valley of Fire State Park, a dramatic moonscape created by erosion of the highly oxidized landscape over a couple millennia, leaving behind wholly unexpected rock formations in blazing, fiery colors. Highway 169 is known as the Valley of Fire Highway and offers eye riveting vistas from the comfort of your vehicle. While beautiful any time of day, these red rock formations are at their best when bathed in late afternoon light.