

VEGAS BABY!

OK! enjoys a sinful break in America's hottest city...



Las Vegas needs no introduction. Nicknamed the city of sin, it's a huge all-encompassing adult playground packed with casinos, restaurants, clubs and wall-to-wall celebrities.

WHY SHOULD I VISIT?

The gambling mecca that is Las Vegas is a 24-hour party city, beloved by fun-loving girls Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears. But less well known perhaps is the fact that Vegas also offers some fabulous gourmet restaurants, designer stores galore, superb spas and prestigious art galleries. You can also get married in minutes (Chris Evans and Billie Piper, Bob Geldof and Paula Yates and Spice Girl Mel B and Stephen Belafonte all did), which may not be a good thing judging by most of these couples' marital histories!

WHEN SHOULD YOU VISIT?

With its desert location in the American state of Nevada, it's lovely and hot all year round. Officially low season is the summer, when the heat can be scorching, so you may get a better deal.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

At the Mandalay Bay hotel (www.mandalaybay.com), which hosted this year's VH1 Rock Honors, you might bump into Jon Bon Jovi, Ozzy Osbourne or Drew Barrymore. OK! thought the rooms were stylish, the spa plush and the wave pool super-cool. Britney Spears is a convert of the Palms (www.palms.com), where she stayed in the £20,000-a-night Playboy Suite, which boasts a Jacuzzi pool, glass elevator and a rotating bed!

OK! checked out the plush Four Seasons Hotel (www.fourseasons.com). An oasis away from the Strip's hectic pace, it features a glorious pool, great views and sleek service. It's here that Meg Ryan, Reese Witherspoon and Michael Jackson choose to stay.

And, as if there wasn't already enough choice, hunky *Ocean's Thirteen* duo Brad Pitt and George Clooney are rumoured to be opening their very own hotel and casino soon too!

WHICH STARS WILL I SEE?

The place to be is Las Vegas Boulevard, universally referred to The Strip. Home to the big casino hotels such as the Bellagio, this is where you'll spot the showbiz crowd who come to party. The girls from *Grey's Anatomy* were on a hen weekend when OK! was in town, Britney recently performed at the MTV Video Music Awards in the city, while Pamela Anderson squeezed in a quick marriage to Rick Saloman in Las Vegas recently during an interval in the Hans Klok magic show where she has been appearing as an assistant.

WHERE SHOULD I EAT?

There are so many places to go, OK! could hardly find room for yet another tasting session but, in the name of research, we persevered! For the best steak in town head to the dimly-lit FIX at the Bellagio where Justin Timberlake was recently spotted sampling macaroni cheese and Kobe steak, which OK! also loved. Other famous faces at Fix include the Wilson brothers and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Don't miss the Asian-style TAO at the Venetian, which hosted the MTV VMA after-show party.

OK! munched on lobster wontons and Peking duck at the hotspot with a celebrity following that includes Jessica Biel, Bono and Kevin Federline.

For lunch, try Jack Osbourne and Janet Jackson's favourite Sushi Roku at Caesars Palace, where OK! went wild over the sweet glazed salmon. Carnivores should try BOA Steakhouse next door, a favourite of Reese

Witherspoon and Charlize Theron. Great steaks, but what OK! really recommends is cocktails on the patio.

The sleek Social House, where Cameron Diaz,

her former beau Justin Timberlake and Lindsay Lohan regularly drop in, is another celebrity haunt, while Italian eatery NOVE, with its zebra-clad seats and beautiful clientele, was a big hit with Jamie Foxx. OK!'s favourite part? The DIY canolli pudding and the hot party atmosphere!



Main: Viva Las Vegas! Above: Make the most of the sun at the Four Seasons' pool. Right: Take a gondola ride at the Venetian. Top left: Tie the knot like Pammy. Above left: Jenny McCarthy at the Playboy Club



WHERE SHOULD I PARTY?

For drinks with panoramic Vegas views, head off Strip to the Palms' Fantasy Tower, home to the infamous Playboy Club, the swanky Ghostbar and its club Moon. It was here that George Clooney chatted up one of the waitresses, who has now become his latest squeeze! PURE is where everyone who's anyone parties – Lindsay Lohan (pre-rehab), P Diddy, Britney, Paris Hilton and Cameron Diaz. OK! loved the white décor, outdoor cabanas and the saucy Pussycat Dolls show. Other celeb haunts include MGM's Tabu and Studio 54, where Dita Von Teese and Eva Longoria like to party, and LAX at the Luxor, which was opened recently by Britney. For something more intimate, try the Bellagio's Caramel, or for a little bit of Britain head to The Beatles Revolution Lounge at the Mirage.

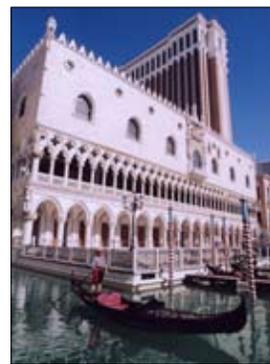
A pre-rehab Lindsay (right) and Paris and Nicky Hilton (above) are fans of PURE



WHERE CAN I SHOP?

Shopping fiends will love the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace, with 175,000sqft devoted to upmarket stores such as Harry Winton, Pucci and J.Lo's favourite Valentino. Across the road, at the Grand Canal Shoppes, you'll find plenty more to keep you busy, including Paris Hilton's favourite BCBG Max Azria, and Jimmy Choo. Want to pick up a bargain? Try the brand new Premium Outlet Mall where French Connection, Guess and Ralph Lauren are sold at slashed prices.

WHAT ARE THE MUST-SEE SIGHTS?



Take a gondola ride along the Grand Canal at the Venetian or visit the Eiffel Tower at Paris on the Strip.

If you want to get out of town, either by car or by helicopter, visit the Grand Canyon. Or make the most of the jetlag, like OK! did, and watch the sunrise at the Red Rock Canyon, which

should look familiar to *CSI* fans.

Another must is the Beatles-inspired Cirque du Soleil show *LOVE*. OK! was bowled over by the acrobatics, music and dancing. The show is a hot date for all the stars in town. Nicole Kidman, Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio and Michelle Pfeiffer have all seen it, while Jack Osbourne took Kimberly Stewart and magician Criss Angel first took Minnie Driver and then Cameron Diaz!



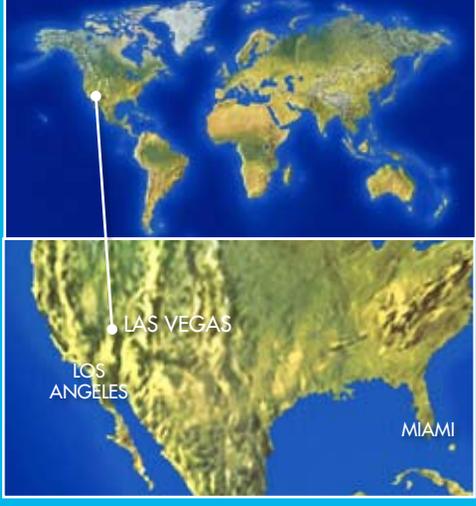
HOW CAN I GET THERE?

Flight Centre (0870 499 0042; www.flightcentre.co.uk) fly to Las Vegas with American Airlines from £405 from London Heathrow. Rent a convertible car and cruise the streets and head out to the Grand Canyon. Prices for a Chrysler Sebring or similar from around £166

per week from Dollar Rent A Car (0800 252 897; www.dollar.co.uk). **OK!**

REPORT BY ROWENA CARR-ALLINSON EDITED BY ANNABEL MACKIE, OK! TRAVEL EDITOR PHOTOGRAPHS BY 4CORNERSIMAGES.COM, ALAMY, BWP MEDIA, GETTY IMAGES, MOWGLI FRERE, SPLASH NEWS, WIRE IMAGE

WHERE IS LAS VEGAS?



FOR MORE INFORMATION
See www.visitlasvegas.co.uk or call
0870 523 8832 for a free visitors guide