

MADRID/TORREJON HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION 2017 REUNION

LAKE LAS VEGAS: LOCAL & REGIONAL THINGS TO SEE & DO

Las Vegas is also referred to as ‘**The Jewel of the Desert**’ (or Sin City) and is world famous for its many elaborate hotels, fantastic entertainment, wide variety of restaurants/buffets, its casinos, and its many shopping venues, so it’s well worth a visit to the famous Las Vegas Strip or the older Fremont Street Experience areas, even just to sightsee. They are located 15-20 miles from our Westin Hotel here at Lake Las Vegas, and you will need to arrange for your own transportation into town. Once in downtown Vegas, you can get around by walking, taxi, & bus, as well as the Monorail that runs down the strip behind the hotels for convenience. You can get a map of The Strip from the hotel concierge, and go online to: <https://www.vegas.com/> for the latest comprehensive info on what’s happening in Vegas, and how to buy tickets to any shows, events, or tours. Also, check this link for info on the Fremont Street Experience, including their Zip Line, at: <http://vegaseperience.com/> Of course, we hope you will save your Vegas adventures for before or after the M/THSA reunion activities Thursday evening thru Sunday morning.

Lake Las Vegas: There is plenty to see and do around or near the Westin Hotel at our location on Lake Las Vegas. The hotel has a variety of entertainment venues, with restaurants, bars, pools, adult fun area, golf, and lake activities available to all guests. Info is provided at check-in and also available from the hotel Concierge desk located near the check-in area.

- **M/THSA Golf Tournament-** Friday morning, August 4 at 8:00am, we will be hosting our tri-annual Alumni Golf Tournament for those interested. Everyone is welcome to play, and the contact for tournament registration and arranging the teams of four is Paul Murphy ’79 at: pjmurphy61@msn.com.
- **M/THSA Group Photo-** We ask that everyone remember to be available for the traditional M/THS group photo Friday afternoon around 2:30pm out on the main veranda overlooking the lake.

Montelago Village at Lake Las Vegas: Experience The Village, which echoes the ambiance of a Mediterranean town with its slow-paced, leisurely atmosphere, where there’s a variety of shopping, dining, music, and lake activities available to enjoy. It is located about 1 mile away and can be reached by the Intra Resort Shuttle Service on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, go to: <http://www.montelagovillage.com/the-village-at-lake-las-vegas/>

Museums: If it’s a little bit of Las Vegas culture you’d like, there is an interesting variety of 66 different museums you can visit in downtown Vegas, including The Mob Museum, Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum, Bodies The Exhibition, The Neon Museum, & the National Atomic Testing Museum. For the list of all museums, go to: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g45963-Activities-c49-Las Vegas Nevada.htm](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g45963-Activities-c49-Las_Vegas_Nevada.htm)

Local Outdoor Activities around the Las Vegas area are plenty and are an excellent way to spend an extra day before or after the M/THS reunion if you want to extend your stay in the area. You would need your own transportation, rental car, or arranged shuttle transport to get to any of these places listed below.

- **Hoover Dam-** The scenic Hoover Dam over Black Canyon and the Colorado River is located a few miles from the hotel, and on the border between Nevada and Arizona. It was built in 1931-36 during the Depression, and named for President Herbert Hoover, and serves to dam the waters that form Lake Mead, and provides electricity to southern Nevada and California. Tours are available, go to: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/>
- **Lake Mead-** East of Lake Las Vegas is the huge reservoir of Lake Mead. Droughts and high water usage in recent years has seen its water levels seriously lowered, but it has 760 miles of shoreline, so you can still enjoy a day at the beaches of Lake Mead and enjoy some boating too. Go to: <https://www.nps.gov/lake/index.htm> There’s a scenic boat tour (or brunch cruise) of Lake Mead and Hoover Dam available as well, go to: <http://www.lakemeadcruises.com/> Houseboats are also available to rent for a longer stay out on the lake: <http://www.houseboating.org/Lake-Mead-Houseboats-for-Rent>

- **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area-** This beautiful desert park is located 17 miles west of Las Vegas, and was designated as Nevada's first National Conservation Area in 1990, the 7th in the USA. Nature is preserved here in this part of the Mojave Desert, where you can enjoy a 13-mile scenic drive thru the Red Rock Canyon and Spring Mountains park. There's numerous activities enjoyed here also, with many miles of hiking trails, rock climbing/repelling, mountain/road biking, horseback riding, & picnicking. Car fees for one day are \$7. Go to: <http://www.redrockcanyonlv.org/>
- **Water Parks-** Las Vegas has a 3 main hotels, Mandalay Bay, Golden Nugget, & Sam's Town, with special water park attractions, plus there's two major outdoor water parks to enjoy in the heat of the Summer. Check out the Wet 'n Wild Water Park in west Las Vegas or closer to our Westin Hotel is the Cowabunga Bay Water Park. Go to: <http://wetnwildlasvegas.com/> & <https://www.cowabungabayvegas.com/>
- **Skydiving-** For you daredevils amongst us, there are 2 main skydiving outfits in the Vegas area. One close to our hotel at: <http://skydivelasvegas.com/> or in town: <http://www.vegasextremeskydiving.com/> There is also an indoor skydiving experience available at Vegas Indoor Skydiving: <https://vegasindoorskydiving.com/>

Day Trips from Las Vegas will take you to scenic areas a little further away from Las Vegas proper, which are well worth visiting if you plan to stay for an extended vacation before or after the reunion. You will need to arrange your own transportation to these locations.

- **Grand Canyon-** Though the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is ~ 6-hr drive away, and the South Rim is ~8-hr drive away, there is the closer Grand Canyon West rim overlook, which takes ~2 hours to reach thru the Hualapai Indian Reservation. Grand Canyon West is home to the Skywalk, a horse-shoe, glass-floored bridge that extends out towards Eagle Point, up 4000-ft off the floor of the canyon. A must-see for those who don't fear heights! You can arrange for helicopter rides & river rafting trips into the canyons from there as well. Go to: <http://www.grandcanyonwest.com/>
If you want to book a helicopter ride thru the Grand Canyon from Vegas, or the canyon rim locations, go to this link to book with the certified company (Papillon) that flies those tours: <http://www.papillon.com/>
- **Mt Charleston-** Las Vegas' tallest peak (11,916-ft) is located an hour NW of town in the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest of the Spring Mountains' National Recreation Area, and is a popular ski resort area in winter, and a very scenic hiking/camping area in the Summer. Miles of trails to explore, as well as hikes to 3 waterfalls, Mary Jane Falls, Big Falls, or Little Falls. Temps are ~30* cooler up there too and there's both a small lodge and a ski resort to provide a nice place to end your day for dinner and drinks. Go to: <http://www.gomtcharleston.com/>
- **Valley of Fire State Park-** If it's alien landscapes you like, then an hour trip N&E on I-15 and Valley of Fire Hwy will take you to Valley of Fire State Park, which will amaze you with its scenic red rock formations and calico hills. There are petroglyphs, arches, scenic loops, & kid-friendly short hikes around the ancient rock formations. The park is adjacent to the upper section of Lake Mead, so to complete your scenic drive, head east out of the park towards Lake Mead and drive south on NV-167 thru the desert landscape along its west banks. This drive can take you all the way to Hoover Dam as well. There is a park fee of \$10 per vehicle, per day. Go to: <http://www.valley-of-fire.com/>