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## Las vegas fanatics trip reports

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One of the advantages of using the city in the middle of a huge, merciless desert is in fact this desert. When you're in Las Vegas, you're not limited to hotels and restaurants on the Strip. Some of the world's greatest landscapes are within walking distance of a car or helicopter flight. Whether you're going to the Valley of Fire, the famous Hoover Dam, or the charming Charleston Mountain, we have somewhere to go, where to stay and what to do in each of them. These are the best tours from Las Vegas.Click the link to read our complete guide to The City of Las Vegas. Located in the Mojave Desert, this day trip is best for those who feel like they have their introduction to Las Vegas and want to see something new. The ride takes just over an hour from Vegas, and it's a clever idea to start early in the morning. You can hire a guide for groups and Valley of Fire occasionally has special events, but the best way to plan your hike is to explore the length and difficulty you're prepared for on the Valley of Fire State Park website, or talk to one of the staff at the visitor center. Vegas residents make it a tradition to eat in La Fonda, in the small town of Overton, on their way from the eastern entrance to the Valley of Fire State Park. It is a modest restaurant with types of giant portions, which you can expect people to want to delve into for a hike. Think burritos and chimichangas with beer to buy through a bucket, and fried ice cream that dominated Mexican chain restaurants in the U.S. in the 1980s. The scenery is not too much to watch, but after a day in one of the most exciting natural surroundings in the world, you are here mainly for food, anyway. Adventure Photo Tours planned in the late 1990s as a mom and pop tour operation, and has since grown to a fleet of 30 vehicles and more than 50 employees. Their custom upholstered mini-coaches and 4x4s will pick you up for free at the hotel. For larger tourist groups 12-seater Mercedes Sprinters, all decorated with the Adventure Photo Tours logo. You definitely need to book in advance. Consider booking a private tour if you want extra flexibility (and want to travel only with friends and family). If you're not a photographer, don't worry. These tours are not just for professionals. However, the company does not list which tours are particularly good for photographers, and will have a lot of advice on the best vantage points. One of the most spectacular and perhaps underrated places you can see in Las Vegas. Everyone knows about the Red Rock Conservation Area, Lake Mead and the Grand Canyon, but not so many people know about the burning colors, amazing rock formations and ancient petroglyphs of the Valley of Fire. Valley of Fire is open during the day (closes at sunset), and those who come to explore its 40,000 acres of bright red sandstone and petrified trees are usually adventurous nature lovers who have seen sights closer to the Las Vegas Strip and want to venture further. Until you visit the Hoover Dam, it's hard to appreciate its size. It's a stunning view from the dam itself (you can walk along it). It is also quite sobering, as more than 100 people lost their lives in the building of this spectacular engineering feat. There are fun stops to make on your way back from a dam visit to complete your journey. The smart way to visit Hoover Dam is to come from the opposite direction of most travelers; namely, the Las Vegas Valley's other miracle man, Lake Las Vegas- a 320-acre artificial lake about 20 miles northwest of the dam. Westin Lake Las Vegas is a kind of casbah themed resort with some great features like the new Aveda spa and the seriously good sushi restaurant (Marssa) – but most importantly, you won't struggle with the afternoon traffic to return to the Strip. If you need a day of respite from the Strip, this is where the locals go. Make a reservationSeeing Hoover Dam and getting a good tour of this place is crucial to understanding the point in American history when it was built. The 726-meter concrete gravitational arc of the dam is one of the most recognizable and iconic human structures in the world. Try the Dam tour, which is an hour-long guided tour of the power plant and its corridors, which begins with a film about the development of the dam, and includes an elevator ride to the Nevada plant wing and eight dam generators, as well as to tunnels that served as control areas. It is a great place for children, but it is also good for anyone who wants to see what was possible thanks to human imagination and engineering. If you weren't supposed to fill the New Deal-era history at Hoover Dam, drive to Boulder City, whose only reason you built it is through the Office in the 1930s was a workers' home for Boulder dam. It remains a small, history-filled city (interesting fact: It's one of two cities in Nevada where gambling is illegal), with several attractions, such as a theater owned by Desi Arnaz, Jr., and the Boulder Dam Hotel, which also houses a museum. One of the big surprises is Dillinger Food & Drinkery, a gangster pub that serves plenty of local craft beers, as well as huge gourmet burgers loosely inspired by historical crime heroes (like the surprisingly sophisticated Baby Face Nelson, topped with roast brie, mixed greens and fig marmalade). Desert Adventures is a super-organized travel company that specializes in kayaking in Nevada and Utah, but also takes groups on bikes, hiking and backpacking trips on day or multi-day camping trips. Or if you're not in it just for scenery, you can sign up for rescue courses, kayaking, kayaking courses, CPR and even desert first aid. The equipment they use is at the highest level (kayaks are high-performance fiberglass SEDA boats used by riders) It is easy to get to where you need to be; For this tour, an air-conditioned shuttle picks you up and drops you off at the hotel. You can also go with any size group you like; the minimum number is only two. When even the Las Vegas Strip isn't transportable enough, locals drive 35 miles northwest of the city to cool off among the Alpine slopes of Mount Charleston. Officially named Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, it lies in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Its gently sloping slope will take you through a number of different climatic zones, past cacti and Joshua trees to juniper, aspen and Ponderosa pine, reaching a height of nearly 12,000 feet. Even when you can see the heat waves surrounding the Vegas Valley below, you may need a jacket atop Mount Charleston (especially in winter and spring, when snowstorms can whoosh at any time). Take advantage of 60 miles of mountain trails, most from over 6,000 feet and the highest end at 11,916-foot Charleston Peak. If you're looking for an escape from the heat, that's fine too. Get out of the car, look at the snow-capped peaks dotted with alpine cottages and wonder where you are. Mary Jane Falls is a busy hiking trail that is a relatively easy 2.6 km walk by kneeling aspen and pine ponderosa. This is one of the most popular hikes on Mount Charleston for families. Mary Jane Falls is a completely seasonal hike. It is not available in winter, and usually dries in summer. Since it is formed completely by the melting of snow, it is on top in the spring. To reach it, you will follow a rocky path, climbing nine crossovers to reach the limestone rock at the base of the falls. For who are looking for the solitude of hiking, you probably won't find it here (at least in the spring). It is a popular hiking destination for families; for those who want to challenge their children just a little, and see a miracle of nature. For those who just want a little history on a hike (and want it to be more like a walk on a paved road than an actual hike). Desert Valley Overlook is the perfect place to enjoy views of the Mojave Desert with very little effort. The path is just 400 meters long, paved sidewalk near the Deer Creek Highway of spring mountains National Recreation Area (aka Mount Charleston). Park in a small parking lot, and you'll walk on a gentle slope to viewing platforms with panels telling the story of the place- a popular vantage point for watching atomic bomb tests in the 1950s. It's a difficult entrance to an eight-mile trail that wiers through the kneeling aspen and crosses a wooden line, ending with a spectacular view from charleston peak. A trip to the southern loop of Mount Charleston Peak leads to the highest point around Las Vegas, which is 300 meters. (If you thought you had a great view of the High Roller, consider it.) You will be above 10,000 meters in the alpine environment for more than half the hike. History lovers may be looking for the wreckage of a CIA plane that was carrying workers to Area 51 to work on a U-2 spy plane in 1955. (There is a monument to them in the visitor center.) This is the hardest hike in the area, but it's worth it. It is purely apres-ski, after a hike, a day trip of the kind of place. You'll be looking for it on Mount Charleston because it's fun, old-school, and iconic. It's about big plates of fun food and a crowd that loves the atmosphere, not about haute cuisine. Think here warmly and happily, like giant Bavarian pretzels and chili nachos. In recent years, Mount Charleston Lodge has gussed up menus with ahi poke and veg options such as buffalo cauliflower. But the best things you'll eat are Mountain Chili, grilled ribs and grilled burgers for pounds. (In other words, the meaty the better.) If you're here in winter (and someone else is riding), you'll want to enjoy one of the boozy cocktails by the roaring fire lodge. For years, the Resort on Mount Charleston has been a fixture here, and its exterior has remained much the same since it was renamed Retreat to Charleston Peak. Surrounded by tall pine trees, wooden and fieldstone lodge is exactly what you expect in the Alpine forest. You just can't expect it to be 30 minutes from scorching Las Vegas. The tall wooden building is a dramatic sight at the base of the snow-capped peaks as you drive up, and sits on a 7,500-foot façade. Its dark and outdated lobby has been renovated with an updated homage to the Old West: large leather sofas and seating dot a large room under vaulted wooden ceilings overlooking the massive windows to the forest outside. After obtaining new ownership in 2018 focuses on sustainability and the outside world. Book

