

# In Vegas it's shows, spas, shopping

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It's easy to think of Las Vegas as a gambling destination, but you'll find some of the country's best shows, spas and shopping in Southern Nevada, too.

You can spend a weekend in Las Vegas without ever having to hit a blackjack table, give the slots a spin or bet it all on black.

Here are four activities that make Vegas a destination spot all on its own.

## Shopping

■ **The newest addition to the Vegas Strip is Town Square Las Vegas.** This outdoor lifestyle center, at the southern end of The Strip, offers up 1.5-million-square-feet of additional Vegas shopping. It opened last year and has more than 150 shops and 13 restaurants. The center is a nice break from the casino atmosphere and offers several family activities including summer movies in the Square on the first and third Thursdays of the month through Oct. 16. Vegas residents consider it a locals' spot, but visitors will find it a nice break from typical tourist traps. For details go to [www.townsquarevegas.com](http://www.townsquarevegas.com).

■ **Forum Shops at Caesars:** This indoor shopping area has 160 stores and 13 restaurants. The inside center is meant to replicate city street shopping and painted ceilings are made to look like the sky. This is the place to find Jimmy Choo, Kate Spade, Valentino and Louis Vuitton.

■ **Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood:** This indoor shopping area has 170 stores and 15 restaurants, and its central location on The Strip makes it a nice stop to escape the summer heat.

■ **Grand Canal Shoppes at Venetian:** This Venice-themed indoor shopping area has 550,000-square-feet of retail and a replica of the Italian city's canal system. Gondola rides are offered, and this is one of the best places to eat inside, while feeling as if you're dining alfresco on a cobblestone street.

■ **Outlet shopping:** There are several great outlet malls in Vegas, but the best known one is the Las Vegas Outlet Center at 7400 Las Vegas Blvd. South. There are 130 outlet stores



PUBLICITY PHOTO

Shopping in Las Vegas at Miracle Mile at Planet Hollywood.

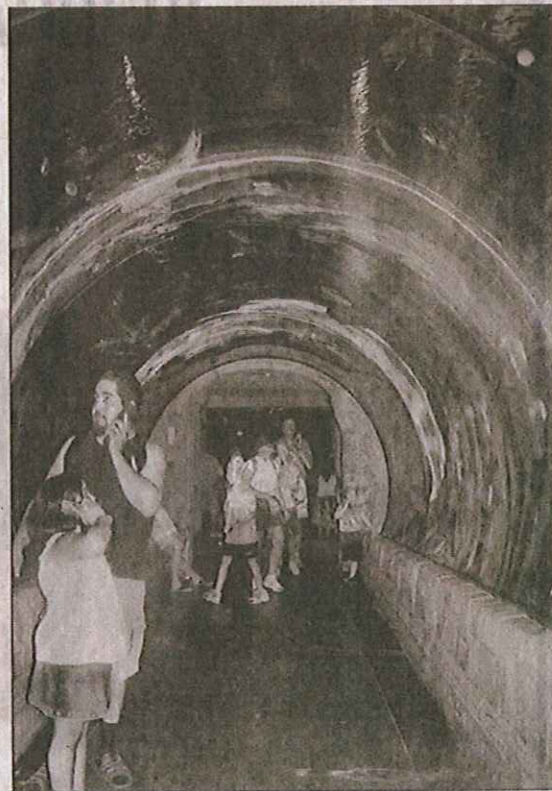
and promenade deck. On the deck, visitors can experience the weather conditions passengers of the Titanic dealt with on that frightful night. Tickets are \$27, and the exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

## Shows

■ **"Mamma Mia" at Mandalay Bay:** This Broadway hit that incorporates 22 ABBA hits into the story about a young woman looking for her father will end its run at Mandalay Bay in 2009. The Las Vegas production is fabulous and doesn't disappoint. It runs Saturday-Thursday, dark Fridays. Tickets are \$110, \$82.50, \$49.50.

■ **"LOVE" at the Mirage:** This is one of the most talked about productions in Las Vegas right now. The reputation of the acrobatics of Cirque du Soleil combined with The Beatles music is pure entertainment. LOVE runs Thursday-Monday, dark Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets are \$150, \$125, \$99, \$93.50.

■ **"Jersey Boys" at the Palazzo Resort Hotel Casino:** This show is about the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons and is in one of the newest theaters in Las Vegas at the Palazzo. The show opened



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Visitors enjoy the Shark Reef Aquarium at Mandalay Bay. The reef houses 2,000 animals in 1.6 million gallons of salt water. There's even a 7-foot-long Komodo dragon weighing in at 87 pounds.