

# 7 ROOKIE MISTAKES TO AVOID IN LAS VEGAS



By Geoff Carter and Al Mancini

1

## AVOID TAKING CABS

Avoid taking cabs if you don't know your way around the city. Vegas' cab drivers are notorious for "long-hauling," or taking the longest way to a destination to run up the meter.

2

## DON'T DRIVE LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD AFTER DARK UNLESS YOU'RE SIGHTSEEING.

The traffic is bad, and on days when events and/or road construction is taking place, which is often, it can slow to a standstill. If you need to get from one hotel to another, take Frank Sinatra Dr., Sammy Davis Jr., Dr., or Paradise Road, all of which run parallel to the Strip.

3

## DON'T MISJUDGE THE WALKING DISTANCE BETWEEN PROPERTIES.

The Cosmopolitan and Caesars Palace may look close together by car, but on foot they're nearly a mile apart in 100-plus degree heat.

4

## DON'T MISTAKE AIR CONDITIONING FOR BEING HYDRATED.

Just because you're not overheated, doesn't mean you're not drying out. Mix in some water between your drinks.

5

## DON'T EXPECT FREE DRINKS FOR PLAYING SLOTS.

Yes, some properties still offer free booze to slot players, but a growing number of them are cutting back on the practice. Be prepared either way and tip your server no matter what.

6

## DON'T SLEEP ON OFF-STRIP VEGAS.

World-class restaurants are hidden away in unassuming shopping centers, in particular the sprawling Chinatown district. And the spectacular natural beauty of Red Rock Canyon, Mount Charleston, and the Valley of Fire is worth an afternoon drive.

7

## BUFFETS AREN'T NECESSARILY A BARGAIN.

Buffets offer variety and the visceral thrill of piling your plate high with crab claws, but you're paying for everyone else's waste. In most cases you can get a full meal of equal quality for a lot less money elsewhere in the same casino without waiting in line.

