

# Las Vegas: more than just a cliché

Because of its popularity as a tourist destination, Las Vegas has become a cliché of sorts, more symbol than city. It is part of America's collective cultural consciousness, seen as a place of decadence, escape and adventure. And while that observation is correct, it doesn't tell the entire story.

If you're willing to look beyond the bright lights of the Strip and head off the beaten path, sightseeing in Las Vegas can be much more than a cliché and can offer unique experiences that guidebooks for tourists rarely cover.

One such example is Las Vegas's Old Downtown. It is only a few miles from the Strip, but it's a world away in both style and substance. Avoid downtown's tourist attractions and head out onto the side streets. Look for places that stand out for their timelessness. Find the small establishments, the ones that wouldn't have been out of place in the Las Vegas of 50 years ago. Such places do still exist and although they may be a bit challenging to find, they are worth the effort, as they can provide unique and memorable experiences of a far different nature than those that can be found on the Strip.

Yes, Las Vegas is a cliché, but, if you look beyond the bright lights and flashy tourist attractions, you'll find that it's also a city with a rich history, some of which is still there, waiting to be explored.