



## Travel VEGAS for Non-Gamblers

by Jan Ross, *Staff Writer*

When we stepped off the plane and saw the Las Vegas airport full of slot machines, we realized we had arrived in a place that was completely different from any other place we had ever experienced. This surreal feeling continued as we drew nearer to the Paris Hotel on Las Vegas Boulevard and saw beautiful and perfectly designed smaller replicas of the Eiffel Tower and the Arch de Triomphe.

Since we had just been in the actual Paris a few months previously and seen these monuments in reality, this was a very odd feeling. As in all the hotels in Las Vegas, the casino is right beside the lobby, but we passed by the dingy slot machines and gamblers hunched over tables covered with cards, oblivious to the outside world. We were not there to gamble. We were part of the small percentage of tourists who visit Las Vegas to do pretty much anything other than gamble.

We headed for lunch at Holsteins, an upscale burger and milkshake restaurant. Delicious, juicy burgers, the crispy sweet potato fries and finally, best of all – the handmade milkshakes that are worth a trip to Holsteins all on their own make this a great place to eat.

We quickly found that one of the best and most fun ways to get around in Vegas is the monorail and we spent some time touring around. The next morning, we were eager to meet our hosts from Papillon Helicopters for a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon.

We flew over a brown and gray landscape, enlivened by occasional patches of bright green and yellow desert flowers, and then over the incredible aqua green of manmade Lake Mead. Then we lifted up and over the last mountain and saw the incredible scope of the Grand Canyon. We spent some time on the Grand Canyon Skywalk, a clear plastic viewing area that hovers 4,000 feet above the canyon floor, that provided us with yet another perspective on this incredible natural wonder.

The next morning, we met our hosts from Pink Jeep Tours, who would be taking us on a tour of Hoover Dam. After a quick ride to Hoover Dam, we toured this incredible manmade wonder, then cooled off with a quick raft trip up and down the river, marveling at the size of the Dam from this angle.

On our last night, dinner at The Capital Grille was absolutely the best meal we had all week. Melt in your mouth steaks, family portions of vegetables, a fabulous view and the most incredible service we have ever experienced, made this the meal of a lifetime. Then, on to the Aria Resort and Casino where we experienced the Elvis Cirque du S'Oleil show, which had us sitting in slack-jawed amazement as acrobats ran up walls and every single minute was spent watching singing,

dancing and the most incredible show we had ever seen.

Wonderful meals, wonderful entertainment, wonderful tours and experiences – every minute we spent in Vegas was memorable – and not a minute gambling! There were plenty of activities for which we simply didn't have time. We will just have to go back soon!



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