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from the experts at **Frommer's**

6th Edition

Las Vegas

FOR

DUMMIES[®]



Rick Garman

Las Vegas FOR DUMMIES®

6TH EDITION

by Rick Garman



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About the Author

Rick Garman has been writing about Las Vegas since 1997 when he and best friend Mary Herczog began writing the *Frommer's Las Vegas* guide book. His Web site, Vegas4Visitors.com, is one of the most respected Las Vegas travel resources on the Web. When not gambling away every penny he earns writing about the city he loves, Rick lives in Los Angeles and works in the entertainment industry.

A Note from the Author

Mary Herczog wrote this book (and a great many others) for a decade or so, about half as long as we were best friends. It was not long after we began our Vegas writing careers in 1997 that Mary was first diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the next dozen years, Mary faced her recurring illness with a kind of aplomb that most people found either inspiring or confounding; as she chose to focus less on whatever treatment she was undergoing and more on what fantastic meal she was going to get to eat on her next trip to Vegas. She wrote about what she called her "tribulations" in a series of articles for The Los Angeles Times and later on her Web site CancerChick.com as a way of demystifying the process, hoping that it might make it a little less scary for anyone else who might be going through the same thing. Through it all, she continued to write her guide books to Vegas and New Orleans and other destinations, which she loved doing partly out of her adoration of travel in general and partly out of her incredible knack for being able to tell people what to do and usually be right.

Mary Herczog died on February 16, 2010, surrounded by her family, her friends, and her dogs, exactly as she wanted it to be . . . if it had to be at all. About a week earlier, she asked me to take over the *Las Vegas For Dummies* guide book, and I am both humbled and honored to do so. Even though my name is on the title page, this is and always will be her book. Viva Las Vegas, Mary . . . the city will not be the same without you.

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Introduction

Welcome to Las Vegas, a truly original city, where all the greatest landmarks are reproductions and the name of the game is gambling. This neon jungle is, at turns, classy, tacky, cheesy, and sleazy, but it's always entertaining. If there's one sure bet in this town, it's that you'll never be bored — even if you don't pull a single slot handle.

But navigating your way through the sensory overload that is Sin City without exhausting yourself should be a priority; you are, after all, on vacation. All you need to ensure an enjoyable trip to Las Vegas is some patience, some advance planning, and a little luck. (Hitting it big can do wonders for one's mood.)

About This Book

Pay full price? Read the fine print? Do it their way?

Excuse me? There's no need for any of that.

You picked this book because you know the *For Dummies* brand and you want to go to Las Vegas. You also probably know how much you want to spend, the pace you want to keep, and the amount of planning you can stomach. You may not want to tend to every little detail, yet you don't trust just anyone to make your plans for you.

In this book, we give you the lowdown on Las Vegas, which challenges Orlando as the number-one tourist destination in the United States. Rising from its modest beginning as a small, old-time gambling town, the city has more hotel rooms than any other. And for sheer spectacle, it's hard to beat Vegas. Here you can watch a volcano explode, see a pirate ship sink, stroll by the Eiffel Tower, and cross the Brooklyn Bridge. And did we mention that you can gamble?

To say that taking it all in can be overwhelming and exhausting would be a massive understatement. No need to worry. As Vegas veterans with years of experience, we've scoured the city from the Strip to downtown to find the best deals around. In this book, we guide you through Las Vegas in a clear, easy-to-understand way, allowing you to find the best hotels, restaurants, and attractions without having to read the book like a novel — cover to cover (although you *can* read this book cover to cover if you choose). With this book, you can find the best and most essential ingredients for a winning vacation.

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time — and this is especially true of prices. Therefore, we suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

Conventions Used in This Book

In this book, we've included lists of hotels, restaurants, and attractions. As we describe each, we often include abbreviations for commonly accepted credit cards. Here are the abbreviations of each:

AE: American Express

DC: Diners Club

DISC: Discover

MC: MasterCard

V: Visa

We've divided the hotels into two categories — our personal favorites and those that don't quite make our preferred list but still get our hearty seal of approval. Don't be shy about considering these "runner-up" hotels, if you're unable to get a room at one of our favorites or if your preferences differ from ours. The amenities that the runners up offer and the services that each provides make all these accommodations good choices to consider as you determine where to rest your head at night.

We also include some general pricing information to help you as you decide where to unpack your bags or dine on the local cuisine. We've used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for one night in a hotel (the price refers to a double-occupancy room) or a meal at a restaurant (included in the cost of each meal is a soup or salad, an entree, a dessert, and a nonalcoholic drink). Check out the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Hotel</i>	<i>Restaurant</i>
\$	\$74 or less	\$9 or less
\$\$	\$75–\$99	\$10–\$19
\$\$\$	\$100–\$149	\$20–29
\$\$\$\$	\$150–\$249	\$30–\$34
\$\$\$\$\$	\$250 or more	\$35 or more