

# The ultimate Vegas man-cation

By **Jamie Helmick**

*Vegas.com*

Pay attention, guys. What you're about to read might surprise you.

The fairer sex appreciates you.

We truly do. And although we might not always say it, we do think it from time to time. And just to show you we're paying attention, here's something else – you deserve a vacation. Sure, we do, too, but you deserve one without us, or kids, or crazy in-laws.

What you really deserve is a “man-cation.” And what better place to relax and convalesce with the boys than in Vegas? We've put together some options for a dudes-only Sin City getaway. We'll even do the dishes while you're gone. Maybe.

## The Great Outdoors

Sure, Vegas is a desert, but that doesn't mean the only outside activities are walking from casino to casino (plus, there's a monorail for that). If you're down for seasonal fun, depending on the time of year, you can hit either Lake Mead for some aquatic hijinks or Mount Charleston for a trip down the slopes.

Plus, there are plenty of year-round options right off the Las Vegas Strip – we're talking golf. There are a lot of world-class courses here, but to really do your boys' week out right, consider teeing off at either Bali Hai Golf Club or Royal Links Golf Club. Both courses offer “Par Mates” – pretty, female caddies that not only fix divots and clean clubs (they've been trained and will even help out with yardage and scoring), but who are also nicer to look at and better conversationalists than your caddie from back home. Don't get us wrong, he's a nice guy, he just doesn't work a skirt like these women.

If golf's a little too slow for you or if your pedal foot starts itching at every stoplight (until you remember you're in a minivan), check out the Richard Petty Driving Experience at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. You'll ride-along with an instructor on the course at speeds of more than 150 mph. To do the driving yourself, Pole Position Raceway has the fastest indoor race karts of their kind in the country. And if that

sounds like kid stuff to you, trust us, you haven't seen karts like these.

## A Man's Gotta Eat

Although we've seen you wolf down a cheeseburger and aren't 100 percent sure you can taste anything eating that fast, we'll give you the benefit of the doubt and recommend some of Sin City's manliest dining enclaves.

For food and ambiance, check out CatHouse at the Luxor. The menu is by celebrity chef Kerry Simon and features everything from macaroni and cheese to a classed-up version of pigs-in-blanket to high-end cuts of steak. You might not notice your plate at all though, because throughout the evening, CatHouse (which is decked out like a sexy, old-school European bordello) features performances from its “kittens” – girls performing sultry scenes behind an illuminated mirror near the back of the restaurant. As an added bonus, CatHouse turns into a nightclub most nights of the week.

If you'd rather stick to the basics (but Vegas-style), there's BOA Steakhouse in the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace. The steak, when coupled together with one of the restaurant's rubs, crusts or sauces, is unmatched. Plus, there are some fun touches, too, like truffled nachos – potato chips with melted truffle cheese (a little different than what you had at your last tailgate, we're sure). And for that one guy in the group who wanted sushi instead, tell him to calm down, you can order off the Sushi Roku menu at BOA, too.

And though we don't necessarily want to think about what you and your buddies would do around good food and a bunch of bikini-clad women, we'd be remiss not to mention Hawaiian Tropic Zone at Planet Hollywood. Yes, that Hawaiian Tropic, with the girls and the suntan lotion, and, oh, you get the point. The menu here is from chef David Burke and features sizable-yet-decadent dishes like meatloaf and crackling Asian spiced pork shank. Plus, the desserts are impeccable – cheesecake lollipops, banana splits, even an ice cream sundae. But the real deal-clincher is the restaurant's “table concierges,” which is

a fancy way of saying beautiful women dressed in bikinis and sarongs that attend to your needs, your dining needs.

## No Sleep til...Vegas

There's going to come a point in your trip where everybody's going to get tired and want to rest, even if it's just for a little while. With Vegas being the bachelor party hotspot it is, the hotels are well-versed in catering to groups of men excited about escaping reality for a little while. Some are just a little more accommodating than others.

The Palms, with its diverse suite options (including one with a bowling alley and one with a basketball court), is great for guy-bonding trips. Although the bigger, more inventive suites can get pricey, the smaller suites are still sizable and feature more than one room – perfect for splitting up the cost and the space.

If you want to be right in the middle of the Strip (and the action), consider Planet Hollywood. On property, there's a show that features Kelly Monaco in lingerie (Peepshow), one of the trendiest clubs in town (Privé) and a mall

(Miracle Mile Shops).

## Vegas Say Relax

You can swear up and down that you're too manly for pampering, but we know you're lying. Most hotels in Sin City have spas and most of those spas have services for men, but some cater to guys more than others.

The Spa at New York-New York offers The Manly Cure, which is a manicure, but for men (and manly is right in the title, so you're fine). At Qua Baths and Spa inside Caesars Palace, there's the Tops & Tails service – a scalp, hand and foot massage named, presumably, for your tuxedo.

If you'd rather splurge on giving your Bic – and your face – a break, consider getting a shave at The Art of Shaving (inside Fashion Show Mall or Mandalay Place) or Truefitt & Hill (inside the Forum Shops).

## Lounges and Clubs and Bars, oh my!

Let's just get this out of the way



first: Unfortunately, a byproduct of your man-cation is that on your own, you may have trouble getting into a club with a big group of guys. This is just the way it is and we're sorry, but we don't make the rules. We do, however, have some ways to help you out.

First, if it's summertime, consider hitting up a pool club or party during the day. Places like Rehab at Hard Rock (Sundays), Ditch Fridays at Palms (Fridays) or VooDoo Beach at Rio (daily) are great for finding girls that might be willing to join up with your all-guy group when it comes to the clubs later.

If trying to talk a group of women into helping you get into a club flies in the face of your boys' club fun, consider buying a table at one of the clubs. Places like JET in the Mirage and Tao in the Venetian offer tables in the thick of things or more private, which means they can usually hook you up with one that matches your group's vibe.

Clubs sounding like too much of a hassle? There's always the bars. And while we can't guarantee there'll be no issues with your testosterone brigade, they'll probably be less at the bars. Head downtown and check out Beauty Bar (if you like hipsters), The Griffin (if you like fireplaces and Pabst Blue Ribbon) or Downtown Cocktail Room (if you like swanky furniture and cool vibes). Or plan ahead and hit all three.

On the Strip, consider Dick's Last Resort – a crazy, no-holds-barred bar at the Excalibur Hotel where the wait staff will make fun of you and things rarely get quiet.

Or for something really unique, there's Minus 5 in Mandalay Bay – a bar made from ice kept at, you guessed it, minus 5 degrees. You and your group will be issued boots and parkas to keep warm and with temperatures like that, you really do need them, man or not.

While we haven't mapped out every detail for you, we figure this is a pretty good start and if you read this far wondering if we'd recommend some gentlemen's clubs to you, well, you're in luck. Our favorites (yes, we can have favorite strip clubs) are Club Paradise, Badda Bing! and Sapphire. There. Don't say we never did anything for you.