

Vegas Right Now! Podcast by Shaunda Necole

Episode 2 - Why You Should Visit The Las Vegas Sphere

0:00

Las Vegas, often called the entertainment capital of the world, never fails to push the boundaries of extravagance and spectacle.

It's a city of First Formula One races on the Strip, a list celebrity shows and residencies the most casinos in one city.

0:19

And of course, the city is buzzing right now as we prepare for the biggest NFL game that happens every February, a first for Las Vegas and our new magnificent Allegiance Stadium.

More on that in another episode.

Though all of this is no surprise because Las Vegas is where the night comes alive with neon lights.

0:40

World class performances take the stage, and every visit promises excitement beyond your imagination.

And now, in the heart of this dazzling entertainment Oasis, an unprecedented marvel arises.

SPEAR Las Vegas promises to redefine not just Las Vegas entertainment, but the essence of how we experience it.

1:03

Hello, Vegas vacationers, Thanks for joining me today in the City That Never Sleeps for another episode of Vegas right now.

Remember, you can find today's travel tips and a link in the episode description or on VegasRightNow.com.

Today we're talking about SPEAR Las Vegas, one of the city's incredible new attractions.

1:25

Vegas is already world famous for its concert shows and exterior views, and why my husband doesn't believe that Spear is a full 360° Spear.

He swears it's flat at the bottom, but there's a lot of questions that you've asked to unpack and introduce you to Spear.

1:43

So let's not wait another minute.

We have a fabulous Vegas Right Now episode ready for you, so let's get to it.

Welcome to Vegas Right Now! I'm Shaunda Necole, a food and lifestyle Blogger, travel influencer, and author of the second volume of *100 Things to Do in Las Vegas Before You Die*.

Look for it in bookstores in 2025!

I'm the perfect balance of everything Las Vegas: food, fun, and the best travel life hacks that make you feel like you won the jackpot.

I created Vegas Right Now, my podcast and travel tips blog, to tell you all about my favorite city, *"the real Las Vegas"* tourists rarely get to know.

We proudly call it The Entertainment Capital of the World, and believe me, Las Vegas lives up to that name!

Tune in, as I unveil iconic casinos, secret hotels, world-class entertainment, shopping, stunning natural attractions, the most sought-after restaurants, and the most searched-for speakeasies.

2:50

Oh, and of course, why you should visit the Sphere. Because in Vegas, the luxury is unmatched, and there's so much to explore.

What is the Las Vegas Sphere?

Designed by world renowned Kansas City based architectural firm Populous Sphere Las Vegas is a 366 foot 66 foot tall and 516 foot wide spherical marvel strategically positioned just a half a mile east of the Las Vegas Strip.

3:20

With this impressive size and largest LED screen in the world, this giant black orb has captured the attention of many and pushed the boundaries of architecture, design and technology.

The exterior curve of the MSG sphere spans over 580,000 square feet, equivalent to 10 American football fields.

3:42

Wowza, enter my husband's favorite question.

Every time we drive by Sphere, I wonder why they didn't make it bigger.

Exit Dad joke for sure.

OK, so let's talk about Exosphere Las Vegas.

You probably have the same question many have not.

4:00

Why didn't they make it bigger?

But instead, what is the Exosphere and how does it work?

The exterior screen of The Sphere, aptly named the Exosphere, can be meticulously programmed to display virtually anything with astonishing clarity.

4:17

Its visibility extends for miles, making it the ultimate canvas for conveying messages, programming events, showcasing organizations, or marking special occasions.

In Las Vegas, In an exciting event commemorating the 4th of July in 2023, the city's largest landmark lit up brilliantly, proudly greeting everyone with the words Hello World.

4:43

Spear is not just a screen, though.

It's a grand billboard that commands attention and leaves a lasting impression.

Fear displays vary from an electrified image of Earth to a desolate moon, the Red Planet, Mars, an astronaut floating in space, a gigantic eyeball, a Formula One race car helmet, and a massive NBA Summer League basketball.

5:07

Other captivating shots that caught the attention of passing motorists were a huge Halloween Jack O Lantern, a little scary, a smiling emoji happy, a colorful fireworks display, and a rotating American flag.

These screens stretch in every direction as far as the eye can see, blurring the lines between the virtual and the real.

5:30

The images displayed on these screens are so lifelike that so many may argue they surpass reality itself, creating an experience that is nothing short of awe inspiring.

Hey, that's Las Vegas.

Now, who created the Las Vegas Sphere, a project of Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp MSG Entertainment, the vision behind the Sphere is simply is simple yet revolutionary to create an immersive entertainment experience that blurs the lines between the physical and digital worlds.

6:02

The visionary behind this technological wonder formerly called MSG Sphere Las Vegas is James Dolan, a successful sports entertainment entrepreneur and founder of the New York Knicks, New York Rangers, and Madison Square Garden.

100 Things to Do in Las Vegas Before You Die. A book by me, Shaunda Necole, will allow you to navigate with confidence as you explore the exuberant Vegas attractions, tours, and nightlife like you've been doing this for years!

Trust me, your Vegas insider, to transform your travel planning with an authenticity that only a local connoisseur can provide.

I'll unfold the Las Vegas experience with my savvy tips and insider knowledge so you can dive into the heart of the most famous desert metropolis.

Saver bites off the beaten path, then encounter hidden gems from hush-hush speakeasy-style restaurants and bars to unchartered outdoor adventures.

Vegas promises never to have a shortage of fun things to do.

And I've curated the best of the best just for you all for you to know before you go.

7:10

By way of my incredible book of must-see 100 things to do. The highly anticipated *100 Things to Do in Las Vegas Before You Die* by Shaunda Necole will be available on Amazon and in bookstores in Spring 2025.

7:28

Who owns the Las Vegas Fear?

You asked.

In 2022, The Venetian was purchased by Apollo Global Management as a new partner of MSG for the spear project.

This replaced Las Vegas Sands Corporation in the venture.

VC Properties bought the Venetian and the spear land upon the sales completion.

7:48

When did the MSG spear open?

Spear Las Vegas is officially open.

It lit up in July 2023 and opened its impressive venue doors in September of the same year.

Another Vegas attraction offering us an out of this world music and entertainment experience.

8:07

Who would have thought it should be possible?

But the spear made Las Vegas even brighter with a star-studded night marking a new era in entertainment as celebrities flocked to the Spears opening red carpet, a listers including the mayor of Las Vegas, Carolyn Goodman, LeBron James, Oprah Winfrey, Ava Duvernay, Paul McCartney, Jane Seymour, Mario Lopez and Flavor Flav showed up in Vegas to see this new mega attraction that sold out its first concert occupying its nearly 18,000 seats.

8:40

Fans described the build up for this one-of-a-kind and only one in the world concert experience as a childlike exhilaration with the need to try and slow down an exciting and fast-paced heartbeat, noting that Vegas does it again and Las Vegas is the town that never ceases to amaze now.

9:01

How tall is the Las Vegas sphere, you wonder?

Sphere's massive dimensions are truly impressive.

Measuring over 360 feet, high in height and spanning a width of 516 feet, the entertainment venue holds the distinction of being the largest spherical structure in the entire world.

9:21

We're purposely skipping over my husband's sentiments that it's flat at the bottom, though.

So what is the Las Vegas spear used for?

Spirit is an event arena, the first of its kind with its 18,000 seats.

It will focus on hosting award shows and music concerts with the next level of experience thanks to its cutting edge technology.

9:44

You can also expect sporting events including boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts, product launches, movies and corporate events.

You know all of the exciting live entertainment that Vegas offers.

The exterior LED screen of Spear will be used for advertisements, large scale announcements, and reflecting the big happenings in Sin City.

10:06

SPEAR Entertainment highly favors concert events because they are most likely designed to use all stage features, including Spear's immersive sound.

This ensures that the full potential of the SPEAR experience is unlocked, providing an unparalleled audio visual spectacle that is both immersive and completely unforgettable.

10:28

Now, where in Las Vegas is the sphere located?

SPEAR is on the Las Vegas skyline, just off the Vegas Strip to the east of the Venetian Expo and Convention Center, and South of the Wynne Golf Club.

Because it's closer to the North End of the Strip, SPEAR is conveniently located near several on Strip accommodations.

10:48

How many seats are in the theater?

Well, the seating capacity, as I mentioned of Spears MSG Theater is officially 17,500, but it can accommodate up to 20,000 people thanks to its massive additional space.

Now what other Las Vegas Spears can we expect?

11:06

Well, if you are lucky enough to visit SPEAR in the opening days, October 6th, 2023, it forever solidified as the beginning of the feature film Postcards from Postcard from Earth, a brand new SPEAR Las Vegas show.

This immersive experience created by Darren Aronofsky tells a multi sensory story.

11:25

Guests ages 6 and above are welcome to attend and you should witness incredible performances by the iconic band U2.

The first beer concert performers and residency continuing into the beginning of 2024, followed by the band Phish and their residency.

11:44

How many lights are on the Las Vegas Pier?

Wait for this Nothing beats seeing the Las Vegas spear lit up, and Spear is free to marvel at from many viewpoints around the Strip.

The spear's exterior, again also called Exosphere, is an impressive engineering feat.

12:00

Spanning over 580,000 square feet, it boasts the title of the largest LED screen on Earth and is adorned with over one million LED lights.

These lights can display an astonishing range of over 250 million colors, creating an unparalleled visual experience from outer space.

12:22

Worth repeating?

Yes, from outer space.

Now what hotels can you see this spear from?

Given its proximity to the Las Vegas Strip, visitors staying at hotels along the Strip may have views of spear.

What are the hotels where you can view Spears?

12:38

All inspiring.

Best views?

Well, they include the Venetian Resort, because this luxury resort is situated nearby.

Catwalks right to spear and offers spacious suites, a range of dining options, and easy access to the Las Vegas Strip.

The Venetian is the closest or has the closest views of spear.

12:57

Then there's the Palazzo connected to the Venetian and the Venetian sister property.

Palazzo offers upscale accommodations, dining and entertainment options with also unparalleled spear views.

There's also The Mirage, soon to be Hard Rock.

Located northwest of Spear, The Mirage is known for its iconic volcano and tropical themed atmosphere and also offer stunning spear views from a different angle.

13:23

And there's Wind Las Vegas located next to Palazzo.

You can get some of the most outstanding views of Spear and also encore at wind located next to Wind.

Aerial views of the spear are also amazing from this property.

Now you also ask what's the best way to get to Spear.

13:43

You can get there by car, meaning park in the Spear parking lot or park at the Venetian Hotel and walk through the pedestrian corridor bridge to Spear.

You could rideshare Uber or Lyft.

Rideshare services will drop you off at Spear's main entrance door.

There's also the Las Vegas Monorail you can get dropped off, get dropped off in minutes at the monorail station for Harrah's Hotel and the Link Hotel, and then walk to the Venetian and across its pedestrian corridor bridge to Spear.

14:10

Or you can just simply walk, Head to the Venetian and walk over through the pedestrian corridor.

Bridge to spear.

Now what about Spears parking prices?

The Spears website offered an opening weekend self parking discount at \$70.00.

If you're parking at the Howard Center parking lot after opening weekend, use Ticketmaster to purchase spear event parking tickets and they range from \$40 to \$100.00, with valet parking at \$125.

14:38

Or you could park at nearby hotels.

For example, the Venetian Hotel is 15 to \$23 for parking.

Locals get the first three hours free.

Yay us or hotels at Wynn Encore \$20.00 for the day after the four hours, first four hours free for locals.

And of course these project prices are always subject to change.

14:56

Like everything else in Las Vegas, change is going to be the constant here and a few know before you go.

Tips for inside Sphere Spear is in no bag facility, so only small bags 6 by 6 and no bigger are allowed.

And SPEAR is in no cash venue, meaning only credit and debit cards are accepted here.

15:16

And finally, after learning all of these details about the impressive spear size and out of this world capabilities, people always ask the famous question about the venue's pocketbook, it's bag or the dollar dollar bills.

Meaning how much did it cost to build the SPEAR?

15:33

Well, The Madison Square Garden Company initially estimated the spear project would cost around 1.2 billion.

That was in 2019 for that estimate.

However, in February 2020, the company announced that the cost had increased significantly to 1.66 billion due to the design changes that included guest enhancements.

15:52

The cost continued to rise and eventually surpassed 2 billion due to the global supply chain issues and crisis from 2021 to 2023 and the inflation surge of 2021 to 2022.

As a result of all that, the project is said to have cost a whopping 2.3 billion, and that's with AB making it the most expensive entertainment venue in Las Vegas history.

16:17

This cost by far exceeds the 1.9 billion price tag of Allegiant Stadium, which came in under budget at 1.9 billion.

By the way, Allegiance Stadium was previously the most expensive entertainment venue in Las Vegas before Spear.

Now, Spear is just another epic example of how Vegas continually embraces technology and finds innovative ways to grow and expand, constantly resetting the bar of what humans can do.

16:45

Spear Las Vegas received big praise during its opening weekend, with some describing the opening experience as being inside a giant TV screen.

In the words of Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman quote, we do everything.

We have the sports, the greatest entertainers and residency, and now this End Quote.

17:08

Did you enjoy today's conversation and travel tips?

Want to know more about things to do in Las Vegas and the best things to do in Las Vegas today?

17:28

Then you're in the right place for Vegas Right Now!

Take it from me, a Las Vegas local so you can know before you go and make the best use of your time on The Strip, because in Las Vegas the extraordinary is unmatched and there's so much more to explore.

17:45

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