Headline: Las Vegas museums entertain, educate guests

Deckhead: Galleries offer informative settings throughout the town

Extravagant resorts, massive casinos and lights bright enough to take down a power grid have symbolized Las Vegas for decades. But there’s much more to the City That Never Sleeps than the sounds of ringing slot machines and decadent neon signs.

Las Vegas is home to museums. They’re educational and comical, unique and irresistible, and an ideal way to avoid the afternoon heat and avoid the gaming tables.

The galleries carry outrageous themes that range from pinball machines to monsters. There’s a children’s museum; a haunted one, too. And who could imagine a Las Vegas that didn’t pay homage to the King of Rock and Roll?

The King’s Ransom Museum can be found on Fremont Street at Binion’s Gambling Hall & Hotel. A variety of Elvis’ cherished possessions are on display, making it one of the biggest exclusive accumulations of his treasures outside Graceland.

Those interested in the history of the U.S.’s most ruthless gangsters should visit the Mob Museum. It chronicles the connection between the mafia and law authorization by presenting shows and antiques. There’s even a Wall of Shame that highlights a legendary group of criminals.

Sail back in time at the Titanic The Artifact Exhibition Las Vegas. A 17-display exhibition hall brims with curios and diversions of the Titanic, a cruise ship that sank in the Atlantic Ocean more than a century ago. The museum includes shows, ancient pieces and reproductions of ships areas like the Grand Staircase, a first-class cabin, the Verandah Café and the boilers. Unfortunately, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet will not be available to sign autographs.

The Pinball Hall of Fame is comprised of … well … pinball machines. More than 2,000 of them in working condition are available to be played to avoid going “full tilt” at the Texas Hold’em table.

The Ground Zero theater is the primary attraction at the National Atomic Testing Museum. The hall takes guests through the historical backdrop of nuclear testing in Nevada from 1951 to present day. The theater allows guests to encounter a reenacted bomb test, strolling them through the course of events from the bomb’s creation to showing them how to survive a nuclear blast.

Discovery Children’s Museum is considered one of the best galleries in Las Vegas. It offers a range of exhibits and programs to encourage kids from all backgrounds to participate in exciting and engaging experiences.

Signs that once lit of the town are on display at Neon Museum and Boneyard. It houses the greatest exhibit of neon signage in the nation. Stroll through the Neon Boneyard in the evening to encounter Las Vegas’ most famous signs.

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum focuses on dinosaurs and marine life. Guests also can experience an Egyptian demonstration, focusing on the life of Tutankhamun – aka King Tut.

Antagonistic spirits are rumored to be wandering through Zak Bagans’ the Haunted Museum. Hoover Dam Museum chronicles its massive construction; taste the finest chocolates at Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Gardens; REAL BODIES at Ballys is mind-boggling; and Tom Devlin’s Monster Museum is a terrifying screen-used prop from films.

Museums are as much a part of Las Vegas as gaming tables, with an obvious difference: visitors can find entertainment without losing their shirts.

Cutline: LIGHT ME UP – The Neon Boneyard Museum is home to many of the former signs that once lit up Las Vegas. Image: jovannig. Adobe Stock.