


Luxor Las Vegas

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Address	3900 Las Vegas Blvd South. Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
Opening date	October 13, 1993
Theme	Thebes
No. of rooms	4,407
Total gaming space	120000 sq ft (unknown operator: u'strong' m ²)
Permanent shows	<i>Carrot Top</i> <i>Fantasy</i> <i>Criss Angel Believe</i> <i>Menopause the Musical</i>
Signature attractions	LAX Nightclub Cathouse Ultra Lounge Noir Bar <i>Atrium Level</i> Aurora Liquidity Flight High Bar Play Bar Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition Bodies...The Exhibition
Casino type	Land-Resort
Owner	<i>MGM</i>
Years renovated	1998, 2007, 2008, 2009
Coordinates	36°5'43.67"N 115°10'32.94"W
Website	www.luxor.com ^[1]

Luxor Las Vegas is a hotel and casino located on the Las Vegas Strip in Paradise, Nevada. The 30-story hotel, which is operated by MGM Resorts International, features a **unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',** (unknown operator: **u'strong'unknown operator: u',m²**) casino floor that includes over 2,000 slot machines and 87 table games.^{[2][3][4]}



View of the pyramid

In the 2008 to 2009 renovation, it has a new, highly modernized and contemporary design and contains a total of 4,400 rooms, including 442 suites, lining the interior walls of a pyramid style tower and within twin 22-story ziggurat towers that were built as later additions.^{[2][4][5][6]}

The hotel is named after the city of Luxor (ancient Thebes) in Egypt.^[7] Luxor is the second largest hotel in Las Vegas (the largest being the MGM Grand Las Vegas) and the third largest in the world.^[8] As of 2010, the Luxor has a 4 Key rating from the Green Key Eco-Rating Program, which evaluates "sustainable" hotel operations.^[9]

Facilities and attractions

Luxor Las Vegas includes **unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',** (unknown operator: **u'strong'unknown operator: u',m²**) of convention space, four swimming pools and whirlpools, a wedding chapel, Nurture Spa and Salon and 29 retail stores.^{[8][10][11][12][13]} Luxor is also connected to the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino through The Shoppes at Mandalay Place, a 310-foot (**unknown operator: u'strong' m**)- long retail sky bridge with retailers such as Urban Outfitters, minus5° Ice Lounge & Lodge and a Nike Golf store.^{[14][14]}

The Luxor is home to four shows which consist of "Criss Angel - Believe", "Fantasy" (a topless revue), comedian Carrot Top, and "Menopause the Musical".^[15] Luxor's most recent live show is "Criss Angel - Believe", a collaboration between illusionist Criss Angel and Cirque du Soleil that began in Halloween of 2008.^[16] The hotel also hosts "Bodies...The Exhibition," an educational display on the human body, and "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition".^{[17][18]} From 2000 to 2005, the Luxor Theatre was the home of the performance-art show Blue Man Group, which has since moved to The Venetian.^[19]

On August, 31 2007, LAX Nightclub officially opened at a party hosted by Britney Spears.^[20] A number of other celebrities, including Christina Aguilera, have also hosted events at the club.^[21] The two-level, **unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',unknown operator: u',** (unknown operator: **u'strong'unknown operator: u',m²**) venue contains 78 VIP tables and Noir Bar, which according to the Las Vegas Review Journal is an "ultra-elite bar" that is a reservations-only establishment.^[20] Additional nightlife destinations within Luxor include CatHouse, Aurora, Liquidity, Flight, High Bar and Play Bar.^{[22][23]}

Restaurants within the hotel consist of TENDER steak & seafood, T&T, Pyramid Café, MORE The Buffet, Rice and CO and the Backstage Deli. There is also a Food Court on the Atrium level which contains a Quiznos, McDonald's, Nathan's Famous, Little Caesars Pizza, Swensen's Ice Cream, and Starbucks Coffee.^{[22][24][25]} Since July 21 a new Asian-Fusion restaurant has been opened in the Luxor called "Rice and Company" serving Chinese and Japanese dishes and including a Sushi Bar.

Design

Designed by hotel architect Veldon Simpson and interior designer Charles Silverman,^[26] the Luxor has received recognition as being among the most recognizable hotels on the strip because of its unique design. The main portion of the hotel is a 365-foot (**unknown operator: u'strong' m**)-high, 30-story pyramid encased in 11 acres of dark bronze glass.^{[6][27][28]} The guest rooms are situated on the outer walls of the pyramid and are reached by riding in "inclinators" that travel along the inner surface of the pyramid at a 39-degree angle. The hotel also features a 29 million cubic feet (820,000 m³) atrium, which was the largest open atrium in the world when it was built in 1993.^{[6][29]} The hotel is marked by a 140-foot (**unknown operator: u'strong' m**)-high obelisk and a 110-foot

(**unknown operator: u'strong'** m)-tall re-creation of the Great Sphinx of Giza.^[30] The tip of the pyramid contains a fixed-position spotlight that points directly upward and is claimed to be the brightest beam in the world at over 42.3 billion candle power.^[31]

Beam

At 42.3 billion candlepower, the Luxor Sky Beam is the strongest beam of light in the world. Using computer designed, curved mirrors to collect the light from 39 Xenon lamps and focus them into one intense, narrow beam, engineers say that a person could read a newspaper by Luxor's Sky Beam from ten miles up. On a clear night, the Sky Beam is visible up to 250 miles away to an airplane at cruising altitude, and is clearly visible from Outer Space.

Location

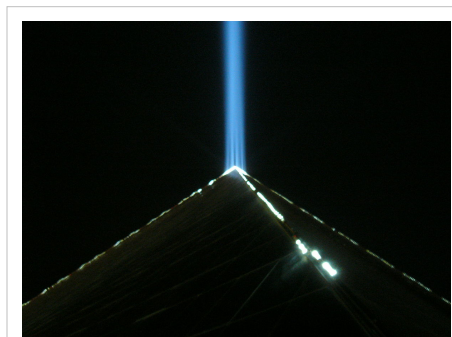
Luxor is located on the southern end of the Las Vegas Strip.^[32] The resort is flanked by the Mandalay Bay to the south and by the Excalibur to the north; all three are connected by free express and local trams.^[33] All three properties were built by Circus Circus Enterprises, which in 1999 became Mandalay Resort Group.^{[34][35]}

History

Ground was broken for the Luxor in 1992 and officially opened eighteen months later at 4 A.M on October 15, 1993 to a crowd of 10,000 people.^{[29][36][37]} When it opened, the pyramid, which cost \$375 million to build, was the tallest building on the strip and contained 2,526 rooms and a **unknown operator: u','unknown operator: u','unknown operator: u',' (unknown operator: u'strong'unknown operator: u','m²)** casino.^{[5][28][38]} The resort was financed by "petty cash" earned from other Circus Circus Enterprises properties and did not include any outside financial investors.^[29]

A theater and two additional hotel towers totaling 2,000 rooms were added in 1998 for \$675 million.^[5] When the resort opened, it featured the Nile River Tour which was a river ride that carried guests to different parts of the pyramid and passed by pieces of ancient artwork on a river that encircled the casino.^[39] The casino also featured King Tut's Tomb and Museum, a duplicate of King Tutankhamen's tomb as found in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor, Egypt.^[29] In July 2007, owner MGM Resorts International announced plans to thoroughly renovate the Luxor, spending \$300 million to remodel 80 percent of Luxor's public areas, removing much of the ancient Egyptian theme and replacing it with more adult-oriented and modern lounges, restaurants and clubs.^[40]

On May 7, 2007, a vehicle exploded in a Luxor Hotel parking garage due to a homemade bomb which left one dead.^[41] Local authorities believe the victim, a 24-year-old employee at Nathan's Famous hot dog restaurant in the Luxor food court, was the intended target. The hotel was not evacuated, operations continued uninterrupted and the parking structure as well as the casino were undamaged.^{[42][43]}



The light of the Luxor

Usage in popular culture

This destination hotel is often viewed as a prime example of 1990s Postmodern architecture, and appeared on the cover of architecture scholar James Steele's book *Architecture Today*.^[44] Since opening in 1993, the hotel has appeared in numerous films including the 1996 film *Mars Attacks*^[45] and can be seen in the destroyed Vegas in *2012*.^[46]

In *Up in the Air*, George Clooney's character, Ryan Bingham, is asked to take a picture in front of the Luxor hotel.^[47] The hotel has also been featured in the television shows *Fear Factor*, *Criss Angel Mindfreak*, *Great Hotels*, and *CSI*.^{[45][48]} A replica of the Luxor, named "The Camel's Toe", appeared in the Las Venturas area of the video game *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.^[49]

The Luxor Lightbeam appears in many images of Las Vegas, from films to Computer Games. This is the case even if the Pyramid cannot be seen (such as in Hoyle's Casino by Sierra)

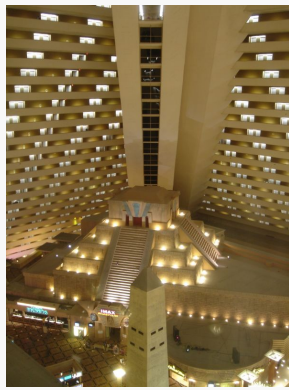
Gallery



View from McCarran International Airport



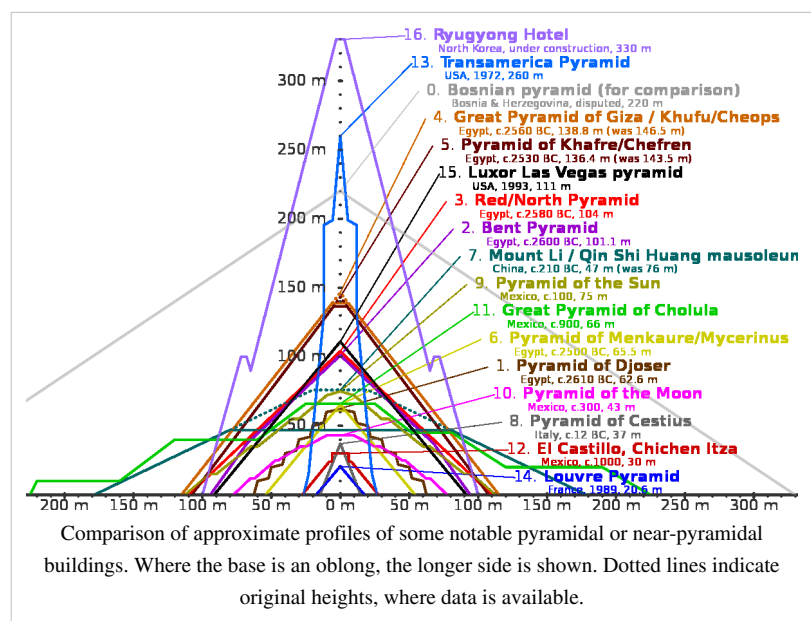
Great Sphinx of Giza and the Luxor Sky Beam, exterior view



Lobby interior

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External links

- Luxor Hotel website (<http://www.luxor.com>)
- Aerial image (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=36.095710,-115.175707&spn=0.004603,0.007060&t=k&hl=en>)

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