

FYI Travel: Sunday afternoons are the time to party poolside at Vegas' Hard Rock

by Tom_Roebuck

Saturday nights in Las Vegas usually last long into Sunday morning. That's certainly the case at the Hard Rock Hotel, which hosts a decadent pool party every Sunday afternoon that draws hordes of barely clad hotties.

BEATING THE HEAT - A waterfall flows onto the canal that connects the two pools at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas. CNS Photo by Tom Roebuck. **SUNDAY SERVICES** - The Rehab is one of the hottest parties in Las Vegas, held every Sunday in the pool area at the Hard Rock. Good luck getting in. CNS Photo by Tom Roebuck. The Rehab began in 2004 and has gotten bigger every year. Beginning at noon, disc jockeys rock the pool deck through speaker stacks located around every corner, laying down techno beats that keep things moving throughout the day. This being Vegas, the drinks flow, not only from the main pool bar, but at satellite bars set up all over the Hard Rock's massive pool area. This being the Hard Rock, everything is mega-expensive: well drinks cost \$17.

Just as with any red-hot nightclub, just getting in can take some time, especially if you're not staying in the hotel. Lines for wristbands snake around the casino area, but after your wrist has been banded you can come and go as you please.

Once you get in you can see why you waited. Bikinis and buff bodies are spread out as far as you can see, and it's immediately obvious that dancers at local clubs have made The Rehab their Sunday siesta. While the summer heat in Vegas soars, you can seek shade in the main bar area or the small casino with blackjack and craps. Another popular way to cool off is to slowly make your way through the twisting, waist-high canal that connects the two large pools, or play blackjack at the swim-up tables, shaded from the searing sun.

FYI: The Rehab at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino happens every Sunday from noon until 9 until Sept. 30. Admission is \$30 for men, \$30 for women, \$15 for women with a Las Vegas address, free for hotel guests. Private cabanas are available. For more information call 702-693-5555 or visit www.rehablv.com.

GO UNDERWATER, STAY DRY

Want to explore the Florida Keys' underwater ecosystem without getting wet? Then take a cruise on the Sirena, an air-conditioned, 40-passenger submarine that offers an intimate undersea view of the living coral reef that parallels the keys and the creatures that inhabit it. According to operators Key West Submarines, the 64-foot-long Sirena is the only fully submersible excursion submarine in the continental United States.

Passengers begin their adventure at the Westin Key West Marina, 273 Front St., where they board a Key West Submarines catamaran for their journey out to the Sirena. Upon arrival, they'll transfer to the sub and prepare for the dive.

While ocean currents and conditions determine the location and depth of the dive, most excursions descend to a depth of around 100 feet. Passengers can view the ocean realm through the Sirena's 30-inch diameter portholes, catching sight of vividly colored tropical fish and other creatures, a wide variety of corals and even a shipwreck.

When the submarine resurfaces, they reboard the catamaran for the journey back to Key West. The entire trip lasts approximately two hours - including 35 minutes of bottom time.

FYI: Rates are \$95 per passengers 13 and up, and \$75 for children 4 to 12. For more information, visit www.keywestsub.com or call 305-295-3483.

CHINESE CHECK-IN

The Millennium Hongqiao Shanghai is offering the three essential B's, namely bed, breakfast and broadband Internet access via its Triple B package. It includes Superior Room accommodations, complimentary buffet breakfast and broadband Internet access. The package starts at \$180 per night, does not include a 15 percent

surcharge and is valid through Dec. 31.

Guests will also enjoy the convenience of Web check-in at the Millennium Hongqiao, the first hotel in China to offer this speedy registration process. The Web check-in process is available three days from the date of arrival. The hotel is a 10-minute drive from the city's domestic Hongqiao Airport and a 40-minute drive from the Pudong International Airport. All guest rooms and suites are spacious with a long bathtub and separate shower, and flat-screen TVs.

FYI: For more information call 866-866-8086 or visit www.millenniumhotels.com.

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