

# CASINO CAMPING

*Guide to RV-Friendly Casinos*

by Jane Kenny

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*Note for RVers:* While traveling always be aware of your surroundings and practice safe RVing habits. Neither the author nor the publisher can be responsible for any mishaps you may experience. Be safe and enjoy your travels.

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**For Jack: my pilot and my best friend**

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# Introduction

Today, more than ever, the good news for RV gaming aficionados is: you don't have to trek all the way to Las Vegas or Atlantic City for your gaming fun. Casinos are all over the country and this book locates them for you. Gaming is growing rapidly in the U.S. and our casino guide reflects many changes taking place in the 32 states listed.

## A Guide To RV-Friendly Casinos

*Casino Camping* is primarily a guide for the many Americans who travel the country in recreational vehicles. Consequently, while the book includes details on *most* casinos in the country, some casinos are not listed because they are not accessible for recreational vehicles.

Quite a few casino resorts have full service RV Parks or are planning to add them to their facility. Those that don't have RV Parks usually allow free overnight parking; some even have electric hookups for RVs in the parking lot. Shuttle service between the parking area and the casino is available at most large casinos.

Traveling players like to plan their trips to include a night or two of gaming while en route. Others will spend more time at a casino location if it has full service accommodations plus other attractions and recreation in the area. Most RV Parks at casino resorts are new and modern. Guests not only get to camp out next to the casino, but they can often enjoy other luxury amenities throughout the resort – pool/spa, sauna, fitness center, golf course, etc. Many casinos currently have an RV Park in their plans for future expansion because market studies have indicated that gaming destination resorts are becoming as popular as fishing destinations for retirees in RVs.

Casino RV Parks are also popular destinations for RV club rallies. A chart for each state lists casinos that have RV Parks as part of their facility.





## How This Guide Is Organized

Following introductory articles, this book is organized alphabetically by state. A map at the beginning of each state section identifies casino locations by city. Individual listings are cross-referenced to the map by city name. Each casino listing includes the following information where applicable:

- Name, address, phone numbers and web address,
- On site hotel or motel
- Amenities (pool, fitness room, business center, etc).
- RV Park or campground and last year’s rates,
- Restaurants on site,
- Entertainment,
- Golf course,
- Discounts generally offered at the casino resort,
- Casino description (slots, table games, etc.),
- Driving directions,
- Parking information for RVers.

A chart (see sample below) follows each state map and provides information about each casino including:

- 1) City in which the casino is located
- 2) Name of casino
- 3) Availability of RV park
- 4) Availability of RV spaces in parking lot with electric hookups
- 5) Whether a casino is within 2 miles of an interstate exit
- 6) The page number for detailed information about the casino

City <b>1</b>	Casino <b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 
Camp Verde	Cliff Castle Casino	✓		✓	15
Chandler	Gila River Casinos			✓	16
Fountain Hills	Fort McDowell Casino	✓			17
Maricopa	Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino				17

## **A Word About Nevada and New Jersey**

*Nevada* remains the casino capital of America with literally thousands of gaming sites throughout the state. And Nevada always has the welcome mat out for RVs. The Nevada section of this guide has details that will be of interest and value to everyone planning a trip to that state.

*New Jersey's* casinos are all located in Atlantic City, but there are no RV Parks at any of the Atlantic City casinos. Furthermore, overnight RV parking is prohibited anywhere in the city (including casino parking lots) by local ordinance. The New Jersey section of this book features a description of the casino areas in Atlantic City for RVers who may want to go in for a “casino-hopping” day trip and for gaming enthusiasts planning an Atlantic City vacation.

### **Other Popular Gaming Destinations**

Other popular “casino hopping” destinations appear in the following state sections:

- Colorado – Black Hawk/Central City; Cripple Creek
- Connecticut – Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun
- Mississippi – Tunica County; the Gulf Coast
- Nevada – Las Vegas, Laughlin and Reno
- South Dakota – Deadwood

We hope you will find the fifth edition of this guide helpful and informative as you travel this beautiful land. Wishing you safe and happy travels.



# What's The Difference Between Gaming and Gambling?

Don't go to a casino expecting to win big. Don't expect to make a killing at the table or hit the big jackpot on the slots. Sure it happens, but not for the overwhelming majority of players.

Lots of how-to articles and books have been written about winning at casinos – on topics such as How To Win At Poker, Blackjack Strategies, Winning At Slots, How To Beat The Odds, etc, etc. Advice from professional gamblers may have some merit for other professionals, but this book is designed for casual or recreational casino players.

The average recreational player is by no means a professional gambler. For a casual player, going to the casino should not be about winning or losing...it should be about playing games as a form of entertainment. In this regard we see a difference between gaming and gambling.

As we all learned from the time we first played Monopoly or little league baseball, every game has a winner and a loser. Those who play only to win – and expect to win every time they play – are unrealistic. They put themselves under a lot of stress and take all the fun out of playing games.

Our winning strategy for playing games at the casino is to set limits on money and time and then relax and have fun.

- 1) Set a dollar limit and stick to it.** The amount you set – your bankroll – becomes your personal “price of admission” to the casino for that gaming session. If you use up the budgeted bankroll before the end of the session (length of session explained below), stop playing! Come back for another session in a few hours, a few days, weeks, or months – whatever is your style. It is a big mistake to pump more money into an already losing session.
- 2) Set a time limit for the gaming session and stick to it.** Always remember that, no matter what game you play, the odds are in the

casino's favor. Longer sessions increase the casino's odds even more. By playing shorter sessions you'll probably keep part or all of your original bankroll longer. If you are winning when your time limit is up, be disciplined enough to end the session as a winner. You still have the original bankroll and won't need to pay your personal pre-set price of admission the next time you come to the casino.

- 3) **Never ever set your bankroll at more than you can afford to lose!** This simple bit of advice will keep you in the arena of recreational gaming. Keep in mind the odds are always in the casino's favor. Be sensible.
  
- 4) **Relax and have fun.** Once you've established the mindset of gaming as entertainment, you can go ahead and have fun at it, knowing you are disciplined enough to spend no more than the specified amount at no longer than the specified time period. Nowadays casinos offer more fun than ever. Slot machines have moved far beyond the boring reels of endless cherries and bars to interactive and entertaining electronic slots. There are machines that replicate popular TV game shows, machines that talk back to you and games that beguile the player with lively, imaginative graphics. And there are machines to accommodate every budget – pennies, nickels, quarters, dollars and even \$10, \$50 and \$100 slots at some locations. Table game fans, too, have more variety. Today there's a wider range of games and, in many places, low minimums for the novice player.

Table players can benefit most from the “specific bankroll and session time” strategy. Disciplined players can relax and enjoy the camaraderie and games at the tables. And, by applying the strategy outlined above, they're more apt to leave a winner.

What does it mean to leave as a winner? A player who leaves with all or part of his bankroll in his pocket is a winner! Players who have the good common sense to leave when they are even or slightly ahead are winners. Be a winner!

# For Some, Gambling Is Not An Option

Problem gamblers tell us that winning is easy...leaving is hard. If you can identify with this, read on.

For the large majority of people gambling is fun – it's not a problem. But for some it can become a problem that interferes with their life and literally takes over. If casino gambling is a form of entertainment for you, then you also need to be aware that there is a progressive illness called compulsive gambling.

Gamblers generally fall into three categories:

1. The casual or occasional gambler for whom casino gaming is a form of entertainment.
2. Professional gamblers who have a studied approach to games with an element of skill so that they have an advantage. Their motivation is economic gain. The professional gambler gambles to live; a compulsive gambler lives to gamble.
3. Problem and compulsive gamblers. The problem gambler cannot resist impulses to gamble and is on the way to becoming a compulsive (pathological) gambler. A person is a compulsive gambler if the gambling behavior takes over to the point where it disrupts and damages his or her personal and professional life. That person should seek help.

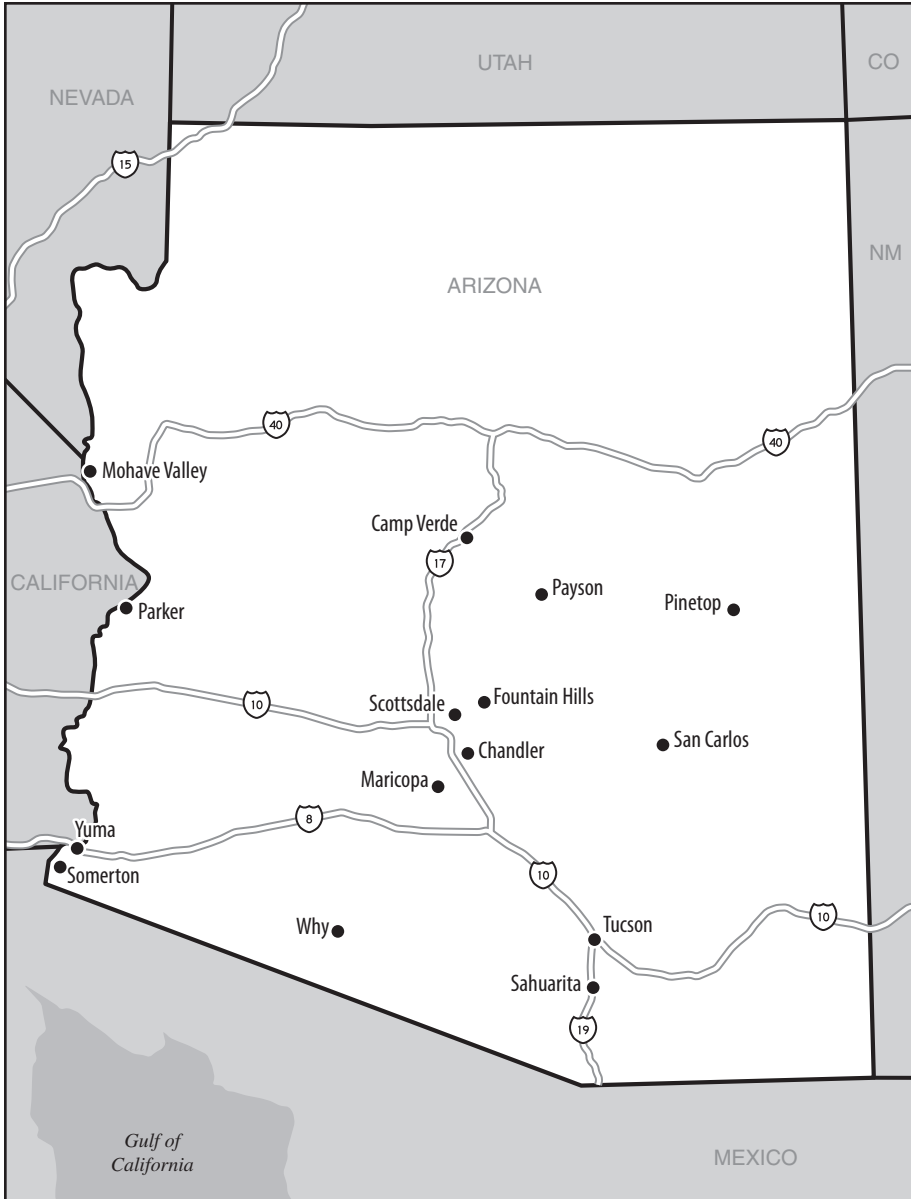
Gamblers Anonymous is an organization of compulsive gamblers who seek recovery from the illness. GA lists the following 20 questions and notes that if you answer yes to at least seven of them, you may be a problem gambler:





1. Do you lose time from work due to gambling?
2. Does gambling make your home life unhappy?

3. Does gambling affect your reputation?
4. Do you ever feel remorse after gambling?
5. Do you ever gamble to get money to pay debts or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
6. Does gambling cause a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
7. After losing do you feel you must return as soon as possible to win back your losses?
8. After a win do you have a strong urge to return and win more?
9. Do you often gamble until your last dollar is gone?
10. Do you ever borrow to finance your gambling?
11. Do you ever sell anything to finance your gambling?
12. Are you reluctant to use your gambling money for other expenses?
13. Does gambling make you careless about the welfare of your family?
14. Do you ever gamble longer than you planned?
15. Do you ever gamble to escape worry or trouble?
16. Do you ever commit or consider committing an illegal act to finance your gambling?
17. Does gambling cause you to have difficulty sleeping?
18. Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
19. Do you have an urge to celebrate good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
20. Do you ever consider self-destruction as a result of your gambling?

Compulsive gambling is a diagnosable and treatable illness. It can be as debilitating as drug or alcohol addiction. A 24-hour help line is available at 1-800-522-4700.

# Arizona



City	Casino				
Camp Verde	Cliff Castle Casino	✓		✓	15
Chandler	Gila River Casinos			✓	16
Fountain Hills	Fort McDowell Casino	✓			17
Maricopa	Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino				17
Mohave Valley	Spirit Mountain Casino	✓			18
Parker	Blue Water Casino				18
Payson	Mazatal Casino				19
Pinetop	Hon-Dah Casino	✓			19
Sahuarita	Desert Diamond			✓	20
San Carlos	Apache Gold Casino	✓			20
Scottsdale	Casino Arizona				21
Somerton	Cocopah Casino				21
Tucson	Casino Del Sol				22
Tucson	Casino of the Sun				22
Tucson	Desert Diamond			✓	22
Why	Golden Ha: San Casino				23
Yuma	Paradise Casino			✓	23

## ARIZONA

Native American Tribes operate all the casinos in the state. Gaming compacts were first negotiated with Arizona's tribes in 1993 allowing them to offer slot machines in casinos on tribal lands. Later the compacts were amended to include table games.

### CAMP VERDE

#### Cliff Castle Casino, Lodge & RV Park

555 Middle Verde Road

Camp Verde, Arizona 86322

928-567-7900 • 800-381-SLOT

928-554-8000 or 877-577-5507 (RV Park)

[www.cliffcastlecasino.net](http://www.cliffcastlecasino.net)

**DESCRIPTION:** Located 50 miles south of Flagstaff, Cliff Castle includes a casino, lodge and RV Park. The 24-hour casino features 570 slots, 10 gaming tables, poker room and four restaurants. The lodge has 84 rooms. Distant Drums RV Park, with 150 modern full-hookup sites, is located on the west side of the interstate. Amenities include a pavilion and swimming pool/spa. Last year's rates were \$33-\$39. Shuttle service is provided to the casino. Outdoor concerts are held in the Stargazer Pavilion. **DISCOUNTS:** Good Sam, FMCA, AARP and AAA discounts are honored. **DIRECTIONS & PARKING:** From I-17 exit 289, the casino is east of the interstate (follow signs). RV parking in the lower lot is free and overnight parking is permitted for self-contained units. On-call shuttle service is provided.

## CHANDLER

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### Gila River Casinos

*1200 South 56th Street (Lone Butte Chandler)*  
*5512 West Wild Horse Pass (Wild Horse Chandler)*  
*Chandler, Arizona 85226*  
*520-796-7777 • 800-WIN-GILA*  
*www.wingilariver.com*

**DESCRIPTION:** Two separate casino buildings are both located adjacent to I-10 at exit 162. Wild Horse Casino Resort is west of the interstate and has 1,000 slots, 71 gaming tables, poker room, bingo, keno, non-smoking section, buffet restaurant, two delis and gift shop. Live entertainment is featured in the casino. The resort includes a hotel and spa. The Lone Butte casino is on the east side of the interstate and can be seen from the highway. **DIRECTIONS & PARKING:** From I-10, exit 162: *To Wild Horse* go west and follow signs. Follow signs to the parking lot designated for RVs. *To Lone Butte:* go east, then north on 54th St. Free overnight RV parking is available at both locations. The casino requests that Security be notified if you plan to stay overnight. Please observe a four-day stay limit.