



The Las Vegas Tourist Guides Guild

Takeaways – Atomic Vegas

Know that the first atomic test at the Nevada Proving Ground (later renamed the Nevada Test Site) was on January 27, 1951. It was codenamed "Able."

<http://www.ctbto.org/specials/testing-times/27-january-1951-the-first-nuclear-test-at-the-nevada-test-site/>

At 1,375 sq. miles, the Nevada Test Site is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Know what Camp Mercury is and when it was established.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury,_Nevada

The approximate distance of the Test Site from Las Vegas is 70 miles.

The total number of nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site was 928.

After WWII, the "Cold War" began; it was primarily a nuclear standoff between the United States and Russia where both sides stockpiled and tested nuclear arsenals in order to deter aggression from the other side. The Cold War ended in 1990 with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Atomic Testing Museum is affiliated with Smithsonian Institution.

Underground atomic tests began after the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 by the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union. The Test Ban Treaty was motivated by concern about worldwide fallout levels caused by above ground and underwater nuclear tests.

Underground atomic tests continued at the Nevada Test Site until 1992.

Know some anecdotes about Las Vegas' response to the nuclear tests:

- There was initial concern that the tests would hurt tourism, but the tests had an opposite effect and actually motivated tourism.
- Las Vegas used the tests and images of the tests in marketing, including postcards, viewing parties, names of bars, drinks, concert albums, and more. There was even a beauty contest for "Miss Atomic Bomb."
<http://conelrad.com/newswire.php?id=P249>
- Viewing parties were held in various locations including the Desert Inn and the top of downtown's Fremont Hotel tower.