

howard hughes the las vegas years john harris sheridan

Howard Hughes: The Las Vegas Years - John Harris Sheridan

Howard Hughes, a name synonymous with eccentricity and innovation, spent a significant portion of his later life in Las Vegas, Nevada, where his influence transformed the city into a glamorous hub of entertainment and business. The narrative of Hughes during these years is not just a tale of wealth and power; it is a complex story of a man grappling with profound personal demons and a shifting landscape of American culture. John Harris Sheridan's work provides a compelling lens through which to explore these transformative years.

The Arrival of Howard Hughes in Las Vegas

Howard Hughes arrived in Las Vegas in the mid-1960s, seeking refuge from the media scrutiny and pressures of Hollywood. His arrival marked the beginning of what would become a pivotal chapter in his life, as well as in the history of Las Vegas.

The Initial Years: Seclusion and Acquisition

- **Escape from Public Life:** Hughes' decision to move to Las Vegas was partly motivated by his desire to escape the prying eyes of the media. The city's isolation provided him with a buffer from the outside world.
- **Acquisition of Properties:** Hughes began acquiring properties, including hotels and casinos. His purchase of the Desert Inn in 1966 marked the beginning of a series of investments that would solidify his presence in the city.
- **Business Strategy:** Hughes employed a shrewd business strategy, focusing on properties that had potential for growth. He invested heavily in the casino industry, which was rapidly expanding during this period.

The Impact on Las Vegas

Hughes' influence on Las Vegas was profound and multifaceted:

1. **Economic Growth:** His investments brought significant economic growth to the region, creating jobs and attracting more visitors.
2. **Reputation Shift:** Hughes helped shift the perception of Las Vegas from a mere gambling haven to a

legitimate entertainment capital.

3. Development of the Strip: His vision for the Las Vegas Strip involved luxurious hotels and resorts, setting new standards for hospitality in the area.

The Eccentric Lifestyle of Howard Hughes

As Hughes settled into his new life in Las Vegas, his eccentricities became more pronounced. The reclusive billionaire developed a lifestyle that was both fascinating and alarming.