

13 WEEKS

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First Impression Last

Your contract is signed, paperwork complete, you're packed and ready to hit the road. You know how to get to your new apartment and where to park on the first day of orientation. With the initial stress of preparation abating, new questions begin to occupy your mind: What will the facility be like? Will the staff be friendly?

Table of Contents

First Impression Last.....	1
Follow Us	1
On Assignment	2
Vegas Fun Facts	3
Vegas Travel Hospital	3
Bytes and Pieces	4
Hot Jobs	4
And the Award Goes To...	4

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The Reality

More hospitals are using travelers. Like it or not, the permanent staff's tolerance toward travelers varies dramatically among facilities. As a company eager to work only with traveler-friendly hospitals, we've found the attitude of incoming travelers can make a vast difference between being accepted with open arms or distained and shunned. Here are some tips to ensure that your travel experiences will only spark fond memories and leave lasting impressions:

Gain Respect Before Making Judgments

Yes, you're an experienced nurse and yes, you've been chosen to come into the facility because of this expertise, but making quick suggestions for change may invite some bitterness. Even with good intentions, your early suggestions may make you appear bossy or arrogant. Your initial goal should be to build mutual respect. Sure, there's a good chance some procedures could be improved at the facility. Your experience gives you a unique perspective on what has worked at other hospitals under similar circumstances. But to emerge as a person who can effect change, you first need to gain respect and demonstrate that you want to be a part of the team. A sure-fire way to get respect is to give it. Give it by listening, not blurting out quick criticisms. Give it by helping out; Ask where you can provide extra assistance and follow through. By making a sincere effort to get in sync with the rhythms of the staff and empathizing with their needs and concerns, you'll be well on your way to gaining that respect.

Practice Good People Skills

Call me telepathic, but everyone (yes, even me) has a sign above their head that says, "Make Me Feel Important". Displaying genuine interest in other people will ensure they feel important. People will love you for this; everyone wants to feel valued. Smiling is key as it makes you appear more approachable.

Staying out of hospital gossip elevates you to the professional level you've been hired for. Leave your ego at the door (or better yet at home in another state).



This helps open the doors of communication. No one is perfect; if you make a mistake, don't know an answer, or haven't performed the procedure, admit it.

You'll earn more respect which you are certain to lose if you don't. Complaining will do nothing to help build rapport with the permanent staff. Stay positive and focused on providing excellent patient care. Remember, as a traveler you are being paid very well to do a little extra, whether it's working the undesirable shifts or on some of the tougher units at the hospital. It's all part of the package.

Ask the Right Questions

Ok, you've taken the time to build a good rapport and have listened emphatically. There are some changes you feel could be made at the facility that could really make a difference. Using "Would it make sense" or "I wonder" questions as a way to introduce your suggestions ensures they will be heard more favorably. The hospital has invested time and effort in establishing its procedures so there may be good reason not to change them.

Bottom Line: Be Professional

As a traveler you're a guest, with privileges. You are a temporary employee working with permanent employees who intend to be there long after you're gone. Follow their rules, value their point of view, and give them the respect you want from them. By quickly exhibiting the highest standards of quality, proficiency and cooperation you will be ensured a rewarding experience and the facility will be ensured the professional clinician they've hired for assistance.

By Brad Garrett

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On Assignment In...

Las Vegas, Nevada



Internationally renowned as a major resort city for gambling, shopping, fine dining and entertainment, Las Vegas is the most populous city in the state of Nevada.

Vegas bills itself as The Entertainment Capital of the World and currently houses 1,701 licensed gambling places.

Established in 1905 by Mormons, Las Vegas officially became a city in 1911. The name *Las Vegas* translates to "The Meadows" and was dubbed such by Spaniards who discovered the area in 1829. It was originally a water place for travelers on their way to southern California.

The area began to grow in the early 1900's with the arrival of the railroad but did not take off until shortly after the great depression when the state legalized gambling in an effort to lift the economic state.

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The City's tolerance for various forms of adult entertainment earned it the title of Sin City. Ironically, Las Vegas also has the highest number of churches per capita of any major U.S. city. As seen from space, the Las Vegas metropolitan area is the brightest city of Earth.

The attractions of the city are not all found on the "strip". Nearby, tourists can visit Hoover Dam, Lake Mead (the largest man-made lake in the United States), Red Rock Canyon, Death Valley and Mt. Charleston.

Source Wikipedia.com

Choose your specialty

L&D
ICU
ER
Peds
CVICU
Step-Down

Choose your Hospital

Spring Valley
Summerlin
Desert Springs
Valley
Sunrise
Southern Hills
MountainView
Centennial Hills
Kindred

Fun Facts

- 17 of the 20 largest hotels in the United States are located in Las Vegas
- Bugsy Siegel names his casino the Flamingo after the long legs of his showgirl girlfriend
- In Nevada, it's mandatory that video slot machines pay a minimum of 75 percent on average
- Vegas Vic, the enormous neon cowboy that towers over Fremont Street, is the world's largest mechanical neon sign
- Howard Hughes stayed at the Desert Inn for so long he was asked to leave... he bought the hotel
- Over 37.5 million people visit Las Vegas each year

Source www.visitlasvegas.com



Bytes and Pieces

And The Award Goes To...

Most Popular Websites of '09



Blogging

Autobiographies Are So Last Year

- Bloglines.com
- Wordpress.com



Browsers

The World at Your Fingertips

- Google.com/chrome ★
- Flock.com
- Opera.com



Cartoons

Laughter Is the Best Medicine

- Diblert.com
- Alexcartoon.com
- Doonesburry.com



Create and Collaborate

Make Whatever You Want, How You Want It

- Dipity.com
- 280slides.com
- Rememberthemilk.com



Gaming

Bringing Gaming to a Whole New Level

- Tigsources.com
- Metacritic.com/games



Government, Public Services and Politics

Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You...

- Streetwire.org
- Recyclenow.com ★
- Whatdotheyknow.com



Location, Location

X Marks the Spot

- Dopplr.com
- Qype.com
- Brightkite.com



Video

Capture the Moments

- Youtube.com ★
- Worldtv.com
- Qik.com



Maps

Are We There Yet?

- Openstreetmap.org
- Walkit.com



Money, Finance and Consumer Fightback

Bang for Your Buck

- Moneysavingexpeert.com ★
- Saynoto870.com



Music

...to my ears

- 7digital.com
- Passionato.com
- Songkick.com



News

Extra, Extra Read All About It

- Dig.com
- Techmeme.com
- Popurls.com



Offbeat

Gotta Minute?

- Theonion.com
- Postsecret.blogspot.com ★



Photography

A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

- Flickr.com
- Picnik.com ★



Reference

- Coa.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook
- Wikipedia.com
- Rottentomatoes.com ★



Social Networking

Make New Friends but Keep the Old

- Facebook.com
- LinkedIn.com
- Twitter.com ★



TGhealthcare Favorites

TGhealthcare Hot Jobs



LAS VEGAS, NV
ER, ICU, L&D, OR



CALIFORNIA
ER, ICU, L&D, M/S



ARIZONA
ER, ICU, L&D, OR, M/S



TEXAS
ER, ICU, L&D



OKLAHOMA
OR



NEW MEXICO
ER, ICU, OR



ALASKA
ER FLIGHT, OR, L&D



MAINE
ICU, SKILLED NURSING



COLORADO
ER, L&D, PEDS, TELE



LOUISIANA
L&D, OR, PACU



WISCONSIN
PACU, ER



FLORIDA
ICU, CVICU, OR

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Shannyn Snyders

2009 recipient of Healthcare
Traveler Magazine's Recruiters of
the Year Showcase