



COSMETIC SURGERY
OF LAS VEGAS

DR SAMIR PANCHOLI

Traveling for Cosmetic Surgery: Your Guide to Medical Tourism

by: Dr. Samir Pancholi

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Chapter 1 - Introduction to Medical Tourism

A buzzword that is making waves in the media, “medical tourism” refers to traveling to another state or country for medical care. With an estimated 750,000 patients from the United States traveling abroad each year, it’s clear that this trend is becoming increasingly popular. Cosmetic surgeries are among the most common procedures sought by traveling patients.

Because doctors in other countries may not be held to the same rigorous standards as cosmetic surgeons certified by the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery or other reputable U.S. medical boards, traveling abroad for medical care can be a dangerous prospect. Dr. Pancholi does not advocate for international medical tourism and emphasizes the importance of keeping your medical travels limited to the United States.

At Cosmetic Surgery of Las Vegas, we see patients from all over the globe who are seeking a variety of procedures or treatments from an experienced cosmetic surgeon. Dr. Pancholi and his staff are dedicated to assisting out of town patients and strive to provide resources that benefit medical tourists visiting Las Vegas and make the process safe, successful, and rewarding.

Deciding to Travel for Cosmetic Surgery

Cosmetic surgery results may be with you for a lifetime and finding a cosmetic surgeon who has the right training, expertise, and aesthetic style to meet your needs is essential. Traveling opens up your options for finding the cosmetic surgeon who is right for you, if not close to you.

Whether coming from Canada or trekking domestically, traveling to or within the U.S. in pursuit of the results you want can be done safely and successfully. There are a multitude of reasons people to choose to travel for cosmetic surgery, including avoiding excessive wait-times in their countries or seeking procedural expertise not available in their town.

Some patients travel to keep their cosmetic surgery “under the radar,” which can be difficult in some smaller towns. Spending your initial recovery period away from home can also allow you to focus solely on relaxing and recuperating during this important part of the cosmetic surgery process.

Whatever the reason, there is a right and safe way to approach medical tourism.

Information for Canadian Patients

With the ability to schedule a consultation within days, Dr. Pancholi is more accessible to clients when compared to the notoriously long wait times across the border in Canada. After exploring available options during your initial consultation, Dr. Pancholi can often schedule surgery as early as one week later.

Las Vegas has a predictable, comfortable climate for the initial phase of healing. Scheduling your surgery during a US vacation can also offer you a more restful and private recovery, without the temptation to resume household chores and responsibilities.

Finding a Qualified Surgeon

In the United States, there are systems in place to help make choosing a qualified surgeon easier. With stricter sanitation and safety standards than most other countries, combined with certification programs dictated by medical speciality boards, your options for a safe choice are right at your fingertips, if not in your zip code. Just be sure to select a board certified cosmetic surgeon for your procedure. Finding one is simple: just search the [American Board of Cosmetic Surgery's official directory](#).

When you have narrowed your search and have a list of potential surgeons, it's important to continue your research. We recommend the following:

- Visit the surgeon's website—does he or she offer comprehensive information about the practice and procedures offered?
- View before and after photos—does this surgeon provide results that are in line with your expectations? Are they experienced with the procedure you're seeking?
- Seek out patient reviews and testimonials—reading the firsthand accounts of previous patients can provide an idea of a surgeon's results, office environment, bedside manner, and much more.
- Verify credentials—find out the experience and training of not only the surgeon, but also the surgical staff and anesthesiologist.
- Check facility accreditation—make sure the surgeon operates out of an AAAASF or AAAHC accredited surgery center or has operating time at a hospital.

Preparing for Your Consultation

After you have decided to pursue cosmetic surgery, narrowed down or chosen a surgeon, and scheduled your consultation, there are still steps you can take to make the most out of your initial appointment. Whether you are consulting in person, over the phone, or through email, we can help you through the process. We cover a lot of information during the initial consultation and want to ensure you feel comfortable and well-informed. If you need help preparing, our staff is always available. Call us and we will help you figure it out—all you have to do is show up.

Dr. Pancholi recommends writing down any questions you may have in advance. The American Board of Cosmetic Surgery offers a [checklist for comparing cosmetic surgeons](#) that provides a comprehensive list of common questions to ask during your consultation.

Chapter 2 - About Your Consultation

There are two scenarios when it comes to our out of town patients: those who can come into the office for an in-person consultation with Dr. Pancholi and those who cannot.

In-Office Consultation

If you can present for a consultation, Dr. Pancholi will meet with you and review your area(s) of concern and chosen procedure(s). He will discuss options, expectations, results, and recovery along with your ability to travel afterwards.

Next, you'll meet with a patient coordinator who will guide you through the surgical process, provide you with a surgical itinerary, and answer all of your questions. She will provide you with important information about the procedures you discussed that day, a price quote, a list of necessary pre-op medical clearances, as well as prescriptions for medicines needed should you choose to proceed.

Phone or Email Consultation

If you're unable to come in for consultation, we offer phone/email consultations. For this to be effective, we ask that you complete our medical history form and provide pictures of the areas you wish to discuss prior to the consult. Dr. Pancholi will review this information prior to your scheduled phone/email consultation so he is ready to discuss your options.

Tips for Taking Your Pre-Consult Photos

When taking photos, capture the five following angles for each area of interest: front, left, right, 45 degrees left, 45 degrees right. With some areas, additional angles may be needed.



[View more photos in our before & after gallery](#)

After your phone/email consult, our patient coordinator will email you a customized packet of information discussing your proposed procedure(s) and including a price quote, post-surgery instructions, and any pre-op medical clearances that may be needed. Clearance tests or exams may be completed with your personal doctor if preferred. You may [download new patient forms online.](#)

Patient safety is our highest priority. Depending on your age and procedure, there may be different requirements. We will do everything to help you with this process.

Chapter 3 - Scheduling & Financing Surgery

After reviewing your quote and information, the next step is selecting a surgery date. With so much to think about during this exciting time, the details can seem mundane.. Be sure to think ahead to get the most out of your initial consultation and your time in Las Vegas.

Making Travel Plans

Taking the time to plan for your trip in advance is an important step for a smooth surgery and recovery. We recommend creating a step-by-step plan for your visit to Las Vegas. Once the details are out of the way, you can focus on enjoying the days leading up to your surgery and healing comfortably afterward.

Before you buy your plane ticket to Las Vegas, be sure to contact our office about scheduling. Dr. Pancholi is typically able to schedule an initial consultation within a few days of being contacted and can often schedule surgery in as few as 1-2 weeks after consultation.

Securing a date for surgery requires a 20% deposit of the surgery quote total and all payments must be complete prior to the day of surgery.

Your Cash, Credit, & Financing Options

Paying for your cosmetic surgery is easy. Our office gladly accepts Visa and MasterCard and cash.

We also partner with patient financing companies to provide our patients with options when budgeting for cosmetic surgery.

Our preferred financing agency is Alphaeon. Alphaeon offers a credit card that allows you to receive care now and pay over time. Choose from a wide variety of flexible payment options to fit your personal budget.

- [Apply for Alphaeon credit now!](#)

Another option is CareCredit, a popular patient financing program. CareCredit allows you to get the procedures you want immediately – then pay for it over time with convenient monthly payments that fit easily into your budget.

- [Apply for CareCredit financing](#)

CareCredit works just like a credit card, but is exclusively for healthcare services. You can use your card over and over for follow-up appointments or different procedures. This means you don't have to put your health and beauty on hold; you'll have the power to decide when it's the right time for your procedure.

Chapter 4: Travel Logistics

With so many factors involved with traveling and surgery, our goal is to make the process as easy as possible for you by providing information on everything from your chosen procedure(s) to airport shuttle times.

By reading through this section, we hope that you will gain a better understanding of what to expect when travelling for a cosmetic procedure.

How Long You Should Plan to Stay in Las Vegas

Below are some general timelines when planning out your stay with us. Please keep in mind that this timeline is what we have seen on average. These times may change depending on your own personal healing process and schedule.

We recommend you schedule a 5 day stay for the following procedures (arrive 2 days prior – Depart 2 days after surgery):

- Breast Augmentation
- Breast Implant Repair
- Eyelid Surgery
- Facial Implant
- Labiaplasty

We recommend you schedule an 8 day stay for the following procedures: Arrive 2 days prior – Depart 5 days after surgery:

- Facelift*
- Rhinoplasty
- Breast Lift* or Breast Reduction*
- Tummy Tuck*
- Liposuction

**Must be Non Smoker*

Las Vegas Accommodations

When planning your surgery, consider where you'll be staying. Listed below are many useful links to help with your planning, including nearby hotels and resorts. We do not endorse any of the information presented below but present it merely as a resource for your assistance.

JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa

JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa offers a more sophisticated approach to the bright lights and sounds of the Las Vegas Strip. Escape to this serene boutique-like resort offering a golf concierge and Aquae-Sulis Spa. Ultimate Luxury. Though the grounds of this Las Vegas Resort are breathtaking and the views are spectacular, the inward beauty of the resort's 548 guestrooms and suites is what has captured the rave reviews of departing guests.

221 N. Rampart Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89145

(702) 869-7777

Email: info@jwlasvegasresort.com

For more information please visit www.jwlasvegasresort.com

Red Rock Casino, Resort, & Spa

Red Rock's serene surroundings, distinctive décor and impeccable standard of service ensure that your Las Vegas hotel stay is flawless and fabulous. Exquisite hotel rooms and suites offer an unmatched combination of comfort, extravagance and value while inspiring mountain vistas will transfix you during your Las Vegas vacation, travel or getaway. Whether relaxing in their expansive pool back yard, playing your hand at poker or savoring a first-class meal, Red Rock Resort & Spa has a flavor for all your tastes and desires during your Las Vegas vacation.

With their special Las Vegas package deals, you can melt away with a soothing spa treatment or massage, tee off at one of the area's championship golf courses, or go on an outdoor adventure to nearby Red Rock Canyon. Waiting for you on return are all the lavish amenities of one of the premier Las Vegas hotels – fine dining for every taste, thrilling Vegas casino gaming and exciting nightlife and entertainment.

11011 West Charleston Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89135
(702) 797-7777

For more information please visit www.redrocklasvegas.com.

Courtyard by Marriott—Summerlin

The Courtyard Las Vegas Summerlin hotel by Marriott gives visitors the best of both Las Vegas worlds with our close proximity to the fabulous Las Vegas Strip and the rugged foothills of the Spring Mountains. Enjoy hiking and rock-climbing at Red Rock Canyon or live it up at the world-famous casinos, restaurants and shopping malls of the Strip. Back at our Courtyard Las Vegas Summerlin hotel, you can relax in our outdoor pool, soak in the Jacuzzi or get a brisk workout in our on-site fitness center. Our hotel guest room accommodations include coffee maker, luxurious Marriott bedding and custom comforters. With all of their excellent accommodations, they hope you'll make them your choice among Northwest Las Vegas hotels.

1901 North Rainbow Blvd
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

For more information, please [visit them online.](#)

Transportation Options: Airports, Shuttle Services, Taxis, & Car Rental

You will need to plan your transportation carefully before and after surgery. *You will not be allowed to drive yourself to and from the surgery center on the day of your procedure.* The best option is to have a trusted family member or friend travel with you to Las Vegas and be available to accompany you to and from your surgery.

Airport

To get to Las Vegas by plane, you'll find yourself flying into McCarran International Airport, located 20 minutes from our office at:

5757 Wayne Newton Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

McCarran International Airport serves as the initial visitor gateway to one of the most exciting resort destinations in the world. The Aviation Group ensures that the mix of more than 40 Airlines and numerous Aviation Support Service operators reflect the high standards of the visitors and residents of Las Vegas. If you can't locate the information you are looking for on our web pages, just call McCarran Airport directly.

For general information, you can reach McCarran International Airport at (702) 261-5211 or [visit them online](#).

Rental Cars

Getting around town may be easy, but you can reduce travel-related stress by planning ahead. There are a number of rental car providers locally:

Enterprise Car Rental – Reservations (open 24 hours) 1-800-261-7331

Budget Car Rental – Reservations (open 24 hours) 1-888-802-1984

Dream Car Rentals – Reservations 877-373-2601

Shuttles, Limousine, Personal Sedan Service

Bell Trans Limo & Transportation Service. Operating 24 hours, seven days a week. [Visit them online](#) or call (702) 739-7990.

Average prices:

- Strip hotels: \$6.50 (\$12 round trip)
- Downtown hotels: \$8 (\$14 round trip)
- Off-Strip hotels: \$8 (\$15 round trip)
- Walk-up Limousine: Starting at \$48/hour
- Walk-up Sedan: Starting at \$39/hour

Executive Las Vegas. Operating Hours: 6am – last flight down every day. [Visit them online](#) or call (702) 646-4661.

Average prices:

- Strip hotels: \$6 (\$12 round trip)
 - Downtown hotels: \$8 (\$16 round trip)
 - Off-Strip Hotels: \$7 (\$14 round trip)
 - Walk-up Limousine – \$57 & up
 - Walk-up Sedan: \$39 & up
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Taxi Service*

Below are some of the companies you may call to reserve a taxi during your stay:

Checker/Yellow/Star – (702) 873-2000

Western Cab Company – (702) 736-8000

Desert Cab Company – (702) 386-9102

Lucky Cab Company – (702) 477-7555

Average prices:**

Drop for initial activation of taximeter	\$3.30
Each additional 1/12th mile (\$2.40 per mile)	\$.20
Waiting time per hour	\$30.00
McCarran Airport fee per pick-up	\$1.80

**Not all taxicabs in Southern Nevada accept credit cards.*

***Prices accurate at time of publication and are subject to change.*

Chapter 5 - Preparing for Surgery & Recovery

Bringing a Friend: Getting Through Recovery

Traveling with a companion is the best way to ensure that your aftercare needs are met during the initial recovery period. Having a friend or family member assist you for at least 24 hours after surgery is highly recommended. *Please note: you will be unable to drive yourself to or from the surgery center on the day of your procedure.*

A service to consider is Starfish Resources. If you are already staying with family, friends, or in a hotel, they can help provide you with transportation and setting up care should you need it. They may be reached at 702.871.2953 or at www.starfishresources.com.

Surgical Aftercare

Dr. Pancholi will assist you with creating a recovery plan that is specific to your needs. Some bruising, swelling and soreness are normal and to be expected following surgery.

Be sure to communicate any concerns about aftercare with Dr. Pancholi. Medications, pre-existing medical conditions, nutrition and wound care are all factors that may affect healing times.

We take great care to provide detailed post-operative care instructions and to make your recovery as comfortable as possible.

Travel Considerations After Surgery

Whenever traveling greater than 5 hours, it is important to talk with Dr. Pancholi regarding special instructions to minimize complications and discomfort with traveling after surgery. Overall, you will be expected to walk for at least 5 minutes every 2 hours while traveling. In addition, it's important to flex and extend your ankles and knees to help improve circulation while sitting.

Like many life experiences, your cosmetic surgery experience can be improved with advance planning. There is much to consider at this exciting time, so be sure to work closely with Dr. Pancholi and his staff to help consider your surgery from the beginning to end. A well designed recovery can increase your safety, comfort, and peace of mind.

As with any surgery, some swelling, discomfort and bruising is expected. We offer a recovery program known as Vita-Medica to help you get back on your feet faster. This medical grade recovery support program uses a unique combination of nutrients and vitamins to accelerate wound healing, support the immune system, minimize inflammation, and reduce bruising & swelling.

About Dr. Samir Pancholi

Whether you can come to our beautiful office in Las Vegas or need to conduct your consultation long-distance, your initial consultation is free. You can call us at 702.363.0240 or [contact us online](#) anytime to schedule your appointment with Dr. Pancholi. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have at any time.

