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Maine Casinos

By Adel Awwad

While visiting Maine and exploring all that this glorious state has to offer, tourists may be surprised

to find that there are two Maine casinos in existence. The Maine casinos, the Hollywood Slots in Bangor and the Penobscot High Stakes Bingo Casino offer gambling entertainment for you to enjoy during your stay in the naturally gorgeous state of Maine. Further, in addition to the two Maine casinos, the state of Maine is home to two racetrack facilities, the Bangor Raceway and the Scarborough Downs. Thus, both tourists and residents of Maine have the opportunity to make their gambling experiences complete.

The Hollywood Slots Casino is located in Bangor Maine and offers offer 475 different slots to choose from. Of the Maine Casinos, the Hollywood Slots Casino is relatively new and Maine officials are pleased with its arrival. Additionally, the Hollywood Slots Casino offers guests the opportunity to dine at an All You Can Eat American Buffet in Miller's Restaurant, located on site. Thus, visitors and tourists can dine and gamble until their hearts content at Hollywood Slots.

Alternatively, among the Maine casinos tourists will find that the Penobscot High Stakes Bingo Casino rests in Old Town and it is a casino owned by Native Americans that offers Pull Tab gambling in addition to Bingo gaming. Therefore, if the slots offered at Hollywood Slots do not appeal to you, the offering at Penobscot High Stakes Bingo Casino may.

Meanwhile, in addition to the Maine casinos, for those individuals looking for alternative gambling entertainment, Maine is home to two racetracks. Bangor Raceway is a seasonal operation that is open during the months of May through July and with a nominal entrance fee, visitors can get in on the harness racing action. Alternatively, the Scarborough Downs is open year round, every day, from noon until midnight. Again an entrance fee applies, and visitors can enjoy harness racing, live racing, and service at the Scarborough Club House.

Of course, while one is in Maine, they would do themselves a serious injustice if they failed to visit some of Maine's historical attractions in between their visits to the Maine casinos. Maine is home to the splendid Pine Haven Winter Park, Moose Point State Park, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Rockin' Horse Stables, the Carousel Music Theater, the Cap'N Fish's Whale Watch, and York's Wild Kingdom,

just to name a few of the many incredible destinations in Maine.

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Online Gambling And Legislation

By Adel Awwad

With more than a trillion dollars changing hands around the world on online casinos alone, sooner rather than later legislation will step in to exercise some form of control in the casino industry. Those measures to control casinos and gambling during the early years worked as the casino had a physical location. Today however casinos have moved online with no real physical location. The question arises how legal are these online casinos?

Gambling legislation has not changed much since Congress passed the Wire Act in 1961. The Wire Act states that "Whoever being engaged in the business of betting or wagering knowingly uses a wire communication facility for the transmission in interstate or foreign commerce of bets or wagers or information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers on any sporting event or contest, or for the transmission of a wire communication which entitles the recipient to receive money or credit as a result of bets or wagers, or for information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both." This however only covered sports betting and not casinos. There was also no Internet or Internet casinos during that time.

During 1998 both MasterCard and Visa sued Cynthia Haines for money she lost while gambling on an online casino. She had lost more than US\$70,000 to an online casino and could not settle her account with the plaintiffs. She filed a counterclaim well within the state laws of California which prohibited credit card loans for gambling be it online casinos or bricks and mortar casinos. That case was settled out of court. Many states have now enacted their own legislation however casinos have moved their gambling operations off shore to casino friendly countries.

Gambling has increased drastically with the advent of the Internet and online casinos. With huge profits and vested interest in casinos there are also very strong lobbyists in government to keep gambling unimpeded. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act which was defeated in 2000 shows how much vested interest there is in the casino and gaming industry. Cyberspace is the last frontier when it comes to laws governing casinos. Only time will tell how legislation will catch-up with online casinos and gambling websites.

Adel Awwad is the webmaster of Online Casinos – Copyright © 2005

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