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Wisconsin Casinos

By Adel Awwad

Wisconsin is a favorite Midwest locale, because of its blend of outdoor and indoor activities that are fun for just about anybody. This large state boasts the city of Milwaukee, the beauty of the Great Lakes and Green Bay, and is the home of the National Football League's Green Bay Packers. Finally, Wisconsin is also home to a bevy of casinos. There are at least ten different Wisconsin casinos within the state and each boasts its own slate of amenities.

The Bad River Lodge & Casino, located in Odanah, features slot machines, table games, video poker and more. This Wisconsin casino is on the Bad River Chippewa Reservation and boasts a restaurants and a hotel.

The Ho-Chunk Casino, located in Baraboo, is similar to the Bad River Casino. It also features a smattering of table games, video poker and slot machines. This Wisconsin casino is run by the Ho-Chunk tribe and features a bingo hall, which is a profitable amenity. This is one of the several Wisconsin casinos that offer dining and hotel accommodations. The Rainbow Casino, located in Nekoosa, is similar to this facility with offerings of video poker, table games and slots. It is also a Ho-Chunk Casino, as is the Majestic Pines Casino Bingo & Hotel, located in Black River Falls.

The Oneida Bingo & Casino is located in Green Bay. This is one of the larger Wisconsin casinos, referring to itself as the largest facility in the entire state. This Wisconsin casino is actually made of two different complexes – one of which is referred to the as the "old" casino and one that is called the "new" casino. This mega-casino features dining and entertainment options as well as a separate "poker room" where numerous tournaments are held year-round.

The St. Croix Casino & Hotel, located in Turtle Lake, is owned and operated by the St. Croix Tribe. This large facility is open all night, seven days a week and features more than 1,000 slot machines. There are also table games, with poker being a specialty of this Wisconsin casino. Dining and assorted entertainment is also an option at this Wisconsin casino.

There are a number of other Wisconsin casinos that are scattered around the state. Many feature numerous amenities and most are own by Native American tribes that inhabit lands around the

Wisconsin casinos. However different each one of them is, they are great places to dine, gamble and just have a good time.

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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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