

PS50: Reviewing Rivers Casino Pittsburgh | Mississippi and Missouri Slots 2019

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #50 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses my review of Rivers Casino Pittsburgh. That's right! I've made it to episode #50! To commemorate it, I'll just mention here: Thank you for your support. Even if you've never emailed or otherwise contacted me, I appreciate your listening. Thank you. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. states of Mississippi and Missouri.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

"Jon Friedl from The Professor Slots Blog reveals all of his tips and tricks for thriving in the casino environment. Discover how to assess casinos to pick the best near you, choose winning slot machines, and identify your gambling goals: being entertained, earning comps, winning take-home cash, or combine them."

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over the top 9 slot tips offered by RunHorse by reviewing his YouTube video.

Further, I reviewed Michigan and Minnesota slot machine casino gambling 2019.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action #1 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction to Rivers Casino Pittsburgh

Let's start with the first segment of the show: Reviewing Rivers Casino Pittsburgh

On Tuesday night, March 12, 2019, I visited *Rivers Casino Pittsburgh* in the great state of Pennsylvania. My purpose in visiting wasn't to have a wonderful evening playing slots, although it turns out I did. I was there to evaluate the casino for you.

I played a few high limit slot machines, talked with a few people, tried out a few of my winning slots strategies on lower limit slot machines, had dinner at their buffet and even played a penny slot machine for a while. Here is my trip report for *Rivers Casino Pittsburgh*.

This segment has the following sub-sections:

1. An Introduction
2. The Rush Rewards Players Club
3. Checking Out the High Limit Slots Room
4. Success Using the 5-Pull Approach
5. Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami
6. Grand View Buffet
7. Nestled in Downtown Pittsburgh
8. A Summary

The Rush Rewards Players Club

Whenever you walk into a casino for the first time, find the players club counter and get a players' club card. If you're already a member because another casino uses the same rewards program, then you won't have to. Unless, of course, you don't have your card.

I wasn't a member of the Rush Rewards Players Club at Rivers Casino Pittsburgh, so I found the club counter. As typical for me, I had questions. Also usual for me at club counters, I didn't get entirely satisfactory answers.

I've mentioned this before, this lack of valuable information from the personnel at club counters, back in my podcast episode # 16: *Players Rewards Clubs and Idaho Slots 2018*. Casino employees can't gamble at the casinos they work for, so they don't know the rules from personal experience. All they know is what they've read or learned.

Therefore, there's no reason to get upset about their lack of knowledge. That's why I asked for a brochure. A little surprisingly, they didn't have any on hand. As I visit more and more casinos for you, I'll have to check and see if this is the latest trend.

Perhaps it's all online these days. I've since checked the casino website where I found a link to Rush Rewards under the Casino tab for Rivers. All the rules are there, as far as they go.

As usual, they highlight the number of points needed for each tier level. They are:

- Rush (Gold): less than 25,000 Base Points
- Preferred (Blue): between 25,000 and 99,999 Base Points
- Signature (Black): more than 100,000 Base Points

The perks for each tier level are somewhat generic. Also, as usual, I've found an essential piece of information is missing. How much do I need to spend to earn one Base Point?

That information is not anywhere on the page. Why not? My best understanding is this: How many points earned is very much a mystery for table game players. For slots players, it's simple.

In slots play, money spent equals points earned. Not so for table game players. For them, their rate (as they call it) is based on how much they bet as well as how long they sit at a table and play. Sometimes it even depends on how much they tip their dealers.

For slots players, as I mentioned, it's simple. Having been to Rivers Casino myself, I can tell you that one U.S. dollar spent equals one Base Point earned. That's pretty good.

Combined with the relatively low number of points for each tier, this is a decent rate. For Total Rewards, now called Caesars Rewards, I labored under a one-point-earned-for-every-five-dollars-spent rate for years and could reach their top tier only after earning 150,000 points.

Put another way, I had to continuously cycle my bankroll at Caesars Entertainment properties until I'd spent \$750,000. I did this for 2 years in a row while playing only slots, back when I earned my way to the so-called Seven Stars tier level.

With the rewards system at Rivers Casino, I'd have to cycle my bankroll until I'd only spent \$100,000 before reaching their club's top tier. It's nice to know what your target is if your gambling goal is to earn complimentary gifts. Now, all we need is to find a winning slots strategy that works at this casino.

Checking Out the High Limits Slots Room

The second thing I chose to do at the casino was to find the High Limit Slots Room. In part, this is because, when I'm gambling for myself and not you, I'm entirely a high limit slots player.

I might test winning strategies on lower limit machines, but my personal intent is to play high limit slots when using those proven techniques. Nothing too crazy, though. Just 2-credit or 3-credit \$5-denomination machines. None of those \$100 denomination slot machines for me. Not usually, I mean. It can happen, but only if it makes sense to do so.

But, I was visiting and evaluating this casino for you. Still, I attended the high limit slot machine area because I learn something about the quality of a casino from all the time I've spent in high limit slot rooms elsewhere. And, I have to say, I liked the look of theirs.

It was clean and walled off. It had around a hundred slot machines and had a counter staffed with two slot attendants and a floor manager. Those are all good signs.

Perhaps you don't know this, but casinos are rather miserly with their money. Oh, you do know that one? You can bet that this casino has three staffs in the high limit room because they're needed. And, they're needed for only one thing, which is to pay out taxable jackpots. Excellent.

I felt encouraged by all this goodness, so didn't immediately leave the high limits room. I'd only planned to spend \$200 during this visit to Rivers Casino, but probably only needed half of it to perform the casino evaluation.

So, I spent \$100 in this high limit slots room. I spread it around, though. I couldn't resist playing a Wheel of Fortune slot machine which was also a Five Times Play machine. One machine with both of my favorite games! I made 5 bets, spending \$25 in total without winning anything. Oh, well.

I next tried three high limit slot machines showing a winning reel combination, spending \$25 on each. What I was doing was testing my winning slots strategy 6 described in podcast episode 35: *High Limit Slots Tricks and Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, and Oklahoma Slots 2018*. Long story short, it didn't work. Not for me, on that trip, with less than \$100 to spend in that high limit slots room.

So, let's take a breath for a moment and think about all that we've learned so far.

1. The casino invests in their high limit slots room, implying players win taxable jackpots.
2. The 5-pull slots strategy isn't set up to win at this casino. Being a limited attempt due to a very small bankroll, this is not a conclusion. Not yet. For now, it's just under consideration.
3. There is just no way to test several of my other winning slots strategies, given this was a one-night-only evening visit nowhere near a holiday.

As you may recall if you've listened to my podcast episodes on my winning slots strategies, casino have different ways to set up favorable odds at their casinos. They do this for solid business reasons but, even so, that doesn't mean we can't take advantage of them from our perspective as players of their slot machines.

If Monday, March 11th had been a holiday, I would have visited the casino very early in the morning, perhaps between 4 and 5 a.m. If Tuesday had been the holiday (what

holiday ever falls on a Tuesday? Christmas and New Years?), I would have visited the next morning instead.

Further, casinos don't typically have special events on Mondays. Frankly, I've always considered Mondays to be the slowest day of the week at a casino. I deliberately chose to visit on a Tuesday because I'd already sorted through my slots strategies and considered the days I'd be staying in Pittsburgh for other reasons.

To be clear, I was in Pittsburgh for four days, arriving Monday and leaving late Thursday. This travel was a work trip for my day job, but my evenings were my own to do with as I pleased. My hardest decision was whether to visit Meadowlands or Rivers.

I decided to visit Rivers because I had talked with a bartender at dinner the night before, and he also worked part-time as a poker dealer at Rivers. His name was Jake.

Anyway, Jake had a few positive things to say about working at Rivers, which got me to thinking if the casino treated their employees well then maybe they also handled players well. These things often go hand-in-hand, you know. So, that's how I ended up at Rivers instead of Meadowlands.

Next time I'm in Pittsburgh, I'll again have to decide which casino to visit. Should I visit Meadowlands for you to provide a trip report or should I use what I learned from this trip (no spoilers!) and visit Rivers to win at high limit slots for myself. Let me know what you think. Wait, I think I already know. Both, right?

Success Using the 5-Pull Approach

After leaving the high limit slots room, I entered part of the casino which has quarter slot machines. If you've ever been to Rivers Casino, the area I'm talking about is just outside of the walled area of the High Limit Slots Room.

There weren't too many people around. However, I did strike up a conversation with a woman who said it was only her second time at Rivers Casino. She mentioned that her husband was over at the VA hospital, so she had a few hours to spend at the casino.

She seemed nice. This is important. She seemed nice. Have you ever talked to anyone you didn't know at the casino or casinos you visit? Are people nice? Honestly, I've found it to be rare.

She was nice. She treated the visit to the casino in a reasonable way, as something to do while she was waiting. She wasn't a degenerate gambler or at least didn't seem to be one to me. What she did look like to me was that she was a reasonable person.

She reminded me of others I had spoken with during my trip to Pittsburgh. They all seemed practical and, well, nice. Not naïve or goofy. Not nerdy or elitist. They seemed like a bunch of pragmatic realistic people.

This observation is important because the people operating Rivers Casino also live in Pittsburgh. Maybe not the owners, but the management and staff do. The people making day-to-day decisions live in or near Pittsburgh. And, although it's no guarantee, it's not unreasonable to think they might even act like someone for the Pittsburgh area.

So, yeah, maybe they're hard-working, pragmatic, and realistic people too. And, most probably, they're responsible for setting up how the casino operates. In large part, maybe with some pressures from upper management, they decide how to treat their patrons. And, just perhaps, they treat them nice because that seems to be how people are in that area.

It was there I decided to test *Winning Strategy 1: Only Win Immediately* as described in my podcast episode #23, which I often call the 5-pull method. Again, this was a Tuesday evening in a casino around 7 p.m. Few people were around, although it wasn't empty.

This low attendance indicates it is a great time to test the 5-pull method. You're looking for a time when the slot machines will have sat idle for a little while. On a busy Friday night, for instance, that doesn't happen.

So, I walked up to a bank of slot machines. It doesn't matter what games there were. They weren't video slots or progressive slot machines. Well, a few progressive slots were nearby, but trying my Slots Strategy 2: Progressive Slot Machines wasn't on my to-do list this trip. Maybe next time.

One thing I did notice was that the maximum number of credits to bet was one credit higher for slot machines on either end of each row of slot machines. If the middle 4 or 5 slot machines were 2-credit machines, then the end slot machines were 3-credit machines. I hadn't noticed that before. Have you?

I also noticed some things which were missing. None of these machines had any bonus rounds, meaning I'd have the same odds of winning when betting any number of credits. I made the maximum credit bets each time.

I could have stretched my money further by betting only one credit. I'll have to think about why I didn't. A little introspection tells me what I was feeling. I want to win as much as possible even when I'm working for you.

No doubt that explains why I like high limit slot so much when I personally gamble. If I'm going to bet to win, I want to earn what's possible. This outlook also explains why it

took several hard lessons to give up on playing 1-credit, \$100-denomination slot machines. Huh.

So, I had my remaining \$100 bankroll for low limit slot machines. I put it all into the first slot machine. I avoided the slot machines on the ends with the higher maximum credits. I also avoided all slot machines with chairs that slot attendants had not pushed back into place.

Recently played slot machines may have their chairs pulled out. It's the only visible sign they have. As a reminder, the 5-pull method is to bet on an idle slot machine up to five times before switching to another machine. And, if any of those five bets is a winner, no matter how small, then stop playing that machine and move on.

As I describe elsewhere, the underlying principle of the 5-pull method is that both new players at any machine as well as long-term idle slot machines are recognized and rewarded.

Meaning, the 5-pull method is two slots strategies rolled into one approach. Either slots strategy might be in place at a particular casino, but both might also be in place. By playing only idle machines, I was trying to use both strategies at once.

In any case, I took notes of my winnings on each slot machine, but no records for slot machines I didn't win anything on. I won't read them off here, but you can see my 15 wins on my website article on this trip report and review available via a link in the show notes at ProfessorSlots.com/e50. The list is also in the show transcript found there. It's on page 7.

- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$30
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$6
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$1
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$0.75
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$7.50
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$1.50
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$3.75
- 880-credit, penny slots: \$30
 - made 3 bets of \$8.80 each
 - profit from this slot machine was only \$3.60
- 250-credits, penny slots: \$5
- 640-credits, penny slots: \$1.20
- 30-credits, penny slots: \$0.20
- 3-credits, quarter slots: \$1
- 10-credits, penny slots: \$3
- 5-credits, quarter slots: \$2.50

- 80-credits, penny slots: \$0.20

After spending the original \$100 bankroll, I had \$91.60 in total winnings. That's a personal payout return percentage of 91.60%, excluding bets made earlier in the high limit slots room.

Do you see now what I meant about continuously cycling bankrolls? Frankly, a slot machine found using the 5-pull method might have a third slots strategy in place. It might merely have high odds of winning. That's possible.

But, the 5-pull method doesn't check to see what happens after winning any amount of money. You'd have to play after that first win within 5 pulls to test for that additional slots strategy. No spoilers, but I'll get to that later in this trip report.

At this point, having won back almost all my allotted bankroll, now I'm willing to admit that I didn't try enough in the high limit slots area. We've found that one of my winning slots strategies is set up by Rivers Casino to work here.

That's great, but what other winning slots strategies might also work. While I've yet to find a single casino where all 7 of my winning strategies work at the same time, that doesn't mean we're done learning. Let's see what else appears to work here.

Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami

I've been to the players counter, the high limit slots room, and played a bunch of idle slot machines. What else was there to try?

Well, one of the types of reviews I want to start offering is of specific slot machine game themes. That seems to be of interest to you. I certainly have my favorites, so I appreciate if you do as well.

There is very little connection, if any, between new game themes and winning slots strategies. Whether or not a slot machine is a winner depends upon how the casino has set it up.

Other than laziness on the part of the casino, there's no reason a casino would ever set the odds of winning to be identical on side-by-side slot machines possibly excepting traditionally networked progressive slot machines. But, maybe not even then.

So, I don't have a lot of interest in different games themes because I don't think they matter when it comes to winning. But, what is important to me is meeting your needs and interests. So, therefore, I'll review a new video slot machine at *Rivers Casino Pittsburgh*.

With my \$91.60 voucher in hand, I went for a walk in the casino to figure out what else I could learn for you with my remaining bankroll. That's when I spotted a pair of Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami penny slot machines.

What I noticed was the admittedly attractive woman winning at one of those slot machines. When I was walking by, all the roll-up noises caused by her winning was very distracting. So, being single as well as liking winning slot machines, I sat down next to her, said hello, and started playing the machine next to her.

It sucked. Seriously. It was such a loser. I could tell right away. No action. No winnings more than the occasional 20-cents or 40-cents. I quickly lowered the number of credits I was betting so I didn't lose my bankroll completely. I started around 600-credit bets and reduced it until it was around 120-credit bets.

But the woman on the nominally identical machine next to me was doing great. She was winning free games after free games. She even got free games during her free games.

Sure, the difference between the results of our play could have just been luck. Certainly, luck plays a role in every bet on a slot machine. But, I can't help you be lucky. I can't even help myself be lucky.

But, what I can do is look for patterns that tell me something about how the odds of winning are set on particular slot machines. It seemed like her machine had better odds. In fact, it seemed like it had much better odds.

Then, like some crazy person, she left. She just walked away from a winning slot machine. Who does that? Maybe she thought her winning was just luck. I guess. Perhaps she needed to be someplace else.

Anyways, I slide right on over and put my players' card into the machine as quickly as possible. Why? Well, one of my theories mentioned in a recent podcast episode has to do with how casinos can remotely change the odds of winning on idle slot machines.

And, no players card in the slot machine and no bets made either is an idle slot machine. So, I made it not be idle as quickly as I possibly could. Can you guess what happened? I won.

I won, and I won, and I won. It was great. Now, by the time I started playing this second Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami penny slot machine I was down to around \$50 of bankroll. So, I kept my bets small.

That means I didn't win a lot in terms of dollars. I won often, but each win was small. I won a lot more than I spent with my bets of \$1.20, though. Below is a picture of a \$15.50

win. There was another bonus game win of \$35.10 and another of \$44.20. My bankroll increased back up to around \$100.

Then I went to dinner. Like a crazy person, I got up and left the slot machine. Why? Well, I was pretty hungry, and the buffet would soon close. But, again, I wasn't there to make money. I was there to help you make money if you visit Rivers Casino.

I'll mention now that I came back to this same slot machine about an hour later after I had my buffet dinner. Guess what? The odds of winning on this slot machine were terrible. Isn't that interesting?

While again it is always possible to have a winning streak based on luck, which for many table games players is a fact of their gambling life, we know better. When playing slot machines, sometimes it's entirely luck, and sometimes it's not entirely luck.

For this slot machine, assuming it wasn't entirely just old-fashioned luck the first time around, it felt like someone lowered the odds while the machine was idle. I cannot prove my point to you about this being the case on this slot machine.

But, as you perhaps already know from your own experiences, it happens so often on one slot machine after another that it's obvious something is going on. And, technically, it's entirely possible.

And, being possible, why wouldn't casinos do it to help guide their financial performance metrics wherever state regulations don't legally require a maximum payout return limit on a per bet and per slot machine basis. After all, few states have such a specific gaming regulation.

Grand View Buffet

Do you like buffets? I love them, including all the variety while building my plate of food. I'm only slightly kidding when I say I love reviewing casinos for my Professor Slots business mostly so I can sample so many beautiful buffets. Again, I'm only slightly joking.

The Grand View Buffet at *Rivers Casino Pittsburgh* was both excellent and inexpensive. Using my Rush Rewards Players Club card at the base Gold tier level got me a 5% discount. That was nice. I'll note that there are more significant discounts for the higher tiers.

This buffet is upstairs at Rivers Casino. Just go up the escalators at the back of the casino. It's basically on the second floor along with a hallway to several large conference rooms. The buffet itself is a surprisingly large area with about seven different cuisines. I sampled everything. It was all good.

There's a steakhouse as well, Andrew's Steak & Seafood, but I didn't eat there. Also, Cíao is a small deli offering Starbucks Coffee. Finally, there's a sports bar and grill called Wheelhouse if you're interested in a beer, wings, and watch a game.

On the website, it says they'll also have another dining option. It'll be a burger place called Flipt. It's not clear when they plan to be open. The website implies it is both coming soon but specifically states it's now open. It's probably now open. Their Breakfast Burger looks good.

Nestled in Downtown Pittsburgh

If Pittsburgh isn't your hometown, then you may not be interested in what's happening in the greater Pittsburgh area. I've been to casinos build out on a vast cornfield in the Midwest, where there frankly isn't much to do except whatever the casino itself offers.

If Pittsburgh is your hometown, or if you frequently visit Rivers Casinos in other states with the same Rush Rewards Players Club, then we need to talk about complimentary gifts.

Before we do that, I'll mention the three Rivers Casinos having Rush Rewards. Two casinos are in Pennsylvania. The third is in a suburb located northwest of downtown Chicago. They are:

1. *Rivers Casino Pittsburg*
2. *Sugarhouse Casino – Philadelphia*
3. *Rivers Casino Des Plaines-Chicago*

If you've identified your slots gambling goals as including earning complimentary gifts, then you'll want to know what the Pittsburgh area has to offer.

Why? Because I assume you will succeed at earning complimentary gifts. Whether this is at Rivers in Pittsburgh or Chicago or Sugarhouse in Philadelphia doesn't matter. Once you start winning comps at any of them, it won't be long before you start getting offers to visit the other two properties. As in, free offers to travel on the casino's dime.

It wouldn't surprise me if Sugarhouse and Rivers Casino Pittsburgh had a bus which regularly transported their slots players in their upper tiers back and forth between the two properties. Further, Rivers Casino Des Plaines-Chicago probably flies them into both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

With all that in mind, what does Pittsburgh have to offer? If you happen to have a personal host due to being in the Signature tier, what do you want? As it happens, I've already described many of the comp possibilities in my podcast episode #29 *Winning Strategy 3 Comps and Missouri Slots 2018*.

Yes, earning complimentary gifts or “comps” is a winning strategy. For many slots players, they spend everything they win. So, where’s their profit, if any? It’s in the variety of free stuff they get.

If it’s not a trip, then you’ll want to set aside a spare bedroom for them. As I’ve mentioned elsewhere, re-gifting to family and friends is well worth considering.

In Pittsburgh, easy comps to ask for includes admission to:

- Carnegie Science Center
- Heinz Field (Home of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Panthers)
- PNC Park (Home of the Pittsburgh Pirates)
- Museums and Parks
- Fine dining in Downtown Pittsburgh

Summary of *Rivers Casino Pittsburgh*

In summary, I went over my Professor Slots casino trip report for Rivers Casino Pittsburgh in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania. It was first named Majestic Star Casino, but renamed by the time it opened on August 9, 2009. It currently has 2,900 slot machines

In this review, I covered its rewards club, high limit slots room, idle slot machines, a penny slot machine called Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami, its buffet, and the local area to help provide insights into possible reward comps in the downtown Pittsburgh area.

Call to Action #2 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I’ve used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Up next is the second segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in two U.S. states, territories, or federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up first is Mississippi slot machine casino gambling 2019. Here goes!

Mississippi slot machine casino gambling consists of 28 riverboat casinos and 3 American Indian tribal casinos. The riverboat casinos, in fact permanently docked

barges, appear as land-based casinos. International cruise ships with onboard casinos also depart from ports in Biloxi and Gulfport.

Minimum and maximum payout return limits have been legally set by the state. Further, comprehensive actual payout return statistics are available by gaming machine type and state region.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Mississippi

The minimum legal gambling age in Mississippi depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: n/a
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: n/a

Gambling in Mississippi has aided to the economy of the state and breathed new life into its tourism industry. In 1990, the Mississippi state legislature was the third U.S. state to legalize riverboat gambling.

By law, Mississippi's riverboat casinos must be located on coastal waters, the Mississippi River, and in navigable waters of counties bordering the Mississippi River.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Mississippi legislature allowed the state's gulf coast casinos to rebuild on land within 800 feet of the shoreline.

Winning a jackpot of \$1,200 or more in Mississippi results in a nonrefundable 3% tax of those winnings paid to the Mississippi Gaming Commission. This limit also applies to any cash prizes won in casino drawings and tournaments.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Mississippi

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In Mississippi, it is legal to privately own a slot machine if it is at least 25 years old.

Gaming Control Board in Mississippi

The Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC) is the state's gaming control board for non-tribal casinos. The MGC has its own gaming regulations as well as those found within state law, specifically the Gaming Control Act.

The MGC also provides monthly gaming revenues since 2008. It separates its riverboat casinos by their physical region within the state. These three regions are:

- Central Region, including the cities of Vicksburg and Natchez
- Northern Region, including the cities of Tunica, Greenville, and Lula
- Coastal Region, including the cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians also has its Choctaw Gaming Commission for Mississippi's three tribal casinos. This gaming commission was established via the tribal-state compact and regulates tribal gaming in Mississippi.

Casinos in Mississippi

In this section, I'll discuss Mississippi gambling establishments.

There are 28 non-tribal casinos and 3 American Indian tribal casinos in Mississippi. There are also cruise ship ports in Biloxi and Gulfport with international destinations.

The largest casino in Mississippi is Island View Casino Resort in Gulfport, having 2,700 gaming machines and 45 table games.

The second largest casino is Silver Star Casino at Pearl River in Philadelphia, having 2,500 gaming machines and 75 table games.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Mississippi

Mississippi's 28 riverboat casinos are listed along with links to their websites, assuming they've set one up, on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/MS.

American Indian Casinos in Mississippi

Mississippi's 3 tribal casinos, each a property of Pearl River Casinos and Resorts owned and operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, are also listed at professorslots.com/MS.

When I was researching these three tribal casinos, I came across a picture of the Golden Moon Casino at the Pearl River Resort. Have you seen it or been there yourself? It's an interesting building structure.

It swoops up, curving and rising, from perhaps the 5 floor of the hotel to what appears to be the 24th floor. Then, on that top corner of the building, there's a huge geodesic sphere. It looks like a golf ball. I suppose that make sense for a resort.

The front of the building, which is apparently a hotel and casino, is bright orange with both ends and the roof being a deep blue. Because it curves and swoops up like it does, with the shortest end of the building angled 90 degrees from the tall end of the building, the top floor only has two rooms at most.

That's because I can only see two windows in the picture. The second-to-top floor has only 4 windows. The next floor down has 6 and etc. It sure is pretty when lit up at night, though. Just Google Golden Moon Casino to see what I seeing.

Anyway, it must be interesting staying in that hotel, with its curved hallways and shorter and shorter hallways as you go up in floors. I imagine the elevators must be over on the end of the building that can get to the top floor.

I don't think it's like the Luxor hotel and casino in Las Vegas, you know the pyramid structure, where the elevators go up at an angle.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying Mississippi slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Mississippi is bordered by:

- North: Tennessee
- East: Alabama
- South: Gulf of Mexico
- West: Arkansas and Louisiana

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter designation. For example, my Montana slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MT.

Payout Returns in Mississippi

The minimum and maximum payout return limits are 80% and 100% per MGC Regulations Part 3: Operations per Rule 12.5: Minimum Standards for Gaming Devices.

These gaming regulations apply to each wager available for play on the device. Further, for skill-based games, these legal limits require a player is employing an optimal strategy for perfect play.

MGC Monthly Revenue Reports provide the most recent month's Hold Percentage and Win Percentage. Prior reports are in the website's Monthly Archives by month since April 2000.

The monthly Win Percentage report provides the Win% for all the casinos in total for each State Region: Central, Coastal, and Northern. Further, these state regions offer Win% for each available machine denomination as well as separate entries for progressive machines also by denomination.

For each state region and denomination, the monthly reports combine payout statistics for all electronic gaming machines, including:

- Slot machines
- Video poker machines
- Video keno machines

Finally, another monthly report is a Gaming Devices Report, which provides the number of electronic gaming machines available by denomination for each Mississippi non-tribal casino. Once again, progressive versus non-progressive machines are separate.

Relative to other U.S. gaming jurisdictions, the payout statistics provided by Mississippi are the most thorough treatment I've seen for payout returns.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has not established payout return limits via its tribal-state gaming compact or its Choctaw Gaming Commission. Further, as is usual with tribal casinos in other states, no actual payout return statistics are publicly available.

Summary of Mississippi Slots 2019

In summary, Mississippi slot machine casino gambling consists of 28 riverboat casinos, three American Indian tribal casinos, and international cruise ships out of ports in Biloxi and Gulfport on the Gulf Coast.

Minimum and maximum payout return legal limits for the non-tribal casinos are 80% and 100%, respectively. Comprehensive actual payout return statistics are available within three state regions and electronic gaming machine denomination. Further, these statistics are separate for progressive versus non-progressive gaming machines.

Annual Progress in *Mississippi Slot Machine Casino Gambling*

Over the last year, Mississippi's second largest casino has moved into the lead position primarily by providing another 741 gaming machines. The former largest casino, with its unchanged number of gaming machines, dropped to the second-place position.

Call to Action #3 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

Introduction

Up next is the second state comprising this episode segment: Missouri Slot Machine Casino Gambling 2019. Here goes!

Missouri slot machine casino gambling consists of 13 riverboat casinos spread across the state.

State gaming regulations have established a minimum legal limit for payout returns from gaming devices. Payout return statistics are also publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Missouri

The minimum legal gambling age in Missouri depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Missouri was the fifth U.S. state to approve gambling on riverboat casinos. These casinos do not cruise. Although they originally had to close boarding for a two-hour-long gaming session, this restriction was eliminated in 2000.

Another original restriction was a \$500 loss limit on each gaming session, eliminated in 2008 via a state-wide referendum.

A \$1,200 or more jackpot or cash prize in Missouri results in the casino withholding 4% of the winnings for the Missouri Department of Revenue. However, filing an annual state tax return with Missouri can return some withheld tax dependent upon overall aspects of your annual income tax filings.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Missouri

Regarding slot machine private ownership, it is legal in this state if they are at least 30 years old.

Gaming Control Boards in Missouri

The Missouri Gaming Commission is responsible for state gaming regulations. In addition, it has jurisdiction over fantasy sports, bingo, and charitable games.

If you are interested in a weekly update on gaming issues, such as news and information as well as the ability to comment, available on the state-run Gaming Commission Blog. I like the photos there.

The photographs shown on the Gaming Commission's blog aren't spectacular. They aren't anything like a great Pinterest recipe photo or carefully crafted Instagram post. They are more like YouTube videos of someone's ordinary day, only they're just photos.

Do you know what I mean? The photos show hard working people getting recognized for their five-year service award. Who does that? Sure, I got a five-year plaque at my day job, but I had to ask for it. There was no presentation much less a photo taken to be posted online.

Other photos recognized slightly uncomfortable looking people being recognized for staff promotions. Even retirements are shown like, for example, Bill and his wife Rachelle being presented with flowers and a plaque.

Seriously, the blog with its photos shows the human side of a state gaming commission. So, yes, I like the photos there.

Casinos in Missouri

There are 13 riverboat casinos in Missouri.

The largest casino in Missouri is Ameristar Casino Hotel Kansas City having more than 2,200 gaming machines.

The second largest casino is Ameristar Casino Resort Spa St. Charles having more than 2,000 gaming machines.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Missouri

There are 13 riverboat casinos in Missouri each listed along with links to their websites, assuming they've set one up, on my website blog article for this state at professorslots.com/MO.

American Indian Casinos in Missouri

While Missouri has two American Indian tribes, neither is a federally-recognized tribe. Consequently, there is no tribal-state compact in place for allowing Class III tribal casinos and, therefore, no tribal casinos in Missouri.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying Missouri slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Missouri is bordered by:

- North: Iowa
- East: Illinois
- Southeast: Kentucky
- South: Arkansas and Tennessee
- Northwest: Nebraska
- West: Kansas and Oklahoma

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter designation. For example, my Iowa slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/IA.

I don't usually talk about anything other than topics related to slot machine casino gambling, but perhaps you're interested in the Missouri bingo situation. Rules for non-tribal bingo fall under charitable gaming. There are also tribal bingo halls, which fall under Class II gaming regulations through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, but I'm not talking about those here.

Commercial bingo halls in Missouri were legalized via a state constitutional amendment in 1980, but those laws are, well, difficult. They're difficult because of restrictions on bingo advertising and prerequisites for bingo volunteers. The charitable bingo community in Missouri is hurting because of these restrictions.

Frankly, volunteers are scarce at commercial bingo halls. So, bingo is struggling in Missouri. So, last year, an attempt was made to amend the Missouri Constitution to change the restriction on how much experience workers must have before they can run bingo games.

Basically, Amendment 4 would change the requirement from 2 years to 6 months. It would also remove the prohibition against advertising the games, which was ruled as unconstitutional by the courts in 1998.

Why did this proposed amendment make it all the way to the November 2018 ballot? Why am I mentioning it here? I'm mentioning it here because of the high numbers of bingo halls in Missouri. In 2006, there were well over 400 bingo halls in the state. Now, there are 224 bingo halls, which is still a lot.

So, when thinking about Missouri gaming, bingo is a part of that dynamic. So, you ask, what happened? Did the amendment pass? It passed. Over 52% of voters approved the constitutional amendment.

Payout Returns in Missouri

Missouri state law has established an 80% lower limit for theoretical payout returns on all gambling devices.

The state of Missouri reports actual payout percentage returns for slot machines but have combined them with those from video poker, video keno, and all other electronic games.

Monthly payout return statistics are available at the Missouri Gaming Commission via a link prominently displayed under their *I Want To...* in a section called View Slot Payout Percentages by Location.

There you'll find the monthly statistics for the most recent fiscal year starting in July. The most recent monthly report available at the time of this writing is October 2018 from FY 2019.

Each page provides the statistics for one Missouri riverboat. The last page of each report shows the combined overall statistics for all riverboat casinos in Missouri.

Also, each page shows the actual payout return percentages by denomination. In October 2018, the overall actual payout return percentage for all Missouri riverboat casinos was 90.298%.

If you wish to select the Missouri riverboat casino with the best payout return based on the most recent month, be sure to review the latest report. The same is true if you want the payout returns for specific slot machine denominations.

For October 2018, the overall monthly payout return for each riverboat casino was provided at ProfessorSlots.com/MO in the payout returns for Missouri section:

For October 2018, the highest actual payout return went to Ameristar Casino Resort Spa St. Charles at just over 91%. The lowest payout return for the month went to the Mark Twain Casino at just over 88.3%.

Summary to Missouri Slots 2019

In summary, Missouri slot machine casino gambling consists of 13 riverboat casinos. Missouri has no federally-recognized tribe and therefore no tribal casinos.

State gaming regulations have established an 80% minimum legal limit for payout returns from gaming devices. Detailed actual payout return statistics are available by month, casino, and slot machine denomination.

Annual Progress in *Missouri Slot Machine Casino Gambling*

Over the last year, there has been no significant change in the state of Missouri slot machine casino gambling.

Call to Action #4 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is not yet determined.

To make a suggestion or ask a question which might end up as a blog article or on a podcast episode, email it to jon@professorslots.com where Jon is spelled J-O-N or by calling 702-90-SLOTS to leave a 3-minute or less voicemail. I'd appreciate your casino trip reports about playing slots, if you'd care to offer that.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast are more brief overviews of the current state of gambling in two U.S. states, territories, or federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. states of Montana and Nebraska.

Closing (closing music)

Reviewing Rivers Casino Pittsburgh | Mississippi and Missouri Slot Machine Casino
Gambling 2019

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are now available within most podcast Apps, but are also available on my website at professorslots.com/e50.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-character description:

This trip report and review for Rivers Casino Pittsburgh covers its rewards club, high limit slots room, idle slot machines, Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami, its buffet, and what comps to expect in the downtown Pittsburgh area. It has 2,900 slot machines. Plus, Mississippi and Missouri slot machine casino gambling 2019.

156-character description:

I review Rivers Casino Pittsburgh: rewards club, how to win, Dragon Emblem Jackpots by Konami, its buffet, & comps. Plus, Mississippi & Missouri slots 2019.