

# Las Vegas Sphere— a modern wonder of the world

by Jan Wagner / AutoMatters & More

The Sphere opened in September 2023 and has already become perhaps the most widely recognized landmark in Las Vegas. Considering its iconic competition, that is really saying something. It is so large, colorful and bright that it dominates the Las Vegas Skyline day and night.

Sphere Entertainment Company describes the Sphere as “a next-generation entertainment medium that is redefining the future of live entertainment powered by cutting-edge technologies, that ignites the senses and transports audiences to places both real and imagined. U2’s *The Edge* calls it ‘a canvas of unparalleled scale.’ Whatever you see at Sphere, it’s going to be unlike anything else. The Sphere Experience starts with *Aura*, our real-life humanoid robot, who will take you on a tour into the future of technology. The Experience continues with a specially commissioned film by acclaimed director, Darren Aronofsky, to ‘immerse (yourself) in the wonder, awe and beauty of the natural world.’ Part sci-fi story, part nature documentary, *Postcard From Earth* takes advantage of all Sphere’s experiential technologies to make you feel like you’re anywhere but Las Vegas.”

These descriptions by the company do not come close to describing the absolutely mind-blowing, unbelievably immersive experience that awaits you at the \$2.3 billion, 17,600-seat Sphere. Try to imagine that you are seated in a really HUGE dome, and on the inside of that dome is the equivalent of an ultra-high-resolution OLED TV screen—so clear, sharp and realistic that it is like actually being where the shots were taken.

That realism is amplified by Sphere Immersive Sound: the world’s largest concert-grade audio system, which was specifically developed for Sphere’s

unique curved interior. This custom-designed audio technology, which includes 167,000 individually amplified loudspeaker drivers, makes the Sphere’s audio unlike that of any other venue in the world, providing audio with unmatched clarity and precision to every guest, no matter where they are seated. It is like the sounds that you are hearing come precisely from where the sources are that you are seeing on the huge video dome.

That’s not all. The Sphere has its own weather, that includes wind effects to accompany what you see happening in the dome, and the seats vibrate to further enhance your experience.

*Postcard From Earth* will take you on a breathtaking journey through space and around the world. I have had the extreme pleasure of seeing it twice: once while seated high up in the middle area of the stadium seating, and the second time while seated very low down and also in the middle of the stadium seating area—without a doubt, the best place from which to view the show. While sitting up high in a relatively small IMAX dome can avoid neck strain, the SPHERE is so much larger that you can comfortably turn and look around.

If you want to check it out for yourself on a visit to Las Vegas, be aware that it can be a lot farther away than it looks. I had decided to take what I expected to be a short walk over to take some photos. By the time that I realized it was not a short walk, I had already walked so far, it made no sense to turn around, go back to get my car and drive over there. Lesson learned.

The Sphere will host a wide variety of events and experiences, including concerts and residencies from the world’s biggest artists. The company is having discussions regarding the development of Sphere in other cities.

Ticket prices for *Postcard From Earth* currently range from \$69 to \$249, and the price gets significantly higher as the date and time of the show approaches and tickets sell, so reserve early. For more information about the Las Vegas Sphere, visit [www.thespherevegas.com](http://www.thespherevegas.com). ■

