

Team Building – Customer Reviews

GBF Marketing

“Now, as the snow flies outside of my office window, I sit back in my cube looking at my framed team photo and remember the fun, camaraderie and truly great adventure we all shared in Vegas. And, surprisingly enough, that camaraderie goes a long way once the workday begins.”

“Short of a totalitarian dictator, I am the worst example of a corporate team player known to man. I am not sure what gene I am lacking but I do know that all attempts to “bond” me to my fellow working stiffs have failed miserably. Over the course of my 15+ year career, I have been subjected to more corporate team building exercises, under the guise of a corporate “retreat,” than I care to remember. I have forged poison rivers, scaled human chain walls and, my least favorite, trust fallen into the linked arms of my daily grind comrades. The same comrades that I make no bones about not bonding with during the 40+ hour work week. Needless to say, that attitude has not resulted in an outpouring of admiration towards me (and I am falling into their arms from a 3-story ledge, why?)

So when the memo came down from above late last year that this year’s Kumbaya Weekend in January was going to held in Las Vegas, my low expectations remained the same. The only thing different this year would be my forging poison rivers and scaling human chain walls that were festooned in flashing neon. Same drab, different droll.

My sour demeanor started to improve immediately once our group of 56 arrived at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino. This 2 million plus square foot behemoth of a resort is spectacular. Just walking through the casino floor on the way to our private event area, you could feel the electricity and the excitement in the air. At one point, I looked over at one of my fellow team builder-jaded mates and said, “This might not be so bad.” That statement proved to be the understatement of the weekend.

We were ushered into the reception area by members of the event company, ATOM Las Vegas. Their forte is to create and execute numerous exercises and events that foster team building and corporate growth in a fun and challenging environment. At least that is what their company literature said. All I knew was that using the beautiful Mandalay Bay as their setting was brilliant. To our incredible surprise, we were being sent on a photo Scavenger Hunt throughout the resort along with members of the ATOM Las Vegas acting troupe serving as our guides. Remember, the Resort is over 2 million square feet. We were going to need more than a guide. We would need a tent and sleeping bags.

Over cocktails and light safari snacks, we were divided into 7 teams of 8 members, given our photo “targets,” maps of the resort (2 pages, small print... this place is BIG), disposable cameras for the photo evidence that we hit our targets, and oddly, a \$1 bill. Each team had two hours to photograph as many of the targets as time would allow and the team with the most photos would win. Pretty basic, but here is one of the many ingenious team-building elements. Since the resort is so massive, and the photos targets are scattered, logic would dictate that the team split up and search for the clues on their own. Not so fast... only one camera and the entire team has to be in the photo with the target. That means that a leader must be chosen and a route must be set by the team hierarchy to avoid anarchy. In addition, there are specific instructions that must be followed such as no photos of the casino floor. Our guides served as the official hall monitors for that omnipotent rule.

The head of ATOM Las Vegas, Jay Joseph, laid out the ground rules and provided the hysterical commentary that got all of us whipped into a casino huntin' frenzy. His last parting act was to hand each team the dollar bill and explain that in order to gain re-entry at the end of the 2-hour hunt, we would have to present a casino cash voucher for ten cents or below. At the time, nobody understood how humorous (and slightly devious) this last marching order would turn out to be. And I am not going to ruin the twist for future Mandalay Bay hunters. You'll have to go on the Hunt for yourself. We were then released to the wilds of the resort to capture and photograph such sites as the Entrance to Shark Reef, on stage at the House of Blues, at the entrance to Mix Lounge atop THEHotel penthouse and in front of the gargantuan headless statue (Good Luck finding this one), to name a few of our Top 10 Hits.

The entire event was exhilaratingly fun in that we all had to work together to find the sites, ask directions from whomever when necessary, and really come together in the bright and festive casino resort atmosphere. Incredible. Once we returned to our private staging area, we handed over our cameras and sat down for our company dinner and presentation. During the dinner, the photos were developed and returned to our team leaders and the rest of the evening was spent laughing and sharing what turned out to be one of the best corporate team building team building experiences our company has ever witnessed."
