

# TOP 5 OLDEST CASINOS IN THE WORLD



Gambling is almost as old as humanity. However, few visitors really know the history of casinos and the origin of the oldest ones, which take guests on a journey into the past. Surprisingly, one of the best-known casinos – the Monte-Carlo Casino – is not among the 5 oldest ones as it opened in 1863. Nevertheless, it is still one of the most important tourist attractions in the entire Principality of Monaco.

What establishments are those with the longest history? Tourism Review presents the most fascinating and the oldest casinos in the world.

## 5. Casino in Baden-Baden, Germany: In the Heart of the Black Forest

The Casino located in Baden-Baden opened in 1838. Only a few other locations in Germany got a gambling license so early; Baden-Baden was placed in a very special location as a spa town (like Wiesbaden). The amazing building has added architectural value and it attracts tourists from all over the world.

Games are mostly played at the table: roulette, poker, blackjack and baccarat. Slot machines occupy a very special position. They are in a separate area and are also accessible to people in casual clothes. Poker tournaments are held regularly and they are attended not only by Germans, but also by people who come from all over Europe.

## 4. Crockfords Club in London: Upscale British Gambling

In 1828, Crockfords Club opened in London and it is still considered the foremost casino in Great Britain. The prestigious Curzon Street address opens only to members and their guests. At the beginning of the era, almost exclusively celebrities and people coming from the elite were guests of the club. Nowadays, anyone can become a member: the only way to access one of the most luxurious casinos in the world.

Here etiquette is very important, the evening dress code is not a request, but a duty. A special feature is the rejection of slot machines. In the club, in fact, games are played exclusively at the table with poker having the highest priority.

## 3. Casino in Wiesbaden, Germany: Housed in a Charming Kurhaus

The casino in Wiesbaden, which is still renowned today, was opened in Germany in 1810. It is placed

in one of the most beautiful spa buildings and it is known far beyond the country's borders as one of the oldest casinos in the world.

The spa house and casino were designed by the architect Friedrich von Thiersch, who is still known today for his neo-Renaissance buildings. The casino stands out above all for its luxurious ambience. Here style is given great importance; Wiesbaden is generally considered one of the wealthiest cities in Germany.

Company parties, weddings and other events are preferably held in the multifaceted casino. Since 2010, there is an additional area for playing slot machines. Here they offer electronic roulette and slot machines. In the "small game" casual dress is allowed, while in the actual casino etiquette and luxury are required.

## **2. Casino de Spa in Belgium: A Long History of Gambling**

The Casino de Spa located in Belgium is one of the oldest casinos in the world. It was opened as early as 1763 and it has been one of the attractions of the town of "Spa" ever since. Even nowadays, the casino is considered the founder of modern tourism in the city, because its income created opportunities. Since then, fancy hotels and elegant wellness facilities had been built around the casino.

The Casino de Spa is housed in a complex of neoclassic buildings resembling a castle. It has been the victim of three fires in the past and it has been rebuilt three times. During the construction works, the focus was increasingly on its modernization.

Nowadays the Casino de Spa offers not only table games like roulette, poker and blackjack, but also modern slot machines. From a cultural point of view, the casino is a central element of the Spa and it has the same importance as the mineral springs, famous throughout the world.

## **1. The Venice Casino: The Oldest One in the World**

Once built in the Palazzo Cavalli-Franchetti, the casino is now placed on the Lido. Opened in 1638, it is considered the oldest casino in the world. People still gamble here today. The casino changed its management several times and it is currently owned by the Casino di Venezia Gioco S.p.A.

Even though the stately gaming house is almost 400 years old, it is one of the most technically modern casinos in the world. Over 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space await players with a large selection of slot machines and table games.

Its fancy location on the Grand Canal makes the casino not only a popular place for gambling but also an exciting spectacle.

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