

How to play the casino slots machine



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Buffalo slot is one of the most played games across all slot casinos. Aristocrat has released numerous versions of the Buffalo slot machine. The new games share the iconic purple Buffalo symbols. These show the beasts charging head-first from the reels. They also share sound effects and important elements of the game play, while building on it in innovative ways.

Many slot studios have tried to recreate the appeal of Buffalo, including Chumba Casino and Luckyland Slots with Stampede Fury. While many excellent games have come from these efforts – none has come close to matching the original. The simple gameplay, with free spins and wild multipliers, has hit the sweet spot in terms of enjoyment and big win potential.

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The original Buffalo slots game is now available at selected online casinos. To play the newer games like Buffalo Gold, Buffalo Grand and Buffalo Stampede – you'll need to travel to your nearest live casino. You'll find all the games below in casinos around the country including Atlantic City, Las Vegas and Downtown Detroit.

This page covers Aristocrat's Buffalo slots in-depth. Below you'll find information on the basic setup shared between all the games, then the following different versions.

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While you can also find Buffalo slot machines in multi-game terminals (Wonder 4 and the like), and a Class II version (Buffalo Xtreme), this list covers the main games.

There are major differences for each variation. Below are the key elements shared by all the games. Aristocrat has been careful to keep the core of the game familiar and entertaining. By not straying too far from the winning formula, they have made each new version of Buffalo as appealing as the original.

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You'll find Buffalo slots online in states which have regulated gambling. This list is currently restricted to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and West Virginia.

It is rare to find a brick-and-mortar casino without several variations of Buffalo slots. Casinos from Detroit to California, from New England to Florida all have them. Most of the Buffalo slot games are Class III games. Some tribal casinos with Class II slots also feature adapted Buffalo slots.

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Some game developers have created a similar version of the game, the most popular being Playtech with the Buffalo Blitz slot, which is available at BetMGM Casino, BetRivers and PokerStars.

On the surface, the original Buffalo was similar to many slots released around the same time in 2008. This is a simple video slot, with 5 reels, 4 rows of symbols on each reel and all-ways wins.

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It is the mix of a solid base game with wilds on the middle reels, plus a free spins bonus which can be easily retriggered which worked well in this game. Gold coins trigger a bonus. You'll usually get 8 free spins (though up to 25 are possible with 5 coins on the triggering spin).

During the free spins, any wilds that appear will get a 2x of 3x multiplier. These work together, so 3 of the 3x multipliers will give you 27x on any wins they are all involved in.

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You only need 2 coins to extend your free spins bonus. This will give you 5 extra spins each time.

This game features a taller screen. The symbols and free spins bonus feature work the same as in the original. Buffalo stampede also has progressive jackpots. These are random – and tick up on the top left and right corners of the screen.

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Game play is made more interesting by the occasional stampede of buffalo. These can run up from the bottom of the screen on one or more reels. They will expand the reels when they do, by either 1 or 2 extra symbols. Buffalo can also run across the top of the reels, adding extra buffalo symbols. Big wins are possible where these combine with the regular on-reel buffalo symbols and / or multiplier wilds.

This variation has been hugely popular. There are no progressive jackpots or major changes to the base game involved. The big change only becomes apparent once you trigger the free spins bonus.

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During this bonus some of the buffalo symbols are gold colored. Each time you hit one, it moves to the top part of the tall cabinet. At certain milestones, each of the 4 higher paying animal symbols turn into buffalo. This increases your chances of a big buffalo win as you go. Retriggers are extra valuable in Buffalo Gold. These give you more time to collect the gold heads – you'll need all 15 to turn all the animals into buffalo symbols.

Adding two bonus wheels made Buffalo Grand the biggest change to the original formula so far when it was released. There are 4 levels of progressive jackpot to be won. You need to bet \$3 or more per spin in most casinos to qualify for a shot at the biggest (Grand) jackpot.

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Buffalo Grand also has a non-standard reel setup. There are 5 rows of symbols on the middle 3 reels, with 4 symbols on reels 1 and 5. All-ways wins are still used.

Triggering the bonus wheel with 3+ wheel symbols lets you spin for jackpots or different numbers of free spins. Some jackpot wins let you spin a second bonus wheel, which gives you a multiplier of up to 10x.

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This game uses a strategy element which was first introduced via the Harley Davidson slots. There are free spins with multipliers of 2x, 3x and 4x. These increase when diamond symbols of different colors appear on the reels. They are specific to certain stakes. The numbers for each will be different at 75c per spin compared to \$3 (or the levels in-between). You can check out all the games in a casino to find the one with the most multiplier free spins at your preferred stake level.

Free spins and jackpots are won via a bonus wheel. This can also award regular (non-multiplied) free spins. The reels are in an unusual diamond shape for this game, which has a curved screen that bulges out towards the top.

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The latest 'Gold' variation adds a bonus wheel. The free spins bonus where you collect gold heads is still the key element. On the wheel are two jackpots (worth winning, though not the life-changing ones on Buffalo Grand) and segments with cash wins and gold heads.

Whenever you spin the wheel and don't hit a 'free spins' segment, the prizes get a boost. More gold heads and bigger cash amounts are added for the next spin. If you get the gold heads, these form part of the collection game inside the free spins. Starting your spins with 3+ heads will help add high-paying buffalo symbols to the reels faster.

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The newest Buffalo-themed game uses 5 mechanical reels. They have the familiar animal symbols on them, though spin on cylinders. There is a bonus wheel which can add extra buffalo for your free spins bonus. This wheel can also award you a progressive jackpot.

Those buffalo you get on the wheel are added to a display above the reels during the free spins. You might find 3 buffalo above one reel or have 4 or 5 spread out across the reels. These are counted as extra buffalo to calculate wins (using the all-ways system as usual). Multiplier wilds can also appear on this display.

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This series of slots are hugely popular. You'll find them in live casinos around the country, with the original (classic) version also available online. When a new Buffalo comes out, it is always busy – often with lines of people waiting to try it out.

Whether you prefer the solid original, big jackpot potential of 'Grand' or the collection element of the game play in the 'Gold' and 'Diamond' versions there is something in the Buffalo slots range for you.

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Play slots smarter. Leave with your winnings! Get your FREE Guide Revealing...

Do you remember the first time you entered a casino as a beginner slots player? I know I do. But perhaps you are only just beginning your slots journey. Let's ease your way into becoming a healthy, happy slots enthusiast.

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My first experience at slot machine gambling was in 2003 at a small tribal casino (Kewadin Casino in Manistique, Michigan) in the upper peninsula. I was taking a long drive back to graduate school in Iowa after visiting family in the lower peninsula and had found a hotel at which to spend the night.

A casino was located just down the highway from that hotel. I wasn't aware of the casino being there until the hotel provided \$20 worth of tokens to play at it.

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I remember feeling a little nervous about entering a casino for the first time in my life. I mean, what would my family of non-gamblers think? But I gathered up my courage and went on in.

I found it to be a highly distracting place: loud, lots of flashing lights, and smoke. This was a time when smoking was more fashionable than it is today, so there was a great deal of cigarette and cigar smoke in the air. This is still true today in some states, such as Nevada, although ventilation has gotten a whole lot better.

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I distinctly remember rapidly spending the \$20 worth of tokens on slots. Plus, another \$50 besides which I could ill afford to lose. At the time I was a poor graduate student on a research stipend working a side job as a temporary instructor of college physics. I'd just spent my food money for the trip home.

Did I win anything that first time at a casino? No, I don't think so. Why don't I know if I had won or not? Frankly, how would I have known if I had? If I did, it wasn't enough to grab my attention.

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Maybe a few numbers changed on the player's console, and the slot machine made an unusual sound. So? What of it? From my perspective, it was doing that every time I made a bet anyway.

I left the casino after having spent \$50 I could barely afford to lose. As I continued home on that long road trip, I started thinking about gambling with slot machines. Since then, I've more-or-less never really stopped doing so.

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After a few months of dwelling on that first experience, I happened to be visiting the Omaha Zoo just over the western border of Iowa in Nebraska. There, I saw a casino (Lakeside Casino in Osceola, Iowa) on the river. Hint: it was a riverboat casino.

With those months of thinking figuratively behind me, I'd concluded from my first visit that I needed a rule for how much I should allow myself to spend whenever, or if ever, I entered another casino.

Casino the to machine how slots play

The careful rule I came up with was this: “Take a fixed amount into the casino, say \$25, and spend only that plus whatever you make from it.”

With this simple rule and \$25 in hand, I entered this second casino at about 2 o’clock in the afternoon on a Saturday ... and left almost 12 hours later at 1 a.m. Yes, that’s right, 12 hours. Why? Because I’d carefully followed my rule.

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My error was that I hadn’t been prepared for success. This has continued to plague me, by the way. The error which my simple rule didn’t account for was this: Almost immediately after entering this second casino, I won \$500 on a 25-cent slot machine.

Doing so left me feeling quite emotional, which inclined me to try to stick firmly to the rule – which I proceeded to do. As the afternoon and evening passed into the early morning, I continued to win additional small, nontaxable jackpots.

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Eventually, I spent my \$25 along with what I’d won with it. And so, this was my second experience at a casino. I’d gone from slots gambling for 10 minutes to a marathon 12-hour session.

I did try to find a hotel that morning, instead of driving home at such a late hour (and coming as close as I’ve ever gotten to hitting a deer on the highway), but the nearby hotel wouldn’t accept a credit card – only cash.

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The hotel staff insinuated that people would provide a credit card to the hotel upon arrival, but afterward max out their credit limit at the casino. At check-out, they wouldn’t be able to pay their hotel bill the following morning. That shocked me.

My point here isn’t about my not being able to get a hotel room, but that this was my first real clue that gambling was ... complicated. It consisted of more than just the act of making a bet by pushing a button.

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It exists in a unique environment where loud sounds, flashing lights, second-hand smoke, and even gambling abuses can occur. How fascinating!

After these first two casino gambling experiences, I spent more and more time thinking about them without much progress in learning how to win. I wasn’t yet thinking about how to win, however. Rather, I was mostly thinking about the potential dangers of what I was getting myself into.

Slots to the machine how casino play

Eventually, I made a decision to keep trying to figure out this whole slots gambling thing. I wasn’t expecting to win any significant amount of money, not ever. But I was hoping not to lose a significant amount of money.

At the time, for me, my primary motivation was wanting to develop better control over my emotions while gambling at a casino. When there, I was feeling overwhelmed by my strong emotions. I didn’t like feeling ruled, at times almost controlled, by my emotions.

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If my reaction to these strong emotions was a personal weakness, I knew I wouldn’t just find myself exposing this behavior at a casino. I could potentially be surprised by it at any other time. For example, while living my life or when working professionally. I felt I needed to understand and, if I could, address it.

So, with this reasoning in mind for proceeding with gaining additional slot machine gambling experiences, I took a long look around where I lived for any nearby casinos within driving distance. As it happened, there was a nice casino relatively nearby.

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This local casino (Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa) had table games, floors of slot machines, a high limit slot room, and horse racing. And, oh, the splendor of the buffet!

To all my senses, it was simply delightful. So, with that limited assessment of a gambling establishment, about every month or more I’d take about \$25 from my monthly stipend to go there with the full expectation of gambling it all away on slot machines.

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But would I...? For what happened next, see [The World’s Oldest Winning Slots Strategy is Still in Play!!](#)

Legal large-scale gambling in the U.S. started in Nevada in 1931. There was Las Vegas, of course, but also Reno, Lake Tahoe, and others. It basically stayed there until legalized in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1978.

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Legalized gambling in Atlantic City provided casinos convenient to gamblers on the east coast. And this balance of gambling between Nevada and Atlantic City continued until around the end of the 1980s. At that point, everything started changing more and more rapidly.

Basically, in 1988 tribal casinos became permitted by federal law. Although, tribes did need to negotiate state-tribal compacts with the state their reservations were located within. These negotiations typically took years.

The casino machine to slots how play

Another substantial change happened in the early 1990s when riverboat casinos became legal in several midwestern states. Originally, state law required these casinos to travel on water, or at least unmoor from a dock, before any gambling could occur.

In the mid-90s, online gambling started up outside of the U.S. This got out of control fast, until various legal restrictions began protecting players. For a while, this protection was to block online gambling in the continental U.S.

The slots how machine to casino play

By doing so, the U.S. Senate was not just protecting players, but also land-based casinos hurt by online gambling from outside the U.S. Not long after, Canada did much the same. Besides tribal gaming, this was the limit of federal laws restricting gambling in the U.S. until the banning and recent un-banning of sports betting at the federal level.

What all this means is simple. Gambling has become prevalent in the U.S., especially the most popular type of gambling there is: slot machine casino gambling.

The how casino to slots play machine

There is another side of the coin, as it were, to all this growth and expansion of gambling. All through these changes to the gaming industry in the U.S. and abroad, the technology of gambling was also growing and expanding.

For example, as you might imagine, the impact of microchips and the internet was profound to slots. For a succinct article capturing these near-constant technological developments of slots machines, see [The Ultimate Guide to Slot Machine History](#).

To slots the play casino how machine

My point of view is that slot machine casino gambling has changed a lot in the last few decades. Further, I believe that these changes will keep on happening. Knowing what has happened in the past will help us understand the future.

Some of the biggest changes occurring right now are related to slot machines no longer being fully random. Frankly, there are degrees of randomness. In the past, most casinos controlled the odds of winning on a slot machine by having slots mechanics physically adjust the odds on a regular schedule perhaps 2 weeks long.

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Nowadays, at casinos built or heavily renovated since 2012, this is automated. Doing so both reduced the casino labor force and provided a near real-time understanding of the performance of the casino for its operator.

And therein lies the secret to winning at slot machine casino gambling. But all that is a bit much for the beginner slots player. What you need to know is, the randomness of slot machines isn't always fully random. There are patterns to this randomness and, if you know to look for them, you can find them.

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Maybe you've yet to visit a casino. Maybe you have visited a casino and wondered what the heck just happened. You might even have gone many times but want to restart your slots journey for one of several reasons.

If you're just started on your slots journey, you may not know how much playing slots has changed so much in the last few years. That's fine, as more than a few regular slots players haven't kept up with all the changes of late. Or, rather, what the changes mean.

Casino play machine how to slots the

So, let us begin your journey together. Your first step? Well, it's probably not visiting a casino. Your first step is to search for info online. Maybe that's how you found me!

Most people have several casinos near them. In Iowa, for instance, every resident has at least one casino within an hour drive.

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What about you? How many casinos are near you? Well, I shouldn't explain how to use Google, but here's a hint: Type "casinos near me" in Google. Doing so will show a map with all the casinos in your area. Cool, huh?

Or use my Online Resource for U.S. Casino Slots Enthusiasts with links to my state-by-state slots review articles including lists of state's casinos as well as their websites ... and a map!

Casino play slots how the to machine

What you want to do is visit the websites of casinos near you. See what they have to offer that you might like. Don't focused entirely on gambling. For instance, you'll probably want a nice meal occasionally, right? So, look at what nearby casinos have to offer which might interest you.

That's about all the preparation you'll need to start, other than The Golden Rule of Slots.

The play casino to machine how slots

There is a danger to gambling for the first time. I'm not a medical professional, so I cannot explain this danger as well as I would like. But this is the danger: You don't know how you will involuntarily react to gambling until you do it the first time.

It's kind of like that first alcoholic drink. With it, some people immediately realize they are an alcoholic. It can ruin lives and doing something about it successfully will be a life-long endeavor.

I don't mean to scare you. Not at all. Many people find recreational gambling to be quite entertaining. But others find out they are compulsive gamblers. This can be hard on everyone. So, I have a few things to share about it.

First, please understand that casino's reprimand employees, or fire them, if they tell a patron they are spending too much money and should go home. That's just the sad truth. On the other hand, advertisements all over casinos explain how to get help.

Second, I don't encourage non-gamblers to gamble. I assume anyone who finds me is deliberately looking for information on slots gambling. But, if you decide you want to gamble, then I take it as my responsibility to explain how to do it.

Third, there truly is a Golden Rule. Here it is: Don't spend any money at a casino which you cannot afford to comfortably lose. That means you're spending disposable income, which is money left over after paying all your bills along with an additional amount put into your savings account of choice.

I suppose we should also discuss how a slot machine operates. Most newcomers sit down at a slot machine, put some money in, and start pushing some buttons. But what do the buttons do?

There are several physical components to slot machines, including various interfaces with the player. I've already written an article about the common elements of a slot machine called *How Slot Machines Work from a Player's Perspective*.

That article, or at least the schematic of a slot machine found in it, should go a long way toward taking the mystery out of how all the buttons, panels, and interfaces work on a slot machine.

Another thing you'll want to do is get a player's club card from the casino. At its simplest, this is like your grocery card. In exchange for your contact information, you can earn points by spending money on gambling. They'll also make some interesting offers.

You'll get free stuff from the casino, most likely starting when you sign up. Sometimes, in the long term, it's often the only way gamblers make a profit. Here's another article with my explanation about these casino rewards clubs called *Seven Advantages of Players Clubs for Playing Slots*.

So, let's recap what I've pulled together for you to start at slots:

So, what does happen next? One example would be what happened to me, as explained. Or something similar. If I had one wish for you, it would be this. I hope you don't win.