

COSMO



FROM KOUFAXIA

Logo and Mascot of the Las Vegas 51s



Image Courtesy of the Las Vegas 51s

COSMO THE ALIEN

FOR YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF UFO SIGHTINGS and the presence of extraterrestrials deep in the barren regions of

Nevada. While it is questionable whether or not these claims are valid, no one can argue with the fact that there is an alien roaming around Cashman Field, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Triple-A Las Vegas 51s.

What's in a name?

Venture approximately 100 miles north of Sin City, to find a secluded 6-by-10 mile stretch of land in the middle of the

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Nevada desert. Popularly known as Area 51, this region is the home to a top secret military facility. Established in 1954, the classified location has served as a testing ground for futuristic planes and government projects, including the U-2 spy plane. Yet this is not its claim to fame.

For years, many residents in proximity to Area 51, especially near Papoose Lake, swear they've seen mysterious flying objects hovering in the distance. It is where myth becomes legend, as it is the popular belief that Martian scientists

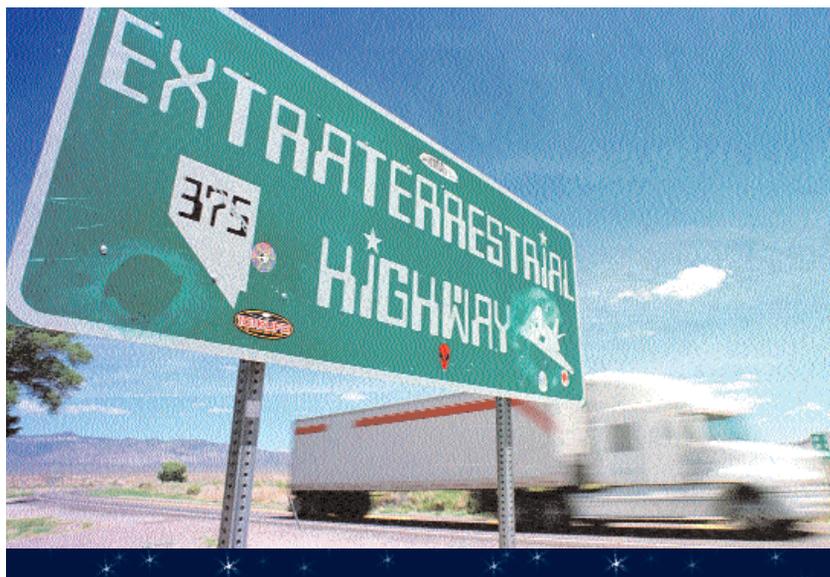


assist with the facilities' testing near the haunted lake. Locals guarantee that hidden in Area 51 is a crash-landed alien aircraft, with dead aliens inside, a la scenes from *Independence Day!*

Maybe the strongest evidence was presented in 1989, when U.S. government scientist Bob Lazar went on television declaring that he had worked with an extraterrestrial spacecraft in Area 51. Despite the glitz and glamour of Sin City, it was only appropriate that when the Las Vegas minor league team's new management resolved to have a name change in 2001, they pay homage to their region's reputation and dub themselves the Las Vegas 51s.

From Stars to Aliens... Las Vegas' cosmic team!

In 1983, the Triple-A Stars became the first baseball franchise in Las Vegas, courtesy of a struggling Spokane, Wash., franchise. The Stars began play in the Pacific Coast League affiliated with the San Diego Padres. After 18 years, Las Vegas finally sought change. In 2001, the Stars gained not only a new affiliation, but a new identity. They became the



UFO STOMPING GROUND: This sign, located near Rachel, Nev., resides in the closest town to the government's top secret Area 51.

Jon Freeman, Contributor / Getty Images

home to the Triple-A farm team for the Los Angeles Dodgers with the 51s as their team nickname.

The brand new club gained nationwide attention almost instantly for their unique name and extremely chic logos including a silver alien complete with baseball stitches in its egg-shaped head, resembling something out of, surprise, *Aliens*. In fact, they were so popular in their inaugural season that **the 51s compiled more merchandise sales than any other minor league franchise.**

A survivor of a spaceship crash who spent time at Area 51, this baseball-loving alien was a slugging phenom on his home planet, Koufaxia.

Cosmo

While people can debate the subject of other life in the universe, no one can deny the existence of Cosmo. The fan favorite returns to earth for his fourth season as the mascot of the Las Vegas 51s. A survivor of a



Image Courtesy of the Las Vegas 51s

spaceship crash who spent time at Area 51, this baseball-loving alien was a slugging phenom on his home planet, Koufaxia. (Ironically, Sandy Koufax, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Hall of Fame pitcher, whom the planet is named after, never played in the minor leagues!) Constantly smiling, Cosmo roams around Cashman Field and is the only alien that every Las Vegas resident will tell you actually exists. This loveable, huggable mascot weighs in at 250 pounds, and stands seven feet tall... if you count the goo-gly eyes that extend from the top of his head! So take a break from gambling and get an out-of-this-world experience with Cosmo and the Las Vegas 51s!! **|| Eric Karlan**



Image Courtesy of the Las Vegas 51s

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