

Casino Express

XTRA Airways®

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Casino Express was formed to transport guests via charter flights to Elko, Nevada to patronize the Red Lion Hotel and Casino. Operations began in 1987 with one Boeing 737-200 and soon grew with more 737's providing casino gambling junket charter flights from cities across the United States. Casino Express served Albuquerque with charters to Elko through the 1990's, continuing through 2005. The carrier was then sold and became **Xtra Airways** based in Coral Gables, Florida. Xtra Airways then provided gambling junket charter flights from Albuquerque to Wendover, Nevada through 2017. The airline was sold again in 2018 and transformed into Avelo Airlines, a scheduled air carrier that began service across the U.S. in 2021. Avelo does not have service to Albuquerque but could possibly expand to the city at any time.



Casino Express Boeing 737-200 at the Albuquerque Sunport in the 1990's.



Casino Express Boeing 737-200 in a green and red livery.



Casino Express 737-200 at Albuquerque with a new livery in 2000 portraying the Red Lion Hotel in Elko, Nevada.



Xtra Airways Boeing 737-400 at the Albuquerque Sunport in 2009.



Xtra Airways Boeing 737-800 with a new livery at Albuquerque in 2017.