

WANDERAZ

GREATER PHOENIX SUMMER 2025 ISSUE



LOWELL OBSERVATORY

Recognized as one of the World's Top 100 Greatest Places by *TIME* and US's Best Science Museum by *Newsweek*. Initially founded in 1894 to search for life on Mars, this one-of-a-kind venue is a must visit for young and old alike. Located in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Arizona's
PREMIER
TRAVEL+LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

\$18.1 MILLION

RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN 2025

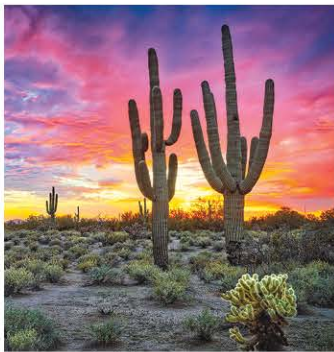
THANK YOU ARIZONA



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WMPHOENIXOPEN.COM

FEB 2-8 / 2026





Every year millions of travelers from around the world choose Arizona as their preferred travel destination, and each year, Arizona rolls out the red carpet to show its sincere appreciation.

It is interesting to note that 50% of all annual travelers are visiting Arizona for the first time, and 70% of adult residents were born somewhere else. These indicators point to the high quality of Arizona life and are two major reasons why so many people want to live here and visit with us. The State of Arizona remains a top 10 travel destination. Arizona's southwestern flare and year-round climate, which offers more than 320 days of sunshine, are keys factors for those wanting to break away from long winters and colder climates. From our historic Grand Canyon and Lowell Observatory in Northern Arizona to the iconic Biosphere 2 and Kitt Peak National Observatory in the south, there is so much to discover and enjoy throughout the state.

Whether you are looking to enjoy our great outdoors, play golf, shop, dine, experience our diverse culture and heritage, or simply indulge yourself at one of our world-class resorts, Arizona has it all. There is always something around the next corner that will surprise and delight

you and capture those memories that will last a lifetime. WanderAZ magazines enhance our reader's overall trip experience. Through our unique regional design format, handcrafted maps and important traveler data, these elements help visitors to better navigate around Greater Phoenix and Northern Arizona.



We hope you will enjoy your copy of Wander AZ magazine either in print or online. To learn more about the best places to Eat, Shop, Play and Visit, we invite you to visit our interactive website at ...

WanderAZ.com

Jamie Copland, Publisher
The Wander Media Group, LLC



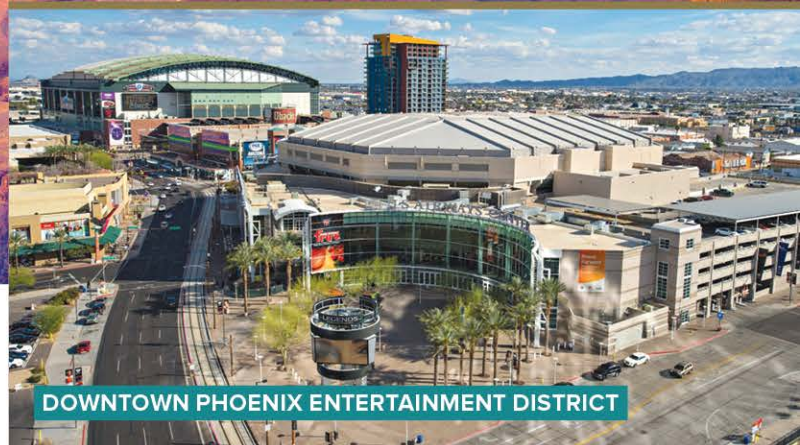
The 48th State

GRAND CANYON

Arizona, was the last of the contiguous, the Lower 48, to fill in the American map. On February 14, 1912, with its wild and lawless frontier days behind it, Arizona joined the Union after surviving Civil War skirmishes, gunfights, and the Apache Wars. At that time Arizona's population was approximately 215,000. In comparison, the population of neighboring state California was more than 11 times larger, at roughly 2.4 million.

Long before Arizona became a state, its land was scoured by Native Americans in search of minerals for trade and decoration. Historians estimate mining took place as early as 1,000 B.C. Native Americans heated copper and shaped turquoise into jewelry and decorations. The Tohono O'odham people mined hematite and the Apaches used cinnabar as body paint.

Spaniards arrived in the mid-1500s in search of wealth and cities of gold. As the land began to change hands, Mexicans, Europeans and Americans from the young nation entered the territory in search of its well-known deposits of gold, silver, copper and other minerals found in the mountains and desert sands. Prospectors risked their lives in search of instant wealth. While a few struck it rich, most were not so lucky. In some cases, great fortunes were made and lost in short order. In Arizona's history, approximately 400,000 mining claims have been filed in the state, with about 4,000 companies formed in the industry, some of them vital economic contributors to this day. Shepherders and cattlemen also came to Arizona to stake their claim on a new life, contributing to the reputation of the "Wild West" when their hostility toward each other erupted into range wars over land and water for their herds. To protect settlers from unfriendly natives, the U.S. Army came West and built forts. Several major conflicts between the cavalry and Native Americans, most notably members of the Apache tribe, took place in Arizona. After the surrender



DOWNTOWN PHOENIX ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

of Geronimo in 1886, ranchers, farmers and other settlers rapidly expanded their claims on land in the territory. While the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad began construction in 1866, a period of brisk railroad construction commenced in the 1880s, bringing another wave of settlers, trade, and civilization to Arizona.

Many people in search of a new life headed west and north during the 19th century to seek their fortunes, or to simply make a living and raise families. These courageous pioneers laid the foundation for the Arizona of today, and the storytelling and folklore that originated in those early days has been transformed into scores of classic books and movies. Who hasn't heard of the legendary marshal Wyatt Earp and his sidekick Doc Holliday, and the famous Shootout at the O.K. Corral? Who hasn't seen classic Western movies such as Stagecoach, Red River, Fort Apache, The Searchers and Rio Bravo? All starred John Wayne and were filmed in part right here in Arizona? Wherever you go throughout this great state, the history of the Old West surrounds you.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, Arizona became known for its five Cs of copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate. These days you can add a sixth C, for Canadians. From business, tourism and residential perspectives, Canadians remain a major boom for Arizona's local economy. In fact,

Canadians now represent the largest foreign sector of the state's tourist trade, as well as the majority of new Arizona businesses started by foreign entities and foreign ownership of both commercial and residential properties across greater Phoenix and beyond.

Today, 113 years after Arizona became the 48th State, the

Arizona remains a highly popular travel destination for visitors from the U.S. and around the world.

The beauty of Arizona's natural landscape provides the ideal backdrop for a vast array of outdoor activities.

population has grown to over 7.2 million people. California and Texas are now the top two states for people relocating to Arizona. Phoenix, is now the state's biggest city and the country's fifth largest overall. Maricopa County, of which Phoenix is the county seat, accounts for a population that is rapidly approaching 5 million residents. Tucson is the state's second-largest city, with a population for the greater Tucson metropolitan area exceeding 1 million. Arizona's 24th Governor is Katie Hobbs, a Democrat who was sworn into office on January 2nd, 2023. Governor Hobbs is a fearless advocate for Arizona.

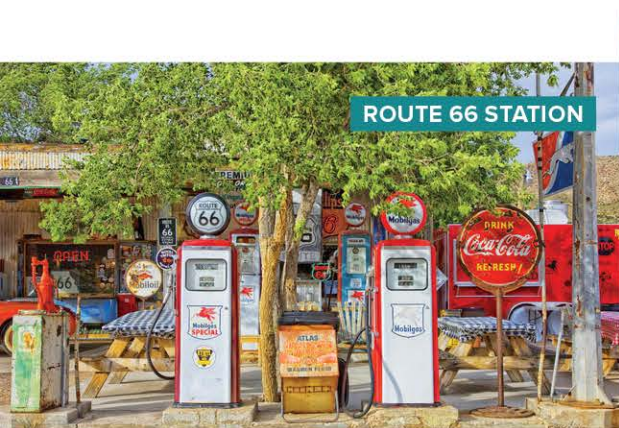
Arizona remains a highly popular travel destination for 10's of millions of annual visitors from all over the world. What's the draw, you might ask? Arizona offers roughly 330 days of sunshine per year, outdoor recreational opportunities including world-class golfing, luxurious resorts and hotels, exceptional cuisine, exciting nightlife, premier shopping areas, and an abundance of historical landmarks and natural attractions. The state is rich in Native American culture, with its imprint readily apparent across the state and more readily so on its numerous reservations. The history of the Old West can be found statewide from Southern Arizona mining towns of Bisbee and Tombstone, Colorado River port of Yuma, in Central Arizona's Valley of the Sun in Phoenix and Scottsdale, as well as in Northern Arizona in the former territorial capital of Prescott, the red rocks of Sedona, the Route 66 town of Flagstaff and the terminus of the Grand Canyon Railway in Williams. Running along Arizona's northern border are the Grand Canyon, houseboat capital Lake Powell, and the iconic Monument Valley on the Navajo Reservation. And let's not overlook the desert water resort towns of Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City on the Colorado River, both of which are favorites among outdoor enthusiasts.

The Valley of the Sun is a sports mecca that boasts every major sports franchise. The NBA, WNBA, NFL, MLB, NHL, USL soccer and the Arena Football League. Annually it

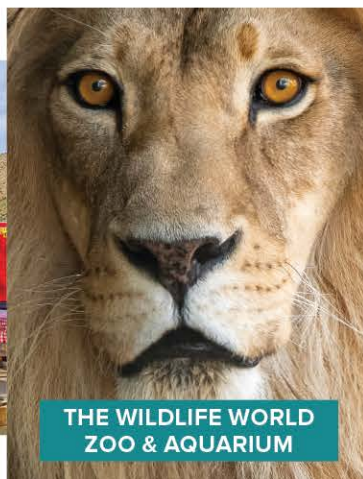
hosts numerous world-class sporting and racing events that include 15 MLB baseball teams who make the Valley their Cactus League Spring Training headquarters, the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament referred to as "The Greatest Show on Grass," also viewed as the most popular tournament on the PGA tour, the Barrett-Jackson Car Auction, the Fiesta Bowl, Scottsdale's Arabian Horse Show (the largest of its kind in the world) coupled with two NASCAR Cup Races and an INDY CAR race both held at Phoenix Raceway. The Valley has also played host to the College Football Playoff National Championship, the 2017 and 2023 Super Bowl and NCAA's Men's Basketball Final Four. Sports is a major economic driver for Phoenix and the State.

Outdoor activities abound wherever you might be travelling throughout the state. You can experience breathtaking desert landscapes and historic ruins while you enjoy our southwestern hospitality. Whether you fish, swim, hike, bike, ski, enjoy horseback riding, hot air ballooning or camping, the State of Arizona has it all.

And let us not forget the City of Tucson, the state's second largest city. Tucson is a 2-hour drive from Phoenix heading south on the I-10 highway. Tucson is home to the University of Arizona which boasts a student enrollment of 53,000. You will pass the city of Casa Grande and Marana as you drive towards Tucson. From Tucson, you can visit so many of southern Arizona's legendary venues and attractions. Southern Arizona is also home to the Kitt Peak Observatory and Biosphere-2, and engineering marvel and one of the largest greenhouses in the world. You can also enjoy the LA Fiesta de Los Vaqueros, a 100-year-old rodeo that attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the state each year. Tucson also hosts the annual and world-famous Gemstone and Mineral Show regarded as the largest international gathering of professionals, hobbyists, and curious people in the world. Fine local cuisine and great local shopping also awaits you.



ROUTE 66 STATION



THE WILDLIFE WORLD
ZOO & AQUARIUM



LOWELL OBSERVATORY IN FLAGSTAFF, AZ



ARIZONA'S NATURAL WONDER

In 2019, the Grand Canyon celebrated 100 years as America's 17th National Park.

President Theodore Roosevelt first visited the Grand Canyon in 1903. An avid outdoorsman and conservationist, he designated more than 600,000 acres of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve as a National Game Preserve in November 1906. In January 1908, Roosevelt added adjacent national forest lands and designated it a U.S. National Monument, which was as far as the law allowed without the support of Congress. At that time, the Grand Canyon was a national monument while Arizona remained a territory. Land and mining claim owners successfully blocked additional conservation efforts for another decade, but Congress eventually approved legislation. On February 26, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law establishing the Grand Canyon as the 17th U.S. National Park.

The Grand Canyon numbers among the world's greatest geological spectacles and may be the most spectacular gorge on the planet. The Grand Canyon measures 277 miles long, from 600 feet to 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep. The Colorado River, earthquakes, and the powerful forces of water and weather helped create this giant crevice that meanders through the Navajo, Havasupai, and Hualapai Indian Reservations.

The canyon's horizontal strata retrace the geological history of the last 2 billion years. Geologists estimate it would take nearly one million cubic miles of rock and soil to fill the canyon, which the Colorado River evacuated over time. To enjoy its storied sunsets, it's best to arrive an hour early to enjoy the dynamic color palette and breathtaking views of mammoth buttes and shadowed side canyons.

The Colorado River, earthquakes, and the powerful forces of water and weather helped create this giant crevice

The area has been inhabited for thousands of years by Native Americans. These Ancestral Puebloans considered the Grand Canyon a holy site, as do many Native Americans to this day. A member of the Coronado Expedition, García López de Cárdenas, was the first European known to have viewed the Grand Canyon in 1540.

The South Rim Historic Village, located at the northern terminus of the Grand Canyon Railway, features many buildings from the early 1900s. El Tovar Hotel, known as one of the most elaborate hotels west of the Mississippi when it opened in 1905, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987. Other buildings of note such as Hopi House (which also opened in 1905), Lookout Studio, and Bright Angel Lodge were designed by famed architect Mary Jane Colter and are located within walking distance. The South

Rim with its average elevation of 6900' is open year-round, whereas the North Rim is open only from mid-May to mid-October due to its higher elevation of 8100' and its corresponding heavier snowfall.

The region offers an array of services and facilities for visitors, including more than 2,000 hotel rooms with campgrounds also available. Plenty of options for shopping, dining and other recreation exist, such as mule rides and land and air tours. Planning your trip well in advance is highly recommended as lodging is sometimes booked up to six months in advance.

For more information, visit grand-canyon-park.org.

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL SWAINE



Activities



Shopping



Events



VISITOR INFORMATION

GREATER PHOENIX MAP ♦ VALLEY WIDE SHOPPING ♦ TRAVELER INFORMATION

WANDERAZ.COM



Nightlife

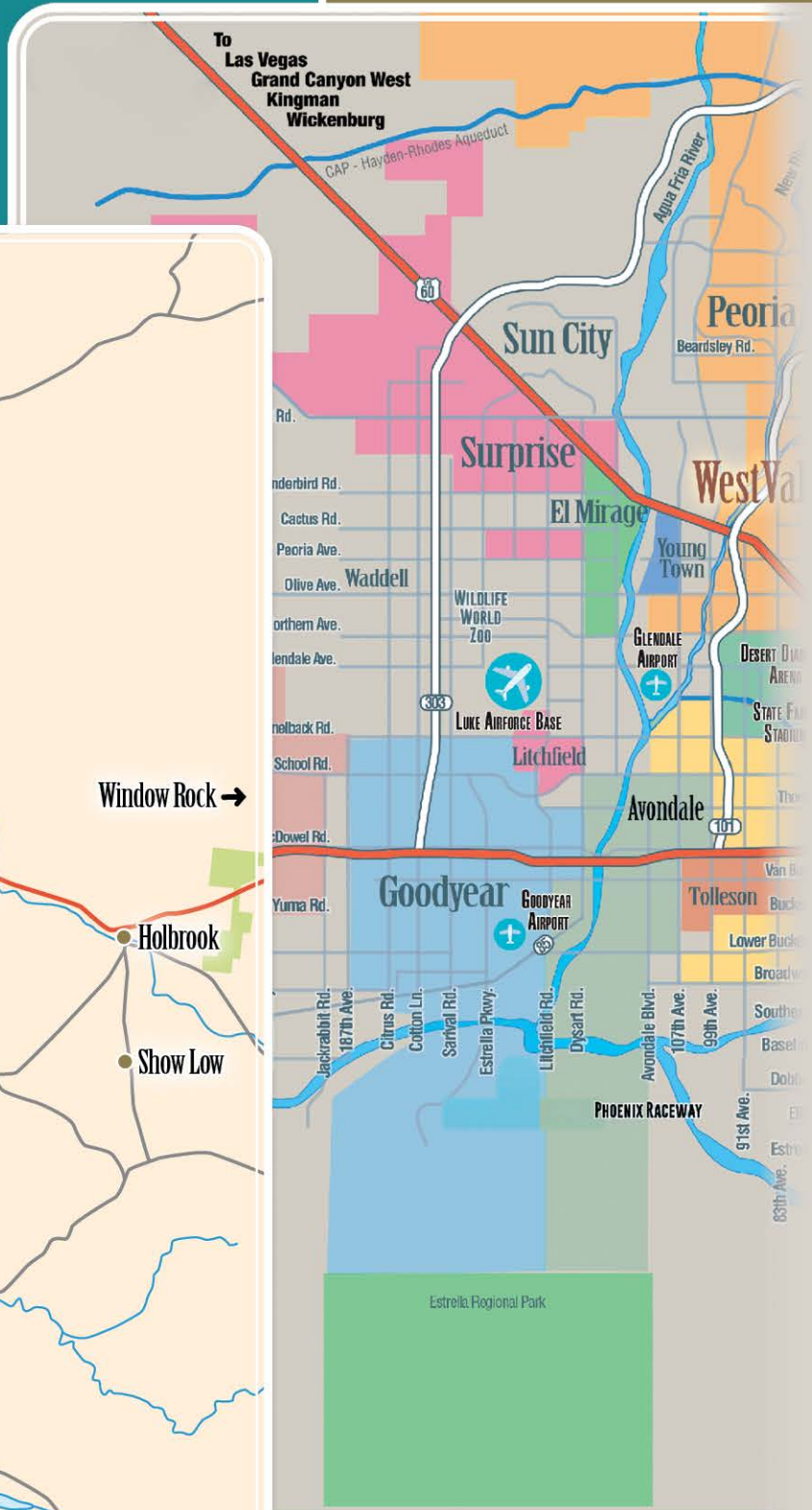
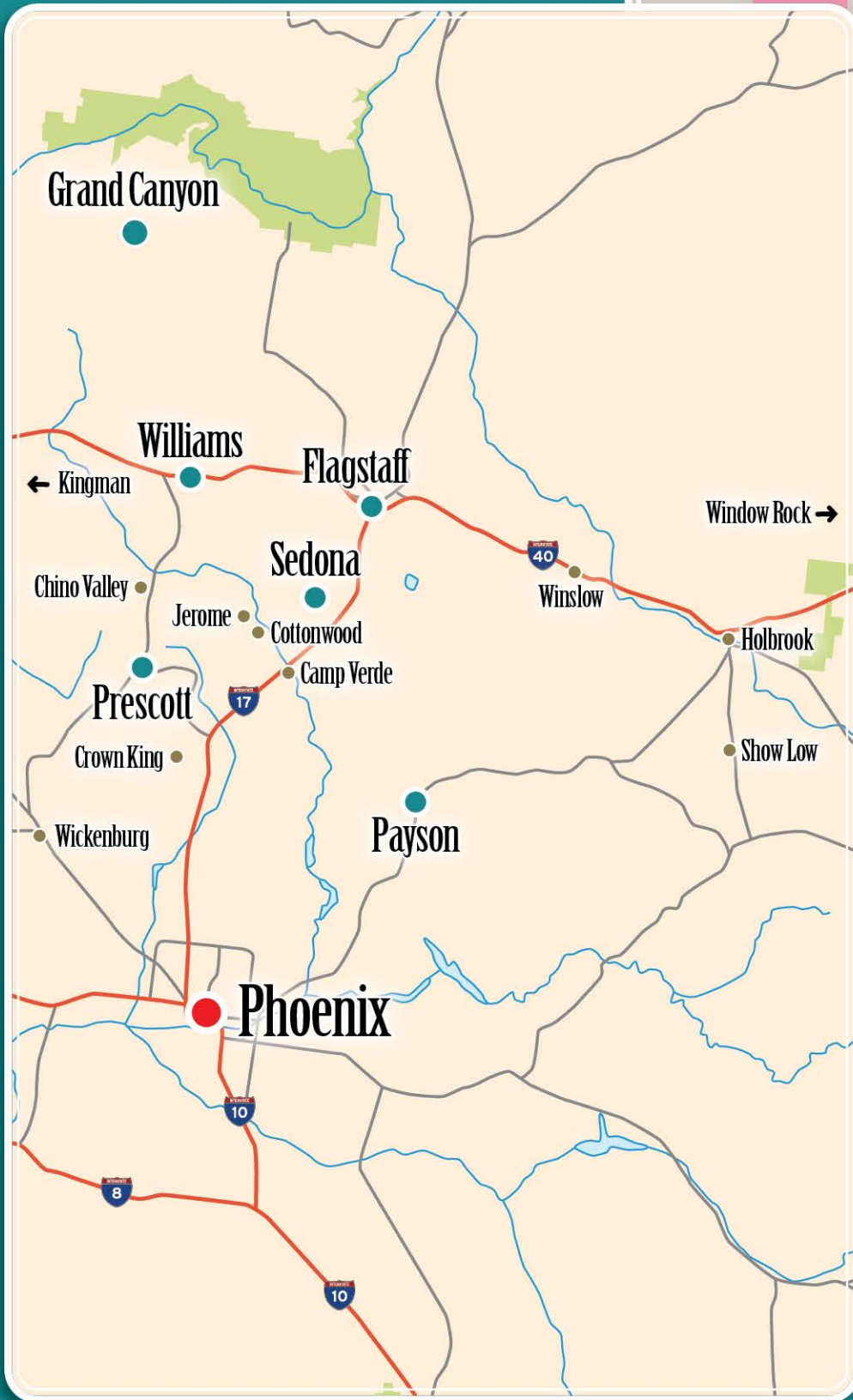


Destinations



Dining

NORTHERN ARIZONA





GREATER PHOENIX



World Class SHOPPING

ACROSS THE VALLEY

PHOENIX

ARIZONA MILLS MALL

5000 Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe

Featuring more than 50 manufacturing outlets including Harkins IMAX Theater to the 26,000 square foot aquarium.

simon.com/arizona-mills

BILTMORE FASHION PARK

24th Street & Camelback Rd.

Sixty specialty shops, more than a dozen gourmet restaurants in the heart of Phoenix's premier retail addresses.

shopbiltmore.com

SHOPS AT NORTERRA

I-17 & Happy Valley Rd.

This 350,000 square foot outdoor lifestyle center offers great shopping, numerous clothing and jewelry and an abundance of specialty stores and eating options.

norterrashopping.com

DESERT RIDGE MARKETPLACE

Highway 101 & Scottsdale

More than 150 specialty stores, restaurants, entertainment venues including an 18-screen AMC Theater.

shopdesertridge.com

OUTLETS AT ANTHEM

I-17 & Anthem Way

Over 374,000 square feet of top designers and brand name merchandise at everyday discounts up to 70%. Over 60 retailers including Banana Republic, Guess, Coach and Gap.

outletsanthem.com

PARADISE VALLEY MALL

4568 E Cactus Rd

(Cactus and Tatum Blvd)

JC Penney and Costco. Across the street you will find Target, Hobby Lobby, Big 5 Sports, Walmart, and over 15 restaurants to enjoy.

theparadisevalleymall.com

SCOTTSDALE

SCOTTSDALE FASHION SQUARE

Camelback Rd. & Scottsdale Rd.

225 specialty stores, and growing, including the only Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Macy's and largest Dillard's in the country. The square boasts more than 40 stores exclusive to Arizona.

fashionsquare.com

THE SHOPS AT GAINNEY VILLAGE

8787 North Scottsdale Rd.

The SHOPS Gainney Village boasts an impressive array of stores and restaurants.

theshopsgainneyvillage.com



EXPERIENCE & ENJOY SOME OF THE BEST SHOPPING ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

HILTON VILLAGE

Scottsdale Rd. & McDonald

Located just across from the Borgata, this location offers specialty apparel boutiques and local restaurants.

hiltonvillage.com

NORTH EAST VALLEY

EL PEDREGAL MARKETPLACE

Scottsdale Rd. & CareFree Hwy.

Features spectacular galleries, artists, jewelers, specialty stores, apparel boutiques, cafes and restaurants.

elpedregal.com

KIERLAND COMMONS

Scottsdale Rd. & Greenway

Upscale lifestyle center combining the best of specialty and culinary choices.

kierlandcommons.com

SCOTTSDALE QUARTER

Scottsdale Rd. & Greenway

370,000 square feet of retail, restaurants and entertainment options.

scottsdalequarter.com

DC RANCH MARKET

Thompson Peak Pkwy.
& Pima Rd.

Stroll through the market street environment, upscale specialty boutiques and fine dining establishments.

beonmarketstreet.com

EAST VALLEY

SAN TAN VILLAGE MALL

Williams Field Rd., Gilbert

The first super-regional shopping center in Arizona to combine department and specialty stores, a major cinema and indoor food court.

shopsantanvillage.com

CHANDLER FASHION CENTER

Loop 101 & Chandler Blvd.

Urban village design that includes more than 240 shops, restaurants, hotels, and a 20-screen Harkins Theater.

chandlerfashioncenter.com

PHOENIX PREMIUM OUTLETS

Premium Outlets Way, Chandler

360,000 square feet of upscale shopping. A collection of designer and name brand fashions.

premiumoutlets.com

SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER

U.S. 60 & Power Rd., Mesa

More than 150 specialty stores and eateries. The center features an outdoor amphitheater, desert botanical walk and indoor children's carousel.

superstitionsprings.com

TEMPE MARKETPLACE

Loop 101 & 202

With 1.3 million square feet of retail space, featuring dramatic light and laser elements, outdoor fireplaces and unique water features.

tempemarketplace.com

WEST VALLEY

ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTER

79th Ave. & Bell Rd.
in the Northwest Valley

More than 170 specialty stores and a 14-screen AMC Theater.

arrowheadtownecenter.com

PARK WEST

Loop 101 & Northern Ave., Peoria

355,000 square feet of open-air shopping, dining and entertainment. A 14-screen Harkins Theatre, nine restaurants and more than 50 specialty retailers.

shopparkwest.com

TANGER OUTLETS

Loop 101 & Glendale Ave.,
Glendale

330,000 square foot center features over 80 brand names and designers with savings offered up to 70% off the latest fashion trends.

tangeroutlets.com/glendale

WESTGATE CITY CENTER

Loop 101 & Glendale Ave.,
Glendale

Over 100 retailers and restaurants in one convenient location. Westgate is also home to Jobing.com arena, Gila River Arena and concerts by worldclass performers.

westgatecitycenter.com



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THE WANDER MEDIA GROUP REPRESENTS ARIZONA'S PREMIER TOURISM & MARKETING SPECIALISTS!

GREATER PHOENIX SUMMER 2025 ISSUE



The Lowell Observatory has been making history beneath the awe-inspiring dark skies of Flagstaff, Arizona, for over 125 years. Experience the past, present, and future of astronomy firsthand. History is made every day by our brilliant team of researchers, and discovery awaits you, too. Look through our historic and cutting-edge telescopes yourself to see our universe like you have never seen it before.

Established in 1894, Lowell Observatory boasts a long history of astronomical research and discovery, including VM Slipher's revolutionary recession velocity measurements and Clyde Tombaugh's discovery of Pluto. Lowell's historical exhibits include exhibits on our founder, Percival Lowell; how Pluto was discovered; our current avenues of astronomical research; and more. Experience the six state-of-the-art public telescopes of the Giovale Open Deck. Explore our beautiful scenic grounds and the Observatory atop Mars Hill, overlooking historic downtown Flagstaff. See why we are recognized as the world's first International Dark Sky destination. For more information visit lowell.edu.

THE WANDER MEDIA GROUP, LLC.

PUBLISHER

James L. Copland
Jamie@WanderAZ.com

SALES INFORMATION

WanderAZ Magazines & Visitor Maps
Info@WanderAZ.com

WEB PORTAL

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jonathan Funk Michael Murphy
Leslie James Rachel Pasche
J.J. LaBarber William Thomas

LOCAL EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Shannon M. Copland
Shannon@WanderAZ.com

PUBLICATION DESIGN

Angie Slade Design
angiesladedesign.com

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PHOENIX AIRPORT INFORMATION

AIRLINES

ADVANCED AIR - TERMINAL 3

Reservations 1-800-393-7035
Baggage 1-800-393-7035
www.advancedairlines.com

AEROMEXICO - TERMINAL 3

Reservations aeromexico.com
Customer Service 1-800-237-6639
www.aeromexico.com

AIR CANADA - TERMINAL 3

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Baggage 1-888-689-2247
www.aircanada.ca

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www.aircanada.ca

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www.airfranceus.com

ALASKA AIRLINES - TERMINAL 3

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Baggage 602-225-5064
www.alaskaair.com

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Baggage Online
www.flybreeze.com

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Baggage baggageservice@condor.com
www.condor.com or 1-866-960-7915

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Baggage 1-888-332-6686
www.contourairlines.com

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Reservations 1-800-221-1212
Baggage 1-800-325-8224
www.delta-air.com

EUROWINGS - TERMINAL 4

Phone +49221 - 5998802

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Reservations 1-801-401-9000
Baggage 602-654-1206
www.flyfrontier.com

HAWAIIAN AIRLINES - TERMINAL 3

Reservations 1-800-367-5320
Baggage 602-220-0680
www.hawaiianair.com

JETBLUE AIRWAYS - TERMINAL 3

Reservations 1-800-538-2583
Baggage 602-275-3209
www.jetblue.com

PORTER AIRLINES - TERMINAL 3

Reservations www.flyporter.com
Customer Service 1-888-619-8622
www.flyporter.com

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Reservations 1-800-435-9792
Baggage 602-286-3215
www.southwest.com

SPIRIT AIRLINES - TERMINAL 3

Reservations 1-855-728-3555
Baggage 602-267-6503
www.spirit.com

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Reservations 1-877-777-6419
Baggage 1-877-777-6419
www.starlux.airlines.com

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www.united.com

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www.volaris.com

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Baggage 1-866-666-6224
www.westjet.com

AIRPORTS

SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INFORMATION

General Information 602-273-3300
Passenger Paging 602-273-3455
Airport Lost & Found 602-273-3333
www.skyharbor.com

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

General Airport Information . 480-988-7600
www.phxmesagateway.org

RENTAL CARS

RENTAL CAR CENTER AT PHOENIX SKY HARBOR

Local 602-683-3741
Website www.skyharbor.com

ALAMO

Toll-Free 1-800-462-5266
Local 602-244-0897

AVIS

Toll-Free 1-800-331-1212
Local 602-261-5900

BUDGET

Toll-Free 1-800-527-7000
Local 602-261-5950

DOLLAR

Toll-Free 1-800-800-4000
Local 602-567-9700

ENTERPRISE

Toll-Free 1-800-736-8222
Local 602-225-0588

FOX

Local 310-342-5155

HERTZ

Toll-Free 1-800-654-3131
Local 602-267-8822

NATIONAL

Toll-Free 1-800-227-7368
Local 602-275-4771

PAYLESS

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Local 602-681-9589

SIXT

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THRIFTY

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Local 602-244-0311

VALLEY METRO RAIL + BUS SYSTEM

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Website www.valleymetro.org

LOST OR STOLEN CARDS

American Express 1-800-528-4800
Master Card 1-800-307-7309
Visa 1-800-847-2911
Discover Card 1-800-347-2683
Carte Blanche/Diners Club . 1-800-234-6377

ARIZONA TRAVEL INFORMATION

The Traveler's source for Highway & Travel information on road conditions, detours and transit issues. Call: 511 throughout Arizona, or go online to: www.az511.com



ARIZONA STATE MAP



ARIZONA FACTS

Governor: Katie Hobbs, Democrat

Nickname: Grand Canyon State

Capital: Phoenix, (5th largest city in America)

Population: 7.2 Million

Became a State: Feb. 14, 1912 (48th state)

Land Mass: 114,000 sq. miles (295,260 sq. km)

Highest Elevation: Humphreys Peak at 12,635 feet (3,851m)

Highest Elevated City: Flagstaff at 7,100 feet (2,164m)

Most Visited Attraction: Grand Canyon National Park

Number of Counties: 15; State Parks: 28

State Flower: Flower of the Saguaro Cactus

Ten Largest Cities: Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa, Chandler, Glendale, Scottsdale, Gilbert, Tempe, Peoria, Yuma

Arizona's 5Cs: Cattle, Climate, Cotton, Copper and Citrus 5 New 5Cs: Culture, Community, Connectivity, Commerce and Catalyst

TRAVELER DATA

ARIZONA TIME ZONE

The state is in the Mountain Standard time zone. Arizona does not observe daylight savings time, with the exception of the Navajo Reservation (on tribal lands) in north eastern Arizona.

*Daylight Saving Time (DST), is the practice of advancing clocks during summer months by one hour so that evening daylight lasts an hour longer, then turning them back again in the fall, in order to make better use of natural daylight.

METRIC EQUIVALENTS

1 Centimeter	0.3937 Inch
1 Inch	2.54 Centimeters
1 Foot	0.3048 Meter
1 Meter	39.37 Inch / 1.0936 Yds
1 Yard	0.9144 Meter
1 Rod	5.029 Meters
1 Kilometer	0.621 Mile
1 Mile	1.69 Kilometers



AVERAGE ANNUAL TEMPERATURES

Region	Fahrenheit	Celsius	Region	Fahrenheit	Celsius
Greater Phoenix	63-87	17-31	Flagstaff	32-61	3-18
Prescott	40-70	4-21	Williams	37-64	3-18
Wickenburg	49-83	10-28	Grand Canyon Village	33-64	0-18
Jerome/Camp Verde	51-70	10-21	Page	48-70	9-21
Cottonwood	51-70	10-21	Kingman	48-76	9-24
Payson	40-70	4-22	Bullhead City	60-89	16-32
Globe	47-77	8-25	Lake Havasu City	62-87	17-30
Sedona	48-76	9-25	Parker	59-89	15-32

LIQUID MEASUREMENTS

1 U.S. Gallon	0.833 Imperial Gal.
1 U.S. Gallon	3.785 Liters
1 Imperial Gallon	1.201 U.S. Gal.
1 Imperial Gallon	4.546 Liters
1 Liter	0.264 U.S. Gallon

LONG MEASUREMENTS

12 Inches	1 Foot
3 Feet	1 Yard
16.5 Feet	1 Rod
40 Rods	1 Furlong
8 Furlongs	1 Mile
3 Land Miles	1 League

ARIZONA ELEVATIONS

above sea level

Bisbee	5,538 Feet
Flagstaff	6,910 Feet
Globe	3,517 Feet
Grand Canyon	6,804 Feet
Kingman	3,333 Feet
Lake Havasu City	735 Feet
Nogales	3,832 Feet
Page	4,118 Feet
Payson	4,890 Feet
Phoenix	1,086 Feet
Prescott	5,374 Feet
Sedona	4,326 Feet
Sierra Vista	4,633 Feet
Show Low	6,345 Feet
Sky Harbor Airport	1,133 Feet
Tucson	2,389 Feet
Williams	6,766 Feet
Yuma	141 Feet

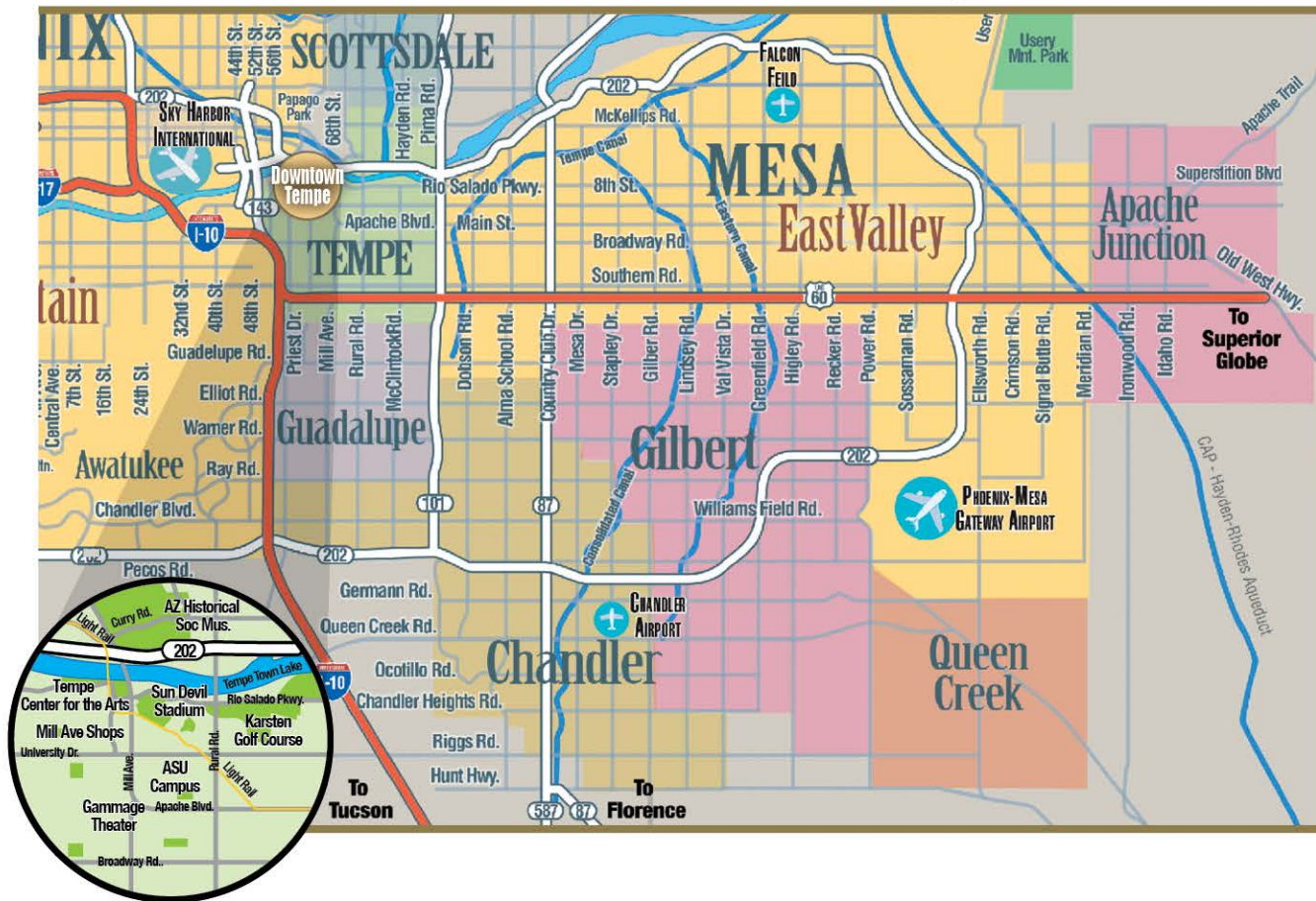
2025 IMPORTANT DATES

New Year's Day	January 1
MLK's Birthday	January 15
Chinese New Year	January 29
Groundhog Day	February 2
Valentine's Day	February 14
Ash Wednesday	February 14
Presidents' Day	February 17
Daylights Savings Starts	March 9
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Palm Sunday	April 13
Good Friday	April 18
Easter Sunday	April 20
Passover	April 20
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother's Day	May 12
Victoria Day (Canada)	May 19
Memorial Day	May 26
D-Day	June 6
Father's Day	June 15
Juneteenth	June 19
1st Day of Summer	June 20
Canada Day	July 1
U.S. Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 1
Rosh Hashanah	September 22
1st Day of Autumn	September 23
Yom Kippur	October 1
Canadian Thanksgiving	October 13
Columbus Day	October 13
Halloween	October 31
Daylight Savings Ends	November 2
U.S. Election Day	November 4
Veteran's Day	November 11
U.S. Thanksgiving	November 27
Pearl Harbor Day	December 7
Hanukkah	December 14
Winter Begins	December 21
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day (Canada)	December 26
New Year's Eve	December 31

MILEAGE BETWEEN CITIES IN ARIZONA

	Benson	Bisbee	Casa Grande	Flagstaff	Grand Canyon	Holbrook	Kingman	Lake Havasu	Nogales	Page	Phoenix	Prescott	Sedona	Tucson	Williams	Yuma
Benson	—	49	113	302	382	286	342	362	73	433	156	258	275	45	333	282
Bisbee	49	—	161	351	431	335	390	409	89	482	205	307	324	93	383	331
Casa Grande	113	161	—	191	276	207	230	249	131	322	45	147	164	68	203	172
Flagstaff	302	351	191	—	81	91	143	204	321	132	145	87	28	257	32	316
Grand Canyon	382	431	210	81	—	172	170	231	406	107	231	131	108	342	59	400
Holbrook	286	335	207	91	172	—	234	296	303	212	221	174	128	240	123	404
Kingman	342	390	230	143	170	234	—	61	360	275	185	144	171	296	111	215
Lake Havasu	362	409	249	204	231	290	61	—	381	340	204	192	232	317	172	155
Nogales	73	89	131	321	406	303	360	381	—	453	115	277	294	64	353	302
Page	433	482	322	132	107	212	275	340	453	—	278	231	160	389	164	448
Phoenix	156	205	45	145	231	221	185	204	175	278	—	100	115	111	169	182
Prescott	258	307	147	87	131	174	144	192	277	231	100	—	60	213	67	216
Sedona	275	324	164	28	108	120	171	232	294	163	115	60	—	230	60	301
Tucson	45	93	68	257	342	240	296	317	64	389	111	213	230	—	280	238
Williams	333	383	203	32	59	123	111	172	353	164	169	67	60	280	—	283
Yuma	282	331	172	316	400	404	215	155	302	448	182	216	301	238	283	—

DESTINATION *East Valley*



CITIES & TOWNS

This region is experiencing substantial growth with increased business and manufacturing opportunities. Home to Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Fountain Hills, Ahwatukee, Apache Junction, Gilbert, and Queen Creek, more than 1.6 million people make their home in the East Valley. The population is expected to grow to 2 million by 2050. The East Valley is an attractive region for both home buyers and manufacturers. The East Valley is serviced by both Sky Harbor International Airport, and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

The population is young with the medium age of its residents 36.9. The medium household income is \$68,000 + and collectively this region has access to more than 1 million workers.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Tempe is home to the MLB's Los Angeles Angels, Chicago Cubs and Oakland A's spring training facilities. Arizona State University also has its football and baseball stadiums in Tempe which attracts fans from across the Valley and around the country.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tempe is home to ASU, the largest university in the country with 100,000 + students enrolled. Its sports teams, the ASU Sun Devils - Football, Baseball and Basketball programs are all part of the PAC-12 sports network. ASU has many other sports programs for both men and women. Founded in 1885, ASU continues to expand across the Valley by adding additional educational facilities.

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

This airport provides travelers and locals a less hectic arrival/departure process than Sky Harbor in downtown Phoenix. Today, Gateway hosts more than 40 companies, serves more than 45 cities with non-stop service via Allegiant and Sun Country Airlines. It contributes \$1.8 billion annually to the Arizona economy. Gateway is also developing as an international aerospace center with aircraft maintenance, modification, testing, and pilot training. In addition to the area's skilled labor force, excellent year-round flying weather, three expansive runways averaging 10,000 feet, and access to international markets, Gateway's assets make it a prime location for global-minded companies.



The East Valley is a multi-city region within the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. Anchored in the west by the City of Tempe and the City of Gilbert to the east, this expanding region offers affordable housing, with the median sales price of a single-family home \$225,000.

Tempe is home to Arizona State University while the East Valley has a solid selection of community Colleges from Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Mesa Community College, Rio Salado College, Scottsdale Community College to Central Arizona College.

The region offers employers and manufacturers an educated workforce, with over 35,000 high paying jobs in Aviation and Aerospace defense sector. Sector drivers in the East Valley include the Boeing Corporation, Orbital ATK, Honeywell Aerospace, Able Aerospace Services, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Cessna, and Arizona Laboratories for Security and Defense Research (AZLabs). Major players in the global semiconductor arena

include Intel, NXP, Advanced Semiconductor, Raytheon, Analog Devices, ON semiconductor, Honeywell, STMicroelectronics. And the region continues to grow.

The East Valley continues to experience explosive growth

Rich in arts and culture, every city across the East Valley offers a wonderful selection of museums and performing arts centers. Like much of the Valley, there is no shortage of resorts, golf courses, spas, dining, nightlife or outdoor activities. While not necessarily receiving the notoriety it may deserve, it is an area that delights and surprises all who visit.



TEMPE TOWN LAKE

GET WHAT'S YOURS!

The Secrets to Maxing Out Your Social Security

— A Book Review By Leslie James



Initially I wrote this feature back in 2014, however, it today, it's and even hotter topic than it was 11 years ago in 2014. I hope readers of this feature will investigate their benefits and what they should do when making the critical decision – “when should I start taking my social security payments?” This is a huge individual decision and one that should be researched well before pulling the trigger.

It is now 2025 and Social Security is sure to go under the microscope by the new 119th Congress as it looks to cut costs and spending. Yes, the U.S. Government will have to make changes and adjustments to the current program which is currently underfunded and if changes are not made, will likely go broke over the next 10-15 years. The current deadline is to keep the program funded past 2035. However, what those change will reflect, and how they will impact tens of millions of Americans, many of whom rely solely upon this monthly payment to survive, remains the BIG question. Under the new Congress, I have no doubt that what to do about Social Security will become another hot political issue.

Social Security is funded by payroll taxes from U.S. workers and their employers provide most of the money for Social Security benefit programs. For much of its history, Social Security has taken in more money than it paid out, generating a reserve that totaled \$2.79 trillion at the end of 2023. That trend of annual net gains is reversing as aging boomers swell the ranks of retirees

The biggest question that retirees (or soon to be) keep asking themselves is this; “How much do I really need to retire on?” And it seems to remain the \$64,000 question for everyone. Baby boomers are graduating into retirement and becoming eligible for Social Security at the astounding rate of 8,000 – 10,000 every day.

across the United States. For years, it has come under constant fire by politicians, most of whom are so filthy rich that none need to rely upon it to survive in their golden years. That alone should tell you something!

In 2025, 12.4 percent of income up to \$176,100 goes into the Social Security pot. Job holders and their employers split the contribution at 6.2 percent each; self-employed people pay both shares. It seems to me that

payments into Social security should not have a ceiling (like \$176,100) but rather become a standard payment/deduction based on one's annual income. That would certainly solve all future funding issues. But, then again, that might be too simple a solution for our politicians to wrap their heads around.

According to the 2024 annual report of the Social Security Board of Trustees, the surplus in the trust funds that disburse retirement, disability and other Social Security benefits will be depleted by 2035. That's one year earlier than the trustees projected in their 2023 report.

That does not mean Social Security will no longer be around; it means the system will exhaust its cash reserves and will be able to pay out only what it takes in year-to-year in Social Security taxes. If this comes to pass, Social Security would be able to pay about 83 percent of the benefits to which recipients are entitled.

Navigating through the Social Security system to ensure that you are receiving everything you deserve is a daunting task, given that there are more than 2,700 rules and regulations in the Social Security manual to navigate. With so many rules, it's almost impossible to make the best decisions for you (and your spouse) when considering your options. Regardless of how much training you might be able to get at the Social Security office, knowing and understanding all of those rules would definitely be a stretch for the best of us. I would like to point out, that whenever I have had to contact my local Social Security office, the people who work there have always been polite, professional and helpful. Still, nothing can replace being totally informed about your benefits, and doing so will significantly affect the amount of money you could, or will receive. And following the devastating financial meltdown of the past decade, and in light of a possible future slowdown, maximizing every dollar available to you in retirement should be of paramount importance to you and your family.

Larry Kotlikoff and fellow writers Philip Moeller and Paul Solman spent years studying the highly complex Social Security system that Americans rely upon so heavily in retirement. I, for one, can honestly say that after reading this book and speaking with Larry, I felt like I was a Ph.D. in the Social Security arena. I certainly didn't consider myself uninformed before reading the book, but as I turned the pages, I found that what I didn't know, or didn't fully understand, was shocking. Therefore, I would be willing to bet that most Americans think the process is pretty simple: reach retirement age (full retirement is currently 66), file for Social Security, and get what's coming to you. Further, in light of the huge sums that many retirement plans lost during the past meltdown, or with the many, many years of recovery, I'd also be willing to bet that many Americans won't wait until they reach full retirement age, and will instead choose instead to file as soon as they turn 62. While each individual's circumstances will certainly differ, jumping in at age 62, or even 66, might be the worst decision you could ever make.

The authors of *Get What's Yours* clearly state that relying upon your local Social Security staff to steer you in the right direction – despite their best efforts—might actually take you right into the ditch! This book, on the other hand, can definitely enlighten you and resolve many of your questions and concerns as to when it's best for you to file. Don't forget, this money is yours, and you are entitled to it, because you worked hard and paid for it.

Other financial books may briefly touch on Social Security, but I haven't found another book that focuses 100 percent on your personal Social Security needs. Married, not married, married and divorced, remarrying to gay marriages ... this book (which, by the way, is an easy read, with many humorous scenarios throughout) could help you receive thousands of dollars in additional benefits. In my opinion, at a mere \$19.95, the book is worth its weight in gold!

Companies that want to provide a great financial tool for their employees should consider giving this book to all who are 50 years and older. An investment of just \$19.95 per employee would go a long way toward assisting them in fully understanding how they can maximize their retirement benefits from the Social Security system.

The general rules of the book are (1) be patient, (2) get all of what's yours, and (3) get the timing right. After reviewing the content, I found that rule #3 to be the most important.

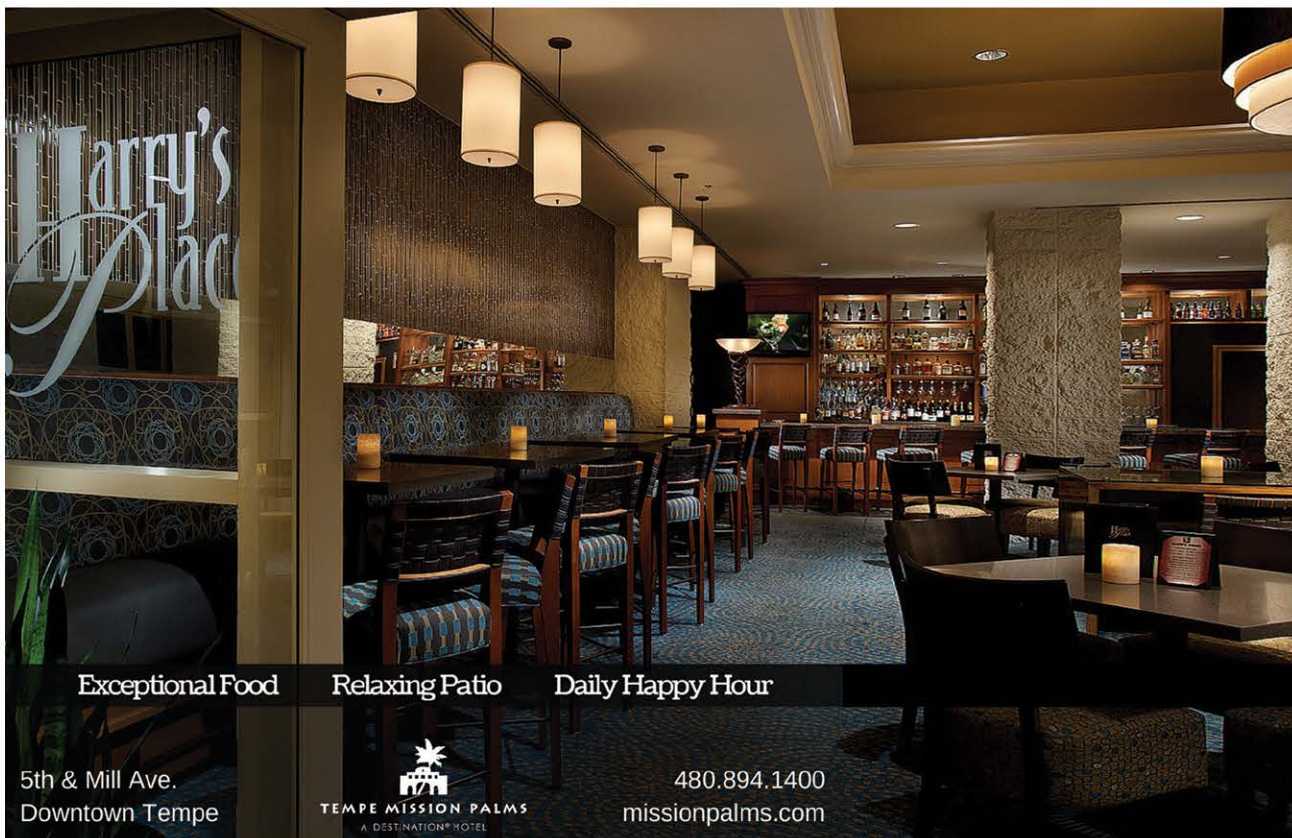
Let's take the example of a married couple, both spouses being the full retirement age of 66 and the husband being the higher wage earner. Let's say the wife has a monthly benefit of \$1,000, and the husband, is at \$1,500. Both file; however, the husband then suspends his payments until age 70. The wife also suspends her payments until age 70, but files for spousal benefits (she will receive approximately \$800 per month until age 70). At age 70, her monthly benefit would be about \$1,320, a 32 percent increase compared to with the \$1,000 she would have received had she not suspended her payments, and the husband's monthly benefit would now be about \$2,000. At 70, both husband and wife claim full benefits and receive a monthly total of

\$3,320 between the two of them. Had they both taken their full benefits at age 66, their total monthly benefits would have been roughly \$2,500, or \$820 per month less than if they had waited until age 70. Bear in mind that during those four years, the wife received her spousal benefits of \$800 per month (for a total of \$38,400), just \$200 less per month than if she had taken her full monthly benefit of \$1,000. And now, at age 70, their combined monthly benefit is \$3,320 instead of \$2,500, a whopping \$9,840 more every year. Now image this over a 30 year period ... generating an additional \$295,200. This is the kind of information you'll find in Chapter 5 of the book. Strategies to Follow the Three Rules.

With people living much longer these days, often into their late eighties, nineties and beyond, retirement benefits need to last much longer. Wouldn't it be great to increase your monthly payments? Depending on your circumstances, if you make the right choices, you could conceivably add hundreds of thousands of dollars to your lifetime retirement benefits. And that is serious money!

If there is any single book that wealth management advisers, financial planners and every baby boomer should read, it's *Get What's Yours*!

Publisher: Simon & Schuster, simonandschuster.com
More Information: socialsecurity.com



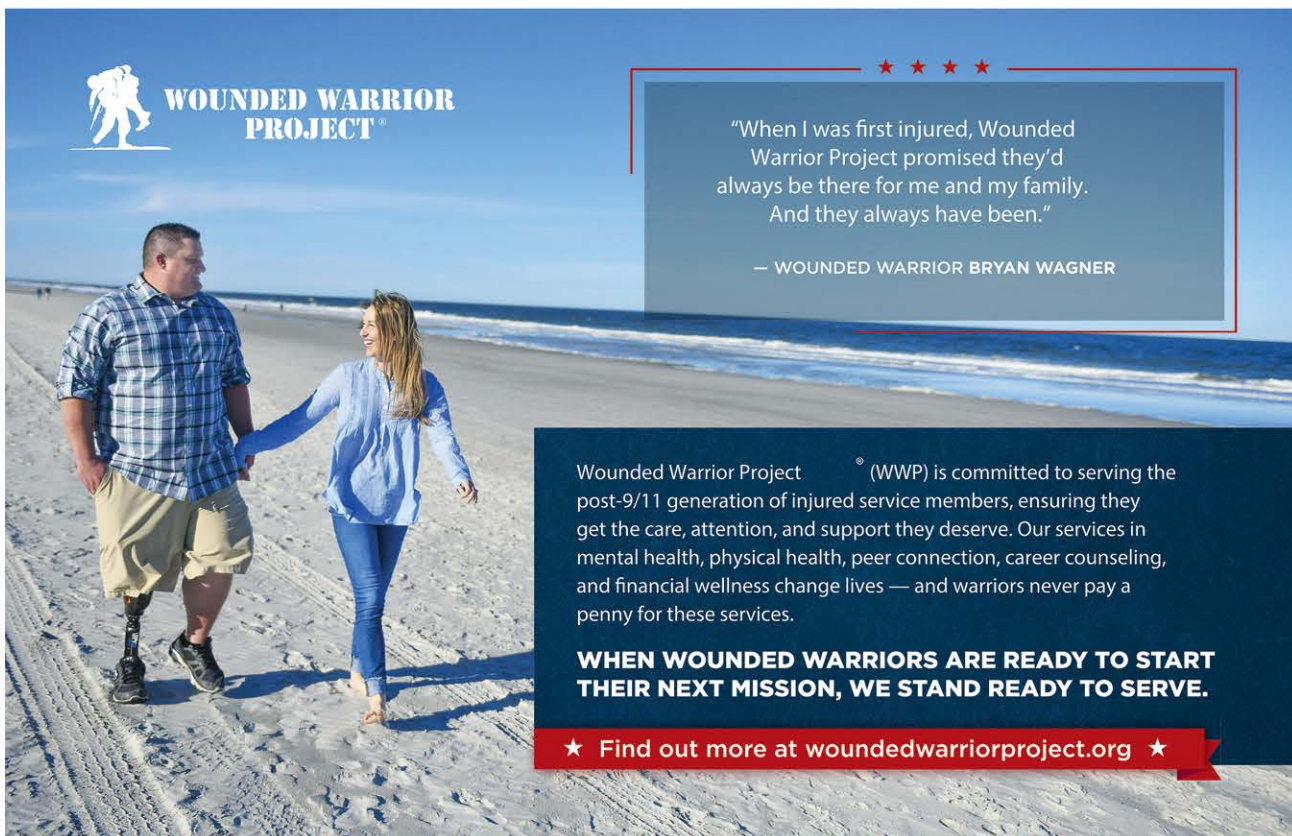
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— WOUNDED WARRIOR BRYAN WAGNER

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) is committed to serving the post-9/11 generation of injured service members, ensuring they get the care, attention, and support they deserve. Our services in mental health, physical health, peer connection, career counseling, and financial wellness change lives — and warriors never pay a penny for these services.

WHEN WOUNDED WARRIORS ARE READY TO START THEIR NEXT MISSION, WE STAND READY TO SERVE.

★ Find out more at woundedwarriorproject.org ★

East Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Mesa Feastival – Saturday in the Park

**Bi-Weekly Saturdays,
5:30 – 9 pm**

Enjoy gourmet food trucks, handmade boutique vendors, and live music.

azfeastivals.com



Gilbert Farmers Market Saturdays, 7 – 11 am

With over 100 vendors, the market features local, organic produce, fresh eggs, meat, cheese, bread and many other locally made artisan products.

gilbertmarket.com



The Leaf Connection

Showcasing the vibrant plant diversity of the Phoenix metro area through an intricate display of hand-made, ceramic leaves. Engage with this distinctive installation and reconnect with nature. dbg.org



Liberty Market

Dedicated to quality food that nourishes the body and soul. This sleek cafe serves espresso, breakfast, pizzas & American fare plus beer, wine & cocktails.

libertymarket.com



Flashlight Nights at Desert Botanical Garden Saturdays through August

Bring a flashlight and enjoy the Garden after dark with performances, cool treats, activities and creature features.

dbg.org



Paletas Betty

Mexican ice and cream pops made from scratch. Flavors include nuez (roasted pecan) and piña con chile (spicy pineapple). Two locations in Chandler and Tempe.

paletasbetty.com



Sonoran Sippin' at Desert Botanical Garden July 18, Aug. 15, and Sept. 19

Enjoy Friday nights with a free drink, live music, pop-up activities, scenic Garden strolls and more.

dbg.org



Mesa Farmer's Market Saturdays

The Mesa Farmer's Market and Flea at Pioneer Park is open during the summer each Saturday from 7 – 11 am.

mesafarmersmarketandflea.com



Boating on Tempe Town Lake

Boats of all types can be rented here for 1 or 2-hour segments. Watercraft rentals include donut boats, kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, pontoon boats, pedal boats and electric boats.

boats4rent.com



Tempe Improv

Headlining comedians for over 20 years and proudly providing a place to disconnect through laughter.

tempeimprov.com



Restaurants in Downtown Tempe

Just south of Tempe Town Lake offers locals and visitors a variety of nearby restaurants, bars, cafes and taverns.



Moulin Rouge July 22nd – 27th

A theatrical celebration of Truth, Beauty, Freedom, and Love. The show is a new musical mash-up extravaganza based on Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film.

asugamage.com

DESTINATION *Greater Phoenix*

ARIZONA'S CAPITAL

Greater Phoenix is a HOT place to live and work for so many reasons, but in 2024 the Phoenix temperature index recorded the hottest summer temps anywhere in the USA. Residents of Phoenix recorded 113 consecutive days at over 100 degrees, and a staggering 61 days at above 110 degrees. Following global warming ... 2025 is likely to be even hotter. However, once the heat subsides and summer ends, for the remaining 8 months of the year the Valley of the Sun remains one of the most desirable areas to live.

EVERY MAJOR SPORT

Downtown PHX Center is home to the NBA's Phoenix Suns, The WNBA Phoenix Mercury, and the Arizona Rattlers of the indoor football league. The center also hosts superb concerts and shows throughout the year. A block away is Chase Field, home to MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks. Glendale in the west, is where State Farm Stadium is located, home to the NFL's Arizona Cardinals. Phoenix is a year-round sports mecca. The Valley receives thousands of annual visitors who travel to the Valley to enjoy the great weather and local surroundings, while watching their own home team compete against one of our professional teams.





Greater Phoenix, the Valley of the Sun, Maricopa County, whatever you wish to call it ... is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city that is exploding with activity. As America's 5th largest city, it offers residents and visitors alike, anything and everything anybody would ever want to experience and enjoy!

Downtown is witnessing a rebirth. World-class resorts and hotels Sky Harbor International Airport, just minutes away. The historic re-purposing initiatives continue in downtown and central Phoenix is attracting more people, from out-of-state, to local residents looking to move back to the city core. Individuals seeking to immerse themselves in the arts and entertainment scene, be close to their favorite sports team, or want to enjoy all that City Scape at City Center has to offer. There are so many exciting new local brew pubs and restaurants and world-class dining that are popping up everywhere! The City of Phoenix has it all.

No need to drive or park, travel on Phoenix's 26-mile Valley Metro Light Rail System that quickly connects you from 19th Avenue in North Phoenix, to the Cities of Tempe and Mesa in the East Valley.

A vibrant, cosmopolitan city that is exploding with activity

Whether it be shopping or dining, to a day trip to one of our renowned museums, or a visit to the Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Zoo or Desert Botanical Gardens ... all are within walking or light rail distance from the city center. In Phoenix, there is always something to keep you busy.





SPOTLIGHT: Bluewater Grill

Now at a new location featuring an open-air atmosphere and floor to ceiling windows the Bluewater Grill is a seafood lovers dream.

Bluewater Grill has a long standing reputation for serving the highest-quality seafood and sushi, paired with an extensive selection of fine wines, and of course their experienced staff that makes you feel right at home. The restaurant's mission has always been to serve great food in a casual, relaxed environment, by friendly and knowledgeable people, at a fair price. And they have stayed true to their mission.

Taking fresh to another level ... in Southern California, they operate their own swordfish harpoon boat, the Pilikia, and serve the finest quality locally harpooned swordfish in season. Being fishermen at heart, the owners want to ensure the future availability of seafood and make responsible seafood purchasing a core value of our operation.

1525 East Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, AZ
Reservations are highly recommended.
Call 602-277-3474 or visit bluewatergrill.com





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Phoenix

LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Heard Museum

The internationally acclaimed Heard Museum is one of the best places to experience the myriad of cultures and art of Native Americans of the Southwest.

heard.org



Arizona Science Center

Enjoy the Science Center with your favorite hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, traveling exhibitions, and exciting science programs for people of all ages.

azscience.org



Phoenix Art Museum

The Southwest's largest art museum, presenting world-class art in the heart of downtown Phoenix.

phxart.org



Japanese Friendship Garden

This joint project between of the City of Phoenix and our Sister City Himeji, Japan was created to cement the bonds of friendship between Japan and the United States / Phoenix.

japanesefriendshipgarden.org



Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting

A museum dedicated to the historical preservation of firefighting equipment used through the years around the world.

hallofflame.org



Children's Museum of Phoenix

One of the top three children's museums in the nation, this expansive museum features more than 300 interactive play areas for kids aged 10 & under.

childrensmuseumofphoenix.org

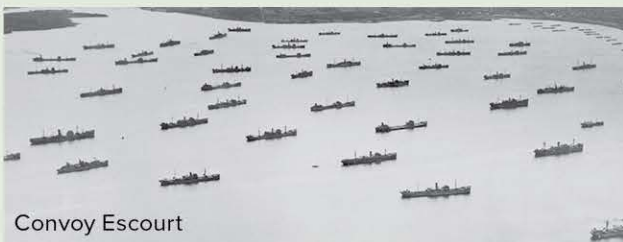
THIS IS ONE HISTORIC FISH STORY!

– By Leslie James

LABELED “TOP SECRET” IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SECRETIVE MISSIONS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, AND ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING. EVEN TODAY, MOST SENIOR BANKING OFFICIALS IN CANADA HAD NO IDEA THIS MISSION EVER OCCURRED. THIS IS AN AMAZING PART OF WORLD WAR II HISTORY.



Sir Winston Churchill
Prime Minister of England



Convoy Escort

During the summer of 1939, the HMS Emerald, part of the Royal Navy embarked on a highly secretive mission as it sailed across the North Atlantic Ocean bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The cargo being transported was Prime Minister Winston Churchill's first convoy of "fish boxes." This was no small flotilla. The HMS Emerald was part of the Emerald Class light cruisers (called light armored cruisers) which measured 570 feet in length and carried a crew of more than 550. These light cruisers served in a variety of roles, primarily as convoy escorts and destroyer command ships, but also as scouts and fleet support vessels for battle fleets. Accompanied by additional ships, light cruisers, destroyer escorts and two aging battleships, the HMS Emerald made the very treacherous 2850 Mile, 7-day journey across the North Atlantic beating back fierce sea and waves reaching 25 feet ... unscathed! What made this crossing so remarkable was that convoys (totaling 40 - 50 ships) who made these transatlantic crossings were like ducks in a shooting gallery for German U-Boats, known as the marauding German Wolfpacks. The Battle of the Atlantic was well underway and convoy crossings were very dangerous and incurred horrendous casualties. Some crossings saw sinkings that exceeded 40% of the entire convoy, and with 50 ships and crew that amounted to 20 sinkings. Into the summer of 1940 more of Churchill's "fish convoy" crossings were made that included the HMS Revenge, HMS Resolution and HMS Enterprise.

HMS Emerald
Light Armored Cruiser



Upon the HMS Emerald's arrival in Nova Scotia, officials from both the Bank of Canada and the Canadian National Express (known today as the CNR, the Canadian National Railway) were waiting. The arriving boxes of fish were inspected and reinspected before they were loaded onto rails cars, at which point over 250 armed guards were assigned to guard the shipments of fish boxes as they made the 300-mile journey to Montreal. 250 armed guards for fish, you might ask, and you would be right. This is where the story gets interesting, but let us back up for a minute.

By June 1940, as Prime Minister Winston Churchill was forming his government, the war was not going well for the Allies. Italy had joined the war but on Germany's side. The Germans had crossed Europe, had marched through Paris and had also surrounded the Allies in southern France at Dunkirk. The Germans were poised to cross the English Channel and invade the United Kingdom. With the fear that the UK could fall, Winston Churchill devised a grand scheme to install his government in Montreal, Canada and lead the Commonwealth's war effort from there. This plan also included having the Bank of England establish a secondary operation to be headquartered in Canada's capital, Ottawa. Since 1938, the UK government had been buying more gold, but with the Germans at their front door, Churchill decided to ship its entire reserves of gold bullion overseas to Canada. The operation would be called; "Operation Fish."

The end game was to pack the gold bullion, securities and coins from the Royal Treasury into crates with fish, covered by ice. Amazing as this may sound, upon completion of Operation Fish ... of the nearly 140 ships that were sunk during these convoy crossings, not one of the ships carrying the UK's wealth was ever sunk. By the end of the Operation Fish, over 1500 tons of gold bullion had made its way across the North Atlantic Ocean to Canada.

In Canada, the coins and securities were stored in a specially designed vault that was located three levels below the Sun Life Building in Montreal. It was guarded by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) 24/7. The securities were eventually sold over the coming years on the New York Stock Exchange to fund Britain's ongoing war efforts. The gold bullion was shipped from Montreal to Ottawa, where it was stored in vaults of the Bank of Canada.

The value of these gold shipments in 1940 was estimated to be £470 million, which at today's market value would be over \$300 Billion. It is deemed to be the largest transfer of wealth, from country to country in world history.

Throughout the entire operation, and despite many thousands of people having been involved in the unparalleled efforts for this highly secretive mission, Operation Fish remained a secret until after the war. To its credit, no securities, coins or a single gold bar ever went missing. So, this is a fish story that I think will top any one you are likely to hear.





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SPOTLIGHT:

PHOENIX AIRPORT: A WORLD CLASS AIRPORT AT YOUR FRONT DOOR

If you have travelled extensively then you will acknowledge what a World Class Airport Sky Harbor International Airport is for both domestic and international travelers. Today, Sky Harbor is 89 years old and has expanded to cover over 3,000 acres, it is truly a beautiful, modern and expansive facility. Designed to be very traveler friendly, it provides young and old alike with a wide assortment of choices from retail shopping, museums, and galleries to upscale cuisine and fast food. Many restaurants offer special meals or items just for children and those with special dietary needs.

In 2023, Sky Harbor served over 48.5 million passengers and recorded 454,665 takeoffs and landings. Today, Phoenix's airport now ranks as the eighth busiest airport in the United States with 24 domestic and international airlines servicing the airport.

To say that Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is centrally located within the Valley would be an understatement. It's location is just 4 miles from downtown Phoenix and Tempe, 7 miles from Scottsdale, 14 miles from Glendale and 18 miles from Chandler. There are plenty of ways to get to and from the airport including

public transportation, shuttle, ride-sharing services, black cars and limousines.

Navigating Phoenix Sky Harbor is easy since there are only two primary terminals: Terminal 3 and Terminal 4. The terminals are divided, but access between the two is available by the airports Sky Train system which is a free service to passengers. Phase 1 of Sky Train was completed in 2012, with phase 2 completed in 2022 at a total cost of \$1.6 billion. This transportation system runs 24/7 daily.



Phoenix LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



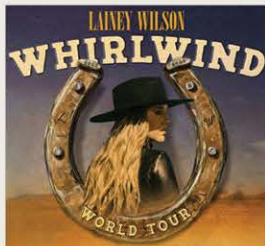
**The Collection:
Dutch Art Expanded**
Dutch Art Expanded offers fresh perspectives and challenges preconceived notions on the formerly so-called "Golden Age."
phxart.org



Jonas Brothers
September 28th
Living The Dream Tour
PHX Arena
(footprintcenter.com)



Carlos Amoraes: Black Cloud
Thursdays through October
Inspired by the annual migration of monarch butterflies from Canada to Mexico, Black Cloud features a "swarm" of paper moths that take over museum spaces.
phxart.org



Lainey Wilson
August 14th
Whirlwind World Tour with ERNEST and Kaitlin Butts
PHX Arena
(footprintcenter.com)



Andrew Walesch Trio
Fridays in July
The perfect spot for those seeking an intimate and lively evening in the heart of downtown Phoenix. No cover.
thenash.org



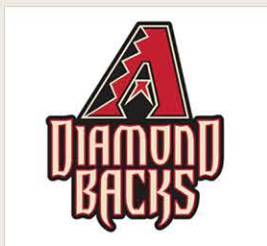
Cultural Coalition Mask Alive Art Collection
Fridays
Zarco Guerrero, a renowned artist, and storyteller showcases over 200 colorful, joyful, and immersive works of art.
arizonacenter.com



SHINEDOWN
Dance, Kid, Dance Tour
August 2nd
With Special guests, BUSH and Morgan Wade
PHX Arena
(footprintcenter.com)



Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8 am – 12 pm
Expect to find local produce, grass fed meats, fresh eggs, baked breads and treats, jams and honey, peanut butter and much more!
downtownphoenixfarmersmarket.org



Diamondbacks Baseball
Catch the action as MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks take to the field all summer long at air-conditioned Chase Field.
mlb.com/dbacks



Truck Stop Thursdays
Whether you're in the mood for tacos, gourmet burgers, fresh vegan options, or sweet treats, there's something to satisfy every craving. Free admission.
streetfoodfinder.com/
VentureCafe



Phoenix Mercury
Footprint Center
201 E. Jefferson St.
Downtown Phoenix
phoenixmercury.com



First Fridays
One of the nation's largest, self-guided art walks. Tour more than 70 galleries, venues and art-related spaces to see a variety of artwork and to enjoy the spirit and culture of the city.
artlinkphx.org

DESTINATION *Scottsdale*

DOWNTOWN SCOTTSDALE

For visitors to The City of Scottsdale, it actually covers three regions. Downtown Scottsdale, Old Town Scottsdale, and North Scottsdale. Downtown is a shopping and dining extravaganza. On Marshall Way you will find over 100 Art galleries, with exquisite jewelry stores dotting 5th Avenue. You will experience world-class resorts, retail shoppes and Fashion Square, the largest indoor shopping mall in the Southwest, coupled with a fabulous selection of restaurants and fine dining establishments. Scottsdale has earned the name "Rodeo Drive of the Southwest."

OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE

In the heart of Downtown Scottsdale, you will find a series of blocks called Old Town Scottsdale. Here you will find the period architecture showcasing historic buildings/shoppes that date back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. Situated throughout Old Town are a combination of retail shoppes, art galleries, western wear, Native American antique stores and a full array of fine restaurants. Pedestrian walkways link you to Scottsdale's beautiful Civic Center, with access to the San Francisco Giant's spring training stadium.

MAP KEY

- Fashion Square
- Fifth Avenue
- Old Town
- Waterfront
- Civic Center Plaza
- Main Street/Marshall Way
- Restrooms
- Trolley Stop
- Information Cart
- Public Parking





Offering a great western vibe, you have arrived at one of the most desirable destinations in the southwest, Scottsdale, Arizona. Known the world over for its golf courses, world-class resorts, destination spas, nightlife, art galleries, upscale fashion and high-end shopping. You will also enjoy some of the finest dining served anywhere in the world.

The West's Most Western City has a resident population of 300,000. Named by Time Magazine as "America's Most Livable City," you will be hard pressed to find a more exciting and welcoming destination to enjoy that all this region has to offer.

From its humble beginnings as a Pima Indian village, this small town was founded in the late 1800's by a U.S. Army Chaplain named Winnfield Scott. At that time, he purchased 640 acres for just \$2.50 per acre, for agricultural use.

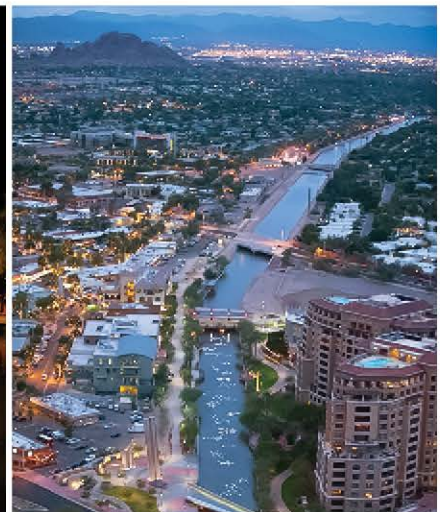
Today, Scottsdale has grown to 185 square miles and borders the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, maintaining a link and relations to its past.

One of the most desirable destinations in the southwest

Downtown Scottsdale has arts and craft fairs, festivals, and fun events year-round that entertain both residents and visitors alike. Centrally located, you can travel to the East and West Valley in 15-20 minutes, which makes Scottsdale a great destination for travelers to the region.



SCOTTSDALE CANAL WATERFRONT





OLD TOWN TORTILLA FACTORY

Dine at Scottsdale's Hidden Gem

Old Town Tortilla Factory is located in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale, where it captures timeless charm with a distinct atmosphere that exemplifies the essence of the Southwest.

Our property boasts a 1400 square foot flagstone patio that is surrounded by green vegetation and shaded by 100 year old trees. In the summer months the patio is cooled with a state of the art mist system. Our bar, a separate gazebo, offers over 120 premium tequilas and a complete selection of beers, wine and liquor.

Our food at Old Town Tortilla Factory is Southwestern with a Mexican twist. Our loyal and experienced staff are committed to serving you the ultimate Southwestern dining experience.

Old Town Tortilla Factory is the perfect venue for your event:

- *Indoor and outdoor seating*
- *Cool mist system or toasty heated patio*
- *Can accommodate groups ranging from 10-350*
- *Plated or buffet style dining*
- *Daytime weddings or events available*
- *Live entertainment options and much more*

Visit oldtowntortillafactory.com on your computer, tablet, phone, or VR headset to view our high-resolution virtual tour, 3D venue walk through with measuring capabilities, menus, and more!



Web design, virtual tour,
and 3D walk through by...

interactive
MARKETING
TECHNOLOGIES

360°

imtinc360.com



6910 East Main Street, Scottsdale | 480.945.4567 | OldTownTortillaFactory.com

Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Welcome to Scottsdale!

Old Town Scottsdale encompasses nine walkable districts that offer treasures at every turn. From the chic boutiques along famed Fifth Avenue and the galleries of the Arts District to the eclectic shops in the Historic District and beyond, you'll find plenty of opportunities to browse, dine and explore.

experiencescottsdale.com



Fitz and the Tantrums

July 26th

Known for high-energy anthems like "HandClap" and "Out of My League," the band delivers a dynamic, dance-packed show with infectious energy. Talking Stick Resort.



Old Town Scottsdale Farmers Market

Saturday's, 8 am – 1 pm

Featuring more than 100 local growers and specialty food producers. You will find a wide variety of produce, seasonal specialties so much more!



Light & Bark Candle Company

Light + Bark is a candle company committed to spreading the light of goodness by making quality scented soy candles and shedding light on adoption of rescue + shelter dogs.

lightandbark.com



Slide the Rails

Saturday, August 3rd

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park's wet and wild summer event. There will be a variety of inflatable water slides and obstacle courses for all ages. therailroadpark.com



Women of the Southwest:

A Legacy of Painting

Through August 24th

Comprises nearly 200 works by 25 women (some represented by only a single work).

scottsdalemuseumwest.org



Little River Band

September 12th

The legendary Aussie soft-rockers will take you back with timeless hits. With flawless harmonies and smooth melodies, their show is a nostalgic trip through the golden era of rock.



Scottsdale ArtWalk

Thursdays, 7 – 9 pm

A 40-year tradition, the ArtWalk process is simple — proceed at your own pace, wander into galleries that capture your fancy, stroll around a delightful area punctuated by dramatic statues, bubbling fountains, tree-covered courtyards, famed restaurants and more. Horse-drawn carriage rides and trolley rides are often available from plentiful free parking areas nearby.

scottsdaleartsdistrict.com



Pinkberry

Pinkberry is a tart frozen yogurt brand from Los Angeles, CA. Starting in 2005, the brand reignited the phenomenon for frozen yogurt and has grown throughout the country to more than 100 stores.

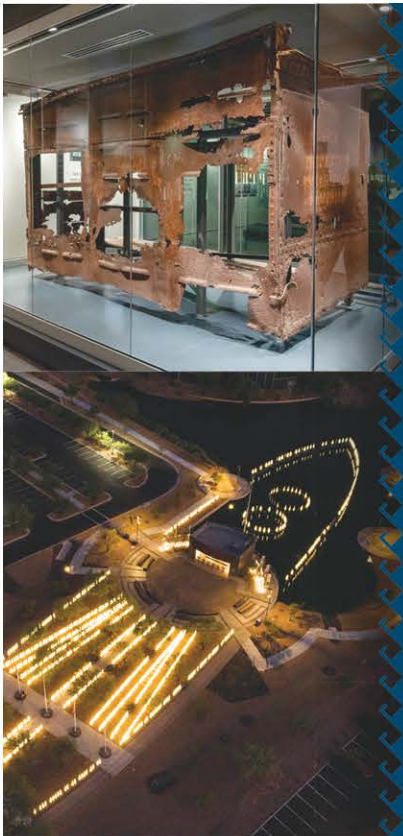
pinkberry.com



Arizona Boardwalk

Scottsdale's one-of-a-kind entertainment destination that features eight marquee attractions in addition to multiple dining, shopping, and amusement venues.

azboardwalk.com



USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL GARDENS AT SALT RIVER

Located just 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River honors the brave US forces who were aboard the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. As a nation, we are forever indebted to those who serve and give their lives for our freedom and we are proud to honor them and share their stories in these gardens.

Learn more about the USS Arizona, December 7, 1941 and the impact it had on so many, and view a piece of the USS Arizona boathouse superstructure. The Gardens are free and open to the public daily, from dawn until dusk.



Proudly located in the Salt River
Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
USSArizonaSaltRiver.com



**TOGETHER,
WE'LL MAKE SURE
EVERY KID
GETS THE FOOD
THEY NEED.**



NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP HUNGRY IN AMERICA

But in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, millions of kids could face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve.

Join us at NoKidHungry.org



Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Old Town Scottsdale

Its pedestrian-friendly streets are home to world class art galleries, museums, restaurants and retail shops ... and when the sun goes down you don't have to because of the exciting nightlife.



Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

Situated on a sprawling park in the heart of downtown Scottsdale, SMOCA is home to some of the world's best modern art, architecture, and design. smoca.org



Gold Palette Artwalk

Thursdays Evenings

Proceed at your own pace, stroll around a delightful area punctuated by dramatic statues, bubbly fountains and famed restaurants.

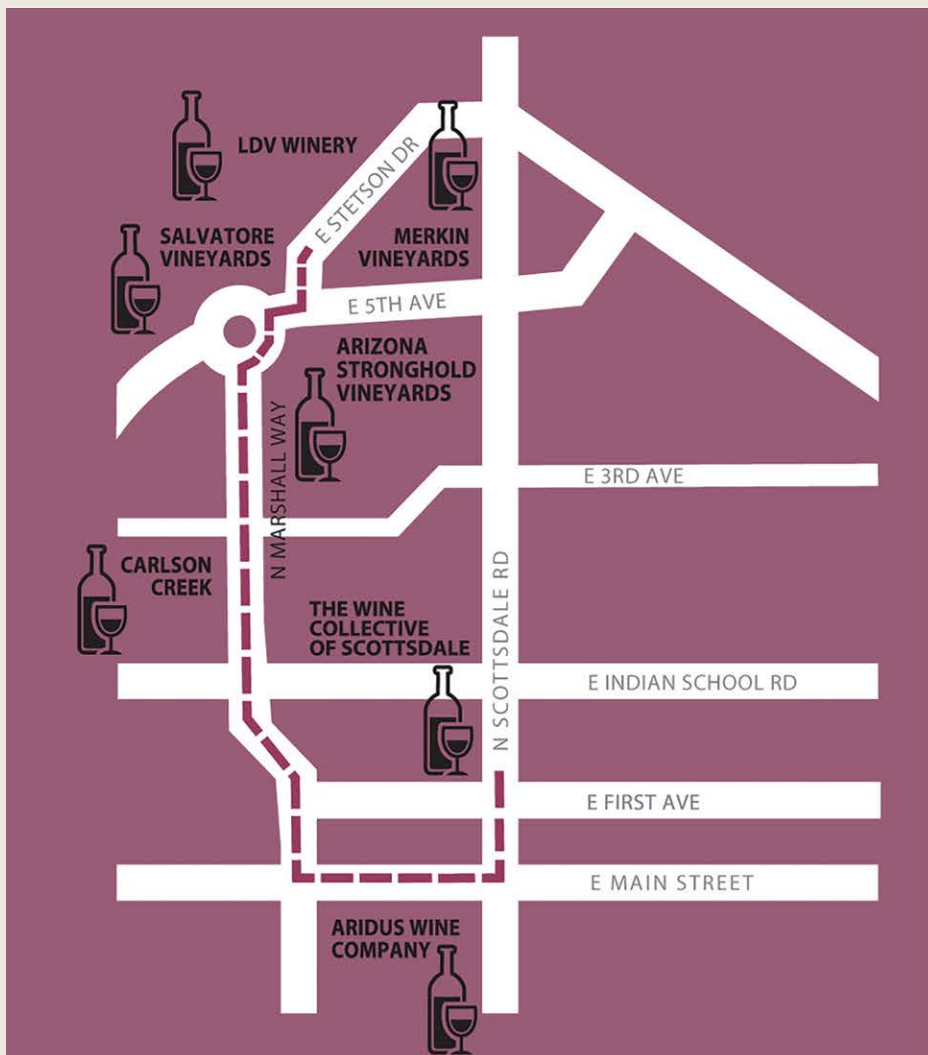
scottsdaleartdistrict.com/artwalk



Scottsdale's Museum of the West

One of Old Town Scottsdale's most visited museums, exhibits focus on Native American culture, original items, and the true stories and legends of the Old West.


scottsdalemuseumwest.org



Scottsdale Wine Trail

Old Town has plenty of options for you to enjoy a delicious glass of wine all within walking distance! Explore the Scottsdale Wine Trail and make a day, or weekend, experiencing Arizona wines. Each winery has a unique tasting room with plenty of delicious wines to try and buy. scottsdalewinetrail.com





Scottsdale was just named the best place to retire in the U.S.

ACCORDING TO NICHE.COM'S ANNUAL BEST PLACES TO RETIRE LIST.

A record number of Americans are set to retire in the next two years, and many will move to a new place to enjoy their golden years.

In March, Niche.com, a platform connecting students and families with colleges and schools, released its 11th annual Best Places to Live in America list.

The company created the rankings using data from the U.S. Census, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the CDC, but most importantly, it combined this data with millions of resident reviews. Using these data points, it considered 230 cities and over 18,000 communities nationwide, ranking them for affordability, housing market, neighborhood diversity, area public schools, and walkability. And Scottsdale, Arizona, was named the best city to live in retirement.

"Boasting some of the best weather in the United States, Scottsdale is the perfect oasis for retirement," Zach Chatham, the public relations manager for Niche.com, shared with Travel + Leisure. "With its abundance of outdoor activities and health and fitness options, this Arizona city is ideal for maintaining an active lifestyle focused on longevity."

The Niche.com team noted on its website that Scottsdale earns an overall A rating, as living here "offers residents a dense suburban feel, and most residents own their homes." It added that the median rent price is just above \$1,900 per month, while the median home buying price falls just under \$710,000. It also gained a B+ rating for ethnic and economic diversity.

It's "the perfect oasis for retirement" thanks to its weather, quality of life, and active lifestyle.

The city offers retirees an abundance of outdoor activities, great weather, and an excellent quality of life. However, Niche.com gave it a C+ for housing.

"Scottsdale, Arizona, is a really cool place with a mix of modern city life and Old West charm," one Niche.com reviewer wrote about their time living here. "The desert scenery is beautiful, and there's a lot to do, from hiking Camelback Mountain to checking out the art scene and nightlife in Old Town." The reviewer noted that while the summers can get rather warm, the winters are always perfect. "It's definitely on the pricier side, especially in North Scottsdale, but there are great restaurants, shopping spots, and tons of

outdoor activities. If you're into golf, luxury resorts, or just a lively atmosphere, it's a great place to be."

Scottsdale is joined at the top of the list by Clearwater, Florida; Metairie, Louisiana; St. Petersburg, Florida; and Cape Coral, Florida, rounding out the top five of the best places to retire.

Last year, WalletHub also ranked Scottsdale among the top retirement cities, mainly for its high quality of life and the variety of activities. According to U.S. Census data, over a quarter of the city's residents are aged 65 or over.

You can see the full list at [niche.com](https://www.niche.com).

By Stacey Leasca who is an award-winning journalist with nearly two decades of newsroom experience. She is also the co-founder of Be a Travel Writer, an online course for the next generation of travel journalists. Her photos, videos, and words have appeared in print or online for Travel + Leisure, Time, Los Angeles Times, Glamour, Men's Health, GlobalPost, LA Confidential, and many more.

SPOTLIGHTS



The Old Town Tortilla Factory

This is a real local landmark, a hidden gem located in Downtown Scottsdale. The Old Town Tortilla Factory was built from a historic 75-year old Scottsdale adobe home, which Jim and Chad Flaum have proudly owned since 2001. That's just one of the key reasons it's such a popular establishment—great ownership. Then one adds in the warm, rustic décor and casual ambiance, great Southwestern fare (with a Mexican twist), award winning margaritas and great service. You can dine in the adobe house (and watch the tortillas being made) or enjoy dining under the stars on the expansive outdoor patio. And if it's just a cocktail you are seeking, then grab a seat at the factories outdoor Gazebo Bar that offers over 120 premium tequila's, beer, wines and liquors. The Old Town Tortilla Factory is a favorite spot for locals and travelers alike and should not be missed. Rest assured you will not be disappointed. Reservations are suggested.

**Open Sunday – Thursday from 5 – 9 pm,
Friday & Saturday, 5 – 10 pm.
480-945-4567 | Oldtowntortillafactory.com**

Scottsdale, Then and Now

THEN ... Winfield Scott was born in 1837 and over his career became an American Baptist minister, a Captain in the U.S Volunteers, and a politician. In February of 1888, Scott visited the Salt River Valley in Phoenix. He was so impressed with the region he purchased 640 acres for \$2.50/acre. Today, his land purchase is known as "Downtown Scottsdale". It would carry a present day value of more than \$1 Billion. In 1896 the town name was actually changed to "Scottsdale" in honor of Scott.

NOW ... Scottsdale, Arizona has come a long way since 1888. Scottsdale is annually rated among the nation's most desirable communities to live in, visit, and do business in. It is now counted among the 100 largest cities in America, but still retains its connection to its small-town, Western heritage.

Scottsdale's vibrant Old Town is considered the finest urban center in Arizona. It is home to more than 100 restaurants, 350 retail shops and over 100 art galleries. Old Town Scottsdale is best known for hosting great events throughout the year such as markets, art walks, festivals, parades, concerts, block parties and of course the cactus spring training for major league baseball.



DESTINATION *North Scottsdale*

NORTH SCOTTSDALE AND BEYOND

This is the third region for Scottsdale that encompasses the communities of Paradise Valley, Grayhawk, Cave Creek, Carefree, and a little to the east, the Town of Fountain Hills. The local landscape offers you everything and more. Enjoy many of your favorite outdoor activities. Shop till you drop, by visiting all of the upscale retail shopping venues that dot the landscape. Enjoy superb restaurants, fine dining, world-class golf courses, casinos and major venues like Taliesin West and the Musical Instrument Museum.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Every year North Scottsdale plays host to many of the world's premier events attracting millions of visitors from around the world. The Barrett-Jackson Car Auction, The Waste Management Phoenix Open, known as "The Greatest Show on Grass" played at the legendary TPC of Scottsdale, to the largest Arabian Horse Show in the world, held annually at Westworld. It also is home to the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies spring training facilities at Salt River Fields.





SCOTTSDALE AIRPARK

North Scottsdale offers higher-end residential communities, coupled with upscale boutique shopping, fine dining, superb golfing, and outdoor recreational activities that will cater to everyone's desires. You will also visit great venues, art galleries, museums and places of interest that dot the landscape. One local landmark is Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West.

The region offers many of the country's largest annual events that attract millions of travelers from around the world. One such event is the Waste Management Phoenix Open, presented by Taylor Morrison, also known as "The Greatest Show on Grass." PGA golfers consider the WMPO to be their favorite tournament. This past year, Scottie Scheffler became the seventh winner in history to successfully defend his championship with back-to-back wins. First prize was \$3.6 million.

A little farther north brings you to the communities of Cave Creek and Carefree. Known for their local artists and galleries, great restaurants, these two towns offer a more laid-back western vibe. Both towns are extremely popular with visitors to the region.

Across the board, outdoor activities abound. So if you are into hiking, biking, running, horseback riding, hot-air ballooning, rafting to 4-wheeling in the Sonoran desert, simply take your pick. North Scottsdale and the surrounding areas of Cave Creek and Carefree are certainly worth visiting.

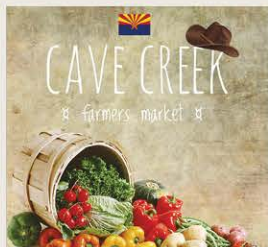
A wide variety of outdoor activities, events, spas, culture, casual eats, and fine dining

With all Scottsdale has to offer, it is no wonder the city was once voted America's "Most Livable City," a concept it continues to carry with its wide variety of outdoor activities, spas, culture, casual eats, fine dining, and it's famous, walkable Old Town. Scottsdale is also home to the United Soccer Leagues (USL) Phoenix Rising football club.



WE-KO-PA GOLF CLUB

North Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Cave Creek Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8 – 11 am
through September
 Fresh, local, seasonal produce, herbs, flowers, baked goods, natural meats and seafood as well as local arts & crafts.
arizonafarmersmarket.com



Quilt, Coat and Sewing Festival
August 28th – 30th
 Find a wide variety of Sewing, Quilting, Needle-Art and Craft supply exhibits from many quality companies. Located at Westworld of Scottsdale.
quiltcraftsew.com



Fourth at the Fountain
July 4th, 7 pm
 Festivities featuring music and prizes include a performance by Rock Lobster and a majestic fireworks display over the Park's picturesque Fountain Lake.
experiencefountainhills.org



Black Rodeo
August 29th – 30th
 An action-packed rodeo featuring bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, ladies barrel racing, and crowd favorites mutton bustin' and calf scramble for the little ones.
blackrodeousa.com



Summer Fridays
at Scottsdale Quarter
Fridays, through August 2nd
 Featuring DJs, fun water toys, inflatables and swag from your favorite retailers. The first 100 kids get free toys to take home!
scottsdalequarter.com



The West's Most Western Rodeo
September 5th – 7th
 A 3 day PRCA-sanctioned rodeo event, located at Westworld of Scottsdale Equidome Arena.
rodeoscottsdale.com



Roadrunner Park Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8 am – 1 pm
 Local produce including fresh vegetables & fruit, baked goods, honey jams and jellies, natural meats, and hand crafted items.
arizonafarmersmarket.com



Junk in the Truck Vintage Market
September 12th – 14th
 Shop over 120,000 sq. ft. filled with 150+ vintage curators and handmade artisans from across the country.
junkinthetruckvintagemarket.com



Candle Chemistry
 For travelers, wanting to take a piece of Arizona home with them, Candle Chemistry has a line of scents that are dedicated to our beautiful state!
candlechemistry.com



Taliesin West
 Tour architect Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and studio in the desert. Today it is the headquarters of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.
franklloydwright.org



Stagecoach Village
 Stunning mountain views and a unique collection of shops, restaurants and professional services await you. Spend the day enjoying authentic Italian cuisine, locally inspired fine dining, or gourmet Russian crepes. There is even an on-site brewery with great pub faire and a variety of custom shops from fine handcrafted hats to western furniture and decor.
stagecoachvillagecc.com



Scottsdale Quarter

An open-air center heralded as one of Scottsdale's top shopping destinations, boasting breathtaking landscape, highly sought retailers, unique dining, and top of the line beauty services. Scottsdale Quarter is also home to the park-like gathering space, The Quad, featuring the largest pop-jet fountain in the region and enchanting nighttime ambiance.

scottsdalequarter.com



Black Mountain Trail in Cave Creek

The route is simply up and back and you will climb over 1,000 feet in the process. The whole walk is around 2.2 miles.



Cave Creek Regional Park

This 3,000-acre park is located at an elevation that varies between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. It is a real gem for anyone looking for fresh air and exercise.



DC Ranch Market Street

Market Street offers a variety of culinary offerings, unique shopping boutiques and specialty stores, combined with community conveniences create this distinctive retail district.

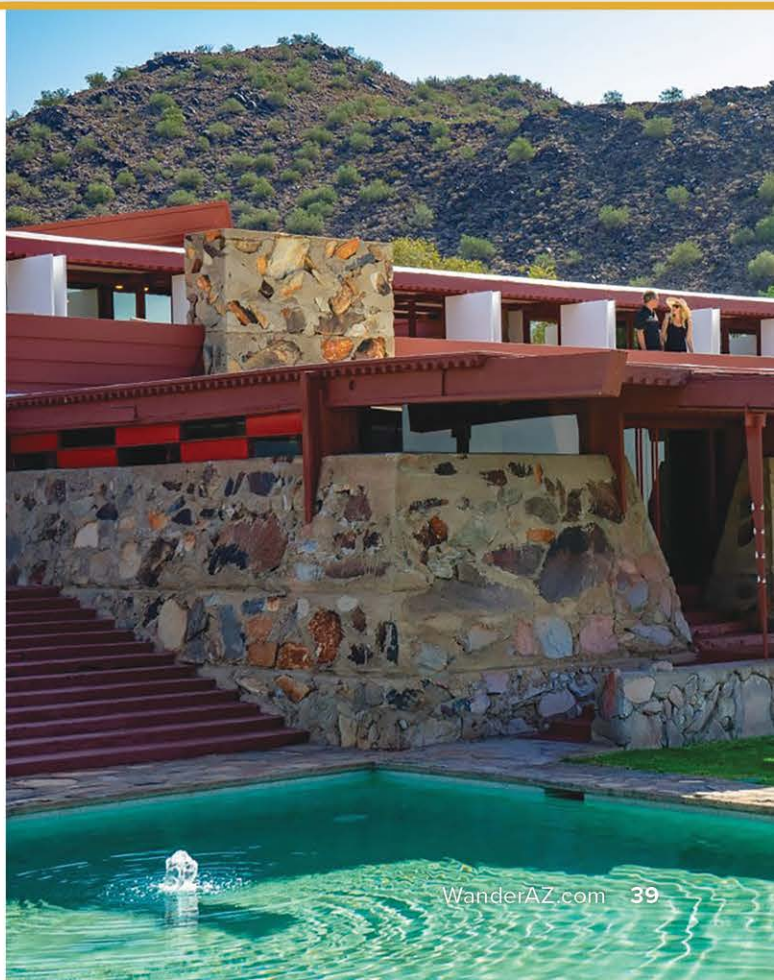
beonmarketstreet.com

SPOTLIGHT:

Taliesin West – Frank Lloyd Wright's Winter Home and Studio

Taliesin West showcases the Sonoran Desert, city views, and America's greatest architect's desert masterpiece - which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Set amid a Sonoran Desert Preserve encompassing over 490 acres, Taliesin West tours lead you through provocative terraces, landscaped gardens, and natural walkways commanding dramatic views of Camelback Mountain and the Valley of the Sun.

Part architecture, part nature, and part American history, Taliesin West is a must-see on any trip to the Phoenix area. Come to Scottsdale to enjoy this National Historic Landmark nestled in the desert foothills of the McDowell Mountains. Easily accessible, Taliesin West is located just 15-20 minutes from virtually all areas of the Valley. Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home at Taliesin West offers audio tours, guided tours, and a beautiful store showcasing books, gifts and Frank Lloyd Wright items that you cannot find elsewhere. Looking for something other than a tour? Check out the many on-site programs including Wellness (yoga, hiking, and tai chi), Sunsets and Sips happy hour, family programs, book club, live music, dance, and theatre performances.



BE INSPIRED

AT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S
TALIESIN WEST



VISIT TALIESIN
WEST TODAY

NEW! Ignite your imagination at our Drafting Studio display, where you can view Wright designs in their historical context.

For more than 87 years, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West has inspired architects, artists and visitors—like you. Taliesin West is where Wright and his apprentices worked on some of the world's most important architecture. We offer daily tours and programs for all ages. **Come be inspired, too.**



U.S. DROPS TO IT'S LOWEST EVER RANKING!

In 2025, the world's happiest countries for 2024 were published. The United States dropped to its lowest ranking ever in the global list of happiest countries.

Since 2002, the World Happiness Report has used statistical analysis to determine the world's happiest countries. In its 2024 update, the report concluded that Finland is the happiest country in the world. To determine the world's happiest country, researchers analyzed comprehensive Gallup polling data from 143 countries for the past three years, specifically monitoring performance in six particular categories ... gross domestic product per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make your own life choices, generosity of the general population, and perceptions of internal and external corruption levels.

To properly compare each country's data, the researchers created a fictional country—christened Dystopia—filled with “the world's least-happy people.” They then set Dystopia as the rock bottom value in each of the six categories and measured the scores of the real-world countries against this value. All six variables were then blended to create a single combined score for each country. Six out of the top seven happiest countries in the world for 2024 were Northern European countries. Finland took top honors—for the tenth year in a row—with an overall score of 7.741, followed (in order) by Denmark (7.583), Iceland (7.525), Sweden (7.344), Israel (7.341), the Netherlands (7.319), and Norway (7.302).

The least happy country in the world for 2024 was Afghanistan, whose 143rd-place ranking of 1.721 can be attributed in part to a low life expectancy rate, low gross domestic product rates per capita, and most importantly, the recent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Rounding out the bottom five are Lebanon (2.707), Lesotho (3.186), Sierra Leone (3.245), and DR Congo (3.295).

TOP 20 COUNTRIES WORLD HAPPINESS SCORE 2024

Finland	1	7.74
Denmark	2	7.58
Iceland	3	7.53
Sweden	4	7.34
Israel	5	7.34
Netherlands	6	7.32
Norway	7	7.3
Luxembourg	8	7.12
Switzerland	9	7.06
Australia	10	7.06
New Zealand	11	7.03
Costa Rica	12	6.96
Kuwait	13	6.95
Austria	14	6.91
Canada	15	6.9
Belgium	16	6.89
Ireland	17	6.84
Czech Republic	18	6.82
Lithuania	19	6.82
United Kingdom	20	6.75

* The United States of America keeps falling and for 2024 came in ranked a dismal #23.

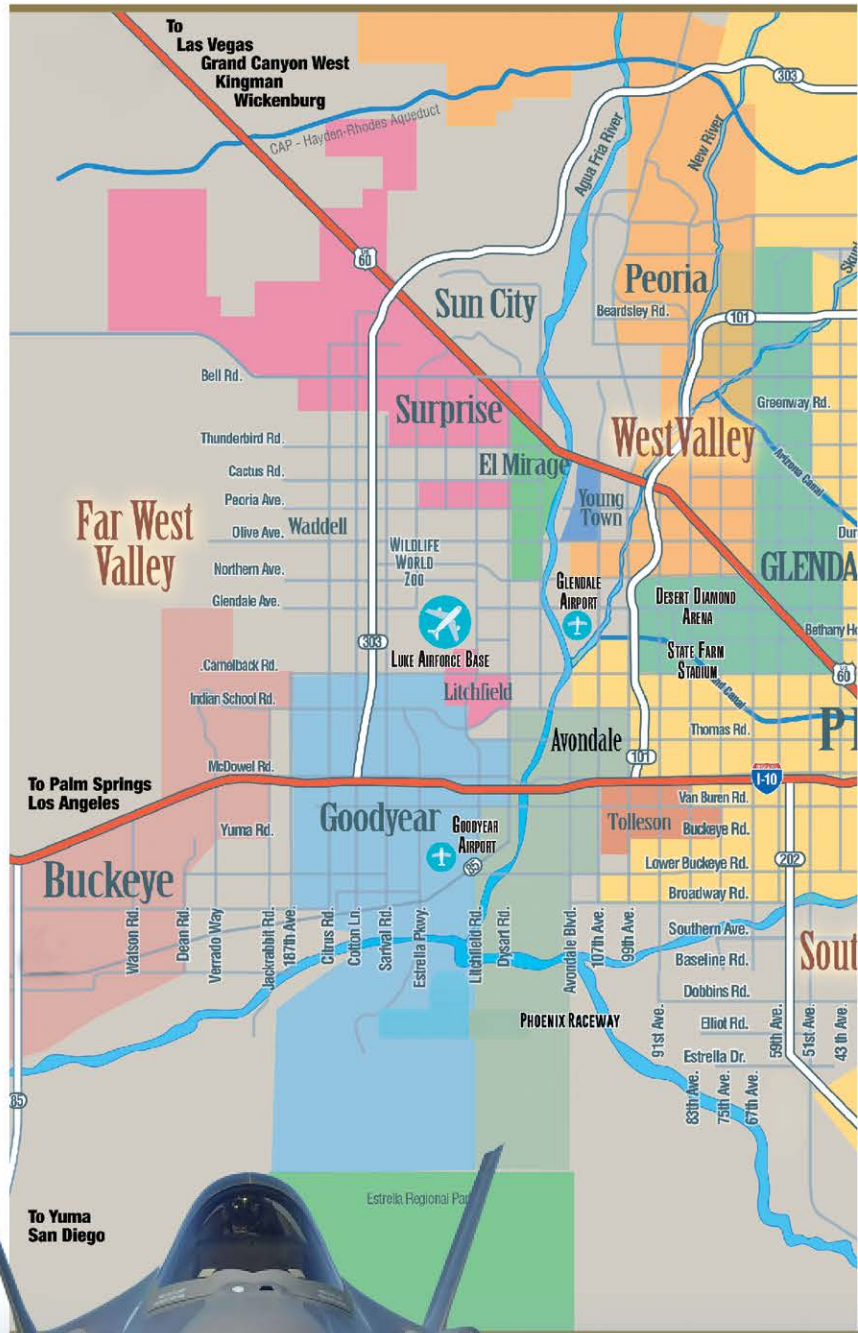
DESTINATION *West Valley*

WEST PHOENIX

Over the past 10 years or so, Glendale has gambled BIG bucks which started with Westgate and continued with a hockey arena and football stadium. Then came Desert Diamond Casino which continued with the VIA Resort, when finished in 2025 will become Arizona's largest resort complex with over 1,200 rooms. The gamble and financial investments have paid off. Once a sleepy little west valley community, the City of Glendale has become known as a sports and entertainment mecca for locals and valley visitors alike.

SPORTS & ATTRACTIONS

Home to the Arizona Cardinals of the NFL, and host to the 2023 Super Bowl is State Farm Stadium. A key center point is the expanding Westgate Entertainment District that comprises an expanding list of hotels, resorts, concert venues, shopping, restaurants and Desert Diamond Casino. Close by is the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park, the States' #1 ZOO. A few minutes south on the 101 highway to highway 10, and you come upon Phoenix Raceway that hosts multiple NASCAR and INDY Car races each year. Year-round there is always something exciting to do in the West Valley.



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE



The West Valley is continuing to grow and expand its residential and retirement communities, business and manufacturing, but now it is also becoming known as a major entertainment and resort district. There is the Westgate Entertainment District, the Wigwam Resort, then in 2024, comes the 60-acre VAI resort hotel which will be the largest resort and entertainment destination in Arizona. Huge in size would be an understatement.

Every year Glendale hosts the Fiesta Bowl at State Farm Stadium. It is also home to nine MLB spring training teams whose facilities are located here. More recently, the West Valley and the City of Glendale were in the global spotlight as hosts for Super Bowl LVII held at State Farm Stadium.

Glendale bills itself as Arizona's Antique Capital with its historic downtown district. Only a short 20-25-minute drive from downtown Phoenix and most other regions of the Valley, it is easily accessible off either the I-10 or 101 highways.

A major entertainment and resort district with a historic downtown

Whether you enjoy a night at the casino, to football or auto racing, visiting the zoo, golfing, boutique and outlet shopping or fine dining the West Valley will not disappoint.



ARIZONA CARDINALS • STATE FARM STADIUM

Explore a World of Wildlife!



Welcome to the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park, where visitors will experience a safari-like adventure like no other. Our park proudly hosts Arizona's largest collection of exotic and endangered animals, with over 600 separate species. In addition to our diverse collection of animals, we offer an array of exciting attractions, rides and daily shows that will leave you on the edge of your seat. Visit us today and explore a world of wildlife like never before!

Open 365 days a year!

Northern Ave. and SR 303

623-935-9453 (WILD)

WildlifeWorld.com

Wildlife World
Zoo Aquarium & Safari Park

Wildlife World
Zoo Aquarium & Safari Park



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\$6
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West Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



West Wind Drive In

Toss a Frisbee or football around before the show or bring the wee ones to the play structure near the snack bar before you settle back for a one-of-a-kind movie presentation.

westwinddi.com



Rio Vista Community Park

The 2,000-square-foot park features a spraying turtle, water cannons, directional water jets, large ground sprays and mist. Plus, an urban lake, a skate park, a playground and more.

peoriaaz.gov



Goodyear Community Park

Colorful water arches, drop buckets and water cannons are featured at this splash pad. Open from the third Monday in April through third Monday in October.

goodyearaz.gov



Sun City Farmers Market

Thursdays, 9 am – 1 pm

Market includes fresh, local and seasonal produce, herbs and more!

arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com



Food Truck Fridays West

Friday Evenings, 6 – 9 pm

10-20 awesome food trucks, music and family fun. In front of Desert Financial Credit Union on 79th Ave, North of Bell Rd.

getlocalarizonaevents.com/foodtruckfridaywest.com



Arrowhead Farmers Market

Sat's through Aug., 9 am – 1 pm

Stay outside with more summer vendors than ever before! Fresh produce, meats, dairy, eggs, breads, and more! Location Arrowhead Mall.

getlocalarizonaevents.com



Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live Glow-N-Fire

August 2nd – 3rd

Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live: Glow-N-Fire brings fans' favorite Hot Wheels Monster Trucks to life!

desertdiamondarena.com



Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium

6,000 Animals, Daily Sea Lion and Wildlife Encounter Shows, Tons of Rides, and a Thousand Thrills. Boasting Arizona's largest collection of exotic and endangered animals, on display.

wildlifeworld.com



Historic Downtown Glendale

Discover Historic Downtown Glendale which has been named as one of the country's ten best places for shopping and has received national accolades for dining.

visitdowntownglendale.com



Chris Stapleton's All-American Road Show

August 9th

Coming to Glendale with special guest Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives.

desertdiamondarena.com



Westgate

Entertainment District

One of the largest and most exciting mixed-use, urban developments in North America.

westgateaz.com



Arizona Cardinals

State Farm Stadium.

azcardinals.com/tickets

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480.247.7813 aerogelicballooning.com



Luke Air Force Base

Luke Air Force Base is a United States Air Force base located 15 miles west of Phoenix in the City of Glendale, Arizona, in the County of Maricopa. Luke Air Force's mission is to Train the World's Greatest Fighter Pilots and Combat Ready Airmen! Home to the 56th Fighter Wing, which is the largest fighter wing in the U.S. Air Force. It was first activated in January 1941.

The base was named after Second Lieutenant Frank Luke (1897–1918), who was born in Phoenix in 1897, who is also a posthumous Medal of Honor recipient and the number-two United States flying ace in World War I.

Today, Luke AFB is a major training base of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC). In fact, it was the largest F-16 Fighting Falcon training base in the world. In March, 2011, the F-35 Lightning II was announced to be replacing the F-16 as the primary training aircraft at Luke. In July 2013, the Air Force announced that Luke AFB would house a total of 144 F-35A Lightning IIs. The first aircraft arrived on base in March 2014.

There are four F-35 fighter squadrons and four F-16 fighter squadrons stationed at Luke Air Force Base. Since its inception in 1941, Luke Air Force Base has graduated over 61,000 fighter pilots.

Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park

This great venue and attraction continues to be ranked as Arizona's #1 ZOO. It boasts Arizona's largest collection of exotic and endangered animals (6,000 to be exact), 600 different species, tons of fun rides, a petting zoo along with 8 fabulous shows that are performed daily.

The Zoo is an expansive site, with snack bars, restaurants, gift shops and washrooms situated throughout the grounds. It's easy to spend an entire day visiting the many different attractions offered. The Zoo is packed with Lions, Tigers, Kangaroos, Rhino's, Zebra's, Monkey's, Giraffes (which you can feed at the giraffe feeding station), exotic birds and so much more. And don't forget to visit the Aquarium where you can see over 75 indoor exhibits featuring river monsters, sharks, piranha, fish and sea lions. Or maybe you will enjoy Dragon World, showcasing reptiles including a rare white alligator and a salt water crocodile. The Zoo also has a new mining experience where you can experience a bit of the "Old West" by panning for gold, gems and fossils.

Without question a Valley favorite for both visitors and locals alike. Open 365 days of the year from 9 AM – 6 PM. For more info call **623-935-9453** or visit wildlifeworld.com.





DESTINATION *Sports*

The City of Phoenix, Maricopa County or as its best known, the Valley of the Sun, remains a fan favorite destination for millions of annual sports enthusiasts. Whether you are a casual spectator or a profound sports junkie, every month of the year sees travelers flocking to the Valley from all over the U.S., Mexico and Canada to cheer on their favorite sports or race teams (NASCAR or the Indy Car series) who make annual visits to the Valley. In the case of NASCAR they have two races each year in the Valley.

Why is the Valley such a favorite sports destination?

There are many reasons, but the primary three reasons are the weather, fine dining and great shopping. During the colder winter periods when daily Valley temperature range between 70-85 degrees. So if you are one of the unfortunates who reside in a winter climate and have to deal with those sub-zero temperatures for 4-5 months of the year; or tickets from your home team remain sold-out, that's when Phoenix with all that it has to offer comes into play. Many of our visitors who can't buy a ticket or do not have a NASCAR race date in their home town, come to the Valley to see their favorite teams. That is why the Valley is a huge destination for sports fans all year-round. And

from an economic standpoint, these loyal fans contribute "billions" of dollars into Phoenix's local economy. It is estimated that NASCAR alone who race at Phoenix Raceway (formerly PIR) in the West Valley, contributes over \$450 million into the local economy.



Across the Valley, locals and visitors alike, can enjoy professional sports at every level, along with the premier college teams from ASU, U of A, NAU and Grand Canyon University. The Valley also boasts a variety of annual events well-known to the world stage that also attracts millions of people. The College Football National Championship is played at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, and in 2017, Glendale also played host to the NCAA's Men's Final Four.



Every year cities across the Valley hosts multiple sporting events. College bowl games in Glendale, the annual Waste Management Phoenix Open, hosted by the Phoenix Thunderbirds is played at the TPC in Scottsdale. It is considered to be (by the players) as the best run tournament on the PGA Tour. Then you have the Barrett-Jackson Car Auction or the Arabian Horse Show that are both held at Westworld in North Scottsdale. And let's not forget about the ever popular Cactus League Spring Training that lasts between 4-5 weeks and commences in late February and ends in early April. The Valley hosts 15 of major league's baseball teams as they prepare for MLB's regular season. This event alone, draws over a million people to the Valley.

The Valleys professional sports franchises cover the entire spectrum from MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks, the NBA's Phoenix Suns, the NFL's Arizona Cardinals, the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, the USL's Phoenix Rising football club, and Arena football with our Arizona Rattlers. Worldclass facilities host each of these teams (the State Farm Stadium home to the Arizona Cardinals has been named one of the 10 Best Stadiums in the World by Time magazine, along with affordable tickets available for Valley visitors.

At Press time all professional sports teams had not yet published their pending game schedule.

For more information on pending schedules go online to the respective teams websites or the League sites.

ARIZONA SPORTS TEAMS

Major League Baseball

dbacks.com | MLB.com

National Basketball Association

suns.com | NBA.com

National Football League

azcardinals.com | NFL.com

Women's National Basketball Association

mercury.wnba.com | WNBA.com

United Soccer League

phxrisingfc.com | USLchampionship.com

Indoor Football League

azrattlers.com | www.golFL.com

National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing

phoenixraceway.com | nascar.com

DESTINATION *College Sports*



Arizona State University | asu.edu

Founded in 1886, 30 years before Arizona was granted statehood, the university opened its doors to 33 students who occupied 4 classrooms in Tempe, Arizona. Today, Arizona State University is ranked # 1 in the USA for innovation, and is one of America's largest educational institutions with a student population of over 51,000 students. ASU graduates over 20,000 students annually. As part of the prestigious the PAC-12 Conference, ASU, known to all as the "Sun Devils" has earned over 200 national and conference championships in both men and women's sports. It offers a full spectrum of sports programs, and is well-known for its dominance in football, basketball and baseball.



University of Arizona | arizona.edu

University of Arizona was founded in 1885, as the first university in the Arizona Territory. UofA is a public research university located in Tucson, Arizona, and is another highly ranked university in the USA with student population exceeding 46,000 in 19 separate colleges/schools, including the UofA College of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix. Known as the "Wildcats", UofA is also part of the prestigious PAC-12 Conference and boasts a diverse sports program which excels in basketball, followed by football and baseball.



Northern Arizona University | nau.edu

Northern Arizona University is a public research university with its main campus located in picturesque Flagstaff, Arizona. It opened its doors 120 years ago in 1899 with just 23 students and two faculty members. NAU is built on a student-first foundation ... this was true in 1899, and it's true today. NAU continues to shape the future with a nationally ranked educational programs, high-research status, and emergence as a leader in sustainability, science, business, green building, and cultural arts. NAU has a student population of over 31,000 students. Known as the "Lumber Jacks" NAU's sports program is part of the BIG SKY Conference.



Grand Canyon University | gcu.edu

Grand Canyon University was founded in 1949 by the Southern Baptist Church. Today, GCU is a for-profit, private, Christian university located in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2018, GCU was ranked as the largest Christian university in the world with a student population of 20,000 and more than 70,000 online. GCU offer over 200 educational programs. In addition to GCU's bachelor, masters and doctoral programs, they provide individual courses and continuing education programs for teachers. Known as the "Lopes"... GCU is part of the WAC conference, and offers a diverse athletic sports program for its students.

DESTINATION *Northern Arizona*



DESTINATION Prescott

Population: 40,590 | Distance: 100 miles north of Phoenix | Drive Time: 1 hr-20 mins

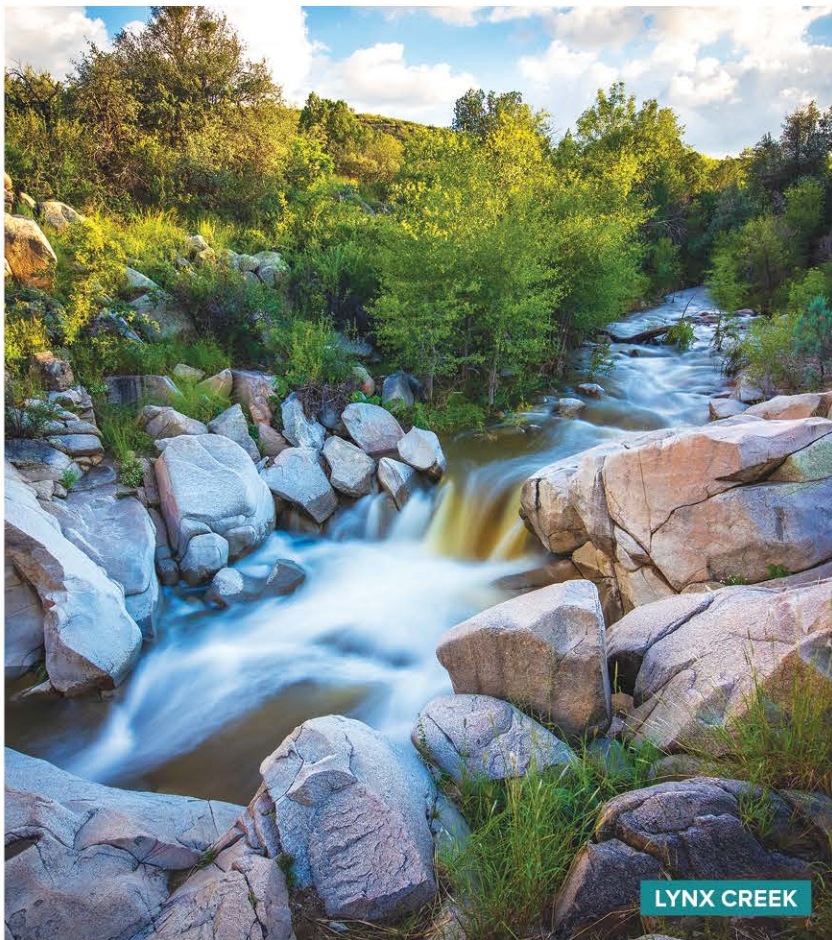
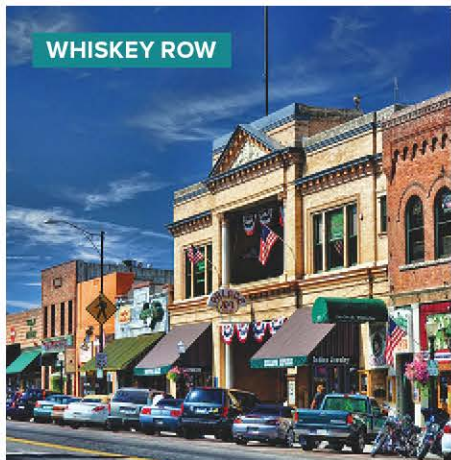
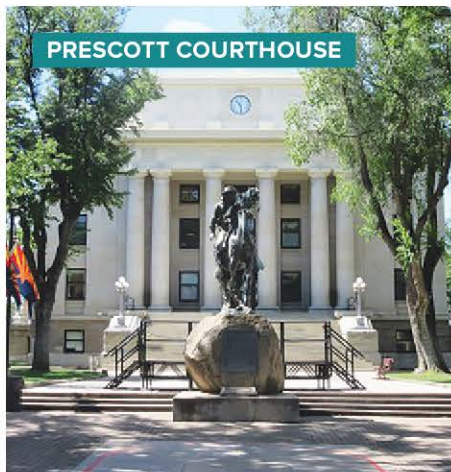
Prescott is a popular destination where residents and visitors meld together to enjoy northern Arizona's culture, history and an assortment of outdoor events and activities. Just a short drive (less than two hours) from Phoenix, Prescott hosts many festivals and fairs throughout the year. The jewel of downtown Prescott is the Courthouse

Plaza, which is surrounded by a number of local restaurants, shops, antique stores and galleries. This block makes up the historic Whiskey Row, in the heart of the business district, which also features the Hotel St. Michael, the Hassayampa Inn, the Bird Cage Saloon and The Palace Restaurant and Saloon. Prescott hosts the World's Oldest Rodeo every year during 4th of July

week, celebrated with a festive parade. For nearby outdoor enjoyment, there's hiking at Thumb Butte and other trails, mountain biking on the Salida Gulch Trail, and fishing and boating at Lynx Lake. Interested in history? Check out the Sharlot Hall Museum or the Smoki Museum. Any time of the year, a day in Prescott is always a great day!

To learn more, visit prescott-az.gov.

In 1864 Prescott was Designated as the capital of Arizona territory, replacing the temporary capital at Fort Whipple. The territorial capital was moved to Tucson in 1867. However in 1877, Prescott once again became the territorial capital until Phoenix became the state's permanent capital in 1889



Prescott LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Prescott Farmer's Market

Saturdays

The Prescott Farmers Market is open Saturdays, 7:30 am to 12:00 pm April through October.

prescottfarmersmarket.org



Movies Under the Stars

September 12th and 26th

Taking place at the Civic Center! Bring a blanket, a chair and enjoy the FREE outdoor movie series this summer!



Summer Fine Art Festival

August 1st – 3rd

Held at the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza in Downtown Prescott. More than 100 vendors will come together to bring the best fine art possible.



28th Annual Prescott Empty Bowls

September 14th, 11am – 2pm

Purchase tickets at the event, and for just \$25, select a handcrafted bowl, 2 servings of soup from our local restaurants, fresh bread and bottled water. Prescott Courthouse Square. All proceeds go to local area food banks.



Sweet Corn Festival at Mortimer Farms

August 23rd – 24th

Bring the family for the farm rides, games, activities, entertainment and everyone's favorite, delicious corn.

mortimerfarmsaz.com



Sunflower Festival at Mortimer Farms

Sept. 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st

Wander through stunning fields of blooming sunflowers, perfect for photos and harvestings. Bring a vase for your fresh flowers and a knife or scissors for harvesting.

mortimerfarmsaz.com

Experience Prescott

True West. Real Adventure.





One of Arizona's Most Beautiful
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Visit experienceprescott.com for more details.

CHINO VALLEY

ARIZONA'S OUTDOOR FUN PLACE



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AWAIT YOU IN THE CHINO VALLEY

This is one of the best adventure areas in Arizona for off-roading. Hike, bike, or camp under the stars. Visitors take their off-road vehicles and spend the day observing the breathtaking vistas of red rock and Chino Valley's natural beauty. Or you can take the Perkins Road through Jerome, past Sedona, all the way to Williams. Maybe, it's the excitement of panning for gold along the Verde River, as you take in the natural beauty only the Chino Valley offers. Whatever your desires, relax and enjoy the great weather, impressive scenery, and unforgettable memories. VISITOR CENTER – 199 North State Route 89, Chino Valley, 86323. discoverchinovalley.org

By Maggie Tidaback, Economic Development Manager



**SCAN THE CODE
TO LEARN MORE**



Wine in Arizona

ARE YOU CRAZY?

— By Leslie James

Who doesn't like wine. Globally wine is one of the most highly sought after and consumed beverages. Five of the most recognized growing regions are France, Italy, Spain, Australia and in the United States, the Napa Valley, north of San Francisco. To the surprise and amazement of those who make Arizona their travel destination, Arizona's burgeoning wine industry continues to capture the attention of the tens of thousands of annual wine lovers who visit with us. Arizona's local wine industry has been growing and attracting exceptionally talented vintners for over 50 years. Dating back to the 70's Arizona has steadily become known for producing a variety of high-quality, delicious, enticing, and award-winning wines for every level of wine enthusiast. And our wineries are not just in Northern Arizona (as many think), but exceptional wineries can be found in Southern Arizona as well. As our wine production has grown, so has our reputation for producing many world-class wines. Arizona wines continues to pique the interest from the thousands of monthly travelers to these regions ... who want to sample our wines and learn more about this bubbling industry, no pun intended!

According to the Arizona Office of Tourism more than 600,000 annual visitors enjoy the almost 125 wineries and tasting rooms that dot Arizona's Southern and Northern landscapes, all of whom offer a wide selection of whites, reds, and Rose's. I think Arizona wines can easily compete on the international stage ... further evidenced by the fact that in 2023 almost \$35 million was spent on Arizona wines by visitors to the state. This makes the state's expanding wine industry a major factor for these local economies.

The Great State of Arizona is proud of its ability to deliver unparalleled tourism experiences across the entire state, and that includes our wineries. Memories that we guarantee will last a lifetime. Even though almost 50% of annual travelers are visiting with us for the first time, many do return to enjoy more of what Arizona has to offer.

When visiting Southern Arizona, you will experience outstanding wineries in Sonoita and Willcox, and for those heading north out of the Valley, stop by Prescott, Downtown Cottonwood, Verde Valley, and Sedona. Arizona offers a superb selection of outstanding wines and

tasting experiences. Proud of their offerings, every wine tasting room is happy to talk about wines and share Arizona's wine history and why our wines are so popular. In most towns you can simply park the car and walk to the local wine tasting rooms and storefronts.

I do not want to end this great piece on a down note, but please remember to drink responsibly. Gauge your consumption before getting back behind the wheel. We want you to enjoy your entire trip and come back to see more of us.

Arizona has three official American Viticultural Areas – wine growing regions.



DESTINATION Cottonwood

Population: 12,100 | Distance: 99 miles | Drive Time: 1 hr-20 mins from Phoenix

A short drive from Phoenix brings you to the City of Cottonwood. Incorporated in 1960 and the economic heart of the Verde Valley, the city recently went through an extensive re-branding and is now known as the "Heart of Arizona Wine Country". Focused on the Old Town Cottonwood tourist area, with over 60 local businesses and wine tasting rooms, the city is the epicenter of the Verde Valley.

The city is located adjacent to the Verde River at elevations ranging from 3,300 feet to 3,900 feet above sea level. It experiences a mild climate which, together with its proximity to an abundance of natural amenities such as the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Tuzigoot National Monument and the historic mining communities of Clarkdale and Jerome, it continues to attract steady growth and significant annual tourism. The regions of Cottonwood, Jerome, Clarkdale and Camp Verde boast a combined population of just under 30,000.

Northern Arizona's Wine Country

The Verde River runs through the valley and is augmented by flows from Sycamore Canyon, Oak Creek, Beaver Creek and West Clear Creek. The area is unsurpassed in its variety of physical beauty with the red rocks and Mogollon Rim to the north and east and the Black Hills and Mingus Mountain dominating the western and southern portions of the valley.



Cottonwood LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Thunder Valley Rally
September 19th – 20th
Where history is just the beginning. Enjoy concerts, Miss Thunder Valley Rally contest, Dice Run, bike show, vendors and more!
thundervallerrallyaz.com



Verde Valley Olive Oil Traders
20 varieties of olive oil specifically selected and imported from both the northern and southern hemispheres to provide the most recent and healthy oils available.
vvliveoil.com



2025 Dive-In Movies
Saturdays through August
Free dive-in movies at the outdoor pool of the Cottonwood Aquatics Center. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Gates open at 7:45 pm and admission is free!



Old Town Music & The Market
September 5th, 12th and 26th
Experience this market with live music, local vendors, delicious food and more! The fun starts at 5 pm and will go on until dark!



Bananas in Old Town
When visiting Bananas in Old Town, you know you have walked into a different kind of shopping experience. The owner shops with an eye for unique items to offer to her discriminating customers. This is a must-visit shopping excursion!
bananasinoldtown.com

Reflect on the Following!

A person's character is not simply measured by what one says, but rather by what they do, and ultimately, by what they do for others.

Today, in these more turbulent times, it seems too many among us have lost their way. What happened to the old-fashioned core values and principles on which most were raised? Growing up a person's moral compass focused on words like Character, Respect, Integrity, and Honesty ... and let's not forget Kindness and Compassion. Every day, I was reminded that not all were born with a silver spoon in their mouth, and as such, we all had a responsibility to help others whenever we could. It's now 2025, and as I reflect on yesteryear, I ponder "How times have changed, and from where I sit, certainly not for the better."

At our Sunday dining room table after church, my grandfather would go around the table asking each of us, "Had we helped someone out, done something nice for someone else that week." Anyone who answered no, was told "They should have stayed in bed, because they had wasted an entire week." Caring for others was a cornerstone requirement of my upbringing, which is why today's social climate (or lack thereof) it's a bit of a struggle. For instance, the way we treat people. People we've never met. Take social media, which has changed everything! Things we would never dare say to someone's face simply rolls off our fingers on Tik-Tok, Meta, X, or other platforms. However, that is a topic for another day.

Today, I want you to read and reflect on the beautiful piece that Linda Evans wrote called *The Dash*. I hope it resonates with you ... and helps you refocus on what truly defines who you are — Your Character and Values.

— By Jonathan Funk

The Dash

— by Linda Evans

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following dates with tears
But said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on this earth
And now only those who loved her
Know what the little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own:
The cars, the house, the cash
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard

Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

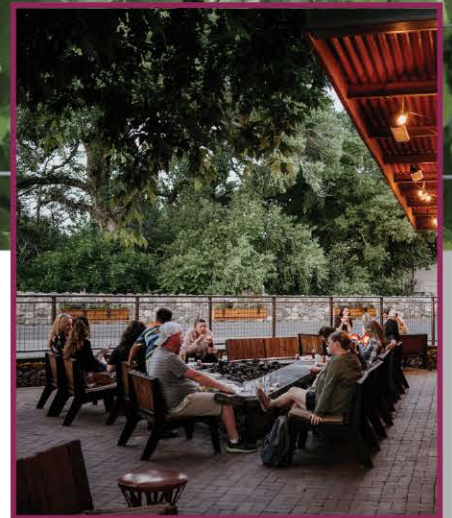
If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

VISIT COTTONWOOD



Heart of Arizona Wine Country



Visit Cottonwood
and enjoy outdoor adventure,
savor creative cuisine,
sip Arizona wines,
explore family fun,
and so much more.



VisitCottonwoodAZ.org





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ZIP LINES

Experience the wind whipping through your hair on a thrill ride over nature's wildest predators.

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Tripadvisor

One of the top zip lines in the world by USA Today!



SPOTLIGHT:

Montezuma Castle

This is one of Northern Arizona's most iconic landmarks, which was also featured in numerous 60's western TV shows. It may look like a big mud hut set in the mountainside near Camp Verde, but Montezuma Castle is one of Arizona's most popular historic sites. Oddly enough, Montezuma had nothing to do with it.

Built over a 300 year span sometime between 1100 and 1425 A.D., the five-story structure is an impressive display of the Sinagua people's engineering skills in stone and mortar masonry work. The cliff dwelling was practical. They correctly reasoned a dwelling high above ground provided safety from nearby Beaver Creek's annual flooding.

For reasons unknown, the Sinagua's left the Verde Valley and the structure was mostly abandoned for close to 400 years. In the 1860s it was rediscovered by a group of European-Americans who named it after the famed Spanish explorer Montezuma. They assumed he was somehow connected to its construction. He wasn't, but the name remained. In 1906 Montezuma Castle was among the first four sites chosen as a National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt. Located in central Arizona, just off I-17 at exit 289, it is now operated by the National Parks and remains a popular tourist attraction.

DESTINATION Sedona

Population: 10,111 | Distance: 115 miles north of Phoenix | Drive Time: 1 hr-35 mins

The first Anglo settler, John J. Thompson, moved to Oak Creek Canyon in 1876. The early settlers were farmers and ranchers. Oak Creek Canyon was well known for its peach and apple orchards. In 1902, when the Sedona post office was established, there were 55 residents. The town of Sedona was incorporated as a city in January 1988. It's located in the upper Sonoran Desert of northern Arizona, at an elevation of about 4,500 feet. Since Sedona is approximately 100 miles from Phoenix, you can easily make the drive in less than two hours.

Mention Sedona, Arizona, and people conjure up images of the area's majestic red rocks. The vermillion rock buttes, monoliths and spires have distinguished Sedona as one of the most beautiful natural sites in the United States and have made it a world-famous destination. Panoramic views of these stately creations of nature exist in every direction. They spawn a feeling of tranquility, no matter where you are in Sedona. Many of the premier hotel and resort balconies and dining patios provide awesome views of the local landscape, as do quite a few of the outdoor garden hearths you'll find at the romantic bed and breakfasts close to town. You can also take in the captivating scenery while strolling along the banks of Oak Creek.

In the prehistoric era, the Sedona area was covered by ancient seas; the red rock buttes we see today were once sandbars and islands protruding from bottom of the

ocean. Over millions of years, the sea repeatedly receded and returned, leaving layers of sediment. Wind and water erosion created these beautifully sculpted wonders, which are composed of sandstone, limestone and silica. Ferrous oxide blended with the sandstone, giving the red rocks their distinctive hue.

*The history of this area does not have its roots in Sedona, which T.C. Schnebly named after his wife in 1902. Instead, the story had its beginning in Oak Creek Canyon, where Glenn Kilbourne and Carley Burch, the main characters in Zane Grey's *The Call of the Canyon*, lived and loved under looming stone walls and whispering pines.*

Sedona is a melting pot of artists, Western galleries, Indian jewelry, Navajo rugs, local breweries and wineries, fine dining and world-class shopping at venues such as Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village. If you're looking for hiking trails, a Jeep tour or maybe a balloon flight, Sedona has it all. **To learn more, go to visitsedona.com**

CATHEDRAL ROCK



Sedona LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Oak Creek Arts and Crafts Show

July 5th – July 6th

Support local and regional artists! The Oak Creek Arts and Craft Show features Local Artists, Native American Art, Live Music, Food, and so much more!

oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com



1st Fridays in the Galleries

Sedona's finest art galleries invite you to enjoy a special evening of openings, special guests, artist receptions, and celebrations at their 1st Friday in the Galleries from 4 – 7 pm, but times will vary per location.



Sedona Hummingbird Festival

July 25th – July 27th

Featuring 12 different speaker presentations on various hummingbird topics, a fun festival dinner, a kids' day featuring crafts and activities, and hummingbird photography workshops.

sedonahummingbirdfestival.com



The Big Gay Art Show

Through July 25th

The exhibition provide a dynamic and positive venue for connection, visibility, and artistic celebration. A juried art show that exhibits and sells artwork in support of the LGBTQ+ community and allies.



Paint Your Pet!

Paint YOUR Pet in Lovejoy's private, shaded West Sedona outdoor studio! Create a pop art or realistic pet portrait with easy-to-follow steps. Sip mimosas (cups, OJ provided; you bring champagne) lovejoycreations.com



Spirits & Spice Tequila Tasting

Take a guided trip to Mexico through this tasting experience. Learn about the regions and traditional distilling methods, and enjoy small samples of exquisite Tequila.

spiritsandspice.com/pages/sedona-events



Northern Arizona's WINE COUNTRY

Producing some of the finest wines anywhere.

Visit one of our outstanding vineyards or wine tasting venues.

Page Spring Cellars

1500 North Page Springs Rd.
Cornville, AZ 86325 | 928-639-3004

Caduceus Cellars

158 Main St.
Jerome, AZ 86331
928-639-9463

Javelina Leap Vineyard & Winery

1565 North Page Springs Rd.
Cornville, AZ 86325 | 928-649-2651

Cellar 433

240 Hull Ave.
Jerome, AZ 86331 | 928-634-7033

Oak Creek Vineyards & Winery

1555 North Page Springs Rd.
Cornville, AZ 86325 | 928-649-0290

Alcantara Vineyards

6400 East Thousand Trails Rd.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326 | 928-649-8463

Pillsbury Wine Co.

1012 N. Main St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326 | 928-639-0646

Winery 1912

320 N. Sate Route 89A
Sedona, AZ. 86336 | 928-282-0715

DESTINATION Williams

Population: 3,094 | Distance: 169 miles northwest of Phoenix | Drive Time: 2 hrs-40 min

Williams was named for the famous trapper, scout and mountain man, "Old Bill Williams." A statue of "Old Bill" stands in Monument Park, located on the west side of the city. The large mountain directly south of town is named Bill Williams Mountain.

Williams was the last town on Historic Route 66 to be bypassed by Interstate 40. The community, bypassed on Oct. 13, 1984, has hosted world travelers for over 100 years, with tourism remaining a huge source of annual revenues for the town. Boasting seven area fishing lakes, hiking trails, an alpine ski area and cross country ski trails, four seasons weather and an abundance of wildlife, Williams offers unlimited recreational opportunities for every outdoor enthusiast. The Historic Downtown District covers six square blocks and offers great shopping,

antique stores, gift shops, fine & casual dining, a great local brewery and numerous hotels.

The town is home to the Grand Canyon Railway that takes you on a fabulous round trip train ride to the Grand Canyon. It also offers its Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, a premier hotel adjacent to the railway station. A few minutes south of town is Bearizona, a drive-thru wildlife park which offers a once in a lifetime experience. Both of these attractions should be on everyone's bucket list. Nightly shootouts with the Cataract Creek Gang also entertain young and old alike.

For more information that will lead to a delightful stay in Williams, contact the Williams Visitor Center or visit experiencewilliams.com

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WILLIAMS



Founded in 1881, the City of Williams is located in the heart of the Kaibab National Forest at an elevation of 6,770 feet. Known as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon," Williams is just 25 miles west of Flagstaff and only 59 miles south of the Grand Canyon. The town boasts a rich heritage that features the Old West and Route 66, coupled with today's tourism trends, along with the town's heyday years of the '50s and '60s.



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experiencewilliams.com

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Hualapai Tribe Cultural Attractions • Dining • Shopping • Overnight Accommodations

Williams LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Second Saturday Artwalk in Williams

Every second Saturday of the month from 6 – 9pm. With free food, wine, live demos and music, The Gallery is a great place to start your Artwalk. thegalleryinwilliams.com



Steam Saturdays

On the first Saturday of every month, March – October, visitors can take a step back in time with a vintage steam-powered train ride to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. thetrain.com/events



Grand Canyon Deer Farm

A popular tourist destination that offers visitors the opportunity to feed and interact with deer. The farm features a variety of deer, including white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk! deerfarm.com



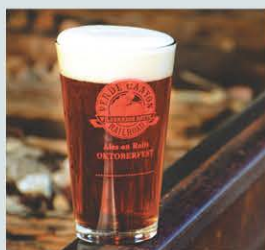
Shopping on Route 66

With perfect spots to take pictures, enjoy a meal, and find a perfect souvenir. Enjoy shopping in Williams and we're certain you'll take a piece of history and western charm home with you. experiencewilliams.com/route-66



Bearizona

The park is home to a variety of animals, including bears, wolves, bison, and elk. One of the highlights of Bearizona is the chance to see animals up close in their natural habitat. bearizona.com



Ales on the Rails

September 14th – October 31st
Ales on the Rails is Verde Canyon Railroad's way of toasting Oktoberfest, providing a rollicking farewell to summer. verdecanyonrr.com/ales-on-rails

NORTHERN ARIZONA ATTRACTIONS

The Arboretum at Flagstaff

4001 S. Woody Mountain Rd.,
Flagstaff, AZ
928-774-1442 | thearb.org

Arizona Snowbowl

9300 N. Snowbowl Rd., Flagstaff, AZ
928-779-1951 | arizonasnowbowl.com

Bearizona

1500 Historic Route 66, Williams, AZ
5 minutes South of Williams
928-635-2289 | bearizona.com

Canyon Coaster Adventure Park

700 East Route 66, Williams, AZ
canyoncoasteradventurepark.com

Grand Canyon Deer Farm

6769 E. Deer Farm Rd., Williams, AZ
30 minutes West of Flagstaff
928-635-4073 | deerfarm.com

Grand Canyon National Park

81 miles North of Flagstaff
Take Hwy 180 & 64
928-638-7888 | nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel

233 N. Grand Canyon Blvd., Williams, AZ
928-773-1976 | thetrain.com

Grand Canyon West

Skywalk, Rafting, Hualapai Lodge
928-769-2636 | grandcanyonwest.com

Hoover Dam

Highway 93, Hoover Dam
Boulder City, NV 89005
usbr.gov/lc/hoverdam

Lowell Observatory

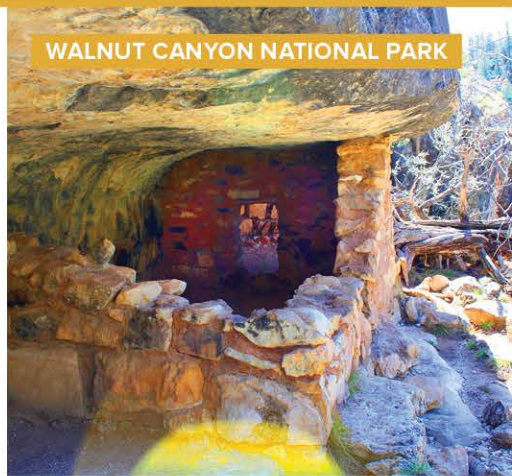
1400 W. Mars Hill Rd., Flagstaff, AZ
928-233-3212 | lowell.edu

Planes of Fame Air Museum

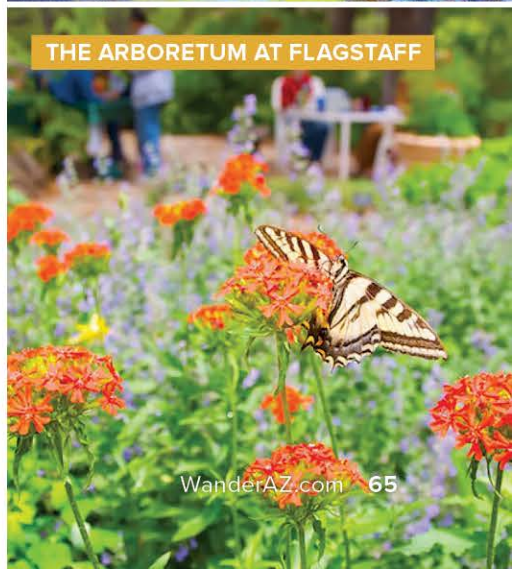
755 Mustang Way, Williams-Valle, AZ
928-635-1000 | planesoffame.org

Walnut Canyon National Monument

From I-40, take Exit 204, turn south.
928-526-3367 | nps.gov/waca



WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL PARK



THE ARBORETUM AT FLAGSTAFF



DESTINATION *Flagstaff and beyond*

Population: 80,119 | Distance: 145 miles north of Phoenix | Drive Time: 2 hrs-25 min

Kingman: 146 miles West – Drive Time from Flag 2 hrs. | Winslow: 56 miles East – Drive Time from Flag 45 min

Many call it Flagstaff or simply Flag, “The Gateway or Playground of the North.” It’s all of that and more. A gateway to the Grand Canyon, and a cozy northern city set amid a stunning landscape of tall pine forests and gorgeous mountain peaks, with local inhabitants who are extremely friendly. Flagstaff is a wonderland for many outdoor activities including hiking, biking, climbing, camping, golfing, swimming, fishing, hunting, skiing and horseback riding.

It’s amazing to think that a city with a population of 80,119 annually hosts an average of 6 million visitors on their way to somewhere else. And in many cases, that somewhere else is Arizona’s renowned Grand Canyon. This wonder of the world is just 80-miles north of Flagstaff.

Located in the heart of the city and serving as a major economic engine is Northern Arizona University (NAU) which opened its doors in 1899. NAU operates on a beautiful and expansive campus that sits at the base of the majestic San Francisco Peaks spread over 740 acres. The university has over 30,000 students attending from across the United States and around the world.

Flagstaff is popular escape from the Valley’s desert heat in the summer, as it is a winter wonderland in the winter, with Arizona Snowbowl Ski Resort just a 15-minute drive from the city center. Snowbowl offers exceptional skiing in the iconic San Francisco Peaks at over 7,000 feet. Snowbowl is open year-round with a variety of spring and summer activities for all to enjoy.

The legendary Route 66 runs right through the center of Flagstaff and remains a major highway for travelers driving between Flagstaff and Kingman, Arizona. To this day, Arizona has the longest running stretch of usable Route 66 in the country.

Northern Arizona has many unique venues and attractions – all worth your attention. In Flag you have to visit the historic Lowell Observatory. North of Flag is the Grand Canyon, west you come into Kingman, and if you travel north, you will reach Grand Canyon West at the west rim of the Grand Canyon where you can walk 4,000 feet above the Canyon at SKYWALK. East of Flag is Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort and a tad farther down the road brings you to Winslow, Arizona.

The drive time to the
Canyon's entrance is roughly
1 hour and 20 minutes

Flagstaff is a very traveler-friendly city and is easy to navigate as every place you would want to visit is typically right off the two main roads, West Route 66 and Milton Road. Saturated with local brew pubs, restaurants, antique stores, retail shopping and boutiques. You can also visit numerous galleries and museums that line the area. Flagstaff is a great host to all travelers. The fine dining scene will knock your socks off. Great restaurants are plentiful and cater to every taste, including Black Bart's

Steakhouse, a local favorite who has been serving great steaks, chicken and seafood for 45 years. Downtown Flagstaff comes to life at night where most of the local bars can be found.

Flagstaff and its surrounding neighbor cities and towns remain popular year-round destinations for both Phoenixians and the millions of annual travelers who visit with us. **To learn more visit: FlagstaffArizona.org | explore.kingman.com | winslowaz.gov.**



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Flagstaff LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Flagstaff Brewing Co.

Flagstaff's OG craft brewery featuring live music on the patio every Sunday afternoon. A great place to take in Flagstaff while getting a burger and a beer.

flagbrew.com



Flagstaff Art in the Park

July 4th – 6th

Event hosting 80 artists from across the Southwest. In addition, there will be live music, beer garden, decadent fresh food, and more.

flagstaffartinthepark.com



Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

August 7th

Doors @ 5 pm / Show @ 7 pm

All the Good Times:

The Farewell Tour at Pepsi Amphitheater at Fort Tuthill Park.

<https://nittygritty.com/tour>



Arizona Highland Celtic Festival

July 19th – 20th

The 2025 Arizona Highland Celtic Festival will take place at Fort Tuthill County Park in Flagstaff.

nachs.info/celtic-festival



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We are the only Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence winner in Flagstaff. Enjoy an extensive collection of more than 500 labels from around the globe to enjoy at home.

flgterroir.com



Yoga on the Lawn

Saturdays, 9 – 10 am

This event is perfect for all yoga levels! \$5 dollar drop in, and make sure to bring your own yoga mat and towel! County Courthouse, 219 E. Cherry Ave.

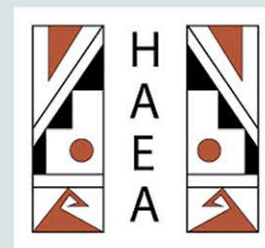


Arboretum Wildflower Walks

July 25, Aug. 15, and Sept. 15

Join the knowledgeable Arboretum staff on a morning walk through the gardens and explore the colorful varieties of Native Arizona wildflowers. (\$18 non-member)

thearb.org/wildflower-walk-tickets



Hopi Arts and Cultural Festival

August 23rd

Annual event bringing public education by way of art, traditional social dances and information on Hopi culture.

hopifestival.com



Downtown Community Market Wednesdays

A weekly market supporting regional growers, producers and makers with produce, arts, food trucks and more!

flagstaffmarket.com



First Friday Artwalk

Each first Friday of the month, art galleries and businesses open their doors from 6 – 9 pm with special art exhibitions, performances, live music, treats and much much more.

downtownflagstaff.org



Movies on the Square

Saturdays, July – August

FREE family-friendly evening on Heritage Square. There will be live music and activities starting at 4 pm, followed by the movie at dusk.

downtownflagstaff.org



Flagstaff Urban Flea Market

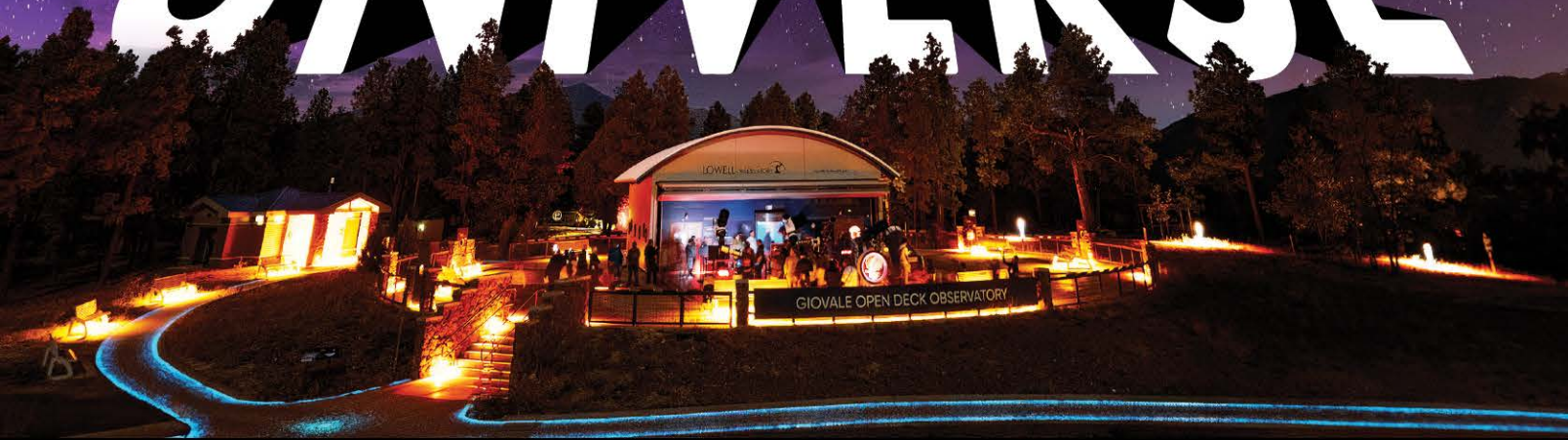
2nd & 4th Saturdays of the months June – October

An eclectic mix of artisans and peddlers who make and sell a unique variety of goods. Held on the on Historic Route 66 in the heart of downtown Flagstaff!



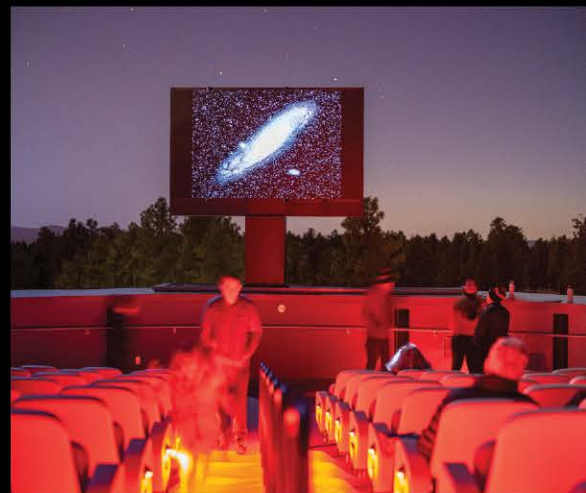
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2025



Lowell Observatory is a historic institution where visitors can explore exhibits, enjoy guided tours, and gaze through state-of-the-art telescopes. The campus also includes northern Arizona's first children's science center, the Astronomy Discovery Center, a brand-new facility with over 100 exhibits that features interactive exhibits, a 160° curved 16K LED screen theater, and a rooftop stargazing deck. **Book your tickets now at lowell.edu!**

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Explore the Universe at the Lowell Observatory

Recognized as one of the world's 100 greatest places by TIME magazine, the Lowell Observatory boasts a long history of astronomical research and discovery, including VM Slipher's revolutionary recessional velocity measurements and Clyde Tombaugh's discovery of Pluto. Historical exhibits showcase our founder; Percival Lowell, our current avenues of astronomical research; and so much more. See why Lowell is recognized as the world's first International Dark Sky destination, attracting over 100,000 visitors annually.

General Admission gives you all-day access to 130 years of astronomical discovery and access to numerous talks, tours, and open houses. Marvel at the 125-year-old 24-inch Clark Refractor, which is still in operation today. At night, discover planets, distant gas clouds, and far-off galaxies through the six state-of-the-art public telescopes of the Giovale Open Deck Observatory.

In November of 2024, the amazing new Kemper and Ethel Marelly Foundation Discovery Center opened. Featuring a roof-top "open planetarium," versus a traditional enclosed planetarium in which guests view images of celestial bodies, this venue takes advantage of Flagstaff's exquisitely dark skies.

To learn more call 928-774-3358 or visit lowell.edu.

Twin Arrows Casino Resort

Operated by the Navajo nation, this impressive venue is the only AAA FOUR DIAMOND casino resort in Northern Arizona.

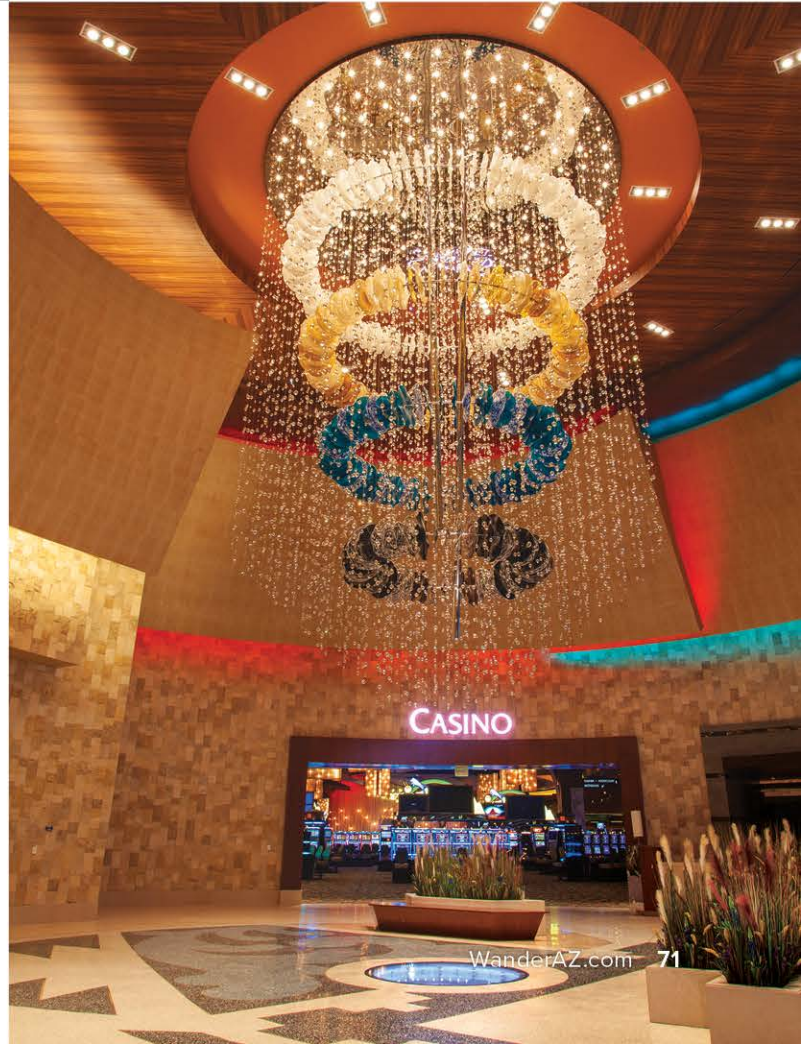
The resort boasts 200 luxury appointed rooms with gourmet fine dining or culturally infused casual dining. Enjoy the Arrows Sports Bar, fitness center or indoor heated pool. It also invites local, regional, and international travelers to experience the breathtaking art, food, and rich culture of the Navajo Nation.

Throughout the resort, Twin Arrows displays commissioned Navajo artists' original paintings and other valued art at more than \$ 500,000.

Try your luck at the casino which offers more than 1,100 slot machines, gaming, and poker tables. Enjoy Blackjack with 21+3, WPT Heads Up Hold'em, High Card Flush, Live Roulette, Player's Edge, and Live Craps.

It does not take long to realize that every staff member at Twin Arrows is there to make sure that you have the most memorable experience possible.

Since its opening in 2013, Twin Arrows has maintained its reputation for excellence throughout Northern Arizona as a premier resort property. **For more information Call 1-855-946-8946 or visit twinarrows.com.**



COUNTRIES AMERICANS SHOULD NOT VISIT IN 2025

– Written by Gerrish Lopez,
Time Out Contributor, US.



Here are the countries that have been given the Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory. The State Department strongly advises against traveling to these countries at this time.

- Sudan
- North Korea
- Burkina Faso
- Mali
- South Sudan
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Russia
- Syria
- Yemen
- Somalia
- Libya
- Iran
- Haiti
- Venezuela
- Ukraine
- Iraq
- Belarus
- Central African Republic
- Lebanon
- Afghanistan



THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GIVES ITS HIGHEST ADVISORY LEVEL RECOMMENDING AGAINST TRAVEL TO 20 COUNTRIES

If you're planning to travel internationally this year, it's important to check for any travel advisories to your planned destination. The U.S. State Department issues travel advisories, and 20 countries are currently on the **Do Not Travel List**.

The list of advisories from the U.S. State Department ranges from:

- Level 1** Exercise Normal Precautions
- Level 2** Exercise Increased Caution
- Level 3** Reconsider Travel
- Level 4** Do Not Travel

The levels indicate the risk for U.S. travelers when visiting these countries. You can find the specifics of each advisory on the Department of State website.

Many of the countries have been on the Do Not Travel list for several years, but **six countries**—Ukraine, Iraq, Belarus, Central African Republic, Lebanon and Afghanistan—have been upgraded to Level 4 since November.

Discover Navajo

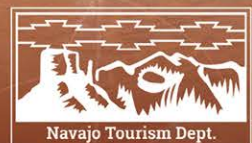


SCAN FOR INFO

Antelope Point Marina
Navajo Canyon Beach
LeChee, AZ - near Page, AZ on the Navajo Nation!

discovernavajo.com

@discover_navajo



Navajo Tourism Dept.

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