

WANDERAZ

GREATER PHOENIX FALL 2025 ISSUE

EXPERIENCE WILLIAMS

GATEWAY TO THE GRAND CANYON®

Just west of Flagstaff on historic Route 66, the CITY OF WILLIAMS offers outdoor adventure—golf, hiking, biking, fishing, and camping—amid stunning scenery. Known for its charm and deep ties to Route 66, Williams will be a must-visit in 2026, as the iconic highway celebrates its 100th anniversary.



Arizona's
PREMIER

TRAVEL+LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

\$18.1 MILLION RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN 2025 THANK YOU ARIZONA



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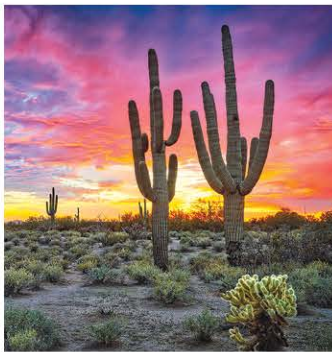
FEB 2-8 / 2026





Welcome

TO OUR GREAT STATE OF ARIZONA



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



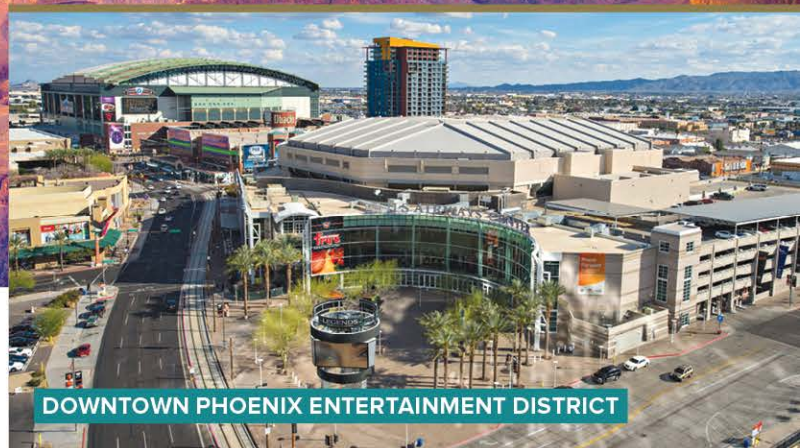
The 48th State

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



DOWNTOWN PHOENIX ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

place in Arizona. After the surrender 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.

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.

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

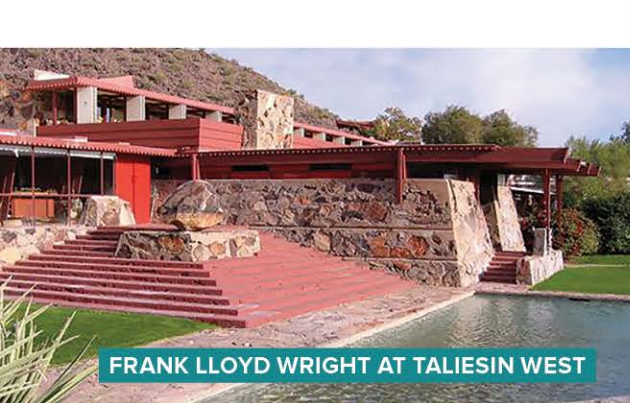
Arizona remains a highly popular travel destination for 10's of millions of annual visitors from all over the world. What's the draw, you might ask? Arizona offers roughly 330 days of sunshine per year, outdoor recreational opportunities including world-class golfing, luxurious resorts and hotels, exceptional 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.



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AT TALIESIN WEST



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

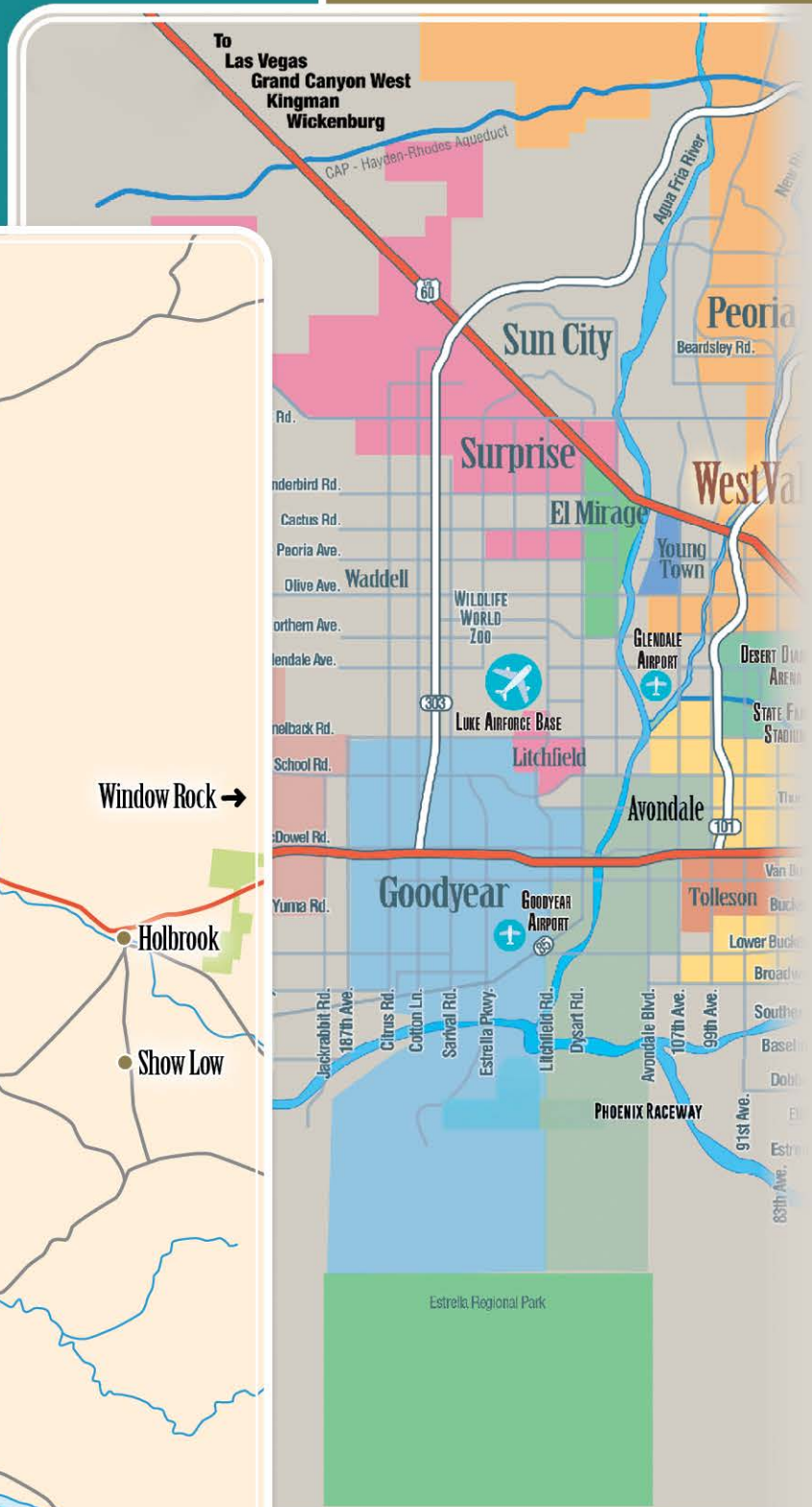
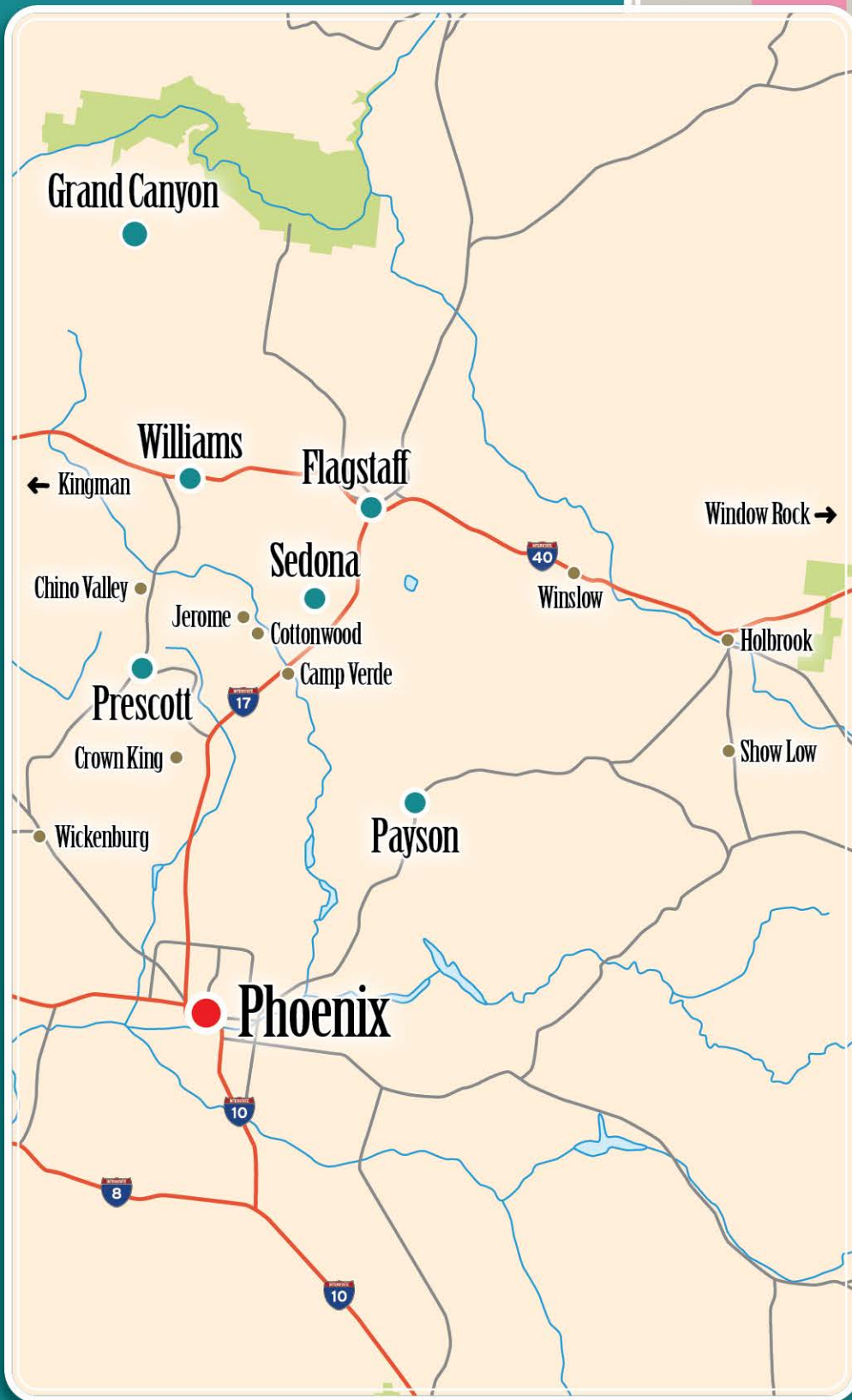


Destinations



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

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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 GAINEY VILLAGE

8787 North Scottsdale Rd.

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

theshopsgaineyvillage.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

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

elpedregal.com

KIERLAND COMMONS

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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

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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

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premiumoutlets.com

SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER

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superstitionsprings.com

TEMPE MARKETPLACE

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tempemarketplace.com

WEST VALLEY

ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTER

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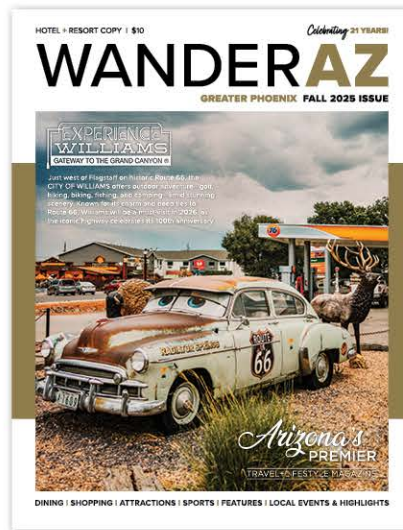
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THE WANDER MEDIA GROUP REPRESENTS ARIZONA'S PREMIER TOURISM & MARKETING SPECIALISTS!

GREATER PHOENIX FALL 2025 ISSUE



The City of Williams is tucked away in the heart of the Kaibab National Forest at 6,770 feet above sea level, and is a short 25-mile drive west of Flagstaff, and 59 miles south of the Grand Canyon. Founded in 1818, Williams boasts a rich heritage featuring the Old West and Route 66, along with today's tourism trends, dating back to the 50's and 60's. Williams has everything to make your visit memorable. First rate hotels and motels, great local restaurants, brew pubs, antique stores, old west shops, retail and gift shops and attractions. It is also home to the famed Grand Canyon Railway which takes travelers to and from the Grand Canyon, Bearizona, and the Canyon Coaster Adventure Park.

THE WANDER MEDIA GROUP, LLC.

PUBLISHER

James L. Copland
Jamie@WanderAZ.com

SALES INFORMATION

WanderAZ Magazines & Visitor Maps
Info@WanderAZ.com

WEB PORTAL

WanderAZ.com
Check out our dynamic Web Portal 24/7 on your phone, tablet or laptop

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

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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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Arizona Lodging & Tourism Assoc



Arizona Restaurant Association



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National Concierge Association

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Customer Service 1-800-237-6639
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Baggage 602-220-0680
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Customer Service 1-888-619-8622
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Baggage 602-286-3215
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www.starlux.airlines.com

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www.skyharbor.com

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

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Website www.skyharbor.com

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Local 602-244-0897

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Local 602-261-5900

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Local 602-261-5950

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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

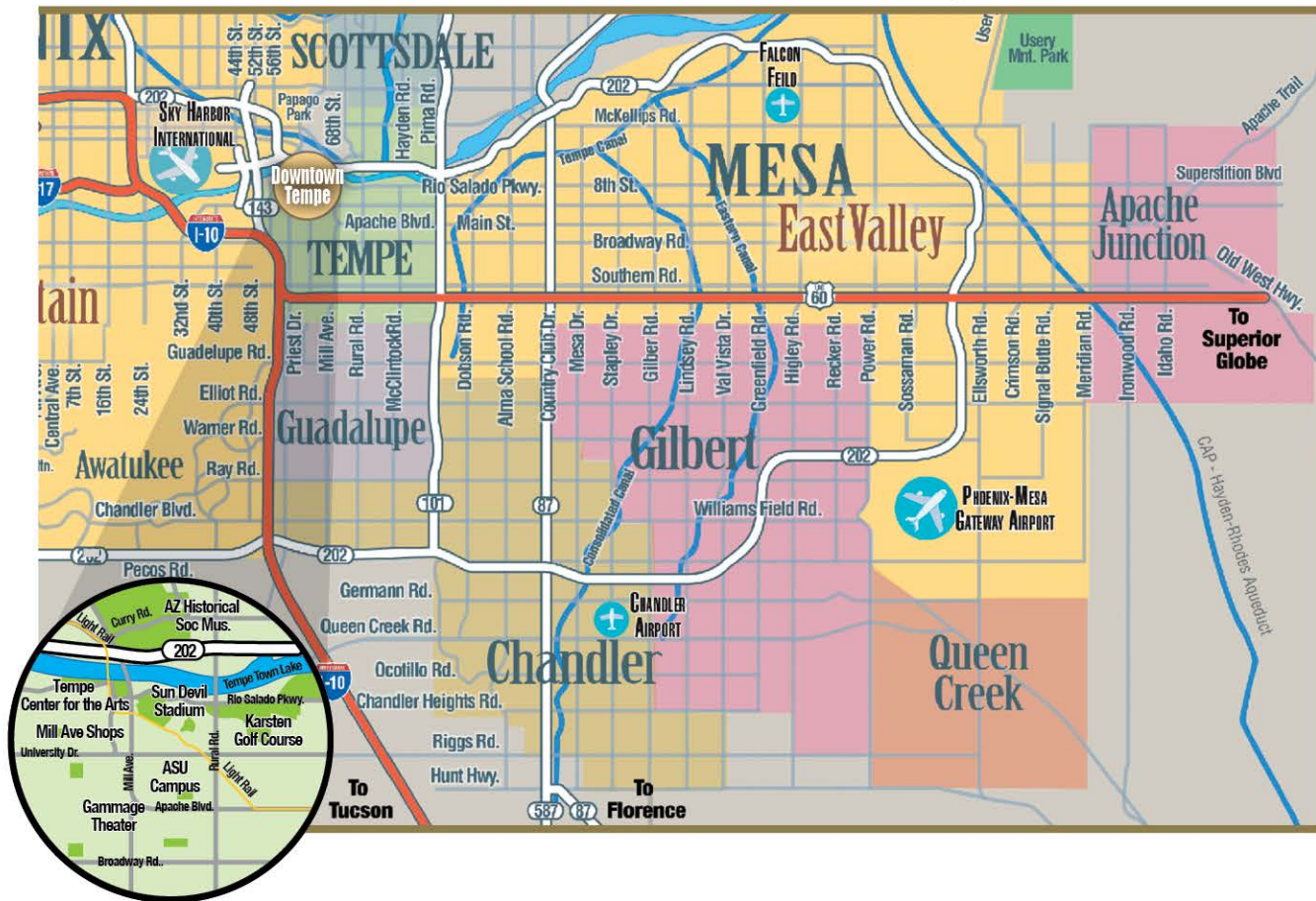
2025 IMPORTANT DATES

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

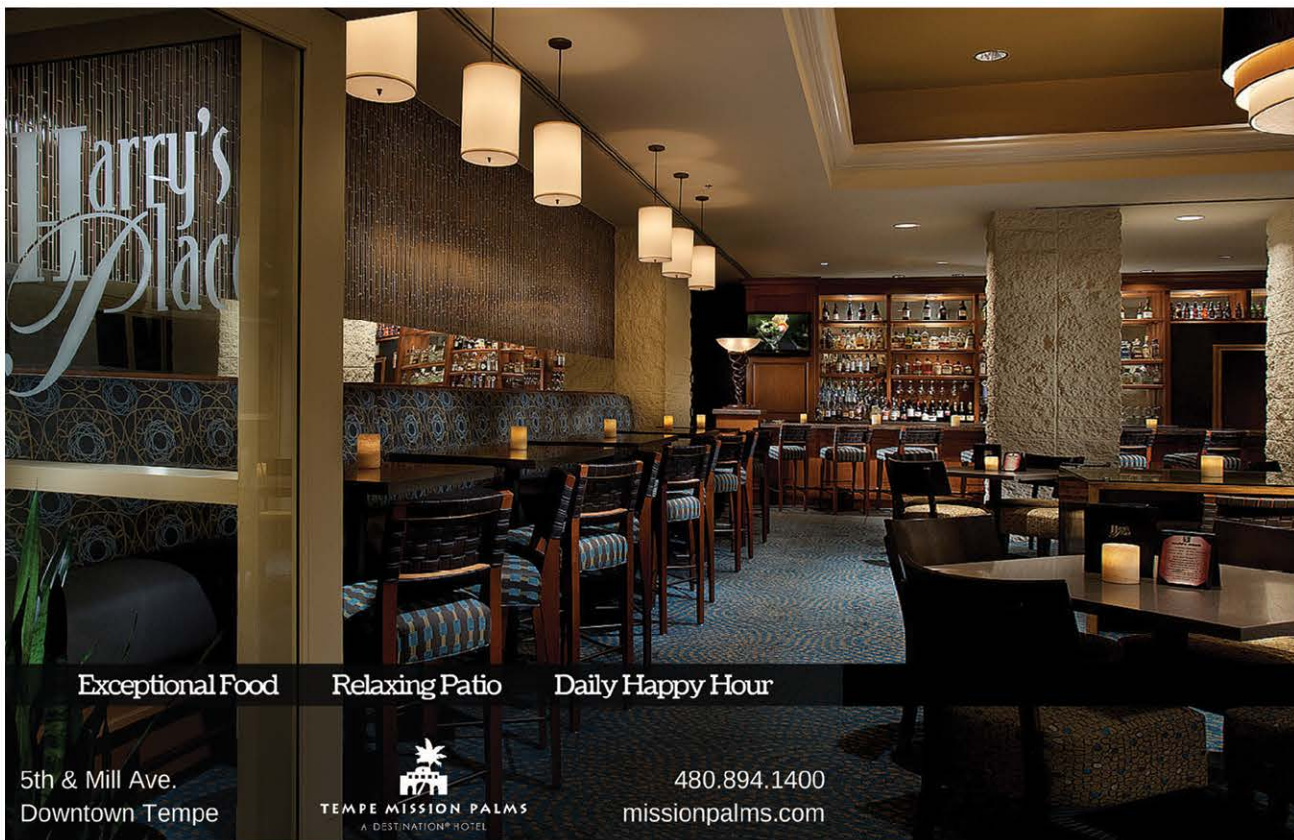
include Intel, NXP, Advanced Semiconductor, Raytheon, Analog Devices, ON semiconductor, Honeywell, STMicroelectronics. And the region continues to grow.

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



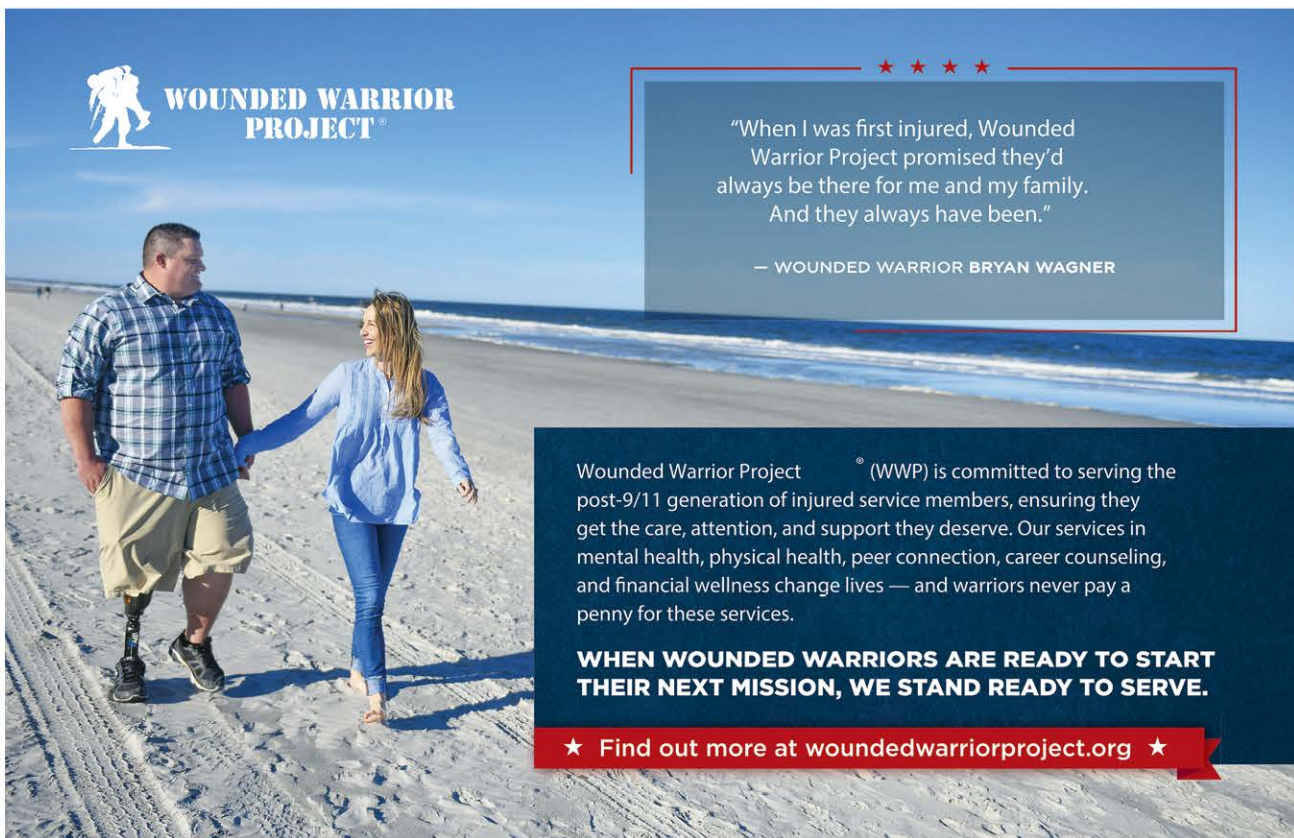
Harry's Place

Exceptional Food Relaxing Patio Daily Happy Hour

5th & Mill Ave.
Downtown Tempe

TEMPE MISSION PALMS
A DESTINATION® HOTEL

480.894.1400
missionpalms.com



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT®

★★★★★

"When I was first injured, Wounded Warrior Project promised they'd always be there for me and my family. And they always have been."

— 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



Four Peaks Oktober Fest at Tempe Town Lake

October 10th – 12th

One of Tempe's signature annual events. A great time for the whole family, including the kids!

fourpeaksoktoberfest.com



48 Live at Tempe Center for the Arts

Select Thursdays

Dedicated to giving emerging artists a stage, the series features musical, theatrical, dance and visual artists from around state.

tempecenterforthearts.com

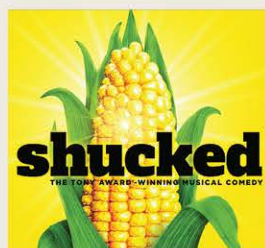


Desert Sky Music Festival

October 25th

Country music's hottest artists under Arizona's desert sky for one unforgettable night!

forty8live.com/desert-sky-music-festival



SHUCKED

December 2nd – 7th

The Tony Award®-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat out hilarious!" And nobody knows funny like economists.

asugamage.com



Gilbert Concerts in the Park Thursday Evenings in October

Free concerts will take place from 6:30 – 8:30 pm and will be held at the Fountain just north of Barrio Queen.

gilbertaz.gov



Tempe Festival of the Arts December 5th – 7th

Enjoy artists from around the country, local music, a Kids Block and many great food options – all located on the streets of historic Mill Avenue.

tempefestivalofthearts.com



& Juliet

November 4th – 9th

Get whisked away on a fabulous journey as Juliet ditches her famous ending for a fresh beginning and a second chance at life and love—her way.

asugamage.com



Gilbert Farmers Market

Saturdays

Enjoy over 100 vendors offering local, organic produce, farm fresh eggs, meat, cheese, bread, sweets, and many other locally made artisan products.

gilbertmarket.com



Tempe Water Lantern Festival

November 7th – 8th

Experience the magic of thousands of lanterns as they reflect upon on the water of beautiful Kiwanis Lake.

waterlanternfestival.com

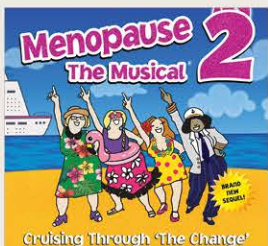


Downtown Chandler Farmers Market

Saturdays

Browse dozens of local farmers, food vendors and artisans from 9 am – 1 pm.

downtownchandler.org/events/farmers-market



Menopause 2 the Musical

November 15th – 16th

From hot flashes to belly laughs, it's a journey of self-discovery and sisterhood where love conquers all and friendships never fade.

chandlercenter.org



Downtown Mesa Farmers Market

Saturdays

Enjoy outdoor shopping, eating, playing, and listening to live music this fall from 8 am – 12 pm.

dtmesafarmersmarket.com

EVERYTHING KEEPS GOING UP AND BLOWING

– By Leslie James

Everything is going up, inflation, food, gas, energy, electronics and car prices. The only areas that are not ... is growth in the economy and unemployment. Both economic indicators are dropping, which I blame directly on the economic uncertainty and U.S. tariffs. And thanks to the tariffs, American consumers will be hit (hard), with layoffs, small businesses going out of business and higher costs for American households that could see annual cost increases of \$2,500 to \$3,500, or higher! Considering that over 55% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, how do you think these increases will impact all consumers? Why is inflation rising along with retail prices in every category, while U.S. growth and unemployment is dropping? Why do our politicians keep telling us everything is so rosy?

I believe in Capitalism when it works. When it doesn't, not so much, so I did a little research. In 1965, the CEO-to-Employee pay ratio was 20 to 1. In 1989, it grew to 58 to 1. Today, however, it hit a staggering 400 to 1. That equates to an average of \$20 million for CEO's and just \$49,500 for workers. I know that I am not the brightest lightbulb at GE, but it doesn't mean I am as stupid as a bag of rocks either, but the way politicians keep talking, I think they must think WE all are!!!

Government officials (local or federal) who claim prices and inflation are coming down, are living in an alternate universe. Consumers better be prepared to pay significantly more as retail prices rise across the board. So, let's call it for what it really is ... Politicians continue lying to us. There are so many examples, but one I truly don't care for comes straight from the White House briefing room when they claim that the national average for gasoline has dropped to under \$2.70/gallon ... which is typically followed by the it's "the lowest price ever in a million years." There is only one problem, when I pull into my gas station, I can never find that pump that says, "National Average," so I fill up at the unleaded pump priced at \$3.77/gallon. So much for the national average. Now we can address the next two hardest hit categories, groceries, and prescription drugs.

Wake up America ... Tariffs are taxes. For those who say otherwise, it is just another lie. So, who pays the tariffs? Is it the manufacturer, importer, or you, the American consumer? As American consumers see retail prices going skyward, you will quickly figure it ... It's us! In August, the U.S. Government smacked Brazil (who produces about 49% of world's coffee) with a 50% tariff. That is likely to make your next cup of coffee pretty expensive. And so, it will go for utility costs, shoes, TV's, cell phones, clothing, and automobiles. American's will pay higher prices for these goods and services. The best way to illustrate today's excessive cost of groceries is to acknowledge that what you could fill two grocery carts with a year ago, now only fills one!

And finally, comes prescription drugs that are crippling Americans, especially low-income earners, and seniors on fixed incomes. Recently, I had the misfortune of requiring blood thinners. I submitted my first 30-day prescription for Xarelto 20mg tablets ... then I was hit with the sticker shock. My pharmacist informed me that my monthly cost would be \$690.00, or \$23/tablet. I almost hit the floor. I called my primary doctor seeking a cheaper alternative. He suggested



I place my order through a Canadian pharmacy company. Hmm, that was an interesting answer, so after conversations with Canada, it was clear that Capitalism, at least in the U.S. pharmaceutical industry was on steroids. A month's supply of Xarelto 20mg via Canada was \$58.75 or \$1.96/tablet and that included shipping. A year's supply from Canada was \$705.00, compared to the U.S. annual cost of \$7,308.00, over ten times the cost. And these prices apply to many other drugs sold in the USA. I see this as a breakdown in Capitalism, as it is not serving the needs of everyday consumers. If you question my theory, then ask yourself this; "How can I buy from Canada, the same drug, for \$1.96/tablet, but in the good old USA, it costs me \$23.00? My uncle always told me, "When in doubt, always follow the money, so I did a little research!

What a surprise. The largest lobbying group, by industry, in the USA, in 2024, were Pharmaceuticals and Health products. This single group spent a whopping \$293.7 million lobbying local and federal government politicians. Number two were electronics, and manufacturing who spent almost \$100 million less. Do you think there is a coalition between the excessive costs of U.S. pharmaceuticals and our elected politicians? Politicians take in tens of millions in campaign contributions every time they run for reelection. How naive of me, but I thought our politicians were elected to "Serve the People."

News Flash – In August, the U.S. global tariffs kicked in. I was informed that my 90-day supply of Xarelto from India will now have an additional tariff cost of \$200 based on the 50% tariff the U.S. placed on India, or I can get my prescription

from the UK for an additional \$160.00 added tariff or from Turkey for \$80.00. I picked Turkey. And Washington refuses to call this a tax on consumers. Imagine those people on fixed incomes, and how these tariffs will impact their monthly prescription drugs and overall budgets. It seems that today's politicians simply don't care about everyday Americans.

The Federal hourly wage passed by Congress on July 24, 2009, and today it still stands at \$7.25/hour, or \$13,920/year. This, while our politicians in Washington's are paid a base salary of \$175,000 (not including the other perks and benefits) or about \$91.50 hour. Most politicians on the hill are averaging over \$100/hour.

The current American system (in so many ways) needs a major fleet enema. Seriously, \$20 mill a year for CEO's while workers are paid 400 times less. After 45 years, everyday hardworking Americans, are still getting tossed in the ditch.

Even a rubber band will snap at some point in time. Yes, the United States is resilient, but a storm is brewing, driven by these growing inequalities.

The bottom line is simple, and no PhD is required. As prices continue to rise, it will impact employment and inflation, resulting in most consumers having less disposable income, which will result in less consumer spending, that will significantly impact the U.S. economy.

This story was written during the last days of July, so let's see where we stand as we enter the fall period.



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.



ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL

**THAT'S
ZOO
WE ARE.**

phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

phoenixzoo.org



Ballet Arizona dancers Cheyenne You, Isabella Seo, Luis Corrales and Serafin Castro. Photos by Ed Flores.

BALLET ARIZONA

2025-2026 SEASON

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

October 23 – 26, 2025

THE NUTCRACKER

December 12 – 27, 2025

ALICE (in Wonderland)

February 12 – 15, 2026

CACTI & OTHER WORKS

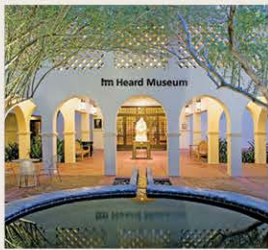
APOLLO | CONCERTANTE | CACTI
March 19 – 22, 2026

AN EVENING AT DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

CONCERTO SIX TWENTY-TWO | RESET
May 13 – May 30, 2026

Tickets at balletaz.org

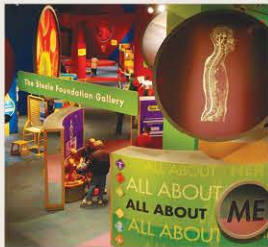
Phoenix LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



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

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



**Voted Phoenix's #1
Seafood Restaurant**



The Arizona Community Foundation makes more...

performing arts

affordable housing

scholarships

shaded parks

nourishing food choices

health innovations

good

...possible

through the power
of collective giving.



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

In partnership with the
Community Foundation Awareness Initiative

Learn how you can help make more possible at
azfoundation.org

Phoenix LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Arizona State Fair

September 19th – 26th

140 years of Fair Fun! Arizona State Fair runs Thursday – Sunday this fall with the Coliseum Concert Series returning as well!
azstatefair.com



Herberger Theater Festival of the Arts

November 16th

Enjoy performances by more than 25 arts groups, including dance, live music, and aerialists and much more!
herbergertheater.org



Majestic Mariposas

Sept. 27th – Nov. 16th

Witness more than 1,000 butterflies, including the stunning monarch. Relax and let the world of pollinators around you come alive.
dbg.org



Phoenix Pizza Festival

November 15th – 16th

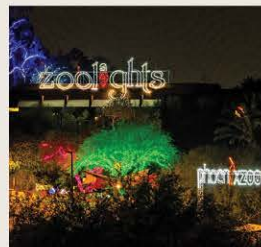
This 10th annual festival benefits Downtown Phoenix, Inc. and features pizza slices, pies, performances, drinks, games, and kid's activities.
phoenix.pizza



Phoenix Greek Festival

October 10th – 12th

This festival is an opportunity to share in the rich history, culture, and culinary delights of Greece.
phoenixgreekfestival.org



Zoo Lights

Nov. 26th – Jan. 16th

Enjoy twinkling lights, dazzling displays, brand new Wildlife Lanterns and the tallest floating tree in North America showcasing original music and light show!
phoenixzoo.org



Phoenix Pride Festival

October 18th – 19th

A two day celebration bringing our diverse LGBTQ+ and allied communities together for a weekend of camaraderie and celebration of our past, present and future.
phoenixpride.org



CHAPARELLE

December 3rd

Doors at 6:30 / Show at 7:30
Advance General Admission Ticket: \$22 + fees
Day of Show General Admission Ticket: \$25 + fees
crescentphx.com



FRAMERATE: Desert Pulse

October 11th – May 2026

A multi-sensory art exhibit by ScanLAB Projects, invites visitors into the visual and emotional energy of the Sonoran Desert.
dbg.org



Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 am – 1 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



First Friday Art Walk | 1st Friday of the month, 6 – 10 pm

One of the nation's largest, self-guided art walks featuring more than 70 galleries, venues and art-related spaces. The ultimate way to experience this city's culture, arts, flavor, and overall vibe. From small stages and galleries to boutiques and murals, there's no shortage of creative expression. Some venues and vendors stay open beyond 10 pm.
artlinkphx.org/first-fridays



GET HOOKED



AND
SUSHI BAR

Newly renovated and located in Central Phoenix, serving fresh sustainable seafood at lunch, dinner and happy hour of course!

1525 E BETHANY HOME RD | BLUEWATERGRILL.COM

Open 7 days a week, The 1227 Taproom is well known for its in-house IPA's & Pilsners, brewed in collaboration with Simple Machine Brewing in Phoenix, AZ. Offering a large variety of beer wine and mead on tap.

Join us for your favorite game, Tuesday Night Trivia or Live Music every Wed - Sat.

Monday - Thursday 1 pm - 10 pm
Friday - Saturday 1 pm - Midnight
Sunday 1 pm - 10 pm

Visit us at

the1227taproom.com

Located on the south side of Northern Ave and 12th Street



AMERICA'S 48TH STATE

The United States didn't want Arizona. And it took Arizona 56 years to become a state.

Congress only begrudgingly named it a territory in the first place, and to gain statehood — joining the 47 others — was too grand a gesture for this rude, crude land located in the Southwestern desert filled with hoodlums and scoundrels.

The road to statehood was long and agonizing. No other territory waited as long or fought as stubbornly as the pioneers of the Arizona Territory. That's 56 long years; over five decades of wanting and petitioning and planning and building and praying. So, when statehood finally came on Feb. 14, 1912, the party was something spectacular to behold.

The first time Washington seriously entertained the idea of admitting Arizona was in 1903, when the chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories proposed it be combined with New Mexico and admitted as one state. They called it "jointure," and while New Mexico liked the idea, Arizona didn't, voting against it in 1906 by 16,265 to 3,141.



Arizona was approved for statehood but would face one more disappointment. It had hoped to be admitted on Feb. 12, the birthday of President Lincoln, who remained a state champion for making it a territory in the first place. But Taft was busy then and didn't sign until Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, 1912. Meanwhile, New Mexico, which didn't tinker with Taft's rules on a constitution, was admitted as the 47th state on Jan. 6, 1912, making Arizona the 48th.

At the time Arizona was admitted (as the country's youngest state) it had only 200,000 residents. Today, Arizona ranks as the 14th largest state in the Union with a population of 7, 231,000.

Arizona Firsts

1. The first and oldest "official" rodeo in the USA was held in Prescott in 1888.
2. In 1927, MGM's mascot "Leo the flying Lion" enroute to New York by plane survived a crash landing east of Payson Az. Both the pilot and lion survived.
3. In the 1950's, Arizona was also the first state to develop a "master-planned" retirement community.
4. In 1960, Arizona was the first state to provide bilingual education in all schools.
5. Arizona was the first state to have an official neckwear, the bolo tie in 1971.
6. In 1973, Arizona was the first state to prohibit smoking in hospitals, government buildings and many other public places.
7. In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was the 1st woman in history to become a Supreme Court Justice.
8. The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station was the USA's largest nuclear power plant to go online in 1985.
9. The Arizona Cardinals football team is the longest "continuously" run pro football team in the country. It was founded in 1898. Initially named the Chicago cardinals, the moved from St. Louis to Arizona in 1980.
10. The Historic "Route 66" was first established here in 1987, paving the way for many others states to keep the Mother Road alive.
11. Arizona was the first state to hire full-time bat-manager position for the Fish and Game department in 1990.
12. In 2002, Arizona was the first state to allow online "registering" to vote.
13. In 2003, Lori Piestewa was the first Native American woman to be killed in combat.
14. Arizona was the first state to mandate ignition interlock devises for drivers convicted of a DUI.
15. In 2013, the Yarnhill Fire killed 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots. It became Arizona's most catastrophic wildfire ever!

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.

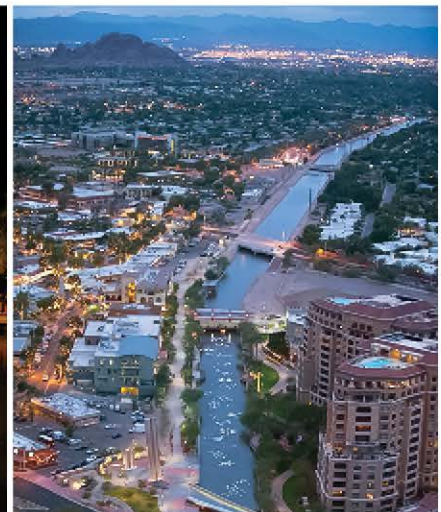
Today, Scottsdale has grown to 185 square miles and borders the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, maintaining a link and relations to its past.

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



Arizona Taco Fest

October 18th – 19th

Experience hundreds of taco creations, along with tequila and mezcal tasting, local bands and DJs, live artists, and so much more.

tacofestaz.com



Old Town Scottsdale

Farmers Market

Saturdays

The market features more than 100 local growers and specialty food producers.

arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com



Spooktacular Hot Air

Balloon Festival

October 24th – 25th

Over 20 hot air balloons that double as trick-or-treat stations, providing both balloon rides and over 4,000 pounds of candy.

azspooktacular.com



Dreamy Draw Music Festival

November 7th – 8th

Dreamy Draw blends modern sound, western soul, and the mystical beauty of the Arizona desert into a fully immersive experience.

dreamydrawfest.com



Scottsdale ArtWalk

Thursdays, 7 – 9 pm

Home to more than 100 galleries, the ArtWalk allows individuals to stroll at their own pace, and wander into galleries throughout a festive area.

scottsdaleartsdistrict.com



Canal Convergence

November 8th – 17th

The free, event features large-scale public artworks alongside live music, performances, workshops, tours and activities, food trucks and a beer garden.

canalconvergence.com



10th Annual Italian Festival

October 25th – 26th

Authentic Italian cuisine, lively entertainment, and an extraordinary selection of over 30 wines from Tuscany, Veneto, Sicily, and beyond.

experiencescottsdale.com



Jeni's Ice Creams

Setting new standards for ice cream classics and new creations. At Jeni's, you'll find flavors inspired by our curiosities—art, history, pop culture, and beyond.

jenis.com



Scottsdale Dia De Los

Muertos Fiestas

October 23rd – 26th

Musical performances and presentations throughout the day with food, art, crafts, and vending merchants.

oldtownscottsdaleaz.com



AZ Barrels, Bottles & Brews

November 15th

Enjoy craft beer, ciders, meads, spirits and hard seltzers from around Arizona with over 25 local breweries, distilleries and others from the Copper state!

azbottlesandbrews.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.

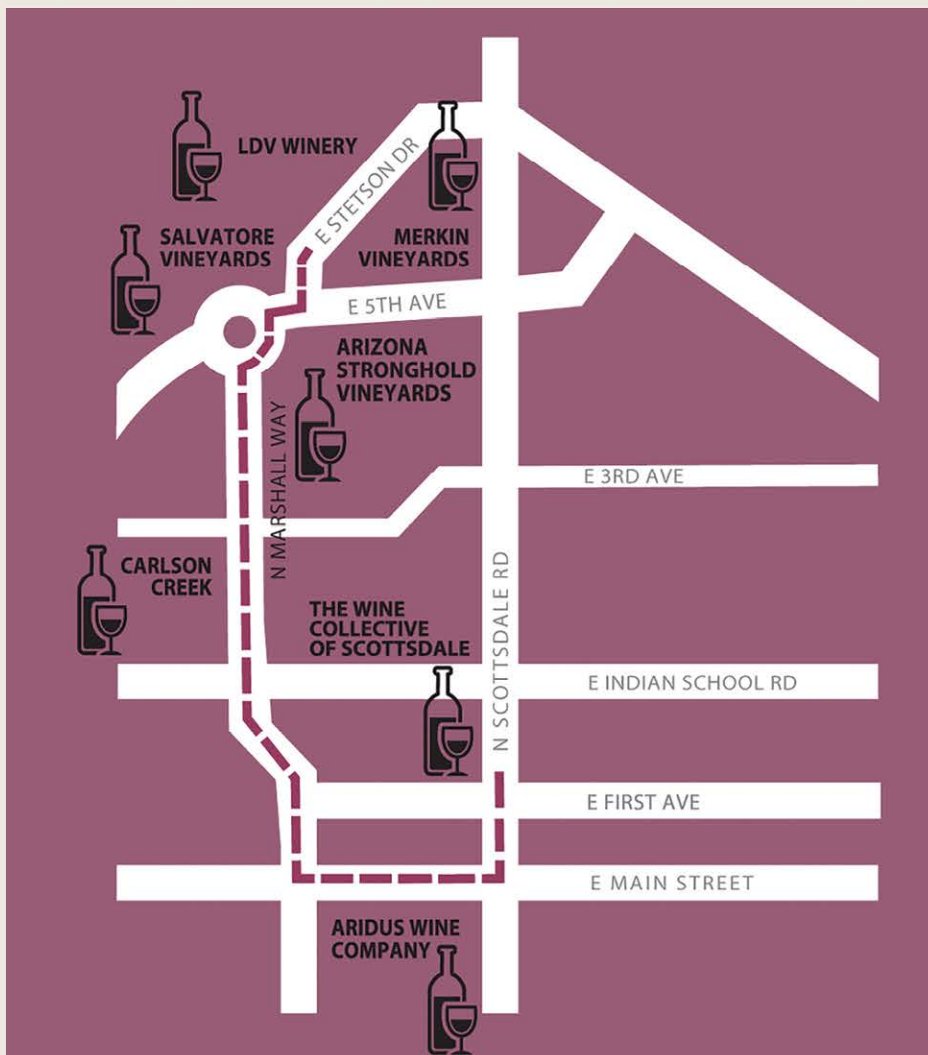
scottsdaleartdistrict.com/artwalk



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



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.

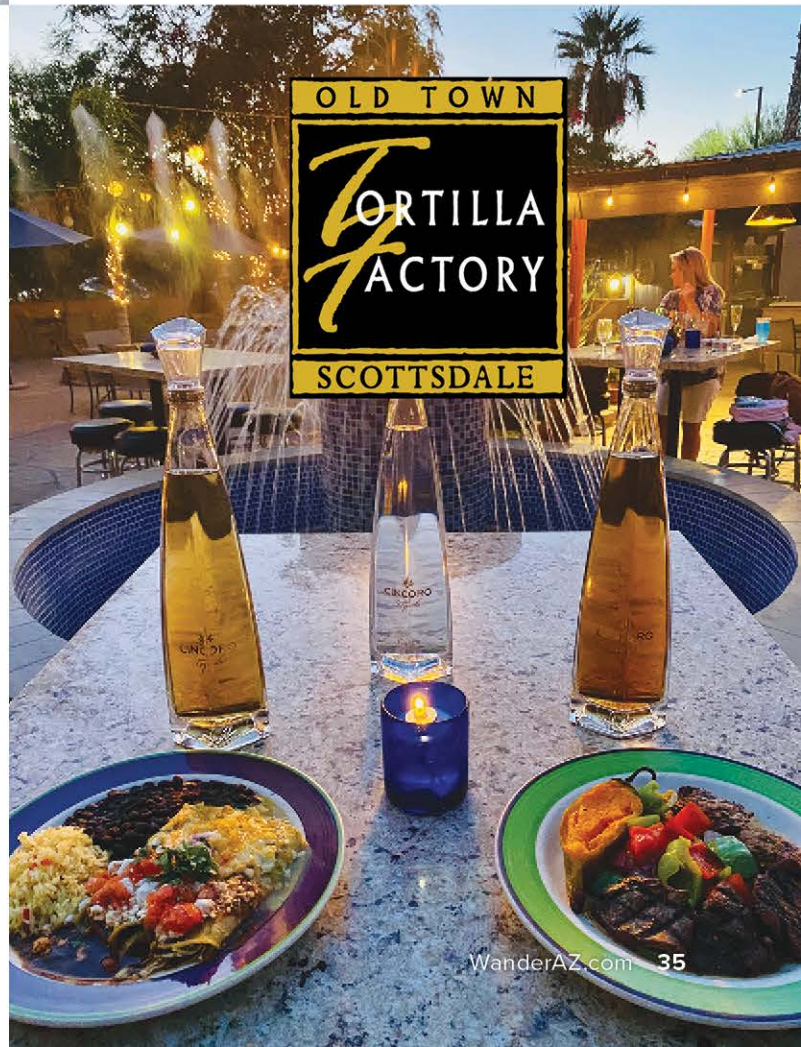
NOW ... Scottsdale, Arizona has come a long way since 1888. Scottsdale is annually rated among the nation's most desirable communities to live in, visit, and do business in. It is now counted among the 100 largest cities in America, but still retains its connection to its small-town, Western heritage.

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.

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**



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

Celebrating 71 Years

Join us at the Greatest Horse Show On Earth!

FEBRUARY 12-22, 2026

WestWorld ★ Scottsdale, Arizona

Since 1955, the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show has welcomed equine lovers from around the world. What began with just 50 horses at the Arizona Biltmore has grown into the world's largest Arabian horse showcase, now featuring more than 2,000 competitors in seven arenas.

WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE

From thrilling Cow Horse competitions to graceful Dressage, spectators can witness the incredible beauty, intelligence, and athleticism of the Arabian horse.

- ★ Barn Tours – Meet Award-Winning Horses Up Close
- ★ Demonstrations & Family-Friendly Entertainment
- ★ Hundreds of Shopping Booths & Artisan Vendors
- ★ Paint a Ceramic Pony ★ Free Parking
- ★ Visit Our Website for More Info



**Free Admission for
Ages 17 & Under**



WWW.SCOTTSDALESHOW.COM

ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

WESTWORLD • 16601 N PIMA RD • SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260

North Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Scottsdale Quarter

Enjoy one of the top outdoors shopping destinations in North Phoenix! Shop your favorite stores, enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants or take in some dynamic entertainment. scottsdalequarter.com



Carefree Farmer's Market

Fridays, 9 am – 1 pm

Fresh local season produce, herbs, flowers, value-added foods, fresh baked goods, natural meats and seafood as well as a selection of local arts and crafts.



7th Annual Pumpkin Patch

October 15th – 31st

Pick a pumpkin at the Annual Pumpkin Patch in The District. Snap a seasonal shot at the pumpkin photo backdrop. Enjoy giveaways & more! shopdesertridge.com/event



Outlets North Phoenix

Just off I-17 at the very north edge of Phoenix. These outlets offer pedestrian and pet friendly open air shopping of name brand fashions.

northphoenixoutlets.com



Maker's Hive Market

October 25th

The market brings together locals and small businesses at Desert Ridge Marketplace! Guests can stroll, shop and sip through nearly 40 diverse small businesses. shopdesertridge.com/event



Farmer's Market on High Street

Sundays, 9 am – 1 pm

A full block of more than 100+ vendors offering food and fun for all ages.

highstreetaz.com/farmers-market



Kierland Fine Art & Wine Festival

November 1st – 2nd

15 Arizona wineries will showcase and sell their award-winning wines. Over 100 local, regional, and national fine artists. And of course, there will be food and live music to add to the excitement.



Roadrunner Park Farmers Market

Saturdays, 8 am – 12 pm

Local produce including fresh vegetables & fruit, baked goods, honey jams and jellies, natural meats, and hand crafted items.



Fall Fountain Festival

November 14th – 15th

One of the most iconic and wellknown arts and craft shows in not just Arizona, but the Southwest!

fountainhillsartfairs.com



Frontier Town

In the heart of Cave Creek, this old western town will take you back in time. Serving visitors a taste of the original old west for more than 50 years!

frontiertownaz.com



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 fare and a variety of custom shops from fine handcrafted hats to western furniture and decor. stagecoachvillagecc.com

BE INSPIRED

AT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S
TALIESIN WEST



For almost 90 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.**



VISIT TODAY

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.

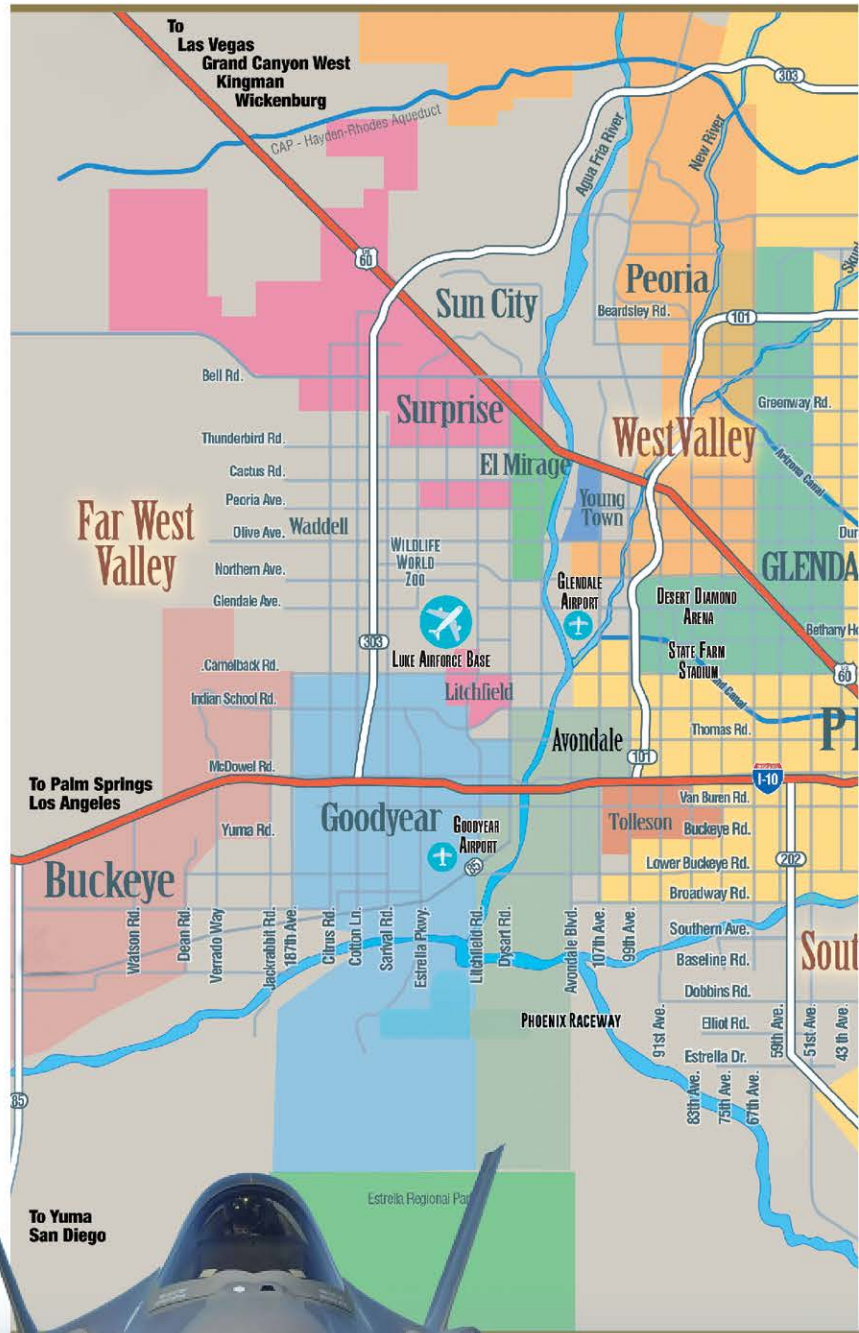
DESTINATION *West Valley*

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.



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



Scan to Plan!

\$24 VALUE!
\$6
PER PERSON
OFF ADMISSION



GOOD FOR 4 GUESTS!

Not valid with any other discounts

West Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Arizona Cardinals Football

Watch a professional NFL football game at State Farm Stadium.

azcardinals.com/tickets

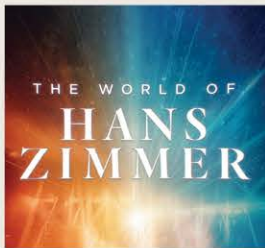


Hot Rod Night

Wednesdays, Through October 22nd

Cruise in for a classic car show, live music & great happy hour deals from our surrounding bars & restaurants.

westgateaz.com/event



The World of Hans Zimmer

October 3rd

Audiences can look forward to an emotional journey through the legendary composer's most famous scores, presented in a breathtaking setting.

desertdiamondarena.com



The Great Glendale Get-together

October 23rd

Featuring food trucks, music, live performances, activities for children, an expo, the Glendale Community College Gaucho mascot and much more.

gccaz.edu/get-together



Foodieland

October 10th – 12th

With over 200+ vendors, we're bringing you a variety of amazing foods, games, and entertainment for the whole family.

foodielandnm.com/events/phoenix-raceway



Pumpkin Days at

Tolmachoff Farms

October 1st – 31st

Great big pumpkin patch, 6-acre family corn maze (perfect for the little ones), and a haunted corn maze.

tolmachoff-farms.com



Bert Kreischer:

Permission to Party

October 17th

A brand-new stand-up comedy world tour by comedian Bert Kreischer

desertdiamondarena.com



Monster Jam

October 25th

Get ready to cheer, scream, and be amazed as massive Monster Jam trucks and world champion drivers take over Glendale.

statefarmstadium.com/events



Westgate

Entertainment District

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

westgateaz.com



Fall Festival of Arts

November 1st – 2nd

Spend a pleasant fall weekend in Litchfield Park enjoying fine art, live entertainment, delicious food and our Beer and Wine Garden!

litchfieldpark.gov/events



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



Nitro Circus

December 7th

Get the kids off the screens & into the action with Nitro Circus! Jaw-dropping stunts, high-flying excitement & epic memories.

desertdiamondarena.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?



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.

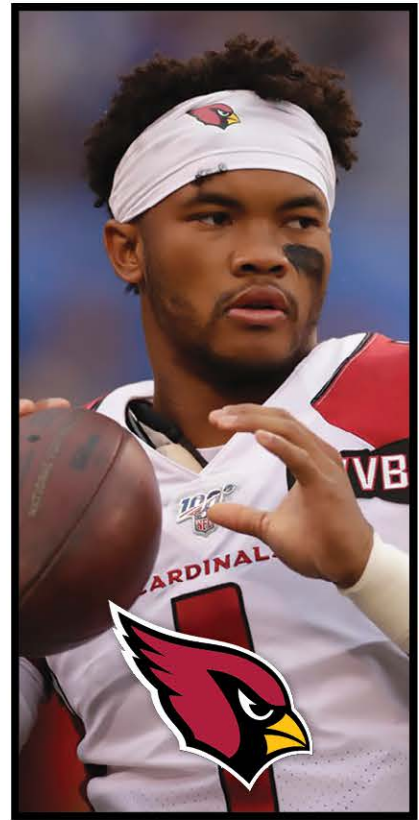
Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park

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

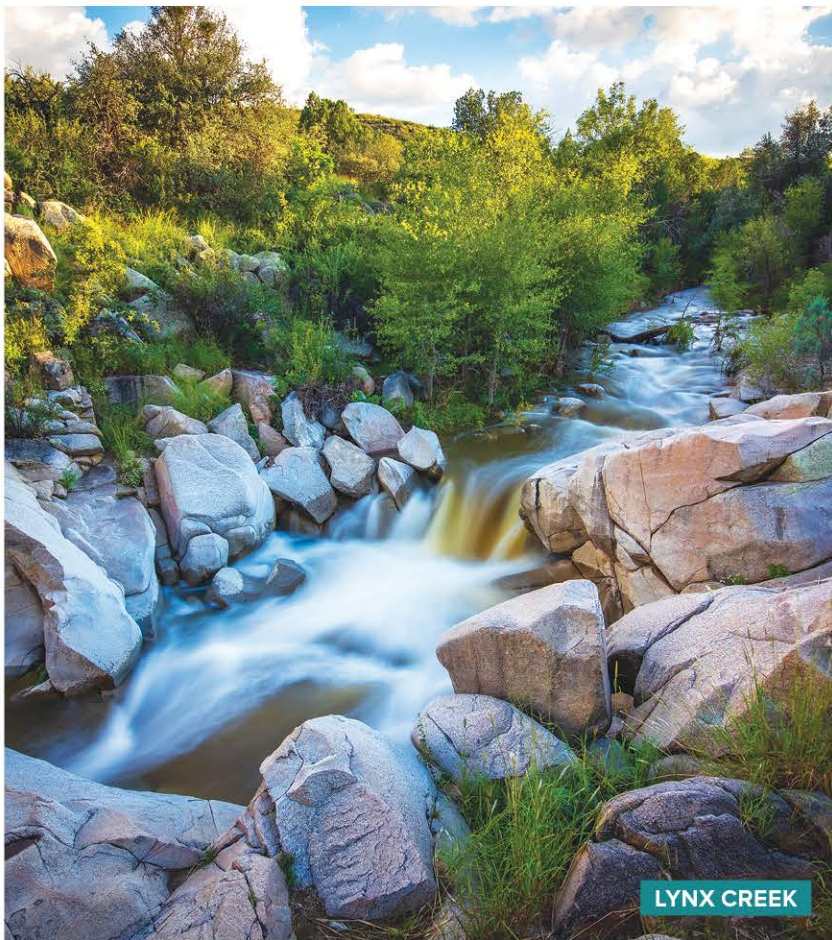
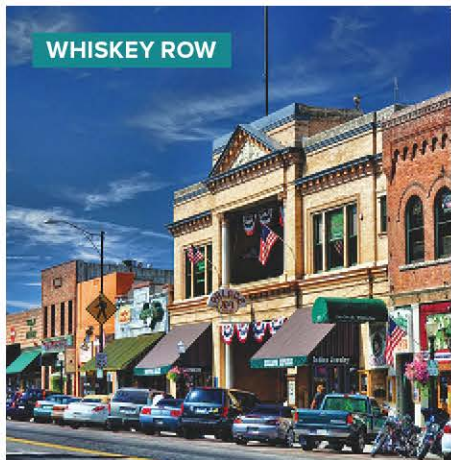
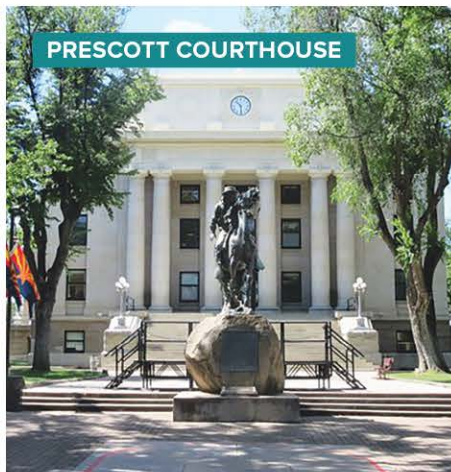
Prescott is a popular destination where residents and visitors meld together to enjoy northern Arizona's culture, history and an assortment of outdoor events and activities. Just a short drive (less than two hours) from Phoenix, Prescott hosts many festivals and fairs throughout the year. The jewel of 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 Harvest Festival
October 4th, 11 am – 4 pm
 Costumes, bounce houses and parade! Located at the Prescott Valley Civic Center
prescottvalley-az.gov/1145/Harvest-Festival



Prescott Farmers Market
Saturdays through December
 Enjoy all local produce and goods. Hosted in the Dignity Health parking lot. Times vary during the fall, check website for details.
prescottfarmersmarket.org



Big Sting Country Music Campout Festival Weekend
October 10th – 11th
 This exciting event combines the best of country music with the thrill of camping in the great outdoors.
thebigsting.com



Winter Spectacular
December 6th, 2 – 7 pm
Prescott Valley Civic Center
 Enjoy the enchantment of the winter season with FREE activities, live performances, spectacular light parade, and the grand lighting of the 40-Foot Christmas tree.



Founding Fathers Collective
 A thriving collection of local services with a focus on community. From handcrafted coffee to live music, and local brews, there's something for everyone. Events weekly!
foundingfatherscollective.com



Prescott's 4th Friday Artwalk
October 24th & November 28
 A night to get out and experience Prescott's visual art scene. Every month features signature events and exhibits produced by the galleries.
artthe4th.com

Experience Prescott

True West. Real Adventure.

One of Arizona's Most Beautiful & Historic Destinations.

Visit experienceprescott.com for more details.



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



Welcome to Cottonwood!

Located in the "Heart of the Verde Valley Wine Country." An easy trip from Phoenix—only an hour and a half drive, ideally situated above the heat of the desert and below the cooler temperatures of Arizona's high country. Old Town is known for its Main Street with over 60 businesses that attract visitors and support local residents.

visitcottonwoodaz.org



Cottonwood Shopping

Old Town has a variety of eclectic shopping options. Find antiques, collectibles, handmade jewelry, framed art, souvenir t-shirts, we could go on and on — Cottonwood has it all. Get to shopping!



Art in Cottonwood

If you're looking to soak up some culture while in Arizona, be sure to check out the local arts scene in Cottonwood. New galleries and studios are popping up all over this artist hotspot.



Dining in Cottonwood

With options to please every palette, you'll find local pasta paired with Arizona wine, smoked meats and BBQ and plenty of outdoor seating to take in the atmosphere of the Old Town area.



The Blazin' M Ranch

This frontier town offers a full-service saloon, shopping, wagon rides, and other western activities that will transport you and your group back in time.

blazinm.com



PREDATOR
ZIP LINES

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

info@predatorzipline.com | 928-567-9947 | Camp Verde, AZ

2023 Travellers' Choice
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



Dia De Los Muertos

October 31st – November 1st

Remember loved ones and celebrate their lives with altars showcasing Mexican culture and heritage. A four-day event with special performances on the 28th of October.

tlaq.com



Sedona Community Farmers Market

Sundays

Held Sundays through Oct. 26th from 8 am – Noon. Enjoy local and regional delights from farmers. Breads, fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs and much more!

sedona-farmers-market.com



The Fest of the Fall

November 8th

The perfect celebration for the Fall season! Enjoy a wide selection of food trucks and the autumn atmosphere with family fun and games, craft beers, live music and much more!



Oak Creek Arts & Craft Shows

December 12th – 14th

Oak Creek Factory Outlet Mall and Bell Rock Plaza in the Village of Oak Creek will be the site of these art shows.

oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com



1st Fridays in the Galleries

On the First Friday of every month be a part of the Sedona art scene. Enjoy gallery receptions, music, wine tasting and treats, as you immerse yourself in the work of renowned artists from Sedona and around the world.

visitsedona.com/events-calendar



Ales on the Rails

Verde Canyon Railroad's ode to Oktoberfest, offers a wide range of local Arizona breweries, richly crafted beers ranging from the lightest pilsners to the hoppiest IPAs to the deepest stouts.

visitsedona.com/events-calendar



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. State 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.

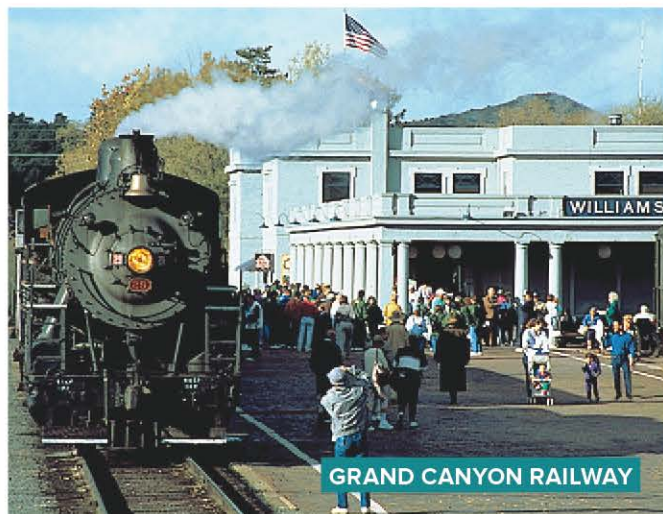
The town is home to the Grand Canyon Railway that takes you on a fabulous round trip train ride to the Grand Canyon. It also offers its Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, a premier hotel adjacent to the railway station. A few minutes south of town is Bearizona, a drive-thru wildlife park which offers a once 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.



GRAND CANYON RAILWAY



**Experience outdoor fun, incredible attractions,
Historic Route 66, and so much more.**

experiencewilliams.com



THE FOUR WORST WORDS IN TRAVEL!

“Damn! She’s right again.”

— By William Thomas

It was a dark and rainy flight. The turbulence was so bad over the Atlantic the lights were mostly out and meals could not be served. The hard landing at Lisbon’s Portela Airport caused bags and duty free to burst from the overhead compartments. The wind was so strong older people had to be helped down the stair car. We were all drenched before we could board the bus from the runway to the terminal. The only things that flight lacked was the Hudson River and “Sully” Sullenberger.

So very late the plane immediately took off for Porto in the north. An hour later two hundred of us are watching one piece of luggage go around the baggage carousel.

I’m thinking, I wonder what size that person is? I’m here for only two weeks; I can wear anything.

I really want to tear a strip off somebody but I’m travelling with Miss Optimism and negativity is not allowed. Instead, she goes off to sign the lost luggage forms and I go to Auto Jardim where my rental car is suspiciously ready to go.

On Avenue Liberdade the cabbies first honk and then glare at slow-driving tourists like me. Things calm down when I turn up a narrow street to begin the steep ascent to the Albergaria Senhora do Monte, our hotel at the peak next to the Sao Jorge Castle.

People start waving at us from under their umbrellas. “Don’t know what I did last time I was here,” I said, “but I seem to have made quite the impression.”

I smell smoke and stop the car which...is on fire. So steep is this hillside I couldn’t see the smoke billowing out of the back. I pop the hood and soon, the rain puts the fire out at the bottom of the engine.

We abandon the car and start the steep ascent up the mountainside with our carry-on bags over our heads.

“About 50 minutes to the top,” I ventured.

“This could be worse,” said the optimist.

That’s when I lost it. I’m soaked, tired, jet-lagged and...

“How in the #8%! Could this possibly be worse?” I said, a tad too loudly.

To which she said, with some merit I might add:

“We could have luggage.”

Gawd, I hate it when she’s right.

William Thomas

is the author of ten books including:
Never Hitchhike On The Road Less Traveled
For suggestions, a book or a guest speaker
visit williamthomas.ca



Williams LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Polar Express at Grand Canyon Railway

November – January
Journey from the nighttime wilderness of Williams, Arizona, to the enchanted beauty of “the North Pole”.

thetrain.com



Canyon Coaster Adventure Park

Canyon Coaster Adventure Park on Route 66 in Williams features a variety of attractions for all ages, year round.

canyoncoasteradventurepark.com



Grand Canyon Wine Company

Located in Williams, this establishment evolved from a desire to showcase the unique terroir of Arizona wine regions and the bold flavor it creates.

grandcanyonwineco.com



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



Steam Engine to the Grand Canyon

The historic Grand Canyon Railway departs daily from Williams, Arizona to the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon.

thetrain.com



Wild West Junction

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wildwestjunction.com

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

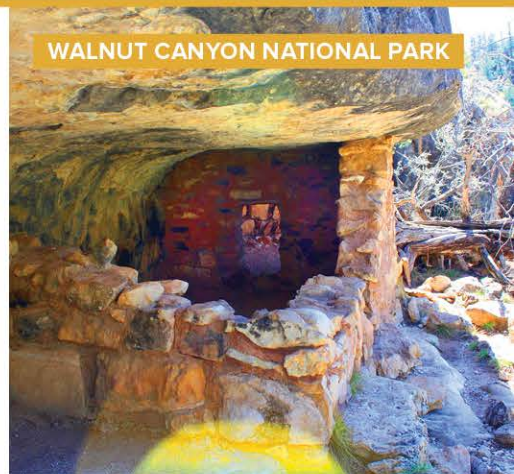
755 Mustang Way, Williams-Valle, AZ

928-635-1000 | planesoffame.org

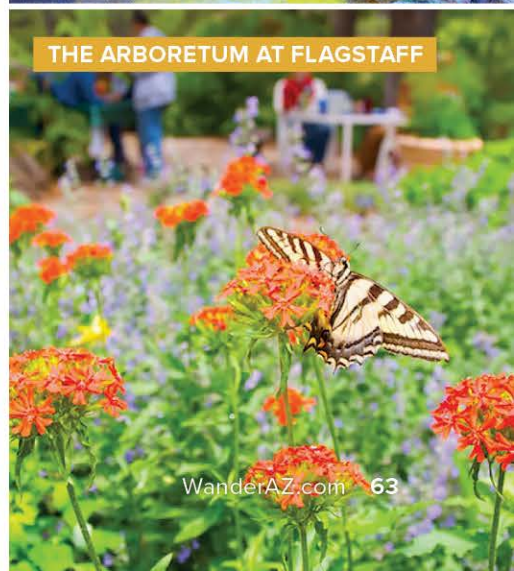
Walnut Canyon National Monument

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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THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

WHO WERE THESE SILENT HERO'S OF WORLD WAR II?

– By Heather Carr and Jonathan Funk

During The legislative branch of the Navajo Nation met on June 3, 1940, and issued this statement; “Whereas, there exists no purer concentration of Americanism than among the First Americans ... we resolve that the Navajo Indians stand ready as they did in 1918, to defend our Government and its institutions against all subversive and armed conflict.”

This was part of a larger resolution passed by the Navajo Tribal Council more than a year before the United States was officially involved in World War II. When war came suddenly with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th in 1941. Navajo tribe members were ready to serve. Nearly 900 did so in the United States Marine Corps. Of these, a group of more than 400 performed a specialized service during the difficult campaigns in the Pacific, repeatedly helping the United States defeat the Japanese forces. They were known as the “Navajo Code Talkers.”

THE NEED

Having enemy forces able to decode communications is a highly undesirable situation during war. At the start of the Pacific campaign, Japanese forces were often able to do just that, and sometimes they received U.S. military orders almost as quickly as did the American Marines. Additionally, most Japanese radio operators spoke fluent English and could interrupt transmissions and broadcast false orders. The United States needed a quick, dependable, and secure way of sending and receiving radio messages. In the tight maneuvering area of the Pacific Islands, there was no margin for error in directing supplies, troops, and artillery fire. Any mistakes would certainly end up costing lives.

California-based civil engineer Philip Johnston proposed the idea of using the Navajo language as a tool to send more secure transmissions. During his childhood, Johnston's parents worked as missionaries on the Navajo reservation. Although not fluent in Navajo himself, he knew that the language could be used to create and implement a coded messaging system that the Japanese would not be

able to crack. The tribe was geographically isolated, and use of the language was primarily oral and difficult for non-native speakers to learn. Johnston facilitated a trail run with a few members of the tribe in late 1941, and by mid-1942, the code talker program was in full swing.

THE UNDECIPHERED CODE

Johnston's role began and ended with the implementation and administration of the program and its structure. Navajo recruits did all the work developing and later expanding the code. It consisted of both individual words as well as an alphabet for things that would need to be spelled, like names of people and places. It came to include nearly 400 words, and carrying written copies into battle was against military rules and regulations. Every term and letter representation were memorized, and the code was never deciphered by the Japanese during the entire war.

Undoubtedly the most famous – when declassified – of all the code talker transmissions was one sent from Iwo Jima in February 1945 indicating that the marines had secured Mount Suribachi: “Naasisosi Thanzie Dibeh Shida Dahnesis Tkin Shush Wollachee Moasi Lin Achi,” which translates to Mouse Turkey Sheep Uncle Ram Ice Bear Ant Cat Horse Intestines.”

CODE TALKER TRANSLATIONS

The infallibility of the code came from the nature of the Navajo language itself (unknown to those outside the tribe and unrecorded) and from the clever way the code talkers constructed some of it. Several terms were quite a stretch from their original English meaning, and others used simple but not necessarily intuitive word combinations to achieve the translations. The alphabet worked much the same way, and there were multiple words representing each letter.

IN BATTLE

Initially in the field Marine commanders were skeptical that such a fast, efficient communication method was completely secure, and they tested the speed and accuracy of the code talkers against more traditional methods of encoding and

sending messages. The code talkers repeatedly proved their worth, and by May 1943 nearly all of the commanders in the Pacific were singing their praises.

When a message came in for a code talker to decipher, it was preceded either with "Arizona" or "New Mexico." With this, the Japanese began to recognize that a certain type of code was being used consistently. Although they were unable to break it, they became increasingly frustrated with their inability to decipher what they heard, and their radio operators would shout and curse at the Navajo in a desperate attempt to interfere with transmissions. Japanese forces were also efficient at tracing the origin of communications signals, and all radio operators had to be skilled to set up their equipment, transmit quickly and run. Teddy Draper Sr. remembers that he "didn't have time to shoot back" while sending and receiving messages.

The presence of the code talkers was largely unexplained to the general Marine population, and this led to some difficult situations. Navajos resembled Japanese soldiers to the untrained eyes in the heat of battle, and their own comrades sometimes mistook them for the enemy. A marine sentry "captured" code talker William McCabe, who was almost executed until several members of McCabe's own unit vouched for his identity. Eventually, a bodyguard was assigned to each code talker for their personal protection.

REMEMBERING

The U.S. military kept the Navajo code classified throughout the war and for 30 years afterward; virtually no one knew about the highly dangerous and incredibly unique service these "silent hero's" provided for their country. In 1969, the Navajo code was declassified, and in 1970, some of the veterans formed the Navajo Code Talker's Association. Still public recognition came slowly, and the Federal

government did not begin to fully acknowledge the code talkers until the civilian population became aware of their existence. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan designated August 14th as National Code Talker Day, and on March 2, 1989, a monument was dedicated in Phoenix, Arizona, as a tribute to the code talkers' heroic service during the war.

Plans have been in the works for years to create a Code Talker museum on the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

Throughout the 1990's and into the early 21st century, widespread public recognition has continued intermittently, including the creation of a G.I Joe doll in 2000 and the popular Hollywood movie, *Windtalkers*, produced in 2002 that starred Nicolas Cage, Christian Slater, Adam Beach as Ben Yahzee and Roger Willie as Charlie Whitehorse. It seems that every few years the code talkers are national news again. May this trend continue well into the future, so the important story and the Navajo's incredible heroism during World War II will never be forgotten.

The Code Talkers participated in assaults that the United States Marines led in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, including the Guadalcanal campaign and the battles of Tarawa, Peleliu and Iwo Jima. Now in 2025, only two code talkers remain alive, and both reside in the State of Arizona. They are Peter MacDonald Jr. and Thomas H. Begay

Peter MacDonald Sr. – Teec Nos Pos, AZ, Age 96, honorable discharged with the rank of Corporal in 1946

Thomas H. Begay – Born in Two Wells, NM, Age 98 (his exact birthdate was not recorded), honorable discharged with the rank of Lance Corporal in 1946.



Transmitting from a clearing in the Bougainville Jungles Code Talkers Cpl. Henry Blake, Jr. (left) of Fort Defiance, Arizona and Pfc. George H. Kirk of Leupp, Arizona.



Navajo Code Talkers US Navy TBV-2 Radio Transmitter-Receiver.

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Flagstaff LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Annual Oktoberfest

October 4th

Kick off the autumn season with bratwurst, pretzels and plenty of Beer! Guests will enjoy polka music, a brat eating contest, stein holding competition and much more.

flagstaffoktoberfest.com



Old Town Shops

A collection of locally owned shops and restaurants at the corner of Birch & Leroux streets in Historic Downtown Flagstaff. Individual business hours vary.

oldtownshops.com



Pumpkin Walk

October 25th

Old-fashioned carnival games, spooky stories, face-painting and 100's of lit Jack-o-Lanterns. Join in the fun at The Arboretum at Flagstaff, 8 am – 5 pm.

thearb.org



Lowell Observatory

Search the universe, study dark skies and stargaze where Pluto was discovered! Look through new and historic telescopes, watch science demos, study informative exhibits and more.

lowell.edu



Coffee Houses

Enjoy more than 15 Flagstaff coffee houses by sipping a decadent latte or take home a pound of locally roasted coffee!



Flagstaff Community Market

Sundays through October

The freshest in regional produce, baked goods, tamales and more at City Hall on Sunday mornings and across from the Orpheum on Wednesdays.

flagstaffmarket.com



Historic Downtown Flagstaff

Don't miss a walk through Historic Downtown Flagstaff, centered on the old train station and also housing the Flagstaff Visitor Center. Start your tour here, pick up a brochure, and shop for souvenirs.



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 more.

artwalkflg.org



Flagstaff Breweries

Designated as a leading Arizona Craft Beer City, Flagstaff boasts eight craft breweries and a legacy of crafting fermented delights.

flagstaffarizona.org/dining-nightlife/breweries



Scenic Gondola Ride

An awesome way to view the fall foliage from an elevated view, without taking the time and energy to hike. You'll find the end of Snowbowl Rd on the western side of the San Francisco Peaks.

snowbowl.ski



Historic Route 66 Walking Tour

Travel along the original alignment of Route 66. This self-guided tour passes by classic drive-in motels and Flagstaff landmarks of old.

flagstaffarizona.org/blog/walk-this-talk



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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.

BLACK BART'S STEAKHOUSE

A local landmark, and family owned and operated for over 35 years Black Bart's is enjoyed by both locals and travelers alike. A special feature of the restaurant are Black Barts musical singers who perform nightly before enthusiastic diners. Each member of their staff has auditioned for the job, and most of the singers are Northern Arizona University (NAU) students studying music and theater. However, Black Barts reputation is founded on their outstanding menu that features their famous oak-broiled steaks, chicken, ribs and seafood. If you dined at Black Barts in the 70's, you will find many of those same favorite entrees on their menu today. That is why year after year, travelers who visit Flagstaff (both old and new alike) make the time to enjoy the food and entertainment at Black Barts Steakhouse. So enjoy your favorite cocktail in Black Bart's cozy Saloon, or partake in a great dining experience with family. Founded on family values and principles, Black Bart's is one local venue that should not be missed.

Black Bart's is located at the I-40, at 2760 East Butler Ave in Flagstaff, Arizona, across the street from Little America Hotel. Reservations are also recommended.

For more information call: 928-779-3142 or go online at: blackbartssteakhouse.com Open daily from 5-9 pm.



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



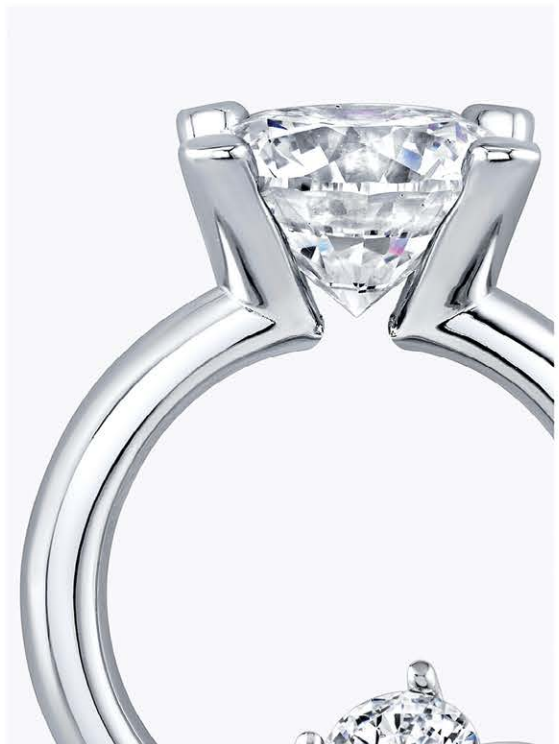
SCAN FOR INFO

Antelope Valley Canyon Tours
Star Gazing Tours are available!

discovernavajo.com

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