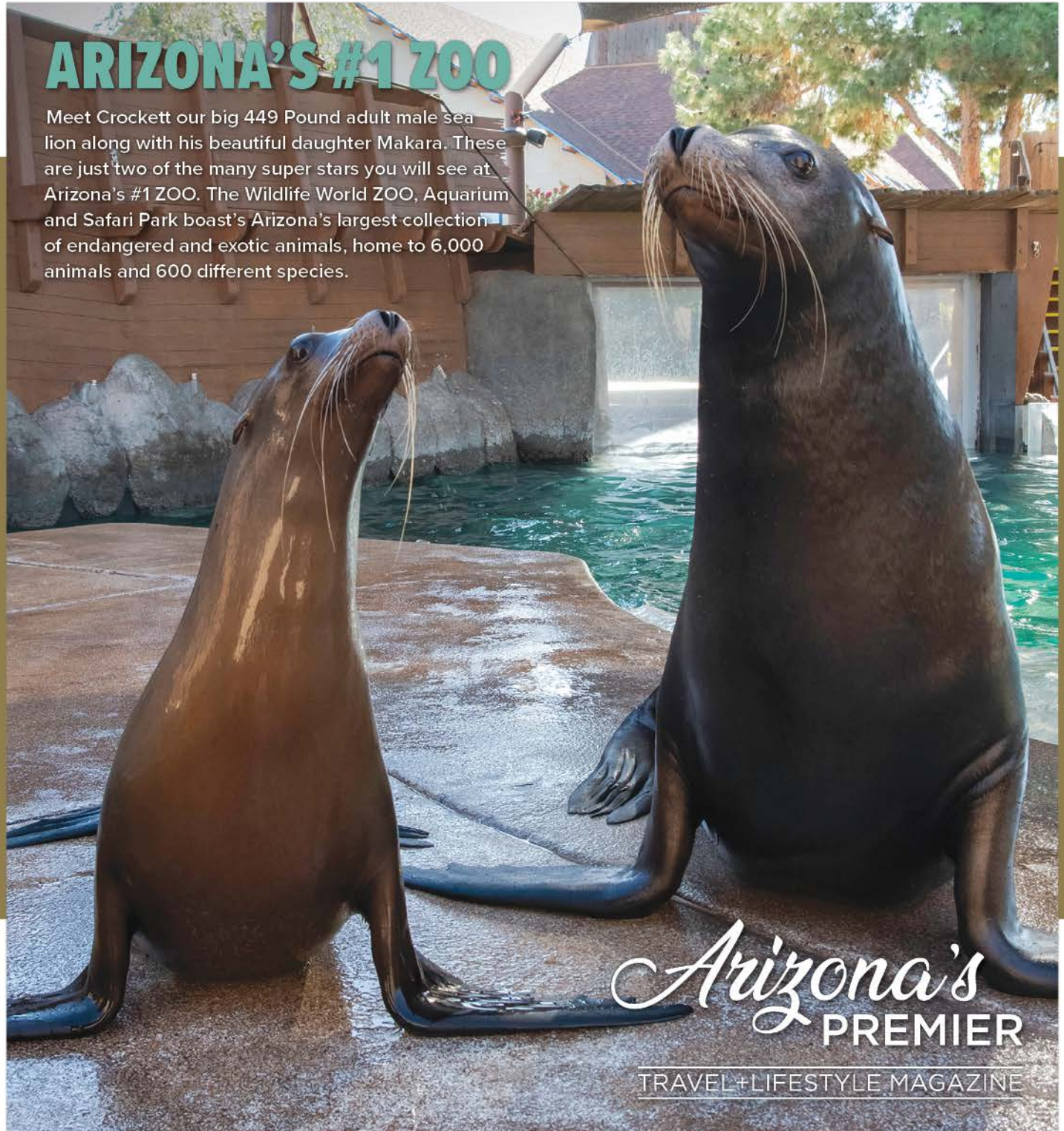


# WANDERAZ

GREATER PHOENIX EDITION WINTER 26

## ARIZONA'S #1 ZOO

Meet Crockett our big 449 Pound adult male sea lion along with his beautiful daughter Makara. These are just two of the many super stars you will see at Arizona's #1 ZOO. The Wildlife World ZOO, Aquarium and Safari Park boast's Arizona's largest collection of endangered and exotic animals, home to 6,000 animals and 600 different species.



*Arizona's*  
PREMIER

TRAVEL+LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



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# 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



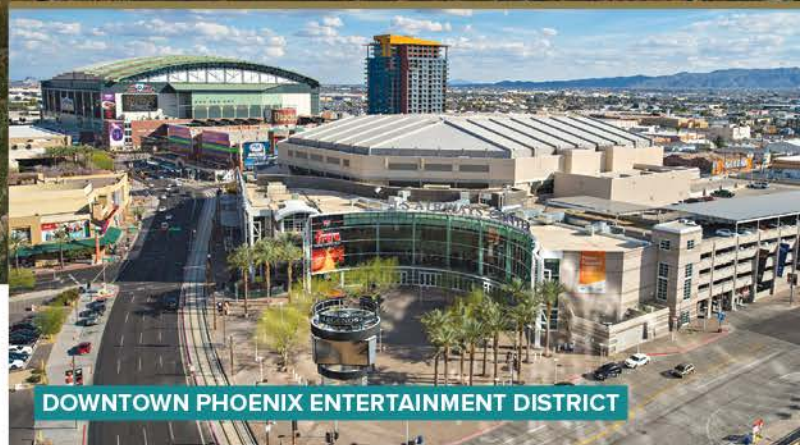


# The 48th State

**A**rizona, 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. Sheepherders and cattlemen also came to Arizona to stake their claim on a new life, contributing to the reputation of the "Wild West" when their hostility toward each other erupted into range wars over land and water for their herds. To protect settlers from unfriendly natives, the U.S. Army came West and built forts. Several major conflicts between the cavalry and Native Americans, most notably members of the Apache tribe, took



place in Arizona. After the surrender 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, 114 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.

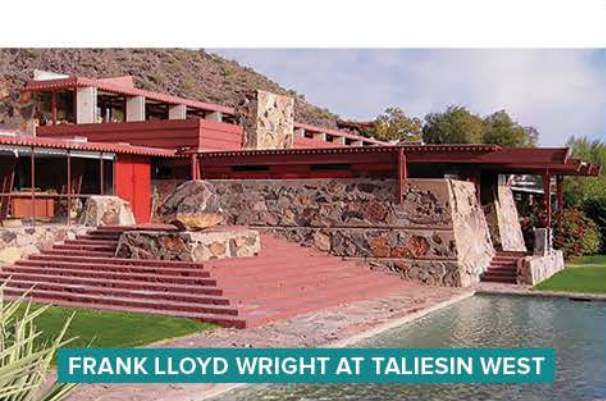
Arizona remains a highly popular travel destination for 10's of millions of annual visitors from all over the world. What's the draw, you might ask? Arizona offers roughly 330 days of sunshine per year, outdoor recreational opportunities including world-class golfing, luxurious resorts and hotels, exceptional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

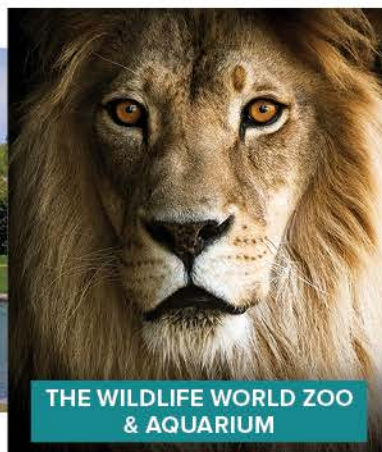
numerous world-class sporting and racing events that include 15 MLB baseball teams who make the Valley their Cactus League Spring Training headquarters, the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament referred to as "The Greatest Show on Grass," also viewed as the most popular tournament on the PGA 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 traveling 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 2026, the Grand Canyon is 107 years old as America's 17th National Park.**

**P**resident 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

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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](http://grand-canyon-park.org).

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL SWAINE





**Activities**



**Destinations**



**Events**



# VISITOR INFORMATION

GREATER PHOENIX MAP ♦ VALLEY WIDE SHOPPING ♦ TRAVELER INFORMATION

**WANDERAZ.COM**



**Nightlife**



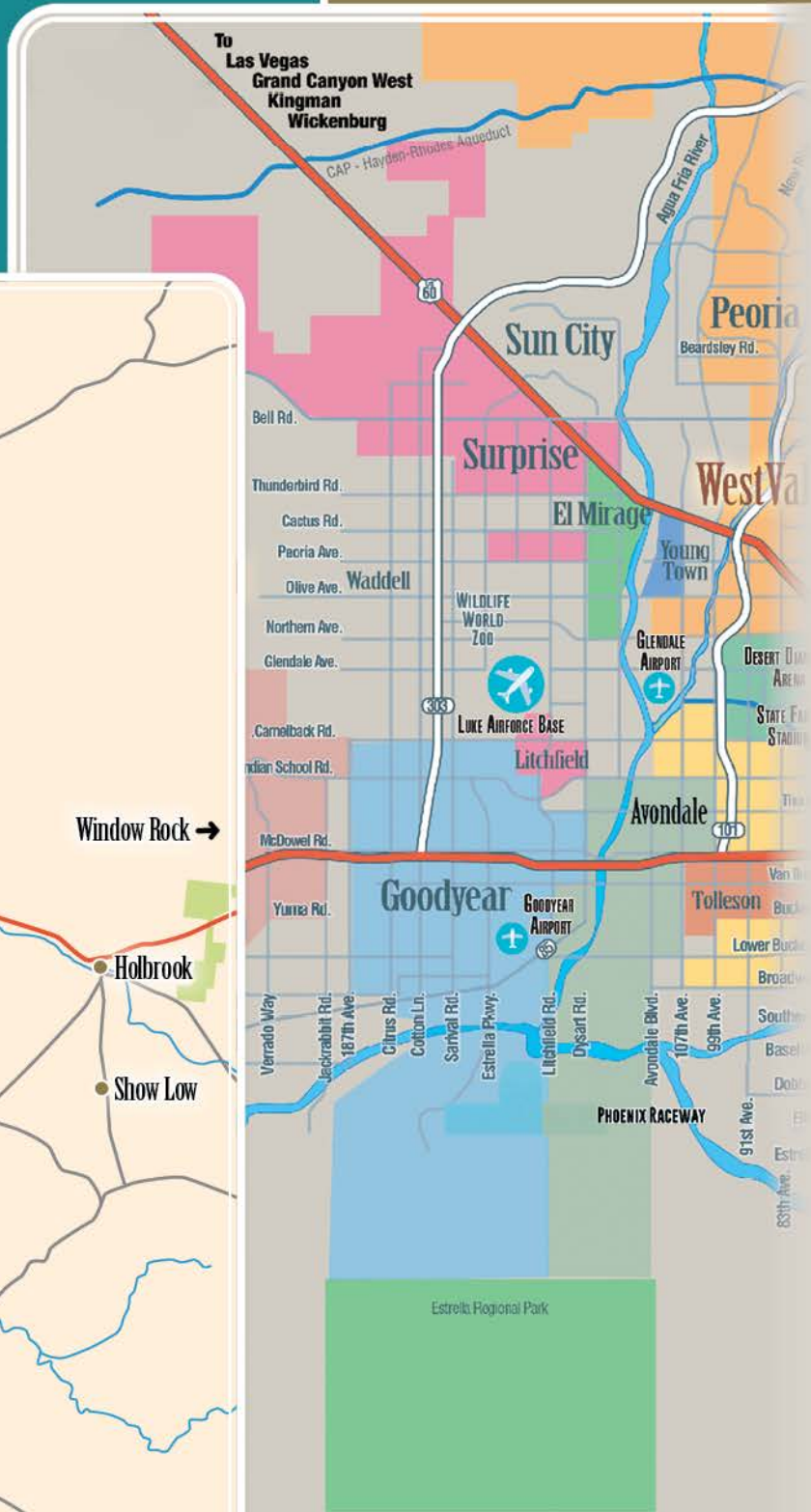
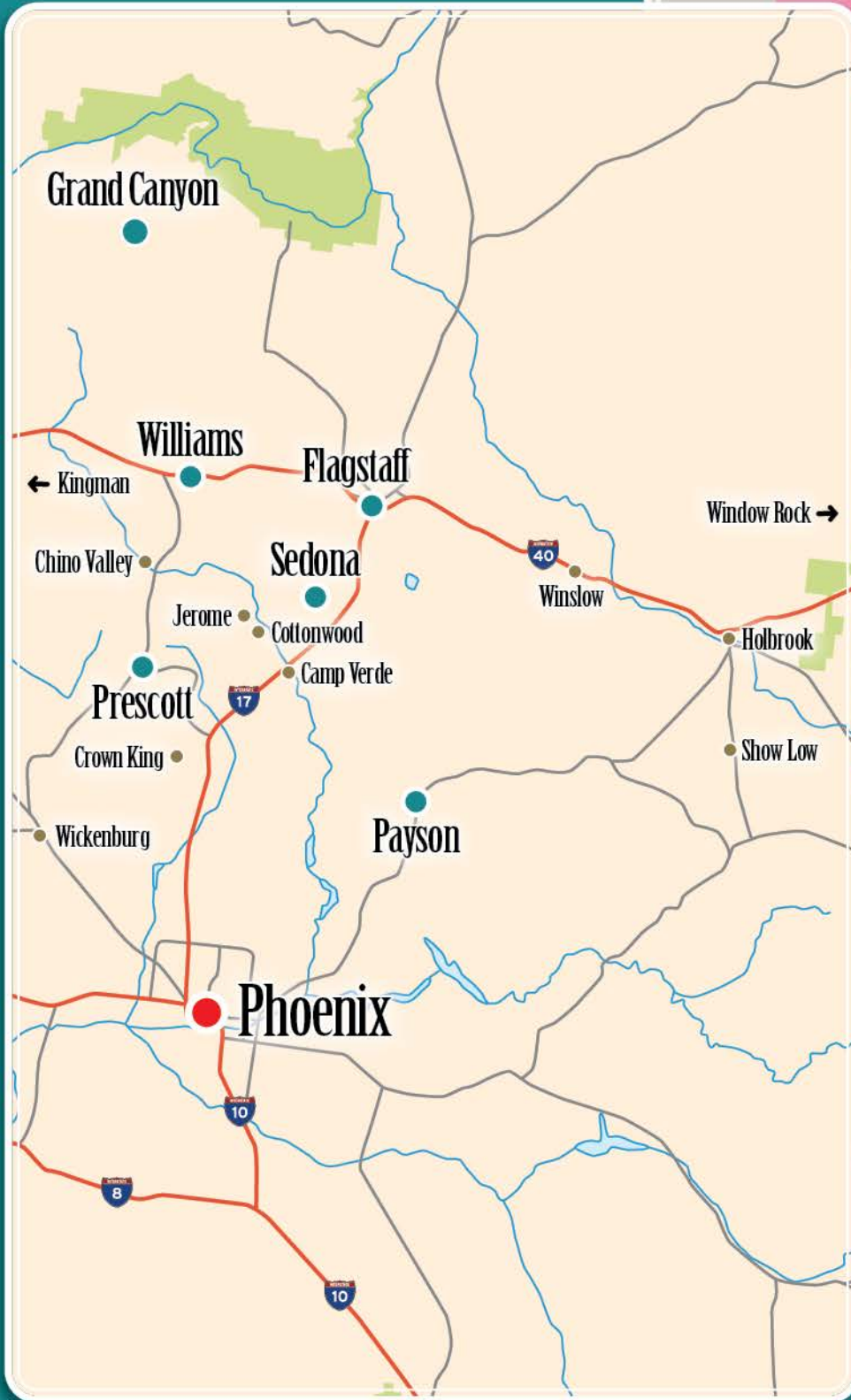
**Shopping**



**Dining**



# NORTHERN ARIZONA







# GREATER PHOENIX





# World Class SHOPPING

## ACROSS THE VALLEY

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#### 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](http://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](http://shopbiltmore.com)

#### SHOPS AT NORTERRA

I-17 & Happy Valley Rd.

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

[norterrashopping.com](http://norterrashopping.com)

#### DESERT RIDGE MARKETPLACE

Highway 101 & Scottsdale

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

[shopdesertridge.com](http://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](http://outletsanthem.com)

#### PV MALL – RE-IMAGINED

4568 E Cactus Rd  
(Cactus and Tatum Blvd)

PV Mall now offers a mix of retail & apartment living. Offering superb dining and shopping. Whole Foods, Costco, JC Penney, Flower Child, Federal Pizza, Blanco Cocina & Cantina, The Melt, Trevor's and so much more.

[theparadisevalleymall.com](http://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](http://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](http://theshopsgaineyvillage.com)





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

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Scottsdale Rd. & McDonald

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

[hiltonvillage.com](http://hiltonvillage.com)

## NORTH EAST VALLEY

### EL PEDREGAL MARKETPLACE

Scottsdale Rd. & CareFree Hwy.

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

[elpedregal.com](http://elpedregal.com)

### KIERLAND COMMONS

Scottsdale Rd. & Greenway

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

[kierlandcommons.com](http://kierlandcommons.com)

### SCOTTSDALE QUARTER

Scottsdale Rd. & Greenway

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

[scottsdalequarter.com](http://scottsdalequarter.com)

### DC RANCH MARKET

Thompson Peak Pkwy.  
& Pima Rd.

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

[beonmarketstreet.com](http://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](http://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](http://chandlerfashioncenter.com)

### PHOENIX PREMIUM OUTLETS

Premium Outlets Way, Chandler

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

[premiumoutlets.com](http://premiumoutlets.com)

### SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER

U.S. 60 & Power Rd., Mesa

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

[superstitionsprings.com](http://superstitionsprings.com)

### TEMPE MARKETPLACE

Loop 101 & 202

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

[tempemarketplace.com](http://tempemarketplace.com)

## WEST VALLEY

### ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTER

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

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

[arrowheadtownecenter.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://westgatecitycenter.com)





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### GREATER PHOENIX WINTER 2026 ISSUE



The Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park is Arizona's #1 ZOO with over 6,000 exotic animals on display. The ZOO is open 365 days of the year. It never closes.

Every day is a GREAT day at the Wildlife World Zoo. One big reason is that you, and the entire family can get up close and personal with all the animals, of which the park has over 600 separate species. Enjoy the petting zoo, giraffe feeding station and daily shows that share so much about the animals. The aquarium alone has over 80 exhibits. Enjoy the animals, exhibits, rides and restaurants that

make up this historic venue. Plan for a full day as the ZOO as it has so much to offer. For more information go to: [WildlifeWorld.com](http://WildlifeWorld.com)

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[www.skyharbor.com](http://www.skyharbor.com)

### PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

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### AVIS

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Local ..... 602-261-5900

### BUDGET

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

### DOLLAR

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

### ENTERPRISE

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

### FOX

Local ..... 310-342-5155

### HERTZ

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

### NATIONAL

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

### PAYLESS

Toll-Free ..... 1-800-729-5377  
Local ..... 602-681-9589

### SIXT

Toll-Free ..... 1-888-749-8227

### THRIFTY

Toll-Free ..... 1-800-847-4389  
Local ..... 602-244-0311

### VALLEY METRO RAIL + BUS SYSTEM

Local ..... 602-253-5000  
Website ..... [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org)

## LOST OR STOLEN CARDS

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

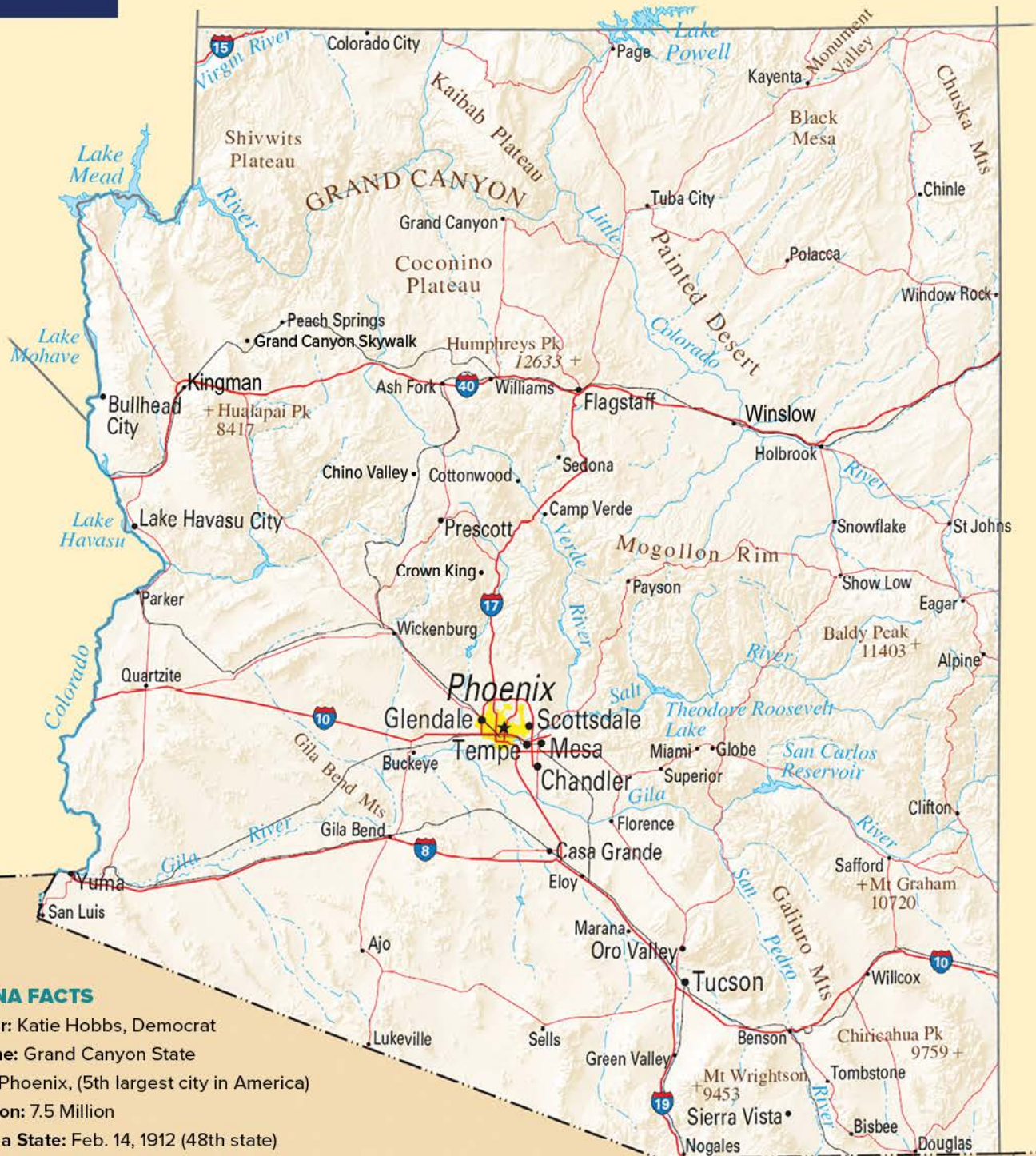
## ARIZONA TRAVEL INFORMATION

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





# ARIZONA STATE MAP



## ARIZONA FACTS

**Governor:** Katie Hobbs, Democrat

**Nickname:** Grand Canyon State

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

**Population:** 7.5 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	.....	1Foot
3 Feet	.....	1Yard
16.5 Feet	.....	1 Rod
40 Rods	.....	1Furlong
8 Furlongs	.....	1Mile
3 Land Miles	.....	1League

## 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

## 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

New Year's Day	.....	January 1
MLK's Birthday	.....	January 19
Groundhog Day	.....	February 2
Chinese New Year	.....	February 6
Valentine's Day	.....	February 14
Ash Wednesday	.....	February 18
Presidents' Day	.....	February 21
Daylights Savings Starts	.....	March 8
St. Patrick's Day	.....	March 17
Palm Sunday	.....	March 29
Passover	.....	April 2
Good Friday	.....	April 3
Easter Sunday	.....	April 5
Cinco de Mayo	.....	May 5
Mother's Day	.....	May 10
Victoria Day (Canada)	.....	May 19
Memorial Day	.....	May 25
D-Day	.....	June 6
Father's Day	.....	June 21
Juneteenth	.....	June 19
1st Day of Summer	.....	June 21
Canada Day	.....	July 1
U.S. Independence Day	.....	July 4
Labor Day	.....	September 5
Rosh Hashanah	.....	September 6
Yom Kippur	.....	September 20
1st Day of Autumn	.....	September 22
Canadian Thanksgiving	.....	October 12
Columbus Day	.....	October 12
Halloween	.....	October 31
Daylight Savings Ends	.....	November 1
U.S. Election Day	.....	November 4
Veteran's Day	.....	November 11
U.S. Thanksgiving	.....	November 26
Hanukkah	.....	November 28
Pearl Harbor Day	.....	December 7
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	—



# Valley Metro Rail® System Map







## 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 traveling 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.**

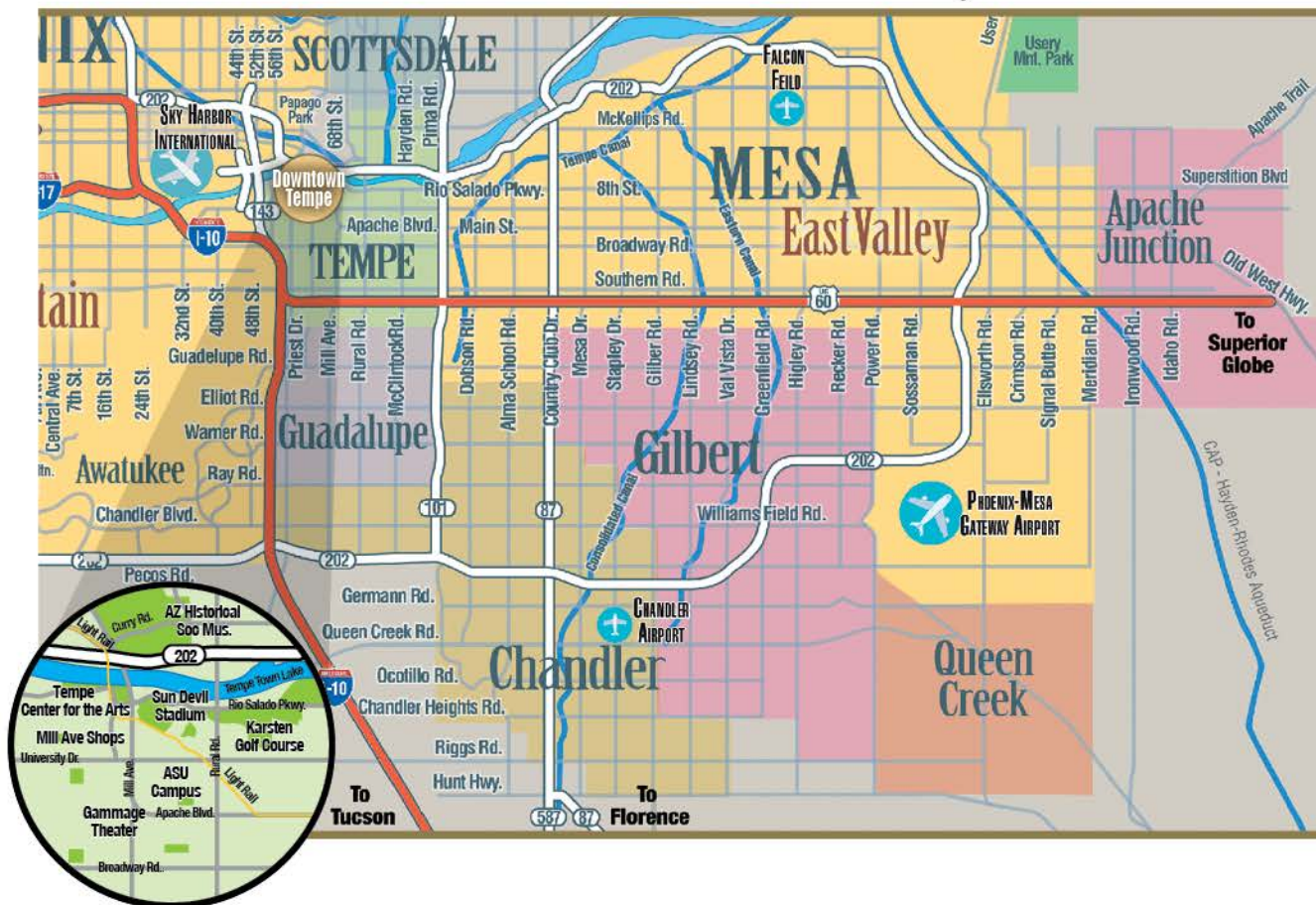
**William Thomas**

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](http://williamthomas.ca)





# 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.





**T**he 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.

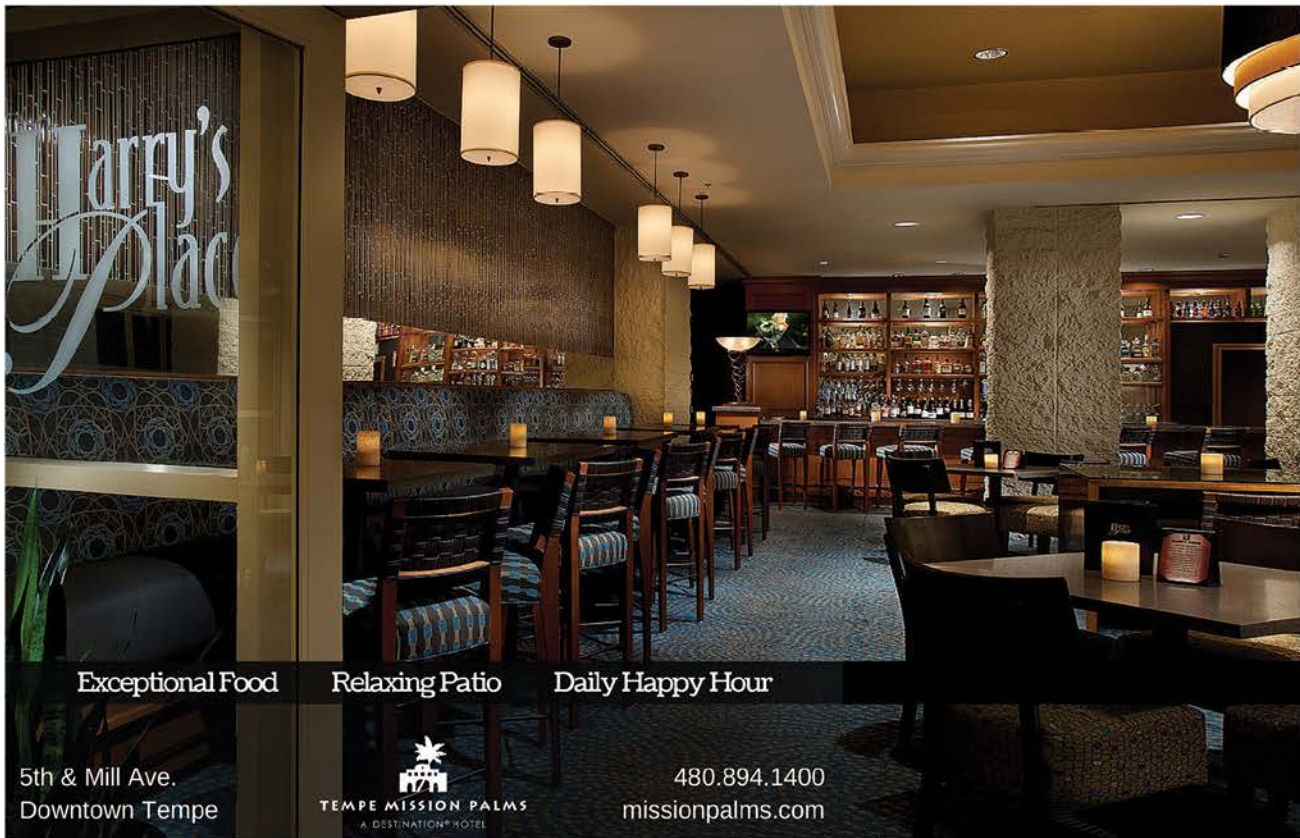
## The East Valley continues to experience explosive growth

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

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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](http://woundedwarriorproject.org) ★



# East Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



## Copper State Beer Festival January 17th

Enjoy premium beer, wine, spirits, food trucks, and live entertainment from local artists. It's time to get outside and have some fun! Cheers!  
[copperstatebeerfest.com](http://copperstatebeerfest.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](http://gilbertmarket.com)



## Truck-A-Palooza January 24th

Come learn about the dozens of vehicles — emergency vehicles, transport vehicles, tow trucks, public health and safety trucks, buses, and more!  
[gilbertaz.gov](http://gilbertaz.gov)



## SIX: The Musical March 17th – 22nd

A vibrant and empowering retelling of the lives of the six wives of Henry VIII, presented as a modern pop concert where each queen competes to tell her story.  
[asugammage.com](http://asugammage.com)



## The Book of Mormon January 6th – 11th

A hilarious and outrageous musical comedy that follows the misadventures of two mismatched Mormon missionaries.  
[asugammage.com](http://asugammage.com)



## 2ND Sundays on Mill January – April, 10 am – 3 pm

This outdoor market features live entertainment, snack vendors, pop-ups, and plenty of fun with homemade goods and gifts from local makers  
[downtowntempe.com/events](http://downtowntempe.com/events)



## Downtown Chandler Fine Art & Wine Festival

February 13th – 15th  
Featuring 125+ juried artists exhibits, live music and first-class wine tastings.  
[downtownchandler.org/events/fine-arts-and-wine-festival](http://downtownchandler.org/events/fine-arts-and-wine-festival)



## Mesa Farmers Market Saturdays, 8 am – 12 pm

Enjoy fresh, local produce and family-friendly activities while supporting new and existing small businesses.  
[mesafarmersmarketandflea.com](http://mesafarmersmarketandflea.com)



**Chandler Farmer's Market**  
**Saturdays, 9 am – 1 pm**  
Located in Dr. A.J. Chandler Park. Visit local vendors offering fresh produce, prepared food, beverages, and unique goods.  
[downtownchandler.org/farmersmarket](http://downtownchandler.org/farmersmarket)



**Arizona Aloha Festival**  
**March 21st – 22nd**  
This free event celebrates Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan and other South Pacific cultures through dance and musical performances.  
[azalohafest.org](http://azalohafest.org)



**Innings Festival**  
**February 27th – 28th**  
A can't-miss celebration for music lovers, culinary enthusiasts, and passionate baseball fans at Tempe Beach Park.  
[inningsfestival.com](http://inningsfestival.com)



**Tempe Festival of the Arts**  
**March 13th – 15th**  
Ranked among the Top 20 Art Festivals in the nation and has received the Pinnacle Award from the International Festival and Events Association.  
[tempefestivalofthearts.com](http://tempefestivalofthearts.com)





# 2026

## Spring Training Schedule

<b>SUNDAY FEB 22</b> Rockies @ Rangers – Surprise Dodgers @ Padres – Peoria Cubs @ Giants – Scottsdale Brewers* @ White Sox – Glendale Angels @ D-backs – Salt River Mariners @ Reds – Goodyear Guardians @ Athletics – Hohokam Royals @ Brewers* – Phoenix	<b>MONDAY FEB 23</b> D-backs @ Guardians – Goodyear Cubs @ Royals – Surprise Brewers @ Padres – Peoria Athletics @ Giants – Scottsdale Mariners @ Dodgers – Glendale Rangers @ Angels – Tempe White Sox @ Rockies – Salt River	<b>TUESDAY FEB 24</b> D-backs @ Rangers – Surprise Padres @ Cubs – Mesa Giants @ Angels* – Tempe Brewers @ Athletics – Hohokam Angels* @ Rockies – Salt River Guardians @ Dodgers – Glendale White Sox @ Mariners – Peoria Royals @ Reds – Goodyear	<b>WEDNESDAY FEB 25</b> Rockies @ Cubs – Mesa Dodgers @ D-backs – Salt River Giants @ Brewers – Phoenix Reds @ White Sox – Glendale Angels @ Padres – Peoria Mariners @ Royals – Surprise Rangers @ Guardians – Goodyear
<b>SUNDAY MAR 1</b> Rockies @ Guardians* – Goodyear Padres @ Giants – Scottsdale Reds @ Athletics – Hohokam Brewers @ Royals – Surprise Angels @ Dodgers – Glendale Rangers @ Mariners – Peoria Guardians* @ D-backs – Salt River White Sox @ Cubs – Mesa	<b>MONDAY MAR 2</b> Dodgers @ Rockies – Salt River Giants @ White Sox – Glendale Cubs @ Reds – Goodyear Athletics @ Padres – Peoria Guardians @ Rangers – Surprise Royals @ Angels – Tempe	<b>TUESDAY MAR 3</b> Dodgers @ Guardians – Goodyear Padres @ White Sox – Glendale Angels @ Mariners – Peoria	<b>WEDNESDAY MAR 4</b> D-backs @ Athletics – Hohokam Cubs @ Brewers – Phoenix Mariners @ Giants – Scottsdale
<b>SUNDAY MAR 8</b> D-backs @ Reds* – Goodyear Dodgers @ Athletics – Hohokam Giants @ Cubs – Mesa Reds* @ Padres – Peoria Angels @ Rangers – Surprise Angels @ Athletics – Hohokam Mariners @ Brewers – Phoenix Guardians @ Rockies – Salt River Royals @ White Sox – Glendale	<b>MONDAY MAR 9</b> Rockies @ White Sox – Glendale Dodgers @ Brewers – Phoenix Angels @ Giants – Scottsdale Athletics @ Reds – Goodyear Mariners @ D-backs – Salt River Rangers @ Padres – Peoria Guardians @ Royals – Surprise	<b>TUESDAY MAR 10</b> D-backs @ Dodgers – Glendale Padres @ Angels – Tempe Giants @ Guardians – Goodyear Cubs @ Rangers – Surprise Reds @ Rockies – Salt River White Sox @ Athletics – Hohokam Royals @ Mariners – Peoria	<b>WEDNESDAY MAR 11</b> Rockies @ Mariners – Peoria Giants @ Royals* – Surprise Brewers @ Reds – Goodyear Angels @ White Sox – Glendale Athletics @ D-backs – Salt River Royals* @ Cubs – Mesa
<b>SUNDAY MAR 15</b> Rockies @ Angels – Tempe Dodgers* @ Cubs – Mesa Padres @ D-backs – Salt River Reds @ Mariners – Peoria Brewers @ Giants – Scottsdale Athletics @ Guardians – Goodyear Rangers @ Dodgers* – Glendale White Sox @ Royals – Surprise	<b>MONDAY MAR 16</b> Giants @ Padres – Peoria Cubs @ Guardians – Goodyear Reds @ D-backs – Salt River Brewers @ Dodgers – Glendale Angels @ Athletics – Hohokam White Sox @ Rangers – Surprise	<b>TUESDAY MAR 17</b> Dodgers @ Royals – Surprise Padres @ Mariners* – Peoria Angels @ Cubs – Mesa Athletics @ White Sox – Glendale Mariners* @ Rockies – Salt River Guardians @ Reds – Goodyear	<b>WEDNESDAY MAR 18</b> Rockies @ Reds* – Goodyear Giants @ Dodgers – Glendale Cubs @ D-backs – Salt River Reds* @ Angels* – Tempe Brewers* @ Mariners – Peoria Angels* @ Brewers* – Phoenix Royals @ Rangers – Surprise
<b>SUNDAY MAR 22</b> D-backs @ Padres – Peoria Reds @ Guardians – Goodyear Brewers @ Cubs – Mesa Athletics @ Rockies – Salt River Mariners @ White Sox – Glendale	<b>MONDAY MAR 23</b> Mariners @ Padres – Peoria Guardians @ D-backs – Salt River Royals @ Rangers – Surprise NYY @ Cubs – Mesa DET @ Rockies – Salt River	<b>TUESDAY MAR 24</b> Guardians @ D-backs – Salt River Royals @ Rangers – Surprise NYY @ Cubs – Mesa DET @ Rockies – Salt River	

Dates, times and opponents are subject to change. All times are PM, MTS. \* Split Squad





THURSDAY	FEB 26	FRIDAY	FEB 20	SATURDAY	FEB 21
Rockies @ Giants - Scottsdale Padres @ Reds - Goodyear Cubs @ Angels - Tempe Brewers @ Rangers* - Surprise Rangers* @ Athletics - Hohokam Guardians @ Mariners - Peoria White Sox @ Dodgers - Glendale Royals @ D-backs - Salt River		D-backs @ Rockies - Salt River Padres @ Mariners - Peoria Royals @ Rangers - Surprise		Rockies @ D-backs - Salt River Dodgers @ Angels - Tempe Padres @ Royals - Surprise Giants @ Mariners - Peoria Reds @ Guardians* - Goodyear Athletics @ White Sox - Glendale Guardians* @ Brewers - Phoenix Rangers @ Cubs - Mesa	
THURSDAY	MAR 5	FRIDAY	MAR 27	SATURDAY	FEB 28
D-backs @ Cubs - Mesa Dodgers @ Reds - Goodyear Padres @ Mariners - Peoria Brewers @ Rockies - Salt River Athletics @ Angels - Tempe Rangers @ Royals - Surprise Guardians @ White Sox - Glendale		D-backs @ Mariners - Peoria Dodgers @ Giants - Scottsdale Padres @ Rockies - Salt River Angels @ Reds - Goodyear Athletics @ Royals - Surprise Rangers @ White Sox* - Glendale Guardians @ Cubs - Mesa White Sox* @ Brewers - Phoenix		D-backs @ Angels - Tempe Dodgers* @ Rangers - Surprise Giants @ Athletics - Hohokam Cubs @ Dodgers* - Glendale Reds @ Brewers - Phoenix Mariners @ Padres - Peoria White Sox @ Guardians - Goodyear Royals @ Rockies - Salt River	
THURSDAY	MAR 12	FRIDAY	MAR 6	SATURDAY	MAR 7
Rockies @ D-backs - Salt River Reds @ Dodgers - Glendale Brewers @ Guardians - Goodyear Athletics @ Rangers - Surprise Mariners @ Cubs - Mesa White Sox @ Giants - Scottsdale Royals @ Padres - Peoria		D-backs* @ Brewers - Phoenix Rockies @ Athletics - Hohokam Cubs @ Padres - Peoria Reds @ Giants - Scottsdale Angels @ Guardians - Goodyear Mariners @ Rangers - Surprise White Sox @ D-backs* - Salt River Royals @ Dodgers - Glendale		Rockies @ Dodgers - Glendale Padres @ Guardians - Goodyear Giants* @ D-backs - Salt River Reds @ Royals - Surprise Brewers @ Angels - Tempe Athletics @ Cubs - Mesa Rangers @ Giants* - Scottsdale White Sox @ Mariners - Peoria	
THURSDAY	MAR 19	FRIDAY	MAR 13	SATURDAY	MAR 14
D-backs @ White Sox* - Glendale Giants @ Rockies - Salt River Angels @ Royals* - Surprise Mariners @ Athletics - Hohokam Rangers @ Brewers - Phoenix White Sox* @ Padres - Peoria Royals* @ Guardians - Goodyear		D-backs @ Royals - Surprise Dodgers @ Mariners - Peoria Padres @ Athletics* - Hohokam Giants* @ Reds* - Goodyear Reds* @ Giants* - Scottsdale Cubs @ White Sox - Glendale Athletics* @ Brewers - Phoenix Rangers @ Rockies - Salt River Guardians @ Angels - Tempe		D-backs @ Giants - Scottsdale Rockies* @ Brewers - Phoenix Dodgers @ White Sox - Glendale Padres* @ Rangers* - Surprise Cubs @ Rockies* - Salt River Mariners @ Angels - Tempe Rangers* @ Reds - Goodyear Guardians @ Padres* - Peoria Royals @ Athletics - Hohokam	
THURSDAY	MAR 26	FRIDAY	MAR 20	SATURDAY	MAR 21
D-backs @ White Sox* - Glendale Giants @ Rockies - Salt River Angels @ Royals* - Surprise Mariners @ Athletics - Hohokam Rangers @ Brewers - Phoenix White Sox* @ Padres - Peoria Royals* @ Guardians - Goodyear		Rockies @ Padres* - Peoria Padres* @ Dodgers - Glendale Giants* @ Rangers - Surprise Cubs* @ Athletics - Hohokam Reds @ Cubs* - Mesa Brewers @ D-backs - Salt River Mariners @ Guardians - Goodyear White Sox @ Angels - Tempe Royals @ Giants* - Scottsdale		Rockies @ Royals - Surprise Padres @ Brewers - Phoenix Cubs @ Mariners - Peoria Athletics @ Dodgers - Glendale Rangers @ D-backs - Salt River Guardians @ Giants - Scottsdale White Sox @ Reds - Goodyear	



# Enjoy the Experience!

**GLENDALE**  
Camelback Ranch-Glendale  
10710 W Camelback Rd, Phoenix

**GOODYEAR**  
Goodyear Ballpark  
1933 S Ballpark Way, Goodyear

**MESA (ATHLETICS)**  
Hohokam Stadium  
1235 N Center St, Mesa

**MESA (CUBS)**  
Sloan Park  
2330 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Mesa

**SALT RIVER**  
Salt River Fields at Talking Stick  
7555 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale

**SCOTTSDALE**  
Scottsdale Stadium  
7408 E Osborn Rd, Scottsdale

**SURPRISE**  
Surprise Stadium  
15930 N Bullard Ave, Surprise

**TEMPE**  
Tempe Diablo Stadium  
2200 W Alameda Dr, Tempe

**PEORIA**  
Peoria Sports Complex  
16101 N 83rd Ave, Peoria

**PHOENIX**  
American Family Fields  
of Phoenix  
3805 N 53rd Ave, Phoenix

SCAN THE  
CODE FOR  
THE MOST  
UP-TO-DATE  
SCHEDULE





# 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 ... 2026 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 Mortgage Matchup 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.







**G**reater 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.

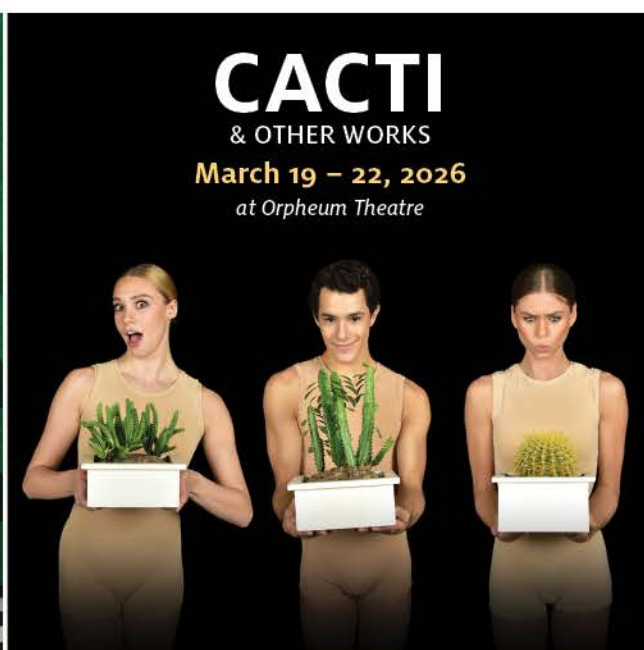
## A vibrant, cosmopolitan city that is exploding with activity

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





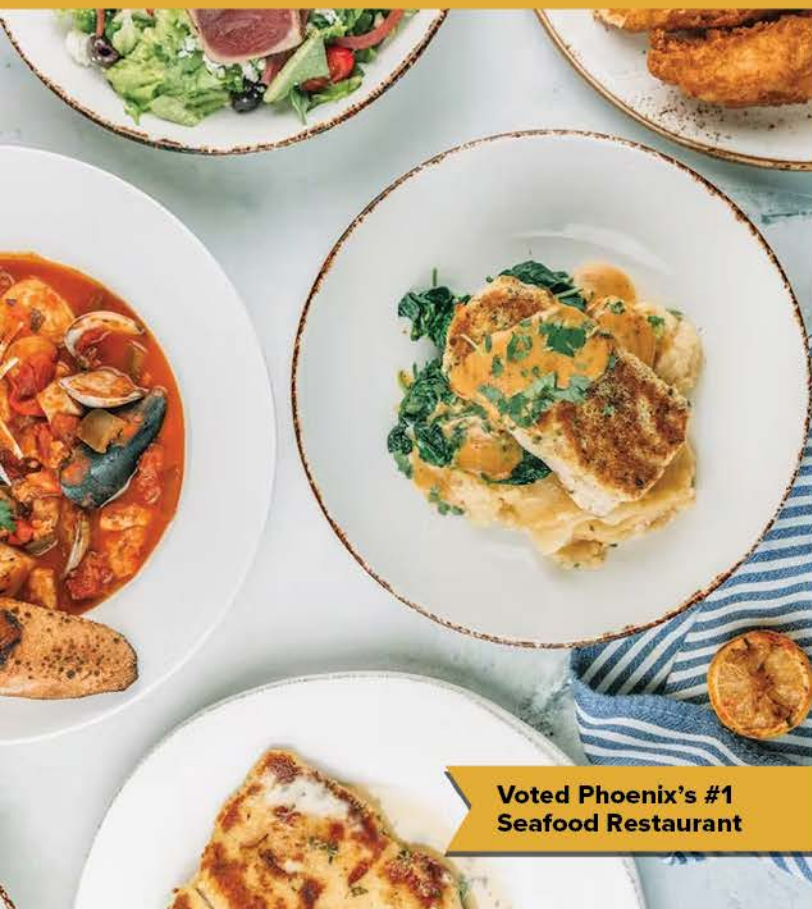
*Don't miss these two extraordinary ballets —  
performances guaranteed to entertain and inspire.*

Scan the QR code to get your tickets today!  
balletaz.org | 602.381.1096

**BALLET**  
ARIZONA



## SPOTLIGHTS



### 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](http://bluewatergrill.com)

### Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport

If you have travelled extensively then you will acknowledge what a World Class Airport Sky Harbor International Airport is for both domestic and international travelers. Today, Sky Harbor has expanded to cover over 3,000 acres, it is truly a beautiful, modern and expansive facility. Designed to be very traveler friendly, it provides a wide assortment of choices from retail shopping, museums, and galleries to upscale cuisine and fast food.

Phoenix's airport ranks as the three busiest airport in the United States with 25 domestic and international airlines servicing the airport.

Centrally located it is just 4 miles from downtown Phoenix and Tempe, 7 miles from Scottsdale, 14 miles from Glendale and 18 miles from Chandler. There are plenty of ways to get to and from the airport including public transportation, shuttle, ride-sharing services, black cars and limousines.

Navigating Phoenix Sky Harbor is easy since there are only two primary terminals: Terminal 3 and Terminal 4. The terminals are divided, but access between the two is available by the airports Sky Train system which is a free service to passengers. This transportation system runs 24/7 daily.





# Strengthening communities through charitable giving.

For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Community Foundation has supported nonprofits and students across our state by mobilizing the collective passion and generosity of thousands of Arizonans.

We are glad you feel inspired to give back to the organizations and institutions that work tirelessly to serve our communities. When you are ready to take the next step in your personal charitable giving journey, we are here to help you achieve your goals.

**Learn more | [azfoundation.org](https://azfoundation.org) | 602.381.1400**



ARIZONA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



# Phoenix LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



**Rock 'n' Roll Marathon**  
**January 17th – 18th**  
 Participants run to the beat as local bands and cheer teams add spirit and inspiration throughout this marathon and half marathon.  
[runrocknroll.com/arizona](http://runrocknroll.com/arizona)



**M3F**  
**March 6th – 7th**  
 The annual two-day indie rock bacchanal brings national acts, food vendors and a mini marketplace to Downtown Phoenix's Margaret T. Hance Park.  
[m3ffest.com](http://m3ffest.com)



**Doggie Street Festival**  
**January 31st**  
 Find music, free snacks, vet tips, pet products and more at this outdoor canine-friendly gathering. 10 am – 3 pm, Steele Indian School Park.  
[doggiestreetfestival.org](http://doggiestreetfestival.org)



**Melrose Street Fair**  
**February 28th**  
 Hailed for its vintage shops, the Melrose 'hood is also home to this bustling event featuring food trucks, live music and more than 200 local artisans.  
[melrosemerchantsassociation.com](http://melrosemerchantsassociation.com)



**DURAN DURAN**  
**January 5th**  
 This exclusive headline show will give fans a chance to experience the magic of Duran Duran live as they ring in 2026.  
[mortgagematchupcenter.com](http://mortgagematchupcenter.com)



**68th Annual Heard Museum Indian Fair and Market**  
**March 7th – 8th**  
 Over 650 talented Native artists, display their artworks in a lively community celebration – including baskets, quilts, jewelry, and more.  
[heard.org/indian-fair](http://heard.org/indian-fair)



**Arizona Strong Beer Festival**  
**February 14th**  
 This annual event, known for showcasing the boldest and most flavorful craft brews, is a must-attend for any beer lover.  
[chooseazbrews.com/arizona-strong-2025/](http://chooseazbrews.com/arizona-strong-2025/)



**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](http://downtownphoenixfarmersmarket.org)



**Devour Culinary Classic**  
**February 21st – 22nd**  
 An award-winning culinary festival features Arizona's best chefs, purveyors, and wineries providing a sensory desert experience of desert tastes, sights and feel.  
[devourphoenix.com](http://devourphoenix.com)



**100 Years of Thrills – Harlem Globetrotters**  
**February 28th**  
 A "once-in-a-century" event including iconic players and fan experiences like the Magic Pass and gravity-defying dunks.  
[mortgagematchupcenter.com](http://mortgagematchupcenter.com)



**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](http://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](http://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](http://the1227taproom.com)

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





# 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 *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](http://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](http://imtinc360.com)



**6910 East Main Street, Scottsdale | 480.945.4567 | [OldTownTortillaFactory.com](http://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](http://experiencescottsdale.com)



## A Taste of AZ Food & Drink January 31st

Award-winning restaurants, bars, and beverage producers from across Arizona come together to offer their finest creations.

[saltriverfields.com](http://saltriverfields.com)



## Old Town Scottsdale Farmers Market

### Saturdays

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

[arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com](http://arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com)

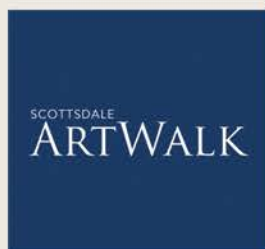


## Arizona Indian Festival

### January 31st – February 2nd

An inclusive inter-tribal event celebrating culture, traditional arts, crafts, and foods, as well as innovations and trends in cultural tourism experiences in Arizona.

[experiencescottsdale.com](http://experiencescottsdale.com)



## Scottsdale Artwalk

### Thursdays

Home to more than 100 galleries, the ArtWalk allows individuals to wander into galleries, and enjoy restaurants, and live music.

[scottsdalegalleries.com](http://scottsdalegalleries.com)



## Mercantile Market

### Select dates in January, February & March

200+ vendors, hands-on make-and-take experiences, live music, food, and free activities for kids. Scottsdale Civic Center.

[mercantilemarket.com](http://mercantilemarket.com)



## McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

Three rides, a museum and model railroad building take you back to the locomotive era, while two playgrounds keep the little ones busy.

[therailroadpark.com](http://therailroadpark.com)



## Rock of Ages

### February 13th

The driving, music force that rocked Broadway and millions of fans in the ground-breaking musical ROCK OF AGES ... now available in a thrilling concert!

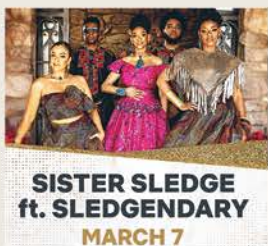
[talkingstickresort.com](http://talkingstickresort.com)



## 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](http://scottsdalemuseumwest.org)



## Sister Sledge

### March 7th

Experience an unforgettable night at Talking Stick Resort as Sister Sledge brings the iconic energy of "We Are Family".

[butterflywonderland.com](http://butterflywonderland.com)



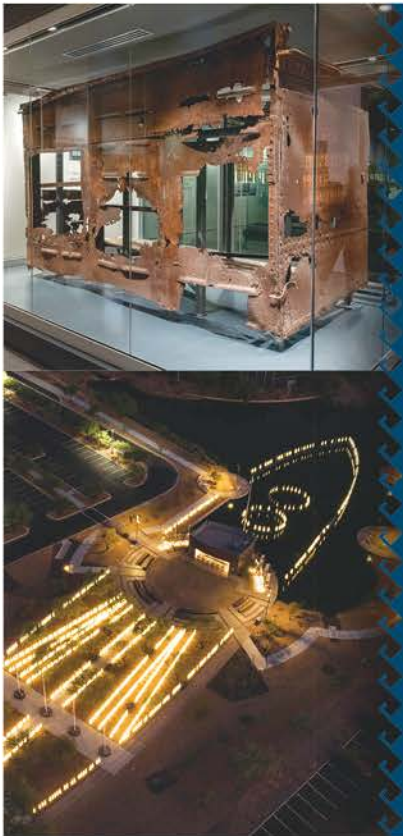
## Spring Training:

**Giants Spring Training**  
at Scottsdale Stadium

**Diamondbacks Spring Training**  
at Salt River Fields

**Rockies Spring Training**  
at Salt River Fields





## 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](http://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](http://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](http://smoca.org)



## Gold Palette Artwalk

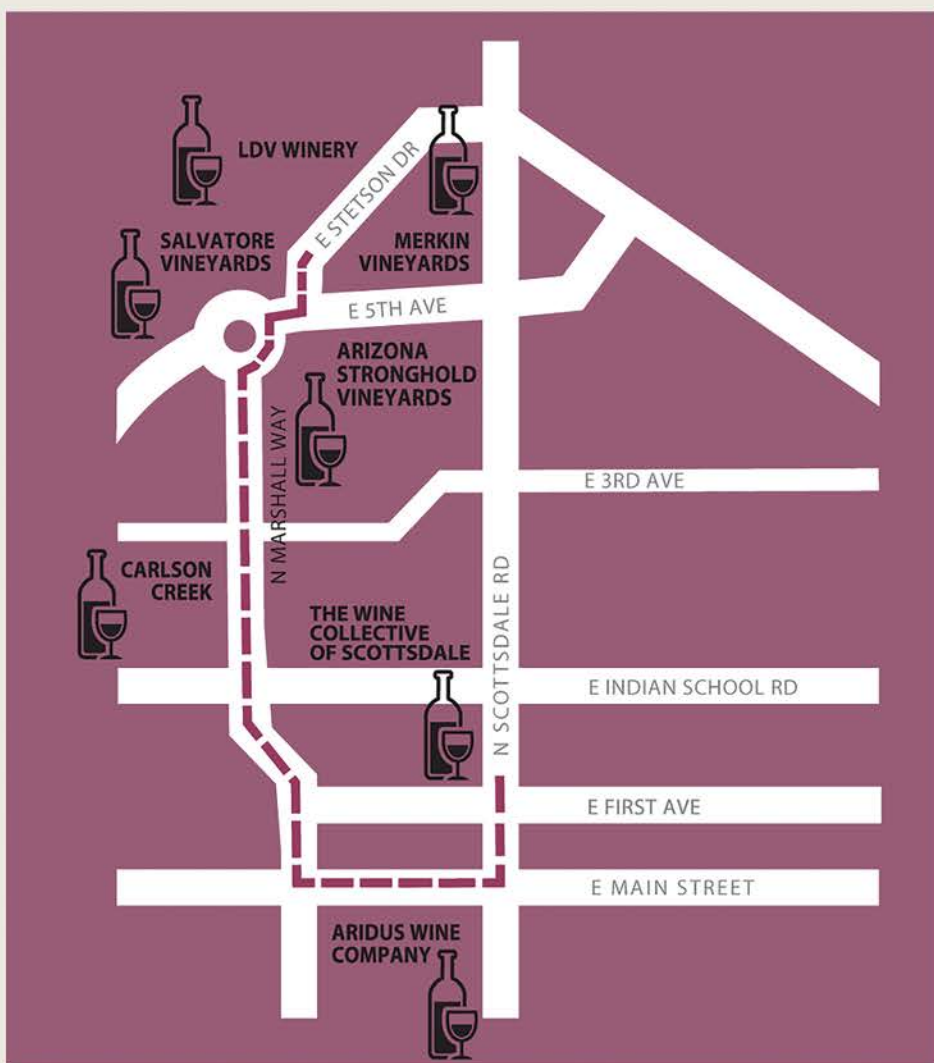
### Thursdays Evenings

Proceed at your own pace, stroll around a delightful area punctuated by dramatic statues, bubbly fountains and famed restaurants. [scottsdaleartdistrict.com/artwalk](http://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](http://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](http://scottsdalewinetrail.com)





# A RAPIDLY VANISHING GENERATION.

– By Gord Welburn & Leslie James

A generation that respected their parents and elders. A generation that was taught the right core values and principles. A generation that revolved around family, not likes, and clicks. A generation that communicated face to face, not behind cell phones, keyboards, and social media. A generation that got their “real news” from TV, radio, and newspapers. A generation that always ate dinner together as a family. A generation who was taught to be grateful for what they had and were given. A generation where men opened a door or push in a chair for a woman. A generation that said please and thank you and meant it! A generation that without the need to ask, would help someone in need. A generation that knew their neighbors next door and three streets over. A generation that went to school, took a walk, enjoyed a party, or went shopping without the fear of being shot. A generation happier, more fulfilled, and more secure in their own skin. A generation that never saw homelessness as we do today. A generation that respected authority, teachers, police, politicians, and

religious leaders. A generation that wasn't so judgmental, or at least we didn't see it. A generation that were brought up with a hard-work ethic. A generation that knew the value of a dollar. A generation of savers. A generation that accepted people for who they were. A generation who could argue a point and still walk away friends. A generation that lived through the “cold war,” knowing how close we all came. A generation who understood the ramifications of global aggression. A generation that respected the flag. A generation that walked or took a bus to and from school. A generation where everyone had a library card and used it. A generation that did their homework alone before they could watch TV or go outside and play. A generation that had fun playing hide and seek when it got dark. A generation that made mud cakes. A generation that collected sports cards, stamps, and coins. A generation that made paper toys with their bare hands. A generation that collected and returned empty pop bottles to the local grocery store for 5 cents each, then bought a Coke and candy bar with the money. A generation that did not survive on fast foods, but on mom's home cooking. A generation who bought vinyl albums and 45's to play on record players. A generation that grew up with a black & white

TV, and likely one for the whole house. A generation that grew up without cell phones, fax machines, social media, streaming or the internet. A generation that read the morning and evening editions of the local newspaper. A generation who collected photos and created photo albums of clippings of their life experiences. A generation that played board games and cards, did puzzles, or read a book on rainy days. A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the National Anthem, and displayed the indian head graphic until broadcasting resumed the next day. A generation whose parents were very involved in their daily life. A generation that will never forget the good old times, because they were ... the greatest of times.

**... A generation whose parents were very involved in our daily life. Parents who taught us on the need to Respect others. Who ingrained within us the values of Character, Honesty and Integrity, and that Caring and Compassion was not a weakness. Words that today, unfortunately, are only words. A generation that will never forget “the good old times,” because compared to today, they truly were “the greatest of times.”**





## 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.

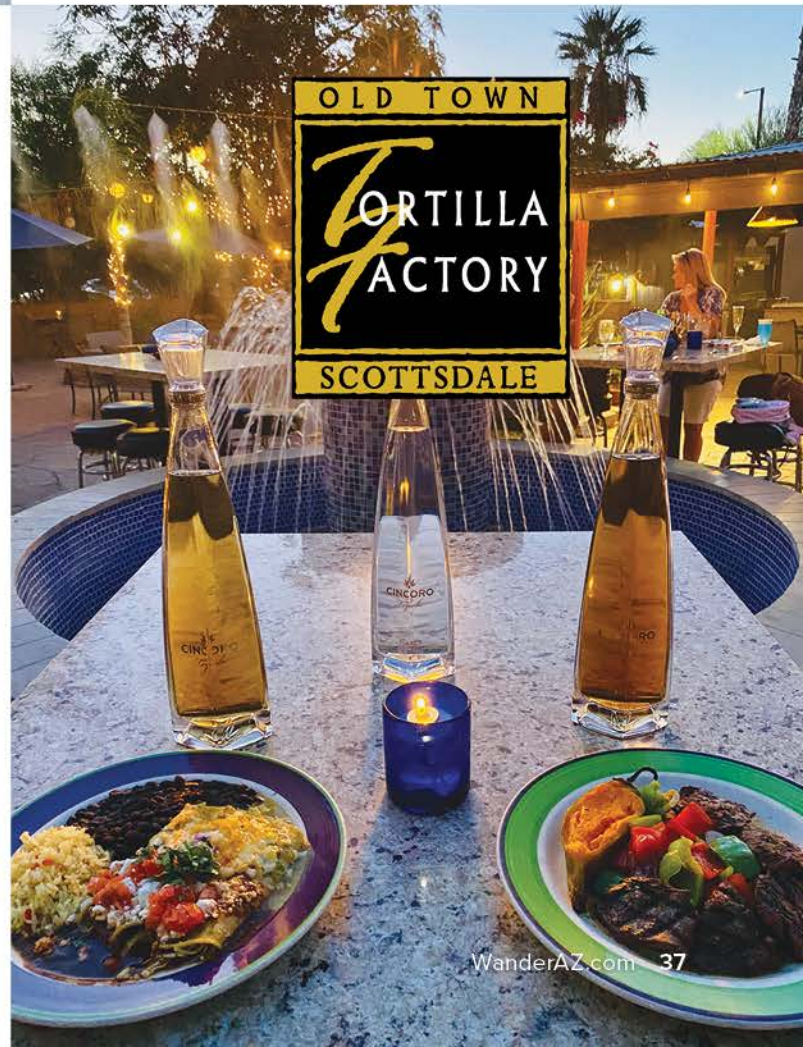
**NOW ...** Scottsdale, Arizona has come a long way since 1888. Scottsdale is annually rated among the nation's most desirable communities to live in, visit, and do business in. It is now counted among the 100 largest cities in America, but still retains its connection to its small-town, Western heritage.

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 factory's 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](http://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

**N**orth 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.

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

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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.



THE TPC AT SCOTTSDALE – STADIUM COURSE





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On Earth!**

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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.

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

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**Free Admission  
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**Show Times // Events Start Each Day @ 8AM**

One-Time Use for Day Sessions Only — Not Valid for Evening Sessions

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**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](http://scottsdalequarter.com)



## Farmer's Market on High Street

**Sundays, 10 am – 1 pm**  
A full block of more than 100+ vendors offering food and fun for all ages. [highstreetaz.com/farmers-market](http://highstreetaz.com/farmers-market)



## Outlets at Anthem

Just off I-17 at the very north edge of Phoenix, you'll find everything you expect from an outlet mall. Among the retail outlets: Gap, North Face, Vans, Michael Kors, BOSE, Calvin Klein. [outletsanthem.com](http://outletsanthem.com)



## Roadrunner Park Farmers Market

**Saturdays, 8 am – 1 pm**  
Local produce including fresh vegetables & fruit, baked goods, honey jams and jellies, natural meats, and hand crafted items. [arizonafarmersmarket.com](http://arizonafarmersmarket.com)



## Barrett Jackson Car Show

**January 17th – 25th**  
Held at the beautiful Westworld in Scottsdale. The event offers genuine automobilia items and hundreds of highly desirable collectible vehicles! [barrett-jackson.com](http://barrett-jackson.com)



## Waste Management Open

**February 2nd – 8th**  
"The Greatest Show on Grass," held at TPC Scottsdale is the best-attended golf tournament in the world with more than 700,000 fans in attendance. [wmphoenixopen.com](http://wmphoenixopen.com)



## Birds Nest at WM Open

**February 5th – 7th**  
It's four nights of live music during the WM Phoenix Open. Cap off a full day of golf with a full night of music. Headliners include: Jelly Roll and Luke Bryan. [coorslightbirdsnest.com](http://coorslightbirdsnest.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.



## Presby Pickins' Flea Market

**1st Saturday of the Month**  
Visit this monthly Flea Market to discover that special treasure, unique gift, or priceless collectible. 8 am – 3 pm at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church [fhpresbyterian.info/fleamarket](http://fhpresbyterian.info/fleamarket)



## 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](http://frontiertownaz.com)



## Carefree Art & Wine Festival

**March 27th – 29th**  
A diverse range of over 155 juried fine artisans showcasing their exceptional talent and creativity. [thunderbirdartists.com/carefree-arizona-fine-art-wine-festival-march](http://thunderbirdartists.com/carefree-arizona-fine-art-wine-festival-march)



## Stagecoach Village

Stunning mountain views and a unique collection of shops, restaurants and professional services await you. [stagecoachvillagecc.com](http://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



# GLOBALLY, WE KEEP DROPPING...

**Today, a U.S. Passport is no longer as valuable at it use to be!**

Being able to travel with virtually no restrictions is one of the most recognizable factors that a strong passport provides. In 2025 we continue to see an ever changing dynamic for global mobility. Based on current information, the passports of these ten nations allow their citizens the widest access to visa-free destinations, which provides these countries with their world ranking as 2025's most powerful passports.

In 2025, the U.S. Passport has fallen to historic lows following an updated global ranking of the world's most powerful passports, falling below the TOP 10 for the first time! A recent report found that Singapore, South Korea, and Japan lead global mobility as the U.S. slips down the list to 12th.

The U.S. Passport came 12th place with Americans granted visa-free access to 180 out of 227 total destinations around the world.

This drop can be explained on a number of fronts. Many believe it is a direct result of the current climate in Washington and its changing politics on the world stage, coupled with the dynamic U.S. global shift coming out of the White House. A shift that centers on tariffs that are impacting trade, tightened restrictions on immigration coupled with the current visa policies from the Republican administration. Earlier this year the U.S. ranked ninth but over the months, has continued to fall lower.

Today, only travelers from 46 other countries can enter the United States without a visa. In comparison, the most valuable passport in the world is now Singapore, offering visa-free access to 193 different destinations. Ranked second was South Korea with visa-free access to 190 destinations, with Japan coming in third with visa-free access to 189 destinations.

According to the U.S. State Department, when traveling outside the U.S., many countries require American passports to be valid for at least six months beyond the dates of a trip. Many airlines will not allow travelers to fly with them if passports do not meet this standard requirement.

The remaining TOP 10 passports from 4 - 10 are" Italy, Finland, France, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and at number 10 is Luxembourg.

— By Jonathan Funk





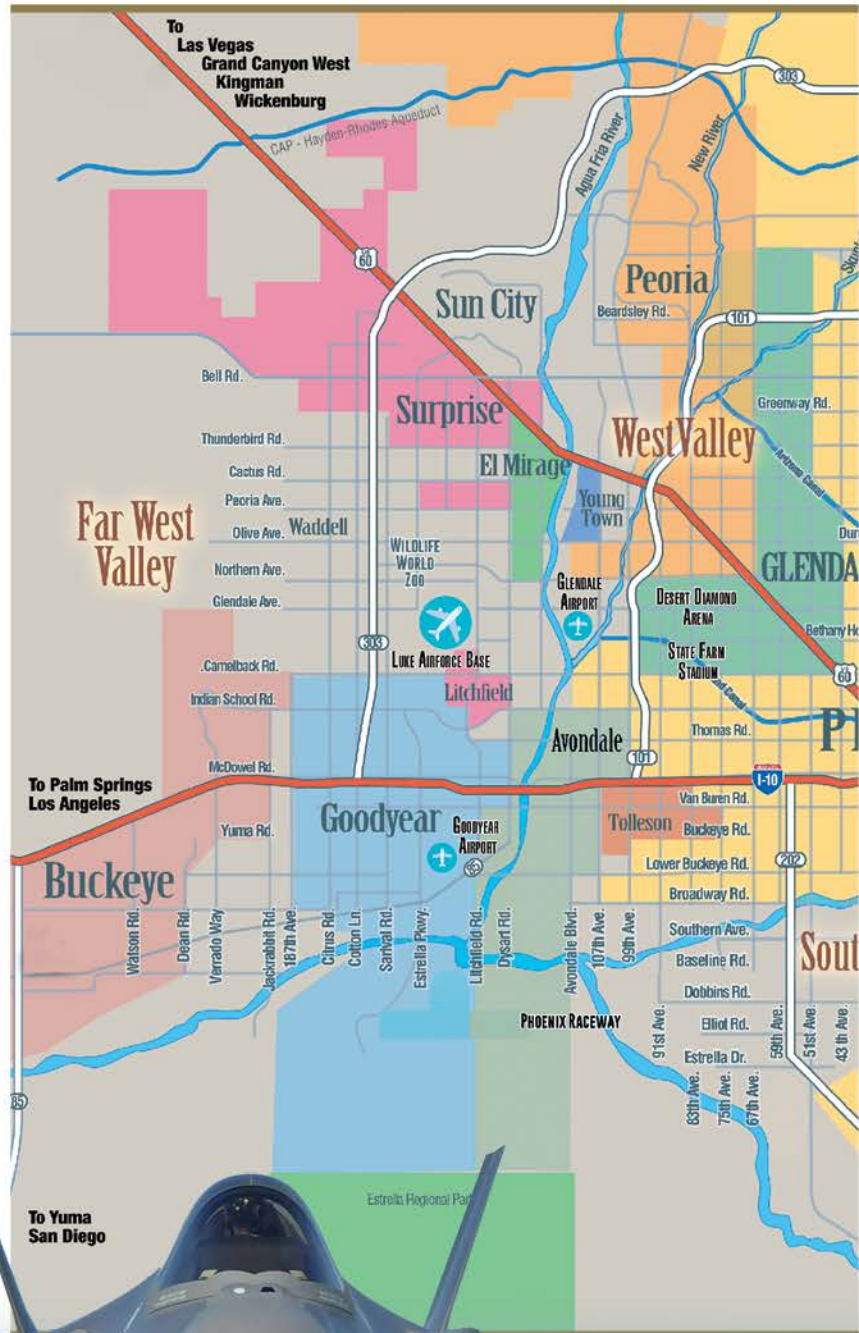
# DESTINATION *West Valley*

## WEST PHOENIX

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

## SPORTS & ATTRACTIONS

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



LUKE AIR FORCE BASE





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

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

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

## A major entertainment and resort district with a historic downtown

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



ARIZONA CARDINALS • STATE FARM STADIUM



# Explore a World of Wildlife!



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

**Open 365 days a year!**

Northern Ave. and SR 303

623-935-9453 (WILD)

WildlifeWorld.com

**Wildlife World**  
Zoo Aquarium & Safari Park

**Wildlife World**  
Zoo Aquarium & Safari Park



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# West Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



## Cerreta Candy Company

A family-owned business founded over 50 years ago. Four generations of the candy business now oversee production of delightful chocolates and candy products. [cerreta.com](http://cerreta.com)



## Folk & Heritage Festival

**February 28th**

This FREE event features hundreds of performers, workshops, vendors, activities, and food trucks! 10 am – 5 pm each day. [glendaleaz.com](http://glendaleaz.com)



## Glendale Chocolate Affaire

**February**

A unique two-day exhibition of chocolatiers, food demonstrations, live music and family-friendly interactive experiences! [thechocolateaffaire.com](http://thechocolateaffaire.com)



## Old Town Peoria

An up-and-coming destination for locals and visitors alike! Explore Peoria's historic Old Town neighborhood between Peoria Avenue to Madison St. and 83rd to 84th ave. [visitpeoria.com](http://visitpeoria.com)



## Food Truck Friday West

**Friday Evenings, 5 – 9 pm**

Awesome local food trucks rotate weekly. Free admission, dog friendly, and bounce houses for the kids! [getlocalarizonaevents.com/foodtruckfridaywest](http://getlocalarizonaevents.com/foodtruckfridaywest)



## Downtown Glendale Arts and Culture Fest

**January 31st**

Featuring over 100 artists, musicians, and interactive arts experiences in the heart of downtown Glendale. [glendaleaz.com](http://glendaleaz.com)



## Glendale Farmer's Market at Cabela's

**Sundays, 10 am – 2 pm**

Experience grab and go shopping at the Glendale Farmer's Market located conveniently outside Cabela's. [visitglendaleaz.com](http://visitglendaleaz.com)



## Pretty Woman, The Musical

**March 13th – April 19th**

A spirited Hollywood escort takes center stage in this glamorous musical journey of unexpected love, high-society sparkle, and the power to rewrite your own fairy tale. [azbroadway.org](http://azbroadway.org)



## Westgate Entertainment District

One of the largest and most exciting mixed-use, urban developments in North America. [westgateaz.com](http://westgateaz.com)



## Lady Gaga

**February 14th – 15th**

Lady Gaga is performing two shows in the Phoenix area as part of her "The MAYHEM Ball" tour this February. [desertdiamondarena.com](http://desertdiamondarena.com)



## Historic Downtown Glendale

Named one of the country's ten best places for shopping Downtown Glendale is actually two neighborhoods – Historic Catlin Court with its white picket fences and mature shade trees welcoming visitors to the bungalows-turned-specialty shops and Old Towne boasting brick-trimmed sidewalks and glowing gaslights leading the way to the famous antique stores and ethnic eateries. [visitdowntownglendale.com](http://visitdowntownglendale.com)



# 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!





## 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](http://wildlifeworld.com).







## DESTINATION *Sports*

**T**he 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](http://dbacks.com) | [MLB.com](http://MLB.com)

##### National Basketball Association

[suns.com](http://suns.com) | [NBA.com](http://NBA.com)

##### National Football League

[azcardinals.com](http://azcardinals.com) | [NFL.com](http://NFL.com)

##### Women's National Basketball Association

[mercury.wnba.com](http://mercury.wnba.com) | [WNBA.com](http://WNBA.com)

##### United Soccer League

[phxrisingfc.com](http://phxrisingfc.com) | [USLchampionship.com](http://USLchampionship.com)

##### Indoor Football League

[azrattlers.com](http://azrattlers.com) | [www.golFL.com](http://www.golFL.com)

##### National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing

[phoenixraceway.com](http://phoenixraceway.com) | [nascar.com](http://nascar.com)



# DESTINATION *College Sports*

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## Arizona State University | [asu.edu](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

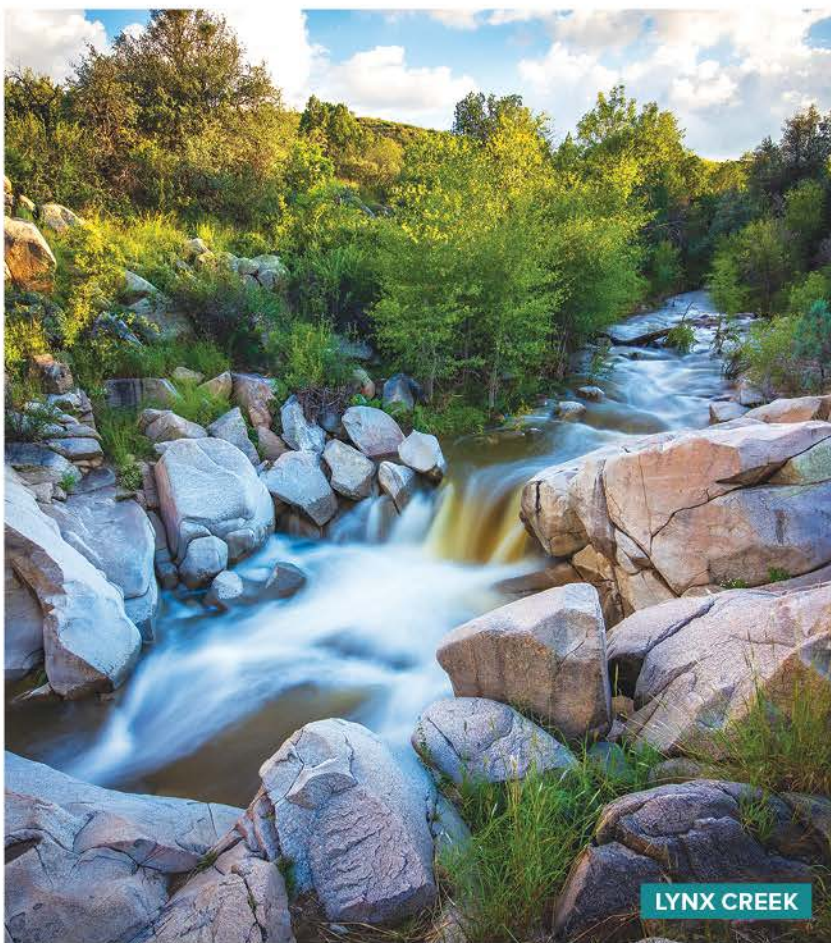
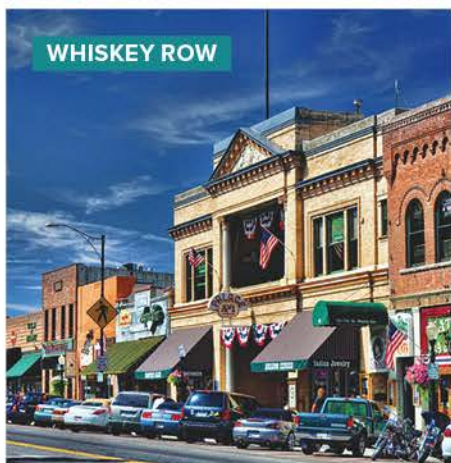
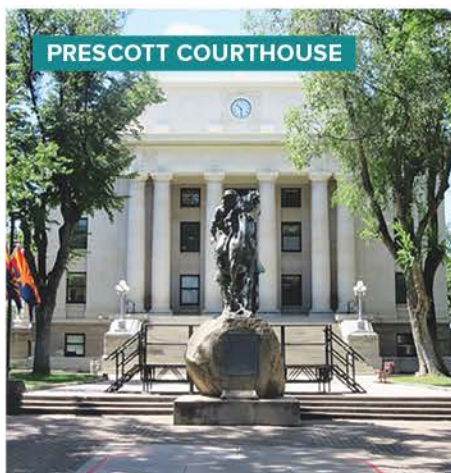
**P**rescott is a popular destination where residents and visitors meld together to enjoy northern Arizona's culture, history and an assortment of outdoor events and activities. Just a short drive (less than two hours) from Phoenix, Prescott hosts many festivals and fairs throughout the year. The jewel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







# Wine in Arizona

## ARE YOU CRAZY?

— By Leslie James

**W**ho 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.



## 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.

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.







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Tripadvisor

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## 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

**T**he 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](http://visitsedona.com)**

CATHEDRAL ROCK





# Sedona LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



## 1st Fridays at the Galleries

Enjoy a special evening of openings, special guests, artist receptions and celebrations from 5 – 8 pm. The Sedona Trolley, does continuous loops to the Gallery Row & Uptown locations. [sedonagalleryassociation.com](http://sedonagalleryassociation.com)



## RunSedona

**February 7th**

The 21st annual 5K/10K and Half Marathon. The courses take participants through scenic Red Rocks, known for magical iron-clad formations. [runsedona.com](http://runsedona.com)



## Sedona International Film Festival

**February 21st – March 1st**

The 32nd annual Sedona International Film Festival featuring over 150 films across various genres, including feature films, shorts, documentaries and animation. [sedonafilmfestival.com](http://sedonafilmfestival.com)



## Sedona Community Farmers Market

**Sundays, 11 am – 3 pm**

Enjoy local and regional delights from farmers. Breads, fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs and much more! Located at 2201 W State Route 89A in West Sedona [sedona-farmers-market.com](http://sedona-farmers-market.com)



## Oak Creek Arts and Crafts Show

**Multiple Dates**

Shopping is at its finest with paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry and Native American art. There are food booths and live entertainment too. [oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com](http://oakcreekartsandcraftsshow.com)



## Red Rock Quilter's Quilt Show

**January 5th – February 28th**

The 31st Annual show will showcase the most beautiful collection of hand-created quilts in the Verde Valley. Location: The Community Library of Sedona



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## 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

**W**illiams 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,

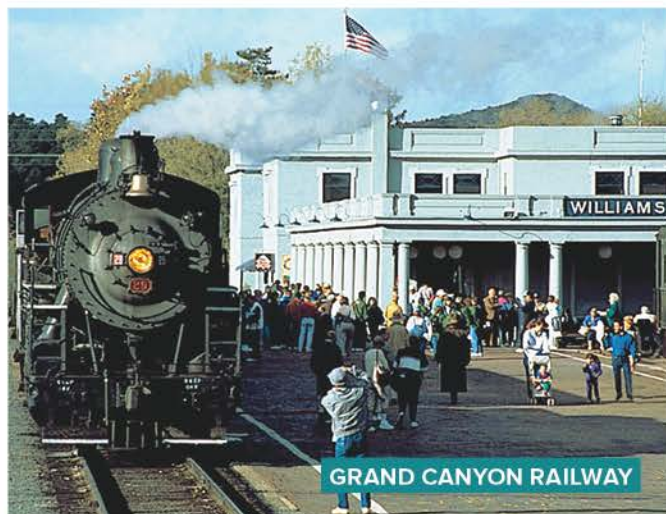
antique stores, gift shops, fine & casual dining, a great local brewery and numerous hotels.

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](http://experiencewilliams.com)**



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.







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

[experiencewilliams.com](http://experiencewilliams.com)



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# Reflect on the Following!

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**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?



# Williams LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



## Grand Canyon Sky Walk

A premier experience. The glass floor of the Skywalk juts out over the cliffside 4,000 feet above the canyon floor at Eagle Point – extending 70 feet out from the rim of the canyon. [canyonskywalk.com](http://canyonskywalk.com)



## Shopping on Route 66

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



## Bearizona

A drive through Wildlife Park nestled amongst the pristine Ponderosa Pine forests of Northern Arizona. Offering visitors an exciting way to enjoy wildlife in a natural environment. [bearizona.com](http://bearizona.com)



## Snow Tubing at Canyon Coaster Adventure Park

November through April visitors to Williams can experience the joy of tubing down snow-covered slopes at Canyon Coaster Adventure Park. [canyoncoasteradventurepark.com](http://canyoncoasteradventurepark.com)



## Steam Saturdays – Grand Canyon Railway

On the first Saturday of every month from March through September, take a steam-powered train ride to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. [thetrain.com](http://thetrain.com)



## Wild West Junction

The Old West comes to life at the Wild West Junction, with special events, great food, and good, wholesome, old-time fun for young and old alike. [wildwestjunction.com](http://wildwestjunction.com)

## NORTHERN ARIZONA ATTRACTIONS

### The Arboretum at Flagstaff

4001 S. Woody Mountain Rd., Flagstaff, AZ  
928-774-1442 | [thearb.org](http://thearb.org)

### Arizona Snowbowl

9300 N. Snowbowl Rd., Flagstaff, AZ  
928-779-1951 | [arizonasnowbowl.com](http://arizonasnowbowl.com)

### Bearizona

1500 Historic Route 66, Williams, AZ  
5 minutes South of Williams  
928-635-2289 | [bearizona.com](http://bearizona.com)

### Canyon Coaster Adventure Park

700 East Route 66, Williams, AZ  
[canyoncoasteradventurepark.com](http://canyoncoasteradventurepark.com)

### Grand Canyon Deer Farm

6769 E. Deer Farm Rd., Williams, AZ  
30 minutes West of Flagstaff  
928-635-4073 | [deerfarm.com](http://deerfarm.com)

### Grand Canyon National Park

81 miles North of Flagstaff  
Take Hwy 180 & 64  
928-638-7888 | [nps.gov/grca](http://nps.gov/grca)

### Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel

233 N. Grand Canyon Blvd., Williams, AZ  
928-773-1976 | [thetrain.com](http://thetrain.com)

### Grand Canyon West

Skywalk, Rafting, Hualapai Lodge  
928-769-2636 | [grandcanyonwest.com](http://grandcanyonwest.com)

### Hoover Dam

Highway 93, Hoover Dam  
Boulder City, NV 89005  
[usbr.gov/lc/hoverdam](http://usbr.gov/lc/hoverdam)

### Lowell Observatory

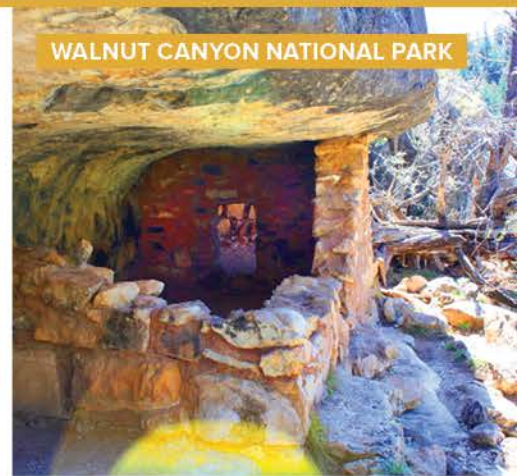
1400 W. Mars Hill Rd., Flagstaff, AZ  
928-233-3212 | [lowell.edu](http://lowell.edu)

### Planes of Fame Air Museum

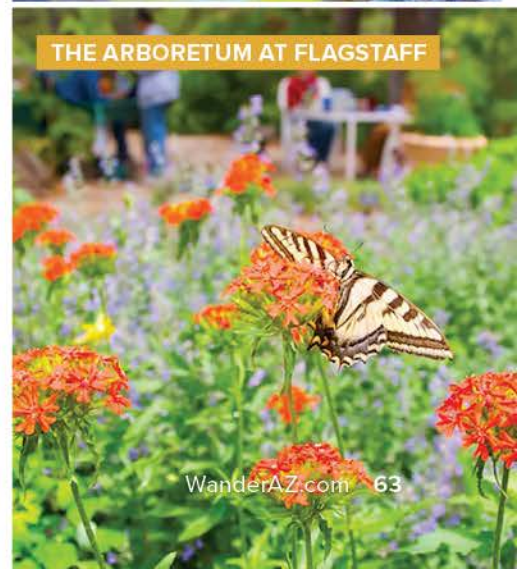
755 Mustang Way, Williams-Valle, AZ  
928-635-1000 | [planesoffame.org](http://planesoffame.org)

### Walnut Canyon National Monument

From I-40, take Exit 204, turn south.  
928-526-3367 | [nps.gov/waca](http://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.

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

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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](http://FlagstaffArizona.org) | [explore.kingman.com](http://explore.kingman.com) | [winslowaz.gov](http://winslowaz.gov).**



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---

*Canada and New Zealand are among the 10 Best countries for a comfortable retirement.*

**Once again, in another international survey ranking, the U.S. didn't even make the cut.**

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**A** 2024 U.S. News and World Report ranked the 10 best countries for a comfortable retirement based on an international survey of nearly 17,000 people and a subset of 5,900 respondents in their mid-40's and older.

**THE 89 COUNTRIES WERE RANKED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING ATTRIBUTES:**

1. Affordable
2. Favorable tax environment
3. Friendly
4. A place I would live
5. Pleasant climate
6. Respect property rights
7. Well-developed public health system.

While Florida and Delaware often rank highly as some of the best states to retire, in other surveys conducted by services like Bankrate, the United States didn't place at all in this top 10. The U.S. ranked at No. 30, coming in after countries like Mexico, Malaysia and Dominican Republic.

# THE 10 BEST COUNTRIES

## *for a Comfortable Retirement*

No. 1 .....	Switzerland
No. 2 .....	New Zealand
No. 3 .....	Portugal
No. 4 .....	Australia
No. 5 .....	Spain
No. 6 .....	Canada
No. 7 .....	Denmark
No. 8 .....	Netherlands
No. 9 .....	Sweden
No. 10 .....	Luxembourg







## **SWITZERLAND** remains the best country for a comfortable retirement.

For the second year in a row, Switzerland is the best country for a comfortable retirement. It came in second place for being business-friendly and third for quality of life.

Switzerland's biggest draw for retirees is its healthcare system and low taxes, however the country is also among the most expensive countries for retirement. The cost of living in Switzerland is roughly 60.5% higher than the United States with rent averaging, 18.2% higher, according to Numbeo.

The European country offers a type D visa for long-term residency and a single retiree will need upwards of \$3,500 a month to live comfortably. In the larger cities, a retired couple can expect to pay \$4,000 a month for rent, utilities, food and healthcare, according to Smartasset.

The landlocked country is about the size of New Jersey, but Switzerland is one of the world's wealthiest countries. Switzerland doesn't have an official language, but most people speak Swiss, German, French and Italian.

Switzerland has continued to remain neutral in conflicts around the world and is not a member of the European Union.



## **NEW ZEALAND** is the No. 2 best country to retire comfortably, up two spots from last year.

The country has a temporary retirement visitor visa for those 66 and older.

To take advantage of this two-year visa, participants need to have \$750,000 NZD or \$460,299 USD to invest in New Zealand. In addition, visa holders must have an additional

NZD \$500,000 or \$306,866 to live on and an annual income of NZD \$60,000 or \$36,824.

New Zealand's retirement visa doesn't allow one to work in the country, but there is an option for applicants interested in finding a job. The Parent Resident Retirement visa has different financial requirements, however, the biggest difference is applicants must be able to prove they have an adult child who is a New Zealand citizen or resident.

On average, New Zealand's cost of living is 5.5% lower than in the United States, while rent is 36.2% lower, according to Numbeo.

Because taxes pay for public health care, residents of New Zealand receive subsidized or free healthcare, Smartasset reports.

New Zealand is known for its natural beauty and diverse landscapes. The country was a major backdrop for "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" movie trilogies among many other major movies.

Fans of the Tolkien series of books and Peter Jackson's iconic films can travel to the Hobbiton movie set in Matamata, which is about two hours south of the city of Auckland.



## **CANADA** our great neighbors to the north ranked 6th.

Canada governs as a social democratic country. It takes up two-fifths of the North American continent, and is the second-largest country in the world after Russia. Most of its 41 million residents live within 125 miles of the U.S. border. Canada has a global reputation for welcoming immigrants.

Canada is a high-tech industrial society with a high standard of living. Trade agreements between the two countries now make the two countries each other's largest trading partner. The service sector is Canada's biggest economic driver, with the country being a significant exporter of energy, food and minerals. Canada ranks third in the world in proven oil reserves and is the world's fourth-largest oil producer.

Canada is not only seen as a beautiful country, but an affordable place to live. It offers many social programs including a national healthcare system. The capital, Ottawa, is located in the province of Ontario.



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# Flagstaff LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



## Annual Flagstaff BrewHaHa January 17th

Flagstaff's Premier Winter tasting event featuring over 75 different craft brews, hard seltzers, spirits, cocktails, wines, meads and more!  
[flagstaffbrewhaha.com](http://flagstaffbrewhaha.com)



## Flagstaff Chocolate Walk February

A one-day chocolate tasting adventure where repeated decadence meets unlimited smiles while exploring downtown businesses in a unique and flavorful way.  
Location: Flagstaff Visitor Center



## Dining & Nightlife

Peruse the list of more than 85 restaurant and bars and you'll understand why Downtown Flagstaff chefs are earning the title "Masters of the Mountain."  
[downtownflagstaff.org/shop-and-dine](http://downtownflagstaff.org/shop-and-dine)



## 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](http://lowell.edu)



## Olive the Best

Proud to share the gift of high-quality olive oils and vinegars as part of the Flagstaff community. Sourced from around the globe and from the freshest sources possible.  
[olivethebest.com](http://olivethebest.com)



## Flagstaff Festivals

Music, authentic crafts, friends, family, and community. Choose from dozens of vastly different festivals in epic outdoor settings second to none.  
[flagstaffarizona.org/events/festivals](http://flagstaffarizona.org/events/festivals)



## Arizona Snowbowl

In just a 25-minute ride north of Flagstaff, you can reach the best ski destination of the Southwest. It's famous for excellent skiing and snowboarding conditions.  
[snowbowl.ski](http://snowbowl.ski)



## 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](http://artwalkflg.org)



## Arizona Beer Week

**Dates TBD**  
Celebrating craft beer throughout the entire state of Arizona. Events from Northern Arizona to Southern Arizona.  
[chooseazbrews.com/Arizona-beer-week](http://chooseazbrews.com/Arizona-beer-week)



## Flagstaff Brewery Trail

The Flagstaff Brewery Trail is your passport to enjoying Arizona high country's finest hand-crafted beers at local breweries and brew partners.  
[craftbeerflg.com](http://craftbeerflg.com)



**Orpheum Flagstaff** Northern Arizona's premier entertainment venue. Hosting all genres of concerts, and a variety of events including:

**February 22nd** The Kitchen Dwellers

**March 15th** The California Honeydrops

For other event listings visit [orpheumflagstaff.com](http://orpheumflagstaff.com)





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\*By U.S. News & World Report 2023



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## Explore the Universe at the Lowell Observatory

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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](http://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](http://blackbartssteakhouse.com) Open daily from 5-9 pm.





# Tragedy Over the Grand Canyon

— By Leslie James

Unfortunately, it so often takes a major tragedy before local politicians or bureaucrats in Washington DC take on key issues that impact the American way of life. And this is exactly what transpired from the 1956 airline disaster that took place over the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona.

Saturday, June 30th was a bright sunny morning at Los Angeles International Airport where two transcontinental airliners were awaiting their final clearance to commence their outbound flights. On runway 25 was Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight #2 that was scheduled to depart LAX at 9:01 am. At the helm was Captain Jack Gandy with 70 crew and passengers onboard. On an adjacent runway 25-L, sat United Airlines Flight #718 with Captain Robert Shirley and 58 crew and passengers, a flight that had been delayed, and was scheduled for take-off at 9:04 am.

Both flights left as scheduled, just a few minutes apart, with TWA headed to Kansas City and United Airlines to Baltimore/Washington in DC. But as fate typically plays out, it was not long after take-off before the clock quietly started ticking for both flights. It would not be long before everything would dramatically change for the worse. Shortly after take-off TWA flight #2 encountered heavy turbulence. At that time TWA's Captain Gandy made a request of the LAX tower to change altitude. His request was denied. Captain Gandy then asked the control tower if he could climb by a 1,000 feet to rise above the bad weather. Air traffic control approved the Captains request, and subsequently informed him that another flight, United Airlines #718 would also be in his vicinity. With this approval for TWA to seek a higher altitude, both aircraft were now flying

at the same attitude of 21,000 feet. And with that, the clock ticked louder for these two flights.

The last communications transmitted by either cockpit, was recorded at 9:59 am. After many attempts, and with no further communications being received by either flight, the Air Route Traffic Control Center at LAX issued a missing alert for both airliners. It took very little time to solve that mystery. Once the missing report was issued, a smaller aircraft which had earlier flown over the Grand Canyon, reported that he had witnessed smoke rising from the Canyon's floor near the Colorado River.

At 10:30 am, the clock stopped ticking forever, when both aircraft collided in mid-air over Arizona's Grand Canyon. There were no survivors from the 128 passengers and crew on board both planes. A better tell that later shed light on exactly what happened, centered on the fact that no alerts or warnings from either flight came before the collision. The collision just happened! What was identified weeks after the actual disaster, was a mumbled recording from the cockpit of the United Airlines flight that simply said; "we are going in."

It was acknowledged that both airlines were off their normal flight course and were likely offering passengers a closer look at the famed Grand Canyon. It was also determined by the investigating panel that both pilots were completely



TWA Lockheed L-1649 Constellation



United Douglas DC-7

Photos: NAU Cline Library, Mike McComb Collection

unaware of the others position, and without any warning or any time to react, they collided in mid-air.

The collision was catastrophic. Wreckage was strewn over a very large and rugged area at the bottom of the Canyon walls adjacent to the Colorado River. So horrific was the final impact, that many of the victim remains have never been recovered. At that time in 1956, this air disaster was America's most deadly plane crash, with the highest loss of life, and remains to this very day, one of the worst air disasters in American aviation history. It was this air tragedy that in 1958 ultimately triggered the United States Congress to pass the Federal Aviation Act which today is now known as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Some believe that the passengers and crew from both of these doomed flights are still talking to us. Today, some 57 years later, those who fly over the Grand Canyon on a sunny day, can still see the reflection from the scattered parts of the 1956 wreckage "glaring in the sun," from the bottom of the famed Grand Canyon.

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**The unidentified remains of 29 of the United victims are interred at the Grand Canyon Cemetery in the Grand Canyon National Park.**



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