

WANDERAZ

GREATER PHOENIX EDITION SPRING 26

MEET JELLYBEAN

Born late January to parents Tootsie Roll and Lollipop, Jellybean was just 11 lbs. at birth. Now about 40 lbs. Jellybean is expected to weigh 350-600 lbs. as a full-grown adult. Pygmy hippos are endangered, with fewer than 2,500 believed to remain in the wild.

Home to 6,000 animals and 600 different species. Enjoy the largest collection of endangered and exotic animals at the Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium, Arizona's # 1 ZOO. Open every day, year-round.



Arizona's
PREMIER

TRAVEL+LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE MOTHER ROAD **1926**

AZMOTHERROAD.COM **ARIZONA 2026**



Welcome

TO OUR GREAT STATE OF ARIZONA



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

It is interesting to note that 50% of all annual travelers are visiting Arizona for the first time, and 70% of adult residents were born somewhere else. These indicators point to the high quality of Arizona life and are two major reasons why so many people want to live here and visit with us. The State of Arizona remains a top 10 travel destination. Arizona's southwestern flare and year-round climate, which offers more than 320 days of sunshine, are key 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

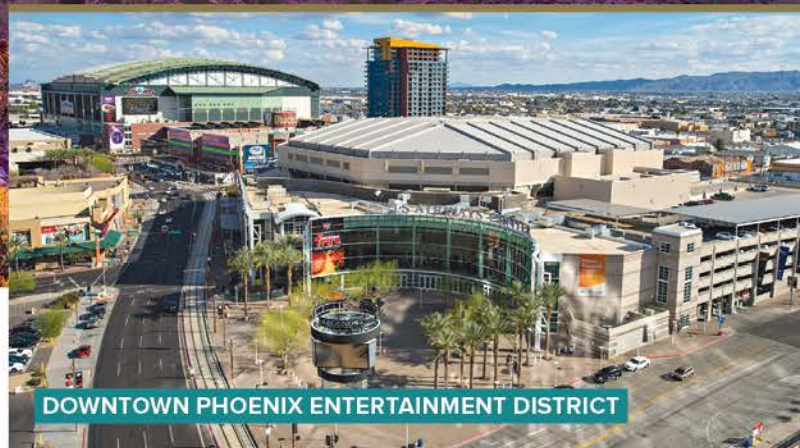
The 48th State

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

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

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

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



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.

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.

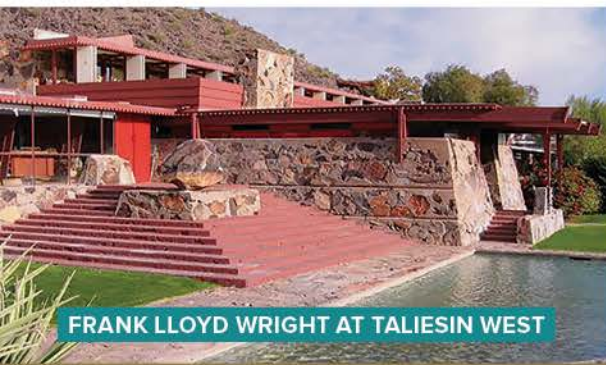
Arizona remains a highly popular travel destination for 10's of millions of annual visitors from all over the world. What's the draw, you might ask? Arizona offers roughly 330 days of sunshine per year, outdoor recreational opportunities including world-class golfing, luxurious resorts and hotels, exceptional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

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

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

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

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

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

The South Rim Historic Village, located at the northern terminus of the Grand Canyon Railway, features many buildings from the early 1900s. El Tovar Hotel, known as one of the most elaborate hotels west of the Mississippi when it opened in 1905, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987. Other buildings of note such as Hopi House (which also opened in 1905), Lookout Studio, and Bright Angel Lodge were designed by famed architect Mary Jane Colter and are located within walking distance. The South Rim with its average elevation of 6900' is open year-round, whereas the North Rim is open only from mid-May to mid-October due to its higher elevation of 8100' and its corresponding heavier snowfall.

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

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

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL SWAINE



Activities



Destinations



Events



VISITOR INFORMATION

GREATER PHOENIX MAP ♦ VALLEY WIDE SHOPPING ♦ TRAVELER INFORMATION

WANDERAZ.COM



Nightlife

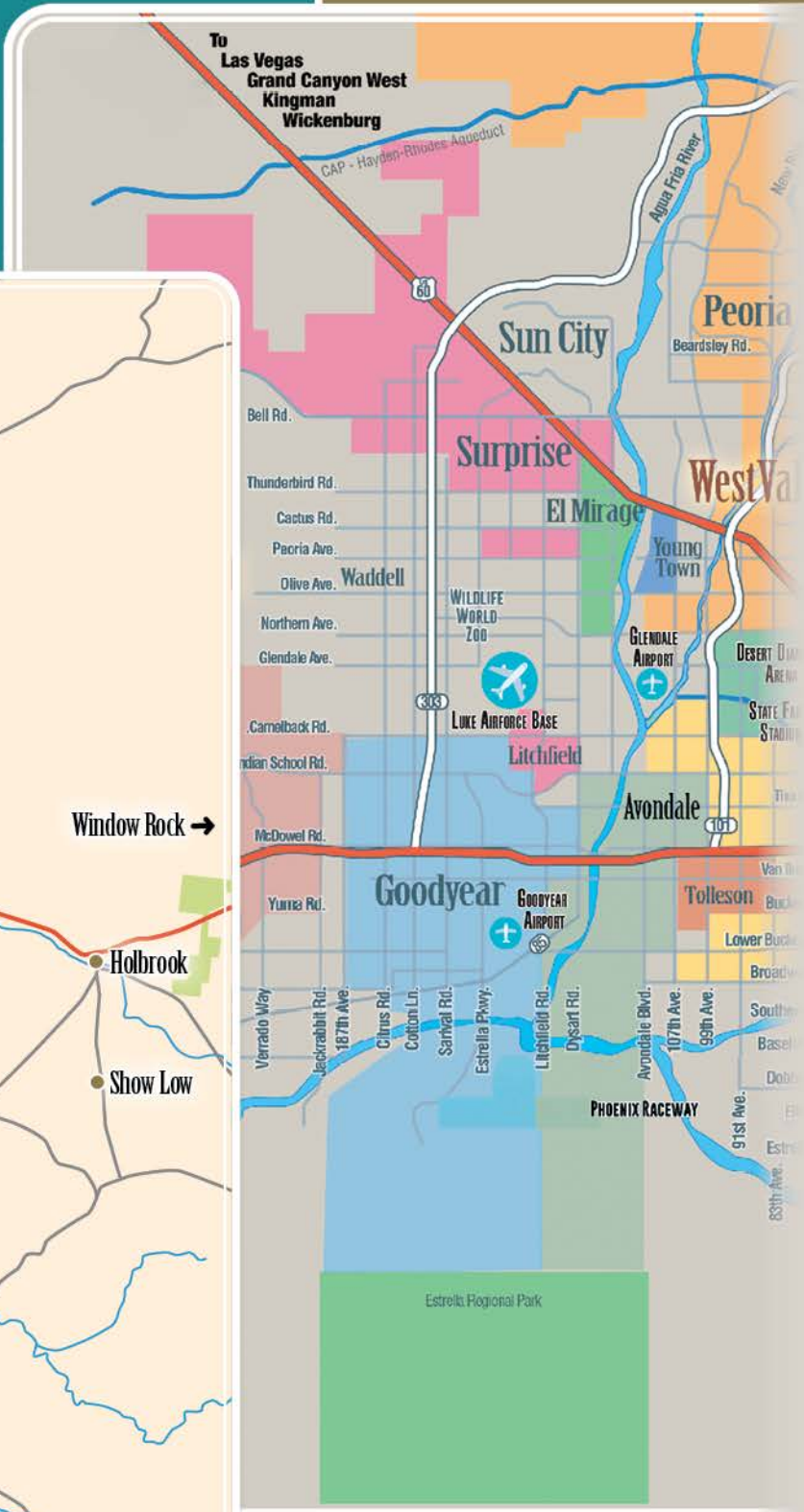
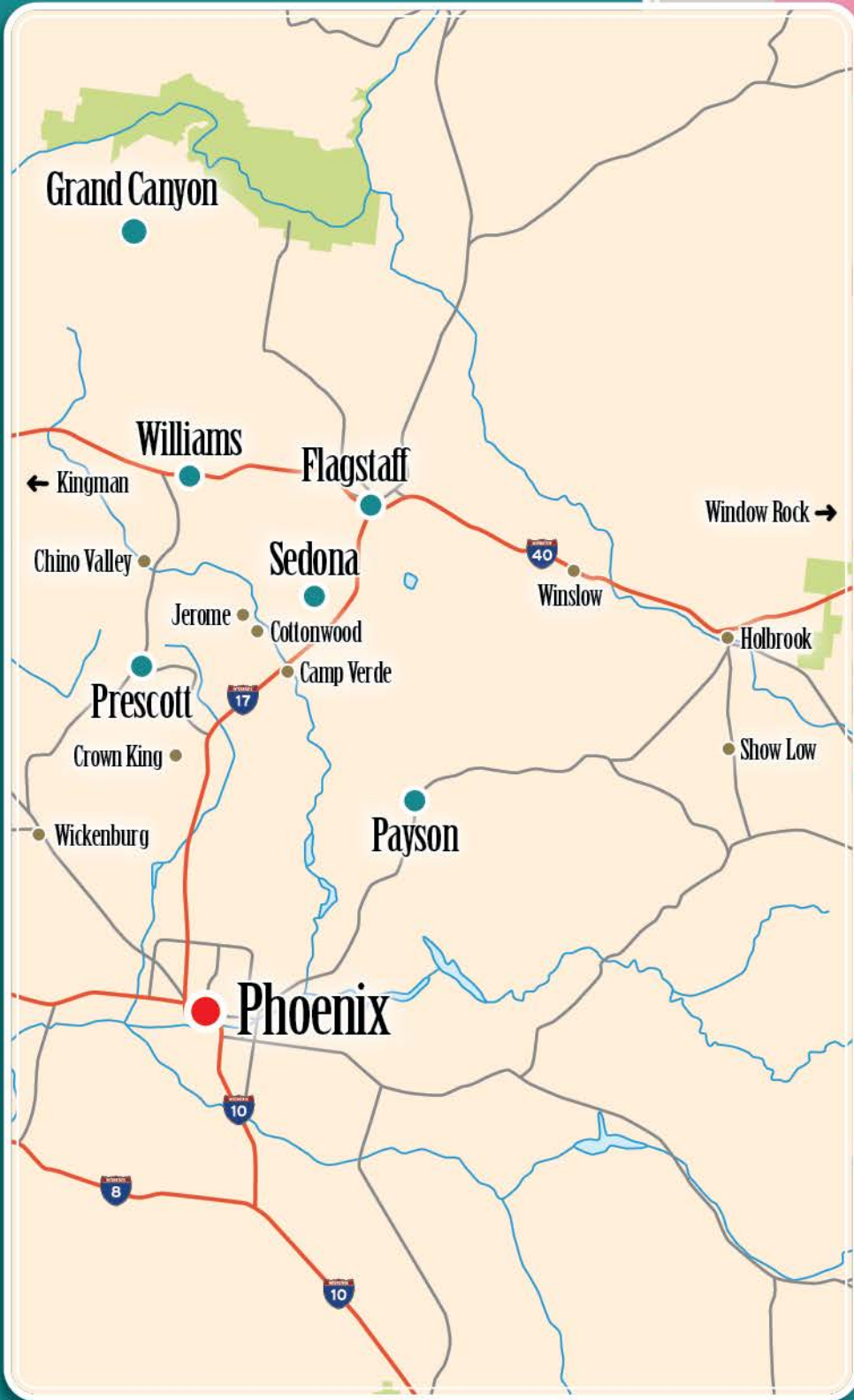


Shopping



Dining

NORTHERN ARIZONA





GREATER PHOENIX



World Class SHOPPING

ACROSS THE VALLEY

PHOENIX

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5000 Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe

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simon.com/arizona-mills

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SHOPS AT NORTERRA

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norterrashopping.com

DESERT RIDGE MARKETPLACE

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I-17 & Anthem Way

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theparadisevalleymall.com

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

fashionsquare.com

THE SHOPS AT GAINEY VILLAGE

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

theshopsgaineyvillage.com



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hiltonvillage.com

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beonmarketstreet.com

EAST VALLEY

SAN TAN VILLAGE MALL

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shopsantantovillage.com

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chandlerfashioncenter.com

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Premium Outlets Way, Chandler

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

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SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER

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superstitionsprings.com

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tempemarketplace.com

WEST VALLEY

ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTER

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arrowheadtownecenter.com

PARK WEST

Loop 101 & Northern Ave., Peoria

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shopparkwest.com

TANGER OUTLETS

Loop 101 & Glendale Ave., Glendale

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

tangeroutlets.com/glendale

WESTGATE CITY CENTER

Loop 101 & Glendale Ave., Glendale

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

westgatecitycenter.com



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GREATER PHOENIX SPRING 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

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Arizona Lodging & Tourism Assoc



Arizona Restaurant Association



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National Concierge Association

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 Baggage 602-286-3215
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 Airport Lost & Found 602-273-3333
www.skyharbor.com

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

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

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 Local 602-244-0897

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 Local 602-261-5900

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 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

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 Local 602-267-8822

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 Local 602-275-4771

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 Local 602-681-9589

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Toll-Free 1-888-749-8227

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 Local 602-244-0311

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 Website www.valleymetro.org

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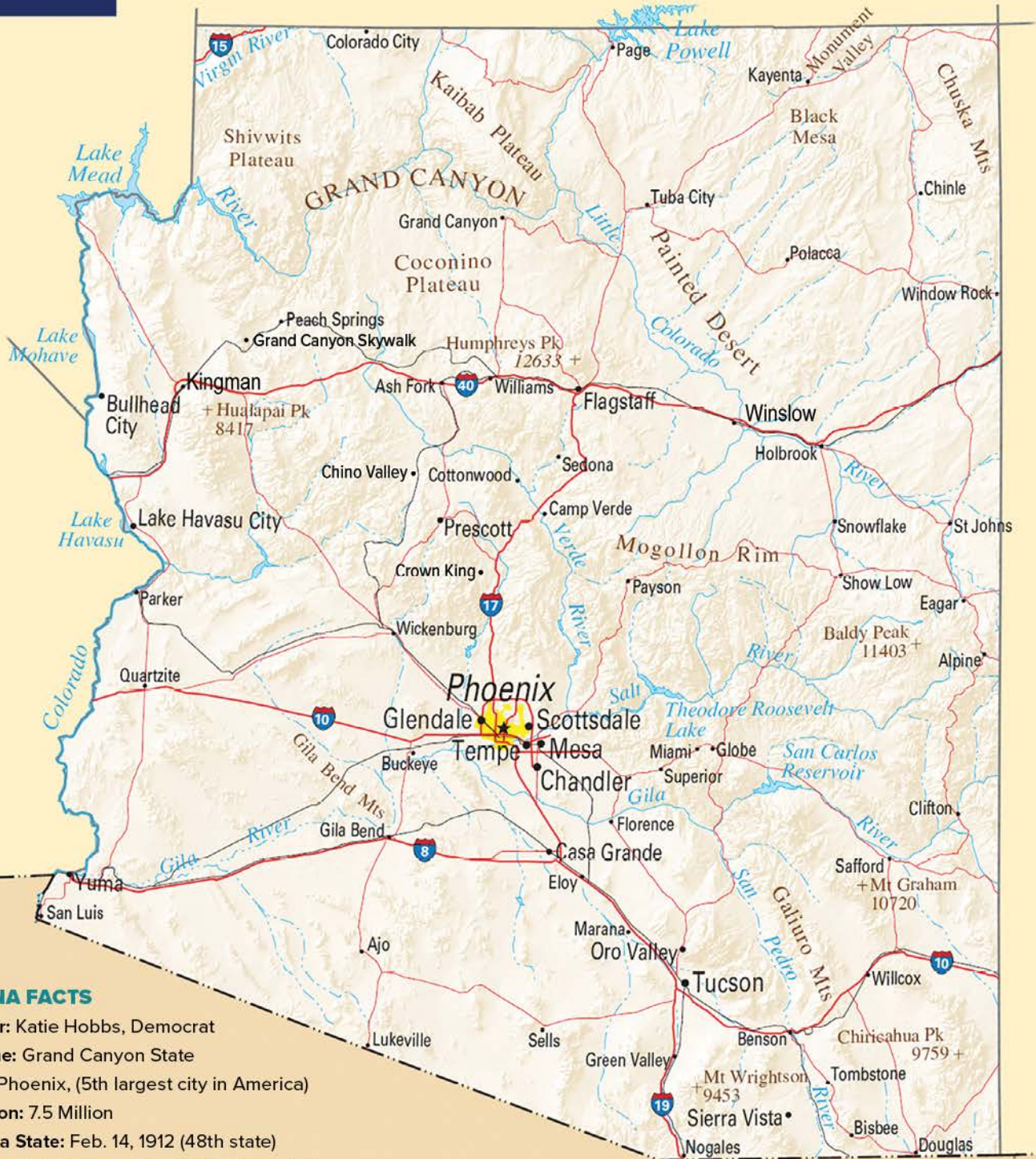
American Express 1-800-528-4800
 Master Card 1-800-307-7309
 Visa 1-800-847-2911
 Discover Card 1-800-347-2683
 Carte Blanche/Diners Club . 1-800-234-6377

ARIZONA TRAVEL INFORMATION

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



ARIZONA STATE MAP



ARIZONA FACTS

Governor: Katie Hobbs, Democrat

Nickname: Grand Canyon State

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

Population: 7.5 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

LIQUID MEASUREMENTS

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

LONG MEASUREMENTS

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

ARIZONA ELEVATIONS

above sea level

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

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

New Year's Day	January 1
MLK's Birthday	January 19
International Holocaust Day	January 27
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 Day	December 25
Boxing Day (Canada)	December 26
New Year's Eve	December 31



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

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.

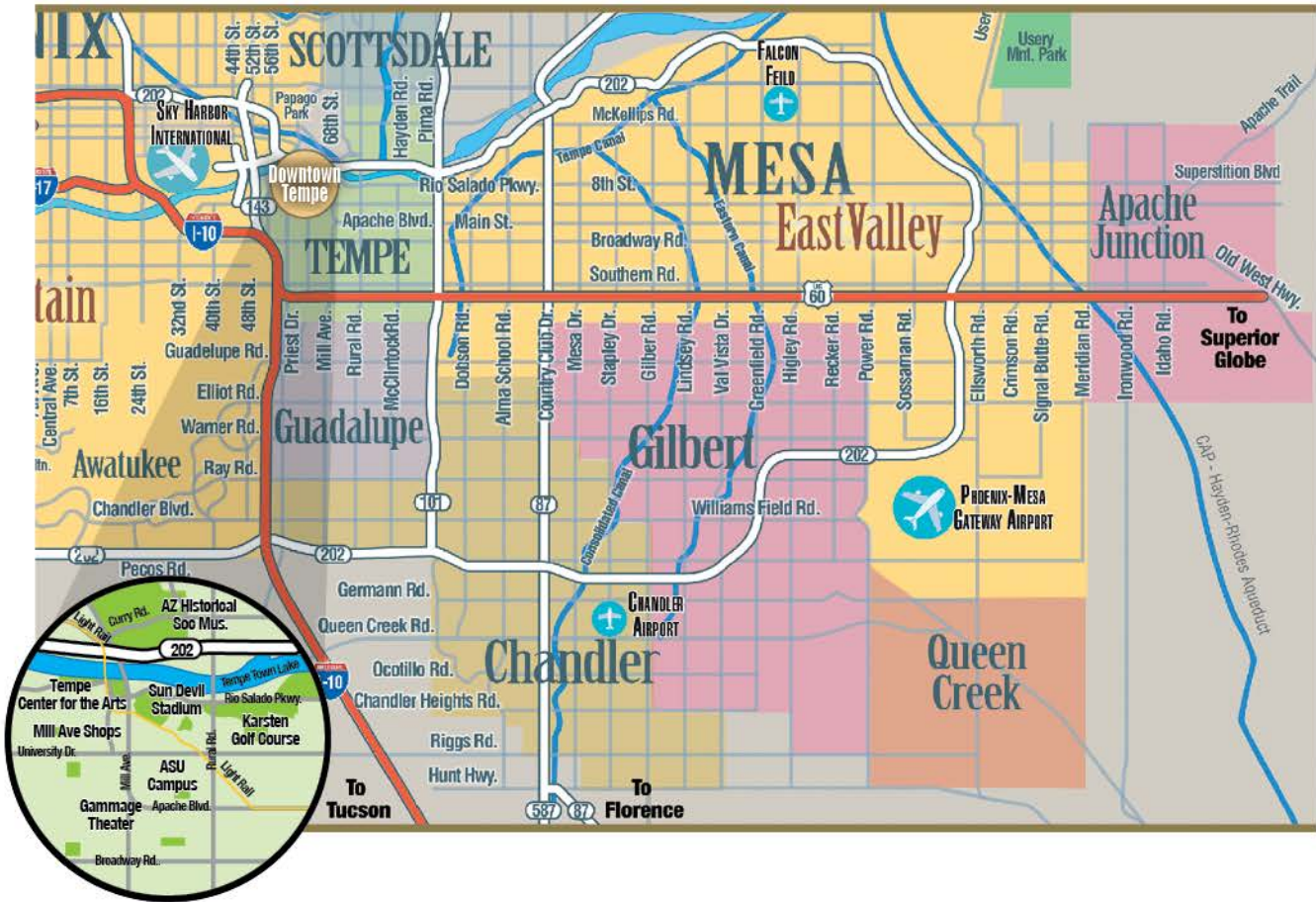
William Thomas

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



DESTINATION *East Valley*

DESTINATION EAST VALLEY AZ



CITIES & TOWNS

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

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

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

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

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

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



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

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

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

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

The East Valley continues to experience explosive growth

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



TEMPE TOWN LAKE

EXPLORE PINAL COUNTY

...because we're so much more

Located between Phoenix and Tucson

ARIZONA
VisitArizona.com

Explore.Pinal.Gov

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

★★★★

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

— WOUNDED WARRIOR BRYAN WAGNER

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

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

★ Find out more at woundedwarriorproject.org ★

East Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Chandler Jazz Festival
April 9th – 12th
 A jazz-filled weekend highlighting the smooth sounds of live jazz music from local and national performers.
downtownchandler.org/events/chandler-jazz-festival



Movies in the Park
Friday Evenings May 1st – 22nd
 Grab the gang, your blankets, and a picnic dinner and head to Kiwanis Park to enjoy a free, family-friendly flick. (located at Baseline Rd. & Ash Ave.)
tempetourism.com



The Notebook – The Musical
April 7th – 14th
 A heartfelt exploration of love, memory, and the passage of time, reflecting the themes of the original novel and the iconic 2004 film adaptation.
asugamage.com



Mesa Farmers Market
Saturday, 9 am – 12 pm
 The Mesa Farmers Market and Flea at Pioneer Park.
mesafarmersmarketandflea.com



22nd Annual Pat's Run
April 11th
 This signature event held annually benefits the fundraising for the Pat Tillman Foundation.
pattillmanfoundation.org/pats-run



Gilbert Farmers Market
Saturdays
 Enjoy over 100 vendors offering a wide variety of local produce and products.
gilbertmarket.com



Reggae Rise Up Arizona
April 17th – 18th
 The signature Reggae Rise Up experience will be making its debut in 2025, bringing the festival's iconic energy to the heart of Tempe!
reggaeriseup.com/arizona



Downtown Chandler Farmers Market
Sat. through June, 9 am – 1 pm
 Year-round, farmers market offering locally grown and made products. Located at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park-West.
visit Chandler.com



Garden After Dark
Now – May 10, 5:30 – 9 pm
 Wander through the Garden's 10 vibrant light displays, five immersive Desert Pulse installations and discover the desert at night.
dbg.org



Beauty and the Beast
June 24th – July 3rd
 This enchanting and timeless tale has been brought to life like never before, with spectacular new sets, dazzling costumes.
asugamage.com



Riverdance 30 – The New Generation
May 8th – 10th
 This stunning and emotionally engaging experience features new innovative choreography, costumes, and lighting.
mesaartscenter.com



Happenings at the Tempe History Museum
 Enjoy a series of performances by talented local musicians, while also exploring ongoing exhibits that highlight history, art, and innovation.
tempetourism.com

THIS IS ONE HISTORIC FISH STORY!

– By Leslie James

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



Sir Winston Churchill
Prime Minister of England



Convoy Escort

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

HMS Emerald
Light Armored Cruiser



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

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

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

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

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

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



Gold Bullion

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.





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

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

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

A vibrant, cosmopolitan city that is exploding with activity

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



ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL



BALLET IN BLOOM

An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden

May 13 – 30, 2026

Surrounded by the magnificent desert landscape with the setting sun as its backdrop, this audience favorite now features two ballet experiences as a double-feature event.



TICKETS:
balletaz.org | 602.381.1096



BALLET ARIZONA

DESERT BOTANICAL garden

SPOTLIGHTS



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

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

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.

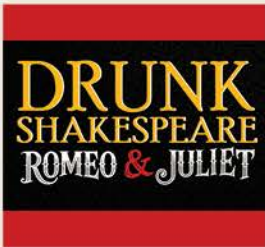
We are glad you feel inspired to give back to the organizations and institutions that work tirelessly to serve our communities. When you are ready to take the next step in your personal charitable giving journey, we are here to help you achieve your goals.

Learn more | azfoundation.org | **602.381.1400**



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Phoenix LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



**Drunk Shakespeare –
Romeo & Juliet**
April 3rd – 6th
One drunk Romeo, one sober cast, total chaos. Don't miss this unique blend of improv, comedy, and classic theater.
a.drunkshakespeare.com



**Downtown Phoenix
Farmers Market**
Saturdays, 8 am – 1 pm
Come and support local vendors with a variety of great local produce and local buys!
downtownphoenixfarmersmarket.org



Maricopa County Fair
April 3rd – 12th
Food, Fun, Carnival Rides, and more hosted at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.
maricopacountyfair.org



Crescent Ballroom
A great place for locals and visitors to enjoy food, beverages and live entertainment. Check the calendar for musical talent and tickets.
crescentphx.com



Bruce Springsteen
April 16th
Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band will bring the Land of Hope & Dreams American Tour to Mortgage Matchup Center in downtown Phoenix.
brucespringsteen.net



Arizona Diamondbacks
Chase Field
401 E. Jefferson Street in Phoenix, Arizona
mlb.com/dbacks



**Tenderly: The Rosemary
Clooney Musical**
Through May 3rd
This intimate and powerful musical is a heartfelt tribute to one of America's most beloved voices.
phoenixtheatre.com



Phoenix Suns
Footprint Center
201 E. Jefferson St.
Downtown Phoenix
nba.com/suns/tickets/single



Arizona Restaurant Week
May 15th – 24th
Arizona's most edible time of the year, sending diners on a 10-day tasting tour throughout the state.
arizonarestaurantweek.com



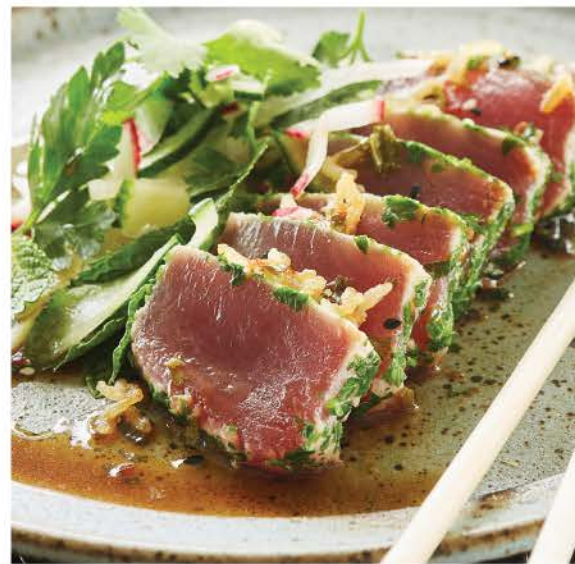
Phoenix Mercury
Footprint Center
201 E. Jefferson St.
Downtown Phoenix
mercury.wnba.com



**Roosevelt Row Saturday
Arts Market**
Saturdays through June
Enjoy live music and celebrate local arts and culture. Free entry.
dtpfx.org/do/roosevelt-row-saturday-arts-market



First Friday Artwalk
First Friday of each month
Downtown Phoenix is home to a thriving arts scene. From small stages and galleries to boutiques and murals, there's no shortage of creative expression.
artlinkphx.org/phx-fridays



FRESH SEAFOOD & A FRESH SUSHI BAR



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

BLUEWATERGRILL.COM

T 602 277 3474

1525 E BETHANY HOME RD



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.

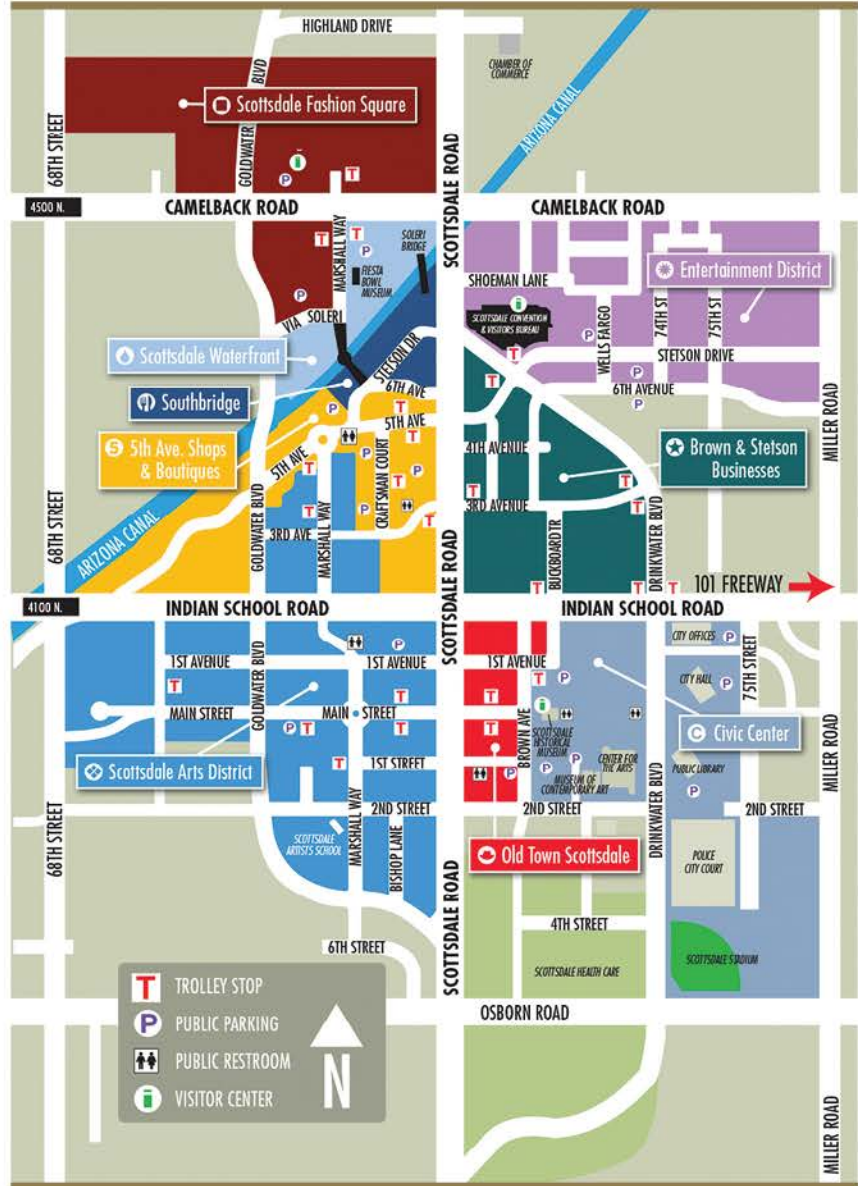
DESTINATION *Scottsdale*

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.





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*



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



Uncorked Wine Festival at Salt River Fields

April 4th

Sip & swirl over 100 wines and bubbies from across the globe, enjoy local food trucks, dance the night away and more!

uncorkedwinefestivals.com



Sugar Bowl Ice Cream Parlor

Experience the full menu and fountain treats in the style and tradition Sugar Bowl has been providing since 1958!

sugarbowlscottsdale.com



Scottsdale Jazz Festival

April 11th

Bringing together world-class jazz, cultural celebration, and community.

scottsdalejazzfest.org



Light & Bark Candle Company

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

lightandbark.com



Tents by the Tracks

April 11th – 12th

Pitch your tents by the tracks and experience a night of fun and adventure while camping at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

therailroadpark.com



Old Town Farmers Market

Saturdays through June

Organic fruits and veggies, locally made salsas, artisan breads and pastries, regional honey, gifts and more.

arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com/old-town-scottsdale



Mercantile Outdoor Market: Spring Soiree

April 25th – 26th

Nearly 200 local makers, artists, and creators come together for a vibrant market filled with fresh finds, and fun.

merchantilemarket.com



Scottsdale Fashion Square

A premiere shopping destination with over 200 stores and restaurants.

fashionsquare.com



Farm & Artisan Market

Saturdays

Weekly market featuring boutiques, wellness booths, artisan vendors and delicious food. Located at Scottsdale United Methodist Church.

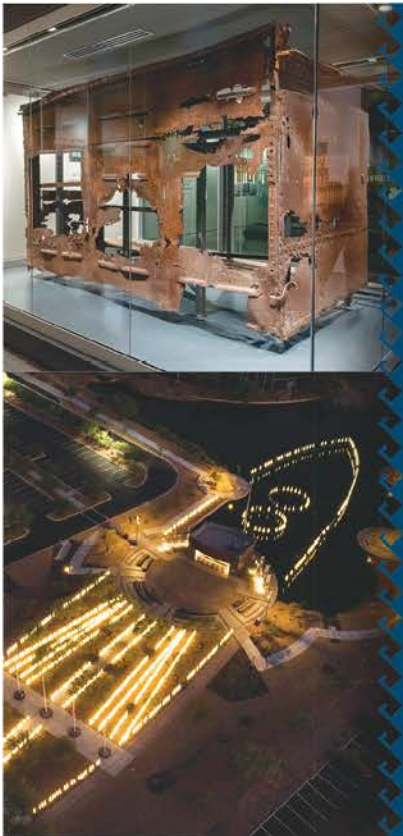


Tracks N Tunes 2026

Saturdays through May

Rock and roll at the Railroad Park is back on track! Enjoy free concerts every Saturday evening with a variety of local bands.

therailroadpark.com



USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL GARDENS AT SALT RIVER

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

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



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



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



NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP HUNGRY IN AMERICA

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

Join us at NoKidHungry.org



Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



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



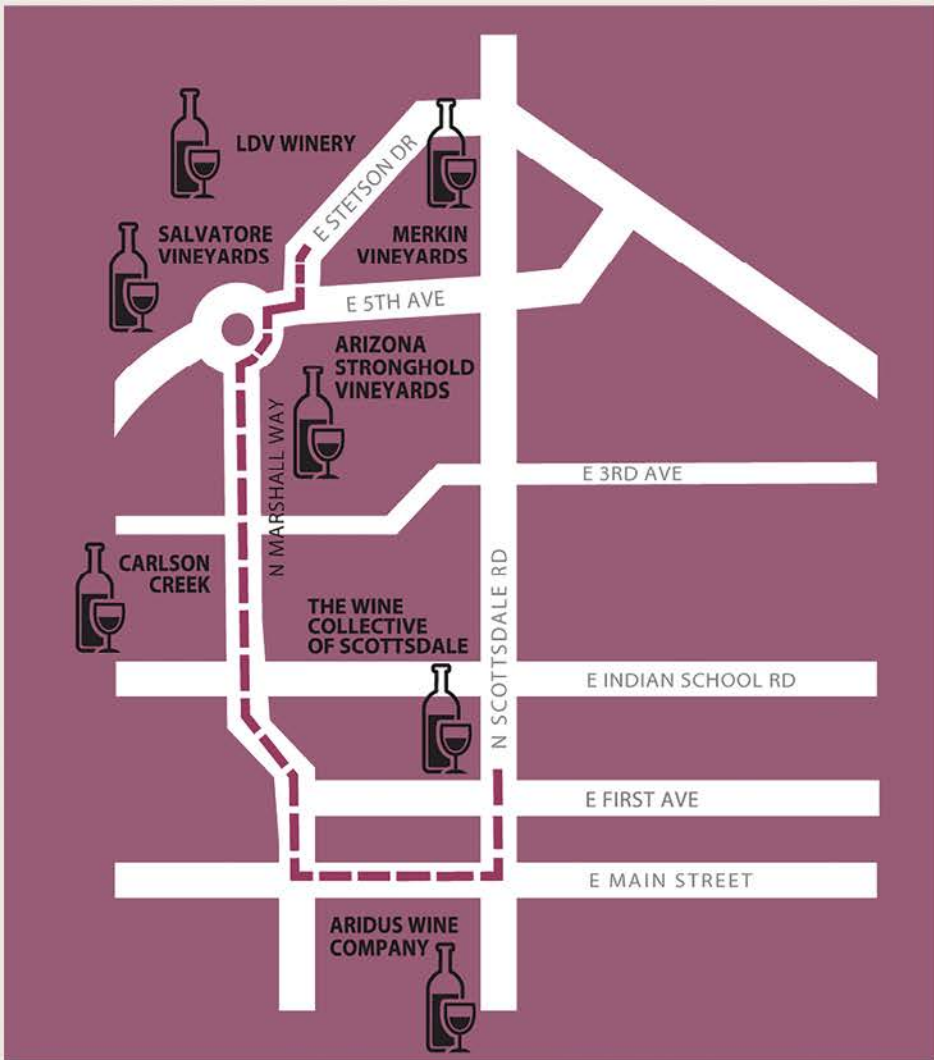
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
 Situated on a sprawling park in the heart of downtown Scottsdale, SMOCA is home to some of the world's best modern art, architecture, and design.
smoca.org



Gold Palette Artwalk Thursdays Evenings
 Proceed at your own pace, stroll around a delightful area punctuated by dramatic statues, bubbly fountains and famed restaurants.
scottsdaleartdistrict.com/artwalk



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



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



O' Canada

Let's start by providing some basic facts about your great neighbors to the north.

Canada is the second largest country in the world (land mass) second only to Russia. It also shares the world's largest unmanned border between two sovereign nations, stretching nearly 5,500 miles coast-to-coast. Its Confederation took place in 1867, and its capital is in Ottawa, Ontario. It remains one of the most beautiful countries in the world.

Canada consists of 10 provinces, (West – East) British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland-Labrador. Canada's four largest cities are Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Calgary. Today, its population sits at roughly 40,350,000.

Canada's federal election system differs dramatically from its U.S. counterpart. For example, in Canada elections are measured in weeks, not years. When the prime minister of Canada calls an election and the parliament "officially dissolves," the election process takes just six weeks before the newly elected government is sworn into power. Consider this fact ... In Canada's last election, where Mark Carney from the liberal party was elected prime minister, the six major parties "combined" election spending nationwide was under \$150 million. In

the U.S., where billions are often spent, more than \$150 million can easily be spent on a single Senatorial race.

Yes, hockey and the coveted Stanley Cup, maple syrup, French fries and gravy, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, our Looney (our \$1 coin), and the Canadian beaver are all iconic images that come to mind when Americans think of Canada.

Canada is also America's single largest trading partner, however, recent tensions over Trump's tariff/trade war has greatly impacted trade relations and tourism. Canada remains the largest and most dependable global supplier to the U.S. of energy products (natural gas, oil, crude, electricity) lumber and industrial goods. In 2025, exports totaled roughly \$450 billion, with almost \$3 billion in goods and services crossing the Canadian American border every day. In Arizona, the states largest

foreign direct investor is Canada. Over 350 Canadian companies now operate in the state, which employs nearly 300,000 Arizonians. In Maricopa alone, over 25,000 homes are owned by Canadians.

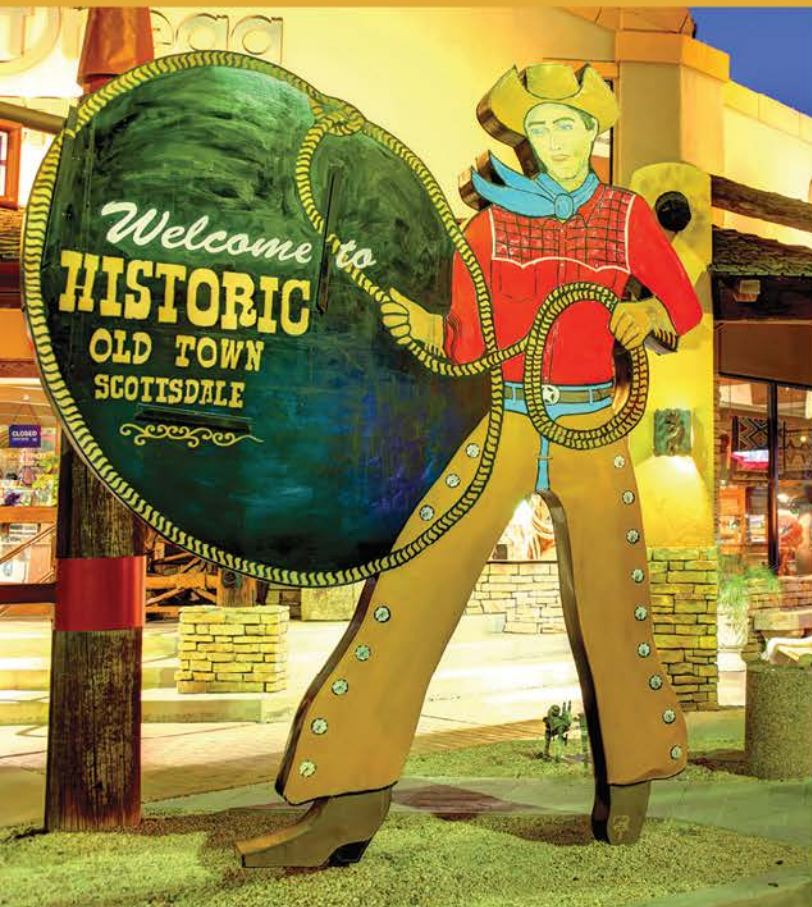
As President John F. Kennedy stated, "*Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies.*" That statement was made over 60 years ago. Unfortunately, this relationship has never been so tested until now. Currently, tensions between the two countries from U.S. politics and imposed tariffs by the U.S. administration have created a major rift. Hopefully, in 2026, cooler heads in Washington will prevail, but most Canadians are not holding their breath ...they are simply moving on.

– By Jonathan Funk



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AND LIBRARY IN OTTAWA, ONTARIO

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.

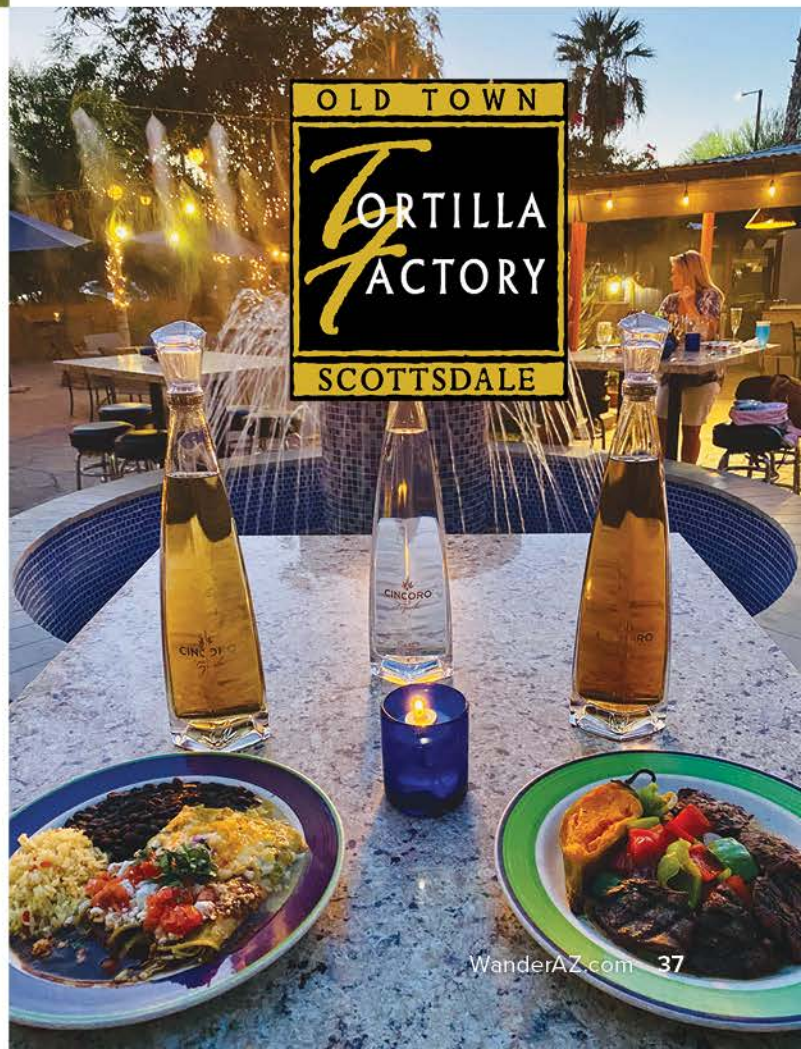
NOW ... Scottsdale, Ariona has come a long way since 1888. Scottsdale is annually rated among the nation's most desirable communities to live in, visit, and do business in. It is now counted among the 100 largest cities in America, but still retains its connection to its small-town, Western heritage.

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

The Old Town Tortilla Factory

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

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



DESTINATION *North Scottsdale*

NORTH SCOTTSDALE AND BEYOND

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

ANNUAL EVENTS

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





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

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

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

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

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

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



JAPANESE WISDOM:

If it's not yours, don't take it.

If it's not right, don't do it.

If it's not true, don't say it.

If you don't know, be quiet.



North Scottsdale LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Concerts on the Avenue
Thursdays, April 3rd – 24th
 Enjoy live music along the Avenue of the Fountains with an evening concert series showcasing some of the Valley's best bands in a variety of music options.



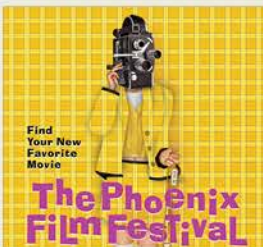
Farmers Market on High Street
Sundays, 10 am – 1 pm
 The farmers market on High Street boasts a full block of more than 100+ vendors.
highstreetaz.com



29th Arizona Bike Week
April 8th – 12th
 Westworld of Scottsdale
azbikeweek.com



Carefree Farmers 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.



Phoenix Film Festival
April 9th – 19th
 An 11-day celebration of film with over 250 films, filmmaking seminars, parties and student workshops for over 20,000 attendees.
phoenixfilmfestival.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



Scottsdale Fair & Festival
April 17th – 26th
 Experience state-of-the-art thrill rides that will excite all age groups. Savor mouthwatering fair food and test your skills with challenging games.
scottsdaleplaza.com/events



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



Junk in the Trunk
April 24th – 26th
 A treasure hunter's dream, filled with vintage gems, artisanal creations, and handcrafted finds from more than 160 talented vendors nationwide.
 Westworld of Scottsdale



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



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



Stagecoach Village
 Stunning mountain views and a unique collection of shops, restaurants and professional services await you.
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



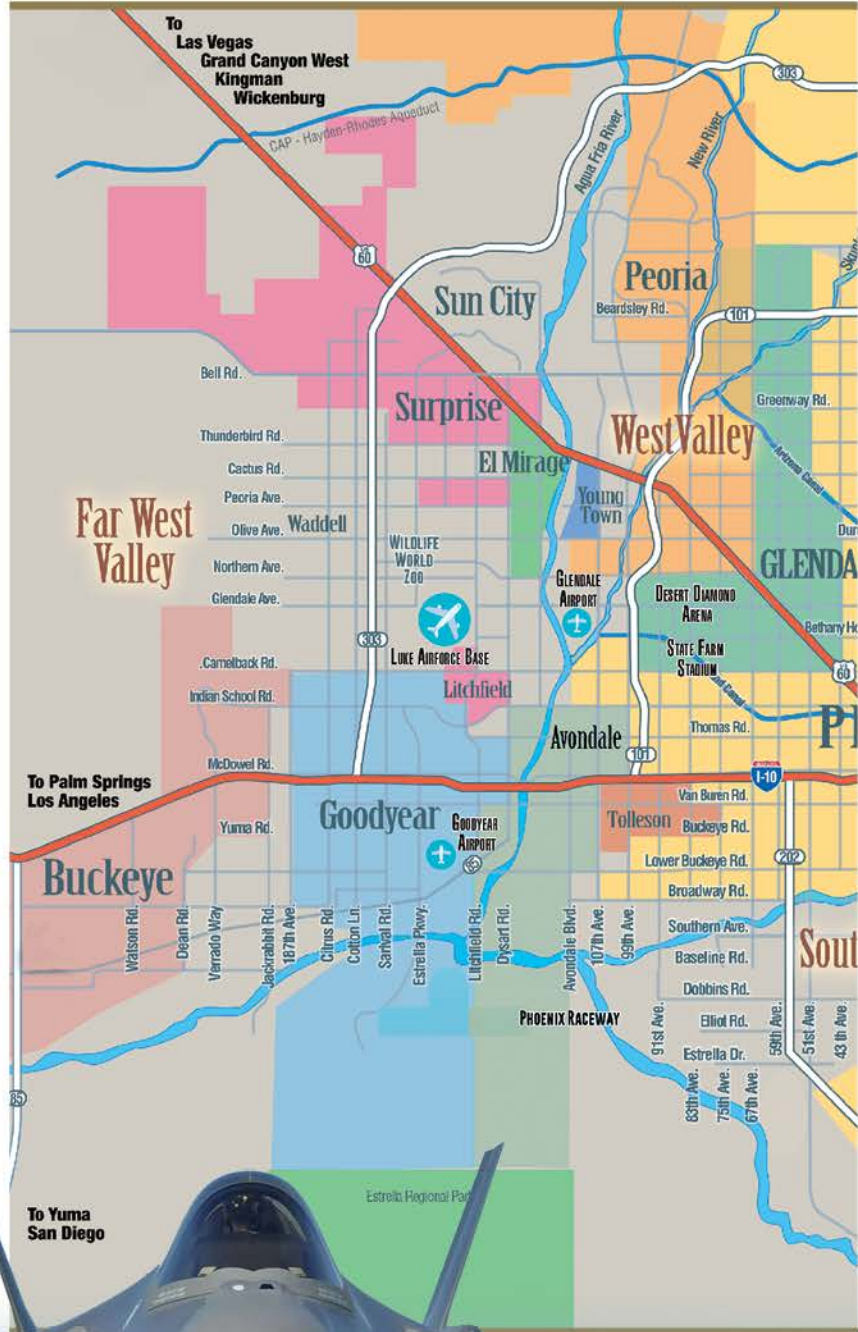
DESTINATION *West Valley*

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!



Don't Miss!

- Sea Lions at Shipwreck Cove
- Kids' Petting Zoo and Playground
- Giraffe Feeding Station
- Penguin Talk
- Stingray Feeding
- Lory Parrot Feeding
- Exciting and Fun Rides
- Great Cafe's

ADVENTURELAND

Animal Encounters!

Get up close and personal with some of our residents with an unforgettable animal encounter.

Book your sea lion, sloth or capybara experience today and create memories that will last a lifetime!



Scan to Book!

or visit us at WildlifeWorld.com/Encounters

**Animal encounters are booked and paid for in advance. Check availability online.*

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






Scan to Plan!

\$24 VALUE!

\$6

PER PERSON

OFF ADMISSION



GOOD FOR 4 GUESTS!
Not valid with any other discounts

West Valley LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Florence and the Machine
May 9th
 Florence + The Machine is coming to Glendale May 9, 2026 with special guest Mannequin Pussy.
desertdiamondarena.com



Anthem Farmers Market
Sundays, 9 am – 1 pm
 41703 N Gavilan Peak Pkwy
 Phoenix, AZ 85086
arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com



Demi Lovato
May 19th
 Join Demi Lovato and ADÉLA on The It's Not That Deep Tour. Fans can expect a setlist packed with new bangers and career-defining hits.
desertdiamondarena.com



Sun City Farmers Market
Thursdays, 9 am – 1 pm
 Market includes fresh, local and seasonal produce, herbs and more!
arizonacommunityfarmersmarkets.com



Food Truck Fridays West
Friday Evenings
 Awesome food trucks, music and family fun! Locations change so please check website.
getlocalarizonaevents.com/foodtruckfridaywest.com



Arrowhead Farmers Market
Saturdays, 8 – 11 am
 The Premier Saturday farmers market in the West Valley!
 Location: Park West in Peoria
getlocalarizonaevents.com



Peoria Center for the Arts
 Opened in 2006, Peoria's Center for the Performing Arts is a 250-seat theater and the home of Theater Works.
theaterworks.org



Westgate Farmers Market
2nd Saturdays Monthly, 9 am – 1 pm
 Come and support local vendors with a variety of great local produce and local buys!



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



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



Westgate Entertainment District
 One of the largest and most exciting mixed-use, urban developments in North America.
westgateaz.com



Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium, and Safari Park
 Arizona's largest collection of exotic and endangered animals, with over 600 separate species on display.
wildlifeworld.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.”





Luke Air Force Base

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

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

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

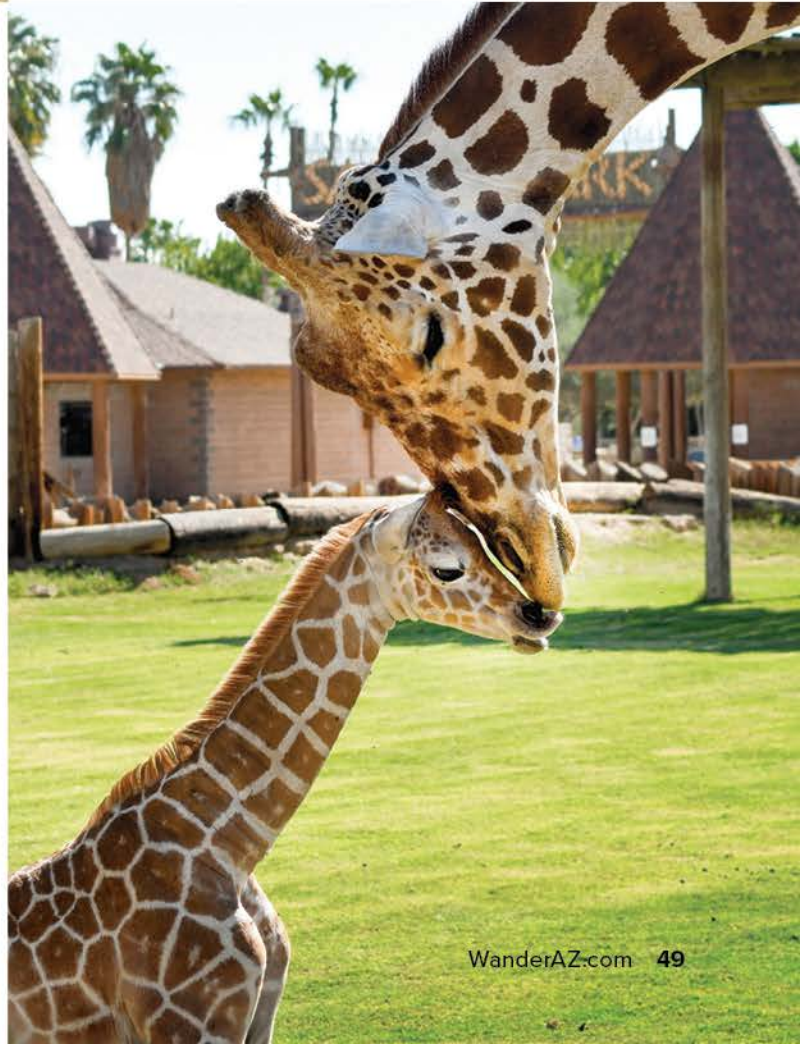
There are four F-35 fighter squadrons and four F-16 fighter squadrons stationed at Luke Air Force Base. Since its inception in 1941, Luke Air Force Base has graduated over 61,000 fighter pilots.

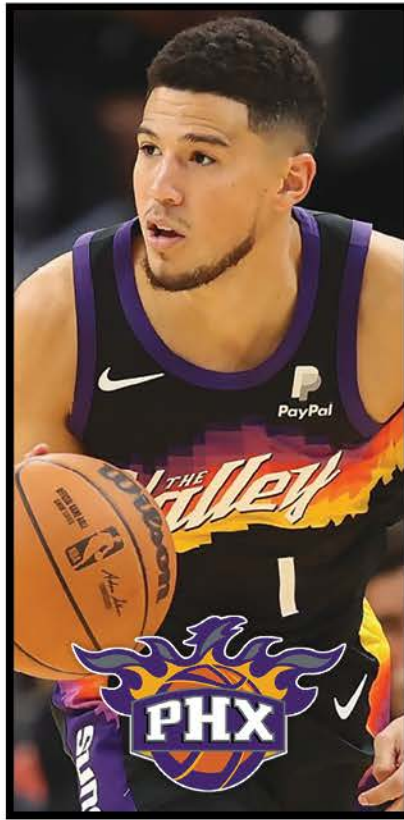
Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park

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

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

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





DESTINATION *Sports*

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

Why is the Valley such a favorite sports destination?

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

ARIZONA SPORTS TEAMS

Major League Baseball

dbacks.com | MLB.com

National Basketball Association

suns.com | NBA.com

National Football League

azcardinals.com | NFL.com

Women's National Basketball Association

mercury.wnba.com | WNBA.com

United Soccer League

phxrisingfc.com | USLchampionship.com

Indoor Football League

azrattlers.com | www.golFL.com

National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing

phoenixraceway.com | nascar.com

DESTINATION *College Sports*



Arizona State University | asu.edu

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



University of Arizona | arizona.edu

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



Northern Arizona University | nau.edu

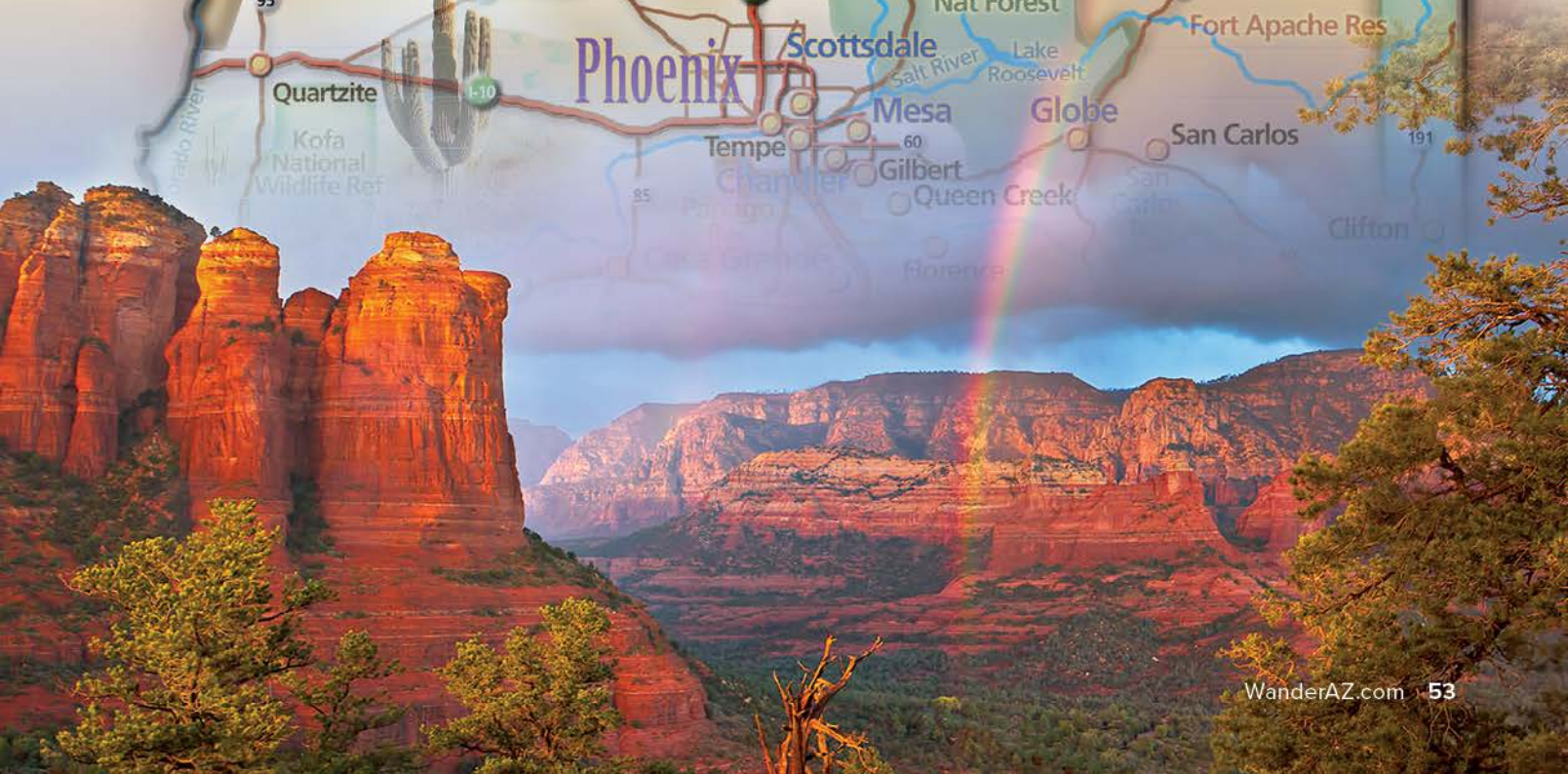
Northern Arizona University is a public research university with its main campus located in picturesque Flagstaff, Arizona. It opened its doors 120 years ago in 1899 with just 23 students and two faculty members. NAU is built on a student-first foundation ... this was true in 1899, and it's true today.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



Grand Canyon University | gcu.edu

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

DESTINATION *Northern Arizona*



DESTINATION Prescott

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

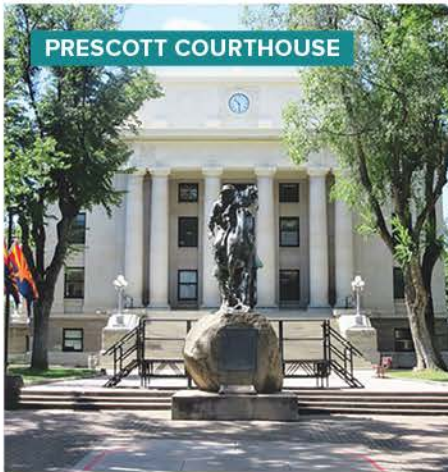
Prescott is a popular destination where residents and visitors meld together to enjoy northern Arizona's culture, history and an assortment of outdoor events and activities. Just a short drive (less than two hours) from Phoenix, Prescott hosts many festivals and fairs throughout the year. The jewel of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

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

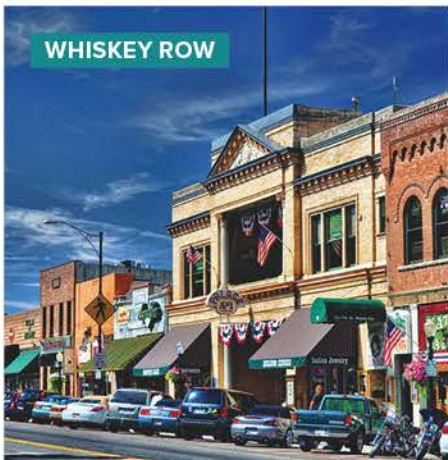
week, celebrated with a festive parade. For nearby outdoor enjoyment, there's hiking at Thumb Butte and other trails, mountain biking on the Salida Gulch Trail, and fishing and boating at Lynx Lake. Interested in history? Check out the Sharlot Hall Museum or the Smoki Museum. Any time of the year, a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

To learn more, visit prescott-az.gov.

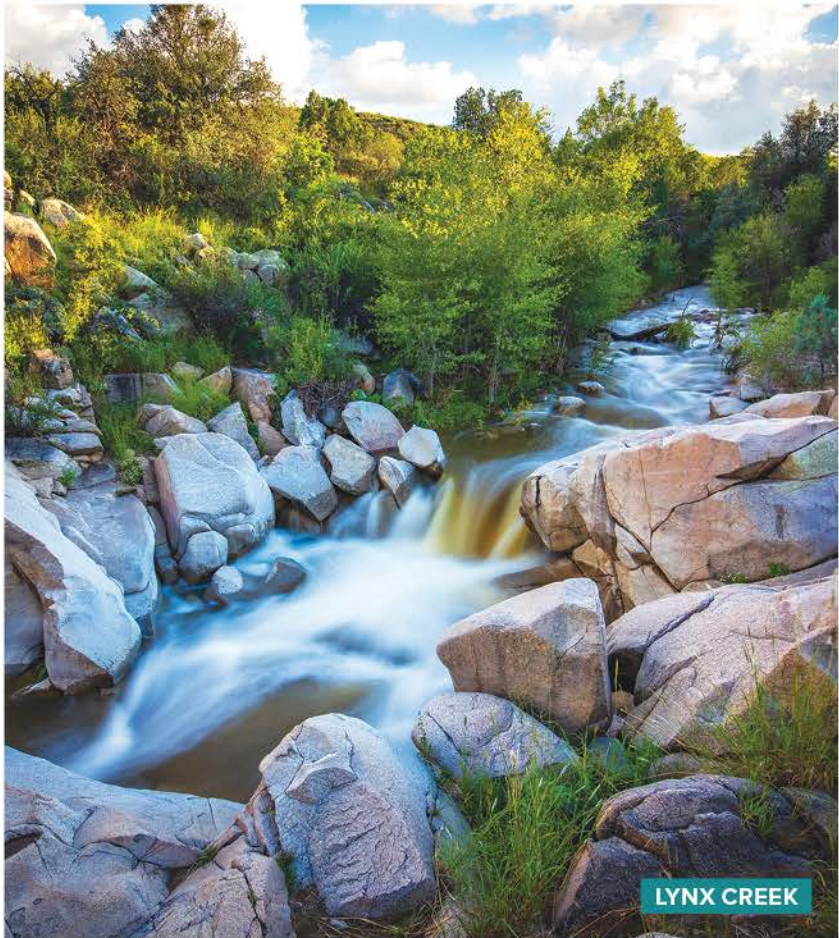
In 1864 Prescott was Designated as the capital of Arizona territory, replacing the temporary capital at Fort Whipple. The territorial capital was moved to Tucson in 1867. However in 1877, Prescott once again became the territorial capital until Phoenix became the state's permanent capital in 1889



PRESCOTT COURTHOUSE



WHISKEY ROW



LYNX CREEK



Wine in Arizona

ARE YOU CRAZY?

— By Leslie James

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DESTINATION Cottonwood

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

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



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.

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





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

PREDATOR ZIP LINES

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

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

Cottonwood LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

April 23rd – 26th

A friendly annual celebration of birds, birders, and nature in the beautiful Verde Valley.

visitcottonwoodaz.org



Nic's Italian Steak and Crab House

Locals and visitors will be transported to the East Coast Steak and Italian restaurants from the minute they step foot in this beautiful establishment.

nicsaz.com



Verde Valley Fair

April 29th – May 3rd

Carnival rides, Livestock Shows, Arts/Crafts and Shopping. Corn dogs, Smoked turkey legs and funnel cakes... and Much, Much More.

vvfair.com



Verde Lea Market Deli and Grill

A local favorite. If you're looking to find restaurants to add to your favorites, this is one of the best in Cottonwood.

verdelea.com



Merkin Vineyards Tasting Room and Osteria

On a mission to deliver an almost 100% Arizona experience, this restaurant offers a farm to table experience for everyone.

merkinvineyardsosteria.com

Don't Just Pass Through. Plan Your Visit Today.



You've found the Heart of the Verde Valley. Here, the wine flows as freely as the Verde River, and history lives in the bricks of our walkable Old Town. From morning hikes at Dead Horse Ranch State Park to farm-to-table dining under the stars on Main Street, Cottonwood isn't just a day trip—it's the vacation you actually need.



VisitCottonwood.com

AN AMERICAN LEGEND **GERONIMO!**

*Written by the late
JJ. LaBarber -
Contributing Editor*

He was **GOYAHK-LA!**

Probably doesn't mean a thing to you, does he. But, if I shouted, GERONIMO! this accepted exclamation for those going into battle or facing a challenging situation would immediately call to mind, I'm sure, paratroopers of the 101st Infantry Division leaping from slow moving cargo-type planes to the enemy terrain below.

Question: then just who was this Goyahkla ("one who yawns") person? Quite simply, it was **GERONIMO'S** true Apache name. So, how did the famous name emerge?

As we say in the music industry, let's start at the top. Goyahkla, a Native American, was a skilled Apache warrior who lived during a time of fighting between Mexicans and Americans who fought over land in the Southwestern part of the United States. The Apache people had been living on this land for several hundred years, but in the 1800s, the Americans won a war with Mexico and claimed the Apache homeland for themselves.

Goyahkla began training as a warrior in 1830 at age seven and fast became a symbol of the fearless warrior. He loved the land and his people believed Apaches had the right to live on their homeland and roam freely. He was a natural to lead the Apaches in many battles against the settlers and soldiers. They were fierce confrontations, and he was one of the last Apaches to give up the fight.

Now it is said that when he, Goyahkla, appeared in battle, the Mexicans were terrified and, in Spanish, invoked Saint Jerome – Geronimo – to protect them. It may be a bit difficult to equate the acknowledged patron saint of librarians with freedom fighters. But it's true ... he was a Doctor the Church and an extremely scholarly man. So be it. Thus, Geronimo!



In 1886, Geronimo surrendered to General Nelson A. Miles, ending warfare between the Apaches and the white settlers. He and his people were moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he died in 1909.

In the latter part of the 19th Century, there was not much law and order in the Southwest and the Mexican frontier. Life was hard, and to survive,

Apaches and Mexicans often raided each other, invaded villages; stealing guns, horses, and cattle.

Yes, Geronimo did indeed become a famous Apache warrior. So much so that people wanted to see how he looked and talked. They wanted to hear about his life, and he became an attraction at special events such as the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. Sometimes he even entered roping contests in the Wild West shows that were touring the country. Wherever he went, he asked officials to let him return to his Arizona homeland.

In March 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt starting his second term as president, invited Geronimo to Washington, D.C. to participate in his inaugural activities. Roosevelt thought he would bring some excitement to the festivities.

While in Washington, Geronimo begged and pleaded with Roosevelt to allow the Apaches to return to Arizona. Roosevelt was a bit blunt. He said pointedly that the people of Arizona and New Mexico hated and feared the Apaches. If they returned, there would bloodshed.

Geronimo wanted to spend his days in Arizona, to be buried in the mountains where he had lived. He did not, however, get his wish. He died on February 17, 1909 and was buried in a graveyard at Fort Sill.

Goyahkla - was truly a freedom fighter in his own way and a great American legend, which was enhanced and preserved for posterity when the U.S. Army nicknamed the famous fighter helicopter, "The Apache" in his honor. GER-ON-I-MO!

DESTINATION *Sedona*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CATHEDRAL ROCK



Sedona LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



**Piano on the Rocks
International Festival**
May 1st – 3rd

This three-day festival explores the interconnection between solo piano literature, storytelling and literature.
visitsedona.com



Cinco De Mayo Celebration
May 2nd, 1 – 4 pm

Enjoy the pulsating sounds, savory flavors, and colorful dances of Mexico in a fun-filled South of the Border bash at Tlaquepaque Village.
tlaq.com



**Sedona Community
Farmers Market**

Sundays
Year round local and regional producer's market.
Sedona-farmers-market.com



Wine Tour from Sedona

Avoid the hassle of driving between wine tastings when you pre-book this Verde Valley wine tour that leaves from Sedona and visits some of the region's top vineyards.
viator.com/sedona/wine-tours



Northern Arizona's

WINE COUNTRY

Producing some of the finest wines anywhere.

Visit one of our outstanding vineyards or wine tasting venues.

Page Spring Cellars

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

Caduceus Cellars

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

Javelina Leap Vineyard & Winery

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

Cellar 433

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

Oak Creek Vineyards & Winery

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

Alcantara Vineyards

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

Pillsbury Wine Co.

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

Winery 1912

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

DESTINATION Williams

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

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

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

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

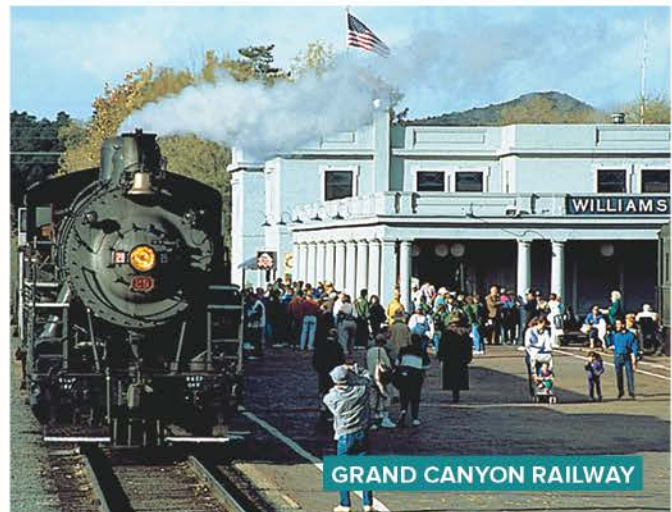
The town is home to the Grand Canyon Railway that takes you on a fabulous round trip train ride to the Grand Canyon. It also offers its Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, a premier hotel adjacent to the railway station. A few minutes south of town is Bearizona, a drive-thru wildlife park which offers a once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

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

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WILLIAMS



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



GRAND CANYON RAILWAY



**EXPERIENCE
WILLIAMS**
GATEWAY TO THE GRAND CANYON®

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

experiencewilliams.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.



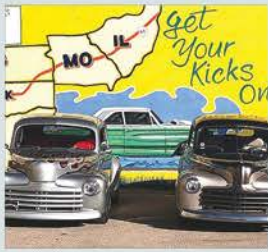
Arizona was approved for statehood but would face one more disappointment. It had hoped to be admitted on Feb. 12, the birthday of President Lincoln, who remained a state champion for making it a territory in the first place. But Taft was busy then and didn't sign until Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, 1912. 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!

Williams LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



10th Annual Historic Route 66 Car Show

June 5th – 6th

The two-day event will feature classic vehicles and future classics on historic Route 66. williamshistoricroute66carshow.com



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



Grand Canyon Wine Company

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



Grand Canyon Deer Farm

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



Steam Engine to the Grand Canyon

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



Wild West Junction

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

NORTHERN ARIZONA ATTRACTIONS

The Arboretum at Flagstaff

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

Arizona Snowbowl

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

Bearizona

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

Canyon Coaster Adventure Park

700 East Route 66, Williams, AZ
canyoncoasteradventurepark.com

Grand Canyon Deer Farm

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

Grand Canyon National Park

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

Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel

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

Grand Canyon West

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

Hoover Dam

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

Lowell Observatory

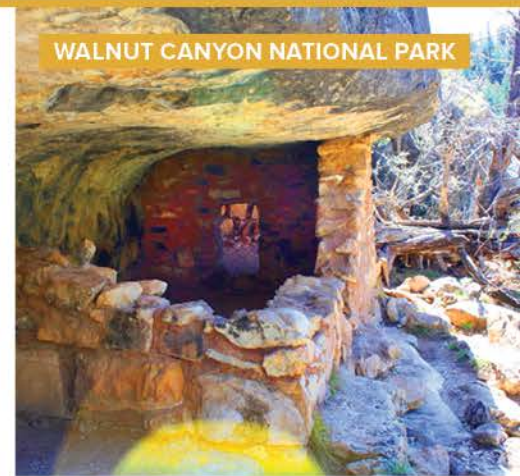
1400 W. Mars Hill Rd., Flagstaff, AZ
928-233-3212 | lowell.edu

Planes of Fame Air Museum

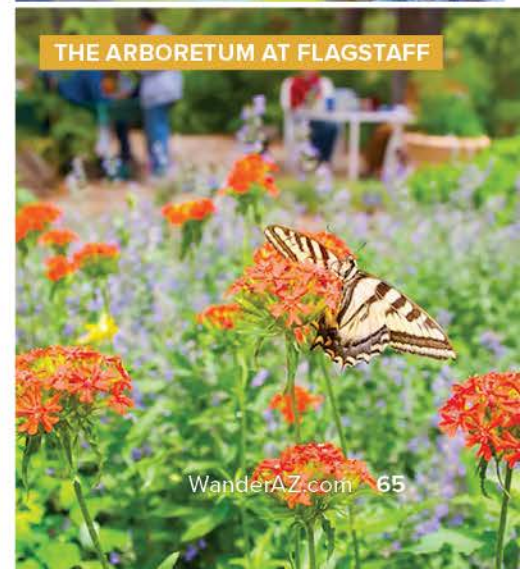
755 Mustang Way, Williams-Valle, AZ
928-635-1000 | planesoffame.org

Walnut Canyon National Monument

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



WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL PARK



THE ARBORETUM AT FLAGSTAFF



DESTINATION *Flagstaff and beyond*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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LOWELL OBSERVATORY | FLAGSTAFF, AZ



Lowell Observatory, named one of TIME's 2025 "World's 100 Greatest Places," is celebrating over 130 years of discovery and the centennial of Route 66! Explore exhibit halls, immersive experiences, stargazing, telescope viewing, live shows, historic tours, and more for all ages. **Buy tickets now at lowell.edu**

Flagstaff LOCAL EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS



Flagstaff National Monuments
Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments. Together, they protect more than 40,000 acres and 3,000 archaeological sites.
[nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)



Haunted Downtown Flagstaff Segway Tours
Hear stories of spooky ghost sightings and learn about Wild West history as you explore the streets of Flagstaff on a Segway sightseeing excursion.
[azsegwayandpedaltours.com](https://www.azsegwayandpedaltours.com)



Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival
April 10th – 11th
An alternative cinematic experience that inspires, educates, and fosters creative connections through the art of filmmaking.
[orpheumflagstaff.com/calendar](https://www.orpheumflagstaff.com/calendar)



Mother Road Brewing Company
Now with 2 locations, Mother Road Brewing Company brews distinguished beers and builds community one pint at a time.
[motherroadbeer.com](https://www.motherroadbeer.com)



Downtown Flagstaff Haunted History Tour
Haunted history walking tour where eccentric guides tell tales of the happenings that rocked Flagstaff to its core.
[tripadvisor.com/flagstaff/ghost-tours](https://www.tripadvisor.com/flagstaff/ghost-tours)



Wagon Road to Mother Road Exhibit
Through October
This engaging exhibition traces the evolution of travel in northern Arizona from the Beale Wagon Route to Route 66.
[musnaz.org](https://www.musnaz.org)



The Arboretum
Flagstaff's high-elevation demonstration gardens, wild woodlands, and sun-drenched prairies are waiting for you at the foot of the San Francisco Peaks!
[thearb.org](https://www.thearb.org)



Orpheum Theater Flagstaff
Northern Arizona's premier entertainment venue. Hosting all genres of concerts, and a variety of events including: film premiers, festivals, weddings, holiday parties and more!
[orpheumflagstaff.com](https://www.orpheumflagstaff.com)



Stargazing at the Giovale Open Deck Observatory
Daily except Tuesdays
A stargazing experience that goes far beyond seeing faint smudges of light.
[lowell.edu](https://www.lowell.edu)



Toasted Owl
The perfect place for brunch any day of the week. Their large, dog-friendly patio and an extensive menu of breakfast options offers something for locals and visitors-alike.
[thetoastedowl.com](https://www.thetoastedowl.com)



First Friday Artwalk
Held the first Friday monthly, art galleries and businesses open their doors from 6-9 pm with special art exhibitions and live music.
[artwalkflg.org](https://www.artwalkflg.org)



Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
Northern Arizona's only AAA Four-Diamond Casino Resort Hotel. Stay, Play, Dine & Indulge. Come celebrate with us as 2024 is our 11th Anniversary. 15 minutes east of Flagstaff.
[twinarrows.com](https://www.twinarrows.com)



The
Birthplace
of

James Bond

— By William Thomas

After leaping from a speeding motorcycle onto a moving train and wrestling an armed terrorist half to death while ducking under overhead tunnels, Skyfall's Daniel Craig looks calm and rather natty that evening as he chats up a dark-haired beauty at the bar. The muzzle of a gun touching the back of his head comes with a question: "Who are you?" He bats the gun aside like it's a fly and delivers the movie's trademark line:

**The name is Popov.
Dusan Popov.**

"No, no no-cut!"

The name 'Popov' was never going to carry the same reverential currency as "Bond, James Bond." Yet, had novelist Ian Fleming stuck to the facts while writing the greatest series of spy thrillers the world has ever read, that's exactly who Sean Connery and six other leading men would have been portraying in fifty years of Bondmania. Dusan M. Popov, code name "The Tricycle."

It all began in 1941 at The Palácio Hotel in Estoril, a quiet but spectacular oceanside resort town, 16 miles north of Lisbon, Portugal. Together—The Palácio, The Atlântico, The Parque Hotel and the Casino formed a square around a palm-treed park. In front was the train station and beyond that the Atlantic Ocean with white breakers churning inland toward a grainy brown beach. Portugal had remained staunchly neutral during WWII and Estoril, long a haven for disposed kings and displaced dictators became what Casablanca was in the movie by the same name—a rabbit warren of spies and shylocks trading in secret information.

The Nazis spies and their Axis allies had established their headquarters at the Hotel do Parque, filling it to capacity with goose-stepping officers and Gestapo operatives in broad-brimmed hats. The overflow of the

Third Reich stayed at The Atlântico, closest to the sea. The Palácio, the largest and most stylish of the hotels became home to British and American spy agencies, M15 and the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), the forerunner of the CIA.

Ian Lancaster Fleming, a high-ranking British Naval Intelligence Officer was sent to Estoril by M15 to manage a very talented and effective double agent from Yugoslavia. Dusan Popov loathed the Nazis as much as he loved the Brits. He took money, lots of it from the Germans for providing Abwehr, their intelligence division with information pre-approved by M15. He would accept nothing from the Brits but the joy of working for a country he much admired and the pleasure of Fleming's company.

Contrary to the declarations on their registration forms at The Palácio, Fleming was no more a journalist than Popov was a businessman or a lawyer or on a third visit, a private citizen.

However in 1941, whenever the advogado Popov checked into The Palácio, Fleming the jornalista was not far behind. Often they would go to the casino, fast friends in the milieu of microfilm and tiny transmitters, hidden cameras and maps drawn on flash paper. Popov was an expert in concocting invisible ink which he mixed in a Champagne glass.

Some believe, wrongly, that Dusan Popov earned the code name 'Tricycle' because he was a triple threat, working for the Brits, the Germans and the Americans. The Americans could only wish they had such an asset. Fleming and his British colleagues nick-named him "The Tricycle" because he always showed up for an evening wrapped around several beautiful women. But it was the maids at The Palácio who endorsed Popov's code name with stories of the Slav's hearty appetite for three in a bed...at once.

The fake writer and the phony lawyer met almost every evening at the large and elegant lounge in The Palácio. But then all the spooks, Allied and Axis came to The Spies Bar, then and now the best drinking establishment in Estoril.

"They called it the Champagne News Service," said Jose Diogo, The Palácio's gracious concierge. On those nights when Germans mumbled in their beer and right next to them, Fleming and Popov slugged back the house wine — nobody's team was winning. But when Abwehr agents insisted the barkeep break out the best Champagne, everybody knew the Bismarck had sunk another ship or Tobruk was under siege. Likewise when Fleming and Popov shared a

bottle of Moët & Chandon at the bar, the Germans at the tables squirmed in resignation. Days later, world news services would confirm that the Allies had crossed the Rhine or breached the Siegfried Line. When Germans at the bar spoke brashly in loud voices, the Americans knew they were talking trash. Whenever a Brit confided sensitive information to a hotel employee, he expected it to be passed on.

The most powerful collector of secret information could well have been Antonio Pinto, the head concierge at the Parque. With the tidbits of gossip he gathered from waiters and chamber maids, bus boys and bartenders, he could have replaced “The Tricycle” as Britain’s biggest asset. But he did not. The Portuguese took their oath of neutrality seriously.

After the war, a CIA lamented that Pinto’s knowledge was worth the work of a dozen agents but “the man was a sphinx.” “Senor No” did not share his spy stories with anyone...except Ian Fleming, once the war was over.

Hotel staff saw it all—from the married German couple who did not sleep together and ran up \$600 a day in phone calls, to the vases of flowers that came back to the kitchen embedded with tiny listening devices. When they tore down the Parque Hotel they found bugging devices on the roof and a maze of hidden wires in the walls. When they raised the Atlântico, signal lamps for communicating visually with submarines off the coast were found on the roof. The Swastika flag, the one the Germans draped out a window to insult the Brits and Americans walking by, was still intact. M15 plant Ian Fleming, handler of double agent Popov and valued client of The Palacio sopped it all up like a sponge and later wrung it out onto the page. After the war Fleming returned to The Palacio, checked himself into Room #516 and didn’t check out until he had the first draft of *Casino Royale* in his suitcase. The book was based on the gaming house he frequented with “The Tricycle”, the

one he could now see as he wrote from his balcony. *Casino Royale* was a smash hit in 1952 establishing a faithful following that would go on to purchase 100 million copies of eleven Bond novels and watch 25 Bond films which earned \$5 billion and featured several different leads. On *Her Majesty’s Secret Service* was shot on location at The Palacio. This odd marriage of Fleming and Popov, born out of deception, has enjoyed a 50 year honeymoon in Hollywood that shows no sign of ending.

How lucky can a writer get? The material, the settings, the contacts, the secret note pads—everything fell



into Fleming’s lap the day he retired from M15. His sensational career could only have been more certain if a young Sean Connery had met him at The Palacio’s small elevator and said: “Turn those pages faster, Chum, I’m between films at the moment.”

Today The Palacio is a lot like Sean Connery’s Bond—suave and graceful, intriguing yet friendly, classy with a sense of style. Today the Palacio is back to the business of providing elegance and luxury for travelers who want to be dazzled and pampered. From the hush of its plush carpets to the twinkle of hall chandeliers and

the glistening brass of the bar—The Palacio earns all five of its stars each and every day. With a welcoming staff which is both gracious and fun to be around, The Palacio exudes a casualness and a comfort level most great hotels resist.

The Palacio became such a favorite of celebrities, a row of swimming pool suites are nostalgically named after them—Orson Welles, Gina Lollobrigida, The Aga Kahn, Rex Harrison et al. Even James Bond stayed here when *On Her Majesty’s Secret Service* was filmed at the hotel in 1969 and the Australian actor George Lazenby played Agent 007. Concierge Jose Diogo who had a part in the movie helped organize its 50th anniversary at The Palacio. Kings—Umberto of Italy and Don Juan of Spain—have graced The Palacio with their royal presence as well as Queen Noor of Jordan. The photo gallery along the hotel’s hallowed hallway boasts too many Counts to count.

The Palacio’s location is perfect for a tourist seeking an oceanside secluded oasis or a base to visit the bustling city of Lisbon next door. The sandstone beach is a brief walk across the road and the lovely little electric tram that hugs the seashore into Lisbon is a few minutes from the lobby.

The Palacio is a spectacular hotel with a naturally beautiful golf course that has hosted the Portuguese Open and a world class spa called The Banyan Tree where green tea is served up with heavenly Thai massages.

A sumptuous breakfast comes with the room and The Grill serves as an intimate and refined foray into Portuguese fine dining. To treat yourself to refinement and quiet luxury, The Palacio is a dream destination.

Now, in the evening, a goodnight chocolate kiss is placed upon your pillow. In 1941 a guest from Berlin at the Parque Hotel would always end his heavily-coded conversation with “Goodnight Fritz.” And then to Fleming and Popov hunched on a balcony of The Palacio with receivers to their ears he would add: “Good night also, to my British friends, wherever you are.”



Explore the Universe at the Lowell Observatory

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

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

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

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

Eat, Stay and Play at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort

EAT. Dining at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort is led by Zenith Steakhouse, proud recipient of the 2025 Wine Spectator Award. Prime steaks, fresh seafood, and an unrivaled wine list set the stage for an elevated yet welcoming experience. From refined dinners to casual bites and craft cocktails, every meal is designed to complement your Northern Arizona getaway.

STAY. When it's time to unwind, relax in AAA Four Diamond comfort in one of the resort's thoughtfully appointed guest rooms or suites. Spacious layouts and modern amenities offer the perfect retreat just off Interstate 40.

PLAY. The excitement builds on a spacious casino floor featuring the latest slots and classic table games, including live roulette and live craps. Whether you're chasing a jackpot or settling in for a night at the tables, Twin Arrows delivers real energy in a modern setting. Year-round promotions and special events keep the action fresh every time you visit.

Located at 22181 Resort Boulevard at Exit 219, about 20 minutes east of Flagstaff, Twin Arrows is an easy drive from Phoenix via I-17 North to I-40 East, or from Albuquerque via I-40 West. For reservations and information, call 928-856-7200 or visit twinarrows.com.



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