PHOENIX

< 2022 OFFICIAL GREATER PHOENIX TRAVEL GUIDE >>



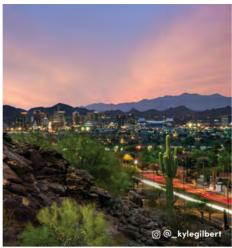






ILLUSTRATION: VIRGINIA BROWN







PHOENIX

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Visit Phoenix is a nonprofit organization that promotes the Greater Phoenix community to a global audience of travelers and books conventions into the Phoenix Convention Center and area hotels and resorts. Visit Phoenix cultivates and maintains relationships with convention and meeting planners, journalists and influencers, travel agents and tour operators.



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COME EXPLORE

Phoenix is built on a spirit of self-expression, curiosity and adventure. It is a destination that defies the limits by embracing the bold and welcoming the new. Change and innovation are our way of life. Vibrance, appreciation and inclusivity define our spirit. Our Sonoran Desert sunshine illuminates the mosaic of human influences — those dating back thousands of years as well as those from the leaders of tomorrow — all of which contribute to an authentic and contemporary destination where Indigenous and immigrated traditions are celebrated. And we invite you to experience it for yourself.



ON THE COVER

Hieroglyphic Canyon in the Superstition Mountains offers a panoramic view over the Sonoran Desert plus a hike among granite-lined basins and ancient carvings.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Starboard & Port Creative















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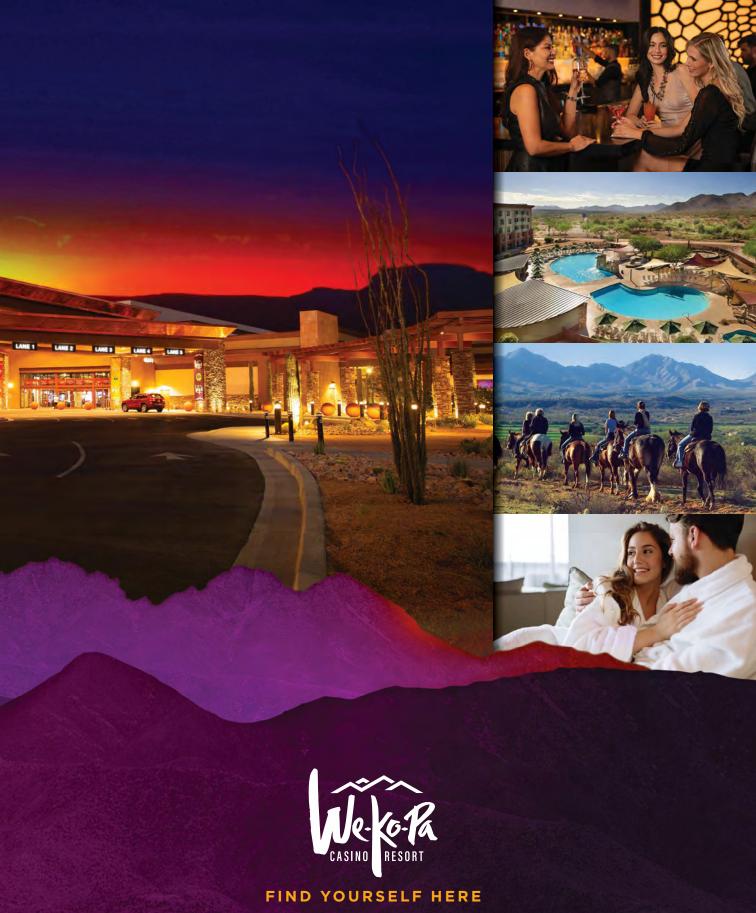






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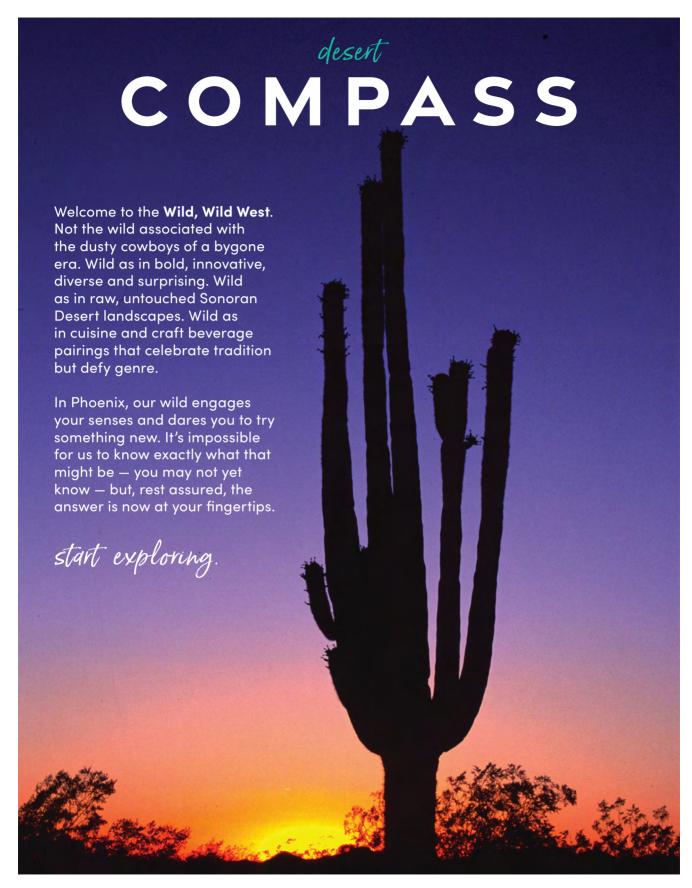
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Spotlight ONLY IN GREATER PHOENIX

Beneath sunny skies and amid the resort-studded landscape of Greater Phoenix, this Sonoran Desert city's signature, one-of-a-kind experiences beckon.



2. TALIESIN WEST

On a guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and studio, learn how the revolutionary architect blended modern design with Arizona's desert landscape. Begun in 1938, this desert masonry and glass structure glows in warm Southwestern hues. Indoor and outdoor spaces are artfully connected by terraces, gardens and pools. The site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2019.

3. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

MUSEUM More than 4,000 musical instruments from 200 countries star at this ultramodern museum, where you can learn about such pieces as Zimbabwe's thumb pianos and a Japanese mouth organ crafted 500 years ago. See Roberta Flack's first professional piano or the guitar Elvis played in his final concert.

4. CACTUS LEAGUE SPRING

TRAINING Starting each February, 15 Major League Baseball teams and droves of fans descend on Greater Phoenix for the best month in baseball. With a combined total of more than 200 games across 10 ballparks, you can catch a game (or two) every day. Tickets for spring training games cost much less—and offer much better views—than during regular season. After the players score their home runs, stick around for autographs.

5. HERITAGE SQUARE

Come explore the city's Victorian past at the Rosson House Museum, a restored 1895 Queen Anne Victorian, or learn about modernday renewable energy sources at the Arizona Science Center. Heritage Square also hosts special events such as Rainbows Festival, a free street fair produced by Phoenix Pride, and Phoenix Flea, a modern pop-up market featuring handcrafted and curated vintage goods, fine art, artisan food, and more.

6. FIRST FRIDAYS ART WALK

Look for the relaunch of this signature Artlink event for the Phoenix arts community, typically held the first Friday of every month from 6 to 10 p.m. (Some locations open to 11 p.m.)





Get free admission at the Phoenix Art Museum and the Heard Museum, plus nosh on food from street vendors and browse galleries, studios and indie businesses in such areas as Historic Grand Avenue, Central Arts District, Roosevelt Row Arts District and Phoenix Warehouse District. Free shuttles are available.

7. CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN

Spotting the landmark "kneeling camel" profile is easy. Getting to the top is hard. About 400,000 people trek to Camelback's 2,704-foot summit every year, but you must be prepared for a tough ascent. Take

Echo Canyon Trail, 1.2 miles out and back. (Allow two to three hours.)
Expect an awesome 360-degree view for your effort.

8. ROOSEVELT ROW ARTS

DISTRICT Immerse yourself in Phoenix's nationally recognized arts district by meandering through this pedestrian-friendly neighborhood surrounding Roosevelt Street. Stroll from 7th Avenue east to 7th Street, and Interstate 10 to Fillmore Street, to discover galleries, boutique shops, restaurants, cocktail lounges and craft breweries in a landscape dotted with vibrant street art.

RELAX AND RECHARGE

A perennial health and wellness trendsetter, Greater Phoenix invites you to find your inner bliss on your next vacation.



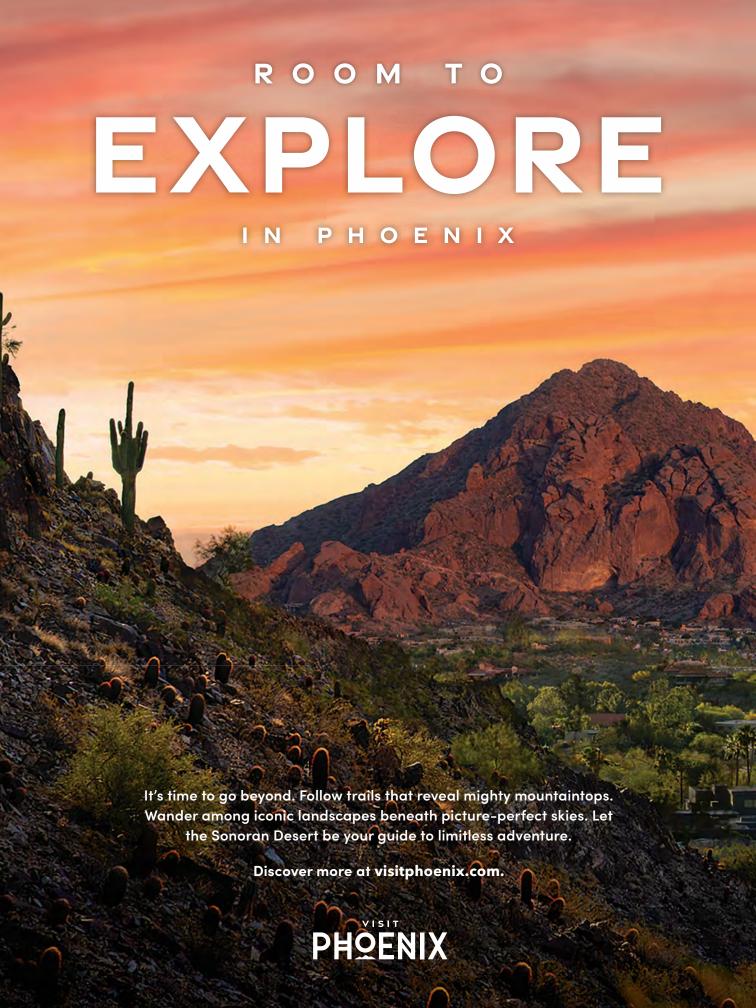
the trappings of everyday life melt away. A tranquil garden with koi ponds and a waterfall in the middle of downtown. It's all waiting for you in Phoenix.

Find a serene spot amid downtown's bustle at the Japanese Friendship Garden next to Margaret T. Hance Park. Decompress to the soothing soundtrack of a waterfall as you wander a path that loops over bridges, around a koi pond, and beneath pear trees and sculpted pines.

events that focus on Japanese customs and holidays. Sessions have included sound healing meditation with high-vibration gongs and pottery workshops that explore the concept of wabi-sabi — accepting transience and imperfection.

Lake Pleasant in northwest Phoenix offers some of the area's loveliest views. Sit back and savor them from the comfort of your seat aboard Lake Pleasant Cruises. If you'd like to learn about the surrounding

Stroll paths by pear trees, sculpted pines, juniper and more at the Japanese Friendship Garden.







area and its wildlife (with possible sightings of bald eagles, wild burros or blue herons), try the 90-minute narrated cruises. Or for one of Phoenix's fabled multicolored sunsets, board a music or dinner cruise.

Talk about the art of relaxation. Have you ever imagined the butterfly pose surrounded by butterflies? Yoga in the Rainforest at Butterfly Wonderland in Scottsdale takes place inside the 10,000-square-foot conservatory, home to thousands of butterflies and lush vegetation with flowering plants. Or for a different yoga experience, head to Mountain Shadows Resort on Mondays in the early evening for one-hour Free Flow Nights, often held on the lawn with views of Camelback Mountain. Afterward, take your relaxation to the next level with a glass of wine at the resort's Living Room.

Connect with sacred Native American traditions at Aji Spa at Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, owned by the Pima and Maricopa tribes (aji means sanctuary in the Pima language). The collection of services includes Ho'Ishp (Sacred Prickly Pear Body Treatment), a massage with prickly pear and aloe oil plus a cocoon of sacred prickly pear red clay; and Shegoi Ch Onh (Ancient Shegoi and Salt Pedicure), which uses shegoi (creosote) to rejuvenate tired feet.

The **Phoenix Art Museum** exudes a zen vibe throughout its light, airy spaces. Browse selections from the permanent collection's 20,000-plus works from around the world or look for special exhibits like "Oscar Muñoz: Invisibilia" (September 2021 through January 2022).

Get lunch or a snack from the museum's Palette Restaurant and eat it on the patio overlooking tree-shaded Dorrance Sculpture Garden. Then just wander the sculpture garden and appreciate your peaceful surroundings — after all, it's about being mindful in the present moment.

Toast the end of your day with dinner and a show — one staged by nature. At Different Pointe of View, part of Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, floor-to-ceiling windows afford a panoramic outlook over the valley. Order from such entrees as seared sea bass with crispy chive goat cheese risotto, or try the seasonally inspired chef's tasting menu. Sit back, take in the sunset and say cheers to your Phoenix getaway.

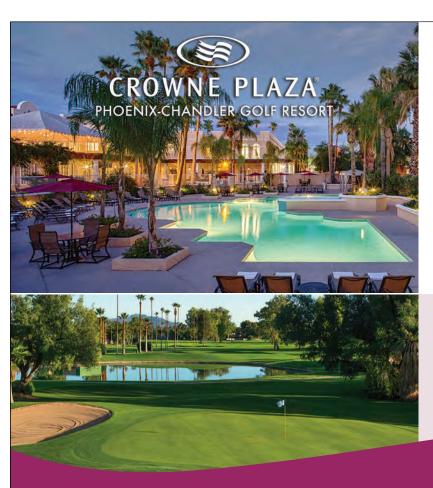
ABOVE, LEFT
At Aji Spa,
experience one-ofa-kind treatments
developed from
ancient rituals to
help purify the body.

ABOVE, RICHT
Cocktails and
dinner come with
glorious desert and
city overlooks at
Different Pointe
of View.

BELOW
Camelback
Mountain serves
as a backdrop
for Monday yoga
sessions at Mountain
Shadows Resort.



PHOTOS: (SPA) SHERATON GRAND AT WILD HORSE PASS, (RESTAURANT) POINTE HILTON TAPATIO CLIFFS RESORT, (YOGA) MOUNTAIN SHADOWS RESORT



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LEAVE YOUR CARES ON THE GROUND









ABOVE, LEFT La Morena (Lucinda Hinojos) with her "No More Stolen Sisters #MMIW," part of the 11/2 Street Mural.

ABOVE, CENTER Thomas "Breeze" Marcus and Miles "El Mac" MacGregor created "Si'alik Hiosik," a portrait of a young Onk Akimel O'odham woman.

ABOVE, RIGHT Navajo artist Jesse Yazzie paints a mural in Roosevelt Pow Arts District

HEARD MUSEUM PHOENIX

See Hopi katsina dolls, Pueblo pottery, Navajo textiles and more at this showcase of Native art. Interviews and quotes tell the stories of Native peoples in a first-person voice, while exhibits highlight traditional and contemporary works. Special events include a Hoop Dance contest in February and Indian Fair and Market in March.

PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK PHOENIX

Follow an accessible 0.67-mile trail through a prehistoric Hohokam village with platform mound, ball court, garden and replicated dwellings. A second 0.5-mile trail passes a canal and saguaro circle.

THE FRY BREAD HOUSE PHOENIX

The first Native American restaurant to win the James Beard America's Classics Award serves up delicious fry bread in a variety of ways, including tacos and desserts.

DEER VALLEY PETROGLYPH PRESERVE PHOENIX

Take a self-guided walk along a 0.25-mile nature trail. The preserve, operated by Arizona State University, protects more than 1,500 prehistoric petroglyphs etched on some 600 boulders by the Hohokam, Patayan and Archaic peoples.

CONTEMPORARY MURALS

GREATER PHOENIX From Roosevelt Row to the Melrose District and beyond, Native artists are bringing visibility to their communities and the area's history by taking their work to the street. In addition to a variety of murals that can be spotted downtown, the 2021 PHX Mural Project Fest transformed the Grand Canalscape (from 15th Avenue to 7th Street) with dozens of sustainability-focused murals — many of which highlight Indigenous themes — by some of Phoenix's best-known artists.

NATIVE ART MARKET SCOTTSDALE

Talk to Native artists, sample traditional foods, and see live music and dance on weekends (November–March) outside The Pavilions at Talking Stick shops. The free event lets you learn about (and purchase) Native crafts. The market also has a year-round store in Old Town Scottsdale.





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"Baby Z" electric guitar, 1983 Played by Nancy Wilson of the rock group Heart

Loan courtesy of Dean Guitars







explore AROUND THE TOWNS

The communities of Greater Phoenix all share mountain views, walkable downtowns and easy access to desert parks and trails. Dive deeper into six surrounding cities.

Tempe

Arizona State University's main campus keeps this city humming. You'll want to check out ASU Gammage auditorium, which hosts a Broadway show series each season, and the free ASU Art Museum, with one of the largest contemporary ceramics collections in the United States. Nearby, Mill Avenue's bars, shops and restaurants buzz late into the night, and Tempe Center for the Arts offers events such as comedy shows and musicals. Tempe Diablo Stadium is the spring training home of the Los Angeles Angels.

For other entertainment, watch hypnotic sea creatures at Sea Life Arizona Aquarium, take the steep 1-mile hike up "A" Mountain or head to Tempe Beach Park to bike, skate, rent boats or walk 5 miles of trails along Tempe Town Lake.



Scottsdale

Scottsdale may be best known for resorts, spas and golf courses, but it's also full of artful finds. Stroll the Scottsdale Waterfront to the 64-foot-tall, brushedsteel pylons of Soleri Bridge and Plaza. From there it's an easy walk to either Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West or Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art.

Shoppers can nab Southwestern souvenirs in Old Town Scottsdale, or high-end art, jewelry and gifts at The Merchantile of Scottsdale and Scottsdale Fashion Square mall. Five spots along the Scottsdale Wine Trail feature Arizona wines and tasting rooms.

At Arizona Boardwalk, see penguins at OdySea Aquarium or be charmed by flutterers at Butterfly Wonderland.

ABOVE Scottsdale's Soleri Bridge and Plaza, designed by Paolo Soleri, is both a solar calendar and pedestrian passage.

BELOW Tempe Town Lake, glistening at sunset, is a draw for water recreation such as kayaking and paddleboarding.







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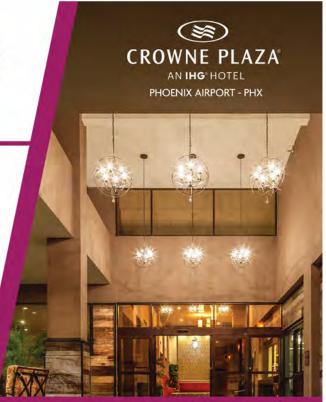
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Mesa

Arts, nature and sports keep Mesa visitors entertained. Mesa Art Center's four theaters, five art galleries and 14 art studios present experiences such as musicals, festivals and concerts. Less than a halfmile away, explore Arizona's cultural and geographical heritage at Arizona Museum of Natural History. It's home to a large dinosaur exhibit as well as collections of Native American artifacts.

A popular stop for baseball fans, Mesa boasts both recently renovated Hohokam Stadium, where the Oakland Athletics hold

spring training, and the Chicago Cubs' Sloan Park, the newest ballpark in the Cactus League.

Mesa also shows off its rich agricultural history and natural desert beauty. A century-old citrus grove shades diners at Jalapeño Bucks, known for its tender brisket. Hikers can escape to myriad trails winding through **Usery Mountain** Regional Park or Tonto National Forest. For water adventure, kayak, canoe or tube down the Salt River. Keep an eve out for wild horses that congregate along the riverbank.

Glendale

This city, northwest of downtown Phoenix, sparkles with attractions. At Westgate Entertainment District, shows of fountains, music and lights dazzle at WaterDance Plaza, which also hosts outdoor concerts. Surrounding the plaza, you'll find restaurants, shops, a 20-screen movie theater and a splash pad. Try a beer flight - along with bowling and billiards — at State 48 Funk House, or head to The Lola for craft cocktails and small plates (pineapple churros, anyone?).

Westgate is just steps from Gila River Arena, home to the NHL's Arizona Coyotes, and State Farm Stadium, where the NFL's Arizona Cardinals play. Two miles north, gaming awaits at Desert Diamond Casino. And in spring, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox train at Camelback Ranch.

But there's another side to Glendale. Stroll the tree-lined streets of Historic Downtown and **Catlin Court Historic District** for shopping and dining in storefronts, homes and carriage houses, many dating back to the first half of the 20th century. Try cactus-flavored taffy from Cerreta Candy Company.

Cave Creek and Carefree

The small neighboring towns of Cave Creek and Carefree appeal to those seeking a laid-back alternative to urban bustle.

Study mining and ranching history at Cave Creek Museum. Or head to Buffalo Chip Saloon for barbecue, live music and a bull riding show. Snap up jewelry made of turquoise (the Arizona state gem) in Cave Creek's Stagecoach Village and along Easy Street in Carefree.

For a taste of the outdoors, hike or bike on 16 miles of trails in Cave Creek Regional Park. Or wander the free, 4-acre Carefree Desert Gardens. See Spur **Cross Ranch Conservation** Area's stands of saguaro cactuses and Hohokam petroglyphs on a trail ride.

The area's ultimate getaway is CIVANA Wellness Resort and Spa in Carefree - try amenities such as floating guided relaxation.

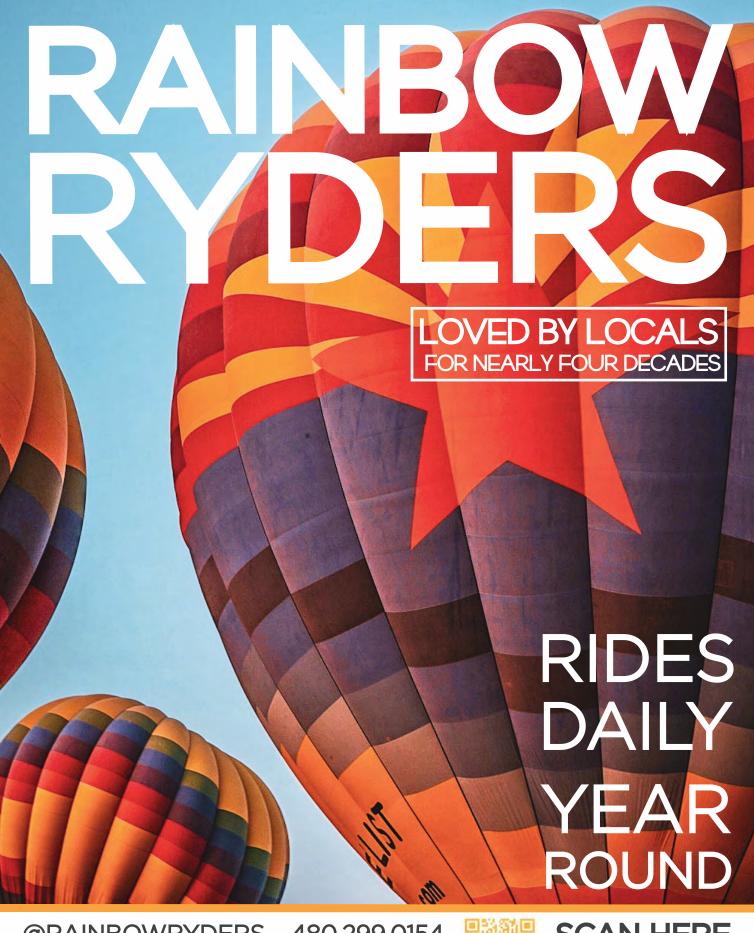
ABOVE

CIVANA Wellness Resort and Spa promises a relaxing escape surrounded by the Sonoran Desert.

BELOW The Chicago Cubs'

Sloan Park in Mesa is the largest ballpark in the Cactus League, with a capacity of 15,000.





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SCAN HERE TO BOOK

Circled by majestic mountain ranges, within the wettest desert in the world, Greater Phoenix is a hiker's paradise. Find out what makes each of these trails unique as well as where to see box canyons, saguaros, ancient petroglyphs and the best sunset and city views.



1. HIEROGLYPHIC TRAIL, SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS

This trail follows a gentle approach into ironwood-shaded Hieroglyphic Canyon, where granite-lined basins hold deep pools (best viewed after a rain). Hundreds of ancient carvings by the Hohokam depict animals, suns and other shapes on weathered boulders here. The rockbound oasis overlooks Gold Canyon and the Gila River plain. 3 miles round trip | Moderate

one of America's largest municipal parks, filled with dazzling city views, cactuses and boulders of granite and quartz. See them all on this

At more than 16,000 acres, South Mountain is

2. MORMON TRAIL TO FAT MAN'S

PASS. SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK

loop: Take Mormon Trail for 1 mile, go right on National Trail, left on Hidden Valley; return the way you came.

3.6 miles round trip | Moderate

AND PRESERVE

STORY: ANN MARIE BROWN. PHOTO: (HIEROGLYPHIC TRAIL) STARBOARD & PORT CREATIVE





(+) more to try



Order or download the free official Phoenix Trail Guide with maps, safety tips and expert picks.

3. PERALTA TRAIL, **SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS**

This scenery-packed trail follows Peralta Canyon's bedrock, passing car-size boulders and towering saguaros. At the top: Weavers Needle, a volcanic monolith, juts 1,300 feet into the sky. 4.4 miles round trip | Moderate

4. SIPHON DRAW, LOST **DUTCHMAN STATE PARK**

Out-of-this-world volcanic formations anchor the Superstition Mountains' west end. Siphon Draw begins on a rocky path that travels through wildflowers (in spring). Two miles in, a bowl of smooth granite cupping an ephemeral waterfall makes a popular turnaround spot, but intrepid hikers continue to Flatiron Summit.

4-6 miles round trip | Strenuous

5. PIESTEWA PEAK SUMMIT TRAIL #300, PHOENIX **MOUNTAINS PRESERVE**

Summit Trail delivers a quadriceps-pumping workout to panoramic Piestewa Peak, one of Phoenix's highest at 2,608 feet. A series of rock stair-steps corkscrews to the top, with changing vistas to keep you motivated. 2.4 miles round trip | Strenuous

@ @will_g87 © @genuineburkheart

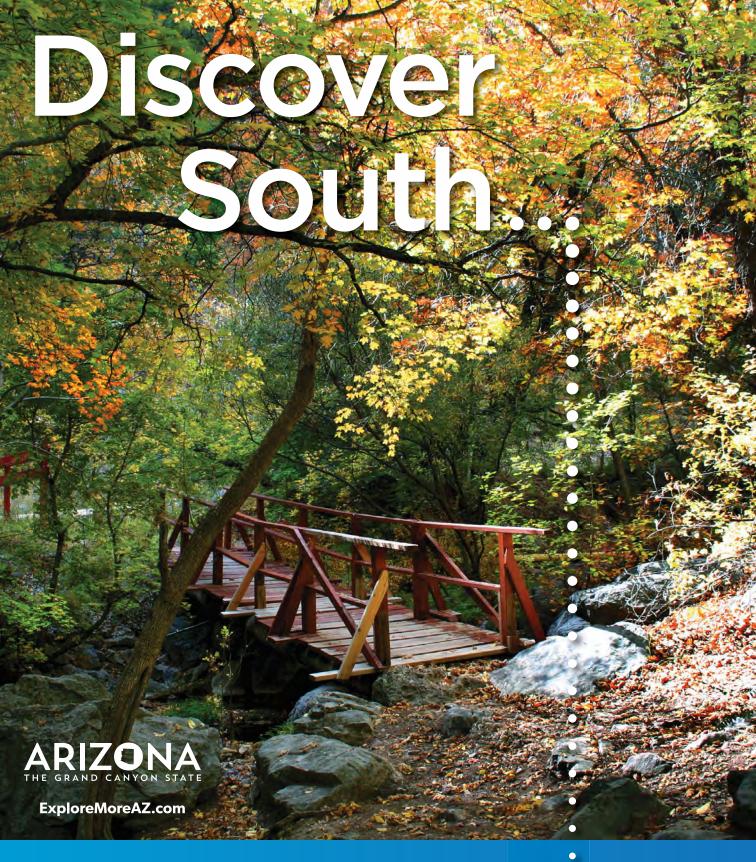
6. WATERFALL TRAIL. WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN **REGIONAL PARK**

Spring brings a burst of wildflowers to this trail that's wheelchairaccessible for the first 0.4 mile. A walkway leads past boulders with ancient Hohokam petroglyphs. The trail then zigzags into a box canyon to reveal a seasonal waterfall. 1.8 miles round trip | Easy

7. SUNRISE TRAIL TO SUNRISE PEAK, MCDOWELL **SONORAN PRESERVE**

Get up early to watch the sun's emerging rays from the top of 3,069-foot Sunrise Peak, and you'll be guaranteed 360-degree views and a solid workout. Barrel cactuses and graceful ocotillos frame your path.

6-8 miles round trip | Strenuous



Discover forested mountains by bike and boot or spend a relaxing afternoon at Arizona's award-winning vineyards or nearby Parker Canyon Lake. Sierra Vista, at the foothills of southeast Arizona's Sky Islands, is a year-round, cool destination where outdoor adventure is second nature. *Discover Sierra Vista*.





FRESH FROM THE FARM

Agritourism flourishes in the Phoenix area, where crops benefit from nearly year-round sunshine. Discover a bounty of locally grown foods and farm-focused experiences at these stops.

ranges and lemons hang off trees, and such vegetables as radishes, beets and broccoli grow at The Farm at South Mountain, 15 minutes south of downtown. The 10-acre farm supplies produce, eggs and edible flowers to its three restaurants, and also supports tours, community agriculture and special events.

For a leisurely brunch at the farm, visit Morning Glory Cafe for omelets stuffed with fresh vegetables. At lunch, fill a basket from The Farm Kitchen's walk-up counter, then picnic under pecan trees. Dinner at Quiessence offers special-occasion, romantic meals under the stars.

Another farm-to-table experience: Agritopia Farm in Gilbert. Explore walking paths, the community garden and a self-service farm store, or take a tour second Wednesdays of each month. Be sure to stop at Joe's Farm Grill, a midmod burger stand, for fare such as the Fontina Burger slathered in farm greens and house-made pecan pesto.

Learn about all things olive at Perry and Brenda Rea's Queen Creek Olive Mill. After the 45-minute Olive Oil 101 tour, try a cheese board with an olive mix from the on-site restaurant and sip wine under an olive tree. Or shop the marketplace, located in Scottsdale, for olive oils, stuffed olives, sauces and other products.

Find seasonal veggies, locally made salsa and artisan goods at the outdoor Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market, Saturdays year-round — one of several farmers markets in Greater Phoenix. At Tempe's Singh Meadows, an indoor market open Fridays through Sundays, most items are sourced from Ken Singh's organic Scottsdale farm. Take your goodies outdoors for a picnic on the lawn.





VEGGIE-FORWARD RESTAURANTS

• GERTRUDE'S, **PHOENIX** Be seated on the patio within the **Desert Botanical** Garden for seasonal foods focused on Arizona growers.

• FNB, SCOTTSDALE Fine fare from **James Beard** Award-winning chef Charleen Badman highlights Arizona foods in globally inspired dishes.

• TERRAS AT CIVANA, CAREFREE Find grass-fed beef, sustainable seafood and veggie-centric plates at this resort dinner dining destination.

• ocotillo, **PHOENIX** Contemporary American seasonal cuisine is always on the menu at this indoor/outdoor midtown spot.



USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL GARDENS AT SALT RIVER

Opened in February 2020, 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.



Located just 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, the Memorial Gardens includes a piece of the original boathouse from the USS Arizona that stood at Pearl Harbor for 10 years prior to building the memorial that stands at Pearl Harbor today. Learn more about the USS Arizona, December 7, 1941 and the impact it had on so many.

The Gardens are open to the public daily, from dawn until dusk.

7455 N Pima Rd Scottsdale, AZ 85258 MemorialGardensAtSaltRiver.com 480.362.2700

Proudly located in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa **Indian Community**







Arizona's Playground...

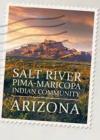
With so many places to play, you'll want to extend your stay



SKEG TAS, Good Day and Welcome!

The O'odham and Piipaash have called this land home for thousands of years. Our ancestors created canal systems and fruitfully farmed the land along the Salt River. They welcomed visitors with kindness and hospitality and

we continue that practice today. We invite you to come, stay and play with us in the Salt River Indian Community, as we are Arizona's favorite place to play! With properties like Medieval Times, Talking Stick Golf Club and the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River, there are so many places to play, you may need to extend your stay!











A PERFECT WEEKEND IN **DOWNTOWN PHOENIX**

This desert city's walkable downtown makes it easy to explore the thriving arts, dining and entertainment scene. Here's how to immerse yourself in local flavor and culture on your next weekend visit.



Friday

3:30 P.M. CHECK-IN @ FOUND:RE PHOENIX

HOTEL Soak up the city's creative scene at this 104-room boutique hotel that doubles as a local art gallery. Guest rooms feature industrial touches – from concrete floors to floating bed frames — exactly what you'd expect to stumble upon in a painter's contemporary studio. Also cool: If you fall in love with a particular masterpiece in the hotel, odds are you can buy it and bring it home.

5 P.M. HAPPY HOUR @ BITTER AND TWISTED COCKTAIL PARLOUR

With a 20-plus-page menu of drinks ideal for Instagram stardom, this lounge in the historic Luhrs Building — once the location of Arizona's Prohibition department — serves up some of the most inspired cocktails in town. Traditionalists can stick with stalwarts like the Sazerac, but if you really want to do vacation right, you'll try a concoction like Slap n' Tickle,

a mixture of house-infused toasted coconut rum, sloe gin, lemon, lime and mango syrup.

6:30 P.M. DINNER @ HARUMI SUSHI &

SAKE Don't let the humble storefront deceive you: It'll take you far more than one visit to eat your way through the menu of Japanese specialties. Fresh fish is flown in daily from all over the world, and you'll be hard-pressed to find specialty items like sushi with purple rice (yes, purple) elsewhere. This spot doesn't take reservations, but it's well worth the wait.

9 P.M. PLAYTIME @ ARCADE BARS

Get your game on at Cobra Arcade Bar, a modern barcade that caters to the 21-plus crowd, or Stardust Pinbar, an arcade lounge with a colorful disco-light floor. For a more laid-back evening, listen to a free music performance at The Lost Leaf while surrounded by eye-catching art.

Saturday

9 A.M. FUEL UP @ JOBOT COFFEE

AND BAR This cafe keeps alive that understated cool (but approachable) neighborhood coffee shop vibe. With a robust breakfast menu, including vegetarian and vegan dishes; baked goods; and warm, decadent crepes, Jobot will be your new happy place.

10:30 A.M. MURAL HOP + SHOP @

ROOSEVELT ROW Phoenix's murals run up walls and through alleyways all around downtown, transforming stretches of brick and concrete into vibrant canvases with stories to share. Take in the art as you wander the Roosevelt Row Arts District (RoRo), an area known for its galleries and boutiques.

Check out Straw and Wool Hat Shoppe for stylish hats; MADE art boutique for handmade items and jewelry; Antique Sugar for vintage clothing; Bunky Boutique for Arizona-themed clothing and home accents; and Stardust and Sage, a spiritual shop with crystals, sage sticks and more.

You'll spot The Churchill's distinctive modular shape from afar. The retailrestaurant marketplace is home to 10 locally owned businesses, all operated out of repurposed shipping containers, surrounding a 9,000-square-foot courtyard with picnic tables and TVs.

2 P.M. CULTURE IMMERSION @ **PHOENIX ART MUSEUM**

Explore one (or maybe two) museums. You could head to the Phoenix Art Museum, where galleries display treasures both







ancient and modern, or the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, for a look at the African American experience in Arizona. History buffs will want to visit Heritage Square to learn about early Phoenix residents at Rosson House Museum. Or try any of 300 hands-on exhibits at the Arizona Science Center.

5 P.M. CHILL OUT @ ARIZONA WILDERNESS DTPHX BEER GARDEN

A good time is always brewing at the beer garden, where you'll find a steady rotation of custom-brewed beers and cocktails made with local ingredients. Native plants, added in a collaboration with Audubon Southwest, draw hummingbirds and butterflies seeking their own kind of nectar.

7 P.M. SAVOR THE FLAVORS @ SUPERSTITION DOWNTOWN

Pan-seared plantains with fresh guacamole and peach mead reduction is just one of the mouthwatering tapas. Divine food menu aside, the meadery also offers flights of mead and cider, plus frozen mead.

Twenty repurposed shipping containers create a cool urban vibe for The Churchill's locally owned stores.

MIDDLE
Six local artists
painted a Black Lives Matter mural wall on Third Street in the Roosevelt Row district.

Bitter and Twisted Cocktail Parlour serves some of the most inventive drinks in town.







8 P.M. NIGHT LIFE @ ALL AROUND

DOWNTOWN Juggle your dinner plans to leave time for a film or special event at one of FilmBar's two downtown locations (including Pemberton PHX, with other outdoor food, drink and art experiences); a concert at the Orpheum Theatre, The Van Buren, The Nash or Crescent Ballroom; an Arizona Diamondbacks game at Chase Field; or a concert or game at Phoenix Suns Arena. Or enjoy a different kind of show – the sparkling city lights viewed over a nightcap at From the Rooftop in the Cambria Hotel Downtown Phoenix.

Sunday

10 A.M. PATIO BRUNCH @ BLISS REBAR OR WELCOME DINER For your last day in Phoenix, head to the lavish brunch at Bliss ReBAR. Or try Welcome Diner, a retrostyle restaurant with modern takes on Southwest fare, plus cocktails. The Big lim, a buttery biscuit sandwich, comes loaded with fried chicken, cheddar, bacon and gravy. Either restaurant will fuel you for an afternoon of shopping.

I P.M. PLAY @ MELROSE DISTRICT

A 1-mile stretch of 7th Avenue is known both for being a hub for LGBTQ+ friendly restaurants and bars as well as an antiquing paradise. Browse vintage art, apparel and home decor at stops such as Michael Todd's Treasures and Retro Ranch, then grab a snack and a cup of joe at Copper Star Coffee or The Refuge Cafe. If you're able to stay later in the day, stop in at Stacy's @ Melrose, Charlie's or The Rock for a drink and a drag show.

ABOVE, LEFT

Stacy's @ Melrose features drag shows, karaoke and other entertainment in a casual, welcoming

ABOVE, RIGHT Come to Chase Field downtown to cheer on the the city's Arizona Diamondbacks.

воттом

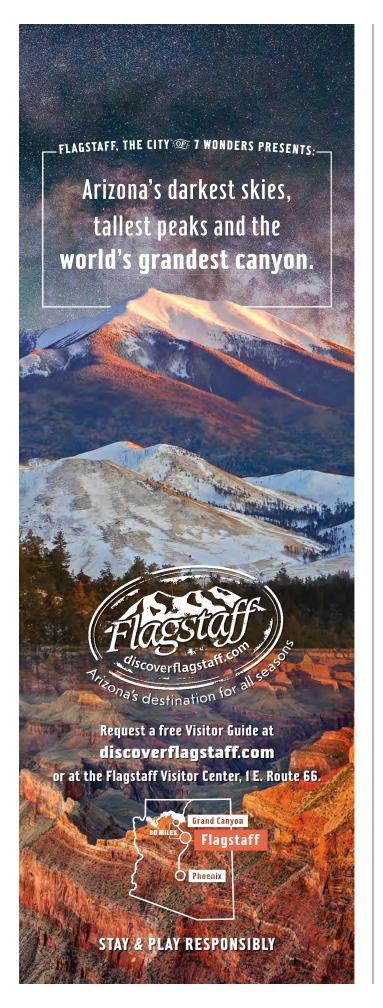
Sip your cocktail while admiring the 360–degree views at Cambria Hotel's From the Rooftop.

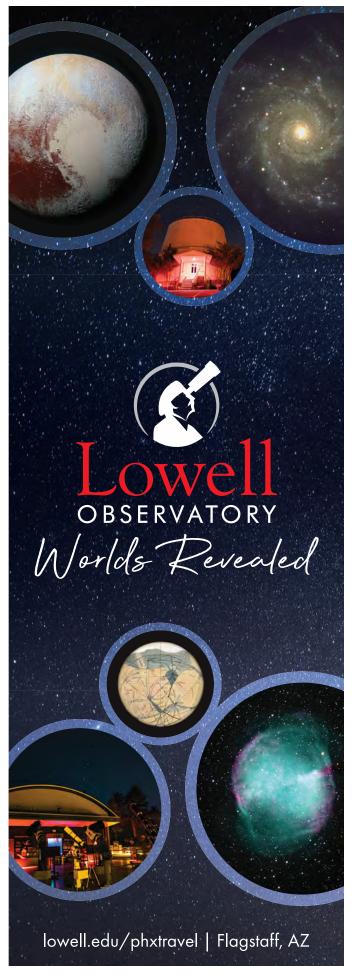


BOTTEGA VENETA BVLGARI CARTIER GUCCI LOUIS VUITTON NEIMAN MARCUS NOBU NORDSTROM OCEAN 44 PRADA SAINT LAURENT VERSACE

Receive the free Visitor Savings Pass with special retail offers when you visit fashionsquare.com/Savings and enter "thankyouforshopping"











SOARING HIGH

Take in 360-degree views of Phoenix's serene desert landscape while floating in a hot air balloon at sunrise. As the sun's alow spreads across the horizon, peer down at stands of towering saguaros and try to spot wildlife such as coyotes, jackrabbits and even roadrunners. Rainbow Ryders Hot Air Balloon Ride Company offers sunrise excursions every morning, year-round (weather permitting). Or marvel at an epic sunset on a winter flight (November through March). After landing, celebrate your journey with prickly pear mimosas.

At Hot Air Expeditions, a one-hour flight floats up to 5,000 feet for Google Earth-style views, then drifts down close to the desert floor for glimpses of landmarks, plants and wildlife. The post-flight meal is no airline food — it's gourmet cuisine from Vincent on Camelback served with linens and china. Speaking of air travel, skydiving sounds thrilling – except for the part about jumping out of the plane, right? Try iFly Indoor Skydiving, where certified flight instructors help you play Superman in a safe, comfortable and fun environment.

GREAT GOLF

Greater Phoenix aces the world-class competition in golf, thanks to year-round sunny weather and nearly 200 courses in a variety of styles. The leader in the clubhouse is Troon North Golf Club, with two 18-hole courses stretching through natural ravines and foothills in the shadows of Pinnacle Peak. Giant aranite boulders lie strewn across the rugged landscape, creating both golfing challenges and cart-stopping scenery.

At We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, owned by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, two 18-hole courses, Cholla and Saguaro, treat drivers to views of the McDowell Mountains, Red Mountain, Four Peaks and the Superstitions. Both courses make lists of top U.S. layouts.

Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club, owned by the Ak-Chin community, has an Australian sandbelt look — not one cactus, but more than 100 bunkers and plenty of native grasses. Be sure to check out #miniDunes, a six-hole short course built into the practice range.

A redesign turned The Phoenician Golf Club from a 27-hole facility into a cohesive 18-hole course that offers Arizona's only sand-island green as well as incredible views of Camelback Mountain.

Arizona Biltmore Golf Club lies next to the legendary Arizona Biltmore Hotel and Resort. Its two storied courses, The Links and The Adobe, promise memorable rounds at the base of Piestewa Peak.

The Phoenician Golf Club takes advantage of dramatic mountain and skyline views along its 18-hole course.





GUIDED ADVENTURES

Some desert forays call for an experienced hand to lead the way. The guides at 360 Adventures take groups canyoneering, climbing, rappelling, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Helicopter pilots will fly quests over mountains, city lights at night and even spring training baseball. And drivers will rip you around the rugged landscape in an ATV, Jeep or Hummer. If that's not your speed, do some stargazing with a pair of expert eyes.

REI Co-op Adventure Center Arizona offers guided tours, outdoor classes and gear rentals to help you explore the Sonoran Desert. Kayak or raft the Lower Salt River (think: relaxing float, not white-knuckle whitewater), go stand-up

paddleboarding on Saguaro Lake, or take a guided bike ride or hike through the lush desert and mountains around Scottsdale. Most tours take half a day and accommodate all skill levels.

Arizona Scenic Tours appeals to your animal instincts with a guided private tour of select wildlife venues in the Phoenix area. Choose from options such as Out of Africa Wildlife Park, World Wildlife Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park, and the Phoenix Zoo. Or try the Desert Hike and Canyon Lake Tour, where you might see roadrunners, Gambel's quail or cactus wrens on your hike - plus you'll visit Goldfield Ghost Town and take a 90-minute narrated nature cruise on Canyon Lake.

A custom private Arizona wildlife adventure with Arizona Scenic Tours can include a stop at the Phoenix Zoo.

PEDAL POWER

When exploring the landscape, two wheels are often better than four. If you're the type who savors the journey, you can cover a lot more ground by cycling your way through Phoenix. An easy bike ride close to downtown is the **Double Butte**Loop Trail at Papago Park. The flat, smooth 2.3-mile natural trail takes you past the park's striking sandstone rock formations, including a small butte and larger double buttes.

If you want cactus views, ride the 5.6-mile Apache Wash Loop in the Phoenix
Sonoran Preserve. The dirt trail challenges intermediate riders as it passes through cactus gardens and provides wide-open

views of the desert. You might even spot some wildlife. Another option: McDowell Mountain Regional Park, where bikers will find 68 miles of park trails and 13.6 miles of competitive track trails.

Ambitious mountain bikers head north of town to tackle the **Black Canyon Trail**, an 80-mile singletrack route through saguaro forests, rugged canyons, rocky soil and huge elevation changes. It's an International Mountain Biking Association Epic Ride — both physically challenging and beautiful to behold.

Rent all kinds of bikes from REI Co-op Adventure Center, Cactus Adventures, The Bicycle Cellar and Trailhead Bicycles. Bike among saguaros on many of the trails at McDowell Mountain Regional Park.





Families can ride rafts, race down twisting slides or float the day away at Greater Phoenix's water parks. Golfers normally try to avoid water, but at Golfland Sunsplash, getting wet is part of the fun. The Sunsplash side offers splashing rides, including Double Dare, Thunder Falls and the Sidewinder, plus the calmer waters of Lazy River. Golfland boasts three 18-hole minigolf courses, as well as arcade games, laser tag, go-karts and bumper boats.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix, Arizona's biggest water park, will blow you away with more than 30 slides and rides. One of the most popular is Bahama Blaster, a water coaster that sends guests racing down tandem tubes on side-by-side slide tracks. The park's Paradise Island, featuring a new 12,000-square-foot activity pool, keeps all ages cool.

Greater Phoenix's hotels and resorts also deliver plenty of ways to play; many offer day passes and cabana rentals to non-resort guests. Check out 10 swimming pools, a beach, a splash pad and 45 waterfalls at Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch. Or try Adventure Water Park with a surfing simulator, water slide and lazy river at The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa.

Kids get soaked at the splash pad and jump into a day of fun at Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch.

ON HORSEBACK

Desert scenery really puts on a show, and one of the best seats in the house is actually a saddle. Rides from Ponderosa Stables meander through trails in South Mountain Park and Preserve, with experienced guides making sure you don't miss any sights. Early birds can head out for morning rides, while late sleepers can join a sunset trek down the mountain to dine at T-Bone Steak House.

Cave Creek Trail Rides caters to all abilities. Newbies and kids can take an easy one-hour loop, while old hands can tackle a three-hour route on the rugged

Go John Trail. Another ride leads to Cave Creek Regional Park's historic Clay Mine. Dismount for a guided walking tour inside the mine, which is normally closed to the public, then saddle up for the return trek.

Cave Creek Outfitters takes you into Tonto National Forest. The Cowhand Adventure Package includes a one-hour trail ride into the Sonoran Desert with a knowledgeable wrangler who chats about wildlife, plants and history. The package also includes a cookout and a chance to try your hand at tomahawk throwing, archery and a horseshoe toss.

Gentle mounts at Cave Creek Outfitters take guests on Sonoran Desert explorations.



PHOTOS: (RIDING) RYAN DONNELL, (PADDLEBOARDING) STARBOARD & PORT CREATIVE



RIVERS + LAKES

All desert doesn't look the same, so be sure to take advantage of refreshing spots for water recreation. The Lower Salt River is a place to chill and thrill while floating on cool mountain-stream waters. Spend an afternoon (or all day) tubing the rapids in Tonto National Forest near Mesa. Salt River Tubing offers trips of varying lengths that include a shuttle ride.

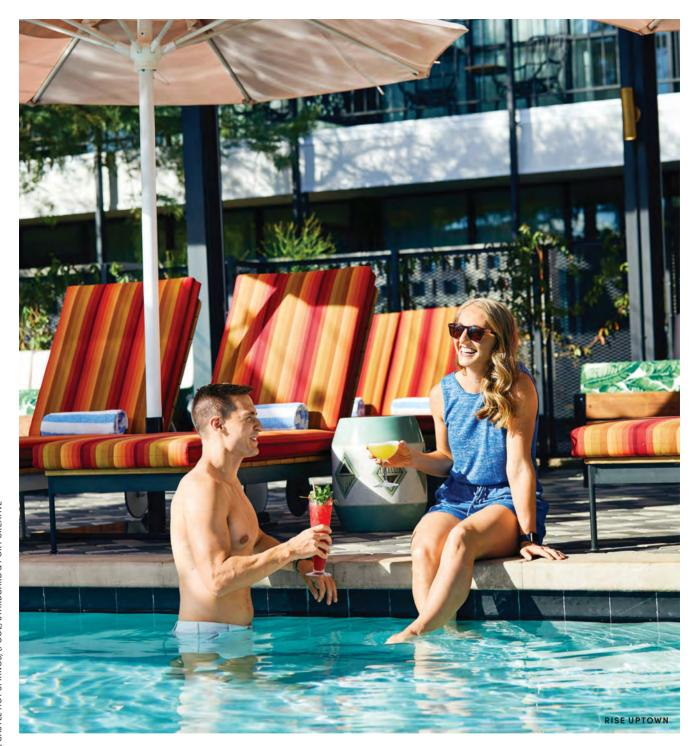
Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are also great ways to enjoy these bodies of water. Riverbound Sports Paddle Company has equipment, classes and tour

experiences. Join a scheduled meet-up paddle, do some SUP yoga, or just rent a paddleboard or kayak and create your own adventure at places such as Canyon Lake, Bartlett Lake and Lake Pleasant.

If you'd rather let someone else steer while you sit back and enjoy the scenery, Desert Belle Cruises offers daily excursions on Saguaro Lake. The 80-minute cruises, narrated by a Coast Guard-certified captain, give insights into the area's history, geology, geography and wildlife. Some cruises include live music.

Rock canyon walls frame stand-up paddleboarders at Canyon Lake. Rent equipment from Riverbound Sports.





CASTLE HOT SPRINGS Morristown

Natural hot springs fill steamy soaking pools, the centerpiece of this luxe resort north of Phoenix. Spring water also nurtures more than 150 fruit and vegetable varieties in the surrounding fields; taste the bounty at the hideaway's Harvest restaurant. New offerings at the resort include stand-up paddleboard yoga in one of the three thermal pools, adventure climbing and desert archery.

RISE UPTOWN

Phoenix

This new entry to the Phoenix boutique hotel scene promises a stylish retreat with a midmod vibe. The 79 guest rooms sport fun retro touches, including record players. At Lylo Swim Club, the poolside bar, sip on sorbet Bellinis created by local cocktail expert Ross Simon. Also on-site: Don Woods' Say When rooftop lounge, where throwback vibes meet views of the modern skyline.







JW MARRIOTT PHOENIX DESERT **RIDGE RESORT AND SPA**

Phoenix

Float down a lazy river, play pickleball on one of 17 new courts, or tour the chef's garden at this 316-acre, 950-room property, the largest luxury resort in Arizona. Five pools, two golf courses, five tennis courts and the Revive Spa offer even more ways to play - plus recent upgrades added a movement studio, poolside suites and a yoga lawn. There are sweet dining options, too, with honey from the resort's own hives.

ANDAZ SCOTTSDALE RESORT AND BUNGALOWS Scottsdale

An artful enclave in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, this resort gives you the space to explore 23 acres of lawns, cactus gardens and shaded groves. Meet artists from the nearby Cattle Track Arts Compound or enjoy kitchen artistry in the acclaimed Weft & Warp Art Bar + Kitchen. Mixology classes, poolside happy hours, spa treatments and outdoor activities via Andaz Adventures will keep you as busy or relaxed as you wish.

ARIZONA BILTMORE, A WALDORF ASTORIA RESORT Phoenix

The iconic Frank Lloyd Wrightinfluenced resort, opened in 1929, unveiled a refresh in 2021 that includes a new indoor-outdoor restaurant, Renata's Hearth; an adults-only pool with bar; a family pool with waterslide tower; an event lawn; and reimagined Wright Bar. The new Tierra Luna Spa features a mud and crystal bar where you can personalize your experience based on your astrological sign.



THE PHOENICIAN Scottsdale

Settle back in a lounge chair at the spa's rooftop pool and soak up the view: sparkling blue water, Camelback Mountain and 254 acres of resort property. The pool and the award-winning three-level spa are part of a recent, extensive renovation. You'll also find four new dining options and a renovated golf course, plus redesigned guest rooms and public areas. Activities on the property might include a yoga walk, craft beer tastings or a family game of candy bingo.

THE SCOTT RESORT AND SPA Scottsdale

You'll appreciate having complimentary bikes to explore the area — if you want to leave your desert oasis at all. A \$15 million renovation gave the resort a thorough refresh with island-theme decor to evoke 1930s Havana. Get in on the fun with classic movies and signature cocktails at Havana Nights, or head to The Canal Club for live music and tapas. Choose from a family-friendly sand-bottom swimming pool and a lagoon pool with bar and cabanas.

OMNI SCOTTSDALE RESORT AND SPA AT MONTELUCIA Scottsdale

Arched entryways, fountains and mosaics suggest the vibe of Spain's Andalusia region. Relax in any of three pools, set against Camelback Mountain; try a sunrise mindful yoga class; or head to the Joya Spa for such treatments as the CBD Bliss Massage or Pink Himalayan Salt Stone Massage. At Prado restaurant, the signature Valencia Paella offers a taste of Spain with bomba saffron rice, chicken, clams and sea bass.

BOULDERS RESORT AND SPA SCOTTSDALE Scottsdale

You'll want to clamber among the namesake boulders, 12 million-year-old granite formations, and take in views from the two championship golf courses. A resort-wide renovation brought Native American influences to the decor of quest casitas and the main lodge. Also new: experiences such as stargazing with a professional astronomer.

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS Paradise Valley Astrology-theme events such

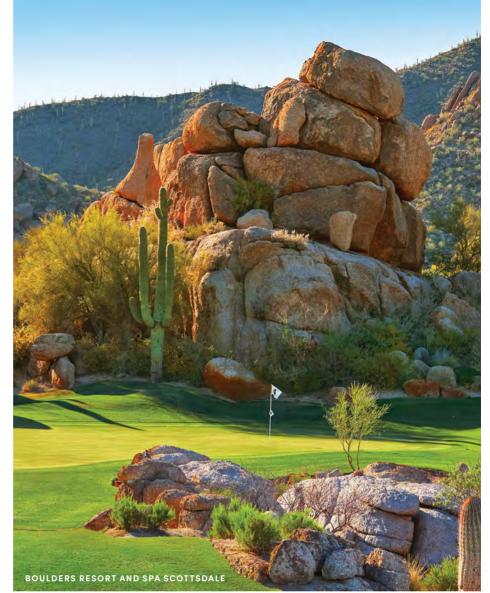
as Cocktails Under the Cosmos and Zodiac Yoga create a heavenly atmosphere for a fun retreat at the \$100 million resort, rebuilt on a property that first opened in 1959. Play a round on the revamped Short Course - one of the only 18hole, par-3 courses in the state.

ARIZONA GRAND RESORT AND SPA Phoenix

If you're traveling with the family, you'll love the 7-acre Oasis Water Park with wave pool, waterslides and tubing river. But all guests will appreciate renovations that freshened the all-suite resort. Other highlights include an 18-hole golf course and multiple on-site dining options.

THE WIGWAM Litchfield Park

Toast your vacation through this historic resort's enhanced cocktail and mocktail program, with fresh-pressed juices. And try a game of FootGolf (it uses a soccer ball) — or hit the links at the state's only 54-hole golf resort. Tennis, bocce ball courts and waterslides add to the fun.





PHOTOS: (GOLF) BOULDERS RESORT AND SPA SCOTTSDALE, CURIO COLLECTION BY HILTON, (POOL) ARIZONA GRAND RESORT AND SPA, (BEACH) RYAN DONNELI

At the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, kick back with your favorite cockťail along Sunset Beach. The 9,000-squarefoot white-sand beach borders the resort's largest pool and is shaded by palm trees.

FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE Scottsdale

You might imagine you're at a tropical beach while strolling the zero-entry pool's white-sand surround. That's only part of the luxe atmosphere at this 65-acre property; you can also stay in recently refreshed guest rooms or suites with tranquil desert decor and sample stellar cuisine from La Hacienda.

HOTEL VALLEY HO Scottsdale

Once a hideaway for Hollywood celebs, including Bing Crosby, the 1956 Edward Varney-designed hotel has been restored to its midcentury glory. You'll find bold colors and mid-mod accents, including at the redesigned ZuZu restaurant.

CIVANA WELLNESS RESORT AND SPA Carefree

Try a chakra yoga class, take guided hikes in the desert, or simply relax amid the musical vibrations of sound bowls and gongs. These are just a few of the activities you might see on the daily schedule at CIVANA, which opened as a destination wellness resort after a multimillion-dollar makeover.

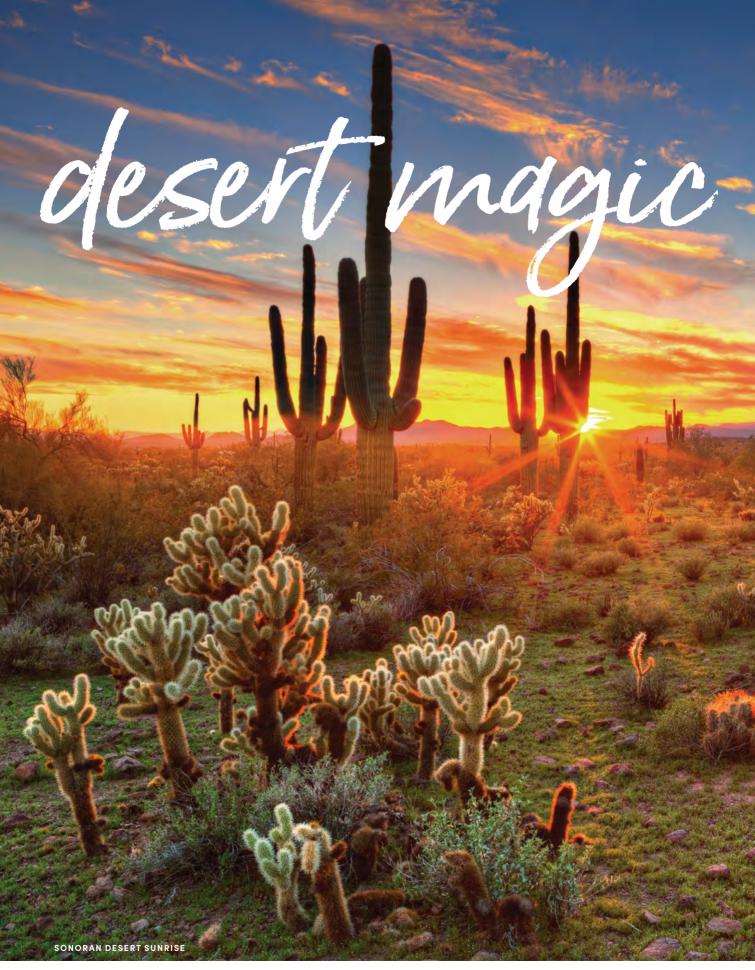
ROYAL PALMS RESORT Scottsdale

Magenta bougainvillea, desert flowers and palms surround you at this 9-acre resort at the foot of Camelback Mountain. Built in 1929 as a private Mediterranean-style mansion, Royal Palms still feels like a retreat, but now has 119 refreshed guest rooms as well as private spaces available for personalized dining.





- I. STATELY SHIRT Find this black and copper T-shirt and other State Forty Eight gear at shops all around Phoenix. Sales help local charities. \$28-\$30. statefortyeight.com
- 2. BEER GEAR Arizona Wilderness Brewing Company's La Ciudad and Refuge IPAs are for local sipping, but they do ship beer-themed duds and suds. \$12 for Refuge IPA beer soap, azwbeer.com
- 3. SAGUARO COASTERS Toast Arizona with four state-shaped coasters handmade in Phoenix. \$30 for a set. urbanashop.com
- 4. HOT LINE If you can take the heat, get Cutino sauces into your kitchen. Opt for chipotle, habanero, jalapeño, verde and more. From \$8 per bottle. cutinosauce.com
- 5. CRAZY FOR AZ Wear your feelings for Arizona on your sleeves (and chest). AZ Love tees from Bunky Boutique feature local art. \$27-\$38. bunkyboutique.com
- 6. CHAINED GLASS A traditional lapanese alternative to downspouts inspired rain chains—colorful stained glass and a bronze windbell. They're sold by Cosanti Originals. \$90-\$105. cosanti.com
- 7. ARIZONA AROMA Smell the desert rain by hanging a locally and sustainably harvested creosote bundle in the shower. Steam sets off its scent. \$10. phxgeneral.com
- 8. WICK-ED AWESOME Sweet scents like Cactus Flower and Orange, Vetiver and Mint waft from MAME + Company's handpoured soy candles. \$15-\$30. mamesoycandles.com







ome say deserts are nothing but sand and wind, but the Sonoran Desert disagrees. This vast landscape holds whispered puzzles, with clues hidden in the coyote's howl, the cactus wren's chatter, the rustle of mesquite branches. Let your first glance linger, and you'll find abundant life and beauty. Shadows flirt with red rocks. Palo verde trees sway. Sandstone buttes transform into red-ochre poetry.

THE WONDER OF WATER

This desert's secrets begin with water. By definition, there shouldn't be any the absence of water is what signifies a desert. But not in the Sonoran, where torrents can pour furiously from the sky. Even in August, monsoon rains may inundate canyons. Water quickly evaporates above ground, but below the surface it nourishes the world's lushest desert, where 2,000 plant species thrive. Year-round, the succulents win our attention — towering saguaros, chubby barrel cactuses, branching chollas. But in spring, delicate wildflowers compete for the limelight, painting the desert floor in a fleeting, phantasmagoric show of golden poppies, blue-purple lupine, yellow brittlebush and red-flowered chuparosa.



A DELICATE BALANCE

In the Sonoran Desert, paradoxes abound. Ocotillos appear as lifeless branches most of the year, but after a few hours of rain, their limbs sprout hundreds of green leaves and flaming red tubular flowers. The ironwood's delicate branches float in the air like ballerinas, but its trunk is one of the world's heaviest hardwoods. Teddy bear chollas look cuddly, but a careless brush with one leads to tedious hours with tweezers. Greater roadrunner, master of contradictions, may act as calmly as a family pet around people. But a pair will team up like trained assassins to dispense with a diamondback rattlesnake.

Saguaros, reaching their green limbs to the afternoon sky, hold their own mysteries. Their long appendages make them look strangely human, but they're actually prickly sentinels with sharp protective spines that discourage interlopers. All except the Gila woodpecker and the gilded flicker, who carve boot-shape holes in the saguaro's trunk and lay their eggs, or the occasional Harris's hawk who nests in a saguaro's cradling arms.

DESERT DWELLERS

Sometimes the desert's secrets take the form of deception. The cactus wren plays a shell game, building multiple nests in a tall chain-fruit cholla but depositing eggs in only one. From the ground, a hungry coyote or fox can only guess where the precious treasure lies. Gentle chuckwalla, a lizard who lives on grasses and plants, survives by deploying a magic trick: When chased, it wedges into a rock crevice and puffs up its air sacs, making it impossible for a predator to extract it.

GOLDEN HOUR

But the desert's most lavish trickery happens almost every evening, when sunset comes as a revelation. Columns of clouds build to a crescendo. Shafts of sunlight poke through the firmament, then disappear. Horizontal flames of maroon and vermilion ignite the sky. Science can explain the desert's extravagant sunsets: Dry air sharpens the light; high-elevation clouds decrease wavelengths and reflect colors. But science goes only so far. The spot where the golden orb dips below the horizon grabs our attention, but it's just a sliver of the action. Sunset magic occurs in the desert's full spectrum of sky. Ranges to the north, south and east glow lavender in the cooling light as alpenglow floods the sky. Topography pencils in the lines – endless muted folds of mountains, deep-shadow buttes and horizons far enough to inspire dreams.

LINGERING SPELL

Sonoran sunsets seem to last for hours, but that's because the desert winds its own clock. The desert tortoise can live for 80 years, desert ironwood trees for 800. A saguaro waits half a century before sending out its first flower. Time leans toward the unhurried.

The Sonoran Desert will invite you to slow down too. That's the magic that draws us. We come for the desert's patience, its endurance, its timelessness. We come for its infinite surprises, which give us faith in what we cannot see. We come for the desert's lingering spell, which slowly and quietly brings us home to ourselves.



7 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE DESERT magic

Authentic Sonoran Desert encounters can be found throughout Greater Phoenix, and we've selected seven unique ways to experience the area's natural beauty. From diverse plants and wildlife to brilliant sunrises and sunsets, we're counting down the most iconic ways to immerse your senses in this thriving landscape.

WATERING HOLES

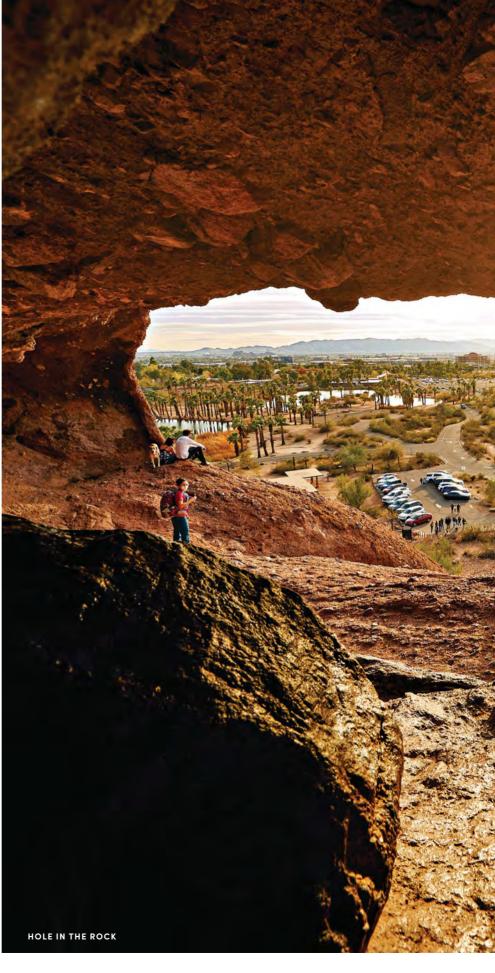
Some of the most breathtaking Sonoran Desert scenes can be found where the warm landscape meets the water. Both contradictory and complementary, the area's rivers, lakes, canals and lagoons add diversity to the terrain — creating spectacular vistas.

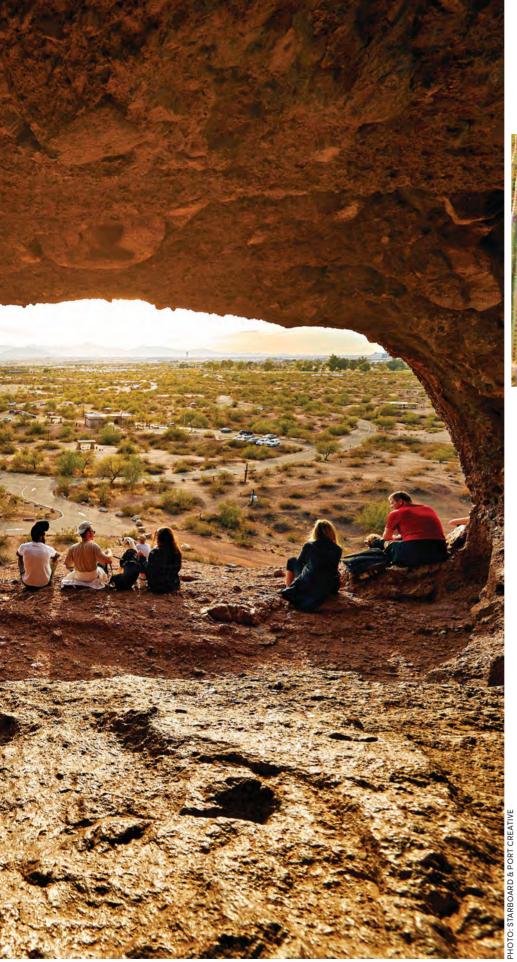
2 MONSOONS

Summer brings some truly amazing sights to the desert. From June through September, you might catch a striking kind of storm: the monsoon, a short and fierce rain. Giant gray clouds fill the sky along with thunder and lightning, and the rain coaxes a sweet, pleasant aroma from native creosote bushes. These highly anticipated storms tend to be brief, so don't worry about them interrupting your vacation plans. If you find yourself experiencing one, just enjoy the sight (and sound and smell) from a safe place.

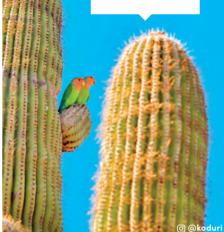
An even more rare summer phenomenon is the spectacularly beautiful "haboob," one of a dozen names for the most powerful of desert windstorms. If you're lucky enough to witness one, expect to see a massive wall of dust roll across the landscape - leaving just as quickly as it arrived.







Rosy-faced lovebirds can be found nesting in ornamental palm trees and native cactuses of urban areas.

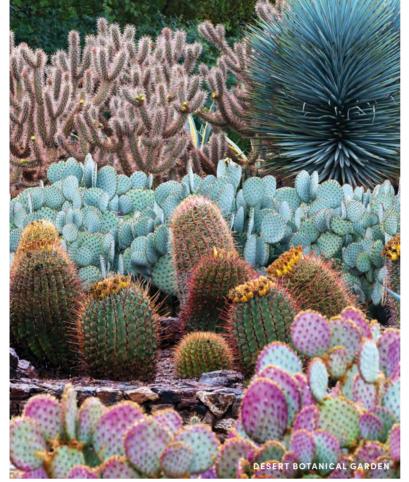


CRITTER SIGHTINGS

Seeing critters is a given in such spots as South Mountain Park and Preserve, one of the largest municipal parks in the country, and Boyce Thompson Arboretum, one of the oldest botanical institutions west of the Mississippi – but don't be surprised if you spot one of these desert dwellers just about anywhere in your explorations.

HOLE IN THE ROCK

A short walk to this sandstone butte offers an inspiring city view from inside weathereroded rocks. The formation is believed to have been used by the ancient Hohokam peoples as a calendar — they tracked the sun's movements through the rock's hole.





DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Stroll five paths through the world's largest collection of desert plants - some 50,000 agaves, shrubs, trees, wildflowers and succulents, including more than 1,000 saguaros. About a third of the plants are Sonoran natives; the rest are from deserts worldwide.

THE SAGUARO CACTUS

The Sonoran Desert's signature plant, the stately saguaro, is a columnar cactus that may grow as tall as 60 feet during a lifetime that can last two centuries. The saguaro grows extremely slowly, typically only an inch or so per year. When it reaches about 10 feet tall — sometime between 50 and 80 years — it may start to grow "arms." Even more rare, for unknown reasons, some saguaros grow into a fan-like form; these are known as crested saguaros. Saguaros can store enough water to survive more than a year without rain. But after a summer monsoon or a winter downpour, their pleated stems swell with water. From late April to early June, saguaro flowers bloom after dark and die the next day. Pollinated flowers transform into green fruit, which turns red as it ripens and splits to expose thousands of seeds.

the desert in bloom

SAGUARO BLOSSOM

To see Arizona's state flower put on a show, stay up late. The saguaro's dramatic creamywhite blossoms open late at night and wilt by mid-afternoon the following day.

OCOTILLO

A thorny shrub with spiny branches that grows up to 20 feet high, ocotillo looks "dead" most of the year, but after a rain, fireworks of red flowers burst forth, offering food for hummingbirds. **BARREL CACTUS**

This cactus is easily distinguished by its rounded, accordion-like body; older barrels grow up to 10 feet high. Tops are crowned by a ring of yellow, orange or red flowers.



HEDGEHOG CACTUS

A petite cactus that grows in clusters with 20 or more stems, with varied species producing brilliant magenta or crimson-red flowers. It's usually the first Sonoran cactus to bloom.

DESERT GLOBEMALLOW

A favorite snack of bighorn sheep, these apricotorange flowers pop out along the edges of stems. The leaves defend themselves with hairs that have an eye irritant.

BRITTLEBUSH

This shrub's silvergray foliage hosts a cloud of yellow blooms, often seen in washes along roads. Stems secrete a clear resin that Native Americans used for glue and pain relief.

FAIRY DUSTER

Also called Calliandra, this shrub produces wispy pink-orange puffballs pollinated by hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. The plant is an important food source for quail and other birds.

TRANSPORTATION TIPS

Getting into Phoenix is a snap. And it's just as easy to move around Greater Phoenix once you're here.



AIRPORTS

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, known as America's Friendliest Airport, is home to 18 airlines offering nonstop flights from Phoenix to 110 domestic destinations and 23 international destinations. Travelers will find restaurants, shops, art exhibits and free Wi-Fi at the airport, plus easy access to rental cars, rail service and other ground transportation.

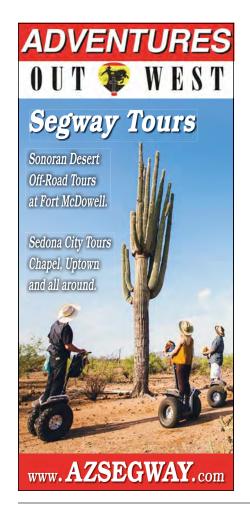
All flights arrive and depart from Terminals 3 and 4. A \$590 million modernization of Terminal 3 brought new security checkpoints and airline ticket counters, more electrical outlets, and other amenities.

Sky Harbor accommodates those with special needs through curb cuts, automatic doors, ramped access, wheelchair-accessible restrooms and drinking fountains, parking, and a sensory room.

Sky Harbor is just 4 miles from downtown Phoenix and centrally located to the area's attractions, resort and hotels.

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, in the southeastern part of Greater Phoenix, is served by Allegiant Air, Avelo Airlines, Sun Country Airlines, Swoop and WestJet, with flights to more than 45 cities, the majority of which are in the West and Midwest.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport typically handles more than 40 million passengers a year.







Sky Harbor is less than 10 minutes from the city center and within a 30-minute drive or less of nearly every Phoenix area hotel or resort. The typical cab fare from the airport to downtown is \$17-\$20.

PHX SKY TRAIN

The free automated train takes travelers between the Valley Metro Rail station nearest the airport (at 44th and Washington streets) to Sky Harbor Terminals 3 and 4. Trains operate 24 hours a day and arrive and depart every three to five minutes. An expansion of the sky train from the airport to the Rental Car Center is scheduled to be completed in 2022, extending the line 2.5 miles.

TAXIS

Taxis are available at Sky Harbor Terminals 3 and 4. Three companies serve arriving passengers:

- AAA/Yellow Cab 480-888-8888
- Mayflower Cab 602-955-1355
- VIP Taxi 602-300-3000

RIDESHARE

Rideshare service providers may pick up customers at designated spots in Sky Harbor Terminals 3 and 4.

CAR AND SHUTTLE SERVICES

Hundreds of car and shuttle service providers are allowed to do business at the airport, with options that include vans, SUVs and town cars. See the Parking and Transportation section of skyharbor.com for lists of providers, including ones that offer ADA accommodations.



HOTEL/RESORT SHUTTLES

Many hotels and resorts offer shuttle service to Sky Harbor. Check with your lodging directly for more information.

CAR RENTALS

Sky Harbor's Rental Car Center houses rentals from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Fox, Hertz, National, NÜ Car Rentals, Payless, Sixt and Thrifty. A free shuttle to the center picks up passengers on the baggage claim levels of each terminal every few minutes. Check with your specific rental car company for hours.

PHOENIX BUS SYSTEM

Operated by the city of Phoenix and Valley Metro, a network of 100 local and express buses serves more than 500 miles in the Greater Phoenix area. Go to valleymetro.org for route maps or call 602-253-5000.

The NextRide notification system will help you know arrival times by using the five-digit number posted at each bus stop. Text the stop number to 22966 for the next three arrival times or call 602-253-5000, say "NextRide" and then say or enter the stop number.

DIAL-A-RIDE

Seniors and those with disabilities can access Dial-A-Ride daily from 4 a.m. to 12 a.m. Call 602-253-4000 for reservations or schedule online at dar.phoenix.gov.

RAIL SERVICE

Valley Metro Rail is one of the easiest and most affordable ways to get around Greater Phoenix. A one-day pass costs \$4 and a seven-day pass is just \$20. The 28-mile system connects 38 stations in Phoenix and the neighboring communities of Mesa and Tempe, with route expansions underway. Air-conditioned trains operate about 18 hours a day and arrive every 15 to 20 minutes.

Popular stops include Chase Field, Phoenix Suns Arena, Phoenix Art Museum, Heard Museum, downtown Tempe and downtown Mesa.

To plan your ride, you can use NextRide. Each rail station has a unique five-digit stop number; signs are located near the entryway of stations and are also on station maps in the kiosks. To get arrival times, call 602-253-5000, say "NextRide" and say or enter the rail station number. You can also text 22966 and enter the stop number; you'll be texted with the next arrival times for your stop.

igoplus more information



Use your phone's camera to scan the code and find more transportation info in Greater Phoenix. No app is required.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Greater Phoenix's calendar of events blooms year-round.

Whether you prefer to experience a city by perusing its art scene at a leisurely pace, by tasting your way through its culinary landscape or by taking in a sporting event surrounded by the energy of its fans — you'll find it here.





Explore foodie events, cultural festivals, concerts, professional sports, art exhibits, street fairs, pop-up markets and more at visitphoenix.com/events.

PHOENIX











HOTELS + RESORTS

Whether you want to crawl between 500-thread-count sheets at a Five Diamond resort, sip cocktails in the lobby lounge of a boutique hotel or retire to a smartly appointed room that's easy on your budget, Greater Phoenix has a lodging option for you.



DINING

Buzz-worthy eateries are as plentiful in Greater Phoenix as cactuses, with just as many varieties.
Some are the creations
of celebrity chefs; others are local gems that serve Southwestern and Mexican dishes. You'll also find cozy wine bars and famous steakhouses.



GOLF

Phoenix and its neighboring communities are home to nearly 200 golf courses in a variety of styles, and Greater Phoenix is known as one of the top destinations for golf. And for good reason — you can get just about any kind of golf experience imaginable.



EVENTS

Visiting Phoenix this weekend? Planning a trip months in advance? Either way, Visit Phoenix has all the details on events happening while you're here. See events by season, by category and by date.



#MYPHX

Whether you're an outdoor adventurer or an urban scenester, you will find unforgettable experiences in Phoenix. Let our #myphx contributors show you all our destination has to offer.

WHAT DOES YOUR PHOENIX LOOK LIKE? Share your visit with us via social media using #myphx.



FOODIE FUN: JOYRIDE TACO HOUSE (a) (allisonwaken



STATELY SAGUARO: SONORAN DESERT (a) (a) (i) (ii) (iii) (



COLOR PATH: PEMBERTON PHX @ @rachel_ventures



CITY SHADES: FROM THE ROOFTOP (a) @littlewing_az



SUN CELEBRATION: PIESTEWA PEAK (a) (a) sjontheradio



CHILL OUT: LYLO SWIM CLUB, RISE UPTOWN (i) @sarahirene



ARTSY FINDS: ROOSEVELT ROW (a) (a) thrifty with a compass



DESERT SERENITY: THE PHOENICIAN @ @traveling_blonde



NIGHT SPARKLE: DOWNTOWN PHOENIX (i) @jonhuynh1



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