



Seasons AND Events

Greater Phoenix's famously sunny weather encourages *alfresco* dining and outdoor recreation year-round. The lush Sonoran Desert beckons those seeking luxe spas, championship golf courses, first-class shopping, cultural festivals as well as hiking and biking trails and iconic vantage points for every sunset.

No matter when you plan to visit next, here's a look at the seasons in Greater Phoenix and the must-attend events that make them all distinct.

FALL

Autumn days in Phoenix are warm, sunny and exceedingly pleasant. Nights can get cool, but patio dining and outdoor events are still comfortable. Fall is the perfect time for recreational pursuits, off-season sunbathing, experiencing the changing seasons on a scenic drive and, of course, festivals.

Arizona Fall Restaurant Week
Arizona State Fair
Día de los Muertos
Phoenix Pride Festival & Parade
Pueblo Grande Museum's Annual Indian Market
Spooktacular Hot Air Balloon Festival
PGA Tour's Charles Schwab Cup Championship

WINTER

Greater Phoenix enjoys blue skies and highs in the 60s and 70s during the winter months. Winter nights in the desert can get chilly, though the temperature rarely dips below freezing. This is the season for serious shopping, spa-liday escapes and festive outdoor soirees.

Canal Convergence
Arabian Horse Show
NASCAR Championship Weekend
Fiesta Bowl
Guaranteed Rate Bowl
Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction
Rock 'n' Roll Marathon
Las Noches de las Luminarias
WM Phoenix Open
Zoolights

SPRING

Phoenix's weather is consistently perfect during springtime. Daytime temperatures loll around 80 degrees, while evenings are comfortably cool. Spring is when hikers hit the trails to see blooming cactuses and wildflowers, and baseball fans flock to stadiums across the metro area for Cactus League Spring Training.

Arizona Spring Restaurant Week
Cactus League Spring Training
Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market
World Championship Hoop Dance Contest
Melrose Street Fair
M3F Music Festival
Innings Festival
Music in the Garden
March NASCAR Weekend
Ostrich Festival
Rainbow Festival

SUMMER

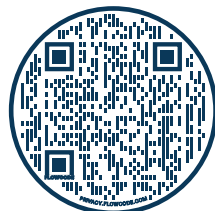
Summertime temps routinely reach triple digits, but a 100-degree day in the desert actually feels much more pleasant than an 85-degree day in a locale with heavy humidity. The best thing about summer in Phoenix: it's value season. Prices at our famed resorts, hotels and golf courses plunge to the best rates of the year.

Phoenix Mercury
Arizona Rattlers
Fabulous Phoenix 4th - Steele Indian School Park
July 4th Tempe Town Lake Festival
Real Wild & Woody Beer Festival
Salt River Tubing

YEAR-ROUND & MULTI-SEASON

First Friday Art Walk
Scottsdale ArtWalk
Arizona Cardinals
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Coyotes
Phoenix Suns
Phoenix Rising

CHECK OUT
Visit Phoenix's event
calendar and you won't
miss a single event on
your next visit:



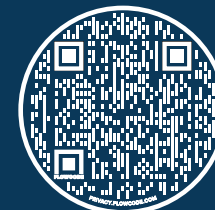
Desert Ridge Marketplace



SHOPPING

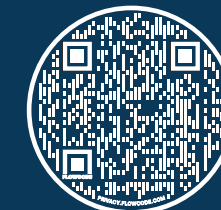
From charming boutiques to three-story shopping centers, Greater Phoenix can claim some of the best retail therapy in the Southwest.

Find everything from high fashion and hipster goods to local favorites and vintage treasures:



BOOK YOUR STAY

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. Here's where to find the best hotels and resorts in Phoenix:



Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia



PHOENIX

ARIZONA



WELCOME

Welcome to the Wild, Wild West. Not the wild associated with the dusty cowboys of a bygone era. Wild as in bold, innovative, diverse and surprising. Wild as in raw, untouched Sonoran Desert landscapes. Wild as in cuisine and craft beverage pairings that celebrate tradition but defy genre.

In Phoenix, our wild engages your senses and dares you to try something new. It's impossible for us to know exactly what that might be — you may not yet know — but, rest assured, the answer is now at your fingertips.

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.

start exploring...



Desert Botanical Garden

10 MUST-SEE Attractions

Greater Phoenix's perpetual sunshine might tempt you to spend all your free time lounging next to a swimming pool, but don't give in. Exploring the Sonoran Desert's horizons will broaden yours. Below are 10 must-see attractions that will help make your visit a memorable one.

Musical Instrument Museum

This museum is the first in the world dedicated to the celebration of global instruments. The collection includes instruments from more than 200 countries and territories. Musicians of all ages will dig the Experience Gallery, where you can touch and play every instrument on display.

Desert Botanical Garden

This outdoor museum showcases desert plants — and not just those native to the Southwest. Among the succulents that adorn the garden's 55 cultivated acres are Dali-esque trees from North Africa and sprawling cactuses from Mesopotamia. Insider's tip: Sign up for a docent-guided tour.



Music Instrument Museum

Heard Museum

The traditional and contemporary art on display at the Heard provides insight into the culture of Arizona's 22 Native American tribes. Not to be missed is the upstairs exhibit on Indian boarding schools. The Heard Museum Shop in Phoenix is one of best places to buy authentic American Indian art and jewelry.

Children's Museum of Phoenix

This museum doesn't focus on art or science, nor does it contain paintings or bones. Instead, the hands-on exhibits are designed simply to entertain children as young as infants and as old as 10. Don't miss the hanging forest of pool noodles.

Arizona Science Center

Exploration, education and entertainment awaits all ages throughout this 140,000-square-foot landmark nestled in downtown's Heritage and Science Park. Discover four levels of exciting, hands-on exhibits, galleries, a state-of-the-art planetarium, and a five-story, giant-screen theater.

Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum is the largest fine-art museum in the Southwest. Its permanent collection includes American, Asian and European masterpieces. The museum is noted for its Western American collection, but striking work is also to be found in the contemporary wing and fashion design gallery.

Legends Entertainment District

Pro sports are almost always buzzing in downtown Phoenix. Fans flock to Footprint Center — home of the NBA's Phoenix Suns, the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and the IFL's Arizona Rattlers — and Chase Field — home of the MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks — to catch this city's teams in action.

Heritage Square

As part of the city's original townsite, this city block in downtown Phoenix is a link to the city's 19th-century origins. Heritage Square is home to preserved Victorian-style homes, including historic Rosson House Museum, a fully restored 1895 Queen Anne Victorian house. Go for the for the history, stay for the critically acclaimed food at Pizzeria Bianco and the signature events at Lath House Pavilion.

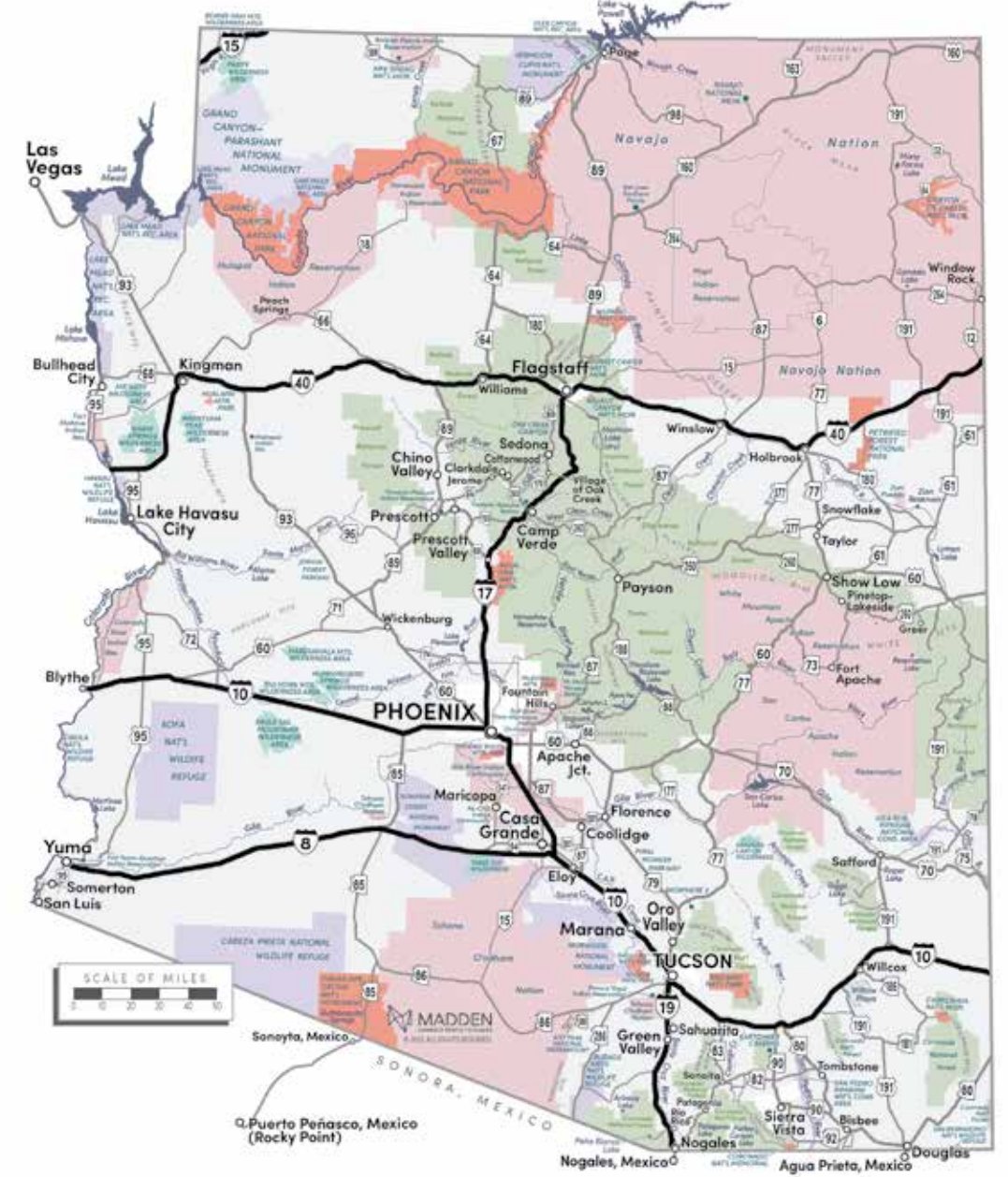
Old Town Scottsdale

The Old West and New West converge in Old Town Scottsdale, where galleries dedicated to American Indian and cowboy arts share a pedestrian-friendly streetscape with shops that sell Southwestern jewelry and crafts. You'll also find some of Greater Phoenix's finest restaurants and trendiest nightlife.

Taliesin West

Subtly rising out of the desert floor at the foot of the McDowell Mountains, Taliesin West was the winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most-famous architect. Tours of the UNESCO World Heritage Site range from one hour to three hours, including a two-hour Night Lights Tour on select evenings throughout the year.

ARIZONA



Grand Canyon National Park

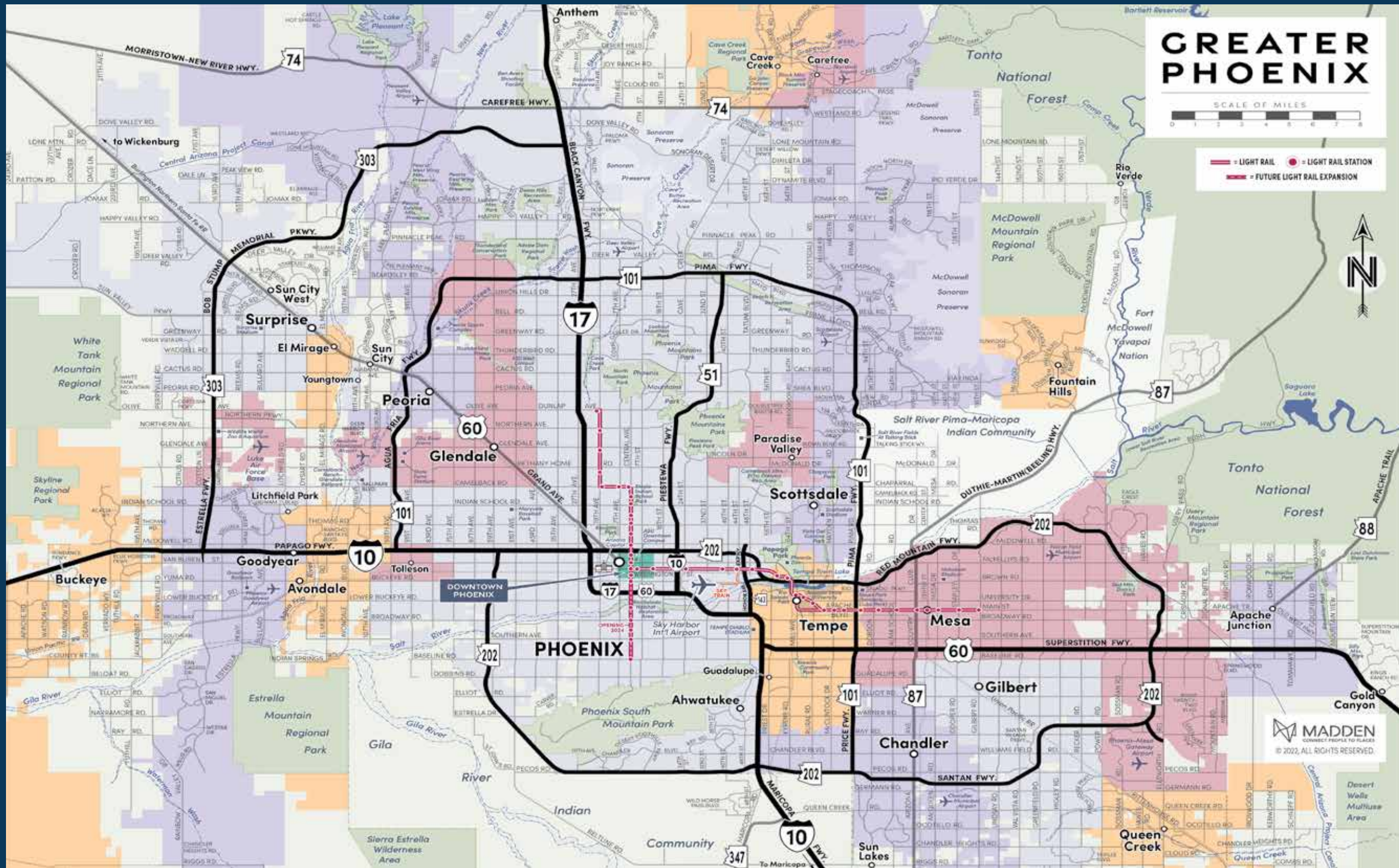


Sedona Red Rock State Park



Kartchner Caverns State Park

©Arizona State Parks



- Hotels
- Phoenix Convention Center
- Point of Interest



Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park



Fort McDowell Adventures

ICONIC Southwest

Greater Phoenix's distinctly Southwestern culture is defined by a colorful succession of inhabitants: Ancient Puebloans, Native Americans, pioneers, Mexican immigrants, ranchers, miners and cowboys. The legacy of these diverse peoples can be seen in the region's architecture, cuisine and beyond.

Here are just a few ways to experience this history that will leave a little dust on your shoes and a smile on your face.

Apache Trail

This 48-mile scenic drive was named for the Apache Indians who originally used the trail to pass through the Superstition Mountains. It was later used as a stagecoach route and supply road. Today, it carries sightseers past Lost Dutchman State Park, the tiny Old West town of Tortilla Flat and three recreational lakes.

Ponderosa Stables

For over 40 years, these guides have been inviting visitors to soak in the simplistic beauty of the Old West with horseback rides lasting from one hour to a full eight-hour day. Choose from special breakfast, lunch, dinner and sunset rides.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park

Experience a juxtaposition of centuries and cultures at this 1,500-year-old Hohokam ruin in the center of the city. An outdoor trail takes visitors past a platform mound, ballcourt ruin, replicated houses and native plants.

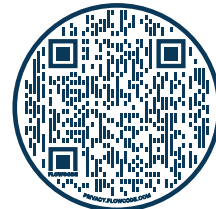
Fort McDowell Adventures

This adventure and events outfitter invites you to immerse yourself in the Sonoran Desert via trail or horseback riding, Segway tours or boating. Add a shooting demonstration and cowboy cookout to your tour for the full experience.

Rustler's Rooste

Take a step back in time with a dining experience that adds authentic cowboy spirit to meals and parties with live country-western music and fried rattlesnake. Visit this mountaintop eatery for sunset and you'll be treated to panoramic views as golden hour gives way to the twinkling skyline in the distance.

EXPLORE
the Old West in
Greater Phoenix:



HIT THE Trails

There's a great trail for every skill level within a short drive from anywhere in the city. Explore our guide to the best hikes in Greater Phoenix.

South Mountain Park and Preserve

As one of the largest municipal parks in the U.S., South Mountain Park and Preserve covers 16,000 acres, making it nearly 20 times larger than Central Park in New York. But you won't find manicured grass and fountains here. Instead, the park is filled with native flora, ancient petroglyphs and 50-plus miles of trails for mountain biking, horseback riding or hiking.

The Judith Tunell Accessible Trails include the Interpretive Loop and the Challenge Loop (0.5 miles each), both of which are paved. On the other hand, National Trail is a moderate 16-mile, point-to-point trail for the more adventurous hiker.

For a scenic drive, with a treat at the end, Dobbins Lookout is the highest accessible point in the park. Perched at 2,330 feet, the lookout includes parking spaces, stone ramada and a small observation platform that indicates various Phoenix landmarks from the panoramic vantage point, including Camelback Mountain and the downtown Phoenix skyline.



Papago Park view from Hole-in-the-Rock

Phoenix Mountains Preserve

The parks and peaks that make up the Phoenix Mountains Preserve are surrounded by civilization, but feel as remote as the Sonoran Desert beyond the city. Located just 20 minutes from downtown, the preserve offers hiking, biking and views from the city's two most-prominent summits.

As the city's most famous landmark, Camelback Mountain resembles a dromedary camel in repose, and challenges hikers with a rugged-but-rewarding trek up Echo Canyon Trail (2.4 miles out and back) to its 2,700-foot "hump."

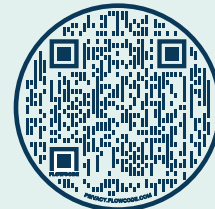
The second-highest summit in the city, Piastewa Peak, offers views from 2,608 feet via the extremely strenuous Summit Trail (#300), challenging hikers with a 1,200-foot elevation gain and rocky, unrelenting climb.

Papago Park

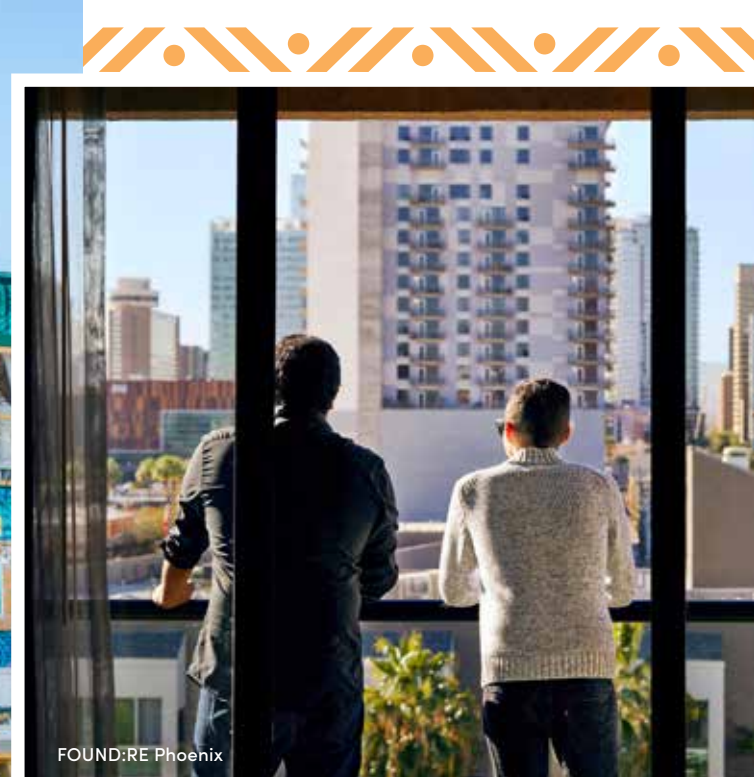
For an oasis that's steeped in both history and outdoor recreation, Papago Park is located just minutes from downtown Phoenix. Known for its unmistakable red sandstone formations, this 1,500-acre area is home to the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Garden, Papago Golf Course, seven acres of lagoons and more.

Trails here include a paved pathway, an interpretive nature trail as well as a series of loops around the buttes. A quick climb up Hole-in-the-Rock Trail (0.3 miles) leads to the park's most popular — and scenic — vantage point. This intriguing formation features a main chamber that is thought to have been used by the ancient Hohokam civilization to track the position of the sun through a hole in the rock "ceiling." Today, it makes the perfect spot to watch the sunset behind the downtown skyline.

CHECK OUT
additional details
on all these hikes
and more in our
Trail Guide:



Pemberton PHX



FOUND:RE Phoenix

DOWNTOWN Phoenix

Being surrounded on all sides by mountain chains and lush desert landscapes is only part of what makes this city unique. The other part awaits you in downtown. When the business day ends, downtown Phoenix lights up with entertainment options.

This desert city's walkable downtown core 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.

Located about 10 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, this urban oasis invites you to navigate seamlessly between nearly 20 hotels, approximately 200 restaurants and bars, museums, theaters, art spaces, concert venues, professional sporting events, art spaces and more.

CityScape, located in the heart of downtown Phoenix, is a two-block concentration of retail, entertainment and dining options. The complex is home to more than a dozen restaurants and bars, shopping retailers, two live-music venues, a comedy club, a bowling alley and a day spa.

Pro sports are almost always buzzing, as fans flock to Footprint Center — home of NBA's Phoenix Suns, WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and IFL's Arizona Rattlers — and Chase Field, home of MLB's Arizona Diamondbacks.

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 Roosevelt Row (RoRo), a nationally recognized arts district known for its galleries and boutiques. Don't miss the First Friday Art Walk, which features open houses, public art, demonstrations, vendors and more.

Downtown is also home to the Phoenix Convention Center and Arizona State University's Downtown Campus. And it's all served by one of the ever-expanding Valley Metro Rail.