



GREATER PHOENIX: AN OVERVIEW

Desert character. It can't be conjured, landscaped or kindled with twinkling bulbs. John Ford knew that. So did Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis L'Amour. Spend a few days in Greater Phoenix and you'll understand, too. America's sixth-largest city still has cowboys and red-rock buttes and the kind of cactus most people see only in cartoons. It is the heart of the Sonoran Desert and the gateway to the Grand Canyon, and its history is a testament to the spirit of Puebloans, ranchers, miners and visionaries.

This timeless Southwestern backdrop is the perfect setting for family vacations, weekend adventures or romantic getaways. Each year, 16 million leisure visitors travel to Greater Phoenix. They enjoy resorts and spas infused with Native American tradition, golf courses that stay emerald green all year, mountain parks crisscrossed with trails, and sports venues that host the biggest events in the nation.

The best way to learn about America's sunniest metropolis, of course, is to experience it firsthand. The following information will give you a snapshot of what to expect before your visit and provide sound reference material after you leave.

Lay of the Land

Greater Phoenix encompasses 2,000 square miles and more than 20 incorporated cities, including Glendale, Scottsdale, Tempe and Mesa. Maricopa County, in which Phoenix is located, covers more than 9,000 square miles. Phoenix's elevation is 1,117 feet, and the city's horizon is defined by three distinct mountains: South Mountain, Camelback Mountain and Piestewa Peak.

Basic History

The Hohokam people inhabited what is now Greater Phoenix until about 1450 A.D. They created the first major urban civilization in the Salt River Valley and developed a canal system that is still in use today. In 1865, the U.S. government established Fort McDowell here, and settlers such as Jack Swilling began farming the land. The city of Phoenix was established in 1868; two years later, the first survey and census of the city noted it was about a mile long and a half-mile wide, with 74 dwellings and a population of 250.

Population

One of the fastest-growing regions in the nation, Greater Phoenix has a population of nearly 4.49 million. Greater Phoenix's population increased by 39 percent from 1997 to 2005 (compared to the national rate of 12 percent). In 1950, Phoenix proper had a

population of about 100,000; today its population is more than 1.6 million, making it the sixth-largest city in the U.S. The average age of Greater Phoenix residents is 34, making it the fifth-youngest metro region in the country.

Climate

According to data compiled by the National Climatic Data Center, Phoenix basks in sunshine more often than any other major metropolitan area in the U.S. The sun shines on Phoenix during 85 percent of its daylight hours (more than 300 days per year). Phoenix has an average annual rainfall of 7.66 inches, an average annual temperature of 72.6 degrees (Fahrenheit) and an average annual high temperature of 85 degrees. Phoenix's low humidity makes summer heat more comfortable than in other hot climates. The average high temperature in winter is 67 degrees, and travelers should bring light sweaters and jackets November through March.

Activities & Adventures

Dependable sunshine and warm temperatures make outdoor activities a way of life in Phoenix. Golf, tennis, hiking, cycling, mountain biking and rock climbing are popular Phoenix activities. Horseback riding is a great way to see the Sonoran Desert, as is a rugged Jeep or Hummer ride. Thrill seekers can soar above the desert plateau in a glider, sailplane or hot-air balloon, or satisfy their need for speed at the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving. Visitors also can choose from water skiing, sailing, fishing and tubing in the region's lakes and rivers.

Popular Attractions

Greater Phoenix's top attractions (in terms of yearly attendance) are South Mountain Park and Preserve, Tempe Town Lake, Camelback Mountain and First Friday Art Walks in downtown Phoenix. Other noteworthy attractions include the Heard Museum, Desert Botanical Garden, Heritage and Science Park, the Musical Instrument Museum, and Phoenix Zoo. Phoenix, of course, is also the gateway to the Grand Canyon; the drive to America's greatest natural wonder takes 3½ hours.

Spectator Sports

Greater Phoenix annually plays host to the PGA Tour's Waste Management Phoenix Open (at the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale), NASCAR's March and November events (at Phoenix International Raceway), Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, and college football's PlayStation Fiesta Bowl and Motel 6 Cactus Bowl, Phoenix has played host to the Super Bowl XLIX in 2015 and 2008 (University of Phoenix Stadium), the College Football Playoff National Championship Game of the Bowl Championship Series (formerly BCS) in 2016, and will host the 2017 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four (University of Phoenix Stadium). Phoenix is one of 13 U.S. cities with franchises in all four major professional sports leagues: Phoenix Suns (NBA), Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB), Arizona Cardinals (NFL) and Arizona Coyotes (NHL).

Accommodations

Greater Phoenix is home to more than 450 hotels with more than 62,000 guest rooms. That total includes more than 40 luxury resorts. Notable resorts in Greater Phoenix

include the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort and Spa, the Arizona Biltmore, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, The Phoenician, Royal Palms, Pointe Hiltons (Tapatio Cliffs and Squaw Peak Resorts), Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Gainey Ranch, Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, The Camby, The Wigwam and the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess.

Getting Here

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is located four miles from downtown and 20-30 minutes from most resorts. It is served by more than 20 carriers. Thoughtful touches at Sky Harbor include free wireless Internet access, a shaded dog park for four-legged fliers, and an audio-visual paging system that allows travelers to call for assistance with the push of a button. The airport offers more than 30 local restaurant options that satisfy any craving. Sky Harbor serves about 40 million passengers a year, ranking it among the 10 busiest airports in the nation.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

Many cities across the U.S. are undergoing “renaissances,” but few downtown-development stories can match the magnitude of Phoenix’s.

More than \$4 billion dollars in public and private funds have invested in Phoenix’s urban core since 2006. Completed projects include a light-rail system; the expansion of the Phoenix Convention Center; the construction of the largest hotel in Arizona, the Sheraton Grand Phoenix; the creation of a downtown campus for Arizona State University; and a multiuse retail, dining and entertainment district called CityScape.

The city’s philosophy is simple: Residents and visitors who explore the nation’s sixth-largest city deserve a downtown experience as vibrant and memorable as the Sonoran Desert itself.

Here’s a look at a few of the newest additions to Phoenix’s urban core:

METRO Light Rail

When a \$1.4 billion light rail system debuted in downtown Phoenix on Dec. 27, 2008, it ushered in a transportation revolution not seen in the Sonoran Desert since the thirsty horse gave way to the combustion engine. The 26-mile line links northwest, central and downtown Phoenix to the neighboring communities of Tempe and Mesa, and includes stops at attractions such as Phoenix Art Museum, the Heard Museum, Chase Field (MLB) and Talking Stick Resort Arena (Formerly US Airways Center, NBA and WNBA).

METRO Light Rail’s quiet, air-conditioned trains operate 20 hours per day, seven days a week. The system operates at street level and is powered by electricity from overhead wires. Fares are \$2.00 per ride or \$4.00 for an all-day pass. The system has 35 stations, and trains stop at those stations on average every 12 minutes.

METRO Light Rail is equipped to handle big events. Station platforms can accommodate the boarding of 600 passengers onto a three-car train within 30 seconds. The station platforms themselves are adorned with \$6.2 million worth of public art, with each installment designed to reflect the character of the community where it is located.

METRO Light Rail offers college students an easier, greener way to travel from Arizona State’s growing downtown Phoenix campus to the university’s main campus in Tempe. Convention attendees and other downtown visitors can also make the 25-minute trip to

Tempe, which is home to Tempe Beach Park and the popular Mill Avenue entertainment and shopping district.

A \$1.1 billion, driverless “people mover” called PHX Sky Train debuted in April 2013. It transports light rail passengers to Sky Harbor from the 44th Street and Washington stop, the East Economy parking area and Terminals 3 and 4 with a walkway to Terminal 2. The train is free and operates 24 hours a day. The PHX Sky Train features boarding pass kiosks, early bag check for those traveling on American or Southwest airlines, and a pet park for those traveling with their 4-legged friends.

About 40 miles of extensions to METRO Light Rail will be phased during the life of the project’s 20-year plan, ending in 2025.

Phoenix Convention Center

Five years and \$600 million in the making, the newly expanded Phoenix Convention Center is an architectural masterpiece in the heart of downtown.

Inspired by the colors and textures of the Grand Canyon, the convention center’s three-building campus boasts nearly 900,000 square feet of exhibition and meeting space, three ballrooms with cutting-edge audio and video technology, \$3.2 million worth of public art, and ecologically friendly features like solar paneling and a water-harvesting garden.

The West Building of the convention center’s campus has been awarded LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

User-friendly features at the new convention center include exhibit halls with pre-scored floors, loading bays with air conditioning, outdoor meeting spaces with beautiful views, and a food court with five themed eateries.

The convention center’s technological infrastructure satisfied the needs of the worldwide media during Super Bowl XLII and Super Bowl XLIX, and its flexible environs accommodated an array of exhibits (including a basketball court with stadium-style seating) during the National Basketball Association’s 2009 All-Star Weekend. The convention center also hosted FanFest during Major League Baseball’s 2011 All-Star Week (July 8-12, 2011).

The fully expanded Phoenix Convention Center welcomed its first meeting groups on Jan. 8, 2009.

CityScape

CityScape is a 2-block concentration of retail, entertainment and dining options in the city’s urban heart. Visitors can stop for a power lunch at the Arrogant Butcher or watch award-winning mixologists create cocktails in Blue Hound Kitchen and Cocktails. Shoppers can choose from fashion retailers such as Urban Outfitters, and Charming Charlie. Kids can kick off their shoes and cool off in dancing fountains, while grownups can get in touch with their inner Jeff Lebowsky at Lucky Strikes Lanes & Lounge. CityScape also is home to The Breakfast Club, Squid Ink

(sushi), Stand Up Live (a comedy theater and supper club), EOS Fitness, Repose Spa and Salon, and Gypsy Bar (a dance club and arcade) among various other retailers.

Hotel Palomar Phoenix

Kimpton's Hotel Palomar Phoenix opened in June 2012 at CityScape. Hotel Palomar Phoenix is an urban retreat that strikes a balance between the energy of its city setting and Arizona's laid-back lifestyle.

The boutique hotel offers 242 spacious guest rooms and suites, all with modern interior touches and views of the surrounding city and mountains. Amenities include approximately 10,000 square feet of multi-use space across 10 meeting rooms, which can be customized for social and business events.

The hotel's restaurant, Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails, showcases a menu of new American cuisine for lunch, dinner, late-night snacks and weekend brunch, and the cocktail program raises the bar for drink culture in the city's urban core. The Palomar's third-floor outdoor pool terrace and adjacent Lustre Rooftop Garden bar provide a scenic venue for gathering.

Sheraton Grand Phoenix

Located a block from the new Phoenix Convention Center, the Sheraton Grand Phoenix (formerly the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel) boasts 1,000 guest rooms, making it not only the largest hotel in Greater Phoenix and the entire Grand Canyon State.

The Sheraton also houses a conference center with more than 112,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, 17 meeting rooms, two ballrooms, two boardrooms and a terrace for outdoor events. Its meeting facilities incorporate high-speed Internet access and videoconferencing capabilities, and an audiovisual staff is available on site.

When meeting attendees and their families are ready to unwind, they can do so outside at a 2,000-square foot outdoor pool and sundeck or inside at a 6,500-square foot fitness center and spa. The Sheraton Grand Phoenix also features a contemporary restaurant with a full bar, private dining room and outdoor seating. The hotel opened Oct. 1, 2008.

Westin Phoenix Downtown

The Westin Phoenix Downtown provides another boutique lodging option in Phoenix's urban core. Catering to discerning business travelers, it features 242 super-sized guest rooms (all of which are at least 540 square feet), and its upper-floor meeting spaces have floor-to-ceiling windows that afford mountain views. Province Urban Kitchen & Bar is lead by Chef Allison Bird and specializes in sustainable ingredients and features organic wines, plus an enclosed patio accented by a waterfall cascading down from the second-story Lapis pool.

Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Downtown

First built in 1931, the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Downtown is a brilliant example of West Coast Art Deco architecture that has been thoughtfully restored to its 1930's-era glory. This 12-story monument is a testament to the city's unique history, and is an iconic

mainstay of Downtown's streetscape. Now completely renovated and restored to its original artistry, guests are transported back in time to the swank and sophistication of a bygone era. Upon arrival, guests will immediately know they are in a unique and special place. The two-story, 24-foot-tall expansive lobby is the hallmark of the building. Original marble floors, Deco-era Corinthian capitals, bronze elevator doors and original wrought iron details bring a sense of grandeur and historic significance to the space. All 170 guest rooms boast the brand's signature bedding featuring fresh, white duvets and crisp linens; a spacious and clutter-free work desk with an ergonomic desk chair; and an in-room "hospitality center" with a mini fridge, microwave oven and Keurig coffee maker. Due to the unique architecture of the building, each standard room features at least two windows, with suites offering up to eight large windows with impressive views of the city streets below. The hotel's signature Hitchcock Suite offers a tribute to the filmmaker who featured the building in the opening sequence of "Psycho," and features the only private terrace in the hotel.

FOUND:RE

Downtown Phoenix is honing in on its artsy vibes, and many of the hotels in the area are updating the look and feel of their property to match. This summer, a new hotel opens (July 2016)-- the FOUND:RE. The theme of the hotel centers around modern and local art, which is fitting for its close proximity to the light rail, Hance Park and Roosevelt Row, Phoenix's self-proclaimed arts district. There will be 105 guestrooms, an on-site gallery, meeting spaces and a new restaurant concept, Match Cuisine & Cocktails.

Arizona State University Downtown Campus

Arizona State University opened its downtown Phoenix campus in the summer of 2006 and plans to create an environment for 15,000 students by 2015. In October 2013, ASU opened the Sun Devil Fitness Complex for ASU students and downtown Phoenix residents. The \$25 million project has five floors filled with cardio equipment, weights, classrooms, a basketball gym, a running track and a rooftop pool.

Phoenix Biomedical Campus

University of Arizona and the City of Phoenix partnered to develop the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, a 30-acre biomedical-research campus in downtown Phoenix that is already home to an impressive array of research organizations. Among them: the International headquarters of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and Barrow Neurological Institute.

The campus also houses the new Arizona Biomedical Collaborative, an 85,000-square-foot research center with both wet and dry laboratories. Nearby, the newly dedicated Phoenix Union Bioscience High School provides medical-minded high school students the opportunity to interact with research practitioners, as well as students and faculty at Arizona State's Downtown Campus.



HISTORY

Phoenix's rich history—both living and preserved—is a testament to the spirit of puebloans, ranchers, miners and visionaries. It is a city that has not forgotten its past, as evidenced by the Southwestern architecture and Native American influences woven into the daily lifestyle of Phoenix residents.

Phoenix' earliest inhabitants were the Hohokam Indians. This tribe thrived in the region until about 1450 A.D. There is no record of the Hohokam after that, although they are believed to be ancestors of the Pima Indians. In the Pima language "hohokam" means "those who have gone."

For almost 25,000 years, Native Americans were alone in what is now Arizona. Archaeological evidence supports the existence of three major tribal groups: the Ancestral Puebloans of the state's northern plateau highlands; the Mogollon people of the northeastern and eastern mountain belt; and the Hohokam.

Today there are 22 Native American tribes, communities and nations in Arizona—more than in any other state—and more than 300,000 Americans Indians call them home. These tribal communities include:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Ak-Chin Indian Community | Navajo Nation |
| Cocopah Tribe | Pascau Yaqui Tribe |
| Colorado River Indian Tribes | Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community |
| Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation | San Carlos Apache Tribe |
| Fort Mojave Indian Tribe | San Juan Southern Paiute |
| Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe | Tohono O'odham Nation |
| Gila River Indian Community | Tonto Apache Tribe |
| Havasupai Tribe | White Mountain Apache Tribe |
| Hopi Tribe | Yavapai-Apache Nation |
| Hualapai Tribe | Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe |
| Kaibab Paiute Tribe | |

(The Zuni Tribe has a land base in Arizona, but its population lives in New Mexico.)

In the mid-1500s, the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in Arizona, searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. Although they found little gold, they introduced the native people

In the mid-1500s, the Spanish Conquistadors arrived in Arizona, searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. Although they found little gold, they introduced native people to cattle and horse raising and a variety of new agricultural crops and techniques. Until the mid-1850s, the Native American tribes accepted the few miners, traders and farmers who settled in Arizona. As the number of white settlers grew, however, the Apache, Navajo, Yavapai, Hualapai and Paiute tribes of the mountains and plateaus resented the encroachment on their land, and battles broke out.

The military was called in, and eventually the tribes were confined to government reservations. The ensuing decades were an ordeal for Arizona's natives, but they survived with the same diligence that enabled their ancestors to thrive in the Southwest.

The settlement that would become Phoenix was built on the banks of the Salt River in the early 1860s. One of the city's first settlers gave Phoenix its name, predicting that a great city would arise from the ancient Hohokam ruins like the legendary phoenix bird that was said to have risen from its own ashes. Mythology suggested the phoenix bird was immortal, rising from its ashes every 500 years.

The city of Phoenix officially was recognized on May 4, 1868, when the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors formed an election precinct there. With the construction of Phoenix's first railroad in 1887, the city drew settlers from all over the United States. In 1889, it was declared the capital of the Arizona territory. Statehood was celebrated on Feb. 14, 1912, and George W. P. Hunt was elected Arizona's first governor.

The future of Greater Phoenix is promising, as new "settlers" and visitors flock to the metropolis to enjoy the Southwestern lifestyle. Today Phoenix is the sixth-largest city in the nation, with an estimated population of 4.3 million in the metropolitan area (according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics).

Phoenix's ancient past is preserved in several ruin sites, including Pueblo Grande Museum and Archeological Park. Pueblo Grande has a full-time archaeologist on site to help visitors explore and understand the culture of the Hohokam.



FUN FACTS ABOUT GREATER PHOENIX

- According to legend, Phoenix gets its name from Cambridge-educated pioneer Darrell Duppa, who saw the ruins and prehistoric canals of the Hohokam and believed another civilization would rise from the ashes.
- Phoenix is the United States' sixth-largest city with a population of over 1.6 million.
- Greater Phoenix (which includes, among others, the cities of Chandler, Glendale, Scottsdale and Tempe) has a population of nearly 4.5 million and covers 2,000 square miles.
- Maricopa County—where Greater Phoenix is located—covers 9,266 square miles, making it about the size of New Hampshire.
- Phoenix's elevation is 1,117 feet.
- Greater Phoenix is located in the Sonoran Desert, which is one of the wettest and greenest deserts in North America, thanks to 3-15 inches of annual rainfall.
- According to data compiled by the National Climatic Data Center, Phoenix basks in sunshine more often than any other major metropolitan area in the U.S. The sun shines on Phoenix during 85 percent of its daylight hours.
- Phoenix has an average annual rainfall of 8.04 inches, an average temperature of 75.05 degrees and an annual high temperature of 86.7 degrees. The average high temperature in winter is 67 degrees.
- Greater Phoenix has more than 62,000 guest rooms at more than 450 hotels and more than 40 resort properties.
- Greater Phoenix is home to more than 200 golf courses.
- Greater Phoenix consistently ranks among the nation's top cities in the number of Five Diamond and Four Diamond and Five Star and Four Star resorts.
- More than 22 million people visit metropolitan Phoenix each year.
- More than 44 million people visit Arizona each year.
- **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport**, dubbed as America's Friendliest Airport, is the main airport serving the Greater Phoenix area. It serves more than 40 million passengers a year, and goes to more than 100 domestic and

international destinations, making it one of the 10 busiest airports in the nation. With about 1,200 daily flights - about 500 nonstop - Sky Harbor is one of the most convenient airports.

- Sky Harbor is the only airport in the country with **hubs for two major low-fare carriers** (American Airlines and Southwest Airlines.).
- Phoenix is one of the few U.S. cities with franchises in all four major professional sports leagues: Phoenix Suns (NBA), Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB), Arizona Cardinals (NFL) and Arizona Coyotes (NHL).
- Greater Phoenix hosted Super Bowl XXX on Jan. 28, 1996, Super Bowl XLII on Feb. 3, 2008 and Super Bowl XLIX on Feb. 1, 2015.
- The Phoenix Suns have brought the NBA playoffs to Talking Stick Resort Arena (formerly US Airways Center) 29 times.
- 15 Major League Baseball teams conduct spring training in the Cactus League, which in 2015 drew a record 1.89 million fans.
- Greater Phoenix is currently home to 15 Cactus League franchises: Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers, Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.
- University of Phoenix Stadium, home of Super Bowl XLII and Super Bowl XLIX, features both a retractable fabric roof and a roll-out grass field.
- The University of Phoenix Stadium will be the host of the 2017 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four and recently hosted the 2016 College Football Playoff National Championship Game (formerly BCS).
- The Waste Management Open, played each February at the TPC Scottsdale, is the best-attended event on the PGA Tour, averaging more than 500,000 spectators.
- The Phoenix Open set records attendance in 2015 with 564,368 fans attending the event.
- Greater Phoenix is home to college football's Fiesta Bowl and Cactus Bowl. The 2007 and 2011 BCS National Championship games were played at University of Phoenix Stadium. University of Phoenix stadium will also play host to the 2016 College Football Playoff (formerly BCS). In addition, Greater Phoenix hosted Pro Bowl in 2015.
- Phoenix International Raceway plays host to two NASCAR events each racing season.
- Greater Phoenix's major industries are (1) high-tech manufacturing, (2) tourism and (3) construction.
- Greater Phoenix is the corporate headquarters of four Fortune 500 companies: Freeport-McMoRan, Avnet, Republic Services and Insight Enterprises.

- Phoenix is home to the largest municipal park in North America. South Mountain Park and Preserve covers more than 16,500 acres and has more than 50 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails.
- There are six lakes within a 75-minute drive of Phoenix.
- Phoenix has museums to suit nearly every taste. The Heard Museum (Native American); Desert Botanical Garden (the world's largest collection of desert plants); Taliesin West (home of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation); the Phoenix Art Museum (the Southwest's largest art museum); the Fleischer Museum (American Impressionism); the Arizona Science Center; the Hall of Flame (featuring the world's largest collection of fire-fighting equipment); Pueblo Grande Museum and Cultural Park (Native American) and the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) are among the cultural hot spots.
- The Heard Museum has an extensive collection of American Indian artifacts, including the largest kachina doll collection (donated in part by the late Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater) of any museum in the country.
- Arizona is home to 22 American Indian tribes.



RESORTS

Greater Phoenix is home to many of the nation's finest resorts, including several Four Star and Five Diamond properties, as defined by the *Forbes Travel Guide* and the American Automobile Association, respectively.

Multiple Greater Phoenix properties have earned AAA's Five Diamond rating: The Phoenician Resort; The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician; The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess; and the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North. The AAA's Four Diamond rating is held by thirty resorts in the Valley of the Sun.

The *Forbes Travel Guide*, awarded the coveted Five Star status to The Canyon Suites at the Phoenician and the Four Star status to three Greater Phoenix hotels; Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, The Phoenician, Royal Palms Resort, and Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain Resort and Spa. *Forbes Travel Guide's* Recommended Hotel is Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass.

In terms of style and character, Greater Phoenix's resorts span a broad spectrum. The most historic resorts date to 1929 (Arizona Biltmore, The Wigwam), while the newest was built in 2008 (Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia). Aesthetic influences range from cowboy chic (Hermosa Inn) to mid-century modernism (Hotel Valley Ho) to Mediterranean romance (Royal Palms Resort) to Native American authenticity (Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass).

Some resorts cater to family fun with on-site water parks (Arizona Grand Resort, Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort), while others are famous for their championship golf courses (Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, The Boulders, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center).

Interesting facts about a few of Greater Phoenix's resorts:

- The historic **Arizona Biltmore, a Waldorf-Astoria Resort** has hosted every U.S. president since Herbert Hoover, and, ironically, Irving Berlin wrote "White Christmas" while sunbathing next to one of the resort's pools.
- The **JW Marriott's Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort** offers stunning desert views, family water options, and a concierge level.
- The 7-acre Oasis Water Park at **Arizona Grand Resort** features a wave pool, a tubing river, a 25-person hot tub, and an 8-story tower with three water slides.

- The **Boulders Resort & Spa, a Curio Collection by Hilton**, offers its guests rock-climbing clinics and nature-photography instruction amid the 12-billion-year-old boulders after which the resort is named.
- At **The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician**, a chauffeured Mercedes awaits guests who need a ride to the spa or mall, and a sommelier hosts wine tastings in the lobby each evening.
- The **JW Marriott's Camelback Inn** is one of only three hotels in the United States to earn AAA's Five Diamond status 34 consecutive years, since the awards' inception in 1977.
- **Fairmont Scottsdale Princess** annually plays host to the Waste Management Phoenix Open, the best-attended event on the PGA Tour.
- A professional astronomer leads complimentary stargazing talks under the Sonoran Desert sky weekly at **Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North**.
- The **Hermosa Inn** is the former guest ranch and studio of cowboy artist Alonzo "Lon" Megargee, whose painting "The Last Drop From His Stetson" adorns the inside of the Stetson Company's premium cowboy hats.
- The **Hotel Valley Ho** hosted the private wedding reception of Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood in 1957
- The structure that houses Hole-in-the-Wall at **Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort** was built by hand in the 1940s and known as the Cactus Rock Lodge, a 14-room hotel and dude ranch.
- **Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass** employs a Cultural Concierge who is available to educate guests about the history and traditions of Pima and Maricopa tribes.
- Each evening at the **Westin Kierland Resort and Spa**, Scottish bagpipes usher in the sunset in homage to Scottish immigrants' contributions to Arizona's railroads, mines and towns.
- **The Wigwam** was formerly a cotton farm and winter retreat for executives from the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.
- The **Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch** offers a French Celtic mineral pool at Spa Avania as well as nightly gondola rides with a singing balladeer.



SPAS

Greater Phoenix has one of the highest concentrations of resort spas in the United States, and, not surprisingly, the menu of treatments available to spa-goers in America's sunniest metropolis is copious and eclectic. Many treatments are imported from Europe and Asia, while others—such as desert-mud body wraps and herbal aromatherapies—are inspired by Native American traditions. Hot-stone massages? They were invented here.

In the 2013 Forbes Travel Guide, Greater Phoenix had six Four Star honorees in the spa category—more than any other city in North America. The winners were Alvadora Spa at Royal Palms; Sanctuary Spa at the Sanctuary at Camelback Mountain; Aji Spa at Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass; Well & Being Spa (formerly Willow Stream Spa) at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess; The Spa at Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North; and the Centre for Well-Being at The Phoenician.

Greater Phoenix spa highlights:

Agave, The Arizona Spa at Westin Kierland resort is a full-service spa with 20 treatment rooms, as well as saunas, massage therapy, skin treatment and salon services. The people who settled in this part of Arizona found the 12 species of the agave plant, native to this region, to be an extremely valuable resource. This striking plant serves as the inspiration for Agave, The Arizona Spa, which incorporates the agave into nearly all its spa products and techniques.

Aji Spa at Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass gets its name from the Pima Indian word for “sanctuary.” Aji Spa’s design is defined by story-telling art and peaceful gardens. The 17,000-square-foot facility features 17 treatment rooms, a salon, a fitness center, a Watsu pool and a traditional roundhouse. Treatments are inspired by ancient rituals and incorporate ingredients such as red clay from the Gila River and cholla cactus buds. The Blue Coyote Wrap, Aji Spa’s signature service, combines steam aromatherapy and massage.

Alvadora Spa at Royal Palms Resort mirrors the Old World feel of the resort. Alvadora is residential, warm, intimate and romantic. With nine treatment rooms and a variety of outdoor treatments in a garden setting, the spa celebrates the revitalizing benefits of herbs, flowers, oils and minerals indigenous to the Mediterranean. Signature Alvadora treatments include the Acqua Dolce Ritual and the Orange Blossom Body Buff.

Biltmore Spa at Arizona Biltmore offers treatments inspired by both medieval China and the native tribes of the Sonoran Desert. The spa features outdoor retreat areas and cascading whirlpools, and the signature treatment is the Dream Catcher. This ancient healing blends the senses of touch and smell; it begins with a therapeutic footbath, followed by aromatherapy, warm moist towels and heating packs.

Arizona Grand Spa at Arizona Grand Resort is the largest resort spa-and-salon combo in Arizona. Indoor and outdoor meditation areas accompany 15 treatment rooms. Signature treatments include the Sedona Mud Purification Treatment and the Desert Botanical Aroma Wrap.

The **Centre for Well-Being at Phoenician** has long been recognized as one of the premier resort spas in the country. Located at the foot of Camelback Mountain on the 250-acre grounds of the Phoenician resort, the spa is known for its focus on the connection of the mind, body and spirit. The 22,000-square-foot facility features 24 private treatment rooms, a complete fitness center and full-service salon. Services range from manicures to tarot card readings. The spa offers a contemporary twist on an age-old Thai treatment—Table Thaitm Massage, a traditional technique adapted to the massage table, instead of the floor.

The **Spa at the Boulders** combines Asian and Native American influences in a setting defined by naturally lit rooms, viga ceilings and a meandering stream. The spa's signature Turquoise Wrap includes a Hopi blue cornmeal exfoliation and a warm clay wrap with ionized turquoise.

Joya Spa at Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia is Greater Phoenix's newest resort spa. Celebrated spa designer Sylvia Sepielli used indigenous materials and incorporated cultural traditions to create a spa experience inspired by the deserts of Morocco. Joya is home to Arizona's only authentic Hammam, an ancient bathing ritual that offers spa guests a meditative and luxurious alternative to the typical steam room. Joya's spacious environs feature 19 treatment rooms where therapists enmesh joyful simplicity and technological advances. High-tech accoutrements include a zero-gravity pedicure chair and a massage table that vibrates in tune to music. A private rooftop pool terrace offers spectacular views of Camelback Mountain.

The **Red Door Spa at The Wigwam** is a two-story, 26,000-square-foot facility that mirrors The Wigwam's signature adobe-style architecture. There are 16 luxurious treatment rooms, 10 of which have outdoor patios, and three of which offer outdoor treatment areas. Two rooms accommodate couples treatments.

Revive Spa at JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort makes an arresting first impression. The spa lobby is a two-story rotunda with a central water feature that flows directly underneath an open skylight two floors above, capturing the grand volume of the space. Water is the inspiration for this 28,000-square-foot spa oasis, whose 41 elegantly appointed treatment rooms. Treatments incorporate indigenous flora, ancient rituals and cutting-edge techniques.

Sanctuary Spa at Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain is a hip, urban retreat nestled against the flank of Camelback Mountain. The indoor-outdoor facility features a Watsu immersion pool and a state-of-the art fitness center. One of the Southwest's most noted experts in Chinese herbal medicine, Victoria Molinger, uses traditional methods of pulse, tongue and facial evaluation to recommend personalized holistic solutions to guests.

Fostering the body's daily journey toward balance is the foundation for every treatment at **Spa Avania at Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch**. Awaken in the morning. Rejuvenate at midday. Unwind in the evening. This spa embraces a holistic, total-immersion approach based on the body's cyclical needs at key periods of the day. This time-focused philosophy is grounded in the body's natural daily rhythms and requirements—for only when the five senses align perfectly are you able to experience the ideal state called “avania.”

The Spa at Four Seasons Resort is designed to blend flawlessly with the surrounding Sonoran Desert. The spa offers therapies and treatments inspired by the four seasons, and Native American rituals. For an intimate couple's experience, the spa offers private suites equipped with a jetted tub, shower, steam and sauna, restroom and a double massage area.

Well & Being at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess integrates indigenous Arizona materials and vegetation into its spa experience. The changing lounge features a eucalyptus steam room, cold plunge pool, whirlpool and Swiss shower. Guests also can enjoy lunch at the spa. Its Lifestyle Cuisine menu features several protein, fiber, carbohydrate, drink and desert choices that add up to a well-balanced meal.



CUISINE

With a spectrum of cuisine that ranges from signature Southwestern dishes to exotic international fare—plus weather that’s perfect for patio dining under the desert sky—Greater Phoenix has all the ingredients to leave diners feeling a warm, after-dinner glow.

Passionate foodies will find cuisine created by James Beard Award-winning chefs, pizza a *New York Times* critic deemed the “best in America,” and the only Five Star/Five Diamond restaurant on the continent owned and operated by Native Americans.

The highlight of Greater Phoenix cuisine is its Southwestern fare. After first drawing upon the traditions of American Indians, Southwestern cuisine was spiced up by Spanish colonists, Mexican settlers and U.S. pioneers. This international convergence eventually led to the modern Southwestern cooking Phoenicians and visitors have come to know and love.

Aside from the region’s expected mastery of Southwestern cuisine, foodies in Greater Phoenix enjoy a wealth of traditional steakhouses and American fare, as well as international cuisine from Asia, Europe, Japan and Mexico.

Many restaurants in Greater Phoenix offer unique dining experiences, including views of breathtaking sunsets, majestic mountains and serene desert landscapes. Beyond the dining room, back in the galley, several larger-than-life chefs ply their craft:

- In 2015, seven chefs from Phoenix were invited to bring a bit of Arizona to the James Beard House. The collection of chefs included including **Cullen Campbell** (Crudo, Okra Cookhouse & Cocktails), **Kelly Fletcher** (formerly of House of Tricks), **Josh Hebert** (Posh Improvisational Cuisine), **Scott Holmes** (Little Miss BBQ), **Stephen Jones** (yard bird + the larder), **Bernie Kantak** (The Gladly, Citizen Public House) and **Gio Osso** (Virtù Honest Craft, Nico).
- Chris Bianco brings exquisite Italian flavor to Phoenix with his locally and nationally cherished restaurant, **Pizzeria Bianco**. Born in the Bronx, Chef Bianco began his culinary career by working in a pizzeria at 13 years old. He has since been named the Best Chef in the Southwest (2003) by the James Beard Foundation.

- Douglas Rodriguez, a James Beard Foundation Rising Star Chef award winner, is regarded as the inventor of Nuevo Latino cuisine. He has owned restaurants in Philadelphia and Miami and is now the inspiration for **deseo** restaurant at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, where he is a Signature Chef.
- Phoenix's own Vincent Guerithault is a master of Southwestern cuisine. Famous for applying his classic French technique to the indigenous ingredients of the Southwest, Vincent was named the Best Chef in the Southwest by the James Beard Foundation in 1993. Vincent was the first chef ever to receive a Citation of Excellence from the International Food & Wine Society. Guerithault's restaurant, **Vincent on Camelback**, is a Phoenix favorite.
- Nobuo Fukuda, winner of the James Beard Foundation's 2007 Best Chef in the Southwest Award, creates wine-friendly sushi and Japanese tapas at **Nobuo at Teeter House** in Downtown Phoenix.
- Beau MacMillan, the Executive Chef of Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain and its signature restaurant, **elements**, is a Food Network star who also has served as the personal chef for Wayne Gretzky and cooked for international rock group U2.

These are just a few of the talented chefs crafting their trade in Greater Phoenix. Other local restaurants of note include:

Barrio Cafe

Phoenix is filled with amazing Mexican restaurants, but the one deemed best in the city by *The Arizona Republic* (seven years in a row) is the Barrio Café. Don't expect burritos and combination plates here. James Beard-nominated Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza specializes in creative regional cuisine from central-southern Mexico, and the bar houses one of Phoenix's best collections of tequilas and Mexican wines.

Beckett's Table

Chef Justin Beckett's restaurant in the Arcadia/ Biltmore area showcases seasonal American cooking. Here, homey classics made with inventive flourishes. Think creamy grits and andouille sausage with mustard jus, pork osso buco confit with summer veggie spaetzle, chicken 'n' dumplings, green chile pork stew with cornbread and beckett's table signature fork tender short ribs. Guests can expect a casual neighborhood restaurant where friends and families gather for a quick supper, a celebratory dinner or maybe just a couple of beers and a snack.

Durant's

This upscale steakhouse has classic 1940s décor, and the low lighting and quiet surroundings make table talk easy. The namesake of this iconic restaurant is Jack Durant, whom local legend paints as a gambler, gangster, drinker, and grandpa with a gold heart. Patrons who ask one of the tuxedoed wait staff about Durant may learn that he loved his dogs more than his wives, that his taste in décor was influenced by bordellos, and that

one of Phoenix's most notorious murders was planned in his lounge. These days, that lounge serves what Phoenix locals have deemed the "Best Martini in the Valley."

Fox Restaurant Concepts

Sam Fox may be one of the biggest names in Arizona and perhaps nationally. James Beard recognized and James Beard nominated restaurateur creates progressive concepts. From the healthy True Food Kitchen, collaboration with Dr. Andrew Weil, to the hip American gastropub Culinary Dropout, there are 15 concepts to choose from.

Upward Projects

Upward Projects creates inspired restaurants that are connected to the communities they serve in Arizona. Beginning 15 years ago with the Valley's original local WineCafe, Postino Arcadia, owners Craig & Kris DeMarco and Lauren & Wyatt Bailey built a foundation on historically relevant buildings integral to the neighborhoods that surround. Hallmarks include pairing delicious food with local ingredients, boutique beverage programs and a warm, friendly culture that brings everyone together. Concepts include Windsor, four unique Postino locations, Churn, Federal Pizza and two Joyride Taco House locations.

Tarbell's

Tarbell's friendly neighborhood atmosphere is defined by light woods, white tablecloths, a bird's-eye maple bar and an exhibition kitchen. Mark Tarbell, the restaurant's owner, studied in Paris, receiving wine training at the l'Academie du Vin and earning a Grande Diplome d'Etude Culinaire from La Varenne Ecole du Cuisine. Tarbell was the youngest Food and Beverage Director of any Five Diamond property in the world when he went to work for The Boulders resort at the age of 23. Nominated for "Best Chef – Southwest" by the James Beard Foundation in 2001, he has cooked for the Dalai Lama, Muhammad Ali and Clint Eastwood (among others).

Terminal 4 at Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport

You won't find any lifeless lettuce or tuckered out taste buds here at Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport. Instead, you'll discover the culinary ingenuity of local independent restaurants spearheaded by James Beard recognized chefs. You can find a taste of the Valley without ever leaving the airport. From slow-roasted, fork-tender pork to goat's milk-caramel-topped crepes or simple eats at the acclaimed Matt's Big Breakfast all while waiting for a flight. Let Phoenix's talented, award-winning chefs create some tantalizing flavors for you, and you might find yourself flying through Sky Harbor International Airport more often.

For additional information about Greater Phoenix restaurants, visit

<http://www.thehotsheetblog.com/food-and-drink/>



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Hikers, bikers and climbers in Greater Phoenix have come to the same conclusion as coyotes, roadrunners and jackrabbits: The Sonoran Desert is a great place to play.

Three major mountains buttress Phoenix, providing visitors an outlet for every grade of high-desert pursuit. Hikers can traverse 51 miles of trail at South Mountain Park and Preserve, the largest municipal park in the United States; mountain bikers can climb to the top of McDowell Mountain then hurtle back down again; and climbers can leave their chalky handprints on the granite “hump” of Camelback Mountain.

The Sonoran Desert is also home to the kind of cactus most people only see in cartoons. The majestic saguaro, found in no other desert in the world, can grow as tall as 50 feet and live as long as 200 years. And you don’t necessarily need hiking boots or a mountain bike to see one: Professional outfitters are happy to put adventurous sightseers in the saddle of a horse, the seat of a Jeep or the basket of a hot-air balloon.

And, of course, Phoenix is also the gateway to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World: the Grand Canyon. Visitors who touch down at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport are only a scenic daytrip away from the canyon’s South Rim. Those who seek a quicker and more dramatic route to the Grand Canyon can book an aerial tour that will take them sweeping over the 277-mile geologic marvel in an airplane.

Hiking

Whether you climb the 1,000-foot rise to the summit of Camelback Mountain or embark on a quick jaunt to the top of Piestewa Peak, you will be rewarded with expansive views of the valley below. On Phoenix’s southern frontier is South Mountain Park and Preserve, where a labyrinth of trails exposes hikers to native flora as well as cultural treasures such as ancient Indian petroglyphs. This landmark is popular among trail runners, mountain bikers and those who enjoy horseback riding. There’s also a road to the summit, so cyclists and motorists can enjoy the view.

Mountain Biking

Whether you’re a seasoned pro in search of extreme singletrack or a weekend rider looking for a pleasant escape, Greater Phoenix has a mountain bike trail for you. Dozens of breezy paths sweep through valleys and over hills, while challenging terrain puts even the hardest riders to the test. The 3,200-foot climbs of the McDowell Mountain Regional Park—a 22,000-acre jewel in the lower Verde River Basin—reward hardcore fat-tire enthusiasts with outstanding views and

swift descents. At the other end of the spectrum, the gentle trails that snake through Papago Park are a joy for riders of all ages.

Horseback Riding

For many visitors and locals, there's no better way to connect with the land, soul and heritage of the Southwest than exploring the region on horseback. Remote riding trails are scattered throughout Greater Phoenix and its unpopulated outskirts. You can book a daytrip with one of many local outfitters, spend a week in the rustic environs of a dude ranch, or take advantage of the open range at Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, a full-service resort with its own equestrian center.

Gliding & Hot-Air Ballooning

Inspire your soul as you float high above the desert terrain in a hot-air balloon or glider. Experienced hot-air balloon companies offer dramatic dawn and sunset flights, and some even combine your high-altitude experience with up-close tours below. More daring types might want to try soaring above the desert floor in a sailplane or glider. Either way, taking to the sky will give you a whole new perspective on Greater Phoenix's immeasurable beauty.

Four-Wheel Adventures

Visitors who are ready to rumble can buckle into the seat of a Jeep or Hummer for a guided tour of some the Sonoran Desert's most remote places. Four-wheel excursions let you cover miles of rugged terrain fast, taking you to remote spots like hidden canyons and abandoned gold mines, and guides teach you something along the way. Many custom tours even include a Southwestern cookout or catered supper (just to make sure the engine is the only thing growling during your day of adventure).

Rock Climbing

Novice and experienced climbers alike know that Arizona peaks make for perfect on-rope adventures. Popular areas include Camelback Mountain, South Mountain Park and Preserve, the Superstition Mountains, the McDowell Mountains, Pinnacle Peak, and Queen Creek Canyon.



SPORTS

Few destinations are as fan-friendly as Greater Phoenix. From the Super Bowl to college championship showdowns to the best-attended tournament on the PGA Tour, the nation's sixth-largest city plays host to some of the biggest sporting events in the world. Phoenix is one of only 13 cities that fields teams in all four major pro sports leagues, and it's also the setting for a pair of NASCAR events each racing season.

For more than 20 years, the Phoenix Suns were the only major sports team in town, but as Phoenix grew, so did its reputation for big-time sports. Greater Phoenix earned its first major sports title in 2001 when the Arizona Diamondbacks, in just their fourth season of play, earned a World Series title. America's sunniest metropolis laid claim to its next pro titles in 2007 and 2009, when the Phoenix Mercury won the WNBA Finals.

2017 NCAA Men's Final Four

The 2017 NCAA Men's Final Four is set for April 1 and April 3, 2017 at University of Phoenix Stadium. Downtown Phoenix will transform into a hub for fan festivities that will use a similar blue print from Super Central XLIX.

Phoenix Suns

Since joining the National Basketball Association in 1968, the Phoenix Suns have been one of the league's more successful franchises. The Suns have advanced to the NBA playoffs 29 times, and they regularly play before sellout crowds at Talking Stick Arena (formerly US Airways Arena). The arena, built in 1992, seats 19,022 for basketball and hosted the NBA All-Star Game in 2009. Information: (602) 379-SUNS (7867).

Arizona Cardinals

The National Football League's Arizona Cardinals moved to Phoenix from St. Louis in 1988. The franchise was instrumental in bringing Super Bowl XXX and Super Bowl XLII to Phoenix in 1996, 2008 and 2015, respectively. In 2006, the Cardinals played their inaugural season at University of Phoenix Stadium, which features both a retractable fabric roof and a roll-out grass field. In 2008-09, the Cardinals won the NFC Championship and advanced to Super Bowl XLIII. University of Phoenix Stadium was the host of Super Bowl XLIX in 2015, which was the game's third visit to Arizona. The University of Phoenix Stadium will also be the host of the 2017 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four. In 2016, they hosted the College Football Playoff National Championship (Formerly BCS). Information: (602) 379-0102.

Arizona Coyotes

The National Hockey League's Arizona Coyotes moved to Phoenix from Winnipeg, Canada before the 1996-97 season. The team moved into Jobing.com Arena in 2003. Postseason "whiteouts" are popular among Phoenix fans, who have cheered the Coyotes in the playoffs eight times since the franchise came to town. Information: (480) 563-7825.

Arizona Diamondbacks

Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks began play in 1998 at Chase Field (formerly Bank One Ballpark) in downtown Phoenix. The facility seats more than 48,000 fans, and is one of the few stadiums in the world to feature a retractable roof, air conditioning and a natural-grass playing surface (not to mention a swimming pool). In an epic battle, the D-Backs defeated the New York Yankees in the 2001 World Series. Chase Field played host to MLB All-Star Week in July 2011 and the World Baseball Classic in 2013. Information: (602) 514-8400.

Cactus League Spring Training Baseball

Greater Phoenix serves as the seasonal home of a 15 Major League Baseball teams during Cactus League Spring Training. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners, Arizona Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies and Texas Rangers conduct their annual spring-training programs at 10 facilities in the metro area. Cactus League set an attendance record in 2013 with over 1.72 million people attending games. Information: (602) 534-1915.

Phoenix International Raceway

Phoenix International Raceway has an annual economic impact of more than \$470 million. The one-mile oval annually hosts two NASCAR Sprint Cup Series events: the in March and in November. The track, known to race fans as PIR, also plays host to Nationwide Series events in February and November. Information: (602) 463-5400.

PGA

The Waste Management Phoenix Open, held every February at the Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale, is the best-attended event on the PGA Tour. More than 500,000 spectators flock to the tournament during the first week of February, and the famously boisterous galleries on the par-3 16th hole have redefined the term "golf clap." Information: (602) 870-0163.

Phoenix Mercury

The Phoenix Mercury, which began play in 1997, are one of the original franchises in the Women's National Basketball Association. The Mercury captured the league championship in 2007 and 2009. Led by Diana Taurasi, the No. 1 pick in the 2004 draft, the team has a staunch following at Talking Stick Resort Arena (formerly U.S. Airways Arena). Information: (602) 252-WNBA (9622).

The PlayStation Fiesta Bowl

The PlayStation Fiesta Bowl started from humble beginnings in 1971 and has since developed into one of nation's top four annual college-football bowl games as part of the College Football Playoff (formerly BCS). The PlayStation Fiesta Bowl hosted college football's first unified national championship game in January 1999. In January 2007 it was the site for the inaugural BCS Championship, and it welcomed college football's title game again in 2011 (also hosted national championship games in 1987, 1989 and 1996.) The PlayStation Fiesta Bowl will also participate in the new College Football Playoff system. In 2016 they hosted the 2016 College Football Playoff National Championship Game, and previously four college football semifinal games. The PlayStation Fiesta Bowl, which was originally contested at Sun Devil Stadium, is now played at University of Phoenix Stadium. Information: (480) 350-0909.

The Cactus Bowl

Cactus Bowl made an exciting transition to Chase Field in downtown Phoenix for at least the three years commencing at the January 2, 2016 game which matched up selections from the Big 12 (West Virginia) and the Pac-12 (Arizona State University). The bowl game, run by the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl, was held at Chase Field from 2000-05, when it was called the Insight Bowl, before moving to Sun Devil Stadium.

Arizona State University

Arizona State University has long fielded very successful teams in a variety of men's and women's sports. The Arizona State Sun Devils' athletic program, which consists of eight men's and 12 women's varsity squads, consistently fields teams ranked among the top NCAA schools. Information: (480) 965-2381.

P.F. Chang's Rock 'N' Roll Arizona Marathon & ½ Marathon

Combining fitness and entertainment with every mile, the P.F. Chang's Rock 'N' Roll Arizona Marathon & ½ Marathon annually attracts more than 30,000 participants to the streets of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe. The race, which serves as a qualifier for the Boston Marathon, debuted in January 2004. Information: (800) 311-1255.



GOLF

Windswept rural Scotland might be the birthplace of golf, but sun-burnished Phoenix seems divinely suited for the game.

Shrouded by mountains on three sides and covered by a canopy of near-perpetual blue sky, Phoenix and its neighboring communities are home to more than 200 courses. Many of those courses were designed by the greats, and most don't have merely one signature hole, but many. Some courses occupy desert canyons where civilization feels a world away, while others are part of opulent resorts where golfers can indulge themselves with a post-round spa treatment.

Greater Phoenix's golfing roots are a century old. In 1910, nine holes were laid out on oiled dirt at the Ingleside Inn in then-sleepy town of Scottsdale. Early courses were built near canals and irrigated by flooding them with canal water. These days, Scottsdale is home to the Waste Management Phoenix Open, which annually attracts 500,000 boisterous fans to the **TPC at Scottsdale**, making it the best-attended event on the PGA Tour. Since taking over as title sponsor of the Phoenix Open, Waste Management has put an increased effort in reducing energy usage and increasing recycling, making the Phoenix Open the "greenest" tournament on the PGA Tour.

One Phoenix golfing experience not to be missed is Arizona Biltmore Resort's Scots-flavored **Links Course**, one of two layouts next to the only resort to be inspired by the genius of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. And for those golfers who want to hit the greens as soon as they touch down in the Sonoran Desert, there is **Raven Golf Club-Phoenix**. Its parkland course is lined with mature pines and located just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. (Another popular 18-hole option is located at **The Legacy Golf Resort**, just across the street.)

Phoenix also boasts eight affordable municipal courses that accommodate a variety of skill levels. The city's **Papago Course**, recognized as one of the top municipal courses in the region, affords golfers views of beautiful red-rock formations on every one of its 18 holes. And municipal courses aren't the only option for golfers looking for value in Phoenix: Surprisingly affordable tee times can be reserved during the summer, when top resort courses offer seasonal specials of \$50 and less.

TPC of Scottsdale's Stadium and Champions courses, designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, are open to everyone, not just the pros. **The Boulders Golf Club's** North

and South courses, also designed by Morrish, are among the most challenging and scenic layouts in the Southwest thanks to the rugged landscape that gives the club its name.

Another classic beauty is **The Golf Club** at **The Phoenician** resort, with three nines called Canyon, Desert and Oasis. **Gainey Ranch Golf Club** also has three nines, with a waterfall at No. 9 on the Lakes course. The club is private, but guests at the adjacent Hyatt resort can play it.

Robert Trent Jones Jr.'s tough **Las Sendas**, a public course in Mesa, boasts Arizona's highest slope rating of 144 and features a double-dogleg par-5 18th. More forgiving yet just as astounding is the **Golf Club at Eagle Mountain**, which roams through box canyons, across rolling hills and into desert valleys while giving panoramic views of Phoenix.

Troon North is the flagship course for the Scottsdale-based developer and management company Troon Golf, which operates more than 140 courses throughout the U.S. and around the world. Its Monument and Pinnacle courses weave a patchwork of emerald in a stunning high-Sonoran Desert setting. And for sheer natural beauty, **We-Ko-Pa**, on Yavapai Nation reservation land, offers unsurpassed mountain vistas, with no homes, roads or commercial developments in sight.

The JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Arizona's largest hotel and convention complex, is home to **Wildfire Golf Club**. It features an Arnold Palmer layout with expansive greens and a Nick Faldo-designed target course with threatening, turf-lipped bunkers.

At two other resort courses—**Whirlwind Golf Club** at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass and **Kierland Golf Club** at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa—golfers needn't get hot under the collar. These are the first two courses in the world to provide golf carts equipped with air-conditioning devices that blow aromatherapy-infused air around golfers' necks during hot summer rounds.

Golfers wanting to experience the true breadth of Phoenix courses can try to shoot eagles on the Raptor and Talon courses at **Grayhawk Golf Club**, or take aim at Rees Jones' **Legend Trail Golf Club**, which styles itself as the "Cypress Point of the Desert." Then there are Starfire's three Palmer layouts at **Scottsdale Country Club**, the two Jack Nicklaus courses at **Superstition Mountain** and 27 parkland holes by Ted Robinson at **Ocotillo Golf Resort**.

Whatever course visiting golfers choose—target, parkland or oasis—they can expect beautiful conditions thanks to 310-plus days of annual sunshine, an average temperature of 85 and some of the most progressive irrigation techniques in the country.



MUSEUMS AND PERFORMING ARTS

Greater Phoenix's geological splendor, Native American history and Western sensibilities lend distinct character to the city's cultural offerings. Phoenix's museums are thoughtfully designed and well maintained, and most take advantage of the sunny weather with skylights, sculpture gardens and outdoor gathering spaces.

The **Heard Museum** is arguably Phoenix's most famous museum. The traditional and contemporary art on display provides insight into the culture of American Indian tribes native to Arizona and the Colorado Plateau. The Heard houses the nation's largest collection of Hopi Kachina dolls, and the permanent exhibition *Remembering Our Indian School Days: The Boarding School Experience* is hauntingly well done.

Phoenix Art Museum is the largest fine-art museum in the Southwest. Its permanent collection includes American, Asian and European masterpieces, as well as contemporary works, fashion and photography. There are more than 18,000 works in all. The museum is noted for its Western American collection, with pieces by artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Remington and Ernest Blumenschein. The sculpture garden (with WiFi) and museum café are both peaceful urban escapes.

The **Musical Instrument Museum**, which opened in spring 2010, is the first museum in the world dedicated to the celebration of global instruments, and its exhibits include music-making devices from 200 countries and territories. The instruments are both exotic (such as a Dominican boumboum trumpet) and famous (such as the piano on which John Lennon composed the song "Imagine.") Musicians will especially dig the Experience Room, where you can touch and play exotic instruments.

As its name suggests, **Desert Botanical Garden** is an outdoor museum that showcases desert plants—and not just those native to the Southwest. Among the succulents that adorn the garden's 50-acre grounds are endangered desert species from around the world, including Dali-esque trees from North Africa and sprawling cactuses from Mesopotamia. In winter, Desert Botanical Garden adorns its paths with more than 8,000 hand lit Luminaria bags for *Las Noches de las Luminarias*, a Phoenix holiday tradition. The garden is nestled among the red sandstone buttes of Papago Park, not far from leisurely hiking trails and the **Phoenix Zoo**.

The **Children's Museum of Phoenix** was created for children as young as infants and as old as 10. Unlike traditional museums, it doesn't focus on art or science, nor does it contain paintings or bones; instead, the hands-on exhibits are designed to stimulate and

entertain. Located in an historic school building in downtown Phoenix, the museum is a short stroll from the likewise-kid-friendly **Arizona Science Center**, which houses more than 300 interactive exhibits, a planetarium and an IMAX theater.

Other worthwhile museums are **Pueblo Grande Museum**, **Scottsdale's Museum of the West**, the **Hall of Flame Fire Museum**, and the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art**. And another great option for viewing street art comes the first Friday of every month in downtown Phoenix, when tens of thousands of people crowd the streets of the Roosevelt Row neighborhood for the **First Friday Art Walk**. This popular festival of street performers, bands and merchants is concentrated in Roosevelt Row but also extends to gritty Grand Avenue.

Every big city seems to have a once-blighted neighborhood that has been transformed into a funky arts district. **Roosevelt Row** is Phoenix's. Located on the northern edge of downtown, along the light-rail line, Roosevelt Row is a neighborhood of 1920s-1940s homes that are now occupied by artist studios, galleries, coffee shops, co-ops, small-stage theaters, boutiques and intimate restaurants. Roosevelt Row's laid-back, arty vibe nicely counterbalances a city-center character defined by pro sports venues, refined performance halls and a massive convention center.

With more than two dozen theater groups in Greater Phoenix, there is no shortage of dramatic entertainment. The city offers everything from Broadway plays to lyric opera. The **Herberger Theater Center** is the home of Ballet Arizona, the Arizona Opera Company and the Arizona Theatre Company. The **Phoenix Theatre**, founded in 1920, is the nation's longest continuously running community theater. Another notable auditorium is Arizona State University's **Grady Gammage Auditorium**, which is considered to be the last public commission of renowned architect Floyd Lloyd Wright; it provides a stage for hit Broadway musicals, grand opera, dramatic productions and university lectures.

The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, which has been performing for more than 58 years, now makes its home at **Symphony Hall** in downtown Phoenix. And some of the nation's best-known artists appear at **Talking Stick Arena** (formerly US Airways Center), **Chase Field**, **Orpheum Theatre**, **Comerica Theater** (formerly Dodge Theatre) and **Salt River Arena** (formerly Jobing.com Arena.)



SHOPPING

From charming antique shops to chic boutiques to some of the nation's most fashionable malls, Greater Phoenix is home to a spectrum of shopping experiences few regions in the Southwest can match.

The basic breakdown for where to find what goes like this: Scottsdale for high fashion; Central Phoenix for vintage; Uptown Phoenix for hipster goods; East Valley for mall fare; and Glendale for antiques. And the excellent gift shops at the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and Taliesin West are good choices for thoughtful souvenirs and Southwest jewelry finds.

Some of the most prominent shopping malls in Greater Phoenix are **Biltmore Fashion Park**, **Kierland Commons** and **Scottsdale Fashion Square**. The latter is the largest shopping mall in the American Southwest. If shoppers at these venues want to step up in style, they can valet their car and select a personal shopper to help find the kind of couture they'll cherish forever (or at least until next season).

Because Phoenix boomed in the '50s and '60s and has long been a popular destination for retirees, the city is a treasure trove for mid-century fashions and furnishings. And the **Melrose District**, a concentration of neighborhood boutiques three miles north of downtown, is where savvy shoppers can find them.

CityScape, a two-block lifestyle development in heart of downtown Phoenix, is an eclectic mix of boutiques, restaurants and entertainment venues. Downtown visitors can dine at local eateries such as Arrogant Butcher and Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails, get in touch with their inner Jeff Lebowski at Lucky Strike bowling lanes, or catch the biggest names in comedy at Stand Up Live comedy club.

The wooden sidewalks of **Old Town Scottsdale** lead patrons to both fine works of art and souvenir trinkets. Original Southwestern paintings and sculpture fill galleries along Main Street and Marshall Way.

One of Greater Phoenix's finest districts for antique hunting is historic **Old Towne and Catlin Court** in Glendale. Here, it's easy to spend an entire day strolling brick sidewalks that lead to more than 80 antique stores and specialty shops.



DAYTRIPS

Arizona is often described as a land of contrasts because of its changing scenery and activities. You can swim and play tennis in the morning in Phoenix, then spend the afternoon fishing, hiking or sightseeing in the cool pines of the White Mountains. In March, you can even snow ski in Flagstaff in the morning then don shorts for a spring training game in Phoenix the same evening.

With its central location, Greater Phoenix is ideally positioned for day trips around the state. The following driving tours are easily accessible from the heart of the city:

Grand Canyon

One of the world's seven natural wonders, the Grand Canyon offers spectacular vistas of canyon walls that have been sculpted from the earth over the millennia by the mighty Colorado River. The shifting sun creates a palette of constantly changing colors, from deep russet to pale pink, from washed granite to golden brown. The South Rim is open year-round.

Experience it through nature walks and mule rides into the Canyon, or by driving around its scenic edge. The North Rim is open from mid-May through October, depending on weather conditions, and lodging is available.

The Grand Canyon is a 3½-hour drive from Phoenix. Take Interstate 17 north from Phoenix to Flagstaff. From Flagstaff take Route 180 northwest to the Canyon.

Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon

The cultural community of Sedona is a mecca for art lovers and collectors. Surrounded by the towering red sandstone cliffs of Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona's deep red-rock buttes provide a beautiful backdrop to boutiques and art galleries selling authentic Native American and Southwestern arts and crafts.

Visit Tlaquepaque (pronounced Tah-la-key-pock-ee), a shopping village named after a small Mexican town that was once that country's leading producer of crafts and glassware.

While in Sedona, explore the area via an airplane or helicopter tour, a hot-air balloon ride or a jeep tour.

Sedona is a 2-hour drive from Phoenix. Take Interstate 17 north from Phoenix to Junction 179. Exit for Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon and enjoy the pure, breathtaking beauty of the Oak Creek Canyon area.

Prescott

Prescott, founded after the discovery of gold in 1863, was the first permanent capital of the Arizona Territory. While in Prescott, stop at the Sharlot Hall Museum complex. See the first territorial governor's mansion, the historic 1857 John C. Fremont House and the restored 100-year-old Bashford House.

Yavapai County Courthouse is a must-see attraction in Prescott. The courthouse is located in the charming town square and conveniently surrounded with antique shops, restaurants and hotels. But, the most famous section of the square is Whiskey Row, located on Montezuma Street. Whiskey Row got its nickname during the mining days when nothing but saloons occupied the street.

The fastest route to Prescott from Phoenix is north on the Black Canyon Freeway (Interstate 17) to Cordes Junction, then northwest on State Route 69. Prescott is approximately a two-hour drive from Phoenix.

Flagstaff

Flagstaff is home of Northern Arizona University and located 146 miles north of Phoenix on Interstate 17. A visit to the Lowell Observatory atop Mars Hill, where the planet Pluto was discovered in 1930, is recommended. The Museum of Northern Arizona features an extensive exhibit of Native American art. Snow skiers will find great conditions at Arizona Snowbowl, located in the majestic San Francisco Peaks. For some unique hiking try Lava River Tube, a short three-fourths mile underground cave. Bring your own flashlights and have fun exploring. Flagstaff is just 2 ½ hours from Phoenix.

White Mountains

Arizona's White Mountains, located in the eastern part of the state, offer a variety of attractions in a climate 30 degrees cooler than Phoenix. With an elevation of 9,000 feet, summer activities include golfing, camping, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and just relaxing.

In winter, the White Mountains become just that — white. Sunrise Ski Resort offers outstanding ski runs and other winter sports opportunities, including snowmobiling, ice fishing and cross country skiing. Much of the White Mountains area is on Native American land, including the Hon-Dah Casino. Rodeos, cultural festivals and parades are common events in the White Mountains region.

The White Mountains area is a four-hour drive from Phoenix with a wide range of accommodations available.

Apache Trail

This world-famous trail was used by Apache Indians as a short-cut through the mountains to reach early Salt River settlers. The trail twists through the back of the Superstition Mountains from Apache Junction to Roosevelt Lake and the town of Globe.

The majority of the trail is unpaved but can be easily driven by most vehicles. The trail features volcanic debris, cliff-sided canyons, sparkling lakes, towering saguaro cacti and a vast array of wildflowers. The mountains are generally uninhabited, so take along plenty of water.

The ghost town of Goldfield, the Old Western town of Tortilla Flat (population 6), the Boyce-Thompson Arboretum, Tonto National Monument and Weavers Needle Lookout are a few interesting points along the trail. Other scenic stops include The Lost Dutchman State Park (perhaps you can find the legendary lost gold mine) and Roosevelt Dam.

The Apache Trail is a four-hour round trip from Phoenix. Directions: Leave Phoenix via U.S. 60 to the Apache Trail. Turn left on Arizona Highway 88 to the Apache Trail. After passing Roosevelt Dam and Tonto National Monument, make the return loop to Phoenix via U.S. 60.

Mogollon Rim

This magnificent geological fault, named after Jean Ignacio Flores Mogollon, governor of Mexico (1712-1715), is referred to locally as the "rim." The dramatic face of the rim is a multi-colored wall of rock, dotted by pine, manzanita and shrub oak. This giant wall of rock jutted upward a mile above sea level when the earth's surface shifted thousands of years ago. The rim was made famous by author Zane Grey who hunted and fished in this beautiful area. It served as inspiration for many of his novels.

From Phoenix the rim is a two-hour drive. Take Highway 87 northeast of Phoenix to Payson. Just beyond Payson, turn right on Highway 260. Continue 31 miles past Tonto Creek (a great place to picnic) to the Woods Canyon Lake exit. Turn left at the sign and you'll be on the Old Rim Road.

The road becomes an unpaved forest highway and frequently winds within a few feet of the fault line, providing a breathtaking view of the rim.

Lake Powell

Located 282 miles from Phoenix (about a five-hour drive) is Lake Powell. While a bit farther from Phoenix than some destinations, the drive to Lake Powell is well worth the time.

The lake is 186 miles long and claims 1,960 miles of shoreline, more than the entire Pacific Coast of the United States. The lake is held back by Glen Canyon Dam, which has enough concrete to build a four-lane highway from Phoenix to Chicago.

Water sports of all kinds are popular on the lake — fishing, water skiing, boating, swimming, etc. Although Wahweap Lodge and Marina provide outstanding accommodations with spectacular lake views, adventurous types may opt for a houseboat rental. Houseboats range from 36-foot vessels with basic amenities to 56-foot crafts with everything you'd find at a resort hotel.

Lake Powell is one of the most-popular attractions in the National Park Service system, attracting 3.5 million visitors a year.

Montezuma Castle and Well

This impressive ancient Native American cliff dwelling is nestled high above Beaver Creek and is more than six centuries old. The Aztec emperor, Montezuma, for whom the castle is named, never saw the famous structure.

The Sinaguas, Pueblo Indians who moved into Greater Phoenix during the 12th century, built the dwelling from limestone and adobe. When white settlers saw it years later, they concluded only Aztecs could have designed the castle and named it accordingly. The structure was built on a steep cliff to protect the Native Americans' property rights.

About seven miles northeast of the castle on the Park Service Road is Montezuma Well, a limestone sink hole with a natural spring used by Native Americans for irrigation. The well still provides nearby Beaver Creek with a daily water supply of more than a million gallons. The well is 55 feet deep and 368 feet wide. From the parking lot at the well, follow the trail to the surrounding plateaus – the result of volcanic lava flows.

To get to Montezuma Castle, take Interstate 17 north to the Montezuma Castle turnoff just past Verde Valley. This is a three-hour round-trip.

Tucson

Just 111 miles south of Phoenix, amid rolling foothill terrain, is Tucson, affectionately known as the “Old Pueblo.” Where Pima Indians, Spanish conquistadors and adventurous Mexican settlers once lived, stands a culturally rich city that celebrates its past with colorful festivals and fiestas.

Among the intriguing excursions enticing visitors are a drive to Sabino Canyon and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. South of Tucson is the San Xavier del Bac Mission, the “White Dove of the Desert.” Built almost 300 years ago by Spanish missionaries, the statuesque white church is still used as a spiritual center for the Papago Indians. Visitors are welcome to explore this remarkable blend of architectural styles that is considered one of the finest Spanish colonial structures in the United States.

Tucson is two hours south of Phoenix on Interstate 10.

Bisbee

3 ½ hours south of Phoenix is the small town of Bisbee. Formerly the largest city between San Francisco and St. Louis in the early 1900s, Bisbee was home to one of the

most profitable mines. Travelers from all over come to Bisbee to savor its unique charm ... an uncommon blend of creativity, friendliness, style, romance and adventure — all wrapped in the splendor of the Old West. Stop by one of Bisbee's museums such as the Museum of the Bizarre or the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum. If you are looking for an exciting and heart racing tour, try a ghost tour through some of Bisbee's most haunted buildings and allies.

Tombstone

Tombstone was a mining boomtown in the 1880s. The town was named by Ed Schieffelin when his friends told him he would find his tombstone instead of his fortune. The mine was only open for seven years before water levels forced the mine to close. Even though the mine was not open long the town still remains, complete with historical buildings and artifacts from the late 1800s. There are a number of gunfight shows in town and stagecoach and wagon tours, as well as a wealth of unique shops.

Kartchner Caverns State Park

Travel down to Kartchner Caverns State Park and enjoy a memorable cave tour. The cave was only discovered in 1974 by two young spelunkers at the base of the Whetstone Mountains. The cave features one of the world's longest soda straw stalactites, the tallest and most massive column in Arizona, Kubla Khan: 58 feet tall, and the world's most extensive formation of brushite moonmilk. There is something for children of all ages to do. The Cave is open year round for tours.
