



## Things To Do In Arizona

### Welcome to Arizona

Phoenix and the Valley of the Sun is America's winter playground. Temperatures range in the 60s and 70s during the day, with crystal, clear blue skies and cooler night.

#### **THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND PHOENIX**

##### **Hiking**

The first and second largest city parks in the world are located in the Valley of Sun: South Mountain Park and Preserve and Phoenix Mountain Preserves (a collection of several large and many smaller parks throughout the city). Together, these parks set aside roughly 46,000 acres of land with over 200 hiking, biking, horseback riding and mountain trails. You can select hikes that range from easy strolls to exciting and strenuous climbs of Camelback Mountain, Piestewa Peak or South Mountain. If you don't feel like climbing, you can drive up South Mountain to Dobbins Point for an outstanding view of the valley.

##### **Shopping**

Downtown Scottsdale offers some of the finest shopping in the country, with everything from unique boutiques, galleries and outstanding restaurants, to the huge Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall, anchored by Macy's, Neiman Marcus and Barney's New York.

##### **Golf, Golf and more Golf**

There are approximately 240 golf courses in and around the Valley of the Sun, many designed by PGA champions, so all you have to do is pick the location and difficulty and tee off amidst the grandeur of the Sonoran Desert. Here is just one option to consider: Set against the McDowell Mountains, the Wildfire Golf Club is an oasis providing two championship layouts. Playing up to 7,145 yards from the longest tee, the classic-designed Palmer Signature Course provides expansive fairways and large, rolling greens. Co-designed by Nick Faldo and Brian Curley, the Faldo Course offers players a tougher challenge with strategically placed bunkers lurking on tight fairways. The course plays over 6,846 yards from the longest tee for a 71 par.

**Phoenix Zoo - <http://www.phoenixzoo.org/>**

Voted one of the top five zoos for children, the Phoenix Zoo is nestled within the buttes of Papago Park on 125 acres of beautiful and varied landscapes. It is home to more than 1,300 animals from around the globe — including more than 200 endangered or threatened species. Designed around four distinct trails — Africa, Tropics, Children’s and Arizona — the Phoenix Zoo offers amazing experiences and opportunities to see, and learn about, some of the planet’s most wonderful creatures.

**Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium - <http://www.wildlifeworld.com/>**

The Wildlife World Aquarium’s contains 75 indoor exhibits featuring fish, mammals, birds, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles. Each building on the campus has a different title and theme: The Diversity of Life in Water; The Wild and The Wonderful; and Predators. Notable aquarium species include: Asian Small-Clawed Otters, black tip reef sharks, black-footed penguins, eels, stingrays. Visitors are permitted to touch and feed, seahorses, flamingos, barracuda, jellyfish, Nile and dwarf crocodiles. There are nearly 150 new aquatic and semi-aquatic species in all. Outdoor exhibits include a log flume ride, monkey and lemur exhibits and more.

**Desert Botanical Garden <https://www.dbg.org/>**

The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix is proud to offer more than 20,000 desert plants, with emphasis on those native to the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. The internationally acclaimed collection provides a delight for the senses and spirit as well as insight into fragile ecosystems. A lovely 1 mile stroll opens a whole world of desert flora and fauna, as Gambel Quail and dozens of lizard species make the garden home.

**Taliesin West <http://franklloydwright.org/>**

Frank Lloyd Wright began building this desert masterpiece in 1937 as his personal winter home, studio and architectural campus. Located on the beautiful Sonoran desert in the foothills of the McDowell Mountains in northeast Scottsdale, the site offers a broad range of guided public tours. Visitors experience firsthand Wright’s brilliant ability to integrate indoor and outdoor spaces.

**Heard Museum – <https://www.visitarizona.com/business/heard-museum>**

The scope of the museum emphasizes the life-ways of indigenous people of the southwest, but the museum collection and exhibitions cover the living cultures and arts of all contemporary Native peoples. Throughout the year, the museum hosts popular events like the Heard Museum Indian Market, Spanish Market and World Champion Hoop Dance Contest.

## **GOING NORTH IN ARIZONA**

### **Grand Canyon National Park –**

<https://www.visitarizona.com/uniquely-az/must-see/grand-canyon/>

Pictures and paintings just can't do it justice – it's one of those things you have to see to believe. Spanning 18 miles at its widest and a full mile deep, this natural wonder is surprisingly accessible to explorers. You can hike, mule or even helicopter down to the canyon floor. Or see the best viewpoints topside with a free shuttle ride along the rim.

### **Montezuma's Castle, Montezuma's Well - <https://www.nps.gov/moca/index.htm>**

Perched high on a cliffside just an hour north of Phoenix, Montezuma's Castle overlooks Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Verde River. The leaves of the towering and ancient sycamores rustle in the breezes and the burbling stream adds another note of almost mournful tranquility to this amazing pueblo dwelling. Just a few miles up the road from Montezuma's Castle is Montezuma's Well. This unique geologic formation is a limestone sink formed long ago by the collapse of an immense underground cavern – it looks like a large crater lake. Over one and a half million gallons of carbonated water a day bubble up into the sink and out into Beaver Creek and into irrigation ditches created by the Hohokam and Sinagua cultures. The water maintains a steady 76 degrees temperature throughout the year.

### **Monument Valley Tribal Park – <https://www.visitarizona.com/uniquely-az/parks-and-monuments/monument-valley-navajo-tribal-park/>**

If you are a fan of westerns, chances are you've seen a lot of scenes shot in Monument Valley. One of the most photographed spots on earth, Monument Valley lies on the tribal lands of the Navajo Nation. These stunning sandstone formations rise up to 1,000 feet off the desert floor and feature rich, colorful layers of sand and rock that stand out against the blue skies. We recommend a Jeep tour guided by a member of the Navajo tribe, but you can hike or camp in the park.

### **Sedona - <https://www.visitarizona.com/cities/north-central/sedona/>**

This city of red rocks is favorite among Arizonans and visitors alike, and when you're there, it'll be pretty clear why. Red Rock State Park offers stunning trails and drives showcasing the area's beauty. Jeep tours are another popular way to explore the colorful surrounding. In town, shops, artisans and restaurants all vie for your attention, and each are worth a look. At night turn your eyes to the skies with stargazing tours by professional astronomers.

**Montezuma Castle National Monument -**

[http://www.flagstaffarizona.org/flagstaff\\_locations/montezuma-castle-national-monument/](http://www.flagstaffarizona.org/flagstaff_locations/montezuma-castle-national-monument/)

Montezuma Castle is one of the best-preserved American Indian cliff dwellings in the United States. Only one hour south of Flagstaff, the trail to view this important prehistoric site is flat and easy with no climbing. Federal park passes accepted. Open year-round. Closed Christmas.

**Lowell Observatory -**

[http://www.flagstaffarizona.org/flagstaff\\_locations/lowell-observatory-11/](http://www.flagstaffarizona.org/flagstaff_locations/lowell-observatory-11/)

Peer through telescopes at night and even during the day with a solar telescope, or visit the instrument that helped Clyde Tombaugh discover Pluto. Tour the facility with friendly, knowledgeable guides. Experience the Universe through widescreen multimedia shows, exhibits, live presentations and Slipher Vision, the immersive space theater. Lowell Observatory is located on Mars Hill, one mile west of downtown Flagstaff. Open daily, hours change seasonally.

**Prescott - <http://www.visit-prescott.com/>**

Once the territorial capital of the state, Prescott is rich with history embodied in its abundant historical landmarks. Whether you're seeking to relax in a natural environment filled with beauty and wildlife, or the history of Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday, and cowboy forays in the most famous saloons of the Old West, check out the True West and Real Adventure. Visit Prescott, AZ.