



Little Colorado River

# ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

The Arizona Office of Tourism and the © Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics have forged a partnership to promote sustainable tourism practices across Arizona's spectacular landscapes and unique destinations. It ensures we are doing our part to educate visitors and residents on how to recreate responsibly and to keep our state beautiful for future generations.

It begins with [The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.](#)

**7 PRINCIPLES OF APPRECIATEAZ**

- No 1** PLAN AHEAD & PREPARE
- No 2** STICK TO TRAILS
- No 3** TRASH YOUR TRASH
- No 4** LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- No 5** BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE
- No 6** RESPECT WILDLIFE
- No 7** SHARE THE OUTDOORS

Visit [AppreciateAZ.com](#) for tips on traveling responsibly and sustainably in Arizona.

COALITION PARTNERS INCLUDE: ARIZONA, ADOT, ARIZONA (OUTDOOR'S BEST), Arizona State Land Department

## ARIZONA RESOURCES

We provide complete travel information about destinations in Arizona. We offer our official state traveler's guide, maps, images, familiarization trip assistance, itinerary suggestions and planning assistance along with lists of tour guides plus connections to lodging properties and other information at [traveltrade.visitarizona.com](http://traveltrade.visitarizona.com)



Grand Canyon

**ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM**  
1110 W Washington St., Suite 155, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[www.visitarizona.com](http://www.visitarizona.com)  
**Jessica M. Remington,**  
*Director of Travel Industry Marketing*  
T: 602-364-4157 | E: [JMitchell@tourism.az.gov](mailto:JMitchell@tourism.az.gov)

If you are eager to learn how you can responsibly enjoy all that Arizona's outdoor wonders have to offer, we have created this short, [online course](#), where you'll learn about Arizona's recreation-related impacts; Appreciate AZ's Leave No Trace principles; and how responsible recreation can help protect the outdoor places we love.

For visitor guidance due to COVID19 such as mask-wearing, a list of tourism-related reopenings or closures, and a link to public health guidelines, click [here](#).

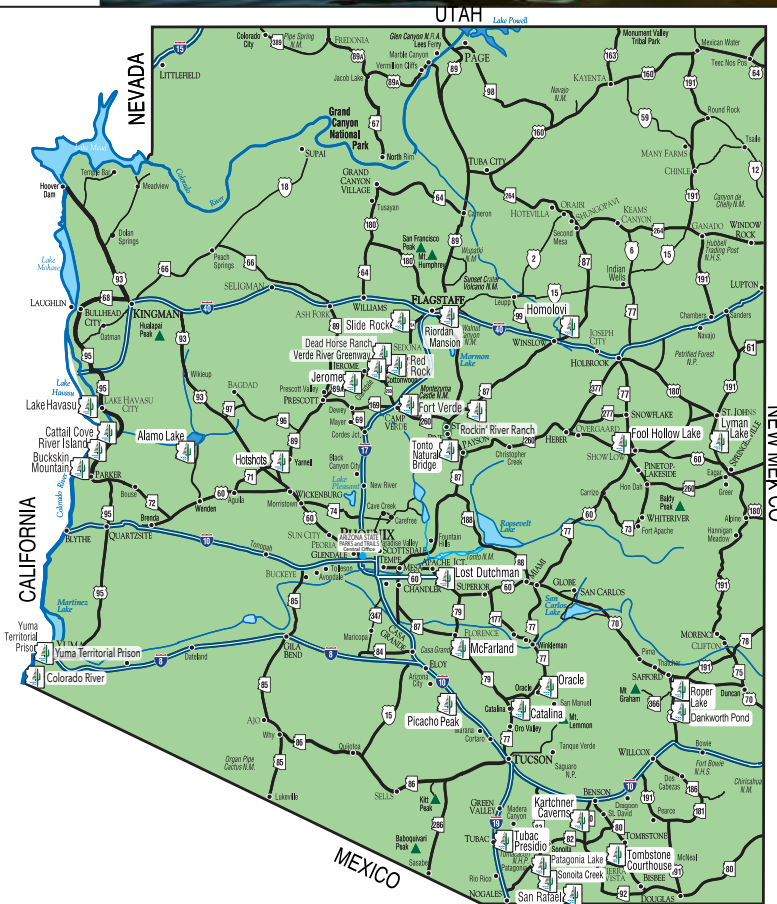
Some attractions are open year-round and some are open seasonally or move to seasonal hours. To ensure the places you want to see are open on your travel dates, please check their website for hours of operation.

# MAJOR CITIES

- Phoenix
- Tucson
- Mesa
- Chandler
- Scottsdale
- Glendale
- Sedona
- Tempe
- Peoria
- Surprise
- Flagstaff
- Prescott



London Bridge, Lake Havasu City



## TRANSPORTATION

From east to west both Interstate 40 and Interstate 10 cross the state. From the west, Interstate 8 enters Yuma, Arizona. From the north, US Highway 89, US 160 and US 60 are popular routes.

**Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX)** and **Tucson International Airport (TUS)** are the main gateways. Regional airports include Flagstaff (FLG), Prescott (PRC) and Mesa (AZA). Phoenix is served by 22 airlines, including nonstop international flights on British Airways, AeroMexico, WestJet, American Airlines and Air Canada. Phoenix is a hub for American and Southwest Airlines.

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ARIZONA





Antelope Canyon

## NATIONAL PARKS

- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
- Pipe Springs National Monument
- Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Grand Canyon National Park
- Navajo National Monument
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
- Wupatki National Monument
- Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument
- Walnut Canyon National Monument
- Petrified Forest National Park
- Tuzigoot National Monument
- Montezuma Castle National Monument
- Tonto National Monument
- Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
- Saguaro National Park
- Fort Bowie National Historic Site
- Chiricahua National Monument
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- Tumacacori National Historic Park
- Coronado National Memorial



## CLIMATE

**Arizona’s climate varies across the state:**

Average **low** ranges from 32°F (-1°C) in northern Arizona to 60°F (15°C) in central Arizona. Average **high** ranges from 60°F (16°C) in northern Arizona to 86°F (30°C) in central Arizona.

Average rainfall for Phoenix (central) is eight inches, the average snowfall is zero inches. Average rainfall for Flagstaff (northern) is 16 inches, the average snowfall is 101 inches.



Monument Valley Hiking

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**ARIZONA**  
THE GRAND CANYON STATE



For more information on the more than 50 state parks, national parks,  
and monuments across Arizona, check out the Arizona Parks Passport.

[VisitArizona.com](https://www.VisitArizona.com)

Monument Valley  
Photo by John Weatherby

# EXPERIENCE INDIAN COUNTRY ADVENTURES IN ARIZONA

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**ARIZONA**  
THE GRAND CANYON STATE





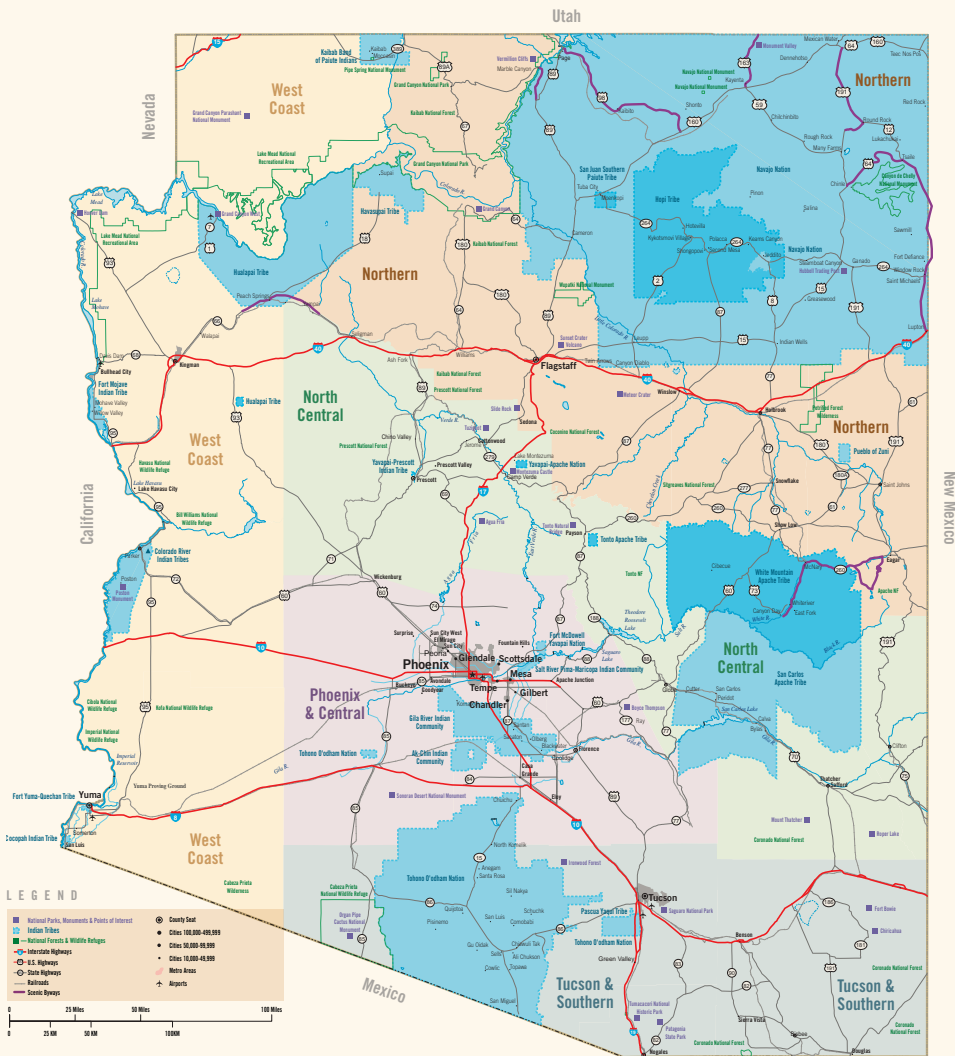
# ARIZONA TRIBAL LANDS

The 22 Tribal communities in Arizona—all with a diverse range of cultures, history, landscapes and amenities—welcome visitors to their Tribal lands. Outdoor enthusiasts are offered virtually unlimited options. Rough it on rugged trails. Test your whitewater skills in a variety of rapids. Round up the herd by day. Luxuriate in four-star lodging at night. See American Indian artists as they create art rooted in ancient cultures. Try your luck at gaming, and then hit the links on some of the nation's best golf courses. Cultural centers, museums, shopping, fishing and hunting—Tribes in the Grand Canyon State have it all. Take a journey to discover Indian Country in Arizona.

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More information about Tribal experiences can be found at [VisitArizona.com](https://www.visitarizona.com)





## ARIZONA TRIBAL LANDS

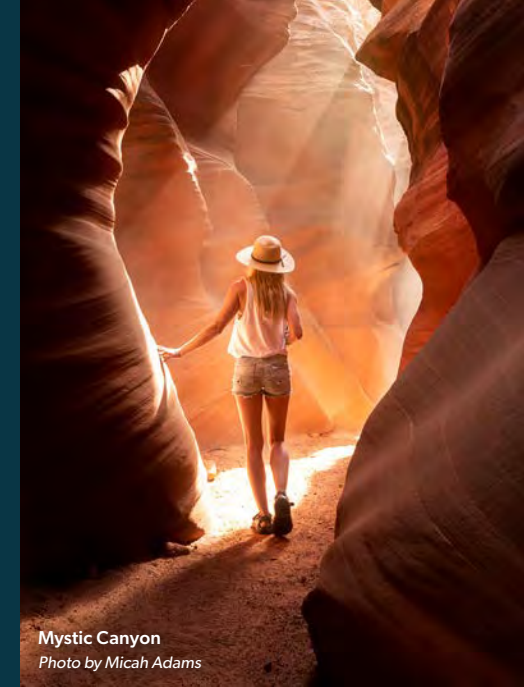
# INDIAN COUNTRY ETIQUETTE

Each Tribal nation makes the decision on how best to balance community and tradition, while providing visitors with enjoyable experiences. Below are some basic guidelines for visiting Tribal Lands:

- Please be attentive to signage, and obey individual Tribal laws and regulations.
- Use caution when driving, especially at night. Most Tribal land is open range, and small herds of sheep, goats, cattle and horses move freely along and across roads.
- Alcohol use is only permitted in designated locations, such as a casino. Drug use is not tolerated.
- Taking photos, video and audio recordings, as well as sketching, are particularly sensitive issues. Ask before photographing or recording an individual, an event or activity. Permits may be required, and fees and restrictions vary, particularly for professionals.
- Dances are sacred ceremonies. Observe them as you would any other religious function by dressing and acting appropriately. Be mindful of where you sit, stand and walk. Never pick up any object that is dropped during a ceremony. Please refrain from talking to the ceremonial dancers. Applause after ceremonial dances is considered inappropriate.
- Some of the Tribal buildings and structures may be several hundred years old and can damage easily; do not climb on walls or other structures. Do not disturb or remove animals, plants, rocks or artifacts, including pot shards, as Tribal and federal laws prohibit the removal of such items.
- Like any community, Tribal Lands are home to those who live and work there and should be respected as such. Although most areas are open to the public during daylight hours, the homes are private and should be entered only by invitation.

**Your understanding of Tribal traditions and cultures is appreciated. Thank you.**

For more event information, go to [VisitArizona.com](http://VisitArizona.com)



Mystic Canyon  
Photo by Micah Adams



Wild Horses in Verde River at Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation



Butterfly Wonderland, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

## PHOENIX AND CENTRAL ARIZONA

**The Tribal communities in Phoenix’s urban-area offer a city vibe and rustic charm, all wrapped in Native culture. With attractions ranging from eagle watching to world-class golfing, Arizona’s only five-star dining experience and a new Native-themed venue for America’s pastime, you’ll be sure to craft the perfect getaway.**

### Get to Know Us Better.

The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the “Abaja” or “The People” welcomes visitors to explore its lush Verde River Valley home. The Onk Akimel O’Odham (Pima), the “Salt River People” and the Xalychidom Pii-Paash (Maricopa), “People Who Live Toward the Water” form the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, whose home borders Scottsdale. South of Phoenix is the ancestral home of the Akimel O’odham (Pima) and Pii Paash (Maricopa) of the Gila River Indian Community. At Gila River’s southern border, the Ak-Chin Indian Community is the third O’odham homeland in the Phoenix urban area.

### Be Our Guest.

Be pampered at the AAA Four-Diamond We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort at Fort McDowell, or make Eagle View RV Resort your base camp. Here, visitors can catch a glimpse of the bald eagles that make Fort McDowell their winter nesting home. At the end of a busy day, dine at Orange Sky on the top floor of Talking Stick Resort in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian

Community and enjoy panoramic views of the Valley’s signature sunsets. Enjoy a luxurious night at the resort or nest at the nearby family-friendly Great Wolf Lodge Arizona.

The 500-room, four-star Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa will pamper you with its Aji Spa, featuring treatments using plants indigenous to the Southwest. The resort also features Arizona’s only five-star restaurant, Kai; a 50,000-square-foot convention center, two pools, tennis courts and walking trails. Visitors can also lodge at the nearby Wild Horse Pass Casino & Resort, featuring elegantly appointed rooms, Shula’s Steakhouse, entertainment and more at family-friendly prices. Or, head south and relax at Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino Hotel boasting a great conference center.

### Discover Our Amenities, at Your Leisure.

Hit the links at Fort McDowell’s We-Ko-Pa Golf Club’s two courses with views of Four Peaks, a mountain with great cultural significance to the Yavapai people, and out of sight of developed

areas; the Saguaro course is suitable for walking, while Cholla is best enjoyed with a zippy cart. Whirlwind Gold Club at Gila River features two championship courses managed by Troon in a desert setting complete with a river running through the courses. Talking Stick Golf Club at Salt River offers two distinctive championship golf courses. Ak-Chin Southern Dunes Golf Club offers a laid-back Troon experience in a quiet setting.

Gaming fans aren’t left out: Try your luck at Fort McDowell Casino. Or visit Gila River’s three casinos—Wild Horse, Vee Quiva and Lone Butte—all offering fun, food and entertainment. Casino Arizona has two locations with slots, poker, entertainment and more. Harrah’s Ak-Chin Casino and Hotel offers entertainment, dining and a ceiling mural depicting the life of the Ak-Chin people.

Learn how to better navigate the autobahn—or rush hour—at Radford Racing School, or watch hot racing action at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park. If racing isn’t your thing, you can shop till you drop at the nearby Phoenix Premium Outlets.

Get your cowboy or cowgirl on at Fort McDowell Adventures with a cattle drive, hay wagon ride or a western barbeque. Or saddle up and ride at Koli Equestrian Center.

The Salt River Entertainment Complex along S.R. 101 offers a variety of attractions, including Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, the Spring Training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks; Butterfly Wonderland, an innovative, indoor rainforest environment featuring the largest

butterfly pavilion in America; TopGolf, a driving range that’s also a party and game venue; and the Pavilions at Talking Stick, a 1.1 million-square-foot power center with open-air shopping, dining and entertainment.

The UltraStar Multi-tainment Center at Ak-Chin Circle is one of the Valley’s newest family fun complexes, featuring cinemas, restaurants, bowling lanes, an arcade and indoor/outdoor event and concert areas.

### Learn Our Legends and Lore.

Tribal history and art fans can visit Salt River’s Huhugam Ki Museum to learn more about their Tribal hosts. Gila River’s HuHuGam Heritage Center also preserves the Tribe’s history and culture with a state-of-the-art research, repository and museum showcasing Tribal arts.

Nearby Ak-Chin’s Him-Dak EcoMuseum and Archives, one of just a handful of community-curated facilities of its kind in North America, features handcrafted artifacts, exhibits and photographs detailing the history, arts and culture of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.



## TRIBAL RESOURCES

**Ak-Chin Indian Community**  
[ak-chin.nsn.us](http://ak-chin.nsn.us)

**Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation**  
[wekopacasinoresort.com](http://wekopacasinoresort.com)

**Gila River Indian Community**  
[wildhorsepass.com](http://wildhorsepass.com)

**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**  
[discoversaltriver.com](http://discoversaltriver.com)



Havasupai Falls  
Photo by Claudia Wilkin



## NORTHERN ARIZONA

Northern Arizona offers a cornucopia of Tribal cultures and stunning landscapes. Revel in nature’s glorious artwork in the homelands of the Havasupai and Hualapai at the Grand Canyon; or delve into Navajo culture in the heart of Monument Valley. Watch a Hopi Katsina carver at work atop a mesa, or imagine yourself as one of the first people to traverse the Arizona Plateau at Muuputs Canyon in Pipe Springs National Monument.

### Get to Know Us Better.

Deep in the Grand Canyon is the home of the Havasupai, or “People of the Blue-Green Water.” The Hualapai, or “People of the Tall Pines,” call the western end of the Grand Canyon home. Head north to the Arizona Strip to visit the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The Navajo Nation’s lands extend from the northeastern portion of Arizona into Utah and New Mexico. In the midst of Navajoland lie the legendary three mesas of the Hopi Tribe. The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe lives at the western edge of the Navajo Reservation around Tuba City. The Zuni, or Ashiwi, are of the Pueblo culture; their traditional lands lie in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico.

### Be Our Guest.

Cowboy up in a cozy Cabins at Grand Canyon West at the rim of Grand Canyon West. Or, settle in along Historic Route 66 in the Hualapai Lodge at Peach Springs, one of many towns that served as an inspiration for the fictional town Radiator Springs in the Pixar movie “Cars.”

Looking for something a bit more luxurious? Enjoy a full range of amenities at Arizona’s newest gaming center, Twin Arrows Casino Resort just east of Flagstaff. The Moenkopi Legacy Inn & Suites offers comfort and a uniquely Hopi experience. Venture deeper into Hopiland and stay at the comfortable hotel at Hopi Cultural Center; the restaurant



Dinosaur Tracks, Tuba City

features authentic Hopi fare, including blue corn pancakes that are available in only a few places in Arizona.

Lodging in the Navajo Nation ranges from the fabulous The View Hotel, with views of the majestic Monument Valley from all sides, to humble hogan bed-and-breakfast establishments.

### Discover Our Amenities, at Your Leisure.

If it happens under the sun, Northern Arizona Tribes have it—big-game hunting, whitewater rafting, hiking, fishing, camping and horseback riding are all available to explore in the wide-open lands. Hike to the many falls along Havasu Canyon and camp in the shadow of the Grand Canyon.

Grand Canyon West is home to the world-famous Grand Canyon Skywalk, the only place where visitors can step out onto a glass-bottomed, horseshoe-shaped walkway suspended nearly 4,000 feet above the canyon floor. Soar into the canyon with a helicopter tour or float down the Colorado River with the Hualapai River Runners. Grand Canyon West also offers a shuttle tour of Guano Point, Eagle Point and the Hualapai Point, where you can purchase stunning Native art.

### Learn Our Legends and Lore.

Immerse yourself in culture in Hopiland, with guided tours available. Learn about Hopi art and history at the Hopi Cultural Center’s museum. Then, follow the Hopi Arts Trail along S.R. 264; along the way you’ll see beautiful scenery while visiting acclaimed Hopi artists.

The Navajo Nation Fair in September is the U.S.’s largest Tribal fair. You can also enjoy other Tribal fairs, including the Western Navajo Fair.

Explore trading posts such as Hubbell Trading Post, where American Indian artisans still barter their work. Or stop in at Burnham’s in Sanders, where the family has been trading with Navajo and Hopi for five generations. McGee’s Indian Art in Keams Canyon also has a long history with Hopi art. The Navajo Nation Museum is acclaimed for its rich exhibits that delve into Navajo history and arts. Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise has five stores located across the reservation, all offering a variety of artworks crafted by Native artisans.

Pipe Springs National Monument in the heart of Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians’ lands opens a door to the natural and human history of the Arizona strip.



Hamana So’ohs’ Gallery, Hopi Arts Trail

## TRIBAL RESOURCES

**Havasupai Tribe**  
[theofficialhavasupaitribe.com](http://theofficialhavasupaitribe.com)

**Hopi Tribe**  
[experiencehopi.com](http://experiencehopi.com)

**Hualapai Tribe**  
[grandcanyonwest.com](http://grandcanyonwest.com)

**Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians**  
[kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov](http://kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov)

**Navajo Nation**  
[discoverNavajo.com](http://discoverNavajo.com)

**San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe**  
[sanjuanpaiute-nsn.gov](http://sanjuanpaiute-nsn.gov)

**Zuni Pueblo**  
[zunitourism.com](http://zunitourism.com)





## NORTH CENTRAL ARIZONA

Phoenix's summer playland also is home to some of Arizona's most well known Native peoples, the Apache. Deep in the forested slopes of the White Mountains, outdoor adventure beckons. Enjoy a relaxing stay at a luxurious resort, or lakeside cabin with fishing line dangling in the water. Stalk the big game in lands once traveled by Geronimo and Cochise. History permeates the city of Prescott, the original capital of the Arizona Territory, and along the lush Verde River, where the Yavapai and Apache people once lived.

### Get to Know Us Better.

The San Carlos, Tonto and White Mountain Apaches are bands of the Western Apache culture. These peoples, who once traversed immense lands throughout the Southwest, are proud of their cultural heritage. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is comprised of the Dilzhe'e Apache band and the Yavapai band of Wipuhk'a'bah, or "People from the Foot of the Red Rock." West across the Bradshaw Mountains live more Yavapai people, the Prescott Yavapai, known as Yav'be.

### Be Our Guest.

The Apache Gold Casino Resort and RV Park near San Carlos is a comfortable, family-friendly hotel.

Hon-Dah Casino Resort, located just south of Pinetop-Lakeside, provides a cool summer getaway and offers a gateway to winter sports, as well as an RV park. Sunrise Park Resort in the White Mountains is open seasonally in winter for skiing and summer for excellent fishing, hiking, archery and other summertime pursuits.

Mazatzal Hotel & Casino gives visitors room to roam in its all-suite hotel, featuring both fine and casual dining, a pool and fitness center. Enjoy comfortable rooms, dining and live entertainment at Cliff Castle Casino Hotel in the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The hilltop Prescott Resort offers incomparable views, newly renovated rooms, enjoy southwestern fare at the Eagle's Nest and, of course, Bucky's Casino.

### Discover Our Amenities, at Your Leisure.

Outdoor types can pursue elk, deer and other game on the homelands of both the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Camping and fishing are also popular with visitors, and the White Mountain Apache Tribal lands feature many lakes including Hawley Lake, where cabins are available for vacation rentals. For a real thrill, run the Salt River's whitewater rapids between San Carlos and White Mountain.

In the winter, the slopes of Sunrise Park Resort beckon, and the skiing and snowboarding rival what you'd expect to find in other major ski resorts.

Arizona Stronghold Golf Club in San Carlos is the place to hole up. At 3,200 feet elevation, the Tom Doak-designed course guarantees a championship golf experience.

If you're not in the mood for golfing, head into the Apache Gold Casino for some gaming action. Both Bucky's Casino and the Yavapai Casino are places to try your luck. Cliff Castle Casino is one of the state's most popular and was named "Number 1 Casino" by Experience AZ magazine for more than a decade.



Apache Rider



### Learn Our Legends and Lore.

Head east to the San Carlos Cultural Center in Peridot, which showcases Apache culture and history. The gift shop also is a great place to find that perfect piece of art to take home. Fort Apache, famed in books and movies, is now Fort Apache Historic Park near Whiteriver. The 19th-century buildings are joined by a traditional gowa, home to Nohwike' Bágowa, "House of Our Footprints", the White Mountain Apache Cultural Center and Museum. Here, visitors can immerse themselves in the rich heritage of the Apache people with exhibits, demonstrations, a gift shop and special events.

## TRIBAL RESOURCES

**San Carlos Apache Tribe**  
[scat-nsn.gov](http://scat-nsn.gov)

**Tonto Apache Tribe**  
[mazatzal-casino.com](http://mazatzal-casino.com)

**White Mountain Apache Tribe**  
[whitemountainapache.org](http://whitemountainapache.org)

**Yavapai-Apache Nation**  
[yavapai-apache.org](http://yavapai-apache.org)

**Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe**  
[prescottresort.com](http://prescottresort.com)



## TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA



American Indian Basket Weaver  
Photo by Joel Grimes

The Sonoran Desert may appear harsh and hostile to humans, but the Desert People, the Tohono O’odham, will happily showcase how they build a good life—and create art—from its hidden resources. Tucson, is rich in history and culture, including the Pascua Yaqui, a Sonoran people whose story is compelling.

### Get to Know Us Better.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe, known as Yoeme, descended from Uto-Aztecans peoples of Sonora. The Yaqui have a long history in Arizona, and live in several communities, including the main reservation bordering Tucson. The Tohono O’odham, or “Desert People,” call the desert west of Tucson home.

### Be Our Guest.

Arizona’s only *Forbes Travel Guide* Four-Star casino resort, Casino Del Sol Resort, features luxury rooms, fine and casual dining, a full-service spa, conference center and other luxurious amenities in a Mediterranean setting with a dash of Native influence. Troon-managed Sewailo Golf Club is a world-class, desert-style course, designed by PGA circuit golfer Notah Begay III.

### Discover Our Amenities, at Your Leisure.

Hiapsi is the Yaqui word for “heart and soul,” an apt name for Casino Del Sol Resort’s spa. Luxuriate in treatments that showcase Hiapsi’s Native American herbal therapy or a massage before or after taking in a show at the AVA Amphitheater. Or, hike Baboquivari Peak to immerse yourself in the vitality of the lush Sonoran Desert.

### Learn Our Legends and Lore.

Like a string of fine jewels, Desert Diamond Casino has three locations in southern Arizona and one located in west Phoenix offering great gaming action and fine food across the breadth of the O’odham lands. The Tohono O’odham Cultural Center and Museum showcases O’odham arts and history in its pristine desert setting with window walls,



San Xavier del Bac Mission Museum  
Photo by An Pham

stonework and cool overhangs. When in Tucson, visit the Old Pascua Museum and Yaqui Cultural Center in the Old Pascua community or the Yoemem Tekia Cultural Center and Museum to learn more about Yoeme culture and history.



San Xavier del Bac Mission  
Photo by Enrique Noriega

## TRIBAL RESOURCES

**Pascua Yaqui Tribe**  
[pascuayaqui-nsn.gov](http://pascuayaqui-nsn.gov)

**Tohono O’odham Nation**  
[tonation-nsn.gov](http://tonation-nsn.gov)





Colorado River  
Photo courtesy of Colorado River Indian Tribes Museum

## ARIZONA'S WEST COAST

The life-giving waters of the Colorado River have drawn people for millennia, and thus are home to many American Indian communities. Here, visitors can indulge in golf, hiking, water sports, bird watching or just lounging by the cool waters while delving into the history and culture of the river peoples of Arizona's West Coast.

### Get to Know Us Better.

Arizona's West Coast is the home of several Tribal groups. The Cocopah or Xawill kwñchawaay, "Those Who Live on the River," and Quechan or Kwtsaan, "Those Who Descended" peoples live around Yuma, and have farmed and fished the Colorado River for countless years. The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), which include Mohave or 'Aha Macav, the Chemehuevi, "Those that Play with Fish," Navajo and Hopi people. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe or Pipa 'Aha Macav, "The People by the River," are sited south of Bullhead City. The Mojave and Chemehuevi peoples have prospered in the rich riparian Colorado

River region for centuries, while the Navajos and Hopis relocated along the river in the mid-20th century.

### Be Our Guest.

The Cocopah Resort & Conference Center provides quiet, well-appointed lodging with a Southwestern flair. Or, choose the Quechan Casino-Resort, with several large suites and the Pipa Event Center. The Cocopah RV & Golf Resort is the place to be in the winter months, and Quechan boasts two RV communities, one located just a short distance from the U.S.-Mexico port of entry. Head north along the Colorado to the BlueWater Resort &

Casino. This expansive resort features rooms with private patio views of the river, a marina, RV park and conference center, as well as great food and gaming at the BlueWater Casino. Or, enjoy four-star amenities at Spirit Mountain RV Park, including golf and the Spirit Mountain Casino.

### Discover Our Amenities, at Your Leisure.

Golfers can stay and play at the Cocopah RV & Golf Resort, or challenge themselves on the walkable Cocopah Rio Colorado Golf Course. Get your motor running at the Cocopah Speedway, or indulge in family-friendly fun at the Wild River Family Entertainment Center. BlueWater offers many ways to play, including a full range of water sports, hiking and the Parker 425, an annual off-road race. Take in a rodeo, powwow, circus or other exciting event in air-conditioned comfort at Mojave Crossing Event Center & Arena. And hit the links at Mojave Resort Golf Club. Gaming along the Colorado also is available, with six great casinos offering a multitude of games.

### Learn Our Legends and Lore.

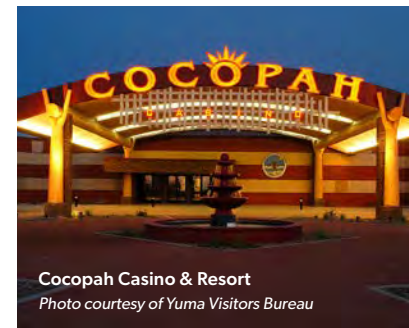
Immerse yourself in traditional Cocopah culture and history at the Cocopah Museum, including life-size dioramas and a well-appointed gift shop stocked with acclaimed Cocopah beadwork. The Quechan Cultural Center, located at the Quechan Casino-Resort, showcases the Quechan's arts and culture,



Mohave Pottery  
Photo courtesy of Colorado River Indian Tribes Museum

including art by Quechan elders. The CRIT Museum, one of the U.S.'s oldest Tribal museums, presents the history, heritage and traditions of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

'Ahakhav Tribal Preserve gives visitors a taste of what the Colorado used to be—a lush, green and cool riparian area. Nearby is the Poston Memorial, commemorating the Japanese internments during World War II. The intriguing Blythe Intaglios are located off U.S. Highway 95, just 15 miles north of Blythe. These immense geoglyphs depict six human figures from 95- up to 174-feet-long, all etched into the ground with care by Quechan and Mojave peoples. The Yuma East Wetlands on the Quechan Tribal lands is a 1,400-acre rehabilitation area featuring low-impact recreation including hiking and fishing,



Cocopah Casino & Resort  
Photo courtesy of Yuma Visitors Bureau

## TRIBAL RESOURCES

**Cocopah Indian Tribe**  
[cocopah.com](http://cocopah.com)

**Colorado River Indian Tribes**  
[critmuseum.com](http://critmuseum.com)

**Fort Mojave Indian Tribe**  
[mojaveindiantribe.com](http://mojaveindiantribe.com)

**Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe**  
[quechantribe.com](http://quechantribe.com)





Arizona Indian Festival  
Photos by An Pham and Christine Johnson

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## February

**Exodus Day**, *Camp Verde*  
yavapai-apache.org | NC

**World Championship Hoop Dance Contest**, *Phoenix*  
heard.org | PC

**Arizona Indian Festival**, *Scottsdale*  
arizonaindiantourism.org | PC

## March

**Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market**, *Phoenix*  
heard.org | PC

## April

**San Carlos Apache Tribe Veteran's Rodeo**, *San Carlos*  
apache-gold-casino.com | NC

## May

**Great Fort Apache Heritage Reunion**, *Whiteriver*  
fortapachearizona.org | NC

## June

**Sheep is Life**, *Tsaile*  
navajolifeway.org | N

**Sacred Mountain Prayer Run**, *Flagstaff*  
nacainc.org | N

## July

**Heritage Festival**, *Flagstaff*  
musnaz.org | N

## August

**Annual Louis Tewanima Footrace**, *Second Mesa*  
tewanimafotrace.org | N



## September

**White Mountain Apache Tribal Fair & Rodeo**, *Whiteriver*  
wmat.us | NC

**Navajo Nation Fair and Rodeo**, *Window Rock*  
facebook.com/NavajoNationFair | N

**CRIT Native American Days Fair Expo**, *Parker*  
facebook.com/COLORIVERINDIANTRIBES | W

## October

**Indigenous Peoples' Day Phoenix Fest**, *Phoenix*  
ipdphx.com | PC

**Fort Mojave Indian Days**, *Mohave*  
mojaveindantribe.com | W

## November

**Arizona Native Edible Experience**, *Scottsdale*  
arizonanativeexperience2022.com | PC

## December

**Pueblo Grande Museum Indian Market**, *Phoenix*  
pueblogrande.org | PC

For more event information, go to [VisitArizona.com](https://www.visitarizona.com)

## KEY

- PC | Phoenix & Central Arizona
- N | Northern Arizona
- NC | North Central Arizona
- NC | Tucson & Southern Arizona
- W | Arizona's West Coast



# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

## PHOENIX & CENTRAL ARIZONA

### Ak-Chin Indian Community

Maricopa  
(520) 568-1000  
ak-chin.nsn.us

### Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Fountain Hills  
(480) 789-4957  
wekopacasinoresort.com

### Gila River Indian Community

Sacaton  
(520) 796-5389  
wildhorsepass.com

### Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Near Scottsdale  
(480) 362-2700  
discoversalriver.com

## NORTHERN ARIZONA

### Havasupai Tribe

Supai  
(928) 433-8130  
theofficialhavasupaitribe.com

### The Hopi Tribe

Kykotsmovi  
(928) 283-4500  
experiencehopi.com

### Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

Fredonia  
(928) 643-7245  
kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov

### Navajo Nation

Window Rock  
(928) 810-8501  
discoverNavajo.com

### San Juan Southern Paiute

Tuba City  
(928) 212-9794  
sanjuanpaiute-nsn.gov

### Zuni Pueblo

Zuni, NM  
(505) 782-7238  
zunitourism.com

## NORTH CENTRAL ARIZONA

### San Carlos Apache Tribe

San Carlos  
(928) 475-2894  
scat-nsn.gov

### Tonto Apache Tribe

Payson  
(928) 474-5000  
mazatzal-casino.com

### White Mountain Apache Tribe

Whiteriver  
(928) 338-4346  
whitemountainapache.org

### Yavapai-Apache Nation

Camp Verde  
(928) 649-6963  
yavapai-apache.org

### Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

Prescott  
(928) 776-1666  
ypit.com  
prescottresort.com

## TUCSON & SOUTHERN ARIZONA

### Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Tucson  
(520) 883-5000  
pascuayaqui-nsn.gov

### Tohono O'odham Nation

Sells  
(520) 383-2028  
tonation-nsn.gov

## ARIZONA'S WEST COAST

### Cocopah Tribe

Somerton  
(928) 627-1992  
cocopah.com

### Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)

Parker  
(928) 669-8970  
critmuseum.com

### Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Needles, CA  
(760) 629-4591  
mojaveindiantribe.com

### Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe

Yuma  
(760) 572-0213  
quechantribe.com

### Hualapai Tribe

Peach Springs  
(928) 769-2636  
grandcanyonwest.com

**COVID-19 Disclaimer:** Our Tribal tourism partners are continuing to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation. Before planning to visit Tribal Lands and events, check each Tribe's website for the most updated information.



Montezuma Castle  
National Monument  
Photo by An Pham

## Plan Your Arizona Adventures Today on [VisitArizona.com](https://www.visitarizona.com)

- Find in-depth visitor information about Arizona travel, including information on Arizona lodging, dining, shopping, places to visit and things to do throughout the Grand Canyon State.
- Download our full-sized Arizona Official State Travel Guide where you can view the guide instantly.
- Subscribe to our free, monthly e-mail newsletters to keep up with the latest news, information and vacation ideas around the state.
- View our suggested trip itineraries or create your own.
- Chat with our travel counselors online, they are available to answer your questions 24/7.
- Discover festivals and other happenings around Arizona by visiting our online Events Calendar.
- Search our Travel Deals section for special rates and packages.



# BEST OF THE WEST: NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS

ARIZONA, COLORADO, UTAH



Grand Canyon National Park  
Arizona



Mesa Verde National Park  
Colorado



Arches National Park  
Utah

Welcome to our most treasured  
National Parks & Monuments!

## Denver International Airport, CO To Rocky Mountain NP, CO

- 1 hr 30 min
- 78 mi / 126 km
- Overnight: Estes Park, CO

## Estes Park, CO to Colorado National Monument, CO

- 5 hr 15 min
- 304 mi / 489 km
- Overnight: Grand Junction, CO

## Grand Junction, CO to Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, CO

- 1 hr 21 min
- 72 mi / 116 km
- Overnight: Montrose, CO

## Montrose, CO to Arches NP, UT

- 2 hr 40 min
- 168 mi / 270 km
- Overnight: Moab, UT

## Moab, UT to Canyonlands (Island in the Sky) NP, UT

- 36 min
- 30 mi / 48 km
- Overnight: Moab, UT



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## Moab, UT to Natural Bridges NM, UT

- 2 hr 12 min
- 116 mi / 187 km
- Overnight: Bluff, UT

## Bluff, UT to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, AZ

- 55 min
- 49 mi / 79 km
- Overnight: Oljato-Monument Valley, UT/AZ

## Oljato-Monument Valley, UT/AZ, to Mesa Verde NP, CO

- 2 hr 57 min
- 152 mi / 245 km
- Overnight: Cortez, CO

## Cortez, CO to Canyon de Chelly, AZ

- 2 hr 20 min
- 141 mi / 227 km
- Overnight: Chinle, AZ

## Chinle, AZ to Petrified Forest NP, AZ

- 1 hr 34 min
- 98 mi / 158 km
- Overnight: Winslow, AZ

## Winslow, AZ to Grand Canyon NP, AZ

- 2 hr 7 min
- 140 mi / 225 km
- Overnight: Tusayan, AZ

## Tusayan, AZ to Phoenix, AZ

- 3 hr 15 min
- 225 mi / 362 km
- Overnight: Phoenix, AZ or  
Departure via Phoenix Sky  
International Airport

*Note: Detours may be necessary depending on seasonal road closures or inclement weather. Please do research to find out the road condition you can expect during your trip.*

For more information on these national parks, click below:

[Colorado's National Parks](#)

[Utah's Mighty 5 National Parks](#)

[Arizona's National Parks](#)



Rocky Mountain National Park  
Colorado



Canyon de Chelly National Monument  
Arizona



Canyonlands National Park  
Utah





Las Vegas, Nevada



Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

# BIG CITIES. SMALL TOWNS.

FROM LAS VEGAS, NEVADA TO PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 7-DAY ITINERARY

## Get to know the locals as you travel through charming towns and stunning landscapes.

- Get off the Strip and check out the newest neon experience at Area 15.
- Go from neon to nature in Las Vegas with a visit to Spring Mountain State Park.
- Experience the wonders of Death Valley National Park and the road to it.
- Visit Hoover Dam, one of the few engineering marvels of the world.
- Cruise down the longest original stretch of Route 66 still in use today.
- Visit Grand Canyon National Park, located entirely in Arizona.
- Take in the starry skies of Flagstaff, the world's first International Dark Sky Association designated Dark Sky City.
- Travel the scenic highways and byways that wind through hills and valleys and through Oak Creek Canyon.
- Sample award-winning wines and the new Desert Cane Distillery in Pahrump, Nevada, enjoy Arizona's Craft Beer City in Flagstaff, and sample the wines of Verde Valley in Cottonwood.







Area 15, Las Vegas, Nevada



Death Valley National Park

## DAY 1 | Arrival Day, Las Vegas, NV

Arrive at Las Vegas McCarran International Airport

### AREA 15

20 min from Las Vegas Strip • 5.2 miles / 8.37 km

Larger-than-life art installations, mind-altering virtual reality experiences, fresh and exciting shopping experiences, and events with distinction. Admission to this experiential retail and entertainment complex promises “just about anything you can imagine is real” mentalities, with only one thing required: a want to wonder.

### Springs Preserve

30 min from Las Vegas Strip • 9.0 miles / 14.48 km

A fascinating family destination for kids and kids at heart, the Springs Preserve is a wonderland of interactive museums, technologically advanced displays, art galleries, and miles of trails among lush gardens and animal habitats, play areas, and more—all working together to commemorate the wild origins of Las Vegas while providing a vision for a sustainable future.

### Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

35 min from Las Vegas Strip • 21 miles / 33.80 km

The majestic Spring Mountain Ranch State Park sits just beneath the spectacularly vibrant cliffs of the Spring Mountains, in the same valley as Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

## Overnight in Las Vegas



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Nevada

## DAY 2 | Drive to Death Valley National Park

2 hr 20 min drive from Las Vegas Strip • 118 miles / 189.90 km

### Rhyolite

As one of the most photographed ghost towns in the West, Rhyolite should be a priority when planning a Nevada adventure.

### Furnace Creek

This “town” is home to the park’s visitor center, two major lodging options, and up to three national park campgrounds.

### Badwater Basin

The lowest point in North America at 282 ft (86 m) below sea level. The salt flats here cover nearly 200 square miles (518 square km).

### Artist’s Palette

A spectacular array of colors tucked behind an unassuming yellow landscape.

### Zabriskie Point Death Valley

An iconic Death Valley vista. A favorite location for viewing sunrise and sunset.

## Overnight in Pahrump

### MORE IN PAHRUMP

With its close proximity to Death Valley National Park and home to two of Nevada’s wineries, Pahrump is a great location for a day full of outdoor adventure.

#### Sander’s Family Winery

Offers stunning panoramic mountain views. Free wine-tasting tours are available.

#### Pahrump Valley Winery

Sip some of their many award-winning wines or dine in the upscale yet casual Symphony’s Restaurant.

#### Artesian Cellars

Pahrump’s newest winery.

#### Desert Cane Distillery

Put the RUM in Pahrump! A small batch distillery that promises big flavor.



Rhyolite Ghost Town, Nevada





Hoover Dam, Nevada



Oatman, Arizona

## DAY 3 | Drive to Laughlin, NV

3 hr 30 min drive from Pahrump • 200 miles / 321.87 km

### Hoover Dam

One of the finest examples of American engineering, Hoover Dam is included on many lists of modern marvels. Find it at the intersection of the southeast corner of Nevada and the northwest corner of Arizona, where it impounds Lake Mead.

### Boulder City

“Small Town. Big Adventure.” Established in 1931 to house the builders of Hoover Dam, Boulder City now brims with cute shops, cool cafés, and Art Deco vibes.

### Techatticup Mine

As the oldest, richest, and most famous gold mine in Southern Nevada, the Techatticup Mine is in scenic Eldorado Canyon.

## Overnight in Laughlin

### MORE IN LAUGHLIN

Picture the sweet spot where Nevada, California, and Arizona meet, and there you'll find your new favorite Silver State retreat. It's the perfect pairing with a visit to nearby Hoover Dam.

### Rocky River Adventure Center

Looking to borrow a jet ski or two? They also loan out UTVs if you wanna rip up hundreds of nearby miles of OHV trails.

### Bumbleberry Flats

Comfort food with a southern twist will be calling your name over jambalaya, cajun mac and cheese, and fried green tomatoes.

### London Bridge Jet Boat Tours

Takes you to the world famous London Bridge in Lake Havasu, AZ.

## DAY 4 | Drive to Williams, AZ

2hr 15 min drive from Laughlin • 145.9mi / 73.9 km

### Oatman

A former mining town located in the Black Mountains of Arizona, Oatman has undergone a renaissance of sorts, and wild burros (donkeys) freely roam the town.

### Kingman via Sitgreaves Pass

Enjoy some of the most interesting and scenic landscapes anywhere on Route 66

Be sure to stop at the Powerhouse Route 66 Museum, which depicts the historical evolution of travel with displays of brilliant murals, photos, and dioramas along the 35th parallel.

### Williams

Cruise along the longest original stretch of Route 66

Visit this quaint mountain town centered around a historic train depot. Route 66 history buffs can wander the six blocks of historic buildings and shops. Bearizona is a North American wildlife park that allows visitors to drive into the wilderness and witness herd and pack life from the safety and comfort of their private vehicle.

### ALONG ROUTE 66 Hackberry General Store, Peach Springs

A museum of old Route 66, this has been called the “mother lode of mother road memorabilia.”

### Delgadillo's Snow Cap, Seligman

Cherished by tourists for the antics pulled on them while they try to order food and drinks, this is one of the wackiest off-beat burger joints around.

## Overnight in Williams at Grand Canyon Railway & Hotel



Techatticup Mine, Nevada

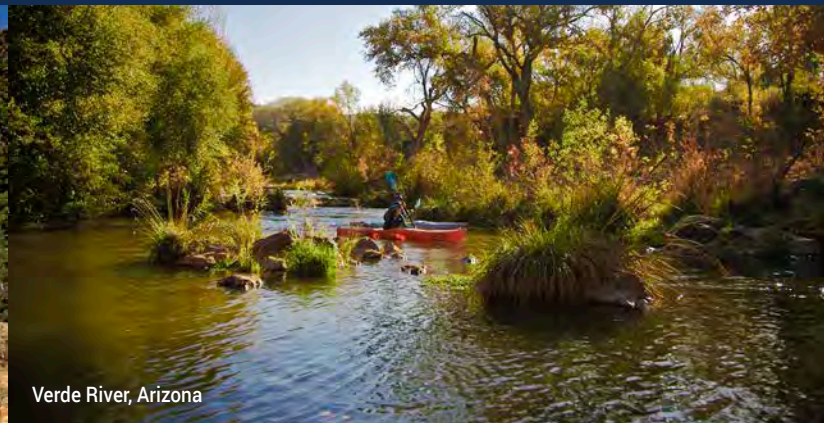


Hackberry General Store, Arizona





Grand Canyon National Park Watchtower, Arizona



Verde River, Arizona

## DAY 5 | Take the train to Grand Canyon National Park

2 hr 15 min train ride back to Williams

### Train Ride to Grand Canyon National Park

Enhance your Grand Canyon experience with an entertaining train ride featuring western musicians and cowboy characters on vintage rail cars.

### Flagstaff

38 min drive from Williams  
• 34 miles/54.71km

Flagstaff in northern Arizona is an outdoor playground with plenty of trails and parks—and craft beer enthusiasts can take a different kind of tour on the Flagstaff Brewery Trail.

### Lowell Observatory

Founded in 1894 and one of the oldest observatories in the U.S., Lowell Observatory continues to be a research facility. It has been instrumental in major discoveries, including the first detection of the expanding nature of the universe, the rings of Uranus, the atmosphere of Pluto, and moon mapping for the Apollo program.

### Overnight in Flagstaff



Flagstaff, Arizona

**GRAND CANYON RIM TOURS**

**Pink Jeep Tours**  
You will go in custom made Pink Jeep vehicles on Westwind's custom ground tour into Grand Canyon National Park.

**Buckwild Tours**  
Buck Wild Hummer Tours is committed to providing you with the best Grand Canyon experience aboard one of our custom built Humvee touring vehicles.

## DAY 6 | Drive to Cottonwood (Verde Valley)

1hr 6 min drive from Flagstaff • 63.2mi / 101.7 km

### Walnut Canyon National Monument

Ancient cliffside dwellings tell the story of the Ancestral Puebloans that inhabited this area thousands of years ago.

### Museum of Northern Arizona

Showcases the Indigenous tribes in the area including their culture, history, and craftsmanship.

### Sedona

Take the scenic drive through Oak Creek Canyon.

### Water to Wine, Cottonwood

Kayak on the Verde River to Alcantara Winery, where you will enjoy wine tasting along the river bank.

### Overnight in Cottonwood

## DAY 7 | Departure Day, Drive to Phoenix

1 hr 45 min drive from Cottonwood • 104 miles/167.37 km

**Phoenix** encompasses the posh resorts and green golf courses of Scottsdale, Tempe's lively college-town vibes, arts-friendly Mesa and pro-sports hub Glendale, and several American Indian tribal lands.

### Depart Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

**IN VERDE VALLEY**

**Slide Rock State Park**  
Take the plunge into one of "America's Top 10 Swimming Holes" (as designated by USA Today).

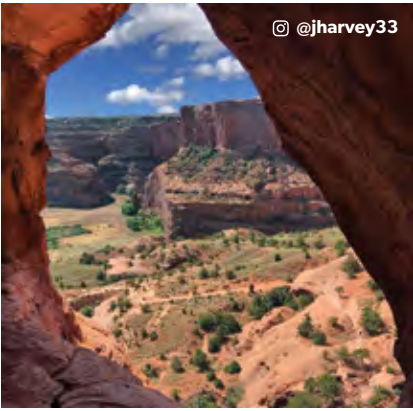
**Jerome Ghost Town**  
One of Arizona's most famous ghost towns.

**Wine Tours**  
Find numerous wine-tasting tours that include half- and full-day options. For self-guided tours: [Verde Valley Wine Trail](#).

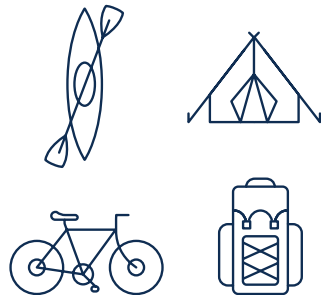


Phoenix Mountain Preserve, Arizona





# OPT OUTSIDE IN ARIZONA





# OPT OUTSIDE IN ARIZONA

In his book “Desert Solitaire,” Arizona author and outdoorsman Edward Abbey wrote that people who travel “on foot, on horseback, or on a bicycle will see more, feel more, enjoy more in one mile than the motorized tourists can in a hundred miles.”

No disrespect to “motorized tourists,” but this guide isn’t for them. It’s for people who prefer to experience Arizona’s wild places through their shoe soles, their nostrils, their pores.

Every place described within—be it an Arizona classic or a lesser-known gem—was chosen with the help of a pro guide, and every photo was taken by an Instagrammer who actually went there.

This little book encourages you to follow in their footsteps, tire tracks and paddle strokes. And it provides some amazing Arizona answers to the question opt-outside travelers ask themselves at the end of every journey:

## “Where to next?”



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 5 Flatiron Peak                        | 24 Mount Lemmon                      |
| 6 Canyon de Chelly                     | 29 Watson Lake                       |
| 9 Kofa National Wildlife Refuge        | 30 Glen Canyon Dam                   |
| 10 Phantom Ranch                       | 33 Upper Salt River                  |
| 13 Aravaipa Canyon                     | 37 Monument Valley                   |
| 14 Chiricahua National Monument        | 38 Ramsey Canyon Preserve            |
| 19 Rainbow Rim Trail                   | 41 Lockett Meadow                    |
| 20 Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument | 42 Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area |
| 23 Sonoita and Patagonia               | 45 White Pocket                      |





© @happy\_trails\_girl  
PHANTOM RANCH

# HIKE







**T**he mystique of the Superstition Mountains originated with the Pima Indians, who in the mid-1800s told local farmers about strange happenings in the area—weird noises, disappearances, mysterious deaths.

There's no mystery, however, as to why Superstition Wilderness Area is a favorite of hikers: Nowhere in America exists wilder, more rugged scenery located so close to a major metropolis.

The trek on the Siphon Draw Trail up to the Flatiron—a rock that resembles a giant clothes iron—pays off with views worth their weight in gold. This strenuous, up-and-back hike takes about 5 hours and totals about 6 miles round-trip. It starts out easy then grows steeper—always requiring attention to the trail. (When in doubt, keep left, and watch for rock falls ahead of you.)

## FLATIRON PEAK

The trickiest part comes toward the end of the hike, when you're faced with a vertical 10-foot rock wall that requires a bit of scrambling.

"You'll gain 3,000 feet of elevation in three miles," says Annemarie Kruse, a guide with Arizona Outback Adventures. "Take your time. The trail is difficult and can be dangerous. But the views from the top are astounding, and the physical accomplishment of getting there is incredibly gratifying."

### WHY GO

Hoodoos, 360-degree views at the top (including Weavers Needle).

### BEST SEASON

Winter and spring

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Apache Junction

### PRO TIP

During the final stretch, look for white/blue dots and arrows to keep on the trail.

### PACK THIS

Salty snacks. They'll help keep you from feeling wobbly on the way down.



HIKE

5



**P**resident Herbert Hoover authorized Canyon de Chelly National Monument in 1931 to preserve one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes in North America, dating back nearly 5,000 years.

Although private tours and ranger-led hikes offer the widest access to the canyon and information about the area’s rich history, there is one self-guided tour. The White House Trail starts along the canyon rim before making a 600-foot descent over the course of a little more than a mile. It’s a moderate hike, but be aware: You’re at an altitude of 6,000 feet, so the air will feel a little thin on the way back up, and there are some steep drop-offs and short tunnels to pass through.

## CANYON DE CHELLY

The colors and views of the naturally sculpted sandstone along the way are spectacular. At the bottom of the trail, you’ll be looking back in time at the White House Ruins—dwellings built into the sandstone cliff and occupied between 1060 A.D. and 1275 A.D.

“The canyon scenery is stunning, and not that many visitors make it into the backcountry,” says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Brian Jump. “The White House Ruin is just one of more than 2,400 archaeological sites, and you’ll get to experience active local Navajo culture, too. It’s an amazing hiking trip.”

### WHY GO

Rich archeology and history; beauty rivaling the Grand Canyon’s—without the crowds.

### BEST SEASON

May to October

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Chinle

### PRO TIP

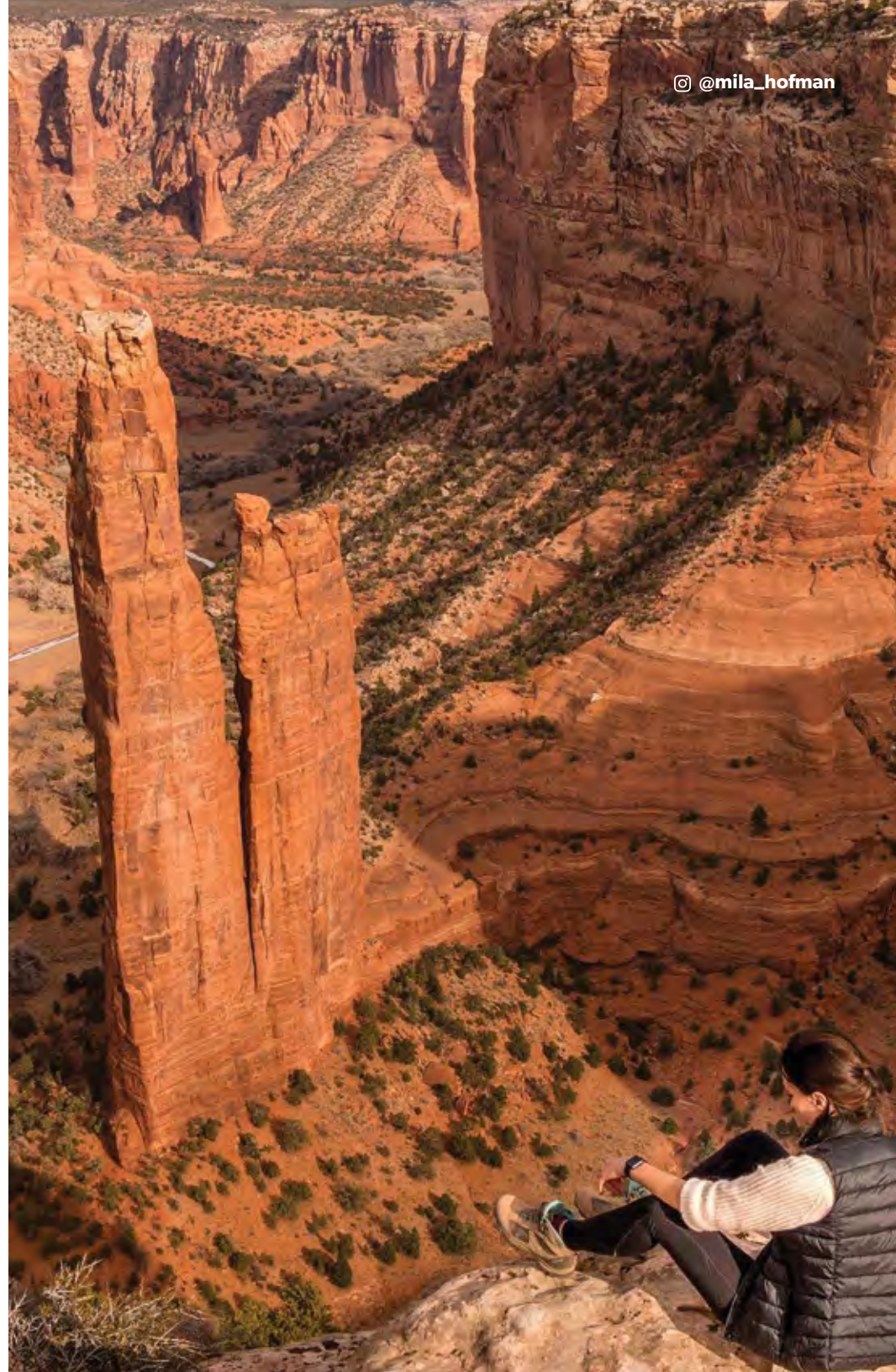
Hire an authorized Navajo guide if you want to go to the canyon floor.

### PACK THIS

Bring cushy car-camping gear, then hire a local shuttle service to one of the canyon camping spots that can only be accessed through a local guide.



HIKE







© @brandon\_erdman\_photography

**T**he Kofa National Wildlife Refuge takes its name from the King of Arizona (KOFA) Mine, the largest gold producer in the Lower Colorado Basin at the turn of the 1900s. Today, the area offers a wealth of opportunity for hikers—and a chance to view resident bighorn sheep, mule deer, fox and a wide variety of birds and burrowing critters.

## KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The popular Palm Canyon Trail is a round-trip hike of just over a mile to a stand of California fan palms, the only palm species native to Arizona. You'll want to bring a camera and time your ascent for a midday arrival, when the lighting is best.

The more advanced journey climbs to 4,877-foot Signal Peak, gaining more than 2,100 feet in elevation over 1.5 miles of rough terrain. (The Kofa's second-highest summit—4,720-foot Ten Ewe Mountain—lies just to the east.)

If you're feeling ambitious about peak-bagging over a weekend, 3,788-foot Castle Dome Peak is in the southern range.

"The Kofa is an incredibly rugged area. There is very little infrastructure and very few visitors," says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Josh Kloepping. "The wildlife is diverse and includes native desert bighorn sheep and desert pronghorn."

### WHY GO

Peak chasing, viewing wildlife and plants.

### BEST SEASON

Spring, fall and winter

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Yuma

### PRO TIP

Visit in the spring to catch the wildflower bloom.

### PACK THIS

A detailed map of the area and more water than you think you need. A four-wheel-drive vehicle also comes in handy.



HIKE

9





f the nearly 6 million people who visit Grand Canyon National Park each year, fewer than 1 percent hike all the way to the bottom. The unofficial “club” for these one-percenters is Phantom Ranch.

Designed by Mary Colter—a persnickety chain-smoker who, as a female architect in the 1920s, was a one-percenter in her own right—Phantom

Ranch is a collection of wood-and-stone structures built along Bright Angel Creek. There are 11 cabins, four bunkhouse-style dorms and a canteen.

The descent from the Grand Canyon’s rim to Phantom Ranch

covers 7 to 14 miles (depending on your starting point) and 2 billion years of geological history. The reward for the knee-pounding hike is a cold beverage at the canteen or an even colder dip in the creek.

Whether you sleep in one of the dorms or pitch a tent downcreek at Bright Angel Campground, you can pre-arrange a hearty dinner and/or breakfast at the canteen.

“I highly recommend staying at least two nights at Phantom Ranch,” says REI Adventures guide Chris Anderson, who has led trips into the Grand Canyon for the past 15 years. “It will give your body time to recover from the descent, and give you time to explore side canyons or take a day hike to Ribbon Falls.”

#### WHY GO

Epic scenery, geological history, cold beer at the bottom.

#### BEST SEASON

May to October

#### NEAREST AMENITIES

Tusayan

#### PRO TIP

If you’re hiking out of Phantom Ranch to the South Rim, use the Bright Angel Trail. It has water sources and shaded rest houses.

#### PACK THIS

Trekking poles. (Your knees will thank you.)



HIKE

10



@happy\_trails\_girl





## ARAVAIPA CANYON

**T**he cliffs, canyons, caves and riparian habitat found in the sprawling Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness make it suited to a multiday backpacking trek.

Parts of this desert oasis are shaded by cottonwood, maple, sycamore and willow trees, and the wildlife afoot (and aflight) includes bighorn sheep and more than 200 bird species.

The canyon can be hiked starting at either end, although the western trailhead offers easier access. Taking that route, you'll start at 2,630 feet, gaining a little over 400 feet in elevation (through plenty of ups and downs) over about 12 miles.

While the trip can be done as a one-way hike in 10 hours or less, this rich ecosystem is best experienced with plenty of exploration into the many side canyons along the way, such as Virgus Canyon or Horse Camp Canyon and its waterfall.

You'll be navigating through unmaintained trails, sand, gravel and cobble, as well as through Aravaipa Creek, so it's a must to have sturdy footwear that can get wet.

"It's one of the most beautiful and lush canyons in Arizona, and you get it nearly all to yourself," says Josh Kloeping, a guide with Arizona Outback Adventures. "Only 50 people are allowed in the canyon each day, so it's possible you won't see anyone else."

### WHY GO

A true wilderness experience for novice and experienced backpackers.

### BEST SEASON

Spring and fall

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Winkelman

### PRO TIP

Get your permit as early as possible, particularly on weekends or during the fall peak season.

### PACK THIS

Water filter. There's water everywhere, so you shouldn't need to carry much, but you will need to filter it.





In a single afternoon at Chiricahua National Monument you can walk in the footsteps of early pioneers, explore the remnants of an ancient volcano, and traverse an environment that resembles five biomes (large areas of plant and animal groups that are adapted to a specific environment).

This national monument in southeastern Arizona is a spectacular blend of history, geology and biodiversity that includes around 200 species of birds.

## CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

“The best hike, in my opinion, is the Echo Canyon Loop, which consists of Echo Canyon, Hailstone and Ed Riggs Trails,” says Michael Blaylock, operations supervisor at Arizona Outback Adventures. “I love this

trail because you get to hike through multiple environments in 3.3 miles. The route takes you through spectacular rock formations, a densely wooded pine forest and a living desert populated with quintessential Sonoran Desert flora.”

Plan at least 2 hours to complete the hike.

If you’re up for a challenge, the Big Loop will get your heart pumping. This all-day, 9.5-mile trek covers Echo Canyon and Ed Riggs trails, plus Upper Rhyolite Canyon, Sarah Deming, Heart of Rocks, Big Balanced Rock, Inspiration Point and Mushroom Rock. Bring snacks and plenty of water.

### WHY GO

To explore one of Arizona’s unique sky islands, an isolated mountain range rising out of the surrounding desert “sea.”

### BEST SEASON

March through May (when all the flora and fauna are out)

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Sunizona (27 miles southwest) and Willcox (37 miles northwest).

### PRO TIP

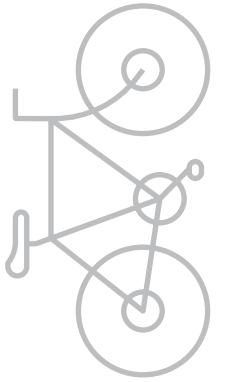
Hike the Echo Canyon Loop counter-clockwise because it’s less strenuous.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

Binoculars







**BIKE**





**A**mong the thousands of mountain bike trails in Arizona, there's only one single-track option at the Grand Canyon: the stunning Rainbow Rim Trail, on the North Rim, in Kaibab National Forest.

It's one of the most unique rides in the desert Southwest. Over the course of about 20 miles—through meadows and piñon, ponderosa and aspen forests—there are five observation points that give riders epic views of the canyon. Unlike more highly trafficked areas on the South Rim and North Rim, you've got a good chance of having the place all to yourself (other than the occasional deer, elk, turkey or bobcat).

## MOUNTAIN BIKING ON RAINBOW RIM TRAIL

Beyond the trail itself, Rainbow Rim offers access to a few of the only places you can camp on the edge of the Grand Canyon—so plan to spend two nights to make it worth the trip. Camping near Locust Point, at the midpoint of the trail, is a popular option.

"Don't forget that it's at super-high elevation—you'll spend your time between 7,500 and 9,000 feet," says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Seth Heald. "This means that acclimatizing first will make your ride more enjoyable."

### WHY GO

Solitude; it's the only mountain bike trail at the Grand Canyon.

### BEST SEASON

Summer

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Jacob Lake

### PRO TIP

This backcountry trail is extremely remote, with no services of any kind, so make sure to pack adequate food and water.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

A Helio pressure shower. Being able to rinse off the trail grime at the end of a long day in the saddle is a luxury.





**O**rgan Pipe Cactus National Monument is a UNESCO biosphere reserve, meaning it's internationally recognized as a precious ecosystem that supports the study of sustainability. It's also the only place in the U.S. where organ-pipe cactus grows wild.

## BIKEPACKING IN ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

portion of the Sonoran Desert can be found on the Ajo Mountain Drive," says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Brian Jump. "And, with few visitors, you can have this beautiful stretch of dirt and paved road almost all to yourself."

Another popular ride is Puerto Blanco Drive, a 37-mile stretch that provides access to the Pinkley Peak Picnic Area, Red Tanks trailhead, Senita Basin and Quitobaquito Springs. There are stops along the way with fantastic views as well as signage about the culture and ecology of the monument.

Grab an entrance permit and backcountry camping permit at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center and then start pedaling. Be aware that bikes aren't permitted on hiking trails or after dark, and ride defensively because you'll share the road with drivers who may be preoccupied with the scenery.

The rugged but wide roads that weave throughout the park make it an excellent destination for bikepacking.

The most popular ride is Ajo Mountain Drive, a 21-mile, mostly gravel road.

"Arguably the most beautiful

### WHY GO

Desert beauty, dark skies; it's a natural for bikepacking.

### BEST SEASON

November through March

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Ajo

### PRO TIP

On a rest day, hike the Estes Canyon trail; it's a 3-mile round trip.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

A Thudbuster seatpost will save your butt from the sometimes washboard and rutted roads.







**G**ravel riding isn't as technical as single-track mountain biking, but a journey into the many back roads of Sonoita and Patagonia (about 50 miles south of Tucson) offers the same grand feeling of traversing wild country on two wheels.

Some of the most popular rides include the Harshaw Loop (13 miles along Harshaw Creek) and the San Rafael Valley Loop, a 26-mile extended version on Forest Service roads that winds through grasslands, oaks and manzanitas before offering a payoff view of the valley.

Other sights include the Harshaw ghost town and cemetery, and historic Hale Ranch, which was a filming location for several TV and movie Westerns back in the day. If you're willing to spin a few extra miles, you can explore the Lochiel ghost town and Parker Canyon Lake.

Don't forget: Sonoita is the oldest wine-producing area in the state, so reward yourself with a well-earned glass or two at the end of the day.

"The area has a deep human history, including thousands of years of native occupation, the Coronado Entrada, Spanish colonialism, Geronimo, Cochise, and the Apache Wars, and the attempted Mexican revolution by Pancho Villa," says Jon Colby, a guide at Arizona Outback Adventures. "Make sure to leave time to stop along the ride to visit the several Nature Conservancy holdings."

## GRAVEL RIDING IN SONOITA AND PATAGONIA

### WHY GO

Phenomenal vistas; wine country.

### BEST SEASON

Mid to late summer (but be aware—monsoons can leave the forest roads a bit mucky)

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Among the amenities in Sonoita and Patagonia are several wineries and tasting rooms.

### PRO TIP

Use tires with good tread and sturdy sidewalls to prevent flats; run a lower tire pressure (45 psi).

### PACK THIS

A good chain brush





**P**rofessional cyclists and recreational riders may not have much in common, but a compulsion to climb the 26-mile road to the summit of Mount Lemmon is surely one of them.

While the 5,500-foot elevation gain might seem daunting, smooth pavement, generous bike lanes, numerous pullouts and an average grade of around 5 percent make this climb achievable. The scenery doesn't hurt, either: It progresses from saguaros and mesquite trees to pine forest, all accompanied by sweeping turns and desert vistas.

## ROAD CYCLING MOUNT LEMMON

Enjoy the descent you've earned, but be alert for inattentive drivers and wandering wildlife.

"The journey from the Sonoran Desert floor to the high-altitude ponderosa pines within a single ride is nothing short of spectacular, but it presents some unique challenges in regard to temperature management," says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Paul Stevenson. "Unless you're riding in the dead of the summer, bring an extra layer or two and gloves at a minimum, because you can expect a 20- to 30-degree swing from the bottom to the top.

Another tip from Stevenson: Purchase a giant homemade cookie from the Cookie Cabin in Summerhaven. "It's the perfect reward for your effort up the climb," he says, "and the extra weight never hurt anyone on the way down, either!"

### WHY GO

It's a bucket-list road ride—arguably the most scenic in Arizona.

### BEST SEASON

Year-round, unless snow or monsoon rain is expected.

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Tucson

### PRO TIP

Start out at a very comfortable effort level; the ride gets harder as you gain elevation and the air thins out.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

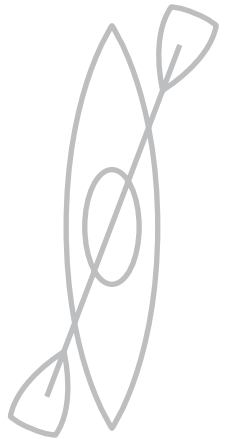
Upgrade your bike with a chainset geared for climbing. And, if you're riding in cool weather, wear knee warmers for the descent.







© @lucid\_shadow\_  
GLEN CANYON



# PADDLE





One of two reservoirs at Prescott's Granite Dells, Watson Lake is small but mighty when it comes to offering an escape for paddlers—whether your craft of choice is a kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard.

On the northern half of the 200-acre lake you can explore coves among the dells' distinctive boulders, which were formed 1.4 billion years ago. The southern half of the lake is wide open but equally peaceful. Boat owners can launch at the north ramp, while rentals are offered at the south end of the lake during peak season.

## WATSON LAKE

What makes Watson particularly appealing is the "no wake" rule for motorized boat traffic, providing a nice change from the turbulent conditions found on many Arizona lakes. If you bring your fishing gear, you can catch bass, crappie, bluegill, catfish and carp. (The lake is stocked with trout in winter, too.)

Off the water, make sure to explore some of the hiking trails, or do the full 4.6-mile loop around the lake.

### WHY GO

Easy access, "no wake" rule for boats.

### BEST SEASON

Spring through fall

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Prescott/Prescott Valley

### PRO TIP

Watch for boulders hidden just below the surface.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

A soft-sided ice chest to keep your water and lunch cool, and a waterproof housing to keep your phone/camera dry.





**I**n 1963, the diversion tunnel gates at 710-foot-high Glen Canyon Dam were closed, creating Lake Powell. While the taming of the Colorado River changed the Southwest landscape forever, river runners still have access to the 15 miles that run through lower Glen Canyon to Lees Ferry,

an area well worth exploring via kayak or a snout rig (a boat with two inflatable pontoons and an aluminum deck).

To make life easy, you can hire a snout rig from a local day-trip tour company, which will also take you and your gear to the launch point. As your flat-water

float trip progresses, you'll pass (or can make stops at) famous sites such as Petroglyph Beach, Horseshoe Bend and Hislop Cave.

In addition to fantastic hiking and camping, this section of river is renowned for offering some of the best trout fishing in the state. So make sure to bring a fly rod, fishing license and appropriate gear to wade into the chilly waters.

"If you think of the cliffs of Zion National Park, stretching for 180 miles but underwater, that's Glen Canyon," says OARS rafting guide Jimmy Fulmer. "This stretch is all that's left of the canyon's beautiful Navajo sandstone walls after the dam flooded it."

#### WHY GO

Scenery, plus some of the best trout fishing in Arizona.

#### BEST SEASON

Spring through fall

#### NEAREST AMENITIES

Lees Ferry

#### PRO TIP

In addition to all your safety gear, don't forget firewood if you're camping.

#### PACK THIS

A dry suit will keep you more comfortable if you paddle the canyon in cool weather.



@andyapigg







**O**n a map, the 52-mile blue ribbon of the Upper Salt River in the Salt River Canyon Wilderness doesn't look much different from the generally placid section below Roosevelt Dam. However, experience the Upper Salt from a whitewater raft in the 2,000-foot-deep granite canyon, and you'll know its true character—as you're splashing, bouncing and roaring through a series of Class II, III, and IV rapids that rival river experiences anywhere in the West.

## WHITewater RAFTING ON THE UPPER SALT RIVER

Outfitters offer options from half-day trips to multiday camping excursions for all skill levels. Off the water, there's ample opportunity to play in pools and waterfalls in side canyons, photograph blooming Saguaro cactus and wildflowers, or just chill on a secluded beach.

"The whitewater rafting on the upper Salt River offers world-class scenery, rapids and wildlife, and would receive a lot more visitation if the water flow were more predictable," says Jon Colby, director of single-day programs at Arizona Outback Adventures. "Since the flow of the river is completely dependent on snow melt and runoff from the White Mountains, the best time to visit is in the early spring."

### WHY GO

To run the rapids in "Arizona's other Grand Canyon."

### BEST SEASON

Early spring

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Globe or Show Low

### PRO TIP

Bring high-energy snacks and dry clothes to change into when you're off the river—both will make the day more enjoyable.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

Good synthetic clothing with a waterproof outer layer (because the water is cold).







© @jaredmurray  
LOCKETT MEADOW

# SEEK



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**T**he director John Ford, who introduced multiple generations of movie watchers to Monument Valley, called it the “most complete, beautiful and peaceful place on earth.”

The Navajo, some of whom still make their homes in Monument Valley, simply call it *Tsé Bii Ndzisgaii*, or “Clearing Among the Rock.”

## CAMPING IN MONUMENT VALLEY

By any name, this panorama of richly hued sandstone towers, pinnacles and buttes is one of the most unforgettable places in the world to pitch a tent.

Aptly named, The View Campground, located within the Navajo Nation near Arizona’s border with Utah, offers one of the best views of Monument Valley. A clear night will cover you in stars, and waking up to this otherworldly landscape is nothing short of surreal.

### WHY GO

Soul-stirring views, photo ops and a dose of Navajo culture.

### BEST SEASON

April through October

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Kayenta

### PRO TIP

Wake up early to catch the sunrise.

### PACK THIS

A tent with a wide door to enjoy the view.

During the day, the 3.2-mile round-trip Wildcat Hike is the only self-guided hike available for visitors, while the 17-mile Tribal Park Loop is a DIY scenic drive on dirt and gravel roads through many of the most popular rock formations.

Other activities at Monument Valley include horseback rides, four-wheel drive tours, and private tours focused on photography or American Indian art. Navajo guides can get you closer to the main attractions, as well as teach you about the valley’s history and culture.

“Parking is just a short distance away behind the campground, which makes access easy,” says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Cimarron Anderson. “Pitch your tent facing out over the valley and wake up at sunrise for the breathtaking views.”





**L**ocated within the San Pedro River Basin and flanked by the Huachuca Mountains, Ramsey Canyon Preserve offers an interplay of geology, biogeography, topography and climate that creates a rarity in the desert: a consistently damp and cool environment.

## BIRDING AT RAMSEY CANYON PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy, which manages this beautiful preserve, describes the area as an “ecological crossroads” that serves as a stepping stone to the tropics.

For birders, it’s an exceptional opportunity to observe neo-tropical species that reach the northern extent of their range, just sneaking across the Mexican border into Arizona’s Sky Island mountains. More than 170 types of birds have been spotted within the high-walled canyon.

In addition to 15 species of hummingbirds (such as berylline and violet-crowned), additions to a life list could include elegant trogons, red-naped sapsuckers, ruby-crowned kinglets, yellow-rumped warblers and northern goshawks.

Guided walks are available from March through November. Be aware that parking at Ramsey Canyon Preserve is limited to 27 spots on a first-come basis.

“Don’t forget to look down, too,” says Arizona Outback Adventures guide Seth Heald. “The canyon is filled with biological wonders that extend far beyond the bird life. Exotic mammals like coati mundi are common, plus you’re almost sure to observe the endangered Chiricahua Leopard Frog if you look carefully in the small pools along the creek.”

### WHY GO

Diversity of plant and animal life.

### BEST SEASON

Depends on the species you want to see. The best birding generally occurs from April to September.

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Sierra Vista

### PRO TIP

The staff at the Nature Conservancy visitor center is a fantastic source of information about the preserve.

### PACK THIS

A good pair of binoculars



@feistywandering



SEEK

38





**C**amping at Lockett Meadow in the fall—when the aspens change color—isn't only an Arizona must, it's also one of the best ways to view the San Francisco Peaks at their most majestic.

Hiking the Inner Basin Trail, which starts at the meadow, is the most popular route into the heart of the caldera and the only region of tundra in Arizona. Surrounded by quaking aspen, spring and summer hikers will be treated to blue, red and yellow wildflowers; in the fall, it's all about the changing yellows and golds of the aspens. Don't be surprised if you also see elk, porcupine, the sweet-singing hermit thrush or even one of the local black bears.

## CAMPING AT LOCKETT MEADOW

"Wake up early and hike up the Inner Basin Trail in the dark to watch the sunrise come up through the golden aspens," recommends Josh Kloeping, a guide with Arizona Outback Adventures.

The primitive campground at Lockett Meadow includes 17 single-unit sites, fire rings, picnic tables and a vault toilet—but there's no water, so make sure to bring your own. The campground is first-come, first-served, and the trails get crowded during peak season, so you might want to plan your trip during the week.

### WHY GO

Amazing leaf peeping.

### BEST SEASON

Fall

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Flagstaff

### PRO TIP

Shortly before the main campground as you drive in, there are several dispersed camping spots. They're a nice option if the main campground is full.

### PACK THIS

Headlamp for a predawn hike



SEEK

41



**J**ust shy of 11,000 feet, Escudilla Mountain is Arizona's third-highest peak, and nearby Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area is arguably No. 1 when it comes to viewing a wide range of animals and birds.

Four different trails offer hikers viewpoints and benches amongst a diverse group of habitats, from streams and wetlands to meadows,

## WILDLIFE VIEWING AT SIPE WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREA

pastures, grasslands and piñon-juniper woodlands. (The High Point Trail Overlook has a 20x spotting scope to assist in glimpsing wildlife.) Large mammals in the area include elk, pronghorn, mule deer and coyotes; the smaller set includes porcupines, badgers, beavers, skunks and several species of squirrels, as well as numerous bat species. For birders, the visitors' area is packed with hummingbirds, while the orchard and the 3-mile Rudd Creek Loop Trail are the best bets to spot any of a dazzling array of songbirds, waterfowl, raptors and game birds. The Rudd trail also includes a prehistoric ruin and Ancestral Puebloan petroglyphs.

"The wild open grasslands and tall peaks make visiting Sipe feel like exploring the roof of the world," says Arizona Outback Adventure guide Annemarie Kruse. "The biodiversity here is

amazing. It's perfect for getting out of the heat of the desert and catching fall colors. Look for wildlife in the early morning or just before sunset when animals are most active. You may even hear Mexican gray wolves howling."

pastures, grasslands and piñon-juniper woodlands. (The High Point Trail Overlook has a 20x spotting scope to assist in glimpsing wildlife.)

Large mammals in the area include elk, pronghorn,

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### WHY GO

Diverse wildlife; photography.

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### BEST SEASON

September

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### NEAREST AMENITIES

Springerville/Eagar

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### PRO TIP

Don't rush. Take a few hours to wait and watch—you'll see a lot more if you slow down.

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### PACK THIS

Coffee thermos and binoculars







**L**ocated in the northwest quadrant of Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, White Pocket isn't as famous as its nearby sibling, The Wave in Coyote Buttes North. Its swirling, vibrantly colored rock domes, hoodoos, "brain rocks," gullies and potholes are every bit as photogenic, though, and might just make you feel like you've landed on Mars.

Unlike The Wave, White Pocket has no daily permit limit—the challenging access route naturally keeps visitors to a minimum. The drive in from Lone Tree Reservoir tracks through unpaved road and stretches of soft, deep sand that require a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle. If you're not equipped with a 4WD or off-road driving skills, taking the southern route through Corral Valley and Red Pocket gets you close enough to reach your destination with a 3-mile hike.

"White Pocket truly is an otherworldly place," says Tara Davies, multi-days guide supervisor at Arizona Outback Adventures. "The best way to experience White Pocket is an epic night camping underneath the galactic star systems. You won't want to close your eyes, because the stargazing is some of the best in the world. Lastly, leave it as you found it and avoid disturbing any pools. There are rare desert plants and animals that live there."

## CAMPING IN WHITE POCKET

### WHY GO

To transport yourself to another world.

### BEST SEASON

Year-round, but avoid times when heavy rain is expected; it makes certain tracks impassable.

### NEAREST AMENITIES

Marble Canyon

### PRO TIP

You're traveling in remote territory, so take extra water, food and a first-aid kit in case of an emergency.

### SPLURGE-WORTHY GEAR

Unless you're skilled with a map and compass, a high-quality GPS is the smart way to navigate.







# ROAD TRIP IDEAS

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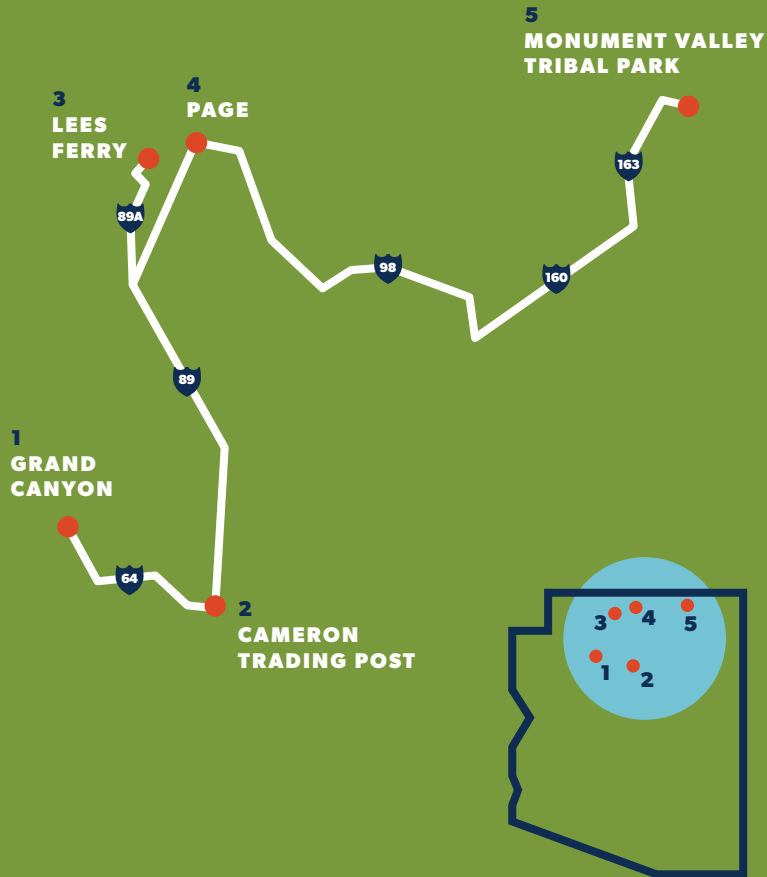
**A**rizona is a road tripper's dream. It has an embarrassment of geological wonders and biodiversity. It's got more national monuments than any other state. It's full of mountain towns, mining towns and ghost towns. And connecting all of it, around canyons and over rivers and through Indian country, is an filigree of what author William Least Heat Moon called "blue highways"—roads, often colored blue on old maps, that roll past little towns and campgrounds rather than ubiquitous freeway exits. If you prefer to travel such highways, these itineraries are for you.



→ ITINERARY

# GRAND CANYON TO MONUMENT VALLEY

This road trip takes in some of northern Arizona's—and America's—most epic scenery. After setting forth from one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World, you'll travel past Horseshoe Bend and Lake Powell before reverently motoring toward the cinematic skyline of Monument Valley.



## Grand Canyon →

A celebratory dinner at the historic El Tovar Dining Room on the South Rim is the perfect way to cap a rim-to-rim hike of the Grand Canyon. Don't leave the national park without checking out Kolb Studio, which preserves the photos, films and legacy of the adventurous Kolb Brothers.



## Cameron Trading Post

When it was established in the early 1900s, this trading post was frequented by Navajo and Hopi, who bartered their livestock and weavings for dry goods. A century later, it remains an excellent place to shop for American Indian art (and buy road-trip essentials like gas and snacks).

## Lees Ferry

Stroll out onto Navajo Bridge to watch California condors soar. Take a gander at the Colorado River's first rapid through the Grand Canyon. Cast a line for trout at Glen Canyon Dam. Set up camp at Lees Ferry Campground.

## ← Page

For better or worse, this town is a siren's song for Instagrammers. Rent a watercraft to explore Lake Powell. Take the shuttle to see Horseshoe Bend. Hire a Navajo Guide to tour Antelope Canyon (or another slot canyon such as Canyon X or Cardiac Canyon).

## Monument Valley Tribal Park

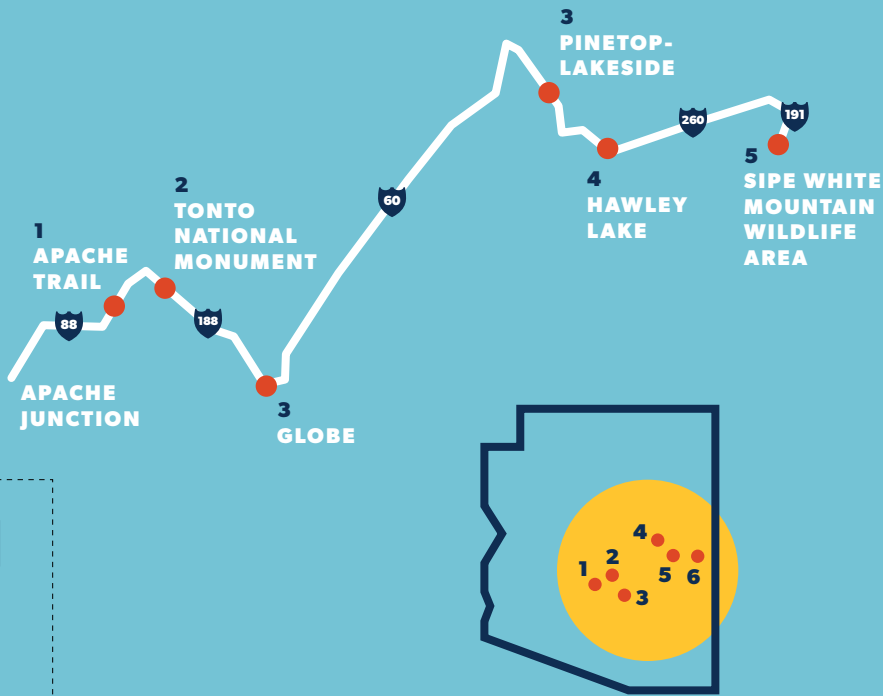
Take a self-guided loop hike along the 3.2-mile Wildcat Trail or book a guided tour from one of more than two dozen Navajo outfitters. Road-tripper's tip: Stop at the Burger King in Kayenta to see its exhibit on Navajo Code Talkers, who helped the Allies win World War II.





# SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS AREA TO SIPE WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE AREA

If you like to take things slow, this is the road trip for you. It follows a few unpaved roads, skirts beautiful lakes and climbs into Arizona’s lesser-known high country. It’s best undertaken with a tent, a kayak and a set of binoculars.



## Apache Trail

Theodore Roosevelt said the Apache Trail “combines the grandeur of the Alps, the glory of the Rockies and the magnificence of the Grand Canyon.” Teddy was given to oratorical flourish, but, all the same, this 42-mile road (half of which is unpaved) is one of the most scenic drives in Arizona. Gawk at Canyon Lake, grab a snack at the old stagecoach stop of Tortilla Flat and pitch a tent at Burnt Coral Campground.

## Tonto National Monument

This roadside national monument preserves two cliff dwellings of the Salado people, who lived in the area 700 years ago. Check out the Lower Cliff Dwelling via a short walk or book a guided tour of the Upper Cliff Dwelling (November through April).



## ← Globe

Take a stroll or trail run among mining relics at the Old Dominion Historic Mine Park, where, if you stop to read the signs, you’ll learn everything you ever wanted to know about copper extraction. Bonus: The Mexican food in this mining town is held in high esteem by old-school Arizonans.

## Pinetop-Lakeside

These twin towns in the White Mountains are aptly named, because pines and lakes define this region of Arizona. Picnic or kayak at family-friendly Woodland Lake Park, or hike the out-and-back Blue Ridge Cave Trail.

## Hawley Lake

Tucked within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, deep in the White Mountains, this lake is the picture of rugged seclusion. Kayak. Fish. String up a hammock. FYI: The coldest temperature ever recorded in Arizona—40 degrees below zero—was at Hawley Lake, so don’t plan on visiting after September.

## Sipe White Mountain Wildlife Area

This is a don’t-fence-me-in kind of place. You’re free to hike, bike or ride horseback through wide-open wildlife habitat with nary an entrance fee. Worthy side trip: the White Mountain Dinosaur Exploration Center, in nearby Springerville, where you can book a backcountry paleontology tour.



→ ITINERARY

# WATSON LAKE TO KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Arizona isn't for wimps, and neither is this road trip. It invites you to climb granite boulders, belly-up to whiskey bars and hike through obscure wilderness. Along the way you'll get a chance to appreciate cowboy life and pay homage to fallen firefighters. If there's some gentle birdsong at the end of the road...well, you earned it.



## Watson Lake/Prescott →

Besides paddling, Watson Lake is great for rock climbing and bouldering. Climbers compare the quality of the granite around Watson Lake to that of Joshua Tree. After a day on the water/rocks, belly up to a bar on legendary Whiskey Row in downtown Prescott.



## Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park

This park is dedicated to the 19 firefighters who died while battling the Yarnell Hill Fire, and whose heroic plight is dramatized in the movie "Only the Brave." Hike the 7-mile roundtrip trail to an observation deck and memorial. Signs and plaques along the way tell the story of the fire and the men who died fighting it.

## Wickenburg

If you're even remotely intrigued by cowboy art, visit the Desert Caballeros Western Museum, which displays works by the greats—Remington, Catlin, Bierstadt, Moran, Russell. Or stroll through Hassayampa River Preserve, where six short trails afford an intimate theater to 280-plus bird species.



## ← Harquahala Mountains Wilderness

The name of this wilderness, little known even among Arizonans, comes from a Yavapai word for "running water." Follow cairns up the steep Harquahala Pack Trail (5.4 miles one way) to the highest point in southwestern Arizona, where sits the ruins of a 1920s Smithsonian observatory. Tip: It's best to explore the wilderness with a high-clearance vehicle and *not* in summer.

## Kofa National Wildlife Refuge/Yuma

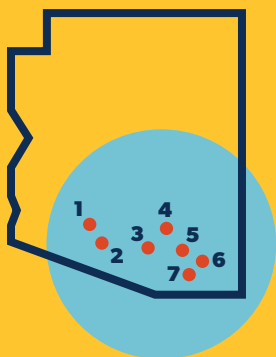
Forty miles south of the refuge is the city of Yuma, which is equally famous for its summer heat (record high: 124 degrees) and winter pleasantness (average high: 72). Scope out petroglyphs at Antelope Hill or Painted Rock, or paddle a canoe down the placid Lower Colorado River.





# ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT TO RAMSEY CANYON PRESERVE

If cycling, winetasting and stargazing rank among your fondest pleasures, this is your Arizona road trip. It dives into state's southern side, where the climate and terra firma are ideal for pedaling and growing grapes, and the clear desert sky renews one's wonderment at the planets and stars.



## Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument/Ajo

Bikepacking isn't easy on the body. Recharge in Ajo (pronounced "AH-ho"), a tiny desert oasis with a grassy, palm-lined town plaza that seems plucked from a Hollywood backlot. Get a room at the Sonoran Desert Inn, a former school with guest rooms, artist-in-resident digs and a lovely public garden. If you're in town on a Saturday, hit the local farmer's market before hitting the road.

## Kitt Peak National Observatory

Stop here to see one of largest arrays of optical and radio telescopes in the world. Take a docent-led tour during daytime or at night. Tip: Because Kitt Peak is located on the Tohono O'odham Nation, the observatory's gift shop is a great place to purchase authentic Tohono O'odham baskets and handicrafts.

## Tucson →

The "Old Pueblo" is Arizona's second-largest city and the first U.S. location to be designated a UNESCO City of Gastronomy. So have more than one meal here, and make one of them a Sonoran Hot Dog. Great hikes abound: Try Seven Falls in the Santa Catalina Mountains or Yetman Trail in Tucson Mountain Park (which is near two tour-worthy spots: Old Tucson movie studio and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum).

## Sonoita


For the past 30 years the rolling, golden grasslands of Sonoita have produced some of Arizona's best wines. Sip big, earthy reds at an outdoor bar at the "off-grid" winery Rune, or stay overnight in an on-site casita at Dos Cabezas WineWorks.

## Sierra Vista/Ramsey Canyon Preserve

Before getting birdy at Ramsey Canyon Preserve, go mountain biking on Brown Canyon Trail. Or, for a big road ride, embark on the Bisbee Loop, which rolls from Sierra Vista to the funky mountain town of Bisbee and back. At Coronado National Memorial, grab your headlamp and make the short hike to Coronado Cave, rumored to be one of Geronimo's hideouts from the U.S. Army.





 @tc.bukowski  
MOUNT LEMMON



# ARIZONA

OFFICE OF TOURISM

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