

10 Best Things to Do in Glendale 2024

By nazret.com
Updated: March 30, 2024



Glendale

Glendale, Arizona, a vibrant city with a rich history and modern attractions, offers an array of activities for visitors of all ages. From exploring historic landmarks to indulging in outdoor adventures, there's something to cater to every interest in this bustling metropolis.

1. Visit the Historic Sahuaro Ranch Park

Step back in time at Sahuaro Ranch Park, a 10-acre oasis that showcases Glendale's rich past. Admire the historic adobe ranch house, stroll through the landscaped gardens, and learn about the lives of the settlers who once resided here.

2. Explore the Desert Botanical Garden

Immerse yourself in the wonders of the Sonoran Desert at the Desert Botanical Garden. With over 50,000 desert plants from around the world, this sprawling oasis is a haven for nature lovers and photographers alike.

3. Hike the Thunderbird Trail Trailhead in the Estrella Mountain Regional Park

Lace up your hiking boots and embark on a scenic adventure along the Thunderbird Trail Trailhead. This challenging but rewarding trail offers breathtaking views of the Estrella Mountains, and opportunities for wildlife sightings.

4. Attend a Spring Training Baseball Game at Camelback Ranch-Glendale

Baseball enthusiasts can catch the excitement of Major League Baseball's Spring Training at Camelback Ranch-Glendale. Cheer on your favorite teams and watch rising stars prepare for the upcoming season.

5. Visit the Arizona Cardinals Stadium

For football fans, a visit to State Farm Stadium is a must. Home to the Arizona Cardinals, this state-of-the-art stadium offers guided tours and hosts thrilling NFL games during the season.

6. Shop at Westgate Entertainment District

Indulge in a shopping spree at Westgate Entertainment District, an outdoor mall featuring over 120 stores, restaurants, and a multiplex cinema. Enjoy live entertainment, browse local boutiques, and dine at a variety of eateries.

7. Play a Round of Golf at the Rose Mofford Sports Complex

Golfers can tee off at the Rose Mofford Sports Complex, home to an 18-hole championship golf course and a driving range. After your round, relax at the clubhouse and enjoy the panoramic views.

8. Visit the Glendale Public Library

Escape the heat and dive into a good book at the Glendale Public Library. This award-winning library offers a vast collection of books, DVDs, and digital resources, as well as a variety of programs for all ages.

9. Watch a Performance at the Glendale Center for the Performing Arts

Experience the magic of live entertainment at the Glendale Center for the Performing Arts. This state-of-the-art theater hosts a variety of Broadway shows, concerts, and dance performances throughout the year.

10. Visit the Historic Bell Road

Discover the historic heart of Glendale along Bell Road. Admire charming brick buildings, dine at quaint restaurants, and browse local shops. This vibrant street offers a glimpse into Glendale's past and present.

Culture, Best Months to Visit, Nearby Transportation, Local Food, and Best Hotels

Glendale's vibrant culture is a blend of Native American, Hispanic, and American influences. Visitors can enjoy traditional festivals, live music, and authentic cuisine.

The best months to visit Glendale are during the cooler months from October to April, when temperatures are pleasant for outdoor activities.

Glendale is easily accessible by car, with close proximity to Interstates 10 and 17. The city also has a convenient public transportation system with buses and light rail services.

Local food is a highlight of Glendale's dining scene. Indulge in Sonoran hot dogs, fry bread, and prickly pear margaritas. For a fine dining experience, head to one of the many award-winning restaurants in Old Town Glendale.

When it comes to accommodations, Glendale offers a range of hotels to suit all budgets. The Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa is a popular choice for its convenient location and luxurious amenities. The Crowne Plaza Phoenix-Glendale is another excellent option, offering spacious rooms and a central location.

In conclusion, Glendale, Arizona is a city brimming with charm, history, and attractions. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, sports fan, or history buff, there's something to captivate every visitor. With its vibrant culture, convenient location, and diverse offerings, Glendale is an ideal destination for a memorable trip.

A state-by-state guide to outstanding but affordable RV parks

By Gail Marsh
March 29, 2024
RVTravel.com



In our weekly column, we share information taken from our Facebook group Outstanding but affordable RV parks. Also, from time to time, we'll include our staff's favorite affordable campgrounds. We hope to provide real options for folks looking to RV in reasonably priced, well-kept RV parks all across the country.

On this page, we've compiled a list organized by U.S. states with our readers', staff's, and Facebook group members' suggestions.

This list is updated weekly.

ARIZONA Ajo Heights RV Park



Location: Ajo, Arizona. Ajo Heights RV Park is a little over 100 miles south of Phoenix, Arizona, and 130 miles west of Tucson.

Amenities: Ajo Heights RV Park offers full hookups, showers/laundry facilities, dog park, and rec room for RVers to enjoy, along with spacious, paved sites with patios.

Rates: \$48 per night + electric
Comments: "Some workers, but everyone is respectful and the campground is great!" says T.R.
[Website.](#)

Indian Hills RV Resort



Photo credit: Indian Hills RV Resort

Location: 67668 Salome Road, Salome, AZ 85348

Phone: 928-575-9199

Amenities: FHU, restroom/showers/laundromat, dog park, hot tub, BBQ grills, pitch and putt golf green.

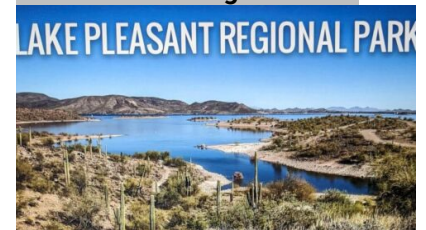
Rates: \$45 + tax

Comments: A.A. recommends this park. "Beautiful views.

Large RV sites. Friendly staff and affordable."

[Website.](#)

Lake Pleasant Regional Park



Location: 41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd., Morristown, AZ 85342

Phone: 602-506-2930, ext. 2

Amenities: Located in the "Valley of the Sun" area north of Phoenix, Arizona, this park offers opportunities for swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, and more. "Developed sites" have water, electricity, dump station, a covered ramada, a picnic table, a barbecue grill and fire ring.

Shower/restrooms also on site.

Rates: \$32 per night

Comment: According to A.R., "This county park is wonderful! Not far from Phoenix, and very nice."

[Website.](#)

10 Best Things to Do in Litchfield Park 2024

By nazret.com
Updated: March 29, 2024

Litchfield Park, with its rich history dating back to the Hohokam people, offers an alluring blend of natural beauty, cultural attractions, and outdoor activities. Situated northwest of Phoenix, Arizona, this charming town is an ideal destination for a memorable vacation. Below is a comprehensive guide to the top 10 must-visit attractions that will make your trip to Litchfield Park truly unforgettable.

1. Wigwam Resort

Step into a legendary retreat at the Wigwam Resort, a National Historic Landmark established in 1918. Immerse yourself in the rustic elegance of its bungalows, each adorned with a distinctive teepee-shaped roof inspired by the native American culture. Enjoy a relaxing stay amidst lush greenery and serene ambiance, offering a unique blend of history and comfort.

2. Litchfield Park Golf & Event Center

Indulge in a round of golf at the renowned Litchfield Park Golf & Event Center, a championship 18-hole course designed by renowned golf course architect, William Francis Bell. Experience the thrill of the greens surrounded by towering palm trees and tranquil lakes, making

for a picturesque and challenging **golfing experience.**

3. Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park

Embark on an unforgettable wildlife adventure at the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park. Get up close with hundreds of fascinating animals from around the globe, including lions, tigers, elephants, and exotic birds. Witness thrilling live shows and embark on a safari adventure, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

4. Peoria Sports Complex

Lace up your cleats and head to the Peoria Sports Complex, a world-class sports facility hosting a variety of sporting events and tournaments. Catch a baseball game at the Chicago Cubs Spring Training facility or cheer on your favorite soccer team at the Phoenix Rising FC stadium. The complex also features a state-of-the-art fitness center and multiple recreational fields.

5. White Tank Mountain Regional Park

Escape into the rugged beauty of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park, a sprawling 29,000-acre wilderness area. Hike through scenic trails, explore ancient petroglyphs, and marvel at the breathtaking views from the summit of White Tank Mountain. Whether you're an avid hiker, a nature enthusiast, or simply seeking solitude, the park offers an immersive outdoor experience.

6. Estrella Mountain Regional Park

Discover the natural wonders of Estrella Mountain Regional Park,

a stunning 19,500-acre preserve offering a diverse range of terrains. Embark on a hiking adventure to the summit of Estrella Mountain, or explore the scenic trails that wind through its canyons, washes, and desert landscapes. Keep an eye out for desert wildlife and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views.

7. Harqua Hala Mountain Park

Venture off the beaten path to Harqua Hala Mountain Park, a hidden gem offering a unique blend of history and natural beauty. Explore the historic Vulture Mine, once one of Arizona's most productive gold mines, and wander through the park's scenic trails, discovering ancient petroglyphs and geological formations that tell the story of Arizona's rich past.

8. Sundance Salloon

Step into the lively ambiance of the Sundance Salloon, a local landmark that has been serving up cold brews and classic American fare since 1963. Meet friendly locals, enjoy live music, and savor delicious food and beverages while soaking up the authentic atmosphere of the Wild West.

9. Litchfield Park Museum

Delve into the captivating history of Litchfield Park at the Litchfield Park Museum. Explore exhibits that showcase the town's agricultural roots, Native American heritage, and the role of the Wigwam Resort in its development. Gain insights into the lives and contributions of the pioneers who shaped this vibrant community.

10. Goodyear Ballpark

Cheer on the Cincinnati Reds at Goodyear Ballpark, a state-of-

the-art spring training facility that hosts exciting baseball games. Catch a glimpse of your favorite MLB players, enjoy family-friendly entertainment, and soak up the lively atmosphere while experiencing the thrill of America's favorite pastime.

Culture, Best Months to Visit, Nearby Transportation, Local Food, Best Hotels, and Conclusion

Litchfield Park proudly embraces its rich cultural heritage, with events such as the Annual Wigwam Fiesta and the Litchfield Park Art and Wine Festival showcasing the town's vibrant spirit. The best time to visit Litchfield Park is during spring and fall, when the weather is at its most pleasant.

Convenient transportation options include the nearby Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, offering easy connectivity to destinations across the globe. For local transportation, Valley Metro provides reliable bus service throughout the area.

Indulge in the flavors of Litchfield Park at local restaurants serving a variety of cuisines. From authentic Mexican dishes at El Encanto to classic American comfort food at the Wigwam Bar & Grill, there's something to satisfy every palate.

For a memorable stay, choose from a range of charming hotels, including the Wigwam Resort, which offers a unique blend of historical ambiance and modern amenities. The Hampton Inn & Suites Phoenix-Goodyear and the Hyatt Place

Phoenix/Goodyear offer comfortable accommodations and convenient locations.

In conclusion, Litchfield Park offers an exceptional blend of attractions and experiences that will create unforgettable memories. Whether you're a history buff, nature lover, sports enthusiast, or simply seek a relaxing getaway, this charming town has something special for everyone. Immerse yourself in its rich history, explore its stunning natural surroundings, and embrace the welcoming spirit of Litchfield Park.

Running and a Sense of Place

When searching for a sense of place, sometimes it's worth going back to where it all started.

By Andy Jones-Wilkins on March 29, 2024
iRunFar

Back in the mid-1990s while I was completing my master's degree thesis on wilderness and the American character, I came across Wallace Stegner's seminal essay "A Sense of Place." In that essay, Stegner presents a view of the transitory restlessness that has long been a part of American culture. Stegner notes that there are places in America where people have become more rooted, and he defines those places this way:

"A place is not a place until people have been born in it, have grown up in it, lived in it, known it, died in it ... Some are born in their place, some find it, some realize after long

searching that the place they left is the one they have been searching for. But whatever their relation to it, it is made a place only by slow accrual, like a coral reef."

In recent months, I have come to realize that I am not one of those who was born in their place and stayed, or one who found their place. Rather, I am one of those who have realized, after long searching, that the place I left is the place I've been searching for.



For AJW, the Sonoran Desert of Arizona provides a deep sense of place. All photos courtesy of Andy Jones-Wilkins.

In 1996, after my wife Shelly and I completed two years of travel, we settled into a small, cozy house in Phoenix, Arizona, and started our family. After a wonderful five years, however, lives and jobs impelled us to move on, and over the next 23 years, we found ourselves searching for our sense of place in California, Idaho, Virginia, Arkansas, and Pennsylvania. Finally, a year and a half ago, we returned to Phoenix and found our place again.

I came of age as a runner when we lived here years ago. The quiet neighborhood streets in the predawn darkness were my companions as I ran with my son Carson in his baby jogger. On the weekends, I found my way out to the trails of the

Phoenix Mountains Preserve, South Mountain Park, and **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**. Running in the desert became my happy place. I fell in love with the sights, the smells, and yes, even the heat of the Sonoran Desert. I didn't know it in the busyness of youth, but I had found my sense of place.



It's a dry heat in the Sonoran Desert outside of Phoenix, Arizona.

Since moving back here in the summer of 2022, I have enjoyed finding home "by slow accrual, like a coral reef." Not coincidentally, I have also found joy as a runner again after several years of fits and starts. While the place has changed immensely in the last 24 years, at its core, the beauty and wonder of my Sonoran Desert home remains unchanged and brings me peace.

Many of us who run long distances become intimately connected to place. By moving through time and space under our own power, we establish a relationship with our surroundings that those driving through simply do not. As that relationship with the desert has deepened for me, I have become convinced more than ever of the truth of Stegner's eternal words, "In order to truly know who you are, you must know where you are."

Bottoms up!



Finding a sense of place sometimes requires going back to where you came from.

AJW's Beer of the Week

This week's Beer of the Week comes from Huss Brewing Company in Phoenix, Arizona. Juicy Juicy IPA is a delightfully fruity IPA with a hoppy aroma and a slightly sweet finish. One of the more complex IPAs I have had recently, Juicy Juicy may surprise even the most hardened beer snob.

This Small Arizona Town Is A Great Retirement Alternative To Scottsdale

By Aaron, Thetravel.com
Published 6 days ago

Fountain Hills is one of the safest and most up-market areas of greater Phoenix and is a great alternative to neighboring Scottsdale.



Shutterstock
Pink sky behind one of the tallest fountains in the world in Fountain Hills, AZ

Summary

Fountain Hills offers outdoor recreation near Scottsdale and two reservations, making it an ideal retirement destination.

The town's median home price is \$700,000, making it an upmarket area within the Phoenix urban region. Fountain Hills boasts one of the lowest crime rates in America, making it a secure retirement spot near Scottsdale.

Fountain Hills is a stunning town bordering Scottsdale and is part of the greater Phoenix urban area. Fountain Hills is particularly famous for its massive fountain, which was once the tallest fountain in the world. There are plenty of great towns to retire to in the Phoenix area, but Fountain Hills offers something special.

Fountain Hills is arguably a great alternative to Scottsdale (Scottsdale has plenty of things to see and do and is one of the great cities of Phoenix). Fountain Hills is also a great place to retire — here's why. Fountain Hills Is Set On The Outer Phoenix Sprawl

Fountain Hills neighbors a regional park, reservations, and Scottsdale and offers outdoor recreation opportunities

Fountain Hills borders Scottsdale and two reservations — the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.



BowenLarsen, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY SA 4.0
Fountain Hills, AZ

Scottsdale is one of the larger cities of the Phoenix metropolitan area with a population of around 250,000. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa is home to two tribes, the Pima and the Maricopa. It has a population of around 7,500 and was created in 1879. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation was officially established in 1903 and is home to the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort.

Population: Approx. 24,000
Fountain Hills Neighbors: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Scottsdale, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Residents of Fountain Hills can explore the history of the region, including the petroglyphs by the Dixie Mine. **McDowell Mountain Regional Park** borders Fountain Hills to the north and is a great place to enjoy outdoor recreation and unspoiled mountains on the doorstep of Phoenix.

Arizona's ample outdoor recreation opportunities are just one of the many reasons Arizona is a great retirement destination. McDowell Mountain's trails are often multi-use trails suitable for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders alike.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park:

Hours: May to October - 5:00 am to 9:00 pm daily / November to April - 6:00 am to 8:00 pm daily
North Trail: 3.1 miles / easy
Pemberton: 15.3 miles
Total Trails: over 40 miles

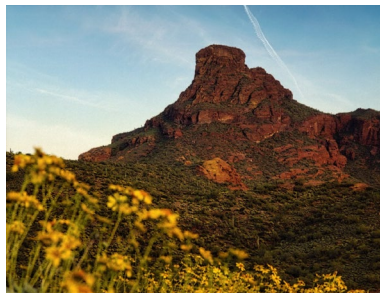


Photo by Tom Fisk From Pexels

Mount McDowell in McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Scottsdale, Arizona

Fountain Hills is located 31 miles from downtown Phoenix and is set on the east side of the southern end of the McDowell Mountains (the remnants of a chain of extinct volcanoes).

Events for Prescott Valley and Beyond for March 29, 30, & 31

Signal.com - By Staff
on March 28, 2024

Desert 101 Hike – Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area



A quiet morning walk to talk about the desert with Ranger Shaun.

Come along with Ranger Shaun for a morning hike down Metate trail and back along part of Spur

Cross trail. We'll talk about the desert, water, and look for critters along the way.

These trails are rated Easy and Moderate, total distance for the loop is about 2.1 miles. Please bring plenty of water, a snack, sunscreen, and wear closed toed shoes and appropriate clothing. No pets please. There are port-a-potties available at the trailhead.

MEETING LOCATION: Spur Cross Picnic Area

*Please note: Entry to **Spur Cross Conservation Area** is \$3 per person. Annual Pass or CASH are accepted, and exact change is much appreciated. If the fee station past the parking lot is closed, there is a self-pay station with envelopes to place your payment in. Self-pay does not provide change.

Limit 10 participants. To register, please call the Cave Creek Nature Center at (602) 506-2930 ext. 8 with your name, phone number and number of people attending. If you find you cannot attend a program after you have registered, please call the Nature Center ASAP so we may contact those on the waiting list. Registration for this program will close on 03/30/24.

Junior Ranger Family Hike – White Tank Mountain Regional Park



Join Ranger Kevin for a fun, family-friendly hike and get your kids started in our Junior

Rangers program. Click program title for more details.

Looking for something to do with the kids over spring break? You found it! Join Ranger Kevin for this 1.5-mile hike on the Mule Deer trail. Prior to the hike, we'll talk about the Junior Ranger program, set every young person up with their own activity book, and then we'll actually do some of the activities together on our hike as a way to get a head start on becoming an official Junior Ranger!

The hike is generally easy but may have stretches with loose rock and uneven terrain, so please wear closed-toe shoes, and bring water. Hats and sunscreen are strongly recommended. Restrooms and water are available at the Nature Center. Please, NO pets.

MEETING LOCATION: Nature Center

Out of the Area, but Worth the Drive: April 2024

Mar 26, 2024 Updated Mar 27, 2024
ArcadiaNews.com



Global Village Festival at the Civic Center in Gilbert.

MONDAY 4/1
Trailblazing Women of Country

7:30 p.m. at Highlands Church, 9050 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale. Miko Marks, CMT's 2022 "Next Woman of Country," and singer Kristina Train, along with a five-member, all-female band, will enchant this evening's audience with songs by Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton – three women who revolutionized the country music scene. Tickets start at \$40.
azmusicfest.org

FRIDAY 4/5
The Great Gatsby
7:30 p.m. at Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills. A self-made millionaire named Jay Gatsby desires wealth, popularity and power in the Jazz Age – but he hides a secret: his love for Daisy, the woman he met and fell for years ago, who has since married. Find out what happens next at Fountain Hills Theater! Tickets start at \$35.
fhtaz.org

SATURDAY 4/6
Hike for Hope
7:30 a.m. at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**, 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Dr., Fountain Hills. The Hike for Hope event offers participants a 1.5-mile or 4.5-mile hike to benefit St. Joseph the Worker, a nonprofit that "provides a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency through quality employment." Coffee, breakfast and prizes are included. Registration is \$50 for adults, \$10 for kids.
sjwjjobs.org

Uncorked: AZ Wine Festival
7-10 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale.

Wine lovers, get ready for a special day of vino. The AZ Wine Festival will feature over 100 wine and bubble companies from across the globe, sharing their sips with attendees. There will also be food trucks, live music and entertainment. This event benefits The AZ Small Dog Rescue. Tickets are \$60 for general admission, with VIP packages available.
uncorkedwinefestivals.com

Global Village Festival
9 a.m.-2 p.m. on the Civic Center Lawn, 50 E. Civic Center Dr., Gilbert. The Global Village Festival is focused on educating guests about countries all over the world. Watch and learn different forms of dance and music, participate in hands-on activities and crafts, try authentic foods, shop at the vendor village and see the Parade of Nations. This event is free.
gilbertaz.gov

SUNDAY 4/7
Stride for the Tide
8 a.m. at Odysea Aquarium, 9500 E. Via de Ventura, Scottsdale. This event is an ocean-themed 5K and kids run to benefit the OdySea Aquarium Foundation. Participants will run or walk around the property and can also enjoy a pre- and post-race brunch, costume contest (wear your best turtle-inspired outfit!) and awards ceremony. Registration is \$40 for kids, \$50 for adults.
odyseaaquarium.com

THURSDAY 4/11
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
5:30 p.m. at Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria. Step into a world of pure

imagination with Charlie Bucket, a boy who finds a Golden Ticket and gets to meet the illustrious Willy Wonka...you know the story – now, see it live! Attendees will even get to take home a piece of Charlie's Chocolate Bar, made especially for the show. Tickets start at \$120.
azbroadway.org

SATURDAY 4/13

Autism Expo
9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix. The Arizona Autism Coalition is hosting the eighth annual Autism Expo, where attendees can access over 70 resource exhibitors. Workshops on various topics – including managing IEPs and empowering caregivers – will be available. Guests will receive a free tote bag and be entered to win prizes raffled off throughout the day. Admission is free; registration is required.
autismexpo.azautism.org

FRIDAY 4/19 – SATURDAY 4/20
Tom Londen Memorial Golf Classic

6-9 p.m. Friday, 6 a.m. Saturday at Talking Stick Resort and Golf Club, 9998 Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale. This two-day event benefits the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children and will include a free reception (with a charity auction, raffle, snacks and drinks) and a golf tournament on Saturday – which kicks off with a breakfast burrito and shotgun start and ends with a post-golf luncheon. Registration starts at \$345.
azcancerfoundation.org

SATURDAY 4/20 – SUNDAY 4/21

Olive Blossom Festival
11 a.m. at Queen Creek Olive Mill, 25062 S. Meridian Road. Celebrating springtime in Arizona is what this event is all about. The Mill is also launching their Master Blender's bottle, a limited edition late-harvest EVOO handcrafted by Olive Oil Sommelier Perry Rea. There will be live music, special vendors and tractor tours. Guests can also walk through the olive groves in full bloom. This event is free.
queencreekolivemill.com

SUNDAY 4/21

Childhelp Wings Fashion Show
10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chateau Luxe, 1175 E. Lone Cactus Dr., Phoenix. The 17th annual Childhelp Fashion Show is back. Along with the show, guests can enjoy a silent auction and lunch. Proceeds benefit children and families who have suffered the effects of child abuse in Arizona. Under the theme "Pinwheels for a Purpose," 50 child models, along with a few celebrities – like Maks Chmerkovskiy and his son – will make their way down the runway. Ivy and Brooklyn Ciolli and Monique and Harper Hampton will chair this year's event. Tickets start at \$150.
childhelp.org

FRIDAY 4/26

On the Green Golf Tournament
8 a.m. at Arizona Golf Resort, 801 S. Power Road, Mesa. This inaugural tournament is sponsored by On the Green Sports Grill, with proceeds benefitting the Missing in America Project. Teams will play 18 holes and be treated to an awards luncheon. There will also be a hole-in-one challenge and raffle. Registration is \$105

for singles; \$400 for teams of four.

Scattered rain showers fall over metro Phoenix area

Mar 24, 2024, 10:00 AM | Updated: Apr 1, 2024, 10:25 am
BY [SERENA O'SULLIVAN](#)
KTAR.com

PHOENIX – A cold front arrived in the metro Phoenix area overnight, leading to cooler temperatures and scattered rain showers on Sunday morning.

The day was off to a wet start, with an average of 0.22 inches of rain in Phoenix by 2 p.m., according to the National Weather Service.

Other parts of the Valley experienced heavier showers. For instance, some parts of Scottsdale saw as much as 0.35 inches of rain.

Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10 to around 0.50 inches, NWS said.

However, most rainfall NWS reported fell in **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**, which saw as much as 0.59 inches of rainfall.

The morning also reached a low temperature of 53 degrees at Sky Harbor International Airport, which functions as the city of Phoenix's official measurement location.

More rain is expected to drench the Valley during Sunday afternoon and evening, NWS said.

7 Scenic Canyon Road Trips To Add To Your Arizona Bucket List

By Mona Bassil, TheTravel.com
Published Mar 24, 2024

See the canyons of Arizona, like Marble, Sabino, and the Grand Canyon South Rim, on these scenic canyon road trip itineraries!



Summary

There are many scenic road trips in Arizona to canyons, like Marble and Sycamore, as well as the Grand Canyon.

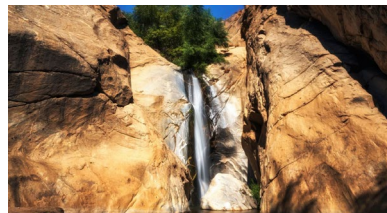
Flagstaff to Marble Canyon boasts ancestral sites, natural springs, and limestone gorge views.

Tucson to Sabino Canyon leads to lush desert landscapes, ideal for hiking and tram tours. The United States, with its wide array of landscapes and historical monuments, provides an ideal backdrop for land travel in any direction, whether aboard a tiny vehicle or a luxurious RV. There are exciting Texas day trips only three hours from Dallas, for instance; iconic landmarks along the various sections of Route 66; or simply charming small towns in the Hudson Valley to explore.

However, the Grand Canyon State is particularly a traveler's favorite; in fact, 40.19 million people visited Arizona in 2022, perhaps drawn by some of the most iconic landmarks in the USA, including the Grand Canyon, commonly said to be the top tourist attraction in the United States.

While this natural wonder gets most of the attention, there are actually a number of other canyons in Arizona in addition to the Grand Canyon, and what better way to explore them (as well as many of the state's other noteworthy landscapes, towns, and cities) on a road trip?

There's already a myriad of Arizona road trips to the Grand Canyon, but this list will expand on those, including scenic drives to its South Rim as well as other canyons in the state. The following Arizona canyon road trips also take adventurers through picturesque and interesting stops on their way to majestic canyons like Marble, Sabino, and the Grand Canyon's South Rim.



The three Indian Canyons of Palm Springs offer some of the best hiking trails around Palm Springs and should be on anyone's bucket list.

7 Flagstaff To Marble Canyon
130 miles via Wupatki National Monument and Antelope Pass

The spring weather in Flagstaff is ideal for outdoor activities, although it's great to visit year-round, given its proximity to many natural wonders, such as the Wupatki National Monument, which is only 36 minutes away and features many ancestral Puebloan sites, three natural springs, ripple-marked sandstone, several blow holes, and evergreen trees like the One-seed Juniper and Mormon Tea.

The next photo stop after heading northwest is Antelope Pass Vista, a viewpoint of canyons and red rock formations at 6151 feet, via the hills and narrow curves of State Route 89A, just outside Bitter Springs.

As for the ultimate destination, Marble Canyon, it sits at 3,573 feet and is partially located within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the Grand Canyon National Park. This impressive, free-access gorge features limestone rocks and cliff walls perched above the Colorado River, and it attracts whitewater rafters, trout-fishing lovers, picnickers, and photographers alike, especially in the early morning and at sunset.

Total Drive Time: 2 hours 8 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Wupatki National Monument (sunrise to sunset; from \$15); Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (\$15/person); Marble Canyon Lodge (rooms from \$170)

Easy Trail: Old Navajo Bridge (0.5 mile; 10 minutes)

6 Tucson To Sabino Canyon

51.9 miles via Gates Pass
Once visitors are done with the city of Tucson's unique activities and attractions, like the DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun Museum, it's time to explore the area's natural marvel: the 20,000-acre Tucson Mountain Park, which is popular for hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, rifle shooting, horseback riding, bird watching, and archery hunting. For the best panoramic desert and mountain views around, one must head to the Gates Pass Scenic Overlook, named after Thomas Gates, a pioneer and rancher.

From there, it will take an hour and 15 minutes to reach Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, located in the Santa Catalina Mountains and the Coronado National Forest and which can be explored on the emission-free, English and Spanish-narrated, and open-air Sabino Canyon Crawler tram. Common plants and animals include saguaro and barrel cacti, palo verde and mesquite trees, rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, roadrunners, mountain lions, and hummingbirds.

Total Drive Time: 1 hour 34 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Tucson Mountain Park (dusk to dawn; free); Sabino Canyon (\$8/vehicle/day; shuttle: from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; \$15/adult); Sabino Creek
Easy Trails: Prickly Pear Gates Pass (1.9 miles; 40 minutes); Sabino Walkway Loop (2.3 miles; 48 minutes)
Pets and camping are not allowed in Sabino Canyon.



5 Phoenix To Sycamore Canyon
149 miles via Cave Creek and Montezuma Castle

Another one of the scenic canyon road trips in Arizona is the route from Phoenix to Sycamore Canyon. Driving only 20 minutes from the hustle and bustle of Phoenix's downtown, which can be explored for just \$100 over an entire weekend, will take road trippers to Phoenix Mountain Preserve, which features several parks combining small mountains, foothills, and deserts and offers many scenic hiking, mountain biking, and picnicking opportunities.

The next stop is the 2,922-acre **Cave Creek Regional Park**, a desert oasis popular among hikers, equestrians, and picnickers, followed by a visit to the historic Montezuma Castle National Monument in Camp Verde, once the dwelling of the Sinagua people.

The final destination, Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, is 1 hour 18 minutes away; it is 21 miles long and 7 miles wide, spans pinnacles, red rocks, buttes, and arches, and is home to spy black bears, mountain lions, ringtail cats, canyon wrens, and hermit thrushes.

Total Drive Time: 3 hours 22 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Phoenix Mountains Preserve (8

am to 12 pm; free; scenic spots: Piestewa Peak and Camelback Mountain); Cave Creek Regional Park (November to April, daily, 6 am to 8 pm; May to October, 5 am to 9 pm; \$7/vehicle); Montezuma Castle National Monument (8 am to 4:45 pm; \$10/person); Sycamore Canyon Wilderness (24/7; \$5/day pass)
Great Trails: Three Hill Loop (easy; 1.2 miles; 28 minutes); Parsons Trail (moderate; 7.3 miles; 2 hours 57 minutes)

Sycamore Canyon is the second-largest canyon in Arizona, after Oak Creek Canyon.



4 Flagstaff To Boynton Canyon
49.2 miles via Kachina Wetlands and Munds Park

Explore another one of the many scenic Arizona canyon road trip itineraries: the picturesque route from Flagstaff to Boynton Canyon. The first beautiful stop on this journey is the free-access Kachina Wetlands Preserve, an amalgamation of ponds, marshes, grasslands, and pine forests boasting 247 bird species, including the rare American and Least Bittern, Sabine's Gull, and Greater White-fronted Goose. Up next is the unincorporated town of Munds Park, a hidden gem founded in 1876 and providing ample outdoor activities among the pines of Coconino National Forest.

Then, on the way to the city of Sedona and its great art galleries, restaurants, and cowboy and New Age shops, a photo stop at the Schnebly Hill Vista Overlook is recommended for stunning views of red-rock landscapes all around.

As for the ultimate destination, Boynton Canyon, it is considered one of Sedona's energy vortexes and is sacred to the Yavapai people. It will undoubtedly fill visitors with a sense of awe and peace as they admire the striking crimson cliffs, high buttes, and desert plants.

Total Drive Time: 2 hours 19 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Odell Lake in Munds Park; Sedona's Main Street; Boynton Canyon (6 am to 11 pm; \$5/Red Rock Pass)

Great Trails: Kachina Wetlands Loop (easy; 1.6 miles; 29 minutes); Boynton Vista Trail (moderate; 1.1 miles; 28 minutes)

The best months to complete the Boynton Vortex Trail is between January and May.

3 Wahweap To Antelope Canyon

19.9 miles via Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam

Nestled in Coconino County, on the border with Utah, Wahweap boasts an overlook with a 360-degree panorama of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that is especially colorful at sunrise and sunset.

It can be accessed freely by those who don't want to go through the Recreation Area's entrance; otherwise, there is plenty to see and do in the

vicinity, including Lake Powell and its boating, photography, fishing, and paddleboarding activities, and the Glen Canyon Dam Overlook, perched at 1,000 feet and offering impressive views of the Colorado River, the canyon, and the dam.

On the way to Antelope Canyon, one of Arizona's seven natural wonders to see on a road trip with its gold, red, and orange hues, a stop at the city of Page and its wellness and shopping venues may be warranted. Antelope Canyon looks like another planet, with Martian landscapes that are home to some of the most otherworldly hiking trails on Earth. Accessing the canyon is only possible via a guided tour, departing from 22 South Lake Powell Boulevard, and prior reservation is required.

Total Drive Time: 40 minutes

Great Attractions: Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (\$15/person); Upper Antelope Canyon Tour (year-round; from \$85/adult)

Easy Trail: Dam Overlook Trail (940 feet)



2 Williams To Oak Creek Canyon

66.3 miles via Belmont and Rogers Lake County Natural Area

The town of Williams is known for being a major stop along Route 66 and a trip to the Grand Canyon, but it's also charming in and of itself with its historic buildings, hearty restaurants,

and fishing, camping, and equestrian activities. The nearby community of Belmont is also worth checking out for the Pine Breeze Inn, which was featured in the 1969 movie Easy Rider, as well as its WWII Army camp.

Up next is Rogers Lake County Natural Area, which includes high-elevation wetland and forested uplands that are home to many wildlife species, such as elk, black bears, prairie dogs, mule deer, pronghorns, and bald eagles.

The following stop, Slide Rock State Park, is 1 hour and 4 minutes away and technically within Oak Creek Canyon. It is considered a prime swimming and hiking destination, featuring rustic cabins that date back to the 1930s. As for the canyon, it is a 12-mile-long, red-rock river gorge with depths that range from 800 to 2000 feet and many hiking, picnicking, camping, swimming, and fishing opportunities.

Total Drive Time: 2 hours 3 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Grand Canyon Deer Farm (March 16 to October 15, 9 am to 5 or 6 pm; October 16 to March 15, 10 am to 5 pm; \$16/adult); Rogers Lake County Natural Area (6 am to 10 pm; free); Slide Rock State Park (8 am to 6 pm; from \$20/vehicle) Moderate Trail: Two-Spot Loop (2.4 miles; 47 minutes)



1 Seligman To Grand Canyon South Rim

112 miles via McClelland Lake and Kaibab National Forest
This drive starts from the quaint town of Seligman, known as the birthplace of Route 66, and first stops at McClelland Lake, a serene fishing location for the Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, and Yellow Perch.

Up next is Buckskinner Park, a municipal park in Williams with hiking trails, picnic tables, volleyball and basketball courts, and a fishing Reservoir.

As for Kaibab National Forest, it is located 1 hour 27 minutes away and offers a wide tapestry of canyons, prairies, mountains, and plateaus. Better still, it borders the Grand Canyon, whose South Rim is easier to access but is particularly crowded during spring break and in summer. Fortunately, there is a free shuttle bus system and dozens of viewpoints with fantastic panoramic vistas to conclude this bucket-list Arizona road trip itinerary.

Total Drive Time: 3 hours 7 minutes

Great Attractions and Stops: Angel & Vilma Delgadillo's Original Route 66 Gift Shop (daily from 9 am to 5 pm); Buckskinner Park (7 am to 7 pm; free); Kaibab National Forest (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm; free); Grand Canyon South Rim (24/7; \$20/person; \$35/vehicle; overlooks include Powell Point, Mohave Point, and Pima Point)

Easy Trail: Dogtown Lake Trail (2.2 miles; 39 minutes)

6 Top-Ranked Towns in Arizona for Retirees

WorldAtlas
March 25, 2024

Arizona is one of the most desired destinations to visit in the American Southwest. Quite the classic definition of a desert state, it is home to stunning natural wonders such as the Grand Canyon and the Monument Valley. Not surprisingly, it is also a favorite destination among retirees, for its warm climate, low cost of living, and even lower taxation on property. These are some factors to convince yourself to retire in the state. However, with so many communities to choose from, which is the right one for you? Look no further than these six top-ranked towns in Arizona for the perfect retirement choice.

Sedona



Overlooking Sedona, Arizona.

Few places in Arizona can match the harmonious blend of natural scenery and cultural vibrancy that Sedona can offer. The backdrop of red-rock buttes and pine forests catches the attention of every visitor coming into town, serving as a reminder that epic hikes and biking adventures are just right at the doorstep for active souls. Given

this blessed location, Sedona is an oasis in the desert plateau for all sorts of pursuits, whether browsing for local crafts in one of the 80-plus art galleries and shops or indulging in the many fine restaurants.

Tourists have expressed their love for Sedona for the longest time, and so have retirees, as the town has the perfect amount of amenities to keep anyone wishing for more. It was selected as the top place to retire by the magazine Where To Retire in 2020, as retirees find it easy to remain active because of its many trails and nature. For medical services, Northern Arizona Healthcare Sedona provides excellent treatment in town. Although the cost of living is high, with median home listing prices about 1.1 million (as of February 2024) the exchange you get from that is a well-established retiree community where comfort and convenience are a priority.

Page



Page, Arizona, at dusk.

Close to the state border with Utah, Page is a popular destination for its proximity to two famous attractions, Antelope Canyon and Horseshoe Bend. They are essential components of any trip to the American Southwest, sharing a similar formation history of having been sculpted by erosion millions of years ago.

The town was founded in 1957 as a community for builders of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, which led to the creation of one of the largest reservoirs in the country, Lake Powell. Today with the help of tourism, Page is a community brimming with life, where creativity flows from its street art to its food scene, incorporating the likes of modernity and age-old Navajo traditions.

For retirees, Page is a great place to consider, as it is an intimate and welcoming community of just over 7,000 people. For those looking to purchase a home, median home listing prices are about \$420,000, which is on par with the US national average (but lower than the \$525,000 average in Phoenix). Serving the area for more than 50 years, the Page Hospital is a place you can trust for medical services.

Catalina Foothills



Luxury hotel and spa with pool in Catalina Foothills, Arizona.

Named specifically for its location at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains, this vibrant community is just a short drive north of Tucson, but it feels thousands of miles away from the city. With over 300 days of sunshine, Catalina Foothills has made itself a destination of its own. The architectural style of this place is intended to fit right in the surrounding Sonoran

Desert, first the idea of local architect Josias Joelser, which can be seen from its downtown to private residential areas. Nowadays, the community draws shopaholics to the boutiques of La Encantada, while others looking to discover the creative side of its residents are pointed to DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun and many more art venues.

The community is marketed toward the higher end, with median home listing prices around \$754,900, but the reward of that is an excellent quality of life, which made it rank first on Money's Best Places to Retire in America list in 2020. There is a great selection of clinics in town, while Northwest Medical Center is the closest hospital serving the area.

Prescott



A fall day in Prescott, Arizona.

Sitting at over 5,200 feet above sea level, Prescott enjoys a favorable climate year-round, with an average temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The town's location within the largest stand of ponderosa pine forests in the country makes it an ideal destination to stay close to nature, with its backyard consisting of five beautiful lakes, overlooked by the iconic Granite Mountain. Founded in 1864 as a gold mining town, the modern

appearance of Prescott is a reformed version of the past, where old saloons have been transformed into trendy cafes and restaurants, and former mansions have become history museums. The oldest rodeo in America (and the world) calls this place home. The week-long Prescott Frontier Days is perhaps the most anticipated time to watch cowboys and girls putting on their best moves.

As a visitor, it is a delightful experience to discover Prescott, and as a retirement destination, the town can just be amazing too. Although the median home listing price is steep at \$798,000, Prescott still is a great place for retirement. It has a large senior demographic (40% of the residents are 65+), who have taken great advantage of the high-quality medical care offered at Yavapai Regional Medical Center and the Northern Arizona VA Medical Center.

Bullhead City



Rio Las Palmas condominium on the Colorado River in Bullhead City, Arizona. Image credit Felipe Sanchez via Shutterstock.com

Once a lonely desert outpost, Bullhead City, with a population of 42,000 and growing, has become an oasis of vacation homes on the eastern banks of the Colorado River, which separates it from the lively casinos and entertainment venues of Laughlin in Nevada. Much of its tourism benefits

from visitors on the other side of the river, who come into town to stay in the handful of hotels or RV resorts, before crossing back again the next day. However, there is just as much to do here, from learning about the history of the tri-state area in the Colorado River Museum to admiring the views of Davis Dam, as well as boating and water skiing all around Lake Mohave.

Being this far west in the state, it can seem like a desolate choice for a retirement destination, but it is only 100 miles from the bright lights of Las Vegas. In addition to its sunny weather year-round, Bullhead City boasts two nine-hole golf courses and three 18-hole golf courses, and well-maintained public green spaces such as Rotary Park for a lovely evening stroll by the river. The cost of living here is reasonable, with median home listing prices at \$369,900, and about 30% of its residents are 65 and above. The Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, accredited by the Joint Commission and awarded the best hospital in the Mohave Valley by the local Daily News' reader's poll in 2019 and 2020, is located in town.

Carefree



Carefree, Arizona Desert Gardens and Sundial.

Carefree, a community with not more than 3,700 people, has all the comforts of a big city, while

still retaining its unique small-town feel. North of Phoenix and Scottsdale, the town is known for the Carefree Desert Gardens, with over 50 kinds of flora and fauna collected from the surrounding desert. The compact-sized downtown area is the place to shop for crafts and admire artworks the skillful creations of local artists, attend events and live music performances at the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion, or simply see where the shadow is pointed on the famous Sundial. If that is not enough for you, neighboring Cave Creek has a whole lot more things to see, ranging from its eponymous museum showcasing its frontier history to nearly 3,000 acres of cacti and rocky landscape at the **Cave Creek Regional Park**. There is more nature to experience nearby in the Tonto National Forest too.

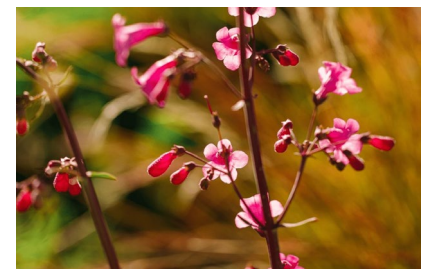
Given its convenient location between some of Arizona's biggest cities, Carefree is an outstanding place for retirement. However, the trade off of joining this affluent community is a higher cost of living, with median home listing prices around 1.2 million. The Desert Foothills Medical Center and Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital are the two main medical facilities in town. In addition, retirees can live "carefree" here if they enjoy golfing in one of the many public or private golf courses, like Desert Forest Golf Club, set among beautiful desert scenery.

The Grand Canyon State is famed for its desert and rocky landscapes, straight from picture postcards, attracting millions of visitors every year to

see them with their own eyes. Many retirees have also fallen in love with not only the nature, but also the perfect balance of low cost of living and high quality of life achieved in Arizona. From Sedona's outdoor emphasis to Bullhead City's sunny riverside location, they are all incredible places in this beautiful state to consider for retirement.

7 places to see and smell wildflowers near Phoenix

By Jill Schildhouse, Copper Courier
March 22, 2024



(Instagram Photo/Boyce Thompson Arboretum)

Wildflower season: It's one of the most magical times of the year in Phoenix. But timing is everything, which means you have a relatively short window to behold their beauty – usually from February through April. Some wildflower viewing spots are free but require a little hike, while others are available in easier-to-access botanical gardens for a nominal fee.

What should you be on the lookout for as you visit these seven spots around the Valley? Fluffy pink Fairy Dusters, orange Desert Globemallow, purple Owl Clover, pink Parry's Penstemon, and joyful yellow brittlebush, to name a few.

An important reminder before we dive in: Respect the wildflowers and take only pictures. Picking wildflowers today means fewer blooming populations next year. That will not only deplete your future viewing opportunities, but it will also negatively impact the delicate desert ecosystem—wildflowers provide food and shelter for much of our wildlife, not to mention nectar and pollen to our important pollinators.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

At the west end of Olive Avenue about 15 miles west of the 101 (Agua Fria Highway) in Waddell lies White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Many people bring their bikes here to enjoy 21 miles of rugged trails, but if you aren't stopping to smell the roses—er, wildflowers—you're missing out.

Waterfall trail is a nearly two-mile out-and-back stretch with an easy rating (only 80 feet of elevation gain, so it's relatively flat) and it's likely you'll be treated to wildflowers, blooming trees, shrubs, and cacti alongside the butterflies who visit them. After a nice rain, you may find a waterfall at the end of your hike (as the trail name suggests), but most other times it'll just be a trickle.



Photo courtesy of White Tank Mountain Regional Park via Facebook

Sonoran Preserve

If you time your visit to the Sonoran Preserve just right, you'll view a field of yellow brittlebush, marigolds, orange globemallow, and more along the Apache Wash Trailhead in Phoenix. This moderate trail with just 153 feet of elevation change and only half a mile in length is perfect for a quick stroll through the wildflowers.

The Badger Brawl Trail (3.4 miles and 124-foot elevation change), which you'll reach from the Apache Wash Trailhead, features large Saguaros with more wildflowers if you're looking for a longer hike. You'll cross several dry river beds, so avoid this trail right after a big rainstorm.

Desert Botanical Garden

Yes, this location comes with an entrance fee, but the sheer number of wildflowers at the Desert Botanical Garden will blow your mind. There are many trails to choose from included with the price of admission, but our pick for spring is the aptly named Harriet K. Maxwell Desert Wildflower Trail. Here you'll find brightly colored blooms as well as their busy pollinator friends (bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies).

It's a wonder how some of these plant species thrive in one of the hottest and driest parts of the world, yet each of the nature paths here has plenty of flora and fauna to show off. Stop by the Cohn Family Butterfly Pavilion to learn more about the pollinators that make all this possible.

Piestewa Peak

One of the most beloved hikes in Phoenix, the Piestewa Peak trailhead is located at the northeast corner of 32nd Street and Lincoln Drive. This is the Phoenix Mountains Preserve's second-highest point (after Camelback Mountain), at 2,608 feet, and getting to the top via the Summit Trail #300 takes a bit of fortitude (and scrambling at the top).

Instead, choose Quartz Ridge Trail #8A, a 3.5-mile hike with 650 feet of elevation gain — it's a moderately challenging route with no shade and rocky terrain, so plan accordingly. Your prize once you've gotten your heart rate up? Brilliantly hued wildflowers scattered throughout the Sonoran Desert trail and amazing views of the Valley.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Welcome to 343 acres of winding trails and hidden gardens you might not have known existed in Arizona—the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior (about an hour from central Phoenix) is the state's oldest and largest botanical garden. With over 3,900 different plant species and great views of Picket Post Mountain, this garden is also filled with wildlife, especially birds.

Mid-March to late April is an especially ideal timeframe to view native Sonoran Desert wildflowers here. Some of the flowers you might see include Desert Zinnia, yellow Desert Marigolds, orange Mexican poppies, and blue-violet Lupine, so keep your eyes peeled.

Lost Dutchman State Park

Named after a fabled lost gold mine in the Superstition Mountains, Lost Dutchman State Park is a popular spot for picnics, campsites, hiking trails, and more. It's located just 40 miles east of downtown Phoenix in Apache Junction, and the meandering ride is half the fun of getting there. Along the 2.4-mile Treasure Loop Trail, look for cheerful blooms of brittlebush, poppies, fiddle necks, and desert evening primrose dotting the landscape. Bird lovers will also delight in sightings of quails, roadrunners, larks, and thrashers – bring your binoculars. Prospector's View Trail, rated moderate, is often teeming with wildflowers too.



Photo courtesy of Arizona State Parks via Facebook

South Mountain Park and Preserve

One of the largest municipal parks in the country, South Mountain Park and Preserve offers 16,000 acres of nature and more than 58 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking. It's a lovely place to visit any time of year, but spring wildflower season is particularly heavenly. Look for wildflowers within areas accessible from the Central Avenue entrance (10919 S. Central Avenue), like the 4.5-mile Kiwanis Trail to Las Lomas Trail Loop. You will also

find wildflowers on the roadway leading to the Gila Valley overlook (at that same Central Avenue entrance) and on the 3.5-mile Javelina Canyon and Ridgeline Loop Trail.

This article first appeared on Good Info News Wire and is republished here under a Creative

St. Joseph the Worker hosts Hike for Hope in Fountain Hills

YourValley.com
Posted Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:02 pm



Phoenix nonprofit St. Joseph the Worker will host its 26th Annual Hike for Hope 7:30-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 6 at McDowell Mountain Regional Park's Pemberton Trailhead at 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive in Fountain Hills. (Courtesy St. Joseph the Worker/David F Hoye)

Phoenix nonprofit St. Joseph the Worker will host its 26th Annual Hike for Hope 7:30-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 6 at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park's** Pemberton Trailhead at 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive in Fountain Hills.

The Hike for Hope event offers participants a choice between a 1.5-mile or 4.5-mile hike, offering a fun and interactive way for people of all ages and their pets to make a difference

in the community. Registration is \$50 for adults and \$10 for all children under the age of 13 and includes an adult T-shirt and breakfast with coffee. All proceeds will help the nonprofit in eliminating obstacles to employment, equipping clients with the necessary resources to achieve financial success and self-sufficiency.

"As we embark on our 26th Annual Hike for Hope, we are reminded of the power of community and compassion," stated Carrie Masters, CEO of St. Joseph the Worker in a news release. "Through this event, we not only raise vital funds but also awareness and hope for those striving for financial independence. Inspiring change, step by step, towards a brighter future for all."

To register for the 26th Annual Hike for Hope or to make a donation, visit sjwjobs.org/hike4hope. The event was formerly known as Hike for the Homeless. With a goal of raising \$100,000, SJW has implemented a friendly competition leaderboard on the event page, which highlights the top fundraisers. Hike for Hope participants can register and make donations as individuals or teams. The top two individual fundraisers will be given prizes. Teams are also encouraged to come in costume. The best team costume will receive a catered lunch for 10 by Helpings Cafe, a social enterprise that helps end homelessness in our community. In addition, SJW is organizing a 50/50 raffle for the event. Tickets can be purchased online here or on-site for \$5 each, with the option to bundle three

tickets for \$10 or six tickets for \$20. The winner will receive 50% of the raffle proceeds, while the remaining 50% will directly support SJW. The drawing will take place on the day of the event, and participants do not need to be present to win.

Parking at McDowell Mountain Regional Park is free for event participants. SJW suggests hikers bring a water bottle, sun hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes and cash or credit cards to purchase raffle tickets, as well as waste bags and a water bowl for pets.

The 26th Annual Hike for Hope is sponsored by Edward Jones, Four Peaks Rotary, Lime, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, The Middle League, Crossroads, TTI, Kelly Geary (The Middle League), Garth Stevens, Snell & Wilmer, NYC Café Arizona, SanTan Brewing Company and RS, Inc.

Editor's note: The above was republished from a St. Joseph the Worker news release.

What's Up in Ultra This Weekend — March 23

Drew Dinan 03/20/2024
Ultrarunning.com

Ultra season is back in full swing with several great races taking place during this first official weekend of spring. We can't feature them all, so please check the Ultrarunning Magazine calendar for an extensive list of upcoming races across North America.

In this week's What's Up in Ultra, we head to the prairies of eastern Kansas, race uphill to an old mining town in Arizona, search for badgers in Washington state and check to see who will be the last runner standing in Ohio.

Kansas Spirit

We start in Ottawa, Kansas, for the 11th running of the Prairie Spirit Trail races. Taking place on the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Line, now a recreational trail, the event includes four ultra distances (100-mile, 100k, 50-mile and 50k). Participants will run out-and-back races through quaint rural towns and the picturesque Kansas countryside. This is a flat course with easy crew access, making it an ideal event for first timers as well as experienced ultra runners looking to set a PR.

Kings & Queens

Starting at **Lake Pleasant Regional Park** in Morrison, Arizona, and finishing 50 kilometers later in the historic mining town of Crown King, Arizona, the Crown King Scramble is a classic ultra (first run in 1987) that offers a little bit of everything—including a finish line outside of an old saloon. The uphill race starts at an elevation of 1,700 feet and climbs to 6,250 feet at mile 28.7, before descending 600 feet to the finish. The course journeys through multiple climate zones, beginning in the Sonoran Desert and ending in the ponderosa pines of the Bradshaw Mountain Range. This race has always piqued my interest for its rich history and fun atmosphere. Plus, I'd really

like to finish at an old-timey saloon!

Washington Challenge

The Badger Mountain Challenge is a popular spring event for runners looking to test their winter endurance training. Taking place in Richland, Washington, the race kicks off Friday with the traditional 100-mile and 50-mile races, and a newly added 100k distance. The 100-mile runners will run the 50-mile out-and-back course twice, while 100k runners will add an extra summit on Candy Mountain. All distances feature several climbs of 600 to 900 feet, with the toughest challenge arguably being the steep ascent of McBee Hill. On Saturday, runners in the 55k will run on a combination of single-track and rugged jeep trails, with a cumulative elevation gain of 4,100 feet.

Wildcard

For this week's Wildcard Race (where we feature an event you may not be familiar with), we head to Lucasville, Ohio, for Ohio's Backyard Ultra, a Silver Ticket Race with the last runner standing earning an invite into Laz's Big Dog's Backyard Ultra (this is how Harvey Lewis originally qualified for Big's in 2021). Ohio's Backyard Ultra course starts at McChesney Ridge and measures 4.1667 miles. The day course consists of 450 to 475 feet of elevation gain and is run on gravel, grass and dirt double-track trails, while the night course has around 150 feet of gain and is run mostly on pavement. Runners will run the loop every hour on the hour until only one remains. Who will earn their ticket to Big's in October?

Good luck to everyone racing this weekend!

Rio Verde residents participate in Cactus Cup

Race at McDowell Mountain Regional Park
Posted Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:00 am
Fountain Hills Times



Rio Verde cyclists from left, Steve Long, Dave Whiffen and David Schachte were Cactus Cup participants. (Photo courtesy of Rio Verde Roadrunner)

Rio Verde residents who participated in the Cactus Cup cycling race made a good showing for the community.

Steve Long, David Schachte and Dave Whiffen competed in the 2024 Cactus Cup, a 25-mile race at **McDowell Mountain Park** on March 9. Steve Long did battle in the 70+ category while the two Davids rode in the 60+ category.

Long did a great job of getting on the podium for second place. Schachte and Whiffen made it a good race by running in the top four places for a while, but in the end Whiffen got the best of

Schachte for fifth and sixth place respectively.

Junior Ranger Family Hike – White Tank Mountain Regional Park

Signalsaz.com
March 21, 2024



Join Ranger Kevin for a fun, family-friendly hike and get your kids started in our Junior Rangers program.

Looking for something to do with the kids over spring break? You found it! Join Ranger Kevin for this 1.5-mile hike on the Mule Deer trail. Prior to the hike, we'll talk about the Junior Ranger program, set every young person up with their own activity book, and then we'll actually do some of the activities together on our hike as a way to get a head start on becoming an official Junior Ranger!

The hike is generally easy but may have stretches with loose rock and uneven terrain, so please wear closed-toe shoes, and bring water. Hats and sunscreen are strongly recommended. Restrooms and water are available at the Nature Center. Please, NO pets.

MEETING LOCATION: Nature Center

Date: March 29, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Category: Family and Recreation
Tags: Family Hike, Hiking, and Maricopa County

Address: 20304 W White Tank Mountain Rd
Waddell Arizona 85355
United States

Venue: **White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

Time: 1:00 p.m-3:00 p.m

Phone: (602) 506-2930 ext. 5

Cave Creek Museum Presents: "The History of Spur Cross Ranch"

By [Sonoran News](#)
March 19, 2024



EPSON MFP image
On Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 2-4 PM, Cave Creek Museum Presents will host "The History of Spur Cross Ranch."



Learn about the **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area** from local historian, columnist and

writer Kraig Nelson. Nelson will discuss the harsh lives of its pre-history inhabitants and lively dude ranch days to its preservation through an amazing grassroots effort by the residents of Cave Creek. Nelson’s presentations are filled with information and humor. And, his workshops are among the most popular of the Cave Creek Museum Presents series.

Advanced reservations are required. Members are free and non-members can enjoy the program for a \$10 admission ticket. Register at cavecreekmuseum.org. No discounts or culture passes.

The 53-year-old museum’s mission is to preserve the artifacts of the prehistory, history, culture and legacy of the Cave Creek Mining District and the Cave Creek/Carefree foothills area through education, research and interpretive exhibits. The Cave Creek Museum is located at 6140 E. Skyline Drive in Cave Creek.

Arizona’s Valley of the Sun Is Abundant With Global Flavors

Korean corn dogs, lobster rolls via Brooklyn, and Chinese street food—Arizona’s food scene tantalizes with much more than tacos.

Bon Appetit
March 19, 2024

Arizona’s food scene is often linked to Mexican food and steakhouses—must-try staples for visitors, to be sure. But you can’t typecast the Grand Canyon

State’s cuisine. The vibrant metropolitan area known as the Valley of the Sun—encompassing cities like Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, and Mesa—offers a veritable feast of globally inspired flavors. Originally coined as a tourism slogan in the 1930s, the Valley of the Sun is as abundant in sunshine as international cuisine.

Just as Arizona’s Mexican population (its largest ancestry group) and ranching history influence its cuisine, so does its remarkable diversity. Generations of residents hail from all different backgrounds and countries—and the food reflects these varied cultures. For instance, Mesa’s Asian District alone, established in 2020, showcases dishes from Vietnam, China, Korea, the Philippines, and beyond. If your travel choices revolve around food, don’t underestimate the culinary scene in this part of Arizona.

Mrs. White’s Golden Rule Cafe, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe

Simple, Southern-inspired comfort food

While Southern comfort food might not immediately register as a “global flavor” to Americans, it does embody rich culinary traditions and distinctive ingredients, hallmarks of any global cuisine. At Mrs. White’s Golden Rule Cafe, which opened in 1964 by Texas transplant Elizabeth White, Southern heritage is delivered in every bite of fried chicken, smothered pork chops, chicken fried steak, collard greens, and cornbread.

Though Mrs. White is retired, her son and his daughter now manage the restaurant, imbuing every interaction with the eatery’s eponymous golden rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Beyond the flagship, you can get a taste of the White family dynasty’s cooking at Lo-Lo’s Chicken & Waffles, Monroe’s Hot Chicken (both of which have multiple locations across Phoenix, Tempe, and Scottsdale), and Brunch & Sip—all of which are owned by White’s grandson.

Latha, Phoenix

Contemporary pan-African
A meal at Latha takes you through the flavors and traditions of the African diaspora. “Our contemporary pan-African kitchen crafts memorable dining experiences, honoring authentic recipes and responsibly sourced seasonal ingredients,” founder and owner Evelia Davis says. Every dish communicates the rich culinary heritage of Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean, and the Southern U.S. For example, all-American pimento cheese is just as cozy on this menu as Davis’s favorite, the dayboat moqueca, a comforting bowl of rice grits, charred broccolini, roasted coconut chutney, chimichurri, and pickled onions. Latha’s menu reflects far-flung places—and its unique Arizona community. “Arizona cuisine encompasses dishes that celebrate the diverse cultures and use the local ingredients available throughout the state,” Davis says.

Kai, Gila River Indian Community

Decorated Native American fine dining

The Gila River Indian Community is home to Akimel O’odham (Pima) and Pee-Posh (Maricopa) tribe members. Here, within the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, find Kai, Arizona’s sole AAA Five Diamond and Forbes Five Star restaurant. “Kai,” which translates to “seed” in the O’odham or Pima language, blends classic techniques with local ingredients to create delicious dishes that honor the tribes’ cultures and heritage. The menu even includes items from the Native Seeds/SEARCH Foundation, which preserves ancient indigenous seeds.

Kai offers more than a meal—during this multi-hour experience, your server shares the stories behind each dish. Menu examples include the u’uwhig, seared duck roulade with fermented leek, confit rutabaga, celeriac puree, and duck consommé, and the grilled bison tenderloin, served with corn puree, oxtail and bean cassoulet, cholla bud (cactus flower buds), and saguaro blossom syrup.

Haji Baba, Tempe

Middle Eastern restaurant and grocery
In between hiking the area’s many trails like South Mountain Park and Preserve, Papago Park, Desert Botanical Garden, the Apache Trail, and visiting museums like the S’edav Va’aki Museum (formerly Pueblo Grande Museum), you’ll need to eat. Consider dining on some of the best Middle Eastern food in Arizona at Haji Baba.

This Tempe stalwart has been slinging high-quality, straightforward kebab combo

plates, kafta (a seasoned mixture of ground meat), chicken shawarma, gyro (lamb and beef seasoned with Greek spices, cooked on a spit), and other delicious dishes from a counter tucked inside a grocery store for more than 40 years. The ambiance is casual, the service is efficient, the portions are generous, and the flavors are all traditional Mediterranean. Finish your meal with baklava and Arabic coffee.

Com Tam Thuan Kieu, Mesa

Charbroiled Vietnamese meats and broken rice
Located in Mekong Plaza, Mesa’s largest center for Asian-owned restaurants and businesses, family-owned and operated Com Tam Thuan Kieu specializes in cơm tấm, or broken rice. This beloved southern Vietnam staple features small, fractured rice grains and protein. Look elsewhere for pho—here, marinated pork chops, short ribs, chicken, sliced beef, sliced pork, and more reign supreme. Try the 10-Meats Broken Rice Plate, the prodigious house special consisting of broken rice, grilled pork chop, shrimp paste, crispy shrimp paste wrapped in tofu skin, grilled pork sausage, steamed pork egg cake, julienne pork, pork eggroll, Chinese sausage, shrimp eggroll, grilled shrimp, and—take a breath—a side of pork broth. The gỏi cuốn (spring rolls) are also excellent.

Two Hands Corn Dogs, all over

Korean corn dogs with epic cheese pulls
Pair an epic Valley of the Sun sunset with an equally spectacular corn dog cheese pull from this Korean chain

import. You might’ve already seen these dogs and their stretchy, melty cheese innards on the internet, but no short-form video can prepare you for the real-life experience. There are locations nationwide, including three in the Phoenix metropolitan area. First, choose your sweet or savory coating. Then, choose a sausage, cheese, or half-and-half filling. Watch as your dog is battered (using two hands). You can make 35 different combos of corn dogs, but you can always opt for a pre-designed dog. The spicy corn dog comes with a generous coating of flaming hot Cheetos, and the ever-popular potato corn dog gets a fried potato cube coat, Two Hands sauce, and flaming hot Cheetos powder.

The Dhaba, Tempe

Simple, stunning Punjabi fare with wine pairings
Within India Plaza, Arizona’s largest South Asian shopping center, The Dhaba channels the effortless charm of India and Pakistan’s roadside eateries, dhabas, in an elegant atmosphere. The Dhaba offers Punjabi dishes like Rahon Dal Tarka (yellow lentils cooked and seasoned with house-blended spices and herbs) and Lahori Malai Kofta—paneer (Indian cheese) dumplings with cauliflower, carrots, and potatoes. Pair these authentic flavors with a glass of wine off the impressively deep list.

BK Lobster, Scottsdale

Lobster rolls by way of Brooklyn
A couple of New York City natives founded the relaxed seafood spot BK Lobster in 2022. “We offer a seafood experience more akin to

Brooklyn,” BK Lobster PHX’s owner Kamau Edwards says, noting that seafood isn’t usually associated with landlocked Arizona. They’re changing that perception, one themed lobster roll at a time. “Our Biggie lobster roll is by far a favorite!” he says. The impressive “Bed-Stuy Biggie” roll lives up to its name, boasting mounds of seasoned Maine claw and knuckle meat with melted butter piled on a toasted coney bun. Another popular choice is the “BK Flatbush” roll, with butter-cooked lobster tossed in jerk sauce.

For Edwards, Arizona cuisine is all about new and exciting flavors. “We are unprecedented!” He says, “[Arizona offers] a mixture of original local indigenous foods, with heavy Mexican influences, incorporating tastes from all over the world as the population growth has exploded here.”

Master Jianbing, Mesa

Chinese crepes with delicious fillings

Also in Mekong Plaza, Master Jianbing is a takeout spot with tables nearby should you choose to sit. Jianbing is a popular Chinese street food consisting of a wheat flour crepe spread on a hot round grill and then topped with ingredients like eggs, lamb, scallions, cilantro, sesame seeds, chili paste, hoisin sauce, and pickled vegetables. Come here for reasonable prices, portions big enough to share, and a quick meal before or after an Arizona adventure. Jianbing pairs beautifully with a trip into the verdant **Usery Mountain Regional Park** to see Saguaro cactus and the magical aroma

of creosote in the desert after a rainstorm.

Arizona’s culinary scene invites you to explore, taste, and savor the world through local plates. Plan your trip at Foodiesaz.com.

**Spring in Arizona:
2024 Wildflower
Season**

Written by [Veronica Quintero](#)
Published on March 15, 2024 in FabulousArizona.com



Spring in Arizona is synonymous with near-perfect weather, [Cactus League spring training](#) and, of course, wildflower season. The colorful blooms paired with 75-degree days and ample sunshine provide the perfect excuse to lace up your hiking boots and seek out the bright colors contrasting with the desert’s natural landscape.

“Our state is a sight to behold all throughout the year, but especially in spring, when the Sonoran Desert and surrounding areas come alive with color,” says Lisa Urias, CEO of the Arizona Office of Tourism. “We encourage all visitors to review our [AppreciateAZ](#) principles for sustainable tourism, to help enjoy and preserve the natural beauty of our spectacular state!”



Picacho Peak State Park

Here are five top destinations to find Arizona wildflower blooms: **Picacho Peak State Park** Central Southern Arizona

Picacho Peak is famous for its spring wildflower display, especially Mexican poppies. Wildflowers typically start blooming in mid- to late-February and continue through the beginning of March. In addition to the wildflowers, the park offers a visitor center, store, playground, historical markers, a campground and picnic areas. The plentiful hiking trails offer hikers scenic and challenging hikes, so be sure to bring plenty of water and proper footwear.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

Central Arizona near Queen Creek
In Queen Creek, the San Tan Mountains’ varied elevations and temperatures foster a variety of flowers, from fiddlenecks to scorpionweed, whose lovely purplish blooms belie its fierce name. The best place to spot Mexican gold poppies, lupine and brittlebush is along the west side of the Dynamite Trail, starting from the Goldmine Trailhead, and on the northwest side of the rocky Goldmine Trail.



Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Boyce Thompson Arboretum

70 miles east of Phoenix in Globe
With 105 acres of gardens, five miles of trails and 20,000 plants, Boyce Thompson Arboretum is Arizona’s oldest and largest botanical garden and a top site for wildflower viewing. Spring is a great time to admire native Sonoran Desert plants at the arboretum, with bloom peaks occurring between mid-March and late-April. Look for California poppies, lupines and purple bladderpod, particularly in the High Trail and Sonoran Desert Upland Area. And all this year, the arboretum is celebrating its centennial with special events and programs.

Oracle State Park

Southern Arizona near Tucson
Situating at an elevation of 4,500 feet above sea level in the Catalina Mountains, Oracle State Park will Arizona wildflowers later in the year. Cooler temperatures and higher elevation means a late start to wildflower blooms, around the end of March or mid-April, with another flowering season between late August and October. You are likely to encounter the mariposa lily in spring, desert lilacs, desert hyacinths, larkspur, morning glory, sand-verbena and poppies. Not only can you see a beautiful variety of flora and fauna, this is also a great spot

for birding and family-friendly trails.

Sycamore Canyon

Northern Arizona near Sedona
Sycamore Canyon is the second largest canyon in Arizona, located between Williams and Sedona. This secluded canyon is a hidden gem offering greenery, trails and springtime wildflowers and cactus blooms. You might also see blooming Dudleya: small succulents with flowers on red, orange and yellow stalks. Remember to enjoy spring responsibly: While enjoying the spectacular spring sights of the Sonoran Desert, be sure to show Arizona some love by following responsible tourism principles that help preserve our natural wonders. Stay on the trails and let the flowers continue to grow (no picking). Springtime is the perfect season to get out and explore vibrant Arizona wildflowers. For more inspiration, visit VisitArizona.com

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix water park is open for spring break. Here's how to get a deal

Meredith G. White
Arizona Republic
March 13, 2024



Spring break 2024 has begun and if you're already running out of ideas on how to keep the kids occupied, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix should be on your radar.

The water park in Glendale is now open on a limited schedule through spring 2024.

Families with kids of all ages can enjoy an active day out of the house. There's a little something for everyone, from those seeking big thrills on tall water slides to people looking for a little R&R on the lazy river. There are attractions for little kids too. And for a limited time, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor is offering season pass discounts.

Does Arizona have Six Flags?

- Yes, Arizona has a Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix. The park is actually in Glendale — you'll find it at 4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road in Adobe Dam Regional Park.
- For the full list of rides, activities, events and restaurants, visit sixflags.com.

Is Six Flags open during spring break?

- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix will kick off its spring break season 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. [Check the online calendar](#) for open and closed dates through April.

- At the end of May, summer hours kick in and the park will be open seven days a week.

How much are Six Flags tickets?

- Six Flags tickets start at \$40 online and \$60 at the gate. Children 2 and younger get in free.
- The park is offering a season-pass discount through Sunday, March 17. If you purchase a Platinum season pass for \$90 per person, you can upgrade to the Diamond pass, normally \$175, for no extra charge.

The Platinum pass includes:

- Unlimited access to Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor Phoenix.
- General parking.
- 15% off food and merchandise.
- Monthly rewards.
- One skip the line pass.
- The Diamond pass includes:
- Unlimited access to all Six Flags theme parks and water parks.
- Preferred parking.
- 20% off food and merchandise.
- Monthly rewards.
- Five monthly pass holder rewards.
- VIP entrance.
- 2024 season drink bottle.
- 50% off weekday cabana rentals.
- 50% off THE FLASH Pass.
- VIP Lounge and Waterpark seating.
- Both passes are valid through the end of 2024 and can be purchased at sixflags.com.

Town of Cave Creek trails dos and don'ts

By Bob Morris, Mayor, Town of Cave Creek
Brian Welby Poore
Published on Mar 12, 2024



The town of Cave Creek maintains a network of multi-use trails. Photo courtesy of the town of Cave Creek.

March is a great month in the town of Cave Creek. The weather will be perfect for enjoying all the Cave Creek Rodeo Days events, shopping, dining and of course our parks and trails. Our trails are one of the crown jewels of the town.

The town of Cave Creek maintains a network of multi-use trails that connect portions of town, providing access to Cave Creek Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, the Tonto National Forest, and linkages to the 314-mile Maricopa Trail and the Desert Foothills Land Trust properties.

These trails offer hiking, biking and horseback riding. We wanted to let you know about some trails' dos and don'ts, where the trails are and the best places to park while you enjoy them.

Trails within the town of Cave Creek boundaries include:

- Cave Creek Regional Park
- Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
- Desert Foothills Land Trust
- Tonto National Forest Cave Creek Ranger District
- Maricopa Trail - more than 300 miles of connected trails that encompasses Maricopa County and links to 10 regional parks.

The Cave Creek Trail Network map, which will show you all the trails in the town, can be found at CaveCreekAZ.gov/TrailsMap.

The map also points out where you should park when enjoying the trails. Most have dedicated parking lots. A tricky one for many is the Black Mountain Trail parking. When hiking Black Mountain, please go up School House Road and turn right on Mark Way. There is dedicated parking there. Begin your hike by walking the rest of School House Road to the trailhead.

Each year, several people need to be rescued while hiking in our local parks and preserves. Please follow these basic guidelines that will contribute to you having a safe and enjoyable day.

DO:

- Stay on marked and designated trails.
- Know before you go - use maps and know the trails or terrain that you will be encountering.
- Pick up your trash.
- When you can, leave it better than you found it.

- Keep wildlife wild – leave the wildlife and animals alone.
- Share the trail and manage your pet.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Carry a fully charged cell phone with you. Do this even though cell phone service may be spotty throughout the preserve.
- Carry something to signal with like a whistle, small mirror and/or a brightly colored bandana.
- If you get lost or disoriented and/or suffer any type of hiking injury, call for help right away. Don't delay the call or wait until it gets dark for assistance.
- Hydrate early, often and remember to bring enough water for you, your children and pets.
- When your water is half gone, turn around and return to the trailhead.
- Wear appropriate footwear, clothing, eye protection and sunscreen for your adventure.

DON'T:

- Cut through private property to get to a trail.
- Use motorized vehicles on any town trails.
- Use trails when they are wet or muddy. Wait for trails to dry before using them. Remember: if you make a track, please turn back!
- Start fires.
- Overestimate your abilities and/or underestimate the difficulty of the hike.
- Hike alone (not recommended).

- Equipped with this information we hope you enjoy the town of Cave Creek trails this spring. Happy trails!

7 Small Towns To Retire Near Phoenix, Arizona

By [Cores Grace](#)
Published Mar 12, 2024
TheTravel.com

Discover small towns near Phoenix, Arizona, where you can spend your golden years with nice weather and amazing outdoors.

Summary

- Rio Verde is a peaceful haven for active retirees who love golf and nature, with a 55+ community and world-class golf courses.
- Wittmann offers a tranquil atmosphere, surrounded by natural beauty and outdoor activities, perfect for retirees seeking a laid-back lifestyle.
- Carefree, a suburb of Phoenix, is a small town with a vibrant community, beautiful desert landscape, and plenty of activities for all retirees.

Hearing the word American Southwest automatically takes travelers to Arizona, where they can experience the true Wild West, particularly in Wickenburg, which is only an hour away from the state capital. While Phoenix offers the best of everything, many retirees would love to live in a small town, where life is laid-back, and the outdoor

activities are perfect for the elderly.

Fortunately, there are charming small towns near Phoenix that retirees can consider their permanent home and are less than an hour away from the state capital. These small towns have fewer than 8,000 residents and give retirees easy access to Phoenix. Here are some of the best seven towns to retire near Phoenix, Arizona.

7 Rio Verde

Distance from Phoenix: 42.8 miles (51 minutes)

Offering a suburban rural mixed living, Rio Verde is one of the best small towns near Phoenix to retire in, especially because of its low crime rate, mild climate, and plenty of nature to commune with. The ultimate thing about it? It's a community for the elderly of at least 55+ and those who are under 19 years old are not allowed to be a permanent resident in Rio Verde!

For retirees who are into golf, Rio Verde is a fortress of golf, especially with its Rio Verde Country Club, which offers two world-class parkland-style golf courses.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [2,210](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [13.8%](#)

6 Wittmann

Distance from Phoenix: 46.7 miles (45 minutes)

Arizona is probably the best budget vacation destination for nature lovers, and Wittmann, apart from being a small-town charm with a laid-back atmosphere, is a great example of this; its location is

surrounded by natural spaces and the town enjoys a tranquil location.

For those hoping to spend their golden years in a town like Wittman, this is also one of the many great small towns to retire in near Phoenix because of its strong housing market and quality healthcare.

Originally named *Nadaburg*, (*Nada*, Spanish term for "nothing" and *Burg*, German term for "castle"), the town is also popular for its outdoor activities, such as off-roading, hiking, and sightseeing, because of its location right in the heart of Arizona's scenic desert landscape. Wittmann is also a short drive to beautiful tourist attractions, including **Lake Pleasant Regional Park** and Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [684](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [20.8%](#)

5 Carefree

Distance from Phoenix: 35.5 miles (41 minutes)

Living in Carefree is as carefree as retirees would love to be. All types of retirees—active or not—will have their time of life in this small town of less than 4,000 residents. It's a suburb of Scottsdale and Phoenix, framed against the gorgeous landscape of the Sonoran Desert.

Arizona is filled with off-the-grid towns perfect for nature lovers, and Carefree doesn't disappoint in that category; retirees and visitors alike will love the life of flora and fauna at the Carefree Desert Gardens, the crowning jewel of the town, which is free to the public.

For retirees who love to just stroll around and shop, Carefree hosts the Friday Farmer's Market at the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion. Dining, shopping, arts & crafts, and festivals are also vibrant in Carefree, including the Thunderbirds Carefree Spring Fine Art & Wine Festival.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [3,690](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [25.7%](#)

Visitors: \$5
Carefree Residents: Free
Parking: Free
Wine Tasting, Microbrews, & Spirit Sampling: \$15

The two-day Thunderbirds Carefree Spring Fine Art & Wine Festival happens annually in March at the Carefree Town Center.

4 Cave Creek

Distance from Phoenix: 33.5 miles (38 minutes)

One of the most picturesque small towns in Arizona, Cave Creek is in the heart of the Sonoran Desert on the foothills of the Black Mountains with lots of outdoor activities, perfect for active retirees. With less than 5,000 residents, this small-town charm is popular for its spectacular horseback riding activity within the gorgeous Sonoran Desert that attracts travelers from around the world. Cave Creek is one of the small Arizona towns perfect for outdoor enthusiasts and any retiree will love its gorgeous natural world and quality healthcare for its residents.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [4,892](#)

- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [26.5%](#)

3 Litchfield Park

Distance from Phoenix: 20 miles (23 minutes)

Twenty miles west of Phoenix sits Litchfield Park, a historic town popular for its tourist attractions, including the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park, and its beautiful city parks that are hosts to many different events and festivals. Offering incredible views of the Sonoran Desert, Litchfield Park is one of the best small towns to retire to near Phoenix because of its relaxed living, warm climate, fast job growth, and a high median value and strong appreciation rate in the housing market.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [6,847](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [27.7%](#)

Hours
Zoo: 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. (October 1 - May 30)
Aquarium: 9:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.(October 1 - May 30)
Zoo: 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.(June 1 - September 30)
Aquarium: 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.(June 1 - September 30)

Groups of 10 or more, military, AAA, and senior discounts are also offered at the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park. Those who pay via debit or credit cards will be charged a 4% fee.

2 Youngtown

Distance from Phoenix: 18.4 miles (30 minutes)

Tucked away in the heart of the Northwest Valley, Youngtown,

despite its name, is the oldest planned retirement haven in the United States that restricted 16-year-olds from living in town, until it was repealed in 1999. With only a little more than 7,000 residents, Youngtown has a small-town vibe with a low crime rate and a growing and stable housing market.

Retirees will love Youngtown's laid-back atmosphere and its beautiful parks, where they can celebrate special occasions, have a picnic, barbecues, or simply stroll around. Youngtown is also home to senior communities, including Lifestream Senior Living and Ventura Winds Retirement Home—two of the top employers in town.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [7,056](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [17.9%](#)

1 Tolleson

Distance from Phoenix: 12.5 miles (16 minutes)

A crowning jewel in the West Valley, Tolleson is one of the many lovely towns to retire near Phoenix because of its quality healthcare, fast-growing economy, and spectacular tourism. Located just south of Interstate 10 and other major highways, Tolleson's relaxed vibe and desert beauty are its fortress as a perfect place to retire.

The town is also near, **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, which is one of the many amazing stops on plenty of [scenic drives near Phoenix](#) through the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Tolleson is a perfect place to retire for any retirees

seeking a permanent home with a warm climate.

- **2020 Decennial Population:** [7,216](#)
- **Cost of Living Index:** [113%](#)
- **Crime Rate Index:** [37.7%](#)

Estrella Mountain Regional Park Fees & Hours

Hours	Fees
May 1 to October 31: 5 A.M. to 9 P.M. Daily	Vehicle Entry Fee: \$7
November 1 to April 30: 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Daily	

Ultraman Arizona 2024 APPLICATION

Mar 15 at 10:00AM – Mar 18 at 9:59AM

Stripes.com
March 12, 2024

March 15 at 10 am – March 18 at 9:59 am
Cave Creek Regional Park – Phoenix - 85086

Ultraman Arizona is a 3 day athletic endeavor guaranteed to test an athlete's physical and mental limits. It is a journey that will touch your soul and create memories that will last a lifetime. The race covers a total distance of 320 miles (515 kilometers) around the "Valley of the Sun", Phoenix, Arizona. It requires that each participant complete a 6.2 mile open water swim, a 261.4 mile bike ride, and a 52.4 mile run. Day 1 is a 6.2 mile swim and 90 mile bike, Day 2 is a 171.4 mile bike, and Day 3 is a 52.4 mile run.

Event details and schedule Ultraman ARIZONA Application Guidelines

- Please complete all questions in detail.
- The application process will continue until all slots are filled.
- There is a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.
- If athlete is invited to race, an additional entry fee of \$1,900 is due within one week of invitation being extended to the athlete.
- If a relay team is invited to race, an additional entry fee of \$2,400 is due within one week of invitation being extended to the team.
- Accepted athletes will be subject to random drug-testing on race weekend, subject to the rules of the USADA.
- For more details, visit www.ultramanarizona.com.

Time Limits

Each stage must be completed in 12 hours or less. We strongly recommend the swim be completed in 6 hours or less. Participants not reaching the respective finish lines within the 12 hour limits will be disqualified, but encouraged to continue each of the following days as a participant.

Schedule

From: Mar 15 2024 to Mar 18 2024 Sunday, Friday, Saturday

This Week In Running: March 11, 2024

This Week in Running's trail and ultra recap for March 11, 2024. By Justin Mock on March 11, 2024 | IRunFar.com

The first-year lululemon FURTHER event, the USATF 50k Road National Championships, and the SkySnow World Championships were the weekend's top draws.

We're talking about all of it, so settle in for another Monday recap.

Lululemon FURTHER – La Quinta, California

They're still running, and, dang, Camille Herron has been great so far. The six-day event started on March 6 and runs through March 12, overlapping with International Women's Day, which was on March 8. The 10-woman field is running an approximately 2.5-mile mostly dirt road path.

Camille Herron's setting records fast. I can barely keep up, but let's run down the numbers as of when this article was written on Sunday evening U.S. time. I don't believe these intermediate marks are earmarked in the tracking, but thankfully there's a passionate following of these multi-day efforts online and so hat tip to their record-keeping, and you can join them in this Facebook group.

First of all, let's start with how the records Herron's setting are managed. The 48-hour mark is recognized as a world record by the governing body International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) and, in the U.S., an American record for this time-based event is managed by the governing body USA Track and

Field (USATF) and divided into track and road surfaces.

The six-day mark is considered by the IAU as a world best performance.

All the other records are tracked by the nonprofit Global Organization of Multi-Day Ultramarathoners (GOMU).

Herron split 247.73 miles at 48 hours. That was a new USATF American 48-hour road record. Her IAU world record and USATF American track record still stand at 270.50 miles from her 2023 effort at the time-based event.

Next came the 300-mile fixed-time record. Herron hit that GOMU mark in 59 hours, 54 minutes, and 58 seconds.

The GOMU 500-kilometer mark was reached in 62 hours, 50 minutes, and 45 seconds.

And then Herron toppled Stine Rex's GOMU 72-hour record from 2023 along the way. Herron hit 341 miles and Rex's former best was 314 miles.

For the GOMU 600k mark, that one was in 81 hours, 23 minutes, and 38 seconds.

In 88 hours, 34 minutes, and 26 seconds, she reset the GOMU 400-mile record.

Her GOMU four-day (96 hours) split was 429.8 miles.

Onto the GOMU 700k record, which she reset in 98 hours, 33 minutes, and 59 seconds.

The six-day marks are still on the board and include Sandra

Barwick's 549-mile women's world record, and Dipali Cunningham's 475-mile women's American record. On the men's side, we're still watching for the possibility that Herron could surpass Yiannis Kouros's 644-mile world record and Joe Fejes's 606-mile American record.

The event is scheduled to finish on Tuesday, March 12, at roughly 10:05 a.m. U.S. PDT.

Camille Herron breaking records at the 2024 lululemon FURTHER event. Photos courtesy of lululemon. SkySnow World Championships – Tarvisio, Italy

Did the Skyrunner World Series and the World Snowshoe Championships meet up last weekend? Seems like something happened. Both that series and that event were last weekend, and now we've got the the offshoot SkySnow World Championships. In reality, this event is managed by the International Skyrunning Federation.

The SkySnow discipline is run at altitude and on snow with micro crampons. This was the second year for the world championships event. Some 22 different countries had runners take part.

Vertical

The Friday night Vertical race climbed 974 meters over 3.6k in the dark.

Raise me up. Tadei Pivk (Italy) led the men to the top in 36:04 and Diego Díaz (Spain) was second in 36:54. Luca Del Pero (Italy) got on the podium in 37:36 for third.

Women's champ Tove Alexandersson (Sweden) charged up in 42:28. Madlen Kappler (Germany) and Corinna Ghirardi (Italy) were second and third in 42:44 and 43:39, respectively.

Classic

A day later much of the field came back to race on a 15k course with 515 meters of elevation gain. Martin Nilsson (Sweden) outdueled Luca Del Pero, and Timotej Becan (Slovenia) was third. The frontrunners finished in 69:59, 71:56, and 72:26. Del Pero won both the Vertical and Classic races at the inaugural championships in 2022.

The women's Vertical podium stayed intact. Alexandersson won, Kappler was second, and Ghirardi was third for the second day in a row. The trio came through in 82:18, 82:44, and 84:52.

Heckscher State Park 50k – East Islip, New York

The 10-lap race was again the USATF 50k Road National Championships but men's winner Brandon Talisesky looks to have come out of the open field and not the USATF group. Talisesky finished in 3:22, and Rich Power and Aaron Heath followed in 3:36 and 3:39. Power, age 60, and Heath must've been the first USATF finishers. Whatever the finish order was, Rich Power absolutely won the name game. Homer Simpson came close to that in 1999 when he changed his name to Max Power.

Helen Huang became a national champ in the women's race at age 54. She finished in 4:18 and

was way out front. Second-place Indira Schwarting followed in 4:43, and from the open race Seada Abagaro was the third woman to finish in 4:46.

Additional Races and Runs

Trail Du Ventoux – Bédoin, France

The 46k race is a longtime early season highlight in France, and this year runners met lots of fresh snow. Just 29 seconds separated men's leader Thomas Cardin and Thibaut Garrivier, both finishing in in 3:30. Loïc Rolland was third in 3:37. The women weren't as close as Adeline Martin (before known as Adeline Roche) got away in 3:57. Marine Quintard and Sabine Ehrstrom followed in 4:11 and 4:17.

Chanoko Trail Runs 50k – Rocklin, California

Race winners Jeffrey Klahn and Debra Mangalin finished in 4:30 and 4:59.

Marin Ultra Challenge – Sausalito, California

The event is the flagship of Inside Trail's group of races and it was the its 11th year. Kevin Stewart and Natalie Chirgwin were the fastest over 50 miles in 7:05 and 8:45.

And the 50k winners Patrick Rabuzzi and Lindsay Allison finished in 3:51 and 4:16, respectively. The first four women were separated by only five minutes, and the first five all finished under 4:30.

Mesquite Canyon – Waddell, Arizona

The races were at the **White Tank Mountain Regional Park** and it was a close in the men's 50 miler. Nick Coury edged Jeff

Browning for the win, 7:47 to 7:51. The top women were close too. Zuzana Trnovcova finished in 8:46 to Cindy Shephard's 8:59. Jordan Bramblett and Ailsa MacDonald won the 50k in 4:18 and 4:27. Trnovcova set a new course record and MacDonald was just seconds away from one too.

Antelope Canyon Ultras – Page, Arizona

Drew Francis and Ashley Paulson won the 100 miler in 20:23 and 23:23. Paulson's on a hot streak. It was her third 100 miler since December 28, 2023. This one was a lot slower than the first two, but she's won all of them.

The 50-mile winners Ryan Behunin and Amy Wearne came through in 8:08 and 9:36, and Hudson Billock and Megan Longinotti won the 55k in 5:24 and 5:46.

The Hunt Trail Race 50k – Cody, Wyoming

It was the race's sixth year and Loren Davis and Indiana Peters were crowned winners in 4:55 and 6:28.

Run Through Time Marathon – Salida, Colorado

Taylor Stack rallied past Jeshurun Small for the men's win in 3:00. Small chased four minutes later, and Ryan Smith was third in 3:19. Imogen Ainsworth outpaced the women's field toward a 3:56 winning time. Alison Rudy and Rebecca Hodgetts were second and third in 4:11 and 4:20.

Land Between the Lakes – Grand Rivers, Kentucky

The races were run on an 11.3-mile loop inside the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Kyle Hummel and Brooke Gibbons led the 50 miler in 6:44 and 8:27. Jason Teitloff and Rachel Schack won the 60k in 4:55 and 5:36.

Super Bull Trail Championship 50k – Wooster, Ohio

The race gave away \$1,300 in prize money. Run on a 7.75-mile loop, each lap totaled about 1,000 feet of elevation gain. That’s pretty good for Ohio. Jeremy Pope and Becky Nussbaum won the 50k in 4:31 and 5:35.

Stumpjump 50k – Chattanooga, Tennessee

The longtime race around Signal Mountain had Brandon Sullivan and Rachel Vedder in first at 5:33 and 6:32.

Bel Monte – Waynesboro, Virginia

The 50 miler and 50k both ran on out-and-back courses mostly in the George Washington National Forest. Danny Mathieson and Isabelle Danforth were out front in the 50 miler at 9:20 and 10:17, and Jesse Spangler and Harmony Fisher topped the 50k field in 5:37 and 5:45.

8 Picturesque Small Towns In Arizona

By Quinter Auma
Published Mar 9, 2024

Skip the Grand Canyon and explore these scenic small

Arizona towns instead, some of which are underrated. While the Grand Canyon, located in one of the most beautiful national parks in the US, is what first comes to mind when someone says " a vacation to Arizona", it is not the only scenic tourist attraction in the state. Whether interested in cultural experiences or adventurous activities, the state is home to multiple stunning destinations that tourists of different interests can explore.

Sure, bustling cities like Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff offer a lot of amazing travel adventures. However, the real charm of Arizona lies in its small picturesque towns. From Bisbee, the top place to visit in 2024, to Sedona, here are some of the most scenic small towns Arizona has in store for travelers seeking underrated yet picturesque vacation spots in the Grand Canyon State.

8 Sedona
Beautiful desert landscape, amazing outdoor adventures, an attractive downtown area

Sedona is among the gorgeous desert towns in Arizona and has a lot to offer to nature enthusiasts. The town's spectacular desert landscape, red cliffs, and forests make it incredibly stunning, and photographers will definitely love it here. Tourists can spend time exploring the gorgeous hiking trails, including Devil's Bridge, the Cathedral Rock Trail, and the Boynton Canyon Trail.

Other unique and fun activities in Sedona include mountain biking, horseback riding, and taking jeep tours. Sedona's

downtown is also very attractive and ripe for exploration. Shopping, dining, and seeing art are among the things travelers can do in the downtown area.

Best time to visit	Spring and fall
Picturesque attractions	Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock, Boynton Canyon
Scenic things to do	Hiking, mountain biking, watching sunsets, horseback riding, and more
Population	9,868

A road trip with scenic stops between Sedona and the Grand Canyon is a must-do! It is full of breathtaking stops, including Wilson Canyon and Sedona's Rainbow Trout Farm.

7 Wickenburg
Breathtaking desert views, outdoor activities, a bustling downtown area

Wickenburg is full of Western history that dates back to the 1800s. The town is located right in the heart of the Sonoran Desert and comes with endless breathtaking vistas and multiple outdoor recreational opportunities, including hiking and biking.

It also has a bustling downtown area where travelers can explore dining, shopping, and traveling back in time, thanks to the presence of interesting historic buildings.

Best time to visit	September through November
Picturesque	Hassayampa

attractions	River Preserve , Vulture Peak Trail, and Vulture Gold Mine
Scenic things to do	Hiking, golfing, taking jeep tours, horseback riding, and picnicking
Population	8,482

6 Cave Creek

Stunning Sonoran Desert scenery, breathtaking views, outdoor recreation

Situated right in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, Cave Creek is one of the bucket-list destinations in Arizona. It is among the small Arizona towns perfect for outdoor enthusiasts, and travelers can choose from a range of activities, including mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

Some of its horseback riding experiences, like the Trailhead Ranch and Cave Creek Trail Rides, treat tourists with beautiful desert views. The downtown area of Cave Creek guarantees amazing shopping, art, dining, and outdoor experiences.

Best time to visit	February through May
Picturesque attractions	Cave Creek Regional Park , Cave Creek Trail Rides, and Trailhead Ranch
Scenic things to do	Hiking, golfing, taking jeep tours, horseback riding, and picnicking
Population	5,385

5 Bisbee

Natural scenery, historic downtown, breathtaking mountain vistas, outdoor adventures
 Located in the Mule Mountains, Bisbee is one of the many scenic and small Arizona towns with beautiful hiking trails nearby for avid explorers and offers endless stunning mountain vistas.

The town used to be one of the richest mining towns in the US, and its Copper Queen Mine, which was depleted and closed by 1975, is an attraction, but it's also full of unique experiences, like the 1,000 Stair Climb, a one-of-a-kind event that involves climbing several stairs in Bisbee.

Other beautiful experiences available in Bisbee include biking, birdwatching, watching the gorgeous desert sunsets, and photography. In the historic downtown area, vacationers can enjoy art, explore the dining options, and see the unique old-world architecture.

Best time to visit	May through March and September to November
Picturesque attractions	Copper Queen Mine, Bisbee Great Stair Climb, and Lavender Pit
Scenic things to do	Hiking, biking, taking photographs of the gorgeous desert landscape
Population	5,104

4 Williams

Proximity to the Grand Canyon, outdoor adventures, more

amenities than other nearby towns
 One of the small towns in Arizona to stay in when visiting the Grand Canyon is Williams; however, it is more than a gateway to this beautiful national park. Unlike other towns near the Grand Canyon, like Tusayan and Valley, Williams features more amenities, attractions, and fun outdoor activities of its own. It is incredibly stunning and offers a range of dining, accommodation, and shopping options. Some of the activities to indulge in include cross-country skiing, wildlife spotting, fishing, hiking, and more.

Best time to visit	Fall
Picturesque attractions	Grand Canyon Railway, Bearizona Wildlife Park, and Grand Canyon Deer Farm
Scenic things to do	Fishing, hiking, biking, wildlife spotting, and cross-country skiing
Population	5,104

The town is located about 59 miles away from the Grand Canyon's South Rim, which takes about an hour to get to by driving. Another great option for accessing the park from Williams is taking the Grand Canyon Railway .

3 Tombstone

Beautiful natural scenery, historic downtown, endless vistas, and outdoor recreation

Tombstone is a quaint historic town that's worth visiting for many reasons. First, it offers an opportunity to step back in time and experience the early days of the Old Wild West, making it a must-visit spot for historians. Its natural beauty is also among the most scenic in the Grand Canyon State, and its beautiful location right in the San Pedro Valley means endless breathtaking vistas.

The town is surrounded to the east by the majestic Mules and Dragon Mountains and to the west by the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains. This also means multiple opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors.

Best time to visit	Spring and fall
Picturesque attractions	Courthouse State Historic Park, Allen Street, and Boothill Graveyard
Scenic things to do	Hiking, biking, birdwatching, camping, and picnicking
Population	1,319

2 Jerome

Historic downtown, spectacular landscapes, scenic outdoor adventures

Jerome is famous for once being "the wickedest town in the west" and offers multiple experiences that tourists wouldn't find anywhere else in the US. The largest ghost town in America, Jerome is also one of the most picturesque small towns in Arizona, and comes with fascinating vistas, thanks to the fact that it boasts a

spectacular landscape and overlooks the Verde Valley.

Hiking the Woodchute Trail is just one of the fun outdoor activities that travelers can enjoy here. Other things to do include mountain biking, horseback riding, and rock climbing.

Best time to visit	February
Picturesque attractions	Woodchute Wilderness, Douglas Mansion, and Jerome State Historic Park
Scenic outdoor things to do	Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and rock climbing
Population	463

Wildflower Walk – Session 1

Calendar: Family Friendly
Date: March 10, 2024 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Location: **San Tan Mountain Regional Park**

Description
Ranger Nikki will lead you on an easy to moderate terrain 2.2-mile walk to learn about common spring wildflowers and flowering shrubs.

Possible sightings include fiddleneck, poppies, lupine, scorpionweed, brittlebush, globemallow and more! You can also learn how to document your findings on the citizen science app, iNaturalist. The route uses San Tan, Stargazer and Moonlight Trails

The trail surface is ranges from smooth and level to rock and uneven. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring snacks and plenty of water.

Bring a camera and notebook to log your observations.

This walk has two sessions: 9:00-11:00am and 11:30am-1:30pm.

Please indicate your session preference when registering.

Restrooms and water are available at the Nature Center and Trailhead.

MEETING LOCATION: Main Trailhead map kiosk.

Limit 20 participants.

To register, please call the San Tan Nature Center at (602) 506-2930 ext. 7 with the Session number, your name, phone number and number of people attending. If you find you cannot attend a program after you have registered, please call the Nature Center ASAP so we may contact those on the waiting list.

Registration for this program will close on Saturday, March 9.

The cheapest flights you can book from Milwaukee right now

By Erin Yarnall
March 6, 2024

Winter weather tends to be particularly brutal in Milwaukee, but sometimes spring can be a bit rough as well. That's why it's nice to get away, especially over Spring Break – but it's not always financially feasible. Thankfully, there are a few destinations that are pretty affordable to purchase a round-trip ticket to, and would make for a great Spring Break trip.

From catching a baseball game in Phoenix, to exploring national parks in Tennessee, to traveling out of the country on a budget, there are plenty of ways to get away without breaking the bank.

Some of these destinations are so cheap to travel to because they're on ultra-low-cost airlines, which offer bargain-rate ticket prices – but the ticket price is all that it includes. If you're booking on an ultra-low-cost airline, be sure to pack light because most charge for checked and carry-on bags, and don't expect any frills, like in-flight entertainment and in some cases, complimentary beverages.

Richmond, Virginia

Price: \$218

Airline: Spirit Airlines

With an ever-expanding culinary scene, great art museums, and a host of historical sites, Richmond, Va. seems to have it all. The city, which serves as the state's capital, is packed with fascinating and educational historic sites, like founding father John Marshall's former home, Hollywood Cemetery, which houses the graves of two former United States presidents, and the Richmond Slave Trail, a

walking trail that chronicles the history of enslaved Africans.

In March, temperatures average between 40 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit, although the city has hit a record high of 94 degrees Fahrenheit during the month. If you're up for some sand between your toes, and have a rental car, have a beach day at Virginia Beach, a coastal city that's a 90-minute drive from Richmond.

While Spirit Airlines does offer the most affordable ticket to fly to Richmond from Milwaukee, it comes with an inconvenient layover, and hefty fees if you plan on checking a bag. Tickets on other airlines, including American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, range from \$400 to \$500 for a roundtrip flight.

Knoxville, Tennessee

Price: \$273

Airline: American Airlines

Knoxville is home to the University of Tennessee, but just because it's a bustling college town, doesn't mean it can't also be an ideal Spring Break destination. While it serves as a college town for the more than 28,000 students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is actually the state's third-largest city and its former capital.

Country music fans can spend time partaking in the city's Cradle of Country Music Walking Tour, as Knoxville has ties to country legends like Hank Williams, Roy Acuff, and Dolly Parton.

Once you've finished exploring the city, venture out to Great Smoky Mountains National

Park, one of the country's most popular national parks, which is a 45-minute drive away from Knoxville. Keep an eye open for black bears in the park, and be sure to make your way up to Clingmans Dome, the highest point in Tennessee, and a great viewpoint to see up to 100 miles away.

In March, the average temperature in Knoxville ranges between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit, making it an ideal Spring Break getaway to escape the cold.

Orlando, Florida

Price: \$55

Airline: Spirit Airlines

Hands down the most affordable destination to visit from Milwaukee is Orlando. Round-trip flights to the theme park hotspot can be found for as low as \$55 on Spirit Airlines.

Visitors to the city can stop by one of more than a dozen theme parks, including Disney World and Universal Studios. But there's also so much more to do in the central Florida city. Drive out to the coast and watch a rocket take off at Kennedy Space Center, a 52-mile drive away.

Keep in mind that the \$55 fee is for the ticket only. Carry-on bags, checked bags and seat selection cost extra on the ultra-low-cost airline.

Montego Bay, Jamaica

Price: \$340

Airline: Spirit Airlines

It's not just domestic destinations that travelers can cheaply fly to from Milwaukee – a flight to Montego Bay,

Jamaica, costs \$340 for a round-trip ticket.

The city, Jamaica's fourth largest, is a popular tourist destination, and is well-known for its duty-free shopping, as well as its unbeatable beaches along the country's northern coast.

When you're done lounging on the beach, venture out on Bunker Hill Cultural Experience River Tour – a tour of Montego Bay's rivers and caves, which also educates visitors on the country's first inhabitants, the Tainos. Don't forget to round out your trip by sampling some authentic Jamaican food at local restaurants like Sweet Spice Restaurant and Sunset Bar & Restaurant.

Atlanta, Georgia

Price: \$129
Airline: Frontier Airlines

Atlanta is home to the busiest airport in the world, with more than 93 million passengers traveling through it in 2022. So, it shouldn't be too tricky to find an affordable flight to the city, which serves as the capital of Georgia.

In March, Atlanta has an average high of 66 degrees Fahrenheit, so enjoy the nice weather by walking the city's [BeltLine](#), a 22-mile, looped, multi-use trail.

No trip to the city is complete without visiting the [Atlanta History Center](#), a museum that was founded in 1926 and does an impressive job of chronicling the city's history. The Atlanta History Center has permanent exhibits on Georgia's native

inhabitants, the Civil War and its impact on the city, and the 1996 Olympic Games, which were held in Atlanta.

Frontier's flight, which has a layover in Orlando, is the most affordable option for travel to Atlanta. Delta Air Lines offers nonstop flights from Milwaukee to Atlanta, which cost approximately \$600 per person.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Price: \$319
Airline: United Airlines

Spending Spring Break in New Orleans is ideal – you're narrowly missing the intense crowds that center themselves in the city during Mardi Gras, and the weather is perfect, with an average of 73 degrees Fahrenheit in March.

Although you're missing out on Mardi Gras, there are still plenty of festivals to hit in the city throughout the spring, including the New Orleans Book Festival and the New Orleans Museum of Art's Art in Bloom presentation, which showcases numerous floral designs.

Kids will love visiting Mardi Gras World, a 300,000-square-foot warehouse that showcases the creative floats that are made for the city's annual Mardi Gras parade.

Los Angeles, California

Price: \$228
Airline: Spirit Airlines

With an abundance of sun and a stunning coastline, a trip to Los Angeles is an affordable way to make a Spring Break unforgettable.

The best thing about visiting Los Angeles, besides its weather – which averages 70 degrees Fahrenheit in March – is that it's so versatile. Spend a day at one of its magnificent beaches, like Carbon Beach and Zuma Beach in Malibu. Or, forego the sand, and hike up Runyon Canyon, a 160-acre park that offers a pretty great view of the famous Hollywood Sign.

If you don't want to enjoy the city's nice weather, go behind the scenes of beloved TV shows at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour, or explore film history at the Academy Museum, a must-do for any movie lovers.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Price: \$148
Airline: Frontier Airlines/Spirit Airlines

It's even easier to take part in the fun and excitement of Las Vegas with relatively inexpensive round-trip airfare between Milwaukee and the Nevada city that's known for its warm weather, entertaining performances, beautiful surrounding area, and thrilling nightlife.

Adults could win big, or lose horribly while spending the day in one of the city's many, many casinos. Or, take the whole family off the strip, and have a unique experience by visiting Springs Preserve – a 180-acre nature preserve with botanical gardens, hiking trails, and wildlife habitats.

It's not just about gambling and getting married quickly in Vegas anymore, though. The city is continuing to expand its roster of professional sports teams after acquiring the A's. The

professional baseball team is joining the city's NFL team, the Raiders; WNBA team, the Las Vegas Aces; and NHL team, the Vegas Golden Knights.

A round-trip ticket to Sin City from Milwaukee typically costs between \$150 and \$400, depending on the airline.

Frontier and Spirit Airlines are both ultra-low-cost airlines that fly nonstop between Las Vegas and Milwaukee.

Phoenix, Arizona

Price: \$294

Airline: Delta Air Lines

Phoenix can be overwhelmingly hot in the summertime, but the weather is nearly perfect during Spring Break.

Baseball fans should fly out and catch a Spring Training game, as several MLB teams play games every day in the Phoenix area's Cactus League.

While you can make a day venturing out to the Grand Canyon from the city, a 224-mile drive, there are impressive regional parks located much closer to the city, like **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, where visitors can check out undisturbed desert areas, see spiny cactuses and hike mountain trails.

Phoenix has an average high temperature of 74 degrees in March, making the desert an ideal place to encounter warm temperatures and plenty of sightseeing opportunities.

Charlotte, North Carolina

Price: \$163

Airline: Spirit Airlines

Charlotte is sometimes called the Hornet's Nest, and that's not because it's filled with buzzing, stinging wasps during the spring. In fact, it's pretty pleasant throughout the season, making it an ideal, and affordable, Spring Break getaway.

The city was nicknamed the Hornet's Nest because it fought so hard against Britain during the Revolutionary War. Now, it's inspired the name of the city's NBA team, which you can catch playing in Charlotte during a Spring Break trip to the city.

There are plenty of opportunities to catch a sports game, but with weather averaging 64 degrees Fahrenheit in March, it's also a great spot to enjoy the great outdoors. Charlotte is in close proximity to the Appalachian Mountains, which makes it a great spot for any avid hikers from the Midwest looking to get a bit of elevation into their walks. Or, spend a day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, situated on the Catawba River, and gain some experience whitewater rafting with a range of difficulty levels.

State of the Town looks into upcoming year

By Kylie Werner, Foothills Focus Staff Writer

Mar 6, 2024 Updated Mar 29, 2024

Cave Creek had its first annual State of the Town, which looked back on some of the city's important achievements in 2023

and gave an inside look into what 2024 holds. (Town of Cave Creek/Submitted)

Cave Creek reflected on the important achievements of 2023 and looked ahead to 2024 during its first annual State of the Town.

The recap video was narrated by Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer, who started with the different infrastructure accomplishments made in 2023. These included the preservation of 30.6 acres in the **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation area**, the groundbreaking of the land sharing agreement with Foothills Food Bank, and several businesses being named local landmarks.

Other milestones included the replacement of the damaged welcome sign, the start of remodeling the Cave Creek Fire Station, receiving a grant from Firehouse Subs for an emergency service vehicle to reach lost hikers, and the hiring of new Town Manager Grady E. Miller.

Mayor Bob Morris opened his look into the future with what he referred to as the highest priority of any government, public safety.

"We've completed a number of studies and Cave Creek Road stands out as a really well-known problem with vehicle pedestrian accidents," Morris said. "You probably know some activity in town to attack this. It's multidimensional. The first step is well underway – it has been for over a year – and that is increased law enforcement. First of all, we have traffic stops

by our own marshal. We have dedicated and increased the sheriff's department officers that are also making speeding stops. And we have a volunteer retired sheriff's department crew as well, so there are three big groups out there giving tickets."

The mayor noted that 70% of the tickets being given out are to Cave Creek residents.

In addition to an increase in patrols, the city is finishing up a project that is adding more parking, walkways, barriers and three lighted crosswalks in order to ensure pedestrian safety.

The town will also be implementing an improved process for its community grant program that is designed to direct a modest portion of Cave Creek's financial resources to other nonprofit organizations that provide services that typically governments would supply in other areas. Applications can be made by any 501(c)(3) organization or charity.

"Those will be evaluated by a five-person crew. It will be one councilmember, two residents, one business leader and one senior staff member," Morris said.

"And they will make a recommendation to Council for approval on which of the organizations should receive the funds. It's really nice to be in a position like this. The town was not always in the kind of financial position that we are in right now. We have almost two years' worth of general fund

revenues in the bank and ready to go."

Cave Creek, according to Morris, is on an upward trajectory financially as it has been able to reduce the town debt from \$73 million to about \$20 million.

Water was an important topic during the state of the town, as Morris noted that Cave Creek is just a few years away from having its growth limited by water.

"We're taking some steps to try to solve that, but our state doesn't have any more water," Morris said. "There is water being put in the ground out near Tonopah in a Central Arizona Project reservoirs. So, we have a year supply, and if we have any deep curtailment, we would first try to solve that curtailment with conservation (efforts), but we have that water sitting there and we either trade or we can pop it out of the ground, put it into the canal and bring it into town."

The town also purchased almost 600 acre-feet of lower priority water, which can't be used for domestic purposes but can be helpful in the future.

Morris then went on to discuss something he described as near and dear to his heart: the Phoenix Interconnect project. The project is essentially a backup for the 13-mile pipeline that the town currently relies on to get water through Phoenix. The city of Phoenix is building a pipeline up to Cave Creek that the town will then tie into by building a new facility with storage tanks and pumps to ensure that if something

happens to the original pipeline, the town can still supply water.

"We've got to keep our equipment rolling, we've got to protect this town, and this project here is probably the single biggest fix we have that we can deal with," Morris said.

"It's going to be expensive, but we're looking at a bright future even for the water companies because when those bonds are paid off, that's going to leave us financial room to reduce rates or improve the reliability of the system."

That backup pipeline is expected to be operational in spring of 2026.

There is a vote happening on July 30, and Morris highlighted two items he thinks voters should prioritize, the first being the Alternative Expenditure Limitations — also known as the Home Rule — which needs to be reapproved by voters.

"If we can't do that (get a yes vote) we can't supply fire, we can't supply police, we can't fix the roads," Morris said. "The town would come to a halt because we can only spend \$6 million, in other words about 10% of what we're spending this year, so it is vitally important for the town's health that it receives a yes vote."

The second item has to do with term limits. Currently, Cave Creek is one of the only towns where the mayor and town council are up for election every two years. Morris is encouraging voters to match what other cities like Scottsdale, Chandler and Phoenix have in

place and increase the terms to four years instead of two, ensuring a more experienced council and mayor.

Morris wrapped up the State of the Town by emphasizing the movement and growth that Cave Creek is seeing.

“The town is on the move, the trajectory is straight up and we would like you all to be a part of that,” Morris said.

“Join us at meetings, make your voice heard by candidates who are going to support your vision of the town and let’s make Cave Creek even better.”

Landsea Homes sells out 140 homes at Sunset Farms in Tolleson

AZBigMedia
March 6, 2024

Landsea Homes Corporation, a publicly traded residential homebuilder, announced today its new home community, Sunset Farms in Tolleson, Arizona has officially sold out.

“Sunset Farms was a highly sought after community that showcased our quality High Performance Homes that homebuyers gravitated toward immediately,” said Todd Condon, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Arizona division, Landsea Homes. “The sellout of Sunset Farms demonstrates our commitment to creating one-of-a-kind homes that homebuyers can make their own. We are proud to offer several other opportunities to own a home in

desirable cities across Maricopa County.”

Sunset Farms’ exclusive collection of 140 single-family homes, situated in the Phoenix metropolitan area and close to **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**, is a vibrant community that merges small-town living charm with accessible big city perks. Sunset Farms provides a range of amenities for any active family lifestyle including landscaped parks, walking trails, and playgrounds.

Sunset Farms is in the center of it all, with nature, recreation, leisure and even hometown employment opportunities in local aerospace and manufacturing companies.

All homes at Sunset Farms include Landsea Homes’ High Performance Home features, which gives homebuyers connected living at their fingertips through a partnership with Apple®, providing ease, security and privacy.

Last month, Landsea Homes closed on 145 new homesites in Victory at Verrado, a 55+ active adult neighborhood in the Verrado master-planned community located in scenic Buckeye. These new homes will be an extension of Landsea Homes’ existing Skye Ridge at Victory neighborhood, which is almost sold out.

For a list of all Arizona communities currently selling or coming soon by Landsea Homes, visit: <https://landseahomes.com/arizona/>.

Mayor’s Corner

By Sonoran News
March 5, 2024

Dear Residents and Merchants,

March is a great month in the Cave Creek! The weather will be perfect for enjoying all the Cave Creek Rodeo Days events, shopping, dining, and of course our parks and trails, the crown jewels of the Town.

The Town of Cave Creek maintains a network of multi-use trails that connect portions of town, providing access to **Cave Creek Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area**, the Tonto National Forest, and linkages to the 314-mile Maricopa Trail and the Desert Foothills Land Trust properties. These trails offer hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Each year, however, several people need to be rescued while hiking. Please read my article in this newsletter on how to safely enjoy these trails.

March weather can be beautiful, but let’s enjoy it – safely. (Source: Mayor’s Corner, Town of Cave Creek)
Mayor Bob Morris
Cave Creek

Phoenix Awaits Flourish of Wildflowers as Arizona Deserts Set to Bloom

Source: Facebook/ASU Sustainability Practices
By [David Martinez](#)
Published on March 04, 2024
Hoodline

The deserts of Arizona are gearing up for a colorful show as wildflowers begin to blanket the terrain, creating a must-see spectacle for nature lovers and photographers alike. With a rainy winter contributing to above-average precipitation levels in the Valley, blooms are expected to be plentiful although not quite rivaling last year's rare "superbloom," according to a report by 12 News. Angelica Elliot from the Desert Botanical Garden told 12 News, "I think it's gonna be a really good year to see wildflowers in the desert." For those in and around Phoenix, the timing couldn't be more perfect, with March and April pegged as peak months for poppy sightings in the Valley's lower elevations, with higher altitudes following suit in May, 12 News reported. Despite last year's super bloom, caused by a dry winter followed by a wet one, this season still promises a dazzling floral display thanks to the winter rains, a key ingredient for spectacular blooms, Elliot said in a statement obtained by 12 News.

When setting out for wildflower watching, visitors should be mindful of their surroundings. Michelle Thompson of Arizona State Parks and Trails emphasized the importance of staying on designated trails and resisting the urge to pick the flowers. "Enjoy the flowers, take pictures of the flowers, but stay on the trail and don't pick the flowers. Anything you pick now means that you won't have flowers in the future," she told 12 News. Among the prime locations for wildflower

sightseeing is Picacho Peak State Park, known for its striking displays of poppy fields easily viewed from the road.

The Bajada, Las Lomitas, and Ranger Kiwanic areas at South Mountain Park and Preserve are hotspots for seasonal color, with accessible trails for all levels of hikers, according to Visit Phoenix. And it's not just about the views—conservation is a critical component of the experience. Treating these natural areas with respect by not disturbing the wildlife or picking the flowers ensures these floral wonders continue to thrive for future generations. From the easy strolls along Apache Wash Trailhead to the more strenuous passages such as the Pass Mountain loop at **Usery Mountain Regional Park**, there's a trail and a bloom scene for every preference. Not to be overlooked are the trails surrounding Piestewa Peak and Dreamy Draw Recreation Area, where a variety of blooms are typically on display, beckoning hikers with paths lined with the season's colorful offerings. Whether it's the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Lost Dutchman State Park, or **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**, each locale provides a unique backdrop to Arizona's wildflower season, painting a picture of vivacious hues and scenic landscapes.

St. Joseph the Worker hosts annual Hike for Hope in Fountain Hills

All proceeds will directly empower the nonprofit in eliminating obstacles to employment, equipping clients with the necessary resources to achieve financial success and self-sufficiency. (File Photos/DigitalFreePress) April 2024 Hike for Hope marks 26 years of event Staff Reports | Digital Free Press

From 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 6, St. Joseph the Worker is host its 26th Annual Hike for Hope at **McDowell Mountain Regional Park's** Pemberton Trailhead, 16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive in the Town of Fountain Hills.

The Hike for Hope event offers participants a choice between a 1.5-mile or 4.5-mile hike, offering a fun and interactive way for people of all ages and their pets to make a difference in the community, according to a press release.

Registration is \$50 for adults and \$10 for all children under the age of 13 and includes an adult T-shirt and breakfast with coffee.

All proceeds will directly empower the nonprofit in eliminating obstacles to employment, equipping clients with the necessary resources to achieve financial success and self-sufficiency, the release states.

"As we embark on our 26th Annual Hike for Hope, we are reminded of the power of community and compassion," said Carrie Masters, CEO of St. Joseph the Worker. "Through this event, we not only raise vital

funds but also awareness and hope for those striving for financial independence. Inspiring change, step by step, towards a brighter future for all.”

With a goal of raising \$100,000, SJW has implemented a friendly competition leaderboard on the event page, which highlights the top fundraisers. Hike for Hope participants can register and make donations as individuals or teams.

The top two individual fundraisers will be given prizes. Teams are also encouraged to come in costume. The best team costume will receive a catered lunch for 10 by Helpings Cafe, a social enterprise that helps end homelessness in our community.

In addition, SJW is organizing a 50/50 raffle for the event. Tickets can be purchased online here or on-site for \$5 each, with the option to bundle three tickets for \$10 or six tickets for \$20. The winner will receive 50% of the raffle proceeds, while the remaining 50% will directly support SJW. The drawing will take place on the day of the event, and participants do not need to be present to win.

Founded in 1988, St. Joseph The Worker offers free employment services through its Employment Without Barriers Program and transitional housing through its Workforce Villages program. In fiscal year 2023, SJW provided its services to more than 10,000 individuals, a 37% increase over the previous year and the largest number of clients served in its 35-year history.

The organization extends its reach to clients residing in more than 50 ZIP codes across the Valley through its three locations.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix, Scorpion Bay at Lake Pleasant ready for a busy spring

[CITYSunTimes](#)

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Temperatures in the Valley will soon be heating up and locals will be seeking cool refuge at nearby lakes and local waterparks.

Both Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix and Scorpion Bay at Lake Pleasant are ready to welcome guests back to the water and are gearing up for what’s expected to be a busy season.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix

Hiring is currently underway at Hurricane Harbor as they prepare to open their gates to Arizona residents and visitors spending spring break here in the Valley.

“We are so excited for this upcoming season and can’t wait to welcome back guests to the waterpark,” said Hurricane Harbor General Manager Tim Baxter.

“We kick off the season March 13 when students are on spring break and we move to seven days a week at the end of May, so we encourage locals to come out and enjoy the waterpark

when the weather is absolutely perfect.”

Hurricane Harbor is the state’s largest water park with more than 35 acres to enjoy. With more than 30 attractions for guests of all ages and levels of adventure, there’s something for everyone, including: North America’s first gravity-defying dueling water roller coaster, a refreshing interactive water play structure with an overhead tipping bucket, slides and a 4,700 square-foot splash pool.

Rated one of the top rides in the nation, a park favorite catapults riders into a 45-foot-tall funnel and drops them into a swirling splashdown pool. Guests can also relax in a winding river and 550,000 gallon wave pool which delivers four-foot swells.

Additional park highlights include Paradise Island’s dueling basketball court and hoops, beach-style zero-depth entry area and expanded food service options.

Hurricane Harbor is located at 4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road in Glendale. Visit sixflags.com/phenix to learn more.

Scorpion Bay

Just a few miles north of Hurricane Harbor you’ll find [Scorpion Bay](#), Lake Pleasant’s premier recreation destination with a wide variety of activities available to keep locals cool without having to head north. The marina is home to the recently launched and incredibly popular floating cabins. The cabins are anchored along the marina’s western-most dock, giving guests an expansive view

of the lake and surrounding vistas. With five cabins available, guests can choose from the smaller, one-bedroom, one-bath cabin or the larger four-bedroom, two-bath option. The smaller cabin sleeps four, the larger sleeps eight.

“The floating cabins make lake life accessible to people who otherwise wouldn’t be able to enjoy time on the water like this,” said Scorpion Bay General Manager Lynn Lovelady. “We call it luxury on the lake; all you have to do is bring your food and personal items and we take care of the rest.”

In addition to cabin rentals, Scorpion Bay guests can enjoy Paqua Park, the state’s only floating obstacle course, rent pontoon and ski boats, jet skis, kayaks or spend time at the Scorpion Bay Grille or on the marina’s two 32-foot double-deck charter boats.

This past fall the marina launched its monthly sunset cruise. On the last Saturday of the month, guests can board one of the charter boats and enjoy the stunning sunset views on the lake.

“Whether you have a few hours or a few days to spend with us, we’re glad you’re here and we can provide endless ways for you to have fun and cool off,” said Lovelady. “There’s something for everyone within a variety of budgets, so if you’ve never been out to Scorpion Bay, we can’t wait to meet you.”

To learn more, visit scorpionbayaz.com.