



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



neepster

Hip and Cool: Phoenix Top Picks

Scottsdale, Phoenix, 2 Days

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- Scottsdale Snapshot 8
- Phoenix Snapshot 9

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Everyone needs a little rejuvenating now and then. Phoenix is home to an eclectic collection of world-class resorts, golf courses, shopping, galleries, spas, restaurants and outdoor destinations. Guests can start the day at the golf course soaking up a little Arizona sunshine, then refresh at spa. An afternoon hike followed by an art walk can round out the day.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Phoenix

DAY NOTE: The highlight--literally--of the day is likely to be The Hot Air Company. a romantic sunrise together overlooking the Sonoran Desert, one of the best known hot air ballooning areas in the entire world. The experience includes hotel transfers, a traditional post-flight ceremony with champagne and commemorative certificate, and a sit-down breakfast featuring quiche and chocolate croissants. All major credit cards are accepted.



Hot Air Balloon Company (The)

To the moon and back!



Vincent on Camelback

France meets the American southwest

Day 2 - Scottsdale, Phoenix

DAY NOTE: Make time for the Desert Botanical Gardens, where you can stroll together through the world's finest collection of arid-land plants from deserts of the world in a spacious outdoor setting. The Desert Botanical Garden has more than 50,000 desert plants on display. Five thematic trails illustrate topics including conservation, desert living, plants and people of the Sonoran Desert and desert wildflowers. The Garden offers destination weddings and receptions, specialized tours, special events, seasonal exhibits, concerts, family activities, an outdoor café and a botanical shop.



Marquesa

Picturesque place for paella



Desert Botanical Gardens

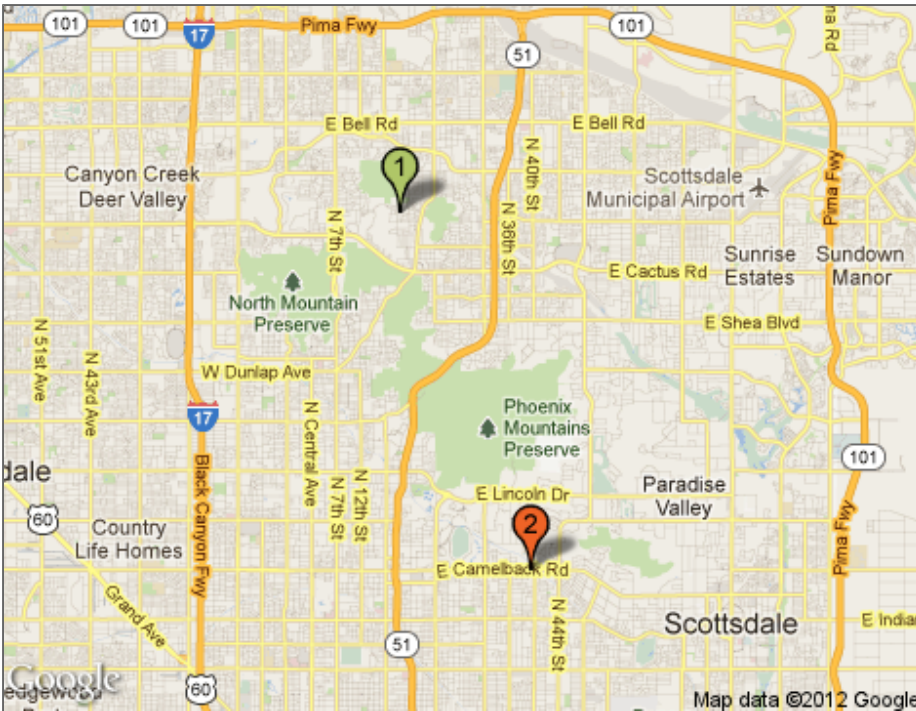
Bringing the Sonoran Desert to life



The Bamboo Club

Posh Pan Pacific

Day 1 - Phoenix



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: The highlight--literally--of the day is likely to be The Hot Air Company. a romantic sunrise together overlooking the Sonoran Desert, one of the best known hot air ballooning areas in the entire world. The experience includes hotel transfers, a traditional post-flight ceremony with champagne and commemorative certificate, and a sit-down breakfast featuring quiche and chocolate croissants. All major credit cards are accepted.

contact:

tel: +1 602 482 6030 / +1 800 843 5987 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 602 482 8695
<http://www.arizonaballooning.com/>

location:

1833 East Redfield Road
Phoenix AZ 85022

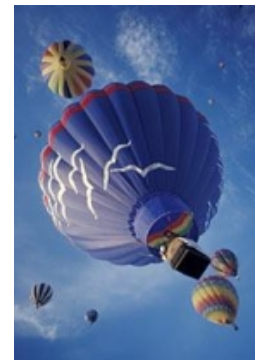
hours:

Office Hours: 10a-8p M-Su



Hot Air Balloon Company (The)

DESCRIPTION: This adventure flight gives you the opportunity to beat the laws of nature and experience what flying actually feels like. You can fly over the beautiful Monument Valley and the scenic landscapes of the city in your hot air balloon and enjoy either the brilliant morning sunshine as it fills into the air or then catch the last few sparks of the setting sun as it disappears beyond those mountain-tops. All you need is a sense of adventure and a zest for fun, and your camera, of course. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 1 602 224 0225
fax: +1 602 956 5400
<http://www.vincentsoncamelback.com/>

location:

3930 East Camelback Road
Phoenix AZ 85018

hours:

Lunch: 11:30a-2:30p Tu-F,
Dinner: 6p-10:30p Tu-F,
5:30p-10:30p Sa, closed Su-M

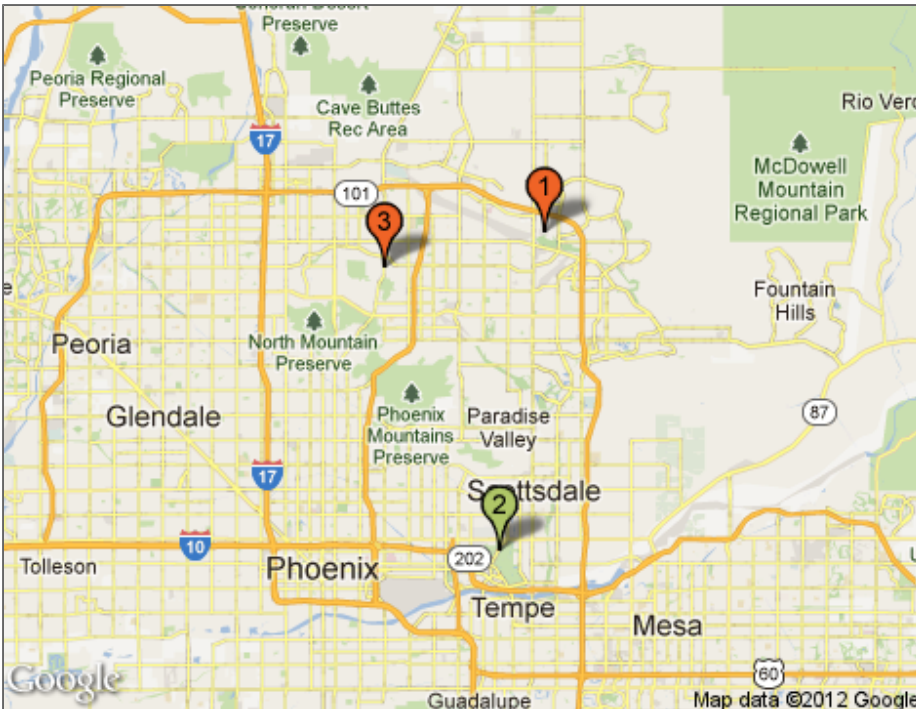
2 Vincent on Camelback

DESCRIPTION: This local institution is known for its successful fusion of French technique and Southwestern flavors. Chef Vincent Guerithault became the face of fine dining in the Valley in the 1980s when he pioneered his brand of French-Southwestern cuisine. Try the duck tamale as an appetizer, the lobster chimichangas, duck confit with candied citrus, salmon with chipotle buerre blanc, and for dessert, a decadent assortment of creme brulee and souffles. The inviting, Porvencal ambiance make for a perfect night out.
© NileGuide



Vincent on Camelback

Day 2 - Scottsdale, Phoenix



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Make time for the Desert Botanical Gardens, where you can stroll together through the world's finest collection of arid-land plants from deserts of the world in a spacious outdoor setting. The Desert Botanical Garden has more than 50,000 desert plants on display. Five thematic trails illustrate topics including conservation, desert living, plants and people of the Sonoran Desert and desert wildflowers. The Garden offers destination weddings and receptions, specialized tours, special events, seasonal exhibits, concerts, family activities, an outdoor café and a botanical shop.

contact:
tel: 1 480 585 4848

1 Marquesa

location:
7575 East Princess Drive
Scottsdale AZ 85255

DESCRIPTION: Honored by Zagat's Survey as a top restaurant, you will not be disappointed with the fare. A terrific selection of tapas (appetizers) is available, plus authentic entrees like Cuiinat de Peix amb Salsa Romesco, Tarragona-style Seafood in a Romesco sauce with black risotto; and Xai Rostit i Salsitxes and roasted lamb loin wrapped in cabbage with chorizo, artichokes, potato gratin and a stone-ground mustard-rosemary sauce. Located at the beautiful Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. . © wcities.com

hours:
6p-10p M-Th, 6p-11p F-Sa,
10a-10p Su

contact:
tel: +1 480 941 1225
<http://www.dbg.org>

2 Desert Botanical Gardens

location:
1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix AZ 85008

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Check the their website to see what's happening at the garden during your visit.

hours:

DESCRIPTION: The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix is handily one of the city's best attractions. The Sonoran Desert comes to life in the miles of paved garden paths,



Desert Botanical Garden

Oct-Apr daily 8am-8pm; May-Sept daily 7am-8pm

dusty nature trails, and interpretive displays. In recent years, the Garden has become a nexus of cultural activity, hosting wine tastings, seasonal fairs, music in the garden series, and outdoor art exhibits from world-renown artist. Truly one of the most beautiful places to visit in the Valley of the Sun.
© NileGuide

contact:

tel: 1 602 955 1288

location:

15236 North Cave Creek Road
Phoenix AZ 85032

hours:

11:30a-11p M-Th, 11:30a-midnight F-Sa, 5p-11p Su

3 The Bamboo Club

DESCRIPTION: Owner Debbie Bloy, Chef Kwan Sun and the staff here turn out innovative Pan-Asian cuisine. The eatery displays elegant Asian-inspired black and gold decor with an abundance of bamboo in furnishings and accessories. The menu is divided into categories like steamed, noodle, barbecued and so on. Some examples: Steamed Whole Red Snapper with Ginger & Lite Soya; Hawaiian Macadamia Nut Chicken; Bamboo Beijing Duck with Asian Pancakes; Sizzling Benihana Steak on Seasonal Vegetables. © wcities.com

Scottsdale Snapshot

Local Info

Scottsdale once made a name for itself as "the West's most Western town," but today the city is better known for its manicured streets, fashionable restaurants, shops, and nightlife, as well as its scenic location in the northern reaches of the Sonoran Desert. Scottsdale draws thousands of visitors every year who come to soak up the sunshine, relax at local resorts, or simply enjoy the natural beauty of the desert. But Scottsdale is more than a resort town. The city has a strong arts and culture scene, architectural wonders by Frank Lloyd Wright and Paolo Soleri, and frequently ranks high on lists as one of the country's "most livable" cities.

Scottsdale, one of the most affluent areas in Arizona and the country, is bordered to the west by Phoenix and Paradise Valley, to the north by the small town of Carefree, to the south by Tempe, and to the east by Fountain Hills and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. The McDowell Mountains loom over central Scottsdale, separating the city from the neighboring town of Fountain Hills. The city of roughly half a million people can be divided into four distinct areas.

Old Town Scottsdale

The city touts its Western heritage in the pedestrian-friendly downtown area,

featuring Southwestern-themed statuary, tourist shops, art galleries, nightclubs and restaurants. A free neighborhood trolley traverses downtown, stopping at designated points of interests every fifteen minutes. The high-end Scottsdale Fashion Square, one of the country's most profitable malls, is also located in Old Town. Also in downtown is the Scottsdale Waterfront, a 1.1 million square foot project that includes high-rise retail and office buildings and two 13-story residential buildings facing the Arizona Canal. Still in development, it's projected that about five miles of the area will become open public space that will include recreation paths, an outdoor amphitheater, and public art.

South Scottsdale

Just south of the downtown area, South Scottsdale is considered the most working class part of the city and represents the least expensive place to live within city limits. South Scottsdale abuts the city of Tempe, and much of this part of the city resembles its college town neighbor to the south. Here you'll find an ample supply of small bars and restaurants that cater to the large student population that drifts into Scottsdale on a regular basis.

North Scottsdale

Home to multimillion dollar homes set against the scenic backdrop of the Sonoran

Desert, North Scottsdale represents one of the most expensive zip codes in the United States. Once the least developed, more rural part of Scottsdale, the area has seen significant development in recent years, with the residential boom attributed partly to the growth of the Scottsdale Airpark, one of the largest employers in the Phoenix Metroarea. The Airpark is home to the company headquarters of major companies such as Fidelity Investments, GE Capital, Discount Tire Company, The Vanguard Group, and others.

The Shea Corridor

The east-west corridor along Shea Boulevard encompasses most of central Scottsdale. Many of the housing developments in this area were built in the 1970s and have increased in value over the years, including highly desirable communities such as McCormick Ranch and Gainey Ranch. The area is also home to the so-called Resort Corridor, for the abundance of resort hotels located along Scottsdale Road, including the Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas, FireSky Resort and Spa, and the projected Ritz Carlton to be located in the area.

© NileGuide

Phoenix Snapshot

Local Info

Love it or hate it, this sprawling desert metropolis has become one of the biggest, most modern cities in the American West. Rising from the ashes of the Hohokam civilization, Phoenix transitioned from dusty agricultural farm town to gleaming city of nearly two million residents (the population doubles if you include the suburbs) in the blink of an eye. Although the city keeps a low profile and is more famous for its suburban sprawl than tourist attractions, the city will reward your persistence if you take the time to seek out its hidden treasures.

Downtown Phoenix

Downtown Phoenix is still not what one would hope for in a city of this size, but development has been growing steadily over the years and there's plenty to see and do. The recent inauguration of the Arizona State University Downtown Campus has brought some much-needed new blood to downtown, with new student-centered businesses and living facilities adding a whole new energy to the area. Perhaps the biggest boon to downtown Phoenix in years is the new light rail system that connects downtown to points north and east, and makes it easier than ever to get around downtown.

Downtown becomes a frenzy of big-city pedestrian activity and traffic jams during major events. The Phoenix Suns play at the U.S. Airways Center, and the Arizona Diamondbacks are just a stone's throw away at Chase Field--expect big traffic delays during a game day. The Phoenix Civic Center drives traffic into the area with an ongoing schedule of national conferences and events, and visitors have plenty of choices in terms of museums and attractions. The Arizona Science Center is a favorite with kids and adults alike, while the Phoenix Art Museum regularly brings world-class exhibits to the Valley of the Sun. Other top museum destinations include the world-famous Heard Museum, home to one of the largest collections of Native American artwork, pottery, textiles, and jewelry, and the popular Phoenix Children's Museum, featuring hands-on exhibitions and activities for children of all ages.

The Downtown Phoenix Business Improvement District (formerly known as Copper Square) is the sleek 90-square

block nucleus of shops, eateries, and businesses. Here you can observe office workers criss-crossing the busy streets at lunchtime, with a slew of sandwich shops and cafes feeding the downtown masses with impressive speed. After business hours, however, the business district can start to look like a ghost town.

West Phoenix

The Westside, which makes up a large part of the Valley of the Sun, is a gathering of suburban neighborhoods largely developed throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Generally speaking, the homes and communities get newer the further west you drive, although there are pockets of historic points of interest. For vintage charm, check out Historic Downtown Glendale, touted as "Arizona's Antique Capital." Indeed, there's much antique hunting to be done at the shops of Caitlin Court.

Concertgoers should familiarize themselves with Cricket Pavilion, home to annual music festivals and major touring acts. Desert Sky Mall caters to West Valley's Latino population, while Arrowhead Towne Center in Peoria is a mecca for suburban shoppers. The Westside got a big shot in the arm with the development of the recent Westgate City Center, billed as "Times Square in the Desert," featuring chic boutiques, eateries, and multiplex movie theater. Westgate is home to the Phoenix Coyotes, who play at Jobbing.com arena, and just a stone's throw away is the huge University of Phoenix Stadium--lovingly nicknamed the Spaceship or Toaster by the locals--where NFL action looms large every Sunday in the fall with the Arizona Cardinals.

South Phoenix

This is one of the oldest parts of Phoenix and home to South Mountain Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. Dobbins Lookout is located at 2330, the highest point in the park, and is easily accessible by car. Make sure to stop by for amazing panoramic views of the city. Horse rentals and trail hiking make this a perfect spot to spend the day.

South Phoenix is a culturally diverse area with thriving Latino and African-American communities. For comfort food ecstasy, South Phoenix is home to perennial favorites like Carolina's Mexican Food and

traditional soul food at Lo-Lo's Chicken and Waffles and Mrs. White's Golden Rule Cafe.

Northwest

A mix of old and new, the Northwest Valley is comprised of communities like Peoria, Glendale, Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, and Surprise. Sun City and Sun City West are large active living retirement communities. Some of the best hiking in the Valley of the Sun can be found at White Tank Mountain Regional Park, and animal lovers can get an eyeful at the Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium.

East Side

Some of the oldest and most exclusive communities in the Phoenix area are located on the Eastside. The Valley's rich and famous find their sanctuary among the red rocks and hills of Paradise Valley, while Scottsdale remains a major draw for its high-end boutiques, art galleries, and fabulous resorts. For exclusive shopping, dining, and weekly outdoor markets, the Borgata of Scottsdale brings a unique Mediterranean-in-the-Desert flavor to North Scottsdale.

Tempe, located south of Scottsdale, brings college town amenities and energy to the Valley of the Sun. Arizona State University, one of the biggest universities in the country, is the beating heart of Tempe. Mill Avenue, with its assortment of hamburger joints, cafes, boutiques, and bars, is the major artery and gathering point, home to the Tempe Festival of the Arts and major Fourth of July Festivities. Tempe Beach Park, built around the wide, artificial Tempe Towne Lake, offers temporary respite from the desert with boat rides, walking trails, and snack kiosks selling premium gelato.

Further east are the cities of Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert. Mesa, once a busy agricultural community, is now a major city boasting the Mesa Arts Center complex and a busy downtown area. Chandler too has experienced a renaissance, with downtown receiving a major face-lift, and a full performing arts schedule showing at the Chandler Center for the Arts.

Continuing east we find Mesa, Chandler and Gilbert. Chandler remained largely an agricultural community until a growth spurt, which began in the 1970s. Much of this area houses young families and

Phoenix Snapshot continued

middle-class professionals in stucco and tile developments. Local shopping is enjoyable at the Superstition Springs Center Mall at

the northwest corner of Highway 60 and Power Road.

© NileGuide