



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



neepster

Romantic Weekend in Phoenix

Scottsdale, Phoenix, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Couples looking for the perfect place to have a destination wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway need not look farther than the intimate and breath-taking location of Phoenix. Warm weather, star-filled nights and natural beauty are the perfect combination for a romantic and luxurious wedding or vacation for lovebirds seeking a memorable experience. Nothing is more ideal than the desert resorts of Phoenix where couples can enjoy tranquil relaxation and adventurous excursions at the same time. Whether the style of the couple is traditional or casual, most hotels and golf courses in Phoenix offer bridal packages that include just about everything needed for the big day. A couple can exchange vows outside, in a hot air balloon, at a luxury resort or in a golf clubhouse. The choices are varied and can be catered to the couple's needs.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Scottsdale, Phoenix

DAY NOTE: There are boundless activities throughout the Phoenix area for couples to enjoy. Luxurious spas and world-class golf are available throughout Phoenix and active newlyweds can enjoy championship tennis, hiking or mountain biking. Agave, the Spa at the Westin, specializes in treatments based on Native traditions. Couples enjoy strolling together at Desert Botanical Gardens.



Agave the Spa at the Westin

Specializing in native American-based treatments



Desert Botanical Gardens

Bringing the Sonoran Desert to life

Day 2 - Phoenix, Scottsdale

DAY NOTE: Fly away together with a hot air balloon ride with Hot Air Expeditions, offering post-flight champagne and hotel transfers. The town of Scottsdale offers exciting shopping, art walks, nightlife and opportunities for romantic adventures. Barcelona offers intriguing Spanish cuisine and dancing.



Hot Air Expeditions Inc.

Fly away



Historic Heritage Square

Eight fully restored residences



Barcelona - Scottsdale

Elegant dining with dancing

Day 1 - Scottsdale, Phoenix

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: There are boundless activities throughout the Phoenix area for couples to enjoy. Luxurious spas and world-class golf are available throughout Phoenix and active newlyweds can enjoy championship tennis, hiking or mountain biking. Agave, the Spa at the Westin, specializes in treatments based on Native traditions. Couples enjoy strolling together at Desert Botanical Gardens.

contact:

tel: +1 480 624 1000

fax: +1 480 624 1001

http://www.kierlandresort.com/golf_spa/spa_main/index.htm

location:

6902 East Greenway Parkway
Scottsdale AZ 85254

1

Agave the Spa at the Westin

DESCRIPTION: Utilizing traditional native treatments handed down from Arizona's many cultures of healing, Agave, The Arizona Spa is a heavenly retreat designed to rejuvenate and renew the mind, body, and spirit. Serving as the spa's main inspiration, the indigenous agave plant is used in many of the treatments offered, providing guests with the benefits of its moisture-rich qualities. This full-service spa also showcases exclusive services developed by its own therapists as well as rare ancient treatments infused with the essence of the Far East.



Agave the Spa at the Westin

contact:

tel: +1 480 941 1225

<http://www.dbg.org>

location:

1201 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix AZ 85008

hours:

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

2

Desert Botanical Gardens

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Check the their website to see what's happening at the garden during your visit.

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, 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.

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Desert Botanical Garden

Day 2 - Phoenix, Scottsdale

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Fly away together with a hot air balloon ride with Hot Air Expeditions, offering post-flight champagne and hotel transfers. The town of Scottsdale offers exciting shopping, art walks, nightlife and opportunities for romantic adventures. Barcelona offers intriguing Spanish cuisine and dancing.

contact:

tel: +1 800 831 7610 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 602 867 2030
<http://www.hotairexpeditions.com>

location:

2243 East Rose Garden Loop
Phoenix AZ 85024

hours:

By reservation

1 Hot Air Expeditions Inc.

DESCRIPTION: As you ascend you will be astounded at how light you feel. Hovering over the valley, you can see and hear the life of the Sonoran desert. Upon landing, an elegant table setting, complete with tablecloth and china, awaits you. Delicacies prepared by a chef will whisk you away to a culinary wonderland. This is not for those on a tight budget but it's definitely worth the money spent for the memory created! The launch site is at Cave Creek and Jomax Road. Sunset flights operate seasonally, November through March. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 602 262 5071
fax: +1 602 262 6713
<http://phoenix.gov/PARKS/heritage.html>

location:

115 N. Sixth St
Phoenix AZ 85004

hours:

Varies with home, call for further information

2 Historic Heritage Square

DESCRIPTION: Recaptured elegance is displayed in homes from the original Phoenix town site. Located within the Heritage & Science Park are eight fully-restored residences listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Included is the Rosson House and Salt River Project's Silva House, a quaint 1900s bungalow. Both offer tours. Also featured is the Stevens House, built in 1901 and now better known as the Arizona Doll & Toy Museum. A farmers market is available seasonally on Thursdays. Bring cash. Credit cards are not accepted. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 480-603-0370
www.barcelonadining.com

location:

15440 Greenway Hayden-Loop
Scottsdale AZ 85260

3 Barcelona - Scottsdale

DESCRIPTION: Barcelona Scottsdale is the valley's premier destination for elegant dining. Live entertainment, cocktails and dancing, the award winning wine list, unique Mediterranean cuisine, and a dedicated staff will create a dining experience you will never forget.



Barcelona - Scottsdale

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.

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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.

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