



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



neepster

They should call it Freenix!

Phoenix, 2 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Phoenix is the fifth largest city in the United States, it is a place bursting with art, culture, amazing restaurants and natural beauty. It sounds expensive and off limits, but there are many many things that someone who wants to experience Phoenix can do without breaking the bank. There are countless art exhibits, ones that are world reknowned that will let you in for free like: the Fleischer Museum and the Phoenix Art Museum to name a few. There are also great restaurants that will not break the bank and fill you up perfectly. Phoenix is a beautiful area with amazing wildlife and scenery as well as art and culture. Make sure not to miss out on a great opportunity to visit Phoenix.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Phoenix

DAY NOTE: The Quality Inn Phoenix Hotel is the perfect place for the price-conscious traveler to stay. It has great location, just two miles from downtown, as well as free continental breakfasts and pools on site. Now are you ready for your free day of culture and refinement? There are four museums, all with different themes, that you can visit for free. The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art has a wide collection of photos, paintings and sculptures from around the globe. The Fleischer is an in depth look at the Impressionistic style of both painting and architecture. The Heard Museum is both a landmark and an art gallery. Created in the 20's, this museum is a tribute to the Native American Culture. There is also the Phoenix Art Museum which just underwent a huge remodel, and showcases Asian, Spanish, and Western American art. Whenever you are ready for lunch be sure to stop in at Medizona's which is one of the most happening places in Phoenix. They will treat both you and your wallet well with their low priced Greek and Southwestern dishes. For dinner be sure to stop in at Ayala's Fat Mexican, for some authentic Mexican food, in a homestyle environment. They also have a "gringo menu" for those who are not fans of Mexican. After a day in the hot sun, kick up your feet in the stadium style seating of the AMC Theatre, where you will enjoy seven dollar movies in their new facility.



Heard Museum

World-famous collection of Native American Art



Phoenix Art Museum

Paintings, sculpture and miniatures



Ayala's Fat Mexican

Spice up your life!



AMC Theatres - Arizona Center 24

Downtown Phoenix cineplex

Chinese Cultural Center. Here you will find markets, restaurants, and beautiful gardens and pavilions. There is also another great place nearby to take a walk and enjoy the beautiful day, and that is Encanto Park. There are many attractions at this 200 acre facility, ranging from nature trails, to basketball courts and fishing. There are enough activities in this free picnic and recreation area to please everyone. I'm sure you have worked up quite an appetite running around Encanto Park, so head over to Original Hamburger Works, where you will find big hamburgers for a little price. The relaxed atmosphere created by this restaurant carries over to the "Cheers" like bar in the back, a perfect place to enjoy your night.



Desert Botanical Gardens

Bringing the Sonoran Desert to life



Indian Delhi Palace

Yummy mango milkshakes



COFCO Chinese Cultural Center

Chinese gardens and pagodas



Encanto Park

Inner-city oasis



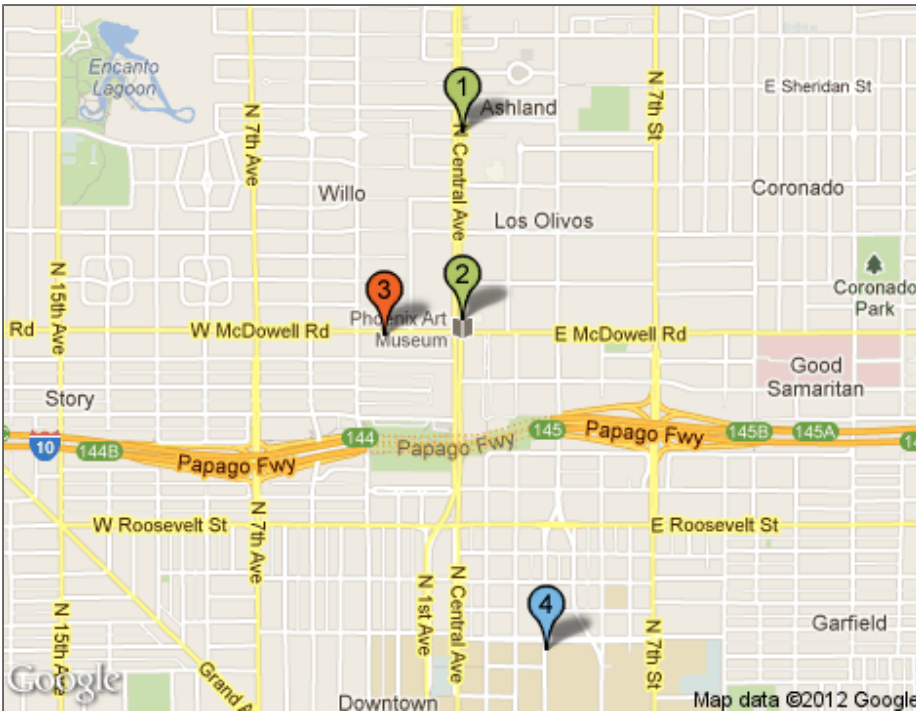
Original Hamburger Works

Mesquite-broiled burgers & all the fixin's

Day 2 - Phoenix

DAY NOTE: Today is about enjoying the beauty around you in Phoenix. After the free continental breakfast at the Quality Inn, head over to the Desert Botanical Gardens that will captivate you for hours with its array of over 20,000 desert flora species. This beautiful exhibit is incredibly inexpensive for those on a budget with tickets ranging from \$3.50 to \$7.50. After your trek through the desert be sure to take advantage of the Indian Delhi Palace and their all you can eat buffet, which has a wide array of authentic Indian cuisine. From India, take a trip to China as you walk through recreations of Chinese cities in the COFCO

Day 1 - Phoenix



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 602 252 8848
<http://www.heard.org/>

location:

2301 N. Central Ave
Phoenix AZ 85004

hours:

Mon-Sat 9:30am-5pm; Sun
11am-5pm

1 Heard Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Don't miss the gift shop, where you can find authentic, high-quality goods.

DESCRIPTION: The Heard Museum is one of Phoenix's biggest cultural treasures. Founded by pioneer settlers Dwight and Maie Heard, the couple built a large, Spanish-style building in which to house their growing collection of Native American art. Today, their home is one of the best museums in Phoenix, with galleries filled with textiles, jewelry, paintings, pottery, statuary, kachinas, and other art artifacts representing



Rail Life

tribes from across the Americas. The Heard is also a hub of culture events, sponsoring an ongoing film series and hosting numerous Indian art and dance events throughout the year.
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contact:

tel: +1 602 257 1880 (Office) /
+1 602 257 1222 (Info Line)
fax: +1 602 253 8662
<http://www.phxart.org>

location:

1625 N. Central Ave
Phoenix AZ 85003

hours:

Wed 10am-9pm; Thurs-Sat
10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm;
first Friday evenings 6-10pm

2 Phoenix Art Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The well-stocked gift shop is almost as much fun to browse as the art.

DESCRIPTION: The Phoenix Art Museum received a multimillion dollar expansion a few years ago, making a great museum even better. This has been Phoenix's main cultural hub since its founding in 1959, and the Museum shows no signs of slowing down, with high-profile exhibitions making a stop here on a regular basis. The impressive permanent collection includes works by Rembrandt, Frida Kahlo, and other art greats. The Museum also regularly hosts special film screenings, lectures, and other cultural events.

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Rancid Amoeba

contact:

tel: 1 623 463 0139

location:

149 West McDowell Road
Phoenix AZ 85003

hours:

10a-8:30p M-Sa, noon-8:30p
Su

3 Ayala's Fat Mexican

DESCRIPTION: The friendly staff at this neighborhood eatery will make you feel at home. Sit at booths in a simple dining area and choose Mexican favorites like deep-fried chimichangas with your choice of chili flavor and meat. Other tasty items like tamales, nachos, burros, enchiladas and, deep-fried ice cream are offered. For those with less of a taste for spice: check out the "Gringo Plates" section for burgers and chicken strips. A catering menu is offered; please call for further information. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 602 956 4262 / 602 307
5371
<http://www.amctheatres.com>

location:

565 North Third Street
Phoenix AZ 85004

hours:

0.0

4 AMC Theatres - Arizona Center 24

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy comfortable stadium seating while you watch your movie choice. This newer facility in the Arizona Center in downtown Phoenix is sure to please the avid moviegoer. You will smell the popcorn before you ever hit the door; a full snack bar is available in the lobby. Parking is nearby with easy access to shopping and restaurants. For current movie information, check their interactive Web site listed above. General admission is \$7; prices will vary, so please call for current pricing information. © wcities.com

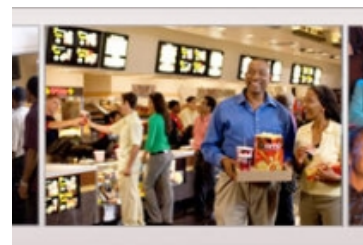
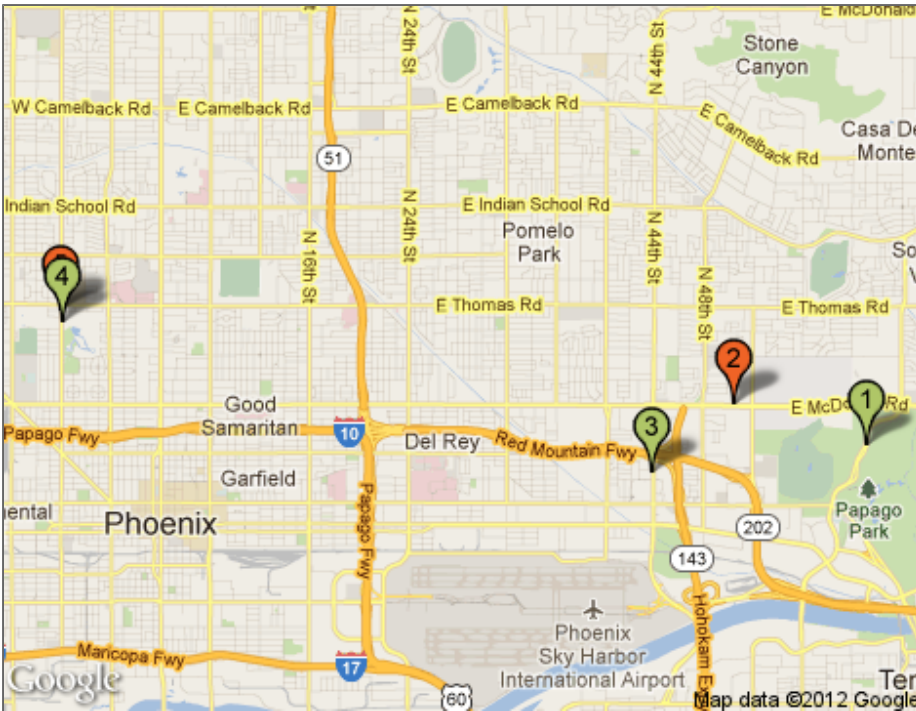


Photo courtesy of AMC Theatres

Day 2 - Phoenix



QUICK NOTE

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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

1 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.



Desert Botanical Garden

contact:
tel: 1 602 244 8181
<http://indiandelhipalace.com/>

location:
5050 East McDowell Road
Phoenix AZ 85008

hours:
11:30a-2:30p M-F, 5p-10p

2 Indian Delhi Palace

DESCRIPTION: This intimate, comfortable neighborhood diner offers an all-you-can-eat buffet at lunch every day. At dinner, select from a wide range of carefully spiced choices like the Chicken Dopiaza, cooked in tomatoes and onions then doused in mildly spiced gravy. Boneless Lamb Korma is also featured, combined with nuts, herbs, spices and yogurt sauce for an interesting taste treat. A wide selection of vegetable dishes is offered, including the lentil soup or the Aloo Gobhi, a concoction of potato and cauliflower. Beverages include Indian coffee, tea, and a mango or banana milkshake. Enjoy your selection at intimate little tables or take it back to your house. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Indian Delhi Palace

contact:
tel: +1 602 273 4628 / +1 602 275 8578
fax: +1 602 273 7156
<http://www.phxchinatown.com/>

location:
668 North 44th Street
Phoenix AZ 85008

3 COFCO Chinese Cultural Center

DESCRIPTION: Distinctive Asian shops and cuisine are surrounded by a traditional Chinese garden. Visit the upscale Asian supermarket for fresh fish daily. Gardens surrounding the area feature ponds and replicas of statuary and pagodas from cities in China. Restaurants like the Sampan Seafood Restaurant offer a variety of carefully prepared Asian cuisine. These gardens are located just south of Interstate-10 and 44th street, directly across from the Marriott Residence Inn downtown location. Admission is free; call for more information. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 602 261 8994
<http://www.ci.phoenix.az.us/PARKS/parks.html>

location:
2605 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85007

4 Encanto Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Encanto Park is home to the Enchanted Island, a small amusement park perfect for younger children.

DESCRIPTION: Encanto, which means "enchanted" in Spanish, is one of the largest and oldest municipal parks in the Phoenix area. The lush green environs are a welcome respite for visitors looking for a bit of shade, especially during warm weather days. Here you'll find joggers, central district employees having lunch, and families enjoying the on-site amusement park, Enchanted Island. At over 200 acres, the city park is well-equipped with amenities, including handball and racquet ball courts, lighted basketball courts, a softball field, and a large man-made lake featuring urban fishing, paddleboats, and canoes. The nearby Encanto municipal golf course is one of the oldest and most popular public courses in the area.

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contact:

tel: (602) 263-8693
<http://www.originalhamburgerworks.com/>

location:

2801 North 15th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85007

hours:

11a-10p M-Th, 11a-11p F-Sa,
11a-9p Su

5 Original Hamburger Works

DESCRIPTION: The Original Hamburger Works, located across the street from Phoenix College, has been a central Phoenix institution for locals who know where to go for some of the best mesquite-broiled hamburgers in the city. The burgers are cooked in front of your eyes over an open flame, then you get to pile on the toppings yourself at the legendary fixin's wagon. Also on the menu are chicken sandwiches, broiled fish sandwiches, grilled ham sandwiches, and a bevy of sides. Specialty burgers include the Border Burger, Bacon Cheese Burger, Classic Burger, Fiesta Burger, and Hawaiian Burger.
© NileGuide



Original Hamburger Works

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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