



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



neepster

Ultimate Family Five Day in Phoenix

Scottsdale, Chandler, Phoenix, Glendale, 5 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description	2
Itinerary Overview	3
Daily Itineraries	5
Scottsdale Snapshot	13
Phoenix Snapshot	14

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Phoenix is a rising mecca in the United States, it is a booming location that is bursting with art, such as the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, as well its natural beauties such as the Grand Canyon or its beautiful flora that is showcased all over the surrounding area. There is also plenty of fun to be had dining at such fun and delicious restaurants such as Mondo's barbeque or great authentic style pizza at Ray's. The Scottsdale Villa Mirage & Sunterra Resorts is sure to be a great home during your stay in Phoenix with its competitive rates as well as room amenities and great location.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1

DAY NOTE: Before you make way to your hotel it is best to get a rental car for your stay in Phoenix. The trick is to not rent from the airports because they have a huge upcharge. It is best to just take a taxi to another car rental agency and from there tell them that you want a "local rent" this will save you a good amount of money. Now that you have either your convertible or your minivan it is time to check into the Scottsdale Villa Mirage & Sunterra Resorts, your home for the next five days. And what a home it is, offering one and two bedroom condo style rooms for competitive prices. They also offer full kitchenettes as well as pool on site and barbeque areas, plenty to do while you are staying at the hotel. First stop Fleischer Museum, where you will enjoy over 300 paintings of Impressionist artists from all over the world. There is also a statue area if you prefer sculpture. This is a good way to start your trip because it is nice and low key, close to your hotel and free. Next stop Mondo's for some great Italian of Mexican food, make sure to try some of their delicious fresh baked bread. After you have filled up on some great food it is time to have some great fun at Crackerjax Family Fun and Sports Park, where you will have the options to do everything from miniature golf, to bumper cars as well as a driving range and even golf lessons for a fraction of the price of the resorts. Be sure to play the miniature golf course because it was voted best by the Phoenix New Times. When hunger comes calling you can either eat at Crackerjax or head over to the Capital Grille to enjoy some great steak or seafood. If you are wine lovers you will be sure to find the exact glass or bottle to accompany your dinner.

Day 2 - Phoenix, Scottsdale

DAY NOTE: Day two of your stay in Phoenix will be about the nature all around you. After breakfast at the Scottsdale Villa Mirage, it is off to the the Desert Botanical Gardens where you will encounter over 20,000 species of endangered desert flora. Be sure to remember as many types of flowers and cacti that you can because the information can be useful for later in the day. Before we put that information to use it is probably a good idea to fill up at Rays' Pizza because the mind does not work well on an empty stomach. Again you will be eating at a great restaurant, actually it is the "Best Pizza In Town". Remember that information about the cactus and other flora, well now is the time to use it, when you are on a Desert Storm Hummer Tour. These all terrain vehicles will wheel you into the Sonoran Desert and the Tonto National Forest. You will make your way to over 4,000 feet while on your journey through the desert. Once you have returned to civilization you can either attend the Annual Dinner in the Desert at the Desert Botanical Gardens or head over to The Downside Risk Grill & Bar. Either way you will be in for a great time, the Downside offers an array of sandwiches burgers and steaks, and

the Dinner in the Desert is a once yearly event that is as exciting itself at just having been there.



Desert Botanical Gardens
Bringing the Sonoran Desert to life



The Downside Risk Grill & Bar
Eating establishment

Day 3 - Phoenix, Glendale

DAY NOTE: Today is a good opportunity to make use of the full kitchenette in your hotel room at the Scottsdale Villa Mirage, because today is the Phoenix Zoo. There are many great picnic areas available at the zoo so why not take the opportunity to dine with friends, family and a local giraffe. Remember to bring your comfortable walking shoes and some sunscreen - you're in the desert of Africa, I mean Phoenix. It is the exhibits here at the zoo that will make you feel like you are in Africa, the Forest of Uco and African Trail should both be visited to get the full effect of the zoo. When you have had your fill of the zoo it is time to slip off those walking shoes and slide on some rollerblades or skates at Great Skate. This establishment is an old fashioned roller rink that combines great family fun with snack bars and arcade to bring the whole family together. Roller skating will work up quite an appetite but have no fear, Rosario Ristorante is here to provide you with authentic and affordable Italian food. These big meals are sure to hit the spot without putting a big hole in your bank account. There are many night life opportunities for you in Phoenix and none better than the Celebrity Theatre, where you and your family could have the opportunity to see your favorite artist perform.



Phoenix Zoo
Interactive, family-friendly zoo



Great Skate
Phoenix's largest and brightest rink.



Celebrity Theatre
Intimate music and comedy venue

Day 4 - Chandler, Scottsdale

DAY NOTE: Today will encompass a wide breadth of art, the kinds that are hung on walls and also the kind in which people fall or jump off walls. First stop the Scottsdale Museum

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

of Contemporary Art, where you will be able to enjoy a wide variety of artistic mediums, ranging from photos, paintings and sculptures. The exhibit is free on Thursdays so be sure to keep that in mind if you want to mix things up. Viewing art is hard work so be sure to stop in at Jewel of the Crown and enjoy their east Indian cuisine, which is not all spicy (although they can make it as spicy or as mild as you would like). They have something delicious for every individual. Rawhide 1880's Western Town is a totally different style of art, but art none the less. This is the recreation of an old western town that will be sure to delight the whole family, it has shopping, shows everywhere as well as rides and snack booths. It will be sure to make some other people happy being that admission is free. After your western adventure take a trip down south to dine at Jalapeno Inferno where you will be greeted with authentic Mexican food as well as one of the widest varieties of tequila. It has one of the rarest bottles of tequila making it quite the landmark itself. After your filling meal at Jalapeno Inferno it is time to settle down in a comfortable movie theatre seat and digest as you and your family enjoy the cool air conditioning at United Artists Theatres- Sonora Village.



Rawhide 1880s Western Town

A true old west experience



United Artists Theatres--Sonora Village

North Scottsdale location

Day 5 - Phoenix

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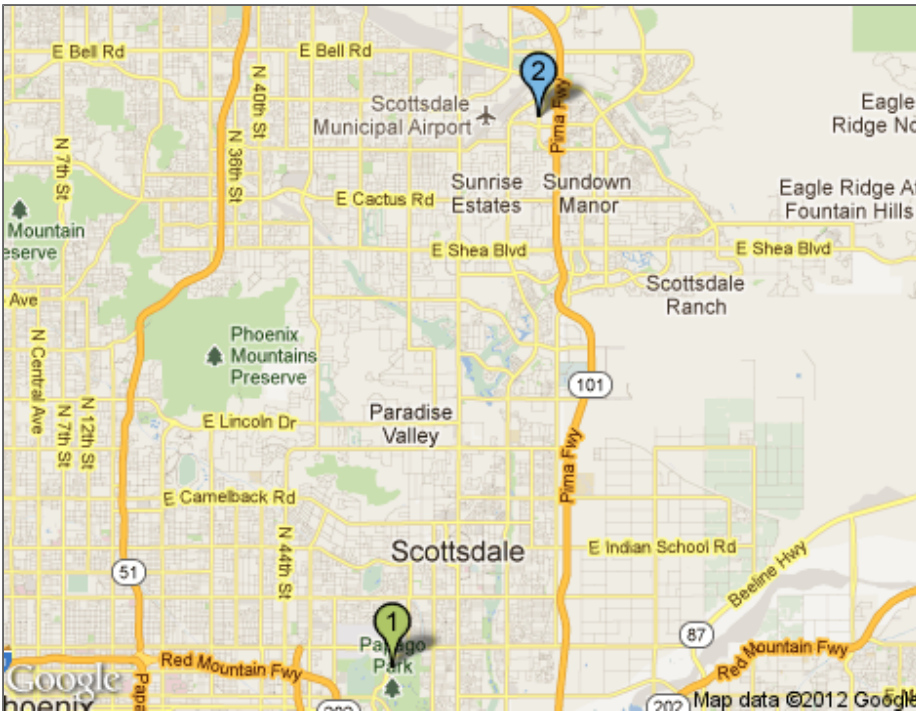
Vaughan's Southwest Custom Tours, Inc.

A glimpse of desert splendor

Day 1

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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: 480 609 7025

fax: +1 480 367 0486

<http://www.thedownsiderisk.com/locations.htm>

location:

14950 North Northsight
Boulevard
Scottsdale AZ 85260

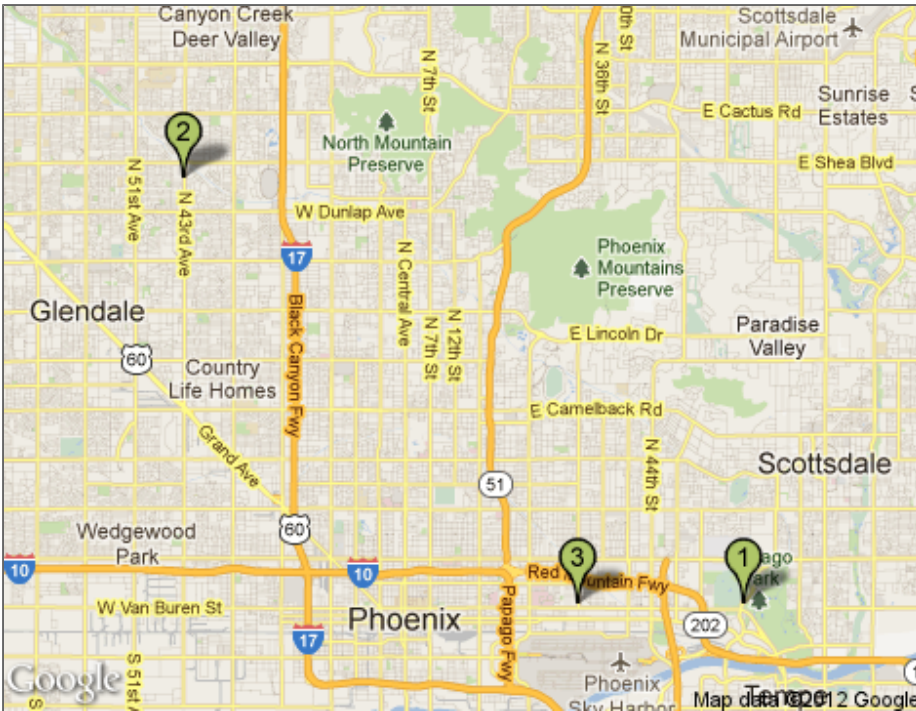
2 The Downside Risk Grill & Bar

DESCRIPTION: For more than a decade, this business has served as one of Scottsdale's favorite places to congregate for a casual lunch, an after-work drink, a date or a get-together with pals. As you walk into this branch, you'd be welcomed by the warm atmosphere created by the wooden floor, wooden paneling, comfortable tables and chairs. The highlight of the inner space is of course the fire place. A patio offers alfresco drinks and dining. The menu features mostly American-style entrees including steaks, sandwiches, burgers and pastas. © wcities.com



wcities

Day 3 - Phoenix, Glendale



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contact:
tel: +1 602 273 1341
fax: +1 602 273 7078
<http://www.phoenixzoo.org>

location:
455 North Galvin Parkway
Phoenix AZ 85008

hours:
Oct 1-Nov 3 and Jan 11-May 31 daily 9am-5pm; Nov 4-Jan 10 daily 9am-4pm; June-

1 Phoenix Zoo

DESCRIPTION: Located on 125 acres adjacent to Papago Park, the Phoenix Zoo has been entertaining visitors for a half-century. Four trails lead visitors into habitats replicating such habitats as a tropical rain forest and a African savanna. One of the most popular attractions is The Forest of Uco, which is home to the endangered spectacled bear from South America. On the interactive Discovery Trail, young children learn about small mammals, and even get chance to help milk a cow or groom a horse.
© NileGuide



Colorado Luis

Sept Mon-Fri 7am-2pm, Sat-Sun 7am-4pm

contact:

tel: +1 623 842 1181
<http://www.usa-skating.com/dynamic.asp>

location:

10054 North 43rd Avenue
Glendale AZ 85302

2 Great Skate

DESCRIPTION: Get ready for old-fashioned fun at the largest roller rink in the city. Skate to a dazzling laser light show, with disco balls spinning overhead. Video games circle the rink, with coin-operated pool tables scattered about. Getting tired? Pop into the snack bar for a quick nibble and the soda of your choice. Hours of operation vary with times set aside for adults, kids and parents, and the "come one, come all" sessions. © wcities.com



Affordable Family Fun Nights

contact:

tel: 602 267 1600
fax: 602 267 4882
<http://www.celebritytheatre.com/>

location:

85008

3 Celebrity Theatre

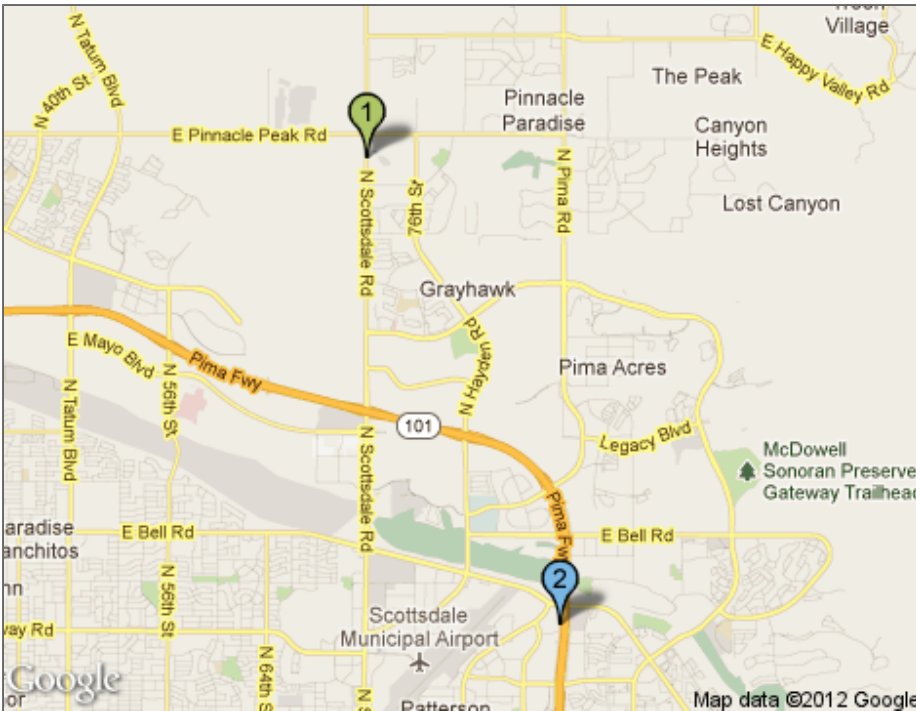
DESCRIPTION: This notable theater was built in the 60s, originally a conference center. Currently a venue for sound and stage, many popular artists utilize it for concerts. Ample secured parking. Call or visit the Web site for a current schedule of upcoming events. © wcities.com



hours:

Box Office: 10a-6p M-F,
10a-2p Sa

Day 4 - Chandler, Scottsdale



QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: +1 480 502 1880 / +1 800 527 1880
fax: +1 480 502 1301
<http://www.rawhide.com>

location:
5700 West Loop Road
Chandler AZ 85255

hours:
M-Th 6p-10p; F-Su 5:30p-10p

1 Rawhide 1880s Western Town

DESCRIPTION: Step back in time to the Wild Wild West in Arizona's largest western theme park. Be careful when you walk through the streets, you never know when a cattle rustler might get involved in a shoot-out. Rides and attractions are throughout the town. If shopping is your idea of fun, you won't be disappointed with more than 15 shops. You can even buy a rattler head for that special someone. Seasonal cookouts, a famous steak house and a saloon are open too; be careful, the sheriff does not like rowdies. Admission is free except



for special events. Please call for current information. ©
wcities.com

contact:
tel: 602 222 3456
<http://www.uatc.com>

location:
15512 North Pima Road
Scottsdale AZ 85254

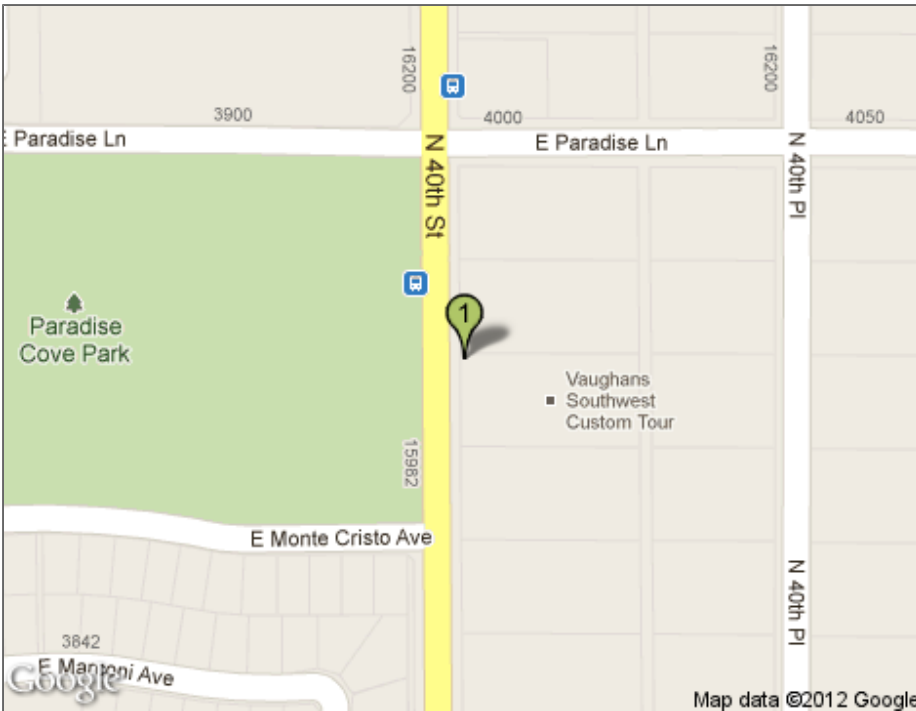
hours:
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2 United Artists Theatres--Sonora Village

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy an afternoon at the movies, find comfortable seats, ten viewing screens, state of the art digital Dolby/DTS systems and quality THX/ALL Stereo Sound Systems. Assisted listening devices are available in all theatres. Snack bar is provided, so you will not have to pop your own corn. There are lots of nearby shopping opportunities as well as dining choices. Try Flo's if you are hungry for Chinese. Admission: adults \$7; children 3-11 and seniors 60+ \$4; matinees before 6pm \$4. Show times vary, Call for schedule. ©
wcities.com



Day 5 - Phoenix



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Your last day here in beautiful Phoenix will take you to one of the most majestic places on earth, the Grand Canyon. Vaughn's Southwest Tours will be your guide as they take you through the Navajo Indian Reservation and to lunch at the famous Cameron Trading Post. This trip will begin around 8 am and send you home at around 8 pm. There will also be many opportunities to stop and shop at many of the gift stores and trading outposts. Remember all of those flowers and cactus you saw at the Desert Botanical Gardens? Now is when you get to see them in their natural homes. After your trip to the Grand Canyon be sure to enjoy a filling meal or delightful flat bread pizza and artisan salads at Oregano's Pizza Bistro, or return to your hotel and enjoy their room service.

contact:

tel: +1 602 971 1381/ +1 800
513 1381(toll free)
fax: +1 602 992 5596
<http://www.southwesttours.com>

location:

16015 North 40th Street
Phoenix AZ 85032

1 Vaughan's Southwest Custom Tours, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: While in Arizona take advantage of the many exciting places to explore with the Valley's oldest scheduled tour service. Pleasant guides transport you to such historic spots as the Grand Canyon, Montezuma's Castle National Monument and Sedona on full- or half-day tours. For a more international flair, experience Mexico and spend a glorious day filled with shopping, eating and exploring the San Xavier Mission. Custom tours are available for groups of any size. © 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