nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

neepster

Romantic Weekend in Phoenix

Scottsdale, Phoenix, 2 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2
Itinerary Overview 3
Daily Itineraries 4
Scottsdale Snapshot 6
Phoenix Snapshot 12

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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 togetherat 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

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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 togetherat Desert Botanical Gardens.

contact:
tel: +1 480 624 1000
fax: +1 480 624 1001
http://www.kierlandresort.com/golf_spa/spa_main/index.html

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.
© NileGuide

Desert Botanical Garden

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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

wcities

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

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

location:
15440 Greenway Hayden-Loop
Scottsdale AZ 85260

3 Barcelona - Scottsdale

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.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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 byPhoenix 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-endScottsdale 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 thePhoenix 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 theHilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas,FireSky Resort and Spa, and the projected Ritz Carlton to be located in the area.

© NileGuide

History

The historical roots of Scottsdale run deep in agriculture, which Native people were the first to develop. Prior to written history, the Hohokam farmed this area, from about 300-1500 CE. These resourceful people built a unique irrigation system that included more than 200 miles of complex canals. Believed to have originated in Mexico, the Hohokam traveled to the Central Arizona area sometime around 300 CE, forming an agricultural community. Progressive farming techniques afforded this ingenious group the opportunity to support a larger than normal community for that time period.

Around 1500 CE, this group appears to have mysteriously vanished for reasons that remain unclear. The local Pima Indians originally referred to these industrious and intelligent people as the Hohokam, which translates"Vanished Ones." Theories have arisen regarding their disappearance, with plausible explanations including plague or drought.

Early European settlers found the area enchanting, and many continued the farming tradition. The founder of Scottsdale, Winfield Scott, moved to the area on the advice of his brother who had relocated with his wife to the Valley of the Sun due to health concerns. The two men farmed together, producing peanuts, sweet potatoes and oranges.

Low humidity levels and low pollen counts brought many here in the early years that had allergies or other chronic ailments. As the population grew, the need for more services arose. In 1896, the first one-room schoolhouse appeared. Fewer than 2,000 people lived in this farming community at that time.

More people began visiting and relocating to the area, enjoying the clean air and abundant spaces. J.L. Davis opened the first retail store in 1897 in order to serve the needs of the people. World War I brought with it a demand for the long fibered Pima cotton produced by Scottsdale farmers. In 1920, the invention of the cotton gin made it possible to process this resource. More services and jobs continued to cause population growth.

Maybe it's in the subtle continuity of the spacious vistas, or the natural order of the desert wildlife. Whatever the attraction, many designers and artists are drawn to this area, among them Frank Lloyd Wright and Paolo Soleri.

The 1940s brought World War II and a need for pilots, so a training facility was built in

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

the location that is currently the Scottsdale Airport.

Incorporated in 1951, Scottsdale's popularity as a vacationing oasis has since increased substantially. Mayor Malcolm White first coined the well-known phrase calling Scottsdale"the West's most Western town." Catering to both leisure and business travelers, the community successfully found ways to balance both the need to preserve the past while ensuring a successful future.
©

Hotel Insights

Whether you mosey in on the back of a steed, or cruise the blacktopped desert, Scottsdale offers quiet solace. You will find polished lodging options with upscale furnishings and attentive service.

Old Scottsdale

The Hilton Garden Inn is a seven story"gold mine." Catering to business travelers, this hotel features extensive business conference services. Another option awaits at Hyatt Place in the Civic Center area. Enjoy dipping your toes into the warm waters of a whirlpool spa, or slip into comfort under the covers. Find the Hospitality Suite Resort a bit further south, complete with three pools, therapeutic whirlpool and tennis courts.

Enjoy convenient accommodations near Scottsdale Fashion Square. Hotel Waterfront Ivy offers stylish comfort in expertly designed suites, with amenities that include tennis courts, gourmet breakfasts and a fitness center. Further west you'll find classic Southwestern hospitality in outstanding choices like the Royal Palms Resort, one of the Valley's originals, built in the 1920s. Camelback Mountain adds a picturesque backdrop to this Spanish-style retreat. Rooms flank lovely flowering courtyards, bringing relaxation of both mind and spirit. If you enjoy a larger facility, award-winning cuisine and first rate service, stay at the Phoenician Resort, rated by AAA as a four diamond resort. Let the crew at the five-diamond rated in-house restaurant Mary Elaine's serve you a memorable meal and then take advantage of the resort's many other amenities, including a golf course, nine heated pools and 11 tennis courts. **Central Scottsdale/Paradise Valley**

Included here are the Embassy Suites in Paradise Valley and the exclusive Millenium Resort Scottsdale McCormick Ranch areas. Desirable facilities come a dime a dozen in this excellent location, including the Renaissance Scottsdale Resort. Elicit sweet dreams in the comfort of delectably furnished guest rooms or suites with memorable sunsets and mountain views. Nearby shopping is an exciting experience at the exclusive Borgata of Scottsdale. Another great luxury stay is in Merv Griffin's Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas featuring the adjacent Fleming's for fine dining. The nearby Scottsdale Plaza Resort offers top notch accommodations and exceptional service including conference hospitality. The Radisson Scottsdale—Resort& Spa offers a full service beauty spa and health club with meeting facilities onsite.

North Scottsdale/Airpark

Spacious desert vistas accompanied by the cover of star-strewn darkness envelopes the northern area of Scottsdale at night. Areas include the busy Airpark and the remote towns of Carefree and Fountain Hills. Opportunities to view wildlife in their natural habitat are ample here. Don't be surprised to have a quail hen and chicks or a wily coyote cross your path.

Begin your North Scottsdale stay at the impeccable five-diamond-rated Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. Superb services and amenities including three swimming pools, seven tennis courts, a full-service spa and fine dining at the award-winning onsite Marquesa restaurant await at this facility. The resort also features a complete business center and 61,000 square feet of meeting facilities, which include Arizona's largest banquet room. Golf is also offered at the TPC courses, home to the world famous FBR Open Golf Tournament. Other nearby accommodations with memorable mountain views include the prestigious Marriott-McDowell Mountains Resort, completed in 1999.

Further North on Scottsdale Road, you will run into the high Sonoran Desert town of Carefree. With quaint street names, intersections evolve into humorous combinations, like the corner of'Ho' and'Hum'. Home to one of North America's largest sundials, find wonderful shopping at the upscale el Pedregal Festival Marketplace. Next door, there is The Boulders, a five-diamond rated resort built into the desert contours. Full spa services, multiple pools, fireplace and spacious rooms will set the mood for your desert interlude. Before moving on, enjoy award-winning cuisine at the resort's Latilla. A choice conference venue in this area is the Carefree Conference Resort. Built in the 1970s, this resort has recently undergone a thirteen million dollar renovation and offers conference facilities in multiple rooms.

To the far eastern area is the lovely town of Fountain Hills. Cited as one of the best places to raise kids, it features what is reportedly the world's tallest fountain in a lovely park at the center of town. Nearby, find a lovely respite called the Inn at Eagle Mountain. Private luxury accommodations are offered on the fairway at the Golf Club at Eagle Mountain, which have already earned AAA's coveted four diamonds.
©

Restaurants Insights

Even with its mainly uptown image, Scottsdale still sometimes likes to refer to itself as'The West's Most Western City', and in some respects, the moniker applies. But is this a cow town that only chows down on burritos and barbecue? Absolutely not! Yes, you can bite into a burrito at hundreds of eateries all over town—but they are as likely to be stuffed with duck confit as they are with beef and beans. And, if you thought barbecue was limited to pork ribs and steaks, you are in for a treat when your server sets down a plate of succulent grilled javelina chops or deep-fried rattlesnake.

Old Scottsdale

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

The most variety can be found in Old Scottsdale. The Old Town Tortilla Factory is set in a 1930s adobe-style cottage and specializes in expertly-prepared Mexican dishes. While Robert McGrath's Roaring Fork has a hunting lodge atmosphere, the classic setting belies his modern culinary creativity. Scottsdale restaurants also have great steaks and ribs. For decades, folks have been coming to the Pink Pony Steak House for both. Don& Charlie's has served over a million racks of ribs. Locals with a taste for Thai will attest that Malee's on Main is a perennial favorite. Several of the city's premier dining destinations are the products of long-time veterans who have gone solo. Leonard Rubin, who has cooked in Moscow, Santa Fe and some of Arizona's top resorts, delights diners with his Mediterranean/ Southwestern creations at Medizona. The Cordon Bleu-affiliated Scottsdale Culinary Institute's L'Ecole Restaurant showcases the talents of tomorrow's top chefs, serving 3-course luncheons and 5-course dinners at amazingly affordable prices. Also vying for'top toques in training' honors are the Artichoke Grill/Desert Oasis Restaurant at Scottsdale Community College's Culinary Arts school. The restaurant has recently received top honors for school dining fromPhoenix New Times.

Central Scottsdale/Paradise Valley

Just leave your tie at home or it's guaranteed to end up hanging from the rafters. Prefer your steaks with more of an upscale sizzle? Try Fleming's Prime Steakhouse. Scottsdale restaurants put a special spin on Southwestern cuisine, transforming the area's indigenous ingredients—fiery chiles, multi-colored corn, heirloom beans, pungent citrus—into edible masterpieces. While Chrysa and Tom Kaufman, too, find the perfect balance between cowboy kitsch and comfort food at Rancho Pinot Grill. For food, atmosphere and wines, La Locanda is the rival of any city's Little Italy. Scottsdale's food with a South-of-the-border attitude includes Erasmo Kamnitzer's chic and artsy Razz's Restaurant& Bar. BJ and Gilbert Hernandez serve up a taste of the tropics at Havana Café. What about fish, you ask? Even if you are one of those people who won't order fish unless you can see the water from your table, you are in luck. There is no ocean in Scottsdale, but Buster's on the Lake will almost make you feel the sand between your toes.

North Scottsdale/Airpark

Pinnacle Peak Patio is legendary for its cowboy cooking and is a must dining destination for Valley visitors. Mastro's Steakhouse serves premium cuts of beef. Likewise, Florence Chan's Flo's restaurant transcends its strip mall location to be one of North Scottsdale's most popular Chinese choices. You can even experience Brazilian rodizio at Rio Sabor. Michael DeMaria, a U.S. Culinary Olympian, melds Arizona ingredients with classic techniques at his eponymous Michael's at the Citadel. He even has a kitchen studio where he holds regular cooking classes and demonstrations.
©

Nightlife Insights

Whether you're content to kick back and see a show, prefer to meander through museums, shops and galleries, or are looking for adrenaline-pumping escapades, you're guaranteed to find an entertaining option here in Scottsdale.

Family Fun

Family-friendly attractions abound in the area. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is dedicated to the time-honored mode of transportation and even has its own railroad and expansive playground areas. CrackerJax Family Fun& Sport Park is a whirlwind of games, rides and sports activities, including more golf(this time of the"miniature" variety). Wild West adventure awaits the young and young-of-heart at Rawhide, with shoot-outs, pony rides and panning for"gold" in a replica of an Old West town. Fancy some outdoor fun that won't cost you a penny? Climb Camelback.

Museums

Enthusiastic about architecture? Visit the Western home and studios of one of America's design icons at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. The complex itself is an excellent example of Wright's style of blending architecture into the environment, and tours are offered daily. For those with an interest in Scottsdale's own rich and colorful past, the Historical Museum on the Scottsdale Mall is a must-visit. Learn about how the city became the"West's Most Western Town" and the role it played in the development of Arizona. While you are at Scottsdale Mall(which incidentally isn't a"mall" in the shopping sense, but a public promenade in the style of the one in Washington, D.C.), it's the perfect time to visit the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. See its requisite collections of painting and sculpture, as well as any number of special exhibitions and events.

Theater

Also on the Mall is the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. Stop in here, or at any of its satellite facilities for some theater, dance or music. Theater and concert patrons also won't want to miss the many exciting events held at the Kerr Cultural Center and the Music by Moonlight Series at el Pedregal. For a taste of local talent, plan to attend a performance at Scottsdale's oldest community theater, the Stagebrush. Prefer movies to cabaret? Snuggle with your sweetie at one of the Valley's only remaining outdoor theaters, the Scottsdale Six Drive-In.

Sports

If you're feeling lucky, count on Casino Arizona's slots, bingo and poker to satisfy your ever gaming need. Plus, enjoy live musical entertainment and casual cuisine. When you're done wagering on games, and you're ready to simply watch one, head on over to Scottsdale Stadium. Baseball players may be known as'the Boys of Summer', but in Scottsdale, spring's the season for fast-paced baseball action. The stadium is the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants. With its downtown

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

location, the stadium is also convenient to restaurants, galleries and more.

Poll any group of residents or Valley visitors about the top reason to come to Scottsdale and the majority will probably answer with just two words,"great golf." Among the challenging, championship places to play(many designed by top names in the game) are several that rank in the country's top hundred. Legend Trail is one fine example. Two other highly-recommended courses are North Scottsdale's Grayhawk Golf Club and the new Kierland Golf Club. And, should you prefer to watch the pros putt, there are plenty of opportunities. The FBR Open is played at the Tournament Players Club in Scottsdale. PGA Seniors face off annually at The Tradition at Desert Mountain Cochise. As unlikely as it sounds, a local rock'n'roll legend holds his own tournament here, too, the Alice Cooper Celebrity AM. But, as popular a pastime as it may be, golf is but a blip on the radar of Scottsdale recreation and entertainment.

Shopping

Yes, in this city, we purchase with passion. Pick out the perfect souvenir at one of Old Town Scottsdale's quaint shops. Or acquire art, from fine to funky, at one of the galleries on 5th Avenue. Find Native American art and other products at Grey Wolf Gallery, pueblo pottery at King Galleries and bronze sculpture at Legacy Gallery. Still under your credit limit? The Borgata, with its 14th century Italian village ambiance is the'Rodeo Drive' of Scottsdale retail. Thecreme de la creme of U.S. and international boutiques and custom clothiers stand ready to pamper you. Even if your budget only permits window-shopping, it is well worth a visit. Either way, get yourself suitably dressed to impress because it's time to go club hopping.

Nightlife

Do you still look young enough to get'carded'? Strut your stuff on the glass catwalk joining Axis and Radius, the high-energy dance-club combo that is just the hip'n' happening, see-and-be-seen hotspot you are looking for. Rather kick up your heels to a Country Western beat? Slip off your Bruno Maglis, slide into your Tony Lamas and head on over to the Handlebar J, a long-time favorite boot-scootin' bar, with live music nightly.
©

Things to Do Insights

Contrary to popular belief, Scottsdale's upper Sonoran Desert environment is not barren and devoid of life. An abundance of beautiful animals and plants do prosper here. And the occasional desert dust storm only adds to the intensity of colorful sunsets.

Scottsdale Stadium Tour Scottsdale Stadium, home of the Scottsdale Scorpions, then browse the collections at Bentley Gallery, Calvin Charles Gallery and the Hernandez Contemporary gallery. Enjoy the inventive fusion food at nearby Cowboy Ciao.

Scottsdale Ranch Park In Central Scottsdale, visit the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, which has an antique carousel, and Scottsdale Ranch Park, a popular spot for basketball and other recreational activities. Browse the work at Artspace, which holds several galleries under its roof. Grab a bite at En Fuego, then stop by the Scottsdale Stained Glass Studio, which allows visitors the chance to create their own glass artwork.Taliesin West Enjoy the Crackerjax Family Fun& Sports Park or visit the WestWorld Equestrian Center, which provides family-friendly entertainment. Cactus Park offers a fitness center and public pool. Fans of Frank Lloyd Wright will enjoy Taliesin West, his favorite building. A satisfying lunch can be had at the nearby Pinnacle Peak Patio Steakhouse.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art Old Scottsdale is home to the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, the Scottsdale Historical Museum and many small galleries, such as the Victoria Boyce Galleries. The Vista Del Camino Park offers the chance to fish and swim. When you're through, enjoy a meal at the Acapulco Bay Co. or Madison's.

Arrange to take a professional tour, which will ensure that your time in Scottsdale is well-spent.

Walking Tours Walk Softly Tours(+1 480 473 1148/http://www.walksoftlytours.com)

Jeep Tours Arizona Desert Mountain Jeep Tours(+1 800 567 3619/http://www.azdesertmountain.com) Arizona Bound Tours(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.arizonabound.com) Arizona Sunset Desert Tours(+1 480 483 3686) Southwest Adventures(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.southwestadventures.com/) Desert Wolf Tours(+1 877 613 9653/ http://www.desertwolftours.com/)

Hummer Tours Desert Storm Hummer Tours(+1 480 922 0020/http://www.dshummer.com/) Desert Dog Hummer Adventures(+1 480 837 3966/http://azadventures.com/) Black Diamond Hummer Tour(+1 520 907 1061/http://www.bdhummertours.com)

Bike Tours Desert Biking Adventures(+1 602 320 4602/http://www.desertbikingadventures.com/)

Horseback Tours Arizona Bound Tours(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.arizonabound.com) Arizona Sunset Desert Tours(+1 480 483 3686)

Plane Tours Scottsdale Flyers, LLC(+1 480 922 8681/http://www.sdlflyers.com) Westcor Aviation(+1 480 991 6558/http://www.westcoraviation.com)

Balloon Tours Unicorn Balloon Company(+1 800 755 0935/http://www.unicornballoon.com/)
©

Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport(PHX)+1 602 273 330http://www.phxskyharbor.com

PHX is located 10 miles southwest of downtown Scottsdale and houses the following airlines:

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

AeroMexico(+1 800 237 6639/http://www.aeromexico.com) Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262/http://www.aircanada.ca) Alaska Airlines(+1 800 426 0333/http://www.alaskaair.com) American(+1 800 433 7300/http://www.aa.com) American Trans Air(+1 800 225 2995/http://www.ata.com) Arizona Express(+1 866 435 9872/http://www.azxpress.com) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/http://www.british-airways.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/http://www.continental.com) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/http://www.delta-air.com) Frontier(+1 800 432 1359/http://www.frontierairlines.com) Great Lakes(+1 800 554 5111/http://www.greatlakesav.com) Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 367 5320/http://www.hawaiianair.com) JetBlue(+1 800 538 2583/http://www.jetblue.com) Midwest(+1 800 452 2022/http://www.midwestairlines.com) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/http://www.nwa.com) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/http://www.southwest.com) Sun Country(+1 800 359 6786/http://www.suncountry.com) TED(+1 800 225 5833/http://www.flyted.com) United(+1 800 241 6522/http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com) WestJet(+1 888 937 8538/http://www.westjet.com)

From the Airport

Shuttle: SuperShuttle offers airport-to-door service with vans departing every 15 minutes.

Taxi: AAA Cab(+1 602 437 4000) Allstate(+1 602 275 8888) Discount(+1 602 266 1110)

Car Rental: Advantage(+1 800 777 5500/http://www.arac.com) Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://www.goalamo.com) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com) Dollar(+1 800 800 4000/http://www.dollar.com) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8222/http://www.enterprise.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com) National(+1 800 227 7368/http://www.nationalcar.com) Thrifty(+1 800 847 4389/http://www.thrifty.com)

Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/http://www.amtrak.com) has three stops in Phoenix: Phoenix Greyhound station, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Metro Center Transit Station. Amtrak provides service to Phoenix from several major cities around the country.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com) accesses Phoenix, about 10 miles from Scottsdale. The Phoenix bus station(+1 602 389 4200), located at 2115 E Buckeye Road, is open 24 hours daily.

Car

Interstate 101 runs through Scottsdale traveling north or south. From the west, take Interstate 10 and Hwy 202 from the east to 101 North to approach the city.

Getting Around

Trolley

The Scottsdale Trolley(+1 800 782 1117) is a free downtown shuttle that operates mid-November to the end of May. The Trolley runs every 10 minutes M-W, Fr-Sa from 11a-6p and Th to 9p. The Shopping Express Trolley stops at ten resorts and four shopping destinations.

Metro

The Valley Metro(+1 602 253 5000/http://www.valleymetro.org) services Scottsdale and neighboring communities.

Limo

ARideAmerica Transportation Group(+1 866 421 7433/http://www.ride-america.com) Arizona Limousines(+1 800 678 0033/http://www.arizonalimos.com) Desert Knights Sedans& Limousines(+1 800 994 2494/http://www.desertknights.com) SuperShuttle/ExecuCar/Premiere(+1 800 258 3826/http://www.supershuttle.com)

Foot

Scottsdale is a great city for walking and bicycling with many hiking and nature trails in the area. There are a total of 58 miles of bike paths and 40 miles of riding and hiking trails. Take a hike or bike through such places as La Mirada Park, McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Pinnacle Peak Park and Scottsdale Ranch Park.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/
©

Fun Facts

Scottsdale

State: Arizona

Country: United States

Scottsdale by the Numbers:

Population: 225,426

Elevation: 1260 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 7.66 inches

Average January Temperature: 66 degrees F(high), 41 degrees F(low)

Average July Temperature: 106 degrees F(high), 81 degrees F(low)

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism/hospitality/recreation, healthcare, electronics, farming, timber

Ethnic Mix: 92% Caucasian, 2% Asian, 1% African American

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT-7

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 602(1 and the area code must be dialed even for local calls)

Did You Know?

In 1888, U.S. Army Chaplain Winfield Scott paid$2.50 an acre for the 640 acres that is now Scottsdale. His brother, George Washington Scott, became the first resident of the town.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Orientation:

Scottsdale is located in the central area of Arizona approximately 15 miles east of Phoenix. Tucson lies 113 miles southeast, Albuquerque 312 miles to the northeast, Las Vegas 253 miles to the northwest and San Diego 312 miles to the west.
©

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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. ThePhoenix Suns play at the U.S. Airways Center, and theArizona Diamondbacks are just a stone's throw away atChase 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. TheArizona Science Center is a favorite with kids and adults alike, while thePhoenix Art Museum regularly brings world-class exhibits to the Valley of the Sun. Other top museum destinations include the world-famousHeard 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 outHistoric 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 withCricket Pavilion, home to annual music festivals and major touring acts. Desert Sky Mall caters to West Valley's Latino population, whileArrowhead Towne Center in Peoria is a mecca for suburban shoppers. The Westside got a big shot in the arm with the development of the recentWestgate City Center, billed as"Times Square in the Desert," featuring chic boutiques, eateries, and multiplex movie theater. Westgate is home to thePhoenix Coyotes, who play at Jobbing.com arena, and just a stone's throw away is the hugeUniversity 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 toSouth 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 likeCarolina's Mexican Food and traditional soul food atLo-Lo's Chicken and Waffles andMrs. White's Golden Rule Cafe.

Northwest

A mix of old and new, the Northwest Valley is comprised of communities likePeoria,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 theWildlife 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, whileScottsdale remains a major draw for its high-end boutiques, art galleries, and fabulous resorts. For exclusive shopping, dining, and weekly outdoor markets, theBorgata of Scottsdale brings a unique Mediterranean-in-the-Desert flavor to North Scottsdale.

Tempe, located south ofScottsdale, 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, artificialTempe 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 theMesa 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

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

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

History

Phoenix: Phoenix has a history dating back to 700 CE, evidenced by the Pueblo Grande Ruins, the remains of a civilized, resourceful and industrious community that inhabited the area. This early civilization constructed an irrigation system consisting of 135 canals tapping into the Salt River, which provided water for the fertile lands. Mysteriously, this ancient civilization disappeared in the 1400s, with a severe drought being the most widely accepted cause for their demise. Later, Native Americans roving the area and witnessing the ruins and canals dubbed their creators the Hohokam, meaning"the people who have gone."

It was not until 1867 that the seeds for modern day Phoenix were planted. Traveling on horseback, Jack Swilling of Wickenburg stopped to take a rest, looked out upon the vast expanse of desert, experienced the favorable weather and envisioned a farming community. The lack of available water was the primary obstacle, so he organized the Swilling Irrigation Canal Company to divert water to the Valley's land. The year 1868 brought with it the area's first crops. A small colony, Swillings Mill was formed four miles east of modern day Phoenix. The idea for a new name for the tiny settlement was born from the idea that, just as the legendary phoenix rises up from the ashes, the new town would spring from the ruins of a former civilization.

The late 1860s and 1870s brought continued growth to the area with the addition of a post office and steam mill, sounding the horn of emerging industry. With the influx of pioneers continuing, by 1870 Phoenix became the trade center of the Southwest and earned a reputation as a wild, lawless western town. The first county election held in 1871 resulted in a gun battle between candidates. The two men, J.A. Chenowth and Jim Favorite, engaged in a shooting match resulting in Favorite's death and Chenowth's withdrawal from the race. Tom Barnum became the first sheriff of Mariposa County, which was formed when Yavapai County was divided.

The town site was officially recorded on February 15, 1873 and incorporated in 1881. The beginnings of a bustling city could be seen, complete with the first electric plants in the West located here. Transportation progressed with the first horse-drawn streetcar line built along Washington Street in 1887, and strides in transportation would be the primary factor in the growth of the city. The long anticipated arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad rolled into the station soon after. The next few years brought with them triumphs and tragedies with the installation of the first telephone system and the worst flood in Valley history. The 1902 signing of the National Reclamation Act made it possible to build dams on western streams, and the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association was formed to manage the city's most precious commodity, its water supply.

Arizona gained its statehood with the approval of President William Howard Taft on February 14, 1912. Thus began a new era; the farming community declined and Phoenix became a booming metropolis. Within eight years Phoenix boasted a population of 29,000, a total of 1,080 buildings had been constructed and the Heard Building, Arizona's first skyscraper, loomed over the city.

Fueled by the declaration of war, the first true economic boom in Phoenix history occurred in the 1940s. Home to Luke Field, Williams Field, Falcon Field and the giant training center at Hyder, Phoenix became the temporary home to thousands of military men. Having been smitten with the Arizona lifestyle, many of these men returned with their families after the war. Determined to continue the economic rise, local economic boosters targeted companies like Motorola, General Electric and Reynolds Aluminum, describing Phoenix as the"new modern city of the West." Banks issued loans freely and newspapers praised the Valley as a great place to live. The opening of Sky Harbor Airport and the newly affordable air conditioning systems in homes, businesses and cars gave a major boost to the tourism industry, which still flourishes today.

The 1950s brought with it the beginning of a cultural community, with the Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum and the Phoenix Symphony at its core. The community supported the growth of a small teachers college into what is now Arizona State University in Tempe, another important step in the Valley's expansion.

Migration to the Valley continues to earn Phoenix the distinction as one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Each year golfing enthusiasts converge in droves, earning Phoenix a reputation as a premier golfing location. Arizona is one of the few states in the country to host a major league team in all sports. Following the happenings of local teams is an integral part of the Phoenix lifestyle. The Arizona Cardinals, tracing their roots to 1898, have the distinction of being the oldest continuously run professional football franchise in the nation. The Phoenix Suns burst onto the scene in 1968 and have entertained Valley residents for decades with their superb skills on the court. The new franchise known as the Phoenix Coyotes debuted in 1996, and the long awaited dream of having a baseball team became a reality in 1998 with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the new Bank One Ballpark, the only sports facility in the world featuring a retractable roof.

Just as the phoenix rose from the ashes of ruin, so has this city grown from a lost civilization to a major economic, cultural and sports center in the short span of 130 years. There is no indication that the present migration to the Valley of the Sun will be slowing any time soon, as the climate continues to lure snowbirds and businesses. Today's new pioneers owe a debt of gratitude to their counterparts who so graciously paved the way to the magnificent modern day city we now enjoy.

Scottsdale: The historical roots of Scottsdale run deep in agriculture, which Native people were the first to develop. Prior to written history, the Hohokam farmed this area, from about 300-1500 CE. These resourceful people built a unique irrigation system that included more than 200 miles of complex canals. Believed to have originated in Mexico, the Hohokam traveled to the Central Arizona area sometime around 300 CE, forming an agricultural community. Progressive farming techniques afforded this ingenious group

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

the opportunity to support a larger than normal community for that time period.

Around 1500 CE, this group appears to have mysteriously vanished for reasons that remain unclear. The local Pima Indians originally referred to these industrious and intelligent people as the Hohokam, which translates"Vanished Ones." Theories have arisen regarding their disappearance, with plausible explanations including plague or drought.

Early European settlers found the area enchanting, and many continued the farming tradition. The founder of Scottsdale, Winfield Scott, moved to the area on the advice of his brother who had relocated with his wife to the Valley of the Sun due to health concerns. The two men farmed together, producing peanuts, sweet potatoes and oranges.

Low humidity levels and low pollen counts brought many here in the early years that had allergies or other chronic ailments. As the population grew, the need for more services arose. In 1896, the first one-room schoolhouse appeared. Fewer than 2,000 people lived in this farming community at that time.

More people began visiting and relocating to the area, enjoying the clean air and abundant spaces. J.L. Davis opened the first retail store in 1897 in order to serve the needs of the people. World War I brought with it a demand for the long fibered Pima cotton produced by Scottsdale farmers. In 1920, the invention of the cotton gin made it possible to process this resource. More services and jobs continued to cause population growth.

Maybe it's in the subtle continuity of the spacious vistas, or the natural order of the desert wildlife. Whatever the attraction, many designers and artists are drawn to this area, among them Frank Lloyd Wright and Paolo Soleri.

The 1940s brought World War II and a need for pilots, so a training facility was built in the location that is currently the Scottsdale Airport.

Incorporated in 1951, Scottsdale's popularity as a vacationing oasis has since increased substantially. Mayor Malcolm White first coined the well-known phrase calling Scottsdale"the West's most Western town." Catering to both leisure and business travelers, the community successfully found ways to balance both the need to preserve the past while ensuring a successful future.
©

Hotel Insights

Phoenix: While many of our American counterparts are shoveling snow and battling the flu, Phoenicians are attending outdoor concerts, strolling around neighborhood art and wine festivals, and barbecuing poolside. It is for these reasons that the winter is considered"high season" by resorts and hotels in Phoenix. Accommodations range from luxury to budget, with most offering pools and whirlpools. The highest concentrations of resorts in the Phoenix area are located in three areas: Downtown Phoenix, Scottsdale and North-Central Phoenix near the Metrocenter Mall.

Downtown Phoenix

Downtown Phoenix, primarily a financial and government district, is the home of City Hall. Cultural activities and night life are centered in Copper Square and the Arizona Center. Home to some of the most luxurious accommodations in Maricopa County, the Crowne Plaza is the best place to stay downtown. The Mediterranean theme extends from the public areas to each one of the elegantly appointed guest rooms. Room appointments are aimed at making life easier for business people. Facilities include a fitness room, swimming pool and a jogging track. Another good choice downtown is the Hotel San Carlos. This beautiful Italian Renaissance style hotel offers European luxury. Hollywood's Golden Age movie icons are said to have frequented this posh spot with its rooftop swimming pool.

The Hyatt Regency's sky-high rooms offer incredible views of Arizona sunsets combined with the excitement of downtown city lights. Fine American cuisine is available at the on site Compass Restaurant, which features an outstanding 360 degree view of the city below. Following along Interstate-10 near Tempe, you'll find excellent accommodation at the Radisson Hotel at University with its six-story waterfall. Other facilities with freeway access include the Buttes or the Pointe South Mountain Resort which offer both lovely views and elegant dining experiences.

The area along Camelback Road between 24th Street and 44th Street is Phoenix's upscale shopping, business and residential district. It is home to the Biltmore Fashion Park shopping mall, an upscale enclave of shopping and dining choices. The history and sophisticated elegance of the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa places it head and shoulders above all of the hotels and resorts in the Phoenix area. Reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's style, resort rooms are large and delightfully comfortable and include patios or balconies. Tee off on the 18-hole golf courses, or take to the water in one of five swimming pools.

Other first rate accommodations in the east valley include The Ritz-Carlton Phoenix, the lovely Royal Palms and the Embassy Suites-Phoenix Biltmore, widely recognized for its gorgeous pink exterior. A few miles to the east you'll find the premium facilities at the Phoenician Resort, complete with golf and fine dining.

North-Central Phoenix

Near the Metrocenter Mall, off Interstate 17, you'll find a host of lodging located near shopping and dining. Choose the Four Points by Sheraton or the newer Sheraton Crescent Hotel, both of which offer many amenities and a convenient location. If you need a longer stay, try the new Hawthorn Suites or the SpringHill Suites, which have services suitable for extended accommodation.

Downtown Scottsdale

Swanky accommodations are also available a little further east on Resort Row in Scottsdale, which is known as"the West's most Western town." Resort Row is the name given to the portion of Scottsdale Road that extends between Indian School Road and Shea Boulevard. Excellent shopping can be found at the distinctive Borgata. Stay in top notch accommodations at Scottsdale Plaza Resort or Marriott's new Renaissance Cottonwoods. Premium lakeside facilities, as well as golf with a view, can be enjoyed at the Regal McCormick Ranch.

The Inn At The Citadel has managed to distinguish itself among its counterparts. The antique and original art in each of rooms gives visitors the feeling that their room was designed especially for them.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

The large bathrooms are marbled, with lace shower curtains. Additional resorts, also with superior surroundings and amenities include the Doubletree La Posada Resort and the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale. The Scottsdale Princess features tennis courts and extensive conference facilities. Play at the beautiful TPC course here, which is home to the annual Phoenix Open Golf Tournament.

Scottsdale: Whether you mosey in on the back of a steed, or cruise the blacktopped desert, Scottsdale offers quiet solace. You will find polished lodging options with upscale furnishings and attentive service.

Old Scottsdale

The Hilton Garden Inn is a seven story"gold mine." Catering to business travelers, this hotel features extensive business conference services. Another option awaits at Hyatt Place in the Civic Center area. Enjoy dipping your toes into the warm waters of a whirlpool spa, or slip into comfort under the covers. Find the Hospitality Suite Resort a bit further south, complete with three pools, therapeutic whirlpool and tennis courts.

Enjoy convenient accommodations near Scottsdale Fashion Square. Hotel Waterfront Ivy offers stylish comfort in expertly designed suites, with amenities that include tennis courts, gourmet breakfasts and a fitness center. Further west you'll find classic Southwestern hospitality in outstanding choices like the Royal Palms Resort, one of the Valley's originals, built in the 1920s. Camelback Mountain adds a picturesque backdrop to this Spanish-style retreat. Rooms flank lovely flowering courtyards, bringing relaxation of both mind and spirit. If you enjoy a larger facility, award-winning cuisine and first rate service, stay at the Phoenician Resort, rated by AAA as a four diamond resort. Let the crew at the five-diamond rated in-house restaurant Mary Elaine's serve you a memorable meal and then take advantage of the resort's many other amenities, including a golf course, nine heated pools and 11 tennis courts. **Central Scottsdale/Paradise Valley**

Included here are the Embassy Suites in Paradise Valley and the exclusive Millenium Resort Scottsdale McCormick Ranch areas. Desirable facilities come a dime a dozen in this excellent location, including the Renaissance Scottsdale Resort. Elicit sweet dreams in the comfort of delectably furnished guest rooms or suites with memorable sunsets and mountain views. Nearby shopping is an exciting experience at the exclusive Borgata of Scottsdale. Another great luxury stay is in Merv Griffin's Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas featuring the adjacent Fleming's for fine dining. The nearby Scottsdale Plaza Resort offers top notch accommodations and exceptional service including conference hospitality. The Radisson Scottsdale—Resort& Spa offers a full service beauty spa and health club with meeting facilities onsite.

North Scottsdale/Airpark

Spacious desert vistas accompanied by the cover of star-strewn darkness envelopes the northern area of Scottsdale at night. Areas include the busy Airpark and the remote towns of Carefree and Fountain Hills. Opportunities to view wildlife in their natural habitat are ample here. Don't be surprised to have a quail hen and chicks or a wily coyote cross your path.

Begin your North Scottsdale stay at the impeccable five-diamond-rated Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. Superb services and amenities including three swimming pools, seven tennis courts, a full-service spa and fine dining at the award-winning onsite Marquesa restaurant await at this facility. The resort also features a complete business center and 61,000 square feet of meeting facilities, which include Arizona's largest banquet room. Golf is also offered at the TPC courses, home to the world famous FBR Open Golf Tournament. Other nearby accommodations with memorable mountain views include the prestigious Marriott-McDowell Mountains Resort, completed in 1999.

Further North on Scottsdale Road, you will run into the high Sonoran Desert town of Carefree. With quaint street names, intersections evolve into humorous combinations, like the corner of'Ho' and'Hum'. Home to one of North America's largest sundials, find wonderful shopping at the upscale el Pedregal Festival Marketplace. Next door, there is The Boulders, a five-diamond rated resort built into the desert contours. Full spa services, multiple pools, fireplace and spacious rooms will set the mood for your desert interlude. Before moving on, enjoy award-winning cuisine at the resort's Latilla. A choice conference venue in this area is the Carefree Conference Resort. Built in the 1970s, this resort has recently undergone a thirteen million dollar renovation and offers conference facilities in multiple rooms.

To the far eastern area is the lovely town of Fountain Hills. Cited as one of the best places to raise kids, it features what is reportedly the world's tallest fountain in a lovely park at the center of town. Nearby, find a lovely respite called the Inn at Eagle Mountain. Private luxury accommodations are offered on the fairway at the Golf Club at Eagle Mountain, which have already earned AAA's coveted four diamonds.
©

Restaurants Insights

Phoenix: As late as the 1980s, the Valley of the Sun was considered more a culinary wasteland than a capital of cuisine. Outside of a few upscale resort eateries, dining options for desert dwellers were mainly of the steak and potatoes variety. In 1986, a revolutionary restaurant, Vincent Guerithault on Camelback, started an evolution in eating in Greater Phoenix. The work of local chefs, including the classic techniques of Vincent Guerithault, Eddie Matney's Middle Eastern signature dishes and Lenard Rubin's medley of Mediterranean and Arizona flavors at Medizona, have transformed the city into a unique dining haven.

Downtown

The Arizona Center, in downtown's Copper Square, offers everything from a fast food court and clubs to more upscale offerings at Lombardi's and A League Of Our Own. For a pint of porter, pop into downtown's original Irish pub, Seamus McCaffrey's, at the Hotel San Carlos. Phoenix Suns fans, and sometimes players, often frequent Majerle's Sports Grill, opened by former Suns star Dan Majerle. Alice Cooper'stown is a mind-blowing mix of rock'n roll revelry and sports bar, and features regular live concerts.

Midtown Phoenix

In Midtown, you'll find a super selection of comfortable neighborhood places to dine. Among them are Norman's Arizona, Chef Norman Fierros' latest concept, Convivo, a contemporary American cafe with a super wine selection and Richardson's, both an

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

award-winning New Mexican restaurant and a hip hot spot.

Downtown Scottsdale

Scattered among the galleries in the downtown arts district are some true dining treasures. Mr. C's Chinese fine dining has long been a neighborhood fixture, as have Pischke's Paradise, the Pink Pony and Don& Charlie's.

Some of the hottest clubs can be found here too, including the glitzy, high energy Axis/Radius, Madison's and Martini Ranch. Go back to the big band era at the Famous Door or catch a live musical act at Cajun House.

Along the main drag of Scottsdale Road you'll find a"parkway for the palate." Scottsdale Fashion Square offers several fine restaurants including P.F. Chang's popular Chinese. Cosmopolitan cowboys seek out Rancho Pinot Grill, hidden away in a plaza at Lincoln and Scottsdale Road. At the Bastille-like Borgata, award-winning Chef Donna Nordin serves up Arizona edibles at Cafe Terra Cotta. Right across the street is the ultimate upscale steakhouse, Fleming's Prime. La Locanda, touted as one of the best Italian restaurants in all of Scottsdale, and Seasons is a find for its ever-changing menu and super selection of Sonoma wines.

New restaurants springing up at Bell and Scottsdale roads include a second helping of Carlos O'Brien's popular Sonoran-style Mexican cuisine and Coyote Grill, an attractive and appetizing southwestern cafe. Ambling on, plan to spend a few hours at Rawhide Western Town and try the rattlesnake(yes, it's really rattlesnake) at the Golden Belle Steakhouse& Saloon. Further north, new and exciting eating establishments include Restaurant Oceana, which offers fresh fish to eager desert dwellers. Michael Monti's specializes in top quality steaks and seafood and the Cantina del Pedregal offers dramatic views and a lively atmosphere.

Downtown Tempe

You can always count on a college town to have an active party scene and Tempe is no exception. Mill Avenue and University Drive are ground zero for the East Valley's nightlife. The subterranean Beeloe's is a combination cafe, gallery and concert venue with live music. Gordon Biersch Brewing Company, named the 1998 Valley's Best Brew Pub by thePhoenix New Times, is as popular for its people-watching as its microbrews. True to its name, The Bash on Ash is a warehouse-sized"animal house." Nutrition and environment conscious noshers will find a variety of eats available, including macrobiotic munchies at In Season Deli, Israeli at Sabuddy and Ethiopian at Cafe Lalibela.

East Valley

Mesa, Chandler and Gilbert form the"bedroom communities" of the East Valley, but in terms of dining they are by no means sleepy. A whole world of ethnic cuisines awaits visitors, including Arisoo Korean, Zur Kate German cuisine and more appetizing options. For fine dining, Mahogany Run in Gilbert has quickly become an acclaimed destination.

Centered at 24th Street and Camelback, this could be called the culinary vortex of the Valley. Many of the area's top restaurants are located here. Biltmore Fashion Park is home to the renowned Bamboo Club and Che Bella. As you head east, several standout steakhouses—Ruth's Chris, Omaha Steakhouse and Harris'—can be found. Marco Polo and Havana Café will take you on a whirl-wind world tour of upscale ethnic food.

West Valley

This is the place where you'll find simple, satisfying food at bargain prices. Try triple-decker sandwiches at the New Yorker or aromatic dolmathes at the Golden Greek. Dillon's, one of the Valley's younger restaurants with an already huge following, serves up fine Iowa corn-fed pork.

Country cooking and country music go hand in hand. Kick up yer heels and"Electric Slide" on over to Mr. Lucky's, one of the Valley's authentic cowboy dance clubs. Mr. Lucky's even has live bull riding in an outdoor rodeo arena.

Scottsdale: Even with its mainly uptown image, Scottsdale still sometimes likes to refer to itself as'The West's Most Western City', and in some respects, the moniker applies. But is this a cow town that only chows down on burritos and barbecue? Absolutely not! Yes, you can bite into a burrito at hundreds of eateries all over town—but they are as likely to be stuffed with duck confit as they are with beef and beans. And, if you thought barbecue was limited to pork ribs and steaks, you are in for a treat when your server sets down a plate of succulent grilled javelina chops or deep-fried rattlesnake.

Old Scottsdale

The most variety can be found in Old Scottsdale. The Old Town Tortilla Factory is set in a 1930s adobe-style cottage and specializes in expertly-prepared Mexican dishes. While Robert McGrath's Roaring Fork has a hunting lodge atmosphere, the classic setting belies his modern culinary creativity. Scottsdale restaurants also have great steaks and ribs. For decades, folks have been coming to the Pink Pony Steak House for both. Don& Charlie's has served over a million racks of ribs. Locals with a taste for Thai will attest that Malee's on Main is a perennial favorite. Several of the city's premier dining destinations are the products of long-time veterans who have gone solo. Leonard Rubin, who has cooked in Moscow, Santa Fe and some of Arizona's top resorts, delights diners with his Mediterranean/Southwestern creations at Medizona. The Cordon Bleu-affiliated Scottsdale Culinary Institute's L'Ecole Restaurant showcases the talents of tomorrow's top chefs, serving 3-course luncheons and 5-course dinners at amazingly affordable prices. Also vying for'top toques in training' honors are the Artichoke Grill/Desert Oasis Restaurant at Scottsdale Community College's Culinary Arts school. The restaurant has recently received top honors for school dining fromPhoenix New Times.

Central Scottsdale/Paradise Valley

Just leave your tie at home or it's guaranteed to end up hanging from the rafters. Prefer your steaks with more of an upscale sizzle? Try Fleming's Prime Steakhouse at Merv Griffin's Hilton Scottsdale Resort& Villas. Scottsdale restaurants put a special spin on Southwestern cuisine, transforming the area's indigenous ingredients—fiery chiles, multi-colored corn, heirloom beans, pungent citrus—into edible masterpieces. While Chrysa and Tom Kaufman, too, find the perfect balance between cowboy kitsch and comfort food at Rancho Pinot Grill. Tired of all-American grilled meat? Roy Yamaguchi's Roy's is a Pacific Rim-themed hot spot that consistently receives raves. For food, atmosphere and wines, La Locanda and Leccabaffi(which translates as,"lick your mustache") are the rival of

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

any city's Little Italy. Dine at the Hyatt's Ristorante Sandolo where a romantic gondola-style boat ride follows your meal. Scottsdale's food with a South-of-the-border attitude includes Erasmo Kamnitzer's chic and artsy Razz's Restaurant& Bar. BJ and Gilbert Hernandez serve up a taste of the tropics at Havana Café. What about fish, you ask? Even if you are one of those people who won't order fish unless you can see the water from your table, you are in luck. There is no ocean in Scottsdale, but Buster's on the Lake will almost make you feel the sand between your toes.

North Scottsdale/Airpark

Pinnacle Peak Patio is legendary for its cowboy cooking and is a must dining destination for Valley visitors. Mastro's Steakhouse serves premium cuts of beef. Likewise, Florence Chan's Flo's restaurant transcends its strip mall location to be one of North Scottsdale's most popular Chinese choices. You can even experience Brazilian rodizio at Rio Sabor. Michael DeMaria, a U.S. Culinary Olympian, melds Arizona ingredients with classic techniques at his eponymous Michael's at the Citadel. He even has a kitchen studio where he holds regular cooking classes and demonstrations.
©

Nightlife Insights

Phoenix: As one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, Phoenix offers a constantly changing mix of entertainment for its swelling population. Whether your tastes run to gourmet dining, championship golfing or rocketing in circles on a double loop roller coaster, this city will not disappoint you.

Sports

Arizona is a state of contrasts, from the saguaro dotted desert to the snow capped peaks of Flagstaff to the awe-inspiring vistas of the Grand Canyon. Likewise, the area offers a virtual cornucopia of exciting attractions. The focal point of downtown Phoenix is Copper Square. Encompassing a full square mile of entertainment with venues such as US Airways Center, which offers exciting sporting events featuring local teams such as the Phoenix Suns and Coyotes. Chase Field offers Diamondbacks games and features the only retractable roof in the world. Seek the cool green of one of Phoenix's many world class golf courses like the preeminent Tournament Players Club of Scottsdale. Float high over the valley on a hot air balloon from the Unicorn Balloon Company or for a more rapid pace visit the fastest one-mile oval in the world at the Phoenix International Raceway.

Enjoy the Arizona outdoors with a scenic hike up Echo Canyon Trail on Camelback Mountain. Take an excursion to Goldfield Ghost Town where you can try to unravel the secrets of the Lost Dutchman's Mine. Visit ancient Indian cliff dwellings at the five-story pueblo, Montezuma's Castle or saddle up for a real cowboy experience at Trail Horse Adventures and hit the trail on horseback. If your idea of the Wild West requires a gunfight, hitch your pony at Rawhide Western Town where Roughriders still tote six-shooters and settle differences with a fast draw.

Museums and Galleries

If culture is what you seek, Phoenix's museum circuit is as diversified as its population. Internationally acclaimed Heard Museum showcases culture and art of the Southwest's various Native American tribes. The Phoenix Museum of History explores the city's early days, from its rise in the 1860s through the fight for statehood. For a more participatory view of these early days, visit the Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum, a 90-acre pioneer town where costumed interpreters recreate life in the Arizona Territory of the mid 1800s.

Browse through abundant galleries showcasing the talents of artists around the globe. Visit the Phoenix Art Museum where significant art pieces from a variety of cultural styles are displayed with remarkable innovation. View the exquisite bronze sculptures highlighting a trip to the Legacy Gallery in Old Town Scottsdale.

Theater

The performing arts are alive and well in Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavilion which features hillside seating and hosts concerts. The beautiful Herberger Theater Center offers a refreshing mix of dramas, comedies, and musicals. The Phoenix Symphony performs over 160 concerts a year and the historic Orpheum Theater showcases a variety of performing arts throughout the year.

Cinema

If your idea of theater involves popcorn, the thrill of IMAX technology is rarely equaled for quality, or go for quantity at the gargantuan AMC Deer Valley 30. For a nostalgic experience, pull into the Scottsdale 6 Drive-In and snuggle up with your sweetheart.

For kids of all ages there are roller coasters and video games galore at Castles and Coasters. Across town, Gameworks pushes the technological envelope with the latest in interactive video games. Jeepers has rides, games and challenges for the smaller tykes, while bigger folk can indulge in shoot'em up action with a sci-fi twist at Stratum Light Speed Entertainment Center.

Adult gamers might prefer the action at the brand new Casino Arizona, featuring slots and Las Vegas style entertainment. Dogs they've got; at Phoenix Greyhound Park or bet the ponies at Turf Paradise. If you can't make it to the track, try the off-track betting and great beer at Padre Murphy's. Or chalk up your stick and head north to Pink E's, an adult only pool hall with more games than you can shake your cue at.

Shopping

If shopping is more your style, Phoenix can accommodate that as well. At the Arizona Center, you will find dining, dancing, and superb shopping! The Biltmore Fashion Park features world class shopping with such stores as Neiman Marcus, Gucci, and Saks Fifth Avenue. Shop in style at the upscale Scottsdale Fashion Square or seek forgotten treasures in the gargantuan Brass Armadillo.

Besides the trendy mall scene, Phoenix is ripe with specialty shops and independent stores. Wander through Juttenhoops, a unique gift shop that claims to carry"everything fun." Looking for adventure? Sort the treasure from the trash and see what kind of deals you can barter at the Phoenix Park and Swap. Search through a sea of bargain imports such as Belgian Chocolates and Bali Basketry at the Cost Plus World Imports.

Scottsdale: Whether you're content to kick back and see a show, prefer to meander through museums, shops and galleries, or are looking for adrenaline-pumping escapades, you're guaranteed to find an entertaining option here in Scottsdale.

Family Fun

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Family-friendly attractions abound in the area. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park is dedicated to the time-honored mode of transportation and even has its own railroad and expansive playground areas. CrackerJax Family Fun& Sport Park is a whirlwind of games, rides and sports activities, including more golf(this time of the"miniature" variety). Wild West adventure awaits the young and young-of-heart at Rawhide, with shoot-outs, pony rides and panning for"gold" in a replica of an Old West town. Fancy some outdoor fun that won't cost you a penny? Climb Camelback.

Museums

Enthusiastic about architecture? Visit the Western home and studios of one of America's design icons at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. The complex itself is an excellent example of Wright's style of blending architecture into the environment, and tours are offered daily. For those with an interest in Scottsdale's own rich and colorful past, the Historical Museum on the Scottsdale Mall is a must-visit. Learn about how the city became the"West's Most Western Town" and the role it played in the development of Arizona. While you are at Scottsdale Mall(which incidentally isn't a"mall" in the shopping sense, but a public promenade in the style of the one in Washington, D.C.), it's the perfect time to visit the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. See its requisite collections of painting and sculpture, as well as any number of special exhibitions and events.

Theater

Also on the Mall is the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. Stop in here, or at any of its satellite facilities for some theater, dance or music. Theater and concert patrons also won't want to miss the many exciting events held at the Kerr Cultural Center and the Music by Moonlight Series at el Pedregal. For a taste of local talent, plan to attend a performance at Scottsdale's oldest community theater, the Stagebrush. Prefer movies to cabaret? Snuggle with your sweetie at one of the Valley's only remaining outdoor theaters, the Scottsdale Six Drive-In.

Sports

If you're feeling lucky, count on Casino Arizona's slots, bingo and poker to satisfy your ever gaming need. Plus, enjoy live musical entertainment and casual cuisine. When you're done wagering on games, and you're ready to simply watch one, head on over to Scottsdale Stadium. Baseball players may be known as'the Boys of Summer', but in Scottsdale, spring's the season for fast-paced baseball action. The stadium is the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants. With its downtown location, the stadium is also convenient to restaurants, galleries and more.

Poll any group of residents or Valley visitors about the top reason to come to Scottsdale and the majority will probably answer with just two words,"great golf." Among the challenging, championship places to play(many designed by top names in the game) are several that rank in the country's top hundred. Legend Trail is one fine example. Two other highly-recommended courses are North Scottsdale's Grayhawk Golf Club and the new Kierland Golf Club. And, should you prefer to watch the pros putt, there are plenty of opportunities. The FBR Open is played at the Tournament Players Club in Scottsdale. PGA Seniors face off annually at The Tradition at Desert Mountain Cochise. As unlikely as it sounds, a local rock'n'roll legend holds his own tournament here, too, the Alice Cooper Celebrity AM. But, as popular a pastime as it may be, golf is but a blip on the radar of Scottsdale recreation and entertainment.

Shopping

Yes, in this city, we purchase with passion. Pick out the perfect souvenir at one of Old Town Scottsdale's quaint shops. Or acquire art, from fine to funky, at one of the galleries on 5th Avenue. Find Native American art and other products at Grey Wolf Gallery, pueblo pottery at King Galleries and bronze sculpture at Legacy Gallery. Still under your credit limit? The Borgata, with its 14th century Italian village ambiance is the'Rodeo Drive' of Scottsdale retail. Thecreme de la creme of U.S. and international boutiques and custom clothiers stand ready to pamper you. Even if your budget only permits window-shopping, it is well worth a visit. Either way, get yourself suitably dressed to impress because it's time to go club hopping.

Nightlife

Do you still look young enough to get'carded'? Strut your stuff on the glass catwalk joining Axis and Radius, the high-energy dance-club combo that is just the hip'n' happening, see-and-be-seen hotspot you are looking for. Rather kick up your heels to a Country Western beat? Slip off your Bruno Maglis, slide into your Tony Lamas and head on over to the Handlebar J, a long-time favorite boot-scootin' bar, with live music nightly.
©

Things to Do Insights

Phoenix: From architectural wonders like St. Mary's Basilica to cultural treasures like those found at the Phoenix Art Museum, this city has a wealth to offer every visitor.

Heritage Square Downtown at Heritage Square visitors can see the historic roots of Phoenix. Enjoy mid-morning tea and pastries at the historic Teeter House, and educational adventures at the Phoenix Museum of History. Visit the nearby St. Mary's Basilica, the oldest Catholic Church in Phoenix, then check out the Arizona Center in Downtown's Copper Square.

Arizona Science Center The Arizona Science Center contains many educational and interactive exhibits, such as the Dorrance Planetarium. Take in a show at the Orpheum Theater, the Herberger Theater Center or Symphony Hall, then enjoy dinner at Oregano's Pizza Bistro.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park Dine at Matador or Lib's Ribs, then head out to explore the interpretive trail at the Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park. Abundant rock art also dwells in the Deer Valley Rock Art Center. Green thumbs will love the Desert Botanical Gardens, where guests can stroll the trails and observe more than 4,000 species of cactus, succulents, trees and flowers.

Arizona State University Take a tour of Arizona State University, which has a museum on its grounds. Grab a bite to eat at the nearby Casey Moore's Oyster House. Then check out SunDevil Stadium, headquarters of the Arizona Cardinals, and Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium, an opulent music center designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Heard Museum Just a few blocks away from the Phoenix Art Museum, you'll find the Heard Museum, which is dedicated

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

to keeping Native American history alive. Try some tasty Italian dishes at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Visit the nearby Margaret T. Hance Park, or Encanto Park and enjoy the Enchanted Island amusement park on its grounds.

The desert climate in Phoenix can make walking around without a guide quite the risk. Consulting a professional tour company will ensure that your trip is both cool and comfortable.

Walking Tours Walk Softly Tours(+1 480 473 1148/http://www.walksoftlytours.com/)

Bus Tours Vaughan's Southwest Custom Tours, Inc(+1 800 513 1381/ http://www.southwesttours.com) Open Road Tours(+1 800 766 7117/http://www.openroadtours.com) Tour West America(+1 480 237 8888/http://www.tourwestamerica.com/) Gray Line Tours(+1 602 307 5491/http://www.grayline.com/)

Boat Tours Rio Lago Cruise(+1 480 517 4050/http://riolagocruise.com/)

Jeep Tours Arizona Classic Jeep Tours(+1 602 264 8433/http://www.azclassicjeeptours.com/)

AdventureTours Arizona Sunset Desert Tours(+1 480 483 3686) Arizona Desert Mountain Jeep Tours(+1 800 567 3619/ http://www.azdesertmountain.com/) Arrowhead Arizona Desert Tours(+1 602 942 3361/http://www.azdeserttours.com) Arizona River Runners(+1 602 867 4866/ http://www.arizonariverrunners.com)

Balloon Tours Hot Air Expeditions(+1 480 502 6999/http://www.hotairexpeditions.com) Over the Rainbow Expeditions(+1 602 225 5666/http://www.letsgoballooning.com/Phoenix/phoenix.html)

Sports Tours Big League Tours(+1 866 619 1748/http://www.bigleaguetours.com)

Scottsdale: Contrary to popular belief, Scottsdale's upper Sonoran Desert environment is not barren and devoid of life. An abundance of beautiful animals and plants do prosper here. And the occasional desert dust storm only adds to the intensity of colorful sunsets.

Scottsdale Stadium Tour Scottsdale Stadium, home of the Scottsdale Scorpions, then browse the collections at Bentley Gallery, Calvin Charles Gallery and the Hernandez Contemporary gallery. Enjoy the inventive fusion food at nearby Cowboy Ciao.

Scottsdale Ranch Park In Central Scottsdale, visit the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, which has an antique carousel, and Scottsdale Ranch Park, a popular spot for basketball and other recreational activities. Browse the work at Artspace, which holds several galleries under its roof. Grab a bite at En Fuego, then stop by the Scottsdale Stained Glass Studio, which allows visitors the chance to create their own glass artwork. **Taliesin West** Enjoy the Crackerjax Family Fun& Sports Park or visit the WestWorld Equestrian Center, which provides family-friendly entertainment. Cactus Park offers a fitness center and public pool. Fans of Frank Lloyd Wright will enjoy Taliesin West, his favorite building. A satisfying lunch can be had at the nearby Pinnacle Peak Patio Steakhouse.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art Old Scottsdale is home to the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, the Scottsdale Historical Museum and many small galleries, such as the Victoria Boyce Galleries. The Vista Del Camino Park offers the chance to fish and swim. When you're through, enjoy a meal at the Acapulco Bay Co. or Madison's.

Arrange to take a professional tour, which will ensure that your time in Scottsdale is well-spent.

Walking Tours Walk Softly Tours(+1 480 473 1148/http://www.walksoftlytours.com)

Jeep Tours Arizona Desert Mountain Jeep Tours(+1 800 567 3619/http://www.azdesertmountain.com) Arizona Bound Tours(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.arizonabound.com) Arizona Sunset Desert Tours(+1 480 483 3686) Southwest Adventures(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.southwestadventures.com/)

Hummer Tours Desert Storm Hummer Tours(+1 480 922 0020/http://www.dshummer.com/) Desert Dog Hummer Adventures(+1 480 837 3966/http://azadventures.com/) Black Diamond Hummer Tour(+1 520 907 1061/http://www.bdhummertours.com)

Bike Tours Desert Biking Adventures(+1 602 320 4602/http://www.desertbikingadventures.com/)

Horseback Tours Arizona Bound Tours(+1 480 962 6620/http://www.arizonabound.com) Arizona Sunset Desert Tours(+1 480 483 3686)

Plane Tours Scottsdale Flyers, LLC(+1 480 922 8681/http://www.sdlflyers.com) Westcor Aviation(+1 480 991 6558/http://www.westcoraviation.com)

Balloon Tours Unicorn Balloon Company(+1 800 755 0935/http://www.unicornballoon.com/)
©

Travel Tips

Phoenix: **Getting There**

Air

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport(PHX)+1 602 273 3300http://www.phxskyharbor.com

PHX is located three miles from downtown and services the following airlines:

Aero Mexico(+ 1 800 237 6639/ http://www.aeromexico.com) Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/ http://www.aircanada.ca) Alaskan Airlines(+1 800 252 7522/ http://www.alaskaair.com) America West(+1 800 235 9292/ http://www.americawest.com) American Airline(+1 800 433 7300/ http://www.aa.com) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/ http://www.british-airways.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ http://www.continental.com) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ http://www.delta.com) Frontier Airlines(+1 800 432 1359/ http://www.frontierairlines.com) Hawaiian Air(+1 800 367 5320/ http://www.hawaiianair.com) Lufthansa(+1 800 645 3880/ http://www.lufthansa.com) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ http://www.nwa.com) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/ http://www.iflyswa.com) United(+1 800 241 6522/ http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ http://www.usairways.com) PCA(+1 800 763 6895/ http://www.pnfnetwork.com/) PCA

From the Airport

Shuttle: Super Shuttle(+1 800 258 3826/ http://www.supershuttle.com) provides daily, around the clock service into downtown and beyond. Between 9a-9p shuttles exit every 15 minutes. Rides to downtown average USD7-USD10, and USD16 to Scottsdale.

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

Taxi: AAA Taxi(+1 602 437 4000), Allstate Cab(+1 602 329 1017), and Discount Cab(+1 602 266 1110) are the only three taxi companies licensed to pick-up passengers at the airport. Downtown metered fares average USD9, while rides to Scottsdale generally fall between USD25-USD40.

Bus: Valley Metro(+1 602 253 5000/ http://www.valleymetro.org) provides cheap(USD1.25) bus transportation into downtown via its Red Line. Buses conveniently exit from Terminals 2, 3, and 4 every 30 minutes and rides take approximately 20 minutes.

Car Rental: Advantage(+1 877 5500/ http://www.arac.com) Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/ http://www.alamo.com) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/ http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/ http://www.budget.com) Dollar(+1 800 4000/ http://www.dollar.com) Enterprise(+1 800 325 8007/ http://www.enterprise.com Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/ http://www.hertz.com National(+1 800 227 7368/ http://www.nationalcar.com) Payless(+1 800 729 5377/ http://www.paylesscarrental.com) Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/ http://www.thrifty.com)

Train

Currently there is no direct rail service into Phoenix. Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/ http://www.amtrak.com) services Flagstaff 138 miles to the north and Tucson 114 miles to the south and then transfers passengers into Phoenix via bus. It is a nightmarish process heavy with inconvenience that only comes recommended as a last travel option behind riding a llama.

Car

Interstate 10 bisects Phoenix in a southeast/west direction, coming from Tucson in the southeast and California in the west. Interstate 17 drops down from the north after branching off of Interstate 40 in Flagstaff.

Getting Around

Public Transit

Valley Metro(+1 602 253 5000/ http://www.valleymetro.org) services all of downtown and the surrounding suburbs as far north as Peoria and as far south as Chandler. Renewed Sunday service and 96 new buses have considerably upgraded this travel option. One-way fares cost USD1.25 and exact change is needed. For route information obtain"The Bus Book" from any tourist information desk.

DASH(Downtown Area Shuttle) is also operated by Valley Metro and exclusively services the downtown area during weekdays from 6:30a-5:30p. Stops include the State Capitol building and Heritage Square. Rides are free.

Train

Rail service is currently in the planning stage.

Taxi

Taxis are easy to track down, but due to Phoenix's sprawl and scattered attractions fares can run high. Metered fares charge USD3 for the first mile and USD1.50 thereafter. Some of the more noted companies include:

AAA Cab(+1 602 437 4000) Alpha Cab(+1 602 232 2000) Cactus Cab(+1 602 994 8778) Checker/Yellow Cab(+1 602 252 5252) Citywide Cab(+1 602 277 7100)

Car

Since many of Phoenix's main attractions, including the Phoenix Zoo, the Desert Botanical Gardens, and Scottsdale's world class golf courses are far from downtown possessing a car is a bonus rather than a hindrance. Most of the thoroughfares are laid out in a north/south, east/west direction making it easy to navigate when compared to other major cities. If possible try to avoid the downtown Interstates during morning and late afternoon rush hours.

Bike

With 495 miles of designated bike ways Phoenix is extremely bike-friendly. Most of the routes and paths stretch out over level terrain and feature underpasses at most major intersections.

Traffic Information:

To find out city traffic information go to:http://www.traffic.com

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/

Scottsdale: **Getting There**

Air

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport(PHX)+1 602 273 330http://www.phxskyharbor.com

PHX is located 10 miles southwest of downtown Scottsdale and houses the following airlines:

AeroMexico(+1 800 237 6639/http://www.aeromexico.com) Air Canada(+1 888 247 2262/http://www.aircanada.ca) Alaska Airlines(+1 800 426 0333/http://www.alaskaair.com) American(+1 800 433 7300/http://www.aa.com) American Trans Air(+1 800 225 2995/http://www.ata.com) Arizona Express(+1 866 435 9872/http://www.azxpress.com) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/http://www.british-airways.com) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/http://www.continental.com) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/http://www.delta-air.com) Frontier(+1 800 432 1359/http://www.frontierairlines.com) Great Lakes(+1 800 554 5111/http://www.greatlakesav.com) Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 367 5320/http://www.hawaiianair.com) JetBlue(+1 800 538 2583/http://www.jetblue.com) Midwest(+1 800 452 2022/http://www.midwestairlines.com) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/http://www.nwa.com) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/http://www.southwest.com) Sun Country(+1 800 359 6786/http://www.suncountry.com) TED(+1 800 225 5833/http://www.flyted.com) United(+1 800 241 6522/http://www.ual.com) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/http://www.usairways.com) WestJet(+1 888 937 8538/http://www.westjet.com)

From the Airport

Shuttle: SuperShuttle offers airport-to-door service with vans departing every 15 minutes.

Taxi: AAA Cab(+1 602 437 4000) Allstate(+1 602 275 8888) Discount(+1 Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE MicrosoftInternetExplorer4/* Style Definitions*/ table.MsoNormalTable{mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-priority:99; mso-style-qformat:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:11.0pt; font-family:"Calibri","sans-serif"; mso-

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.

ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-fareast; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}602 200 2000)

Car Rental: Advantage(+1 800 777 5500/http://www.arac.com) Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://www.goalamo.com) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/http://www.budget.com) Dollar(+1 800 800 4000/http://www.dollar.com) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8222/http://www.enterprise.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/http://www.hertz.com) National(+1 800 227 7368/http://www.nationalcar.com) Thrifty(+1 800 847 4389/http://www.thrifty.com)

Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/http://www.amtrak.com) has three stops in Phoenix: Phoenix Greyhound station, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Metro Center Transit Station. Amtrak provides service to Phoenix from several major cities around the country.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com) accesses Phoenix, about 10 miles from Scottsdale. The Phoenix bus station(+1 602 389 4200), located at 2115 E Buckeye Road, is open 24 hours daily.

Car

Interstate 101 runs through Scottsdale traveling north or south. From the west, take Interstate 10 and Hwy 202 from the east to 101 North to approach the city.

Getting Around

Trolley

The Scottsdale Trolley(+1 800 782 1117) is a free downtown shuttle that operates mid-November to the end of May. The Trolley runs every 10 minutes M-W, Fr-Sa from 11a-6p and Th to 9p. The Shopping Express Trolley stops at ten resorts and four shopping destinations.

Metro

The Valley Metro(+1 602 253 5000/http://www.valleymetro.org) services Scottsdale and neighboring communities.

Limo

ARideAmerica Transportation Group(+1 866 421 7433/http://www.ride-america.com) Arizona Limousines(+1 800 678 0033/http://www.arizonalimos.com) Desert Knights Sedans& Limousines(+1 800 994 2494/http://www.desertknights.com) SuperShuttle/ExecuCar/Premiere(+1 800 258 3826/http://www.supershuttle.com)

Foot

Scottsdale is a great city for walking and bicycling with many hiking and nature trails in the area. There are a total of 58 miles of bike paths and 40 miles of riding and hiking trails. Take a hike or bike through such places as La Mirada Park, McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Pinnacle Peak Park and Scottsdale Ranch Park.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/
©

Fun Facts

Phoenix: **Phoenix State**: Arizona **Country**: United States of America

Phoenix by the Numbers: Population: 1.3 million; 2.8 million metropolitan area Land Area: 375 square miles Elevation: 1,100 feet Average Annual Rainfall: 8 inches Average January Temperature: 66 Average July Temperature: 105 Average Sunshine Days: 325

Quick Facts: Major Industries: Financial Services, High Tech, Government, Tourism Electricity: 110 volts, 60 Hz; standard two-pin plug Ethnic Mix: 72% Caucasian, 19% Hispanic, 4% African American, 2% Asian, 2% Native American Time Zone: GMT-7 Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 602, 623 and 480 **Did You Know?** Phoenix's South Mountain Park is the largest municipal park in the world covering 20,000 acres.

Orientation: Phoenix, the state capital, sits in south central Arizona. The Mexican border, at Nogales, is 162 miles south, while the Grand Canyon beckons 221 miles to the north. The California state line, by car, lies 138 miles west and New Mexico 246 miles to the east.

Scottsdale: **Scottsdale**

State: Arizona

Country: United States

Scottsdale by the Numbers:

Population: 225,426

Elevation: 1260 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 7.66 inches

Average January Temperature: 66 degrees F(high), 41 degrees F(low)

Average July Temperature: 106 degrees F(high), 81 degrees F(low)

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism/hospitality/recreation, healthcare, electronics, farming, timber

Ethnic Mix: 92% Caucasian, 2% Asian, 1% African American

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: GMT-7

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 602(1 and the area code must be dialed even for local calls)

Did You Know?

In 1888, U.S. Army Chaplain Winfield Scott paid$2.50 an acre for the 640 acres that is now Scottsdale. His brother, George Washington Scott, became the first resident of the town.

Orientation:

Scottsdale is located in the central area of Arizona approximately 15 miles east of Phoenix. Tucson lies 113 miles southeast, Albuquerque 312 miles to the northeast, Las Vegas 253 miles to the northwest and San Diego 312 miles to the west.
©

Copyright ©2000-2010 Nile Project. All rights reserved.