



December 2025

A Roundup of What’s New in AZ

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Resorts, Hotels & Spas

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

The Villas at Canyon Suites at The Phoenician Scottsdale

Opening early 2026

[The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician, a Luxury Collection Resort, Scottsdale](#), is opening [The Villas at Canyon Suites](#) in early 2026. Canyon Suites is a resort-within-a-resort and will soon offer guests the opportunity to stay in eight new luxury standalone villas with multiple rooms. Ideal for visitors seeking a private escape and an extended stay, these contemporary Southwest-designed villas offer views of Camelback Mountain, outdoor patio fire tables and a private swimming pool complex with cabanas.

Scottsdale Golf Retreat at Troon North

Opening early 2026

Visitors can experience the ultimate golf getaway at [Scottsdale Golf Retreat at Troon North](#), a new luxury resort in [Scottsdale](#) only footsteps from Troon North Golf Club. The resort’s 26 modern desert villas offer two to four bedrooms right next to Troon North’s clubhouse and first tee. Golfers can play the challenging Monument and Pinnacle courses while soaking in the beauty of the desert landscape and views of Pinnacle Peak.

Denū Hotel & Spa

Opening late 2026

Travelers who want to stay in the heart of [Downtown Phoenix](#) should consider [Denū Hotel & Spa](#), a new retreat just down the street from Chase Field and the Phoenix Convention Center. Denū draws inspiration from the desert's energy, and encourages guests to embrace renewal by unwinding at the full-service wellness spa and soaking in the rooftop pool overlooking the stunning city skyline. This new lifestyle hotel will feature 236 rooms, 16 suites, an urban-designed presidential suite and more than 22,000 square feet of meetings and event space.

Kimpton Miralina

Opening early 2026

Visitors seeking serenity will be eager to stay at the new [Kimpton Miralina](#) in [Scottsdale](#), formerly the Scottsdale Plaza Resort & Villas. The reimagined resort offers over 400 guest rooms, suites and villas along with many wellness amenities. Guests can spend the day lounging at one of six pools or at the spa where they can participate in mindfulness experiences including sound bathing and yoga. Guests can end the day with artisanal Mexican cuisine at the resort's new restaurant, Hecho Libre.

Outbound Sedona

Opening May 2026

Families will enjoy views of [Sedona's](#) famous Bell Rock when staying at the new [Outbound Sedona](#), a reimagined and renovated property formerly known as Poco Diablo Resort. The 137-room resort will feature redesigned guestrooms and an enhanced spa where guests can relax in the dry sauna or take a cold plunge. The resort's pool area, Moonwater, features two pools, two hot tubs and fire pits with unmatched views of Bell Rock — the perfect place to enjoy stargazing at [Sedona's dark skies](#). Visitors will enjoy Southwestern cuisine with a twist at the on-site restaurant, Lucida.

L'Auberge de Sedona's \$30 Million Transformation Complete

Opened late 2025

First-time [Sedona](#) visitors can expect a lavish stay at [L'Auberge de Sedona](#), which recently completed a \$30 million property-wide renovation including new lodging at [The Cliffs](#). The Cliffs' 70 elevated guest rooms and suites feature a contemporary Southwestern design and balconies with picturesque views of Snoopy Rock. The resort's new heated pool, the "Duck Pond," sits cliffside so guests can enjoy phenomenal red rock views. Guests can spend their days achieving holistic wellness at the [L'Apothecary Spa](#) and enjoy fine dining at [Cress on Oak Creek](#).

Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas \$24 Million Renovation Complete

Opened late 2025

Guests can stay in one of the new 45 redesigned villas at the [Hilton Scottsdale Resort](#), which recently completed its second phase of its \$24 million renovation. The new villas are ideal for large groups vacationing together, including family reunions, since they are arranged in clusters of five. Guests can enjoy private access to a new pool area during the day and make s'mores at the fire pits at night. Families can dine at the three on-site restaurants, explore nearby Old Town Scottsdale or golf at one of the nearby world-class courses.

The Spa at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa Undergoes \$24 Million Transformation

Reopening in 2026

The redesigned [Spa at JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn](#) will invite guests to experience the wellness benefits of the Sonoran Desert. The transformed spa will embrace the ariVéa philosophy, an individually crafted pathway to holistic health that combines the natural energy of Arizona's deserts with timeless rituals and treatments. This sanctuary offers desert-inspired treatments using indigenous ingredients, a trio of tranquil hydrotherapies and a studio where guests can engage in mindfulness sessions.

The REMI Scottsdale Now Open

The [REMI Scottsdale, Autograph Collection](#), is a boutique hotel located in the heart of [Scottsdale's Entertainment District](#). Intertwining luxury with a dynamic atmosphere, this 161-room hotel features five dining venues, VIP access to the adjacent Maya Day + Nightclub and stunning sunset views from its rooftop pool, the highest one in the city. Guests looking to soak up the sun can book one of the two Loft Suites patios that open to the hotel's pool deck. They can enjoy the hotel's culinary experiences, including savory dishes at the Japanese Steakhouse, elevated comfort food at the modern diner and curated cocktails at the Rooftop Bar alongside the pool. The REMI Scottsdale opened in July 2025.

Enjoy an AI-Powered Massage at the W Scottsdale

Those ready to combine technology and tradition should experience a one-of-a-kind massage at the [AWAY Spa](#) in [W Scottsdale](#), now offering Arizona's first AI-powered massage in collaboration with Aescape. This cutting-edge treatment features intelligent robotic arms guided by advanced AI technology to deliver a customized full-body massage. Guests can personalize their session by selecting pressure levels, target areas, and massage styles while the system responds and adjusts in real-time. This new massage started in June 2025.

Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale Announces \$18 million Renovation

The historic, mid-century designed [Hotel Valley Ho](#) in [Old Town Scottsdale](#) is undergoing an \$18 million renovation to refresh its rooms, fusing vintage aesthetic with modern design. This marks the largest renovation since opening in 1956. Renovated rooms in the hotel's original wings are now open to guests to enjoy after exploring Old Town's galleries, dining at the on-site restaurant, [Zuzu](#), or learning about the hotel's storied history on the 90-minute Magical History walking tour. The renovated rooms opened in July 2025.

Top of The Lodge: A New Stay at Castle Hot Springs

Perfect for a girls' getaway or a trip with extended family, [Top of The Lodge](#) is a new luxury suite at [Castle Hot Springs](#). The suite features three bedrooms, four bathrooms and a wraparound deck with stunning views of the Sonoran Desert. Just steps away from Castle Hot Springs' Bar, 1896, and its farm-to-table restaurant, Harvest, guests have easy access to exceptional dining. On-site activities include swimming in the remedial hot springs, touring the farm and hiking or biking. This new suite opened in July 2025.

Cottonwood's Tavern Hotel Offers a Paw-Sitively Perfect Escape

Opened in August 2025

[The Tavern Hotel](#) has new luxurious accommodations just for four-legged friends. In addition to the [Tavern Dog Cottage](#), which opened a couple of years ago, The Tavern has a new [Dog Suite](#) designed with furry best friends in mind. The all-new Dog Suite is a 450-square-foot retreat for two humans and up to two pups (65 lbs. max), with a lavish bathroom, plush king bed, soft-topped mattress and plenty of space to spread out. Visitors and their furry friends can pick up some new toys at the nearby [Paw on Main Street](#), take a walk through [Dead Horse Ranch State Park](#) and grab a puppuccino at the walk-up window at [Crema Craft Kitchen + Bar](#) across the street.

Mountain Modern Sedona Now Open

The new [Mountain Modern Sedona](#) is ideal for guests seeking wellness or adventure. In addition to numerous wellness activities and “noctourism” classes, the hotel offers an on-site restaurant, pool and custom storage for guests’ outdoor adventure gear. Wellness activities include crystal bowl sound baths, chakra exploration and exploring Sedona's famous vortexes. The pet-friendly hotel offers a full-service outdoor dog spa, pet-focused activities and a menu for furry friends at the onsite restaurant. After spending the day exploring Sedona's red rocks, visitors will soak in views of Sedona's dark skies at Mountain Modern's evening yoga and stargazing sessions. In the mornings, guests can wake up to a sunrise ceremony inspired by American Indian traditions. Opened in April 2025.

Stay at the Taawaki Inn, A Hopi-owned and Operated Hotel In Clarkdale

[The Taawaki Inn](#) in [Clarkdale](#) is the only [Hopi](#)-owned and operated hotel outside the Hopi sovereign nation, offering visitors an opportunity to experience Hopi culture while staying in the Verde Valley. The Hopi-inspired design of this 44-room hotel, which opened last summer, has an aesthetic that mirrors a traditional Hopi home, allowing guests to see Hopi artists’ artwork and craftwork on display. Visitors can shop for authentic Hopi handcrafted goods at the on-site gallery, participate in one of the resort’s cultural events, or visit [Tuzigoot National Monument](#), an ancient pueblo site along the Hopi migration route, to get a glimpse of how Hopi ancestors lived. Celebrating its 1st anniversary in July 2025.

Hidden Gem Getaway: Acoustic Cellars Lodge in Verde Valley Wine Country

Those who want to enjoy wine, wellness and live music can now visit the newly opened [Acoustic Cellars Lodge](#) in [Cornville](#), nestled in the [Verde Valley](#), one of Arizona's three American Viticultural Areas. Options include joining the lodge's AZ Wine Crawler tour and visiting several wineries in Sedona and Verde Valley, where guests can savor award-winning wines while soaking in the picturesque scenery. At this cozy lodge, visitors can spend the day playing pickleball, petting the alpaca and relaxing in the hot tub. In the evening, they can unwind at intimate onsite concerts from the lodge's owner, Leon J, an award-winning Heritage Blues Hall of Fame artist. Opened July 2025.

The First Grand Hyatt Property in Arizona Is Now Open

Formally known as The Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Gainey Ranch, the resort has finished its million-dollar renovation and has been rebranded as the [Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort & Spa](#), making it the first Grand Hyatt property in Arizona. Guests will enjoy the newly renovated guest rooms, pools, spa, fitness center and event spaces while exploring the endless activities within [Scottsdale](#). Opened October 2024.

Northern Arizona – Resorts, Hotels and Spas

Highland Grand Canyon is the Newest and Closest Glamping Retreat to Grand Canyon’s South Rim

Opened in May 2025

[Highland Grand Canyon](#) is just four miles from the [Canyon](#). Nestled beneath tall ponderosa pines, it offers a quiet forest setting where guests can stay close to the park, yet feel worlds away from the crowds. With five safari tents, Highland combines the simplicity of an off-grid retreat with the comforts of home, including king-size memory foam beds, hot showers and free WiFi. Shared spaces include communal bathrooms, an outdoor kitchen, picnic tables and a fire pit. When evening falls, Highland reveals some of Arizona’s darkest skies, perfect for unforgettable stargazing. Elk and deer often pass through the property, and with the Canyon minutes away, it is the perfect setting for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Grand Canyon. Highland is open seasonally from May 1 to Oct. 20.

Tin Can Alley Airbnb Welcomes Travelers on Route 66

With the Route 66 Centennial celebration next year, [Kingman](#) is ready to welcome visitors to the newly opened [Tin Can Alley](#). Here, guests can stay overnight in renovated vintage Airstream trailers, footsteps away from the city’s numerous museums, retro diners and memorabilia shops. Visitors can start every adventurous day at [Mud on 66](#), the onsite coffee shop in a transformed mid-century tavern, and end it at [Scoops on 66](#), a refurbished 1939 Mobile gas station serving ice cream. Opened May 2025.

New Campground Near Petrified Forest National Park

Opened May 2025

Visitors can watch a vibrant sunset over the vast, tranquil badlands near [Petrified Forest National Park](#) at the recently opened [Tickled Pink Flamingos Vintage Campground and Retreat Center](#). Directly off Route 66, roadtrippers can relax in one of the five cozy campers and enjoy a campfire under the stars while taking in the peaceful solitude of their remote surroundings. [Tickled Pink Flamingos](#) blends vintage charm with nature’s beauty, making it an ideal stop when exploring the Mother Road during its upcoming 2026 centennial.

Flagstaff’s First-Ever Dual-Branded Hotel Opened in August 2025

Visitors participating in Flagstaff’s numerous outdoor activities can stay at the city’s first dual-branded hotel featuring [Home2 Suites by Hilton](#) and [Tru by Hilton](#). The 113 suites at Home2 Suites by Hilton are ideal for guests seeking an extended stay to explore Flagstaff, while 91 streamlined guest rooms at Tru by Hilton are designed for Route 66 roadtrippers looking for a quick, yet vibrant pitstop near the Mother Road. Just a short drive away from Lowell Observatory and Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course, guests

can unwind after a day of adventure in the hotel's heated pool and dine at the onsite Pines Bar & Bistro. Opened August 2025.

Trailborn Grand Canyon

The [Trailborn Grand Canyon](#) is a newly restored hotel on [Route 66](#) in [Williams](#), a historic town known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon. Thanks to Trailborn's location, guests can easily ride the [Grand Canyon Railroad](#) to visit the [South Rim of the Grand Canyon](#) or enjoy the retro diners and shops along [Route 66](#) in Williams. Families can book off-site excursions with local experts to go on guided hikes, stargazing tours and helicopter rides. This is an ideal stay for road trippers eager to visit Arizona during the [Route 66 centennial celebration](#) in 2026. Opened early 2025.

Arizona Attractions

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

International Dark Sky Discovery Center

Opening summer 2026

Families can peer into the galaxy at the new [International Dark Sky Discovery Center](#) in [Fountain Hills](#), which will feature the largest telescope in the Phoenix metro area open for public viewing. At the center, visitors can learn about astronomy by marveling at the Craig and Ruth Gimbel Planetarium equipped with state-of-the-art tilted dome technology. Visitors can also enjoy views of dark skies at the Inspiration Theater. Space enthusiasts of all ages will be eager to explore the interactive exhibit hall and become scientists with hands-on learning experiences.

2026 NCAA Women's Final Four

April 2-5, 2026

The legendary college basketball tournament will be hosted in [Phoenix](#) for the first time this April. The [NCAA Women's Final Four](#) experience features a collection of events in addition to the games that will be played at the [Mortgage Matchup Center](#) in downtown. In between games, visitors can explore downtown's museums, dining and nightlife. Fans should extend their trip to embark on adventures across the state to experience Arizona's breathtaking landscapes and hidden gems.

The Rough Rider: A New Biking Race

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026

Bikers can race through the Prescott National Forest competing in [The Rough Rider](#), a new three-day gravel stage race in [Prescott](#) that combines challenging terrain, scenic views and Western charm for a one-of-a-kind race. The three-day race starts in the mining town of Jerome with racers conquering switchbacks before arriving at Watson Lake in Prescott. On the second day, riders pedal through the pines of the Prescott National Forest until racing back into downtown Prescott. On the last day, racers take off from downtown to the Thumb Butte corridor into the wilderness before finishing the race at downtown Prescott's courthouse square.

Reimagined Dorrance Planetarium in Phoenix

Reopened in October 2025

Visitors and locals can explore the galaxy at the reimagined [Dorrance Planetarium](#) at the [Arizona Science Center](#) in downtown [Phoenix](#), which reopened on Oct. 18, 2025. The planetarium is the most technologically advanced in North America, 100 times brighter than most planetarium projection domes, thanks to a partnership with the immersive tech company Cosm. This 8K+ resolution digital dome transports guests into space, black holes and the stars of Arizona's dark skies. It's a must-visit for space lovers, science enthusiasts and anyone looking for an awe-inspiring journey beyond Earth.

Rockin' River Ranch State Park is Now Open Five Days Weekly

New hours started in September 2025

Outdoor enthusiasts can now explore Arizona's newest state park, [Rockin' River Ranch State Park](#) in [Camp Verde](#), Thursdays through Mondays, following the addition of two new days to its schedule. Visitors can enjoy six scenic and easy hiking trails that weave through pastures and riparian areas along the Verde River. Once a guest ranch, the park is ideal for picnicking, bird and wildlife watching, kayaking or fishing on the Verde River.

Arizona's First Upscale Supper Club Opens in Scottsdale

Elevated fine dining and entertainment can be enjoyed at the new [SHIV Supper Club](#) in [Scottsdale's Entertainment District](#). This luxurious and intimate culinary experience offers world-class cuisine paired with craft cocktails and immersive entertainment. On weekends, the Supper Club transforms into [The Dessert Room](#), where guests can indulge in 12 ever-changing, unique desserts crafted by acclaimed Pastry Chef Nundi Harris. Reservations are required. Opened in May 2025.

Phoenix Zoo's New 'Big Cats of Arizona' Habitat Opens

Guests at [Phoenix Zoo](#) can enjoy an up-close view of mountain lions and jaguars thanks to the new "Big Cats of Arizona: This new area includes the Zoo's first-ever "catwalk," allowing guests to walk directly below the big cats as they move overhead. Visitors can view the majestic cats from multiple angles while learning the importance of conserving these species. Opened in April 2025.

Surf in the Sonoran Desert

Hang ten at [Revel Surf](#) in [Mesa](#), Arizona's only surf park, which welcomes newbies and experts to surf customizable waves and enjoy a beach day in the desert. Opened in February 2025, this park offers lessons on how to surf its lagoon's waves, which can reach up to six feet. Experienced surfers can focus on perfecting their techniques at the stationary deepwater area, conquering its consistent 33-foot-wide wave face. Opened in February 2025.

Enjoy American Indian Art on the New Salt River Arts Trail

Visitors should take time to observe baskets, paintings and sculptures made by members of the [Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community](#) (SRPMIC) while venturing along the new [Salt River Arts Trail](#) woven throughout the Talking Stick Entertainment District. A visit to all 13 stops along the trail provides

guests a way to experience SRPMIC’s culture, creation stories and meaningful symbols. Those who visit the majority of the artwork along the trail will earn enough points to receive a free, exclusive T-shirt made by SRPMIC artist Dwayne Manuel at the Salt River Visitor Center. Visitors can then rock their custom shirt while gaming at [Talking Stick Casino](#) or catching a baseball game at [Salt River Fields](#), spring training home of the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies, just to name a few other fun activities available within the area. Opened early 2025.

New Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks Opens West of Metro Phoenix

Visitors can try their luck at the new [Desert Diamond Casino White Tanks](#) in Waddell, west of Glendale. Owned and operated by the Tohono O’odham Nation, visitors can play roulette and poker before trying for the jackpot at one of the facility’s 900 slots. Guests can celebrate their winnings by rewarding their taste buds at the casino’s Morton’s Steakhouse, pub or food hall while enjoying a cocktail or pint. Opened in December 2024.

New Mountain Bike Trail System Opens in Prescott

Now open to the public, the new [Bean Peaks Gravity Flow Trail System](#) in [Prescott](#) is designed so every biker, including recumbent hand-pedaled bikers, can experience the thrill of mountain biking through towering ponderosa pines. The first of their kind in the state, the 9.2 miles of gravity flow trails are bike-specific for all mountain bikers to enjoy, offering varying difficulties, multi-lap options and bike-only areas. A planned second phase will add 6.9 miles of trails to the public in Fall 2025.

Northern Arizona – Arizona Attractions

New Route 66 Experiences in Flagstaff

In Flagstaff, [Route 66 to the Grand Canyon](#), a family-friendly comedy written by acclaimed filmmaker and writer Peter Kershaw will debut at the [Doris Harper-White Playhouse](#) on February 8, 2026. This interactive and heartfelt play will also be held at the [Museum of Northern Arizona](#) throughout 2026. Along with the play, the Museum of Northern Arizona offers a new exhibit, "[Wagon Road to Mother Road](#)" which showcases the evolution of travel in northern Arizona from the Beale Wagon Road to Route 66. The exhibit runs November 16, 2025, through October 26, 2026, and is based on the museum's archaeological surveys in [Petrified Forest National Park](#). Lowell Observatory has opened a new tour called "[Cosmic Highways: A Centennial Tour](#)" that follows the astronomical discoveries of Percival Lowell, the founder of Lowell Observatory, made along Route 66 in Arizona. In addition, Flagstaff will host a Route 66 Centennial celebration on June 6, 2026.

Meteor City Reopens with a New Dino Drive-Thru

Reopened in May 2025

Families can spot more than 30 towering dinosaur statues at [Meteor City](#), a longtime Route 66 roadside attraction recently revived for the next generation of roadtrippers. Easily recognizable by its massive geodesic dome, Meteor City is located 20 miles west of Winslow. Once a trading post and Texaco gas station, Meteor City continues to evolve, offering fun activities while embracing the quirky spirit of Route 66. At the new [Dino Drive-thru](#), travelers can drive through the one-of-a-kind dinosaur park with

over 30 dinosaurs on display. Families can spend the afternoon mining for gemstones, creating graffiti art on a vintage Volkswagen and playing retro arcade games.

Route 66 Dog Park Newly Opened in Kingman

Opened September 2025

[Kingman](#) erected a drive-thru Route 66 shield for visitors to take the perfect photo and commemorate their drive along Route 66. For those traveling with their fur babies, Kingman offers yet another reason to make a stop. The newly opened [Route 66 Dog Park](#), located next to the Route 66 Museum, provides plenty of space for dogs to run and offers a dog drinking fountain. The most bark-worthy attraction at the park is a 5-foot-tall dog walk-through Route 66 shield.

Enjoy New Musical Road Driving Into Winslow

Opened in September 2025

Route 66 roadtrippers can now hear their tires play the iconic tune of The Eagles' "Take it Easy" while cruising into [Winslow](#) thanks to the new custom-designed singing road installed as part of the upcoming Route 66 centennial celebration in 2026. The city of Winslow, with the help of ROADTUNES, installed a synthetic asphalt material that, when driven over at the exact speed of 35 miles per hour, will make the tires vibrate and create the tune of a verse in the song "Take it Easy" that mentions Winslow. Located on the east side of town near the 9/11 Memorial Park, drivers can roll down their windows and hear their tires play the catchy verse, "Standin' on a corner in Winslow, Arizona, such a fine sight to see", to kick off their visit before exploring Winslow's Standing on the Corner Park, Old Trails Museum and La Posada Hotel.

Grand Canyon Caverns & Inn Reopens

Travelers in Northern Arizona can once again explore [Grand Canyon Caverns & Inn](#), located along Arizona's Historic Route 66 and home of the largest dry caverns in the U.S. The famous site reopened to visitors in June after extensive renovations. Visitors can descend 220 feet underground to tour the caverns, winding through the rock walls while learning about the cavern's history. After working up an appetite, visitors are encouraged to enjoy a meal at the [Crystal Restaurant](#), which is located directly inside the caverns. The property also has newly renovated accommodations, including a ranch house, cabins, a bunkhouse, standard rooms or a tent site. Visitors can also stay at the [on-site RV Park](#), which features bathhouses for roadtrippers to enjoy. The Caverns make a great stop when driving along Route 66 to celebrate its centennial in 2026. Reopened in September 2025.

Petrified Forest Museum Association's 'The Bend on 66' Opens in Holbrook

The Petrified Forest Museum Association recently opened ['The Bend on 66'](#) its new headquarters, educational outlet and store in downtown [Holbrook](#). The store offers a blend of park information, books and nostalgic collectible items. Designed to embody the classic retro flair of Route 66, the store serves as a great starting point for visitors to learn more about the Petrified Forest before visiting the park. Opened July 2025.

Southern Arizona – Arizona Attractions

Tucson's New Astro Trail

Stargazers can take [Tucson's new Astro Trail](#), which offers self-guided dark-sky experiences and astronomical attractions across southern Arizona. Visitors embarking on the trail can peer into the cosmos by touring multiple observatories, exploring science museums, or camping under the night sky in designated dark sky parks. They can stay overnight at [Kitt Peak Observatory](#), spot constellations at [Saguaro National Park](#) and learn about aerospace at the [Pima Air & Space Museum](#), just a few of the astronomy adventures showcased on the Astro Trail. The Trail opened in early 2025.

Tucson Auto Museum Reopened

Car enthusiasts can enjoy the [Tucson Auto Museum](#) at its new, easily accessible location. More than 70 cars are displayed through the museum, including vintage, Hollywood-inspired and limited edition vehicles. Visitors can catch a glimpse of two rare Davis Divan cars, of which only 17 were ever produced, and an Aqua Car that can ride on water, and take a picture in front of a replica of the Batmobile from the famed Batman TV series of the 1960s. Car meet-ups and car shows are held in front of the museum all year round. The museum reopened in April 2025.

Arizona Tours

Prescott's New Whiskey Trail Pass

Launched in September 2025

Visitors can immerse themselves in the Western charm of [Prescott's](#) famous Whiskey Row with the new [Prescott Whiskey Trail](#), a free digital pass that showcases the best bars downtown. After downloading the pass, thirsty participants can explore 24 bars and saloons, each offering signature whiskeys or pints. At each stop, users check-in by completing a custom trivia challenge or scavenger hunt-style riddle to earn points to unlock prizes and perks along the way. Download the pass [here](#).

New Arizona Wild Bunch: Family Pass

Families traveling with kids can discover all of Arizona's best family-friendly activities with the new [Arizona Wild Bunch: Family Pass](#). The free passport offers an interactive map and guide that showcases more than 60 kid-approved attractions and destinations across the state. With this pass as a resource, families can easily plan their trip and embark on fun adventures like riding the [Grand Canyon Railway](#) in Williams, expressing creativity at the [i.d.e.a Museum](#) in Mesa, or exploring five completely different environments at [Biosphere 2](#) near Tucson. With an abundance of outdoor adventures, museums, zoos and hands-on activities — there's something fun to discover for the whole family. The pass launched in the summer of 2025.

Discover Oro Valley with the New Explore OV App

It is easy to plan a getaway to the Southern Arizona city of [Oro Valley](#) (OV) with the [new Explore OV app](#) that highlights attractions, hotels, events and parks visitors can enjoy. After downloading the free app from the Apple Store or Google Play, travelers can select attractions, hotels and restaurants to visit and

create a mapped-out itinerary that can be shared with friends and family. With the new app's help, visitors can find the nearest biking trail, learn about the world-renowned [Tohono Chul Park](#) and discover all the upcoming free events. The new app launched in early 2025.

Visit Mesa Launches a New Digital Accessibility Travel Guide

[Mesa](#), the world's first Autism Certified City, now offers a new digital [Accessibility Travel Guide](#) that helps people on the autism spectrum and their families easily plan and enjoy their visit. The new guide showcases the city's sensory-friendly attractions, autism-certified businesses and firsthand stories from travelers to support inclusive travel. As the first city to earn a Destination Verified Seal from [Wheel the World](#), a website dedicated to connecting people with disabilities with recommended activities in destinations, Mesa's new guide also includes accessible trails, accommodations and resources. The new guide was launched in May 2025.

Arizona Tourism Industry News

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona – Arizona Tourism News

New Nonstop Flights Connect Asia to Arizona

Two Taiwan-based airlines will soon begin offering service from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#), marking the first nonstop flights between Asia and Arizona. [China Airlines](#) will commence service from Taipei to Phoenix on Dec. 3, 2025, while [STARLUX Airlines](#) will launch nonstop flights on Jan. 15, 2026.

RetrievAir to Launch at Scottsdale Airport

February 2026

Travelers who love bringing their pets on vacation will want to fly to Arizona on [RetrievAir](#), an aviation service that allows pets to fly right next to their owners. Recently featured on "Shark Tank", RetrievAir will offer flights to [Scottsdale Airport](#) from Los Angeles, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, New York and Tampa.

Porter Airlines New Seasonal Flights

February 2026

[Porter Airlines](#) will offer Canadian visitors new seasonal routes to [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) from Ottawa, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia starting February 2026. This marks the first Ottawa route to serve Phoenix, with the flight operating three times a week. Porter will also launch its first-ever transborder service from Vancouver with a nonstop flight to Phoenix operating daily.

American Airlines New Routes

[American Airlines](#) is adding new routes to [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) from Santa Maria, Calif., Sun Valley, Idaho and Fort Myers, Florida.

STARLUX Airlines Announces Partnership with American Airlines

Announced in August 2025

Following the announcement of its new nonstop flights between [Phoenix](#), Arizona, and Taipei, Taiwan [STARLUX](#) has revealed a new partnership with American Airlines. As a key hub in the Southwestern U.S. for American Airlines, Phoenix offers strategic advantages for travelers. STARLUX has scheduled its Phoenix flights to allow smooth connections to American flights bound for major U.S. cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Charlotte, Miami, Dallas, Las Vegas and more.

New Nonstop Frontier Flight between Tucson and Dallas-Fort Worth Began in October

Frontier Airlines offers nonstop service between [Tucson International Airport \(TUS\)](#) and Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) twice a week, starting Oct. 9, 2025. This marks Frontier Airlines' third nonstop destination since returning to TUS earlier in the year. The new flight was announced in July 2025.

Air France Increases Nonstop Flights between Phoenix and Paris

Air France now offers nonstop service between Phoenix and Paris five times a week on an Airbus A350-900, a fuel-efficient aircraft known for its reduced environmental impact. This increase in flights for Air France's first-ever nonstop flight between [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport \(PHX\)](#) and Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport started just in time for the inaugural flight's first anniversary in May 2025. The news of the increase in flights was announced in May 2025.

Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott is Now an Officially Recognized Arboretum

Plant lovers can wander among 89 species of trees and woody plants at [Sharlot Hall Museum](#) in Prescott, a newly recognized arboretum. Visitors can explore the museum's four-acre campus, including the Yavpé Ethnobotany Garden, created with the help of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Or, they choose to stroll through the stunning Memorial Rose Garden, home to 180 rose varieties and dedicated to Arizona's early pioneer and frontier women. Visitors can also explore the museum's eight historic buildings, including the log cabin Governor's Mansion built in 1864 for the first Governor of the Arizona Territory, John Goodwin. This landmark houses exhibits on pioneer life, the history of the Yavapai people and early vehicles. The museum earned the recognition in April 2025.

New Aeromexico Nonstop Flights Between Phoenix and Mexico City Commenced Spring 2025

In March 2025, Aeromexico and Delta Airlines partnered to launch new daily nonstop flights between [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) and Mexico City International Airport. This marks the second airline at Phoenix Sky Harbor to offer non-stop flights between Phoenix and Mexico City, as demand for routes between these destinations keeps growing.

Northern Arizona – Arizona Tourism News

Paleontologists Name A New Species of Tanystropheid Reptile at Petrified Forest National Park *Announced in August 2025*

Paleontologists at [Petrified Forest National Park](#) named a new aquatic reptile whose fossils were discovered in the park. The Akidostropheus oligos, a tanystropheid reptile that lived in the Triassic period, was smaller than a pinky and had a long neck for its body size. In collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Petrified Forest named the reptile after its distinct

appearance, with Akidostropheus oligos meaning "tiny spiked back bone," referring to its distinctively small neck vertebra with a unique spike on top. The fossils were found in the "Thunderstorm Ridge" area of the park by collecting rocks, rinsing the rocks with water through a fine metal screen and looking at the sediments under a microscope to find the microfossils of the Akidostropheus oligos.

Grand Canyon National Park South Rim Remains Open While North Rim Closes for Season

The visitor season at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park has been cut short by destruction from the Dragon Bravo Fire. The North Rim is now closed for the remainder of the 2025 season, which runs through November 30, 2025. While the North Rim is closed, all the South Rim businesses, hotels and surrounding communities such as Tusayan, Valle, Williams and Cameron remain open, fully operational and ready to welcome guests. For the latest updates on Grand Canyon National Park visitor information and fire updates, visit the Park's [website](#). This news was announced in September 2025.

Arizona Accolades

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona - Arizona Accolades

Chef Yotaka Martin of Phoenix's Lom Wong Wins James Beard Award for Best Chef- Southwest

Chef Yotaka Martin of Phoenix's [Lom Wong](#) earned the 2025 James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southwest, making her the 12th Arizona chef to earn the award and marking the second consecutive year a Phoenix chef has won the title. (Chef Rene Andrade of Phoenix's Bacanora won the 2024 Award). Chef Martin showcases the flavors and culinary traditions of authentic Thai cuisine she grew up learning in Thailand at Lom Wong, offering diners a chance to try unique dishes from small villages across the country. This family-run restaurant invites guests to savor Won Pen's fried chicken, pork belly curry and egg noodles with a cocktail while enjoying the intimate yet welcoming atmosphere. [The James Beard Foundation](#) celebrates individuals transforming America's food culture by recognizing chefs and restaurants that uphold a standard of high quality. The restaurant earned the award in June 2025.

Phoenix Ice Cream Shop Named 'Best Ice Cream Shop in the Country' by Yelp

[Novel Ice Cream](#) in downtown Phoenix has been named the [Best Ice Cream Shop in the Country in Yelp's Top 100 Ice Cream List in 2025](#). Visitors can devour unique handcrafted ice cream at this family-owned shop with specialties such as the signature Dough Melt, a sweet combination of ice cream and toppings stuffed in between a homemade donut, creating an award-winning ice cream sandwich. With 12 rotating flavors, including Bourbon Caramel Toffee Crunch and Sweet Tea Sorbet, Novel offers something for every sweet tooth. Visit one of Novel Ice Cream's three locations (downtown Mesa, Old Town Peoria or downtown Phoenix) for the best summer dessert. The ice cream shop earned the award in July 2025.

Phoenix's Little Rituals Wins 'Best U.S. Hotel Bar'

Guests can check in and then grab a cocktail at [Little Rituals](#) in [Residence Inn/Courtyard by Marriott Phoenix Downtown](#), which earned the prestigious title of the [Best US Hotel Bar by The Tales of the Cocktail Spirited Awards 2025](#). An international competition, the Spirited Awards celebrates the

excellence among beverage professionals and establishments across the globe. Little Rituals earned the award for offering consistently well-made drinks in a comfortable setting and upholding the tradition of the classic hotel bar. Visitors exploring downtown's nightlife will want to swing by to sip elaborate and seasonal cocktails while enjoying views of the city. The bar won the award in July 2025.

Castle Hot Springs Recognized in Travel + Leisure's Top 15 Resorts in the U.S.

Travelers' growing desire for secluded luxury and connection to nature earned [Castle Hot Springs](#) in Morristown a spot on [Travel + Leisure's 2025 World's Best Awards' Top 15 Resorts in the US](#). This desert oasis and wellness resort was also named the [number one resort in Arizona](#) for the fourth consecutive year, thanks to its mineral-rich hot springs, outdoor activities and exceptional service. An adults-only getaway, the resort offers rejuvenation through [Watsu pool therapy](#), an outdoor adventure course, farm-to-table dining and serene stays in their private cabins or bungalows. The resort earned this recognition in July 2025.

Verde Canyon Railroad Recognized By National Geographic as a Top 10 'Dreamiest Stargazing Train'

Visitors can ride the rails beneath an endless starry sky on the [Verde Canyon Railroad](#) in [Clarkdale](#), named the third-best stargazing train in the U.S. on [National Geographic's Top 10 Dreamiest Stargazing Trains list](#). Riders can witness a vibrant Arizona sunset transform into clear dark skies on the [Saturday Starlight Tour](#), as they journey into the magnificent Verde Canyon for an evening of stargazing and exploration of remote chasms accessible only by rail. The train earned this designation in April 2025.

Travel + Leisure Names Sedona 'Most Mindful Destination on Earth'

[Sedona's](#) natural wonders and spiritual elements have earned the prestigious designation of ["Most Mindful Destination on Earth" by Travel + Leisure](#) in April 2025. After analyzing thousands of TripAdvisor reviews for three years, Sedona scored a 92 on the mindfulness scale, beating other wellness hotspots to claim the honor. Sedona's red rock formations, strong spiritual community and energy vortexes help many travelers discover serenity and inner transformation. In addition to the vortexes, visitors can enjoy world-class spas and resorts, scenic hiking trails and a thriving arts community. Sedona earned this designation in April 2025.

Arizona Indigenous Culinary Experience Named "Best Under the Radar Activity"

PHOENIX Magazine's Arizona Travel Awards named [Arizona Indigenous Culinary Experience](#) as the "Best Under the Radar Activity" for their "Best of the Valley" July/August 2025 issue. This two-day event, held in November, features Native Arizona cuisine, arts, and live performances. Attendees enjoy curated tasting stations and demonstrations by Indigenous chefs. The event earned this designation in June 2025.

Two Arizona Restaurants Earn Recognition in USA Today's 2025 Restaurants of the Year

Foodies seeking mouthwatering cuisine that showcases local flavors will want to dine at [Ta'Carbon](#) in [Glendale](#) and [COURSE](#) in [Scottsdale](#), two Metro Phoenix restaurants that earned recognition in [USA Today's 2025 Restaurants of the Year](#). With three locations in Metro Phoenix, Ta'Carbon serves a wide variety of Mexican food, including its popular charred steak and green chile burrito, which pairs nicely

with its self-serve salsa bar. After winning at the Arizona Restaurant Association's 2024 Foodist Awards for emerging restaurant and being a semifinalist for this year's James Beard's Best Chef - Southwest Award, COURSE's unique dishes with surprising flavors and nostalgic presentations make this restaurant a must-visit in Scottsdale. The restaurants earned recognition in February 2025.

Northern Arizona - Arizona Accolades

Lowell Observatory Earns Top Recognition from *TIME* and *Newsweek*

[Lowell Observatory](#) in [Flagstaff](#) was named one of the "[World's Greatest Places of 2025](#)" by *Time* for its significant role in astronomy and its new interactive [Astronomy Discovery Center](#). Lowell also earned the honor of being named as one of the [Best Science Museums in the U.S. in *Newsweek's* 2025 Readers' Choice Awards](#). At Lowell, visitors can peer through the telescope that discovered Pluto and enjoy stargazing at the new center's rooftop planetarium. The observatory earned this recognition in January 2025.

Southern Arizona - Arizona Accolades

Flandrau Planetarium Named One of the 'Best Planetariums in the US' by *USA Today* Readers

The [Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium](#) at the University of Arizona in [Tucson](#) recently earned fourth place in [USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice 2025 Awards for Best Planetariums in the US](#). Awarded by *USA Today* readers, the Flandrau Planetarium earned recognition for its state-of-the-art theatre and 4K resolution. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, its new exhibit, University of Science, helps visitors learn about astronomy through new interactive technology. In this exhibit, visitors can create a monsoon thunderstorm in the Sky Islands zone, make a digital avatar to become a scientist, and stop by the ask-a-scientist kiosks to access interviews with more than two dozen University of Arizona researchers. The planetarium earned this designation in February 2025.

Four Arizona Dude Ranches Voted Best Dude Ranches in the US

Visitors can experience the Wild West and stay at one of the four Arizona dude ranches voted among the best in the United States in the [2025 Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards](#) and [USA Today 10 Best 2025 Readers' Choice Awards](#). [White Stallion Ranch](#) in [Tucson](#) and [Kay El Bar Guest Ranch](#) and [Ranchos de los Caballeros](#) (both in Wickenburg), earned recognition in the Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards for Best Dude Ranches. [Rancho de la Osa](#) (located in Sasabe), [Ranchos de los Caballeros](#), and [White Stallion Ranch](#) were all named in the [USA Today 10Best 2025 Readers' Choice Awards for Best Dude Ranch](#). These four dude ranches earned praise for their outdoor adventures, lure of the American West and luxurious amenities. These dude ranches earned these designations in early 2025.

A Southern Arizona Winery Receives Three Coveted Awards from 2025 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition

[LDV Winery](#) is a southern Arizona winery whose wines were recognized at the 2025 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest competition of North American wines. Competing against more than 950 wineries from various North American wine regions, LDV's rosé was awarded a silver accolade

while its petite and viognier earned bronze accolades in their categories. Located in Pearce near the Chiricahua Mountains, LDV Winery hosts various culinary events and wine tastings. Wine is available for purchase at the [LDV's tasting room in Old Town Scottsdale](#). The winery earned this award in January 2025.

Tucson Recognized in BBC's 25 Best Places to Travel in 2025

Southern Arizona's largest city, [Tucson](#), earned a spot on the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) [25 Best Places to Travel in 2025](#) for its cultural experiences and thriving culinary scene. Head to this vibrant city in 2025 to celebrate both the 250th anniversary of Tucson's founding and the 10th anniversary of Tucson becoming the [first U.S. city to earn recognition as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy](#). Tucson earned this designation in January 2025.

On the Horizon

2025

- [Circle Z](#), the oldest continuously operating guest ranch in Southern Arizona, is celebrating its 100th anniversary starting the October 2025 riding season (running through April 2026).
- Page celebrates its 50-year anniversary as a city
- Tucson celebrates its 250-year anniversary as a city
- Tucson celebrates 10th anniversary as a UNESCO city of Gastronomy
- The Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium in Tucson celebrates its 50th anniversary

2026

- Thirty year anniversary of the non-stop British Airways' direct flight between London Heathrow and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
- NCAA Women's Baseball Final Four
- 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence
- 250th anniversary of the Juan Baptiste de Anza Trail
- Route 66 Centennial Celebration
 - Arizona's Route 66, also known as the Mother Road, has been more than a road. Its people and places have inspired writers, filmmakers, photographers, and artists. Its (almost) 100-year history boasts neon, classic cars, diners, and cowboys as well as spectacular vistas and mystical landscapes.
- 25th anniversary of Flagstaff having been designated the world's first International Dark Sky City on Oct 24, 2001

2028

- Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott Celebrates its 100th anniversary
- Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff Celebrates its 100th anniversary

2030

- Pluto's discovery at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff Celebrates its 100th anniversary

For More Information: For more information on these topics and others, see the official Arizona travel and vacation guide from the Arizona Office of Tourism at www.visitarizona.com. Find in-depth AZ visitor information and videos about visiting the state of Arizona, including comprehensive directories of Arizona hotels, dining, and shopping, as well as things to do and places to visit throughout the Grand Canyon State.

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