September 2026

A Roundup of What's New in AZ

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Resorts, Hotels & Spas

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

The Spa at Camelback Inn Reopens After $24M Renovation

After a $24 million transformation, The Spa at Camelback Inn recently reopened at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa in Paradise Valley, welcoming guests to discover wellness and reawaken their senses with treatments inspired by the Sonoran Desert. The spa embraces the ariVéa philosophy, an individually crafted pathway to holistic health that combines the natural energy of Arizona's desert with timeless rituals and treatments. Guests can find serenity enjoying an adobe mud wrap, participating in a trio of tranquil hydrotherapies, joining a wide variety of classes at the new wellness studio and enjoying meals at the new Ora Cafe. Reopened February 2026.

AC Hotel Scottsdale Old Town

Visitors can stay just steps away from Old Town Scottsdale's nightlife and charming Arts District at the new AC Hotel Scottsdale Old Town. Here, guests can spend the day poolside at the rooftop pool before dining at Cielito, the rooftop restaurant that offers Northwest Mexico-inspired cuisine and stunning views of the city. After long days of exploring or attending conferences, guests can wind down in their desert-inspired, pet-friendly rooms. Opened February 2026.

New Luxury Residence Opens at Enchantment Resort in Sedona

Families seeking a longer-term stay can book the Canyon Vista, a new private residence at Enchantment Resort, located in Boynton Canyon in Sedona. Canyon Vista is a two-bedroom home with a fully

equipped kitchen and floor-to-ceiling windows in the living room so guests can soak in views of the canyon. The home's patio overlooks the heated pool and offers stunning views of Sedona's dark skies at night. Guests can enjoy the resort's amenities, including the spa, golf course, onsite restaurants and the Trail House, an epicenter for outdoor adventures. Opened in early 2026.

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Completes $7 million renovation

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain in Scottsdale completed a $7 million renovation of 8,000 square feet of its indoor and outdoor spaces so that its design is in harmony with the resort's desert setting. Also, architectural improvements were made, including adding storefront windows to the West and North buildings, and The Views Lawn and Terrace now have flexible seating options. Completed in early 2026.

The Villas at Canyon Suites at The Phoenician Scottsdale

The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician, a Luxury Collection Resort, Scottsdale, opened The Villas at Canyon Suites. Canyon Suites is a resort-within-a-resort offering 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. Opened early 2026.

Scottsdale Golf Retreat at Troon North

Visitors can experience the ultimate golf getaway at Scottsdale Golf Retreat at Troon North, a new luxury resort in Scottsdale, just steps 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. Opening in the fall of 2026.

Denū Hotel & Spa

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. Opening late 2026.

Kimpton Miralina

Visitors seeking serenity can 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. Opened in January 2026.

Outbound Sedona

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. Opened May 2026.

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

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 appreciating fine dining at Cress on Oak Creek. Opened late 2025.

Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas $24 Million Renovation Complete

Guests can stay in one of the new 45 redesigned villas at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort, which recently completed the 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. Opened late 2025.

Northern Arizona – Resorts, Hotels and Spas

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

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. Opened in May 2025

Western Arizona – Resorts, Hotels and Spas

New RV Resort Opens This Summer in Topock

Enjoy a new lodging experience this summer at the Dwell RV Resort & Casita Cabins in Topock. The spot offers 164 full-hookup RV sites and 20 thoughtfully designed casita cabins, making it ideal for visitors looking for either a pit stop or an extended stay. Onsite amenities include a pool, pickleball courts and

clubhouse, and the Colorado River is just three minutes away. Perfectly positioned on historic Route 66 and less than an hour from Lake Havasu City, this location offers easy access to boating, off-roading and hiking. Whether you're cruising the Mother Road or spending a day on the lake, you can return to relax under the stars with s'mores after a day of desert adventure. Opened May 2026.

New Campground Opens at Cattail Cove State Park
Designed for extended stays, the new Upper Cattail campground at Cattail Cove State Park in Lake Havasu City offers easy lake access and modern amenities. Campers can claim one of 78 full-hookup sites to set up their tent or RV for an adventurous getaway. Stay lakeside for easy access to boating, fishing, kayaking and swimming. Once dry, embark on the park's hiking trails or simply sunbathe on a sandy beach. Campsites, which require a two-night minimum stay when camping from April to September, can be reserved online. Opened Spring 2026.

Arizona Attractions

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

Arizona Baseball Museum Now Open in Mesa
Baseball fans can discover Arizona's longstanding passion for the sport at the recently opened Arizona Baseball Museum on the Mesa Historical Museum campus in Mesa. Wandering through the exhibits, visitors can witness baseball as a favorite pastime for miners and military personnel during the 1800s, learn the origins of the Cactus League and see fans' favorite Spring Training memories throughout the years. Open year-round. Opened February 2026.

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West Opens Four New Galleries
Families can stroll through four new galleries at the new Louis Sands IV Center, a 12,000-square-foot expansion at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West. The new galleries offer bronze sculptures of the Southwest, American Indian jewelry, clay artwork and the Working Pardners exhibit, which displays masterpiece artwork from the Basha Collection. Western enthusiasts and art lovers can spend the afternoon exploring the museum's vast collection of Western attire, tools, movie posters and art. Opened March 2026.

Verde Canyon Railroad Revives Morning and Starlight Train Rides
Families can ride into Verde Canyon in Clarkdale on the Verde Canyon Railroad's Morning or Starlight Adventures train rides, both now available every Saturday through the end of 2026. The Morning ride offers views of the canyon's towering walls, massive cottonwood trees and the Verde River's emerald water, combined with brisk morning weather and the golden light, best taken in from the train's open-air viewing area. Or, riders can catch a signature Arizona sunset on the Saturday Starlight Adventures ride, watching the colorful sky transform into a dark blanket of stars for a one-of-a-kind stargazing experience. Available all year round till 2027.

International Dark Sky Discovery Center

Families will be able to 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 will learn about astronomy by marveling at the Craig and Ruth Gimbel Planetarium, equipped with state-of-the-art tilted dome technology. Visitors will 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. Opening January 2027.

The Rough Rider: A New Biking Race

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. Race is Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026.

Reimagined Dorrance Planetarium in Phoenix

Visitors and locals can explore the galaxy at the reimagined Dorrance Planetarium at the Arizona Science Center in downtown Phoenix. 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. Reopened in October 2025.

New Mountain Bike Trail System Opens in Prescott

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 its 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. The second phase added 6.9 miles of trails to the public in Fall 2025.

Northern Arizona – Arizona Attractions

Grand Canyon North Rim Reopens to Visitors

After extensive restoration work, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park reopened May 15, 2026, signaling the start of the area's annual summer visitor season. This year's gate-raising had special significance because it marked the first time the public has been able to access the area's famous viewpoints, trails and campground since the Dragon Bravo Fire swept across the region last year. Visitors seeking more information about the reopening can click here. May 2026.

Historic Lookout Studio at the Grand Canyon Reopens After Restoration

The historic Lookout Studio at Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim, designed by famous Southwestern architect Mary Jane Colter in 1914, has reopened after a restoration project to repair original stone and log features, reexpose long-concealed architectural details and remove nonhistoric finishes. Upgrades were also made to improve the visitor experience and the studio's accessibility. The stone and log structure, built into the canyon rim, is now a gift shop known for its unparalleled views of the Grand Canyon. Reopened in May 2026.

New Route 66 Walking Tour in Flagstaff

Flagstaff visitors can explore 1.3 miles of Route 66 on foot on a new tour offered by Freaky Foot Tours. During the two-hour walking tour, visitors make 18 stops throughout downtown Flagstaff and are regaled with stories about Mars, murders and the Mother Road, covering both the original 1926 alignment and the 1934 reroute. Freaky Foot Tours also offers Haunted History and Historic Downtown Murals and Mountain Town of Madness tours in Flagstaff. Opened in April 2026.

Meteor Crater Opens Floor Tours to Hikers

For the first time, Meteor Crater visitors can go beyond the rim. On the new Floor Tour, a two-hour, advanced-level guided hike to an area previously available only to NASA astronauts and scientists, participants follow the historic Astronaut Trail to the crater floor to explore its unique geology, mining history and space-training legacy, making it a bucket-list stop for anyone celebrating the Route 66 Centennial. The tour is available every Saturday morning but is limited to just 30 guests, so advance booking is highly recommended. Opened in May 2026.

New Hopi Art Exhibit Opens at Museum of Northern Arizona

Flagstaff's Museum of Northern Arizona recently introduced “Artist Hopid Unveiled,” a three-part exhibition series showcasing Indigenous art from the groundbreaking Artist Hopi Collective. This installation, which runs through April 2027, features historic and recent masterpieces that blend traditional Hopi imagery with modern painting techniques to educate the public on Hopi culture. Don't miss this rare opportunity in Flagstaff to experience a contemporary visual legacy that has redefined Indigenous art for decades.

Meteor Crater Opens New Floor Tours and Full-Rim Guided Hike to Hikers

For the first time, Meteor Crater visitors can go beyond the rim on the new Floor Tour, a two-hour, advanced-level guided hike to an area previously available only to NASA astronauts and scientists. On the floor tour, participants follow the historic Astronaut Trail to the crater floor to explore its unique geology, mining history and space-training legacy. Visitors can also now take a guided hike around the full 2.5-mile rim of Meteor Crater near Winslow. On this new private hike, participants go beyond public trails to access hidden vantage points and rare views while receiving insider information on the crater’s preserved geology and history. Both tours are offered every Saturday morning, but the floor tour is limited to just 30 guests, so advanced booking is highly recommended.

Seasonal Native Artisans Vendor Market Returns to Grand Canyon

Visitors in search of authentic goods handcrafted by American Indian artists can now browse the wares at the Native Artisans Vendor Market, which recently returned to the Grand Canyon for its fifth

consecutive season. At this spring-to-fall outdoor market, visitors can meet with Indigenous artists to learn about their tribal communities and the story behind their artwork, including jewelry, pottery and sculptures. The market will be open 9 a.m.–4 p.m. daily at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, and every Thursday through Monday at the Tusayan Pueblo Museum through October.

Highway Hot Dog Opens On Route 66
Road trippers can enjoy all-beef hot dogs at the newly opened Highway Hot Dog in Seligman. Families can stop here for hot dogs, sandwiches, lattes and gelato before exploring Seligman's history and gift shops. Located in a historic building that was a theater and a sweet parlor, Highway Hot Dog is owned by the same restaurant entrepreneurs of Seligman's beloved Westside Lilo's Cafe. Opened in early 2026.

GPS Guided Route 66 Audio Tour
The recently launched GPS Guided Route 66 Audio Tour provides road trippers with historic information and driving instructions as they cruise along Arizona's Route 66. Created by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona and developed by the Guide Along, the audio tour offers intriguing tidbits and tips. Visitors can purchase the tour for $26 from the Guide Along website, the App Store or the Play Store. Drivers can also purchase additional tours for area attractions, including the Grand Canyon National Park South Rim and the Petrified Forest National Park. It is available for download throughout the centennial celebration. Launched in March 2026.

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 debuted 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 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.

Southern Arizona – Arizona Attractions

Embark on Tucson's New Sonoran Hot Dog Trail
Foodies can devour delicious Sonoran hot dogs all across Tucson by following Visit Tucson's new Sonoran Dog Trail, a free, self-guided culinary tour showcasing this unique regional entree. A Sonoran dog is a bacon-wrapped hot dog tucked into a bolillo roll and topped with Southwestern ingredients, including salsa verde, pinto beans and jalapeños. Local stands and restaurants on the tour include BK Tacos, Percheron Mexican Grill and the famous El Güero Canelo, which offers a James Beard Award-winning

version. Known as the home of America's Best Mexican Food, Tucson offers many culinary experiences as the first UNESCO City of Gastronomy in the United States. Offered to the public in Spring 2026.

Arizona Tours

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.

Arizona Tourism Industry News

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona – Arizona Tourism News

Adaptive Mobility Vehicles Debut at Arizona State Parks
Select Arizona State Parks and Trails sites now offer TerrainHoppers, electric-powered off-road mobility vehicles that can conquer rocky trail surfaces so mobility-impaired visitors can enjoy outdoor recreation. As part of the Arizona Adaptive Mobility Program, State Parks launched the first TerrainHopper at Rockin' River Ranch State Park in Camp Verde this spring, and now visitors can also reserve TerrainHoppers at Lake Havasu State Park in Lake Havasu City and Oracle State Park in Oracle. Equipped with 10 such vehicles in total, State Parks looks forward to offering them at additional parks in the future. Visitors can reserve a TerrainHopper online up to 60 days in advance. Launched in May 2026.

Visit Mesa Launches New Digital Adventure Guide
Visitors and locals can easily discover all of Mesa's outdoor adventures with Visit Mesa's new digital and print Adventure Guide, which showcases the city's recreational activities. Outdoor enthusiasts can discover the best spots for hiking, mountain biking, water sports, rock climbing and off-roading through curated itineraries, recommended trails, tips from outdoor experts and seasonal activity suggestions. Visitors can download the guide here or pick up a print version at the Visit Mesa Visitor Center. Launched in April 2026.

AOT Introduces Starstruck: Arizona Dark Sky Expedition Passport
AOT's new free digital guide, Starstruck: Arizona Dark Sky Expedition passport, connects visitors to more than 30 premier stargazing spots and certified Dark Sky communities across the state. Arizona, home to 25 officially designated International Dark Sky places and communities, offers ideal conditions for visitors to witness constellations and planets. Upon visiting a location, visitors are encouraged to check it off

their passport to gain points and win prizes. No app is needed; visitors can access the free pass here. Launched in April 2026.

Porter Airlines Adds Routes, Increases Winter Flights to Phoenix
Porter Airlines will increase flights from Canada to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport this winter, offering five daily flights, including new service from YYC Calgary International Airport and Edmonton International Airport in Alberta. Flights from Edmonton will launch Nov. 6, 2026 while service from Calgary will begin Dec. 20, 2026. The airline will also add a second daily flight from Toronto Pearson and will return to daily service from Vancouver International Airport starting Dec. 20

MICHELIN Guide Launches Southwest Edition
MICHELIN Guide announced the launch of the MICHELIN Guide Southwest edition to showcase the culinary gems of the Southwest, including Arizona along with Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. This marks MICHELIN's second regional guide in North America created to highlight the unique restaurants in both the metropolitan hubs and rural areas of the Southwest that provide the best experiences and regional flavors. The guide is expected to debut later this year (2026).

Two Arizona Dude Ranches to Celebrate Centennials in 2026
There are two dude ranches in Arizona celebrating their centennial anniversaries this year: Circle Z Ranch in Patagonia and Kay El Bar Guest Ranch in Wickenburg. Circle Z Ranch is tucked away in the Sonoran Desert at the base of Sanford Butte, surrounded by dramatic landscapes in every direction. And, at Kay El Bar Guest Ranch, visitors can discover saguaro forests and slot canyons along rocky mountain trails.

New Nonstop Flights Connect Asia to Arizona
Two Taiwan-based airlines now offer service from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, marking the first nonstop flights between Asia and Arizona. China Airlines started service from Taipei to Phoenix on Dec. 3, 2025, while STARLUX Airlines launched nonstop flights on Jan. 15, 2026.

RetrievAir Launched at Scottsdale Airport
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. Launched February 2026.

Northern Arizona – Arizona Tourism News

Explore the Outdoors with New Tusayan Wildlife Pass
Visitors can easily embark on adventures around Tusayan to spot wildlife and go hiking using the new, free Tusayan Wildlife Pass by Explore Tusayan. Only a short drive away from the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, Tusayan is a small town in northern Arizona with stunning scenery and wildlife to explore. With the pass, visitors can discover the best hiking trails and places to observe critters, including elk, mule deer and the rare California condor. The pass also encourages visitors to check in at different

viewing spots to earn points for prizes and to submit photos of their outdoor experiences, which may be featured on the town's social media accounts. Launched in February 2026.

Flagstaff Celebrates 25 Years as the World's First International Dark Sky City
This year marks the 25th anniversary of Flagstaff being designated the world's first International Dark Sky City. To celebrate, Flagstaff is hosting stargazing events year-round so visitors can get lost in the stars. Stargazers can dance under the stars at the Full Moon Concerts in Buffalo Park held throughout the summer and participate in the 25th Anniversary Celebration events occurring on October 24, 2026. Space enthusiasts can learn and observe Flagstaff's dark skies anytime by visiting Lowell Observatory and the Astronomy Discovery Center at Lowell. Celebrate throughout 2026 with the anniversary in October 2026.

Southern Arizona – Arizona Tourism News

Explore Arizona's Two Newest International Dark Sky Places
Visitors can spot constellations at Arizona's two newest Dark Sky Places: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona's newest International Dark Sky Park, and the Apache Junction Municipal Complex, a newly designated Urban Night Sky Place. Dark Sky Places are parks and communities that earned the designation for their ongoing efforts to reduce light pollution.

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument near Ajo, nature lovers can enjoy the countless towering organ pipe cacti before soaking up views of the endless starry skies after sunset. Star enthusiasts can join seasonal star parties and events with astronomy rangers and get a closer look at the Milky Way during telescope viewings.

Stargazers in the metro Phoenix area can enjoy their own nighttime viewing experiences by visiting the Apache Junction Municipal Complex in Apache Junction. After a day of city adventures, visitors can stop at the complex for a tranquil evening that includes guided night walks and telescope viewings. Earned designations in May 2026.

Arizona Accolades

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona - Arizona Accolades
Privado Villas at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Earn AAA Five Diamond Designation
Visitors can enjoy a luxurious stay at the Privado Villas at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, a resort within a resort that recently earned the coveted AAA Five Diamond designation for its exceptional guest experience. Highlights include elegant, private suites and award-winning amenities, including exclusive pools, tranquil spa treatments, fine dining restaurants and a designated concierge. The Villas are ideal for those seeking an extended stay or planning a multigenerational trip. Awarded in April 2026.

Arizona Resorts & Spas Earn Five-Star Distinctions in Forbes Travel Guide's 2026 Star Awards
Visitors can rediscover wellness and luxury by experiencing one of the Arizona resorts and spas that earned a Five-Star distinction in Forbes Travel Guide's 2026 Star Awards: Aji Spa at Sheraton Grand at

Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician, a Luxury Collection Resort in Scottsdale, Mii amo in Sedona, The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain and The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Dove Mountain in Marana. Awarded in April 2026.

Six Arizona Hotels Recognized in Condé Nast Traveler's 10 Best Resorts in the Southwest
Arizona dominated Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards 2025 list of the 10 Best Resorts in the Southwest, with six hotels recognized, and the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess earning first place. Guests can enjoy a luxurious stay at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, enjoying the sandy beach along the pool, unwinding at the acclaimed spa and creating new traditions at the resort's popular holiday events. Visitors can have remarkable stays at all the Arizona resorts recognized, including: Rancho de los Caballeros in Wickenburg, the Scottsdale Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Enchantment Resort in Sedona, L'Auberge de Sedona in Sedona and the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. Awarded in October 2025.

2026 James Beard Award Semifinalists in Arizona
The James Beard Foundation, a nonprofit organization that celebrates the individuals transforming America's food culture, announced the 2026 semifinalists for the 40th annual Restaurant and Chefs Award. Twelve of Arizona's chefs, mixologists and restaurants made the list, including some past nominees and new additions.

Northern Arizona - Arizona Accolades

Prescott, Flagstaff Earn IMBA Trail Town Designations
Visitors seeking a mountain biking getaway can embark on the thrilling trails in Prescott and Flagstaff, two towns that recently earned IMBA Trail Town designation from the International Mountain Bicycling Association. The designation recognizes communities that have an active local trail organization, strong trail infrastructure and a sustainable trail stewardship plan to support outdoor recreation. Thanks to the varied trail systems in Prescott and Flagstaff, bikers of all experience levels can enjoy these towns' urban, forest and regional park trails. Designed in April 2026.

Lake Havasu Named Among Best Beaches in the US
Lake Havasu State Park in Lake Havasu City was recently named the 13th best beach in Condé Nast Traveler's 15 Best Beaches in the US as part of their Readers' Choice Awards 2025. Despite being landlocked, Arizona still offers a beach experience thanks to Lake Havasu's sandy shoreline amongst the desert, creating a desert oasis. Lake Havasu's beaches offer clear blue-green water and countless water recreation opportunities including boating, fishing and kayaking. Designated in December 2025.

<u>On the Horizon</u>

2026

- Thirty-year anniversary of the non-stop British Airways' direct flight between London Heathrow and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
- 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 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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