

# Destination Arizona

Arizona is like an 1880s Bisbee prospector: ornery, independent and sitting on a pile of riches. Has the state always been cantankerous? Seems that way. In 1912 it became the nation's 48th state, the very last territory to join the union in the continental USA. Which is rather striking considering Arizona was near to busting with mineral wealth below its scrubby hills. The problem was its wild and lawless reputation. Lawmakers in Washington figured there was too much financial risk, and they weren't particularly eager to grant full statehood.

A century later, Arizona is still stubbornly independent and still bedeviling the feds, particularly when it comes to immigration. The state shares a 350-mile border with Mexico, and an estimated 250,000 immigrants crossed it illegally in 2009. After the mysterious murder of a popular rancher near the border in 2010, the legislature passed a law requiring police officers to ask for identification from anyone they suspect of being in the country illegally. The most severe anti-immigration law in the nation, it garnered international headlines and spurred raucous debate across the country. Top that off with a statewide fiscal crisis that's forced some state parks to close, and it seems as if Arizona has gone slightly mad.

What's a traveler to do? We suggest taking a cue from the state's most famous resident and putting a little perspective on the matter. Like two billion years of perspective. That's the age of the Grand Canyon, Arizona's most popular attraction. In the Grand Canyon scheme of things, border squabbling and fiscal problems are, shall we say, insignificant. That's not to say these topics should be ignored, but immigration, for one, is a complicated issue not well served by knee-jerk punditry. You'll discover thoughtful, complex and sometimes surprising opinions on the matter if you simply talk to the people who live there.

Who are Arizona's residents? It's an interwoven amalgam of three ethnic groups – Anglo, Hispanic and Native American. Native American tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi and Tohono O'odham, live on separate reservations covering 27% of the land in the state. Some of the state's most popular tourist attractions – Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, Montezuma Castle – are intricately connected with their heritage and spiritual beliefs. Many Indians believe that the ancient cliff dwellers and rock artists never truly disappeared, they just moved on or were absorbed by local tribes.

The Spanish arrived in 1540, led by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado on his hunt for the Seven Cities of Cibola. Missionaries and settlers soon followed. Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821 but entered into a war with the US in 1846. The Mexicans eventually lost, ceding the land north of the Gila River. The US government subsequently purchased Mexican land near Tucson, acquiring a soon-to-be popular route for pioneers traveling to California from the Mississippi River. Today, 27% of the state's population is of Hispanic descent.

Prospectors and ranchers showed up next, drawn to the region's underground and above-ground riches. Of those riches, copper and cattle have remained an integral part of the economy. Arizona even earned the nickname the Copper State, and in 2009 produced \$9.3 billion worth of the mineral. Today, the state bursts with people who've moved here from someplace else: outdoor guides here for Mother Nature's bounty, college students clustered in Flagstaff and Tucson, artists who've descended on Bisbee and Jerome, and of course, the ubiquitous retirees arriving for the warm weather and clean air.

## FAST FACTS

Population: 6,595,800

Unemployment rate:  
9.5%

Gross domestic product:  
\$249 billion

Annual visitors to Grand  
Canyon: five million

Length of Grand Canyon:  
277 river miles

Number of national  
forests: six

Number of tribal  
lands: 21

Hottest temperature  
recorded: 128°F (Lake  
Havasu City)

Coldest temperature  
recorded: -40°F (Hawley  
Lake)

Mummified bobcats in  
Grand Canyon Caverns:  
two

Number of ghosts at  
Hotel Monte Vista: at  
least 10

The vast majority of travelers – about five million – come here to gaze at the Grand Canyon. Best part is, the hype about this natural wonder is all true. That first glimpse of the canyon has surely triggered a reflexive ‘Whoa!’ in every person who’s made that maiden dash from their car to Mather Point. The canyon’s always bigger than imagined, and more majestic. Even if you’re not spiritual, the geologic truths revealed in the crimson and gold layers are a marvel to witness firsthand. And after that first look, the experience only gets better. You can hike along the rim, ride a mule to Phantom Ranch, scan for condors from Lookout Studio, bike through ponderosas, camp under the stars or simply sip a prickly-pear margarita on the El Tovar porch and smile at your good fortune. The most adventurous will continue to the isolated North Rim, hiking a 20-mile rim-to-rim trail or driving 215 scenic miles along the Desert Rim Rd and the Arizona Strip.

But outdoor enthusiasts certainly aren’t limited to The Big Ditch. Arizona has 90 designated wilderness areas ideal for hiking and camping; the state-crossing Arizona Trail, open to hikers, cyclists and equestrians, is 96% complete. Wannabe cowgirls and boys rope and ride at Wickenburg dude ranches while bird-watchers swoop to Patagonia, where hummingbirds cluster. Trout lure fly fishers to Lees Ferry while slopes entice skiers to the Arizona Snowbowl. There’s even kayaking in the desert – thank you Lakes Powell and Mead.

The best way to reach these outdoor Shangri-las? A scenic drive of course. Plastic dinosaurs, Burma Shave signs and a roadkill cafe keep things light on Route 66 while the desolate, unpaved El Camino Diablo would keep Bear Grylls on the tips of his toes. Roll through lush Oak Creek Canyon or careen under sandstone monoliths on the Red Rock Loop Rd. Take your pick. But honestly, some of the best drives are spur-of-the-moment excursions to creekside wineries, petroglyph sites and lonely national monuments that aren’t sitting beside a designated byway. There are so many scenic back roads, there’s a monthly magazine called *Arizona Highways* devoted to the topic.

For those who take vacations to relax, not hike 8 miles into a godforsaken desert, there’s always Phoenix and sidekick Scottsdale – both ready-made for weekend jaunts focused on high-end shopping, gourmet dining and chi-chi spa pampering. History buffs have the Apache stronghold in Cochise, the territorial prison in Yuma and ghost towns and abandoned mining sites from Bisbee to Jerome. Family options extend beyond the canyon, too, from Tucson’s Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum to Sedona’s Slide Rock State Park and the ghost hunt at the Jerome Grand Hotel. And we’re so jazzed we almost forgot to mention Tombstone and the infamous shootout at the OK Corral, kindly re-enacted daily at 2pm.

But let’s get back to that ornery prospector. We didn’t say he was completely unlovable, there’s just a lot of guff to get past before you find the gold – and his heart. Arizona may have passed a law that tiptoes up to the line of violating its citizens’ civil rights, but it’s the same state that in 1998 had women serving in its five highest executive offices. It’s also had four women governors. Arizona produced maverick senator and presidential contender John McCain, but it’s also the childhood home of practical-minded Sandra Day O’Connor, who grew up on a Douglas ranch and went on to serve as the first woman on the United States Supreme Court. Sometimes we think the politics here boils down to the simple fact that Arizonans really don’t like being told what to do.

So, as we said at the beginning, the politicians will come and go, but the sunset beauty of the Grand Canyon, the glowing red rocks of Sedona, the cloud-snagging peaks of the San Francisco Mountains and the saguaro-dotted deserts of Tucson – they’re here for the duration and hoping you’ll stop by, despite all the fuss.

**‘There are so many scenic back roads, there’s a monthly magazine devoted to the topic.’**

# Getting Started

You may not realize it from a quick glance at the map, but Arizona is the sixth-largest state in the USA. Inside its 113,634 sq miles, you'll find dude ranches, flashy nightclubs, tribal lands, national parks, soul-nourishing spas and miles of cacti and red rocks. But different trips require different levels of planning. A spur-of-the-moment weekend jaunt to Scottsdale can be organized in an hour, while a backcountry journey into the Grand Canyon requires planning up to a year in advance.

## WHEN TO GO

See Climate Charts (p307) for more information.

In northern Arizona, summer is the high season – traditionally Memorial Day (late May) to Labor Day (early September). Expect higher prices and more crowds. In hot southern Arizona, luxury resorts cut prices in half and dude ranches often close up shop.

Hotels in Phoenix, Tucson and other southern Arizona towns consider winter (Christmas to May) their high (and more expensive) season. While the rest of the country is buried under snowdrifts, southern Arizonans enjoy T-shirt and flip-flop weather. Winter arrives early and stays late on the Grand Canyon's North Rim; facilities and services there are closed from mid-October to mid-May.

In spring, the Sonoran Desert near Tucson in Arizona comes alive with tiny wildflowers and blooming cacti. In fall, pro football fans flock to Cardinals' games in Glendale. Spring and fall are also a great time to visit the Grand Canyon – typically free of crowds and energy-sapping heat.

An excellent rule of thumb is to gauge the climate by the altitude. The lower you are, the hotter and drier it will be. South-central Arizona temperatures exceed 100°F (38°C) for weeks on end and occasionally surpass 120°F (49°C). The humidity is low, however, and evaporation helps to cool the body. Nighttime temperatures drop by 20°F or 30°F. Winter temperatures occasionally drop below freezing, but only for a few hours.

## COSTS & MONEY

### HOW MUCH?

Grand Canyon National Park vehicle entrance fee \$25

Red Rock Recreational Pass, Sedona area \$5

Camping in Kaibab National Forest free  
Heard Museum adult admission \$10

The Blake at Diablo Burger \$9

If you camp, share a rental car and plan picnics, daily expenses can be as low as \$75 per person. Two people staying in budget motels, eating lunch in fast-food Mexican restaurants and enjoying moderate dinners can expect to spend between \$85 and \$120 per person per day.

If you spend ample time in cities and stay at a historic hotels and character-filled B&Bs, costs edge up to about \$150 per person per day based on traveling with at least two people – not including extras such as museum tickets or bike rentals. For those occasions when nothing less than a famous resort or spa will suffice, two people will undoubtedly drop \$350 per person per day.

Discounts exist, however. To make the most out of your money, visit museums on free days and eat at restaurants during happy hour, when many places offer as much as 50% off appetizers as well as beverages. Families with kids should check for children's menus at restaurants – many are kid-friendly and offer discounted meals. Many hotels also offer discounts for children, some up to as old as 17, so ask before shelling out extra bucks. For specifics on booking hotels online, see p303.

Discounts on car rentals and accommodations are also often available to members of the **American Automobile Association** (AAA; ☎ 800-564-6222; www.aaa.com); see p322.

For more on costs, see the Lonely Planet Index on the inside front cover.

## TRAVELING RESPONSIBLY

Since our inception in 1973, Lonely Planet has encouraged travelers to tread lightly, travel responsibly and enjoy the serendipitous magic that independent travel affords. International travel is growing at a jaw-dropping rate, and we still firmly believe in the benefits it can bring, but we encourage you to consider the impact your visit will have on the global environment and the local economies, cultures and ecosystems.

In America, 'going green' has become seriously trendy, and businesses of all stripes now slap 'We're green!' stickers on their products and services. For the traveler, determining how ecofriendly a business actually is can be difficult. Thankfully, many resources are springing up, and the sustainable travel websites listed below are a good place to get started. Please be sensitive to regional cultures and traditions, especially when travelling on Native American land. Ask before taking photographs and remember that many native dances and ceremonies are not open to the public. For more on Native American customs, see p54.

### To Drive or Not to Drive

Where adequate public transportation exists, taking it rather than renting a car will decrease your carbon footprint. But realistically a car is often a necessity in Arizona, so choose ecofriendly cars when available (ask the majors – they're getting them!).

The auto association **Better World Club** ([www.betterworldclub.com](http://www.betterworldclub.com)) supports environmental legislation and offers ecofriendly services. If your car takes biodiesel, there are more gas stations offering this option each year – at the time of research most of these stations were in and around larger cities and towns including Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott.

Amtrak runs the *Southwest Chief* daily from Los Angeles, stopping in Kingman, Williams Junction and Winslow before moving into New Mexico. See p320.

### Responsible Travel Schemes

Sustainable travel is more than making 'green' choices; it's a way of interacting as you walk. It's practicing low-impact hiking and camping, adding volunteering to

#### DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Reservations for lodging, camping, overnight mule rides and white-water rafting at Grand Canyon National Park
- Strong sunscreen, high-quality sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat
- Comfortable footwear with good traction for scrambling over rocky surfaces
- Gear for hiking and camping, and reading up on desert survival techniques
- Plenty of digital cards and batteries for your camera – those red rocks and saguaro cacti are begging to be photographed
- A copy of your passport and driver's license, and phone numbers for your credit cards (we learned the hard way!)
- A bathing suit for Phoenix resort pools and Oak Creek Canyon swimming holes
- A great set of road maps, including the *AAA Indian Guide*, as well as a GPS unit in your car if you plan to do some backcountry exploring
- Your iPod – fill it with inspiring road-trip songs for those breezy, window-down rides on red-rock byways
- An open mind and a sense of humor

# TOP 10

ARIZONA  
• Phoenix

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

You name the adventure, Arizona names the place. Hiking, cycling, rafting, climbing, boating floating, and yes, even skiing. Our favorite spots, like the Grand Canyon, let you mix and match. And don't forget the multi-use, state-crossing Arizona Trail that's 96% complete.

- 1 Rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon (p167)
- 2 Cycling through Red Rock Country, Sedona (p120).
- 3 Scrambling through cascades at Havasu Falls (p179)
- 4 Horseback riding in Canyon de Chelly National Monument (p211)
- 5 Rafting the Salt River (p231).
- 6 Hiking Rim to Rim at Grand Canyon National Park (p165)
- 7 Exploring Sabino Canyon (p252)
- 8 Rock-country rambling in Chiricahua National Monument (p281)
- 9 Cross-country skiing in Grand Canyon National Park (p169 and p190)
- 10 Floating through Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (p230)

## NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

Indian reservations cover 27% of the land in Arizona, meaning there's a lot to see. This list includes sites that are historically, culturally and aesthetically significant. Cliff dwellings and rock-art descriptions are found in destination chapters.

- 1 Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Navajo Reservation (p209)
- 2 Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Navajo Reservation (p207)
- 3 Walpi village, Hopi Reservation (p214)
- 4 Navajo National Monument, Navajo Reservation (p206)
- 5 Cochise Stronghold (p282)
- 6 Fort Bowie and Apache Pass, near Wilcox (p282)
- 7 Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff (p132)
- 8 Navajo Reservation for Navajo rodeos (p204)
- 9 Explore Navajo Interactive Museum, Tuba City (p205)
- 10 Heard Museum of Native Cultures & Art, Phoenix (p84)

## OLD WEST EXPERIENCES

Cowboys and miners, plus a few mountain men, were the first to eke out a living in Arizona after the Spanish. Today you can ride the open range, wander historic saloons, poke around old mining towns and drive dusty roads with a cinematic red-rock backdrop.

- 1 Wrangling at a Wickenburg dude ranch (p107)
- 2 Practicing your fast draw at the OK Corral, Tombstone (p274)
- 3 Saloon-hopping on Whiskey Row, Prescott (p113)
- 4 Driving through John Ford country, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park (p207)
- 5 Joining a cattle drive, Springerville and Eagar (p227)
- 6 Exploring abandoned Vulture Mine (p108)
- 7 Riding the mechanical bull at Rawhide Western Town & Steakhouse (p103)
- 8 Watching the nation's oldest running rodeos in Prescott (p110) and Payson (p222)
- 9 Playing cowboy Hollywood-style (p250)
- 10 Immersing yourself in the Old West at Pioneer Arizona Living Country Village (p103)

# TOP 10

**ARIZONA**  
• Phoenix

## BIRD & WILDLIFE SHANGRI-LAS

At first glance, southern Arizona doesn't look like a bird and wildlife paradise, but then you visit the excellent Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (p249) and realize how diverse the saguaro-dotted landscape really is. Riparian wildlife refuges cluster near Yuma and Patagonia. For prehistoric birds, try Vermilion Cliffs, home of the California condor and its 9ft wingspan.

- 1 Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, Patagonia (p266)
- 2 San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (p272)
- 3 Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (p262)
- 4 Imperial, Kofa and Cibola National Wildlife Refuges (p287)
- 5 Alpine and Hannagan Meadow, White Mountains (p228)
- 6 San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation (p231)
- 7 Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge (p290)
- 8 Hassayampa River Preserve (p108)
- 9 Dead Horse Ranch State Park (p118)
- 10 Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona Strip (p196)

## FOODIE FINDS

From Sedona to Winslow, Jacob Lake to Bisbee, we scoured Navajo flea markets, taco joints, small-town diners and even a few fancy places in Sedona to compile this highly subjective – but individually tested – list of top culinary experiences.

- 1 Elote at Elote Cafe, Sedona (p128)
- 2 The Blake Burger at Diablo Burger, Flagstaff (p137)
- 3 Breakfast at Matt's Big Breakfast (p95)
- 4 Dinner at the Turquoise Room, Winslow (p219)
- 5 Carne Asada taco at Sonora Mesquite Grill (p96)
- 6 Navajo cooking at Tuba City flea market (p204)
- 7 Fruit Pico de Gallo at Taqueria Pico de Gallo (p246)
- 8 Pizza at Screaming Banshee, Bisbee (p280)
- 9 Fried rattlesnake at Wikieup (p299)
- 10 Chocolate in the Clouds cookie at Jacob Lake Inn (p193)

## OFFBEAT SIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

It's easy to take a walk on the weird side in Arizona. Maybe it's the southern heat, or the dark starry skies, or the geological anomalies. Or maybe it's all those prickly-pear margaritas, but from ghosts to mystery castles to giant holes in the ground, there's plenty of unusual to go around.

- 1 First Friday Art Walk, Phoenix (p92)
- 2 Sleeping in the Grand Canyon Caverns underground motel room (p296)
- 3 Jerome Grand Hotel ghost tour, Jerome (p117)
- 4 Meteor Crater (p218)
- 5 Looking for the Man in the Maze, Tohono O'odham Reservation (p257)
- 6 Territorial Prison, Yuma (p285)
- 7 Morenci Copper Mine, Coronado Trail Scenic Rd (p228)
- 8 Mt Graham Observatory Tour, Safford (p229)
- 9 Bird Cage Theater, Tombstone (p275)
- 10 Mystery Castle (p87)

# TOP 10

ARIZONA  
• Phoenix

## SHOPPING

Phoenix and Tucson have plenty of stylish malls, but we have a hankering for specialty shops selling unique treasures such as kachina dolls, kaleidoscopes and retro bicycles. For one-of-kind jewelry and gifts, there's no better place than a co-op art gallery.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Jerome Artists Cooperative Gallery, Jerome (p117) | 6 Cactus Cowboy Antiques, Chloride (p300)           |
| 2 Heard Museum Shop, Phoenix (p101)                 | 7 Cameron Trading Post, Cameron (p204)              |
| 3 Singing Wind Bookshop, Benson (p270)              | 8 Bisbee Bicycle Brothel, Bisbee (p280)             |
| 4 Garland's Navajo Rugs, Sedona (p129)              | 9 Nellie Bly, Jerome (p118)                         |
| 5 Angel's Barbershop, Seligman (p296)               | 10 Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village, Sedona (p129) |

## SCENIC SPOTS FOR A COCKTAIL

Honestly, the whole state is one big gorgeous patio. But we narrowed the list to those spots with truly memorable views. Yes, the Grand Canyon hogs the top two spots, but we're spreading the wealth to a few special bars that have scenic views *inside* their never-boring four walls.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Grand Canyon Lodge verandah, Grand Canyon National Park North Rim (p191) | 6 Elote Cafe patio, Sedona (p128)         |
| 2 El Tovar patio, Grand Canyon National Park South Rim (p173)              | 7 Canyon Lake Marina, Apache Trail (p233) |
| 3 The Asylum, Jerome Grand Hotel, Jerome (p117)                            | 8 Judy's Saloon, Oatman (p295)            |
| 4 Heat hotel patio, Lake Havasu City (p292)                                | 9 Swizzle Inn, Phoenix (p99)              |
| 5 The Lost Leaf, Phoenix (p99)   | 10 The Meet Rack, Tucson (p248)           |

## SPAS & RESORTS

Choosing the best Arizona spa is like making a list of favorite bonbons at the confectioner's shop. From urban oases in the heart of Phoenix and Scottsdale to dude-ranch and red-rock resorts in the western hills, there's something here for spiritual seekers, girlfriends on getaways and families looking for distractions.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Arizona Grand Resort, Phoenix (p93)                   | 6 Boulders Resort, Scottsdale (p93)                 |
| 2 Arizona Biltmore, Phoenix (p92)                       | 7 Rancho de los Caballeros (p109)                   |
| 3 Arizona Inn, Tucson (p245)                            | 8 Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, Scottsdale (p93) |
| 4 Enchantment Resort & Mii amo, Sedona (p125)           | 9 Royal Palms Resort & Spa, Phoenix (p92)           |
| 5 Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa, Chandler (p94) | 10 Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa, Sedona (p127)          |

a vacation, learning about your destinations and their cultures and understanding the challenges they face. These websites provide further advice:

**Climatecrisis.net** ([www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net)) Official website for the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*; offers carbon-offset programs, advice and loads of info.

**Go Nomad** ([www.gonomad.com](http://www.gonomad.com)) Ecotours worldwide, including the Southwest.

**Green Hotel Association** ([www.greenhotels.com](http://www.greenhotels.com)) Ecofriendly hotels throughout Arizona and the Southwest.

**National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations** ([www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/sustainable)) Promotes 'geotourism' with its Geocharter maps, which include one for Arizona's Sonoran Desert.

**Sierra Club** ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)) Environmental and conservation news, political activism and groups, hikes and volunteer vacations.

**Sustainable Arizona** ([www.sustainablearizona.org](http://www.sustainablearizona.org)) Green travel statewide.

**Sustainable Travel International** ([www.sustainabletravelinternational.org](http://www.sustainabletravelinternational.org)) Ecoguides, tour bookings and carbon-offset schemes.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

**American Southwest** ([www.americansouthwest.net](http://www.americansouthwest.net)) Arguably the most comprehensive site for national parks and natural landscapes in the Southwest.

**Arizona Department of Transportation** ([www.az511.com](http://www.az511.com)) Updates on road conditions and traffic statewide with links to weather and safety information.

**Arizona Office of Tourism** ([www.arizonaguide.com](http://www.arizonaguide.com)) The state's tourism website with links to hundreds of resources, from road conditions and airport information to festivals and major events.

**Arizona Scenic Roads** ([www.arizonascenicroads.com](http://www.arizonascenicroads.com)) Build itineraries along Arizona's most visually stunning byways.

**Arizona State Parks** ([www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com)) Provides updates on ranger programs and park closures, and has stunning wildflower photographs from the Ranger Cam.

**Grand Canyon Association** ([www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org)) Best online bookstore for the park with links to the Grand Canyon Field Institute, the Grand Canyon Music festival and other useful sites.

**Lonely Planet** ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)) Succinct summaries, travel news, links and the Thorn Tree bulletin board.

**National Park Service** ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)) Offers updated information about the state's national parks and monuments. The Grand Canyon site, [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca), provides trip planners and backcountry information.

**Recreation.gov** ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)) Make reservations for camping and other activities at national parks, national forests and property overseen by the Bureau of Land Management.

# Events Calendar

From art festivals to country fairs, from Native American ceremonial dances to jalapeño-eating contests, from cowboy poetry readings to classic-car road runs, Arizona has scores of celebrations, concert weekends and themed extravaganzas. And if you want to catch a rodeo, Arizona is your state. In larger cities with diverse cultures, traditional holidays of other countries are celebrated with as much, if not more, fanfare. Dates may vary annually, so check with tourist-information offices.

## JANUARY

**FIESTA BOWL** early Jan  
College football fans huddle up in Glendale for this postseason game ([www.fiestabowl.org](http://www.fiestabowl.org)).

## FEBRUARY

**TOHONO O'ODHAM ALL-INDIAN TRIBAL FAIR & RODEO** Feb  
The largest and oldest rodeo in the state and one of the largest in the nation has it all: dancing, singing, food, crafts and, of course, a rodeo (p256; [www.tonation-nsn.gov](http://www.tonation-nsn.gov)).

**COCHISE COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC GATHERING** mid-Feb  
Cowboy poets and western singers put their heritage to verse at this two-day festival in Sierra Vista ([www.cowboypoets.com](http://www.cowboypoets.com)).

**GOLD-RUSH DAYS** early Feb  
Pan for gold, watch a rodeo, peruse art or tap your boots to country music at this four-day party in Wickenburg (p107; [www.wickenburgchamber.com](http://www.wickenburgchamber.com)).

**TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW** early Feb  
At the largest mineral and gem expo in the US, hold the second full weekend in February, jewelry and lapidary dealers sell diamonds, beads and baubles (p243; [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)).

**FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS** late Feb  
It's boots, chaps and cowboy hats at this lively, 80-year-old Tucson festival and parade that includes Western-themed floats, folk dancing and a rodeo (p243).

## MARCH

**NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE WEST** mid-Mar  
This busy jamboree in Scottsdale (p88; [www.festivalofthewest.com](http://www.festivalofthewest.com)) celebrates cowboys and the Old West with music, poetry, chuck-wagon cook-offs and a mountain-man rendezvous.

**LAKE HAVASU SPRING BREAK** mid-Mar  
Woohoo! Hey bro! It's spring break on the Arizona Riviera. It's either a boaty bacchanal to avoid at all costs, or it's the optimal place to debut your sexiest string bikini and bitchin'est board shorts (p290).

**CACTUS LEAGUE SPRING TRAINING** Mar-early Apr  
Come see the best baseball clubs in the country duke it out in preseason play, in Phoenix (p101) and Tucson ([www.cactusleague.com](http://www.cactusleague.com)).

## APRIL & MAY

**YUMA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL** mid-Apr  
Take a photography class, canoe the Colorado or enjoy a sunrise bird walk in Yuma (p285).

**ROUTE 66 FUN RUN** late Apr  
This three-day jaunt between Williams and Kingman on the Mother Road (p295; [www.azrt66.com](http://www.azrt66.com)) is for classic-car enthusiasts, not joggers.

**TUCSON FOLK FESTIVAL** early May  
Acoustic music in the crisp spring air brought to you by the Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association (p243; [www.tkma.org](http://www.tkma.org)). More than 100 acts on four stages.

**CINCO DE MAYO** 5 May  
Mexico's 1862 victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla is celebrated with parades, dances, music, arts and crafts, and street fairs.

**PHIPPEN MUSEUM WESTERN ART SHOW & SALE** early May  
Paintings, sculptures and drawings spotlight the American West at this art show in Prescott (p110; [www.phippenartmuseum.org](http://www.phippenartmuseum.org)) on Memorial Day weekend.

## JUNE

### HOPI FESTIVAL OF ARTS & CULTURE

early Jun

Hopi artists share their expertise and crafts – jewelry, painting, pottery, quilts – in a Flagstaff festival that dates back more than 75 years (p130).

### GRAND CANYON STAR PARTY

early Jun

Camaraderie and dark skies draw stargazers to this week-long event on the North and South Rims (p190 and p190; [www.saguaroastro.org](http://www.saguaroastro.org), [www.tucsonastronomy.org](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org)).

### OLD MINERS DAY

late Jun

You don't have to be an elderly prospector to enjoy the parade, gunfights and movies in crusty old Chloride, a semi-ghost town (p299; [www.chloridearizona.com](http://www.chloridearizona.com)).

### PRESCOTT'S FRONTIER DAYS & WORLD'S OLDEST RODEO

late Jun/early Jul

Prescott's wranglers have been roping 'em in since 1888, making this rodeo one of the oldest in the state (p111; [www.worldsoldestrodeo.com](http://www.worldsoldestrodeo.com)).

## JULY

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

4 Jul

Arizonans across the state celebrate America's birth with rodeos, music festivals, parades and fireworks.

### OATMAN SIDEWALK EGG FRY

4 Jul

Two eggs. A piece of foil. The sidewalk. High noon. Whoever cooks their egg the fastest (it's gotta be edible) wins in Oatman (p295; [www.oatmandrop.org](http://www.oatmandrop.org)).

## AUGUST

### NAVAJO FESTIVAL OF ARTS & CULTURE

early Aug

Artists, dancers and storytellers share the customs and history of the Diné in Flagstaff (p130; [www.musnaz.org](http://www.musnaz.org)).

### AUGUST DOIN'S – WORLD'S OLDEST CONTINUOUS RODEO

late Aug

Steer wrestling and barrel racing are on tap in Payson, home of another long-running rodeo – 126 years (p223; [www.paysonrimcountry.com](http://www.paysonrimcountry.com)).

## SEPTEMBER

### NAVAJO NATION FAIR

early Sep

Head to Window Rock for the country's largest Native American fair, with a rodeo, a parade,

dances, songs, arts and crafts, and food (p203; [www.navajonationfair.com](http://www.navajonationfair.com)).

### BISBEE BLUES FESTIVAL

early Sep

Thousands head to the artsy-scruffy mountain enclave of Bisbee for a dose of mining-town blues (p278; [www.bisbeebluesfest.com](http://www.bisbeebluesfest.com)).

### SALSAFEST

late Sep

This new but already popular festival in Safford brings on the heat with a jalapeño-eating contest (p229; [www.salsatrail.com](http://www.salsatrail.com)).

## OCTOBER

### SEDONA ARTS FESTIVAL

early Oct

This fine-art show overflows with jewelry, ceramics, glass and sculptures in early October (p125; [www.sedonaartsfestival.org](http://www.sedonaartsfestival.org)).

### BISBEE 1000 – THE GREAT STAIR CLIMB

mid-Oct

Walk, run or climb more than 1000 steps that crisscross mile-high Bisbee on old mining trails (p276; [www.bisbee1000.org](http://www.bisbee1000.org)).

### ARIZONA STATE FAIR

late Oct

More than a million people flock to Phoenix for food, rides and entertainment at the state's biggest party in the last two weeks of October (p90).

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

### DAY OF THE DEAD

early Nov

A traditional Mexican celebration on November 2 honoring deceased relatives. Breads and sweets resembling skeletons are made, and families visit graveyards.

### FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

early Dec

Some 6000 luminaries twinkle in Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village with Santa and a mariachi band (p125; [www.tlaq.com](http://www.tlaq.com)).

### CHRISTMAS

25 Dec

Month-long festivities statewide, including Nativity pageants and holiday light displays.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PINECONE DROP

31 Dec

Celebrate the arrival of the new year as an oversized pine cone descends outside the Weatherford Hotel, in Flagstaff (p136; [www.flagstaffarizona.org](http://www.flagstaffarizona.org)).

# Itineraries

## CLASSIC ROUTES

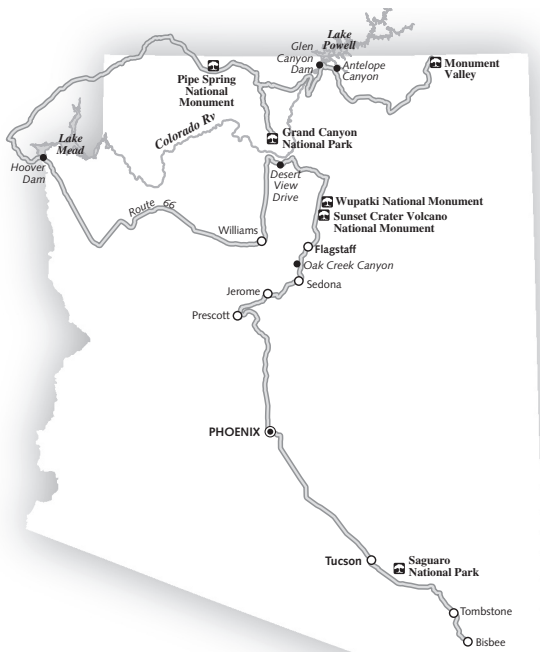
### BEST OF ARIZONA

Three Weeks

Start on the Navajo Reservation with a slow loop past the crimson buttes of **Monument Valley** (p207). Drive west for a glimpse of **Antelope Canyon** (p206), beside **Lake Powell** (p195), then drop into the hydroelectric heart of **Glen Canyon Dam** (p197). Make your way to the woodsy Kaibab Plateau and the camplike North Rim of **Grand Canyon National Park** (p182). Stop at **Pipe Spring National Monument** (p194) to glimpse sheer desolation, then nip into Utah and Nevada, before looping back into Arizona at the mighty **Hoover Dam** (p300). Shimmering **Lake Mead** (p300) is great for a splashy break before a retro drive on **Route 66** (p29).

Gaze at trains and hot rods in **Williams** (p140) then drive to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for hiking, biking and camping. Leave via the **Desert View Drive** (p154) then catch Hwy 89A south with a scenic bypass through **Wupatki** (p140) and **Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument** (p140). In **Flagstaff** (p130) enjoy a few microbrews before taking gorgeous **Oak Creek Canyon** (p32) into **Sedona** (p120). Swing through the art-and-history towns of **Jerome** (p114) and **Prescott** (p110), then sweep into **Phoenix** (p80). Let the kids – old and young – have some fun in **Tucson** (p235), hike through tall cacti in **Saguaro National Park** (p249), then head southeast to the OK Corral in **Tombstone** (p273). Finish with a savory breakfast in **Bisbee** (p280).

Arizona celebrates 100 years of statehood in 2012. Join the party with this 1300-mile trip, which swoops past the state's historic, geologic and cultural highlights. This trek has it all: red rocks, cowgirls and cowboys, Native American history, artsy mining towns and a stop for big-city pampering.

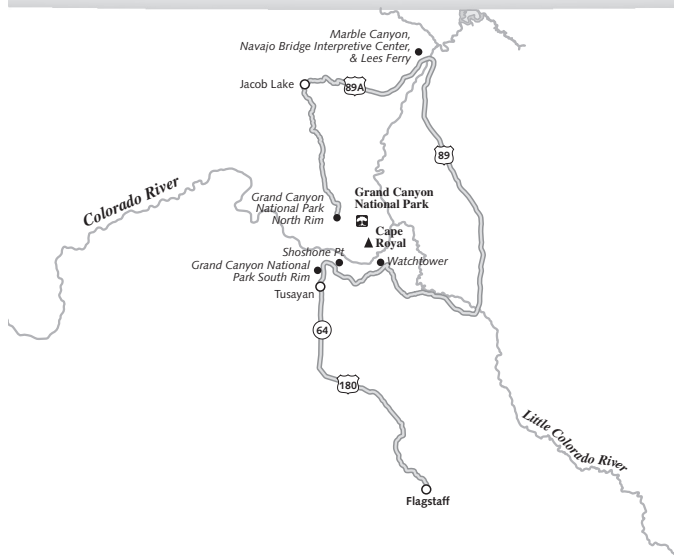


## GRAND CANYON ADVENTURE

Two Weeks

Boots tied? Check. Lotion slathered? Check. Batteries in the camera? Darn straight. Then let's get started – with two rims, 22 overlooks and two billion years of geologic history, there's no time for lollygagging. Kick things off with a geology primer in **Flagstaff** (p130) then cruise under peaks and pines on Hwy 180 to Hwy 64, catching the IMAX canyon flick in **Tusayan** (p175) before rolling into the South Rim of **Grand Canyon National Park** (p145). Absorb Mary Colter's Southwestern-style architecture, ride a bike on the Greenway Trail, sip a Fat Tire on the El Tovar porch and catch the condor talk at Lookout Studio, ending the week with a mule ride down to the Colorado River and an overnight at Phantom Ranch.

Back on the rim, motor east on Desert View Dr, hiking to Shoshone Point for solitary canyon vistas then shoot east for a final canyon gaze from the Watchtower, the South Rim's highest point. Drive north on Hwy 89/89A and cross the canyon-carving Colorado River at **Marble Canyon** (p194), where the Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center provides background on the adjacent bridges. A short drive north, white-water rafters push off for canyon expeditions at **Lees Ferry** (p194). Zip across the Arizona Strip, climbing the Kaibab Plateau and grabbing a home-baked cookie in **Jacob Lake** (p193) before the 44-mile drive south past ponderosas and aspens to the **North Rim** (p182). Here you'll spend a few days on the quiet side, driving out to Cape Royal for sweeping views, enjoying a picnic at Widfors Point, gazing at stars from a rim-side verandah, then celebrating a trip well done with a window-side dinner at the Grand Canyon Lodge.



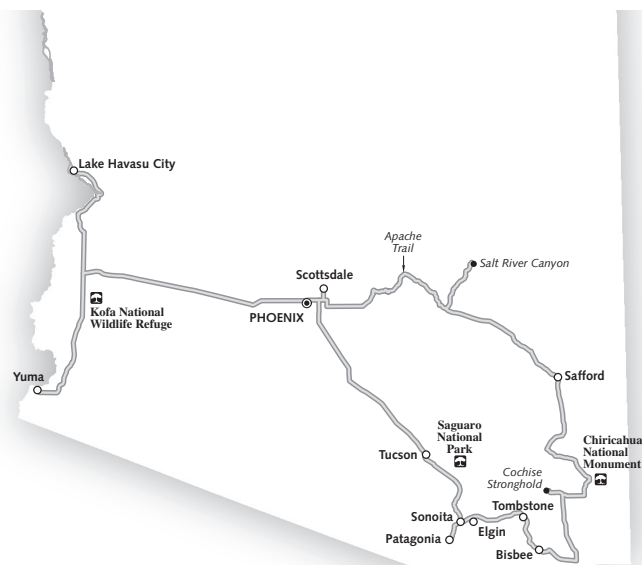
The 277-mile Grand Canyon demands more than a simple how-do-you-do. It's meant to be hiked, rafted, camped and explored. This Big Ditch adventure pays proper respects, with a 300-mile spin from the convivial South Rim around to the pine-draped North Rim.

## SOUTHERN LOOP

One Week to 10 Days

Ponder the lifestyles of convicts and zeedonks in far-west **Yuma** (p285) then head north, scanning for birds and wildlife at the mountain-converging **Kofa National Wildlife Refuge** (p287). Detour north for the relocated London Bridge in **Lake Havasu City** (p290) then follow I-10 into the sprawling **Phoenix** (p80) metro area for top museums, pro basketball games, stylish spas and upscale dining and shopping along Camelback Rd in **Scottsdale** (p88). Laid-back **Tucson** (p235), slightly south, is a pleasant place to chill out, and you can stop and smell the, er, cacti in nearby **Saguaro National Park** (p249). Enjoy a day of wine tasting in the villages of **Sonoita** and **Elgin** (p266) capped off with a slice of Elvis-inspired pizza in **Patagonia** (p265). You can't drive this far south without swinging by **Tombstone** (p273) to catch a reenactment of Wyatt and Doc's shootout with the Clantons. Continue south for eye-catching galleries, great restaurants and a lantern-carrying mine tour in **Bisbee** (p276) then loop north to the Apaches' nearly impregnable natural fortress standing firm at the **Cochise Stronghold** (p282). Just east, wander odd rock formations at **Chiricahua National Monument** (p281) then swing north to the scenic diversity around **Safford** (p229). Follow Hwy 70 west to Hwy 60, detouring north to the sheer-walled **Salt River Canyon** (p232), perfect for a Class IV(!) ride past saguaros. Finally, grab Hwy 88 west for a twisting, swooping canyon-flanked ride on the **Apache Trail** (p232) back into Phoenix.

A trip to be savored not slammed (except for Lake Havasu), this 635-mile jaunt through Arizona's saguaro-dotted southern landscape meanders past bird-filled refuges, small-town wineries and big-city museums, with a final nod to Old West gunfighter and mining history.

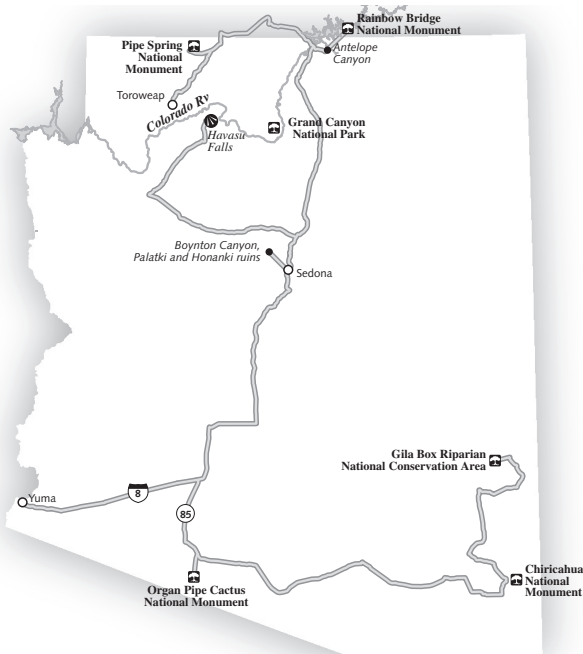


## ROADS LESS TRAVELED

### NATURE'S BEST

Two Weeks

In Arizona, you have off-the-beaten-path and then you have 'bring-two-spare-tires-extra-water-and-several-topo-maps' off-the-beaten-path. Those in search of the former should make their way to **Antelope Canyon** (p206) and **Rainbow Bridge National Monument** (p198), on the Navajo Reservation. For an expansive view of the mostly empty Arizona Strip, follow Hwy 89A west across the Kaibab Plateau, hiking up the hill behind the tiny oasis at **Pipe Spring National Monument** (p194). If even that huddle of civilization is unbearable, grab the maps for the 61-mile backcountry trek to **Toroweap** (also known as Tuweep; p185) and its 3000ft drop to the Colorado River on the Grand Canyon's North Rim. For rewarding natural views on the South Rim of the canyon, backtrack to I-40 and Route 66, driving west to the 8-mile trail leading down to the Havasupai Reservation. Just beyond the Havasupai village you'll find the stunning blue-green **Havasu Falls** (p179). You don't need to pack an overnight bag – just a camera – for a hike in **Boynton Canyon** (p124), outside Sedona. Extend this trip with a red-rocky drive to the **Palatki** and **Honanki ruins** (p123) a few dusty miles west. For a cactus-studded wonderland southeast of Yuma, take Hwy 85 south to the jagged cliffs and steep-sided canyons on the Ajo Mountain Drive at **Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument** (p258), then continue east to wander through surreal rock formations at **Chiricahua National Monument** (p281). End this trip with a relaxing paddle through **Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area** (p230), a leafy, riverside paradise in the middle of a volcanic landscape.



The road less traveled inevitably leads to something good (but pack extra water just in case). On this 1350-mile trip to plunging waterfalls, riparian Shangri-las, sheer cliffs and a historic stronghold, necessities are few: camera, a good map, a full tank and a sense of adventure.

## TAILORED TRIPS

### GUNSLINGERS & GOLD MINERS

Dude ranches, mining tours, ghost towns and a saloon with swinging doors – yup, Arizona is the place to play out your Old West fantasies. Drop into a mine in copper-mad **Bisbee** (p276), tucked in the Mule Mountains a few miles north of the Mexican border, then relive the shoot-out at the OK Corral 25 miles north in **Tombstone** (p273). Prospectors share their stories at a miner’s museum in **Tucson** (p238), appropriate preparation for **Apache Junction** (p232), where tales of the legendary Lost Dutchman Gold Mine might inspire you to look for nuggets yourself. Saddle up for **Wickenburg** (p107), known statewide for its dude ranches. Outside town there’s an abandoned mining town with a bordello just a few steps from the hanging tree. Follow scenic Hwy 89A through rugged mountains into rodeo-loving **Prescott** (p110). Downtown you can swagger (or stagger) down historic Whiskey Row, where the Palace Saloon beckons with a 100-year-old Brunswick bar. Twist up to another mining museum and a walking tour in **Jerome** (p114), a onetime mining town clinging to the side of Cleopatra Hill (and occasionally sliding down it). Follow Hwy 89A through **Sedona** (p120), its red-rock landscape familiar from many a Western movie, and finish this tour in **Flagstaff** (p130) at a turn-of-the-20th-century hotel in the heart of downtown.



### THE SUN, THE MOON & THE STARS

Dark nights and clear skies (330 days a year) make Arizona a prime spot for stargazers and sky watchers. Lofty **Kitt Peak National Observatory** (p257) is a star-peeping hot spot where you can scour the galaxy from atop a 6875ft mountain. Take your eyes from the skies in **Tucson** (p242), 60 miles north-east, to ponder the life of Major Tom at the air and space museum or gaze upon an aircraft boneyard. Kids can study the mysteries of the universe at a hands-on, up-to-the-minute children’s museum in **Phoenix** (p86) or check out a simple but effective Sinaguan solar calendar 90 minutes north at the **V-Bar-V Heritage Site** (p107). Sign up for a guided tour of the universe in the red-rocked city of **Sedona** (p124) but if you don’t see a comet hurtling through space, the next best thing is just north on I-40 – a 550ft pit otherwise known as **Meteor Crater** (p218). In nearby **Flagstaff** (p130), an official Dark Sky City, contemplate the fate of poor Pluto at the 116-year-old observatory where the planet was discovered. If you’re at **Grand Canyon National Park** (p190) in early June, attend a star party sponsored by Tucson- and Phoenix-based astronomy clubs. During these collaborative events on the North and South Rims, local astronomers share their telescopes and knowledge beside the mighty canyon.



## WINE, BREWS & A COUPLE OF VIEWS

Mountain-town microbreweries have kept college students and beer connoisseurs happy for years, but wines from Arizona's maturing vineyards are making their presence known and impressing some discriminating palates. Several of the most respected vineyards are clustered near the villages of **Sonoita** and **Elgin** (p266) – spend a day or two sampling their finest. Beer drinkers can build their tolerance in party-lovin' **Tucson** (p235) before heading to **Prescott** (p110), home of one fine microbrewery and the historic but still-hopping Whiskey Row. The buzzy energy continues in the scenic Verde Valley, where there are tasting rooms aplenty. Sample wines beside the Verde River or along Old Town's slow-moving Main St in **Cottonwood** (p118) or shuttle past three up-beat tasting rooms on the shores of Oak Creek near **Cornville** (p119). There's a tasting room for every level of town in hill-hugging **Jerome** (p114); the newest is owned by the lead singer of Tool (the man knows his grapes). After a vortex hike in **Sedona** (p120), gab with the locals and sip a local brew on a breezy patio just west of the Y – and gear up for **Flagstaff** (p130), otherwise known as microbrew heaven. Here, outdoor guides, college coeds, pool players and tourists all play well together.



## NATIONAL PARKS & MONUMENTS THAT AREN'T THE GRAND CANYON

It's hard to get respect when the Big Ditch is sucking up all the air in the room. But Arizona's other national parks and monuments know they've got it going on. For solitude and cactile diversity, wander **Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument** (p258). Further east are the pillarlike rock formations at **Chiricahua National Monument** (p281) before you're welcomed back to civilization with hikes and horseback riding at **Saguaro National Park** (p249).

Get your first glimpse of ancient ruins at **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument** (p254), a major Hohokam Indian city in the 14th century. For cliff dwellings, visit **Tonto National Monument** (p234), home of the Salado people in the 13th century, then head northwest to the Sinaguan cliff dwellings of the Verde Valley. Their homes can be seen on high at **Montezuma Castle National Monument** (p107) and beside a spring-fed pool at **Montezuma Well**. For a hilltop dwelling with a 360-degree view, visit **Tuzigoot National Monument** (p120). At **Walnut Canyon National Monument** (p133), ancient homes overlook a river-carved canyon. Explore free-standing pueblos built after a volcanic eruption at **Wupatki National Monument** (p140) then hike through frozen lava flows at adjoining **Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument** (p140).

Geology is the main bait at **Petrified Forest National Park** (p221). **Canyon de Chelly National Monument** (p209) is an inhabited and cultivated canyon complete with hogans and sheep herds. Boat then hike to **Rainbow Bridge National Monument** (p198), the world's largest natural bridge, then head west to merge geology with Native American and Mormon history at **Pipe Spring National Monument** (p194).

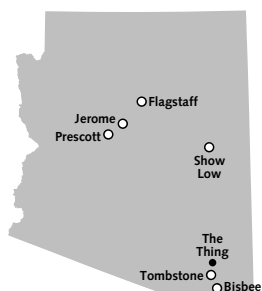


## GHOSTS, ALIENS & THE THING

Arizonans don't hide their ghosts and goblins behind locked doors and whispers, they trot 'em out for all to see with handouts, tours and giant yellow billboards. Choose between a hearse-driven tour, ghost walk or haunted pub crawl (it's the hangovers that'll kill ya) in the terraced old mining town of **Bisbee** (p276). In Tombstone there's a ghost tour through an infamous 1880s saloon and dancehall, the **Birdcage Theater** (p275). Up the road on I-10, it's hard to miss the billboards proclaiming the existence of the **Thing** (p269), apparently resting comfortably in a box beside the Dairy Queen off exit 322.

Hwy 89A between Phoenix and Flagstaff has its share of spirits, with several said to be skulking around the older hotels in downtown **Prescott** (p110).

But Prescott's got nothing on hardscrabble **Jerome**, where 'resident ghost' seems to be a requirement for opening a B&B or hotel. You can take a 90-minute evening ghost tour at the **Jerome Grand Hotel** (p117), complete with EMT meter, heat sensor, digital camera and one potentially murderous elevator. A famous alien abduction – the basis for the 1993 movie *Fire in the Sky* – allegedly occurred in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest near **Show Low** (p224). In Flagstaff you have your pick of haunted Victorian-era hotels, either the **Weatherford Hotel** (p136) or **Hotel Monte Vista** (p136), a place with so many ghosts the staff has helpfully prepared a handout listing them all.



## ARIZONA FOR KIDS

**Grand Canyon National Park** (p144) is the hands-down winner for family vacations. Chug into Grand Canyon Village on the entertaining **Grand Canyon Railway** (p141) then take your pick of bicycling, hiking, mule riding (for the older kids) or enjoying a ranger talk – kids seem to dig the daily condor program. End a canyon trip in kid-friendly **Williams** (p140), where sleeping in a train car or gazing at bears (from the safety of your car) tops the list of kid-minded fun. Young 'uns with a sense of adventure can drop 21 stories into the **Grand Canyon Caverns** (p296) on Route 66, slide down an all-natural rock slide at **Slide Rock State Park** (p129), or hunt for ghosts at the **Jerome Grand Hotel** (p117).



Outdoorsy families can horseback ride at three dude ranches in **Wickenburg** (p107) then check out exotic foreign animals at Phoenix's **Wildlife World Zoo** (p103). In Tucson, the educational **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum** (p249) is home to local desert animals thriving in their natural habitat. Move from wildlife to history (sort of) at **Old Tucson Studios** (p250), a former film set now featuring shoot-outs and Wild West events. The rootin'-tootin' Wild West lives on in **Tombstone** (p273), where OK Corral re-enactments and Boothill Cemetery tombstones keep the kiddies engaged. Families curious about mining can take a tour in an old mine in **Bisbee** (p277).

# The Authors



## AMY C BALFOUR

**Coordinating Author, Central Arizona,  
Grand Canyon Region**

After her first glimpse of the Big Ditch from Mather Point in 1993, Amy's been seriously addicted to the Grand Canyon. She's hiked to Clear Creek, sipped a Tecate at Phantom Ranch, spent a snowy Christmas at Bright Angel Lodge, camped in the Kaibab and savored dinner with a view at the Grand Canyon Lodge. Hwy 89 may be her favorite scenic drive in the USA. When she's not rambling through the Southwest, Amy is a map correspondent for *Backpacker*. She's written for *Lonely Planet Magazine*, *Redbook*, *Southern Living*, *Vegetarian Times* and *Women's Health*.



## MICHAEL BENAV

**Navajo & Hopi Lands, Eastern Arizona &  
Rim Country, Western Arizona**

A writer, photographer and wilderness instructor, Michael's been exploring the deserts, mountains and river corridors of the Southwest since he moved to New Mexico 18 years ago. He's the author of two books: *Men Of Salt: Crossing the Sahara on the Caravan of White Gold*, for which he joined a working camel caravan on its 1000-mile mission to schlep salt to Timbuktu, and *Joshua & Isadora: A True Tale of Loss and Love in the Holocaust*, which took him through the vodka-soaked villages of rural Ukraine. His work appears in the *New York Times*, *Geographical* and the *Christian Science Monitor* magazine.



## ADAM KARLIN

**Greater Phoenix, Tucson, Southern Arizona**

Adam, a keen lover of borders, eccentrics and wide open spaces, jumped at the chance to work on this latest edition of *Arizona*. In the course of his research he chased a bulldog around the Roosevelt Arts District, heard the ghost of a horse near an abandoned cavalry stable, had several run-ins with the Border Patrol (thanks, rental car) and learned that when all his friends from border states say they've got the best Mexican food, they're right. Adam has worked on 20 *Lonely Planet* titles covering Asia, Africa and the Americas.

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