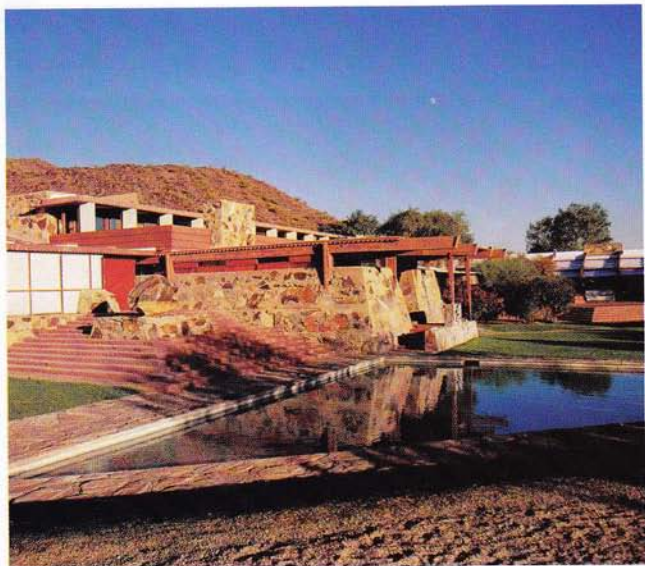


# ARIZONA

*alfresco*

Blessed with stunning scenery and sunny skies, Arizona is the ideal spot to soak up the great outdoors.

Arizona celebrates more than 330 days of sunshine each year. It also boasts one of the most diverse terrains in the country — from sultry deserts to snowcapped peaks — making it the perfect destination for anyone who loves the outdoors. So slather on the SPF and explore some of the 114,000 square miles that make up the U.S.'s sixth-largest state.



## SIGHTSEEING

If you haven't been to the Grand Canyon in the last few years, a trip to this natural wonder should be in the offing. What's the attraction? Try a new way to see this all-natural wonder — on a glass walkway suspended 4,000 feet above the Colorado River! At the Grand Canyon Skywalk, which opened in 2007, visitors step out on a sheer overhang that stretches out nearly 70 feet over the ancient gorge.

For those who prefer solid ground under their feet, you can hit the trails at Phoenix's Desert Botanical Garden. Its 50 lush acres are home to more than 20,000 desert plants from around the world, including 139 species that are either threatened or endangered.

Just because you're outdoors doesn't mean you can't soak up some culture. For instance, at the Mesa Amphitheatre, 15 minutes northwest of Phoenix, you can sit out on the tiered lawn, enjoying the night breezes and performances by everyone from Sheryl Crow to the Southwest Shakespeare Company.

Train your sights skyward at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. During the day, guided tours and hands-on exhibits concentrate on the current research being done here, while at night, visitors can take a peek through the telescope Percival Lowell used to discover Pluto back in 1930.

Award-winning architecture is the name of the game at

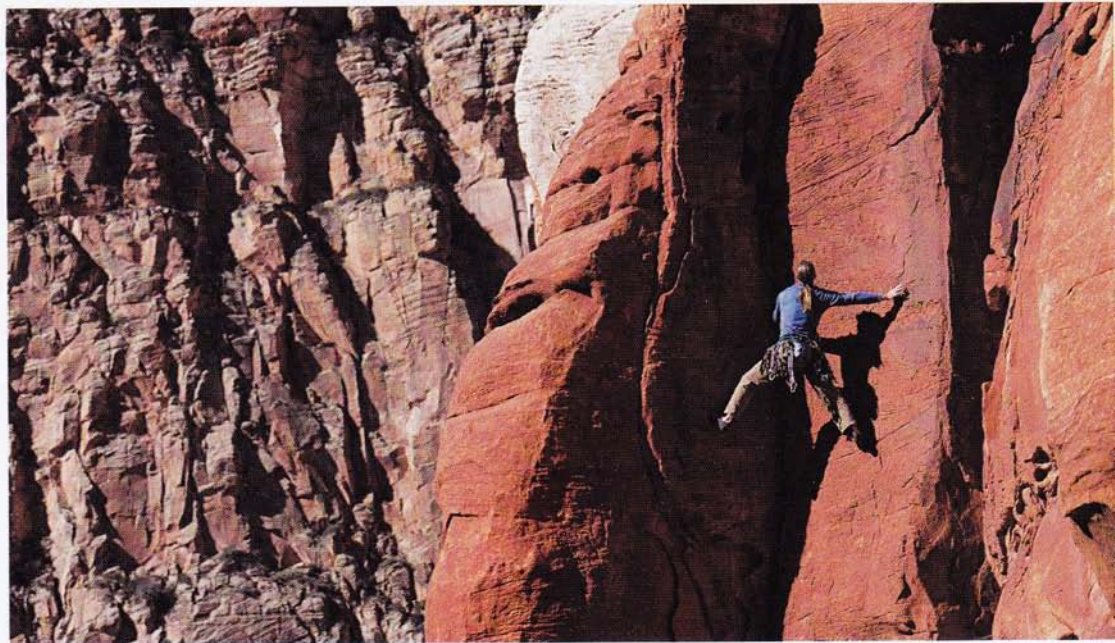
Taliesin West, a national historic landmark in Scottsdale. This former residence of Frank Lloyd Wright practically blends into its Sonoran desert setting, showcasing the famed architect's ability to merge indoor and outdoor spaces. In addition to guided tours exploring both the building and Wright's design philosophies, you can take a two-hour nature walk through the surrounding McDowell Mountain foothills.

The Scottsdale area also boasts its own opulent and functional lodging in the form of several comfortable, trendy hotels and resorts. Two of the finest and most highly regarded properties are the InterContinental Montelucia Resort & Spa and the Fairmont Scottsdale.



# ITINERARY

## ADVENTURE



**A**drenaline junkies can get their motors running with one of Arizona ATV Adventures' off-road excursions. Their Phoenix-area tour will have you four-wheeling along a mountainous 40-mile-long trail past prehistoric Indian petroglyphs, by an adobe way station used by stagecoaches back in the 1860s, and through beautiful Box Canyon.

For fun on two wheels, head to eastern Arizona's Sunrise Park Resort, the state's largest ski area, where they open the chairlifts and slopes to mountain bikers in the off-season. Rent a cruiser, shell out \$20 for an all-day mountain bike pass, and make your way through some of the White Mountains' most magnificent scenery.

The Verde, Arizona's only federally protected river, is a great place for fishing, but an even better spot for kayaking and whitewater rafting. Spring snow thaws and summer storms produce beginner to intermediate runs up and down the clear canyon tributary, along which outfitters provide multi-day expeditions.

Equally adventuresome — but significantly less soggy — is a nostalgic voyage along historic Route 66. Arizona boasts the longest original stretch of this scenic byway, so

we suggest you head to a local Hertz rental car agency, pick out a shiny convertible or other open-air automobile, and hit the road. Postcard-worthy pit stops include everything from the old gold-mining camp in Oatman to the teepee-shaped rooms at the Wigwam Motel in Holbrook.



## GOLF

With year-round sunshine and a whopping 300-plus links scattered across the state, it's no wonder Arizona has been recognized as one of the top golf destinations in North America. Scottsdale is a hotbed of such activity. Six of its courses have been named to *Golf Magazine's* "Top 100 Courses You Can Play" list — the most from any single U.S. city. Among that coveted group are the Monument and Pinnacle layouts at Troon North, both of which have occupied the list for the past 10 years straight. The three championship courses at The Phoenician are also highly ranked and respected. The Stadium Course at TPC Scottsdale hosts the annual FBR Open, the largest attended golf event in the world. Here, everyday duffers can experience firsthand a little of what



life is like on the PGA Tour.

Notable among Tucson's 50-odd courses are the Lodge at Ventana Canyon, designed by legendary architect Tom Fazio and played by the likes of Clint Eastwood and George Bush, as well as The Westin La Paloma, singled out not only for its Jack Nicklaus design, but for its highly acclaimed golf shop as well.

In the Phoenix area, the choices include the more budget-friendly Stonecreek Golf Club, a links-style course named after the creek that meanders through the property, as well as the ASU Karsten Golf Course, a classic Pete Dye design that's also home to one of the top collegiate golf teams in the country.



## NEED MILES OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

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