



A Brief Update of News Around Arizona December 2019

The **Arizona Office of Tourism** is pleased to provide this monthly update of new and noteworthy items regarding Arizona's tourism industry. For more information, contact Becky Blaine at bblaine@tourism.az.gov, Kim Todd at ktodd@tourism.az.gov, Joanna Tejeda at jtejeda@tourism.az.gov or Marjorie Magnusson at mmagnusson@tourism.az.gov. Please use this [link](#) to access all images.

Attractions

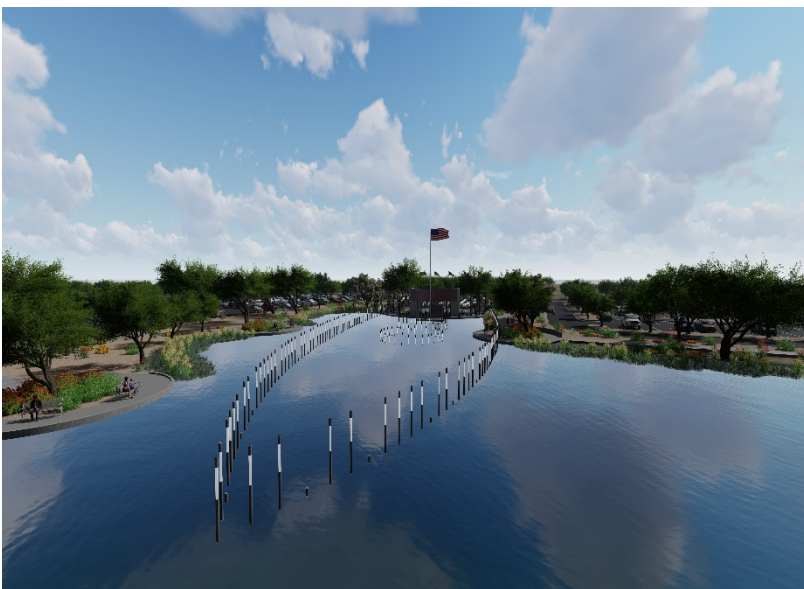
USS Arizona Memorial Gardens opens in the beginning of 2020

Scheduled to open in February 2020, the [USS Arizona Memorial Gardens](#) at the [Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community](#) honors those who were aboard the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The Memorial Gardens, located east of Pima Road in Scottsdale, will span the exact length and width of the USS Arizona with LED light posts representing those aboard during the attack. An original boathouse relic from the USS Arizona, originally part of the memorial at Pearl Harbor, will be featured at the Gardens. The relic is the largest piece ever given to a tribal community.

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USS Arizona Memorial Gardens, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

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Hotel News

First full service Marriott Hotel in Chandler

The [Marriott Phoenix Chandler](#) is the largest legacy brand full service [Marriott](#) in the state and features the greatest amount of hotel conference space in the area. The entire property is 182,000 square-feet with 264 rooms. The hotel offers 28,000 square-feet of venue space and can accommodate meeting and event sizes of up to 1,000 people. Marriott Phoenix Chandler offers more than 20 different event spaces, including a large ballroom, eight different breakout rooms, and a private dining room, with onsite catering and event planning services.

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Ballroom, Marriott Hotel Phoenix Chandler



Guest room, Marriott Hotel Phoenix Chandler

New Cambria hotel in downtown Phoenix



Exterior, Cambria Downtown Phoenix Hotel

The new [Cambria hotel](#), located in the [Roosevelt Row Arts District](#) in downtown Phoenix, features seven stories with 127 guest rooms, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, a new restaurant, and a rooftop bar. The Cambria's new hotel restaurant, [Poppy](#), is open to hotel guests and the general public. The menu, created by executive chef Nate Cayer, is comprised of globally inspired dishes and shareable plates. Cayer is sourcing produce through local vendors, such as Chula Seafood, The Fig and The Knife, Beetanical Garden, Noble Bread, and Sterling Meats.

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Sky Rock, a boutique hotel opens in Sedona

The new boutique property in Sedona, [Sky Rock](#), focuses on immersing visitors in complete relaxation and rejuvenation. Surrounding the property are two of Sedona's vortexes to empower self-reflection and healing. Each guest room, embedded into Sedona's red rock landscape, are newly renovated. Many rooms open to the hotel's wide terraces, offering spectacular views. Sky Rock's expansive grounds encourage meditation, community, and adventure through wellness workshops, hiking or biking. The hotel offers guests customized trail maps, a bike repair station and storage, and a yoga mat to use around the property.

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Guest room, Sky Rock Hotel



Balcony view, Sky Rock Hotel

New hotel scheduled to open in June 2020 in Summerhaven

The \$2-million construction of the [Mt. Lemmon Hotel](#) in Summerhaven is scheduled to open in June 2020 at the site of former Alpine Lodge. The Lodge, about 30 miles north of Tucson, burned down in the 2003 Aspen Fire. The new hotel will consist of 17 casitas with Wi-Fi controlled locks, making it easier for guests to check in to rooms. Each casita features a kitchen, bathroom, queen size bed, fold-out couch, and television set; some units have a small yard for pets. During the winter months, an on-site snow maker will provide two to three inches of snow in a designated area. The property will have a retail component offering snow rentals and a burrito shop.

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Casita digital design, Mt. Lemmon Hotel

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Flight Service

Vernon Aviation announces private aircraft charter services out of Scottsdale Airport



Pilatus PC-12 turboprop aircraft, Vernon Aviation

[Vernon Aviation](#) announced the opening of its newest base of operations at [Scottsdale airport](#). The luxurious and cost effective, Pilatus PC-12 turboprop aircraft can accommodate up to 8 passengers. This location is the second base for Vernon Aviation, with its first being located in Farmington, NM.

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Accolades

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport awarded top airport in the nation by the Wall Street Journal

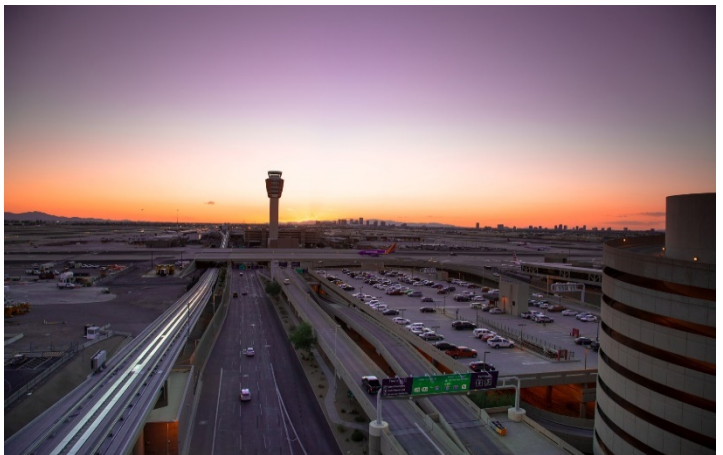
The [Wall Street Journal](#) ranked the [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) as the number one airport in the U.S. The winner was determined by examining 14 different categories and surveyed more than 2,500 subscribers. Among other categories, Phoenix Sky Harbor ranked especially high in short taxi-to-takeoff times, restaurants and fast WiFi. The airport underwent major renovations within the past year, including the modernization of Terminal 3 and the addition of local restaurants and shops in all terminals. The final phase of the renovation plan, extension of the PHX Sky Train to the Rental Car Center and a new eight-gate concourse to be occupied by Southwest Airlines in Terminal 4, will finish at the end of 2020.

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South Concourse, Terminal 3, Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport



Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

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Kai Restaurant included in La Liste 2020

[La Liste 2020](#), a prestigious global restaurant-ranking system from France that celebrates the top 1000 dining experiences in the world, included [Kai Restaurant](#). La Liste is based on an algorithm that analyzes restaurant reviews from around the world and consumer ratings for more than 20,000 restaurants. Kai Restaurant, at the [Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass](#) in Phoenix, is the only restaurant in Arizona to receive the honor.



Elk Loin, Kai

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Thirsty Camel named one of the “World’s Best Hotel Bar” by Forbes

The [Thirsty Camel](#) at [The Phoenician](#), a luxury collection resort in Scottsdale, was listed as one of the “World’s Best Hotel Bar” by [Forbes](#). The list features 44 other hotel bars from around the world but the Thirsty Camel is the only one from Arizona. Forbes gathers extensive data to determine the list, the company’s inspectors stay at nearly 1,000 hotels anonymously and evaluate based on up to 900 standards for the guide’s annual Star Ratings. Bars listed had to receive a perfect score in food and beverage quality and display elements of luxury in presentation and service.

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Outside patio, Thirsty Camel at The Phoenician, a Luxury Collection Resort

Centennial Celebrations in 2019

Grand Canyon Centennial, Grand Canyon National Park



The [Grand Canyon](#) celebrates 100 years of its designation as a national park. The Centennial year will feature virtual and in-park events throughout 2019 at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon, and surrounding gateway communities.

Watch it here: Senate (starts at 11 min 35 sec mark) -

http://azleg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=22237&autostart=0

Read it here: <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/54leg/1R/bills/SR1001S.htm>

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2020 Cactus League Spring Training Schedule

The [2020 Cactus League spring training schedule](#) has finally been posted and this year marks the earliest start in the leagues history. The first games are scheduled to start on Saturday, Feb. 22 and end on March 24. The Cactus League features 15 MLB teams, Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Colorado Rockies, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Angels, Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners, and Texas Rangers. The 228 scheduled games will be played throughout the 10 Phoenix-area ballparks. Visit the Cactus League [website](#) for more information on game time, stadium location and ticket sales.

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www.youtube.com/user/ArizonaTourism

Newsroom: <http://newsroom.visitarizona.com/>

Official State Visitors Guide: <http://digital.milespartnership.com/view/central/arizona-official-state-travel-guide/arizona-2019-20>

Additional inspiration: <http://www.visitarizona.com/planning/local-word>