



Red, White & Blue Adventures in Arizona: Home to red wine, white water and blue lakes

Prepare to be surprised! Arizona may not be known for water, but we have some memorable places to get wet and a little bit wild—on a one-day Grand Canyon rafting trip on the Colorado River. Similarly, Arizona may not be associated with wineries, but we have vineyards producing award-winning wines that are gaining national notice. This trip appeals to active, adventurous visitors with an appreciation of wine and small towns.

Day 1 – Drive from Phoenix to Lake Havasu

Drive from Phoenix to Lake Havasu City, approx. drive time is 3.25 hours.

Suggested lunch: [Javelina Cantina](#). Lake Havasu's number one destination for authentic Sonoran style Mexican food.

1420 McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Take a walking tour of the [London Bridge](#) – How did the world famous London Bridge come to its unlikely home in Arizona? Hear the story of how the bridge made its way to Lake Havasu City from London, England. Walk around, under and over the bridge as others have done before you, from the 1800s through WWII.

Try a [Standup Paddleboard, kayak or canoe](#). They are great ways to view Arizona wildlife, explore hidden coves and get a little (or a lot) of exercise. Canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards are available for rent at multiple locations. Each facility operates a little differently. Some are located on the water, making rentals as easy as showing up and jumping in the lake. Some rental facilities may require equipment pick-up, or in some cases deliveries will be made.

Sunset Boat Tour with [Sunset Charters & Tours](#) - You will be welcomed aboard the Canyon Cruiser Kon Tiki and taken south to one of the most well-known landmarks on the lake - Copper Canyon, formerly the site of the largest producing copper mine along the Colorado River during the mining era in the late 1800s. You will learn the history of Copper Canyon, the London Bridge and Lake Havasu City during the fully narrated 1 1/2 hour tour in addition to witnessing a spectacular sunset and the reflective glow of colors on the water created by the sunset and city lights. The amazing natural light display makes for incredible photo opportunities.

211 London Bridge Rd. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Have dinner at [Sho-Gun Japanese Restaurant](#). Offering traditional dining and an amazing array of fresh sushi at the sushi bar.

90 Swanson Ave. Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Stay at the [London Bridge Resort](#) or any one of numerous options. London Bridge Resort is poised along the Colorado River, on 110 beautiful waterfront acres, adjacent to the World Famous London Bridge, which provides a striking visual backdrop. London Bridge Resort is a fusion of English Tudor and contemporary design par excellence. Its 122 studio, one- and two-bedroom suites serve as an oasis for guests seeking fun, excitement and tranquility amidst a truly remarkable setting.

1477 Queens Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Day 2 – Drive from Lake Havasu to Peach Springs via Route 66

Drive to [Oatman](#) and meet the burros. Approx. drive time from Lake Havasu City to Oatman is 1.25 hours

A former mining town located in the Black Mountains of Mohave County, Arizona, Oatman was all but abandoned by the 1960s after the gold mines closed in the 1940s and Route 66 in 1953. Today, Oatman has undergone a renaissance in recent years thanks to burgeoning worldwide interest in Route 66. Wild burros (donkeys) freely roam the town and have traditionally been hand-fed carrots and "burro chow," which was readily available in practically every store in town. (The Bureau of Land Management now asks for the safety of the burros, and people, that they not be fed.) Though normally gentle, the burros are in fact wild and signs posted throughout Oatman advise visitors to exercise caution. The burros are descended from pack animals turned loose by early prospectors, and are protected by the US Department of the Interior.

Drive from Oatman to Kingman, approx. drive time is 45 minutes.

Continue to [Kingman](#) and visit the [Route 66 Museum](#). The Route 66 Museum is truly unique in that it is a museum of history, housed in the historical Powerhouse building, located in the "heart" of the longest remaining stretch of the 2400 miles that was Route 66. The Route 66 Museum depicts the historical evolution of travel along the 35th parallel that became Route 66. The murals, photos and life size dioramas capture each of the groups that have traveled the route that has come to be known as the Mother Road.

120 W. Andy Devine Ave. Kingman, AZ 86401

Have a tour & taste at [Desert Diamond Distillery](#). Desert Diamond Distillery was established March of 2009 on a small parcel in the Kingman Airport Industrial Complex. The production room has a state of the art still from Arnold Holstein in Germany, and the tanks were made and installed from Bavarian Breweries out of CA. This 1000L still has a double stack and has a semi automation process that was one of the first in the craft industry, designed and implemented by Bavarian-Holstein Partners. Tours are available.

4875 Olympic Way, Kingman, AZ 86401

Tour & tasting at the [Stetson Winery](#). Nestled in a beautiful, high-desert valley and surrounded by the Peacock, Long and Music Mountain ranges, Stetson Winery and Event Center is the perfect stop to stretch your legs out on the veranda, sip your glass of wine and watch beautiful hues of fuchsia, salmon, violet, gold and copper light up the sky as the evening sun sets over the mountains. Stetson Winery holds the distinction of being the only vineyard, winery and event center along Arizona's Historic Route 66.

10965 Moonscape Way, Kingman, AZ 86401

Drive from Kingman to Peach Springs, approx. drive time is 1 hour.

Arrive Peach Springs & check into [Hualapai Lodge](#) –The Hualapai Lodge is located on the longest stretch of highway left on original Route 66. Experience the historic charm of Route 66 and the unique culture of the Hualapai Tribe when you stay at this Peach Springs, Arizona hotel.

900 AZ-66, Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Dinner at Diamond Creek Restaurant at the Lodge. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, serving everything from omelets and salads to burgers and pizzas, plus dessert.

Day 3 – Rafting on the Colorado River

[Grand Canyon Rafting](#) - Explore the Grand Canyon Walls over the white water rapids of the Colorado River with the only one-day Grand Canyon whitewater raft adventure, the Hualapai River Runners! All river guides are 100% certified and provide narrations on the Hualapai culture and history during your unforgettable journey. The motorized rafts are designed specifically for traversing the Colorado River.

The most important thing to remember is to have FUN on this little adventure! It is an amazing way to see the Canyon, from Sky (heli flight at the end), Earth (when you arrive at the top), and Water (on the River)!

Overnight at the Hualapai Lodge.

Day 4 - Drive from Peach Springs to Cottonwood

Continue driving along Route 66 and stop at [Seligman](#). Today a visit to this small town is a step back in time and tourism is still an important part of the economy. The town remains an odd mixture of roads, cattle and rails. Seligman is a great town, where the people are friendly and the town is clean. Like other towns along Route 66, Seligman is a place you do not want to rush through. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by the Delgadillo's Route 66 Gift Shop and Visitor Center and pick up a Walking Tour Guide to Historic Seligman. This walking tour takes about 20 minutes and guides you through the original center of Seligman. On the walk you will glimpse the colorful history of a thriving railroad town and feel the friendly, comfortable atmosphere which made Seligman a welcome stopping point for train and highway travelers.

Take Scenic Highway 89A from Flagstaff to Sedona. Approx. drive time from Seligman to Sedona is 1.75 hours.

On the way, stop at Oak Creek Vista – Here you can get a bird's eye view of what awaits you down the road and, at the same time, shop for Native American jewelry and other craft items from the local Native American artists who set up displays along the pathways. Just south of Flagstaff, and north of Sedona, State Rt. 89A descends a breathtaking series of switchbacks into a scenic, smaller cousin of the Grand Canyon. Known for colorful rocks and unique formations, Oak Creek Canyon is famous the world around for its spectacular scenery. The visitor center shed closes for the winter beginning in mid-November. The overlook walk and parking lot is open during winter from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Drive time from Sedona to Cottonwood is approx. .5 hour

Tour and tasting at [Javelina Leap Vineyard & Winery](#). Javelina Leap Vineyard, Winery & Bistro is a family operated premium boutique winery with award winning 100% Arizona wines. Our estate vineyard, winery, tasting room & bistro are located in northern Arizona's Verde Valley in historic Page Springs / Cornville.

1565 N Page Springs Rd, Cornville, AZ 86325

Tour and tasting at [Page Springs Cellars](#). We are a family owned vineyard and winery crafting fine Arizona Wines tucked into the volcanic landscape overlooking pristine Oak Creek. Page Springs Cellars Arizona winery offers delicious Rhône style wines, gourmet food selections and breathtaking views. Enjoy our scenic deck beside the cooling waters of Oak Creek and catch a glimpse of the local residents: herons, hawks, bald eagles, ducks, hummingbirds, raccoons, river otters and javelinas.

1500 N Page Springs Rd, Cornville, AZ 86325

Visit the shops and boutiques of [Old Town Cottonwood](#). For antique lovers, be sure to stop at [Larry's Antiques](#) to browse two acres of antiques, treasures and unusual items, so awesome, it is sometimes referred to as a museum.

796 N Main St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

A variety of accommodations can be found including the [Best Western Cottonwood](#), a smoke-free, two-story hotel featuring 77 contemporary guestrooms and 13 Rose Garden Casitas. Offering daily complimentary hot breakfast and free wireless high-speed internet access. At the [Quality Inn Cottonwood](#), guests enjoy free continental breakfast, coffee, wireless high-speed Internet access and local calls. All guest rooms include a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker. This is a non-smoking, pet-free hotel. The [Tavern Hotel](#) is a Euro Style, deluxe boutique hotel with ten guestrooms and a 2 bedroom cottage nestled in the heart of Old Town. The hotel was originally built in 1925 as a grocery store and was a center of activity in Old Town Cottonwood. The historic building was preserved and the hotel was completed in 2011.

Additional tasting rooms located in Old Town Cottonwood include:

[Fire Mountain Wines](#) Our mission is to be a premier wine, by using grapes grown on ancestral Native lands and brought to you by Native hands. Fire Mountain Wines is a testament to the ancient history of the Apache people and customs. We believe through our connectivity to place that we can offer something of the spirit and something truly indigenous. We will support responsible consumption and alcohol abuse rehabilitation programs.

1010 N Main St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

[Pillsbury Wine Company](#) Pillsbury Wine Company is the evolution of a Dream-Come-True project by New Zealand by Film Director and Winemaker Sam Pillsbury. He currently produces 18 100% Cochise County Arizona wines under his Pillsbury Wine Company label at his 100-acre Willcox Bench Vineyard and Winery – mostly Rhone blends. He has won some of the highest scores for any Arizona wines.

1012 N. Main St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

[Burning Tree Cellars](#) Burning Tree Cellars specializes in small batch, meticulously maintained, boutique wines utilizing the finest available fruit sources, quality oak, and patience. Our wines will never be pushed through chain supermarkets or over marketed, but rather built through the power of suggestion and knowledge that we are all part of something special. These wines are, and always will be for each other, our families, and our friends.

1040 N. Main St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

[Arizona Stronghold Tasting Room](#) Arizona Stronghold Vineyards and our wines are the expression of the fierce and wild Arizona terrain. We are pioneers and farmers first, who use the landscape of Arizona to produce unique and prized wine that will compliment any occasion or collections. Owned and operated by the Page Springs Cellars Family (Eric, Ian, Terry and Donna Glomski and Rod Young).

1023 N. Main St, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Day 5 – Drive from Cottonwood – Cave Creek/Carefree

Drive from Cottonwood to Cave Creek, approx. drive time is 1.5 hours

Hike in the Desert Foothills Land Trust area, [Jewel of the Creek Preserve](#) in Cave Creek. The Jewel of the Creek is more than worthy of its name. This 26.6 acre parcel of land is a desert oasis with towering cottonwood and willow trees, which are home to many bird species including the great blue heron and the great horned owl. This property holds one of the last remaining perennial streams in Maricopa County. The unusual year-round presence of water supports a myriad of plant and animal species. The hike is relatively easy, with one steep and rocky hillside path we must traverse on our way into and out of the Preserve. For those looking for a casual stroll, the Dalton Trail is approximately a one-mile loop. For those who would like a longer trek, the nearly two-mile Dragonfly Loop offers more of a challenge.

Please remember to wear closed toe shoes with a good tread. Also, long pants are recommend (since everything in the desert either pokes, bites, or stings) and possibly a walking stick for added stability.

Relax at the [Carefree Resort & Conference Center](#). Carefree Resort & Conference Center is a desert gem surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in all of Arizona, with desert wildflowers, towering Saguaro, Giant Ocotillo and Prickly Pear Cacti. We are located 3 miles North of Scottsdale, but in the heart of Carefree and Cave Creek. The area continues to capture the true essence of Arizona's history and the destination celebrates the true authentic Arizona style and culture with Western décor and architecture. This is a non-smoking hotel.

Have lunch or dinner at [Bryan's Black Mountain Barbeque](#) or the [Buffalo Chip Saloon](#). If you are there on a Wednesday or Saturday you can catch the bull riding!

Stay in the Phoenix metropolitan area for a few more days or begin planning your next visit to Arizona!

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 www.youtube.com/user/ArizonaTourism

Official State Visitors Guide: <http://www.visitarizona.com/visitors-guide>

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