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**Arizona: A Shopper's Mecca**

Cozy crafts enclaves, glamorous mega-malls, historic trading posts, Western wear emporia ... whatever your acquisition itch, Arizona can scratch it.

**Arizona's Top Shopping Spots**

**Greater Phoenix** has perfected the art of the mall: indoor, outdoor, vast, intimate, upscale, bargain-oriented, you name it. But boutiques and specialty stores abound, too. The greatest upscale retail concentration is in downtown **Scottsdale**, which not only hosts the 1.8 million-square foot Scottsdale Fashion Square, with names like Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus, but is also home to several antiques and art gallery districts, among them Fifth Avenue, Marshall Way, and Main Street. **Phoenix** also offers high end retail experiences, with Saks and Gucci among the residents of Biltmore Fashion Park, and malls like downtown's friendly indoor/outdoor Arizona Center appeal to all purse sizes. **Tempe**, home to Arizona State University, caters to the collegiate crowd on Mill Avenue, and to bargain shoppers of all ages at Arizona Mills, where an IMAX theater and GameWorks play center share space with discounters like Saks Off Fifth Avenue. Those with a penchant for things past head for **Historic Downtown Glendale**, with more than 90 antiques emporia.

**Tucson's** shopping wealth is spread eastside, westside, and all over town. Large, modern complexes like Foothills Mall, Park Place, and Tucson Mall are interspersed with such cozy shopping enclaves as St. Phillips Plaza, Plaza Palomino, and Broadway Village. La Encantada, the city's newest, most upscale mall, has several unique-to-Tucson stores as well as brands like Williams-Sonoma. Other interesting shopping pockets include downtown's Old Town Artisans, showcasing local, regional, and Latin American crafts; the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue strip near the University of Arizona, with fun and funky wares; and the Lost Barrio, an old warehouse district is three blocks full of galleries and quaint shops with several ethnic- and Southwest-oriented home decor and furnishing stores.

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About half an hour south of Tucson, the little town of **Tubac**, site of Arizona's oldest European settlement, has nearly 100 crafts shops and galleries, many run by artists. A further 20 minutes south and one easy walk across the border, **Nogales**, Mexico, is chock-a-block with shops purveying folk art, pottery, cowboy boots, and, of course, tequila.

**Sedona** boasts upscale shopping options north of the Valley of the Sun, with its hacienda-style Tlaquepaque complex, modeled after a Mexican shopping village, and abundant art galleries and boutiques. For funkier, hipper, and less expensive wares, there's nearby **Jerome**, a lively ghost town perched on a mountainside. Many Phoenicians drive a few hours north to Prescott, Arizona's first territorial capital, for reasonably-priced antiques. On the **Navajo reservation**, the Hubbell Trading Post in Ganado and Cameron Trading Post near the Grand Canyon offer the largest selection of rugs and crafts, but gift shops at such attractions as Navajo National Monument and, especially, Canyon de Chelly also sell a good array of Native American crafts.

### **What to Buy**

**Crafts from Mexico:** High-quality imports can be found throughout the state, but especially in **Tubac**, **Tucson** and **Greater Phoenix**. Naturally, there's plenty of the real deal in **Nogales**, Mexico. Among things to look for are **Day of the Dead tableau** (painted plaster or paper mache skeletons engaged in all sorts of cheerful activities), **hand-blown glasses**, **Talavera pottery**, and **Mexican tinwork**: painted ornaments, candlestick holders, and votive offerings called *milagros* (literally, "miracles").

**Western gear and wear:** The classic Western string tie, or **bola**, created by Vic Cedarstaff in Wickenburg in 1949 and declared Arizona's official state neckwear in 1971, comes in all patterns and prices, making it a great souvenir or gift. You'll find bolas at **Western wear** shops throughout the state, with a large group of them concentrated in Old Town Scottsdale. Galleries that sell Western art abound in **Tucson**, **Tubac**, **Scottsdale**, and **Sedona**. Other Western retail highlights: In **Wickenburg**, Double D for clothing and Ben's Saddlery for gear; in **Tombstone**, William Brown Holster Co. for tooled leather goods; in **Nogales**, Paul Bond for custom boots; and, on an old ranch near **Benson**, Singing Wind Bookshop for books about Arizona, nonfiction and tall tale.

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**Native American crafts:** The gift shop at the Heard Museum in Phoenix has the state's best gathering of crafts of all types, created by artists from many of Arizona's native nations. You'll also find genuine **katsinas**, representations of spirits created as teaching tools for young girls, on the Hopi mesas; they're sold in small shops and directly out of artisans' homes. The Hubbell and Cameron trading posts and Garland's in Sedona all have large selections of Navajo rugs, and staffs that are knowledgeable about them. Contemporary **silver jewelry** made by the Navajo (often turquoise-embedded) and Hopi (many in overlay style) are sold in crafts shops all over Arizona, while pawn shops near the Navajo reservation – for example, in Flagstaff, Page, and Winslow – are good sources for **antique Navajo belts** and **necklaces**.

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