

BIG CITY, LITTLE PLEASURES

ARIZONA

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The Valley of the Sun - Phoenix, Scottsdale, Gilbert, Tempe, Mesa, Apache Junction

Phoenix is the fifth largest city in the United States, encompassing over twenty communities. This itinerary will take you through the largest cultural and entertainment hub of the Greater Phoenix area, and you will experience history, art, architecture and great food. Take in the beautiful Southwestern landscape and relaxed lifestyle.



DAY 1 DOWNTOWN PHOENIX

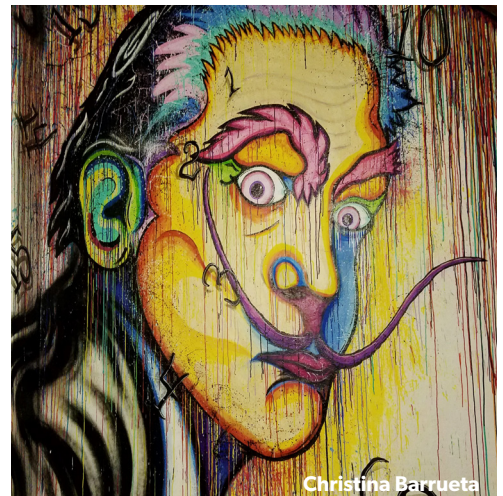
Morning: Start your tour in vibrant Downtown Phoenix. Soak up Phoenix's history and attractions by taking a [walking city tour](#). Add in the [Roosevelt Row Arts District](#) for additional stops.

Visit [The Churchill](#) for lunch and local shops. The 9,000 square foot courtyard stands in the center of ten small local businesses housed in shipping containers. [901 N. 1st St, Phoenix, AZ 85004](#)

Evening: Have dinner at [Pizzeria Bianco](#), a true Phoenix foodie destination. Originally started inside the back corner of a neighborhood grocery store, now has claims from the New York Times "might be the best pizza in America." Make a reservation, this popular restaurant fills up fast!

[Tel: \(602\) 258-8300 • 623 E. Adams St, Phoenix, AZ 85004](#)

Overnight at the [Renaissance Phoenix Downtown.](#) Urban decor and an ideal location make the Renaissance Phoenix a great choice in downtown Phoenix. Late night in at their on-site speakeasy [Melinda's Alley](#) for a custom cocktail. [Tel: \(602\) 333-0000 • 100 N. 1st St, Phoenix, AZ 85004](#)



DAY 2 DOWNTOWN PHOENIX-SCOTTSDALE

Morning: Breakfast at [Matt's Big Breakfast](#). This breakfast joint uses local and organic food to create delicious entrees that attract foodies from all across the valley. Don't let the long wait discourage you, the place is always buzzing but the bacon and waffles are worth it!

[Tel: \(602\) 254-1074 • 825 N. 1st St, Phoenix, AZ 85004](#)

Depart Phoenix for [Scottsdale](#). The drive is 12.1 miles or 19.4 km. Originally founded in the 1890s as a farming community, Scottsdale has come a long way since its humble beginnings. Scottsdale was coined "The West's Most Western Town" in the 1950s, but today the city is a modern chic hub for luxurious spas, endless shopping, unparalleled golf courses and world-renowned museums. Plus, you'll find hundreds of locally-owned restaurants and art galleries.



Stop in Carlson Creek's Scottsdale Tasting Room. Arizona's skillfully crafted wines have earned international acclaim and won numerous awards. At Carlson Creek, the family-owned vineyard has become one of the largest vineyards in Arizona. Located in the arts and entertainment district of Old Town Scottsdale, in what used to be an art gallery, now patrons can sample thirteen plus unique Arizona varietals on the rotating menu.

Tel: (480) 947-0636 • 4142 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

High-end shopping available at Scottsdale Fashion Square. An array of luxury shopping, dining and entertainment including an in venue [art-walk](#).

7014 E. Camelback Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Dinner at The Mission, and experience modern Latin flavors in the heart of Scottsdale. Take in the aromas from the grill in this sophisticated yet casual dining experience. Tel: (480) 636-5005 • 3815 N. Brown Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Check in for an overnight stay at Mountain Shadows. Make sure you packed your yoga gear for a refreshing outdoor practice in the shadows of the iconic Camelback Mountain. Mountain Shadows Resort features striking architecture and stunning desert surroundings that create an energy of renewal.

Tel: (480) 624-5400 • 5445 E. Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



DAY 3 SCOTTSDALE-GILBERT



Christina Barrueta



Stephanie Forrer

Breakfast at Hearth '61. The banana ricotta pancakes are calling out along with other ingredient-driven dishes at Mountain Shadows' signature restaurant.

Tel: (480) 624-5458 • 5445 E. Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Depart Scottsdale for Gilbert. The drive is 20 miles or 32 km.

Experience the best of Gilbert every Saturday morning at the Gilbert Farmer' Market. Located in downtown Gilbert just west of the water tower.

222 N. Ash St, Gilbert, AZ 85234

Tour The Farm at Agritopia & Barnone. The Farm at Agritopia is a 15-acre, USDA-Certified Organic, urban farm. It hosts more than 100 crops, as well as honeybees. While here, visitors can walk the pathways to see the farm in production. Alongside the farm, Barnone houses an artisan marketplace of skilled craftsmen ranging from woodworkers to experimental wine makers.

Tel: (480) 988-1238 • 3000 E. Ray Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85296

Enjoy dinner and drinks at the Arizona Wilderness Brewery. These brewers have a passion for Arizona's agriculture and have focused on weaving Arizona's wild-grown and farm-grown products into their craft beer. Their love of nature is second only to brewing.

Tel: (480) 497-2739 • 721 N. Arizona Ave, Gilbert, AZ 85233

Stop in Toasted Mallow for gourmet s'mores and marshmallows. Offering over 35 flavors of marshmallow throughout the year, this fun shop also features fluffed up milkshakes, frozen and iced coffee drinks.

Tel: (480) 686-9071 • 1034 N. Gilbert Rd, #3, Gilbert, AZ 85234

Check in at the Hampton Inn & Suites Phoenix East Mesa for an overnight stay. Located just 15 minutes from downtown Gilbert, the hotel features 101 rooms and studio suites. The hotel also features a heated outdoor pool and whirlpool, and a treat shop which is open 24 hours for snacks. Tel: (480) 654-4000 • 1825 N. Higley Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85234

DAY 4 GILBERT-TEMPE

Morning: Enjoy a morning yoga class with goats from [AZ Goat Yoga](#). A shared passion of goats and yoga led April Gould and Sarah Williams to create the phenomana of, 'goat yoga.' Their motto is "Make People Happy (one goat at a time)..." **Tel: (480) 269-4144 • 26601 S. Val Vista Dr, Gilbert, AZ 85298**



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Depart Gilbert for [Tempe](#). The drive is 6.1 miles or 9.8 km. A vibrant urban oasis in Metropolitan Phoenix, Tempe exudes its own personality. Refreshingly offbeat, Tempe's a fun town that hosts family-friendly festivals, welcomes outdoor activities and is the proud home of Arizona State University.

Enjoy lunch at [Pedal Haus Brewery](#). This 14,000 square-foot brewery is Tempe's most bike-friendly environment with a plethora of craft beer selections, sensational lunch and dinner menus and a daily happy hour. You can park yourself in Downtown Tempe's largest patio with yard-style games. **Tel: (480) 314-2337 • 730 S. Mill Ave #102, Tempe, AZ 85281**



[Tempe Town Lake](#), located adjacent to Downtown Tempe, provides a two-mile recreational haven for kayaking, sailing, rowing, jogging, skating or picnicking. The heart of Tempe Town Lake is historic Tempe Beach Park. The park provides five miles of pathways and ample room for enjoying recreational activities. **Tel: (480) 350-5200 • 80 W. Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ 85281**

Spend the evening at [Tempe Marketplace](#). Stroll over 100 shops and restaurants and more than 300 events a year. This outdoor modern environment has it all. **Tel: (480) 966-9338 • 2000 E. Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ 85281**

One dinner suggestion is [Barrio Queen](#). A hip restaurant highlighting authentic Southern Mexican fare. Enjoy tacos and tequila among the Day of the Dead décor. **Tel: (480) 912-4052 • 31 S. McClintock Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281**

Overnight at the [AC Hotel Phoenix Tempe/Downtown](#). The hotel sits on a picturesque lakefront location. After your daily adventures unwind in their upscale rooms. **Tel: (480) 642-6140 • 100 E. Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ 85281**

DAY 5 TEMPE-MESA-APACHE JUNCTION

Depart Tempe for [Mesa](#). The drive is 7 miles or 11.2 km. Mesa is a city that knows no bounds, known for family fun and outdoor attractions.

Enjoy breakfast at [T.C. Eggington's Brunchery](#). T.C. Eggington's has been serving award-winning breakfast since 1985. They do everything from scratch and serve up generous portions with an option for every appetite. **Tel: (480) 345-9288 • 1660 S. Alma School Rd, #129, Mesa, AZ 85210**

Depart Mesa for [Apache Junction](#). The drive is 24.7 miles or 39.8 km. Set at the base of the Superstition Mountains, this community is a gateway to fun and adventure.

Explore Arizona's colorful mining history at the [Goldfield Ghost Town in the Superstition Mountains](#). Back in the 1980's, Goldfield was booming, after more than 115 years, travelers from all over the world still visit this gold mining town located on the historic Apache Trail. **Tel: (480) 983-0333 • 4650 N. Mammoth Mine Rd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119**

Have lunch at the [Mammoth Steakhouse & Saloon](#), pan for gold, take a narrow gauge train ride and witness an old west gun fight. **Tel: (480) 983-6402 • 4650 N. Mammoth Mine Rd, Apache Junction, AZ 85119**





Drive the [Apache Trail \(AZ-88\)](#) to [Canyon Lake](#) or [Tortilla Flat](#). The Apache Trail is one of the most popular day trips in the Phoenix-Metro area. The trail is a scenic route that winds between Apache Junction and Theodore Roosevelt Lake, and through the Superstition Mountains area. With gorgeous, desert views of the Tonto National Forest unlike any other, the Apache Trail is the perfect outdoor excursion. The trail is unpaved starting 5.5 miles past Tortilla Flat. Canyon Lake is home to the [Dolly Steamboat](#), which offers daytime nature cruises and dinner cruises at twilight. Tortilla Flat is a former stagecoach stop that exudes Old West charm.

Return to Mesa. The drive is 24.7 miles or 39.8 km.

Mesa visitors can also explore the [Fresh Foodie Trail®](#). Come hungry and take the ultimate roadtrip full of Arizona flavors on the award-winning Fresh Foodie Trail®. This in-demand collection of culinary outposts in the shape of farms, citrus groves, peach orchards, an olive mill, wheat fields and more has delights in store for every taste bud. Stops include [Queen Creek Olive Mill](#), [True Garden Urban Farm](#), and [Schnepf Farms](#).

For a fun adventure try glamping at the [Cozy Peach](#). Located on Mesa's famous Schnepf Farms, known for their u-pick peaches, this stop along the Fresh Foodie Trail® has eight rentable airstreams all decorated in unique themes. Pictured is the 1970's Silver Streak but don't worry the 1970's come with Netflix in these accommodations.

Tel: (480) 987-3100 • 24810 E. Rittenhouse, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

Dinner at [Oregano's Italian Restaurant](#). A Gibbilini family tradition pizza joint using fresh vegetables to create unique flavors. You can expect big salads, Chicago pan pizza and pizza cookies to finish the meal.

Tel: (480) 355-0750 • 20677 E. Maya Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

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TRIP NOTES

AND ADDITIONAL STOPS FOR MY ARIZONA EXPEDITION

