



In the HeART of Arizona

Artists have traditionally gravitated to the inspiring scenery of the Verde Valley located in the center, or heart, of Arizona. But, work in a newer medium is being crafted in the area – wine-making! This tour will visit some of the wineries and wine tasting rooms, the boutiques and galleries, a wildlife park, the red rocks and other natural attractions that make this part of Arizona world-renown.

Day 1 - Phoenix – Camp Verde

Drive from Phoenix to Camp Verde, drive time is approx. 1.5 hours.

Visit and have lunch at Out of Africa. [Out of Africa Wildlife Park](#) is an opportunity to see animals from all over the world, especially Africa. Visitors enjoy a replica of an African Bush Safari. It is home to more than 400 wild-by-nature, animals. The staff lives and works with the animals in a relaxed environment that encourages human/animal relationships. In addition to 40 big cats including lions, tigers and leopards, mountain lions, jaguar, there are rhinoceros, bear, hyena, javelina, gemsbok, wolves, giraffe, wildebeest, sable, zebra, fallow deer, and more. Reptile houses are built into the side of the dirt cliffs in the Wildlife Preserve. The Community Aviary is in Critter Court and home to over 100 different birds. On the 45-minute African Bush Safari, experience the heart of Africa in the heart of Arizona. This is an African photo safari with park guides narrating throughout the tour. While riding in a safari vehicle, you can expect a personal encounter with giraffe, zebra, ostrich and more. Treats are provided so that you can feed the animals and maybe receive a gentle kiss from a giraffe. On nearby hills, prides of lions or other big cats overlook their domain, you, and the prey animals in the Safari.

3505 AZ-260, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Meet at [Alcantara Vineyard](#) for the Water to Wine tour with [Verde River Kayaking](#).

The Classic Water to Wine tour begins with a one hour Ducky Kayak trip on a scenic stretch of the Verde River with just enough chutes and riffles to add a bit of excitement without ruffling any feathers. Your Ducky Kayak trip ends in the shade of giant Cottonwood trees where you will take the gravel path up through the vineyards to the Tuscan farmhouse at the Alcantara Vineyards for your wine tasting delight.

3445 South Grapevine Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Have dinner and overnight at the [Hotel at Cliff Castle](#). Located just down the hill from the casino, the Hotel provides round-the-clock Hotel-to-Casino shuttle service. They are only minutes away from Montezuma's Castle, wine tasting in Page Springs, Sedona's natural beauty, and many other Verde Valley points of interest.

555 W Middle Verde Rd, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Day 2 - Camp Verde – Cornville – Sedona

Visit [Montezuma's Castle National Monument](#) – Montezuma Castle is a two-unit National Monument in Verde Valley. The main unit contains one of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the U.S. The ruin is five stories, has nineteen rooms and is ninety percent original. The Montezuma Well unit eleven miles northeast of Montezuma Castle, features a large natural limestone sink. Extensive surface and cliff ruins surround this sink, where natural outflow waters were harnessed for a network of canals used to irrigate farmlands. The visitor's center at the Castle section provides exhibits showing the human history of the area. Self-guided tours and limited picnic facilities are available at both sections.

Drive from Camp Verde to Sedona, approx. drive time is 45 minutes.

Get up close to the red rocks of Sedona on a jeep tour from one of several companies including [Red Rock Western Jeep Tours](#) and their friendly knowledgeable Western Guides. Get a taste of the old west with entertaining stories and informative, educational history of Sedona.

Visit some of the vineyards in Cornville about 20 miles south and west of Sedona: **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

Stay at any one of the many inns, resorts and bed-and-breakfasts in Sedona or be pampered at the mii amo spa, and dine in the signature restaurant Che Ah Chi with its stunning views at [Enchantment Resort](#). The moment you arrive at Enchantment Resort, you know you are in a rare and magical place. Set on 70 acres within the majestic, crimson walls of spectacular Boynton Canton, Enchantment offers a unique experience set amid the ruins of ancient Native American dwellings. Surrounded by the legendary red rock canyons and bordered by the Secret Mountain Wilderness and the Coconino National Forest, your senses will be awakened by nature at every turn.

525 Boynton Canyon Rd, Sedona, AZ 86336

Day 3 - Sedona – Cottonwood – Jerome

Venture into some of Sedona's most famous shopping areas, explore the galleries and meet artists at work. Enjoy one-of-a-kind collections and find out what makes these artists choose Sedona as their source of inspiration and creativity.

[Turquoise Tortoise Gallery](#) at the Hozho Shops and Galleries with exquisite Native American arts and fine southwestern jewelry.

431 SR 179, A3, at Hozho, Sedona, AZ 86336

[Hillside Sedona](#) is proud to be home of some of Arizona's finest art galleries representing the original works of world-class artisans of many genres including oils, acrylics, bronzes, sculpture, glassworks, wood carving, jewelry, photography and textiles. Hillside's restaurants offer dining experiences from inspired American cuisine to Mexican flair to Irish mainstays and finishing with delicious dessert.

671 Highway 179, Sedona, AZ 86336

[Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village](#) - Pronounced "T-laca-pocky," this Sedona landmark and upscale arts and crafts center treats visitors and local residents to an exceptional collection of galleries, shops, and fine restaurants. Giant sycamores and stately cottonwoods dapple the light that falls on Tlaquepaque's masonry walls, encouraging visitors to explore the four different courtyards. Named for a picturesque suburb of Mexico's Queen City, Guadalajara, Tlaquepaque's boundaries enclose more than 40 shops featuring one-of-a-kind items that make a visit to Tlaquepaque incomparable. Shops open daily 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

336 State Route 179, Sedona AZ

Drive from Sedona to Cottonwood, drive time is approx. 45 minutes.

Stop in Cottonwood at some of the Tasting rooms:

[Verde Valley Olive Oil Traders](#) – Enjoy tasting the finest award winning 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oils, whole fruit and herb fused olive oils and balsamic vinegars from select artisan growers from around the world that are bottled right there in their shop in Old Town Cottonwood.

1002 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

[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

Take a ride on the [Verde Canyon Railroad](#). The Verde Canyon Railroad is Arizona's longest running nature show. It is a stress-free wilderness adventure featuring an abundance of native flora and fauna; rugged, high-desert rock faces and spectacular vistas. This unique view of the canyon is accessible only by rail. The train passes towering, crimson pinnacles; near ancient Indian ruins; over fortified trestle; past a monocline fault and through a manmade 680-foot tunnel on a four-hour rail journey from the old mining town of Clarkdale to the Perkinsville ghost ranch and back. The 40 mile round trip takes three and one half hours. Guests can travel first-class or coach. Both provide open-air viewing cars to fully enjoy the natural beauty through which the train travels. The Box Car Deli is open throughout the trip for refreshments and souvenirs.

300 N Broadway, Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Drive to [Jerome](#), drive time is approx. 20 minutes.

Located high on top of Cleopatra Hill (5,200 feet) between Prescott and Flagstaff is the historic copper mining town of [Jerome](#). Once known as the wickedest town in the west, Jerome was a copper mining camp, growing from a settlement of tents to a roaring mining community. Founded in 1876, it was once the fourth largest city in the Arizona Territory. Today, Jerome is a thriving tourist and artist community with a population of about 450. Jerome is an enchanting town and a photographer's paradise. Not much has changed in nearly 100 years. A number of the buildings have been restored and more are planned for restoration. Dozens of quaint shops and specialty stores line the crooked streets of the town. Housed in historic buildings, Jerome's restaurants are a culinary delight. Listen to some music at one of the saloons or sit and relax with a glass of wine at Jerome's own Jerome Winery.

Spend the night in Jerome at one of many bed and breakfast properties and inns or at the [Jerome Grand Hotel](#). Built in 1926 as the United Verde Hospital, it was one of the most modern hospitals of its day. Owned by Phelps Dodge Mining Co., the hospital closed in 1950. The original Otis elevator is in service, and the Kewanee boiler system that heated the hospital still warms guest rooms. At 5,260 feet it has 180 degree valley views that extend to the San Francisco Peaks. There is a 20's style lounge, and the Grand View Restaurant is open for three meals a day. The hotel is walking distance from downtown Jerome.

200 Hill St, Jerome, AZ 86331

Suggested dinner: The Asylum Restaurant in the Jerome Grand Hotel

Day 4 - Jerome – Scottsdale

Visit a few of Jerome’s attractions and artists.

[Jerome Historical Society](#) - When you visit Jerome and its historic buildings, you are given an opportunity to take a step back in time, feel the past and experience life as it might have been in Arizona’s rough and rugged days. To help with your visit, the Jerome Historical Society’s Mine Museum, located on Main Street, offers numerous displays depicting life in Jerome from its beginnings to its present time.

407 Clark St, Jerome, AZ 86331

Peek into Jerome’s “past” with a ghost hunting adventure with [Tours of Jerome](#). Learn of the haunted sites around town on the *Spirits of Jerome Tour*.

[Jerome Artists Cooperative Gallery](#) – Located in the historic Hotel Jerome. Built in 1917, the hotel was the largest poured-concrete building in the U.S. at that time. It closed in 1953 when Jerome became a ghost town. As Jerome grew again, the Hotel Jerome was used for various businesses. In 1996 the Jerome Artists Cooperative Gallery was opened.

502 Main St, Jerome, AZ 86331

[Raku Gallery](#) - The gallery now represents over 200 artists predominately from the Southwest. Within the spacious 2200 square feet you will find an eclectic collection of fine art and crafts including paintings, ceramics, free-blown glass, jewelry, sculpture and furniture.

250 Hull Ave, Jerome, AZ 86331

Lunch in one of Jerome eateries then drive from Jerome to Scottsdale, approx. drive time is 2 hours.

Stay in Scottsdale at any one of numerous hotels with fabulous artwork, or the [The Hermosa Inn](#). On lush desert, in view of Camelback Mountain, you will find the former home of cowboy artist Lon Megargee, and an oasis of gracious Arizona hospitality since the 1930s. To this day you can see a reproduction of a Megargee oil painting inside the high end Stetson line of cowboy hats. The 43 hacienda-style guestrooms and casitas are individually decorated in classic Spanish hacienda style. Each guestroom is distinct with most boasting fireplaces and private patios. Artful American cuisine is served in one of the Valley's most popular restaurants, LON's. The Hermosa’s Stetson Room, boardroom, library and wine cellar make for a one-of-a-kind place to hold an intimate meeting or private dinner.

5532 N Palo Cristi Rd, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Experience [Scottsdale ArtWalk](#) - Visitors to downtown Scottsdale can experience Scottsdale ArtWalk, a tradition that has taken place in Scottsdale for more than 30 years. "America's Original ArtWalk" takes place every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. primarily along Main Street and Marshall Way in downtown Scottsdale. Visitors can proceed at their own pace while admiring the public art and enjoying a casual stroll through downtown Scottsdale which is home to approximately 100 art galleries. A free trolley service for the area is available.

Suggested dinner: [FnB](#) is a trendy gastropub in downtown Scottsdale featuring sophisticated comfort food and seasonal, local, organic and sustainable produce whenever possible with dishes like braised lamb shank with couscous or roast chicken with spaetzle and mushrooms. Opened in December 2009, they have evolved to feature a wine list of solely Arizona wines.

7125 E 5th Ave #31, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Day 5 - Scottsdale

Before departing, visit Frank Lloyd Wright's [Taliesin West](#). Internationally renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright's desert masterpiece, Taliesin West is set with immense care in a scene of overwhelming desert beauty. Since the late 1930s, when famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright began creating his winter home, studio and architectural school, apprentices have lived in simple desert dwellings at Taliesin West as a means to experience life first hand.

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

Connect:

 @arizonatravel

 @visit_arizona

You  www.youtube.com/user/ArizonaTourism

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

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