

# ARIZONA

## GRAND CANYON STATE

### 2019 Milestone Anniversaries around the Grand Canyon State



In 2019, [Arizona](#) will be celebrating the milestone anniversaries of some of the state's most iconic locations. Grand Canyon National Park and Hotel Congress will both be celebrating 100 incredible years. Two charming resorts in Phoenix, The Wigwam and Arizona Biltmore, will both be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Even Flagstaff has something to celebrate, as they commemorate the city's historic role in the 1969 Apollo Moon Mission, which occurred 50 years ago.

With special events, tours and activities occurring across the state, everyone can join in on the fun of celebrating these significant anniversaries.

### Grand Canyon National Park to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Photo courtesy of  
Grand Canyon Railway

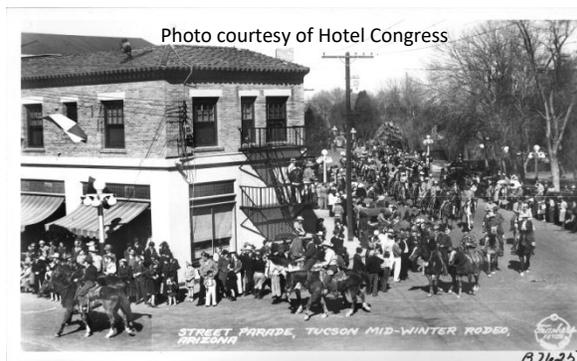


[Grand Canyon National Park](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be celebrating its [100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#) in February 2019. The Grand Canyon's tourism history truly began in 1919, after President Woodrow Wilson signed a Presidential Proclamation to establish the Grand Canyon as a national park, on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

After 100 years, the Grand Canyon is still delighting visitors from all around the world, who travel here to get a glimpse of this natural-made beauty. Whether it's enjoying a spectacular Arizona sunset, hiking into depths of the Canyon, or camping near the majestic Havasupai Falls, the Grand Canyon offers unique and fun experiences for everyone who visits.

In 2019, Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate the historic, centennial anniversary with special events and programs that will honor the visions of our nation's former leaders and will inspire future generations to experience and protect the iconic landmark that is, Grand Canyon National Park.

## Hotel Congress to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



In 2019, [Hotel Congress](#)—an iconic Tucson location—will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Originally constructed to lodge weary train travelers heading out west, the Hotel Congress has evolved throughout the past century into the cultural hub of the Southwest. Hotel Congress has been enveloped in the most impactful cultural, culinary, and art moments of Arizona's history and remains a constant landmark for international visitors and locals alike.

The historic hotel was established in 1919, but while digging up historical facts about Hotel Congress, it became clear that the building was constructed in 1918 with a soft opening in November of that year. To stay historically accurate, Hotel Congress will kick off a year-long centennial celebration in November of this year with a VIP vintage glam party. The celebrations will continue through 2019 with events toasting the hotel's dedication to serving the Tucson community and surpassing the expectations of world travelers for the past century. There will be a variety of new events and revamped versions of signature events, art exhibits, lecture series, exciting historical and modern additions to the hotel, and so much more!

## The Wigwam Resort to Celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Photo courtesy of The Wigwam



Photo courtesy of The Wigwam

On Thanksgiving Day, 1929, [The Wigwam](#) officially opened its doors as a guest ranch with rooms for 24 guests. Today, the resort is one of the region’s most iconic retreats with 331 Southwestern-style guestrooms and suites. The oasis in the Phoenix-Metropolitan area also features three luxurious pools, 54 holes of championship golf, three distinct dining experiences, nine lighted tennis courts, an expansive 26,000-square-foot luxury spa and 100,000 combined square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event spaces.

To mark its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Wigwam will ring in 2019 with a festive New Year’s Gala on December 31, 2018. The historic resort will also host a line-up of epicurean events, wellness journeys, and special promotions throughout the year to delight locals and travelers.

## Arizona Biltmore to Celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



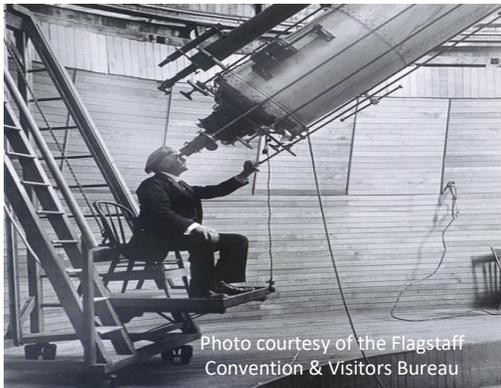
Photo courtesy of The Arizona Biltmore

The [Arizona Biltmore](#) welcomed its first guests on February 23, 1929. The much-heralded opening was expanded from one day to three days to accommodate the long list of high society party goers. According to the press, it was to be the party of the decade in Arizona and beyond. Invitees were very privileged, as attendance was requested by personal invitation only. The Arizona Biltmore, constructed entirely of “Biltmore Block,” is one of the only remaining hotels in the world

with Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced architecture. In fact, it was this construction project headed by Albert Chase McArthur, Wright’s former apprentice draftsman that lured Wright to the Arizona desert for the first time in 1928. Wright would eventually settle his winter home and create the now-famous Taliesin West School of Architecture.

The history of the Biltmore spans decades and includes a guest registry of U.S. Presidents and Hollywood's elite. The Biltmore has hosted the likes of everyone from Irving Berlin to Ronald Reagan. Even famed movie star Marilyn Monroe often enjoyed sunbathing at the resort's gorgeous pool. The historic resort will host a series of history tours weekly as well as a line-up of special events to mark its anniversary during 2019.

## Flagstaff's Lunar Legacy to Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1969, Neil Armstrong achieved one of humankind's greatest achievements when he became the first person to set foot on the moon. The momentous event first began as a challenge from President John F. Kennedy—whose wish that an American would be able to land safely on the Moon came true and ultimately pushed forward space exploration. In the three years that followed, 11 other people walked on and explored the Moon. The moment became a historic event in our nation's history—one that could not have been achieved without the proper instruments and training that these astronauts needed, in order to successfully complete the Moon mission. This is how Flagstaff gained reputation for its [Lunar Legacy](#) and ended up playing a key role in the iconic Apollo Moon Mission.

All of the astronauts who walked on the Moon—including Neil Armstrong, Alan Shepard, Buzz Aldrin and Jack Schmitt—completed their training in Flagstaff, as well as at several other locations in northern Arizona. Before the Apollo mission, scientists actually studied the Moon through telescopes at the Lowell Observatory in 1895, as well as through telescopes at Flagstaff's Northern Arizona University. And even NASA and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), tested lunar rover vehicle simulators at Sunset Crater and Merriam Crater near Flagstaff. After 50 years, it's time to celebrate the college-town's iconic role in the Apollo Moon Missions of 1969, as well as the incredible milestones in space exploration that have been achieved since then.

A Lunar Legacy Launch Event was held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and included a concert and presentations discussing Flagstaff's role in preparing for the Moon missions. Throughout 2019, visitors can join in the celebration with unique experiences that are being offered around Flagstaff, such as astronaut training exhibits, tours at Lowell Observatory, robotic rover demonstrations and lunar-themed art exhibits.