



A Roundup of What’s New in AZ

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Resorts, Hotels & Spas

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

Hampton Inn & Suites Phoenix Downtown Now Open

The new [Hampton Inn and Suites Phoenix Downtown](#) is now open in downtown Phoenix. The property is located within walking distance to the ASU downtown campus, Phoenix Convention Center, CityScape, Talking Stick Resort Arena and Chase Field.

Aloft Hotel Breaks Ground at Westgate Entertainment District

Arizona’s newest [Aloft Hotel](#) will be located at the corner of 91st and Glendale avenues in Glendale, AZ. The 2.4-acre property is adjacent to the [Westgate Entertainment District](#) and will have 100 guestrooms. The mixed-use Westgate Entertainment District is anchored by AMC Theaters, Dave & Busters and is adjacent to Tanger Outlets. Aloft Hotel will be the eighth hotel within a mile of University of Phoenix Stadium and add to the 1,605 hotel rooms within the city. The property is expected to be completed by January 2019.

Castle Hot Springs Resort Returning In December

Located in the northwest expanse of the Valley, [Castle Hot Springs](#) was Arizona’s first luxury resort. For centuries, the Castle Hot Springs area was a medicinal healing habitat for the Yavapai and Apache Indians. In 1896, Castle Hot Springs opened as a resort getaway for wealthy tourists seeking solitude and the spring’s recuperative powers. In 1976, a fire at the main lodge closed the resort. After the fire, the resort was donated to ASU and was used for university retreats and outings before being sold in the 1980’s. A local partnership, with multi-generational roots in Arizona, purchased the property in 2014 and began restoring remnants of the original resort. Castle Hot Springs will consist of 32 luxury accommodations, including Spring Cottages which will have piping directly from the hot springs. The resort will also include an organic farm that will produce over 150 varieties of rare fruits and vegetables for the restaurant and bar. Castle Hot Springs will cater to guests seeking seclusion, adventure, and relaxation, but will also be an ideal venue for weddings, corporate retreats, and family reunions. The hot springs is fed from a 10,000 foot underground cistern that produces over 300,000 gallons of pure 120-degree mineral water per day. Castle Hot Springs is scheduled to reopen at the end of this year (2018).

CIVANA Carefree Now Open

[CIVANA Carefree](#) made its debut as the first sustainable wellness resort to open in Greater Phoenix. Grounded in its principles of sustainability, attainability and possibility, the forty million-dollar acquisition incorporates a natural design palette and materials, while improving energy efficiency and the introduction of solar energy in its new spa building. CIVANA focuses on four pillars – Healthy Cuisine, Movement, Healing Arts/Spa and Discovery & Enrichment. Only months after its acquisition, CIVANA Carefree has undergone a multi-million dollar renovation of its public

spaces, 184 rooms, dining outlets, and the conversion of meeting spaces into state of the art fitness, yoga and enrichment studios.

The Westin Tempe breaks ground in the heart of Downtown Tempe

The [Westin Tempe](#) has officially broken ground in the heart of Downtown Tempe on Seventh Street between Mill and Myrtle avenues. Developed by Las Vegas-based CAI Investments, the 18-story Westin Tempe will be a full-service business hotel. Westin Tempe is planned to feature state-of-the-art guest rooms and corridors, with custom-designed elements and artwork, as well as energy conservation practices. The hotel will also feature a rooftop pool lounge, the brand's signature WestinWORKOUT fitness studio, full-service restaurant, coffee shop and 14,000 square feet of meeting space. Westin Tempe is scheduled to open in third quarter of 2019.

Arizona is set to be the Newest Home of a Great Wolf Lodge

Opening in 2019, [Great Wolf Lodge Arizona](#) will make a splash in the hospitality and tourism scene by bringing its impressive 85,000-square-foot indoor water park to the Phoenix metropolitan area. Highlights of the 350-room resort will include a 27,000-square-foot family entertainment center known as the Great Wolf Adventure Park, several dining options, family friendly suites in a variety of styles including KidCabin suites, and nearly 6,500 square feet of flexible conference space. The hotel will be built in the [Talking Stick Entertainment District](#) next door to Salt River Fields, the Arizona Diamondbacks' and Colorado Rockies' spring-training home.

Cambria Hotels Opens New Upscale Property in Chandler

The [Cambria Hotel Phoenix Chandler – Fashion Center](#) recently opened in the Phoenix area. The new 136-room upscale property features a pool with cabanas, fitness room, lounge area and 1,300 square-feet of multi-function meeting space. In addition, the property has onsite dining, including a menu comprised of locally-inspired specialties, signature cocktails and local craft beers. Located near Loops 101 and 202 at 3165 West Fry Rd., the new Cambria hotel is part of the Chandler Viridian, a 25-acre mixed-use development project that includes office space, luxury apartments, retail offerings and a pedestrian promenade to the Chandler Fashion Center. The hotel is near many Phoenix area attractions and several corporate offices, such as Intel, Microchip Technologies and PayPal.

\$12 Million renovation transforms Scottsdale Inn into Hotel Adeline

Formerly known as Scottsdale Inn, the 4.5 acre property underwent a \$12 million renovation and debuted as [Hotel Adeline](#) in late 2017. The contemporary urban retreat offers 213 guestrooms, including five 700-square-foot king suites. Details include modern wood furniture with a retro flair, built-in live edge work desks, walk-in rainfall showers, 50-inch LG Smart TVs, RFID keyless room entry and complimentary Wi-Fi access throughout the hotel. Hotel Adeline's 3,000-square-foot zero edge pool and pool bar is the centerpiece of the property, surrounded by cabanas and courtyards with lawn games and hanging loungers.

Classic Hotels & Resorts renovates, rebrands and renames Scottsdale's Firesky Resort – The Scott

[Classic Hotels & Resorts](#), has rebranded and renamed Firesky Resort & Spa, as [The Scott](#). With phase one of the renovation slated to debut in Fall 2017, Classic Hotels & Resorts is investing \$15M to make the resort even better. The reinvention consists of all guest rooms, suites and public spaces, including the resort's 14,000 square feet of meeting space, two pools, lobby bar and restaurant. The redesign will celebrate the historic building's iconic architecture, while introducing a new look and feel and elevated guest service culture, creating a new personality for the resort alongside an all-new restaurant concept.

Glamping: Farm living is the life for a new generation of experience-seekers

At [Schnepf Farms](#), a fourth-generation family homestead, visitors can go glamping (camping in style) in their collection of original 1950s-era auto trailers. The setting for this new overnight experience is a 300-acre organic peach farm that also offers a handful of paired farm activities including seasonal u-pick flowers and produce, bike rentals, farm animals, corn mazes and other outdoor charms one would expect on a farm. The trailers are decked out in mid-century décor matching the trailers original year of issue, with several trailers offering full hook ups. Each trailer faces west toward the outlying San Tan Mountains to capture Arizona's idyllic and sought-after sunsets. This

new brand of roughing it also includes individual barbecues and patio tables and chairs. The Fresh-From-the-Farm bakery and café offers full, cooked-to-order breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as an assortment of baked goods for visitors.

Marriott Opened Dual-Hotel Property on Downtown Phoenix Historic Site

[Marriott](#) has two brands in downtown Phoenix. Located on the northwest corner of Central Avenue & Madison Street, the all-new Luhrs City Center Marriott is a 19-story, 320-room property. Designed to blend seamlessly with its historic neighbors while still offering state-of-the-art guests amenities, the hotel houses two brands: a Courtyard by Marriott and a Residence Inn by Marriott, which share a lobby and other amenities, including a fourth-floor pool.

Saguaro Scottsdale Hotel Undergoes Event Space and Room Renovations

The renovations bring the [Saguaro Scottsdale's](#) event and meeting space to more than 12,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space with the addition of the Agave Ballroom and Patio, a 5,285-square-foot event complex with a wraparound patio with fireplaces, fire pits and multiple outdoor dining and entertaining spaces. The hotel also unveiled its 194 renovated guest rooms that include sound-proof wood doors; technology that allows guests to check-in and access their rooms via smartphone; pillow-top mattresses and ergonomic desks; 42-inch flat screen cable TVs, Keurig coffee makers, mini-refrigerators, natural wood vanities and Lather bath products.

Mountain Shadows Resort Now Open

Known as a landmark property in the 1960s and 1970s, [Mountain Shadows](#) has made its long-awaited return to Paradise Valley, 10 minutes from Downtown Scottsdale in the shadow of Camelback Mountain. The \$100-million project has been 12 years in the making and is the first resort to open in Paradise Valley in eight years. The boutique resort features 183 guest rooms, a presidential suite facing Camelback Mountain, a full-service restaurant, two pools, a high-tech fitness facility, an 18-hole par-3 golf course and grill, as well as 37,500 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space. Led by notable executive chef Charles Wiley, Hearth '61 offers an experience ingredient-driven American cuisine and inventive cocktails. Designed by renowned golf course architect [Forrest Richardson](#), The Short Course is a relatively quick play featuring 18 par-3 holes designed to be challenging for experienced golfers yet approachable for novice players. It is among only a handful of high-end, resort par-3 courses in the U.S. featuring a full 18 holes. Curated by notable local gallery director John Reyes, The Gallery at Mountain Shadows features both public and private collections, including pieces that are available for sale. Art receptions will be held every two months to coincide with each new exhibition. www.mountainshadows.com

Hilton Garden Inn and Home2Suites now open in Tempe

Developed and owned by RB-WW Tempe LLC and managed by Widewaters Tempe Hotel Management Company, LLC, the 120-room Hilton Garden Inn and 108-room Home2 Suites opened in November 2017 in Tempe. The hotels have separate lobbies and share access to an outdoor saline pool, fire pit and barbecue grill area, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center. Guests will also have access to TRES Tempe, opening soon, a dining concept offering a casual dining experience housed in a separate building on property. Situated within the Discovery Business Campus near Arizona State University, Hilton Garden Inn and Home2 Suites Phoenix/Tempe ASU Research Park are located across the street from the 320-acre ASU Research Park, which hosts headquarters for leading companies and also offers convenient access to Chandler Fashion Center.

North Central Arizona

The Tavern Hotel in Cottonwood has Expanded

[The Tavern Hotel](#) which originally had 10 rooms has grown to a total of 41 rooms and two luxury penthouses. 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.

Yavapai – Apache Nation Opens New Hotel

The recently developed [Cliff Castle Casino Hotel](#) in the Verde Valley is now open to the public. The \$30 million-dollar project broke ground in January 2016 and includes 122 luxury hotel guest rooms, conference and entertainment facility, indoor swimming pool, new retail outlet, a new coffee shop and a 300 space parking garage. Located an hour north of Phoenix on I-17 just south of Sedona in Camp Verde, AZ., Cliff Castle Casino is proudly owned and operated by the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The hotel is just a short drive from ancient Native American ruins, trout fishing, golf courses, wineries and countless other popular activities and destinations.

New renovation in Sedona – Arabella Hotel Sedona

[Arabella Hotel Sedona](#) will undergo renovations to revamp its eight-acre property located among the Red Rocks of Sedona. Renovations will enhance landscaping on the hotel grounds, bring new décor to the hotel's premier "Trailhead" rooms and include guestroom bathroom renovations. Plans for renovations come shortly after the management takeover of Arabella by San Diego-based hotel management company, RAR Hospitality. Arabella Hotel Sedona has 144 guestrooms on its property. It is also home to [Elote Cafe](#), which offers Mexican inspired dishes with a modern, upscale twist. The Arabella Hotel Sedona is located at 725 Highway 179, in Sedona.

Northern Arizona

Under Canvas Opens Glamping Experience Near Grand Canyon National Park

Opened in September 2018 (through 11/13/18) with 26 tents, next year's season will run from late April through mid-November and include 66 tents. Take in awe-inspiring views and experience the beauty of the American Southwest at Under Canvas® Grand Canyon. Located just outside Valle, Arizona on 160 secluded acres of beautiful piñon and juniper forest, you will discover the extraordinary grandeur of Grand Canyon National Park while enjoying a variety of extensive activities. <https://www.undercanvas.com/camps/grand-canyon/>

New Glamping Vacations Offered at Lake Powell

[Aramark](#), the authorized concessionaire at Lake Powell, has partnered with recreational vehicle company [Airstream](#) to bring new glamping rental options to [Lake Powell Resort](#) in Page, Arizona. Aramark has begun taking reservations for the three Airstreams at Wahweap Campground. The brand new 30-foot Airstream International Signature travel trailers are situated in full hookup RV campsites. Custom-designed features include natural wood flooring, handcrafted Italian cabinetry, Grohe faucets, porcelain toilets, kitchen appliances and stainless steel sinks. At Lake Powell, the second largest man-made lake in the U.S., glamping vacationers are in close proximity to lake activities including powerboat and personal watercraft rentals, hiking to Horseshoe Bend or enjoying a tour of Antelope Canyon.

New GreenTree Inn Opened in Pinetop

[GreenTree Hospitality Group, Inc.](#) is pleased to announce the opening of its ninth GreenTree Inn U.S. location, and seventh branded property in Arizona. The newest [GreenTree Inn & Suites](#) hotel opened its doors in early April 2018 in Pinetop, Arizona (formerly Holiday Inn Express Pinetop). The 73-room property includes free high-speed Wi-Fi, a daily hot breakfast buffet, welcoming lobby with business center as well as an indoor pool, spa and sauna and a well-equipped fitness center. Large family and business-friendly rooms focus on sustainable practices, including eco-friendly Keurig coffee pods, soap dispensers and LED lighting. The [GreenTree Pinetop](#) property in Northern Arizona allows guests the ability to check out and explore the mountains and serene vistas, including 680 miles of streams that feed 34 lakes of the Apache and Sitgreaves National Forests. Hotel guests can sightsee from the Mogollon Rim, fish in scenic waters or watch the sunrise atop Mount Baldy. In the summer, mountain biking and horseback riding are great ways to see the mountains, while in the winter guests can choose from the 65 ski runs at Sunrise Park Resort.

Hyatt Place Opened in Page/Lake Powell

[Hyatt Place Page/Lake Powell](#) is a newly constructed, three-story, 102-room select service property overlooking Lake Powell that represents a best-in-class hotel for the area. The property offers travelers an upscale lodging option that provides gorgeous views, intuitive design, a casual atmosphere and a myriad of amenities such as 24-hour food and beverage offerings, a 24-hour fitness center, free Wi-Fi and extensive complimentary parking to accommodate families, bus tours and boating enthusiasts. The hotel is positioned on a mesa just above Lake Powell, scenic sites like Horseshoe Bend, Antelope Canyon and the Colorado River are just a few miles away.

Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas Introduces 59-foot, State-Of-The-Art “Wanderer” Fleet

[Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas](#) has announced the newest addition to its fleet of houseboats – the *Wanderer*. The *Wanderers* are 59-ft. long and 18-ft. wide, two full feet wider than most four bedroom boats, with four queen-sized staterooms, two bathrooms, a screened upper deck driving helm that includes a wet bar and a barbecue. The top deck includes convertible dinettes, a 48-inch LED TV with Blu-ray players and an enclosed water park-inspired spiral tube slide. The *Wanderer* is built for Lake Powell with a reverse design, placing living areas in the aft section maximizing views of the scenery from all living areas and allowing for greater privacy in the bedrooms. The *Wanderer* accommodates up to 12 passengers. In addition, Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas offers rentals ranging from powerboats, to water toys that include ski tubes, wakeboards, kayaks, water skis, paddle boards, and kneeboards. The six new custom-built *Wanderer* houseboats, are now available for rental.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Flagstaff Northeast Opens

Located just minutes from historic downtown Flagstaff, the Fairfield Inn & Suites Flagstaff Northeast offers guests convenient access to the Arizona Snowbowl, Northern Arizona University, Lowell Observatory and many National Parks and Landmarks including the Grand Canyon. The location of the hotel also provides stunning mountain views, quiet surrounding areas and recreational activities including biking and hiking trails, rock climbing, tennis and golf.

Southern Arizona

Under Canvas to Open First Winter Glamping Experience at Tanque Verde Ranch in Tucson

[Under Canvas](#), an adventure-hospitality company, announces the opening of [Under Canvas Tucson](#) at [Tanque Verde Ranch](#) in Arizona. Under Canvas at Tanque Verde Ranch is set to open in December 2018. This winter glamping experience will be available through April 2019 at America’s oldest dude ranch. Nestled amongst the Rincon Mountains and adjacent to Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest, the Tanque Verde Ranch property offers views of the mountainous desert landscape. Among the ranch’s 60,000 acres, Under Canvas Tucson will feature 26 safari-style tents including the Deluxe, Stargazers and Suites that feature en-suite bathrooms. Under Canvas guests will have access to the full service dude ranch’s onsite amenities including La Sonora Spa, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, The Dog House Saloon, an on-site restaurant serving Southwestern cuisine and more. Activities include: swimming, tennis, basketball, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, yoga, hiking and jeep tours. Tanque Verde Ranch also offers a daily kids program full of activities such as arts and crafts, nature programs and basic horse training. This is the second location in Arizona for Under Canvas. Their Grand Canyon property is in Valle, AZ and it opened in September.

The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain has set a new standard for desert luxury in the United States.

[On October 3, 2018](#), the [Forbes Travel Guide](#) added [The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain](#) to the Verified Lists of the World’s Most Luxurious Hotels and World’s Most Luxurious Spas. Announcement of the coveted dual ranking notes that only eight properties in the world, including The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain, have earned a Verified List position in both the hotel and spa categories -- with just three in the U.S. achieving this recognition for both hotel and spa. The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain claims the only western-based double ranking. The first week of September 2018 unveiled the [Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain Resort’s ten million dollar renovation](#). As part of the resort renovation, fourteen ground-level Fireside Mountain View guest rooms were introduced, a floor-to-ceiling makeover of its 253 guest rooms and 44,000 square-feet of meeting space, the addition of the Roadrunner Arcade, and updated pools with new cabanas.

Arizona Attractions

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

The Churchill, A Shipping Container Marketplace Opens in Phoenix

[The Churchill](#), a shipping container marketplace, opened late summer 2018. The 14,000-square-foot shopping and restaurant project houses 19 repurposed shipping containers. The Churchill is located at Garfield and First Streets near Roosevelt Row in downtown Phoenix. Some of the tenants include: State Forty Eight, an Arizona-centric sports apparel brand; Provecho, a Mexican eatery focusing on the flavors from central Mexico; Sauvage, a wine shop; and Gather, a boutique selling home and lifestyle goods. This is Phoenix's first marketplace made of shipping containers.

The MIM and ASDM Ranked as a Top Museums in the US

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix and the Arizona- Sonoran Desert Museum (ASDM) in Tucson were included in the list of top 25 museums in the U.S. during TripAdvisor's 2018 Travelers' Choice awards. The list was created using an algorithm that calculated the quantity and quality of reviews by data gathered over a 12-month period. The MIM is ranked #15 and the ASDM is ranked #18 on the list. The MIM is the only Global Musical Instrument Museum in the world, with over 13,600 musical instruments and associated objects collected from around 200 of the world's countries and territories throughout the decades. The 98 acres of the ASDM consists of a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum, and aquarium.

Tallest Floating Waterslide opens at Lake Pleasant

[H2-WHOA!](#) the tallest floating waterslide in the world has opened at [Lake Pleasant Harbor Marina](#). The new attraction has three launch slides to choose from. H2-WHOA! manufacturer Hydro Platforms has collaborated with Proceanic maritime engineering to bring this concept to reality. The waterslide has been recently recorded by The Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest floating waterslide at a height of 34 feet. H2-WHOA! Lake Pleasant Harbor Marina is located on the southeastern shores of Lake Pleasant in Peoria, Arizona, just outside of the Phoenix Metro area. With more than 800,000 visitors annually the park offers facilities to go boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, wakeboarding, scuba diving, sailing, hiking, kayaking and fly boarding.

Medieval Times Breaks Ground on 10th Castle, First in Arizona

[Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament](#) broke ground on its tenth North American castle, to be located in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's [Talking Stick Entertainment District](#) in Scottsdale, Arizona. With construction slated for completion in early 2019, the 79,000 square-foot 11th Century-style castle will be the only entertainment venue of its type in Arizona. Knights engage in displays of strength and skill, as fans cheer their champions over a four-course, utensil-free feast, much as they might have 10 centuries ago. Located on a 10 acre lot, adjacent to the Salt River Fields, Medieval Times' Scottsdale castle will be one of the most architecturally distinctive among its nationwide properties. Designed in muted earth tones to appear as if it's organically rising from the land, the colossal, stone-walled edifice will incorporate the iconic motifs of Medieval Spain. Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament was founded in 1977 in Spain, based on authentic medieval history and the true story of a noble family with documentation dating back to the 11th Century.

Northern Central

New Camp Verde Vineyard Salt Mine Wine Now Open

Only an hour from North Phoenix, [Salt Mine Wine](#) is one of the closest vineyards and wineries to the Valley of the Sun. Salt Mine Vineyard is currently growing six Italian varietals. Primitivo, Montepulciano and Aglianico vines are planted where the soils are fertile and temperatures are cold. Malvasia Bianca, Sangiovese, and Barbera vines are planted on the hillside where the soils are well drained and the summer temperatures are warm. The tasting room is open Saturdays and holidays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

City of Prescott Trails Reach Century Mark in Miles

The [City of Prescott](#) has achieved a milestone in its trail network. As of June 1, City of Prescott trails have reached 100 miles in total length. This has been achieved through continuous trail building, and the efforts of staff and dozens of volunteers. City Recreation Services staff, GIS the Community Restitution program and the Volunteer Ranger programs have and continue to add to the day-to-day upkeep of these 100 miles and 2400 acres of natural parkland. City trail visits continue to increase, with more than 800,000 annually.

New History of Local Winemaking Exhibit at Sedona Heritage Museum

[The Sedona Heritage Museum](#) has announced the opening of its newest permanent exhibit featuring the area's unique wine-making history. The exhibit highlights the Verde Valley wine industry, the Heinrich and Dorette Schuerman wine-making family and the impact of Prohibition. One of the most innovative features of the new exhibit is a virtual reality tour that recreates a walk through the Schuerman vineyard. Schuerman's was the first commercial winery in Arizona. The family produced wine in their stone winery from 1884 to 1917. The exhibit incorporates other modern technology, including interpretative audio readings of Schuerman's letters written while Heinrich was incarcerated during Prohibition, a digital photo slide show and a touch-screen monitor that hosts an interactive timeline of the area's wine history and milestones. The Sedona Heritage Museum is located at 735 Jordan Road in Jordan Historical Park in Uptown Sedona and is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Northern Arizona

Pivot: Skateboard Deck Art on View at Museum of Northern Arizona

In an exhibition of diversity and unity, artists from varied traditions created [Pivot: Skateboard Deck Art](#), featuring nearly 100 art pieces on identical canvases. The artists represent the entire Southwest region, including Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tucson, Polacca, Shonto, Lukachukai, San Carlos, Tuba City, Blue Gap, Hotevilla, and Flagstaff, AZ. Native American artists are expressing their tradition in new ways. Motifs found in ancient baskets, pottery and weaving become the basis for modern designs. Ancient stories are expressed in contemporary graphic style. By bringing these artists together, working on identical canvases, *Pivot* celebrates both the commonality and differences among the tribal traditions. Most of the art will be available for sale at the [Museum of Northern Arizona](#). This exhibit is now open until March 31, 2019.

New Exhibition at the Museum of Northern Arizona

[The Museum of Northern Arizona](#) (MNA) unveiled an expanded and revitalized permanent exhibition on the [Native Peoples of the Colorado Plateau](#), giving deeper insights to the 10 tribes that have called the region home for centuries. It is the first major renovation of the museum's Native American exhibition in nearly forty years. In an approach that is being viewed as trailblazing, curators of the exhibition partnered with 42 members of the Colorado Plateau tribes to select the 342 items being displayed. The tribal consultants also determined the exhibition's themes and developed the educational content that will put the objects and photographs into historical and cultural context. The collaboration between MNA curators and the tribal representatives ensures that the gallery not only illuminates but respects the people and cultures it explores and the spiritual importance of the traditions they are sharing. The materials in the exhibition are from the Zuni, Acoma, Southern Ute, Southern Paiute, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai, Dilzhe'e Apache, and Diné (Navajo) communities. Items in the displays will run the gamut from weavings, pottery and fine silverwork to toys, tools and even a skateboard.

New Zipline at Grand Canyon West

[Grand Canyon West](#) continues to add new experiences to thrill the more than one million guests who annually visit the West Rim of the Grand Canyon. The latest addition is a pair of epic ziplines that will let adrenalin-seeking adventurers soar nearly 1,000 feet above the floor of a side canyon located amid the West Rim's matchless scenery. [The Zipline at Grand Canyon West](#), which opened January 2, 2018, consists of two "quad ziplines," each with four steel cables running side-by-side in parallel formation, to allow groups to soar together at speeds approaching 50 miles per hour. The Zipline at Grand Canyon West will accommodate an estimated 350,000 visitors annually. Ticket

prices are \$89 per person for adult visitors with tickets available on site only. Currently, the zipline is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New interpretive site at Grand Falls on Navajo Nation

The public experience at [Grand Falls](#), on the Navajo Nation near Leupp, and one of Northern Arizona's famous desert water features, was enhanced in the fall of 2016 with the construction of a new interpretive site. Interpretive panels explaining the Navajo culture can be found under a ramada structure shaped like a traditional Hogan and new waterless restrooms are now close by. The concrete floor of the ramada features a stamped design of the four sacred Navajo plants: maize, beans, tobacco and squash. Grand Falls typically flows only during snow melt, in the spring, or during monsoon season.

Glen Canyon Dam Debuts New Visitor Center Displays

The [Glen Canyon Dam Visitor Center](#) just completed its first full redesign and replacement of all of the educational and information visitors' center displays since the facility opened in 1968. The new informational and interactive displays are updated with the latest science and data and apply the latest educating techniques focusing on STEM (Science, Technical, Engineer, and Mathematics). The Carl B. Hayden Visitor Center is located 700 feet above the Colorado River overlooking Glen Canyon Dam and Bridge. More than 600,000 visitors tour the facility each year.

Southern Arizona

The Thing Museum in Benson now Open

[Bowlin Travel Centers](#), which owns the property about an hour east of Tucson, launched a new museum revolving around [The Thing's](#) origin story in a recently constructed 12,000-square-foot facility connected to its gift shop. The museum's exhibits including giant dinosaur are part of the journey back through time. Guests will learn how interplanetary-beings covertly influenced important moments in history and unlock the mystery of "The Thing". The new museum is more than three times as big as the previous multi-building facilities and is 100% climate-controlled. The expanded retail space offers hand crafted Indian jewelry, a variety of Southwestern merchandise, including fireworks and select museum souvenirs.

Tucson Museum of Art Celebrates 95 years

[The Tucson Museum of Art's](#) (TMA) 95th Anniversary begins September 2018 and runs through April 2019. TMA's 95th season features three major exhibitions; 30 Americans: The Rubell Family Collection, the metaphorical works of Cuban-born artist Carlos Estévez, and Travelogue: Grand Destinations and Personal Journeys. The museum will also offer three select exhibitions; the environmental photography of Tucson-based artist Patricia Carr Morgan, the silkscreen prints of Josef Albers, and works by New Mexico artist Harold Joe Waldrum.

Tucson Completes "The Loop" Bike Path

Tucson celebrated the completion of [The Loop](#), a 131-mile system of paved, shared-use paths and short segments of buffered multi-use bike lanes. The new bike path allows cyclists, pedestrians, joggers and equestrians an opportunity to enjoy the Sonoran Desert on vehicle-free pathways. The Loop connects parks, trailheads, bus and bike routes, workplaces, restaurants, hotels and motels, shopping and entertainment areas. In addition to Tucson, the Loop extends through unincorporated Pima County, Marana, Oro Valley, Tucson, and South Tucson. The connections are the result of Pima County's cooperative partnerships with these jurisdictions. June 2018

Reservations will be required for the "Boneyard" tours in Tucson beginning November 1, 2017

The Pima Air & Space Museum is contracted by the USAF to give tours of the [309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group/Boneyard at Davis Monthan Air Force Base](#). Starting November 1, 2017 there will be new security measures in place for individuals interested in taking this tour. The museum will still offer the tours Monday—Friday, excluding Federal holidays, however it is going to a reservation system (currently it is first come first serve). Beginning November 1, all guests interested in taking this tour must have made a reservation and

received a security clearance in advance. The security clearance will be given by Davis-Monthan Air Force Base from information collected at the time of reservation. They will begin taking reservations for November 1, 2017 on August 10, 2017. Reservations must be made 10 business days in advance of the desired tour date, and can be made up to 90 days in advance. Reservation requests can be made by calling 520-618-4805 or emailing: boneyardtour@pimaair.org.

Kief-Joshua Vineyards opens tasting room in Willcox

Kief-Joshua Vineyards is a small family run wine making business with 20 acres of vineyards in Elgin and 40 acres in Willcox. Their tasting room in Elgin has been operating for several years. As the Willcox area was recently granted AVA (American Viticultural Area) status, meaning this area is now recognized as a unique and distinctive wine-growing region in the United States, the owners decided to open an additional tasting room there. The tasting room in Willcox is located at 4923 E. Arzberger Road and is open Fridays through Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Western Arizona

Colorado River State Historic Park Opens in Yuma

One of Yuma's two state historic parks is undergoing a significant transformation beginning with a name change from the Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park to the [Colorado River State Historic Park](#). While new signage is going up at the park, there is much more to this transformation. The park will continue to tell the story of the past, but will now include the present *and the future* of the Colorado River. Existing exhibits tell the story of the site as a key transshipment site from steamboats to forts in the Southwest from the 1860s to the 1880s. However, with the coming of the railroad in 1877, the site took on a new mission in the early 1900s as the Bureau of Reclamation and allied water districts built an impressive array of dams, canals and even an underground water tunnel to serve the Yuma Valley.

Arizona Peace Trail Utilizes 700 Miles of Off-Road Trails and Roads

[The Arizona Peace Trail](#) is a loop system utilizing existing off-road trails and roads in Western Arizona connecting Bullhead City to Yuma. The Arizona Peace Trail was developed through partnership with more than 14 Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) clubs who worked with city, county, state and federal agencies to keep the trails open for public use and public awareness. Signage is still being installed, but, when completed it will be one of the longest signed and mapped trail system offering more than 700 miles to explore untouched desert and wilderness with towering rock formations and wildlife. To fully complete the approximately 700 mile loop, takes five days. The Arizona Peace Trail website references points of interests along the trail which include petroglyphs, ghost towns, scenic stops and historic mines. The trail's elevation spans from 170 feet to over 7,000 feet above sea level.

New Riverfront Parks and Trails in Yuma

Over the past 15 years, the banks of the Colorado River in Yuma have been transformed - and now there is a new guide to all the riverfront parks and trails, thanks to a joint effort by the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation Department, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, Yuma Visitors Bureau, and the Quechan Indian Tribe. Since 2000, the Yuma community, in partnership with the Quechan Indian Tribe, has restored 400 acres of wetlands, built three riverfront parks, and developed an extensive trail network. This new brochure includes maps for parks, biking and hiking trails. [An online version may be downloaded here](#)

Arizona Tours

Northern Arizona

New Buck Wild Hummer Tours at the Grand Canyon

The brand-new [Buck Wild Hummer Tours](#), was created to provide excursions for all ages along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Family-owned and operated by Grand Canyon experts, this new company provides Grand Canyon

experiences aboard custom-built Humvees. Buck Wild Hummer Tours offers a selection of pre-set tour itineraries, as well as the ability to customize a completely original private adventure. All tours depart from Grand Canyon National Park.

New Flagstaff Brewery Trail

After declaring Flagstaff as a distinguished craft beer city per Mayor Coral Evans and Governor Doug Ducey, [Mother Road Brewing Co.](#), announced the new Flagstaff Brewery Trail. Participants are encouraged to visit each brewery location to get a sticker on their passport. Once they have a full passport they can turn it in to the Flagstaff Convention and Visitor Bureau to receive a souvenir pint glass. Flagstaff Brewery Trail passports are free and can be downloaded online at [craftbeerflg.com](#) and [flagstaffarizona.org](#) or picked up for from any of the Flagstaff breweries or Visitor Center.

Glen Canyon Rafting Announces Float Trips

Early spring and summer water adventures can be reserved now via [Wilderness River Adventures's](#) website. These half- and full-day journeys down the Colorado River are currently available for online reservations via a new landing page option, along with direct booking options specific to group trip reservations. These guide-led interpretive river raft excursions allow guests to experience the Colorado River and journey into the region's past while aboard a comfortable and spacious 32-passenger float. Guests depart from Page, where they take a drive via motor coach through a tunnel carved of two-mile-long solid rock and see preserved dinosaur prints at the foot of [Glen Canyon Dam](#). With varying departure times, half-day [Glen Canyon Float Trips](#) are available March through December 2, 2018, with lunch available for purchase. Full-day floats include lunch and are available May 4 through October 2, 2018. Rafters must be at least four years of age to ride.

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

Hotel Valley Ho Launches Mid-Century Modern Architecture Tour of Scottsdale

[Hotel Valley Ho](#) in Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona is launching the [Insider Mid-Century Tour of Scottsdale](#), beginning November 2018. Local expert Ace Bailey will be guiding guests as they explore the history and architecture of buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and other notable Valley architects. Tours are offered by appointment and must be booked in advance; at least two weeks' notice is recommended. The full tour is offered from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A three-hour mini tour is available at 9:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., and includes Hotel Valley Ho, the Garden Apartment District and the Price House. The tours are offered at a flat rate and can accommodate groups from two to 10; the full tour is \$1,400 (plus \$25 per person for lunch including a glass of wine), and the mini tour is \$700. Your booking includes transportation and a donation to the Price House to help preserve Wright's legacy in the desert.

New Arizona Biltmore Happy Hour History Tours

[The Arizona Biltmore](#), a Waldorf Astoria resort is now offering Happy Hour History Tours. Guests are invited to kick off the weekend, learning about the landmark's Frank Lloyd Wright architecture and storied past serving as a playground for worldly dignitaries, U.S. Presidents, and glitterati of Old Hollywood. The 45-minute tour will run every Friday evening and includes two of the resort's most iconic libations, the Catalina Spritz and the Tequila Sunrise, which is reported to have originated at the property.

Welcome to DETOURS Native America

DETOURS of the Southwest has added a new product – [DETOURS Native America](#). Created by owners Donovan Hanley and Jeff Slade, DETOURS Native America strives to enhance the universal community through voluntourism, immersive experiences, and historical storytelling from a native perspective. For the first time, non-natives will be able to experience Native American heritage, culture, cuisine and celebration on a local level. Multi-day tours begin in 2018.

Visit Mesa launches Fresh Food Trail package tours

Last year, Visit Mesa launched a self-guided tour of their [Fresh Foodie Trail](#), connecting almost a dozen of the culinary-themed attractions in Arizona's third-largest city and in Mesa's neighboring towns. This year, Visit Mesa launched a partnership with [DETOURS – Tours of the American West](#) to provide a guided journey of agritourism through Mesa, Queen Creek and Gilbert. Tour guests are treated to local tastes at Queen Creek Olive Mill, Schnepf Farms, Hayden Flour Mill at Sossaman Farm and Agritopia. Serving as a culinary gateway to Greater Phoenix, the neighboring farms in and around Mesa provide a bounty of seasonal goods for visitors to enjoy year-round. This food-centric experience invites visitors to learn why their food choices matter. It's education-plus-experience that makes the stops on the ultimate foodie road trip memorable – and popular!

New Scottsdale Wine and Ale Trail Maps available for download

Downtown Scottsdale is home to notable wine tasting rooms and breweries, where visitors can sample Arizona-grown varietals and locally-brewed suds. Visitors looking to traverse the Scottsdale Wine Trail and explore the budding ale trail can now download Experience Scottsdale's new maps of the locales. The [Scottsdale Wine Trail map](#) directs visitors to Carlson Creek Vineyards, LDV Winery and more. The [Scottsdale Ale Trail map](#) points to Two Brothers Tap House, Craft 64, and Goldwater Brewing Co., among others. Visitors can download additional Scottsdale [maps and guides](#) of other attractions such as Downtown's districts, Old Town's historic sites, and the area's public art.

North Central Arizona

Verde Valley Day Trip from Phoenix

Tour company [DETOURS](#) is now offering a day visit to the Verde Valley from the Phoenix metropolitan area. The Verde Canyon Railroad and Jerome day trip is a fully narrated excursion with hotel pick-ups in the Scottsdale and Phoenix area. The tour stops in Jerome for some time to shop and learn about the mining history of the area. Next, guests visit the new Arizona Copper Museum, for an educational, hands-on experience about the discovery of copper and its many uses today. The afternoon is spent enjoying views from a first-class seat, with lunch on the Verde Canyon Railroad. The tour operates on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and is \$235 per adult which includes lunch, unlimited bottled water and all entrance fees.

L'Auberge de Sedona Now offering Guided Tour of The Grand Canyon

[L'Auberge de Sedona](#) has curated a [Grand Canyon Package](#) to celebrate the landmark's 100th anniversary in February 2019, where guests can experience a full day of scenic byways and a Grand Canyon adventure via [Pink Jeep Tours](#). The tour is a full day (10-11 hours) including lunch, transportation to and from the canyon south rim, entrance and a continued tour throughout the canyon. The Grand Canyon experience also includes a two-night stay in a cottage and a \$40 one-time breakfast credit. Set among Sedona's Red Rocks, L'Auberge de Sedona features 62 luxury cottages and 21 traditional lodge-style guest rooms.

Southern Arizona

New Spanish-Language Audio Tour for Children at Desert Caballeros Western Museum

Starting in September, the [Desert Caballeros Western Museum](#) will offer a Spanish-language audio tour for children, made possible by a recent grant from Arizona Humanities. The new audio tour introduces young visitors to Western art and the history of Wickenburg and Arizona through engaging descriptions and first-person narration. It complements the Museum's existing audio tour offerings, which include adult tours in Spanish and English, as well as an English-language children's tour.

Guided tours of Tucson craft brews begin

[Old Pueblo Brew Tours](#) recently opened in Tucson and offers a mobile artisan craft beer journey through some of the Old Pueblo's best breweries. The new tours currently are scheduled on Saturdays for 4-5 hours with 3-4 stops. Guests meet at a designated brewery and are shuttled by van during the tour. Brewery participants include the established

Borderlands Brewing Co. and newbie Dillinger Brewing Co. The company's name is taken from Tucson's nickname: "pueblo" is Spanish for "town" or "village".

Western Arizona

New options available for Visit Yuma's 2018-2019 Specialty Tours

Visitors can experience Yuma's vistas, tastes, and behind-the-scenes insights through guided tours and dining opportunities. All bicycle tours are \$45 per person and include a meal. Tickets are available for purchase at VisitYuma.com and at the Visitor Information Center. New to the lineup of agriculture, military and dining offerings is "[Spirit of the City](#)" guided bicycle tours: *Riverfront Bike Tours* and *Downtown Bike Tours*. *Riverfront* will focus on East and West Wetlands, history and wildlife, the tour dates are January 22nd and February 22nd. *Downtown Bike Tours* will explore points of current and historic interest in and around Yuma's historic downtown, tour dates are January 11th and February 15th. A new series of half-day tours "[Yuma Ag 411 – Inside the Industry](#)" will provide in-depth information about the vital components of Yuma's agriculture industry. Topics include "Water" on January 7th, "Food Safety" on January 8th, "Labor & Immigration" on January 9th, "Crop Protection and Distribution" on January 10th and "Technology and Equipment" on January 11th. Tickets for the entire series is \$275 and individual tours are \$55.

Arizona Tourism Industry News

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

American Airlines Launches Nonstop Service from London to Phoenix

[American Airlines](#) announced it is launching a new nonstop flight between London and Phoenix, Arizona, beginning March 31, 2019. American Airlines will initially operate the new service daily from March 31 to October 26, 2019. This added service helps meet the heightened demand from UK travellers wanting to visit Arizona. The new route will be conducted on a Boeing 777-200 aircraft. Customers are now able to book the new flight. The new flight is meant to complement the already existing service between London and Phoenix from American's partner British Airways.

New Canadian Low-Cost Airline Coming to Arizona

Canada's newest low-cost air carrier is coming to the U.S. market with several international flights, including one in Arizona. [Swoop](#), a subsidiary of Canadian air carrier WestJet, will begin winter service flights between [Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport](#) and Edmonton, Alberta, starting October 27, 2018 and running through April 27, 2019. The flights will operate two days a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It operates 189-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft and expects to have six aircraft in operation by the end of the year. Because of the new service from Swoop, WestJet will discontinue its own seasonal flights from Mesa to Edmonton. WestJet continues to operate winter flights between Edmonton and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Fountain Hills is Now a Dark Sky City

[Fountain Hills, Arizona](#) has been designated an International Dark Sky Community by the [International Dark Sky Association \(IDA\)](#). It is one of only two International Dark Sky Communities located near a major metropolitan area. In total, only 16 communities in the world have earned this prestigious designation. Four of the 16 communities are located in Arizona: Big Park/Village of Oak Creek, Flagstaff and Sedona. Fountain Hills is planning its first dark sky festival for April 21, 2018.

New Destinations from Flagstaff Airport

Starting May 5, 2018, the [Flagstaff Airport](#) adds an additional non-stop flight to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on American Airlines. The flight will depart LAX on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and arrive in Flagstaff at 3:30 p.m. It will then depart Flagstaff at 4:00 p.m. and arrive in LAX at 5:43 p.m. The Flagstaff Airport will add another destination, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) on American Airlines, starting June 7, 2018. This route will be a non-stop flight and will only fly on Saturdays. The flight will depart from DFW at 11:00 a.m. and arrive in

Flagstaff at 11:30 a.m. The returning flight will depart Flagstaff at 12:45 p.m. and arrive in DFW at 5:15 p.m. American's current 70-seat aircraft, which includes a first-class section, will operate these routes.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is Adding More International and East Coast Service in 2019

[Condor Airlines](#) has announced that it is increasing its nonstop service between [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) and Frankfurt, Germany from two days per week to three. Condor began its service at Phoenix Sky Harbor in the spring of this year, flying twice a week to Frankfurt May through September. The route was so successful, that the airline announced last summer it would expand service nearly two full months to include all of May and October 2019. Condor is now increasing the frequency of the PHX to Frankfurt flights and will operate on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday May through October of 2019. In addition, [JetBlue](#) has announced new service between Phoenix Sky Harbor and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The daily nonstop flight will be operated by an Airbus A320 and begins on February 14, 2019. The flight will be operated year-round. (<https://www.skyharbor.com>, "PHX Sky Harbor Adding More International and East Coast Service in 2019", 2018.)

British Airways Increases Service to Phoenix

After a successful second nonstop flight to London Heathrow Airport for British Airways (BA) in May and June 2017, BA announced it is bringing back the additional service three days a week. Beginning March 27, 2018, British Airways started a second flight on Tuesdays and Fridays. On May 6, an additional Sunday flight began service. This added service will be available through October.

Allegiant announces eight new nonstop destinations at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

Allegiant Air is adding eight new nonstop destinations at [Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport](#). The new routes include major Midwest destinations Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Louisville, Omaha and St. Louis/Belleville. Additionally, Boise will join the list of Mountain West destinations served by Gateway Airport. And, for the first time, nonstop service to Florida launches with flights to Tampa/St. Pete Florida.

Air Canada announced nonstop service between Phoenix and Montreal

In February 2018, [Air Canada](#) began nonstop service between Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Montreal. The flight, served by an Airbus A319, will operate three times weekly in the winter and spring, from February 22 – May 28. The new route will offer the only non-stop service between Phoenix and Montreal.

North Central Arizona

SkyWest Airlines-United Express Selected for Essential Air Service at Prescott Municipal Airport

The U.S. Department of Transportation has selected [SkyWest Airlines](#), operating as United Express, to provide Essential Air Service (EAS) at [Prescott Municipal Airport](#) (PRC) for a period of two years, beginning in late August 2018. United Express will operate 50-seat CRJ 200 jets from Prescott, with roundtrip flights daily to Denver, and six days a week to Los Angeles, every day except Saturday. Passengers will be able to connect through Denver or Los Angeles to hundreds of destinations throughout the world. Travelers are able to book tickets using the [United Airlines](#) website, or they can use online travel websites, or local travel agents.

Prescott named best destination for nature lovers in Arizona by Expedia

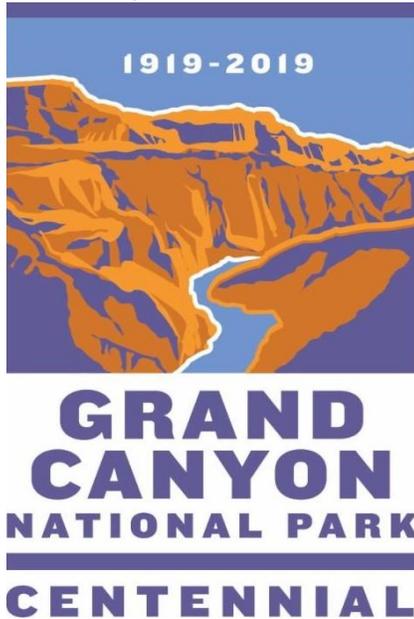
Prescott has been named the Best Destination in the State of Arizona for Nature Lovers by travel website [Expedia.com's Viewfinder travel blog](#). The article cited the 1.25 million acres of National Forest, 16 parks, three lakes, and miles of trails. City Manager Michael Lamar, agrees with the Expedia ranking and adds, "We are fortunate to boast the Prescott National Forest; the one-of-a-kind Granite Dells; Willow, Watson and Goldwater lakes; and 450 miles of multi-use trails."

Northern Arizona

Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park Becomes Newest International Dark Sky Park

[The National Park Service](#) and the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) (IDA) have announced that [Petrified Forest National Park](#) has been officially designated as an International Dark Sky Park. An IDA International Dark-Sky Park (IDSP) is a land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment. Petrified Forest National Park joins an exclusive but growing list of certified IDA International Dark-Sky Parks. In honor of International Dark Sky Park Designation, Petrified Forest National Park will celebrate this fall with a star party. Valued partner, Petrified Forest Field Institute, is planning to ramp up night-sky related programming. (<http://darksky.org>, "Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park Becomes World's Newest International Dark Sky Park", 2018).

Grand Canyon National Park Announces 2019 Centennial Logo



Grand Canyon Centennial Logo

In recognition of [Grand Canyon National Park's](#) 99th birthday, the [National Park Service](#) and [Grand Canyon Association](#) unveiled the logo for the park's upcoming 2019 Centennial. Depicting one of Grand Canyon's most significant elements, the Colorado River, the logo is a visual reminder of the rich natural, cultural and historical resources found at Grand Canyon National Park. The accompanying tagline, *Go Grand*, encourages inspiration and grand adventures. The logo was the result of a collaborative effort between the park's official nonprofit partners; Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon National Park employees and marketing firm Off Madison Avenue. The 2019 Centennial will commemorate 100 years of the National Park Service at Grand Canyon and acknowledge Grand Canyon's significant cultural history. To prepare for a new century of stewardship, the park's Centennial goal commemorates the past and inspires future generations to experience, connect with and protect the canyon's unique resources. To increase Grand Canyon's public engagement the centennial year will feature events throughout 2019 at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon and surrounding gateway communities. The 2019 centennial logo will be part of a comprehensive brand and visual identity key to the promotion and marketing of the park's anniversary.

Southern Arizona

American Airlines to open new connections with nonstop Tucson-Charlotte flights

Starting February 15, 2018 American Airlines introduced [nonstop flights](#) between Tucson International Airport (TUS) and Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT). The new daily service is an overnight flight from Tucson timed to give southern Arizonans quick and convenient connections to destinations along the East Coast and the southeastern U.S. Coming to Tucson, the flight gives passengers from the East the opportunity to jump start their day with a morning arrival. From Tucson, the early morning arrival in Charlotte is timed to connect with 73 other destinations on American Airlines and arrive at nearly all of them before lunch.

Kartchner Caverns State Park receives International Dark-Sky Association designation

[Kartchner Caverns State Park](#) has the distinction of becoming an International Dark Sky Park, designated by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) (IDA). It is the second state park in the Arizona State Parks system to receive IDA recognition and the fifth overall in the Grand Canyon State. Oracle State Park received the designation in 2014. The Flagstaff area National Monuments and the Grand Canyon National Park are also recognized Dark Sky Parks. Dark Sky communities in Arizona include Flagstaff, Sedona, and Big Park/Village of Sedona. The Dark Sky Places Program was started by IDA in 2001 to encourage communities around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting polices and public education.

Sierra Vista Launches Bike-Friendly Program

Sierra Vista's Bike-Friendly Business program is the first of its kind in Arizona. This program identifies businesses who have committed to providing amenities for bicyclists, like free water refills, WiFi, or bike repair tools. While not all businesses offer the same amenities, a Bike-Friendly Business does provide special services geared toward bike travelers. Look for a special decal in business windows!

Arizona Press Materials

Curious about Arizona's official state bird or wonder when it became a state? Check out our fact sheet and other press materials about the Grand Canyon State here: newsroom.visitarizona.com

For More Information:

For more information on this topic and others see the official Arizona travel and vacation guide from the Arizona Office of Tourism at www.visitarizona.com. Find in-depth AZ visitor information and videos about visiting the state of Arizona, including comprehensive directories of Arizona hotels, dining and shopping, as well as things to do and places to visit throughout the Grand Canyon State.

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