

# ARIZONA

OFFICE OF TOURISM

## A Brief Update of News Around Arizona January/February 2019

The **Arizona Office of Tourism** is pleased to provide this monthly update of new and noteworthy items regarding Arizona's tourism industry. For more information, contact Becky Blaine at [bblaine@tourism.az.gov](mailto:bblaine@tourism.az.gov), Kim Todd at [ktodd@tourism.az.gov](mailto:ktodd@tourism.az.gov) or Marjorie Magnusson at [mmagnusson@tourism.az.gov](mailto:mmagnusson@tourism.az.gov).

### Culinary

#### **Mexico-based, comic-themed, restaurant and bar debuts in Phoenix**

[ComicX](#), a new comic-themed restaurant and bar, is expected to open in summer 2019 at the [Desert Ridge Marketplace](#). The 8,000-square-foot restaurant will feature figurines and memorabilia of heroes and villains while serving traditional American-style comfort foods, such as fries, wings, burgers, and pizzas. [ComicX](#) at Desert Ridge will be the first U.S. location; there are several locations throughout Mexico. The restaurant is part of Desert Ridge's \$15 million renovation to update the shopping center.

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ComicX, Desert Ridge

### Hotel News

**Great Wolf Lodge, Talking Stick Entertainment District**

[Great Wolf Lodge Arizona](#) took another significant step in the construction process as Mortenson hoisted into place the final steel beam of the resort structure. The beam placed during the ceremonial “topping out” event is part of the resort’s 27,000 square-foot Great Wolf Adventure Park, a family entertainment center with attractions such as a ropes course, climbing wall, miniature golf and Great Wolf Lodge’s signature interactive adventure game, MagiQuest. The “topping out” ceremony celebrates an important milestone in the construction timeline as it signifies the completion of vertical construction. This milestone brings Great Wolf Lodge Arizona one step closer to its grand opening, which is scheduled for late summer/early fall 2019. The 350-room family resort is being constructed on an 18-acre site adjacent to Salt River Fields at Talking Stick, located within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community’s Talking Stick Entertainment District. When complete, Great Wolf Arizona will be the company’s 18th indoor water park resort in North America, and first in the Southwest.

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Great Wolf Lodge, Talking Stick Entertainment District

### **Scottsdale’s oldest public 18-hole course is now open after renovation**

The [Starfire Golf Course](#) underwent a \$750,000 renovation that transformed the nine-hole King and Hawk courses into the King 18 hole, and the pro reconfigured Squire course, into a new Mulligan 9. In addition to the course renovation, Starfire also opened its first full-length driving range and remodeled restaurant.

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The Starfire Golf Course

### **Sky Harbor International Airport opens new Concourse in Terminal 3**

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport has completed the second phase of a \$590 million modernization project on [John S. McCain III Terminal 3](#). The terminal was recently renamed in honor of Arizona's former senator, John S. McCain III. The new south concourse added local and national restaurants, such as SanTan Brewing Co, Christophe's, The Tavern, Mustache Pretzels, The Parlor Pizzeria, Shake Shack, Uberrito, Habit Burger, Panera Bread and two Starbucks. As part of the modernization project, Terminal 3 has added several retail options, video relay service for hearing and speech-impaired travelers, a nursing room, animal relief area, and children's play area. John S. McCain III Terminal 3 has 15 airline gates, serving Delta, Frontier, Hawaiian, JetBlue, and Sun Country Airlines. Delta Airlines opened their new 7,000-square-foot, members only, Delta Sky Club Lounge. The Sky Club offers customizable food options, a complimentary bar and artwork created by regional artists. [Phase 3](#) is expected to be finished in 2020.

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Terminal 3, Sky Harbor International Airport

## **Centennial Celebrations in 2019**

### **Grand Canyon Centennial, Grand Canyon National Park**

The [Grand Canyon](#) celebrates 100 years of its designation as a national park. The Centennial year will feature virtual and in-park events throughout 2019 at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon, and surrounding gateway communities. The Grand Canyon's Founders Day celebration on February 26, 2019 will kick off with a concert by the Flagstaff and Grand Canyon school choirs, cultural demonstrators, and cake at the Historic Village, Visitor Center and Desert View. The visitor center will have a birthday card to sign and share favorite Grand Canyon memories. Following the park's birthday, special evening program speakers will talk about the important relationship between Grand Canyon and the park's 11 traditionally associated tribes.

The Centennial Summerfest and star party will take place on June 22-29, 2019. During the day, the Centennial Summerfest will bring together park partners to highlight Arizona. The star party, at night, will celebrate the Grand Canyon National Park designation as an International Dark Sky park. Visitors on the South Rim will learn about dark skies with the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association and on the North Rim with the Saguaro Astronomy Club of Phoenix.

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**Hotel Congress, Tucson**

The hotel was established in 1919, but while digging up historical facts about [Hotel Congress](#), the building was constructed in 1918 with a soft opening in November of that year. The celebrations will continue through 2019 with events toasting the hotel's dedication to serving the Tucson community.

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## **Semicentennial Celebrations in 2019**

### **Lunar Legacy, Flagstaff**

On July 20th, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to set foot on the moon. All astronauts who walked on the Moon—including Neil Armstrong, Alan Shepard, and Buzz Aldrin—completed their training in [Flagstaff](#), as well as at several other locations in northern Arizona. After 50 years, it's time to celebrate Flagstaff's scientific role in the Apollo Moon Missions of 1969.

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### **John Wesley Powell Museum, Page**

The [John Wesley Powell Museum](#) is a nonprofit organization that started in 1969 by local volunteers. The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of John Wesley Powell, the City of Page, and the Colorado Plateau. [John Wesley Powell](#) is known for his trips down the Green and Colorado River in 1869, and is credited with leading the first group of white men down the Colorado River through present day Grand Canyon.

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### **Desert Caballeros Western Museum, Wickenburg**

In 2019, [The Desert Caballeros Western Museum \(DCWM\)](#) will celebrate 50 years since opening its doors to the public on May 9, 1969. Originally founded by members of the Wickenburg community to preserve the history of the town, five decades of continued support from locals and visitors alike has transformed the Museum into a nationally celebrated center for Western art and history.

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