



What's News in AZ

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Resorts, Hotels & Spas

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

Tempe Welcomes New Residence Inn by Marriott

A new [Residence Inn by Marriott](#) has opened in downtown Tempe. The 173-room hotel is located on Fifth Street and Forest, just a block from pedestrian-friendly Mill Avenue. The new Residence Inn hotel features guest suites containing fully-equipped kitchens and state-of-the-art amenities, including an outdoor rooftop pool and fire pit with panoramic views of downtown, about 3,500 square feet of meeting space and 5,700 square feet of ground-level retail space.

Go Back in Time with the Arizona Biltmore

Join the Roaring '20s with the re-creation of the legendary [Arizona Biltmore's](#) original "Mystery Room," the resort's secret speakeasy which re-opened in July 2013. In true prohibition-era style, guests will need a password to enter the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed historic room. Jazz, signature bourbon and gin-based cocktails served by period-clothed servers will transform the room to its former glory. The mystery room is open from 8-11 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Tucson and Southern Arizona

Sewailo Golf Course at Casino Del Sol Opens

Tucson's Pascua Yaqui Tribe opened its newest amenity on December 12, 2013 – an 18-hole, par 72 championship golf course situated directly south of Casino Del Sol Resort's AVA Amphitheater. The course, named Sewailo, means "flower world" in the Yaqui language and features large lakes, flowing streams, waterfalls and plush landscaping blending with the desert environment creating an "oasis" effect. Media info: Ivan Karpen, ivan.karpen@solcasinos.com.

Northern Arizona

Gopher Hole Re-Opens in Historic Weatherford Hotel Basement

The [Gopher Hole Pub](#) is scheduled to re-open in July 2014, the latest step in a massive 40-year restoration project at the historic Weatherford Hotel in Flagstaff. The Gopher Hole will provide an entertainment venue for private parties up to 200. The original Gopher Hole was removed more than 70 years ago during the Prohibition era of the 1930s.

Red Setter Lodge Reopens After Renovation

[Red Setter](#), a riverside lodge and retreat in Greer, celebrated its grand re-opening May 30-31, 2014 after undergoing extensive renovations. Among the upgrades recently added to the property are three fire rings, two horseshoe pits, picnic tables, swings and seating areas along the river, gas barbeque grills and free Wi-Fi. The property also has plans for additional upgrades and renovations over the next year.

North Central Arizona

Exclusive Seven Canyons Golf Club Now Part of Enchantment Resort

As of September 2013, Enchantment Resort in Sedona can now be counted among golf's most appealing travel destinations. [Seven Canyons](#) golf club is now part of Enchantment Resort, giving resort guests exclusive access to this 18-hole championship course designed by Tom Weiskopf and named one of America's best courses. Located on 200 acres, the par 70 course measures 6,746 yards and is surrounded by the beauty of Sedona's red rocks and evergreen national forest. Resort guests may also enjoy "Seven Treatments for Seven Canyons Golfers," a new collection of treatments designed by Mii amo, a destination spa at Enchantment. Yoga for Golfers, Mindful Golf Meditation and Golf & the Law of Attraction are designed as pre-game treatments. To relax post-game, there's the Seven Canyons Champion (a winning combination of hydrotherapy, massage and reflexology), the Competitor's Facial, Reflexology and the Herbal Detox Poultice massage.

Arizona Attractions

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course to Receive \$12 Million Renovation

The TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course, home to the Phoenix Open since 1986, will be closed from April 1, 2014, through late October or early November for a \$12 million renovation. Work will be done on the clubhouse, including extensive renovations on the locker room and offices, heating and cooling upgrades, and changes to interior finishes, including lighting and flooring. On the course, every bunker will be rebuilt or removed, and greens will be resurfaced. Fairways will remain unchanged except for places where bunkers are removed or renovated. Course officials say some of the bunkers have been rendered irrelevant because of improvements in golf technology. Golfers are able to hit the ball farther than anticipated when the course was built.

Mesa Opens New Chicago Cubs Stadium and Wrigleyville West

The new Cubs stadium hosted its first spring training season March 2014 and includes an adjacent retail/entertainment development called [Wrigleyville West](#) featuring an assortment of businesses mixed with retail and restaurant offerings for residents and visitors during spring training season and all year long. The Cubs are among the top Spring Training draws in the Cactus League, leading the Cactus League in

attendance in 13 of the past 15 years and playing in 15 of the 20 record-setting attendance games. Media contact: Michelle Streeter Michelle@visitmesa.com or 480-682-3638.

Tucson and Southern Arizona

Bisbee's Flying Leap Vineyards Showcases Local Art

The long-established art community in Bisbee welcomed another gallery in October 2013. But this gallery is different. It is part of [Flying Leap Vineyards'](#) tasting room. Thomas Ale Johnson and Kim Johnson partner with wineries in southern Arizona. They showcase local artists on tasting room walls and hold artists events throughout the year. The Bisbee tasting room featured Minnesota-based artist, Lew Ross Anderson at its Oct. 12 grand opening. In addition, Trust at Flying Leap Vineyards' Bisbee tasting room has featured artists Rose Suntken, Xo Terra, Archie Sutton and Xymyl.

Northern Arizona

Petrified Forest National Park Opens New Lands

[Petrified Forest National Park](#) opened 14,650 acres of park expansion lands to the public on April 2, 2014. The lands were acquired by the park through transfer from the Bureau of Land Management (4,800 acres) and purchase from willing private sellers (9,850 acres) after the Petrified Forest Expansion Act was passed in 2004. That Act authorized the park to expand by approximately 125,000 acres from 93,533. Through 2013, the park had acquired approximately 45,000 of the 125,000 acres authorized.

Grand Canyon Offers Mule Rides Along Rim

For the first time in 116 years, Grand Canyon mule riders will be able to take in the breathtaking vistas of Grand Canyon National Park while traveling along the rim of the canyon. Begun in August 2013, Xanterra offers a new four-mile, three-hour mule ride that departs five miles east of the historic Grand Canyon Village in the park. Mule riders travel along a new East Rim Trail built by the National Park Service. Wranglers stop six times along the trail to provide interpretive information about the geologic formations, human history, fire ecology and more. The interpretive Canyon Vistas Mule Ride replaces the Abyss Overlook Mule Ride that had been operated since October 2009. Click [here](#) for more info.

Latitude 37, Lake Powell's Newest Floating Restaurant Opens

Conveniently located at the Wahweap Marina, [Latitude 37](#) is accessible by both land and water. The restaurant was designed to take full advantage of the extraordinary scenic beauty of Lake Powell with stunning views of Wahweap Bay and such iconic landmarks as Castle Rock and Navajo Mountain. It opened in July 2013.

Arizona's West Coast

New Winery Opens in Kingman

Cella Winery has opened (February 2014) at 6927 E. Brooks Blvd. in Kingman, Arizona. Carlos Cella, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, grew up helping his parents planting, cultivating and making wine. As a young man, he moved to California and learned the art of winemaking. Cella Winery features estate wines (wines made from grapes grown at the winery) and is open Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. and weekdays by appointment. Contact cellawines@yahoo.com or 928-692-9600.

Arizona Tours

Take a Walk on the Spooky Side

Are you brave enough to join your guide for a journey by lantern light around Grand Canyon Cavern's "Other World?" [Grand Canyon Caverns](#) in Peach Springs, an Arizona Route 66 landmark for more than 75 years, began offering evening tours in August 2013, in an area deemed "active" in paranormal activity. Small groups are treated to a tour of excitement and suspense.

Arizona Tourism Industry News

Statewide

Arizona Office of Tourism Launches Visitors Guide for Electric Vehicle Owners

The Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) has launched the state's first [Electric Vehicle Travel Guide](#). AOT's Electric Vehicle Travel Guide is tailored specifically for all-electric vehicle travelers and filled with valuable, downloadable travel information. The guide provides multiple suggested itineraries that combine statewide destinations with available charging locations and includes an Arizona state map, emergency contact information, weather averages, and elevation charts to help EV drivers plan their Arizona road-trip adventures. The guide also includes a list of hotels that make charging available to overnight guests. Read the full release at

Northern Arizona

Popular State Highway Undergoing Improvements

The Arizona Department of Transportation has begun a widening project on State Route 89 in an effort to improve travel times and enhance safety for motorists traveling between Chino Valley and Prescott. Upon completion of the \$17 million project, ADOT will expand the two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway along a five-mile segment of SR 89. Project work hours are Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and minimal impacts to the traveling public are expected as the majority of the work will not be performed on the existing roadway. This project is expected to be completed by summer 2015.

New Wildlife-Viewing Website Launched for Arizona's White Mountains

A recently launched [website](#) is now available to inform and educate people regarding the diverse wildlife resources found throughout the White Mountains of eastern Arizona, with suggestions on where and how to view a wide variety of animals on your own. The website comes with a map and descriptions of several prime areas to visit for both hiking trails and driving loops. It also indicates what types of facilities, such as restrooms, campsites, picnic areas and parking, are available at each location and offers a comprehensive description of what types of animals are likely to be found in each spot, from elk or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep to hawks, wild turkeys and songbirds. Natural history notes and photos of select species, plus the best time of year to view them as well as tips for responsible, ethical wildlife viewing are included.

Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona

Air Canada Introduces New Season Routes to Phoenix

Air Canada will introduce new seasonal non-stop service operated by Air Canada rouge between Vancouver and Phoenix beginning Dec. 17, 2014. Existing service from Calgary and Toronto to Phoenix also will be

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Janice K. Brewer, Governor ♦ Sherry Henry, Director

converted to Air Canada rouge. Air Canada flights on the following routes will be converted to Air Canada rouge Airbus A319 service:

- Toronto to Phoenix daily effective May 4; up to three times daily during the winter season
- Calgary to Phoenix daily effective Dec. 17
- Vancouver to Phoenix daily effective Dec. 17

Full details can be found at [here](#).

WestJet Announces Daily Service Between Toronto & Phoenix

WestJet has announced new daily service between Toronto and Phoenix beginning October 26, 2014. Flights will depart from Toronto at 9:45 a.m., arriving in Phoenix at 11:35 a.m. and departing from Phoenix at 12:20 p.m., landing in Toronto at 7:27 p.m.

Talking Stick Visitor Center Now Open

Talking Stick, a Cultural and Entertainment Destination, an initiative of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, opened the Talking Stick Visitor Center on February 25, 2014. The visitor center is located at 9120 E. Indian Bend, Suite E-10, in The Pavilions at Talking Stick Shopping Center and is an information hub for the Talking Stick partners, and cultural ambassadors are on hand to make tee times, dinner reservations or hand out brochures and information to guests. Also, the center offers visitors a unique experience into the rich heritage of the Akimel O’odham (Pima) and Xalychidom Piipaash (Maricopa) cultures through song, dance and art. Traditional dance performances and art demonstrations are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., while an interpretive exhibit by the Huhugam Ki Museum and displays from the Salt River Two Waters Art Collection are offered at no charge to visiting guests daily. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Spirit Airlines Begins Operations From Sky Harbor

Spirit Airlines has begun operations at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport effective October 2013. Spirit flies nonstop daily to Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago O’Hare and Denver International. Read the full release [here](#).

Future

Arizona Selected to Host 2016 College Football Championship Game

The [College Football Playoff](#) has selected Arizona to host the 2016 College Football National Championship Game, set for Jan. 11, 2016 at Glendale’s University of Phoenix Stadium. It will be the state’s eighth national championship contest since 1987.

Phoenix/Glendale to Host Super Bowl XLIX

Arizona will be home to the [2015 Super Bowl](#) game at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale. Festivities leading up to the game will be centered in downtown Phoenix as many new developments have taken place since hosting the Super Bowl XLII in 2008. The light rail, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel and the CityScape shopping and entertainment complex are expected to play a role in centralizing many festivities downtown.

NFL Pro Bowl Moves to Phoenix/Glendale for 2015

Arizona will be the football capital of the world in 2015. In addition to hosting Super Bowl XLIX on Feb. 1, University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale will host the [Pro Bowl](#) a week before.

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Mesa Breaks Ground on Sheraton Hotel

The new 180-room [Sheraton Hotel Mesa](#) celebrated a March 31, 2014 groundbreaking and will be the first component of the Wrigleyville commercial area within the Chicago Cubs complex in Mesa. The four-story hotel will include two restaurants, a bar, pool, spa and a 26,000 square-foot conference center. The project developer has also agreed to construct a minimum of 20,000 square feet of adjacent retail space and will be recruiting restaurants and other retailers. The hotel is projected to open in January 2015 in time for the Super Bowl.

Tucson City Council Approves Private-Public Partnership for New Hotel

The Tucson City Council on June 3, 2014 approved \$6.7 million in tax incentives paving the way for construction of a new 150-room [AC Hotel by Marriott](#) at 5th Avenue, between Broadway and Congress in downtown Tucson. The eight-story property will include a full block of retail outlets, including a grocery store. Construction is scheduled to begin late in 2014, with a completion date slated for fall of 2016.

Tucson's Sun Link Streetcar Prepares to Open

The City of Tucson is wrapping up construction on its first electric railway streetcar. The Sun Link Tucson Modern Streetcar is scheduled to open July 25, 2014 and will connect major activity centers in central Tucson, the University of Arizona, Fourth Avenue, Main Gate Square, Downtown Tucson and Mercado District. The 3.9-mile route will include 17 stops adorned with LED poetry panels and original public art. Follow the Sun Link's progress for updates at [here](#).

Anniversaries:

The City of Yuma celebrated its [100th birthday](#) in April 2014.

[Prescott](#) is celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2014.

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.arizonaguide.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.