

Things To Do In and Around Scottsdale

Arizona is a wonderland of indoor and outdoor activities and diverse landscapes, all waiting to be explored. Below are some highlights to help you plan your trip, but feel free to contact your local arrangements committee (localarrangements@rmair.org) with any questions you might have. If we don't know the answer, we'll find out who does!

Don't Have a Car?

No worries! Between the complimentary hotel shuttle and the free Downtown Scottsdale Trolley

(<http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/trolley>), you won't have to miss any of the interesting highlights close to the hotel, such as:

- Old Town Scottsdale (www.downtownscottsdale.com) – historic area that takes you back into time with its art galleries, specialty retail, dining venues that range from casual to upscale, southwestern cultural attractions and an extraordinary nightlife.
- 5th Avenue Shopping District (www.5thavenuescottsdale.com) – if you are looking for the best restaurants, unique shops, salons, contemporary art, and nightlife, this is the spot. There are over 80 specialty shops on 5th Avenue that offer an eclectic and unique mix of goods, from hand-forged jewelry to contemporary artwork.
- Scottsdale Fashion Square (www.fashionsquare.com) – this expansive mall has a plethora of shopping and dining options, plus a luxury Harkins theatre.
- Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West (www.scottsdalemuseumwest.org) – this is one of America's top-rated museums featuring authentic Old West artifacts and historic Native American art.
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (<https://smoca.org/>) – affectionately known as SMOCA, this museum dedicated solely to modern works of art, design and architecture.
- Rusty Spur Saloon (<http://rustyspursaloon.com/>) – this registered historic landmark, serving as "Scottsdale's last real cowboy saloon" is small but packed with old west hospitality and entertainment.

Feeling Hungry?

Check out Scottsdale's extensive [Restaurant Guide](#) to find exactly what you are craving!

Have a Car and Want to Stay Close?

There are numerous must-see attractions within 5 to 10 miles of the hotel:

- Arizona State University campus (<https://visit.asu.edu>)
- Desert Botanical Gardens (www.dbg.org)
 - In addition to the normal garden hours: Music in the Garden, Mother Raod Trio (October 6th)
- Heard Museum (www.heard.org)
- Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix (<http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org/>) 14.5 miles
 - In addition to the normal garden hours: 18th Annual Japanese Moonviewing Festival (October 6th - 7th)
- McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (www.therailroadpark.com)
 - In addition to the normal park hours: Railfair 2017 (October 7th - 8th)
- Musical Instrument Museum (World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum) (mim.org)
- Odysea Aquarium/Butterfly Wonderland (www.odyseaaquarium.com)
- Phoenix Art Museum (www.phxart.org)

- Phoenix Zoo (www.phoenixzoo.org)
- Arizona Science Center (<https://www.azscience.org/>)
- Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum (www.miningmineralmuseum.com)
- Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park (www.phoenix.gov/parks/arts-culture-history/pueblo-grande)
- RO HO EN (Japanese Friendship Garden) (<http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org>)
- The Rosson House Museum at Heritage Square and Science Park (<http://heritagesquarephx.org>)
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West (National Historic Landmark and architectural site) (franklloydwright.org)
- Cosanti (Paolo Soleri Studios) (www.cosanti.com)
- Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights (<https://tovreacastle.com/>)
- Wrigley Mansion (living history tours) (<http://www.wrigleymansion.com/>)
- Talking Stick Resort and Casino (www.talkingstickresort.com)
- Casino Arizona (www.casinoarizona.com)
- Big Surf Waterpark (<http://bigsurffun.com/>)
- iFly (Indoor Skydiving) (www.iflyworld.com/phoenix)

Looking for a Half-Day Trip to Experience the Beauty of the Desert?

Spend a little time seeing some gorgeous Sonoran Desert vistas as you drive through the Superstition Mountains to:

- Canyon Lake (<http://bit.ly/2qxAM10>) /Steamboat Dolly rides (<https://dollysteamboat.com/>)
- Goldfield Ghost Town (a step back in time to the 1890s) (goldfieldghosttown.com)
- Tortilla Flat (an authentic remnant of an old west town) (<http://www.tortillaflataz.com/>)

Interested in Hiking the Desert?

There are countless hiking trails that will introduce you to the sheer beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Below are a few local trails that you might consider, but feel free to contact your local arrangements chair for more information on hiking opportunities outside of the metropolitan area, particularly in the Superstition Mountains. Please keep in mind that early October can still be quite warm in the Valley, so any hiking trips should be planned for early morning, with plenty of water and a companion or two!

- Arizona Hiking Guide (<http://www.arizona-leisure.com/arizonahiking.html>)
- Camelback Mountain – Echo Canyon Trail (4 miles from the hotel)
- McDowell Sonoran Preserve (15 miles from the hotel)

Wondering about Theater and Music Events While You Are in Town?

Nearby Scottsdale:

- Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts (<https://scottsdaleperformingarts.org>) 1.6 miles
 - o Samite (October 6th)
- ASU Kerr Cultural Center (<https://www.asukerr.com/>) 1.2 miles
 - o Arizona Opera - Hercules vs Vampires (October 4th)
- Desert Stages Theatre (<http://desertstages.org/>) 0.3 miles
 - o no shows in October
- Scottsdale Comedy Spot (<http://thecomedyspot.net/>) 1 mile
 - o Tom Clark (October 4th - 7th)
 - o Talking Stick Resort (<https://www.talkingstickresort.com>) 5 miles
 - o 13th Annual Phoenix Fashion Week (October 5th - 7th) (<http://phoenixfashionweek.com/>)
 - o Olivia Newton John (October 8th) (<http://bit.ly/2sV0I47>)

Elsewhere in the Valley:

- ASU Gammage Theater (<http://asugammage.com/>) 8 miles
 - Natalia Lafourcade (October 7th)
- Mesa Arts Center (www.mesaartscenter.com) 15 miles
 - King Thrushbeard, East Valley Children's Theatre Production (September 8th - October 8th)
 - Take Me to the River (October 6th)
 - Carnival of Illusion (October 7th)
 - The Minimalists: Less Is Now Tour (October 7th)
- Phoenix Little Theatre (www.phoenixtheatre.com) 13 miles
 - Hedwig and The Angry inch (September 20th -October 15th)
 - Mama Mia! (September 6th -October 15th)
- Phoenix Symphony (<https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/>) 13.5 miles
 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (October 6th-October 8th)
- Talking Stick Arena Downtown Phoenix (<http://www.talkingstickresortarena.com>) 13 miles
 - Marco Antonio Solis (October 7th)
 - Scorpion/Megadeth - 2017 Crazy World Tour (October 8th)
- Tempe Center for the Arts (<http://www.DesertDanceTheatre.org>) 9 miles
 - Annual Arizona Dance Festival - Center for the Arts (October 7th - 8th)

Things to Do In Northern and Southern Arizona

If you are thinking of extending your stay in Arizona and perhaps heading north to Sedona or the Grand Canyon or south to Tucson, here are some worthwhile sights along the way:

Planning on Traveling North?

- Pioneer Living History Museum (authentic Old West town just outside of the metropolitan valley) (<https://pioneeraz.org>)
- Arcosanti (urban laboratory based on Paolo Soleri's archeology+ecology design concept; 20 minutes south of the Cottonwood/Camp Verde turn-off) (<https://arcosanti.org>)
- Out of Africa Wildlife Park (wildlife sanctuary adjacent to a Zipline for those who like to view animals from on high!) (<http://outofafricapark.com>)
- Jerome (old mining town sitting on the mountainside overlooking Cottonwood) (www.azjerome.com)
- Verde Canyon Railroad (leaves from Clarkdale and travels along the Verde River) (www.verdecanyonrr.com)
- Verde Valley Wine Trail (seven unique wineries and eight tasting rooms in the Cottonwood area) (<http://www.cottonwoodchamberaz.org/wine-trail>)
- Montezuma Castle National Monument (one of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the country; south of Sedona turnoff) (<https://www.nps.gov/moca>)
- Sedona (shopping, hiking, jeep tours, incredible scenery!) (<http://visitsedona.com>)
Special: The Poco Diablo Resort is offering a special rate for RMAIR attendees. [Click Here For More Information.](#)
- Flagstaff (Northern Arizona University campus, Lowell Observatory, Riordan Mansion) (<http://flagstaff.az.gov/index.aspx?NID=1074>)
- Snowbowl Ski Lift Rides (stunning views from high atop the San Francisco Peaks; just outside of Flagstaff) (<https://www.arizonasnowbowl.com/>)
- Walnut Canyon National Monument (ancient cliff dwellings just outside of Flagstaff) (<https://www.nps.gov/waca/index.htm>)

- Grand Canyon Railway (leaves from Williams) (<https://www.thetrain.com>)

Planning on Traveling South?

- Rawhide (<http://rawhide.com/>)
- Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (<https://www.nps.gov/cagr/>)
- Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch (<http://www.roostercogburn.com/>)
- Biosphere 2 (<http://biosphere2.org/>)
- Marana Pumpkin Corn Mazes (just north of Tucson) (<http://maranapumpkinpatch.com/>)
- Tucson (University of Arizona campus, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Old Tucson) (<https://www.visittucson.org/about>)
- Tombstone-“The Town Too Tough To Die” (one hour south of Tucson) (<http://www.tombstonechamber.com/>)
- Kartchner Caverns State Park (one hour east of Tucson) (<https://azstateparks.com/kartchner>)



The possibilities are endless

***events are updated as we are notified ***

Need more ideas on how to plan your Arizona visit?

[Fine Tune Your Perfect Trip Here](#)