



### **A Roundup of What's New in AZ**

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### **Arizona COVID-19 Update**

**Please note:** For visitor guidance due to COVID-19 such as mask-wearing, a list of tourism-related reopening or closures, and a link to public health guidelines, click here: <https://www.visitarizona.com/covid-19/>. Some attractions are open year-round and some are open seasonally or move to seasonal hours. To ensure the places you want to see are open on your travel dates, please check their website for hours of operation.

### **Resorts, Hotels & Spas**

#### ***Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona***

#### **The Aloha Reimagined: From Outdated Motel to Chic Roadside Stay for the Modern Traveler in Chandler, AZ**

Say hello to the latest redevelopment project in Chandler. [The Aloha](#), a classic Arizona motel that had seen better days, has now been transformed into a 26-room boutique motel for the modern traveler. Located at 445 N. Arizona Avenue, the motel is perfectly situated for visitors wanting to explore downtown Chandler and the surrounding area. The Aloha is not just a classic motel experience. The project was designed with modern functionality in mind, leveraging technology to streamline processes and optimize guest experience. [Aardvark Partners](#) was hired to manage operations. In addition to creating an intriguing place for visitors and travelers to stay as they explore Chandler and the surrounding area.

#### **Modern Upscale Brand Relaunches with Opening of Vīb Tempe in Arizona**

Best Western® Hotels & Resorts has debuted an urban, upscale boutique brand, [Vīb](#), with the opening of the new prototype [Vīb Tempe](#) in Tempe, Arizona. The Tempe hotel serves as a model for future Vīb properties through its thoughtfully designed spaces that invite collaboration and socialization while still offering flexible function with a stylish flair. Vīb Tempe features a modern lobby designed for collaborating with peers, using as a workspace for the day, or socializing after a local sporting event. The versatile public space can also flex to provide an extended lobby with flexible furnishings suitable for large events and functions. Food & Beverage offerings include being the home to Arizona's first Cousins Maine Lobster restaurant bringing Maine lobster to the heart of downtown Tempe. The lobby bar provides the perfect hangout spot to indulge in crafted cocktails, light dining, and espresso beverages. The hotel also features a signature rooftop lounge offering guests breathtaking views of the valley.

#### **The Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch Undergoing Massive Multimillion-Dollar Renovation**

One of Arizona's legacy resorts - [The Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch](#) - is undergoing a massive multimillion-dollar renovation under new ownership, which is the largest property-wide undertaking in the resort's nearly 50-year history. Driftwood Capital purchased the 326-room property that sits on 16.2 acres. Upon completion, the resort will join Curio Collection by Hilton. The renovation will include updates to all guest rooms, common areas, amenity spaces, food and beverage outlets, 80,000 square feet of flexible event space and the spa, will also be expanded. Completion is anticipated in early 2023.

### **Rest Easy With Chic, New Sleep Packages at Mountain Shadows and Hotel Valley Ho**

Overdue for a getaway, and a good night's sleep? Hotel Valley Ho in Old Town Scottsdale and Mountain Shadows Resort Scottsdale have just launched two unique sleep. These dreamy offerings are designed to lull you into a peaceful night of rest, enabling you to enjoy the mental and physical benefits associated with good sleep. The [Bubbles & No Sleep Troubles](#) package at Hotel Valley Ho is making counting sheep a breeze. From a luxurious soak enhanced with LUSH's Sleepy Bubble Bar to grabbing your velvet-lined flamingo eye mask, you'll be ready to snooze in no time. At Mountain Shadows Resort Scottsdale, the [Moon & Stars Sleep Package](#) is designed for dreamy desert dozing. Start your evening routine by making a cup of Golden Moon Milk, and take a journey towards wellness and relaxation. When you're ready to start dreaming, grab the Brooklinen constellation eye mask and enjoy the cool, soothing feel of mulberry silk. Sweet dreams. Each package is \$155 plus tax, available now through the end of 2022.

### **Sheraton Phoenix Partners with Feelmore Labs to Launch New Rest & Restore Package**

This National Sleep Month, [Sheraton Phoenix Downtown](#), Arizona's largest hotel for business and leisure travelers, has partnered with [Feelmore Labs](#), an innovative wellness technology company driven by neuroscience to offer Cove, a wearable device that supports healthy sleep and reduces stress, to provide guests with an exceptional overnight experience with the new [Rest & Restore Package](#). Following the completion of an extensive renovation, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown continues to enhance its guest experience programming with a focus on wellness. The Rest & Restore Package provides hotel guests with access to a Cove device to use throughout their stay, calming chamomile-lavender tea and biscotti welcome amenity, breakfast for two at & More by Sheraton, and a late check-out to maximize sleep time.

### **Quintero Golf Club in Peoria Offers New Luxury Condominiums**

Located in Peoria just west of Lake Pleasant, [Quintero Golf Club](#) is one of Arizona's most challenging and pristine courses, designed by master architect Rees Jones. It has received national attention — earning the ranking of No. 1 Best Public Golf Course by Golf Digest and Golf Weekly Magazine and No. 1 in Arizona by Golf Advisor. Those that wish to stay and play can enjoy one of the new luxury condominiums on property. Each condo is positioned right on the course. The lower level Terrace Casitas feature two spacious master suites, two full bathrooms, private patios and incredible views of the surrounding desert. The Executive Lofts on the second level provide more ample space with two master suites and two-and-a-half baths, towering windows and a private balcony. The kitchens are fully equipped with top-quality stainless appliances as well as a built-in wine refrigerator and are adjacent to the property pool, jacuzzi and a barbecue entertainment area. Quintero's staff can help guests customize adventure or pampering stay and play packages such as in-suite chef-prepared meals, boating, horseback riding, ATV'ing, shooting and more.

### **Two New Venues are Now Open at The Westin Tempe**

[The Westin Tempe](#) has opened its signature restaurant, [Terra Tempe Kitchen + Cocktails](#), and the Valley's highest rooftop bar, [Skysill Rooftop Lounge](#), led by seasoned local Chef Alexander Robinson. The two brand-new concepts serve locals looking for a chic, new venue for happy hour and leisurely travelers spending time in the city. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the ground-floor Terra Tempe Kitchen & Spirits features a menu of healthy Modern-American cuisine with locally sourced ingredients and an expansive list of local Arizona brews as well as wines and hand-crafted cocktails. In contrast, Skysill Rooftop Lounge soars above the city on the hotel's 18th floor, making it the highest open-air rooftop bar in town. The venue offers a hip, relaxing escape during the daytime with its rooftop pool, jacuzzi, daybeds and cabanas, and large video screen overlooking the vast metropolitan Phoenix area. As the sun sets over the mountain horizon, it then transitions to a luxurious lounge where all levels of service and experience are elevated. As the latest addition to the city's bustling corridor, The Westin Tempe is just steps from some of the area's best shopping, dining, nightlife and entertainment destinations, plus local landmarks like Tempe Town Lake, "A" Mountain (Hayden Butte), Mill Avenue District and Tempe Beach Park.

### **Well & Being Spa at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Welcomes Arizona's First Sisley-Paris Spa**

[The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess](#) opened the first full-service [Sisley-Paris Spa](#) in the Forbes Four-Star Well & Being Spa. The international luxury beauty brand is the benchmark in phyto-cosmetology. Sisley sources the best ingredients and analyzes them for which part (leaf, root, seed, flower, extract, etc.) and what dosage will provide the

most visible results. Highly sensorial, the products not only produce visible results but offer aroma therapeutic benefits and an escape. An experience attaché will guide you through the services and is a product expert trained to translate the Sisley Service experience into a personalized product selection to continue the journey at home. As the newest, and largest addition to the global Sisley Spa portfolio, the Sisley Spa Paris at Well & Being offers a retreat inspired by the beauty and serenity of Havasupai Falls and the surrounding blooming Sonoran Desert.

### **Relax and Renew with Castle Hot Springs' New Intentional Wellness Menu**

With a slate of new wellness offerings including the introduction of a new [Intentional Wellness Menu](#), Arizona's award-winning luxury desert oasis, [Castle Hot Springs](#) is helping travelers actualize their self-care resolutions through a myriad of customized private experiences aimed at balancing the mind, body, and soul. The [new wellness focus](#) is led by wellness guide Colleen Inman. A published author of wellness and yoga books, including a celebrated manual for yoga instructors and her latest, *Balancing the Earth Element*. Inman works with guests daily and along with a professional team offers custom and modern focuses and practices. The menu allows guests to immerse themselves in the restorative peace of the Sonoran Desert landscape with private wellness classes.

### **Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa Announces a New Desert Garden**

The beauty of the Arizona landscape is the inspiration for the newest outdoor venue at [Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa](#)—the Desert Garden. The space, located in a serene courtyard and surrounded by a grove of mesquite trees, weaves together natural textures, materials, landscape and design to create an oasis in the desert. The entrance is over a bridge of planked concrete pavers, traversing above a shallow reflecting pool. A blue Palo Verde tree anchors the space, separating a 1,600 sq. ft. lawn from the 3,700 sq. ft. patio area. A cascading waterfall wall creates a tranquil focal point for a dinner event or social function. The landscaping surrounding the Desert Garden speaks to the destination and includes mesquite and ironwood trees for shade in addition to shrubs, cactus and succulents such as aloe, agave, saguaro, ocotillo and organ pipe cactus. Grasses and seasonal flowers create a beautiful backdrop.

### **Sam Fox, Leading Restaurateur, Announces The Global Ambassador Hotel**

One of the industry's leading restaurateurs and premier hospitality brand developers, Sam Fox, is making his official foray into the luxury hospitality industry with the announcement of his internationally inspired hotel, [The Global Ambassador](#) set to open in Phoenix in 2023. The Global Ambassador will combine impressive hospitality, culinary and wellness experiences. The 141-room luxury hotel has been designed by Fox himself who will own, operate, manage and co-develop the hotel under his newly formed Author & Edit Hospitality Company along Brian Frakes of Common Bond Development Group, a company known for its notable lifestyle development projects. Fox's stellar lineup of inventive culinary offerings will define The Global Ambassador. The hotel will boast five original dining venues with cuisine influenced by the Mediterranean region including Greece, Italy and Morocco. Most notably within the hotel will be the largest rooftop restaurant in the state, at 18,000 square feet, that overlooks the iconic Camelback Mountain. The Wellness Center will offer an expansive fitness level and ultra-luxe spa.

### **Arizona Biltmore Completes Year-Long Renovations**

The [Arizona Biltmore, a Waldorf Astoria Resort](#) in Phoenix, reopened after a year-long renovation process, costing more than \$70 million. The historically famous hotel is best known for its Frank Lloyd architectural designs, accommodating celebrities, and past presidents. The renovations include the redesign of the 11 guest cottages, the on-site pools, and the Tierra Luna Spa. The Saguaro Pool, the new adults-only pool, features new cabanas furnished with TVs and mini fridges. The family friendly Paradise Pool added a new 65-foot triple slide waterslide, called The Twist, and 15 new cabanas. As part of the renovation, the resort added two new food and beverage concepts to the property. The Spire Bar, the new outdoor bar blends water and fire features, offering live music under the stars. Renata's Hearth is the resort's new restaurant serving contemporary Latin cuisine celebrating smoking and grilling traditions to create complex flavors paired with specialty tequila and mezcal.

## ***Northern Arizona – Resorts, Hotels and Spas***

### **Classic Hotels & Resorts Opens All-New Boutique Hotel - [High Country Motor Lodge](#) - and First Ever Nordic Spa Experience in the Heart of Flagstaff**

Classic Hotels & Resorts, a leading hospitality development and management company based in Phoenix, opened an all-new boutique hotel in the heart of Flagstaff, Arizona. Following an extensive \$13M reinvention, High Country Motor Lodge, a modern mountain retreat blends iconic 1960's retro elements with a contemporary lodge aesthetic to create an elevated — yet casual — experience along Flagstaff's historic Route 66. Boasting 123-rooms, including three private cottage suites and two junior suites, the High Country Motor Lodge also includes a 4,700-sq.-ft. of indoor/outdoor venue space for weddings, meetings and other special events, an expansive outdoor pool and oversized hot tub with two private saunas, and a brand new innovative culinary concept, The General Store. This unique eatery offers everything from grab & go provisions to an indoor/outdoor lounge overlooking Mars Hill with craft beer and cocktails, fresh-cooked personal Pinsa-style pizza, and an artisanal coffee and espresso selection. Notable guest experiences also include a fully decked-out game room with shuffleboard, pool, darts, and board games, as well as movie nights on the lawn, live music, stargazing, and a weekly 'Shakedown Sunday' which will feature full-set replays of iconic concerts.

### **Unique Resort Near the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park**

[Clear Sky Resorts](#) opened Arizona's first luxury sky dome resort near the Grand Canyon National Park in 2021. Located 20 minutes south of the South Rim entrance, in Valle, and 30 miles north of Williams. Clear Sky Resort consists of 45 geodesic individually climate controlled luxury sky domes that include plush bathrobes, slippers, upscale linens, swinging chair, deck hammocks, panoramic window, skylight with telescope for stargazing, modern bathroom with rain shower, and eco-friendly fireplaces in some domes. The sky domes allow you to take in the high desert landscape with spectacular sunsets and sunrises. Nighttime stargazing is really when the domes shine! Other amenities include a daily happy hour in the Welcome Dome, onsite breakfast and dinner options, nightly s'mores next to artisan crafted firepits, a lit Frisbee golf course, movie nights, live music, astronomy nights, storytelling, lit sculpture night walks, and an out-of-this-world Projection Dome with 360 degree star movie watching. Open seasonally.

## ***North Central Arizona – Resorts, Hotels and Spas***

### **Amara Resort and Spa Completes Multimillion-Dollar Renovation**

[Amara Resort and Spa](#), located in the heart of Uptown Sedona, recently announced that it has completed a multimillion-dollar renovation encompassing all 100 guestrooms and public spaces, including the resort's signature restaurant, [SaltRock Southwest Kitchen](#) and award-winning [Amara Spa](#). Amara's refreshed look takes inspiration from the surrounding red rocks and focuses on bringing the outdoors in to create a "tree-lodge" aesthetic. The lobby features vaulted ceilings and are adorned with two chandeliers inspired by star constellations. SaltRock, includes expanded seating accented by burnt orange velvet banquettes, Himalayan salt accent walls, a live-edge community dining table, and a more open and inviting bar. The Amara Spa has been upgraded with new finishes and features including the addition of a brand-new 24-hour fitness center and retail outpost. For meetings and events, the resort's five flexible event areas, of more than 4,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space, have also been refreshed.

### **The Wilde Resort & Spa Opens in Sedona**

Officially opened in September 2021, [The Wilde Resort & Spa](#) boasts 105 contemporary guest rooms and suites featuring colors, fabrics and motifs that complement the destination's stunning landscape. Additional highlights include a healing garden and labyrinth, as well as The Wilde Haven Spa, a new mindful full-service spa and fitness center offering treatments that promote healing and spiritual growth. A new modern culinary concept, Rascal, helmed by James Beard Award winner Chef Mercer Mohr will provide guests with a unique dining experience while paying homage to the classic all-day American diner with chef-driven, market-inspired cuisine and a vibrant cocktail program. Guests can also enjoy an array of on-property activities such as stargazing, cocktail classes, storytelling around the fire pits and soaking in the scenery from the Rangeview Rooftop, The Wilde Pool Bar, Suncatcher, a large sunlit atrium gathering space, and more. The property allows for easy access to trailheads and close proximity to

more recreation opportunities in the great outdoors. The 2,500 square feet of combined indoor and outdoor meeting and event space including the new Dorsey Ballroom, Basecamp Boardroom, The Grove garden, and the Rangeview Rooftop round out the offerings.

### ***Southern Arizona – Hotels, Resorts and Spas***

#### **Vacation Rental Opportunity on the Amerind Museum’s Campus in Southeastern Arizona**

Nestled amongst the beautiful granite boulders of Texas Canyon in the Little Dragoon Mountains, 65 miles east of Tucson, the [Di Peso House](#) is located in a remote section of the [Amerind Foundation](#) campus. The Amerind Museum is a private, non-profit anthropological and archeological museum and research center dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Native American cultures and their history. The Amerind has placed this historic home on the vacation rental web site VRBO.com. The Di Peso House is 3,000 sq. ft. and was constructed in the late 1950s but has all the modern conveniences. The home also comes with an Amerind Museum family membership and passes for the guests. Amerind lies in the heart of the “Sky Island” region, one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America and home to a rich heritage of human cultures stretching back over 13,000 years.

#### **The Expansion at Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch in Tucson is Complete**

[Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch Resort](#), a Forbes Four-Star Resort in Tucson, announces their expansion project is complete. The expansion added forty new guestrooms modeled after the Catalina Rooms added in 2015. The guest rooms span seven new buildings facing both the Santa Catalina Mountains and Rincon Mountains offering guests expansive mountain views. The new Rincon Ridge Rooms include fifteen rooms with the private outdoor showers guests have come to associate with the signature Catalina Rooms. Care has been taken to weave in elements of the resort's unique history throughout the new guestrooms and other areas. In addition to the new guestrooms, Hacienda Del Sol also added a brand-new pool area with a forty-foot lap pool, an infinity-edge wading pool, spa and a large sun deck. A 420 square-foot fitness facility with large roll up doors take advantage of Tucson's months of mild temperatures and unforgettable mountain views. The expansion has opened up more space for displaying local art and sculpture allowing Hacienda Del Sol to continue passionately supporting artists throughout the community.

#### **New Boutique Hotel and Wine Cellar in Downtown Tucson**

[The Citizen Hotel](#), a 10-room boutique hotel and wine cellar and tasting room, opened in January 2022 in downtown Tucson. The hotel resides in the historic Citizen Building, built in 1913 as The Tucson Citizen Newspaper. The hotel is a collaboration between Sarah Fox, co-owner and co-founder of Arizona winery Sand-Reckoner Wines and developer Moniqua Lane, owner of The Downtown Clifton Hotel in Tucson. Sand-Reckoner Wines will cellar, blend and bottle over 140 barrels of wine in the 5,000 square foot cellar in the basement of the hotel. The space features volcanic rock walls, natural lighting from glass block windows at street grade, and a ceiling that is exposed to reveal the original fir floor joists for the building above. Hotel guests and members of the public are welcome to enjoy tastings of Sand-Reckoner’s wines as well as experience special events like barrel and library tastings and catered wine dinners. The cellar will also serve as an intimate event venue.

### **Arizona Attractions**

#### ***Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona***

#### **Visit Mesa Launches Deal Passport in Time for Summer Vacation**

Visitors and locals can find curated deals and offers from local businesses all in one spot with the brand-new Visit Mesa Deals Passport, featuring some of Mesa’s most beloved spots and Arizona’s popular attractions. To get the pass, participants will receive a text message after signing up on the Visit Mesa Deals [website](#). This text message will contain a link that will instantly provide them with access to the passport. To redeem deals within the passport, participants present the offer on their phone at the place of business. The passport is organized into leisure categories including food, drinks, activities, and shopping. Deals and businesses will constantly be updated to provide the newest and best offerings in Mesa.



### **New Exhibit at the [Musical Instrument Museum \(The MIM\)](#) in Phoenix**

MIM's newest exhibition, *Treasures: Legendary Musical Instruments*, celebrates the power of music across 6,000 years of history with some of the world's most notable musical moments, performance traditions, and musical instrument developments. Eighty exceptional instruments fill the Target Gallery, including some of the finest from the MIM's collection and more than twenty loans from renowned museums, private collections, and musicians around the world. From the ancient Olympic Games to the unveiling of the Eiffel Tower, history is brought to life by the instruments that forever changed the world. The exhibit is exclusive to The MIM and will be on display for most of the remainder of the year (2022).

### **Remembering the Future: 100 Years of Inspiring Art at the Heard Museum**

The Heard Museum's new exhibition, opened on October 26, 2021, [Remembering the Future: 100 Years of Inspiring Art](#) reflects 100 years of Indigenous creative expression and elevates the artists who have been central to the Native American Fine Art Movement. The exhibition showcases paintings, photography, sculpture and digital works of art produced by leading American Indian artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. It includes 75 works of art drawn from the Heard's permanent collection that illustrate a progression of ideas and aesthetic expressions defining a major artistic movement that began in the early 20th century. Early works featured in the exhibition are by artists including Fred Kabotie (Hopi), Tonita Peña (San Ildefonso Pueblo) and Carl Sweezy (Southern Arapaho). The most recent include 21st century works by Kent Monkman (Cree), Tanya Lukin Linklater (Alutiiq) and Steven J. Yazzie (Navajo). The exhibition offers visitors a reminder of the many contributions that Indigenous artists have made to American art as well as the powerful ways that art can inspire and help us to better understand the world we share. The span of one century is meant to convey, with meaningful depth of perspective and certitude, that in remembering the history of American Indian art, the Heard Museum is also remembering the future. The exhibit continues through October 2022.

### **Famed Airport Mural Officially Displayed in New Home at Phoenix's Rental Car Center**

["The Phoenix,"](#) a beloved mural by Paul Coze once displayed in Terminal 2 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, is once again welcoming visitors, now in the Rental Car Center. "The Phoenix," a triptych 75 feet wide and 16 feet high, is believed to be the first piece of public art commissioned by the city that was chosen through a public process. Coze's design was selected and his mural debuted when Terminal 2 opened in 1962. The mural resided in Terminal 2 and remained in its central location over the main hall after the terminal closed and was decommissioned in early 2020. The mural was carefully moved from March to fall 2021, and is on display 24/7. Peer through a built-in viewing scope to take an up-close look at "The Phoenix." Check out the Museum's seek-and-find activity to look for specific materials and details of the beloved mural, such as mosaic tiles, gemstones, spiraled shells and even a toy steering wheel. And watch the video, *The Phoenix Rises Again*, to learn even more about the story behind the mural's recent relocation.

### ***North Central Arizona – Arizona Attractions***

#### **New Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum in Camp Verde Now Open**

The Verde Valley Archaeology Center and Museum (VVAC) opened its new museum and collection center on November 26, 2021. The museum is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The museum is the Official Nonprofit Partner of the National Park Service for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot and the Regional Coordinator for the Arizona Site Steward Program. The Center promotes conservation, preservation and education for the Native American heritage and archaeology of the Verde Valley. The new facility features: twelve public gallery spaces, lobby reception and gift shop, state-of-the-art meeting and events room, a virtual interactive children's adventure room, a collections repository, curation laboratory and data center, a human remains room (for the safekeeping of remains prior to Tribal consultation), and a library of more than 2,000 books, periodicals and DVDs.

## ***Northern Arizona – Arizona Attractions***

### **Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course (FLG X), the Largest Zip Line and Adventure Course in the United States, Celebrates its 10th Anniversary of Operation in 2022**

[Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course](#) (FLG X) proudly celebrates 10 years of operation in 2022. FLG X is honored to mark this milestone with a slew of events, promotions and community connections. With more than 4,000,000 zip line runs completed and the largest zip line and adventure courses in the United States, FLG X has become the destination of choice for tourists and in-state travelers alike. Through strategic partnerships, FLG X and Coconino County continue to innovate and encourage local entrepreneurship – with key developments in 2022 including updates to course elements, charitable donations, and social media promotions. FLG X has consistently improved, updated and changed the Courses over the years and continues to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep FLG X the place to visit.

### **Explore Exciting Developments at Woodland Lake Park in Pinetop-Lakeside**

Located in the heart of [Pinetop-Lakeside](#), [Woodland Lake Park](#) is the shining centerpiece of this beautiful mountain community. Woodland Lake Park is situated in the middle of town, but feels like it's miles away from civilization. It is a wonderful place to go kayaking, boating, fishing or just strolling around the 1.1-mile ADA-compliant paved trail that encircles the lake. The 107-acre park also features a number of Ramadas overlooking the lake, which can be reserved for family barbecues, birthday parties or even corporate events. Long considered the gem of the White Mountains and the crown jewel of Pinetop-Lakeside, the park is one of the most popular places for people to walk their dogs, but all dogs must be on a leash at all times. The Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, thanks to a generous donation from the Salter Family Foundation, was able to acquire the park from the U.S. Forest Service in August of 2020, thus fulfilling a long-time dream of buying the park for future generations to enjoy.

## ***Southern Arizona – Arizona Attractions***

### **For a Rocking Good Time in Tucson Visit the New UA Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum**

The [UA Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum](#) at the Historic Pima County Courthouse, 115 N. Church, in downtown Tucson is now open. The facility highlights more than 12,000 square feet of display galleries, showcasing gems, minerals, and fossils from around the world. This world-class museum also features a library, research lab, mineralogy lab, and community classroom. With many interactives, touchable, and digital content, there is something for everyone!

### **New Exhibit at Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium Magnifies the “Wild World of Bugs”**

[Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium's](#) newest permanent exhibit reveals the diverse and intricate lives of insects through interactive displays, live inhabitants, and an engaging new show in the Eos Planetarium Theater. The exhibit, which opened August 2022, helps Tucsonans and visitors discover the huge role these tiny creatures play on a global scale. Encompassing more than 1,000 square feet, the exhibit features unique zones that explore insect anatomy, habitats and behavior, survival strategies, eating habits and other topics in entomology. Live creatures such as the Madagascar hissing cockroaches and blue death-feigning beetles delight and fascinate visitors with their unique behaviors. New hands-on interactive activities include a reaction time challenge where you can measure up against flies and other quick insects, and a wind tunnel to give bugs a test flight. You can build a bug station or try your hand at the roly-poly skeeball game to name a few. Several displays illustrate the fascinating world of social insects—like ants and wasps—with detailed dioramas, examples of hives and nests and interactive displays. A new live-action IMAX show formatted for the Eos Planetarium Theater compliments the new exhibit. “Bugs! A Rainforest Adventure” explores the lives of a praying mantis and a beautiful butterfly in the rainforests of Borneo. Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium is open Tuesday through Sunday, with various planetarium shows scheduled each day. Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium is located on the University of Arizona campus at 1601 E. University Blvd.

### **Benson Has New Attractions for Rail Fans**

Rail fans have another reason to visit Benson. An Advanced Train Control System (ATCS) was installed in the [Benson Visitor Center](#). It shows the location of all trains between Tucson and El Paso. A Railroad Online Audio Stream was also installed with the same computer so that visitors can now listen to the Union Pacific engineers as they communicate with the Dispatch Center in Tucson. The Visitor Center has had a G Scale model train display circling the Visitors Center, but with a generous donation in 2020, a second layer of tracks was recently built above the original layout. The display went from 90 feet of track to 230 feet of track. A turntable (Roundhouse) has been added. The Visitor Center built an AAR Control stand (what you would find in a real diesel electric train) to operate the trains. It controls the speed and direction of the train and Benson's has all the horns, bells and equipment that are found in a real train. There is even a camera mounted on the front of the model train and a monitor in front of the model locomotive that gives the person at the controls the feeling they are actually operating a real locomotive.

### ***Western Arizona – Arizona Attractions***

#### **Skydiving from Lake Havasu City is Now Available**

A new option for skydiving began in February 2022. [Skydive Havasu](#) began offering tandem freefall skydiving in northwestern Arizona. The experience begins at the Lake Havasu City Municipal Airport where tandem students complete the required paperwork and review a United Parachute Technologies (UPT) safety video. The tandem skydiving instructors answer additional questions and help tandem students gear up into the jump harness. Once geared up, you board an aircraft for a 15-20 minute flight to a 13,000-foot altitude for the jump. Once at altitude, you and your instructor exit the aircraft, sharing a parachute for the 135 mph freefall. Your instructor will deploy the parachute for a peaceful canopy ride to the landing zone in Yucca, AZ. A Skydive Havasu van provides transportation back to the Lake Havasu City airport. Options are available to purchase a video of your jumping adventure. Skydive Havasu operates on weekends and is year-round for those at least 18 years old.

#### **Electric Vehicle Museum of Kingman to Expand into New 20,000 Square Feet Facility**

The City of Kingman Office of Tourism and [Historic Electric Vehicle Foundation](#) have co-managed the World's first Electric Vehicle (EV) Museum since 2014. The current location, a 3,600 square foot space at the [Kingman Visitor Center](#), houses only 28 of the Foundation's collection of 110 EVs (and counting). In October 2021, the City of Kingman acquired a new 20,000 square foot facility in the Historic Downtown area to better accommodate the famous collection. Several firms have submitted architectural design proposals, which are currently being reviewed with renovations expected to begin in 2022. The collection includes a Rolls-Royce-style EV golf cart once owned by Willie Nelson, a Mercedes-style EV golf cart once owned by Waylon Jennings, and the Buckeye Bullet 2.5 which was the fastest EV in the world (clocked in at 307.6 mph) until the Buckeye Bullet 3 completed a test run at 341.26 mph in September 2016.

#### **New "Guardian of Route 66" Roadside Attraction Unveiled 20 miles East of Kingman**

A new Route 66 roadside attraction was unveiled on November 6, 2021 along Arizona Hwy 66. Titled "Guardian of Route 66", the sculpture was created by Route 66 artist Gregg Arnold. It stands 13 ft tall from the feet to the top of the outstretched hand and lights up at night. The Guardian is located 20 miles east of Kingman at the [Antares Point Visitor Center](#), which is already home to several of Gregg Arnold's pieces, including the 14-foot-tall Tiki head titled "Giganticus Headicus".

#### **Permanent Route 66 Drive-Through Shield debuts in Kingman**

Since 1991 participants of the [Route 66 Fun Run](#), held each May, would pass under a Historic Route 66 Drive-Thru shield in [Kingman](#), making it an iconic symbol of the Arizona Route 66 Experience. The temporary shields have been of various construction over the years, but all of them remained susceptible to wear and tear and - perhaps mostly - to Kingman's spring winds. Fun Run participants would return every year, excited about the prospect of driving under the famous sign, but there were many years without a drive-thru experience due to gusty spring days. The Kingman Office of Tourism and Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona recognized an opportunity to commission a permanent sign for all to experience – on any weekend or weekday, any day or night. Plans for a permanent drive-



thru were set in place, and with the return of American road trips, seemed to make the timing especially serendipitous. Legacy Signs built a new Route 66 drive-thru landmark in early 2021. Recently, the new sign was permanently installed near the Powerhouse, home of the Kingman Visitor Center and Arizona Route 66 Museum. Engineered to withstand high gusty winds, the new sign will provide the ever-present opportunity for travelers and road trippers to stop in Kingman and commemorate their time on the Mother Road.

## **Arizona Tours**

### ***Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona***

#### **'Walkable' Virtual Tour of Glendale, Arizona Offers Future Visitors 360° Access to Popular Destination**

Planning a trip, event or meeting just got a whole lot easier as Visit Glendale recently launched its virtual 360° tour to showcase the many attractions in the Arizona destination. Visit Glendale has crafted an interactive 'walkable' tour that provides tourists and trip planners alike with real-life access to attractions like [Westgate Entertainment District](#) and [Tanger Outlets](#) while providing a more in-depth look at meeting spaces at several Glendale hotels. The tour allows visitors to click-through at their own pace and virtually 'walk' spaces to view details that one might only get during an in-person tour, perfect for those who want to get the lay of the land before their visit.

### ***Western Arizona***

#### **Mohave County's First Commercial Hiking Guide Company Unveils its 2022 season in Lake Havasu City**

[Havasus Hikes](#), LLC, Mohave County's first and only commercial hiking guide company based in Lake Havasu City, began in 2022. Havasus Hikes currently offers four hikes from the main trailhead in SARA Park, at 7260 Sara Park Way, on the weekends, seasonally. Wanderlust is an easy beginner hike, Slot Canyon with an immediate turnaround after the Canyon is also a fun beginner hike, and the Slot Canyon to shore and Pilot Rock hikes are moderate. Havasus Hikes hopes to expand to add art classes, yoga, boat rides, scorpion hunting, and mafia mystery tales to its offerings. The owner/guide is certified in Wilderness First Aid and venomous snakes. The company is also looking into expanding its trail offerings, other locations in Mohave County and weekday hikes.

## **Arizona Tourism Industry News**

#### **Plan your Summer Road Trips with Roger Naylor's Award-Winning Book**

Let the adventures begin. With his latest book, *Arizona's Scenic Roads and Hikes*, local travel writer and author, Roger Naylor, coaxes readers outdoors to discover an array of wonders. *Arizona's Scenic Roads and Hikes* points the way toward the very best the state has to offer. In this captivating guide, Naylor features all 27 of Arizona's state-designated scenic and historic roads, including five National Scenic Byways. The stunning drives are arranged by region and include starting and ending points, mileage, vivid photos, full descriptions, and suggestions on locally owned places to eat and sleep. Each road trip is paired with attractions and activities including nearby hiking trails. Create a lifetime of memories while exploring the details of Arizona's diverse and amazing scenery. *Arizona's Scenic Roads and Hikes* is available in stores, and on Amazon. Signed copies may be purchased from [Naylor's website](#).

#### **Arizona Office of Tourism Launches Digital Travel Tool - AZ Parks Passport**

The grandeur of Arizona's 50+ parks, monuments and recreation areas is now even easier to explore with the release of the new digital [AZ Parks Passport](#) from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT). The pass delivers trip ideas, directions and even the chance to win great prizes (through April 2023) right in the palm of your hand. Access to the free passport is delivered instantly to phones and mobile devices after a quick sign-up on [AZParksPassport.com](#). Users gain access to descriptions, maps and directions to Arizona parks, plus a fun way to choose a park to visit (park admission not included). For those who just want to experience the diverse beauty of Arizona, parks are also divided into categories such as "colorful canyons," "dark sky wonders," "lush landscapes" and several more.

### **Heritage Trail to Promote Dude Ranches Across Arizona**

Governor Doug Ducey recently signed legislation to help preserve and promote Arizona's dude ranches and the unique experiences they deliver to Arizonans and thousands of visitors each year. The [Arizona Dude Ranch Heritage Trail Program](#) provides a framework for highlighting the historical essence that guests can expect at Arizona's statewide collection of dude and guest ranches. The Arizona Dude Ranch Heritage Trail program will be housed within the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of Arizona State Parks and Trails. This legislation follows a series of efforts by the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) spotlighting Arizona's amazing dude and guest ranches as ideal destinations for travelers seeking beautiful scenery, wide-open spaces and natural settings. [AOT recently released a new video](#) highlighting the people, scenes and experiences awaiting visitors to Arizona's dude and guest ranches throughout the state.

### **The Arizona Office of Tourism Launches new Wine Trail Passport**

The Arizona Office of Tourism launched a statewide digital Arizona Wine Trail passport and interactive map powered by Bandwango. Visitors can register for the free passport and save as an icon to their phone's home screen for easy access. Geolocation enables visitors to find more than 100 tasting rooms while they travel throughout Arizona. Incentives for visiting multiple wine regions are built into the program. The passport was available starting August 1, 2021 on [ArizonaWines.com](#).

### ***Greater Phoenix and Central Arizona – Arizona Tourism News***

#### **Four Arizona Finalists Spotlighted for the 2022 James Beard Awards**

Arizona's unique gastronomy scene continues to be highly acclaimed by the prestigious James Beard Foundation Awards. The Foundation recognized four outstanding Arizona-based individuals and restaurants as finalists for the nation's most esteemed culinary excellence awards. Arizona is proud to be represented by the following talented chefs, restaurateurs, and eateries:

- Best New Restaurant – [Bacanora in Phoenix](#).
- Outstanding Baker – [Don Guerra](#) of [Barrio Bread](#) in Tucson.
- Outstanding Restaurateur – [Chris Bianco](#) of [Tratto](#), [Pane Bianco](#) and [Pizzeria Bianco](#) in Phoenix.
- Best Chef — Southwest (encompassing AZ/NM/NV/OK): [Giovanni Scorzio](#) of [Andreoli Italian Grocer](#) in Scottsdale.

#### **U.S. News & World Report names Sanctuary Camelback Mountain the Best Hotel in Arizona**

[Sanctuary Camelback Mountain, A Gurney's Resort & Spa](#) has been named the number one hotel in Arizona by the editors of U.S. News & World Report in their Best Hotels list. The 2022 ranking—the twelfth annual by the prestigious national news team—also placed Sanctuary among the top hotels in the United States.

#### **March 2022 was Officially Named as Arizona Wine Month**

Governor Ducey recognized the growing importance and impact of our state's wine producers by designating March 2022 as [Arizona's first official Wine Month](#). The Arizona Office of Tourism promotes Arizona wines and wine experiences to residents and visitors alike. Fortunately, a quick stop at a tasting room or vineyard will fit into almost any Arizona itinerary. To make planning easy, last summer the Office of Tourism launched the digital [Arizona Wine Trail Passport](#) to help travelers find nearby tasting rooms and special offers. With more than 120 wineries, tasting rooms and vineyards around the state, there are plenty of places to explore!

#### **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Designated as Purple Heart Community**

People driving into the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) will be greeted with a symbol of gratitude for veterans; signs that state they are entering a Purple Heart community. On March 21, 2022, SRPMIC was designated a [Purple Heart Community](#) via a dedication ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River. SRPMIC is the first Native American community in Arizona to receive this designation. This designation affirms that the SRPMIC government recognizes those in the community who gave their lives or were wounded in combat defending our American freedom. Becoming a Purple Heart Community also means SRPMIC joins the Purple Heart

Trail, a national network of roads, bridges, highways and other monuments and trails honoring service members who have received the Purple Heart. SRPMIC has the deepest appreciation and respect for the men and women who have made great sacrifices in serving their nation and this Community in the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **Visit Mesa Launches City Limitless® Beers & Brews Passport**

Visit Mesa launched the [City Limitless® Beers & Brews Tour](#). This digital passport combines the best of both worlds – craft beer and gourmet coffee – inviting folks to discover the breadth of locations to enjoy these two libations in Mesa and the East Valley. The free incentive program can be linked to from [VisitMesa.com](#) and connects the user to a digital passport that serves as a tour of the breweries, tap rooms, sports bars, and coffee shops.

### **Visit Mesa Launches Aira, Guided Visual Interpretation Services for Visitors and Residents**

As part of Visit Mesa's on-going mission to ensure Mesa, Ariz. is regarded as one of the nation's most accessible travel destinations, they have launched a partnership with Aira, an on-demand visual interpretation service. It launched on Oct. 15, National Blind Americans Equality Day. Aira is a new accessibility technology that serves people who are blind or have low vision. Prior to arrival, visitors can download the Aira app to their smartphone and get access to a trained Aira agent who can assist with trip planning. While in Mesa's city limits, visitors can access the agent to guide them throughout public buildings, attractions, restaurants, hotels and more. Customers of Aira are referred to as Explorers and this instant access to visual information at the touch of a button will enhance everyday efficiency, engagement, and independence. The service outside of Mesa's borders is complimentary for up to five minutes and then fees apply. Both iOS and Android phones are supported. Visit Mesa helped establish the [Mesa Regional Foundation for Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion](#) to enhance and implement equity, diversity and inclusion for youth and adults within the Mesa community. The Foundation supports programs that expand upon accessibility throughout Mesa with a special emphasis on technology.

### **Arizona Resorts Recognized as a Top 500 Hotel in the World by Travel + Leisure's 2022 'T+L 500'**

April 22, 2022, [Travel + Leisure](#), an essential, trusted source for travel guidance and inspiration around the globe, announced the 2022 winners of the annual T+L 500. This prestigious list included luxury desert oases, [Castle Hot Springs](#), [Sanctuary Camelback Mountain](#), [A Gurney's Resort & Spa](#), and [Mountain Shadows Resort Scottsdale](#). Each year, the 8.1 million readers of *Travel + Leisure* vote for their favorite destinations, city hotels, resorts, and more in the annual World's Best Awards survey. Drawing from the 2021 winners, Travel + Leisure recognizes the 500 best hotels around the globe, as voted by readers. Each prestigious edition of this roster of properties, divided into eight geographic regions, serves as a trusted resource for millions of enthusiastic travelers. Arizona is proud to represent globally-acclaimed excellence in luxury lodging. This year's T+L 500 is featured in the May 2022 issue of *Travel + Leisure*.

### **First U.S. Destination to Adopt the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Supporting Accessible Travel Market**

Mesa, Ariz. is the first U.S. travel destination to adopt the [Hidden Disabilities Sunflower](#), a program lauded for supporting travelers with various needs as a way for them to secure additional support they may require while traveling. Developed and launched in the United Kingdom, the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is now a recognized icon that accessible travelers can utilize to discreetly be identified as having a disability. Visit Mesa, the City of Mesa's destination marketing organization, is the first Arizona Visitor Center to offer the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower complimentary lanyards and bracelets. When worn, the sunflower serves as a visual cue to trained visitor industry staff throughout Mesa who will then be able to recognize if that traveler, or traveler's companion, would like additional support during their visit.

### **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Updates - Come Fly with Us**

To see a list of all the places you can fly from PHX, visit our [Where We Fly page](#).

### **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Now Offers Free Reservations for TSA Security Checkpoint Lines**

[The new pilot program](#), PHX RESERVE, gives passengers the ability to schedule a specific time to get in the TSA Security Checkpoint line. Reservations can be made up to three days before a passenger's flight, and they will use a

dedicated entry point to the security checkpoint. Using the program is free. Reservation times can be made for between 60 minutes and four hours before a passenger's flight.

### **New Concourse at Terminal 4 Will Feature Exciting Shops, Restaurants, and a Lounge**

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport's 8th concourse at Terminal 4 will be opening summer 2022. Now, America's Friendliest Airport® will have even more local dining options for travelers to enjoy while visiting the airport as well as local shops. Phoenix Sky Harbor's goal is to provide a mix of national and local brands for Phoenix passengers, including local business and minority representation. Restaurants and shops will open in phases through 2022 and 2023. The 130,000 square foot concourse at Terminal 4, Phoenix Sky Harbor's busiest terminal, will also feature a variety of customer amenities from access to charging stations throughout the area, an Animal Relief Area, a nursing room, art, and beautiful views of South Mountain and the surrounding areas. Learn more about the new concourse [here](#).

### **Nonstop Flights Between Canada And Tucson, Arizona To Start Next Winter**

More Canadians will be able to enjoy the warmth and beauty of Tucson – and Arizonans can shred the slopes of the Great White North – starting winter 2022 under an innovative new agreement that will bring Flair Airlines to Tucson International Airport (TUS). The agreement, recently announced at TUS, is a partnership among Flair Airlines, Visit Tucson, the Tucson Airport Authority, and five Canadian airports. The new flights are currently scheduled to start at the end of November and are available for booking now [here](#).

- Fort McMurray (YMM)
- Lethbridge (YQL)
- Prince George (YXS)
- Windsor (YQG)
- Edmonton International (YEG)

With the exception of Edmonton International, this will be the only nonstop flight to the United States from these airports.

### **Air Canada**

- Resumed twice-weekly flights between Montreal and Phoenix on May 3, 2022, operating year-round.

### **Allegiant Airlines**

- Allegiant Air announced twice weekly service to Knoxville that began Feb. 16, 2022.
- Allegiant Air began service to Provo, Utah; and Stockton, Calif. in October, 2021.

### **American Airlines**

- American resumed daily year-round flights between Heathrow and Phoenix on April 5, 2022 on a Boeing 777-200. Flights depart London at 9:30 a.m. and arrive in Phoenix at 12:35 p.m. From Phoenix, flights depart at 5:55 p.m. and arrive in London at 12:10 p.m.
- American restarted seasonal (winter) service to: Aspen, La Paz, Montrose, Manzanillo and Vail.
- On May 27, 2022, American began its inaugural PHX-Bozeman (BZN) service. Bozeman is a new market for Phoenix. American also resumed its Jackson Hole service on May 27, 2022.
- On June 2, 2022 American began its inaugural PHX-Eureka, Humboldt County, Calif. (ACV) and PHX-Idaho Falls (IDA) routes. Eureka, Humboldt County in the California Redwoods is a new market for Phoenix. Idaho Falls is also a new market for Phoenix. American also resumed its Santa Fe and Rapid City service on June 1. Both routes had been suspended since April 2020.

### **British Airways**

- On August 31, 2021, British Airways resumed its nonstop flight between Phoenix and London. Flights are daily.

### **Condor Airlines**

- May 21, 2022 Condor Airlines resumed its nonstop Phoenix-Frankfurt flight. The service will operate two days a week from May through September.

### **Denver Air**

- A new airline for Phoenix, Denver Air started service to Telluride on Dec. 16, 2021. The daily service will run until April on a Dornier 328. There has not been a direct flight to Telluride since 2011.

### **Spirit Airlines**

- Resumed service to Orange County, California.
- A new, nonstop service to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, began Nov. 17, 2021.
- Started daily service to Las Vegas on Feb. 16, 2022. They are the fourth carrier to serve Las Vegas from Phoenix.

### **Sun Country added five nonstop markets from Phoenix and one at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway**

- [Sun Country Airlines](#) offers scheduled passenger service on more than 90 routes to more than 65 popular destinations. In December 2021, flights began to Duluth, Minn. (DLH); Green Bay, Wis (GRB); Madison, Wis (MSN), and Milwaukee, Wis. (MKE).
- A flight to Rochester, Minn. (RST) began in February 2022. Duluth, Green Bay, and Rochester are all new destinations for Phoenix.
- Service from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (AZA) to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) began November 24, 2021, four days weekly on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

### **Swoop, Canada's Leading Ultra-Low-Cost Carrier, Released its Expanded Winter Schedule**

[Swoop](#) expanded winter schedules featuring the re-introduction of flights to the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean. During the winter, the airline provides travelers with flights to sun and fun destinations including Mesa/Phoenix in the U.S.

- They fly between Edmonton and Mesa/Phoenix four times a week since September 17, 2021: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- Flights between Toronto and Mesa/Phoenix began on November 2, 2021 with flights on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Flights between Winnipeg and Mesa/Phoenix began November 1, 2021 with twice-weekly flights on Mondays and Friday.

### **United**

- Started a new daily seasonal flight between Phoenix and Cleveland on Dec. 16.

### **New Nonstop Flight Service Between Oakland and Phoenix on JSX**

[JSX](#), the hop-on jet service offering crowd-free flights between private terminals, started twice-daily nonstop service between Oakland (OAK) and Phoenix (PHX) on February 18, 2022. Flights depart Oakland at 8:55 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Return flights depart Phoenix at 12:15 p.m., and 5:50 p.m. Air carrier-JSX is improving short distance air travel for leisure and business by offering the hassle-free, crowd-free experience of flying between private terminals on 30-seat, Embraer 135 and 145 aircraft. Customers check-in just 20 minutes before their flight, have business class legroom, no middle seats, complimentary two checked bags, and drinks, snacks and cocktails inflight. Enhanced cleaning protocols include aircraft disinfection, increased touchpoint cleanings, and installation of hospital-grade HEPA filters onboard. JSX flights may be booked directly through [www.jsx.com](http://www.jsx.com), the JSX mobile app, or through codeshare partner JetBlue. The 30-seat jets may be chartered for group trips, corporate events, or other travel needs.



## **Phoenix-Mesa Airport Welcomes New Airline in November 2021**

[Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport](#) welcomes Minneapolis-based [Sun Country Airlines](#). The airline will offer flights between the east Mesa airport and [Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport](#) starting Nov. 24. The route will operate four times weekly, departing Mesa on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

### ***Northern Arizona – Arizona Tourism News***

#### **Capturing ‘A Night in Flagstaff’ with Non-Fungible Tokens**

Flagstaff, Arizona is the first and only destination in the country to enter the non-fungible tokens market with the original NFT collection, [“A Night in Flagstaff.”](#) The Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition, in collaboration with Discover Flagstaff, featured “70 images for \$700 each from 7,000 feet,” dropped on the NFT calendar Thursday, April 21, to coincide with the peak of the 2022 Lyrid meteor shower and to help launch Dark-Sky Week (April 22 – 30), as designated by Governor Doug Ducey. The collection, “A Night in Flagstaff” is a limited series of 70 NFTs, each minted as a one-of-a-kind moment-in-time capturing the star-filled skies over Flagstaff’s Buffalo Park, a location less than two miles from Flagstaff City Hall. Proceeds from the NFT sales will support the Northern Arizona EONS (Eyes on Night Skies) research program, an effort to measure and monitor sky brightness. Those interested in purchasing an NFT in the collection, “A Night in Flagstaff,” may do so by creating an [OpenSea](#) account.

#### **Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters Wins Prestigious Safety Awards**

[Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters](#), the world’s largest and most experienced helicopter tour company, received two Diamond Awards from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for excellence in maintenance and safety. In addition to consecutive Diamond Awards, Papillon is the only aerial tour company serving the Grand Canyon to achieve the IS-BAO (International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations) Stage Three designation. This designation represents Papillon’s industry-leading standards for best safety practices. Granted by the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC), it recognizes Papillon for achieving the highest level of compliance within IBAC’s standards. IBAC granted Papillon the prestigious designation following a rigorous, multi-year audit of its safety practices, safety reporting, dedication to ongoing improvement and overall safety-oriented company culture. Out of more than 6,000 eligible companies worldwide, only 280 aviation companies have achieved this progressive Stage Three designation.

### ***North Central Arizona – Arizona Tourism News***

#### **U.S. Route 89A Periodic Travel Restrictions Through Oak Creek Canyon until 2023**

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has announced that projects planned for one of Arizona’s most scenic highways, U.S. Route 89A through Oak Creek Canyon between Sedona and Flagstaff, are expected to slow or stop traffic along the two-lane route during work set to begin spring of 2022 and run into 2023. During the work, the road will most-ly remain open, but officials said traffic will be restricted, with the roadway narrowed to one lane through the work zones with alternating northbound and southbound travel. Flaggers will control traffic, and temporary concrete barriers will be used for lane restrictions. ADOT officials said drivers can anticipate up to five daytime and 10 overnight full closures from Sunday through Thursday and the closures will be provided at least seven days in advance. ADOT officials noted that the full closures won’t take place over the weekend, on holidays or when there’s a major event in Sedona. When the highway is closed, Inter-state 17 and State Route 179 provide an alternate but significantly longer route between Sedona and Flagstaff. To check your route as you are in the area, click <https://azdot.gov/projects/current-road-restrictions> or <https://az511.gov/>.

#### **New Service Sedona Shuttle Provides Public Transit Solutions for Adventure Seekers**

Sedona Shuttle, the free, easy and eco-friendly way to explore some of Sedona’s favorite trails, launched its first stage of implementation on March 21, 2022. Sedona Shuttle’s free trailhead routes will connect two safe, convenient park and ride lots with four highly utilized trailheads – Cathedral Rock, Soldier Pass, Dry Creek, and Little Horse. Mescal trailhead service will be added later in the summer and other trailheads as demand grows. The free trailhead shuttles will create a variety of benefits for residents and visitors. The second service to be implemented will be

Microtransit – a demand response, app-based transit service to enhance mobility throughout the community and allow visitors and residents to connect to the trailhead shuttles without driving. This service will be launched later in 2022. The trailhead shuttles will run Thursday-Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and seven days a week during peak visitation periods. Complete information about the trailhead shuttles and park and rides is available at <http://www.SedonaShuttle.com>.

### **Red Rock OHV Conservation Crew Announces Dedicated Funds for Trail Improvements and OHV Rider Education in Greater Sedona**

The Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau recently announced the formation of the [Red Rock OHV Conservation Crew](#) (RROCC), a coalition of more than a dozen private industry partners from Cottonwood to Sedona to Flagstaff in partnership with Tread Lightly!, a national nonprofit group dedicated to ethical and responsible motorized recreation, to tackle the effect of increased Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use in the region. Private OHV rental and guided tour companies began in September dedicating 1% of sales to land preservation and rider education. During the pandemic, the number of OHV's registered in Arizona skyrocketed to more than 452,000. This coupled with urbanites flocking to Sedona to socially distance outdoors while enjoying motorized recreation provided by regional businesses raised community concerns. Fortunately, the OHV businesses along with Tread Lightly! are doing their part to reduce resource impacts, address stakeholder concerns and improve recreation opportunities while striking a balance between the right to recreate on public lands with environmental stewardship, preservation of cultural heritage and resident quality of life. RROCC is working with Tread Lightly! to produce educational content on public safety, limiting speed, noise and dust, respecting others who use the roads, observing sensitive areas such as the grasslands west of Sedona and leaving historical or archeological sites undisturbed.

### **Camp Verde and Coconino National Forest Add New Trails**

The [Town of Camp Verde](#) and the [Coconino National Forest](#) announce the completion of trails based out of the new [Camp Verde Sports Complex](#). The Verde Vista Loop, is a 5.5-mile non-motorized loop out of a trailhead located in the Sports Complex. The trail climbs about 500' to the top of the White Hills overlooking the Equestrian Center and Sports complex. In addition to the Verde Vista Loop, the 1.6-mile Perimeter Loop Trail is located around the perimeter of the Sports Complex. The 10' wide trail is a more stabilized surface, making this trail easier for casual walkers, bikers and people with strollers.

### ***Southern Arizona – Arizona Tourism News***

#### **Tucson Independent Distillery Celebrates Honors from Wine Enthusiast**

[Whiskey Del Bac](#) is honored to be recognized on Wine Enthusiast's list of "The Top 100 Spirits of 2021" for their Classic American Single Malt. One of only fifteen Single Malts, one of just three American Single Malts, and one of two spirits from Arizona, Whiskey Del Bac Classic represents true American craft and independence. The honor comes on the heels of the brand's ten-year anniversary, which was celebrated in November 2021. Whiskey Del Bac Classic is an authentic American Single Malt, using the Scottish model of whiskey-making in the heart of the American Southwest. Classic is made from a 100% barley malt that is mashed, fermented, copper pot distilled, aged and bottled on site. The flavors create uniquely deep notes of dried fruit, spice, and toasted wood.

#### **Governor Doug Ducey Designates Sierra Vista as the Official "Hummingbird Capital of Arizona"**

Located in Southeastern Arizona, [Sierra Vista](#) is located near the border between Arizona and Mexico. Birders can observe nearly 15 species of hummingbirds and more than 300 other bird species in the canyons, forests, and riverbanks in and around Sierra Vista, the largest community in Cochise County. This activity has garnered wide attention from birders around the world. Southeastern Arizona has for years been a birding hotspot. Sierra Vista, and more precisely [Ramsey Canyon Preserve](#), is known by many as the "Hummingbird Capital of the World". It is owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving land and water around the globe. Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation to designate Sierra Vista as the official Hummingbird Capital of Arizona on May 12, 2021.

## Chiricahua National Monument Certified as an International Dark Sky Park

The [National Park Service](#) and the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) awarded [Chiricahua National Monument](#) as the 104th International Dark Sky Park. This certification recognizes the quality of the park's night skies and provides added opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through astronomy-based interpretive programming. Chiricahua National Monument's [response to COVID-19](#).

## Celebrations

### 2022

- **Phantom Ranch Turns 100** (Grand Canyon National Park)
  - Phantom Ranch is the only lodge inside Grand Canyon National Park that sits at the bottom of the Canyon. Located on the east side of Bright Angel Creek, it can only be reached by mule, on foot, or by rafting the Colorado River.
- **El Charro Cafe Turns 100** (Tucson)
  - El Charro Cafe is the oldest Mexican restaurant in the U.S. This family-owned restaurant has always been managed by women.
- **Organ Stop Pizza Celebrates 50 years** (Mesa)
  - Arizona's oldest pizza restaurant and one of only two remaining pizza and pipes restaurants in the U.S.; its 1927 Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ is the largest and most valuable theater organ in the world.
- **The Yuma Daily Sun Newspaper Celebrates 150 Years** (Yuma)

### 2025

- **Page** celebrates its 50 year anniversary as a city

### 2026

- **Route 66 Centennial Celebration**
  - Arizona's Route 66, also known as the Mother Road, has been more than a road. Its people and places have inspired writers, filmmakers, photographers and artists. Its (almost) 100-year history boasts neon, classic cars, diners, and cowboys as well as spectacular vistas and mystical landscapes.

**For More Information:** For more information on these topics and others, see the official Arizona travel and vacation guide from the Arizona Office of Tourism at [www.visitarizona.com](http://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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