

# TAKE IT OUTSIDE

NATURE AND CULTURE JOIN IN ARIZONA, WHERE DAYS OF ADVENTURE WRAP UP WITH ELEVATED EATS AND GULP-INDUCING SUNSETS.



TALIESIN WEST

## THE STOPS

TALIESIN WEST

FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE PRINCESS

WATER TO WINE TOUR

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

THE STRAWBERRY INN

OLD COUNTY INN

**ON OUR ARIZONA ROAD TRIP**, one member of our crew shared a personal travel tradition. Wherever she goes, whether it's a hazy city or a gilded desert, she makes a point to wake early, head outside and take in the sunrise. She finds that it's a meaningful way to start the day. It makes her feel grounded and centered and entirely in the moment.

Our group, made up of both Arizonans and far-flung friends, quickly adopted this practice as we set out to experience the best of the region—its natural wonders, culinary masterpieces and cultural touchstones. The trip proved transformative in more ways than one. Because here in Arizona, even the sunrises will change your life.



Taliesin West may share a name with Frank Lloyd Wright's Wisconsin masterpiece, but the storied architect's Scottsdale home and school has a feel all its own. "Arizona needs its own architecture," Wright once said, honoring the terrain's low lines and uptilting planes.



FAIRMONT SCOTTSDALE PRINCESS

### A SAND BEACH IN ARIZONA

Our balconies at the refreshed and modern Fairmont Scottsdale Princess faced east, priming us for our new tradition of using the sunrise as the opening curtain on the day. We prolonged the peace with a stroll along the zero-entry pool's white-sand surround, which reminded us of some of our favorite beaches in the tropics. When a pace change seemed in order, on-site restaurant La Hacienda delivered. Our order of *cafe flameante*, a flaming tableside coffee service that theatrically combines the boost of a coffee with the kick of a drink, spurred the day's cadence in just the right way.

### THE WRIGHT PLACE

Most of Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings possess his signature mesmerizing contrast: The structure is at once otherworldly and also entirely *of* the earth around it. That certainly was the case at Taliesin West, the famed architect's winter home and school where he taught his craft. The muted warmth of the desert masonry mirrored the hues of the surrounding mountains at sunset. Architecturally significant touches, including custom light fixtures and the unmistakable low-slung furniture (much of which Wright designed himself), helped the destination to earn a designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We glimpsed room after elegant room that no doubt inspired the brilliance that emanated from within. It was here that Wright students created the Guggenheim Museum draft—and where students study the master's curriculum to this day.



TALIESIN WEST

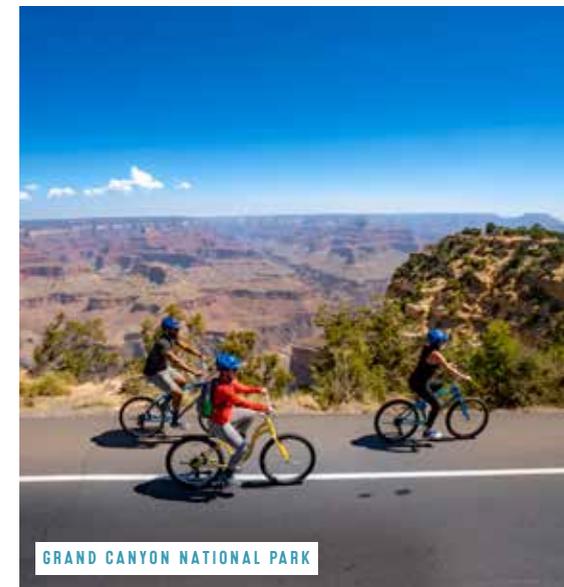
### PADDLING FOR POURS

Lush foliage crowds the banks of central Arizona's Verde River. The waterway winds through the Verde Valley, situated above the desert's heat but below the high-country chill, which makes for a happy-grape climate. Vineyards and wineries dot the region, and the river itself hosted our journey to visit one, as part of Sedona Adventure Tours' Water to Wine experience. With gear bags packed for a clothing change upon arrival, we climbed into inflatable kayaks for a scenic float down the river. At some point, every one of us lay back in our kayak, paddle across lap, watching trees and sky pass lazily overhead. After an hour, we emerged at Alcantara Vineyards for a tour and tastings (red, white and rosé) in a Tuscan-style farmhouse.



WATER TO WINE TOUR

Riding a bike around > the rim might be the ideal way to see the Grand Canyon. We were close enough to the edge to experience the adrenaline rush of a rugged hike, but we could cover more ground, maximizing the views. Ample pull-offs gave us needed chances to pause—those vistas proved seriously inspiring.



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

SEEK AND SIP  
A WINE  
TASTING  
TOUR LIKE  
NO OTHER



THE STRAWBERRY INN

^ Along State-260, the front lawn at The Strawberry Inn turns strangers to friends over grassy classics like beanbag toss and ladder ball. We played. And we played. And then we rocked peacefully in creaky chairs and surveyed the surrounding trees and hills. Bliss.



OLD COUNTY INN

When Michael Dahling stopped by a shaggy field in Pine, the guy weed-whacking the lot offered it up to him. "I told my wife, 'I don't know what we're going to do, but we're going to build a restaurant,'" he says. Michael (below) scored a deal on a wood-fired pizza oven, and the rest came together like crust and cheese.



TAPROOM

FIRED UP  
PIZZAS PLUS  
PATIO EQUALS  
HEAVEN



OLD COUNTY INN

## SLICES OF HEAVEN

Jovial conversation crackled all around us as our table filled (and refilled) with pizzas fired in a wood oven at Old County Inn in Pine. We couldn't help but notice a contrasting moment of serenity nearby. Chef-owner Michael Dahling checked his watch—"Yeah, it's 6 o'clock"—and grinned as a familiar group of elk ambled by, entirely disinterested in our festive patio party. Hard to believe that anything could resist those pizzas, though. Michael, a CIA-trained New York transplant known to jump in during live

music sets on the patio, layered pies with house-made bacon and local veggies. The green-chile-laced Pancho disappeared particularly quickly. We capped the night with pours in the tiny adjacent Taproom, where the gallery walls of local art extended even across the ceiling.

Later, we strolled like elk into stylish boutique mountain hotel The Strawberry Inn. At this former Dutch-theme shopping strip in nearby Strawberry (hence, the old windmill out front), we tucked ourselves into luxe-sheeted beds, a welcome close to a fulfilling day.

## Travel + Leisure Arizona 6 Day Itinerary

### Day 1: Scottsdale

#### **Horseback ride at Cave Creek Outfitters**

Cave Creek Outfitters offers rides through both the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the Tonto National Forest. All group trail rides have a maximum of 6 to 12 riders per group, allowing wrangler or wranglers to provide a personalized experience. Throughout the horseback ride, the wrangler will entertain and educate by talking about horse herd, the desert plant and animal life along the ride, and the lore of the area. Whether you are a seasoned rider or have never been on a horse, Cave Creek Outfitters is a perfect place to experience and feel the spirit of the famous and nameless cowboys, soldiers, pioneers, and outlaws who crossed many of the trails we explore.

*Address: 31313 N 144th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85262*

*Website: <http://www.cavecreekoutfitters.com/rides>*

#### **Tour Taliesin West**

Taliesin West was built by Frank Lloyd Wright and his apprentices in the 1930s and was constantly expanded and modified by the architect until his death in 1959. Wright and his apprentices literally created Taliesin West out of the desert by gathering rocks from the desert floor and sand from the washes to keep the design in balance with the surrounding environment. The site, considered one of the Wright's greatest masterpieces, was designed to serve as Wright's personal home, studio and architectural laboratory. The highlight of this 90-minute guided tour is the dramatic Taliesin West Living Room, called the "Garden Room" by Wright, and the renovated Wright living quarters.

*Address: 12621 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85259*

*Website: <https://franklloydwright.org/taliesin-west/>*

#### **Check in at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess**

Located on 65 acres in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess has come to reflect the dynamic environment that surrounds it, a mixture of a sophisticated Southwestern community and a spectacular desert environment. This AAA Five Diamond luxury resort reflects the true beauty, warmth, and charm of the Southwest. Recognized for its uncompromising standards of excellence, the staff is committed to providing personal, attentive service and ensuring a memorable stay. Fairmont Scottsdale offers 649 guestrooms and suites, no fewer than five distinctive restaurants and lounges and a host of superb boutiques. Amenities include: Two Tournament Players Club golf courses, including the home of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Well & Being Spa, five heated outdoor swimming pools including Sonoran Splash with two waterslides, and five tennis courts.

*Address: 7575 E Princess Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85255*

*Website: <https://www.fairmont.com/scottsdale/>*

Suggested activities: spa, golf, Scottsdale art museum, shopping at Kierland, or lay by pool.

## **Dinner at La Hacienda at Fairmont Scottsdale Princess**

Uncover an unparalleled restaurant experience at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, La Hacienda. Voted the #1 Mexican Restaurant in Arizona (Ranking Arizona, 2012), indulge in a delectable paradise of fresh, modern Mexican cuisine. Come see what we mean by "Old Ways, New Hands" as you savor classic Mexican recipes in enticing new ways, featuring fresh, indigenous ingredients, lighter dishes and unexpected pairings of traditional foods. Our Mexican restaurant in Scottsdale offers guests the chance to dine amid warm, Spanish architecture, wood-beamed ceilings, flagstone and beehive fireplaces, all accented by modern urban touches, new upholstery, lighting fixtures and a stunning main entrance showcasing the restaurant's tequila bar. Guests may enjoy light table fare in the entry patio with its four fire pits, or reserve private patio or interior semi-private rooms for special occasions.

*Address: 7575 E Princess Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85255*

*Website: <https://www.scottsdaleprincess.com/dining/la-hacienda>*

## **Day 2 & 3: Castle Hot Springs**

### **Castle Hot Springs Resort**

Castle Hot Springs Resort is one of the best destinations for guests seeking seclusion with world-class luxury amenities – its rock pool thermal springs hidden along the rugged Bradshaw Mountains, bungalows equipped with its own outdoor room and hot spring tub, complimented with a diverse range of curated activities easily makes one forget about the World Wide Web for a while. Originally opened in 1896, the prestigious desert retreat counts the rich and famous seeking seclusion with world-class luxury amenities as its clients, from the Carnegies, Roosevelts, Rockefellers, Vanderbilts to the Wrigleys. Now restored to its original glory, guests can relax in the same historic cottage as past presidents did, while sipping on the signature Castle Hot Springs Lithium Lager made from its own spring water and taking in the same sunset views of the renowned palm-lined driveway.

*Address: 5050 East N Castle Hot Springs Rd, Morristown, AZ 85342*

*Website: <https://www.castlehotsprings.com/>*

Insider Tip: As one of the few registered Dark Sky locations in the country, Castle Hot Springs' unique location gives you a glimpse at the galaxy few ever experience. The Sky View Cabins are equipped with a top-of-line telescope with an on-site astronomer to guide as you gaze into the magnificent star-filled skies. Outdoor tubs plumbed with mineral water directly from the springs, as well as starlight yoga, also beckon.

## Day4: Pine & Strawberry

### **Tour and Cooking Class at Pine Creek Canyon Lavender Farm**

Cooking classes at the farm range from food preserving, canning, DIY projects, and, of course, cooking with Lavender! Every class is full of fun and tons of useful information. Book a private guided tour and learn about the farm's nearly 150-year rich history and newly established lavender farm all while enjoying beautiful views, aromas of flourishing lavender, fresh mountain air and tasty drinks and light hors-d'oeuvres.

*Address: 4223 Pine Creek Canyon Dr, Pine, AZ 85544*

*Website: <https://www.pinelavenderfarm.com/>*

### **Hike at Tonto Natural Bridge**

Water and rock have combined to create the world's largest natural travertine bridge. Tour the turn-of-the-century lodge located in the grassy meadow above the bridge. Interpretive exhibits located within the Lodge include artifacts on the history of Tonto Natural Bridge, plus information about travertine, prehistoric inhabitants, and the historic Tonto Lodge. All trails are under a half mile but are steep and strenuous. The longest any trail should take is an hour so make sure to pack drinking water.

*Address: Highway 87, Pine, AZ 85544*

*Website: <https://azstateparks.com/tonto/>*

### **Check in at Strawberry Inn**

The Strawberry Inn is a unique boutique hotel, designed for roadtrippers, adventure seekers, and nature-lovers. The Inn operates much like a vacation rental, with all reservations and check-ins via online and email, although we do have a local property manager for guests as needed. Our accommodations are suitable for a romantic getaway, a family vacation, hunting excursion, corporate retreat, or family reunion. Rent one room or the entire property (8 rooms).

*Address: 5073 AZ-87, Strawberry, AZ 85544*

*Website: <https://www.thestrawberryinn.com/>*

### **Dinner at Old County Inn**

Every day we fire up our wood-burning oven to create wood fired pizzas and tasty foods using local ingredients as much as possible. Our servings are generous and all food is scratch-made, from the sausage topping our pies to fruit juices and simple syrups that go into our cocktails. Our philosophy is simple; great, well-made food doesn't have to be stuffy or expensive, it should be made for all to enjoy! So we invite you to come take down a pint of Arizona craft-beer, a darn-good pizza and enjoy the stunning views our beautiful rim county has to offer. We look forward to serving you! Closed on Monday and Tuesday

*Address: 3502 AZ-87, Pine, AZ 85544*

*Website: <https://www.oldcountyinn.com/>*

## Day 5: Verde Valley – Clarkdale, Jerome & Cottonwood

### **Tour Tuzigoot National Monument**

Crowning a desert hilltop is an ancient pueblo. The pueblo shows us this ancient village built by the Sinagua people. They were farmers and artists with trade connections that spanned hundreds of miles. The view of the Citadel from the southernmost point of the Tuzigoot Trail gives a great deal of perspective on the sheer size of the pueblo. Visit Tuzigoot National Monument and witness the incredible legacy of a people who live in the Verde Valley 1,000 years ago. Set aside a few hours to explore the museum and roam the trails through the Tuzigoot pueblo and Tavasci Marsh.

*Address: 25 Tuzigoot Rd, Clarkdale, AZ 86324*

*Website: <https://www.nps.gov/tuzi/index.htm>*

### **Explore Downtown Jerome**

Potential stops: Jerome State Historic Parl, Sliding Jail (5min), Jerome Art Park to meet artists and shop, the tiny Jerome Mine Museum, and Caduceus Cellars (down the street are more interesting), where the Grammy-winning frontman of the band Tool makes wine, Hilltop Deli for the view, Jerome Grand Hotel Restaurant.

*Address: 100 Douglas Rd, Jerome, AZ 86331*

*Website: <https://www.visitarizona.com/places/cities/jerome/>*

### **Alcantara Vineyards and Winery for Water to Wine Tour**

The Classic Water to Wine tour begins with approximately an hour and a half kayak trip on the Verde River with just enough chutes and riffles to add a bit of excitement. The trip ends at the confluence of Oak Creek and the Verde River. Here, you take the gravel path up through the vineyards to the Tuscan farmhouse at Alcantara Vineyards for your wine tasting. The Alcantara Vineyards is a favorite on the Verde Valley Wine Trail, featuring award-winning wines and friendly sommeliers to guide you through the tasting. The Classic Water to Wine Tour features great photo ops, fabulous scenery, abundant wildlife, and excellent wine. The tour even includes a credit for purchasing wine or gift shop mementos!

*Address: 3445 S Grapevine Way, Camp Verde, AZ 86322*

*Website: <https://alcantaravineyard.com/>*

### **Check in at Tavern Hotel**

The Tavern Hotel – Euro Style with ten exquisite guestrooms and a lovely 2 bedroom cottage nestled in the heart of Old Town Cottonwood's dining, shopping and entertainment district in the heart of the Verde Valley, Arizona, this boutique hotel has only deluxe accommodations. Chic elegance merges with historic character to create an unforgettable travel experience.

*Address: 904 N. Main Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326*

*Website: <https://thetavernhotel.com/>*

### **Dinner at Merkin Vineyards Tasting Room & Osteria**

Merkin Vineyards is dedicated to coming as close as we can to 100% Arizona experience for you. What makes us unique is that we are not just Farm to Table. We are OUR Farm to your table. All of our wines are produced by MJK and his team, from our 110 acres of Estate Vineyards in both the Verde Valley and

Willcox, Arizona. Mike Keenan, MJK's father, and our Merkin Orchards Team farms our fruit and produce in our several greenhouses and garden sites located throughout the Verde Valley. Chef Chris, Chef Bri, and our magical kitchen staff make all of our pastas and breads from scratch in house. Our menu remains flexible and changes weekly or even daily making every one of your visits unique and special.

*Address: 1001 N. Main Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326*

*Website: <http://merkinvineyardsosteria.com/>*

## Day 6: Williams & Grand Canyon

### **Breakfast at Crema Café in Cottonwood**

Crema Cafe and Courtyard is in Historic Old Town Cottonwood. Fresh, simple and local breakfast and lunch. Exceptional espresso and coffee. Small-batch artisan gelato and sorbet made on-site. Craft brews on tap and local wines by the glass.

*Address: 917 N. Main Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326*

*Website: <https://cremacottonwood.com/>*

### **Overnight at Under Canvas Grand Canyon**

The luxurious Under Canvas glamping outpost in the old west provides guests daily housekeeping, king size beds, the option for in-tent bathrooms and showers, wood-burning stoves for warmth, bedside charging stations and private decks for late night stargazing. In addition, tents will be outfitted with items from the new Under Canvas home collection including custom blankets, throw pillows and robes. The new canvas collection is 100% U.S. grown organic cotton and handmade with care in the USA. Under Canvas celebrates the beauty of intentional inconveniences by encouraging guests to enjoy being outside together in the wifi-free glampground. Embracing the brand's leave-no-trace commitment, Under Canvas takes a minimal disturbance approach to development, believing nature is the best architect.

*Address: 979 Airpark, Williams, AZ 86046*

*Website: <https://www.undercanvas.com/camps/grand-canyon/>*

Suggested Grand Canyon activities: day hike Rim trail or Bright Angel/visitor center, visit overlooks-Mather Point and Desert View Watchtower, Bright Angel Bikes (mountain biking), Scenic helicopter or flight over Grand Canyon from GC Airport.

### **Dinner & Stargazing at Under Canvas**

## Day 7: Return to the Valley of the Sun

### **Sunrise yoga at Under Canvas**

## **Tour Wupatki National Monument**

Rock walls of 800-year-old pueblos dot a desert landscape once home to thousands of people. Visitor center exhibits explain how they survived by farming, hunting and gathering, and trading. Short trails lead to Wupatki, Lomaki, and other pueblos. The scenic drive to Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument climbs rapidly from desert to mountain landscapes. Open daily. Closed on Christmas. Call or visit website for hours and information.

*Address: 25137 N Wupatki Ln, Flagstaff, AZ 86004*

*Website: <https://www.nps.gov/wupa/index.htm>*

## **Lunch in Flagstaff at Pizzicletta**

Opened summer of 2011 in a historic building in Flagstaff's Southside on Mike's Pike the original alignment of Route 66. The owner had a pizza oven built in Italy and shipped to Flagstaff to serve authentic Neoplitan-style pizza. Dine-in only between 5-10 p.m., closed Mondays.

*Address: 203 W Phoenix Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001*

*Website: <https://www.pizzicletta.com/>*

## **End your visit in the Valley of the Sun with a revitalizing stay at one of our many luxury resorts:**

### **The Phoenician, A Luxury Collection Resort**

Unveiling a fresh, contemporary luxury throughout, the AAA Five Diamond Phoenician presents personalized experiences that are rare and memorable by design. The result of the most massive renovation undertaken since the property opened in October 1988, the resort has transformed itself, introducing a diverse collection of offerings that honor both guest and destination. In late fall 2017, a refurbished main lobby, Thirsty Camel Lounge, Afternoon Tea Room, retail space, and pool complex -- with both reserved seating and Kids Zone -- debuted. The Marketplace, a European-inspired café, and Mowry & Cotton, a lively, approachable venue featuring Modern American cuisine, also premiered, joining signature restaurant J&G Steakhouse, which reopened in September 2018 after a summer refresh. In spring 2018, the new three-story Phoenician Spa was introduced, showcasing a rooftop pool and Drybar; along with The Phoenician Athletic Club, offering tennis, pickleball and basketball, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center. A completely redesigned and rerouted 18-hole golf course premiered on November 1, 2018, which will be accompanied by the new Phoenician Tavern, located at the Golf Clubhouse, in Spring 2019. Complementing it all is the extensive remodel of all resort guestrooms and casitas, as well as the makeover of The Canyon Suites at The Phoenician -- the only Forbes Five Star and AAA Five Diamond hotel in the greater Phoenix area -- which took place in summer 2016.

*Address: 6000 East Camelback Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251*

*Website: <https://www.thephoenician.com/>*

### **The Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort**

The Arizona Biltmore has been an Arizona landmark since opening in 1929 and remains one of the most recognized resorts in the world for its Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired architecture, luxurious facilities and storied history. This historic hotel remains a playground for celebrities, worldly dignitaries and U.S. Presidents. Five dining options, the award-winning Spa Biltmore, full-service salon, eight pools, six tennis courts, two championship golf courses, Fitness Center, lawn games, outdoor activities and various hiking trails nearby. This 39-acre property exudes first-class. In the prestigious Biltmore community, the resort

sits near the base of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve providing views that are nothing short of breathtaking. Experience legendary moments through timeless luxury first-hand when you visit the Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort.

*Address: 2400 E Missouri Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016*

*Website: <https://www.arizonabiltmore.com/>*

## **Mountain Shadows**

Mountain Shadows features desert modern design, 183 guest rooms, a luxury wing with 42 resort condominiums and suites, a restaurant with an exhibition kitchen, two pools, a high-tech fitness facility, a fully revamped 18-hole short course with a golf grill and lounge, and 37,500 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space. Perfectly nestled below Camelback Mountain and Mummy Mountain, the resort originally opened in 1959 and earned its namesake from the shadows cast by the iconic silhouettes each afternoon. The upscale locale was an instant success, catering to the likes of international travelers, visiting families and Hollywood stars - including John Wayne and Elizabeth Taylor. It even served as the primary backdrop for "The Brothers Brannagan," a 1960s detective drama. Traces of its iconic past can still be found around the property today. Mountain Shadows is part of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts LVX Collection.

*Address: 5445 E. Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253*

*Website: <https://www.mountainshadows.com/>*