

A Brief Update of News Around Arizona October 2019

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

Attractions

The Lowell Observatory announces the grand opening of the Giovale Open Deck Observatory

On Oct. 3, 2019, the [Giovale Open Deck Observatory](#) at the [Lowell Observatory](#) in Flagstaff opened to the public. The new 4,300-square-foot Observatory features educational exhibits, and six advanced telescopes in the public observing plaza. Visitors can experience detailed, close up views of rich star fields, the moon, planets, nebulae, and galaxies. There will be five exhibits during the day, while the observatory is closed and three exhibits offered in the evening. The plaza's grand opening marks the completion of the first phase of Lowell's public education program expansion. The next phase, set to be finished in 2023, is the construction of a three-story "[Astronomy Discovery Center](#)."

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8-inch Moonraker refractor, Lowell



Giovale Open Deck Observatory 3D blueprint

Petrified Forest National Park allows the use of electric bikes in park

Beginning Oct. 1, 2019, [Petrified Forest National Park](#) allows the use of electric bikes (e-bikes) where traditional bicycles are allowed. An e-bike is a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.) that provides propulsion assistance. The National Park Service recognizes that e-bikes support a healthy park experience that is accessible, desirable, and relatable to people of all abilities, and by minimizing human impact through the expansion of active transportation options in parks. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited. Except where use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited. There are no charging stations in the parks. Generators are not allowed in the backcountry. So bring your charged e-bike and explore the wide open spaces of the Petrified Forest National Park.



Bicyclists at Petrified Forest, National Park Service

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“Weaving through Time” art exhibit at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport honors the Grand Canyon Centennial

Although the history of the Grand Canyon as a national park spans only 100 years, the Canyon is deeply entwined in a broader story of Indigenous people that have lived in the area for thousands of years. The Grand Canyon is significant to eleven Native American tribes. In celebration of [Grand Canyon National Park’s centennial](#), the “[Weaving through Time](#)” art exhibition at the [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) features objects created by people that have called the canyon home. On display are Havasupai basketry crafted for everyday use or trade as well as ancient split-twig animal figurines. Using local plant fiber materials, people living in the Grand Canyon have been weaving through time. The exhibit is located on the third level of Terminal 3 and will close on March 8, 2020.



Havasupai Woman Carrying a Burden Basket, courtesy of the Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection

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General

Ten X Campground by Grand Canyon National Park south rim will undergo expansion and remodel

The [Kaibab National Forest](#) plans to expand and remodel the popular [Ten X Campground](#) in the [Tusayan Ranger District](#), about 5 miles south of [Grand Canyon National Park](#).

The project will increase capacity at Ten X Campground from the current 70 campsites to a total of 300, encompassing about 345 acres total. The remodeling of existing sites and the addition of new sites will increase the campground's ability to accommodate large RVs while eliminating the current problem of parking along the Ten X roadway. The 230 sites to be added will be a mix of RV-friendly, individual tent, and small group sites. Future campground improvements include adding ramada structures with more grills, fire rings and picnic tables, as well as a new amphitheater.



Ten X Campground Picnic Area, Kaibab National Forest

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Accolades

Canal Convergence wins Gold Grand Pinnacle Award from the International Festivals & Events Association



Floatus, photo by Walter Productions

The [International Festivals & Events Association](#) recognized the best festivals and events at their 64th annual convention, expo and retreat. The competition attracts entries from the world's top festivals and events. Award are given in four budget categories. The [Canal Convergence](#) competed in the second highest budget category and won the Gold Grand Pinnacle Award. From Nov. 8 – 17, 2019, guests can experience Scottsdale's, annual confluence of water, art and light called "The Story of Water." Interact with art and artists, immerse in music and dance, and participate in family-friendly activities and creative workshops.

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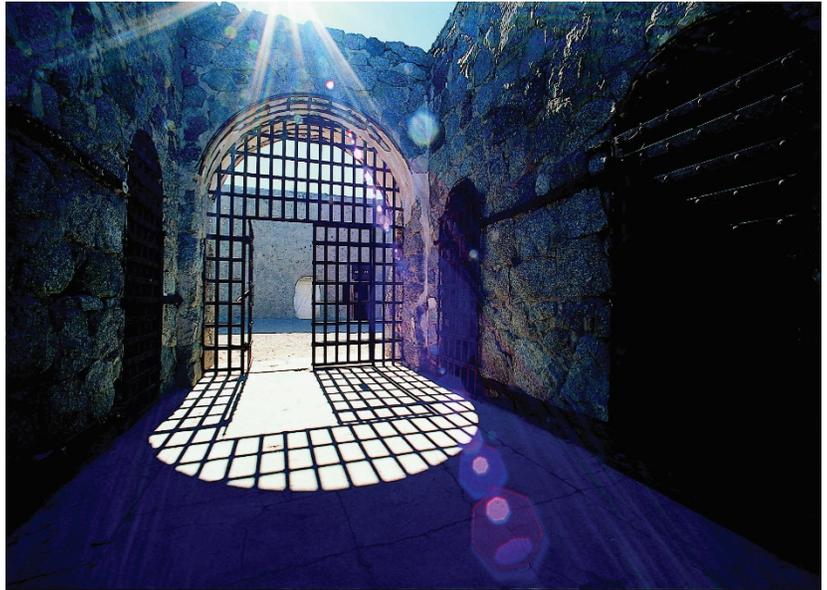
ARIZONA

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Yuma's Territorial Prison named the country's "Most Haunted Destination" by USA Today

[Yuma's Territorial Prison](#) has been named the country's "Most Haunted Destination" by [USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards 2019](#).

Visitors claim to have heard and seen spirits of inmates on death row, a moaning woman looking for her daughter who drowned along the bank of the Colorado River, and a little girl in a red dress who pinches passers-by then runs away. The prison was in operation for 33 years dating back to 1876. Yuma's territorial prison competed with a former sanatorium, a lunatic asylum, a lighthouse, a penitentiary, and even The Queen Mary, a historic ocean liner docked in Long Beach, California, for the nation's 2019 Best Haunted Destination award.



Yuma Territorial Prison

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Hotel News

Tucson's Downtown Clifton Hotel completes expansion

The [Downtown Clifton Hotel](#) announced the completion of their \$4.5 million expansion in downtown Tucson. The construction consists of four new 2-story buildings and two 1-story buildings. The expansion added 20 new guest rooms, designed by owner Moniqua Lane, and opened to the public on Oct. 3, 2019. The Clifton also added a new on-site lounge and kitchen called The Red Light Lounge. The menu, designed by Executive Chef Alex Ohayon, features sophisticated comfort food and upscale drinks.



Queen Bedroom, Tucson Downtown Clifton Hotel

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JW Marriot Starr Pass Resort & Spa completes property enhancements and renovations

[Tucson's JW Marriot Starr Pass Resort & Spa](#) finished a \$3.5 million property enhancement and renovation. The property redesigned the Hashani Spa, lobby, and gift shop and added a new Starbucks and JW Market. The 20,000-square-foot spa underwent a complete indoor transformation featuring new design, furniture and equipment and upgraded the spa's adult only pool area. The resorts lobby was completely redesigned with an open floor plan and added seating. The new JW Market, located on the lower lobby level, offers locally sourced grab-n-go snacks, a variety of to-go flatbreads, sandwiches, and soups, local ice cream from Isabella's, and a rotating list of wine and beer. Relocated to the upper lobby level, Starbucks has almost doubled in size from the previous location and offers guests more seating options. The resort's gift shop was redesigned and added new furniture. The exterior of the entire resort was enhanced with new paint and roofing.

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Hashani Spa Lobby, JW Marriot Star Pass Resort & Spa



JW Market, JW Marriot Star Pass Resort & Spa



Centennial Celebrations in 2019

Grand Canyon Centennial, Grand Canyon National Park

The [Grand Canyon](#) celebrates 100 years of its designation as a national park. The Centennial year will feature virtual and in-park events throughout 2019 at the South Rim, North Rim, Desert View, Inner Canyon, and surrounding gateway communities.

Watch it here: Senate (starts at 11 min 35 sec mark) -

http://azleg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=22237&autostart=0

Read it here: <https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/54leg/1R/bills/SR1001S.htm>

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YouTube www.youtube.com/user/ArizonaTourism

Newsroom: <http://newsroom.visitarizona.com/>

Official State Visitors Guide: <http://digital.milespartnership.com/view/central/arizona-official-state-travel-guide/arizona-2019-20>

Additional inspiration: <http://www.visitarizona.com/planning/local-word>