

ARIZONA

OFFICE OF TOURISM

A Brief Update of News Around Arizona

Fall 2018

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

A Christmas Adventure at Verde Canyon Railroad

The journey to the North Pole begins at the [Verde Canyon Railroad](#) depot in Clarkdale. The brand new Christmas adventure departs every Saturday and Sunday, December 1st through the 23rd at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Families will tour a miniature village featuring 10 tiny houses on a town square with a flight path for children, wearing provided wings. An educational bald eagle that visits Verde Canyon Railroad regularly will be at the depot to greet the children and give "wing-flapping" lessons prior to entering the village. There will be a Christmas princess and children may drop "letters to Santa" in a mailbag that will be delivered to the North Pole. Along the route, silhouettes of resident canyon critters will be featured in three-dimensional displays and culminates in Santa's special depot at the North Pole. Upon arrival, passengers will see creatively-decorated buildings including Santa's Workshop, Mrs. Claus' Bakeshop, a coal mine, Elf School and "the Ugly Sweater Factory." Santa will spend time with each child, gifting them with a little memento.



Verde Canyon Railroad Christmas Adventure

Culture/Heritage

Pivot: Skateboard Deck Art on View at Museum of Northern Arizona

In an exhibition of diversity and unity, artists from varied traditions created [*Pivot: Skateboard Deck Art*](#), featuring nearly 100 art pieces on identical canvases. The artists represent the entire Southwest region, including Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tucson, Polacca, Shonto, Lukachukai, San Carlos, Tuba City, Blue Gap, Hotevilla, and Flagstaff, AZ. Native American artists are expressing their tradition in new ways. Motifs found in ancient baskets, pottery and weaving become the basis for modern designs. Ancient stories are expressed in contemporary graphic style. By bringing these artists together, working on identical canvases, *Pivot* celebrates both the commonality and differences among the tribal traditions. Most of the art will be available for sale at the [Museum of Northern Arizona](#). This exhibit is now open until March 31, 2019.



Pivot: Skateboard Deck Art

Adventure

New options available for Visit Yuma's 2018-2019 Specialty Tours

Visitors can experience Yuma's vistas, tastes, and behind-the-scenes insights through guided tours and dining opportunities. All bicycle tours are \$45 per person and include a meal. Tickets are available for purchase at [VisitYuma.com](#) and at the Visitor Information Center. New to the lineup of agriculture, military and dining offerings is "[Spirit of the City](#)" guided bicycle tours: *Riverfront Bike Tours* and *Downtown Bike Tours*. *Riverfront* will focus on East and West Wetlands, history and wildlife, the tour dates are January 22nd and February 22nd. *Downtown Bike Tours* will explore points of current and historic interest in and around Yuma's historic downtown, tour dates are January 11th and February 15th. A new series of half-day tours "[Yuma Ag 411 – Inside the Industry](#)" will provide in-depth information about the vital components of Yuma's agriculture industry. Topics include "Water" on January 7th, "Food Safety" on January 8th, "Labor & Immigration" on January 9th, "Crop Protection and Distribution" on January 10th and "Technology and Equipment" on January 11th. Tickets for the entire series is \$275 and individual tours are \$55.



Visit Yuma Specialty Tours

Under Canvas to Open First Winter Glamping Experience at Tanque Verde Ranch in Tucson

[Under Canvas](#), an adventure-hospitality company, announces the opening of [Under Canvas Tucson](#) at [Tanque Verde Ranch](#) in Arizona. Under Canvas at Tanque Verde Ranch is set to open in December 2018. This winter glamping experience will be available through April 2019 at America's oldest dude ranch. Nestled amongst the Rincon Mountains and adjacent to Saguaro National Park and Coronado National Forest, the Tanque Verde Ranch property offers views of the mountainous desert landscape. Among the ranch's 60,000 acres, Under Canvas Tucson will feature 26 safari-style tents including the Deluxe, Stargazers and Suites that feature en-suite bathrooms. Under Canvas guests will have access to the full service dude ranch's onsite amenities including La Sonora Spa, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, The Dog House Saloon, an on-site restaurant serving Southwestern cuisine and more. Activities include: swimming, tennis, basketball, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, yoga, hiking and jeep tours. Tanque Verde Ranch also offers a daily kids program full of activities such as arts and crafts, nature programs and basic horse training. This is the second location in Arizona for Under Canvas. Their Grand Canyon property is in Valle, AZ and it opened in September.



Under Canvas Tucson at Tanque Verde Ranch



Under Canvas Grand Canyon Property, Valle

Culinary

Fellow Osteria & Pizzeria Coming Soon to Scottsdale

[Fellow](#), a casual Italian-style osteria and craft cocktail bar, will be located inside a custom-designed space at SkySong, Arizona State University's Scottsdale Innovation Center. Serving pizzas, pastas, sandwiches and salads for lunch and dinner, Fellow will also offer premium coffee drinks and grab & go meals at breakfast. The restaurant will offer wines by the bottle and glass, as well as craft beers and hand-shaken cocktails. Open daily, Fellow include bar games such as standup and shuffleboard.



Fellow Osteria, Scottsdale

Accolades

The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain has set a new standard for desert luxury in the United States.

On October 3, 2018, the [Forbes Travel Guide](#) added [The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain](#) to the Verified Lists of the World's Most Luxurious Hotels and World's Most Luxurious Spas. Announcement of the coveted dual ranking notes that only eight properties in the world, including The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain, have earned a Verified List position in both the hotel and spa categories -- with just three in the U.S. achieving this recognition for both hotel and spa. The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain claims the only western-based double ranking. The first week of September 2018 unveiled the [Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain Resort's](#) ten million dollar renovation. As part of the resort renovation, fourteen ground-level Fireside Mountain View guest rooms were introduced, a floor-to-ceiling makeover of its 253 guest rooms and 44,000 square-feet of meeting space, the addition of the Roadrunner Arcade, and updated pools with new cabanas.



2018 World's
Most Luxurious Hotels

Verified by
Forbes
TRAVEL GUIDE

2018 World's
Most Luxurious Spas



The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain Resort

The MIM and ASDM Ranked as a Top Museums in the US

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix and the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum (ASDM) in Tucson were included in the list of top 25 museums in the U.S. during TripAdvisor's 2018 Travelers' Choice awards. The list was created using an algorithm that calculated the quantity and quality of reviews by data gathered over a 12-month period. The MIM is ranked #15 and the ASDM is ranked #18 on the list. The MIM is the only Global Musical Instrument Museum in the world, with over 13,600 musical instruments and associated objects collected from around 200 of the world's countries and territories throughout the decades. The 98 acres of the ASDM consists of a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum, and aquarium.



Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), Phoenix



Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum (ASDM), Tucson

Flight Service

American Airlines announced daily flight service between Flagstaff and Dallas

Starting April 2, 2019, the [Flagstaff Airport](#) (FLG) will provide daily year-round service to Dallas – Ft. Worth, Texas (DFW) on [American Airlines](#). This route will fly seven days a week, with two flights per day. Tickets for the new route are now available to purchase at American Airline’s website.



Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is Adding More International and East Coast Service in 2019

[Condor Airlines](#) has announced that it is increasing its nonstop service between [Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#) and Frankfurt, Germany from two days per week to three. Condor began its service at Phoenix Sky Harbor in the spring of this year, flying twice a week to Frankfurt May through September. The route was so successful, that the airline announced last summer it would expand service nearly two full months to include all of May and October 2019. Condor is now increasing the frequency of the PHX to Frankfurt flights and will operate on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday May through October of 2019. In addition, [JetBlue](#) has announced new service between Phoenix Sky Harbor and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The daily nonstop flight will be operated by an Airbus A320 and begins on February 14, 2019. The flight will be operated year-round. (<https://www.skyharbor.com>, “PHX Sky Harbor Adding More International and East Coast Service in 2019”, 2018.)



Hotel News

Home2 Suites by Hilton Kingman now open

Home2 Suites by Hilton is a new pet friendly hotel, located off I-40 in Kingman. Guests have the option of a studio or one-bedroom suite provided with plenty of storage areas, a work desk and movable furniture. Each guest suite includes a kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave and stocked with cookware, plates, cups and utensils. Home2 Suites provides free wifi for guests, daily breakfast, 24-hour lounge/work area and a Spin2 Cycle facility.



Home2 Suites by Hilton, Kingman

General

New Tourist Information Center Opens in Old Town Scottsdale

October 2018, [Experience Scottsdale](#) opened a new tourist information center in [Old Town Scottsdale's 5th Avenue Shopping District](#). The tourist center is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Concierges distribute Experience Scottsdale visitor guides, maps and other collateral to visitors exploring Old Town. Experience Scottsdale continues to operate the larger Scottsdale Tourist Information Center inside Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall, as well as a corporate office inside Galleria Corporate Centre.



Connect:

 @Arizona travel

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 www.youtube.com/user/ArizonaTourism

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

Official State Visitors Guide: <http://www.visitarizona.com/visitors-guide>

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