

ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

Desert Melodies

Museums, Festivals & Theaters around the State

Arizona is home to dozens of hip music venues, diverse dining combined with live tunes, outdoor festivals perfect for every season and the largest musical museum in the world. Plan your trip now and discover Arizona's rich music history and booming music scene!



Museums:

- **Musical Instrument Museum:** Located in Central Phoenix, the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) opened in 2010 and is the largest museum of its type in the world. It is also a performance center. Location: 4725 E. Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050 Telephone: (480) 478-6000 Website: <https://mim.org/>
- **Rex Allen Museum:** Located in Willcox, the Rex Allen Museum showcases the very best of Rex Allen. Allen was an Arizona cowboy, who was more famously known for his music and film contributions. He even wrote a song called, "Arizona." Location: 150 Railroad Ave, Willcox, AZ 85643 Telephone: (520) 384-4583 Website: <http://www.rexallmuseum.org/>
- **Route 66 Museum:** Visit the official Route 66 Museum or just take a drive up Route 66 through one of the towns mentioned in the iconic song from Nat King Cole titled, "Route 66." Kingman, Flagstaff and Winslow are all cited in the song. Location: Powerhouse Visitor Center, 120 W Andy Devine Ave, Kingman, AZ, 86401 Telephone: (928) 753-9889 Website: <http://www.route66museum.net/>

Recording Companies & Record Stores:

- **Canyon Records:** Located in Central Phoenix, Canyon Records is the world’s largest Native American recording company with a 60-year history, which also makes it one of the oldest independent record labels in the music industry.
Location: 1761 W University Dr #145, Tempe, AZ 85281
Telephone: (602) 266-7835 Website: <http://canyonrecords.com/shop/>
- **Stinkweeds:** Stinkweeds is a hip, independently-owned music shop that stocks a large collection of vinyl from independent bands. They have been in business for 27 years. This record store has become particularly popular among young people and local, college students.
Location: 12 W Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85013
Telephone: (602) 248-9461 Website: <http://www.stinkweeds.com/>
- **Tracks in Wax:** This old-school, poster-bedecked record shop specializes in collectible and hard-to-find albums. Cited as a ‘hidden gem’ in the Phoenix Metropolitan area, Tracks in Wax boasts a unique experience for every vinyl-lover.
Location: 4741 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Telephone: (602) 274-2660 Website: <https://www.facebook.com/records45s33s/>

Music Venues & Theaters:

- **Phoenix Symphony:** The Phoenix Symphony is a major United States symphony orchestra based in Phoenix that was founded in 1947.
Location: 1 N 1st St #200, phoenix, AZ 85004
Telephone: (602) 495-1117 Website: <https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/>
- **Valley Youth Theatre:** The Valley Youth Theatre is a professional-quality theatre company dedicated to helping young people achieve their full potential through meaningful engagement, education and excellence in the performing arts. The Valley Youth Theatre boasts several, famous alumni. Emma Stone, Arizona-native and Academy-Award winner for “Best Actress” in the critically-acclaimed musical *La La Land*, studied acting at the Phoenix-based theatre when she was younger. Jordin Sparks, another Arizona-native and 2007 American Idol winner, appeared in performances at the Valley Youth Theatre in 2002. Take a tour of the theatre or enjoy one of their productions!
Location: 525 N 1st St, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Telephone: (602) 253-8188 Website: <http://www.vyt.com/>
- **The Rebel Lounge:** Founded in 1979 as the Mason Jar, the venue established and branded itself as something different than the typical music venue. Although it may now be known as the Rebel Lounge, it stills hosts some of alternative-rock’s best artists—many, are those who are “on their way to stardom.” It has previously hosted popular artists like Green Day, Guns ‘N’ Roses and Nirvana.
Location: 2303 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85016
Telephone: (602) 296-7013 Website: <https://www.therebellounge.com/>
- **The Nile Theatre:** The Nile Theatre first opened as a movie house in 1924. Though it was closed for many years, it reopened and has since functioned as a clothing store, a nightclub, a dinner theater, a church and the home of many other retail businesses. It reopened fully in 2010 and

has taken the Arizona music scene by storm. The Nile Theatre operates as a unique music venue that also has a front room, and a bar in the main theater and in the shop.

Location: 105 W Main St, Mesa, AZ 85210

Telephone: (480) 559-5859 Website: <https://www.niletheater.com/>

- **Arizona Opera:** The Arizona Opera is a highly-acclaimed opera company, which performs in both Phoenix and Tucson.
Location: 1636 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Telephone: (602) 266-7464 Website: <https://www.azopera.org/>
- **ASU Gammage:** ASU Gammage, designed by the renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, is a multipurpose performing arts center located within the main campus of Arizona State University in Tempe. The center offers a Broadway series that hosts world-class performances like Hamilton, Wicked, Dear Evan Hansen, Les Miserables and The Color Purple.
Location: 1200 S Forest Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281
Telephone: (480) 965-3434 Website: <https://www.asugammage.com/>
- **University of Arizona (UA) Presents:** UA Presents is a performing arts group in Tucson, Arizona. The group offers Broadway series performances at several of Tucson's historic performing centers. Some of their performances include *The Book of Mormon* and *Finding Neverland*. The group also hosts world-class performances from comedians like Trevor Noah and music groups like The Doobie Brothers. The performance locations include venues like The Rialto, the Fox Tucson Theatre, Crowder Hall and Centennial Hall.
Location: 888 N Euclid Ave #20, Tucson, AZ 85719
Telephone: (520) 621-3364 Website: <https://www.uapresents.org/>
- **Tucson Music Hall:** The Tucson Music Hall is a classic performing arts theater that hosts events such as concerts, plays, ballet and opera.
Location: 260 S Church Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701
Telephone: (520) 791-4101 Website: <http://tucsonmusichall.org/>
- **The Rialto Theatre:** The Rialto Theatre is a performance theater and concert venue located on Congress Street in downtown Tucson. The theater has hosted some of Tucson's biggest musical stars. Visitors can tour the theater or enjoy an evening of music at one of their shows.
Location: 318 E Congress St, Tucson, AZ 857
Website: <https://www.rialtotheatre.com/>
- **The Pressroom:** The Pressroom is a premier event venue in Downtown Phoenix. The venue boasts an indoor 1000+ person capacity, ample outdoor event space and a full bar. The space serves as the perfect backdrop for anything that you can imagine: concerts, weddings, private parties, receptions, corporate meetings, photography/film shoots, visual and performance art exhibitions, proms and sporting events. The venue was built in the 1920's and is located in the heart of the historic warehouse district. This 14,000 square foot, red brick building once housed the most modern printing press in Arizona, when it first opened.
Location: 441 W Madison St, phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone: (602) 396-7136 Website: <https://www.thepressroomaz.com/venue/>
- **The Trunk Space:** The Trunk Space is an all-ages music venue located in Phoenix, which offers art, music, experimental theater & performance art, circus shows, vaudeville and a number of other unique and creative events. The venue hosts diverse performances and events every week—many that revolve around music.
Location: 1124 N 3rd St, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Website: <http://www.thetrunkspace.com/>

- **The Fox Theatre:** Noted as a ‘crown jewel’ of the Tucson music and culture scene, the venue boasts a diverse schedule. The venue works as a performing art center, a movie house and stands as an iconic space in the heart of the Downtown Tucson.
Location: 17 W Congress St, Tucson, AZ 8701
Telephone: (520) 547-3040 Website: <http://foxtucson.com/>

Festivals & Seasonal Events:

- **Lost Lake Music Festival:** This music festival, typically held in October, is fairly new, but a weekend ticket to it has become a hot commodity in the Phoenix metropolitan area. In 2018, the headliners include Imagine Dragons, Future, The Chainsmokers, and SZA. The creators of the festival offer a diverse lineup, but also encapsulate all that makes Arizona great. So aside from performances by chart-topping artists, people can also expect highly-acclaimed food options from some of the best chefs in the city, huge gaming events that host and entertain the average 45,000 people that attend the festival, and also art exhibits that show off some of Arizona’s most talented, local artists.
Location: 300 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Telephone: (602) 495-0935 Website: <https://www.lostlakefestival.com/>
- **Alice Cooper Annual Christmas Pudding Fundraising Event:** Every year, Alice Cooper, iconic musician and Arizona’s own, hosts an annual show with performances from a few of his famous musician friends. Proceeds from the event directly benefit Alice Cooper’s Solid Rock Teen Center.
Location: 440 N 32nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85008
Telephone: (602) 267-1600 Website: <http://www.alicecooper.com/16th-annual-christmas-pudding-charity-event/>
- **FORM Music Festival:** FORM is a creative retreat and festival held in the desert, eco-city of Arcosanti. It is immersed in other-worldly architecture and landscapes. Participants experience 3 days and nights of live music, talks/panels, workshops, experiential art, screenings, new technologies, outdoor/wellness activities and more.
Location: 13555 S Cross L Rd., Mayer, AZ 86333
Telephone: (928) 632-7135 Website: <https://experienceform.com/>
- **Music in the Mountains Concert Series:** The concert series occurs periodically in the Catalina State Park. The concerts vary from oldies to rhythm and blues a soulful Latin flair.
Location: 11570 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85737
Telephone: (520) 628-5798 Website: <https://azstateparks.com/catalina/events/catalina-music-in-the-mountains-1-6>
- **La Frontera International Mariachi Conference:** With more than a quarter of a century of success as one of the most influential mariachi and baile folklórico events in the world, this conference is a permanent fixture on the Tucson cultural calendar and beckons mariachi and baile folklórico aficionados from around the country. It is a celebration of folklórico and mariachi music starting with student workshops and culminating in the Fiesta de Garibaldi, an all day party in the park.
Telephone: (520) 838-3908 Website: <https://www.tucsonmariachi.org/>

- **Red Rocks Music Festival:** The Red Rocks Music Festival educates, engages and challenges audiences through a unique collaboration of musicians from leading Arizona performing arts organizations and world-acclaimed artists. The festival takes place annually and runs throughout the entire month of September in Phoenix and Sedona. There are 9 featured artists scheduled for the 2018 festival.
Telephone: (602) 402-4551 Website: <http://www.redrocksmusicfestival.com/index.html>
- **Pot of Gold Music Festival:** This annual music festival is a three-day event that hosts some of the biggest musicians in the world. The festival is held every March.
Location: 5700 W North Loop Rd, Chandler, AZ 85226
Telephone: (480) 502-5600 Website: <https://www.potofgoldaz.com/>
- **Annual Mingus Festival:** Charles Mingus, a legendary bassist and composer, was born at Camp Steven Little in Nogales. Though the famed musician didn't live in Nogales very long, the small town has claimed him as one of their own. Each spring, the city commemorates the musician with the Charles Mingus Hometown Jazz Festival. The Mingus Project—the organization behind the festival—has worked since 1993 to honor Mingus' legacy and promote jazz education. Last year, the project dedicated Mingus Memorial Park in his honor.
Website: <http://www.mingusproject.com/>
- **The Dutton Experience at Dutton Theater:** The Dutton's are international touring and recording artists who perform bluegrass to classical music and everything in between. Their shows feature a variety of instruments, superb choreography and technical, musical arrangement. They perform at their theater in Mesa from December through April.
Location: 7420 E Main St, Mesa, AZ 85207
Telephone: (480) 840-6874 Website: <https://www.theduttons.com/>
- **The Phoenix Rock Lottery:** A creative showcase of some of the best musicians that Phoenix has to offer.
Location: 308 N 2nd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone: (602) 716-2222 Website: <https://www.crescentphx.com/event/1620336-phoenix-rock-lottery-phoenix/>
- **The Mesa Music Festival:** Arizona's premier emerging artist festival. The festival features performances by more than 250 artists from around the world. It takes place yearly in November at multiple chic venues in downtown Mesa. Free admission.
Telephone: (732) 203-7787 Website: <http://www.mesamusicfest.com/>
- **Elevate:** This Christian music festival takes place in June at the Grand Canyon University Arena in Phoenix. It offers performances by more than 19 bands and artists during 3 nights of concerts.
3300 W Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85017
Website: <http://elevatemusicfestival.com>
- **McDowell Mountain Music Festival (M3F):** This nonprofit music festival that takes place yearly in March was established in 2004. The festival has hosted previous acts such as Flume, Beck, Kid Cudi, Chromeo, Father John Misty, Grouplove, The Avett Brothers, The Revivalists, DJ Mustard, The Roots, The Shins, Slightly Stoopid, and many others.
Website: <https://m3ffest.com/>
- **Country Thunder Music Festival:** Florence, Arizona is the first stop on the yearly Country Thunder tour. The 4-day festival features some of the biggest stars in country music, such as Jason Aldean, Big & Rich, Toby Keith, and Luke Bryan.
Website: <https://www.countrythunder.com/az>

- **Apache Lake Music Festival:** This two-day music festival in October at the Apache Lake Marina and Resort showcases the best bands in Arizona. Beginning in 2009, the festival has received critical acclaim as one of the best music festivals in the Southwest. Many festivalgoers camp on the lake's beach.
229.5 Mile Marker, Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Website: <http://www.apachelakemusicfestival.com>
- **Arizona Musicfest:** The festival season for Arizona Musicfest runs annually from January to March. The festival features classical, chamber, jazz, Broadway, country, blues, opera, bluegrass, and pop performances at multiple venues throughout Scottsdale and Phoenix.
Telephone: (480) 488-0806 Website: <http://www.azmusicfest.org>

Historical Stops:

- **Standing on the Corner:** Standing on the Corner is an iconic spot located in Winslow. It is the famous spot mentioned in a line from an Eagles song.
Location: Old Hwy 66 & N Kinsley Ave, Winslow, AZ 86047
Telephone: (928) 289-3863 Website: <http://standinonthecorner.com/>
- **Tempe's Music Walk:** Music is an important part of the Tempe vibe and is now permanently cemented into the city's culture. Each November, as part of the Tempe Music Revival Month, the city of Tempe and Tempe Music Revival Group selects bands, musicians or venues to honor with a plaque embedded in the sidewalk on Mill Avenue, creating Temp's Music Walk. Tempe is the first Metropolitan Area city to honor its musicians in this way. Tempe offers great night life with a diverse range of live-music venues!
Website: <http://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/communication-and-media-relations/tempe-s-music-walk>

Restaurants & Bars with Live Music:

- **The Nash:** A hip, jazz club located off of the historic Roosevelt Row.
Location: 110 E Roosevelt St, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Telephone: (602) 795-0464 Website: <http://www.thenash.org/>
- **The Van Buren:** A recently-opened music venue in the heart of Downtown Phoenix. The venue features a diverse range of musicians—from small-name bands like LANY to popular artists like Khalid. The venue also hosts tribute-nights for legendary artists like Selena, Fleetwood Mac and Daft Punk.
Location: 401 W Van Buren St, Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone: Website: <https://www.thevanburenphx.com/>
- **Cactus Jacks Bar & Grill:** A neighborhood tavern that offers great drinks and great music. With live music from popular indie artists and great local bands Thursday through Sunday, Cactus Jacks Bar & Grill is the perfect hangout spot for! This casual, Ahwatukee hotspot also has over 20 big screen LCD's with the best match ups on daily.
Location: 4747 E Elliot Rd #2, Phoenix, AZ 85044
Telephone: (480) 753-4733 Website: <http://www.cactusjacksbar.co/>

- **Organ Stop Pizza:** Organ Stop Pizza is an airy spot featuring a menu of pizza & Italian cuisine, plus live music from the largest Wurlitzer organ in the world. It is one of the most popular and unique restaurants in Arizona.
 Location: 1149 E Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85204
 Telephone: (480) 813-5700 Website: <https://www.organstoppizza.com/>
- **The Womack:** A classic cocktail lounge that features drinking snacks in a trendy, throwback setting with live music and a patio. Thursday through Saturday, the Roscoe Taylor Band performs in the lounge.
 Location: 5749 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ 85014
 Telephone: Website: <https://thewomack.us/>
- **Lutes Casino:** Lutes Casino, a Yuma favorite, is an American restaurant that specializes in live music concerts and popular menu options that are paired with a “secret recipe hot sauce.” The restaurant regularly hosts a summer jazz series that highlights the local sounds of Yuma. The free concert series typically runs from late May and into early August.
 Location: 221 Main St, Yuma, AZ 85364
 Telephone: (928) 782-2192 Website: <http://www.lutescasino.com/>
- **The Listening Room:** The Listening Room offers the perfect space for acoustic performance artists, and the people who appreciate them. Acoustically balanced and technically sound, it provides a pure experience for both the player and spectator, free of distraction or discomfort of any kind. And, each performance is recorded before a live studio audience, which guarantees a rapt and receptive crowd—and a satisfying performance. Recording sessions at The Listening Room are open to audiences who appreciate great acoustic music!
 Location: 4614 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ 85014
 Telephone: (480) 390-4900 Website: <http://thelisteningroomphoenix.com/about/>
- **Sound Bites Grill:** Sound Bites Grill is an entertainment restaurant that features live music, dancing and American cuisine. It also offers fantastic, panoramic red rock views.
 Location: 101 N State Rte 89A, Sedona, AZ 86336
 Telephone: (928) 282-213 Website: <https://soundbitesgrill.com/>
- **Handlebar J:** Handlebar J is a county-lover’s dream! Aside from fantastic food, the restaurant also has country music & line-dancing every night, Wednesday-Sunday. This hotspot offers visitors a great taste of what the Arizona country music-scene is like.
 Location: 7117 E Becker Ln, Scottsdale, AZ 85254
 Telephone: (480) 948-0110 Website: <http://www.handlebarj.com/>
- **Garcia’s Las Avenidas:** This old-school, family-owned Mexican restaurant features live music from a mariachi band every Saturday night. Starting at 6:00 pm, the band makes the rounds, serenading tables upon request.
 Location: 2212 N 35th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85009
 Telephone: Website: <https://www.facebook.com/GarciasLasAvenidas/>
- **Dierks Bentley Whiskey Row Tempe:** This American gastro pub features award-winning food and drinks, exhilarating nightlife and a rock & roll attitude inspired by Dierks Bentley himself. Dierks Bentley is an acclaimed country artist and an Arizona native. The restaurant has been awarded the “Best Country Music Bar” and “Best Dance Floor.” They offer live, country-inspired music almost every night of the week and have a large dance floor perfect for line-dancing.
 Location: 640 S Mill Ave #120, Tempe, AZ 85281
 Telephone: (480) 794-1477 Website: <https://dierkswhiskeyrow.com/>

- **Crescent Ballroom:** A mid-size music venue with live music every day. The ballroom also has full bar service and diverse food options through Cocina 10.
 Location: 308 N 2nd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003
 Telephone: Website: <https://www.crescentphx.com/>
- **Gaslight Music Hall of Oro Valley:** A musical melodrama theatre in Tucson that features exceptional, live music and comfort food.
 Location: 13005 N Oracle Rd #165, Tucson, AZ 85739
 Telephone: (520) 529-1000 Website: <http://gaslightmusichall.com/>
- **Hard Rock Café:** The iconic Hard Rock Café has a location in the heart of Downtown Phoenix. With an incredible night life, the restaurant features diverse live-music options that help to cultivate a unique and popular nightlife venue.
 Location: 3 S 2nd St #117, Phoenix, AZ 85004
 Telephone: Website: <http://www.hardrock.com/>
- **Copper Blues Live:** Copper Blues is a popular live music venue in Phoenix that features free live music, over 50+ beers on tap and an elevated pub menu perfect for a pre or post show party.
 Location: 50 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85003
 Telephone: (480) 719-5005 Website: <http://www.copperblueslive.com/>
- **Last Exit Live:** A cozy, indie music club known for its old-school red stage curtain and upscale sound and lighting.
 Location: 717 S Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004
 Telephone: (602) 271-7000 Website: <https://www.lastexitlive.com/>
- **Yucca Tap Room:** The Yucca Tap Room is a neighborhood hangout that showcases live music on a nightly basis, a large beer and whiskey selection, plus bar food.
 Location: 29 W Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282
 Telephone: (480) 967-4777 Website: <https://yuccatap.com/>