ACTIVE FAMILY



Whether creating a work of art, panning for gold, or feeling your way through a dark cave, Mesa offers an enriching experience for every family. Mesa is recognized as offering one of the most family-friendly communities in the nation. Year-round, Mesa attractions offer visitors interaction both indoors and out at museums, play centers, parks, shopping centers and more. Whether your child seeks out an action-packed adventure, or more a laid-back affair, families have countless options to make memories in the Sonoran Desert.

Day 1 - Family-Friendly Favorites

ARIZONA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - 2 hours

Known locally as the place "where dinosaurs roar and so much more". Don't miss the three-story waterfall that simulates a flash flood in the Arizona desert. Galleries feature Arizona's cosmic night skies, Native peoples and geology. Gold panning and the Paleo Dig Pit are must-do activities for kids.

i.d.e.a. MUSEUM - 1 hour

This interactive play place is designed for all ages including mom and dad. Kids are encouraged to explore their imagination through design in art, science and technology. The museum schedules hands-on daily activities in three exhibit areas.

OFF-ROAD FUN & ADVENTURE - 2+ hours

Get dusty and dirty on a Green Zebra off-road tour. Low-profile Tomcars race across the rolling desert floor with incredible agility and speed, promising tons of fun. Tack on more desert adventure with a night-vision off-road tour with Stellar Adventures. Hummer and ATV tours include educational tours of the Sonoran Desert landscape – and stargazing tours!

SWEET TREATS ON MAIN STREET - 1 hour

Wander along Main Street and pop into Sweet Cakes Cafe. Rows of cookies, brownies and other desserts line the back wall of the bakery. Decorate your own cookies at Smitholator Cookie Shop or indulge in an ice cream sandwich at Slickables featuring fresh homemade cookies.

STRATUM LASER TAG - 2 hours

Experience the most action-packed fun in the city at the world's largest technotainment arena. Plan for family bonding time with 15 levels of laser tag, 90 ramps, towers and bridges. Laser tag is perfect for the high-tech and adventurous family.

Day 2 - Adventure in the Wild, Wild West

ROCKIN' R RANCH - 2 hours, Seasonal

Enjoy gunfights, gold panning, western shops, and hot Dutch oven biscuits. Featuring an all-you-can-eat BBQ dinner followed by a spectacular Western stage show featuring the world famous Rockin R' Wranglers.

RAWHIDE WILD WEST TOWN - 2 1/2 hours

Rawhide Western Town and Steakhouse is an 1880s authentic frontier town and Arizona's largest western-themed attraction. Entertainment includes classic Western gunfights, stunt shows, burro rides, and more for visitors. Live music and specialty shopping hours vary by season. Spanish-style Mission Patio and private cookout sites and indoor function rooms available.



Day 3 - Playful City USA

MESA RIVERVIEW PARK - 2 hours

Two playgrounds featuring slides, spinners and swings allow for hours of play time for little ones. On the edge of the park, curious climbers can test their skills and scale a 300-foot natural linear climbing wall complete with a covered fort. The biggest attraction here is the world's tallest rope climbing tower that stretches 50 feet into the air. A 75-foot zip line and oversized splash pad complete the park's playground amenities. The five-acre urban lake has three bridges and numerous access points. The palm tree-lined walkway leads visitors to and from the adjacent Mesa Riverview shopping complex and Sloan Park, home to Chicago Cubs spring training.

AMAZING JAKES - 11/2 hours

A restaurant, park and family fun and recreation center – all in one fun stop. Features include Go-Karts, a Game Pavilion, Kiddie Rides, Bumper Cars, a Rock Climbing Wall, and Laser Tag. All-you-care-to-eat Pizza Buffet with delicious, pizza, pasta, salad, and soda. And don't forget dessert!

LEGOLAND® DISCOVERY CENTER - 11/2 hours

Located at Arizona Mills, the new LEGOLAND® Discovery Center features the biggest box of LEGO® bricks in the world! Families will enjoy 2 LEGO® rides, a 4D movie theatre, MINILAND® and learn from the experts on building the best LEGO® creations.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM - 2 1/2 hours

This award-winning global museum features MIMkids Musical Adventures. Families can engage in interactive musical activities and learn more about instruments and cultures from around the world.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE - 11/2 hours

Head to Sea Life Aquarium, Arizona's closest ocean. Families can have close encounters with seahorses, sharks, rays and more. Enjoy the guided interactive learning experience as you tour through the aquarium.

SHOPPING:

SAN TAN VILLAGE - 2 1/2 hours

The largest outdoor retail mall with defined retail districts. Outdoor patio dining is abundant with options from BBQ and breweries to steak and sushi. For families, be sure to anchor yourself next to the Disney Store and Children's Place. Just outside these family-friendly storefronts are two age-defined, shaded play spaces and a seasonal splash pad. Steps away are Grimaldi's Pizza and the award-winning Frost Gelato.

DANA PARK VILLAGE SQUARE - 2 hours

This fashion-focused lifestyle center is a reflection of some of Mesa's most affluent neighborhoods. Wide pedestrian walkways, spacious patios for outdoor dining, fountains and palm-tree-lined driveways are surrounded by upscale retail stores. Fucshia Day Spa offers spa treatments for visitors.

PHOENIX PREMIUM OUTLETS - 2 hours

Phoenix Premium Outlets brings designer outlet shopping to Mesa visitors. Conveniently located off Interstate 10 – just 10 miles from the Mesa border, this outdoor village style center is filled with an impressive collection of designer and name brands offering daily savings. Stores include Coach, DKNY, Elie Tahari, Kate Spade New York, Lucky Brand, Max Studio, Michael Kors, Nike, Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th and more.