

PHOENIX

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

An influx of high-tech firms has rekindled the spirit of Phoenix and attracted a young and sophisticated demographic. The Camelback Corridor boasts eclectic shops, outdoor activities and first-class dining options, and the surrounding communities of Scottsdale, Sedona, Tempe and Mesa round out the experience with the unsurpassed natural beauty that typifies the Southwest.

1 MINUTE

Meteor Crater

Off I-40 at Exit 233 • 928-289-2362

Around 50,000 years ago, a meteorite fell at 40,000 miles per hour, leaving a dent 20 football fields wide. There's also a museum for quirky finds, free use of a telescope and a three-mile walking trail around the site.

Camelback Mountain

5700 N. Echo Canyon Pkwy. • 602-256-3220

Rising majestically in the midst of metropolitan Phoenix, Camelback boasts 200-ft. red sandstone cliffs and gorgeous views. Gaze from afar or get up close: the base offers short walking trails; the Summit Trail, known affectionately by locals as the Scenic Stairmaster, offers a more serious challenge.

1 HOUR

Heritage Square

115 N. 6th St. • 602-262-5071

Feel as though you stepped back into the 19th century, surrounded by the rich architecture of the city's few remaining Victorian homes. You can stroll antique shops, gift stores, even a toy museum filled with dolls and other exclusive finds. Guided walking tours are available, and many restaurants abound.

Arizona Science Center

600 E. Washington St. • 602-716-2000

Feel like a kid again. With over 300 hands-on exhibits, you can go from flying a mock plane to learning how your muscles and brain work to defying gravity, all in this one building designed to look like the desert. There's also a planetarium and big-screen IMAX theater to keep you exploring.

Biltmore Fashion Park

24th St. and Camelback Rd. • 602-955-8400

Nestled in among the fountains, you'll find upscale anchors like Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue, plus stores like Banana Republic, Pottery Barn, Gucci and Betsey Johnson. There's a unique garden that's used to grow herbs for the gourmet restaurants here, too.

1 HOUR (CONT)

Taliesin West

12621 Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale • 480-860-8810

Considered one of Frank Lloyd Wright's greatest architectural masterpieces, Taliesin West used to serve as Wright's living quarters and work studio and operates to this day as a campus for the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. Taliesin West provides stunning examples of Wright's genius, incorporating local materials and organic forms. Be sure to check out the main studio, sunken garden, bell tower and Wright's private relaxation areas.

The Spa at Camelback Inn

5402 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale • 800-922-2635 • camelbackspa.com

Long recognized as one of the Valley's premier spas, this award-winning 32,000-sq. foot oasis offers head-to-toe indulgence in the breathtaking surroundings of the Sonoran Desert. You'll find a fitness center, 32 treatment rooms, an extensive menu of spa services, and an outdoor area featuring a Jacuzzi, Olympic size lap pool and dazzling desert sunsets. Celebrity fans have included Oprah Winfrey, Rebecca Romijn and Bobby Flay.

1 DAY

Sedona

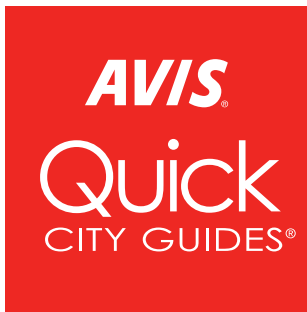
1-800-288-7336 • visitsedona.com

A town with a reputation...for being one of the prettiest places on the planet, that is. There is plenty of shopping and golf among the canyons, creeks and mountains. You can hike along Bell Rock and Cathedral Rock, both landmarks, or drive along the picturesque Oak Creek Canyon. Red-rock formations on the cliffs make for a memorable sunset before you head off to one of several fine restaurants for dinner.

Grand Canyon National Park (South Rim)

I-17N to I-40W to Hwy. 64 • 928-638-7888

About 4 hours from Phoenix lies one of the world's natural wonders. Plan an overnight stay so you have plenty of time to explore. Absolute musts: the Desert View and Watch Tower, Hopi Point, Lipan Point, Bright Angel Trail and Grand Canyon Rim Drive, all of which offer extraordinary views. Hotels inside Grand Canyon Village are managed by Xanterra Parks and Resorts (303-297-2757); otherwise, seek your keep in Tusayan, just 7 miles away.



PHOENIX

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

Mary Elaine's

This AAA Five-Diamond award-winner sits high atop the luxurious Phoenician resort. The posh décor features gilt mirrors, fresh flowers, hefty silver and breathtaking views. Expect award-winning modern French cuisine inspired by topnotch fresh ingredients. The menu changes frequently, and past highlights include cream of Jerusalem artichoke soup, fennel braised veal shank and heirloom apple terrine. Tasting menus are available. Jackets are recommended; reservations are a necessity.

6000 E. Camelback Rd. • 480-423-2530

Durant's

It's got all the classic signs of a venerable steakhouse—rich woods, red walls, dark leather booths and an array of mesquite-broiled steaks and chops. (There's even a 48-oz. Porterhouse, in case you're really hungry.) Other menu finds include chicken, seafood and an Australian lobster tail, available as part of the surf & turf, of course.

2611 N. Central Ave. • 602-264-5967

Daniel's

It's charming and elegant in its décor, with plush fabrics and framed designer scarves, as well as its cuisine. The house specialty is osso bucco, but you can also find notable Chilean sea bass with tomatoes and chicken stuffed with dates and figs.

4225 E. Camelback Rd. • 602-952-1522

T. Cook's, *Royal Palms Resort*

With accolades from *Gourmet*, *Food & Wine* and *Travel & Leisure*, T. Cook's serves up Mediterranean-inspired seasonal fare in an atmosphere of earth tones, vaulted ceilings and panoramic views. Starters may include escargot with sautéed veal sweetbreads, arugula and grain mustard hollandaise, only to be outdone by main courses like duck breast with chestnut-potato pave and huckleberry timbale, or sautéed Maine lobster with shellfish risotto, pear tomatoes and asparagus. A chef's tasting menu is available.

5200 E Camelback Rd. • 602-808-0766

LOCAL FAVORITES

The Tee Pee

An authentic Mexican meal for around \$10? That's what you'll find at this family-owned, no-frills spot. They serve up everything Mexican, from big portions of chile rellenos to the regional specialty green corn tamales.

4144 E. Indian School Rd. • 602-956-0178

elements Restaurant

Find your inner Zen in its simplistic, Japanese-inspired design, complete with views of Paradise Valley from its many windows. The menu varies with Asian-influenced dishes—starters include truffled edamame with shallot pot stickers and entrées run the gamut with pecan-dusted tilapia as well as butternut squash and goat cheese ravioli.

5700 E. McDonald Dr., (Sanctuary Resort), Paradise Valley • 480-607-2300

Pizzeria Bianco

Locals claim that this is the spot for gourmet pizza. The mozzarella is handmade, the herbs are locally grown and famed chef/owner Chris Bianco whips up six wood-fired pizzas, including the "wiseguy," made with sausage and roasted onion. Sandwiches and salads are available, too.

623 E. Adams St. • 602-258-8300

Eddie V's Edgewater Grille Market Street at DC Ranch

Live jazz, handsome decor and fresh fish in the middle of the desert... You'll find it all at Eddie V's, where the seafood is flown in daily from all around the globe and preparations range from French to Asian to down-home American. Starters include Gulf Coast oysters on the half shell and Kung Pao calamari. Main attractions range from New Zealand grouper with Jonah crab, citrus and brown butter to Pacific ahi tuna sautéed with shiitakes, wasabi-potato purée and ginger-soy jus. Not a seafood person? Eddie V's offers poultry and an array of steak and chops.

20715 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale • 480-538-8468

Lon's at the Hermosa, *The Hermosa Inn*

Once the home of artist Lon Megargee, Lon's has won accolades from *USA Today*, *Zagat*, *Gourmet* and *Wine Spectator*. Adobe, exposed beams, rustic ironwork and a large patio give it the feel of a desert oasis. Expect Southwestern fare with a twist, like pork tenderloin with prickly pear braised red cabbage and garlic mashed potatoes or grilled salmon with blackberry shellac and corn and tomatillo sauce.

5532 N. Palo Cristi Rd., Paradise Valley • 602-955-7878