



Phoenix, Scottsdale and Apache Trail

If you haven't yet been to the American Southwest, you're in for a treat. It can be hot, brown and dry in Greater Phoenix, but you may find that's a change you'll relish—especially if snow is piled up outside your home and you're having a hard time staying warm. Have you ever wondered why so many people from the Midwest and Northeastern U.S. have vacationed in or moved to Arizona? Just take this tour and you'll find out!

This is your opportunity to learn something about the plants, native people, art, history, weather, topography and architecture of Arizona.

The average of nearly 350 sunshine days per year helps to explain why the Greater Phoenix area is called the "Valley of the Sun." But there can be heavy rains during the other 15 days, and it's pretty hot during the summer. Consequently, the very best times to visit are between mid-March and mid-May, and during the month of October. So, why not make your reservations?

Scottsdale is a great location to use as a base for this visit. See "Accommodations and Restaurants" at the end of this issue to identify places to stay and eat.

Pathfinder Newsletter

Spring 2012

Guided Tours of Cities, Towns, and National Parks in the American West

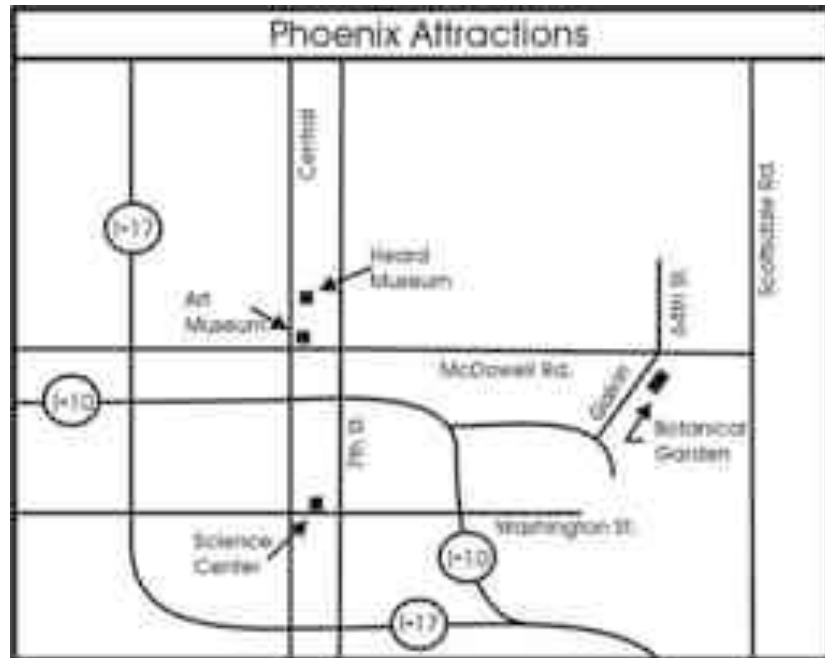
by the authors of *Seven Perfect Days in Arizona*,

Seven Perfect Days in Northern California and *Seven Perfect Days in Colorado*

Day One – The Best of Phoenix

This morning—preferably not a Monday, Tuesday or major holiday, when the Art Museum is closed—we suggest that you visit the city’s excellent Desert Botanical Garden, then the world-renowned Heard Museum, which features the art, artifacts and stories of Arizona’s Native Americans. This afternoon, we recommend visits to the Phoenix Art Museum and Arizona Science Center.

It’s a full day, but very doable if you have the interest and the energy, and we believe you’ll enjoy what we’ve chosen for you. If you want something different, see “Additional Attractions” at the end of this issue.



Desert Botanical Garden

To get to the Desert Botanical Garden, drive about three miles (4.8 km) south of Old Town Scottsdale on Scottsdale Rd. to McDowell Rd.; turn right onto McDowell; at 64th St. turn left onto Galvin Parkway, then, take the first left turn into the Garden.

This visit is all about enjoying beauty and tranquility (although there’s plenty to learn, too). If you walk through this garden during the early morning (after 8am), while the temperature is still comfortable, we guarantee that you’ll come away in a very mellow frame of mind.

The highlight of the Garden is its four short thematic trails; you’ll receive a trail map as you enter.

- The Desert Discovery (main/hub) Trail showcases desert plants from around the world.
- The Plants & People of the Sonora Desert Trail explores how desert plants have been used for nourishment and tools.
- The Sonora Desert Nature Trail illustrates the relationship between desert plants and animals.
- The Harriet K. Maxwell Desert Wildflower Trail showcases desert wildflowers.

In addition, there is a succulent gallery, a cactus gallery, an herb garden, an agave-yucca forest, several presentation venues, a garden and gift shop, and an outdoor patio café, which is open 9am-5pm.

If you find yourself short on time, we suggest that you walk the Desert Discovery and Plants & Peoples of the Sonora Desert Trails (a self-guided audio tour is available for the Desert Discovery Trail).

Our favorite path is the Plants & People of the Sonora Desert Trail. Plants featured along the way are the saguaro, mesquite, chaparral, yucca and agave. This trail also has a Pima household, an Apache wikiup, and a Hispanic compound. Everywhere, the Garden's very informative signboards enhance the trail experience.

During the months of March and April, walking the Wildflower Trail at the Desert Botanical Garden is a special treat.

The Desert Botanical Garden is open 8am-8pm seven days a week; 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008; 480-941-1225; www.dbg.org.

As a point of information, our next scheduled attraction, the Heard Museum, opens at 9:30am.

Heard Museum

Of all the museums we've visited over the years, the Heard Museum is our favorite. To get there from the Desert Botanical Garden, return to McDowell Rd.; turn left; drive about seven and one-half miles (12 km) to Central Ave.; turn right on Central and turn right four blocks later into the Heard Museum's parking lot.

This place is something special. From its classic exterior to its beautiful galleries, remarkable collection and special events, the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art provides a venue in which the Native American Indian is given deserved credit for artistry, intelligence and cultural integrity.

We base that opinion on our observations during four visits to the Heard, not something we've read or been coached to write. We want to put this museum on a pedestal and point to it as an institution that's respectful of, and lends dignity to, the Native American Indian.

To prove our point, let's get to the Heard's 10 excellent galleries and collection of 39,000 items.

The elegant entrance gallery sets the tone with its large, brightly colored abstract painting titled "Red Tailed Hawk Katsina" by Hopi Artist Dan Namingha, as well as art objects in four-glass-sided cases, two of which display stunning Navajo capes and shirts.

The star of the show is "HOME: Native People in the Southwest"—the gallery that displays the best of the Heard's collection. A person can easily get caught up in the dazzling displays of American Indian artistry in this gallery:

- the 30-ft (9-m) long art fence, by an Isleta Puebloan and a Santa Clara Tewan, welcomes you into the gallery with upright posts of multi-colored glass and clay, somewhat reminiscent of Dale Chihuly's glasswork;
- pottery, artistically painted—by many Indian groups;
- turquoise, silver and shell necklaces, bracelets and other jewelry made by the Zuni, Acoma, Laguna, Navajo and Hopi peoples;

- 500 Hopi Kachina/Katsina dolls, meticulously carved and vibrantly painted to represent figures in Hopi religion—from the Sen. Barry Goldwater and Fred Harvey Company collections;
- Apache baskets—in innovative designs and all sizes;
- weavings, textiles and clothing—from various Native American Indian groups;
- drums, ceremonial belts, pouches, cradle boards and saddle bags;
- a Navajo hogan, a Hopi piki room, a Yaqui ramada (covered patio) and a pueblo oven—all full-sized.

These objects, and more, are beautifully displayed and described. Many are displayed in glass cases, nearly floor-to-ceiling, some with large landscape photographs as backdrops (see the photo on page 1).

The HOME gallery also highlights revealing information about the cultures and histories of the Apache, Hohokum, Navajo, Tohono O’Odham and Yaqui peoples. The other galleries are also worth seeing, but, especially, don’t miss the one in the Ullman Learning Center called “We Are! Arizona’s First People.” Here, the stories of 21 Arizona tribes are poignantly told from a first-person perspective. The powerful words demonstrate, so well, how the Heard seeks to honor the Native American tribes and translate their experiences to make them better understood by other people. The messages in this room give voice to the haunts and hopes of the Native American Indian.

Look up high on the walls in this gallery. It may just be our imagination, but the vibrant and expressive mural by Navajo Steven Yazzi, titled “Fear of a Red Planet,” seems to echo those haunts and hopes.

Facing the museum entrance courtyard is the Heard Museum Shop. If you have time, stop in and look over the authentic handmade items and the contemporary art hanging in the adjoining Berlin Gallery.

There are two other attractions that may interest you: For 50 years, in early March, the Heard has been hosting a two-day Indian Fair and Market, drawing about 18,000 people and nearly 700 American Indian artists. And for 21 years, in early February, the Heard has been hosting the World Championship Hoop Dance Contest. We were dazzled for five hours by the amazing skill and artistry of the contestants who mostly wove the hoops—up to 50 of them—into animal, bird, globe and other shapes while dancing lightly to American Indian music.

The museum has two satellite locations, one in Scottsdale and the other in Surprise, Arizona. The main Heard Museum location in Phoenix is open Monday-Saturday from 9:30am-5pm, and Sunday from 11am-5pm, every day except December 25, with free guided tours at 12 noon, 2pm and 3pm; 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004; 602-252-8848; www.heard.org.

Where to Eat Lunch?

You’re in luck, because the cafes at the Heard Museum and the Phoenix Art Museum are great choices. Both serve excellent salads, sandwiches and specialties. They’re a bit pricey, but worth it. The one at the Heard is located just off the front entrance courtyard. The one at the Phoenix Art Museum is across from the Asian gallery. If you want to participate in the 12noon

guided tour at the Phoenix Art Museum, that may determine which café you choose to eat in, and when; so read on, as the next two paragraphs will help you make that decision.

Phoenix Art Museum

The Phoenix Art Museum (*closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays*) is located just three blocks south of the Heard Museum. Four options: to drive there, simply exit the Heard parking lot, turn left onto Central, drive three blocks south and turn left into the art museum parking lot; instead, and for a little fresh air and exercise, you can leave your car at the Heard Museum and walk there in about ten minutes; or you can ride the city's new METRO light rail system from just opposite the Heard's driveway to just south of the art museum's entrance (\$1.25 per ride, frequency of every 10 minutes during peak hours and 20 minutes off-peak, seven days a week); lastly, a combination: ride METRO to the Art Museum and walk back to your car.

What's best to see here? That depends upon your preferences in art. We prefer European and Western American art, so we head first toward those collections on the second floor. Consult the museum floor plan and decide what you want to see—keeping in mind that our final attraction of the day, Arizona Science Center, closes at 5pm.

The Phoenix Art Museum has free (cost is included in the admission price) guided tours at 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm, led by museum-trained volunteer docents (reservations are not necessary). You may, of course, choose to use the museum's map and find your own way to the art of your choice. If you do, however, we suggest that you use the free audioguide to get the most out of the collection. Check the website for more detail on the tours.

Women will enjoy the Kelly Ellman Fashion Design Gallery, where they'll see garments, accessories and shoes by noted American and European designers. Both adults and kids enjoy the 20 Thorne Rooms, which are exact miniature replicas of existing homes in the U.S. and Europe, complete with miniature furniture and household accessories.

Many of the museum's 18,000 pieces are on display in a relaxing environment. We believe that you'll also enjoy a walk around the outside one-acre (0.4-hectare) Dorrance Sculpture Garden with its 10 interesting sculptures, its flowering plants, and 140 canopy and ornamental trees.

Except for major holidays, the Phoenix Art Museum is open 10am-9pm on Wednesday, 10am-5pm Thursday through Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday; 1625 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004; 602-716-2000; www.phxart.org.

Arizona Science Center

To avoid the difficulties of navigating one-way streets, we suggest that you *not* travel south on Central Ave. to get from the Phoenix Art Museum to Arizona Science Center. Instead, drive east on McDowell to 7th St.; turn right; drive about one and one-half miles (2.4 km) to Washington St.; turn right, then right again onto 5th St., and enter the Heritage and Science parking garage at the southeast corner of 5th and Monroe. Parking is discounted if you present your ticket for validation at the information desk in the science center.

The Arizona Science Center, together with the Phoenix Museum of History and six houses remaining from the original Phoenix town site (circa 1895-1909), are located in Heritage Science Park.

If you haven't yet eaten lunch, check out The Rose and the Crown, described as a British pub, facing the Science Center at the corner of 7th and Adams (open 11am-2am Monday through Saturday, and 9am-2am Sunday; 602-256-0223); and in Arizona Science Center, a restaurant called Fabulous Food (it's brand new; hours and telephone number were not available at time of publication).

The Arizona Science Center is an interesting and fun place to visit, much of it interactive and hands-on, all of it visually exciting—from the avant-garde architecture to the particulars of the shows, demonstrations and exhibits. It's great for both kids and adults.

Be sure to check first at the information desk, to validate your parking ticket, but to also learn what's showing on the five-story screen at the 285-seat IMAX Theatre, and in the 200-seat Dorrance Planetarium. There also may be a traveling exhibition that you'll find interesting. There is an extra charge for these shows.

Also check in the lobby (or call ahead to 602-716-200 after 10am on the day of your visit) for the daily schedule of demonstrations to be performed. Staff members give 15-20 minute presentations in the appropriate galleries.

In addition to those shows and demonstrations, Arizona Science Center has 300 hands-on exhibits in five permanent, themed galleries. The gallery that we found most interesting is Forces of Nature. It features displays of stormy skies, lightning, tornadoes and hurricanes, but the highlight of this gallery is the five minutes that you stand on a sometimes-shaking platform, watching, hearing and feeling tornadoes, hurricanes, lightning, earth plates on the move, wind blowing and water spray.

Other galleries help viewers learn about the sciences behind human physiology and psychology, physics, home building, music, and digital communications—all in a fun, interesting manner.

Arizona Science Center is open 10am-5pm, seven days a week, except for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays; 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85004; 602-716-2000; www.azscience.org.

To get back to Scottsdale, if your accommodations are there, drive north on 7th St. to McDowell; east on McDowell to Scottsdale Rd.; and north on Scottsdale Rd.

Day Two – Apache Trail

On his way to dedicate the Roosevelt Dam in 1911, President Theodore Roosevelt said, “the Apache Trail and surrounding area combines the grandeur of the Alps, the glory of the Rockies, the magnificence of the Grand Canyon and then adds an indefinable something that none of the others have.” We wouldn't go that far, but the Apache Trail does provide wonderful scenery and an experience you won't readily forget.

Today, you'll travel into the scenic Superstition Wilderness east of Phoenix for a unique look at the Sonoran Desert. You'll visit a ghost town called Goldfield and tour its gold mine; take a short nature hike at Lost Dutchman State Park; drive along beautiful Canyon Lake; visit the popular tourist town of Tortilla Flat and sample prickly pear (cactus) ice cream; and view rugged

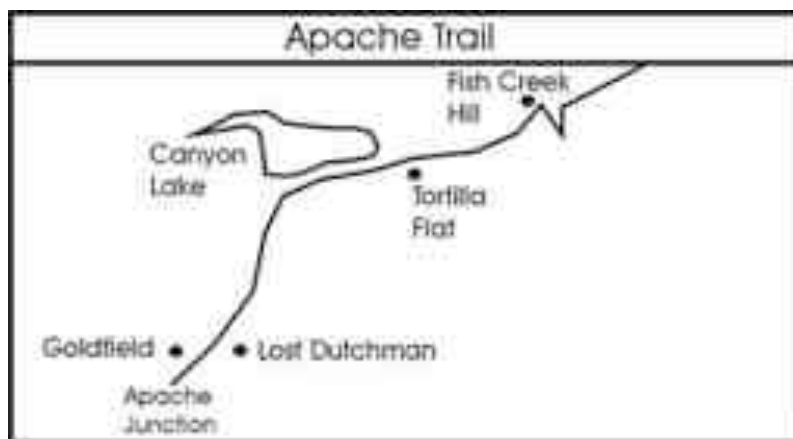
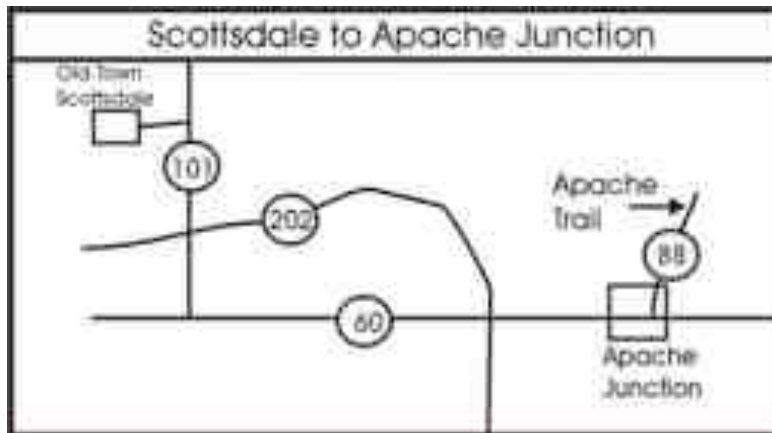
canyon country from Fish Creek Hill. If you wish to do something else instead, you can choose from among the “Additional Activities” at the end of this issue.

Pick a sunny, rain-free day for this activity. We also suggest that you allow at least six hours to tour the Apache Trail—and that you take a camera and plenty of bottled water with you, as well as sunglasses and a hat if you plan to hike. There are no service stations along the Apache Trail.

This is a road that should be taken slowly; it’s safe for cars and small RVs (except when the roadway is wet) but it’s mostly narrow, often winding and has some steep drop-offs. It’s not for nervous drivers or nervous passengers. It is possible to drive a longer, full circle route by continuing past our recommended turnaround point to take in Apache Lake, Roosevelt Dam, Tonto National Monument (cliff dwellings), the mining towns of Globe and Superior and return to Apache Junction. Google “The Apache Trail Circle Route” for a full description.

To get to the Apache Trail, drive south on Highway 101, east on Highway 202, east on Highway 60 and north onto Highway 88 in Apache Junction. (Highway 60 between Hwys 101 and 202 is very slow-going, compared to 202.)

Your first stop comes up quickly, on your left, less than two miles (3 km) past the beginning of Apache Trail.



Goldfield Ghost Town

This is a genuine gold mining town site, but most of the buildings are not original. That should not hamper your enjoyment, because it looks and “feels” authentic. The wood for the buildings came from former mining towns in the Superstition Wilderness. And the gold mine is genuine. Called the Mammoth Mine, it produced about three million dollars in gold bullion over a four-year period, 1892-1896. If you’ve never taken a mine tour, we recommend this one. Otherwise, a half-hour walkaround and looksee of Goldfield is enjoyable. If you have children along, they’ll enjoy the ride on the narrow gauge railroad.

Goldfield Ghost Town, 4650 N. Mammoth Mine Rd., Goldfield Ghost Town, Apache Junction Az, 480-982-0276, www.goldfieldghosttown.com.

As you leave Goldfield, you’ll have a wonderful view of the much-photographed Superstition Mountain, which rises about 3,000 feet (914 m) above the desert floor. See the photo on page 1.

One-half mile beyond Goldfield, you’ll come to Lost Dutchman State Park on your right.

Lost Dutchman State Park

This is a State of Arizona-run park that features miles of hiking trails. It was named for a German immigrant miner who discovered a rich vein of gold, in the early 1870s, but died before revealing its location. Many people have searched for it over the years, to no avail.

Just before the entrance station, you’ll find a parking lot on the right side of the driveway. Park there and follow the short nature trail; you won’t need to pay the park entrance fee. This walk will set you up for viewing the various desert plants that you’ll be seeing along the Apache Trail. Markers point out the tall, spindly Ocotillo plant, the green-branched Palo Verde tree, and many cacti, including the Saguaro, Teddy Bear Cholla, Prickly Pear, Barrel and Agave. During spring, you’re also likely to see an assortment of wildflowers. The non-cactus shrubs and bushes are referred to as chaparral.

Lost Dutchman State Park, 6109 North Apache Trail Apache Junction, Arizona 85119, 480-982-4485, www.azstateparks.com/Parks/LODU/index.html.

Eleven miles (18 km) past the state park, you’ll come to Canyon Lake.

Canyon Lake

Technically, this is a reservoir, one of seven that provide water to the greater Phoenix area. The lake is a surprise to the eye as it’s nestled within the Apache Trail’s Sonoran Desert environment. It’s a beauty and is a good location for water sports and fishing. Ninety minute narrated tours of the lake are available on “Dolly Steamboat” which departs from the marina near the restaurant; 480-827-9144, www.dollysteamboat.com.

The Apache Trail’s roadway runs along the southern shore, giving you a nice view of the lake. An even closer look can be had from the patio of the marina’s Lakeside Restaurant & Cantina at 16802 NE Highway 88, 480-288-8290, www.canyonlakerestaurant.com.

Tortilla Flat is only two miles (3 km) beyond Canyon Lake.

Tortilla Flat

This enjoyable tourist attraction has a permanent population of six and hundreds of visitors most days. Its popularity is due primarily to its location on the Apache Trail, the Tortilla Flat Saloon and Restaurant, and Prickly Pear gelato served up at the ice cream parlor.

Myths have described Tortilla Flat as an Old West town and as a stage stop. But according to the research reported at www.tortillaflataz.com/oldwesttown/history.html, the town didn't exist before 1904 when the site was built as a staging area for the construction and maintenance of Roosevelt Dam, about 26 miles (42 km) at the top of the Apache Trail.

Nevertheless, it's a unique and enjoyable place to visit. The architecture and wood construction of the buildings is certainly Old West-looking. The saloon and restaurant, with its real saddle seats at the bar and dollar bills covering all the walls, looks authentic, and the food it serves is very tasty ("big burgers, big dawgs, killer chili," sandwiches, salads, chicken items, and Mexican food). Yes, the saloon and restaurant are air conditioned during the summer. There's a covered patio next to the saloon that serves up popular Country & Western tunes and some of the same saloon restaurant food, from just after Christmas to Easter. The Country Store matches the overall ambiance of Tortilla Flat, and its Prickly Pear (cactus) gelato is quite good. If you have time, visit the gift shop and the small museum that's located in the old school house.

Tortilla Flat, 20909 E. Apache Trail, 480-984-1776, www.tortillaflataz.com.

The paved part of Apache Trail ends about four miles (6 km) beyond Tortilla Flat, and about three miles (5 km) beyond that you'll arrive at the top of Fish Creek Hill. That's three miles of sometimes-rough dirt road, but driving it will get you to one of the highlights of the Apache Trail.

Fish Creek Hill

Talk about rough country! From the top of this hill, you can look down into 1,000-foot-deep, tortured canyons and at their knotty and twisted rock walls. Here, in addition to the very unusual scenic views, you'll find modern restroom facilities and a paved walking path with an unpaved extension.

Do drive the extra two miles to the bottom of Fish Creek Hill—it takes less than ten minutes. The road has only a ten percent grade and bottoms out at Fish Creek in Fish Creek Canyon with spectacular, towering 1,500-foot walls all around you. Don't hang out for long there if it's raining anywhere nearby; the canyon is known for flash-flooding.

From here, you could drive on to Apache Lake, Roosevelt Dam and the rest of the Apache Trail Circle Route, but you've essentially experienced the Apache Trail and we recommend that you return to the Phoenix/Scottsdale area the way you came. A second look at the Apache Trail, from the opposite direction, is guaranteed to reveal some new things to you.

Day Three – **Scottsdale**

Today, we offer you a choice to start your day. After that, we recommend you tour the galleries and shops in Old Town, window shop in Fashion Square or on 5th Avenue, and visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West.

Reader's Choice – Camelback Mountain or the State Historical Museum

Camelback Mountain

Hiking to the top of Scottsdale's Camelback Mountain is a popular but strenuous activity that's enjoyed by hikers of all ages (as well as a few dogs). There are two trails, both of which rise about 1,200 feet to the 2,704-ft (824.2-m) above-sea-level summit. They are a little less than 1.5 miles long (2.4 km) and are open from sunrise to sunset, or 7pm, whichever comes first. Parking at both trailheads is very limited. The first is the Cholla Trail, on the east side, which begins near Invergordon/64th Street and Cholla Lane. The second is the Echo Summit Trail, which begins at Echo Canyon Parkway just east of Tatum Boulevard off McDonald Drive. Of the two trails, Summit Trail is the more difficult.

We recommend the easier, Cholla Trail. But, so that you're not misled, expect large stone stairs and boulders at the beginning and a rough patch of large rocks at the top. In between, the trail is relatively easy. Your reward will be an eagle's view of Phoenix and Scottsdale.

To get there, drive west on Chaparral to 64th/Invergordon, then north to E. Cholla Ln. (Chaparral is the next major street north of Camelback; see the following map to locate Camelback.) Parking is allowed on the west side of 64th/Invergordon.

This is good cardio exercise for experienced, fit hikers, but *it's not for beginning hikers or those with heart or breathing problems*. Allow at least one hour for the climb up, 30 minutes down, especially in hot weather. Carry and drink water. Google "hike Camelback" for more information.

Arizona Historical Society Museum

This excellent museum is in Tempe, just outside the southwest boundary of Scottsdale. It's easily accessible from Old Town Scottsdale by driving south on Scottsdale Rd., for about three miles (4.8 km), to McDowell Rd. Turn right on McDowell and left ½ mile later on 68th St.. Drive 1-1/2 miles on 68th until it becomes College Ave. (where the road curves) and look for the long, two-story brick building on your right. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10-4, and Sunday 12-4; 1300 N. College Ave., Tempe, AZ; (480) 929-0292; www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org.

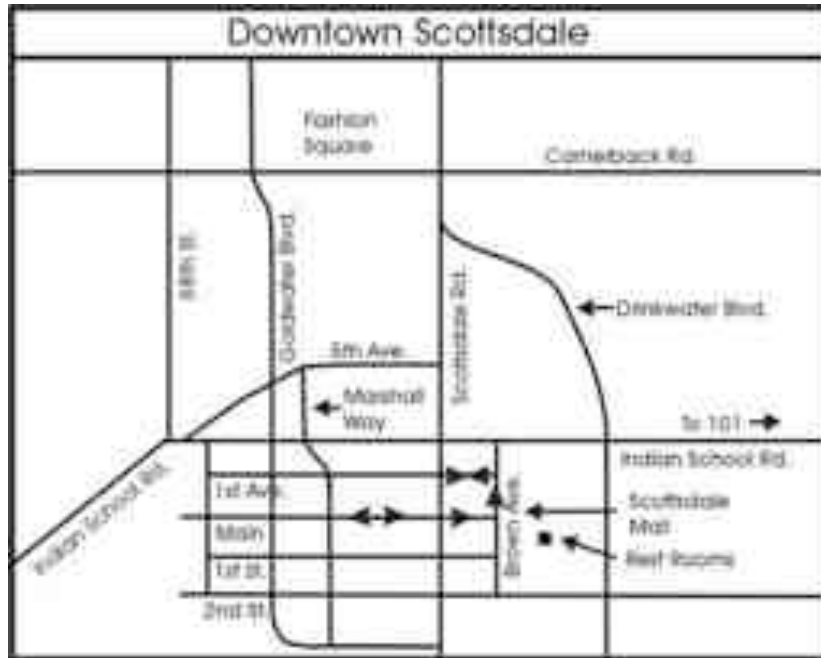
The museum's permanent exhibits about Western life, the Roosevelt Dam, Arizona agriculture, and Arizona life are all on the second floor. Here's how the museum describes itself: The Museum at Papago Park is the principal museum in the Phoenix metropolitan area covering the changes that have made Arizona what it is today. Concentrating on Arizona in the 20th and 21st centuries, the museum is filled with stories—stories about World War II and its effects in Arizona, stories about the rise of desert cities, and stories about Arizona popular culture. The museum brings stories to life through engaging exhibits, hands-on and multimedia displays, children's activities, and a variety of educational programs.

We happily spent two hours enjoying the museum's exhibits.

Old Town Scottsdale

We recommend a walking tour of Old Town (Downtown) Scottsdale that has two parts: first the galleries, then the shops. Since most galleries are open 10am-5pm, Monday through

Saturday, touring them first makes sense. That involves walking Main St. between Scottsdale Rd. and a half block west of Marshall Way. (There are many other galleries in the area; this is the street with the greatest concentration of them.) Since you will want to explore the galleries that suit your taste, we'll highlight only a few that we found most enjoyable.



We love **Legacy Gallery** and **Heritage Gallery**, located on the northwest corner of Scottsdale Rd. and Main St. for their Western paintings and sculptures. Others that we especially enjoy are **Signature Gallery** (7141 Main), **Expressions Gallery** (7077 Main), and **Casa de Artistas** (7058 Main).

You'll find another of our favorites, **Trailside Galleries**, during your tour of shops in Old Town Scottsdale. From where Main St. abuts Brown Ave., walk into Scottsdale Mall, pass the horse sculpture, and head toward the white building on your left.

Most of the interesting shops, behind rustic storefronts in Old Town Scottsdale, can be found on Main St. between Scottsdale Rd. and Brown Ave., on Brown Ave. itself, and on 1st Ave. between Brown and Scottsdale Roads. (See the photo on page 1.) They are generally open 10am-6pm, seven days a week. Again, we'll defer to your taste and let you choose the ones you want to visit. We particularly like **Gilbert Ortega's** on the northeast corner of Main St. and Scottsdale Rd., **Outrageous Gallery** (7232 Main), and **Saba's Western Store** (7254 Main and 3965 Brown).

By the way, if you're in Scottsdale on a Thursday, most galleries and shops reopen from 7pm to 9pm as part of the popular Scottsdale ArtWalk.

Fashion Square and 5th Avenue

Scottsdale is famous for shopping, and Fashion Square is at the top of the list. It's located just north of Old Town Scottsdale on Camelback Rd. between Scottsdale Rd. and Goldwater

Blvd. One of the largest shopping malls in the United States, Fashion Square has more than 250 stores and two million square feet of retail space. Among its many shops are exclusive retailers such as **Barney's New York, Burberry, Cartier, Coach, Gucci, Kate Spade New York, Louis Vuitton, Montblanc, Prada, St. Croix, and Tiffany & Co.** Its four major department stores are **Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Dillard's and Macy's.**

Fashion Square, at 7014 E. Camelback, is open 10am-9pm Monday-Saturday, 11am-6pm Sunday. For more information: 480-941-2140 and www.fashionsquare.com.

Another great area where you can spend time and money is the 5th Avenue Shopping District in the northern section of Old Town Scottsdale, between Goldwater Blvd. and Scottsdale Rd. It's the original arts and crafts center of Scottsdale and has an eclectic selection of 60 shops. Fifteen of them are boutiques, 15 sell jewelry, six carry Native American or Southwest products, there are five bars and clubs, and four shops sell crafts. There is one restaurant on 5th Avenue, called **5th and Wine**; it's highly rated by contributors to TripAdvisor.com. The bronze horse fountain, at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Marshall Way, is worthy of an admiring look and some photographic attention. See more at www.5thavenuescottsdale.com.

Taliesin West (tal-ee-ess-en)

Built starting in the 1930s out of available local materials, this was the winter home for Frank Lloyd Wright, his family and some of his apprentices (students), and is today the main campus of the accredited Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. But it is also special as "twenty-fifth on the list of the one hundred most significant works of architecture in the *world* in the preceding 100 years," according to a 1991 survey by *Architectural Record*. It's a National Historic Landmark.

Eccentric and an architectural genius, Wright is considered to be America's top architect of the 20th century

Tour the house, other buildings and the grounds and learn about the man, his philosophy and his innovative architecture. All furniture and decorations were designed by Wright. The most popular tour, the 90-minute "Insights Tour," begins every 30 minutes during November-April and every hour on the hour from May-October. The one-hour "Panorama Tour" begins hourly from 10:15am to 3:15pm. See the website below for details. Reservations are not necessary. The tours are pricey, but worth it (if you're tolerant of the wear-and-tear that's occurred during the past 75 years).

Taliesin West, 12621 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85259; 480-860-8810; www.franklloydwright.org/web/Tours.html. To get there from Old Town Scottsdale, drive north seven miles on Highway 101 to Exit 40, then drive east three miles on Cactus Road to Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd.

* * * * *

Additional Attractions

The preceding are the highlights of many enjoyable things to see and do in the Phoenix-Scottsdale area. We refer you to *Fodor's Arizona and the Grand Canyon* for other attraction possibilities in the area. We also recommend a helpful website, www.mustseephoenix.com, which

pinpoints 24 area attractions on a map, with descriptions for each, and provides links to each of their websites. Here some attractions that we want to particularly bring to your attention:

In or Near Phoenix

Musical Instrument Museum – North Phoenix

We've never seen or heard of a museum like this. The MIM displays 15,000 musical instruments, from every country in the world except one (Libya). Besides the way the instruments are physically presented—with flair and plenty of descriptive information—they come to life through videos which show them being played by people in their country settings. Headsets are provided so individual visitors can clearly hear the instruments when standing in front of each exhibit—without noisy competition from adjoining exhibits. It's quite amazing to see and hear so many unusual instruments in one place.

This is a new and large museum that has a very classy feel about it. Most instruments are displayed on the second floor in airy galleries by regions of the world (Africa, Middle East, Southeast Asia, Latin America, etc.). There are three galleries on the first floor: the Experience Gallery, in which visitors can play some of the displayed instruments; the Artist Gallery, which features the music of world-renowned performers; and the Mechanical Music Gallery which features instruments that play on their own.

Funding for the museum was provided by Bob Ulrich, former Chairman and CEO of retail giant, Target, by corporate sponsors, by and individual contributors.

Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd, Phoenix 85050, 480-478-6000, www.themim.org. Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 9am to 5pm, Thursday and Friday 9am to 9pm, and Sunday 10am to 5pm. The MIM has a store and a café.

Pioneer Living History Village – North of Phoenix

Most of the 30 buildings in this outdoor museum are original structures, or historically accurate reproductions, moved here from elsewhere in Arizona to simulate a late-1880s town. Among them are a schoolhouse, blacksmith and carpenter shops, community church, opera house, miner's cabin, sheriff's office and jail, stage stop, saloon, and several period houses. Costumed interpreters add to the learning experience.

Pioneer Living History Village is closed Monday, Tuesday and on rainy days, otherwise open 9am-4pm Wednesday-Sunday, October 1 through May 1; 8am-2pm Wednesday-Sunday, June 1 through September 30; at Exit 225 on Interstate 17; 3901 W. Pioneer Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85086; 623-465-1052, www.pioneer-arizona.com.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archeological Park – In Phoenix

We really like this museum, but didn't include it in the primary tour, because we didn't want to overburden you with Native American Indian attractions.

This is *the* place to learn about the Hohokam, a people without a written language, yet with engineering and agricultural skills that surpassed most prehistoric peoples in Arizona. They built more than 1,000 miles of canals on the desert floor, some 30 ft (9 m) wide and 10 ft (3 m) deep, to irrigate their fields of corn, squash, beans and cotton from about 1 AD to 1450 AD. The

interpretive trail, ballcourt and exhibits are spread over 102 acres (41 hectares). Inside, there is a 10-minute orientation video, a mural that depicts the village in 1350 AD, galleries that contain displays of pottery, tools and jewelry, and an explanation of the science of archeology.

A section of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, the Pueblo Grande Museum is open 9am-4:45pm Monday-Saturday and 1pm-4:45pm Sunday, October through April; and 9am-4:45pm Tuesday-Saturday, May through September; 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85034; 602-495-0901; www.pueblogrande.com.

Phoenix Zoo – In Papago Park, Phoenix

This zoo is good for children, but needs upgrades to satisfy adults. 125 acres; narrated tram ride; can be walked in 1-1/2 to two hours; favorite parts are Orangutan habitat, spider monkey walk-in cage, giraffe exhibit, petting sting rays, goat and cow petting, ride a small camel. Open 9am-5pm daily, except 7am-2pm daily June through August; 455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix; 602-273-1341, www.phoenixzoo.org.

In Scottsdale

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

The focus here is on contemporary art, architecture and design. The museum includes an outdoor sculpture garden and five galleries that see frequent changes in exhibits. Check the web-site for what's scheduled when you plan to be in town.

SMoCA is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, 12noon-5pm, Thursday 12noon to 8pm, Friday and Saturday 12noon to 10pm; 7374 East Second St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251; 480-874-4666; www.smoca.org.

* * * * *

Accommodations and Restaurants

We suggest that you find accommodations near Old Town Scottsdale and that you go to www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g31350-Scottsdale_Arizona-Hotels.html to identify a property that suits you. TripAdvisor.com ranks accommodations and provides very helpful traveler comments. For bed and breakfasts in the area, go to Google and type in "bed and breakfasts Scottsdale AZ."

Similarly, go to www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g31350-Scottsdale_Arizona.html for TripAdvisor contributor recommendations; click on "Downtown Scottsdale." We have very much enjoyed the food and service at Buca di Beppo (Italian; four times), Bandera (American) and Cowboy Ciao (Southwestern).

If you plan to spend more time in Arizona, see these earlier issues of Pathfinder Newsletter at www.traveltheamericanwest.com: "Grand Canyon-More Than a Hole in the Ground," "Tucson-Enjoy the Sonoran Desert," "Sedona-Arizona's Red Rock Country" and "The Wonders of Page, AZ."

Text, maps and photographs copyright ©2012 Pride Publications, Inc.

Bill and Celia Ginnodo are residents of Arlington Heights, Illinois. They have lived and traveled extensively in the American West, including Arizona. They are the authors of *Seven Perfect Days in Arizona: A Guided Driving Tour*, *Seven Perfect Days in Colorado: A Guided Driving Tour*, and *Seven Perfect Days in Northern California: A Guided Driving Tour*, which can be seen at www.pridepublications.com and www.amazon.com (enter keyword Ginnodo).

Free back issues of *Pathfinder Newsletter* may be seen and printed at www.pridepublications.com. They feature: Sedona; Glacier National Park; Santa Fe and Taos; Tucson; Northern California's Wine Country; San Francisco; Southwestern Colorado; Grand Canyon National Park; Olympic National Park; Bryce, Capitol Reef and Zion National Parks; Page, Arizona; Monterey, Carmel and Big Sur; Rocky Mountain and Estes Parks; Cody, Wyoming; Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; Denver and Boulder; Yosemite National Park; and, California's Gold Country; Oregon's Coast, Mountains, Columbia River Gorge and Wine.

Next Issue: "Monument Valley and Canyon de Chelly"