

ARIZONA AND GREATER PHOENIX

Think Outside

With more than 300 days of sunshine a year, Arizona's weather is ideal for just about anything outdoors.



BLUE SKIES: (left to right) Dining alfresco; Hiking in Sedona.



Blessed with sunny skies and a mild climate, Arizona prides itself on a relaxed, open-air lifestyle. The state has a recharge-your-batteries energy and an untucked stylishness, with entertainment options as wide open as the landscape: first-rate golf, esteemed spas, and an unpretentious nightlife. With more than 300 days of sunshine a year, Arizona's weather is ideal for just about anything outdoors—including dining. So after an invigorating day, you can relax under a brilliant sky as one of Arizona's chefs prepares to take your palate on the ride of its life.

A difficult hike, but worth the effort, Humphreys Trail outside of **Flagstaff** takes you to the summit of Mount Humphreys. In the distance, the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, the Verde Valley, and Oak Creek Canyon form a 360-degree panorama. After you've seen it, you'll be able to say you've been as high as you can get in Arizona. Flagstaff, once known for its cowboy steakhouses and Route 66 diners, has expanded its culinary repertoire, adding sophisticated dining options to the roster. At Josephine's Modern American Bistro, you can savor pork with mole sauce or ancho-marinated sirloin next to an indoor fireplace or on an expansive porch.

Hike amid the red rocks of **Sedona**, a devastatingly beautiful landscape of sun-baked sandstone formations. Favorite hikes include the Cathedral Rock Trail and rugged Oak Creek Canyon, but you can't go wrong no matter which path you choose. Oak Creek Brewery & Grill—set in the Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village, in the red rocks of Sedona—is known for its handcrafted beer and great food. The display kitchen houses the rotisserie and wood-fired oven used to prepare the house specialties, Rotisserie Chicken & Pork Ribs and Fire-Kissed Pizzas.

Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, adjacent to the Coronado National Forest and at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains outside of **Tucson**, has waterfalls, pools, and streams nestled in a rocky, Saguaro-filled canyon. Take the Bear Canyon Tram and hike to Seven Falls, where you can take a dip in one of the crystal-clear pools. Tucson's Café Terra Cotta serves up innovative regional flavors, achieved by mixing native Southwestern and Mexican ingredients with classical French and Mexican cooking techniques. Here, too, you can dine outdoors in an intimate setting, basking in the legendary warmth and beauty of Arizona.

There are countless ways to experience the exhilarating Sonoran Desert scenery and open-air lifestyle of **Greater Phoenix**. You can immerse yourself in it on a pristine hiking trail, or soar above it all in a hot-air balloon. Test your skills on a championship golf course, or stroll through boutiques hunting for treasures. Revel in Greater Phoenix, with its year-round warm weather, and over 300 days of clear blue skies.

At **South Mountain Park**, take pleasure in trails filled with cacti, including the tall, iconic Saguaro. Depending on the season, look for great horned owls, roadrunners, and hawks. Stop at the picnic *ramadas* (shaded open-air shelters), and search for mysterious petroglyphs, carved by long-lost tribes. At South Mountain's summit, Greater Phoenix spreads out before you. The preserve is laced with 51 miles of trails for horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking for all ability levels. It is the largest municipal park in the country (at 16,000 acres), but it's only the beginning of what Greater Phoenix offers. The region is dotted with mountains such as **Camelback**, which has two trailheads open from sunrise to sunset. If you want to reach even greater heights, take to the skies

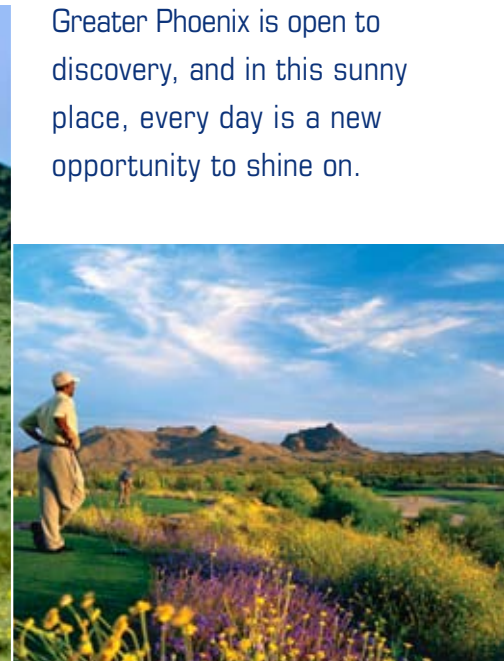
on an unforgettable balloon ride. Far below will be Greater Phoenix—complete with wondrous desert landscapes, spreading out for limitless miles.

Those who prefer to keep their feet solidly on the ground can tee off at one of the 200 golf courses in Greater Phoenix. Many area courses come with astonishing mountain and desert vistas. They include many top-tier courses, such as Kierland Golf Club at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa and the We-Ko-Pa Golf Club, with its dramatic views of the McDowell Mountains, Red Mountain, Four Peaks, and the Superstitions.

Some would say that shopping is also a sport. If that's true, then Greater Phoenix could be considered its ultimate arena. At upscale Biltmore Fashion Park, you'll find Saks Fifth Avenue, Ralph Lauren, Escada, and Calypso. At Kierland Commons, stroll in the open air among shops offering the best that money can buy. Or head to downtown Phoenix for an assortment of eclectic boutiques. Greater Phoenix is open to discovery, and in this sunny place, every day is a new opportunity to shine on.

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SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE: (left to right) Biking at South Mountain; Teeing off at We-Ko-Pa Golf Club.

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