

PHOENIX METRO

1 DAY ONE – PHOENIX

What to do

In Phoenix, everything opens up: wide skies, bold flavors, and a city that's quietly become one of the most interesting in the country. (Also: the fifth-largest city in the U.S. and your main gateway via Sky Harbor International Airport.) Start in the **Roosevelt Row Arts District**, where street art covers buildings and every corner feels like it's trying to outdo the last. Grab a drink, wander into galleries, and soak it all in.

For something deeper, the **Heard Museum** offers one of the most powerful collections of American Indian art and culture anywhere. Then shift back outside at the **Desert Botanical Garden**, where 50,000+ desert plants prove the landscape is anything but empty. Want to move? **South Mountain Park** gives you 16,000 acres to explore...the largest municipal park in the U.S. Hike, bike, or just take in the scale of it all.

visitarizona.com/places/cities/phoenix

Where to stay

The Global Ambassador: Placed perfectly for travelers wanting an upscale homebase to explore the whole metro, The Global Ambassador offers cosmopolitan class in the Camelback foothills. Its style is distinctly Euro-chic, but the hospitality is sun-soaked. Take in views (and a cocktail or two) at the buzzy rooftop restaurant and book an exclusive treatment at the spa, known for cutting-edge beauty-tech you can't get anywhere else. globalambassadorhotel.com

Arizona Biltmore: The home of a century of celebrity gossip and the original tequila sunrise (tequila, crème de cassis, lime, and soda — no OJ in this classic, thank you very much), the Arizona Biltmore is ultimate in desert opulence. Some say the McArthur brothers launched Arizona as a tourist destination with this hotel, but everyone knows the Biltmore is where you go when your life needs a shot of Marilyn Monroe-level glamour. arizonabiltmore.com

Where to dine

The Churchill: A vibrant, open-air gathering space in Phoenix built from shipping containers, offering artisan pop-ups, multiple food concepts, craft cocktails, and a lively, social atmosphere.

thechurchillphx.com

Pizzeria Bianco: A James Beard Award-winning institution and one of the most talked-about wood-fired pizzerias in the country. Two locations in Phoenix. Worth planning ahead.

pizzeriabianco.com



2 DAY TWO – SCOTTSDALE & PARADISE VALLEY

What to do

Elevate your trip by making this your home base. In **Scottsdale** and **Paradise Valley**, the desert leans into luxury, with more Forbes Five-Star resorts per capita than anywhere in the U.S. outside of New York. Paradise Valley itself? Just 15 square miles, no commercial development by design, and some of the most exclusive resort real estate in Arizona.

Start in **Old Town Scottsdale**, where more than 100 galleries line walkable streets and Western art takes center stage (it's the largest concentration in the country). If you're here on a Thursday night, the weekly **ArtWalk** turns the whole district into a moving gallery. Then shift gears at **Taliesin West** — Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and architecture school, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's thoughtful, intentional, and deeply rooted in the surrounding desert. And yes...make time for **Sugar Bowl**. Because sometimes a neon-pink ice cream parlor that's basically a Scottsdale rite of passage is exactly what your day needs.

visitarizona.com/places/cities/scottsdale

Where to stay:

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort: Intimate, elevated, and quietly luxurious, with lush desert landscaping and breathtaking panoramic views in the heart of Paradise Valley. sanctuaryaz.com

Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia: Moroccan-inspired design paired with dramatic architecture, a strong sense of place, and a Hammam-style spa. omnihotels.com/hotels/scottsdale-montelucia

Where to dine:

FnB Restaurant: Led by James Beard Award-winning Chef Charleen Badman, this hyper-local, vegetable-forward restaurant is one of the most critically acclaimed in Scottsdale. Reservations recommended. fnbrestaurant.com

Jade Bar: The metro's best sunset cocktail experience, perched high above Paradise Valley with sweeping Camelback Mountain views and irresistible libations and culinary creations. sanctuaryaz.com/dining/jade-bar

OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE



TALIESIN WEST



ARTWALK



SUGAR BOWL



SANCTUARY CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN RESORT



OMNI SCOTTSDALE RESORT & SPA AT MONTELUCCIA



3 DAY THREE – TEMPE AND MESA

Drive Tempe ➤ Mesa 15 mins

What to do

This is where the energy shifts. In **Tempe**, things move faster, stay later, and feel just a little more spontaneous. Just what you'd expect from a place where a university sets the pace.

Start at **Tempe Town Lake**, where you can kayak, paddleboard, or just walk the shoreline and take it all in. For something quick and iconic, head to **Hole in the Rock** in **Papago Park**, a short, 15-minute hike to one of the most photographed desert preserves in the metro area. Then, when the sun goes down, the tempo picks up on **Mill Avenue**, where dining and nightlife keep things going well into the wee hours.

In **Mesa**, you'll find a quieter, more unexpected side of the metro area. Start at **Mesa Grande Cultural Park**, where a 1,500-year-old Hohokam platform mound rises quietly in the middle of the city. It's one of the most significant pre-Columbian sites in the Southwest.

Then head to **Usery Mountain Regional Park**, where saguaros stretch in every direction, and the Salt River winds through nearby terrain. Keep your eyes open, wild horses, bald eagles, and other wildlife aren't uncommon here. Hungry? This is where Mesa really shows up. The **Mesa Asian District** is one of the largest and most authentic in the Southwest: Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Korean, Filipino. Come curious, and don't overthink it. [visitarizona.com/places/cities/tempe](https://www.visitarizona.com/places/cities/tempe) and [visitarizona.com/places/cities/mesa](https://www.visitarizona.com/places/cities/mesa)

Where to dine:

Four Peaks Brewing Company (Tempe): Tempe is home to the state's most widely distributed craft brewery, with a flagship taproom in a historic 1892 creamery and ice factory. [fourpeaks.com](https://www.fourpeaks.com)

Tacos Chiwas (Mesa): This family-owned Mexican restaurant is a James Beard semifinalist serving authentic Chihuahuan-style tacos on a walkable main street in Mesa. [tacoschiwas.com](https://www.tacoschiwas.com)

Asian District (Mesa): Mekong Plaza is one of the largest Asian food and retail districts in the Southwest, serving authentic Vietnamese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, and Filipino fare. It's diverse, delicious, and worth exploring. [visitmesa.com/communities/asian-district](https://www.visitmesa.com/communities/asian-district)

Where to stay:

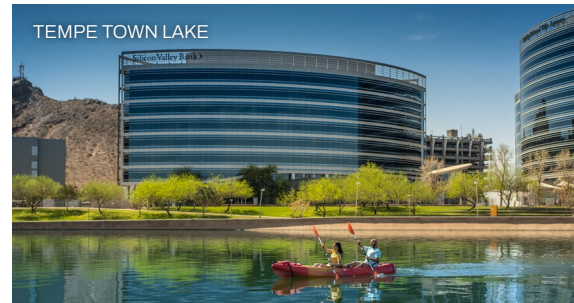
Tempe Mission Palms (Tempe): Tempe Mission Palms gives you a peaceful retreat in the middle of the Mill Avenue bustle. Rooms and suites overlook a palm-treed courtyard, and the idyllic pool has views of both the downtown skyline and Hayden Butte. [hyatt.com/destination-by-hyatt/en-US/phxdt-tempe-mission-palms](https://www.hyatt.com/destination-by-hyatt/en-US/phxdt-tempe-mission-palms)

Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch (Mesa): Wind your way 40 minutes northeast along the Salt River to escape to the Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch. Adventures in the Tonto National Forest abound: kayaking, river tubing, sunset horseback tours, paddleboarding, hiking and more. Good thing this historic guest ranch offers inclusive dining plans with cabin lodging — you're going to need to fuel up on those pancakes and cowboy cookouts to keep going! [saguarolakeranch.com](https://www.saguarolakeranch.com)

PAPAGO PARK



TEMPE TOWN LAKE



USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK



FOUR PEAKS BREWING COMPANY



SAGUARO LAKE GUEST RANCH

