

SEASONS

Mother Nature smiles on some cities more than others. Phoenix, obviously, is blessed in the sunshine department.

Phoenix basks in sunshine more than any other major metropolitan area in the U.S. — during 85 percent of its daylight hours. And the cliché that “it’s a dry heat” rings true: Humidity levels are pleasantly low, even in summer.

The bottom line: Any time is a good time to visit the Sonoran Desert.

WINTER
During the winter months Greater Phoenix enjoys blue skies and highs in the 60s and 70s. Winter nights in the desert can get chilly, though the temperature rarely dips below freezing.

SPRING
Phoenix’s weather is consistently perfect during springtime. Daytime temperatures loll around 80 degrees, while evenings are comfortably cool. Spring is when hikers hit the trails to see blooming cactuses and wildflowers, and baseball fans flock to stadiums across the metro area for Cactus League Spring Training.

SUMMER
Summertime temps routinely reach triple digits in summer, but a 100-degree day in the desert actually feels much more pleasant than an 85-degree day in a locale with heavy humidity. The best thing about summer in Phoenix: It’s value season. Prices at resorts, hotels and golf courses plunge as much as 30 percent.

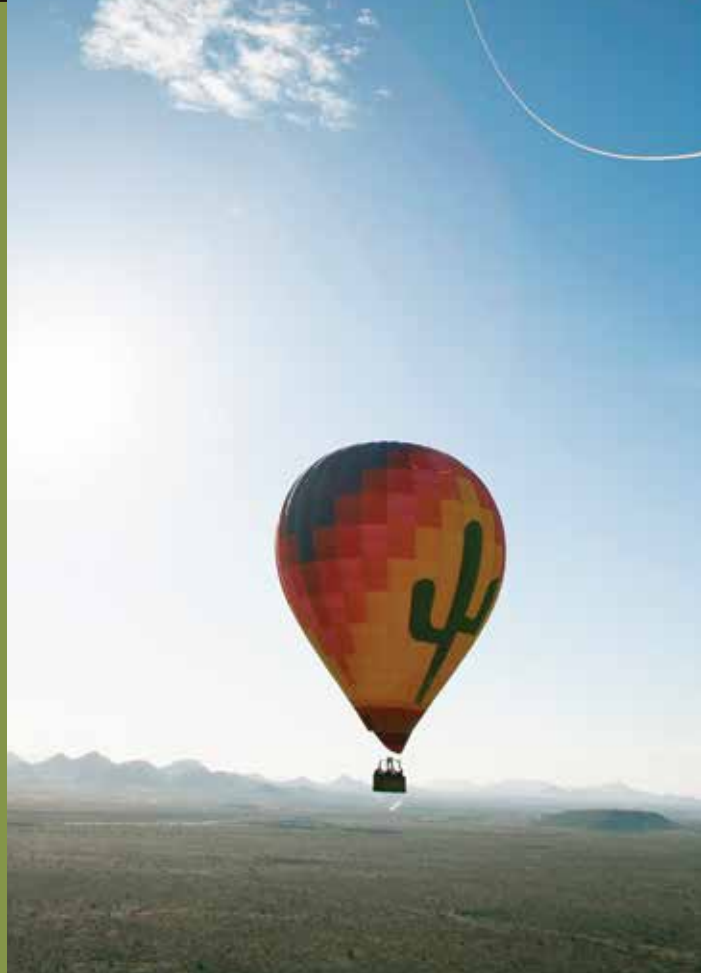
FALL
Autumn days in Phoenix are warm, sunny and exceedingly pleasant. It’s a great time for recreational pursuits, off-season sunbathing and serious shopping. Nights can get cool, but patio dining and outdoor events are still comfortable.

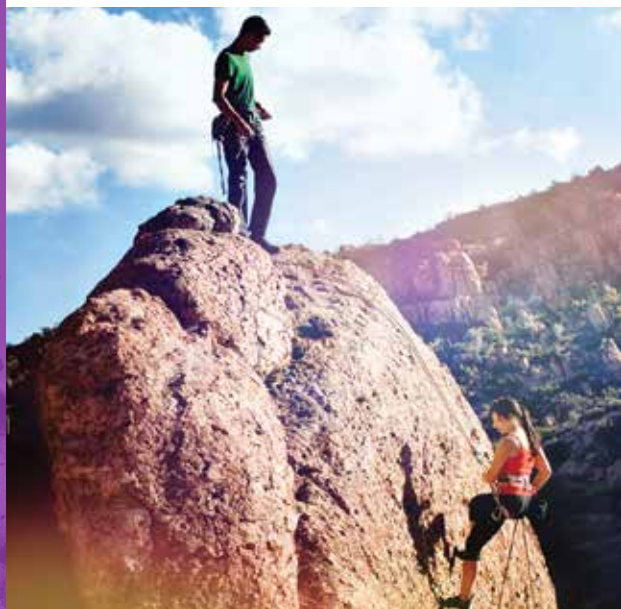


400 East Van Buren Street, Suite 600
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2290
(602) 254-6500 • Fax (602) 253-4415
www.visitphoenix.com

Average Temperatures in Phoenix

	HIGH (° F/ °C)	LOW (° F/ °C)
January	67/19	44/7
February	71/22	48/9
March	76/24	52/11
April	85/29	58/14
May	94/34	67/19
June	104/40	76/24
July	106/41	82/28
August	104/40	81/27
September	99/37	75/24
October	88/31	63/17
November	75/24	50/10
December	67/19	44/7
Average	86/30	62/17





Welcome

Welcome to Greater Phoenix, America's sunniest metropolis and the cosmopolitan heart of Arizona. The city is surrounded on all sides by mountains, and the sun shines during 85 percent of daylight hours.

Metropolitan Phoenix is expansive: It's similar in size to the nation of Denmark and the state of Delaware, and it encompasses more than 20 cities and towns. Getting around, however, is easy. The airport is located three miles from a downtown that's refreshingly compact and walkable, and the city's streets are laid out on a grid. METRO Light Rail serves downtown Phoenix — including the Central Avenue corridor — and connects it to the neighboring communities of Tempe and Mesa.

What sets Phoenix apart from every other big city in the United States is its Sonoran Desert scenery. Phoenix has more acreage of parks and preserves than any other major metropolis in the nation, and visitors can explore them via hundreds of miles of trails — or from the basket of a hot-air balloon.

Phoenix is a relatively young city by both historical and demographical standards. It was founded in 1861, and today's populace has a median age of 32 years old. Like the best American metropolises, Phoenix is a place where it's easy to migrate between high culture and low. It is known as much for street tacos, spring-training baseball and casual patio dining as it is for high-desert golf courses, destination spas and upscale shopping.

This is Phoenix: Beautiful. Wild. Distinct. Diverse. Fun.

Have a wonderful time during your visit.



10 Must-See Attractions

Greater Phoenix's perpetual sunshine might tempt you to spend all your free time lounging next to a swimming pool. Don't give in. Exploring the Sonoran Desert's horizons will broaden yours. Below are 10 must-see attractions that will help make your visit a memorable one.

1. Camelback Mountain [1 M-17]

Nearly every outdoors-loving Phoenix local has, at some time or another, started his or her day with a hike to the top of Camelback Mountain. The city's most famous landmark resembles a dromedary camel in repose, and the mountain challenges hikers with a rugged but rewarding trek to its 2,700-foot "hump".

2. Musical Instrument Museum [2 G-19]

Phoenix's newest museum is the first in the world dedicated to the celebration of global instruments. The collection includes instruments from 200 countries and territories. Musicians of all ages will dig the Experience Room, where you can touch and play every instrument on display.

3. Desert Botanical Garden [3 P-18]

This outdoor museum showcases desert plants — and not just those native to the Southwest. Among the succulents that adorn the garden's 50 acres are Dali-esque trees from North Africa and sprawling cactuses from Mesopotamia. Insider's tip: Sign up for a docent-guided tour.

4. Heard Museum [4 O-15]

The traditional and contemporary art on display at the Heard provides insight into the culture of Arizona's 22 Native American tribes. Not to be missed is the upstairs exhibit on Indian boarding schools. And the Heard Museum Shop is one of best places in Phoenix to buy authentic American Indian art and jewelry.

5. Children's Museum of Phoenix [5 DOWNTON PHOENIX]

This museum doesn't focus on art or science, nor does it contain paintings or bones; instead, the hands-on exhibits are designed simply to entertain children as young as infants and as old as 10. (Don't miss the hanging forest of pool noodles.)

6. South Mountain Park and Preserve [6 T-15]

This is the largest municipal park in the U.S. It covers 16,000 acres, making it nearly 20 times bigger than Central Park in New York. But you won't find manicured grass and fountains here; the park is instead filled with native flora, ancient petroglyphs and 50-plus miles of trails. There's also a kid-friendly nature center and a paved road to the summit.

7. Phoenix Art Museum [7 O-15]

Phoenix Art Museum is the largest fine-art museum in the Southwest. Its permanent collection includes American, Asian and European masterpieces. The museum is noted for its Western American collection, but striking work is also to be found in the Contemporary wing and Fashion Design gallery.



8. Heritage Square [8 DOWNTOWN PHOENIX]

Occupying a city block in downtown Phoenix, Heritage Square is a link to the city's 19th-century origins. Heritage Square is home to preserved Victorian-style homes, as well as the dramatically modern Arizona Science Center. But go for the critically acclaimed food at Pizzeria Bianco and Nobuo at Teeter House.

9. Old Town Scottsdale [9 J-28]

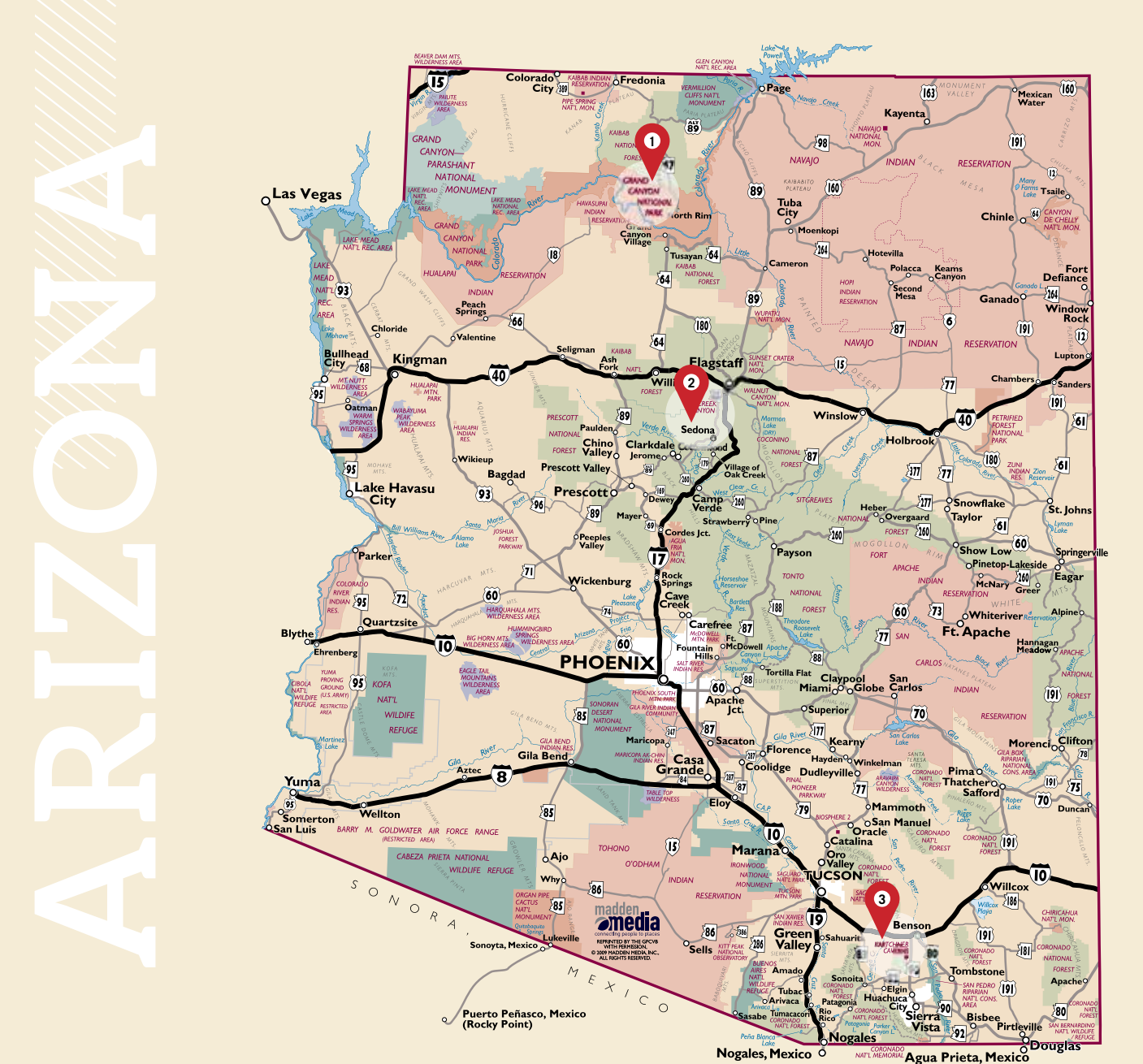
The Old West and New West converge in Old Town Scottsdale, where galleries dedicated to American Indian and cowboy arts share a pedestrian-friendly streetscape with shops that sell Southwestern jewelry and crafts. You'll also find some of Greater Phoenix's finest restaurants and trendiest nightlife.

10. Taliesin West [10 J-21]

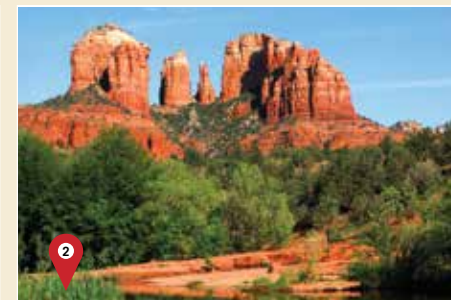
Subtly rising out of the desert floor at the foot of the McDowell Mountains, Taliesin West was the winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most-famous architect. Tours range from 1 hour to 3 hours, including a 2-hour Night Lights Tour on selected evenings throughout the year.



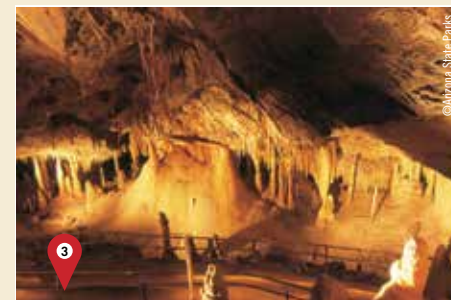
For real-time info about what's going on in Phoenix, follow @visitphoenix on Twitter or "like" the Visit Phoenix page on Facebook. And for an insider's perspective on the city's best eats and shopping, check out The Hot Sheet blog. You can connect to all of these social-media outlets — and create a custom itinerary for your visit — at VisitPhoenix.com.



Grand Canyon National Park



Sedona Red Rock State Park



Kartchner Caverns State Park



ICONIC SOUTHWEST

Greater Phoenix's distinctly Southwestern culture is defined by a colorful succession of inhabitants: Ancient Puebloans. Native Americans. Pioneers. Ranchers. Miners. Cowboys. Mexican immigrants. The legacy of these diverse peoples can be seen in the region's infrastructure, architecture and cuisine.

There are several places in Greater Phoenix where you can get a taste of authentic Southwestern culture. Some stops are educational, others are just fun. All are apt to leave a little dust on your shoes and a smile on your face.

Apache Trail [11 0-30]

This 48-mile scenic drive was named for the Apache Indians who originally used the trail to pass through the Superstition Mountains. It was later used as a stagecoach route and supply road. Today it carries sightseers past Lost Dutchman State Park, the tiny Old West town of Tortilla Flat and three recreational lakes.

Ponderosa Stables [12 T-15]

The guides at Ponderosa Stables have been showcasing the ruggedly beautiful Sonoran Desert to visitors for over 40 years. Escape the bustle of the city and soak in the simplistic beauty of the Old West with horseback rides lasting from one hour to a full eight-hour day. Special breakfast, lunch, dinner and sunset rides are also available.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park [13 0-17]

Experience a juxtaposition of centuries and cultures as cars whoosh by on nearby freeways and jets thunder above this 1,500-year-old Hohokam ruin in the center of the city. An outdoor trail takes visitors past a platform mound, ballcourt ruin, replicated houses and native plants.

Rawhide [14 W-17]

Located at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort, Rawhide is a replica of an 1880s Western town. Gunfighters, saloon belles and mounted lawmen roam its Main Street, which is also home to a stunt show, stagecoach and train rides, a mechanical bull, a petting ranch, and a steakhouse and saloon.



A TOUCH OF THE WEST

If you're interested in infusing a group event with authentic Southwestern character, there are several fun options:

- **Corona Ranch** specializes in Mexican fiestas and rodeo shows. (602) 237-3533
- **Fort McDowell Adventures** offers horseback riding, shooting demonstrations and cowboy cookouts. (480) 816-6465
- **Rustler's Rooste** adds cowboy spirit to dinners and parties with live Country & Western music and fried rattlesnake. (602) 431-6407
- **Heard Museum** can incorporate Native American hoop dancing into elegant catered dinners and events. (602) 251-0230

For more information on iconic Southwestern attractions, visit VisitPhoenix.com.



SHOPPING

Phoenix is a shopper's Shangri-La. The basic breakdown for where to find what goes like this: Scottsdale for high fashion; Central Phoenix for vintage; Uptown Phoenix for hipster goods; and downtown Glendale for antiques. Of course, as with fashion, there are exceptions to every rule.

Biltmore Fashion Park [15 M-16]

This mall's outdoor setting and proximity to the famed Arizona Biltmore resort make it a local favorite. Among the retailers that surround the grassy courtyard are Macy's, Brooks Brothers, Ralph Lauren, lululemon athletica, Saks Fifth Avenue and the always-hopping Apple Store. The fashion park's newest addition is UNION, a wing of locally owned boutiques.

Kierland Commons [16 I-18]

This Main Street-style mall is located next to Westin Kierland Resort and Spa. A grassy, tree-lined commons is the nucleus of shopping options that include Charles David, Michael Kors, Coach, Orvis and Crate & Barrel.

Melrose District [17 M-14]

Because Phoenix boomed in the '50s and '60s and has long been a popular destination for retirees, the city is a treasure trove for mid-century fashions and furnishings. The Melrose District — on 7th Avenue, three miles north of downtown — is where you find them.

Scottsdale Fashion Square [18 D-27]

This is the largest shopping mall in the Southwest, with three stories of retailers like Barneys New York, Burberry, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Neiman Marcus and Tiffany & Co. If you prefer to daydream at designer stores but do your real shopping at more accessible retailers, that's cool, too; the Fashion Square also features Anthropologie, H&M and J. Crew.

Outlet Malls

Phoenix is home to some of the best premium outlet shopping in North America. Between **Tanger Outlets** [19 L-10] , the **Outlets at Anthem** [20 A-13] and **Phoenix Premium Outlets** [21 W-17] , discerning shoppers can browse more than 200 brand-name retailers, each offering savings of 25 to 65 percent every day.

Other popular shopping destinations in Greater Phoenix include **Westgate Entertainment District** (Glendale) [22 L-10] , **Chandler Fashion Center** [23 V-20] , **Tempe Marketplace** [24 P-19] , **Desert Ridge Marketplace** [25 G-17] and **Scottsdale Quarter** [26 I-18] .

EVENTS

Year-Round

Artlink Phoenix-First Fridays — artlinkphoenix.com

Scottsdale ArtWalk — scottsdalegalleries.com

Winter

Arabian Horse Show, Scottsdale — scottsdalshow.com

Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Car Auction — barrett-jackson.com/Scottsdale

Native American Hoop Dance Championship, Phoenix — heard.org

P.F. Chang's Rock N' Roll Marathon Phoenix, Tempe, Scottsdale — runrocknroll.competitor.com/Arizona

Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, Glendale — fiestabowl.org

Waste Management Phoenix Open, Scottsdale — wmphoenixopen.com

Spring

Cactus League Spring Training, Greater Phoenix — cactusleague.com

Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair and Market, Phoenix — heard.org

Ostrich Festival, Chandler — ostrichfestival.com

NASCAR Sprint Cup Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale — phoenixraceway.com

Music in the Garden, Phoenix — dbg.org

My Nana's Best Tasting Salsa Challenge, Phoenix — salsachallenge.com

Summer

Arizona Restaurant Week, Greater Phoenix — arizonarestaurantweek.com

Freedom Wireless Fabulous Phoenix Fourth — phoenix.gov/parks/Fabphx4

Fall

Arizona State Fair, Phoenix — azstatefair.com

Las Noches de las Luminarias, Phoenix — dbg.org

NASCAR Sprint Cup AdvocaCare 500, Avondale — phoenixraceway.com

Pueblo Grande Museum Indian Market, Phoenix — heard.org

Zoolights, Phoenix — phoenixzoo.org



Civic Space Park



The Westin Phoenix Downtown

DOWNTOWN PHOENIX

When the business day ends, the fun begins in downtown Phoenix.

This is where you'll find sports arenas, live music, rooftop lounges, museums, theaters, art galleries and more than 100 restaurants. Downtown is also home to the **Phoenix Convention Center** and **Arizona State University's Downtown Campus**. And it's all served by one of the newest light rail systems in the nation.

The latest addition to downtown Phoenix is **CityScape**, a 2-block concentration of restaurants, bars and fashion retailers. CityScape is home to an urban-chic bowling alley, a dance club and arcade, a live-music venue with 60 beers on tap, and a comedy theater and supper club with rentable meeting space.

The hotel styles in downtown Phoenix range from historic to boutique to business chic. The biggest of them, the **Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel**, has 1,000 guest rooms and District American Kitchen and Wine Bar featuring American comfort foods with a contemporary twist. The newest of them, the **Hotel Palomar**, is a boutique hotel with a rooftop pool bar and nightly wine hour.

The **Westin Phoenix Downtown** caters to the needs of upscale business travelers, with super-spacious guest rooms that feature

floor-to-ceiling windows. And the convention center's closest neighbors, the **Hyatt Regency Phoenix** and **Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel**, are both fresh from multimillion dollar renovations.

Pro sports are almost always afoot at **Talking Stick Resort Arena** (home of the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury) or **Chase Field** (home of the Arizona Diamondbacks), and Roosevelt Row is the place to go for coffee shops, art-house movies and **First Friday Art Walks**.



Downtown Phoenix Visitor Information Center

Located in the West Building of the Phoenix Convention Center

125 N. Second Street, Suite 120, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

(877) CALL-PHX or (602) 254-6500