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RESOURCE GUIDE

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2026

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Welcome to State 48

Arizona is a state that embraces diversity and equality, and takes great pride in being a welcoming destination for LGBTQ+ residents and travelers. As Governor, I am delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and allies.

To enhance your experience and explore friendly establishments and events, Pride Guide® is an excellent resource, providing comprehensive information on LGBTQ+ friendly businesses, organizations, and activities that contribute to the rich tapestry of our diverse community. We celebrate love in all its forms and acknowledge that love knows no boundaries.

We firmly believe that everyone deserves respect and dignity, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our state is home to numerous inclusive organizations and support groups that provide safe spaces for fostering connections and empowering one another.

As Governor, I remain committed to championing LGBTQ+ rights, advocating for equitable healthcare, education, and workplace opportunities.

Together, we can build a brighter future for all, where every person can thrive and contribute to the growth of our state. Arizona is not only known for its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture, but also for its warm and welcoming people.

Thank you for choosing Arizona as your home or destination. Your presence enriches our state, and we look forward to creating beautiful memories together.

With open arms,
Governor Katie Hobbs



From the Publisher

As we step into 2026, we do so with pride, gratitude, and renewed purpose. This year marks a special milestone as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary Edition of Pride Guide®. For two decades, our amazing team has been dedicated to connection, visibility, and advocacy, made possible by the incredible partners and community members who continue to show up with heart and intention.

Across Arizona, our LGBTQ+ community thrives in every corner of the state. From the breathtaking landscapes and welcoming communities of Northern Arizona, to the vibrant energy of the Phoenix Metro Area, and the rich culture and creative spirit of Southern Arizona and Tucson, inclusive spaces are being built every day. Pride Guide® partners play a vital role in helping locals and visitors feel safe, supported, and celebrated.

With over 330 days of sunshine, world-class dining, outdoor adventure, a remarkable history, and a growing network of LGBTQ+ friendly and allied businesses, Arizona continues to shine as a destination rooted in diversity and belonging.

Our leaders and partners are the backbone of this experience, showing up with integrity and genuine support. We are honored to amplify those creating real impact and are deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of our journey.

Stay safe, and thank you for your continued support of our community. Here's to 20 years of Pride Guide® and to carrying this work forward together.

Warm regards,

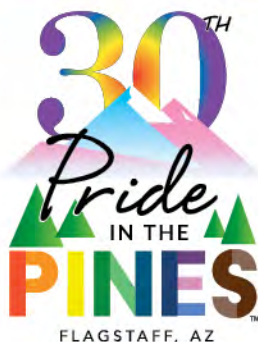
Michael McFall, President/CEO



2026 Festivals Flagstaff, AZ

Flagstaff Pride in the Pines

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The Grand Canyon State is a thriving paradise, whether you're here vacationing, planning a move, or already calling it home. With its breathtaking landscapes, diverse cities, and distinctive flora and fauna, Arizona leaves a lasting impression.

Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tempe, and Tucson are just a few of the major cities that have implemented laws to protect the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination.

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Arizona Is Calling!

Our magical state offers surprises at every turn - everything from sun-drenched deserts to snowy peaks, and vibrant cities to quiet mountain towns. For LGBTQ+ travelers, it's not just the stunning landscapes and year-round adventures that draw you in, it's the spirit of inclusivity and acceptance that's blossomed across the state, especially in today's climate. Arizona's diverse communities, from artsy enclaves to larger urban hubs, are welcoming and open-minded, with a rich mix of history, culture, and outdoor fun waiting for everyone. Whether you're hitting the slopes up north or soaking in the desert sun, Arizona is a place to connect, explore, and truly be yourself.

A word from AG Mayes

As we celebrate Pride in Arizona in 2026, I am honored to stand with — and as a part of — Arizona's vibrant LGBTQ+ community, whose resilience, creativity, and courage enrich every corner of our state.

Pride is more than a month on the calendar — it's a testament to the strength of community, the power of visibility, and the ongoing pursuit of justice. Every year brings new opportunities to build a more inclusive Arizona, where every person can live authentically, safely, and with dignity.

Resources like Pride Guide® play an important role in that effort. By highlighting LGBTQ+ friendly businesses, organizations, events, and support networks across our state, Pride Guide® helps create connections, strengthens community, and ensures that residents and visitors alike can find welcoming spaces where they feel seen and supported. It reflects the best of Arizona — a place where diversity is embraced and everyone deserves respect and belonging.

As Attorney General, my office is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Arizonans — including those in the LGBTQ+ community. We will continue working to ensure that no one faces discrimination or harassment because of who they are or whom they love.

To our LGBTQ+ neighbors, friends, and allies: Thank you for your contributions to our beautiful state. Let this coming year be filled with joy, connection, and hope — and let us continue to build a future where every Arizonan is free to live authentically and pursue happiness.

***With pride and support,
Attorney General Kris Mayes***



Northern Arizona is known for its natural wonders, including the Grand Canyon, Sedona's Red Rocks, Meteor Crater, Monument Valley, and Horseshoe Dam to name a few. The area boasts year-round outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, and stargazing, all set against breathtaking landscapes. Expect cool summers, snowy winters, and crisp mountain air in this inclusive haven for LGBTQ+ visitors and residents.



Central Arizona, comprised of the Greater Phoenix Metro area, boasts abundant sunshine year-round, with hot, dry summers and delightfully mild winters. Packed with big-city amenities and top attractions, it's a hub of excitement and opportunity. Home to Arizona State University in lively Tempe, the region thrives on energy and innovation. Even better, the Phoenix Metro area proudly celebrates its vibrant LGBTQ+ community with diverse support, inclusive spaces, and a welcoming vibe that invites everyone to shine.

Southern Arizona with its sizzling summers, mild winters, and the breathtaking Sonoran Desert adorned with iconic saguaro cacti is a true desert gem. The region radiates warmth in more ways than one, offering a vibrant, LGBTQ+ welcoming atmosphere supported by inclusive local businesses and governments. Whether you're here to live, vacation, or dive into endless adventures, Southern Arizona invites you to thrive and explore.

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A word from Sec. Fontes

As Secretary of State, I am proud to serve a state that values diversity, inclusion, and civic participation. Arizona is strengthened by its LGBTQ+ residents, families, business owners, and allies, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone feels welcome and respected here in our great state.

My office works to protect the rights that allow our democracy to thrive—fair access, transparency, and equal participation for all. These principles help create a state where every person can live authentically and contribute fully to their community.

Arizona is home to vibrant, inclusive organizations and spaces that celebrate connection, creativity, and pride. Whether you are visiting or you call Arizona home, your presence makes our state stronger.

While our commitment to uplifting every member of our community at the State Department remains steadfast, pride is a celebration within our families, hearts, and homes as well. Thank you for being part of our community and for helping build a more inclusive future for all.

With respect and pride,
Secretary of State Adrian Fontes



An aerial photograph of a winding river in a canyon. The river is a deep blue-green color, flowing through a canyon with high, reddish-brown rock walls. The river has a small island in the middle and a bend to the right. The surrounding landscape is arid with sparse green vegetation. A list of Arizona cities is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Cottonwood
Clarkdale
Flagstaff
Grand Canyon
Jerome
Kingman
Lake Havasu City
Page
Prescott
Sedona
Winslow

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Northern Arizona

This stunning region is home to numerous Native American tribes, with the Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, and Kalbab-Paiute being among the most prominent. The Navajo Nation, established in 1868, is the largest reservation by far, spanning over 18,000 square miles and extending into Utah and New Mexico. With a population exceeding 250,000, it stands as a testament to the enduring strength and culture of its people.



Arizona Snowbowl

Cottonwood

The **Town of Cottonwood**, nestled between jagged mountains to the south and west, and mesas and buttes to the north and east, is named after the Cottonwood trees along the Verde River.

Originally a farming community, it grew into the Verde Valley's population hub by the late 1920s, earning the title "the biggest little town in Arizona." At that time, Old Town businesses supported the nearby mining towns. Located minutes from Sedona, Jerome, and Clarkdale, Cottonwood offers a range of recreational activities, including camping, horseback riding, and fishing. Historic Old Town features LGBTQ+ owned and friendly antique shops, dining, wine bars, art galleries, wineries, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, and the Tuzigoot and Montezuma Indian Ruins.

Clarkdale

The heart of the Verde Valley, **Clarkdale** is only 10 minutes from Jerome and 30 minutes from Sedona. The Verde River flows through the town as does Bitter Creek, an intermittent tributary of the river.

Discover the Arizona Copper Art Museum, housed in the beautifully restored Clarkdale High School, where thousands of captivating copper artifacts including interactive displays await. Drift along the Verde River with expert guides through pristine riparian zones near the Tavasci Marsh, a haven for birdwatchers in an Audubon Important Birding Area. Savor the flavors of the region at Clarkdale's charming wineries.

Visit Phoenix



Welcome to Flagstaff

On behalf of the Flagstaff City Council and the citizens of Flagstaff, we welcome you to our mountain town in the clouds. The City of Flagstaff is excited and honored to be a part of this distribution and promotion for the 2026 edition of Pride Guide® Arizona.

Flagstaff is an extremely inclusive community, and we welcome everyone from all walks of life. In 2023 we had our first Pride Parade, hosted by Northern Arizona Pride and it was amazing.

That was followed by our annual Pride in the Pines event that is always a huge hit and I strongly encourage everyone to come experience it.

From our Downtown restaurants and shops to our world-renowned hiking trails, Flagstaff has something for everyone. We are not only proud of what we have to offer, but we are proud of who we are. Flagstaff celebrates diversity and inclusivity, and we reject intolerance on all levels.

We welcome you to come and visit our small mountain town and experience all we have to offer.



Warm regards,
Mayor Becky Daggett



Adrian K. Allen / iStock / Arizona Snowbowl

Flagstaff

A college town, a mountain town, a town filled with history and charm. Skiing, hiking, museums, astronomy, festivals; this is what **Flagstaff** has to offer. Adjacent to the towering 12,633 foot tall San Francisco Peaks, Flagstaff is surrounded by Ponderosa Pine trees, lies at an elevation of about 7,000 feet and is nestled along historic Route 66.

Home to Northern Arizona University (NAU), the college atmosphere brings a wonderful eclectic mix of coffee houses, bookstores, shopping, restaurants and eateries to the area.

In this charming mountain community, you're surrounded by the 1.8-million-acre Coconino National Forest, a hiker's delight filled with stands of aspen. Close your eyes and you can hear their leaves singing in the wind. In a state defined by desert landscapes, you'll also find grassy, wildflower-dotted meadows in Flagstaff that feel especially soulful and refreshing.

Grand Canyon

A National Park since 1919, attracting more than five million visitors yearly, the **Grand Canyon** is the most visited National Park in the United States.

The park is home to wildlife including California condors, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, elk, bald and golden eagles, bighorn sheep, and more than 1,500 plant species. It is also one of the most complete archaeological sites, dating back thousands of years. Sustaining these ecosystems and carving the Canyon is the powerful Colorado River, the lifeblood of the desert Southwest.

The Hualapai (WALL-uh-pie) tribe, the "People of the Tall Pines," located on the far west end of the Grand Canyon, opened a breathtaking skywalk over the canyon in 2007.

The Grand Canyon can be toured by foot, mule, water or by train. Visitors will not be disappointed with any method they choose.



Jon Manjeot - stock.adobe.com

Jerome

The old mining town with its coppery glowing hillsides is often dubbed the "Largest Ghost Town in America." It's a town that just won't die. **Jerome** began as an old copper mining camp that grew from a settlement of tents into a roaring mining community. Four disastrous fires destroyed large sections of the town during its early history, resulting in the incorporation of the City of Jerome in 1899.

Once the fourth-most prominent city in the Arizona Territory, the population peaked at 15,000 in the 1920s. Jerome's population today boasts 455 which includes artists, craft people, musicians, writers, hermits, bed and breakfast owners, museum caretakers, gift shop proprietors and perhaps an old prospector or two.



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Lake Havasu City

Nothing compares to the stunning contrast between the arid desert and the cool, inviting Colorado River. Spanning over 300 miles along Arizona's border from Nevada to Mexico, the river reveals a sapphire-blue lake brimming with fish and teeming with wildlife. At the heart of this breathtaking convergence of land and water lies the crown jewel: Lake Havasu.

Lake Havasu City, set against the scenic backdrop of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts, and its surroundings take many forms: sand swept dunes, hidden canyons, and breathtaking rock formations among them, and offers everything from lake and desert tours to golf, to a full range of water-sports activities.

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Kingman

The heart of Historic Route 66 and one of Arizona's hidden gems, **Kingman** sits conveniently on Interstate 40, making it the perfect launch point for "Route 66 and Beyond." With scenic hiking, historic charm, and great cafes, Kingman is a must-visit. Explore its rich past at the Historic Route 66 Museum, Army Airfield Museum, and Mohave Museum of History and Arts. The town's temperate climate and elevation of 3,300 feet add to its appeal, with warm summers and mild winters. Take a day trip to the Skywalk at Grand Canyon West and return to Kingman's welcoming accommodations each evening. For adventure seekers, the nearby Hualapai Mountain Park offers hiking, wildlife viewing, and spectacular views.



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ARIZONA

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The lyric from the classic rock song *Take It Easy* goes, "Standin' on a corner in Winslow, Arizona," and it has attracted countless visitors to the famous corner on Historic Route 66. Visitors to Winslow's Standin' on a Corner Park will find a two-story mural depicting that iconic verse, along with a life-sized bronze statue of a balladeer affectionately named "EASY."

Beyond the dining and shopping found in the heart of the historic district, visitors can explore the Old Trails Museum. Exhibits include Native American artifacts, Santa Fe Railroad memorabilia, Fred Harvey items, and much more.

For outdoor recreation, adventure, and an awesome place to cool down, head to McHood Park and Clear Creek Reservoir. Canoeing, fishing, swimming, picnicking, and camping are all available at the creek. It is truly one of northern Arizona's best-kept secrets.

No visit to Winslow is complete without experiencing the historic La Posada Hotel, an established and world-famous resort with an incredible story to tell and a true must-see destination.

With a variety of hotels and Route 66 motels available, Winslow also serves as a great base camp for day trips and exploration to the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Canyon de Chelly, Homolovi State Park, Rock Art Ranch, Grand Falls, and so much more.





Allison - stock.adobe.com

Page

Your mecca for hiking, biking, boating and off-road adventure. A short seven miles from the water sports playground of Lake Powell, **Page** is your ideal base for exploring this exceptional region. Hike the striking wind and water carved beauty of Antelope Canyon. Set out on your Colorado River rafting trip. Take in the dramatic vistas of Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam. Page is rich in geographic, cultural and historic marvels to explore.

Prescott

Take a step back into the old Southwest. Steeped in history, the town's architecture still preserves the stories and secrets of earlier days. **Prescott** is pronounced "PRES-kit," rhyming with "biscuit," and any local will happily remind you. Prescott's charm lies in its beautiful downtown area,

Courthouse Plaza, framed by a welcoming grassy square. The town features many historic buildings, is near the scenic beauty of Watson Lake, and is home to the Hassayampa Inn, the Sharlot Hall Museum, and "Whiskey Row," a notorious red-light district until 1956.

Sedona

Filled with wide-open spaces for mountain biking, hiking, and off-roading, **Sedona** offers something for everyone! Explore a state park, play golf, take a scenic drive, or visit a winery. The quaint town also features art galleries, musical and theatrical performances, spiritual activities, and annual festivals. All of this is set against the stunning backdrop of Sedona's iconic red rock formations, like Coffeepot, Cathedral Rock, and Thunder Mountain, attracting visitors from across the world. Known as "Red

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Rock Country," Sedona is also celebrated as a welcoming LGBTQ+ community that embraces diversity, making it a truly open and friendly destination for all.

Winslow

A timeless town, Winslow is very much in touch with its past, in tune with the present and right on target for its future. Due to its location and the influence of the railroad industry, Winslow is a combination of cultures: European, Native American, Hispanic, Asian, Black, and Anglo American, all blended together to share a strong sense of community pride.

Besides standing on the corner in Winslow, enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities at Clear Creek Reservoir. This town is one of Northern Arizona's best-kept secrets that has been enjoyed by locals for over one hundred years.

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Phoenix Metro



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Buckeye, Glendale, Peoria, Goodyear & Sun City**

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The Valley of the Sun

Anchored by Phoenix, the 5th largest U.S. city, The Valley is a rapidly growing oasis in the desert, attracting 291 new residents daily.

The area's population surge is driven by year-round great weather, abundant outdoor activities, and a lower cost of living. The current population of the Phoenix Metro area is over 5.4 million, projected to reach 6.75 million by 2030.

The Valley features a beautiful, easy-to-navigate cityscape, thanks to its grid system and well-connected freeway network. Our Valley Metro Light Rail connects Central Mesa to Central Phoenix, with plans to expand by over 40 miles by 2030.

Visit the renowned art galleries and indulge in upscale dining along the vivid streets in Scottsdale.

Head over to Tempe for the lively atmosphere around Arizona State University and enjoy a scenic stroll along Tempe Town Lake or down Mill Avenue.

Glendale offers sports enthusiasts a haven with the State Farm Stadium, while Chandler beckons with its historic downtown charm.

Each of these neighboring cities adds a unique flavor to the Greater Phoenix experience, providing a delightful array of cultural attractions and adventures.



Visit Phoenix

Phoenix

The bustling state capital, **Phoenix**, is its largest city, with over 1.7 million residents. Being so extensive, Phoenix offers something for every type of lifestyle. While Phoenix may no longer be ranked as one of the most affordable cities due to the post-pandemic boom in 2020, it still offers great value for those looking to live, work, and run a business. Its cost of living, although higher now, remains lower than cities like Las Vegas, San Diego, and Seattle.

Phoenix's downtown has transformed with the opening of new urban spaces, bringing a mix of modern housing, cultural venues, and diverse dining options. This revitalization has created a walkable community with an exciting blend of old and new. Phoenix's cultural scene continues to thrive and draw attention. The city hosts numerous art exhibits throughout the year in its museums. Downtown comes alive during "First Fridays," a free monthly

art walk showcasing galleries, studios, and businesses featuring local, national, and international artists and craftsmen.

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy downtown Phoenix's colorful and electric atmosphere, home to professional teams like the Suns, Diamondbacks, and the Mercury, adding to the area's energy.



Kevin Kaminski



Visit Phoenix

Phoenix's theaters showcase local productions and world-class dance performances year-round, at notable venues like the Herberger Theater, Arizona Opera and The Orpheum Theatre. The city also offers a dynamic shopping scene, featuring luxury brands and fine dining at Biltmore Fashion Park, along with unique boutiques and international restaurants throughout.

Melrose District

Unlike some major metros, Phoenix doesn't have a single central LGBTQ+ neighborhood, largely because the city is so spread out. Still, Central Phoenix's **Melrose District** is a key hub with diverse residents, inclusive businesses, and many bars and nightclubs, generally spanning Roosevelt Street to Northern Avenue and 16th Street to 15th Avenue, with other welcoming spots scattered throughout the Valley of the Sun.



Visit Phoenix/nightfuse.com



Tyler Healy - Visit Phoenix

Welcome to Phoenix

On behalf of the Phoenix City Council and the citizens of Phoenix, welcome to the fastest growing city in the United States! The City of Phoenix is honored to be a part of the distribution and promotion for the 2026 edition of *Pride Guide*® Arizona.

No matter who you are, where you're from, or what you're seeking to do, Phoenix has something for you. Interested in exploring the great outdoors? You'll fall in love with our city's internationally-renowned parks and hiking trails.

Looking for an educational experience during your visit? Be sure to visit our abundance of world-class museums. Seeking an exquisite and incomparable dining experience that can't be found anywhere else? Phoenix is home to hundreds of award-winning restaurants.

Not only are we proud of all that we offer, we are proud of who we are. In Phoenix, we celebrate diversity and inclusivity, and reject intolerance. Phoenix truly is a city for all and we look forward to demonstrating why!

Warm regards,
Mayor Kate Gallego



Scottsdale

Bordering Phoenix to the east, **Scottsdale** has over 260,000 residents and is home to some of the finest residential living as well as recreational activities in the Valley.

Established by Army Chaplain Winfield Scott, Scottsdale has, since its beginning, been a haven for cowboys as well as the social elite. Many original settlers of Scottsdale, recruited by Scott were well-educated and had a great appreciation for cultural events. In 1937, Frank Lloyd Wright purchased 600 acres of Sonoran Desert land and built Taliesin West, his winter home and architectural firm/school's southwestern headquarters.

Today, Scottsdale still promotes its western heritage as made visible throughout its western-themed Old Town district. It has

also become an upscale destination for shopping. And Scottsdale remains a popular vacation destination with its many chic hotels and resorts. Scottsdale also has a thriving arts community, with over 125 art galleries, as well as museums and performing art centers.

East Valley Cities

Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa & Tempe

Chandler celebrates a notable history of entrepreneurship as a thriving business community with rich diversity, offering a perfect blend of modernity and heritage. Explore its vibrant downtown brimming with eclectic dining, boutique shops, and cultural events. Enjoy outdoor activities in the sunny desert climate or delve into its rich history and culture. Chandler welcomes visitors with warmth and endless opportunities to discover.

tim - stock.adobe.com



Welcome to Chandler

Whether you are here for business, pleasure or both, you will find Chandler to be an ideal place for a visit. We're known as a Community of Innovation and have an entrepreneurial spirit that allows people and companies to thrive amid a lifestyle of tech innovations, diverse cultures and unique hometown traditions.

Foodies will enjoy culinary options that deliver on taste, complexity and atmosphere. And if you enjoy a nice glass of wine, craft beers and spirits, we have that, too!

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts will enjoy our award-winning parks, top-quality golf courses, hiking and biking trails and a United States Tennis Association's top-rated tennis center.

We work hard to keep Chandler a premier destination for pleasure and business travelers, and continue to add amenities, including a downtown entertainment district that is a hub for live music and hosts an active events calendar.

We encourage you to explore all our city has to offer. I am confident you will find Chandler to be one of the friendliest and most inviting communities in all the Southwest.

Warm regards,
Councilmember Angel Encinas



Sun, Fun & Pride

IN SCOTTSDALE

Scottsdale welcomes LGBTQ+ travelers from around the world with hospitality that's as warm as our sun-filled skies. Whether you're planning a cozy weekend for two or a week-long vacation with family or friends, we've got you covered with these recommendations for staying, playing, dining and partying.





STAY

If pampering is on your agenda, you'll love the plush accommodations and spa offerings at **Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Bungalows** and **JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa**. For serene desert views and luxe amenities, the **Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale** or **Boulders Resort & Spa** are your go-to digs. And if urban energy is what you crave, head for Old Town where favorites include **Hotel Valley Ho**, **Caesars Republic**, **The Scott Resort & Spa**, **The REMI Scottsdale**, **Canopy by Hilton Scottsdale Old Town** and the **W Scottsdale**.

PLAY

Soak up the fresh air and sunshine on a guided morning **hike**, **horseback ride**, **hot air balloon flight** or **kayaking excursion** in Scottsdale's lush Sonoran Desert. Post-adventure, relax with lunch and cocktails in a **poolside cabana** at your resort. Afternoons are ripe for indulging in some well-deserved retail therapy at **Scottsdale Fashion Square**, strolling the **Desert Botanical Garden**, admiring architecture at Frank Lloyd Wright's **Taliesin West** or browsing around **Old Town** where you'll find boutiques, art galleries and museums including the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art**.



DINE

Get your day off to a tasty start with My Rich Uncle's French Toast and a seasonal latte at **Beginner's Luck**. Lunch is best enjoyed on one of the city's sun-drenched patios, like the ones at **Barrio Queen**, **Olive & Ivy** and **ZuZu**. When the sun sets, head to dinner at one of our independently owned restaurants. Must-try eateries include **FnB**, known for its veggie-forward cuisine and stellar wine list; **Fat Ox**, home of Chef Matt Carter's modern Italian fare; and **AZ88**, which boasts rotating art displays, elevated pub grub and filled-to-the-brim martinis and cosmos.

PARTY

You've played. You've chilled. You've dined. Now it's time to get the real party started. If it's Wednesday evening, head for Old Town's **The Hot Chick** for "It's Bingo B*+#!" hosted by the fabulous Barbra Seville (who also reigns supreme over the Chick's Peace, Love & Bubbles drag brunch on Saturdays). About 15 minutes West of Old Town Scottsdale lies Phoenix's **Melrose District** "gayborhood", which offers a collection of LGBTQ+ businesses and clubs, including **Charlie's Phoenix**, **Stacey's @ Melrose**, **Boycott Bar** and **Pat O's Bunkhouse Saloon**.





Kevin Chamberlain - Visit Phoenix

The **East Valley** cities have shared in the population growth along with Phoenix. Many who move to the East Valley count affordable housing and small town appeal along with proximity to the urban hub among their assets.

Mesa, the state's third-largest city and one of its fastest-growing, blends rapid development with a strong sense of place. Just east of Phoenix, it offers easy access to Saguaro Lake and other nearby nature escapes like the Salt River, and the Tonto National Forest. It honors its agricultural past by incorporating historic citrus groves and orchards into new developments.

Tempe

Home to ASU, **Tempe** is buzzing with energy, especially around Mill Avenue, a lively hotspot full of shopping, great eats, and nightlife that keeps ASU's 79,000+ students coming back for more. Don't miss the breathtaking Gammage Auditorium, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed opera house that hosts everything from Off-Broadway shows to unique performances. Known for its LGBTQ+ friendly reputation, Tempe is also a thriving business hub, with over 15% of the state's high-tech companies calling it home. For outdoor fun, Tempe Town Lake offers boating, walking, festivals, and more in a picturesque setting.

Autumn Sky - stock.adobe.com





Fountain Hills and Carefree

These desert communities offer some of the most beautiful views of the Valley's desert landscape, with stunning vistas of the rugged McDowell Mountains, epic sunrises and sunsets, and sprawling desert scenery that will take your breath away.

Fountain Hills, located about 30 minutes northeast of downtown Phoenix on the eastern slopes of the McDowell Mountains, sits 500 feet above the Valley and is home to over 24,000 residents and a striking landmark. In the center of Fountain Park's lake, a fountain shoots an impressive 560-foot plume of water into the sky.

Carefree, 15 miles northeast of Phoenix, is known for its artisan community and cooler temperatures. With a town motto of "home of cowboys and caviar, where the old west meets the new," Carefree offers the best of small-town Arizona. Its population, though under 4,000, is steadily growing.

Scott Bufkin - stock.adobe.com



ungvar - stock.adobe.com

West Valley Communities

Avondale, Buckeye, Glendale, Goodyear, Peoria & Sun City

The West Valley has undergone a major transformation in recent years. What was once largely agricultural land has rapidly evolved into thriving residential communities as the Phoenix metro continues to expand.

Avondale is pushing ambitious development plans, **Buckeye** ranks among the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., and nearby **Peoria** has become a standout for its strong schools, affordable housing, and easy access to the rest of the Valley.

The West Valley is also a spring training hotspot, hosting

several Cactus League teams at Camelback Ranch, Peoria Sports Complex, Goodyear Ballpark, and Surprise Stadium.

Glendale, in particular, has emerged as a growing financial and business center in the Northwest Valley, blending established neighborhoods with new master-planned development.

The city is also a major entertainment and events hub anchored by State Farm Stadium, home of the Arizona Cardinals and a frequent host for major concerts and marquee events, including the NCAA Men's Final Four, the College Football Playoff National Championship, and multiple Super Bowls.



Decadence © luiscolato.com

AZ Cardinals





Tucson & Southern Arizona

Tucson, Bisbee, Tombstone, Benson
Tubac, Yuma, Patagonia, Clifton

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VISIT
Tucson

Tucson

Nestled in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, **Tucson** is a destination that seamlessly blends big-city amenities with small-town charm. Just 100 miles south of Phoenix, Tucson boasts a unique personality that makes it a magnet for LGBTQ+ travelers seeking adventure, culture, and community. Tucson is celebrated as one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly cities in the United States. Advocate.com ranks it among the top five cities for gays and lesbians to live, and it's easy to see why. The city is home to SAAF, one of the premier LGBTQ+ community centers in the Southwest, and the Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Tucson Pride, held every fall, is a lively celebration of love and inclusivity, while an array of LGBTQ+ friendly bars, clubs, and spaces ensure there's always something happening.

The city's cultural tapestry is woven from Native American,

Mexican, African American, and Anglo-American influences. This diversity is reflected in everything from its festivals to its food scene. The city's downtown pulses with creativity and history, featuring ten historic districts, vibrant arts venues, and iconic landmarks like the Hotel Congress. Whether you're exploring eclectic shops, sampling inventive dishes at local restaurants, or taking in a performance by the symphony or ballet, there's always something to inspire.

Surrounded by five mountain ranges and framed by striking desert landscapes, Tucson is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Mount Lemmon, the southernmost ski resort in the U.S., offers cool alpine escapes, while Saguaro National Park showcases the iconic cacti that define the region. Nearby, the Spanish Mission San Xavier del Bac, known as "the white dove of the desert," stands as a stunning testament to the area's history and architecture.

Pete Gregoire



Welcome to Tucson

Hello and Bienvenidos! Tucson welcomes you to one of the sunniest cities with some of the cleanest air in the United States. You'll find tons of excitement no matter what interests you have. Have an interest in food? Tucson is known as the first UNESCO designated city of Gastronomy in the entire United States.

We are the melting pot of art, food, and culture in the Southwest. In Tucson we pride ourselves on our diversity. Along with everything Tucson has to offer, we must always acknowledge that we are on Tohono O'odham Native land. Our influences also include a heavy Mexican American Chicano culture; all these together truly makes our city unique. You can see it in our food, our murals all around the city and especially in all our barrios.

Twenty minutes outside of the city, you can see all the amazing wildlife Tucson has to offer. As home to the second most diverse place of birds in the world, Tucson is also home to the Saguaro cactuses that grow up to 40 feet tall! If you're looking to hike the desert or have a picnic up in the mountains, we have Mount Lemmon, which has an abundance of vegetation and all kinds of activities that even include snow in the desert!

On behalf of the City of Tucson and its residents, we thank Pride Guide® for celebrating and showcasing all that our great city has to offer.

Warm regards,
Mayor Regina Romero



Food lovers, rejoice. Tucson is renowned for its Mexican and Southwestern cuisine, shaped by generations of Sonoran tradition. From sizzling fajitas and mesquite-grilled specialties to inventive fusion, you'll also find standout tacos, tamales, enchiladas, and rich mole—plus local favorites like Sonoran hot dogs, fresh tortillas, and prickly pear treats. Round it out with craft margaritas, regional salsas, and bustling mercados and food trucks, and Tucson's dining scene becomes a true feast for the senses.

Just south of Tucson, Arizona's burgeoning wine country in Sonoita-Elgin is a must-visit. With over a dozen wineries producing award-winning wines, it's the perfect day trip or weekend getaway for savoring bold reds and crisp whites while soaking in the

picturesque landscapes. With a population exceeding one million and a cost of living far lower than major cities like Los Angeles or New York, Tucson strikes an ideal balance of affordability, opportunity, and quality of life.

Whether you're cycling its bike-friendly streets, exploring its historic districts, or connecting with its welcoming LGBTQ+ community, Tucson's welcoming spirit and endless adventures make it a destination like no other. So pack your bags, and get ready to fall in love with the Old Pueblo - a city that's as warm and inviting as its desert sunsets.

Visit Tucson mini_magick



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Jerry Rosen

Visit Tucson





Tim Roberts Photography

Bisbee

Ninety miles southeast of Tucson, and situated in the Mule Mountains, **Bisbee** is the picturesque county seat of historic Cochise County. The town was founded in 1880 as a mining community. Once known as the “Queen of the Copper Camps,” this Old West mining camp proved to be one of the richest mineral sites in the world, producing nearly three million ounces of gold and more than eight billion pounds of copper.

By the early 1900s the Bisbee community was the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco and had become one of the most cultured cities in the Southwest; home to Arizona’s first community library, a popular

opera house, the state’s oldest baseball field, and the state’s first golf course.

When the mines closed, many artistic free spirits decided Bisbee was an ideal, attractive, and inexpensive location to settle in and pursue their artistic endeavors. Today, Bisbee has evolved into an attractive and welcoming artist and retirement community, known for its accepting and laid-back quality of life.

The happiest news is that up to 60% of Bisbee’s population is LGBTQ+. The entire town is incredibly accepting of everyone. There are no gay bars in Bisbee, but the bars that are there are welcoming to all, allowing you not to think twice if you choose to share a kiss with your partner.

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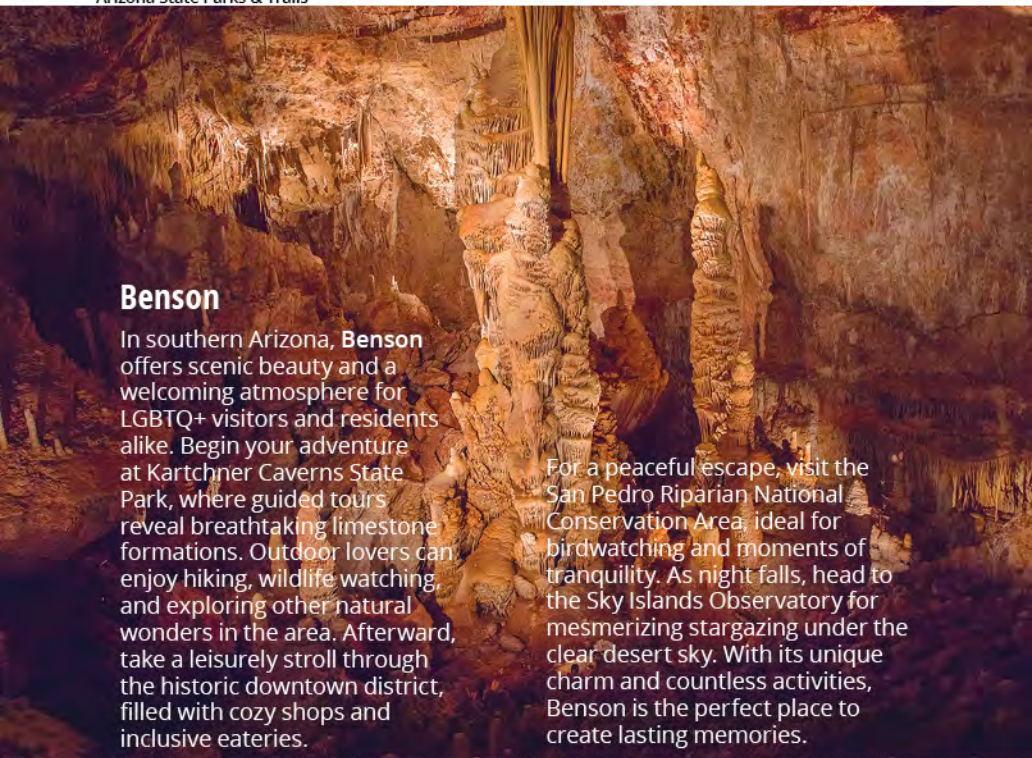
Pete Gregoire

Arizona State Parks & Trails

Tombstone

Perhaps Arizona's most famous town, known as "the town too tough to die," **Tombstone** offers a vivid step back into Old West history. Crime and gunfights became so rampant in the 1880s that President Chester A. Arthur declared martial law and sent in federal troops, shortly after the infamous 1881 gunfight at the O.K. Corral involving Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Today, visitors can watch regular reenactments of that legendary showdown.

Residents of the city embrace their Old West history and have sought to preserve the historic old buildings and stories. The result is a unique look into America's past. The entire town of Tombstone is a true historic American landmark, and any lover of western memorabilia should definitely give Tombstone a visit.



Benson

In southern Arizona, **Benson** offers scenic beauty and a welcoming atmosphere for LGBTQ+ visitors and residents alike. Begin your adventure at Kartchner Caverns State Park, where guided tours reveal breathtaking limestone formations. Outdoor lovers can enjoy hiking, wildlife watching, and exploring other natural wonders in the area. Afterward, take a leisurely stroll through the historic downtown district, filled with cozy shops and inclusive eateries.

For a peaceful escape, visit the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, ideal for birdwatching and moments of tranquility. As night falls, head to the Sky Islands Observatory for mesmerizing stargazing under the clear desert sky. With its unique charm and countless activities, Benson is the perfect place to create lasting memories.

Tubac

Tubac is a nice road trip to take, as it is only two and half hours from Phoenix or just 50 minutes from Tucson. The landscape is high desert with cottonwood and mesquite forests. Tubac boasts temperatures several degrees cooler than both Tucson and Phoenix, making it a nice little getaway.

As Arizona's first European settlement, the village of Tubac has seen its share of history and change. First settled in 1752 when Spanish soldiers built a presidio, Tubac also bears evidence of mammoth hunters, who preceded the O'odham peoples (formerly known as the Pimas and Papagos). Five flags have flown over the town.



Tubac has been:

- An Indian community
- A Spanish Colony
- Part of the New Mexico Territory
- A Mexican community
- An Arizona Territory

Nestled between the Tumacacori and Santa Rita mountain ranges, Tubac is a small community known as the place where art and history meet. Tubac has since transformed into the premier destination in Southern Arizona for culture, history, and art.

Spend some time in this Spanish Presidio turned artist colony, where creativity is present in the galleries and shops. Recently Tubac has won *USA Today's* 10 Best Readers' Choice 2021 and 2022 "Best Small Town Arts Scene!"





Midjourney

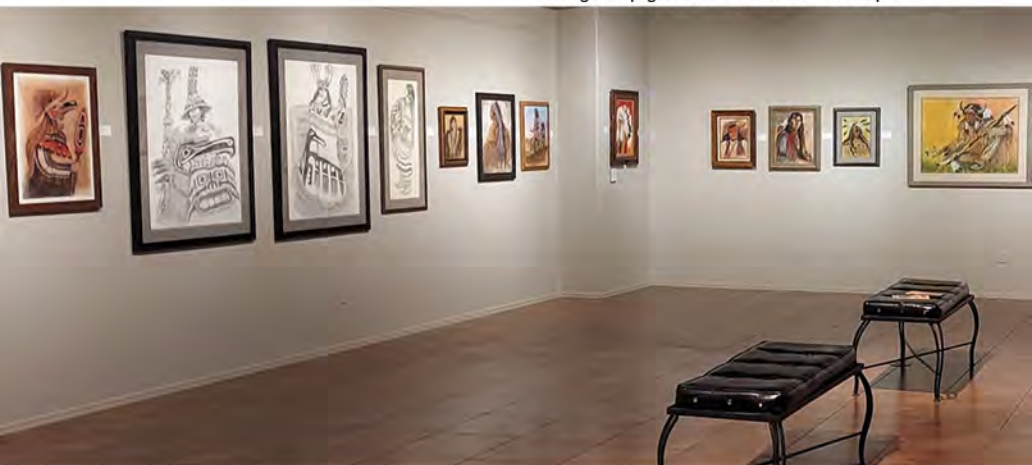
A day in Tubac seems a wondrous dream, walking among galleries, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and photographs. The unique regional fashion, leather, crafts, antiques, and jewelry beckon your senses and eyes to the beauty and craftsmanship of yesterday and today. The Village atmosphere takes you a world away from urban life. Whether you come for the day or stay overnight, you will simply love Tubac.

NPS Photo / Anita Badertscher



Tubac offers an astonishing array of premium galleries, unique shopping, fine art, and dining. Here, one can find world-renowned birding, hiking (or strolling), biking, holistic health and spa treatments, wine tastings, and art classes. Tubac Inn, an amazing property, is within walking distance of shops and restaurants. The Inn glows like peach, making a rich background for the chile ristras hung along its façade and the French doors painted in vibrant blue of Mexican tile. Adding to Tubac's appeal are the historic Presidio State Park and the nearby Tumacacori National Historical Park, which offer doorways into Arizona's rich history and culture.

All images on pages 45 & 46: Michael McFall except noted





TUBAC

WHERE ART & HISTORY MEET

JANUARY

Tubac Center of the Arts Home Tour

FEBRUARY

67th Annual Tubac Festival of the Arts
Tubac Center of the Arts Open Studio Tour

MARCH

Tubac Nature Center Hawk Watch
Tubac Rotary's Taste of Tubac
Tubac Spring Art Walk

SEPTEMBER

Tubac Jack's Luau

OCTOBER

Santa Cruz Humane Society Barktoberfest
Friends of Tubac Presidio Anza 250
Boys and Girls Club International Wine Festival
Equine Voices Mystic's Masquerade

NOVEMBER

Dia de los Muertos Procession
Tubac Fall Art Walk
Amado Chili Cook Off
Tubac Center of the Arts Hi-Art Quick Draw
GGVCF Sip, Swirl, Shop & Support

DECEMBER

Luminaria Nights de Tubac
Fiesta de Tumacácori
Tubac Presidio Hanukkah Lighting

tubacaz.com



Yuma

Venture to **Yuma**, a sun-soaked desert haven nestled along the Colorado River, offering a perfect mix of history, outdoor adventure, and year-round sunshine. Known for having the most sunshine in the world, 90% of the time, Yuma enjoys clean air, mild winters, and temperate summers, making it an ideal spot for recreation.

The Yuma Sand Dunes, one of the largest dune systems in the U.S., are a thrilling destination for off-roading, attracting ATV, motorcycling and dune buggy enthusiasts. With miles of golden sand, the dunes offer a rush of adventure, whether you're climbing steep hills or cruising along gentle slopes.

With a growing LGBTQ+ community and vibrant events like Yuma Pride, the city provides a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Patagonia

Tucked away in the rolling hills of southeastern Arizona is **Patagonia**, a hidden treasure. Spend time outdoors, then sample the local cuisine and arts scene in this small town south of Tucson.

Set your sights on birds. Patagonia sits along a prime avian migratory path and is part of the Sky Islands—multiple mountain ranges that rise from 6,000 feet to nearly 10,000 feet high and support five diverse habitats - boasting more than 7,000 species of plants and animals.

A great place to spend outdoors is Patagonia Lake State Park. An excellent place for fishing, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and hiking all year round. The park offers a campground, beach, picnic area with ramadas, tables and grills, a creek trail, boat ramps, and a marina.

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Clifton

Nestled in the canyon carved by the winding San Francisco River, **Clifton** serves as the county seat of Greenlee County and offers plenty to explore, from old mining-town charm framed by dramatic canyon walls to bighorn sheep clinging to seemingly impossible cliffs, plus a year-round river that brings the canyon to life.

That unique setting creates prime habitat for a wide variety of birds, including northern cardinals, red-tailed hawks, cliff wrens, and great blue herons, and with three beautiful, easy-to-access riverside nature trails, birding here is more inviting and easier than ever.



Midjourney



Zee Peralta - Visit Phoenix

2026 Calendar of Events

Proudly Sponsored by **Scottsdale Arts**

From lively cultural festivals to thrilling outdoor adventures and epic music events, Arizona has something for everyone. Check out some of our top picks and visit GayArizona.com for even more events and details!

January

Desperado LGBTQ+ Film Festival Phoenix: Bringing bold, inclusive cinema to Phoenix, showcasing LGBTQ+ voices and diverse storytellers through premieres and panels at the Phoenix Center for the Arts, creating community, conversation, and celebration downtown together annually.

February

AGRA Rodeo: The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association's signature annual event.

Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase: Over 65,000 guests around the world buy, sell, trade enchanting gems, minerals, and fossils at over 48 gem show locations across the city.

Visit GAYARIZONA.COM for more event dates, links and updates.



Squidsoup, June 28, 2025–Aug. 30, 2026,
Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA)

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Images (top to bottom): (1) Courtesy of the artist,
(2) Scottsdale Arts, (3) David Blakeman, and
(4) Scottsdale Arts.



Robert Indiana, *LOVE*, 1999.
Scottsdale Public Art



Canal Convergence, Nov. 6–15, 2026



East Bowl, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts

WM Phoenix Open: Held annually in Scottsdale, this event offers an exciting day of spirited tournament action followed by live concerts in the evening.

World Championship Hoop Dance Contest: Top American Indian and Canadian First Nations hoop dancers compete at the Heard Museum for the prestigious World Champion title in this two-day event, where men and women compete equally.

Tubac Festival of the Arts: Southern Arizona's longest running art festival since 1959.

Melrose Street Fair: An award-winning celebration of local art, businesses, and music on Phoenix's 7th Avenue, right in the heart of the LGBTQ+ community.

March

Arizona AIDS Walk Run & Roll 2026: The state's largest event supporting people living with HIV and raising community awareness. An Aunt Rita's Event.

Rainbows Festival: A free LGBTQ+ street fair in the heart of Downtown Phoenix that celebrates pride, community, and inclusivity.

Because
the ride's
more fun
when
we're all
on it.



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Anna Carrington/Arizona Diamondbacks

MLB Spring Training: The Cactus League brings 15 Major League Baseball teams to gear up for the season... a perfect chance for fans to catch their favorite players in action!

Annual Bands and Brews by the Beach: Kick back with great music and a cold drink in Lake Havasu City!

Oro Valley Spring Festival: A vibrant 2-day outdoor market featuring the Southwest's best in fashion, food, home goods, and stunning visual arts.

Fourth Avenue Spring Street Festival: A Tucson tradition, welcoming 350,000+ visitors to a family-friendly celebration of handmade art featuring 350+ artists from around the world.

April

Pima County Fair: A Tucson favorite with live animal shows, concerts, carnival rides, and plenty of vendors. With hundreds of local performances each year, it's non-stop fun and entertainment!

Tucson Folk Festival: Arizona's biggest free music event, with 125+ performances on five stages in Downtown Tucson's Jácome Plaza.

Saguaro Cup Sports Festival Softball Tournament: This event welcomes teams from across the country for a weekend filled with competition, camaraderie, and celebration.

May

Bartlett Lake Bash: An epic campout that started years ago as a vibrant gathering of gay men and women ready to make unforgettable memories by the lake.

Mohave Pride A Pride Experience for the whole family!

Historic Route 66 Fun Run: More than 800 vehicles carrying thousands of friends will be joining the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona for a weekend of adventure!

June

Bisbee Pride: A small-town Pride that's one of the most celebrated in Arizona and New Mexico.

Lavender Festival: In Willcox and Southern Arizona's Wine Country, lavender will be in full, spectacular bloom. Enjoy cheese, food, art, and wine from local artisans.

Pride in the Pines:

An unforgettable celebration of the LGBTQ+ community and allies set against the stunning backdrop of Flagstaff!

Queer Summer Market: The Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the Annual Queer Summer Market! It is a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and commerce, showcasing LGBTQ+ artisans, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.

July

Independence Day

Celebrations: Northern Arizona shines day and night, while Phoenix and Tucson spend the day in pools and the evening in city parks for dazzling fireworks.

Salt River Tubing: A hub of adventure for the Greater Phoenix area for thousands

of years. Beat the heat with thrilling river tubing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding.

Arizona Highland Celtic Festival: Enjoy live music, Highland dance and athletic competitions, piping events, kids activities, clan and Celtic groups, tastings, and plenty of food and merchandise vendors.

August

Barks & Brews in Flagstaff:

Join hundreds of craft beer and dog lovers for the ultimate doggie pub crawl... an exciting event for a great cause.

September

Arizona State Fair: For over a century, this has been an iconic gathering spot, drawing residents from every corner of the state for unforgettable fun and excitement.

Coconino County Fair: A must-attend event every Labor Day Weekend.

Flagstaff Music Festival:

Celebrating Flagstaff's local music scene while supporting the Haven Walker Music Scholarship Fund.

Sedona Winefest: Savor exquisite Arizona wines, delicious food, live music, and an array of vendors, all set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic red rock views.

October

Willcox Playa: Each winter, the playa in Willcox becomes a spectacular gathering place for over 20,000 Sandhill Cranes.

Pumpkin Patches and Hayrides: Arizona farms invite you to enjoy the harvest and autumn fun, from corn mazes to pumpkin patches and more.

Sedona Arts Festival: An amazing fall event, set against the stunning backdrop of iconic red rock landscapes.

Phoenix Pride Festival & Parade: A vibrant weekend of unity, celebration, and pride, bringing together the LGBTQ+

community and allies to honor our past, present, and future!

November

Day of the Dead: Experience the lively Altar Tour and Procession in Tubac, a thrilling celebration of life, culture, and tradition.

AIDSWALK Tucson: A family and pet-friendly walk (or run) fundraiser aimed at raising awareness and support for those living with or impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's: A powerful event to raise awareness and support the fight against the disease.

Bearded Gonzo Photography/Rainbows Festival





Polymath Photography LLC/
Desert Botanical Garden

All Souls Procession and Grand Finale Tucson: The signature event of All Souls Procession Weekend, shaped by community workshops and citywide art celebrations, and culminating in a deeply moving procession.

Arizona Fall Fest PHX: A free, family-friendly celebration showcasing everything Arizona has to offer, with local vendors, restaurants, food trucks, a Kid Zone, Sports Zone, and live entertainment.

Sedona's Annual Turkey Trot: A fun and festive family event to kick off Thanksgiving morning.

December

APS Electric Light Parade:

A festive celebration where families, neighborhood groups, and businesses from all over the city come together to spread holiday cheer and joy.

LightsUp! A Festival of Illumination: A thoughtfully curated series of dazzling, illuminated displays will transform the Tucson Botanical Gardens into a captivating, brand-new holiday experience.

Sedona Festival of Lights:

Enjoy energetic live music, a visit from Santa, and complimentary cider—perfect for families and friends.

Phoenix Zoo Lights: The zoo comes to life with spectacular lights, transforming into one of the largest holiday lighting extravaganzas in the Southwest!

Luminaria Nights de Tubac:

Experience the magic of the holiday season in the charming Village of Tubac! Enjoy art, music and seasonal festivities.

Tucson Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair:

Featuring over 400 arts and crafts booths, 35+ food vendors, two stages of live entertainment, street musicians, jugglers, carnival treats, a kids' art zone, face painting, balloons, and so much more.

Michael McFall's Lasting Impact



As we celebrate the Pride Guide® 20th Anniversary Edition, it feels especially meaningful to share the story of our founder, Michael McFall. Community leadership has always been part of who he is. His mother jokes, “Not sure where he gets it from,” but a look at the family tree tells a different story. From a grandfather who ran for mayor of a small Colorado coal-mining town in the 1940s to a mother who still organizes social events at her senior living community, service has always been woven into Michael’s life.



That spirit showed itself early. In 1986, at just 14 years old, Michael was awarded the Metropolitan Mayors Youth Award for outstanding community service in Colorado, proudly representing the City of Westminster. He went on to compete against other youth leaders from across the Denver Metro area and earned second place out of 38 contenders. His dedication was further recognized with a proclamation in his name from the President of the Senate of the Colorado Legislature. That early validation only strengthened his desire to serve.

In 1991, Michael ran for Westminster City Council, becoming the youngest candidate in the race. With nine candidates competing for just four seats, he delivered a strong showing

and finished only 100 votes behind the final winning candidate. Undeterred, he ran the following year for Adams County Commissioner, District 1. He made history by winning the primary and becoming the youngest person in Colorado to ever win an election. Though he ultimately lost the general election to a popular incumbent who later became a close friend, it was clear Michael was a rising leader.



He was encouraged many times to run again, but the harsh realities of politics led him to a different path. Michael later reflected, "It was the best decision of my life to run for office. I learned so much that has helped me in so many ways throughout my life." He realized he could make an even greater impact working behind the scenes.

After leaving electoral politics, Michael entered the private sector, but the fight for safety and dignity was never far behind. In the mid-1990s, while working in

the flooring industry, he briefly met Matthew Shepard at a coffee shop in Denver's gay community. Just a year later, Michael was traveling through Rawlins, Wyoming, only 100 miles from Laramie, when Matthew

was brutally attacked for being gay and later died from his injuries. Michael was not openly gay at the time, and the hostility he felt in the area made him fear for his safety. When he returned early to Denver, he told his boss the truth. His boss advised him to stay closeted to remain safe and employed, a reminder of how few workplace protections existed for LGBTQ+ people at the time.

That experience became a turning point. Michael told himself, "Enough is enough. I am gay and proud," and chose to build a career that aligned with his truth. He joined Out Front Colorado, an LGBTQ+ publication, where he found respect, community, and the freedom to be himself. He thrived there. His bosses, Greg



Rafalgie Studio-GPECC Hero Awards





and Jay, later shared that in the publication's 25-year history, Michael became its top ad-sales producer. Michael also served on the Board of Directors for the Colorado LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce, further deepening his impact.

At the turn of the century, tired of snow and cold, Michael made a life-changing move to Phoenix, Arizona. There, he joined the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber of Commerce. He was elected president and served from 2003 to 2005. During his term, he traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, where he met Hillary Clinton and other national leaders. He proudly accepted the 2005 International Chamber of the Year Award on

behalf of the chamber after delivering a powerful speech.

In 2006, while hiking in Sedona and wondering where to stop for lunch, Michael had a simple but transformative thought: Where can I eat that is welcoming to our community? That moment sparked the idea for a statewide guide highlighting LGBTQ+ friendly businesses and organizations. From that single question, The Pride Guide® was born.



What started in Arizona soon grew. Within just a few years, Michael expanded The Pride Guide® to New Mexico, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Colorado. Today, Pride Guide® USA has a digital presence across the country, continuing its mission of connection, visibility, and safety.

Now, in 2026, Pride Guide® USA celebrates more than two decades of service, marking its 20th Anniversary Edition while entering its 21st year in business. Through the Great Recession, the pandemic, and ongoing challenges facing our community, The Pride Guide® has endured. In recognition of that lasting impact, the Greater Phoenix Equality Chamber honored The Pride Guide® with its 2025 Legacy Award at last year's Heroes Awards.

Pride Guide® remains dedicated to serving the LGBTQ+ community by showcasing welcoming businesses, organizations, and destinations. We are proud to continue this work because of the trust and support of our partners and readers.

We celebrate Michael McFall for 20 years of The Pride Guide® and 40 years of community leadership. His courage, vision, and unwavering commitment have helped create safer, more inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ people across the country, and his legacy continues to grow with every new edition of the guide.

Congratulations,
Michael!

Rafalogie Studio-GPECC Hero Awards



Stories Behind the Scenery



Mail by Mule

A Delivery Route Frozen in Time

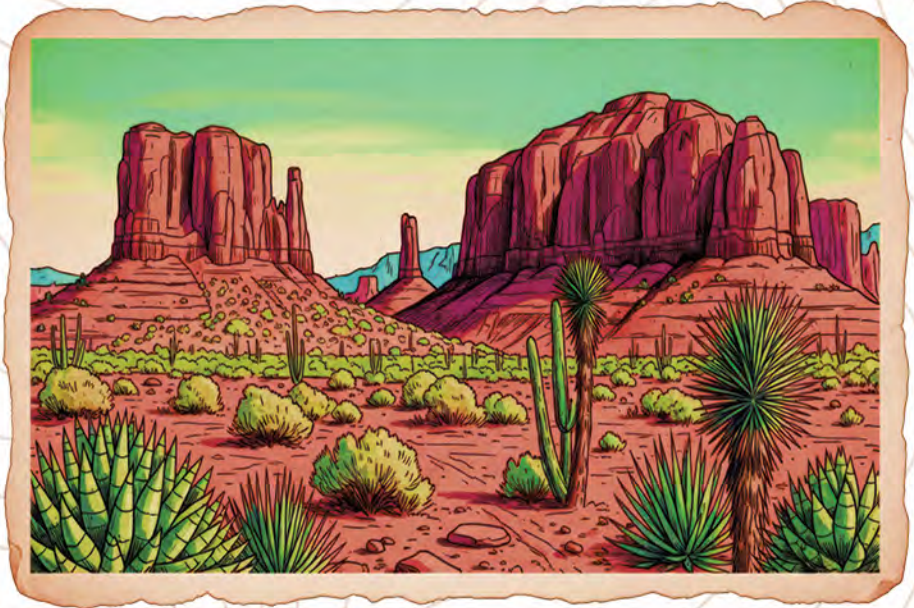
Deep within the Grand Canyon lies Supai, Arizona, where the U.S. mail still arrives by mule train. Accessible only by foot, helicopter, or mule, this 16-mile round-trip route winds through towering canyon walls five days a week. It is not just mail. It is groceries, supplies, and a vital connection to the outside world.

Watching the mule train in action feels like stepping into another era. The steady clop of hooves echoes through the canyon as packs are carefully balanced and guides navigate narrow trails with ease. For visitors, it is an unforgettable reminder that in one extraordinary corner of Arizona, patience, tradition, and a slower pace still rule the route. No trucks. No roads. Just hooves.

Parks in Every Direction

Arizona Has Parks Galore

From cactus-lined deserts to towering red rock canyons and cool pine forests, Arizona is a choose-your-own-adventure kind of state. One day you are hiking through sandstone walls, the next you are wandering alpine trails or exploring the Sky Islands of southern Arizona. National Parks, Monuments, and State Parks are everywhere, and no matter where you roam, jaw-dropping scenery is always part of the plan.



Favorite Parks Worth the Detour:

- Boyce Thompson Arboretum
- Sedona Red Rock State Park
- Chiricahua National Monument
- Patagonia Lake State Park
- Deadhorse State Park
- Saguaro National Park
- Kartchner Caverns State Park
- Tonto Natural Bridge State Park
- Wupatki National Monument
- Homolovi State Park



Where History Met the Desert

Arizona's Civil War Connection

State 48 was once a Civil War battleground. On April 15, 1862, the westernmost engagement of the war took place at Picacho Pass, near today's Picacho Peak State Park. Confederate troops briefly occupied Tucson as part of a campaign to control the Southwest before Union forces advanced east from Fort Yuma to reassert control. Though the skirmish was small, it underscored how far the conflict stretched beyond the nation's better-known battlefields.

Each March, this history comes alive through reenactments at the park, drawing visitors into this surprising chapter of Arizona's past. The clash at Picacho Pass involved scouting parties rather than full armies, but it was shaped by the harsh desert landscape, which influenced troop movements, supplies, and strategy. Today, visitors can walk the same trails where soldiers once stood, surrounded by dramatic peaks and wide-open skies, making Picacho Peak State Park one of the most unexpected and immersive Civil War sites in the United States.

Desert Camels & Route 66 Legends

Yes, Arizona Had Camels

Believe it or not, camels once roamed Arizona. In the 1850s, the U.S. Army imported them to help survey the rugged Southwest, including land that would later become part of Route 66. Camels proved ideal for desert travel, hauling heavy loads across long distances with little water and outperforming horses and mules in extreme heat.

Lieutenant Edward F. Beale led a camel-assisted expedition in 1857 to chart a wagon road from Fort Defiance in New Mexico to the Colorado River. That route later shaped western trade paths, influenced railroad lines, and eventually became part of historic Route 66.

While the Camel Corps faded after the Civil War, sightings of stray camels were reported for decades, adding a strange and unforgettable chapter to Arizona's frontier lore.



All images in this article: Adobe Firefly



NPS US GOV

Arizona's Cultural Soul

Arizona didn't just become a state in 1912. It became a crossroads of stories, long before Valentine's Day made it official. For more than 10,000 years, Indigenous peoples have lived, farmed, traded, created, and thrived across this land, building communities along rivers, springs, and desert oases that still pulse with life today.

Later came Spanish missionaries, followed by American forts, railroads, and mining towns. Each wave left its mark, but none erased what came before. Instead, Arizona became a layered landscape where Indigenous nations and Hispanic communities preserved and reshaped traditions that still define the state's rhythm. It is one of the few places where a powwow, a fiesta, and a rodeo can all feel equally at home on the same weekend.

Travel through Arizona and culture isn't tucked away in museums, it is everywhere. You will find jewelry hammered by hand, pottery shaped from desert clay, and weaving dyed in the colors of the land itself. You will wander historic barrios, step into old mining towns, and discover planned communities like Ajo that feel frozen in time in the best way. Every stop invites you to connect, not just with history, but with the people who continue to carry it forward.



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This is
a state
where
the past
does not
fade ...



TONTO NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Superstition Mountains near Roosevelt Lake)
Rising above the Sonoran Desert, Tonto's cliff dwellings offer sweeping views that stretch for miles. The hike up feels like a journey through time as much as terrain.

CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Navajo Nation near Chinle)
Massive canyon walls rise around ancient ruins and modern Navajo farms, blending past and present in one breathtaking view. It is one of the few places where history is not just preserved, but still being lived.

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

(Northeastern AZ near Holbrook)
Rainbow-colored petrified logs scatter across the desert like fallen works of art. Add in ancient petroglyphs and painted badlands and this park feels like a dream you do not want to wake up from.

AMERIND MUSEUM

(Dragoon, Cochise County)
Set among the dramatic boulders of Texas Canyon, the Amerind Museum feels like a hidden cultural oasis. Inside, centuries of Indigenous stories unfold through powerful exhibits and art.



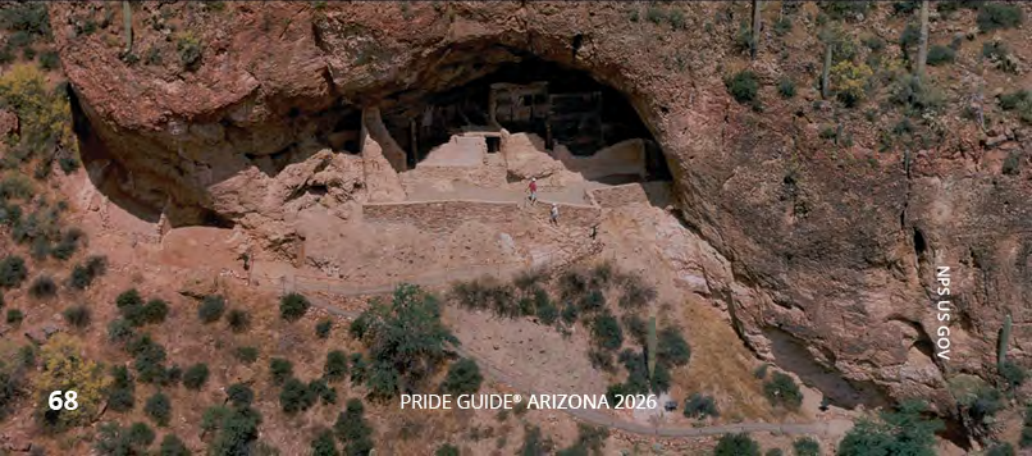


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MONTEZUMA CASTLE AND MONTEZUMA WELL

(Camp Verde, Verde Valley)
Carved into a limestone cliff, Montezuma Castle looks like it was built by nature itself, rising above Beaver Creek like a desert skyscraper. Just down the road, Montezuma Well reveals a crystal-clear sinkhole that has sustained life here for thousands of years, making this stop feel both ancient and alive.

WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT (Southeast of Flagstaff)

Hidden beneath the canyon rim, Walnut Canyon reveals cliff dwellings tucked into towering stone walls. Every step feels like a quiet conversation with the people who once called this place home.

Arizona does not just tell you where it has been,

TUZIGOOT NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Clarkdale, Verde Valley)
Perched high above the Verde River, Tuzigoot feels like a stone city floating between sky and desert. Wander its ancient rooms and you can almost hear the echoes of daily life drifting through the wind.

WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT (North of Flagstaff)

Wupatki's red rock ruins glow against a vast high desert sky, making the landscape feel otherworldly. Once a bustling crossroads of cultures, and you can still feel that energy in the air.

MUSEUM OF NORTHERN ARIZONA (Flagstaff)

This Flagstaff gem ties the land, the people, and the sky together in one beautifully curated space.

NAVAJO INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

(Tuba City, Navajo Nation)
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Heard Museum

HEARD MUSEUM (Phoenix)

Few places bring Native voices forward like the Heard Museum. Every gallery feels intimate, personal, and deeply connected to the living cultures it celebrates.

AJO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM (Ajo, Southern Arizona)

This small-town museum packs a big personality, celebrating the art and stories of a desert community with heart. It is the kind of place where locals and travelers connect over shared history.

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM (West of Tucson)

Part zoo, part botanical garden, part art gallery, this place is pure Arizona magic. Wandering its desert paths feels like walking through a living, breathing museum of the Southwest.

TUMACÁCORI NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (Near Nogales)

Tucked along the Santa Cruz River, the ruins of Tumacácori tell the story of early Spanish missions and the Indigenous communities that shaped them.

it welcomes you on the journey.



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www.VisitSedona.com

Greater Sedona Chamber of Commerce Administrative Office.

See our ad on inside right back cover

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www.UnifySedona.org

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www.QueerCenterAZ.org
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TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ**Southern Arizona Gender Alliance**

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www.SAGATucson.org

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www.FlagstaffPride.org
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PHOENIX METRO

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

P.O. Box 40465

Phoenix, AZ 85067

602-287-9026

www.AGRA-Phx.com
We host the Arizona Gay Rodeo every February on Presidents' Day Weekend and other events throughout the year.

PHOENIX METRO

Desperado Film Festival


Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-787-7276

www.DesperadoFilmFestival.com
Showcases LGBTQ+ Films.

See our ad on page 89

PHOENIX METRO

 **Phoenix Pride Festival**

P.O. Box 16847

Phoenix, AZ 85011

602-27-PRIDE

www.PhoenixPride.org

The Phoenix Pride Festival is a celebration that brings our diverse LGBTQ+ and allied communities together.

See our ad on pages 53, 85 & 95

PHOENIX METRO

 **Rainbows Festival**

P.O. Box 16847

Phoenix, AZ 85011

602-27-PRIDE

www.PhoenixPride.org

The Rainbows Festival & Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ Community.

TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

Bisbee Pride Inc.

P.O. Box 451

Bisbee, AZ 85603

bisbeeprideaz.com

Top 5 Best Rural Prides in the Country (GAY.com) Held every June on Father's Day weekend.



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2ND ANNUAL PHOENIX PRIDE COMMUNITY UNITY **5K**

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TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

Community Foundation For Southern Arizona

5049 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 201
Tucson, AZ 85711

520-770-0800

www.CFSAZ.org

The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona connects donors to the causes they care about, bridging philanthropy and the community's needs.

See our ad on page 96

SOCIAL GROUPS

PHOENIX METRO

Arizona Nude Dudes (ANDES)

www.aznudedudes.org

A group of gay and bisexual men enjoying nudity. Parties include pool, hottub, games, cards, movies, massage, and hikes.

PHOENIX METRO

Bears of the West

www.BearsOfTheWest.org

Bears of the West is a community based, non-profit organization, that is committed to benevolent and charitable services, fundraisers and support for other non-profit organizations in the Greater Phoenix Area.

TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

Bears of The Old Pueblo

520-829-0117

www.BOTOP.com

We are a non-profit, social organization for gay and bisexual men who are 'bearish' and those who admire them.

Be part of the solution.

TIHAN offers opportunities for volunteers to be part of the solution:

- HIV awareness and education
- support services for people living with HIV/AIDS
- advocacy on local and global issues surrounding AIDS
- compassion

For information about being part of TIHAN and our compassionate response to the AIDS crisis facing our families and our world, contact us.

 **TIHAN**

www.tihan.org

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
(520) 299 6647
2660 N. 1ST Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719



Empowering a Resilient and Inclusive LGBTQ+ Community

Alliance Fund LGBTQ+ Member of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

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STATEWIDE

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www.GayArizona.com

www.PrideGuideUSA.com

Arizona's total LGBTQ+ Resource Guide. Available in print, online and mobile app.

See our ad on pages 72, 99 & 191

STATEWIDE SUPPORT HOTLINES

STATEWIDE

LGBT National Hotline

888-843-4564

lgbthotline.org

STATEWIDE

National Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-SAFE (7233)

800-787-3224 (TTY)

www.NDVH.org

STATEWIDE

The Trevor Project

National Suicide Hotline

866-4-U-TREVOR

866-488-7386

www.TheTrevorProject.org

National organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among LGBTQ+ youth.

**ABUSE IS
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AND YOU ARE
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Abuse can happen to anyone. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, or are unsure and have questions, compassionate advocates are available 24/7 to provide free and confidential support, safety planning, and connection to resources in your area.

We're here for you 24/7/365:

- Call **1.800.799.SAFE** (7233)
- TTY **1.800.787.3224**
- Text **START** to **88788**
- Chat **thehotline.org**

Services are free & confidential.



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SIEMPRE HAY
AYUDA DISPONIBLE.**

**NATIONAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
HOTLINE**

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Estamos aquí 24/7/365:

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- TTY **1.800.787.3224**
- Envíe **START** al **88788**
- Mande un chat a través de **español.thehotline.org**

Nuestros servicios son gratuitos y confidenciales.



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727 W. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85013

602-265-0224

www.charliesphoenix.com
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Always A Party, since 1984.

See our ad on page 103

PHOENIX METRO

Arizona Wilderness

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480-462-1836

azwbeer.com/location/dtphx-
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www.brickroadtempe.com
We're an LGBTQ+ owned, inclusive
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www.chocolatree.com
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www.thetoastedowl.com
Family-owned Arizona breakfast &
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PHOENIX METRO


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Michele Woods
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602-944-1286

www.AuntChiladas.com
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602-265-8454

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Phoenix, AZ 85054
480-597-5808

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Scottsdale, AZ 85251

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Phoenix, AZ 85013

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Mi Patio is known for our authentic Mexican dishes.

*See our ad on page 104***PHOENIX METRO****Orange Sky**

Talking Stick Resort

9800 E. Indian Bend Rd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85256

480-850-8606www.TalkingStickResort.com

A fine-dining experience with one of the top views in Arizona.

*See our ad on page 173***PHOENIX METRO****Phoenix Coqui**

4041 N. 15th Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85015

602-768-7894www.phoenixcoqui.com

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PHOENIX METRO**The Herb Box**

7051 E 5th Ave, Suite J

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-289-6160www.theherbbox.com

Locally owned and scratch-made, The Herb Box offers healthy dining, exceptional catering, and elevated event experiences.

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Scottsdale, AZ 85254

480-289-6160www.theherbbox.com

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Visit our warm and inviting bakery/bistro for real fresh food. Served by the friendliest staff in town.

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- M: Mostly Male
- F: Mostly Female
- MF: Male + Female
- GF: Gay-Friendly (Mixed
• Straight + Gay)
- N: Neighborhood Bar
- D: Dance Club
- C: Country Dancing
- L: Leather/Bears
- K: Kitchen
- DFP: Dog Friendly Patio
- E: Entertainment
(Dancers, Karaoke,
Bands, Drag, Live DJ)

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Brodie's Tavern
2449 N. Stone Ave.
Tucson, AZ
520-622-0447 M,N,E

IBT's
616 N. 4th Ave.
Tucson, AZ
520-882-3053 M,D,E

Sky Bar Tucson
536 N. 4th Ave.
Tucson, AZ
520-622-4300 GF,E,K,N,DFP

Surly Wench Pub
424 N. 4th Ave.
Tucson, AZ
520-882-0009 GF,E,DFP

Venture-N
1239 N. 6th Ave.
Tucson, AZ
520-882-8224 M,N,L,E

Metro Phoenix

Anvil

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Phoenix, AZ
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Phoenix, AZ
602-334-1462 N,GF,K,DFP

Bar 1

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Phoenix, AZ
602-266-9001 MF,N,DFP

Boycott

4301 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ
602-265-3233 F,D

Bunkhouse

4428 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ
602-200-9154 M,N,L,DFP

Charlie's

727 W. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, AZ
602-265-0224 M,C,D,E,K

Cruisin on 7th

3702 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ
602-212-9888 MF,N,E

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5114 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, AZ
602-265-8454 GF,K,DFP

Hula's Modern Tiki

7213 E. First Ave.
Scottsdale, AZ
480-970-4852 GF,K,DFP

Karamba Nightclub

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Phoenix, AZ
602-254-0231 M,D,E

Kobalt at Park Central

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Phoenix, AZ
602-264-5307 MF,E,DFP

Nu Towne Saloon

5002 E. Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ
602-267-9959 MF,N,L,E

OZ

1804 W. Bethany Home Rd.
Phoenix, AZ
602-242-5114 MF,N

Stacy's @ Melrose

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Phoenix, AZ
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Phoenix, AZ
602-248-8559 MF,N,E,DFP

Title 9

4129 N. 7th Ave.
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602-248-8559 MF,N,E

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A photograph of three women of diverse backgrounds embracing each other warmly. The woman on the left has short grey hair and is wearing a yellow shirt. The woman in the middle has braided hair and is wearing a pink shirt. The woman on the right has short grey hair, wears glasses, and is wearing an orange hoodie. They are all smiling and laughing.

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Village
TEMPE



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800-944-7611

www.ArizonasChildren.org
Build your family and change the fate of Arizona's children by providing a safe, stable home.

See our ad on page 113

PHOENIX METRO

Child Crisis Arizona
424 W. Rio Salado Parkway
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-834-9424

ChildCrisisAZ.org
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PHOENIX METRO


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480-207-5050

www.spence-chapin.org
Recruiting LGBTQ+ families for Domestic and International Adoption. Spence-Chapin provides support, guidance, and expertise throughout your adoption journey.

See our ad on page 111

TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

 Arizona's Children Association
3716 E. Columbia St., Ste. 120
Tucson, AZ 85714
800-944-7611

www.ArizonasChildren.org
Build your family and change the fate of Arizona's children by providing a safe, stable home.

See our ad on page 113

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www.homewatchcaregivers.com/tucson
www.homewatchcaregivers.com/green-valley

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HOV.org

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See our ad on page 126

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Tucson, AZ 85705
520-833-2383

www.hospiceinthedesert.com
Locally owned, nurse owned hospice committed to caring for community; and that means everyone.

See our ad on page 126



Adoption Pathways For All Families

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spence-chapin.org | info@spence-chapin.org | 480-207-5050



SENIOR SERVICES ADVOCACY

PHOENIX METRO

Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter

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Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-528-0545

www.Alz.org/dsw

We provide education and support to all those facing Alzheimer's and other dementias throughout our community, including those living with the disease, caregivers, health care professionals and families.

See our ad on page 97

TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

☪ Southern Arizona Senior Pride

1632 N Country Club Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

520-312-8923

www.soazseniorpride.org

Provides social & support services that celebrate, support, & unite LGBTQ+ older adults in Southern AZ.

See our ad on page 113

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National LGBTQ+ Elder
Advocacy and Resources

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www.SageUSA.org

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Phoenix, AZ 85021

602-428-9206

www.BeatitudesCampus.org

An all-inclusive Life Plan Community, including Independent Living, Assisted Living, & Memory Support.

See our ad on page 113

PHOENIX METRO

Friendship Village of Tempe

2645 E. Southern Ave.

Tempe, AZ 85282

480-207-3056

www.Friendshipvillageaz.com

Endeared. Encompassed. Embarrassed of all the enthralling "E" words out there, our favorite is "Equal."

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SENIOR SERVICES RETIREMENT LIVING

PHOENIX METRO

☪ Beatitudes Campus

1610 W. Glendale Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85021

602-428-9206

www.BeatitudesCampus.org

An all-inclusive Life Plan Community, including Independent Living, Assisted Living, & Memory Support.

See our ad on page 113

PHOENIX METRO

Friendship Village of Tempe

2645 E. Southern Ave.

Tempe, AZ 85282

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www.Friendshipvillageaz.com

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SENIOR SERVICES SOCIAL GROUPS

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1632 N Country Club Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

520-312-8923

www.soazseniorpride.org

Provides social & support services

that celebrate, support, & unite

LGBTQI+ older adults in Southern AZ.

See our ad on page 113



SOUTHERN ARIZONA SENIOR PRIDE
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info@arizonaschildren.org

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Located in Phoenix, Arizona



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PHOENIX METRO

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1492 S. Mill Ave., Suite 212
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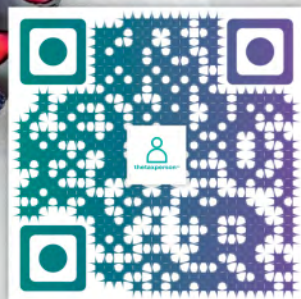
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Retirement Planning for LGBTQ+ Couples:

What to Know Before the Golden Years



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Retirement should be something to look forward to, but for many LGBTQ+ individuals and couples, planning for the future can involve added considerations. Legal protections, healthcare access, and long-standing financial disparities mean retirement planning often requires extra intention.

This article is for general educational purposes only and is not financial advice. Always consult a qualified financial advisor for guidance specific to your situation.

Legal Planning Comes First

While marriage equality has expanded important rights, laws around inheritance, benefits,

and medical decision-making still vary. Having essentials like a will, healthcare directive, and power of attorney in place helps ensure your partner or chosen family is protected and your wishes are respected.

Making the Most of Retirement Savings

Many LGBTQ+ individuals have experienced wage gaps or career disruptions, making proactive saving especially important. Contributing to 401(k)s, IRAs, and taking advantage of employer matches can significantly strengthen long-term security. Couples should also review spousal benefits tied to pensions and Social Security, including survivor benefits.



Preparing for Healthcare Costs

Healthcare is one of the largest expenses in retirement, and LGBTQ+ seniors may face additional challenges accessing affirming care. Planning ahead through tools like Health Savings Accounts, insurance options, and Medicare supplements can help protect savings from unexpected medical costs.

Protecting Your Legacy

Without proper estate planning, assets may not go where you intend. Keeping beneficiary designations up to date and considering trusts can help ensure partners and chosen family members are provided for.

Community and Lifestyle Matter

Retirement planning isn't just financial. Housing, community, and support systems all impact long-term wellbeing, and exploring LGBTQ+-friendly living options early can ease future transitions.

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To create a queer cultural center that serves as a hub for nonprofits, community programs, and creative expression.

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At Avenidas Cremation & Burial, we understand the importance of honoring the individuality of every life. We are committed to creating a funeral experience that reflects the unique spirit of your LGBTQ+ loved one, just as they would have wanted.

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Vanessa

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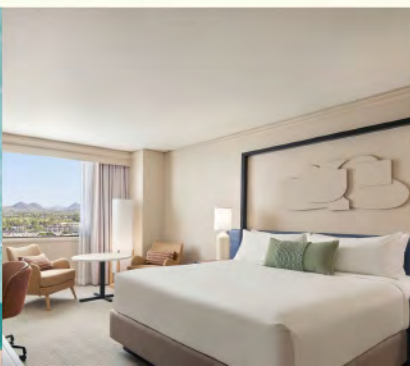
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Western Hospitality, Sweeping views and your front row seat to the Old West.
See our ad on page 164

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See our ad on pages 1 & 179

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Glendale, AZ 85307

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www.RainbowRyders.com

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www.Arcosanti.org

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Arizona's Premier Wildlife Park.

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NORTHERN AZ

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www.Lowell.edu

Interactive exhibits, immersive shows, and dark-sky stargazing.

Make Lowell Observatory a standout stop on your Route 66 journey.

See our ad on page 167

PHOENIX METRO

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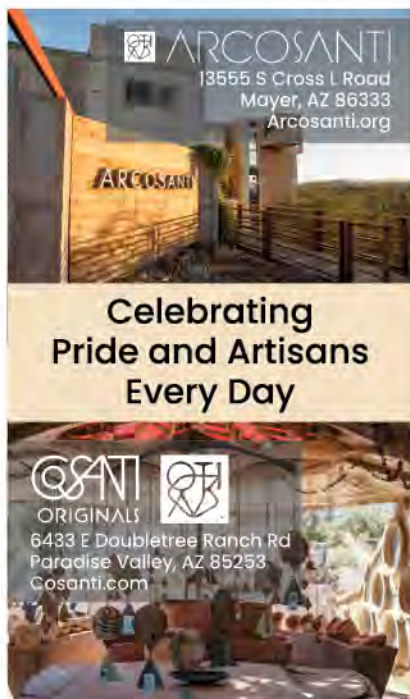
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Phoenix, AZ 85008

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www.DBG.org

The Garden's vision is to be the premier center in the world for the exhibition, research and conservation of desert plants.



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TUCSON & SOUTHERN AZ

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www.SIPsedona.com

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Sedona, AZ 86339

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www.VisitSedona.com

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www.CliftonAZ.com

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tubacaz.com

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