

**EXPLORE  
ARIZONA**

# Road trip in Arizona

Arizona's bounty of rust-colored canyons and saguaro-laden vistas easily enchant, but it's the unexpected that excites. Home to 22 sovereign American Indian communities, alpine forests and a robust collection of artists' colonies, the Grand Canyon State proffers an abundance of eclectic exploration possibilities.

While pecans and citrus fruits flourish in the heat, it's best to avoid the jaw-droppingly hot summers and instead opt for the shoulder seasons. (The delectable prickly pear margaritas, one of the state's beloved delicacies, are

available year-round.) It's possible to find both chilly mornings and temperate afternoons thanks to the astounding variations in elevation — from some 12,600 ft at the summit of Humphreys Peak to 70 ft above sea level on the Colorado River — throughout the state.

The ideal vehicle for this Arizona journey is the Bentley Continental GT V8 Convertible; drop the top and prepare for an unhurried adventure beginning in the northernmost part of the state at Lake Powell.

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by **Alexandra Cheney**

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## **LAKE POWELL**

A man-made reservoir on the Colorado River, Lake Powell snakes along the Arizona-Utah border. Dive into its 2,000 miles of shoreline, which include sandstone-sculpted slot canyons, towering rock formations like Gregory Butte, and one of the world's largest natural rock bridges, Rainbow Bridge. Rent a 2,400-sq-ft, four-bedroom, 75-ft Odyssey Houseboat with a waterslide, fireplace, full kitchen and rooftop hot tub from **Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas (lakepowell.com)**. It's possible to self-pilot the boat, or hire a captain for the duration of your stay.

An abundance of water toys, including ski tubes, wakeboards, water skis, kayaks and paddleboards, are available for rent. Depart from Wahweap Marina and glide through narrow red-rock passages, anchoring on remote, soft-sand beaches. From there, it's a choose-your-own adventure.

Up the road, **Horseshoe Bend (nps.gov)** is a U-shaped incised meander of the Colorado River. An easy half-mile hike to the overlook boasts views of the 1,000-ft drop from rim to the shimmering ribbon of river.

## **GRAND CANYON**

Head to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, a two-hour drive away, where pinyon and juniper trees survive with less than 15 inches of annual rainfall. Skip the area offerings and hire **Abercrombie & Kent (abercrombiekent.com)** to create a tailor-made, private journey where options abound. A preferred operator and local expert, Ben Murphy of **All-Star Grand Canyon Tours, Inc. (allstargrandcanyontours.com)**, guides rim-side walks, hikes for all levels and overnight glamping, and can arrange flightseeing or horseback rides.







### CASTLE HOT SPRINGS

Without question, the road (still 89A) leading out of town and into the Prescott Valley, with views of Woodchute Mountain, is an absolute delight of hairpin turns and undulating landscapes. It's another couple of hours to Castle Hot Springs, including a jaunt down an unpaved road (don't worry, the Bentley is more than capable) to a desert oasis.

Tucked against the Bradshaw Mountains, **Castle Hot Springs (castlehotsprings.com)** dates back to 1896. A trio of natural hot, warm and cool spring pools are the main draw, accessible only to retreat guests and always open — floating in the geothermal, mineral-rich waters under the stars is an unequivocal must. At this inclusive resort sprawling over 1,100 acres, you can book a spring bungalow as well as a 120-minute Castle Signature Massage (ask for Robert). Harvest, the resort's restaurant, sources items directly from the garden; think purple basil and onion ash. Take the farm tour for further gastronomic enlightenment.



### Clockwise from top

Castle Hot Springs has a trio of hot, warm and cool springs; CIVANA is a new wellness resort just outside of Scottsdale

### Right

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain's infinity pool



### PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE

Head east on the Carefree Highway to **CIVANA (civanacarefree.com)**, a little over an hour's drive away. The newest wellness destination in town, CIVANA blends private wall yoga offerings with daily guided hikes (ask for Grace). Sprinkle in a hot/cold pool contrast-therapy suite, Aqua Vitality Circuit, and top it all off with meditation and sound bowls on the yoga lawn at sunset. Seeking a different vibe? The plant-rich (not based) restaurant also features a robust cocktail and wine list because, according to co-founder Marc Skalla, "that's wellness too."

Off property, Scottsdale is an artists' colony bursting with contemporary art galleries. Silverwork, turquoise and cowboy boots are integral parts of the local wardrobe (often all worn together). Meander through downtown, starting with a stop at the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (smoca.org)**, which features Knight Rise, a commissioned skyspace by Arizona-based James Turrell. **The Merchantile of Scottsdale (themerchantileofscottsdale.com)** features up-and-coming native designers. A stroll

down East 1st Avenue brings you to galleries and jewelry stores. End the exploration at **Francine (francinerestaurant.com)** in the luxury wing of Scottsdale Fashion Square. French Mediterranean cuisine meets Arizona desert in this chic space: start with the oysters, stay for the digestifs.

Find solace in a mountain suite at **Sanctuary Camelback Mountain (sanctuaryoncamelback.com)** or a round of golf at **The Boulders (bouldersclub.com)**. With an elevation gain of 1,330 ft from trailhead to summit, Camelback Mountain's Echo Canyon Trailhead is extremely difficult to hike but phenomenally rewarding, with 360-degree views of the valley. Tip: Show up before sunrise for a sweet reward from the local park rangers. Recover with a private house call crystal appointment or tarot reading with Corbin Chamberlain of **Sage & Salt (sageandsalt.com)** before indulging in the braised wagyu beef cheeks, Maple Leaf Farms spiced duck breast and agnolotti del plin, which pair perfectly with a bottle of Franciacorta at **The Americano (theamericanorestaurant.com)**.