



Arizona

The Grand Canyon State has monumental golf among its deserts and mountains. We marvel over the offerings of Phoenix and Scottsdale before heading into Southern Arizona for a look at Old Pueblo, as Tucson is known

Golfers are spoilt for choice in Arizona with more than 300 golf courses throughout the state. Greater Phoenix has over 200 alone and has been dubbed the “Golf Capital of the World” by the US National Golf Foundation. And such is the quality and quantity of offerings in Scottsdale that its name instantly conjures up visions of green swathes cut

through desert landscapes.

Central Arizona’s Valley of the Sun, which incorporates Phoenix, Scottsdale and surrounding cities, enjoys more than 325 sunny days a year. Little wonder that over two million visitors tee off in Arizona each year.

You can grip it and rip it on manicured championship courses by the world’s best golf architects at lavish resorts, then soak away your



aches and pains in spas to rival anywhere in the world. You can also play on several Native American reservations. In the last 10 years, four clubs with six courses have opened on reservations, offering some of the state’s best new golf experiences.

In southern Arizona, golfers can hit drives and putt among giant saguaro cacti on mountain desert courses or tackle traditional

“Putt among giant saguaro cacti on mountain desert courses or tackle traditional parkland layouts in historic Tucson”



parkland layouts in historic Tucson.

There's golf in other parts of the state as well. How about eschewing the option of a cart for a gentle stroll around links fairways in the shadow of London Bridge? Not by Old Father Thames but at Lake Havasu City on Arizona's western boundary. Or maybe head to the far north of the state and swing away along bluffs overlooking the Colorado River, Glen Canyon Dam and the wide expanse of Lake Powell. Striking red rocks form picture-postcard backdrops to several courses in Sedona, while mile-high Prescott has 144 holes of golf 90 minutes north of Phoenix.

Golf is year-round in Arizona. Summer's a hot time for golfing bargains as green fees are usually slashed, and the long days allow golfers to get in early-morning rounds, thus avoiding the heat of the day. But whenever you play you're certain to have a grand time in the Grand Canyon State.



Take a breathtaking flight over the Grand Canyon

PETER ELLEGARD

Scottsdale: welcome to the Valley of the Sun



DICK DURRANCE/PGA TOUR/WIREIMAGE.COM



Obstructions you don't argue with in Tucson

SCOTTSDALE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Arizona Facts

GETTING THERE

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is served by daily flights from the UK by **British Airways** (ba.com; 0870-850-9-850). Connecting flights from most transatlantic gateway airports operate into both Phoenix and Tucson airports.

while May, September and October are shoulder seasons.

Temperatures on higher-altitude courses can be 10°C-15°C cooler.

Information: arizonaguide.com;

Brochure line: 020-8741-7256.

For information on holiday packages contact 3D Golf 08701-200-300; 3dgolf.com

GENERAL INFO

Time difference: GMT -7. Daylight saving is not observed in Arizona except in the Navajo Nation in the north-east.

Climate: Arizona enjoys a dry, sunny climate with more than 300 sunny days a year in the central part of the state. Conditions vary between its arid deserts, where summer daytime temperatures average 40°C and winter temperatures average 19°C, and its pine-covered mountains. Here, summer maximums are a more temperate 28°C. Peak season for golf is from November to April,

Scottsdale: a perfect golf oasis in the desert

