



Phoenix & Scottsdale



DICK DURRANCE/PGA TOUR/WIREIMAGE.COM

Near-perfect weather, outstanding desert views and golf courses par excellence; no wonder many Tour pros live in Scottsdale

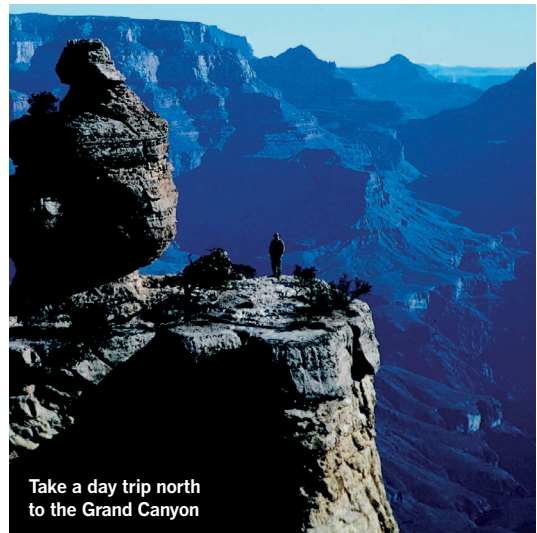
So, you want to play the best golf destination in the world but still can't make up your mind where to go? Then take the word of veteran pro Tom Weiskopf, now on the PGA Tour's senior circuit.

"With our weather, courses, and mindset, Scottsdale has no rival in the world when it comes to golf," he enthuses.

Tom Lehman, the 2006 US Ryder Cup captain, offers a compelling second opinion: "I love the near-perfect weather and great desert views. For a golfer, this is the best of all worlds." Many of golf's top-100 names live in this golfing hot spot.

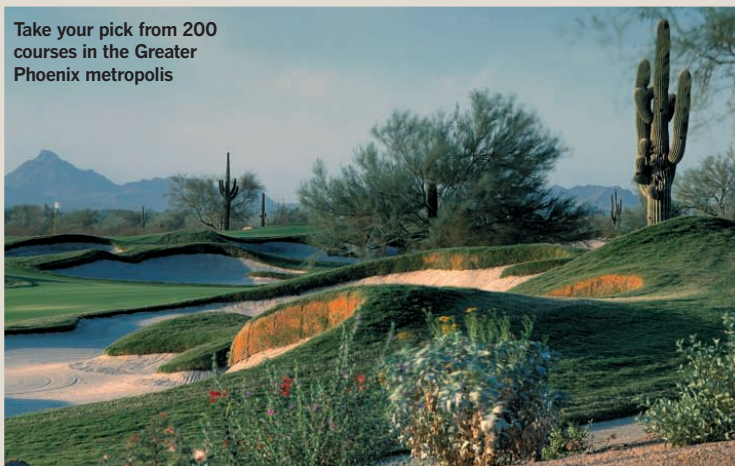
And Scottsdale is only part of the Greater Phoenix metropolis. Together with its neighbouring communities, there are a multitude of different golf experiences among the 200 courses in the metro area. Flanked by mountain ranges on three sides, you have everything from target golf through Sonoran Desert peaks and valleys to parkland courses and lush oases filled with lakes and cascading waterfalls.

Some courses are in desert canyons which feel a world away from civilisation. Others are part of opulent resorts, where you can indulge yourself in relaxing spas after your round. Scottsdale has more than 25 spas.



Take a day trip north to the Grand Canyon

Take your pick from 200 courses in the Greater Phoenix metropolis



GREATER PHOENIX CVB/MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE



Gainey Ranch: classic Scottsdale opulence

GAINEY RANCH GOLF CLUB

If you want great-value golf, the city of Phoenix has five 18-hole municipal tracks including parkland layout Maryvale Golf Club by William F Bell, who also designed San Diego's Torrey Pines, and the 6,962-yard Aguila championship course in the outlying desert. Encanto, another municipal offering close to downtown Phoenix is Arizona's third-oldest course and dates to 1935. In summer, city park green fees are just \$13 all week, carts extra, which offers outstanding value.

Scottsdale's golfing roots are almost a century old, when nine holes were laid out on oiled dirt in the then sleepy little Western town's Ingleside Inn in 1910. Early courses were built near canals and irrigated by flooding them with canal water.

The Phoenix Open, first played in 1932 and

revived in 1939 at the Phoenix Country Club is known as "the Greatest Show on Grass." Now the FBR Open, it moved to TPC at Scottsdale's Stadium Course in 1987 and is the most highly-attended event on the tour, attracting over half a million excitable fans during the week. Tiger's hole-in-one at the 16th in 1997 certainly turned up the volume.

Golf took off in Scottsdale in the 1970s, with the opening of courses like Camelback's eucalyptus-lined Club Course, more recently joined by Arthur Hills' visually deceptive Resort Course, a redesign of an earlier track. The 1980s saw the arrival of several masterpieces which helped to stamp desert golf fully on the map and position the area as a golf paradise.

TPC of Scottsdale's Stadium and Desert courses were designed by Tom Weiskopf and ⇒

WHERE TO PLAY

Gainey Ranch Golf Club

3 nines, 6,614-6,800 yards, par 72
\$65-\$180, cart \$16 per person
Contact: 00-1-480-951-0022
gaineyranchcc.com
No bum steers at this classy set-up

Las Sendas Golf Club

6,874 yards, par 71 \$45-\$150
Contact: 00-1-480-396-4000
lassendas.com
Arizona's highest slope rating with a wicked double-dogleg finish

TPC of Scottsdale

Stadium Course: 7,216 yards, par 71, \$88-\$228
Desert Course: 6,423 yards, par 70, \$40-\$57
Contact: 00-1-480-585-4334
tpc.com
Your best performance will be needed at this daunting stadium

Troon North Golf Club

Monument Course: 7,028 yards, par 72
Pinnacle Course: 7,044 yards, par 72
\$75-\$220
Contact: 00-1-480-585-5300
troonnorthgolf.com
Superb quality at a Scottsdale highlight

We-Ko-Pa Golf Club

7,225 yards, par 72 \$40-\$195
Contact: 00-1-480-836-9000
wekopa.com
Pristine layout in mountain scenery

The Phoenician Golf Resort

3 nines, 6,068-6,310 yards, par 70
\$90-\$180
Contact: 00-1-480-423-2449
thephoenician.com
Even the rough is gorgeous, goes the saying about this slick set-up

Kierland Golf Club

3 nines, 6,974-7,017 yards, par 72
from \$75, includes cart
Contact: 00-1-480-922-9283
kierlandgolf.com
You'll keep your cool with its generous fairways and air-conditioned carts

Arizona Biltmore Golf Club

The Links Course: 6,300 yards, par 72
The Adobe Course: 6,075 yards, par 72
\$48-\$175 includes cart
Contact: 00-1-602-955-9655
azbiltmoregc.com
Contrasting golf experiences alongside Frank Lloyd Wright's concrete icon

J W Marriott Wildfire Golf Club

Palmer Course: 7,175 yards, par 72
Faldo Course: 6,846 yards, par 71
\$70-\$205, includes cart
Contact: 00-1-480-473-020
wildfiregolf.com
Faldo's touch of Australian Outback in the US is one you won't burn up



Jay Morrish, and are resort courses open to all-comers, not just the pros. The Boulders Golf Club's North and South courses, also by Morrish, are among the most challenging and scenic in the Southwest thanks to the rugged landscape which gives the club its name. Another 80s classic beauty is The Golf Club at The Phoenician, with three nines called Canyon, Desert and Oasis. Gainey Ranch Golf Club also has three nines, with a waterfall on the 9th of Lakes. The club is private, but guests at the adjacent Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort can play it.

If anything, the last 15 years have seen even faster growth with more than a dozen new courses, including Robert Trent Jones Jr's tough Las Sendas – boasting Arizona's highest slope rating of 149 and a double-dogleg par-5 18th – and more forgiving Dove Valley, plus the Golf Club at Eagle Mountain, which roams through box canyons, across rolling hills and down desert valleys while giving panoramas of Greater Phoenix and rugged mountains.

Troon North is the flagship for Scottsdale-based developer and management company Troon Golf, which now runs more than 140 courses throughout the US and around the world. Its Monument and Pinnacle courses weave a patchwork of emerald in a stunning high Sonoran Desert setting. And for sheer natural beauty, 2001 creation We-Ko-Pa, on Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation reservation land, offers unsurpassed mountain desert vistas with no homes, roads or commercial developments.

The great golf continues all around Phoenix. The JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Arizona's largest hotel and convention complex, incorporates the Wildfire Golf Club which features an original Arnold Palmer layout with expansive greens and a newer Faldo signature target-golf design. Its turf-lipped bunkers rear up threateningly, yet their creator says they are positioned so that "their bark proves worse than their bite."

Golfers needn't get hot under the collar playing at the Whirlwind Golf Club at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort or Kierland Golf Club at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. These Troon courses are the first two courses in the world to provide climate-controlled cooling devices on golf carts. The devices blow cool, aromatherapy-infused air around golfers'

The splendid 6th at Troon North Pinnacle Course



GREATER PHOENIX CVB/FOUR SEASONS RESORT SCOTTSDALE

WHERE TO STAY

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale

Contact: 00-1-480-624-1000
kierlandresort.com

Phoenician Golf Resort, Scottsdale

Contact: 00-1-480-941-8200
thephoenician.com

Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch

Contact: 00-1-480-444-1234
scottsdale.hyatt.com

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

Contact: 00-1-480-585-4848
fairmont.com/scottsdale

Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa

Contact: 00-1-602-955-6600
arizonabiltmore.com

JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa

Contact: 00-1-480-293-5000
desertridgeresort.com

necks during hot summer rounds, and also provide heated air to their hands and ears during the colder winter months.

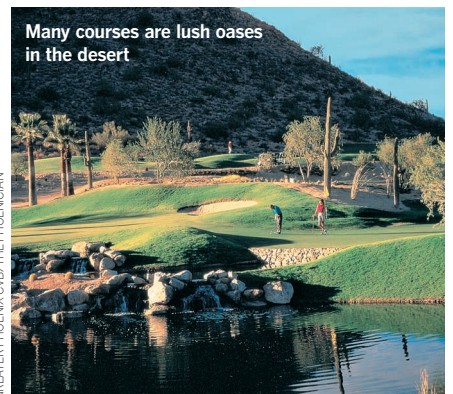
Whirlwind and Wild Horse Pass Resort are on Gila River Indian Community land and offer 36 holes on two 7,000-plus yard courses, Devil's Claw and Cat Tail. Kierland is a 27-hole facility with wide fairways and extensive native desert vegetation, helping to make it one of the Audubon Co-Operative Sanctuary-recognised courses in the state of Arizona.

Talking Stick Golf Club, which offers two different visions by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, and Apache Stronghold are the Phoenix area's other recent additions on native reservation land. Apache is a desert wilderness set among 14 ancient archaeological sites, the fairways of its front nine marooned in isolation by hills



Desert sunset

METROPOLITAN TUSCON CVB



Many courses are lush oases in the desert

GREATER PHOENIX CVB/THE PHOENICIAN



topped with sage and mesquite trees as silent spectators of your efforts below.

One Phoenix golfing experience not to be missed is to play the Arizona Biltmore Resort's Scots-flavoured Links Course, one of two layouts next to Frank Lloyd Wright's 1929 concrete icon.

If you want to hit the greens as soon as you arrive, Raven Golf Club at South Mountain is a parkland design lined with mature pines just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, while The Legacy Golf Resort is opposite.

And if you still have time, you could try and shoot eagles at the Raptor and Talon at Grayhawk Golf Club, hit the trail at Rees Jones' Legend Trail Golf Club which styles itself "Cypress Point of the Desert", as well as take on Starfire's three Palmer layouts at Scottsdale Country Club, Superstition Mountain's two Jack Nicklaus courses or the Troon-run Occotillo Golf Resort's 27 parkland holes by Ted Robinson.

Just make sure you leave enough energy to explore the museums and art galleries, shopping, restaurants and nightlife of Phoenix and Scottsdale. Or you could always come back.

Phoenix and Scottsdale Facts

WHERE IS IT

Downtown Phoenix is just five minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport while most major hotels and resorts in Scottsdale and other parts of Greater Phoenix are within 20-30 minutes. The airport is the fifth-busiest in the world with hundreds of flights across North America as well as direct transatlantic flights from the UK. Shuttle services, taxis and limousines operate throughout the Metropolitan Phoenix area. You can also rent a car from all the major rental companies.

Information: visitphoenix.com, scottsdalecvb.com; 020-8741-7256.

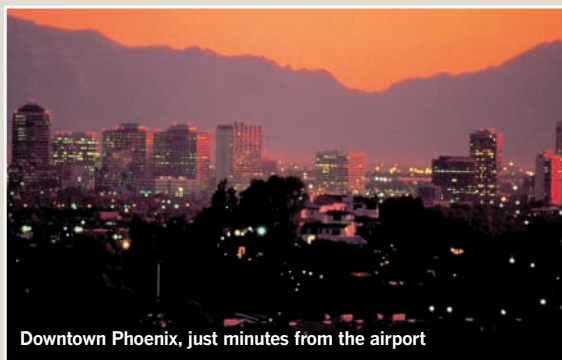
KEY ATTRACTIONS

Native American art and artefacts are showcased at the **Heard Museum** in Phoenix, while the Phoenix Art Museum hosts major travelling exhibitions and houses many permanent international works.

Scottsdale's Downtown Arts District has more than 125 art galleries, studios and museums as well as over 60 public artworks.

Houses surviving from the early years of Phoenix are preserved as shops and restaurants in downtown Heritage Square. Architecture fans will also want to see Frank Lloyd Wright's landmark **Arizona Biltmore**, the pink Grady Gammage Auditorium in Tempe and his former Scottsdale home and school.

Learn about the area's rich history at the **Arizona Capitol Museum, Phoenix Museum of History and Pueblo Grande**



Downtown Phoenix, just minutes from the airport

Museum, which preserves ancient Hohokam ruins in the centre of the city.

No trip to Arizona would be complete without a visit to the **Grand Canyon**, which snakes for 277 miles and is 18 miles across at its widest point. You can fly there by fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter on a day trip from Phoenix. Another day trip worth taking is to the distinctive

red rocks of Sedona and the quaint town of Flagstaff.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The Desert Botanical Garden showcases the Sonoran Desert ecosystem with 20,000 desert

plants including the jumping cholla cactus.

South Mountain Park is the world's largest municipal park, at 16,500 acres. Among its attractions is the quirky Mystery Castle.

Kids will love exploring the desert on horseback, four-wheel-drive adventure tours and on quad bikes.

While parents relax and enjoy the resort spas, the kids will be well looked after. **The Fairmont**

Scottsdale Princess has a year-round Kid's Club with a newly-renovated HQ, while **The Phoenician** also has its own Funician Kids Club clubhouse. The **Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort at Gainey Ranch** offers hands-on experience with native culture including learning about Navajo beadwork or Native American dances.

PHOENIX AND SCOTTSDALE FACTS

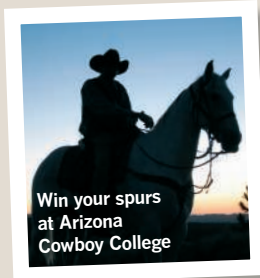
Scottsdale calls itself "the West's most Western Town" and city dudes can gain their spurs at the **Arizona Cowboy College**.

Phoenix was first settled as a village alongside the Salt River by the Hohokam people 2,000 years ago. Modern-day Phoenix dates back to the 1860s, the name signifying the new pioneer town which emerged from the ruins of the ancient founders' settlement.

Composer **Irving Berlin** wrote many tunes, including White Christmas, while sitting poolside at the Arizona Biltmore. It is the only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world and was christened "The Jewel of the Desert" when it opened in 1929.

Nightlife in 1875 **Phoenix** consisted of 16 saloons, four dance halls and a faro table for gamblers to play the then-popular game of chance. Today, downtown Scottsdale alone has more than 30 nightspots, most of which are within walking distance of each other.

The Sonoran Desert is one of the world's greenest deserts with grasses, shrubs, trees and giant saguaro cacti that grow nowhere else. Each spring, masses of yellow blooms cover the palo verde trees, flowers sprout from the many varieties of cactus and wild flowers carpet the desert floor.



Win your spurs at Arizona Cowboy College



Get a flavour of the West in Arizona

PETER ELLEGARD