

# 9 Fantastic Experiences In Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona

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The Wild West comes to life while sharing the historic Scottsdale streets with intriguing art galleries, modern craft breweries, foodies' favorite haunts, charming wineries, and shops that beckon you to wander in and explore their wares. Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona, is steeped in cowboy history and has morphed into a hip, trendy destination for travelers looking for a fun adventure.

When you wander the streets of Old Town, you will find unique storefronts offering locals and visitors an experience that is unique to the area. Beautiful art installations grace green spaces and street corners and embrace Scottsdale's Native American history that are intermingled with her classic cowboy legends.

*Some information in this piece was obtained during a sponsored press trip, but all recommendations are my own.*



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## 1. Sip And Sample Walking Tour

The best way to explore a new-to-you location is by walking the streets with a townie and tasting all the amazing local cuisine. Arizona Food Tours takes the classic Happy Hour and turns into a strolling-local-haunts, walking tour crawl with its Sip and Sample Scottsdale tour. Learn local history, explore signature cocktails and cuisine, and immerse yourself in the Scottsdale experience.

While strolling the streets with your guide, learn the fascinating history of how Scottsdale came to be a hub for the Old West. Enjoy being greeted at each restaurant like an old friend as you taste and sip your way across Old Town. Your foodie adventure can be as hot and spicy or laid back chill as you like; accommodating your personal tastes. Be prepared to enjoy some amazing cocktails and delicious plates. Arizona Food Tours offers a selection of touring and tasting options that are perfect for a small group outing,

You will visit a selection of restaurants that may include the likes of Bootleggers Modern American Smokehouse, featured on “Diners, Drivin-ins, and Dives,” because their smoked meat is amazing. At the ultra-modern, AZ88, a fun saloon oozing with ambiance and cocktails, you can sip a classic Moscow Mule with an AZ88 twist. The Mission takes classic Latin cuisine to the next level. Its signature tacos will be the yardstick by which all future tacos will be measured. Evo, with its sumptuous Italian flavors, will transport you out of the desert and across the ocean to a small Italian kitchen. The Brat Haus beer garden is Old Town party central, where everything is house made — including the condiments. Finish off your tour with a scoop of a sweet Italian treat at Gelato Cimmino.

## 2. Take A Joy Ride, AZ Style

JoyRidesAZ will zip you around Scottsdale in a comfy, open-air golf cart. Forget the walking, this is a door-to-door service tour company that offers a large selection of pre-planned and customizable tours. It's owned and operated by Kirk and Monica, a lively couple with extensive knowledge of Scottsdale. Joy Rides is a fun and intimate way to see Old Town Scottsdale through a specific tour-focused lens.

The Brew Sampling Tour will take you out and about for a tour of local bars and saloons that offer a taste of Old Scottsdale history and a few frosty pints. On the Urban Historic Tour you will be enchanted with stories of cowboys and gold-rushers. The Instagram Tour takes you to some of the most Insta-worthy spots, and since Scottsdale is home to an amazing street-art culture, there are scores of beautiful installations to choose from.

Some of the stops on the Brew Sampling Tour where you can sample eclectic craft brews are the Sunup Brewing Company, Craft 64, and Goldwater Brewing Company



## 3. Contemplate Life At An Old Adobe Mission

The Adobe Catholic mission church, Simply known as the Old Adobe Mission, is a basic adobe-style structure that welcomes everyone. Take a moment out of your busy sightseeing day to reflect in quiet contemplation by visiting The Old Adobe Mission, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Built in 1933 when Scottsdale was a boomtown, the church now welcomes visitors seeking a spot for reflection and prayer.

Take a few minutes to quietly wander through the church, you will find many statues and icons dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Old Adobe Mission is a beautiful church and a popular spot for Catholic weddings.

## 4. Wine Tasting With A Gorgeous View

Wine, nectar from the grape, is more than just a glass at LDV Winery's Tasting Room. Strategically situated in the heart of Old Town Scottsdale, comfy chairs beckon you to sit back and enjoy beautifully crafted wines. The rustic vineyard decor sets the stage for sampling excellent wines.

Enjoy one of several expertly-paired flights, sample different varieties, or share a bottle with a friend. Sip full-bodied reds or crisp whites while you enjoy people-watching from your curbside patio seat. The Tasting Room staff offer knowledgeable descriptions of each wine; thereby taking the guesswork out of your selection. If you are pressed for time, you can purchase a bottle to enjoy later, or a selection to be shipped home.

LDV also offers special events, like its Sip and Learn Series, led by LDV Winemaker Curt Dunham. Special LDV Winery Vineyard events allow guests to get up close and personal with their wine.



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## 5. Secret Garden Old Town Stay

An oasis courtyard in the center of the Arts District in Old Town is where outdoor tile-backed fountains sparkle, elegant fire pits abound, and intimate seating treat guests like old friends. A hidden gem, the Bespoke Inn, is more than a hotel, it is an experience. When you step through the garden gate, you are transported to a secret garden that invites you to linger and soak up the private patio atmosphere. The gardens evoke feelings of European courtyards where quiet, intimate conversations between longtime friends happen every day.

The rooms and suites at the Bespoke are casually elegant. Thoughtful touches like Smeg Coffee Makers grace the kitchenettes along with special details unique to each room. When you return from a day of touring, a dip in the rooftop infinity pool is just the luxurious detail that makes your stay special.



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## 6. Elegant Dining Meets The Wild West

Sharing the elegant courtyard at the Bespoke Inn is Virtu Honest Craft, run by James Beard and 2014's "Best New Restaurant" nominee, Chef Gio Osso. The shifting three-course menu reflects the changing premium, seasonally available products, allowing Osso to create the most amazing progressive meal for his guests. Sumptuous plates like housemade chestnut pappardelle served with marsala braised lamb neck, pomegranate, and goat cheese fondue garner the highest praise from Virtu's dedicated foodie fans.

Dining inside is a treat; The cozy, kitchen-side dining offers a nightly show with the staff dashing off exceptionally crafted dishes to hungry guests. Dining outside transports you to a beautiful cafe where guests linger over delicious wine and delectable dishes. Dinner in the wild, Wild West never tasted so amazing.

## **7. Garden Virtuoso**

FnB Restaurant is tucked away from the bustle of Old Town down a side street, enveloped by buildings. The outdoor dining space is reminiscent of a garden party with wait staff busily delivering delectable dishes to waiting connoisseurs. Gorgeously quaffed plates are a feast for your eyes and a treat for your tastebuds. Known for expertly crafted vegetables that are served with unique pairings like the refreshingly light sugar snap peas with mascarpone or the fried green tomatoes that are nothing short of classic — FnB is a dining experience.

While the highlighted produce takes center stage, you need not worry, the steak, chicken, and fish are equally well attended to, delivering perfection to discernable diners.

## **8. Explore Scottsdale's Historic Western Spirit**

Art surrounds you in Scottsdale. Outdoors and indoors, the art is on display for all to appreciate. The respect and collection of artifacts are evident in the ongoing and changing exhibits at the Western Spirit, Scottsdale's Museum of the West (SMoW). As a Smithsonian affiliate, the SMoW features a wide range of locally focused, artistic works.

You can explore exhibits like the photographic collection of Barry M. Goldwater and Marjorie Thomas' paintings of local indigenous people. Scottsdale's artists capture the West's history, allowing the public to learn and appreciate the region's local contributions to current-day society.

Enjoy a quiet moment in the Sculpture Courtyard where the exhibits change regularly. However, the contemplative nature of the modern-meets-western courtyard art always reflects Scottsdale's history and her people.



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## 9. Public Art

You can wander the streets of Scottsdale and view interesting and contemplative public art across the city. Scottsdale Public Art's permanent collection includes commemorative statues, intriguing waterfalls, contemporary sculptures, and interactive installations. A stop at the Horseshoe Falls monument is where you can take a respite in the cooling mist emanating from the river rock that surrounds perfectly stacked horseshoe towers. The towers are cleverly arranged in a horseshoe shape, reinforcing the western theme.

Every Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Scottsdale Gallery Association (SGA) hosts an ArtWalk. Casually stroll through over two-dozen galleries, two museums, and past several of Scottsdale's public art installations feature galleries showcasing collectible art pieces, native art, and decorative work for your evening enjoyment. Several times throughout the year, the SGA hosts festive, themed Gold Palette ArtWalks for your strolling enjoyment.

**Pro Tip:** When you are ready for some local hiking, you will be better prepared after you read 12 Tips For Successfully Hiking Camelback Mountain In Phoenix.

Scottsdale is one of many Arizona sites that has captured the imagination of travelers:

<https://www.travelawaits.com/2680955/old-town-scottsdale-best-things-to-do/>