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FIVE DAYS OF SUMMER IN SCOTTSDALE

WITH SPF IN TOW, A GETAWAY FILLED WITH SUNSHINE, SPAS AND SCENIC VISTAS AWAIT
IN ARIZONA'S DESERT OASIS.

PHOTO: JORDAN BANKS

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FROM SUNRISE HIKES TO STARGAZING NIGHTS,
HERE'S YOUR ULTIMATE SOUTHWEST
SUMMERTIME ITINERARY.

BY MONIQUE REIDY

Although Scottsdale is famously hotter in the summer months, it can be the best time for travelers to enjoy less crowds, astounding discounts and the best in indoor, air-conditioned recreation. And at an easy hour flight from SoCal to Phoenix, it's an efficient way to get a vacation started quickly.

Upon landing, give Waymo a try. Imagine an Uber experience minus the obligatory driver. These autonomous vehicles excel at seamlessly transporting passengers across Arizona, expertly navigating the roads and following all regulations with robotic precision.

Let your sun-soaked getaway begin at the iconic Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, a luxurious desert sanctuary spread across 65 lush acres in the heart of the Sonoran Desert. Here, tranquil lagoons shimmer beneath swaying palms, cozy firepits invite lingering conversation, and every moment feels like a breath of warm serenity.

The Princess blends grandeur with a welcoming, family-friendly vibe. Daily activities keep all ages engaged — from poolside fun to seasonal festivals — and with a full pet-friendly policy, even your furry companions are part of the adventure. The resort boasts 750 stylish accommodations, including two Presidential Suites, 66 Fairmont Gold Rooms, 527 guest rooms, 31 suites, and the Privado Villas (a resort-within-a-resort) with an additional 124 rooms, each designed with earthy desert tones, spacious terraces, plush bedding and oversized spa-style bathrooms.

Outdoors, the property dazzles with six sparkling pools, complete with water slides, private cabanas, and plenty of green space for sunset strolls and fireside lounging under the stars. For indulgent downtime, head to the largest Sisley Spa in the US, which offers elite skin and body treatments in a setting that's pure bliss.

Special events elevate every visit, from the star-spangled Freedom Fest and July 4th fireworks to the dazzling Christmas at the Princess holiday celebration. The resort calendar is always full of surprises, so no two stays are ever quite the same.

And for golfers, it doesn't get better than TPC Scottsdale, the neighboring championship course and home of the PGA TOUR's WM Phoenix Open. Book an early tee time, then spend the afternoon poolside with a cocktail in hand.

For those who thrive in the great outdoors, Cliff Creek Outfitters offers unforgettable guided experiences — from scenic biking trails and peaceful fishing excursions to hiking tours, boating adventures, and kayaking journeys where you just might catch a glimpse of wild horses roaming nearby. Every outing is led by highly trained guides, all certified in First Aid and CPR, with many holding advanced wilderness medicine credentials. These aren't your average tour leaders — they're ecologists, wildlife experts, EMTs, firefighters, survival pros, whitewater guides, teachers, fitness buffs, rock climbers, and even retired military personnel — each bringing a unique skill set and passion for nature to every adventure.

If you'd rather explore on your own, head to McDowell Sonoran Preserve, a vast protected area in Scottsdale that showcases the beauty of the Sonoran Desert, from towering saguaro cacti to glimpses of roadrunners. The Gateway Trailhead, opened in 2009, serves as the main entrance and welcomes hikers of all skill levels. With over 230 miles of trails across 35,500 acres — and plans to grow even larger — it's one of the largest urban preserves in the nation.





TORO SCOTTSDALE / PHOTO: @TOROSCOTSDL

Scottsdale Eateries

- Ironwood American Kitchen**

Located on the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess property, this restaurant blends casual elegance with farm-to-table excellence. Indulge in a culinary journey featuring vegan options, organic produce, pasture-raised meats and artisanal cheeses. Situated at the heart of Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, this bistro-style gem offers a scenic view of the Princess Pool for a truly enchanting dining experience.

7575 E. Princess Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85255

- JOJO Coffeehouse**

Located in Old Town Scottsdale, this is a charming breakfast and brunch spot, serving signature coffee drinks and farm-to-table breakfast dishes in a lively atmosphere with live music on weekends. Delight in chef-prepared entrees and a vibrant setting perfect for connecting over a delicious meal.

3712 N Scottsdale Rd., Suite 110, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

- Toro Scottsdale**

Situated in the TPC Scottsdale Clubhouse, Toro offers a unique culinary experience with Pan Latin cuisine and a ceviche bar melding Asian and Latin flavors. With a vast rum selection, Latin wines, and innovative cocktails, Toro provides a vibrant gathering spot with a warm, rustic ambiance, and a spacious patio boasting stunning views of the McDowell Mountains and TPC Scottsdale Stadium course's 18th hole at sunset. Transportation is available via complimentary hotel for hotel guests.

17020 N. Hayden Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255



THE MISSION / PHOTO: @THEMISSIONAZ

- **Beginner's Luck**

This all-day restaurant is located in Old Town Scottsdale and it's worth a visit just to try the extravagant French Toast. Indulge in a globally inspired brunch and midday menu, perfectly paired with artisanal coffee and craft beverages. As night falls, the space transforms into an intimate dining experience, where signature cocktails and chef-driven plates steal the show.

7240 E. Main St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

- **The Mission**

A stylish yet relaxed Latin eatery, The Mission brings the vibrant flavors of Spain, Mexico and South America to Kierland Commons. Enjoy freshly made tortillas and arepas to richly flavored, wood-grilled meats. With a menu crafted on a traditional plancha, this sister restaurant to Old Town Scottsdale's The Mission offers a bold and unforgettable dining experience. And the guacamole is rumored to be the best in the State of Arizona!

7122 E. Greenway Pkwy., Scottsdale, AZ 85254

- **True Food Kitchen**

True Food Kitchen, born from a collaboration between Fox Restaurant Concepts and Dr. Andrew Weil, redefines healthy dining with globally inspired, seasonal flavors. Located at Biltmore Fashion Park and Scottsdale Quarter, it offers vibrant dishes that fuel both body and soul. With locally sourced ingredients and a menu crafted for balance, every bite is a celebration of pure, nourishing taste.

15191 N. Scottsdale Rd. #100, Scottsdale, AZ 85254



PHOTO: JORDAN BANKS

PHOTO: JORDAN BANKS





PHOTO: JORDAN BANKS

If the thought of venturing into the vast desert under the summer sun excites you, saddle up for an unforgettable ride at MacDonald's Ranch or Saguaro Lake Ranch Stable. These scenic destinations offer a chance to traverse breathtaking landscapes on horseback, immersing yourself in the rugged beauty of the Southwest. Whether you're trotting through towering saguaros or alongside shimmering lakes, the journey is as majestic as the desert itself.

Besides the rugged outdoors, walking tours can be secured with or without guides through the Scottsdale Civic Center, a newly renovated urban retreat blending creativity, community, and calm. With its \$33 million makeover, the Civic Center invites visitors to enjoy shaded walkways, lush lawns, and a tranquil lagoon — perfect for picnics and strolls. At its heart are iconic public art pieces like the Instagram-worthy LOVE sculpture, the new 360 Stage for concerts and festivals, and playful spaces like the Children's Gardens and Water and Fog Plaza. The area also connects to Scottsdale City Hall, the Civic Center Library, the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, and nearby shops and museums.

Art and culture lovers will be drawn to Old Town Scottsdale, a

charming destination with saloons, gift shops and local restaurants. The Native Art Market adds depth to the Scottsdale experience, showcasing handcrafted goods by artisans from multiple tribes and live performances every Friday and Saturday. It's a meaningful way to explore local traditions while immersing yourself in Scottsdale's dynamic cultural spirit.

Off the beaten path and in the midst of an upscale residential neighborhood, Cosanti, a gallery, was the former studio and home of architect Paolo Soleri, known for his experimental earth-formed concrete structures. Soleri's famous Arcosanti community, founded in 1970, is situated 70 miles north of Phoenix in the high desert. Now serving as the headquarters for Paolo Soleri Bronze & Ceramic Windbells & Sculptures, Cosanti Originals offers visitors the opportunity to explore the organic and meditative design of Soleri's bell sculptures crafted from bronze and ceramic on the grounds where the architect lived and worked alongside his late wife.

Nestled in the desert landscape is the former home of another famous artist. Taliesin West was meticulously crafted by Frank Lloyd Wright and his apprentices in the 1930s, with continuous modifications by the iconic architect until his passing in 1959. With a vision that literally rose from the desert floor, Wright and his team utilized rocks and sand from the surrounding environment to create a design harmoniously balanced with the natural setting. Serving as Wright's personal sanctuary, studio and architectural playground, Taliesin West remains a testament to his innovative spirit and is now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, undeniably one of his greatest masterpieces. Tours are self-guided via audio.

For a more eclectic art tour experience, Scottsdale, Cattle Track Arts Compound is a historic haven for writers, dancers and artists dating back to the 1930s. This creative hub has housed renowned artists like Fritz Scholder and Philip C. Curtis, founder of





PHOTO: JORDAN BANKS

Phoenix Art Museum. Now managed by Mark McDowell, the compound attracts talented artists across various disciplines, from painters and photographers to sculptors. McDowell, a respected limited-edition book and photographic-portfolio publisher, has showcased works by acclaimed artists like Jay Dusard and Bob Boze Bell, further solidifying Cattle Track Arts Compound as a premier artistic destination.

Scottsdale is less-known as a wine destination, but the desert climate produces unique varietals, and there are plenty of wine houses across town where tastings can take place. LDV Winery's Old Town Scottsdale tasting room on Stetson Drive showcases wines that reflect the vineyard's unique volcanic soils and Chiricahua Mountain grapes, with a focus on sustainable farming and minimal intervention in the winemaking process. The award-winning wines, which are vegan, gluten-free and additive-free, can be enjoyed on site or taken home.

The Desert Botanical Garden is not to be missed. This lovely outdoor space features a diverse collection of arid-land plants in a serene outdoor setting amidst the Papago Buttes. Visitors can explore five thematic trails focusing on conservation, desert living, and the plants and people of the Sonoran Desert. This iconic Arizona attraction offers a range of activities, events and exhibits that highlight its role as a pioneer in desert conservation and a vibrant botanical destination.

Other Scottsdale must-visit destinations include the Arizona Boardwalk, OdySea Aquarium, Butterfly Wonderland, and the Musical Instrument Museum where visitors can check out instruments previously owned by Elton John and Taylor Swift.

Visiting Scottsdale in the summer offers a unique and memorable travel experience, with its exciting array of indoor and outdoor activities, cultural attractions, and culinary delights to enjoy. Embrace the opportunity to explore the desert landscape under the warm sun and take advantage of the quieter crowds and special summer promotions. Whether you seek relaxation, adventure, or a mix of both, a summer getaway to Scottsdale promises a fulfilling and rejuvenating escape. ❖



HUSH PUBLIC HOUSE / PHOTO: @HUSHPUBLICHOUSE

- **Hush Public House**

Led by chefs Dom Ruggiero and Charles Barber, Hush Public House blends upscale dining with a welcoming vibe. The daily menu features bold, chef-driven dishes from land and sea – think Steak Frites, Crab Hush Puppies and Sonoran Pasta Mafaldine – all freshly prepared to accommodate most dietary needs. With a lively bar and an ever-evolving menu, don't leave without savoring the indulgent Date Cake with bourbon toffee sauce.

14202 N. Scottsdale Rd. #167, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

- **The Herb Box**

This casual eatery serves bold, savory entrees, classic dishes and yummy desserts. The menu features fresh seasonal ingredients, and a fusion of regional flavors. Imaginative yet refined, its gourmet offerings promise a perfect balance of sophistication and satisfaction.

7000 E. Shea Blvd. G1010, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

- **FnB**

Chef Charleen Badman, honored as the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southwest in 2019, elevates vegetables into culinary masterpieces with locally sourced ingredients. This unique restaurant features the most delectable basket of bread in the State. At the heart of it all is an intimate eight-seat bar, beloved by wine enthusiasts, where each month unveils a fresh exploration of a new growing region.

7125 E. 5th Ave., Ste. 31, Scottsdale, AZ 85251