Phoenix basks in sunshine more than any other major metropolitan area in the U.S. — nearly 85 percent of its daylight hours. And the cliché that "it’s a dry heat" is true: Humidity levels are pleasantly low, even in summer.

The bottom line: Any time is a good time to visit the Sonoran Desert.

### WINTER

During the winter months Greater Phoenix enjoys blue skies and highs in the 60s and 70s. Winter nights in the desert can get chilly, though the temperature rarely dips below freezing.

### SPRING

Phoenix weather is considered perfect during spring. Daytime temperatures flirt around 85-90, while evenings are comfortably cool. Spring brings blooms to the desert and blooming cactus and wildflowers, and baseball fans flock to stadiums across the metro area for Cactus League Spring Training.

### SUMMER

Summertime temps in Phoenix mean triple digits in the afternoon, but a 100-degree day in the desert actually feels more pleasant than a 85-degree day in a locale with heavy humidity. The heat that played second fiddle to Phoenix in its value season. Prices of events, hotels and golf courses plunge as much as 30 percent.

### FALL

Autumn days in Phoenix are warm, sunny and exceedingly pleasant. It’s a great time for recreational pursuits, with golf courses1 and shopping. Nights can get cool, but patio dining and outdoor events are still enjoyable.

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**Average Temperatures in Phoenix**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Month</th>
<th>High (°F)</th>
<th>Low (°F)</th>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average** 86/67
Welcome

Welcome to Greater Phoenix, America’s sunniest metropolis and the cosmopolitan heart of Arizona. The city is surrounded by miles of mountains, and the sun shines during 85 percent of daylight hours.

Metropolitan Phoenix is expansive. It’s similar in size to the nation of Denmark and the state of Delaware, and it encompasses more than 20 cities and towns. Getting around, however, is easy. The airport is located three miles from a downtown that’s refreshingly compact and walkable, and the city’s streets are laid out on a grid. METRO Light Rail serves downtown Phoenix — including the Central Avenue corridor — and connects it to the exciting entertainment communities of Tempe and Mesa.

What sets Phoenix apart from every other big city in the United States is its Sonoran Desert scenery. Phoenix has more acreage of parks and playgrounds than any other major metropolitan in the nation, and visitors can explore them via hundreds of miles of trails — or from the basket of a hot-air balloon.

Phoenix is a relatively young city by both historical and demographical standards. It was founded in 1861, and today’s populace has a median age of 32 years old. Like the best American metropolises, Phoenix is known for street tacos, spring-training baseball and casual upscale shopping. It is a place where it’s easy to migrate between high culture and low. It is much of what you would expect from an American city, but set in the world’s most stunning desert.

Phoenix is the home base of Major League Baseball’s Arizona Diamondbacks — and winter location of the Seattle Mariners, Montreal Expos and Toronto Blue Jays. As if the baseball action didn’t provide enough excitement, the affair also includes the world’s largest annual hot air balloon festival and it is the home of the annual World Team Tennis event.

Phoenix is the quintessence of a desert boom town, but striking work is also to be found in the Contemporary wing and the museum’s 50-acre South Mountain Campus. Its permanent collection includes American, Asian and European paintings and sculptures. The Heard Museum also features extensive collections of Native American, African, Oceanic and Oceanic art.

Greater Phoenix’s perpetual sunshine might tempt you to spend all your free time lounging next to a swimming pool. Don’t give in. Exploring the Attractions that will help make your visit a memorable one.

1. Camelback Mountain

Nearly every resident living Phoenix local has, at some time or another, driven his or her car up to the base of Camelback Mountain. The views of the city and the national challenges it shares with a rugged but welcoming trek to the top. The "Downtown Loop" hike is a 2-hour roundtrip.

2. Musical Instrument Museum

Phoenix’s newest museum is the first in the world dedicated to the celebration of global instruments. The collection includes instruments from 200 countries and territories. Musicians of all ages will enjoy the Experience Room, where you can try your own comment on a instrument.

3. Desert Botanical Garden

ThisDivisionMaxe’s desert botanical gardens — and not just those found in the Southwest. Being the collection that goes the gamut, areas include cactus from Mexico, Native plant display and a desert-grafted tree.

4. Heard Museum

Phoenix is the home base of Major League Baseball’s Arizona Diamondbacks — and winter location of the Seattle Mariners, Montreal Expos and Toronto Blue Jays. As if the baseball action didn’t provide enough excitement, the affair also includes the world’s largest annual hot air balloon festival and it is the home of the annual World Team Tennis event.

5. Children’s Museum of Phoenix

For the little one in your family, the Children’s Museum of Phoenix is the perfect place. In addition to traditional play areas designed simply to entertain children as young as infants and as old as 10. (Sneak in the the living forest of your musician.)

6. South Mountain Park and Preserve

Phoenix’s largest and most-visited park covers 11,000 acres, making it nearly 20 times larger than Central Park in New York. But you won’t find manicured grass and fountains here; the park is instead filled with native flora, ancient petroglyphs and 50-plus miles of trails. There’s also a full-service visitor center and a paved path to the summit.

7. Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix is the home base of Major League Baseball’s Arizona Diamondbacks — and winter location of the Seattle Mariners, Montreal Expos and Toronto Blue Jays. As if the baseball action didn’t provide enough excitement, the affair also includes the world’s largest annual hot air balloon festival and it is the home of the annual World Team Tennis event.

8. Heritage Square

Occupying a city block in downtown Phoenix, Heritage Square is a link to the city’s 19th-century origins. Heritage Square is home to preserved Victorian-style homes, as well as the dramatically modern Arizona Science Center. But go for the critically acclaimed food at Pizzeria Bianco and Nobuo at Teeter House.

9. Old Town Scottsdale

Established in 1887 and known as "Old Adobe Row" due to its historic Victorian-style homes, Old Town Scottsdale is a kid-friendly nature center and a paved road to the summit. The traditional and contemporary art on display at the Heard provides insight into the culture of Arizona’s 22 Native American tribes. Not to be missed is the upstairs exhibit on Indian boarding schools. And the Heard’s Children’s Museum.

10. Taliesen West

Taliesen West was the winter home of Frank Lloyd Wright, America’s most-famous architect. Tours range from 1 hour to 3 hours, including a 2-hour Night Lights Tour on selected evenings throughout the year. Taliesen West is the western home of Frank Lloyd Wright, America’s most-famous architect. Tours range from 1 hour to 3 hours, including a 2-hour Night Lights Tour on selected evenings throughout the year.
breakfast, lunch, dinner and sunset rides are also available. This 48-mile scenic drive was named for the Apache Indians who originally used the trail to pass through the Superstition Mountains. It bustle of the city and soak in the simplistic beauty of the Old West with. There are several places in Greater Phoenix where you can get a taste of the Southwest's cultural heritage. If you're interested in infusing a group event with authentic Southwestern character, there are several fun options:• Rustler’s Rooste — Located at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, Rawhide is a replica of an 1880s Western town. Gunfighters, saloon belles and mounted lawmen roam the streets, which is home to a steak house, tequila bar, and a mechanical bull, a yeehaw, and a tequila bar.

INCIDENT W W W. 

Phoenix's Indian identity stems from its rich Native American history, which includes the Hohokam, Puebloans, and the later Hopi and Navajo. There are several places to experience Native American culture:

• Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park — Located at 500 W. Washington St., the museum features over 350,000 square feet of exhibits and the world's largest interpretation of the Hohokam people. The museum offers guided tours, cultural events, and educational programs. Hours: Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. $12 adults, $10 seniors, $8 students and children 6-17.

Phoenix's Arizonas: Shopping

Phoenix is a shopper's Shangri-La. The basic breakdown for where to do your real shopping at more accessible retailers, that's cool, too; the Fashion Park's newest addition is UNION, a wing of locally owned boutiques. The fashion park's newest addition is UNION, a wing of locally owned boutiques.

• Arizona Art Museum — This is the largest shopping mall in the Southwest, with three stories of retail stores and a variety of entertainment options. Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. $9 adults, $7 seniors, $5 students, free for children 16 and under.

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