

# HOT *in the* CITY

When I think of Arizona, it's the unique landscapes that first come to mind. They are beautiful to explore, but they also create dramatic backdrops for some truly incredible cities...

*By Josephine Matyas*



## PHOENIX

The wide-open space of Phoenix encompasses several smaller communities—including Mesa, Chandler, Glendale and Scottsdale—which together form a 1,139-square-kilometre region known as the Valley of the Sun.

### NOT-TO-BE-MISSED

- The internationally-acclaimed Heard Museum is the place to learn about the cultural artifacts and history of the First Nations of the southwest. Galleries showcase the history of the ancestral Pueblos, hundreds of katsina dolls, pottery and intricate silversmith pieces.
- The collection of instruments on display at the Musical Instrument Museum show how it's possible to make music by hitting, blowing, bowing and plucking items of every shape, size and material. Organized by continent, there are also smaller displays on genres like jazz, blues, folk and rock 'n' roll.
- Max's Sports Restaurant in Glendale is part sports bar, part museum. As a sports bar, it's been named one of the top five in the country. As a museum listed with the National Register of Museums, it boasts one of the largest football helmet collections anywhere, with helmets dating back to 1914.
- If you are fond of the occasional cigar, visit Big Sticks Fine Cigars in Mesa. Big Sticks houses close to 1,000 open boxes of cigars in its walk-in humidor. You can enjoy a fresh cigar in the smoking lounge, which is lined with vintage tobacco memorabilia and includes a century old piano, billiards and game tables.
- Tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, Taliesin West, show Wright's craftsmanship while illustrating the famous architect's philosophies and theories of design. Wright had a huge influence upon the architecture of Phoenix and Scottsdale.
- Hit the links in Mesa for some of the best golf in the southwest. More than 40 golf courses are within a half-hour drive of downtown, offering a variety of options, from challenging desert golf to traditional links play.

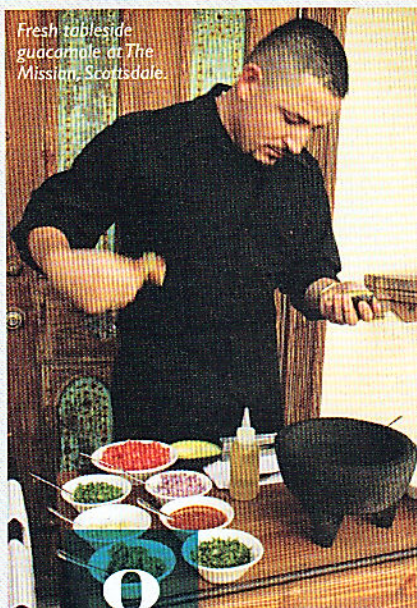
## TUCSON

Encircled by five mountain ranges, it's a big city with a small town feel that's rooted in a time when settlers came in search of land for ranching and mining. Tucson was also a crossroads when 16th century Spanish conquistadors were hunting for the mythical Seven Cities of Gold, and the Hispanic influence is alive in

the architecture, language, food and culture.

### NOT-TO-BE-MISSED

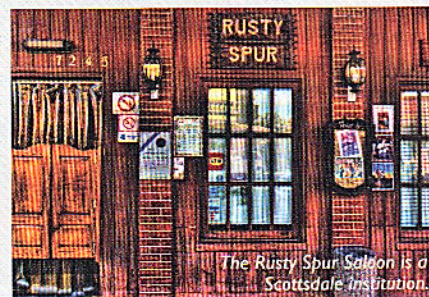
- Downtown Tucson is an architectural and historical goldmine. The Barrio Histórico neighbourhood's colourful adobe-walled row houses are painted bright red, blue and yellow.



Fresh tableside guacamole at The Mission, Scottsdale.



A Tucson specialty, the Sonoran hot dog.



The Rusty Spur Saloon is a Scottsdale institution.

## WAYS TO INDULGE IN AUTHENTIC SOUTHWEST FLAVOURS

FIERY FOODS, COLD DRINKS AND CHILLI-FUELLED FLAVOURS ARE AN EVERYDAY PART OF THE ARIZONA LIFESTYLE. HERE'S WHERE TO GO...

1. The signature dish at EL CHARRO CAFÉ in Tucson's historic El Presidio District is Carne Seca, which is made of marinated beef that has been sundried on rooftop racks and then shredded and grilled

with green chilli, onions and tomatoes.

2. On Saturday evenings, the FOOD TRUCK CARAVAN in Scottsdale features a rotation of 10 gourmet food trucks from Phoenix. The trucks zip all around town and you can track their whereabouts on Twitter.

3. The annual ARIZONA TACO FESTIVAL in Scottsdale boasts the largest collection of taco-makers ever assembled in one place. There's also local music, cooking classes and eating contests.

4. Try a Tucson specialty—the SONORAN HOT DOG—along the state's self-proclaimed 'Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food'.

5. Olive-tasting at the QUEEN CREEK OLIVE MILL in Mesa. The olives there are made into

cold-pressed extra virgin oils, tapenades and sauces.

6. 'Taste of Old Town Scottsdale' walking tours stop at local institutions like the RUSTY SPUR, Scottsdale's oldest cowboy bar, for green chilli-topped burgers, and THE MISSION for pork tacos flavoured with pickled jalapeño.

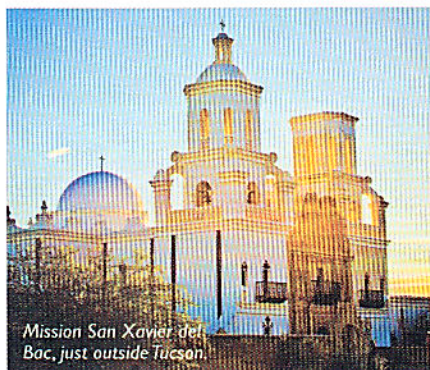
7. Southeast Arizona's SALSA TRAIL connects a dozen spicy eateries that set taste buds ablaze with dishes like Huevos Rancheros, hot jalapeno salsa and Chiles Rellenos.

8. Craft breweries are big. The FLAGSTAFF-GRAND CANYON ALE TRAIL is a self-guided route in downtown Flagstaff. Alternatively, Tempe's Four Peaks Brewing Company offers brewery tours.



# Arizona CITIES

Walkers can explore El Presidio National Historic District—Tucson's oldest neighbourhood—along the self-guided Presidio Trail.



- There's a rich intersection of cultures at the Mission San Xavier del Bac, a National Historic Landmark that was established by Jesuit missionaries. The working church—Arizona's oldest intact European structure—is considered to be the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States.
- Old Tucson rolls out a romanticized,

entertaining view of the Old West with stunt shows, living history presentations and exhibits about the Western movies that were once filmed there.

- The hard clay ground makes the perfect storage surface for retired aircraft at the Pima Air & Space Museum. Three massive hangars showcase the history of flight and American aviation technology.

## SMALLER CITIES BOAST BIG FUN

Smaller communities like Tubac, Yuma and Sedona have lots to offer the traveller. Here are some great small city destinations.

- Sedona is known for its mystical energy, New Age vortexes, canyons and unforgettable red rock panoramas. It has always attracted artists and spiritualists, but it's also known for its golf courses, luxurious spas and outdoor recreation offerings.
- Looking for a day out with a difference? Yuma's Territorial Prison

only operated for 33 years, but that was long enough to etch a fearsome reputation—a legacy that lives on in movies like *3:10 to Yuma*. The prison opened in July 1876 when the first seven prisoners were locked into cells they'd hacked out of the granite of Prison Hill with their own hands. However, despite its reputation, the prison was a model institution for its time, and because it boasted electricity, running water and flush toilets, some Yumans even called it 'The Country Club on the Colorado'.

- Tubac Presidio State Historic Park offers a snapshot of the key influences that have changed the town's history over the years, from First Nations tribes to Spanish missionaries.
- In Tombstone ('The Town Too Tough to Die') get a taste of the Old West at the OK Corral, where the famous shoot-out is re-enacted daily.
- Outside Apache Junction, the annual Arizona Renaissance Festival features a medieval amusement park, theatre, circus, arts and crafts fair, jousting tournament and feast.\*

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