

IS THERE ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE IN PHOENIX?

IN OUR BACKYARD

Some of the most scenic places on earth are within hours of Phoenix, including the Grand Canyon, Sedona and Lake Powell. The elevation soars from sea level to nearly 1,220 meters, making it a famous destination for hikers, bikers, river rafters and other outdoor enthusiasts. From Phoenix, it's a short trip to San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas. Learn more at arizonaguide.com.

Phoenix is Arizona's capital city. With more than 4.2 million people, it is the fifth-largest metropolitan area in the U.S and one of the fastest growing. Phoenix offers myriad culture, entertainment and sport options.

Enjoy our world-renowned golf courses or take in a game; Phoenix is one of the few U.S. cities to host five professional major sports teams: basketball, ice hockey, baseball, football and women's basketball.

Southern Arizona is located in the Sonoran Desert. This environment is unlike any other, boasting diverse and fascinating flora and fauna. June, July and August are hot, with daytime temperatures averaging 40°C and occasionally reaching as high as 45-50°C. Nights are cooler, with the temperature falling to an average low of about 27°C.

In late June through mid-September, Arizona experiences a "monsoon" season, characterized by higher humidity, afternoon dust or thunderstorms, wind and rain. October to May bring nice, sunny weather to Phoenix.



AROUND TOWN

Near West's campuses, there are many exciting things to do. Whether you want to get active, have fun with friends or enjoy some fine arts, Phoenix has it all: water parks, museums, karaoke bars, ice skating and much more. Several establishments offer coupons or discounts, so check their websites for deals and print coupons. Our International Student Manual provides a comprehensive list of venues and activities in and around Phoenix. Here are only a few options.

MUSEUMS

There are many famous museums throughout Arizona, such as the Heard Museum (Native American artifacts), Taliesin West (Architect Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and school), and the Arizona Science Center (over 350 permanent hands-on exhibits, traveling exhibits, a planetarium, an IMAX theater and much more). For information on museums in Arizona, see wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Arizona.

THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY

The symphony presents an annual season from September through June, featuring full-length classical and pops concerts, family offerings and chamber music in Downtown Phoenix, as well as throughout Arizona. Learn more at phoenixsymphony.org.

WATER PARKS + SWIMMING POOLS

Set on more than 35 acres, Wet 'n Wild is the largest water theme park in Arizona and features Maximum Velocity – the world's first gravity-defying water coaster. There are several city pools where people can swim for a small fee. Many locations offer additional benefits such as splash pads, team sports and lessons. Visit phoenix.mywetnwild.com or phoenix.about.com/od/publicswimmingpools/tp/pools.htm.

HOW TO GET AROUND

Public Transportation

While most people in Arizona own cars, public transportation and taxis are available. Bus service (with comfortable, air-conditioned buses) is available throughout the greater Phoenix area. A light rail line operates in Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa. A one ride/way ticket can be purchased for \$1.75 and an all-day pass for \$3.50. Student discount passes are also available. For more information, visit valleymetro.org.

Purchasing and Maintaining a Car

Many students choose to have their own car while in Phoenix. Everyone who drives in Arizona must have a valid driver's license or instruction permit. There are numerous automobile dealers in the area that sell new or used cars. (A new car ranges from \$15,000 to \$28,000 USD.) Unlike in many countries, you do not have to pay the entire amount up front; you can also make monthly payments. You are legally required to register and purchase automobile insurance for your vehicle, either full coverage or liability coverage. Please contact an auto insurance agent for more details.