

12 Reasons to Visit Tempe

Find out why visitors love our city

Welcoming approximately 4 million visitors every year, Tempe offers stunning weather year-round, award-winning eateries, family-friendly activities and Sonoran Desert adventure — all of which make for the perfect trip of both urban sophistication and timeless serenity of the Sonoran Desert landscape.

If you're planning an Arizona getaway, here are 12 reasons why Tempe should be at the top of your list.



Tempe Beach Park

1. The Sonoran Desert

Anyone looking to immerse themselves in the great outdoors will be greeted with plenty of options in and around Tempe. Here, you can book a boat rental on Tempe Town Lake, hike to the top of "A" Mountain or cruise through Kiwanis Park by bike all in a single day. Don't miss the breathtaking views at the Desert Botanical Garden or aerial panoramas from the basket of a hot air balloon.

2. Year-Round Events

There's an event for every itinerary in Tempe, from browsing the works of hundreds of juried artists at Tempe Festival of the Arts to cheering on NHL teams at ASU's Mullett Arena, home of the Arizona Coyotes. In addition to these signature happenings, the city also offers such ongoing activities as cultural festivals, live music and DJs, performing arts, seasonal festivities and an array of street fairs and pop-up markets featuring food vendors, entertainment, games and outdoor activities.

3. Arts & Culture

Arts and culture enthusiasts can take in a Broadway show at ASU Gammage, enjoy an intimate performance at the Tempe Center for the Arts or explore forward-thinking art exhibits at the ASU Art Museum. Plus, you're sure to discover at least a few of the city's many public art installations and murals along the way.

4. The Culinary Landscape

Whether you're in the mood for a great meal or a new cocktail designed by a creative mixologist, Tempe is bursting with eclectic places for dining and sipping — with even more on the horizon. The ambiance ranges from lush, vibey patios to sky-high rooftops, and some of the best food and drink offerings in the Southwest. With authentic cuisine from around the globe and award-winning breweries and distilleries, Tempe extends the invitation to try something new on your next visit.



Mill Avenue

5. Noteworthy Nightlife

A quintessential nightlife hotspot, Tempe comes alive with endless options for entertainment once the sun sets. From breweries and distilleries to dance floors and live music, this city offers a scene for every style. New concepts are continually joining timeless classics, making evening itineraries just as exciting as daylight adventures.

6. Arizona State University

Arizona State University, ranked No. 1 in innovation, is one of the largest universities in the country. Architecture across its main campus, in Tempe, ranges from modern, artistic techniques to historic gems that date back to the 1800s, including Old Main (1894). The palm tree-lined walkways offer a glimpse of Arizona's vibrant history and future trajectory through its buildings and public art pieces.

7. Golden Hour

The Valley of the Sun is known for its incredible sunsets filled with vibrant and unforgettable orange, yellow, pink and purple hues that perfectly complement the city skyline and mountain views. In Tempe, you're guaranteed a perfect vantage point from Tempe Town Lake, "A" Mountain and a number of local hotel rooftops.

8. Cactus League Spring Training

From February to March, Arizona is one of only two states where spring training invites baseball fans to experience preseason play set against beautiful weather. Cactus League hosts 15 MLB teams at 10 stadiums across Greater Phoenix — including Tempe Diablo Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Angels.



Desert Botanical Garden

9. Crew-Approved

Tempe is a kid-centric city with enticing indoor and outdoor attractions for the entire family. From getting up close and personal with underwater creatures at SEA LIFE Aquarium and exploring endless building combinations at LEGOLAND® Discovery Center to making a splash at Kiwanis Park, where you can cool off at The Cloud splash pad or float the day away at the Kiwanis Wave Pool, entertainment for all ages awaits.

10. Retail Therapy

Shoppers delight in Tempe's retail destinations. For deals, Arizona Mills is a sprawling campus that's home to 175 outlet and value stores and entertainment options. Tempe Marketplace, an outdoor shopping oasis, pairs such retail favorites as Lululemon and Nike with dining concepts, art installations and attractions. Other popular locales include home décor giant IKEA (the only location in Arizona) and locally owned boutique shops along Mill Avenue.

11. Our Sunny Disposition

It's no secret that Arizona — especially Tempe and its neighboring cities — is known for its fabulous weather. With more than 330 days of sunshine annually, any time is the perfect time to immerse yourself in our indoor/outdoor lifestyle. While fall and spring are the most popular seasons to visit, summer is value season and winter travelers opt for sunny blue skies and mild temperatures during the holidays.

12. You Belong Here

Tempe prides itself on being a diverse and welcoming city that actively fosters a community of inclusivity by celebrating individuals of all abilities, races, cultures, religious affiliations, sexual orientations, gender identities and military/veteran statuses. It's also one of Arizona's leading cities when it comes to inclusive policies and ensuring all individuals receive equal treatment. Tempe's progressive leaders, empathetic citizens and reputation as a forward-thinking university town all combine to make Tempe a diversity, equity and inclusion leader in the Southwest.