

MESA LIFE 2026

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WELCOME TO MESA

A LETTER FROM OUR MAYOR

DEAR FRIENDS AND VISITORS,

Welcome to Mesa! Whether this is your first visit or a return trip, I am happy to share what makes our city a great place to spend your time.

Strong values and a commitment to hard work and service guide Mesa. Our residents, businesses and local leaders work together to make this a city we can all be proud of. Visitors will find a practical, welcoming community focused on creating opportunities for families and businesses alike.

As you explore, you'll see the beauty of the Sonoran Desert, enjoy family attractions, arts and cultural experiences, and find neighborhoods that reflect Mesa's history and traditions. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy our golf courses, trails, lakes and nearby mountains, while those interested in history can explore Mesa's deep heritage and culture. There is something for everyone!

Mesa is planning carefully for the future. We are investing in public safety, supporting job growth, and ensuring that city services meet the needs of both residents and visitors. As a city committed to accessibility, we are proud to be recognized as the first Autism-Certified City in the world, ensuring every visitor has access to a welcoming environment.

What sets Mesa apart is its people. You will meet neighbors and business owners who care deeply about this community and take pride in extending hospitality to visitors.

On behalf of the City of Mesa, I would like to thank you for visiting. I hope your time here is enjoyable and gives you a true sense of what makes Mesa special.

We're thrilled to have you in Mesa.





Sincerely,

Mark Freeman

Mark Freeman
Mayor, City of Mesa

MESA BY THE NUMBERS


300+
Sunny Days per Year
(on average)


900+
Restaurants


2 AIRPORTS
including Mesa Gateway Airport
and Falcon Field


**36TH
LARGEST**
City in the U.S.


**3RD
LARGEST**
City in Arizona


523,220
Population
(ESRI Community Analyst, 2025)


30+
Golf Courses


5,073
Hotel Rooms


209
Parks


8 MILES
from Phoenix Sky
Harbor International
Airport


28 MILES
of light rail access
from Mesa hotels and
Downtown Mesa



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VISIT MESA
CITY LIMITLESS®

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TURF & SURF

Dreaming of big adventures? Mesa is your gateway to the Sonoran Desert, a legendary playground where epic experiences unfold on land and water. With the Tonto National Forest at its doorstep, trails invite hikers and bikers to explore rugged peaks, cactus-lined valleys and ancient petroglyphs. On the water, the Salt River and nearby lakes welcome kayakers, paddleboarders and tubers to glide past canyon walls or spot wild horses along the banks. As evening falls, desert skies glow with starlight, offering the perfect backdrop for reflection after a day of discovery. In Mesa, nature sets the stage for unforgettable adventures.

PADDLE, FLOAT & SURF

5 UNEXPECTED WAYS TO PLAY IN THE WATER

Surprised to hear Mesa and water in the same sentence? With two rivers and four lakes nearby, we're Arizona's closest destination to the water and the perfect place to stay, play and cool off.



PADDLE

Glide through scenic desert waters by stand-up paddleboard or kayak on the **Salt River**, **Canyon Lake** or **Saguaro Lake**. Rentals are easy through **Riverbound Sports** or let **Yak N Sup** lead the way on a guided tour (don't miss their dreamy nighttime glow floats under the stars).



FLOAT

Whether tubing or paddleboarding, get ready for a lazy river adventure of a lifetime. Pack a cooler, bring two cars for drop-off or ride the shuttle with **Salt River Tubing**. It's Arizona's floating picnic!



SKI

Jet ski, water ski or wakeboard across Mesa's desert lakes. Rentals are available on-site or nearby, so all you need to bring is your sense of adventure and extra sunscreen.



CRUISE

For a more relaxed adventure, board the iconic **Dolly Steamboat** at **Canyon Lake** or the **Desert Belle** at **Saguaro Lake**. These narrated cruises glide past rugged canyon walls and saguaros, offering views of desert wildlife and scenic coves. If you time it right, you'll see the desert light up gold at sunset.

SURF

Catch real waves at **Revel Surf Park at Cannon Beach**, where the surf lagoon and real sand feel like an actual beach in the middle of the desert.



SALT RIVER KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Tucked within the Tonto National Forest, the **Salt River** offers a refreshing desert escape, but there are a few essentials to keep in mind to protect the river and enjoy it responsibly:



Nearly 300 **wild horses** roam the shorelines of the Lower Salt River—stay at least 50 feet away.



Best conditions for **kayaking**, **SUP** and **tubing** are typically mid-April to mid-October. Check water levels before embarking on your water adventure.



A **Tonto Pass** is required for parking. It's \$8.00 and available at most nearby gas stations.



This is a carry-in, carry-out area; always **leave no trace**.

THE BEST HIKES & BIKES FOR EVERY LEVEL

Mesa sits at the edge of Arizona’s most iconic landscapes, making it the perfect basecamp for every kind of trail seeker.

With the **Superstition Mountains** and **Usery Mountain Regional Park** nearby, you'll find cactus-lined paths, ancient petroglyphs and panoramic views just minutes from town. Many of these same trails double as prime mountain biking routes, offering everything from smooth, beginner-friendly loops to heart-pounding climbs and technical descents.

DESERT TRAILS PARK EASY TO MODERATE

A community-built gem, **Desert Trails Park** offers a compact but thrilling playground for mountain bikers of all levels. Flow trails, jump lines, pump tracks and skill features let riders progress at their own pace, while the surrounding desert keeps the scenery as exciting as the ride. It's the perfect spot for families, new riders or anyone looking to sharpen their skills before tackling bigger backcountry rides.



MERKLE TRAIL EASY

Located in **Usery Mountain Regional Park**, this smooth, scenic loop is stroller friendly and wheelchair accessible, ideal for all abilities. At just under a mile, it's perfect for a short stroll with 360-degree views of breathtaking desert scenery, blooming wildflowers in spring and occasional glimpses of local wildlife.



HAWES TRAIL SYSTEM MODERATE TO DIFFICULT

A favorite for mountain bikers, the **Hawes Trail System** sprawls across the Sonoran Desert with a web of flowing singletrack, steep climbs and technical rock features. Riders can link together trails like Mine Shaft, Twisted Sister and Wild Horse for anything from a quick loop to a half-day adventure. The desert vistas, glimpses of the Salt River and the occasional wild horse sighting make every pedal stroke worth it.

PERALTA CANYON TRAIL MODERATE TO DIFFICULT

One of the most popular hikes in the **Superstition Wilderness**, this 4.6-mile trail climbs through rugged terrain and delivers unforgettable views of **Weavers Needle**. It's challenging but deeply rewarding for experienced hikers. While the main route is hiking-only, the surrounding Gold Canyon area offers a network of rugged, technical mountain biking trails where riders can chase equally epic views and heart-pumping climbs.



HIEROGLYPHIC TRAIL MODERATE

Tucked into the **Superstitions**, this 3-mile round-trip trail leads to a canyon dotted with ancient petroglyphs and seasonal pools. It's a family-friendly favorite with just enough incline to feel like an adventure.



WIND CAVE TRAIL MODERATE

This 3.2-mile round-trip ascent up **Usery Mountain** delivers sweeping valley views and a natural rock alcove at the top. Watch for desert bighorn sheep and blooming ocotillo along the way. While the main route is strictly for hiking, mountain bikers can tackle the park's surrounding network of desert singletrack, weaving through saguaros and tackling rolling hills before or after a leg-burning hike to the cave.

DESERT SKIES AFTER DARK

WHERE THE STARS COME OUT TO PLAY

With wide-open desert views and low light pollution, Mesa is a dream for stargazers. Whether you're an aspiring astronomer or just in it for the views, all you have to do is look up.



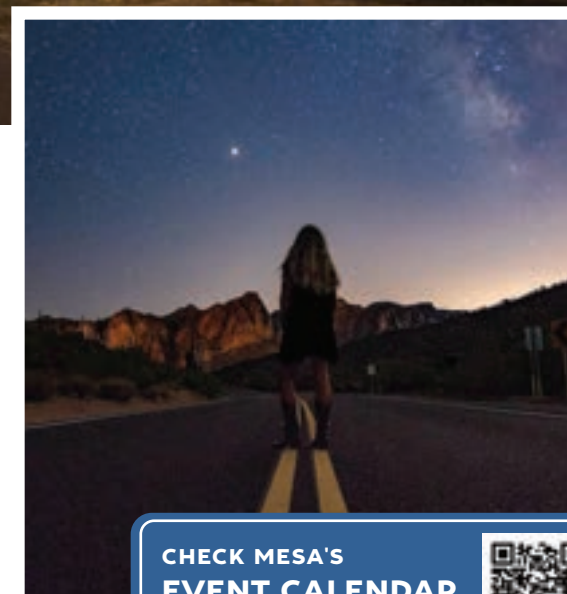
Catch a First Friday show at the **Mesa Community College Planetarium**, where engaging programs for all ages explore everything from galaxies to black holes. Tickets often sell out, so plan ahead.

Want to pair your stargazing with something unexpected? **Dolly Steamboat's Twilight Astronomy Cruises** glide across **Canyon Lake** where guests use onboard telescopes to spot stars and planets. On the water nearby, **Yak N Sup's Glow Floats** bring a magical vibe to moonlit stand-up paddleboarding.

Back on land, **Usery Mountain Regional Park** and **Lost Dutchman State Park** host seasonal astronomy nights and full moon hikes. Expect telescopes, expert guides and views you won't forget.

For something truly off the beaten path, **Stellar Adventures** offers guided desert stargazing tours, complete with a pro astronomer and a Hummer ride under the constellations.

No matter where you go, Mesa's desert skies don't disappoint.



**CHECK MESA'S
EVENT CALENDAR**
for upcoming stargazing nights.



THE INFAMOUS COUGAR SHADOW

Just east of Mesa, the Superstition Mountains host a rare natural spectacle known as the Cougar Shadow. This awe-inspiring phenomenon occurs only twice a year, around the third week of March and September, when the setting sun casts the shadow of a crouching cougar on the mountain's western face.

The shadow appears about 30 minutes before sunset and lasts for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. To catch this stunning sight, head to the area near Superstition Boulevard and Goldfield Road in Apache Junction.

Be sure to bring binoculars, water and a camera to capture this fleeting desert wonder.

THE ULTIMATE FAMILY ADVENTURE WEEKEND

TWO DAYS. ENDLESS ADVENTURE.

Between gold rush towns, wild animal encounters and star-filled skies, Mesa delivers big on family memories. Here's how to pack maximum fun into one unforgettable weekend.



THE APACHE TRAIL



PHOENIX ZOO



WORTH TAKEAWAY



OUTCAST DOUGHNUTS



ORGAN STOP PIZZA

DAY 1

ROAD TRIP ON THE APACHE TRAIL

Kick off your Wild West adventure with one of Arizona's most scenic drives: **Historic Highway 88**, better known as the **Apache Trail**. Begin at the **Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum**, where artifacts and exhibits bring the legends of the Lost Dutchman to life.

Just up the road, wander the **Goldfield Ghost Town**, an 1890s mining camp revived with creaking boardwalks, gold panning and Old West charm. Continue twisting through canyon walls until you reach Canyon Lake, where the **Dolly Steamboat** offers a tranquil cruise framed by desert cliffs and saguaro-studded slopes.

The road leads naturally to **Tortilla Flat** (population six—yes, really), where you can grab lunch in Arizona's quirkiest little town and top it off with a cone of the saloon's famous prickly pear ice cream.

DINNER AND A SHOW

Back in Mesa, make dinner a memory at **Organ Stop Pizza**. This local favorite combines hearty pies with the music of the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ, filling the dining room with everything from iconic movie themes to toe-tapping classics.

UNDER THE STARS

End the evening at **Usery Mountain Regional Park**. Away from city lights, a guided stargazing session reveals constellations, planets and, if you're lucky, a shooting star, the perfect finale to a day of desert discovery.

DAY 2

A WILD MORNING AT THE PHOENIX ZOO

Start your day at the **Phoenix Zoo**, one of the nation's largest nonprofit zoos and home to more than 3,000 animals across 125 acres. Stroll the lush Tropics Trail where monkeys swing overhead, stop at the giraffe deck for an unforgettable face-to-face, and wander the Arizona Trail to meet native wildlife like mountain lions and bobcats. Kids can splash and play at the Yakulla Caverns water zone, hop aboard the Safari Cruiser for a guided ride or brush goats at Harmony Farm. With immersive habitats, hands-on experiences and a mission rooted in conservation, the Phoenix Zoo blends education and adventure in ways that make every visit feel like a journey across the globe.*

LUNCH IN DOWNTOWN MESA

Refuel in the middle of Downtown Mesa at **Worth Takeaway**, a local favorite known for hearty, scratch-made sandwiches. Their fried chicken sandwich is legendary, while their rotating specials keep things exciting.

AFTERNOON INDOORS

After lunch, choose your own adventure: dig into dinosaurs and pan for gold at the **Arizona Museum of Natural History**, or spark creativity across the street at the **Idea Museum**. Don't miss a stop at **Outcast Doughnuts**, where whimsical creations piled high with unexpected toppings will help you end the afternoon on a sweet note.

COWBOY DINNER FINALE

Wrap up the weekend at **Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch**. Beneath the towering Bulldog Cliffs, families can gather for cowboy barbecue, live music and a sunset that paints the sky in desert hues; a fitting close to two days of Mesa adventures.



SAGUARO LAKE GUEST RANCH



USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

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MEET. JAM. STAY.

EAST VALLEY'S LARGEST EVENT VENUE

40K^{SQ FT} MEETING SPACE **5000**^{CAP.} AMPHITHEATRE **274** GUEST ROOMS



LIVE LIFE LIMITLESS

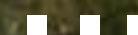
Mesa, Arizona is a community that prioritizes accessibility and inclusion. From accommodations to attractions, you can confidently plan a trip where everyone feels welcome. Discover Mesa's accessible adventures and start planning your trip today.



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VisitMesa.com



UNPLUG & UNWIND



Beneath the towering Bulldog Cliffs and along the banks of the Lower Salt River, Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch offers a unique escape into Arizona's Sonoran Desert.

Originally built in the 1930s to house workers building the Stewart Mountain Dam, the ranch now welcomes guests to 20 rustic cabins adorned with Western art and style. Without phones, TVs or radios, this is a true unplugged retreat, where adventure awaits right outside your cabin door.

Launch right from the ranch's riverbank for a kayaking journey down the Salt River. Or saddle up for guided horseback rides ranging from scenic sunrise strolls to stunning sunset treks—you might even get a chance to cross the river when water levels are low.

Prefer to keep it low-key? Lounge by the pool, challenge friends to a game in the lodge or gather around the fire pit under a star-filled sky. In fall and spring, seasonal cowboy cookouts bring visitors together for hearty ranch-style meals and live entertainment.

Whether you're chasing outdoor adventure or simply craving a slower pace, **Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch** delivers an authentic Arizona experience you'll remember long after you've headed home.

MESA'S WILD SIDE

DISCOVER THE DESERT'S MOST ICONIC CREATURES

Mesa's wild residents have a way of slowing you down and drawing you in. The Tonto National Forest is not only a playground for adventurers but also for the remarkable variety of wildlife that calls this region home.

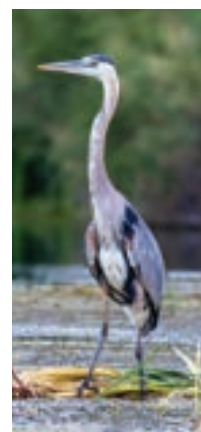
WILD ABOUT HORSES

Pack your camera and binoculars and head to the Salt River, where nearly 300 wild horses roam freely along the banks and call Mesa their home. Named "Arizona's Most Iconic Tourist Attraction" by Phoenix Magazine in 2025, these majestic creatures are a sight to see while floating down the river. Daily, the horses emerge from the surrounding desert to cool off in the water and graze on the underwater foliage. For those not looking for a float, another viewing point can be found at Coon Bluff and other recreational sites in the Tonto National Forest. Just remember to admire them from a safe distance of at least 50 feet to protect both you and the herd.



ICONIC BIRDS OF ARIZONA

As you paddle down the river or hike up one of Mesa's mountains, be on the lookout for Arizona's remarkable birds. More than 350 species of birds are found in the Sonoran Desert, including bald eagles, herons, roadrunners, flycatchers, loons, hummingbirds and more. Keep your eyes on the towering saguaro cacti—the largest cactus in the United States and found only in the Sonoran Desert—and you may spot a Gila woodpecker nesting inside. Early mornings are prime bird-watching hours.



R&R

FIND YOUR FLOW IN MESA

From sunrise stretches to rose-scented walks, Mesa is where slowing down feels natural.

BEGIN AT THE MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ROSE GARDEN, the largest in the Southwest, where more than 9,000 blooming rose bushes set the tone for a day of calm and serenity. Located on Dobson and Southern, this garden encourages you to take a minute to stop and smell the roses, as there are over 300 varieties offering different shapes, colors and fragrances to view and admire. The best blooms appear in late March through June, and again in November and December.*



SAVOR THE SUNSET as you wander to the **Mesa Arizona Temple** grounds, named one of the nation's top 20 most peaceful tourist spots. Stroll its serene gardens and reflective pathways, then mark your calendars for one of the many free public events held here throughout the year. From the dazzling Mesa Temple Christmas Lights to the world-renowned Mesa Easter Pageant (a community tradition since 1938), there is something for everyone to enjoy.*

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BALANCE YOUR MIND AND BODY with Mesa's growing wellness scene. Pamper yourself at **Ananda Salon** with restorative massages and hydrating facials, or share some laughs at **Arizona Goat Yoga**, where playful four-legged friends wander through your poses.

Whether you're walking among roses, floating on calm waters or simply soaking up the Arizona sunshine, Mesa makes it easy to reset, recharge and return home renewed.



PAINT

The TOWN

LIMITLESS



Mesa's arts and culture scene invites discovery and adventure at every turn.

Murals and sculptures turn city streets into open-air galleries, while museums bring dinosaurs, desert legends and local history vividly to life. In the Asian District, sizzling flavors and vibrant street art create a cultural adventure that rewards the curious. As night falls, Mesa hums with live music, comedy and hidden nightlife, where amphitheaters, intimate patios and dance floors each reveal their own personality. In Mesa, art and culture aren't just things you see—they're moments you hear, feel and savor.

CREATIVE SOUL ON DISPLAY

MESA'S WORLD-CLASS MUSEUMS AND MURALS

If streets could talk, Downtown Mesa would be singing.

Along Main Street, 30 vibrant murals splash color across brick walls while 36 whimsical sculptures greet visitors on every corner. These works of art aren't just photo ops—they're story portals, highlighting local legends, pop-art flair and tributes to Arizona's roots, turning a simple stroll into a self-guided gallery walk.



Creativity here doesn't stop at the sidewalk. Mesa's museums invite you to step inside and connect with the city's creative and cultural heartbeat. The **Mesa Arts Center**, the Southwest's largest arts and culture complex, houses theaters, studios and the **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum**—where visitors can explore five dynamic galleries with free admission. It's a playground for the imagination, with rotating exhibitions and immersive hands-on workshops.



W2ND Historic Inn feels like part of Downtown Mesa's gallery walk. Just steps from Main Street murals, this restored inn blends heritage architecture with curated design. Each room is styled with artful detail, echoing the creative pulse outside its doors. For travelers chasing culture, it's not just a stay—it's another canvas in Mesa's living arts scene.*



Just a block away off Main Street, the **Arizona Museum of Natural History** roars with life. Kids (and kids at heart) can wander through dinosaur hallways, explore ancient Hohokam canals and even pan for gold.

Also within a block of Main Street, the **idea Museum** sparks creativity with interactive exhibits designed to engage young minds in art, science and design—perfect for a family day in the city's cultural core.



For aviation enthusiasts, the **Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum** takes history to the skies with an extensive collection of restored military aircraft. Visitors can walk beneath the wings of World War II bombers and fighters, examine artifacts and exhibits that detail aviation history, and learn about the men and women who served in the air. For those seeking a hands-on experience, the museum also offers flights in select vintage warbirds.*



Mesa's love for storytelling continues at the **Mesa Historical Museum**, where exhibits span local citrus-farming roots, the whimsical world of Karen Kuykendall and her famed "Cat People" and Mesa's proud Spring Training baseball legacy.

Beyond the city center, history lovers can follow the call of the **Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum** along the Apache Trail. This treasure trove of Old West artifacts and mining tales sits in the shadow of the legendary Superstition Mountains, where folklore and frontier spirit still linger in the desert air.



Whether you're wandering a sculpture-lined sidewalk or exploring centuries through curated collections, Mesa invites you to see the world through a more colorful lens. It's not just a place to view art—it's a place to feel it, to interact with it, and to maybe even be inspired to create your own.

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YOUR GUIDE TO *Mesa's Asian District*



Mesa's **Asian District** stretches for two miles along Dobson Road between Main Street and Southern Avenue, a cultural corridor that has blossomed over decades into a hub of more than 100 restaurants, grocery stores and shops. What started as a handful of family-owned businesses has grown into one of Arizona's most authentic windows into Asian culture, welcoming curious foodies, shoppers and culture seekers alike.

START WITH YOUR SENSES

Let the Asian District's vibrant signage and colorful murals pull you inside, where savory aromas like sizzling Korean BBQ, steamed bao buns and slow-simmered ramen drift from family kitchens and food courts, all set to the lively buzz of a thriving and welcoming community.



GOT A SWEET TOOTH?

The district doubles as a dessert playground. Think boba teas, creamy shaved snow, coconut jelly and the viral treats that light up social media, from realistic fruit-shaped ice cream to flaky spiral croissants and golden cheese coins. To taste the district properly, follow the locals into the food courts, where multiple vendors share the spotlight and the dining adventure feels endless.



A VISUAL GALLERY OF CULTURE

Food is only the first flavor of this neighborhood. Mesa's Asian District is also dotted with 15 colorful murals that celebrate heritage and community. Be prepared to turn an ordinary walk through the district into an art stroll where every corner invites a pause and a photo.



SPECIALTY SHOPPING

Shopping in Mesa's Asian District is an experience all on its own. Shelves at **Hong Kong Gifts** and **Daiso** brim with quirky trinkets, stationery and character-themed treasures. Meanwhile, the sprawling aisles of **H Mart**, **Asiana Market** and **Mekong Supermarket** overflow with imported spices, fresh produce and ingredients you won't find in your average grocery store.



Asian Festival JAN 31 – FEB 1, 2026

Mark your calendars for the annual **Asian Festival**, which brings music, traditional dance and Lunar New Year flair to the streets of the Asian District.

MESA'S CULTURAL HUB

For an authentic cultural immersion, visit **Tan Hua Inc.** near Mekong Plaza, where you can experience a traditional tea ceremony and discover rare Chinese loose-leaf teas you won't find anywhere else. With its bold murals, abundant flavors from across Asia, and a welcoming community eager to share their culture, the Asian District delivers an experience you won't find anywhere else in the Valley.

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC

This city has a soundtrack for every mood – come find yours.

YES

REWING CO



Mesa doesn't just host music—it makes music. Downtown is home to music stores, recording studios and gear shops where musicians gather, swap stories and fuel the creative energy that's been building for decades. It's a city where high school bands consistently rank among the state's best, where garage rehearsal spaces hum late into the night, and where a thriving artistic community has built a culture where live music takes center stage every day of the week.

That foundation fuels a venue scene that punches well above its weight. Start big under wide desert skies at **Mesa Amphitheatre**, where major touring acts light up the night. Just down the road, the century-old **Nile Theater** pulses with rock and indie energy, hosting garage bands on the rise and acts you'll brag about seeing before they break. The **Mesa Arts Center** delivers world-class acoustics for everything from jazz trios to full orchestras.



MESA MUSIC FESTIVAL

April 9-11, 2026

Mesa's endless sunshine means performances spill outdoors. **Revel Surf at Cannon Beach** pairs local bands with a beach vibe. **Las Sendas Patio** floats acoustic melodies over city lights and mountain silhouettes. **Windmill Winery** turns its vineyard into an easygoing stage where Arizona wine and live music flow together.



When the mood shifts intimate, **Jarrold's Coffee, Tea, & Gallery** offers exceptional coffee and unplugged performances. Hidden below the streets, **The Cellar at 12 West Brewing Company** is a brick-lined hideaway where discovering your new favorite band feels inevitable.

In Mesa, music is everywhere. All you have to do is listen.

MESA’S HIDDEN GEMS

5 UNEXPECTED NIGHTLIFE SPOTS THE LOCALS LOVE

Mesa’s nightlife rewards the curious. It’s not about velvet ropes or endless neon—it’s about those moments of surprise when you stumble onto something memorable.

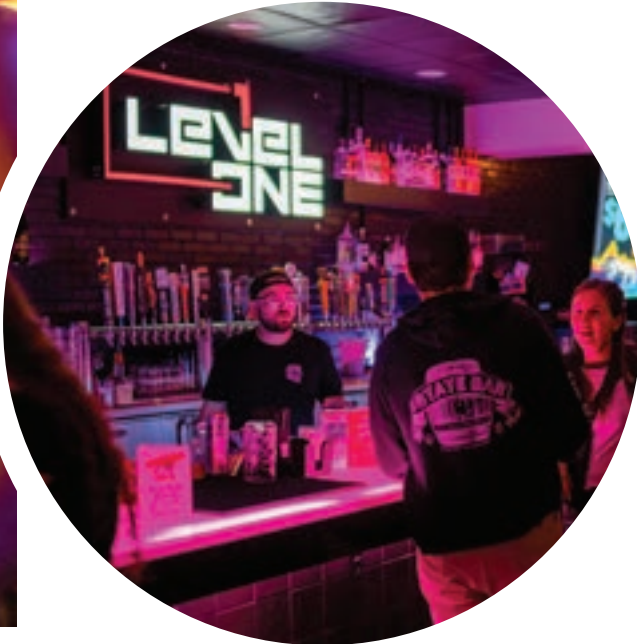
LAUGH UNTIL IT HURTS

Nothing kicks off a night quite like improv. At **The Bridge Improv Theater**, the performers thrive on quick wit, audience participation and the joy of making it up as they go. Every show is a little different, and every punchline feels like it was meant just for the room that night.



PRESS PLAY ON NOSTALGIA

Step into a retro playground of pinball, Pac-Man and joystick battles fueled by craft cocktails at **Level 1 Arcade Bar**. But the real twist is **Alchemy 48**, the moody speakeasy hidden downstairs. One night out, two entirely different vibes.



A NIGHT MARKET ADVENTURE

Food tastes better when it comes with a little discovery. The monthly **Metro Phoenix Night Market** sizzles with Asian street-food energy – skewers, boba and neon-lit charm – while **AZ Festivals** turns Saturdays into a roaming food-truck party. Stroll, snack and let curiosity guide your appetite.



BOOTS ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Line dancing might not be on your usual itinerary, but in Mesa, you'll be toe-tapping fast. Spots like **Denim and Diamonds** and **Desert Lights Productions** keep dance floors alive, where country hits set the rhythm and every spin feels like a victory. Add the thrill of Mesa’s rodeos, where music meets dust and cheers, and you’ll discover the city’s untamed spirit firsthand.



DINNER AND A SHOW... WITH A TWIST

Only in Mesa can a slice of pizza come with the world’s largest Wurlitzer pipe organ. At **Organ Stop Pizza**, towering pipes and spinning figurines accompany medleys of movie themes and pop hits. It’s kitschy, over-the-top and absolutely unforgettable.





WELCOME TO WE-TIME

At **We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort**, a name that means "Four Peaks" in the Yavapai language, authentic culture and luxury converge to create a truly unique escape.

FIVE-STAR DINING

Enjoy a culinary journey at **Ember**, a destination steakhouse featuring wood-fired steaks and seafood, and a recipient of OpenTable's Diners' Choice award.

AUTHENTIC ADVENTURES

Experience the wild spirit of the desert with **Fort McDowell Adventures**, offering horseback riding, cattle drives and other unforgettable outdoor experiences.

RV PARK & RESORT

Just steps away, the **Eagle View RV Resort** offers a peaceful retreat in the Sonoran high desert with spacious, full hook-up sites and amenities like a heated pool, fitness room and pet park.



RELAX AND RENEW

Unwind at the **AAA Four Diamond Casino and Resort** or find serenity at the Sonoran Desert-inspired **Amethyst Spa**.

TWO AWARD-WINNING GOLF COURSES

The **Saguaro** course, built for walking, has been ranked the #1 public course in Arizona. The **Cholla** course offers dramatic desert views and was recently named a best new public course.



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LIMITLESS FLAVORS



Mesa's food scene is having a moment and the rest of the country is starting to notice. From local chefs making waves on national TV to our hometown diners landing on must-visit lists, Mesa's culinary spotlight is long overdue.

But it's not just about what's trending. This city serves up flavor at every level—from affordable comfort food that hits just right to breakfast spots that make getting up early totally worth it. You'll find citrus groves and working farms just minutes from downtown, global eats tucked into every corner of the city, and a craft beverage scene that's winning big (and pouring local).

Whether you're chasing farm-to-table freshness, international eats or just a classic stack of pancakes, Mesa serves it up with a little grit, a lot of flavor and the kind of hospitality that feels like home.



RISE AND SHINE

MESA'S TOP BREAKFAST SPOTS

In Mesa, breakfast doesn't just start the day—it makes it worth waking up for.

Longtime favorite **T.C. Eggington's** keeps things classic and comforting with buttery omelets, cinnamon-kissed French toast and waffles that feel like home. Across town, **What's Crackin' Café** cranks up the fun with colorful plates, piled-high hashes and stuffed breakfast burritos that hit every craving.



Steadfast Coffee and **Steadfast Diner**, both located within steps of the Steadfast Farm at Eastmark, offer two farm-to-table moods in one: breakfast tacos and coffee from the Farm Store, and mouthwatering entrees and cocktails at the Diner.



Eggstasy lives up to its name with loaded skillet, silky Benedicts and fluffy pancakes, plus lighter options for those who want to linger over coffee. Every dish is polished, hearty and built to make mornings feel effortless.

At **Chilaquiles Modern Kitchen**, breakfast turns into an experience with their namesake dish, over-the-top pancake stacks and mimosa flights that offer a reason to gather and make any morning feel like a special occasion.



If you like your breakfast a little rebellious, **Outcast Doughnuts** tempts with wild, flavor-bomb creations topped with cereal, bacon and whatever the bakers dream up next.



Sweet-toothed visitors can find their fix at **Elysian Fields Artisan Bakery & Dainties**, where fresh pastries come with a side of glitter. It's a playful twist on classic sweets to brighten every morning.



DINE AROUND THE WORLD (NO PASSPORT REQUIRED)

Mesa is a true melting pot of cultures, and its dining scene makes that deliciously clear. Every plate tells a story, inviting you to travel the globe one bite at a time—no passport required.



Start in South America at **República Empanada**, home to Arizona's largest selection of empanadas. Bite into a flaky, golden shell filled with beef, potatoes and green olives, or try a Cubana, a pastry homage to the Cuban sandwich. Then, finish with a Banana Cream Pie in empanada form.



Journey next to coastal Mexico at **Espíritu Cocktails & Comida**, where smoky Birria Dumplings and Whole Fried Snapper share the stage with inventive cocktails that burst with coastal flavor and color.



The Caribbean calls at **Jerk Island AZ**, serving fiery jerk chicken and tender curry goat that pair perfectly with rice, peas and island vibes.



Round out your travels with **Pacific Rim & Sushi** or **Mensho Ramen**, where Hawaiian plate lunches, velvety ramen and Duck Matcha Bowls bring Pacific flavors to downtown streets.

In Mesa, the world waits on a fork and every bite is a new stamp in your culinary passport.

EAT WHERE IT'S GROWN

ARIZONA'S FRESH FOODIE TRAIL®

Arizona's Fresh Foodie Trail® isn't just about what's on the plate—it's about where it came from, who grew it and how it connects you to the land.

Winding through family farms, olive groves, you-pick orchards and urban gardens, this trail invites you to taste Arizona in the most authentic way possible: at the source.

In Mesa, the Fresh Foodie Trail connects working farms and garden-rich neighborhoods. **Steadfast Farm** grows organic produce served next door at **Steadfast Diner**, while **Healing Earth Farms—True Garden** supplies uniquely vertically grown greens. At **Vertuccio Farms** and **Agritopia**, pick your own peaches or citrus, depending on the season. And at **Inspire Farms**, fresh eggs, raw milk and friendly chickens offer a glimpse into urban homesteading.



The trail extends to **Queen Creek Olive Mill**, Arizona's only working olive farm and mill. Olives are grown, harvested and pressed on-site, creating award-winning oils that you can taste right where they're made. Tour the grove, then stay for lunch under the olive trees. From bruschetta to gelato, every dish is house-crafted—proof that a little slice of Italy can thrive in the Arizona desert.*



Just down the road, **Windmill Winery** serves up small-batch Arizona wines in a setting that feels like it was pulled from a postcard. Surrounded by vineyards, barns and blooming gardens, this is where wine meets wild charm. Grab a seat in the tasting room or out on the patio, then stick around for live music, food trucks and those slow desert sunsets that always steal the show.*

CHEAP EATS UNDER \$15

Traveling (and eating) with the family doesn't have to break the bank. Mesa is full of local favorites where a satisfying meal costs less than \$15.

Start at **Pete's Fish & Chips**, a true Mesa classic since 1947. They don't serve ketchup here—only Pete's signature special sauce. A full seafood combo (complete with fish, shrimp, fries, a drink and sauce) rings in at around \$11 and will keep everyone full and happy.

For a handheld feast, **Worth Takeaway** serves locally sourced, award-winning sandwiches under \$15. Favorites include the Cuban, Hot Ham & Cheese, Spicy Pork and the Chicken Tender Bites with fries, or opt for a lighter option with their Chicken Veggie Hash.

Craving something snacky? **The Salted Knot** turns pretzels into lunch with pretzel dogs, pizza knots and other warm, salty twists for about \$10.



Renegade Coffee keeps mornings affordable with a coffee, pastry and breakfast burrito combo for around \$13—perfect fuel before a day of exploring.

For a budget-friendly Mexican fix, **Backyard Taco** serves a 3-taco plate with rice and beans for around \$15, or time your visit for Burrito Monday or Taco Tuesday for even bigger savings. Mesa proves that flavor doesn't have to be fancy—just delicious, local and easy on your wallet.

BEERS & BOLD PAIRINGS

*Eat well. Drink local.
And always go for the combo.*

There is something timeless about the right bite and the right sip—a combo that goes beyond flavor and brings the moment to life.

In Mesa, that story comes to life in local taprooms, patios, food trucks and brewpubs. It's where bold IPAs are served with stacked burgers, crisp ciders are paired with creative pizzas, and cocktails complement standout dishes without overcomplicating things.

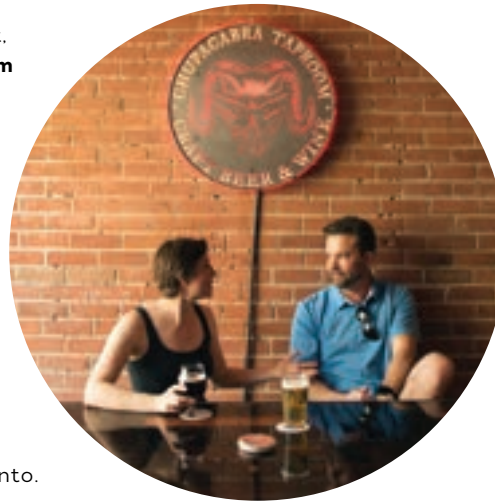


MVP COMBO

At **12 West Brewing Company**, the Charlie Hustle Burger steals the spotlight as it's stacked with sambal aioli and chimichurri and served with truffle fries. Pair it with their Hop Jam IPA, a 6.9% citrus-forward pour brewed with Superdelic hops. It's bold, balanced and built for flavor chasers.

FLAVORS, FUN & FUNKY FINDS

Just off Main Street, **Chupacabra Taproom** pours pours Arizona staples and rotating rarities in an inviting space where dogs and locals are equally welcome. Weekend food trucks keep the pairings fresh, so there's always a surprise worth sinking your teeth into.



Nearby, **BRI Taproom & Arcade** turns up the energy with a retro spin. Think pints, pinball and just enough friendly competition to justify staying for another round.



HAUS RULES: BRATS & HAZY IPAS

At **Pedal Haus Biergarten**, the Haus Bratwurst—braised, grilled and served with mustard and sauerkraut—was made to pair with the White Rabbit Hazy IPA. This is the kind of place where one pint turns into two, and no one's in a rush to leave.



WINE, SPIRITS & SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Rebel Wine Lounge serves a prosciutto and fig flatbread that pairs effortlessly with their Broken Dreams Chardonnay, a smooth California white with just enough flair.

For the cocktail lovers, **Espiritu Cocktails & Comida** offers the legendary Phoenix Cocktail. It's flavorful, bright and a dream alongside the braised K4 short rib.



PINTS WITH A SLICE OF PERSONALITY

Phantom Fox Beer Co. is home to Tee Time, a summer brew that tastes like sunshine—lemony, tea-kissed and lightly tart. Pair it with a pepperoni and sausage pizza from **Goat & Ram**, the in-house kitchen that proves pizza and beer are soulmates.

Not into beer? No problem. **Cider Corps** is pouring a selection of creative ciders like the Mango Foxtrot which is tropical, crisp and even better with a slice of the potato and bacon pizza from **Myke's Pizza** inside.



BRING YOUR OWN COMBO

Award-winning **Oro Brewing and Vice Co.** keeps it simple with small-batch ales, a laid-back atmosphere and a bring-your-own-food policy that lets you call the pairing shots. Tacos, pizza, burgers—whatever you are craving is welcome at the table.

JUST IN IT FOR THE POUR?

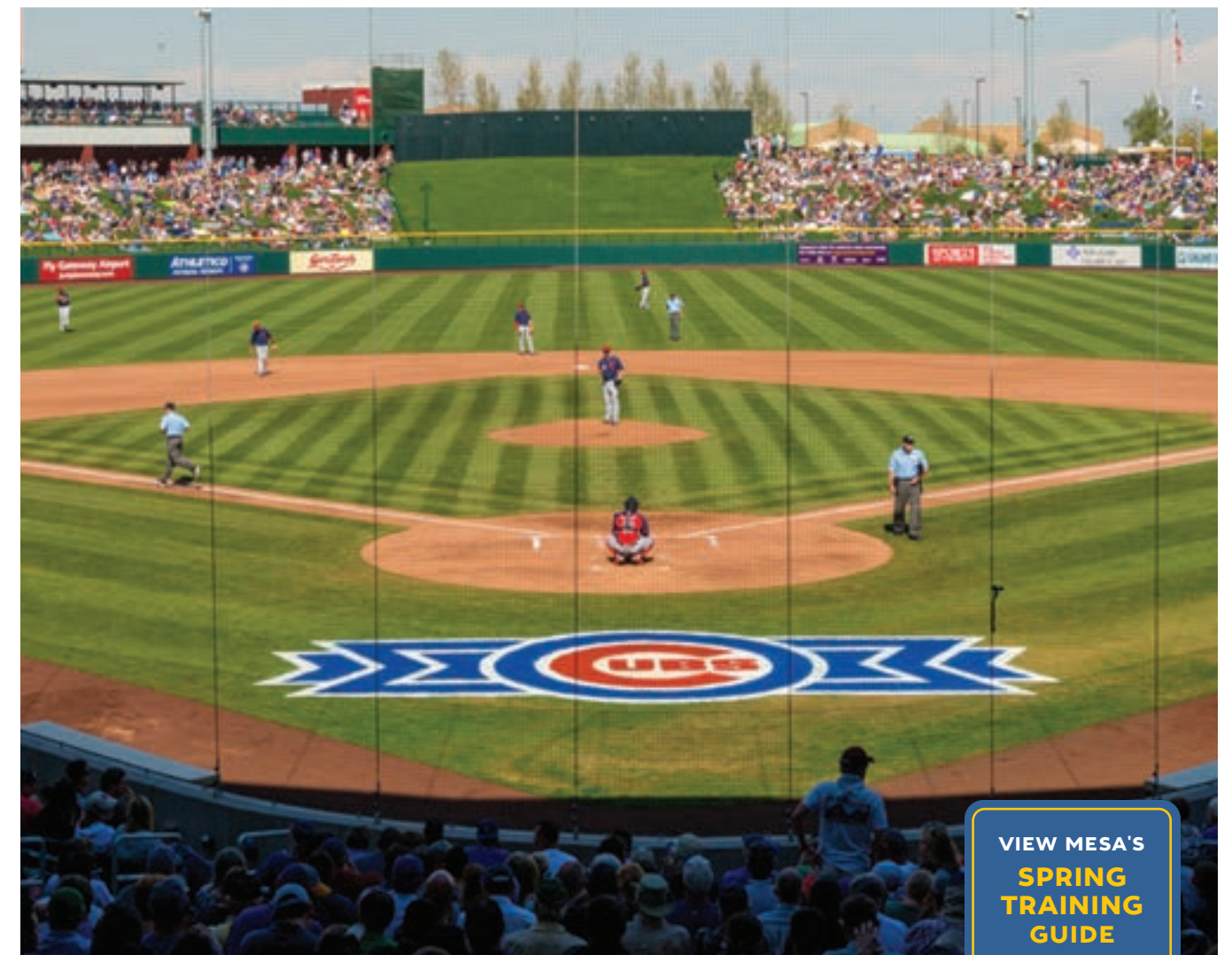
No bites, no problem! Some stops are all about the drink. **Lochiel Brewing** delivers Scottish-style ales with a community vibe and **AZ Distilling Co.** offers tours and tastings of handcrafted, small-batch spirits right in Downtown Mesa.

From burgers to brats and ciders to cocktails, Mesa's drink scene mixes bold flavors with a dash of surprise and is always leaving room for one more round.

Double The Fun



YOUR SPRING TRAINING HOME BASE



**VIEW MESA'S
SPRING
TRAINING
GUIDE**



When February rolls in, Mesa becomes the ultimate Spring Training playground—where fans can catch games from two different Cactus League teams in one city.

Sloan Park, the largest stadium in the league, packs in **Chicago Cubs** fans each spring. Just a few miles away, **Hohokam Stadium** welcomes the **Athletics** with equal energy. Together, these two ballparks make the city a true baseball hub, drawing thousands of fans every year.

Game days around here are never just about the innings. Steps from Sloan Park, **Mesa Riverview** offers post-pitch celebrations and pregame fuel.

Stay close to the action with hotels made for fans. Cubs loyalists can stroll from the **Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West** or the **Courtyard Mesa at Wrigleyville West** straight to the stadium gates. Athletics fans can split the difference at the **Delta Hotel by Marriott Phoenix Mesa**, perfectly placed between Hohokam and the buzz of downtown.

However you spend your innings here, Mesa makes every pitch, hit and catch part of an unforgettable desert baseball experience.



BEYOND THE DIAMOND

OTHER WAYS TO PLAY

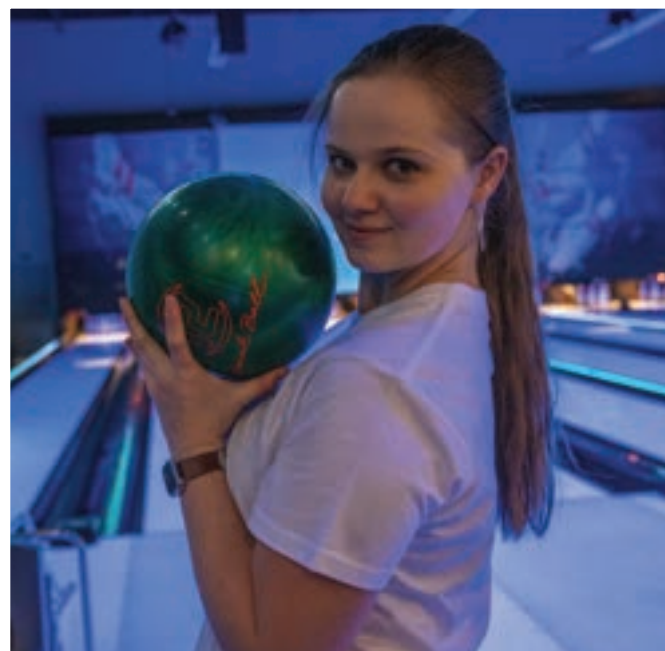
Mesa's love for the game doesn't stop at the ballpark. From swinging paddles to rolling strikes, you'll find playful ways to get in the game—no glove required.

SWING

Step into the batter's box at **AZ Dingers** or **Taroko Sports** and test your swing against pitches of all speeds.

DINK

Pickleball is Arizona's fastest-growing sport, and Mesa's got it covered. Challenge friends at the new **Dink & Dine** pickleball park and restaurant, or try pickleball's cousin, padel, at East Mesa's **Padel Pals**.



GAME

Step back in time at **Starfighters Arcade** and **BRI Taproom & Arcade** with vintage pinball and classic machines. Keep the competition going at **FatCats** with bowling, movies and more.

CUE

Rack 'em up at **Oro Brewing & Vice Co.**, or head down Main Street to **The Cellar** at **12 West Brewing Company** for craft beer, live music and billiard battles.

SPEND A DAY AT ARIZONA ATHLETIC GROUNDS

Arizona Athletic Grounds is more than just a collection of playing fields; it's where sports and entertainment come alive all year long.



Spanning 275 acres, this all-in-one sports and entertainment complex is buzzing year-round with tournaments, leagues and special events that bring athletes, families and fans from all over the world to Mesa.

In town for a game or looking to spend a day as a spectator? Take a stroll down the covered walkway to find an assortment of food and beverage options that are open to the public including **Wetzel's Pretzels**, **Zaria Pizza** and **Bristol's Burgers, Beef & BBQ Restaurant**, which provides visitors with the opportunity to watch game day action with over 100 TVs.

Arizona Athletic Grounds is a community hub where events bring people together, from celebrity meet and greets to professional tournaments, foodie festivals and more.



FORE THE WIN!

Whether you're chasing a personal best or simply soaking in the Arizona sunshine, Mesa's diverse golf courses deliver unforgettable days on the green.

Mesa earns its City Limitless name for many reasons, including a golf scene that spans every style and setting. **Las Sendas Golf Club** is known for its breathtaking, desert-immersive layout, while **Longbow Golf Club** pairs immaculate fairways with sweeping views of Red Mountain. At **Dobson Ranch Golf Course**, locals and visitors alike not only enjoy a day on the green but also test their skills with Inrange; a shot-tracking technology adding a fun, high-tech twist to the game. Plan out your day at **Painted Mountain Golf Resort** with a relaxing overnight stay, a challenging 18-hole course and fine dining!



PLAY LIKE A PRO AT AUGUSTA RANCH

Augusta Ranch Golf Club is a must-play experience, as its award-winning course provides a serene and picturesque backdrop for players. Owned by the 44th President of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Don Rea Jr., Augusta Ranch hosts everything from Glow Golf nights and PGA Family Cup—where all ages team up for friendly competition—to the annual PGA HOPE event, supporting veterans and more.



GOLF LIKE A LOCAL

TIPS TO TAME THE DESERT COURSES

BY DAVE YORDI

PLAN FOR THE HEAT

They say “it’s a dry heat” for a reason! Desert air pulls moisture fast. Early tee times are prime for cooler temps and golden light. Apply sunscreen before your round and keep a bottle in your golf bag for reapplication.

Bring a spare towel to keep your hands clean and to maintain a grip on your clubs. Consider light, long-sleeved shirts and pants made of performance materials to protect you from the sun.

MONITOR COURSE CONDITIONS

Did you know fairways in the desert can become firmer as the day warms up? At night, the desert cools off significantly, but as the sun rises, the ground quickly heats and dries, making fairways harder and faster. This means your ball could fly or roll further and you may need to reach for less club than usual.

If you’re having trouble staying on fairways, consider teeing up your drives a bit higher to get more loft and land your tee shots softer.

RESPECT THE ROUGH... AND THE CRITTERS

The desert rough means cactus, rocks and the occasional critter. Take a good look before you go after an errant tee shot.

If your ball is lodged in a thorny bush, you have relief options under Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball). Or, with your group’s permission, move it to the grass and save your club heads and ankles.

LAS SENDAS GOLF CLUB

Las Sendas Golf Club, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., is a championship 18-hole, par-72 course nestled at the base of the Userly Mountains. Ranked among Arizona's top 10, the course blends challenging desert terrain with sweeping views of the Phoenix Valley skyline, 1,800 feet above the desert floor.



GOLF

A semi-private club, **Las Sendas** offers memberships and public tee times. Players can sharpen their game at the full-length driving range, short-game area and putting green. Fuel up with a breakfast burrito from the **Halfway House**, then visit the **Pro Shop** for the latest hats, polos and quarter zips. Book tee times at www.lassendas.com or call 480-396-4000.



DINING

The Patio at Las Sendas pairs romantic sunset views with live music and a menu crafted from fresh ingredients, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. For a casual experience, **The Grille** offers a lively sports bar atmosphere with handcrafted appetizers, salads, sandwiches and tavern-style entrées. Reservations are recommended at www.lassendas.com or via OpenTable.



EVENTS

The Vistas Pavilion Event Center hosts weddings, celebrations and corporate gatherings. With 6,000 square feet of space for up to 350 guests, tailored menus and attentive planning, your event will be seamless and unforgettable.*

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MESA RIVERVIEW



01 CELEBRATE FREEDOM at the **Arizona Celebration of Freedom**—the state's biggest Independence Day party



02 WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS of Elvis Presley at the **Superstition Mountain Lost Dutchman Museum**, where he filmed Charro!



03 HIKE the storied **Superstition Mountains**, where legends of gold mingle with breathtaking Americana landscapes



04 RAISE A GLASS at award-winning, veteran-owned **Cider Corps** cidery



05 FLOAT on Arizona's favorite summer pastime, the **Lower Salt River**, and keep your eyes open for wild horses



06 CATCH AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME during **Cactus League Spring Training** with the **Chicago Cubs** and **Athletics**

25 WAYS TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S

250TH BIRTHDAY



07 LISTEN TO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM on the world's largest Wurlitzer organ at **Organ Stop Pizza**

08 TAKE A FLIGHT through history at the **Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum**, home to WWII bombers and fighter planes

09 WATCH THE SKIES at **Falcon Field Airport**, once a bustling WWII training base for Allied pilots

10 TAKE PRIDE at the annual **MLK Day Parade** running along M.L.K. Jr. Way in Downtown Mesa

11 SPOT BALD EAGLES while cruising through Canyon Lake aboard the **Dolly Steamboat**

12 STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES at the veteran-themed **Mesa Community College Rose Garden**

13 CHASE AMERICAN NOSTALGIA with Mesa's slew of neon signs

14 TIME YOUR VISIT to witness the **Cougar Shadow**, a natural phenomenon that unites nature and folklore on Mesa's mountainsides twice each year

15 DISCOVER STORIES of America's pioneers at the **Mesa Temple Visitors' Center**

16 EXPLORE the indigenous heritage that predates the United States itself at the **Arizona Museum of Natural History**

17 EXPERIENCE THE HERITAGE of the Southwest at Mesa's **Día de los Muertos Festival** at Mesa Arts Center

18 DRIVE the historic **Apache Trail**, one of the country's most scenic byways

19 WAVE YOUR FLAG PROUDLY at the East Valley **Veterans Day Parade**

20 DINE ON PATRIOTIC FARE at **Red, White & Brew**

21 CATCH A CONCERT under the stars at the **Mesa Amphitheatre**, where music and community come together in true American tradition

22 VISIT the iconic American country singer Waylon Jennings' grave at the **City of Mesa Cemetery**

23 TOUR the historic neighborhoods of Mesa, where pioneer homes and stories still echo through the city's roots

24 IMMERSE YOURSELF in the city's past at the **Mesa Historical Museum**, where the city's history comes to life through photographs, artifacts and pioneer tales

25 STEP BACK IN TIME and learn about the ancient Hohokam Civilization at the **Scedagī Mu:val Va'aki cultural park**



Scan this QR code for even more ways to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

In 2026, the United States of America celebrates 250 years of independence. Here in Mesa, we honor that milestone with experiences that bring history to life—from WWII aircraft soaring overhead to pioneer trails beneath your boots—each telling a story of resilience, freedom and community.

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A CHAIR**

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EVENTS CALENDAR



JANUARY

- 17** **COPPER STATE BEER FEST**
copperstatebeerfest.com
- 31-2/1** **ASIAN FESTIVAL**
asianfestivalaz.com
- 31** **ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**
arizona.renfestinfo.com

FEBRUARY

- ALL MONTH** **ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**
arizona.renfestinfo.com
- 14** **MESA MARATHON**
mesamarathon.com
- 20-28** **CHICAGO CUBS SPRING TRAINING**
cubs.com
- 21-28** **ATHLETICS SPRING TRAINING**
athletics.com

MARCH

- 1-29** **ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**
arizona.renfestinfo.com
- 13** **ALT (ART, LIGHT, TECHNOLOGY) FEST**
mesaartscenter.com
- 14** **CAT FEST AT THE MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM**
mesahistoricalmuseum.com
- 1-24** **CHICAGO CUBS SPRING TRAINING**
cubs.com
- 1-22** **ATHLETICS SPRING TRAINING**
athletics.com
- 25-31** **MESA EASTER PAGEANT**
mesaeasterpageant.org

APRIL

- 1-4** **MESA EASTER PAGEANT**
mesaeasterpageant.org
- 9-11** **MESA MUSIC FESTIVAL**
mesamusicfest.com

MAY

- TBD** **DESERT CHALLENGE GAMES**
arizonadisabledsports.com
- 19-23** **WAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**
wacsports.com
- 20-23** **MOUNTAIN WEST BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**
themw.com

JULY

- 4** **ARIZONA CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM**
azcelebrationoffreedom.com

AUGUST

- TBD** **MESA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
mesainternationalfilmfestival.com

OCTOBER

- ALL MONTH** **FALL FESTIVAL AT VERTUCCIO FARMS**
vertucciofarms.com
- ALL MONTH** **SCHNEPF FARMS PUMPKIN & CHILI PARTY**
pumpkinandchiliparty.com
- LATE OCT** **DIA DE LOS MUERTOS FESTIVAL**
mesaartscenter.com

DECEMBER

- ALL MONTH** **MERRY MAIN STREET**
merrymainst.com

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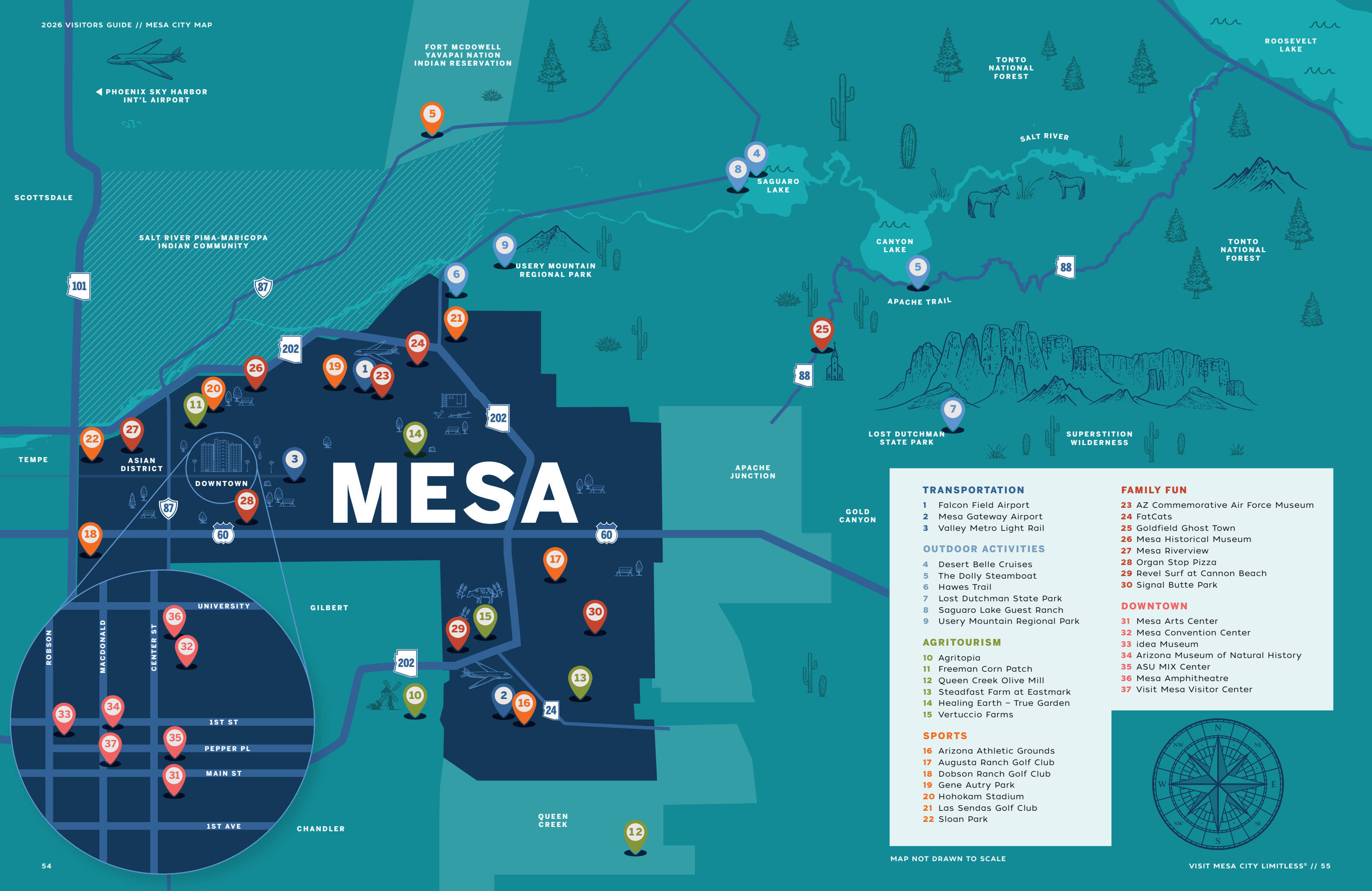
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TRANSPORTATION

- 1 Falcon Field Airport
- 2 Mesa Gateway Airport
- 3 Valley Metro Light Rail

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- 4 Desert Belle Cruises
- 5 The Dolly Steamboat
- 6 Hawes Trail
- 7 Lost Dutchman State Park
- 8 Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch
- 9 Usery Mountain Regional Park

AGRITOURISM

- 10 Agritopia
- 11 Freeman Corn Patch
- 12 Queen Creek Olive Mill
- 13 Steadfast Farm at Eastmark
- 14 Healing Earth – True Garden
- 15 Vertuccio Farms

SPORTS

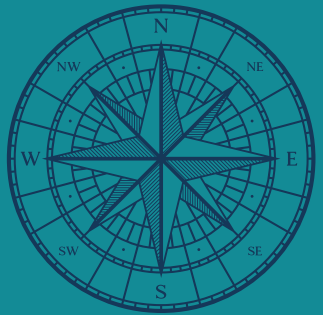
- 16 Arizona Athletic Grounds
- 17 Augusta Ranch Golf Club
- 18 Dobson Ranch Golf Club
- 19 Gene Autry Park
- 20 Hohokam Stadium
- 21 Las Sendas Golf Club
- 22 Sloan Park

FAMILY FUN

- 23 AZ Commemorative Air Force Museum
- 24 FatCats
- 25 Goldfield Ghost Town
- 26 Mesa Historical Museum
- 27 Mesa Riverview
- 28 Organ Stop Pizza
- 29 Revel Surf at Cannon Beach
- 30 Signal Butte Park

DOWNTOWN

- 31 Mesa Arts Center
- 32 Mesa Convention Center
- 33 idea Museum
- 34 Arizona Museum of Natural History
- 35 ASU MIX Center
- 36 Mesa Amphitheatre
- 37 Visit Mesa Visitor Center



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