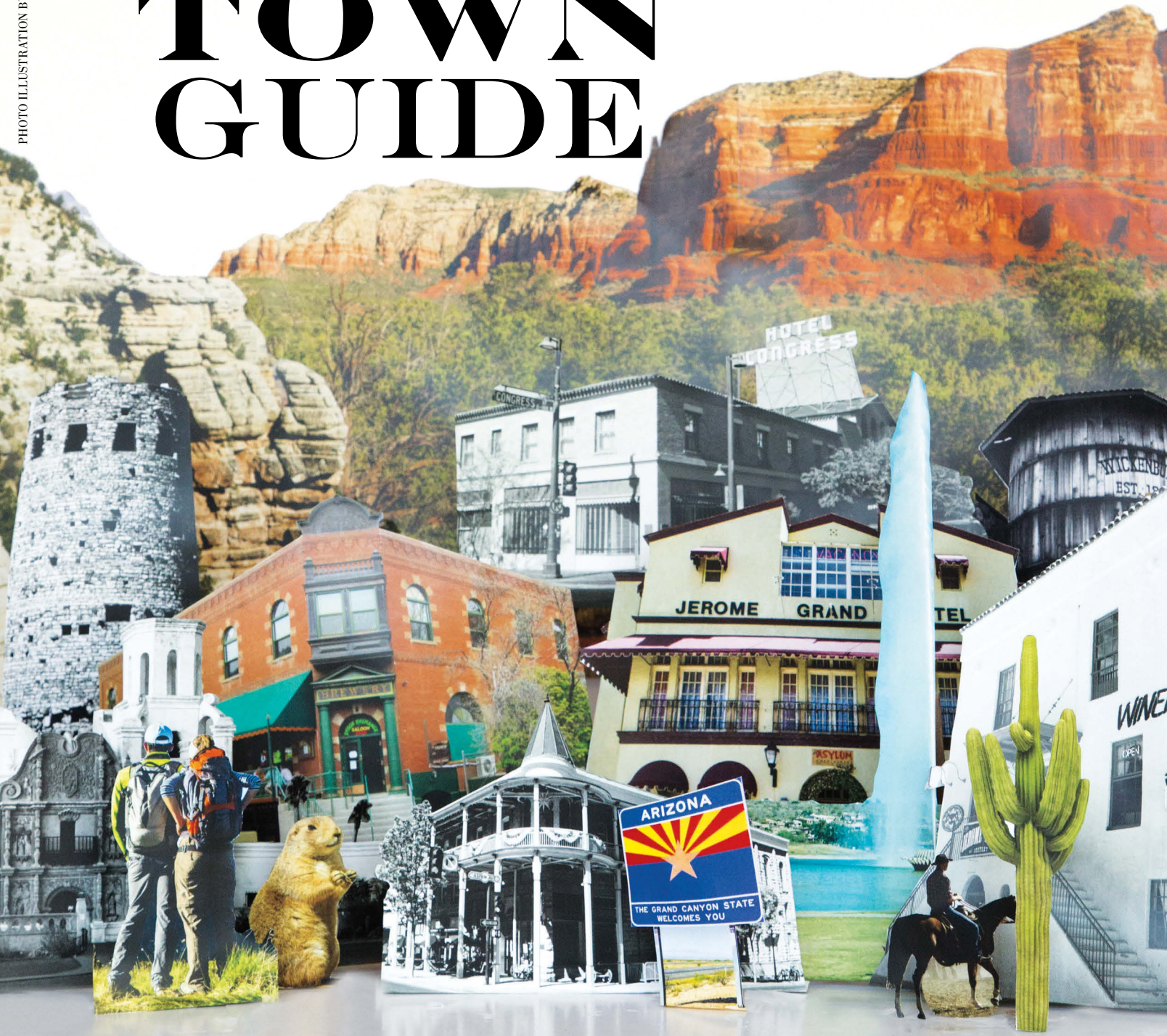


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Autumn in Arizona entices road-trippers with flame-colored foliage and crisp turquoise skies. This year, travelers also can explore exciting new eateries and exhibits, plus a panoply of parades. Journey with us to the state's sightseeing hotspots and secret hideaways.

FLAGSTAFF

Taking their cue from the local conifers, Flagstaff's attractions are sprucing up. This winter, Arizona Snowbowl launches its first new chairlift in 30 years. Spanning more than a half-mile, the quad is part of a series of improvements snowballing through Arizona's most popular ski resort.

Downtown, Flag's gastronomic renaissance keeps on rolling. With historic flair (brick walls and retro murals) and a local-pride vibe (Arizona ales and farm-to-table pub grub), the new Southside Tavern already feels like a Flagstaff institution. Historic Barrel + Bottle House, the new downtown offshoot of the beloved name-sake brewery, pairs eats from Proper Meats & Provisions with its 26 draft craft beers. And the recently debuted Dark Sky Brewing Co. corners the market on crazy concoctions like Mint Mocha Stout and Jalapeño Pale Ale.

Speaking of dark skies, stargaze through the recently revamped historic Clark Telescope and probe the Pluto exhibit at the place the dwarf planet was discovered – Lowell Observatory.

- flagstaffarizona.org
- **Arizona Snowbowl:**
9300 N. Snowbowl Rd., 928-779-1951, arizonasnowbowl.com
- **Southside Tavern:**
117 S. San Francisco St., 928-440-5093, southsidetavernaz.com
- **Historic Barrel + Bottle House:**
110 S. San Francisco St., 928-774-0454, historicbrewingcompany.com
- **Dark Sky Brewing Co.:**
117 N. Beaver St., 928-440-5151, darkskybrewing.com
- **Lowell Observatory:**
1400 W. Mars Hill Rd., 928-774-3358, lowell.edu

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VERDE VALLEY

Several beloved events are on tap this season in Cottonwood. *A Woman's Hand* is back by popular demand at Blazin' M Ranch, through November 8. The play portrays the tough cookies who shaped Sedona and the Verde Valley. During Walkin' on Main, November 14, pedestrians perambulate down historic Highway 89A, sipping wine, jamming to music and soaking in the art. December 5 brings the Christmas Parade and Chocolate Walk. "What could be more fun than strolling around Main Street America listening to Christmas music while collecting homemade chocolates?" asks Lana Tolle-son, president/CEO of the Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce.

But Old Town Cottonwood is worthy of a celebration any day. Connect the dots between tasting rooms on a wine crawl down Main Street, working up an appetite for a wood-fired pie at Pizzeria Bocce or filet mignon at Nic's Italian Steak and Crab House. Then nestle into the chichi sheets at The Tavern, a friendly boutique hotel in the heart of the action.

Nearby Page Springs is a verdant emerald in the rough studded with wineries like Page Springs Cellars, where visitors can soothe their muscles with petite sirah, creekside yoga and massage. A grape's throw away, Up the Creek Grill & Bar has done a 360 from its former incarnation as a greasy spoon. New co-owner/chef/som-

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melier/pianist Jim O'Meally combines "the arts of food, wine and music" in his dashing dining room. Every third Thursday, the restaurant hosts a dinner that pairs Arizona wine with O'Meally's "International Peasant Cuisine"; November 19 features nearby Javelina Leap Vineyard.

- cottonwoodchamberaz.org
- **The Tavern Hotel:** 904 N. Main St., Cottonwood, 928-639-1669, thetavernhotel.com
- **Pizzeria Bocce:** 1060 N. Main St., Cottonwood, 928-202-3597, boccecottonwood.com
- **Nic's Italian Steak and Crab House:** 925 N. Main St., Cottonwood, 928-634-9626, nicsaz.com
- **Page Springs Cellars:** 1500 N. Page Springs Rd., Cornville, 928-639-3004, pagespringscellars.com
- **Up the Creek:** 1975 N. Page Springs Rd., Cornville, 928-634-9954, upthecreekaz.com



SEDONA

When there's a cool snap in the air and scarlet leaves flutter onto Oak Creek, hiking and biking in Sedona is sublime. Several trails start right at the door of Red Agave Adventure Resort, which partners



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flagstaffarizona.org



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www.facebook.com/WickenburgAZ

with the experts at Bike & Bean to help you two-wheel to nearby Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte.

Go gallery-hopping to see how artists glorify the setting; on First Fridays the galleries stay open late, plus serve wine and refreshments. Browse the boutiques at Mexican village-style shopping mecca Tlaquepaque, bidding on artist-crafted Christmas trees during the Festival of Trees, December 3-5, and strolling past more than 6,000 luminarias at the Festival of Lights, December 12.

And there may be no more savory way to enjoy the scenery than with hand-made empanadas and a glass of malbec at Mariposa, a new Latin-inspired grill with wraparound views of the red rocks.

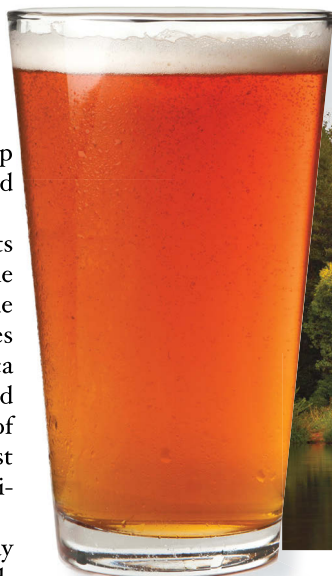
• visitsedona.com

• **Red Agave Adventure Resort:**

120 Canyon Circle Dr., 877-284-9237,
redagaveresort.net

• **Galleries:**

sedonagalleryassociation.com



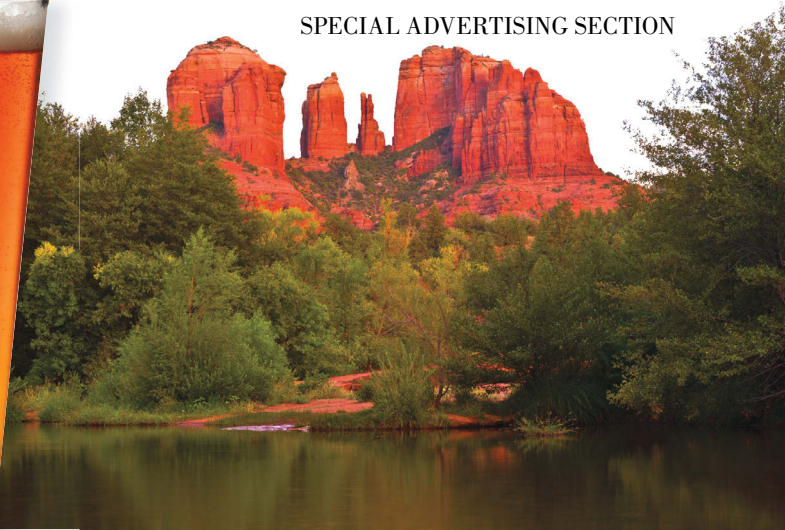
• **Tlaquepaque:** 336 Hwy. 179,
928-282-4838, tlaq.com

• **Mariposa:** 7000 Hwy. 179,
928-862-4444, mariposasedona.com

PRESCOTT

Celebrate fall in the pines in Arizona's mile-high city. Foray into the forests in an Austrian Pinzgauer (imagine the love child of a VW bus and a tank) with Prescott Backcountry Tours. Savor the

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sylvan flavors of a Ponderosa IPA at Prescott Brewing Company. See the town's tannenbaums get decked for the annual Christmas Parade, Courthouse Lighting and Frontier Christmas at Sharlot Hall Museum, all on December 5.

Shop for unique holiday gifts in Prescott's array of antique stores. Warm your bones with a glass of mead at Superstition Meadery. And brood over tempestuous paintings in Phippen Museum's new exhibit, Taken by Storm.



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Prescott Resort, perched atop a hill overlooking the city, celebrates the season with its 22nd annual Gingerbread Village; gingerbread decorating parties, December 5, 12 and 19; visits from Santa, November 28 and December 11; and a Model Train Expo, December 5. If entertainment's on your holiday wish list, Bucky's Casino hosts blackjack plus live music every Wednesday in November and December. And both Bucky's and Yavapai Casino presents NFL specials on game days and give away 40-inch flat-screen TVs every day in December.

- visit-prescott.com
- **Prescott Backcountry Tours:**
928-830-6430,
prescottbackcountrytours.com
- **Prescott Brewing Company:**
130 W. Gurley St., 928-771-2795,
prescottbrewingcompany.com
- **Superstition Meadery:**
120 W. Gurley St., 928-458-4256,
superstitionmeadery.com
- **Phippen Museum:** 4701 Hwy. 89,
928-778-1385, hippenartmuseum.org
- **Prescott Resort:** 1500 E. Hwy. 69,
928-227-2313, prescottresort.com
- **Bucky's Casino & Yavapai Casino:**
800-756-8744, 800-756-8744,
buckycasino.com

WICKENBURG

This historic cowboy town is performing a cultural hat trick this fall with a trio of events. November 13-15, the 36th Annual Bluegrass Festival brings toe-tapping bands and entertainment for the kiddos. The 27th annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering, December 4-5, celebrates the lyrical and storytelling talents of wranglers. And at the 20th annual Parade of Lights, December 11, Santa and Mrs. Claus serve as grand marshals for a parade of antique cars and floats.

Throughout the season, an innovative new exhibit at Desert Caballeros Western Museum invites visitors to touch sculptures by Michael Naranjo, who was blinded by a grenade in the Vietnam War and creates his works entirely by feel.

- outwickenburgway.com
- **Desert Caballeros Western Museum:**
21 N. Frontier St., 928-684-2272,
westernmuseum.org



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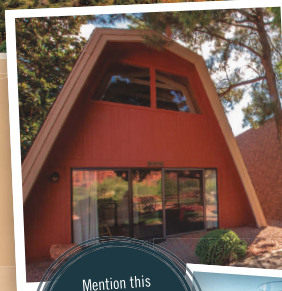
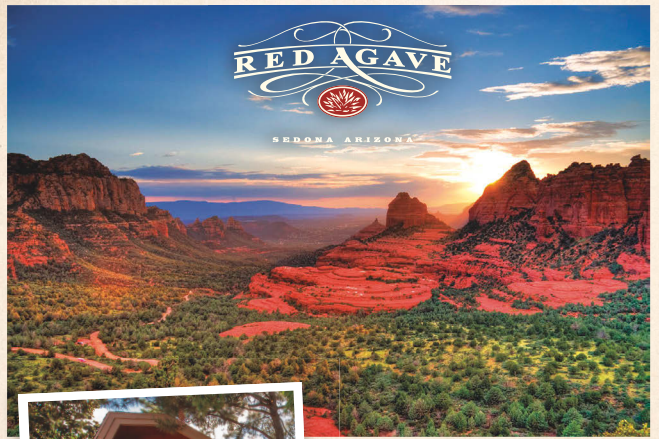
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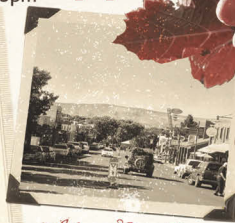
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FOUNTAIN HILLS

Just a short jaunt from the center of Phoenix, Fountain Hills makes for the perfect mini-break. Savor Sonoran Desert scenery atop a steed with Fort McDowell Adventures, or in an open C2 Desert Car with Desert Dogs Hummer Adventures.

For the first time, the town hosts the Copper Wynd Pro Challenge Tennis Tournament, the largest women's professional tennis competition in Arizona, November 7-14. The Fountain Festival of Arts and Crafts, November 13-15, showcases the works of 500-plus artists and artisans in a setting filled with live music, food vendors and a beer garden.

- fountainhillschamber.com
- **Desert Dogs Hummer Adventures:**
480-837-3966, azadventures.com
- **Fort McDowell Adventures:**
480-816-6465, fortmcdowelladventures.com

TUCSON

With a shiny new streetcar and a strollable downtown flush with fresh restaurants, the

Old Pueblo has a cool new vibe. This season, Tucson celebrates two of its hallmark characteristics – Hispanic heritage and a funky flair – during the All Souls Procession, November 7-8; and the Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair, December 11-13. Any given Saturday, head to Mercado San Augustin, shop for colonial crafts or quirky gifts, grab some sublime tacos from Seis, and listen to live music in the courtyard.

On the edge of town, two exciting new additions have landed at the Pima Air & Space Museum: a 787 Dreamliner, a “next generation aircraft” that boasts the latest advancements in aerodynamics and fuel efficiency; and the Joyce Corrigan Women in Flight gallery, which spotlights the aerial achievements of high-flying females.

- visittucson.org
- **Mercado San Augustin:**
100 S. Avenida del Convento,
mercadosanagustin.com
- **Pima Air & Space Museum:**
6000 E. Valencia Rd.,
520-574-0462, pimaair.org

BISBEE

The inaugural Mariachi Festival, November 7, spotlights sonorous guitarró, trumpets and folklorico dancers from Mexico and Arizona. The Bisbee After 5 Artwalk treats gallery-hoppers to local desserts on Nov. 14, while the Sidepony Express Music Festival trots into town November 13-15. Thanksgiving weekend brings Bisbee's Festival of Lights, Small Town Holiday shopping spree, and Bisbee Historic Home Tour and Chairs of Bisbee auction.

Throughout the year, explore Bisbee's dark side on an underground ride in the Queen Mine, a hair-raising ghost tour through historic haunts, and with a Guinness-hued Royal Stout at Old Bisbee Brewing Company.

- discoverbisbee.com
- **Queen Mine Tour:** 478 N. Dart Rd.,
866-432-2071, queenminetour.com
- **Old Bisbee Ghost Tour:** 520-432-3308,
oldbisbeeghosttour.com
- **Old Bisbee Brewing Company:**
200 Review Alley, 520-432-2739,
oldbisbeebrewingcompany.com



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