

Posted in [Arizona](#) | [Attractions](#) April 05, 2023 by [Monica Spencer](#)

## 10 Legitimately Fun Things You Can Do In Arizona Without Spending A Dime

Have any fun plans you're looking forward to this weekend, next weekend, or even next month? If the answer is, sadly, no, then you might want to check out this list for some ideas about things to do for free in Arizona. All of this [fun stuff in Arizona](#) is totally free; you just need to make sure to plan in advance for your visit. You won't regret it!

### 1. Hiking and nature walks.



Dave Bezaire/Flickr



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one of them is breathtaking!

**2. Get a bit of culture by visiting an art museum or concert in the park for free (on select days).**



TEDxPhoenix/Flickr

Most museums around the state sponsor free admission days! For example, the Phoenix Art Museum is admission-free on First Fridays, or on Wednesday afternoons (for basic admission - special exhibits require a ticket still). Meanwhile, places like the Tempe History Museum and the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff are always free (but make sure to double-check their websites for most up-to-date hours and closure information).



### 3. Check out a replica ghost town at Goldfield.



Bill in Arizona/Flickr

[Goldfield](#) is perfect to visit year-round, though we feel like it's the best during the milder months of the year. Walk around and explore to get a taste of what the Old West was like, and watch a couple of the live shows while you're there.



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#### 4. ...or, visit the real thing!



Mlhradio/Flickr

Visiting a real ghost town is free as well! One suggestion is [Fairbank](#), in southeastern Arizona, where you can see some old buildings still standing to remind you of a time that now seems so far away. It was first settled in 1881!

 Fairbanks, AK, USA

#### 5. Take a hike to see some very old ruins.






Cathy/Flickr

Places like [Canyon De Chelly](#) and Sycamore Canyon have well-preserved ruins that you can visit for free. Just remember when visiting to be respectful of the people who once lived there and the history they left behind: stay on designated paths, do not leave graffiti, and do not take anything from the area. Look, don't touch - and keep it amazing for generations to come. Make sure to double-check their websites for the most up-to-date hours and closure information while planning your trip.

 Canyon de Chelly, Canyon De Chelly, Arizona 86503, USA

 Sycamore Canyon, Arizona 86336, USA

**6. Spend some time at a "movies in the park (or on the square)".**





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Eric Harmatz/Flickr

Depending on where you live in the state, free movies in a public place is something you may find all year round (weather permitting, of course). Phoenix and Flagstaff are just two cities where movies-in-the-park are held, usually on weekends.

## 7. Pay a visit to a swimming hole, like Grasshopper Point.





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the week, or early in the day!

Grasshopper Point, Arizona 86336, USA

**8. Watch the stars way out in the wilderness, or from the planetarium at Mesa Community College.**









CEBImagery/Flickr

Other planetariums and other science museums also offer free admission days, just check ahead of time! One of our favorites is [Lowell Observatory](#), in Flagstaff.

-  Mesa Community College, 1833 W Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85202, USA
-  Lowell Observatory, 1400 W Mars Hill Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, USA

## 9. Pretend you're a tourist by exploring your hometown.





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JR P/Flickr

This is especially good if you haven't visited your town's historical district or main sights in a while, or at all. You don't know what you don't know, and you never know what's just waiting for you to find it!

**10. Walk the beautiful grounds of a historic church.**





Paucal/Flickr

Mission San Xavier del Bac in Tucson, Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona, the Islamic Community Center in Tempe, the Mormon temples in Mesa and Snowflake, and countless other fascinating historic churches offer free tours of their buildings at select times.

What are some other fun, free activities do you enjoy doing in our terrific state? Be sure to let us know your suggestions in the comments below, or on our [Facebook fan page](#).

If you're somehow still wondering, "what is there to do in Arizona" you should check out our list for more [fun things to do in Arizona](#).

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# FREE THINGS TO DO IN ARIZONA

March 13, 2021

*Tori Jane*

## What's a fun Arizona day trip?

- [Havasu Falls](#)

Well, that depends - what kind of things do you like to do? Arizona is a big place with big lists of possibilities. If you enjoy hiking, take your pick from any one of the literal thousands of trails all over the state. Whether you're a desert rat, a forest-dweller, a lover of the plains, or a connoisseur of mountains, you will find hundreds of trails to choose from in your ideal landscape. Some are short and simple, and others are long and strenuous. One of the best Arizona day trips is the stunning Havasu Falls near the Grand Canyon.

## Where are some budget-friendly places to stay in Arizona?

- Hotel DuBeau

There are tons of budget-friendly [places to stay in Arizona](#) if you're planning a visit. For example, in Flagstaff, Arizona, there's a hostel/motel called the Motel DuBeau that will provide a place for you to rest your head for much less than your average hotel room. It's a warm, friendly place with its own lounge and all the memories you could ever hope to make. Another option is choosing a local Airbnb in whatever town or city you plan to visit - there are hundreds of affordable options! It's fairly easy to do an inexpensive adventure trip in Arizona.

## What are some fun things to do in Arizona?

Where do we begin? Arizona is a state filled with incredible geology, amazing landscapes, awe-inspiring mountains, crystal-clear rivers and lakes, and so much more. Some of our favorite outdoor activities in Arizona include:

- Visiting [Saguaro Lake](#)
- Hiking any of the unforgettable [red-rock trails in Sedona](#)
- Camping in the seemingly-endless [Ponderosa Pine forests](#) of northern Arizona.
- [Tonto Natural Bridge](#) near Payson

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Posted in [Arizona](#) | [Attractions](#) July 28, 2015 by [Monica Spencer](#)

## Here are 16 Awesome Things You Can Do In Arizona... Without Opening Your Wallet

If you're waiting for payday to arrive but don't want to spend another day at home, here are a few free activities that we recommend checking out across the state.

*Please note, Arizona Capitol Museum and Show Low Museum are temporarily closed.*

### 1. African American Multicultural Museum, Scottsdale





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African American Multicultural Museum of Scottsdale/Facebook

Please note, African American Multicultural Museum has permanently closed.

Visit this small museum for free in the afternoons on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. They regularly change their exhibits, which focus on art and history.

## 2. Arizona Capitol Museum, Phoenix





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Gage Skidmore/Flickr

Get some insight on our state's history by booking a free tour at the museum housed in the Capitol Building. Also, parking at Wesley Bolin Plaza is free so you can save a few more dollars by parking nearby.

### 3. Arizona Military Museum, Phoenix







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Arizona Military Museum/Facebook

Located inside an adobe building at the Papago Park Military Reservation, this free museum hosts exhibits that focus on the wide ranging military presence in Arizona. They are open on weekends from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

#### 4. Browse a farmers' market





Al Case/Flickr

Farmers markets are gaining popularity across the state. Not only are they great places to find locally grown produce but you can also browse items made by local artisans and eat free food samples.

## **5. Drive (or walk) through historic neighborhoods**





Susan Robertson/Flickr

For example, the Willo District in Phoenix has some beautiful, though expensive, houses that may inspire you to build your own home. Also, plenty of these areas have special decorations they do during the holidays, so check them out!

## 6. Enjoy a hike in our amazing wilderness





Patrick/Flickr

While camping, hunting, and fishing require permits and fees, hiking is generally a free activity that you can do just about anywhere in the state. Just be sure to investigate your selected trail and the weather ahead of time, plus stay well hydrated!

## 7. Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial, Window Rock





Ron Cogswell/Flickr

A small park located at the foot of the town's namesake, it's a nice stop for a picnic and a quiet walk.

## 8. Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix





Kevin Spencer/Flickr

If you've been wanting to visit the art museum, you can get in for free on Wednesdays from 3:00pm to 9:00pm.

## 9. Pretend you're a tourist and go on a photowalk in your hometown





Nokton/Flickr

There's no better way of re-discovering your home than walking down the streets and taking photos of the sights. Take photos of things that interest you and upload them to Flickr or Instagram.

## 10. Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale





Dru Bloomfield/Flickr

Check out this art museum for free on Thursdays from 12:00pm to 9:00pm, and after 5:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

## 11. Show Low Museum, Show Low







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Photo via [showlowmuseum.com](http://showlowmuseum.com)

Learn more about the history of the area by visiting this small historical museum. They are open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

## 12. Stargaze any night of the week





Tyler Sichelski/Flickr

Winter is the best time to stargaze because the skies tend to be more clear but you can still do this throughout the year. Find a dark location outside the cities for the best results and make sure you install an astronomy app so that you can identify stars and planets above you.

### 13. Third Fridays, Phoenix





Devon Christopher Adams/Flickr

First Fridays has become too popular so avoid the crowds by browsing the local art scene on the third Friday of every month.

## 14. Visit your local library





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Pinal County Library District/Flickr

Arizona gets an unfair reputation for the state of our education but we have some amazing libraries. These are great places to not only find a book to read but they also regularly host community events.

## 15. Walk along the downtown area of any small town





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turcottes78/Flickr

Okay, we have some beautiful small towns and they are great places to spot artisan crafts and antiques.

## 16. Watch a sunrise or sunset anywhere





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marksontok/Flickr

It's impossible to turn down such an impressive sight for free!

What other free activities do you like to do in Arizona? Tell us in the comments below!

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