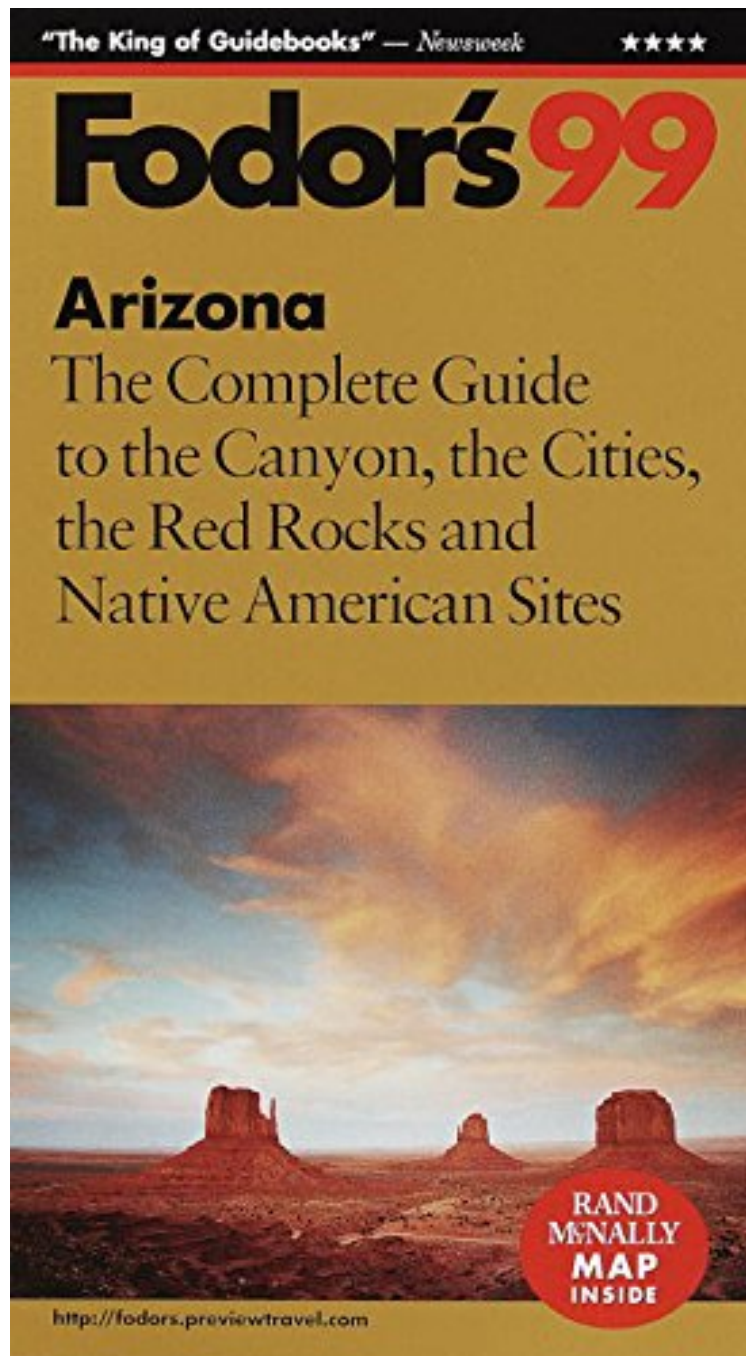


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Arizona '99: The Complete Guide to the Canyon, the Cities, the Red Rocks and Native American Sites (Fodor's Gold Guides)

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From the Publisher We've compiled a helpful list of guidebooks that complement Fodor's Arizona '99. To learn more about them, just enter the title in the keyword search box. Compass Arizona (4th Edition): A stunning, full-color guide to the character, culture, and history of Arizona, \$18.95. Compass Southwest (2nd Edition): A stunning, full-color guide to the character, culture, and history of the Southwest, \$18.95. The Southwest's Best Bed and Breakfasts (3rd Edition): Delightful places to stay and great things to do when you get there, \$16.50. Pocket Phoenix '99: Compact guide to the best of the city -- perfect for short visits, \$9. Mobil 99: The Southwest and South Central: America's favorite domestic series, famous for its encyclopedic listings, \$15.95. Mobil 99: Arizona: America's favorite domestic series, famous for its encyclopedic listings, \$12. Golf Digest's Places to Play in the Southwest (1st Edition): The results of the latest player ratings of 850 public and resort courses in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah, \$12. From the Inside Flap Experienced and first-time travelers alike rely on Fodor's Gold Guides for rich, reliable coverage the world over. Updated each year and containing a full-color, foldout Rand McNally map, a Fodor's Gold Guide is an essential tool for any kind of traveler. Smart travel tips and important contact info make planning your trip a breeze and detailed coverage of sights, accommodations, and restaurants give you the info you need to make your experience enriching and hassle-free. If you only have room for one guide, this is the one for you. Grand Canyon tips and tours, plus trips to Ancient Pueblo ruins, Navajo and Hopi reservations, national parks and monuments, ghost towns and copper mines Hiking, fishing, golf, riding, boating, and ballooning Where to stay and eat, no matter what your budget Top-notch French restaurants, eclectic American eateries, barbecue joints, classic Southwestern cafes Canyon-side resorts, dude ranches, pampering spas, adobe B&Bs, historic inns, and camping under the stars Fresh, thorough, practical -- off and on the beaten path Costs, hours, descriptions, and tips by the thousands All reviews based on visits by savvy writer-residents 31 pages of maps, great itineraries, and more Important contacts, smart travel tips Fodor's Choice What's Where Pleasures Pastimes, don't-miss activities New Noteworthy Festivals Background essays, further reading, videos to watch Complete index Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. This excerpt, from the Pleasures and Pastimes section, gives you a taste of what Arizona has to offer and the sights and scenes that make it a great place to visit. Ballooning If you're so inclined, floating in a balloon can be a delight. In both Phoenix and Tucson, pilots will take you up over metropolitan areas as well as the Sonoran Desert. Baseball The newly minted Arizona Diamondbacks are the big draw come April, but many fans come in March to watch professional teams warm up for the season in spring-training Cactus League games, most of them in the Phoenix area. The teams start their training camps as much as three weeks earlier. Free drills -- held in the morning before an exhibition game -- are fun to watch, and there's a good chance you might be able to chat with the players before or after these sessions. In some cases, reserved seats sell out each fall before the upcoming season, but you can almost always get general admission seats on game days. Boating and Lake Activities You may be surprised to find so many lakes in what most consider a desert state. In fact, Arizonans own more boats per capita than residents of any other state. The two national recreational areas, Glen Canyon (Lake Powell) in north-central Arizona and Lake Mead (including Lake Mohave) in the northwest, have marinas, launching ramps, and boat and ski rentals. At both lakes you can take a paddle-wheeler tour or take the wheel yourself in a fully equipped houseboat. Lake Havasu, fed by the Colorado River in the western part of the state, is another popular site for boating, waterskiing,

windsurfing, and jet-skiing. London Bridge, which was moved block by block from England and reassembled here, is a surreal vision at this lakeside resort. Saguaro and Canyon lakes, just east of Scottsdale, offer good boating and waterskiing for those based in the Phoenix area looking for a convenient day trip. Fishing Fish virtually jump out of Arizona's cool mountain streams, major rivers, and man-made lakes and are especially plentiful at Colorado River resorts. Rainbow, brown, brook, and cutthroat trout, as well as catfish, crappie, bass, pike, and bluegill, are the primary game. Trout are plentiful at Lees Ferry, and in lakes and streams throughout the White Mountains. Fishing licenses are required. Golf Your clubs certainly won't gather dust in Arizona. Aside from attending the big-draw Phoenix Open golfers flock to this state to tee off at the myriad top-ranked private and municipal courses. Year-round desert courses offer cheaper greens fees during the summer, while those in the northern part usually shut down for winter. Just about every resort has its own course or is affiliated with a private club. Hiking Throughout the state, hikers can choose from trails that wind through the desert, climb mountains, meander past supernal rock formations, delve deep into forests, or circumnavigate cities. Horseback Riding Traveling by horseback through the somewhat wild West or the scenic high country is perhaps the most appropriate way to explore Arizona. Stables offer a selection of mountain or desert trail rides lasting a half day, two days, or as long as two weeks. In northern regions the season is from May through October. If riding is the focus of your Arizona holiday, you might consider staying at a dude ranch, where you can saddle up every day. Native American Culture Attending Native American festivals and exploring the remains of earlier settlements can be a rewarding part of a trip to Arizona. As is the case with traveling anywhere, any effort made to enhance your understanding of local culture and history will enrich all aspects of your visit. Keep in mind, too, that when you enter a reservation you are, in effect, entering another country, one governed by different laws and customs. Obey all posted signs (some signs on the reservations look less than official, but they mean what they say) and ask at the reservation visitors center or check with local authorities if you have any questions. Rockhounding Arizona is rock-hound heaven, its deserts and mountains laden with a dazzling variety of rocks and minerals: agate, jasper, tourmaline, petrified wood, quartz, turquoise, amethyst, precious opal, fire agate, and more. The Department of Mines and Mineral Resources has a fine Mining and Mineral Museum as well as a rockhounding reference library. Remember, however, to inquire about restrictions before you fill your pockets. Taking rocks is illegal on the Navajo and Hopi reservations, for example. You can purchase rocks and minerals at specialty shops or at one of the state's year-round rock and gem shows. The largest shows are held in Quartzsite, about 19 mi from the California border, and in Tucson, generally from late January to mid-February. Shopping Many tourists come to Arizona for no other reason than to purchase fine Native American jewelry and crafts. Collectibles include Navajo rugs and sand paintings, Hopi kachina dolls (intricately carved and colorful representations of Hopi spiritual beings) and pottery, Tohono O'odham (Papago) basketry, and Apache beadwork, as well as the highly prized silver and turquoise jewelry produced by several different tribes. Skiing Cross-country and downhill skiing are winter pastimes in Arizona, even if its mountains don't quite match the scale of the Rockies. Flagstaff Nordic Center, Mormon Lake Ski Touring Center southeast of Flagstaff, the North Rim Nordic Center, and miles of crisscrossing trails around Alpine are good places for cross-country skiing. The three peaks of Sunrise Park Resort in the White Mountains are owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Indians and constitute the state's largest ski area. Other popular areas are Arizona Snowbowl near Flagstaff and Mount Lemmon Ski Valley near Tucson, the continent's southernmost ski slope.