SCOTTSDALE’S OLD TOWN is the beating heart of our city. It’s where U.S. Army Chaplain Winfield Scott put down his farming roots in 1888 and where Scottsdale residents and businesses thrived in the decades that followed. Today, the various walkable “districts” of Old Town Scottsdale are hubs for the city’s arts and cultural scene, nearly 100 fabulous dining and nightlife options, and highly favored shopping and lifestyle destinations.
OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE
Take one look at Old Town Scottsdale and it’s easy to see what makes the heart of our city so original. Nestled within nine walkable neighborhoods you’ll find a unique collection of shops, restaurants, galleries and nightclubs, as well as contemporary public art installations and historic sites from the late 1880s. It’s this effortless blend of chic urban amenities and Old West charm that gives Old Town its one-of-a-kind flair and makes it a can’t-miss stop on any Scottsdale itinerary.

TOP ATTRACTIONS
Scottsdale is a city filled with exciting things to do, and you’ll find some of our most popular attractions right in the heart of Old Town! Check out six of our top picks below, then visit ExperienceScottsdale.com for more ideas.

SCOTTSDALE FASHION SQUARE
Featuring Arizona’s largest assortment of luxury brands, upscale amenities, exclusive sales and events, and a central location in the heart of Scottsdale, Arizona. fashionsquare.com

SCOTTSDALE ARTISTS’ SCHOOL
Nurture your creative side with classes led by professional artists experienced in mediums like charcoal, drawing, sculpture, watercolor and more. scottsdaleartschool.org

WESTERN SPIRIT: SCOTTSDALE’S MUSEUM OF THE WEST
Rotating exhibits celebrate the art, history, culture and unique stories of the 19 states that comprise the American West. scottsdalemuseumwest.org

SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
SMoCA features the most compelling modern and contemporary art, architecture and design of our time from around the globe. smoca.org

SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
The Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts presents an exciting global calendar of dance, music, theater, comedy and film. scottsdalearts.org

SCOTTSDALE STADIUM
Every spring, Scottsdale Stadium is home base for the San Francisco Giants during Cactus League Spring Training. It’s MLB action at its finest! scottsdaleaz.gov/scottsdale-stadium

THE DISTRICTS
Old Town Scottsdale is the energetic heart of our city. In a little more than one square mile, you can explore nine easily walkable districts filled with art galleries, shops, restaurants, museums and nightclubs.

- ARTS DISTRICT
  Fine art galleries, wine-tasting rooms, Scottsdale’s Museum of the West, the Scottsdale Artists’ School and the Thursday night ArtWalk all call this district home.

- FIFTH AVENUE SHOPPING DISTRICT
  This long-time local favorite boasts dozens of unique shops, award-winning restaurants and the famous Bob Parks Horse Fountain.

- BROWN & STETSON DISTRICT
  This mixed-use district houses restaurants, bars and numerous hair salons, which may come in handy if you’re planning a night on the town in the Entertainment District.

- HISTORIC OLD TOWN
  This historic corner of Old Town is fun and funky, with a decidedl Old West Flair. Western-wear boutiques, Native American jewelry and historic sites are a few of the treasures you’ll find here.

- CIVIC CENTER PARK
  The park’s 21 acres of lush lawns and public art also house the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art and Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

- ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
  The laidback daytime energy of this district explodes after dark, with celebrity deejays, live bands and master mixologists showing off their talents at upscale nightclubs and bars. There’s even a swanky boutique bowling club offering craft cocktails and bottle service.

- SCOTTSDALE FASHION SQUARE
  The largest shopping destination in the Southwest, Fashion Square is home to more than 200 premium retailers, a Harkins luxury cinema and multiple restaurants.

- SCOTTSDALE WATERFRONT & SOUTHBRIDGE DISTRICTS
  These districts on the banks of the Arizona Canal, house some of the city’s most popular restaurants and boutiques.
HISTORIC SITES

In 1888, United States Army Chaplain and Scottsdale namesake Winfield Scott bought 640 acres of Sonoran Desert farmland in what is now the city’s Historic Old Town District. The price? A whopping $3.50 per acre. A lot has changed since then, but here are five places where Scottsdale’s rich history is still visible today.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE
The Little Red Schoolhouse was built in 1909 at a cost of $4,500. It had two classrooms as well as a lower level that was used for town meetings. Today, the Little Red Schoolhouse is home to the Scottsdale Historical Museum. scottsdalemuseum.com

RUSTY SPUR SALOON
The Farmer's State Bank of Scottsdale opened on Main Street in 1921 and closed during the Depression. Today, the building houses the Rusty Spur Saloon and the old bank vault holds liquor instead of money. rusty spur saloon.com

CAVALLIERE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP
George Cavalliere opened his first blacksmith shop “out on the edge of town” (corner of Second Street and Brown Avenue) around 1910. In 1920, he replaced the original tin structure with an adobe building that is still a working blacksmith shop owned and operated by the Cavalliere family. 480.945.6262

OLD ADOBE MISSION
This small white building, located on the southeast corner of First Street and Brown Avenue, was built in 1933. It is constructed of 14,000 adobe blocks that were made right on site. For many years this was Scottsdale’s only Catholic church.olphaz.org

SCOTTSDALE’S RODEO MUSEUM
The museum chronicles Scottsdale’s rodeo history, which dates back to the first Parada del Sol in 1953. On display are original Parada del Sol Rodeo posters, vintage riding gear and artwork by Kenneth M. Freeman.

COFFEE, WINE & ALE TRAILS
Scottsdale’s burgeoning coffee, wine and craft beer scene is celebrated throughout Old Town. Download free Scottsdale Coffee Trail, Ale Trail and Wine Trail maps at ScottsdaleGuides.com and discover some of our favorite places to go for caffeine, craft brews and Arizona wine.

PUBLIC ART

Discover eight of Scottsdale’s most beloved Public Art installations right in Old Town!

“THE DOORS” BY DONALD LIPSKI
What would it be like to stand inside a kaleidoscope? Find out when you venture inside this monumental work created from three 28-foot-tall mirrored panels.

“JACK KNIFE” BY ED MELL
This giant bronze of a cowboy on a bucking bronco gives a nod to Scottsdale’s Western heritage and the city’s official seal. You can safely cross into the intersection to take pictures by the sculpture.

“BRONZE HORSE FOUNTAIN” BY BOB PARKS
Created by Bob Parks, who owned an art gallery in town for 30 years, this piece showcases the beauty of five Arabian horses as they play in the fountain’s water.

“THE YEARLINGS” BY GEORGE-ANN TOGNONI
This monument to wild horses has become an icon of the free spirit of the American West and depicts three bronze yearlings galloping in full stride.

“ONE-EYED JACK” BY JOHN RANDALL NELSON
Inspired by tales of the legendary desert “pockalopec,” this 26-foot-tall painted sculpture hopped into Old Town in Sept. 2018. It is particularly striking at night when lit with a soft LED glow.

“PASSING THE LEGACY” BY HERB MIGNERY
This life-size bronze depicts a vintage Pony Express rider and a contemporary Hashknife Pony Express rider handing off the mail to show the “Old West” meeting the “New West.”

“KNIGHT RISE” BY JAMES TURRELL
This “skyspace” installation frames the sky as pure color and shows the changing light of the sky. The illusion created by this structure is most dramatic at sunrise and sunset.

“THE LOVE” BY ROBERT INDIANA
Conceived when the United States was consumed by the Vietnam War, Indiana’s “Love” sculptures became a symbol for peace. The sculpture is a favorite spot for taking pictures with the one you love.

“SOLERI BRIDGE & PLAZA” BY PAOLO SOLERI
Designed by the late Italian architect Paolo Soleri, the bridge demonstrates the importance of solar movement and features two steel-clad, 64-foot-high pylons that create a shaft of light, marking the time of day.

DOWNLOAD THE PUBLIC ART AND HISTORIC OLD TOWN WALKING TOURS AT SCOTTSDALEGUIDES.COM
OLD TOWN EVENTS

There’s always something fun happening in Old Town! From ArtWalks and Spring Training to exciting cultural celebrations, here’s a quick look at some of the special events you’ll find in Old Town throughout the year. For an up-to-the-minute calendar of Scottsdale special events, visit EventsInScottsdale.com.

*PARADA DEL SOL PARADE February

*SUNDAY A’FAIR Janurary – April

SPRING TRAINING February / March

ARTWALK

Thursdays year-round / 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
The weekly Scottsdale ArtWalk has been a Scottsdale tradition since 1975. Every Thursday evening (except Thanksgiving), the galleries of Old Town stay open late, welcoming buyers and browsers alike. Don’t miss the special Gold Palette ArtWalk events such as Western Spirit (Feb.), Native Spirit (March), Summer Spectacular (July) and Scottsdazzle (Dec.).

*denotes free event

ARTFEST OF SCOTTSDALE November

SCOTTSDALE CULINARY FESTIVAL April

SCOTTSDALE ARTS FESTIVAL March

BRAZILIAN DAY FESTIVAL September

*SCOTTSDAZZLE November – December

GETTING AROUND

In Scottsdale, transportation is more than just a way to get from here to there – it’s an experience in itself! Here are seven fun ways to get around town.

FLAG DOWN A GOLF CART

Golf-cart taxis are a fun way to get around Old Town, especially on busy weekend nights. Try JoyRidesAZ, which also offers guided Old Town, culinary and historic tours.
joyridesaz.com

RENT AN E-BIKE

As in, electric bike! Pedego Scottsdale rents battery-powered bikes that let you do as much – or as little – pedaling as you’d like.
pedegoscottsdale.com

HOP ON A SCOOTER

Scooters are an eco-friendly option for navigating Old Town. Lyft, Lime and Jump all have scooters available throughout Old Town. Download the apps, find a scooter and ride.
lyft.com / li.me / jump.com

TRY RIDE SHARE

Lyft and Uber provide round-the-clock service in Scottsdale, which is perfect if you planning to enjoy the bars and nightclubs in Old Town. Get the apps, then click, pay and go.
lyft.com / uber.com

TAKE THE TROLLEY

For a retro way to explore, hop aboard the free Old Town Trolley. The trolley runs daily from 10 a.m. to 9:25 p.m. with stops throughout Old Town. scottsdaleaz.gov/trolley

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