

HISTORIC OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE

A 60-MINUTE SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR





LEGEND

P PARKING LOT/GARAGE

— WALKING PATH

1 THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

Your walking tour begins at the Little Red Schoolhouse, now the home of the Scottsdale Historical Museum. The schoolhouse was built in 1909 at a cost of \$4,500. It had two classrooms for grades one through eight, as well as a lower level which was used as a church and for town meetings. Over the years, the building also served as a community center, City Hall and Justice Court, public library and Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce.

Walk west to Brown Avenue. Standing on the northeast corner of Brown Avenue and Main Street, you will be able to view the next several points of interest.

2 MEXICAN IMPORTS

Mexican Imports occupies a building originally built in 1923 as Johnny Rose's Pool Hall, which also doubled as a silent movie theater on Saturday nights – admission was five cents. A youngster without a nickel could get in free by helping pump the player piano. The white glazed bricks on this building are the original ones – they have never been painted or replaced. In the late 1920s a Chinese family acquired this building and opened a grocery store. A tiny sign under the porch roof still bears the name of the family patriarch, J. Chew. The family lived upstairs in rooms over the store. In the 1950s they turned their grocery store into the Mexican Imports shop.

Cross Brown Avenue.

3 PORTERS WESTERN SALOON

By 1928 Scottsdale was big enough to have a regular post office instead of just a corner inside Brown's general store. The first post office was this two-story building on Brown Avenue. The little annex on the right was not a part of the original building. On the second floor were two rental apartments. The mail came out from Phoenix twice a day and everyone gathered around the post office at mail time, visiting while the mail was sorted. Today, people gather and visit at the building's newest tenant, Porters Western Saloon, where craft cocktail specialties include the Sonoran Sunset and the aptly named Postmaster.

Walk north along Brown Avenue to First Avenue. Head west one block to the corner of First Avenue and Scottsdale Road.

4 SUGAR BOWL

Located on the southeast corner of First Avenue and Scottsdale Road, the Sugar Bowl is a long-time favorite among both residents and visitors. Originally constructed in 1950, the building first served as a general store that offered both retail and automotive services. In 1958, Jack Huntress, a former Chrysler executive, converted the building into the Sugar Bowl Ice Cream Parlor in response to the growing tourist trade and the need for a family oriented restaurant in downtown. The Sugar Bowl is still owned by the Huntress family today and continues to serve family-style food and tasty ice cream treats.

Walk south to Main Street. Turn left on Main Street and head east.

5 RUSTY SPUR SALOON

On the south side of Main Street, the Farmer's State Bank of Scottsdale opened in 1921 where the Rusty Spur Saloon is today. The bank closed during the Depression and the building housed several businesses, including the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, before reopening as the Rusty Spur in 1951. Today, the old bank vault holds liquor instead of money, and the Rusty Spur continues to thrive as Scottsdale's first and longest-running saloon.

Continue east on Main Street.

6 BISCHOFF'S SHADES OF THE WEST

For many years, the intersection of Brown Avenue and Main Street encompassed the entirety of downtown Scottsdale. Bischoff's stands on the site of Scottsdale's first general store and post office, built by J.L. Davis in 1897. In 1904 Sarah Thomas, originally from Wisconsin, purchased the store and asked her brother-in-law, E.O. Brown, to run the establishment. In 1920, the same year electricity came to Scottsdale, Brown added an ice plant that was run with a gasoline generator. In the 1940s, the old store and ice plant became the first arts and crafts center in the Valley, called the Arizona Craftsmen.

Turn right on Brown Avenue and continue south across First Street to the corner of Brown Avenue and Second Street.

7 OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE RODEO MUSEUM

Although the museum itself is a recent addition to Old Town, it chronicles the history of rodeo in Scottsdale, which dates back to the first Parada del Sol in 1953. On display in the free, volunteer-run museum are never-before-seen artifacts of Scottsdale's rodeo history, including original Parada del Sol Rodeo posters, artwork by the likes of Kenneth M. Freeman (once dubbed the "Rembrandt of Rodeo"), and vintage rodeo magazines, programs and photographs dating back to the 1950s. Other items include vintage riding gear, including a 100-year-old roping saddle and saddles from world-famous rodeo champions like Jake Barnes.

Cross Brown Avenue and turn left, heading north 1/2 block to the Old Adobe Mission on the southeast corner of Brown Avenue and First Street.

8 OLD ADOBE MISSION

This little white building, located on the southeast corner of First Street and Brown Avenue, was built with volunteer labor and donated materials in 1933 by Mexican settlers. Jesus Corral, a leader in the Mexican community, took charge of the construction. The building's 14,000 adobe blocks, each weighing 50 pounds, were made right on the site. Barnebe Herrera, a tinsmith, made the stained-glass windows. For many years this little church was the only Catholic church in Scottsdale.

Walk south on Brown Avenue to Cavalliere's Blacksmith Shop on the northeast corner of Brown Avenue and Second Street.

9 CAVALLIERE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

George Cavalliere, a blacksmith, brought his family to Scottsdale around 1910. He wanted to put his shop on Main Street, but the town leaders told him he would have to put it “out on the edge of town.” The original building was tin, and it was replaced by this adobe structure in 1920. The Cavallieres still own and operate the blacksmith shop, and now make ornamental wrought iron items as well.

Walk east on Second Street to Los Olivos Mexican Patio.

10 LOS OLIVOS MEXICAN PATIO

Los Olivos restaurant was established by the Corral family more than 70 years ago and was named for the historic olive trees along Second Street. This building was first a pool hall, then housed church meetings before becoming Los Olivos Mexican Patio. The Corral family has been in Scottsdale since 1917 and still runs the restaurant today, serving up authentic Mexican cuisine seven days a week.

Continue walking east. The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) will be on your left and the historic olive trees will be in the Second Street median to your right.

11 HISTORIC OLIVE TREES

Down the center of Second Street, and on Drinkwater Boulevard approaching Osborn Road, you will see several large olive trees. They were planted in 1896 by Chaplain Winfield Scott, the founder of Scottsdale, to enclose a 40-acre orange grove. On April 29, 2011, one of these historic trees on Second Street was dedicated as Arizona's first Centennial Witness Tree, meaning it was providing shade on Statehood day, Feb. 14, 1912. Today these olive trees serve as hearty symbols of Scottsdale's agricultural beginnings.

12 SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) was designed by award-winning architect Will Bruder, who combined new architecture with an ingenious renovation of an old movie theater. The movie theater, built in the early 1970s, showed one-dollar movies until it closed in the mid-1990s. Instead of destroying the old theater to pave the way for SMoCA, Bruder incorporated the old building into his architectural plan for the new museum, which today houses five galleries for showcasing changing exhibitions and works from the museum's growing permanent collection. Visit smoca.org or call 480-874-4666 for more information.

As you exit SMoCA, the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts will be directly in front of you. Turn left and walk north a few paces – the Center's entrance will be on your right.

13 SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Designed by renowned architect Bennie Gonzales, the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts offers a wide range of entertainment dedicated to fostering the cultural interests of Valley residents and visitors. The center houses the 853-seat Virginia G. Piper Theater, the more intimate 137-seat Stage 2 theater, gallery exhibition space and a gift shop, The Store. Admission to the gallery and The Store is free. For more information, including performance schedules and to purchase tickets, call 480-499-TKTS or visitscottsdaleperformingarts.org.

14 SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY (CIVIC CENTER BRANCH)

The Scottsdale Public Library was started in the summer of 1955 by Lou Ann Noel and Beth Fielder. The Civic Center branch was originally an un-airconditioned, adobe house open for just two hours, two mornings a week, with a collection of 300 donated books. These days the library's *Scottsdale Room* houses a large reference collection of works related to the history, literature, life and culture of Scottsdale, Arizona and the Southwest. The branch is also home to the popular public art installation, “Imagination Gives Us Wings” by Larry Kirkland. Call 480-312-2474 for more information.

Walk north on the path to the Scottsdale City Hall.

15 SCOTTSDALE CITY HALL

In the center of the building is the “Kiva,” a Pueblo Indian word for a room that is built below ground for council meetings or ceremonies. City Council meetings, board and commission meetings and other activities are held in the Kiva. The stained glass ceiling above signifies the Kiva's opening to the sky.

Interested in learning more about Scottsdale history?

Check out these resources:

Scottsdale – Jewel in the Desert
by Patricia Meyers

*Historic Scottsdale: A Life from
the Land*
by Joan Fudala

In Old Arizona
by Marshall Trimble

*Winfield Scott: A Biography of
Scottsdale's Founder*
by Richard Lynch

Scottsdale Historical Society
scottsdalemuseum.com

Visit These Other Scottsdale Historic Sites

Site of the Original Scottsdale High School

Indian School Road at Drinkwater Boulevard

The school opened in 1923 and closed in 1983. In its heyday, it was home to the Scottsdale “Beavers.”

Titus House*

1310 N. Hayden Road

This is Scottsdale’s oldest residence, built in 1892. Today, the house is a private residence.

Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin West

12621 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard / 480-860-2700

This masterpiece was built by the legendary Frank Lloyd Wright in 1937 as an architectural school and winter home. Taliesin West is open to the public.

Kerr Cultural Center

*6110 N. Scottsdale Road
480-596-2660*

This adobe building was constructed in 1948 and served as the home and studio of the late Louise Lincoln Kerr. Today, the center hosts a year-round calendar of performing arts presentations.

Scottsdale Artists’ School*

*3720 N. Marshall Way (at the site of the old Loloma School)
480-990-1422*

Built in 1928, this building is now home to the Scottsdale Artists’ School, which offers a year-round calendar of fine art classes and exhibits.

Scottsdale Airport

15000 N. Airport Drive

This facility served as the Thunderbird II Primary Training Facility and was used for training World War II pilots from 1942-45. Today, Scottsdale Airport is one of the busiest single-runway facilities in the nation, with more than 161,000 operations (take-offs and landings) each year.

Huhugam Ki Museum

10005 E. Osborn Road (on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community) / 480-362-6320

This museum displays art, crafts and artifacts from the Pima and Maricopa people.

**Indicates sites where a Scottsdale Historical Plaque is installed.*

