

ARIZONA

A publication of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns | Fall 2016

# CITY & TOWN



## A Day at the Museum

Exploring Arizona's Rich Diversity of Museums



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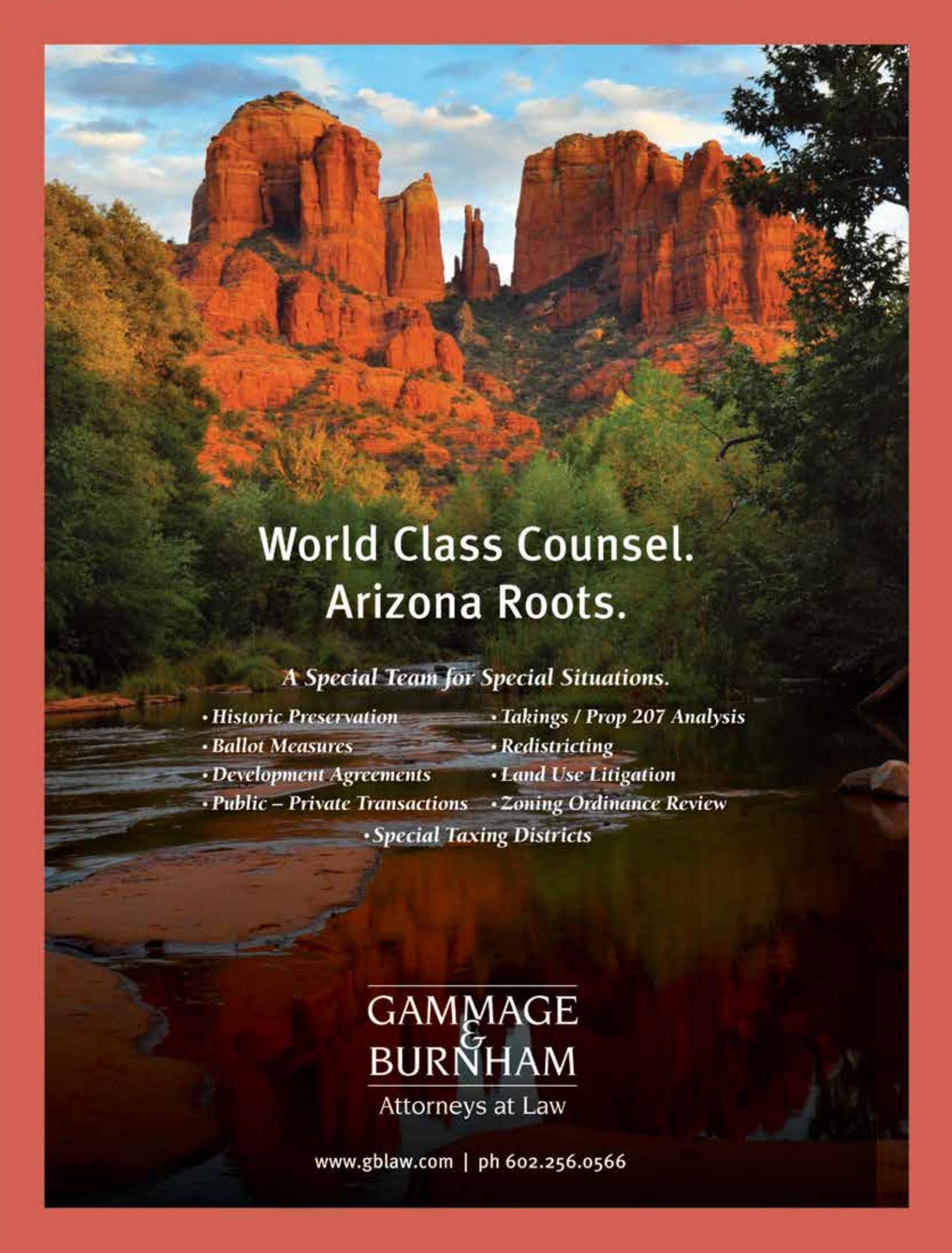


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## How's the Weather in Your Town?



There's a well-known quote about weather that goes something like this: "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it."

The weather has been the subject of a lot of talk this year with several of our record highs falling in various parts of the state, and there is the constant concern over wildfires that can spread quickly in dry conditions and cause devastating results.

But for the most part, Arizonans have very little quarrel with the weather although we still talk about it quite a bit. Throughout the desert areas, we expect it to be hot in the summertime, just like Minnesotans wouldn't be surprised to find cold temperatures in the winter. And we certainly make up for the hot times of the year with our state hosting many of those northern U.S. and Canadian visitors as snowbirds.

Arizona's terrain, vegetation and animal life are all well-adapted to our climate, as are we humans. During the summer and autumn months, I have the opportunity to travel around the state visiting with municipal officials in cities and towns and talking about various activities of the League, including our legislative successes and challenges, our educational programs and conferences, and the other services we offer, so I get to see a lot of our state's territory.

I always find it enjoyable to get out on the highways and meet with people in their own communities. Our state is full of fascinating natural wonders, great places to eat (!) and terrific people. Every city and town has its own personality and style. And unlike many other areas of the country, inclement or life-threatening weather is rarely a factor in Arizona.

I thank you for the privilege of working on your behalf at the League, and I look forward to seeing you in my travels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Strobeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Strobeck  
Executive Director

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# A Day at the Museum

## A Journey of History, Culture and Art

Arizona's cities and towns boast a wide array of museums, from the quirky and unique to the world-renowned. There is no better time to take the kids or gather some friends and explore the historical artifacts, art and unique histories of our great state.

In this edition of *Arizona City & Town*, we bring you the range of museums that our cities and towns in Arizona have to offer. Let us be your guide through just a few of these points of interest. Hopefully, we can pique your interest in a museum in your own backyard, as well as some destinations to visit in your travels around Arizona. You could even navigate an Arizona road trip as you take advantage of the culture and history all around us. And who better than the incredible volunteers, curators and historians of these museums to facilitate your journey through time, history and art?

### How to Best Utilize This Magazine

The following pages highlight exciting museums of interest from across our great state. However, this is only a partial listing, and there are many more we were not able to fit into this issue. To see a more comprehensive listing of museums listed by region, please visit our AZ Cities @ Work website ([www.azcitieswork.com](http://www.azcitieswork.com)). Additionally, we invite you to post pictures of your visits to these museums and tag us @AZCities (Instagram) and @AZCitiesWork (Twitter). Be sure to use #AZDayAtTheMuseum in all of your posts! Show us what you learn, and enjoy the culture, history and art in our museums in Arizona's cities and towns!

## Central Arizona

When visiting central Arizona, there are many incredible opportunities to visit esteemed museums and cultural institutions. As you begin your history and culture adventure, we suggest taking a look at the **Challenger Space Museum** in Peoria. A unique twist on the traditional museum, this facility was designed by fifth-graders who were asked, "What would you like to see in a space center?" This institution offers several noteworthy exhibits including a two-hour flight simulation and a permanent model of communications satellites. There are plenty of fun and exciting activities for the young and those who share a passion for the mysteries of space exploration.

**"Rock and roll music, if you like it, if you feel it, you can't help but move to it. That's what happens to me. I can't help it."**

— *Elvis Presley*

Explore the world through music at the **Musical Instrument Museum** (MIM) in Phoenix. This unique museum, which displays more than 6,500 instruments from every country in the world, is ranked as Phoenix's number-one attraction on TripAdvisor and the fourth "Best Museum for Families" nationwide by *USA TODAY Travel*. Be sure to visit the Experience Gallery, where guests of all ages can play a variety of instruments, and the Artist Gallery, which

features exhibits dedicated to John Lennon, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Taylor Swift and more!

For those who are looking for unique architecture and works of art in one location, the **Heard Museum** in central Phoenix has much



Challenger Space Museum in Peoria. Photo courtesy of Challenger Space Museum



The Heard Museum in central Phoenix. Photo courtesy of Heard Museum



The 30-foot-long art fence, "Indigenous Evolution," by Rosemary Lonewolf (Santa Clara Tewa) and Tony Jojola (Isleta) greets visitors at the entrance of the Heard's signature exhibition, *HOME: Native People in the Southwest*. Photo courtesy of Heard Museum



El Rio forms the spine of the Musical Instrument Museum and serves as a main gathering place for museum patrons. Photo courtesy of MIM



The Bear Tracks statue greets patrons entering the Western Spirit: Museum of the West in Scottsdale. Photo courtesy of Bill Timmerman



Entrance to the World's Smallest Museum in Superior. Photo courtesy of World's Smallest Museum



Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. Photo courtesy of MIM

to offer. Since 1929, the Heard Museum has enchanted visitors from around the world with the art, culture and history of indigenous peoples of the Americas with an emphasis on tribes and other cultures of the Southwest. With more than 40,000 fine artworks and cultural artifacts in its permanent collection, several long-term and changing exhibit galleries, an education center, an award-winning shop and courtyard café, the Heard Museum is a place of learning, discovery and unforgettable experiences.

Scottsdale is home to the **Western Spirit: Museum of the West**, which features regularly changing exhibits of Western art and artifacts, entertaining events, and informative programs bringing the country's Western heritage to life. The architecturally stunning 43,000-square-foot museum has a number of exhibits highlighting Southwestern art and history.

A fun option for children is the **i.d.e.a. Museum** in Mesa. Named for imagination, design, experience and art, "the i.d.e.a. Museum offers so many wonderful hands-on activities where children, parents, grandparents and friends can create and learn together," said i.d.e.a. Museum Executive Director Sunnee O'Rork. For young visitors who are under four years of age, ArtVille — a socks-only space — provides a variety of stimulating activities. Children of all ages will find the HUB filled with activities that encourage creative thinking and promote design principles. Hands-on exhibitions in both the HUB and ArtVille aim to engage families and expose young minds to art, design and science.

For a quirky detour, stop by the **World's Smallest Museum** in Superior to see the self-acclaimed smallest museum. Measuring in at 134 square feet and built into a Tuff Shed, this miniature museum features several exhibits set behind glass, including a 1984 Compaq home computer and a letter from President John F. Kennedy to the museum owner. Conveniently, this museum is next to a local diner, which is also owned by museum managers. Stop in for a bite to eat before continuing through your museum journey.



A mother and daughter create art together in the HUB gallery, which includes a variety of hands-on art and design activities to encourage creative thinking. Photo courtesy of i.d.e.a. Museum

## Southern Arizona

The **Jewish History Museum** of Tucson is one of the newer museums on our list, opening its doors in 2008 and later opening the Holocaust History Center. Housed in the first synagogue built in the Arizona territories, this museum has collections ranging from historic Jewish figures from the territory settlements that became Arizona to those who survived the Holocaust and relocated to Arizona. It also features textiles from and photographs of influential Jewish Arizonans. There are many informative and stunning opportunities to learn more about what Jewish Arizonans have contributed to the shaping of our state, both in past and present.

**Pima Air and Space Museum**, also in Tucson, is a great opportunity to learn about both small and large aircraft. Ranging from World War II planes to space exploration aircraft, this institution offers more than 150 aircraft for viewing in its outdoor exhibit. During the hot summer months, the museum even offers night hours for cooler temperatures to explore the outdoor plane exhibits. It's sure to feed the child in anyone as you rediscover the intricacies of air flight and exploration.

**“Everyone has oceans to fly, if they have the heart to do it. Is it reckless? Maybe. But what do dreams know of boundaries?”**

— *Amelia Earhart*

Traveling farther south, you will find the **Titan Missile Museum** in Sahuarita. Here you can journey through time to the Cold War space race and the historic Titan II missile site, the only remaining site of

the Titan II missiles. This museum offers viewers a unique look at the technology used to deter nuclear war and a rare opportunity to view an intercontinental ballistic missile operational site.

Continuing the theme of military history in southern Arizona, we now highlight the **Fort Huachuca Military Intelligence Museum**. This museum exhibits the exciting story of espionage, intelligence and intrigue. The MI Soldier Heritage Learning Center teaches the history of U.S. military intelligence from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom. These stories are conveyed via audio/video displays and remarkable artifacts, including a three-panel section of the Berlin Wall and an enigma machine, one of the cipher devices that played a pivotal role in World War II.

The **Cowbelles Museum** and **Arizona Rangers Museum** are two institutions offered out of the historic 1904 courthouse in Nogales, Arizona. Highlighting two important aspects of southern Arizona history, the Arizona Rangers Museum focuses on the territorial Arizona rangers through modern day Arizona Rangers, and the Cowbelles Museum offers exhibits highlighting the contributions of women in early ranching history. And as they share a building, you can enjoy two museums and sets of exhibits in one stop!

The final stop on our southern Arizona museum tour is the **Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum**. Once known as the “Queen of the Copper Camps,” Bisbee holds a legacy that continues in its architecture and landscape, which are complemented by this unique and interesting museum. The museum houses exhibits ranging from the mineral heritage of Bisbee, an exhibit crafted by Smithsonian designers, to the history of electricity’s influence on this town, which was once the largest town between San Francisco and St. Louis.



A piece of the Berlin Wall on display at the Fort Huachuca Military Intelligence Museum Soldier Heritage Learning Center. *Photo courtesy of the City of Sierra Vista*



World War II gas masks on display at the Fort Huachuca Military Intelligence Museum. *Photo courtesy of the City of Sierra Vista*



Constellation Square at the Pima Air and Space Museum. *Photo courtesy of Pima Air and Space Museum*



Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson. *Photo courtesy of Pima Air and Space Museum*



Control Center inside the Titan Missile Museum. *Photo courtesy of the Titan Missile Museum*



Long Cableway inside the Titan Missile site. *Photo courtesy of the Titan Missile Museum*



Titan II ICBM on display at the Titan Missile Museum. *Photo courtesy of the Titan Missile Museum*

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## Prescott, Verde Valley and Rim Country



Rough Riders at the Fort Whipple Museum.  
*Photo courtesy of Sharlot Hall Museum*



The Copper Art Museum is housed in the former Clarkdale High School building. *Photo courtesy of Copper Art Museum*



Displays inside the Fort Whipple Museum, which include medical instruments, Army weaponry, maps and photographs. *Photo courtesy of Sharlot Hall Museum*



Outside of the Sharlot Hall Museum and Cultural Center. *Photo courtesy of Sharlot Hall Museum*

Traveling north, we come to the Verde Valley and the **Copper Art Museum** in Clarkdale. Opened in December 2013, the museum features an absolutely amazing collection of over 5,000 copper artworks from the 1500s to present day, with an emphasis on American and Western European works of art. The museum dovetails perfectly with Arizona by telling the copper story of our state and the famous towns of Clarkdale, Cottonwood and Jerome, where copper was king. The museum shows just what happened to the 125 billion pounds of copper Arizona has produced in seven distinctly different displays: Information, Military Art, Art and Architecture, Religious Art, Cooking, Drinking, and a Winery and Distillery room.

The **Rim Country Museum**, in Payson, Arizona, has preserved the history of the Zane Grey cabin and local history archives. Due to the Dude Fire destruction of the historic Zane Grey cabin, the current cabin is a reconstruction that preserves local history. The impacts of forest fires regionally are highlighted in exhibits, along with the impacts of women in the settlement of Arizona. Enjoy

strolling through the grounds and learning more about the many issues and legacies that make the Rim Country so special!

In Prescott, Arizona, the **Fort Whipple Museum** demonstrates early Arizona territory history of the fort, which was established in 1864. The museum traces the history of Fort Whipple with living history programs and exhibits that include medical instruments, Army weaponry, the Buffalo Soldiers, maps, photographs and memoirs written by those stationed there.

Fort Whipple Museum is hosted by **Sharlot Hall Museum and Cultural Center**, located nearby in Prescott. Named for its founder, Sharlot Mabridth Hall, well-known poet, activist, Arizona historian and politician, this museum first opened its doors in 1928. As one of our older museums in this tour, Sharlot Hall Museum offers extensive living history programming, archives and library resources, lectures, and even a folk music venue. Enjoy looking through both of these important institutions in Prescott that highlight significant moments in Arizona history.

“No beggar she in the mighty hall where her bay-crowned sisters wait; No empty-handed pleader for the right of a free-born state; No child, with a child’s insistence, demanded a gilded toy; But a fair-browed, queenly woman, strong to create or destroy. Wise for the need of the sons she has bred in the school where weaklings fail; Where cunning is less than manhood, and deeds, no words avail; With the high, unswerving purpose that measures and overcomes; And the faith in the Farthest Vision that builded her hard-won homes.”

– Sharlot Hall, from her poem, “Arizona”



Rough Riders at the Fort Whipple Museum. Photo courtesy of Sharlot Hall Museum



The Sedona Heritage Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo courtesy of Sedona Heritage Museum

The **Sedona Heritage Museum** is a step back in time. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Sedona Heritage Museum tells stories of area pioneers, the golden age of movie-making in Sedona, cowboy life and the once-thriving local orchard industry. Children are engaged with a visit to the Kids Korral activity center, a free scavenger hunt with prizes or an activity book. A full calendar of special events is on the museum website. The gift shop specializes in items by local artisans, movies made in Sedona and books. Located in a beautiful 4-acre city park with public art and picnic tables, the museum sits high up with wonderful views and a rural setting just outside the uptown shopping district.



An old homestead, the Sedona Heritage Museum showcases displays of early life inside. Photo courtesy of Sedona Heritage Museum



Inside the Art and Architecture display room of the Copper Art Museum in Clarkdale. Photo courtesy of Copper Art Museum

## Northern Arizona

From canyons to snow-capped mountains, northern Arizona has many diverse points of interest. The **Old Trails Museum** in Winslow, Arizona, offers the opportunity to explore the history and cultures of Winslow and the surrounding area. Exhibit highlights include original objects, photographs, textiles and oral histories donated by current and former Winslow residents. Enjoy perusing through this historic bank building and its many points of interest.

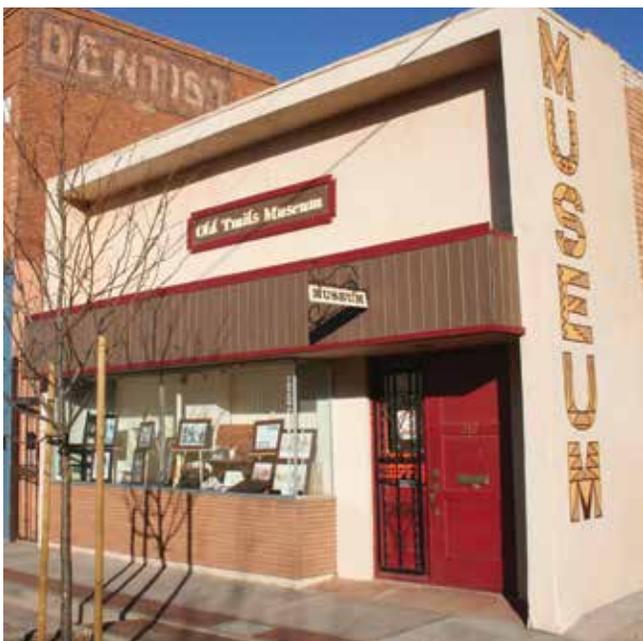
Nationally renowned for its work on the peoples of the Colorado Plateau, the **Museum of Northern Arizona** in Flagstaff is a must-see. With a special installation of a new sculpture by Hopi artist Dan Namingha, there is always something new and exciting to interact with at the Museum of Northern Arizona. The museum was founded in 1928 by Harold S. Colton and Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton and was originally established to protect and preserve the natural and cultural heritage of northern Arizona through research, collections, conservation and education. The museum has evolved into a regional center of learning with collections, exhibits, educational programs, publications and research projects serving thousands of people each year. The 200-acre museum campus includes an exhibit building; research labs; and state-of-the-art collections facilities for more than 5 million Native American artifacts, natural science specimens and fine art pieces. The Museum of Northern Arizona is recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, its first-rate exhibitions and festivals, and its renowned Native American Shop. The museum offers a variety

“We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture many things.”

— John Wesley Powell

of public programs, including lectures, readings, and hands-on activities for both children and adults.

Our final stop in northern Arizona is the **Powell Museum** in Page, Arizona. This museum was founded to collect, preserve and interpret the history of John Wesley Powell, the City of Page and the Colorado Plateau. From the cultural history of the Anasazi-Hisatsinom people through current Native American cultures of the Colorado Plateau, there are hands-on opportunities to learn about the history of peoples in this region. Additionally, you will find an extensive collection of the history of the Colorado River and John Wesley Powell’s expeditions in 1869 and 1871. Featuring historical documents, artifacts, geology and artwork, this museum is sure to inform and entertain!



Above: Photograph on display of the Winslow Locomotive 205 at the Old Trails Museum. *Photo courtesy of Old Trails Museum*

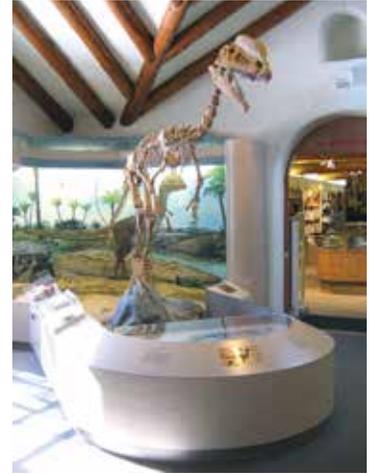
Left: The Old Trails Museum in Winslow. *Photo courtesy of Old Trails Museum*



The renowned Native American Shop within the Museum of Northern Arizona. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Northern Arizona*



Artifacts on display at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Northern Arizona*



The Museum of Northern Arizona has evolved into a regional center of learning. *Photo courtesy of Museum of Northern Arizona*

## Eastern Arizona

Heading back east, you will find the **Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum**, housed in the Bullion Plaza School in Miami, Arizona. The museum tells the rich history of the area in cattle ranching and mining, as well as Gila County's history of ethnic diversity with the Slavic and Mexican exhibits. Exhibits also show the area's history of community service that began with Arizona's first governor, W.P. Hunt, and Arizona's first woman governor, Rose Mofford. The second floor is planned to focus on the diverse ethnic heritage of the area, with 12 exhibit galleries and a theater that will bring together the stories of the people, places and events of Miami-Globe history. This institution continues to develop over its 17-year history and is a great example of the rich history in eastern Arizona.

The **Stinson Pioneer Museum** in Snowflake, Arizona, houses artifacts and pictures from the early days of Snowflake, from prehistoric Indians to 19th century pioneers. Included on display is the loom used by Lucy Hannah Flake to weave cloth and rag rugs. Two rooms have been restored to depict the living conditions of the early pioneer families. This unique museum offers an

exciting opportunity to re-enter early pioneer life and experience how families lived in the early Arizona territory.

**“We have met the challenges of the past together. We have shared in the determination of our State's future. Let us share in the trials that confront us. Let us share in the joy of victory and success. Let us share in a bipartisan effort to bring the people of our State prudence, protection and prosperity. Let us share in making Arizona the greatest State in the greatest Nation in the world.”**

— *Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford, from her opening message to the second regular session of Arizona's 39th Legislature, January 8, 1990*



The Bullion Plaza Museum is housed in the Bullion Plaza School of Miami. *Photo courtesy of Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum*



The Bullion Plaza Museum showcases the rich history of copper mining in Miami. *Photo courtesy of Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum*

## Colorado River

A tour of Arizona's museums would not be complete without exploring the cities and towns along the Colorado River. Our journey in this region begins with a stop at the **Lake Havasu Museum of History**. The museum contains 13 permanent exhibits with new temporary exhibits displayed in a center section. The permanent exhibits feature the early history of the area's indigenous people, the exploration and importance of the Colorado River, the development of Lake Havasu City by founder Robert P. McCulloch, the London Bridge and more. New temporary exhibits are installed monthly and include everything from the history of early business in Lake Havasu City to contributions by local artists.

Farther south along the Colorado River is the **Yuma Territorial Prison**. This museum has preserved an important piece of early territory history through exhibits and stories of the territorial prison's most notorious inmates. Additionally, several notable films were shot

on this historic site, and the museum offers the prison in Hollywood exhibit to illustrate the role of this landmark in cinematic history.

For the historic Route 66 fan, Kingman, Arizona, offers the **Historic Route 66 Museum**, which is sure to dazzle the avid connoisseur of this iconic route's history. The museum has organized a scavenger hunt, ideal for kids, to find key bits of information throughout the museum facilitating learning and enjoyment. Enjoy memories, or learn the history, from a bygone era when the car was king and our nation was connected by character-filled historic highways.

There are many more exciting museums across Arizona that are highlighted in our extended online version of this article, so be sure to visit [www.azcitieswork.com](http://www.azcitieswork.com) to see more information about each of the museums listed here as well as many additional opportunities to pique your interest for art and history in this great state, Arizona. ■



Outside the Lake Havasu City Museum. *Photo courtesy of Lake Havasu City Museum*



The display inside the Lake Havasu City Museum tells the tale of how the London Bridge came to Arizona. *Photo courtesy of Lake Havasu City Museum*



Inside the Route 66 Museum in Kingman. *Photo courtesy of the City of Kingman Tourism Department*



Cars of all eras on display at the Route 66 Museum in Kingman. *Photo courtesy of the City of Kingman Tourism Department*



The Buckeye Bullet on display at the Route 66 Museum in Kingman. *Photo courtesy of the City of Kingman Tourism Department*



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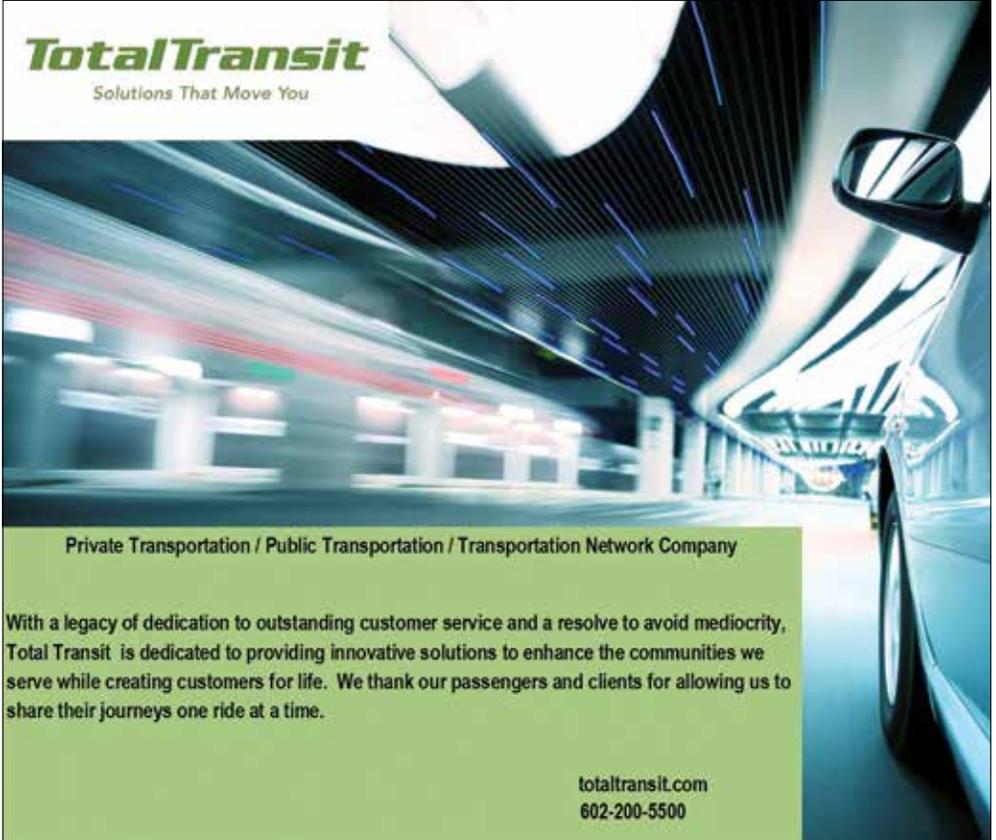


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