



**TOURISM**

**MESA, AZ**

*THE OPTIMAL TOURISM DESTINATION*

Welcome to Mesa, Arizona, the nation's 37th largest city, and an integral part of one of the most dynamic regions in the country. With countless places for new discoveries, competitive sports, wild-west adventures and farm-to-table cuisine, Mesa is a city that knows no bounds. From urban to rural, mountain peak to desert floor, arts and culture to wildlife and nightlife, each and every guest is given unparalleled access to one of the richest arrays of visitor offerings in the country. A geographic wonderland, Mesa borders the Tonto National Forest and the iconic Superstition Mountains, allowing visitors to experience the wide-open and true Arizona vacation.



# Mesa Offers Amazing Amenities

Mesa, Arizona currently boasts 72 hotels and more than 5,600 rooms, representing accommodations in the major brand categories including Best Western, Choice Hotels, Hilton, Holiday Inn, Hyatt, La Quinta, Marriott, and Sheraton, plus accommodations rich in tradition and southwestern hospitality like the Arizona Golf Resort.

Mesa's unique venues offer one-of-a-kind meeting facilities that are sure to impress. In Downtown Mesa, just 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, the Mesa Convention Center is a full-service meeting and event facility. The center offers 19,000 square feet of exhibit area with an additional 19,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. Fifteen meeting rooms offer a wide variety of sizes and configurations and the adjacent 275-room Delta by Marriott Phoenix Mesa makes accommodations easy. The Mesa Amphitheatre is part of the Center and is ideal for casual concerts, events, and small or large gatherings of up to 4,950. Visit Mesa offers complimentary services and assistance to meetings and event planners, helping streamline the planning process.

Mesa's neighbor, Phoenix, is America's fifth-largest city. A panorama of urban sophistication, the Phoenix-Mesa metro area is sprinkled with resorts and spas that soothe souls, state-of-the-art stadiums and arenas worthy of the world's biggest sports spectacles, thousands of restaurants with inspired cuisine, and hundreds of golf courses that beckon players year-round. The Phoenix Convention Center contains nearly 1,000,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space.



➤ Located in Mesa, Las Sendas Golf Club is one of the premier golf courses in the Phoenix-Mesa metro.

Mesa is a golfer's paradise. Practice your putt on one of Mesa's many world-renowned golf courses set against the natural beauty of rugged mountains and blue western skies. Mesa offers a setting for golf enthusiasts second to none.

## MESA, ARIZONA IS AN AWESOME CITY FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

"What makes Mesa an awesome city for outdoors lovers like me? Lots as I discovered... including easy access to the Lower Salt River, four lakes within spitting distance, the world-class, unbelievably scenic Apache Trail, mountain and road biking, hiking trails with attendant bird life and wildlife in both the Superstition Mountains and Userly Mountain Regional Park...and skies so dark that with the right telescope you can see the rings of Saturn."

/// // // — Leigh McAdam, HikeBikeTravel

## BUSTLING MESA HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

"This Maricopa County gem is a bustling city (larger than the cities of Cleveland, Atlanta, and Miami) with a small-town, throwback vibe. It's characterized by farm-to-table excursions, recreational opportunities that span spectacular mountains, sprawling deserts, and sparkling lakes, kitchy ghost towns, modern craft breweries..."

/// // // — Flash Parker, USA Today

## THE GOURMET OASIS IN THE ARIZONA DESERT YOU HAVE TO TASTE TO BELIEVE

"From freshly pressed olive oil to peach pie to fruits and veggies galore, the Mesa Fresh Foodie Trail is a culinary mother lode just outside Phoenix."

/// // // — Liza Weisstuch, Budget Travel

# Easy Access



Mesa is strategically located with access to an abundance of freeways, two airports, a light rail mass transit system, and freight rail service via Union Pacific and BNSF.

## ► AIRPORTS

Mesa boasts two airports – Falcon Field and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway – each offering a diverse portfolio of aerospace/aviation, defense, and other high-tech industries, plus the operations to support activities such as cargo, maintenance and repair operations, and research and development.

### Falcon Field Airport (FFZ)

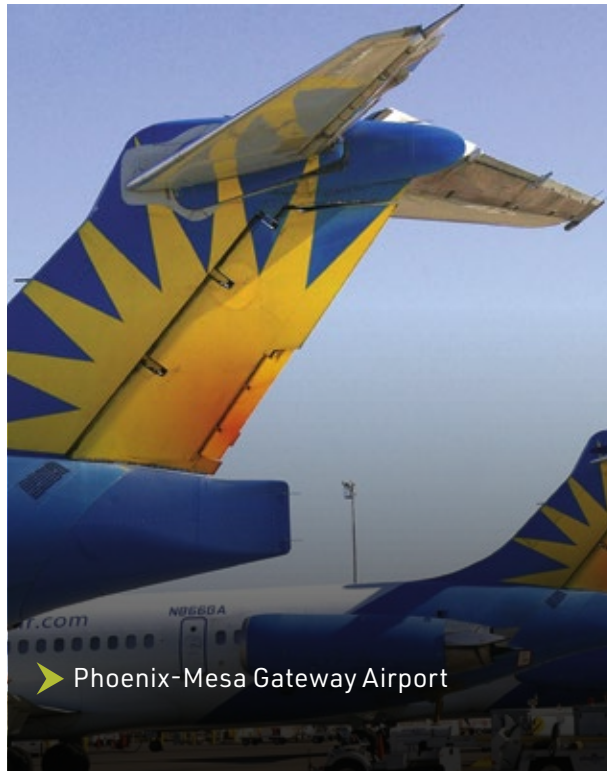
- Falcon Field Airport is owned and operated by the City of Mesa and is one of the most active general aviation airports in the United States in terms of based aircraft and annual aircraft operations.
- More than 130 businesses are based at Falcon Field Airport, including The Boeing Company (Apache Helicopter), MD Helicopters, and CAE Oxford Aviation Academy.
- Falcon Field Airport contributes \$811 million to the Arizona economy.

### Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (IWA, AZA)

- Allegiant Air, Sun Country Airlines, Swoop, Flair, and WestJet fly to nearly 60 destinations in the U.S. and Canada.
- Today more than 1.5 million people live within a 30-minute drive of Gateway Airport with another one million expected in the next decade.
- In 2022, Gateway Airport served nearly 1.9 million commercial passengers.
- Gateway Airport contributes \$1.8 billion annually to the Arizona economy.

### Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

- 44.3 million passengers (2022)
- 9th busiest airport in the U.S.



► Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

## ► VALLEY METRO LIGHT RAIL

The 28-mile Valley Metro Light Rail mass transit system extends from central Phoenix through the Sky Train at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Downtown Tempe, continuing on to Downtown Mesa carving past three museums, ASU @ Mesa City Center, Benedictine University's Mesa campus, the renowned Mesa Arts Center, numerous retail shops, restaurants, coffee shops, bars, yoga studios, and distinctive boutiques and businesses.

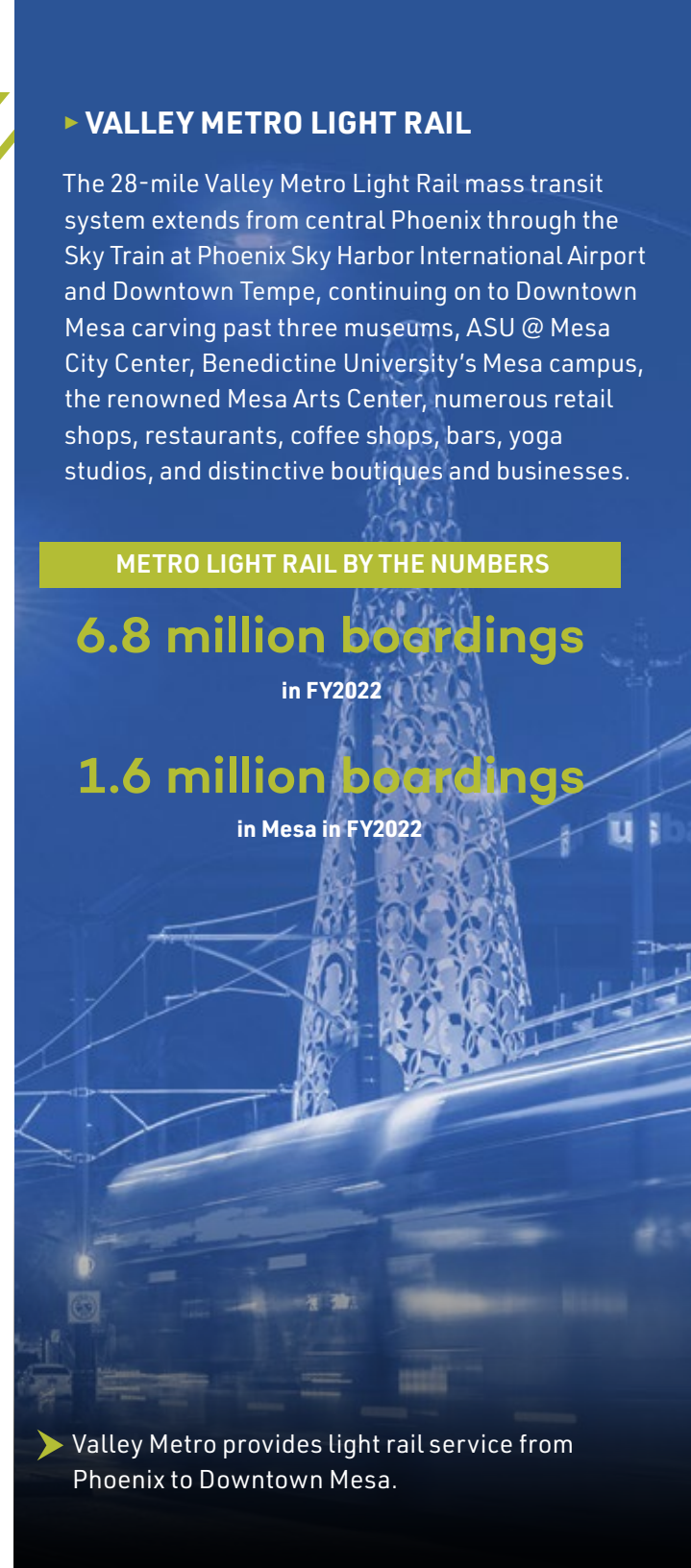
### METRO LIGHT RAIL BY THE NUMBERS

**6.8 million boardings**

in FY2022

**1.6 million boardings**

in Mesa in FY2022



- Valley Metro provides light rail service from Phoenix to Downtown Mesa.

# By the Numbers

## ► THE ARIZONA VISITOR, 2022

- 40.19 million overnight visitors
- \$28.1 billion in direct travel spending
- \$3.98 billion in tax revenue
- 179,100 jobs created through travel spending

Source: Arizona Office of Tourism

## ► THE MESA VISITOR, 2022

- 1.1 million overnight visitors
- \$710 million in direct travel spending
- 5,260 hospitality jobs supported
- 4.2 days, average length of stay
- \$113.45, average daily rate
- \$78.81, RevPAR
- 69.5%, occupancy rate

Source: Visit Mesa

# Mesa Events

Mesa serves as the host for a variety of exciting and unique events, including:

- Asian Festival
- Chicago Cubs & Oakland A's Cactus League Spring Training
- Copperstate Fly-In Aviation & Expo
- CycloMesa
- Dia de los Muertos Festival
- El Tour de Mesa
- Mesa Festival of the Arts
- Mesa Film Festival
- Mesa Music Festival
- Mesa Sprint Triathlon
- Mesa Marathon
- MLK Celebration, Parade and Festival
- NJCAA National Women's Golf Championship
- Notre Dame Clover Cup
- Ping Heather Farr Classic
- Roy Track Memorial Mesa Pow Wow
- Southwest Maker Fest
- Spark Youth Media Festival
- VisitMesa.com Basketball Challenge
- WAC Baseball Tournament



## ► MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS

- Adobe Dam Regional Park
- Buckeye Hills Regional Park
- Cave Creek Regional Park
- Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant
- Estrella Mountain Regional Park
- Hassayampa River Preserve
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park
- Maricopa Trail
- McDowell Mountain Regional Park
- Papago Park
- San Tan Mountain Regional Park
- Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area
- South Mountain Park and Preserve
- Vulture Mountains Recreation Area
- White Tank Mountain Regional Park
- Usery Mountain Regional Park



# Major Phoenix-Mesa Metro Venues

## **SLOAN PARK\***

Chicago Cubs Spring Training

*Capacity: 15,000*

## **HOHOKAM STADIUM\***

Oakland Athletics Spring Training

*Capacity: 10,000*

## **SUN DEVIL STADIUM**

Arizona State University Football

*Capacity: 53,599*

## **DESERT FINANCIAL ARENA**

Arizona State University men's and women's basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, wrestling

*Capacity: 14,198*

## **FIESTA BOWL BLOCK PARTY**

Largest New Year's Eve celebration in Arizona

*Downtown Tempe*

## **FOOTPRINT CENTER**

NBA Phoenix Suns, WNBA Phoenix Mercury, Arizona Rattlers Arena Football, as well as concerts, conventions, travel shows

*Capacity: 17,071*

## **STATE FARM STADIUM**

NFL Arizona Cardinals, NFL Super Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, NCAA Final Four, AMA Supercross, Monster Jam, expos, concerts, special events

*Capacity: 72,000*

## **CHASE FIELD**

MLB Arizona Diamondbacks, Cactus Bowl, concerts, tradeshows, special events

*Capacity: 48,519*

## **LEGACY SPORTS COMPLEX\***

320-acres, 8 baseball/softball fields, 19 basketball courts, 24 soccer/football/lacrosse fields, 57 indoor volleyball courts, 12 beach volleyball courts, 41 pickleball courts, 22 indoor soccer courts and more.

## **RAWHIDE WESTERN TOWN**

Arizona's largest Western themed attraction hosts multiple special events throughout the year.

## **WILD HORSE MOTORSPORTS PARK**

450-acre motorsport racing complex hosting major spectator events including National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) drag races, motocross, drag boat racing and other water sports, as well as concerts, festivals, carnivals, and other special events.

## **PHOENIX RACEWAY**

NASCAR Cup Series Championship Race, NASCAR racing school, music festivals, special events

*Capacity: 42,000*

## **TOURNAMENT PLAYERS CLUB OF SCOTTSDALE**

Waste Management Phoenix Open

*Attendance for 7-day event: 700,000+*

*Late Jan/Early Feb*



## **PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER & VENUES**

1,000,000-square-foot meeting and exhibit space. Named one of the top 10 convention venues in the United States.

## **WESTWORLD OF SCOTTSDALE**

386 acres, 300,000+ square feet of exhibit space, 11 arenas. 70+ events annually including the Barrett Jackson Auto Show and Auction (Jan), the Arabian Horse Show (Feb), rodeos, festivals, and special events.

*Annual Attendance: 500,000+*

## **ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL**

50-acre village, 16 stages, 5,000 seat arena, arts and crafts fair, jousting

*Average Annual Attendance: 250,000*

*Feb through early April*

## **DESERT DIAMOND ARENA**

Professional Bull Riders (PBR) events, sporting events, concerts, special events

*Capacity: 19,000*

\*Located in Mesa.

# Popular Mesa Attractions

## ► MESA ARTS CENTER

The Mesa Arts Center (MAC) is a unique, architecturally stunning, international award-winning facility located in the heart of Downtown Mesa. The MAC is Arizona's largest arts center and home to four theaters. The Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) Museum is an exciting visual art exhibition space on campus. In five galleries, MCA Museum showcases curated and juried exhibitions of contemporary art by emerging and internationally recognized artists. The MAC Store, also on campus, is a tribute to local artists creativity and offers shoppers live demonstrations of watercolor and oil painting, pottery, metalsmithing, jewelry making, and much more. [www.MesaArtsCenter.com](http://www.MesaArtsCenter.com)

## ► ARIZONA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Nestled in the heart of Downtown Mesa, this is the premier natural history museum of Arizona. A "must see" for dinosaur lovers, the main attraction is Dinosaur Mountain, with animatronic dinosaurs, a 3-story indoor waterfall and flash flood that happens every 30 minutes. Take a tour through time and have a selfie with a T.Rex. If dinosaurs are not your interest, then pan for gold, take a stroll through a mock village of ancestral Sonoran Desert people, or discover civilizations further afield like the Maya or Aztec.

[www.ArizonaMuseumOfNaturalHistory.org](http://www.ArizonaMuseumOfNaturalHistory.org)

## ► i.d.e.a. MUSEUM

Mesa's i.d.e.a. Museum provides a unique experience for all families and focuses on three key pillars: supporting early learning, nurturing creative thinking, and engaging families. Through art exhibitions and STEM-focused activities, children of all backgrounds are certain to enjoy a meaningful, stimulating experience at the i.d.e.a. Museum. [www.ideaMuseum.org](http://www.ideaMuseum.org)



## ► NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Mesa and the surrounding area are home to many popular natural attractions, including the Superstition Mountains, Apache Trail, Salt and Verde Rivers, Urey Mountain Regional Park, and area lakes. From awe-inspiring hiking trails to fun boat tours of surrounding lakes, Mesa provides many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the beautiful Arizona landscape.

[www.VisitMesa.com/things-to-do](http://www.VisitMesa.com/things-to-do)

## ► AUTISM CERTIFICATION

In 2019, Mesa became the world's first Autism-certified city after being awarded the designation by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. Over the course of the year-long initiative led by Visit Mesa, about 60 businesses and 4,000 total community members completed the autism certification training. Mesa is proud to be an inclusive, exciting place for ALL families to visit, explore, and spend valuable time together. [www.VisitMesa.com/autism-travel](http://www.VisitMesa.com/autism-travel)

## ► MESA FOODIE TRAIL

The Mesa Foodie Trail is a great way to get out and experience some of the excellent local food and drink stops that Mesa has to offer. In partnership with several neighboring cities, the Foodie Trail is a collection of local farms and agritourism attractions certain to connect locals and visitors to the food produced right here in Arizona. With activities ranging from family farm tours to wine tastings, there is surely an experience out there for everyone to enjoy. [www.visitmesa.com/things-to-do/farms-agritourism](http://www.visitmesa.com/things-to-do/farms-agritourism)

# Major League Baseball — Arizona Cactus League

The Arizona Cactus League has been in existence since 1947 and contributes an estimated \$644 million annually in economic impact in the state of Arizona.

The Arizona Cactus League includes the following teams:

- Arizona Diamondbacks
- Chicago Cubs (in Mesa)
- Chicago White Sox
- Cincinnati Reds
- Cleveland Guardians
- Colorado Rockies
- Kansas City Royals
- Los Angeles Angels
- Los Angeles Dodgers
- Milwaukee Brewers
- Oakland Athletics (in Mesa)
- San Diego Padres
- San Francisco Giants
- Seattle Mariners
- Texas Rangers

➤ Chicago Cubs Spring Training at Sloan Park in Mesa

## CHICAGO CUBS

The Chicago Cubs Spring Training Facility at Mesa Riverview includes fixed seating and berm style seating for 15,000 fans. Sloan Park now holds the Top 12 spots for largest single-game crowds in Cactus or Grapefruit League history.

## OAKLAND ATHLETICS

The Oakland Athletics also train in Mesa at Hohokam Stadium and Fitch Park. Hohokam Stadium has a capacity of 12,500.

## SPRING TRAINING LETS BASEBALL FANS HAVE A BALL IN ARIZONA

“The Cubs Sloan Park — a miniature Wrigley Field with its iconic red marquee, brick backstop and steel-framed light towers — have helped transform Mesa, Ariz., into a Chicago-themed baseball mecca year-round.”

— Charlie Vascellaro, Chicago Tribune



➤ Sheraton Mesa at Wrigleyville West



➤ Hiking the Superstition Mountains

# Empowered to Help Build Your Business



The City of Mesa Office of Economic Development works closely with clients throughout all phases of the development process and looks forward to helping you build and grow your company in Mesa.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

-  Mesa-Economic-Development
-  MesaEconDev
-  Mesa Business Builder
-  CityofMesa

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