



# The Happy Trails Epitaph

*Happy Trails to Arizona - a Destination Gathering for 2011*

## Y'all Come ♦♦♦

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A great big warm Arizona Howdy from your hosts of the Happy Trails to Arizona - a Destination Gathering in 2011! Our posse is saddled up and hard at work rounding up the many things necessary to make this a right fine affair.

We invite y'all to saddle up, dust off those boots and hitch your wagon on down to Litchfield Park - not too fer from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. As we venture out on this trail drive, we'll be bringing you various news items for you to "cut the deck deeper" (gain more information), and tell you a bit about your hosts, (in alphabetical order) the Arizona Village Collectors, the Desert Villagers and the Southwest Villagers; as well as give you places of interest to visit should you have the time. Arizona truly is an amazing destination and we want you to have the opportunity to enjoy all of it.

From one of the Seven Wonders of the World - the Grand



*Movie poster from Tombstone, filmed at the famous Old Tucson Studios.*

this district. And if you like Western's (the Duke comes rushing to mind) - we have Old Tucson Studios where some of the greatest Western's were filmed - such as Rio Bravo, MCLINTOCK!, El Dorado, Rio Lobo, Have Gun Will Travel, Hombre, episodes of Bonanza, Death Valley Days, High Chaparral, Gunsmoke, the Mark of Zorro, the New Maverick (1978) as well as Little House on the Prairie, the Three Amigos, Billy the Kid, The Young Riders, Tombstone, Magnificent Seven, and Gunfight at the OK Corral (2003) just to name a few.

We have the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Fort Apache, casino's, and a wee bit of Dickens...the reconstructed London Bridge at Lake Havasu City.

That's just a taste of what awaits you in Arizona...

Canyon, to the historic ghost and mining towns of Jerome, Prescott and Bisbee - oh and don't forget Tombstone - *the Town too Tough to Die* and home of the famed gunfight at the OK Corral. We've also got historic Route 66, the natural beauty of Lake Powell, Colossal Cave, Kartchner Caverns and Sedona; the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States - Mission San Xavier del Bac, is used daily by the Tohono O'odham Indians who live and worship in



## Arizona History



**F**rom our history books, the State of Arizona is the sixth most extensive of the 50 states of the United States of America.

Arizona is located in the Southwestern United States and it is noted for its desert climate, exceptionally hot summers, and mild winters; but the high country in the north features pine forests and mountain ranges with cooler and wetter weather than the lower deserts.

In 1539, Franciscan friar Marcos de Niza explored the northern area of El Nuevo Reino de Galicia including the portion that is now southeastern Arizona.

The Governor of Nueva Galicia, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado,

explored the area himself the following year in search of the mythic riches of Quivira and Cibola. Jesuit priest Eusebio Francisco Kino established a chain of missions in the area from 1691 to 1706. In 1821, the Arizona area became part of the newly independent Mexico.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave most of the Arizona area to the United States. On September 9, 1850 this area became part of the new Territory of New Mexico. On June 24, 1853, the Gadsden Purchase added a strip of Mexico to the southern extent of the Territory. On February 24, 1863, the United States created the Territory of Arizona. Arizona joined the Union as the 48th State on February 14, 1912.

In the 1900s, Arizona almost entered the Union as part of New Mexico in a Republican plan to

keep control of the U.S. Senate. The plan, while accepted by most in New Mexico, was rejected by the vast majority of those living in Arizona.

Progressives in Arizona favored inclusion in the state constitution of initiative, referendum, recall, direct election of senators, woman suffrage and other reforms. Most of these proposals were included in the constitution that was submitted to Congress in 1912.

President William Howard Taft insisted on removing the recall provision (because it would allow recall of judges) before he would approve it. It was removed, Taft signed the statehood bill on February 14, 1912, and state residents promptly put the provision back in.

In 1912 women gained suffrage in the state.

Yes, but  
it's a  
**Dry**  
Heat...

**A**rizona's weather can be as fickle as Mother Nature herself, but the key is to make sure you stay hydrated. With the exception of our summer monsoons, we have a very dry climate (with humidity in the single digits).

The average temperatures in the Phoenix area for **September** are:

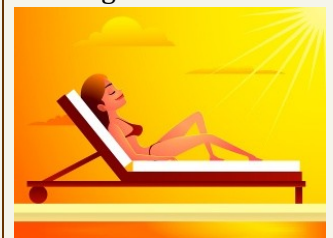
Average high: 99°

Average low: 72°

And the averages for **October** are:

Average high : 88°

Average low : 61°



# Accommodations for Y'all

**W**e didn't want y'all to have to unroll your bedrolls under a saguaro out in the desert, so we've found you an ace-high place to tie up yer trusty steed and rest for a spell. Ya have to admit—they beds look mighty soft.

The Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa is an intimate retreat that blends casual elegance with the charm of authentic Arizona. A one-of-a-kind resort destination with a spirit all its own, the Wigwam features 331 guest casitas including 72 suites crafted from traditional territorial adobe architecture surrounded by lush landscaped walkways, fragrant citrus tree-lined enclaves and floral and rose gardens. Offering an unforgettable experience to reconnect and escape the hustle and bustle of daily life, the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa is located in Litchfield Park, Arizona in the West Valley of greater Phoenix.

*Fer the feller's:* The Wigwam is home to the only 54 holes of golf in the Southwest, and features three champion-ship golf courses including the Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed Gold and Blue Courses. I have to tell ya, I don't even play golf, and this course makes me want to learn, It is beautiful!

*Fer the ladies:* A signature Red Door Spa... ooooh, you can just relax those worn out tootsie's from your long journey and enjoy a wonderful massage poolside!

If yer hungry, there is Red's Steakhouse (which is AAA Four Diamond rated) and the

legendary Arizona Kitchen. Those vittles will be sure to get yer mouth to waterin'.

When Good-year Tire and Rubber Company discovered that long-staple cotton extended the life of the tire, the company purchased 16,000 acres of Arizona land in 1916 to begin cultivating cotton. The first building on the site was established in 1918 by sales reps supplying equipment to the ranchers, and was known as the "Organization House." Many of the guests staying on business suggested that it would be a great place to spend a winter vacation. Goodyear executives agreed, and on Thanksgiving Day in 1929 "The Wigwam" officially opened its doors as a guest ranch with enough rooms for 24 guests. A portion of the original structure remains as the cornerstone of The Wigwam's authenticity and southwestern charm.



*"Authentic Arizona™ - An Unparalleled Experience awaits you at the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa..." Pictured above is the entrance to the resort.*

In addition, there is 48,000 square-feet of indoor meeting space with 25 separate meeting rooms and outdoor meeting space that spans over five acres. Yer gonna love it!

*Reserve your spot:* To book your fabulous, authentic Arizona experience, We've rustled up a great rate of \$125/night (plus them pesky taxes)!! Call the Wigwam at (623) 935-3811 or (800) 327-0396 and mention **"Happy Trails to Arizona"** or enter the following code **HA129A** if you book on line for the great rate at [www.wigwamresort.com](http://www.wigwamresort.com).



*Pictured above: One of the 331 Guest Casita's on the property. Pictured right: a small glimpse of the beautiful rose gardens.*

## Experience Arizona...

We invite you to take some extra time either before or after you make the Happy Trail to Arizona to visit the beauty and diversity of the Grand Canyon State.

In this section we will be



providing information on the various tours that will be available through our gathering, as well as interesting

things you may want to see or do on your own. Arizona has so much to offer! I was born here, and have lived most of my life here and I still haven't been everywhere or seen everything we have!

We'll give you tidbits and insider information to booking your trips and tours and hope that this won't be the only happy trail visit y'all make!

From culture to Cowboys, to canyons and monuments, to the Mother Road—Route 66, to the fabulous Valley of the Sun—Phoenix, well give you a down-home slice of Arizona!

But first, let's get ya here! If yer not hitchin' yer wagon or saddling up, yer gonna want to fly! You'll fly into Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, which happens to be one of the ten busiest in the nation and among the top 20 busiest in the world. On a typical day:

- More than 1,200 aircraft arrive and depart
- More than 100,000 passen-



gers arrive and depart

- More than 600 tons of air cargo is handled (*check out their website [www.phxskyharbor.com](http://www.phxskyharbor.com)*)

Once you deplane, you'll either want to rent a car, so you can see all of these fabulous places we're gonna tell you about, or take a SuperShuttle (much more cost effective than a taxi) to the Wigwam. We'll bring you more information about that as well.

We'll also post this information on our website. We're so excited about this and we're looking forward to your visit!

## We're on the Web!



Yes'm, we've gotten all technological and gotten ourselves on this newfangled thing called the internet!

We'll be posting these newsletters, updates, tour information,

registration for the gathering and all kinds of great stuff!

You can find us off the Southwest Villagers web site at [southwestvillagers.com](http://southwestvillagers.com) and click on the link, or on

the [happytrailsaz.com](http://happytrailsaz.com) site.

Bookmark us and check frequently! And if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

## Your Hosts



Your Hosts for this fine affair are the Arizona Village

Collectors, the Desert Villagers and the Southwest Villagers.

The **Arizona Village Collectors** were founded in December 1991 in Tucson, Arizona. Members consisted of avid collectors who had the fever, vendors and employees of vendors. We have met in homes, banks and insurance agencies.

Currently we have 15-16 dues paying members and meet at Amphi Bible Church in February, May and September. In November, we have our potluck at the Volk's Christmas House. Our philanthropic projects are vignettes for Ronald McDonald House, Casa de Los Niño's, and

the downtown YMCA; we also provide cash donations to the Navajo Nation and Amphi Bible Church. Programs consist of speakers, demonstrations, and hands-on to name a few.

The **Desert Villagers** are a small local club located in the Phoenix Metro area, dedicated to the pursuit of collecting and displaying Department 56 and miscellaneous seasonal villages.

Their Club just celebrated their 10th anniversary and is still very active. Some of the clubs activities include Newsletters, Display Tips, Make and Take projects, and Open House Tours. Oh Yeah— they eat a lot of vittles too!

The **Southwest Villagers** have been around for over 15 years and meet throughout the year with either an event or meeting scheduled for the

second Sunday of the month.

Their workshops are always fun and informative, with many members sharing their display techniques. Two contributing writers for Village D-Lights magazine are members and often share their "tips and tricks" for building beautiful village displays.

Their local meetings are sometimes sit-down potluck meals, where members are encouraged to bring their favorite dishes to share, while at other meetings, members bring their favorite snacks to share. You can usually count on there being tasty treats on hand at all of our meetings. We open our doors, and encourage, visitors to join us and learn more about the fun associated with collecting!

Their community outreach program is Hospice of the Valley.

## Arizona Tidbits

It's difficult to know where to begin to tell you how Arizona is so unique. So here are some fun facts about this here place.

*Did you know...*

- mail is still delivered by mule in Havasupai, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon?
- Sierra Vista, the "Humming-bird Capital of the United

States" - boasts more species than any other state?

- The world's largest antique, London Bridge, is located in Lake Havasu City? This is the only object or place in the United States that has World War II damage to it. (It was damaged in London prior to moving to Lake Havasu.)
- Prescott, Arizona is home to the World's Oldest Rodeo, which dates back to

1888?

- It would take more than 4.8 million pennies to equal the amount of copper used on the roof of the Arizona Capitol building.

