

After Hours

TRAVEL

Phoenix, Arizona

WITH 211 DAYS OF SUNSHINE, Phoenix is considered the sunniest major city in the US. Coupled with its easy access to a host of premier resorts, golf courses and other outdoor amenities, it's no surprise it's a favourite among retirees looking to escape winter's chill. Located in south central Arizona, this metropolitan area is also gaining favour with the younger set. Case in point: the average age of its 4.6 million residents is 36. With multiple residential construction developments in the downtown core over the past few years, the city now boasts 7,000 new multifamily units and more are coming.

With a gross domestic product that's outpacing the national average, the city is attracting more and more technology, financial services and healthcare sector companies setting up branches throughout Greater Phoenix. According to commercial real estate investment firm CBRE's annual Tech-Thirty list, Phoenix ranked second only to San Francisco for strongest tech-sector job growth in all of North America in 2016.

The city ranks 13th out of the top-50 meeting places in the US, with a 900,000-sq.-ft. convention centre located downtown and 450 hotels in the Greater Phoenix area. Branded America's friendliest airport, Phoenix Sky Harbor International offers flights from 100 national and international destinations.

Facts for investors

1 KEY BUSINESS High-tech manufacturing, tourism and construction are the city's major industries.

2 A TOP DESTINATION Almost 27 million people visited Greater Phoenix in 2016.

3 A FOCUS ON HEALTH Aside from rapid tech-sector growth, the city is carving

a niche in medical instrumentation and cancer care. Mayo Clinic opened its fourth primary care clinic there in 2016.

4 SPORTS-MINDED Phoenix is one of the few US cities with franchises in all four major professional sports (NBA, NHL, NFL and MLB). It also hosts spring training for the Cactus League, which encompasses 15 major league baseball teams.

5 IT KEEPS GROWING In 2015, the city approved a plan to invest US\$31 billion over the next 30 years in expanding its light-rail system and other public transport to prepare for anticipated growth.

Leisure tips for travellers

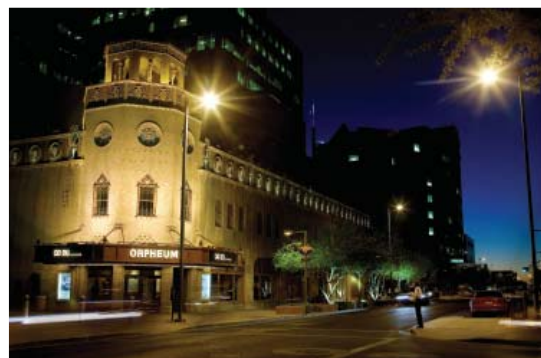
1 FLY ZONE FOOD 75% of restaurants at the airport are locally owned, making it a favourite destination even for non-travellers.

2 ALL ABOUT THE ART Downtown's Roosevelt Row Arts District was named one of *USA Today's* 10 Best City Arts Districts in America in 2014. Visitors can tour more than 70 galleries and arts-related spaces, with free shuttle service the first Friday of every month.

3 DESERT MUSEUM Phoenix is home to the Desert Botanical Garden, which features more than 50,000 cacti and other outdoor plant displays.

4 TAKE A HIKE Boasting 80 km of trails through the Sonoran Desert, South Mountain Park and Preserve is the largest municipal park in the US and only minutes from the city.

5 EASY TRANSIT In addition to the light-rail system, which provides access from the airport to downtown, there is a bike-share program throughout the city for easy travel. — *Rosalind Stefanac*



Photos courtesy of Visit Phoenix

GREATER PHOENIX, ARIZONA

POPULATION: 4.6 million (2016)

GDP: US\$220 billion

GDP GROWTH: 4.2% (2015)



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:
US\$55,547 (2015)

SALARIES HAVE INCREASED by 2.6% in
2016 from 2.1% in 2013

PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH
over the next decade is 15.2%,
compared with the national projected
growth of 9.2%



PHOENIX, ARIZONA