

Survival Guide to the Phoenix/Scottsdale Area

AIRPORT

For starters, if flying in, the main airport is Phoenix Sky Harbor airport (PHX), said to be the “friendliest airport in America.”

TRANSPORTATION

While the airport is pretty large, most likely you’ll find yourself in Terminal 3 or 4. Both of these terminals have easy-to-find pickup locations for taxis. As well as a designated “Uber/Lyft pickup location.” In my experience, Uber is about HALF the price of a commercial cab.

However, Arizona is A LOT more spread out than most cities. (My ex claimed it was one of the largest cities in the US in terms of square mileage.) As such, you might consider renting a car. Right now, it looks like rates are about \$22/day:

[https://www.orbitz.com/carsearch?dagv=1&subm=1&fdrp=&styp=1&locn=Phoenix,%20AZ%20\(PHX-Sky%20Harbor%20Intl.\)&loc2=Phoenix,%20AZ%20\(PHX-Sky%20Harbor%20Intl.\)&date1=06/02/2017&date2=06/04/2017&vend=&kind=1&time1=700AM&time2=600PM&ttyp=2&acop=2&rdus=10&rdct=1&dpln=5785680&olat=33.43512&olon=-112.01034](https://www.orbitz.com/carsearch?dagv=1&subm=1&fdrp=&styp=1&locn=Phoenix,%20AZ%20(PHX-Sky%20Harbor%20Intl.)&loc2=Phoenix,%20AZ%20(PHX-Sky%20Harbor%20Intl.)&date1=06/02/2017&date2=06/04/2017&vend=&kind=1&time1=700AM&time2=600PM&ttyp=2&acop=2&rdus=10&rdct=1&dpln=5785680&olat=33.43512&olon=-112.01034)

While Fox, Dollar, and Thrifty usually have the lowest rates, there’s sometimes a REALLY long line to pickup the cars. If you want to avoid waiting on line, you might consider spending a few extra bucks and going with a company like Alamo (since they have kiosks, there’s usually no wait).

Pro tip: It doesn’t cost anything to make a car rental reservation on Orbitz, so you can book a cheaper company and, if there’s a long line, you can make a new reservation from your phone on-the-spot (or even just make 2 reservations in advance).

While the rental car garage is a few miles from the airport, there shuttles in every terminal that will get there pretty fast.

HOTELS

Rob lives in a secluded, mostly residential section of Scottsdale, so there isn’t an abundance of (affordable) hotels in the area:

https://www.tripadvisor.com/SmartDeals-g31350-Scottsdale_Arizona-Hotel-Deals.html

The closest hotel to Rob’s would be:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/phxno-scottsdale-marriott-at-mcdowell-mountains/>

However, if you want an affordable hotel that fun, pretty nice, and relatively close, check out The Clarendon:

<https://www.orbitz.com/Phoenix-Hotels-The-Clarendon-Hotel-And-Spa.h2986.Hotel-Information?chkin=6%2F2%2F2017&chkout=6%2F4%2F2017&rm1=a1®ionId=0&hwrqCacheKey=f9b00a4d-7498-4415-a700-af015feb9d2aHWRQ1493139695089&vip=false&c=0c20b6dc-99e4-49b8-bc1b-5c1f2b4048c8&>

Right now rooms are \$100/night for the weekend of the seminar and—trust me—it's worth it!

Really though, any hotel in Scottsdale (or even Phoenix) will work. If you're on a budget, you can find hotels for as little as \$30-40/night (but they won't be in great neighborhoods).

NIGHTLIFE

When it comes to nightlife, there are two great places to check out in Arizona: Old Town Scottsdale and Mill Ave.

You're going to be surprised at how much fun nightlife is out here! Old Town has a nice mix of nightclubs and bars while Mill Ave has more of a college town vibe (because it's close to ASU).

In Old Town check out:

Kelley's (grab pre-game spot): <http://kellysatsouthbridge.com/>

The Dakota: <http://dakotabar.com/>

Bottle Blonde: <https://bottledblondeaz.com/>

Or, if you're feeling fancy, Mint: <https://themintaz.com/>

In Mill Ave (Tempe), you can just barhop. A great place to start is:

<http://elhefe.com/tempe-az/>