

City of Tempe: Phoenix neighbor to the east

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Tempe has a variety of unique experiences to offer you while attending Congress in August. I should know. Tempe is my home. I am an ASU graduate and have served the residents of Tempe for 25 years. I have watched this community grow from a college community to a thriving hub of corporate business. As Past President of the APWA Arizona Chapter and past Chair of the National Diversity Committee, I encourage you to visit our exceptional city.

Tempe, a vibrant urban oasis in the heart of the Phoenix area, has its own personality. This refreshingly offbeat college town is home to Arizona State

University (ASU), one of the largest universities in the country. It's just minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) and accessible via METRO light rail. It is about a 10-minute METRO light rail ride from the Phoenix Convention Center and host hotels for Congress.

Tempe's spirited lifestyle is welcoming and creates a contagious energy. You can feel it on the Arizona State University Tempe Campus where students sporting maroon and gold learn BIG ideas. You can feel this vibe at fun-filled festivals, at theatre productions, comedy shows and art exhibitions at the ASU Art Museum. And, you will never forget when your children see the desert for the first time or feed a giraffe at the Phoenix Zoo. It's a place where you can earn your personal best at the P.F. Chang's Arizona Marathon & Half Marathon or Ironman Arizona. You can go kayaking or paddle boarding on Tempe Town Lake, or just relax poolside underneath a colorful umbrella.

Here is a list of things to do in Tempe while you visit our diverse and beautiful city:

- See the best shows straight from Broadway at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed ASU Gammage Theater.
- Cruise on an electric boat, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard at Tempe Town Lake.
- Shop at Arizona Mills, Tempe Marketplace and IKEA.

Tempe Center for the Arts



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- Take a tour of the Desert Botanical Garden, a living museum with more than 50,000 varieties of desert plants from around the world. www.dbg.org
- Stroll the shady, brick-lined sidewalks in Downtown Tempe. This popular gathering place is home to more than 100 restaurants, taverns and shops, in addition to public art and historic sites. www.downtowntempe.com
- Escape to another world at SEA LIFE Arizona Aquarium at Arizona Mills, with more than 30 display tanks and 5,000 water-loving creatures. www.visitsealife.com/Arizona
- Savor farm to table cuisine and see the city lights from Top of the Rock, a signature dining experience at Phoenix Marriott Tempe at The Buttes. www.marriott.com/phxtm

Interested in golfing in Tempe?

- Play a round at ASU Karsten Golf Course, a par 70, classic Pete Dye links-style course. Afterwards, have a casual lunch at the Trophy Room. You are sure to see a sports personality in the clubhouse. www.asukarsten.com
- Play a round at one of the city's courses. Ken McDonald or Rolling Hills. www.tempe.gov/golftempe

Interested in adult activities?

- Four Peaks Brewing Co. is legendary in Tempe for both great food and beers like Kilt Lifter and 8th Street Ale. www.fourpeaks.com
- Meet a few locals at The Handlebar Tempe on Mill Avenue. This popular spot features a unique mix of beers on tap, beer cocktails, German-inspired brats and pretzels, and a

- patio that mimics a City Park. www.handlebaraz.com
- Order a perfect pint of Guinness, listen to a live band and soak up the Emerald Isle charm at Rula Bula Irish Pub. www.rulabula.com
- Laugh along with one of the well-known comedians who grace the stage at the Tempe Improv each weekend. www.tempeimprov.com
- See live music and have rockin' good food at Copper Blues. www.copperblueslive.com
- Have a great meal, play games on the expansive outdoor patio and find your favorite specialty cocktail at the newest addition to Downtown Tempe's culinary and nightlife scene, Culinary Dropout at the Yard Tempe. www.culinarydropout.com

Interested in some family activities?

- Go to the Phoenix Zoo, voted one of the top five zoos for kids. www.phoenixzoo.org
- Take a hike at Papago Park, where you can discover saguaro cactus, lagoons and see the sunset from Hole in the Rock. www.papagosalado.org
- See a Childsplay performance, created just for young audiences, at the Tempe Center for the Arts. www.childsplayaz.org
- Go play at Main Event Tempe. Here, you'll find bowling lanes, laser tag, arcade games, gravity ropes course and great food. www.mainevent.com
- Explore the underwater world at SEA LIFE Arizona Aquarium, perfectly designed for kids. www.visitsealife.com/Arizona

Here are some fun facts about Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona:

- ASU ranks second on a list of schools that are making the most promising and innovative changes in the area of academics, facility and student life, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The ranking put ASU in the top 15 percent of all four-year colleges in America.
- For its commitment to sustainability operations and practice, ASU has achieved a gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, a self-assessment program launched by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
- Visit *Air Apparent*, a Skyspace designed by James Turrell on the ASU Tempe Campus at Rural and Terrace Roads. skyspace.asu.edu

- The Gallery of Scientific Exploration features interactive exhibits from the voyage of HMS Darwin to NASA's Mars Science Laboratory. A self-guided tour of Arizona's largest public arboretum at ASU's Tempe campus is available online at <https://cfo.asu.edu/fdm-arboretum-plantcollection>. The arboretum has a large date palm collection as well as collections of palms, conifers, cacti, succulents, and desert accent plants.

Getting to and around Tempe by METRO light rail

METRO light rail connects Tempe and the ASU Tempe Campus to Downtown Phoenix, the airport and the city of Mesa. METRO runs seven days a week, Monday through Sunday, and on Friday and Saturday, hours are extended. Trains arrive at the stop every 12-20 minutes, depending on the time of day.

METRO light rail cars can accommodate wheelchairs and bicycles. Bicycle symbols on the train

windows indicate the doors nearest the bicycle rack.

Tempe believes that public transportation is crucial to a community. We are the only city in Arizona offering light rail from border to border and the only one with a light rail bridge. The bridge is illuminated by LCD lights and changes colors every time a train crosses. The rainbow reflects onto the surface of Town Lake, casting shimmering color onto the water.

Tickets are \$2 one-way, or \$4 for an all-day pass. Passes for light rail can also be used for buses.

www.valleymetro.org/metrolightrail, (602) 253-5000

Whatever your plans may be when you visit our gorgeous state, we hope you consider exploring our exciting and diverse community in Tempe.

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Tempe Town Lake Bridge