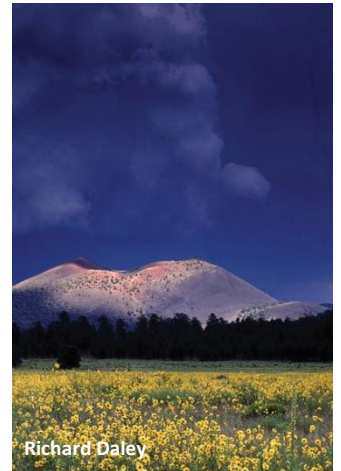
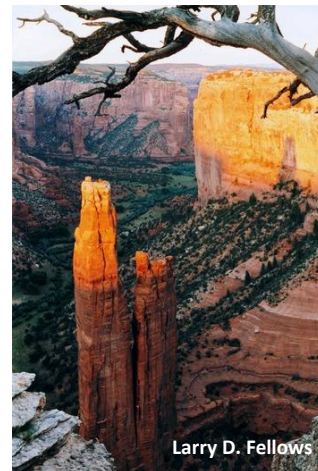


# ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

## Dark Skies & Culture Itinerary

Superior • Pinetop-Lakeside • Winslow • Chinle • Flagstaff • Pine



Arizona is the astrotourism capital of the United States. Its diverse landscape—from the Grand Canyon and ponderosa pine forests in the north to the Sonoran Desert and “sky islands” in the south—is home to more certified Dark Sky Places than any other U.S. state. In fact, no *country* outside the U.S. can rival Arizona’s 17 dark-sky communities and parks. There is no shortage of culture in Arizona, which is home to 22 sovereign American Indian communities and a variety of American Indian and Western culture, arts and entertainment, museums and cultural attractions.

**DAY 1: PHOENIX -> SUPERIOR -> PINETOP-LAKESIDE -> WINSLOW**

Morning: Depart Phoenix/Scottsdale for Superior, AZ. (*Drive time appx 1hr 5 min*)

Arrive at [Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#) for a guided tour. The arboretum is located at the base of



the towering Picketpost Mountain. It brings together plants from the Earth's many and varied deserts and dry lands and displays them alongside unspoiled examples of the native Sonoran Desert vegetation. No matter what the season, you will enjoy a moving and memorable experience of the beauty, majesty, and mystery of arid land plants. You will also enjoy the many natural communities that form the arid land environment. Memorable experiences await you

as you walk the Main Trail; you will see enthralling, otherworldly shapes and forms in the Cactus Garden. You will also find peaceful reflection in the cool shade of towering trees in Queen Creek Canyon; and intellectual stimulation in the many and varied displays at the Smith Interpretive Center. You may enjoy a quiet and intimate time at the Wing Memorial Garden; as well as inspiration for home or business landscapes at the Demonstration Gardens of Low Water-demanding Plants. You will see expansive southwestern vistas visible from the High Trail. There are many gardens here; so find your special places among them. \$15 for Adults, \$5 for children 5-12, children under 5 free. Free to Arboretum members.

**Tel: (520) 689-2723**

**37615 U.S. Hwy 60, Superior, AZ 85273**

Depart Boyce Thompson Arboretum for White Mountain Apache Cultural Center.

[The Apache Culture Center](#) is a tribal museum that houses many Apache artifacts, includes a gift shop and it is located on historical Fort Apache grounds. Located in the Fort Apache Historic Park, Nohwike' Bágowa (House of Our Footprints) is the place to experience Apache history and culture. Housed in a modern facility constructed to reflect a gowa, our traditional holy home, the cultural center and museum is committed to the celebration and perpetuation of the Apache heritage. Nohwike' Bágowa hosts long term exhibits, temporary exhibitions, regularly scheduled Apache arts demonstrations, and other special events.

**Tel: (928) 338-4625**

**207 Scout Road, Fort Apache, AZ**

Depart for Pinetop- Lakeside. (*Drive time appx 35 min*)

Afternoon: Arrive in Pinetop-Lakeside, lunch at [The Bistro at Annie's](#).

**Tel: (928) 367-9920**

**2849 W. White Mountain Blvd., Lakeside, AZ 85929**

Following lunch, explore Pinetop-Lakeside.

Depart for Winslow, AZ. (Drive time appx 1hr 35 min)

Arrive in Winslow. Check-in at [La Posada Hotel](#). This National Historic Landmark dating back to 1930 is the last Harvey House built in the U.S. The architect and designer of this building, Mary Colter, designed most of the Grand Canyon buildings. Allan Affeldt restored the building and grounds and opened the house as a hotel. Rooms are available in different configurations. All rooms are beautifully furnished and each offers a glimpse of how it must have been to stay in this great hotel during the 1930's. Surrounded by seven acres of lawns, flowers, and one of the largest stands of cottonwoods, you can walk, relax and watch the trains pass.



**Tel: (928) 289-4366**  
**303 E 2nd St, Winslow, AZ 86047**

Evening: Enjoy dinner at the [Turquoise Room](#). The Turquoise Room is one of the southwest's unique restaurants, providing a mesmerizing interpretation of Arizona food. The restaurant re-creates the elegant dining experience of the famous Turquoise Room dining car on the Santa Fe Railway's Super Chief that was frequented by Hollywood Stars like Eleanor Powell. Everything was designed for this special setting - leather & wood chairs modeled on a La Posada original, brocade booths of emerald green, Verne Lucero's magnificent chandeliers, and even Tina Mion's stained-glass mural of La Posada patron saints Ysidro, Pascual and Barbara. Treat yourself at this hidden oasis and discover a wonderful road restaurant as you explore the renovated Fred Harvey Winslow hotel - La Posada.

**Tel: (928) 289-2888**  
**305 E 2nd St, Winslow, AZ 86047**



Depart for a "Star Party" at the [Homolovi Observatory](#). **On the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month**, whether you're an astronomy enthusiast or just enjoy looking up at the night sky, the Winslow Homolovi Observatory (WHO) is open for solar and star parties. The Moore Telescope (Celestron CGE Pro 14-in. Schmidt-Cassegrain) is computerized with a database of over 40,000 celestial objects and the structure is a donation to Homolovi State Park from members of the Little Colorado River Valley Astronomy Club, the City of

Winslow, and local merchants. The observation area has additional telescopes and Hydrogen-alpha light solar telescopes for daytime solar viewing. Astronomy events are held monthly with special programs throughout the year. Check out the variety of [astronomy related events](#) offered here and throughout the state by Arizona State Parks and Trails.

**Tel: (928) 289-4106**  
**AZ-87, Winslow, AZ 86047**



**Overnight at La Posada Hotel.**

**DAY 2: WINSLOW -> CHINLE**

Morning: Visit "[Standin on a Corner](#)" Park and explore Winslow. The lyrics from the song "Take It Easy," written by Jackson Browne and Glenn Frey, were made famous by "The Eagles." It's a song almost everyone knows, hums and sings and has put Winslow on the map! You can stand on the corner in historic downtown Winslow, like thousands of people do every year, and have your picture taken at the Standin' on the Corner Park. The park features a two-story mural by Trompe L'oeil artist John Pugh and a life-sized bronze statue created by sculptor Ron Adamson depicting a 1970's man standing on the corner wearing jeans, boots, shirt and vest with a guitar standing on the toe of his boot.



***Corner of Kinsley & East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Winslow, AZ 86047***

Depart for the Meteor Crater. *(Drive time appx 35 min)*

Arrive at the [Meteor Crater](#) for a guided rim tour and enjoy the "Impact, the Mystery of Meteor Crater" movie.



Located in Northern Arizona, the Discovery Center at Meteor Crater includes displays on the never-ending process of impacts and collisions in the solar system. There are twenty-four exhibits, making it the most extensive and informative museum of its type on planet earth. Also included in the Discovery Center are two interactive computer displays that contain information and high-tech graphics on space, meteorites and asteroids, the solar system, and the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that impacted Jupiter. Weather permitting; there is a ½ mile guided rim tour as well as 3 observation areas right on the rim of the crater. Open daily 8 am – 5 pm. The Visitor Center is located off I-40 at exit 233, Meteor Crater Road, then 6 miles south on a paved road. 35 miles east of Flagstaff, 20 miles west of Winslow. *Adults \$18, children \$9. Rim tours begin at 9:15 a.m. and are offered every ½ hour.*

***Tel: (928) 289-5898***

***Interstate 40, Winslow, AZ 86002***

Afternoon: Following tour/movie, enjoy a quick lunch on-site at [The Blasted Bistro](#), located inside the Visitor Center.

Depart for [Petrified Forest National Park](#), a Certified IDA International Dark Sky Park.  
(Drive time appx: 1hr 18 min)

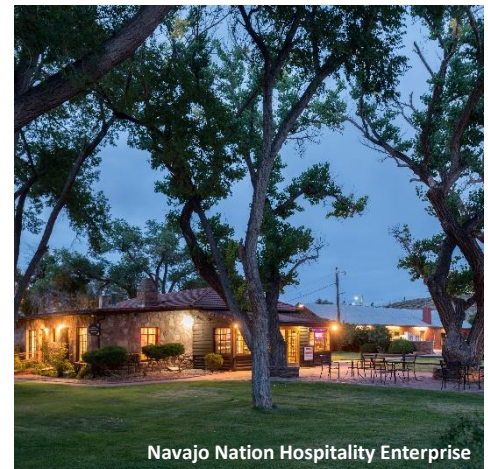


Arrive at Petrified Forest National Park, an *International Dark Sky Park*, for a guided tour. Within an area of colorful and strangely eroded badlands are paleontological wonder-trees that have turned to stone and fossilized animal bones from 225 million years ago. At the northern end of the park is the Painted Desert, a vast area of purple, red and orange sediments which form colorful badlands. Facilities include the Rainbow Forest museum, two picnic areas, curio shops and a restaurant. Info on self-guided auto tours, interpretive trails, a 17-minute film, and wilderness backpack camping is available at the visitors center. Federal law prohibits collection or removal of any natural objects. Violators are subject to fines or arrest.

Depart for Chinle, AZ. (Drive time appx 1hr 36 min)

Evening: Arrive in Chinle. Check into the [Thunderbird Lodge Hotel](#). The historic Thunderbird Lodge is the only hotel located within Canyon De Chelly National Monument and is Navajo owned and operated. The Thunderbird Lodge has 69 hotel rooms, a 194-seat restaurant (cafeteria) serving regional specialties including local favorite, the Navajo taco and Native American beef and a historic trading post offering a complete line of quality Indian jewelry, fine arts and crafts, and rugs made by local Navajo weavers.

Dinner at your leisure on-site at the [Thunderbird Lodge Restaurant](#).



**Overnight at the Thunderbird Lodge.**

### DAY 3: CHINLE -> FLAGSTAFF

Morning: Breakfast at your leisure on-site at the Thunderbird Lodge Restaurant.

8:40 am Check in for your tour of Canyon de Chelly.

9:00 am

Depart for a [four hour tour of Canyon de Chelly](#), including the major ruins: Kokopelli Cave, Petroglyph rock, First Ruin, Junction Ruin, Ceremonial Cave, Ledge Ruin and Antelope House Ruin in Canyon de Muerto and White House Ruin in Canyon de Chelly. Tours are conducted on Pinzgauer army troop carriers, built by Steyr-Puch of Austria, manufacturer of the Mercedes G Wagon and have seat belts for 10 passengers. They are very impressive off road, and in 6wd with 3 axles locked, they will go places where Hummers and Jeeps fear to tread. The soft tops are easily and quickly rolled up for exceptional viewing. Certified, professional Navajo guides teach the history of the canyons and about Ancestral Pueblo, Hopi and Navajo peoples. All tours depart daily at 9:00 am from Thunderbird Lodge Trading Post. *Check-in is at least 20 minutes prior to your departure time. Bottled water and snacks are provided.*



Afternoon: Once tour completes, you will return to Thunderbird Lodge.

Depart for Walnut Canyon National Monument. *(Drive time appx 2hr 45 min)*

Stop for a late lunch at **Joe and Aggie's Café**, a vintage Route 66 restaurant.

**Tel: (928) 524-6540**

**120 W Hopi Drive, Holbrook, AZ 86025**

Arrive at [Walnut Canyon National Monument](#), a certified IDA Dark Sky Park. Walk among the cliff dwellings and pueblos where people lived only 800 years ago. Experience the dramatic geology, varied vegetation and abundant wildlife that made their lives possible. The strenuous one-mile Island Trail descends into Walnut Canyon while the shorter Rim Trail offers overlooks and a pithouse display. The Island Trail is one mile round-trip, plan about one hour as the trail descends 185 vertical feet into the canyon. Open daily 9 am - 5 pm. Closed on Christmas. Call or visit website for hours and information.



**Tel: (928) 526-3367**

**10 miles east of downtown Flagstaff via I-40, exit 204**

Evening: Dinner at [Josephine's Modern American Bistro](#). A local favorite for decades, offering fresh, seasonal food.

**Tel: (928) 779.3400**

**503 North Humphreys Street, Flagstaff, AZ 86001**



Enjoy an evening at [Lowell Observatory](#). Lowell Observatory was founded in 1894 and is where Pluto was discovered in 1930. Lowell is an astronomical research facility that also features visitor programs. During the day explore the Observatory's history and current research by joining guided tours. In the evening, look through a variety of telescopes and experience the new Giovale Open Deck Observatory. Also featured at the facility are multi-media programs, an exhibit hall and gift shop.

**Tel: (928) 774-3358**

**1400 West Mars Hill Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001**



Overnight in Flagstaff at [Little America Hotel](#). Little America is one of Flagstaff's full service properties with a mountain resort feel. This property has a full restaurant onsite and an extensive gift shop. It is located right off of Interstate 40 a few miles east of historic downtown Flagstaff.

**Tel: (928) 779-7900**

**2515 E Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86004**

#### **DAY 4: FLAGSTAFF -> PINE -> PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE**

Morning: Breakfast at [Tourist Home All Day Café](#). Flagstaff's historic "Tourist Home" building, a former Basque shepherd boarding house, is back in the business of welcoming guests. The location has been renovated and transformed into the Tourist Home by the owners of the popular Tinderbox Kitchen. Open seven days a week serving hot breakfast items and pastries, gourmet packaged foods, chef-driven charcuterie, packaged beer and wine, domestic cheeses, prepared-to-order sandwiches plus an assortment of soups and salads.

**Tel: (928) 779-2811**

**52 S. San Francisco St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

Depart for [Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#), a Certified IDA Dark Sky Park. Born in a



Larry D. Fellows

dramatic series of eruptions 900 years ago, Sunset Crater is still the youngest volcano on the Colorado Plateau. Visitor Center exhibits explain the powerful geologic forces and their aftermath. See for yourself on the one-mile, self-guided Lava Flow Trail. Allow at least one hour to stop at the Visitor Center and hike the Lava Flow Trail. Open daily. Closed on Christmas. Call or visit website for hours and information.

**Tel: (928) 526-0502**

**12 miles north of Flagstaff via Highway 89**

Depart for Pine, AZ. (Drive time appx 1hr 40 min)

Afternoon: Arrive in Pine, AZ. Enjoy lunch at the [Pinewood Tavern](#). (Closed on Wednesdays & Thursdays)

**Tel: (928) 363-4000**

**6112 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd., Pine, AZ 85544**

Following lunch, depart for Tonto Natural Bridge State Park (Drive time appx 15 min)

Explore [Tonto Natural Bridge State Park](#), which is tucked away in a tiny valley surrounded by a forest of pine trees 10 miles north of Payson. This natural bridge has been in the making for thousands of years and is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world. The bridge stands 183 feet high over a 400-foot long tunnel that measures 150 feet at its widest point. Visitors can stand on top of the bridge or hike down below to appreciate the true size and beauty of this geologic wonder. The nearby 300-foot Waterfall Trail ends at a waterfall cave where visitors marvel at the water-loving mosses and flowers in the high desert. Pets are not allowed on the four park hiking trails, which descend into a canyon and are all steep and strenuous.



Christopher Flores

**Tel: (928) 476-4202**

**AZ-87, Pine, AZ 85544**





Take a detour and visit [Tonto National Monument](#), a certified IDA Dark Sky Park. Located less than a mile away from State Route 188 and along Theodore Roosevelt Lake, the Tonto National monument was established in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. This majestic place has both Upper and Lower Cliff Dwellings. Explore the ruins of the Salado Indians from about 1300 AD, adventure in the ruins of the two cliff dwellings left behind, while soaking in the surrounding nature. At night, pack your tent and camp in the nearby campground, taking in the beautiful dark sky above.

Please note that the [Upper Cliff Dwelling](#) is only accessible by guided tour only, so plan ahead and make reservations in advance. *Space is limited, as only 15 people are allowed on each tour.*

***Tel: (928) 467-2241***

***26260 AZ-188, Roosevelt, AZ 85545***

Depart for Phoenix/Scottsdale. *(Drive time appx 1hr 50 min)*