



## **About Phoenix, the Valley and Arizona**

Phoenix, the capitol of Arizona, is the nation's fifth largest city, with a population of more than 1.6 million people.

Phoenix is the heart of Maricopa County, which consistently ranks among the nation's fastest-growing metro areas. The county now has more than 4 million residents, and Arizona – with more than 6 million people in The Grand Canyon State – will soon eclipse Washington as the most populous state in the West, after California.

Founded in 1868, Phoenix is one of the leading transportation, financial, industrial, and economic centers of the Mountain West, with a rich cultural history and ethnic diversity.

The Phoenix metro area – also known as the Valley of the Sun, or Salt River Valley, or simply the Valley – is one of the nation's most popular winter tourism destinations, where visitors find world-class hotels and resorts, fine dining, breathtaking swimming pools, challenging golf courses, trendy shopping and modern nightlife, mixed with a distinctive Southwest decor.

New hotels have popped up in downtown Phoenix surrounding the recently completed \$600 million expansion of the Phoenix Convention Center, now one of the nation's largest. Since December, the first of more than 20 miles of light-rail train tracks connect the East Valley to the West Valley through downtown Phoenix.

Major League Baseball teams annually attract more than 1 million fans through the gates of Arizona's spring training ballparks. With the addition of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Cactus League is poised to eclipse the attendance of Florida's Grapefruit League.

The Sonoran Desert is one of the world's most ecologically diverse – lush by comparison – with dozens of unique plants and animals, mostly notably the stately saguaro cactus.

Phoenicians enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, including biking, horseback riding and hiking on the trails of the nation's largest network of municipal mountain and desert preserves. Skiing is just hours away, and large lakes provide Arizona with some of the nation's longest shoreline and one of the highest per-capita levels of boat ownership.

The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) is at the center of downtown Phoenix's emerging Phoenix Biomedical Campus, which includes: the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix in partnership with Arizona State University, ASU's College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, ASU's Department of Biomedical Informatics, the UA College of Pharmacy, the International Genomics Consortium, a branch of St. Joseph's Hospital and Barrow Neurological Institute, a branch of the National Institutes of Health that specializes in diabetes and kidney diseases, Phoenix Union High School District's Bioscience High School, and the



Arizona Biomedical Collaborative I (a \$470 million, 310,000-square-foot ABC II building is planned).