

BlogBooker

From Blog to Book.

NOARIZONA.WORDPRESS.COM

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Chapter 1

2012

1.1 February

No, Arizona! (2012-02-02 00:32)

Welcome!

This is my first post of many in a new blog I've decided to call, "NO ARIZONA".

What this blog is about

The purpose of this wordpress site is to serve as a place for me to vent my dissatisfaction with living in AZ and my quest to move from this place. The reasons will be outlined as this blog progresses, so stay tuned.

I am not trying to change your mind about moving to Arizona, but I will tell you why I don't want to live here.

If you live in Arizona and love it, good for you! You have found something in the desert positive which I cannot! Don't try to convince me to love living in the desert, because it won't happen! On the flip side of that coin, I will not try to convince you this place really does suck!

What this blog is NOT about

This site has NOTHING to do with politics, immigration, etc! This site will NOT bash politicians or police officers.

Like-minded people?

Will I find people who feel the same way I do through this blog? Hell, I have no idea...this is my first time using wordpress! I'd like to think there are others out there who feel trapped.

The inspiration for this website came from a blog called Arizona Sucks. There's great information there, but I wanted to create a stomping ground of my own to post how I feel about Arizona. I can't say I agree with the writer 100 %, but it's pretty close!

Specifically, this site deals with the issues involved within the deserts of the Phoenix area. The northern mountain areas are beautiful, but it's technically still a desert..."high desert". The mountains are a great place to visit to escape desert living. As nice as it is up there, it's still Arizona populated with Arizona people. I will explain in future posts what I mean about "Arizona people".

If I get ZERO readers here, I'm completely satisfied with that. This is an outlet for me while I plan my escape from the desert.

If, for some reason, someone IS reading this, thank you.

Home (2012-02-02 04:10)





What this blog is about

The purpose of this website is to serve as a place for me to vent my dissatisfaction with living in AZ and my quest to move from this place. The reasons I don't care to live in Arizona is detailed in the categories above.

I am not trying to change your mind about moving to Arizona, but I will tell you why I don't want to live here.

If you live in Arizona and love it, good for you! You have found something in the desert positive which I cannot!

What this blog is NOT about

This site has nothing to do with government, politics, immigration, etc! This site is based upon opinions backed by articulated facts, and I purposely stay away from politics.



Why NoArizona?

I realized there are others out there who feel trapped in the Arizona desert. Do you fall in this category? I hope you will share your stories about the Arizona experience.

Specifically, this site deals with the issues involved within the deserts of the Phoenix area. For those in the northern areas of Arizona, this isn't about you! It's beautiful up there. Although it's not as lush with greenery as I'm used to, it's still very nice. The northern mountains of Arizona is one of the few escapes from the desert within driving distance.

Whether you choose to defend Arizona, or share my sentiment with living in Arizona, thank you for reading! All opinions are welcome!

Read the blog, and you'll learn the truth about life in Arizona! Be sure to take our online polls!

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p83MYOJtA0k>]



Stay connected!

No Arizona provides information about Arizona and reveals the truth about life in the desert based on facts and observations.

Want to know more about Arizona that you can't find elsewhere?

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Air Quality In The Phoenix Desert (2012-02-02 12:38)



Arizona's Dirty Secret - It's Air

According to the American Lung Association, the Phoenix area is ranked #3 in the nation for "The Most

Polluted Cities” list (2011) for year-round particle pollution. Coming in #4 was Los Angeles. I find it amazing a city which is famous for its pollution has slightly cleaner air than Phoenix. We got a big, fat ”F” from the American Lung Association for air quality.

What Is Particle Pollution?

The EPA defines particle pollution as ”a mixture of microscopic solids and liquid droplets suspended in air. This pollution, also known as particulate matter, is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, soil or dust particles, and allergens (such as fragments of pollen or mold spores)”. Sounds nasty, right? Besides the unsightly brown cloud that hovers over Phoenix, it is also bad for your health. The ever-present particle pollution in Phoenix can cause respiratory problems, irregular heartbeat and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

With the health hazards in the air, I find it surprising people choose to retire here.

What Else Is In The Air?

Besides the basic particle pollution, there are other dangers floating around in the air we breathe here.

- Arsenic - Basically it’s a poison and it accounts for 1.8 % of the air we breathe in Phoenix.
- Benzene - Benzene causes cancer and is a ”notorious cause” of bone marrow failure. It accounts for .020 % of the air we breathe in Phoenix.
- Carbon Tetrachloride - This also causes cancer, as well as liver disease. Thank goodness it only accounts for .002 % of the air we breathe in Phoenix.
- Lead - Long-term exposure to lead can cause nephropathy, and colic-like abdominal pains. The effects of lead are the same whether it enters the body through breathing or swallowing. Lead accounts for 1.080 % of the air we breathe in Phoenix.
- Mercury- Yes, another poison that accounts for 0.080 % of the air we breathe in Phoenix.

Is It Really THAT Polluted All The Time In Phoenix??

Well, check out this chart. Out of 366 days measuring air quality in Phoenix, there were only 70 days of good air quality and 84 days of unhealthy air quality. If your health is sensitive to air quality, one-third of your year will be spent in misery with 100 days of poor air quality for these poor souls.

”The Phoenix, AZ air quality index is a median value which considers the most hazardous air pollutants. The Phoenix, AZ air quality index is 56.9 % greater than the Arizona average and 172.9 % greater than the national average.”

My Thoughts

It’s very depressing to go outside in the morning to be welcomed by a brown cloud hovering over us. We are surrounded by mountains, which leaves no escape for the pollution. You would think a storm blowing through would clear it up, but it actually makes it worse. The dirt here is the same consistency as talcum

powder, and any wind makes visibility low and breathing difficult.

I enjoy running for exercise, and I can literally feel the difference when the air quality is poor. It's almost as if I'm at a higher altitude and I am not getting as much oxygen as normal. I'm a healthy adult male, I can only imagine how the elderly deal with it.

The Phoenix area continues to grow, more people move in and the pollution continually gets worse. I've been here 11 years (too long), and I've seen it get worse while living here.

Congratulations, Los Angeles, you're not the dirtiest city anymore.

Be sure to read more about another Arizona air pollutant, Valley Fever.

Hazy Day - Can't See The Mountains (2012-02-02 13:47)



Study Says Arizona Is Among 10 Worst States To Raise A Child (2012-02-03 15:36)



RAISING ARIZONA

The Foundation for Child Development conducted a study on the best (and worst) states to raise children. The results were based on 28 indicators in seven categories, including health, family, economic well-being and community engagement. The six states with the worst scores are New Mexico, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Nevada, and Arizona.

READ THE FULL STUDY (PDF)

My Thoughts

As a father of two living in Arizona, this is no surprise. There is very little positive recreation for kids to participate in. My son plays football, but it kills me to watch him practice in 105+ degree heat in August. If you're looking for nature, you will have to drive at least 3 hours to the north before you find a real tree.

Malls, ice skating rinks, movie theaters...that's all there is to do here for kids and they all involve being indoors (out of the heat). Growing up, I would often walk to a nearby stream or lake and catch crawdads, tadpoles and go fishing. I don't think the kiddos would have as much fun hunting for coyotes, scorpions and snakes.

A majority of the teenagers here really are punks. I know, I know...this sounds like every teenager everywhere...but, it's different in Arizona. There is a very strong "thug" culture here, which you even see among soccer moms and dads. Everyone has to be a tough guy and hang with their "homies". I have seen these kids tell police officers what they can do with themselves and where they can stick it. Granted, kids are like that everywhere but that attitude is prevalent in Arizona. Read more about the people of Arizona.

Fortunately, my children are still young and I plan to have the family relocated before their teenage years. Every single day, I am planning my escape from Arizona.

Chilling Crime Facts: Phoenix, Arizona (2012-02-06 15:48)



Phoenix Is A Great Place To Be A Criminal

Gangs In Arizona

Crime is an unfortunate reality in Arizona, particularly in Phoenix. With Phoenix as the capitol city of Arizona, its best export to surrounding cities are its criminals.

There are no shortage of gangs to choose from, if you're looking for some like-minded friends. The more popular brands are the Arizona Aryan Brotherhood (they hate anyone not white), Border Brothers (if you're into Aztec tattoos), "Old" Mexican Mafia, "New" Mexican Mafia (a newer, fresher mafia), Grandel (Glendale's favorite gang flavor), Mau Mau (an African American club), Warrior Society (let's not forget Native Americans like gangs, too) and Dine Pride (Another Native American gang, probably created so Warrior Society would have someone to hate).

But wait, there's more! If you're a female looking for "homies", Arizona offers La Raza. Are you into motorcycles? If so, there are The Hell's Angels...but, you must have a Harley Davidson to join! Hell's Angels must, of course, have an arch enemy and that would be The Mongols. If you're an admirer of the Nazi German Socialist Nationalist Party and wish Hitler would have prevailed, the Nazi Low Riders is the group for you! Nazi Low Riders are an affiliate of the Aryan Brotherhood, because hating fellow whites just doesn't make sense to them I guess.

Keep in mind, the above gangs are mostly prison gangs that thrive behind bars. However, when they get out they continue their loyalties and carry out crimes for their cohorts still behind bars.

Comparing Phoenix To Other Larger Cities

There are two great websites offering valuable data on cities. I utilize these websites to learn more about areas of the country I'm looking into moving to. The first is city-data.com, which is very comprehensive and thorough. The downside to city-data.com is its complicated way of displaying city information (all one ONE page). The other website is areavibes.com, and its data is easier to read thanks to good design work. For the purpose of this article, I utilized the latter website.

Although crime in Phoenix is prevalent, there actually are worse cities such as Detroit and Miami. The Arizona state government and the local media do a good job of minimizing widespread crime. It is important for their Chamber of Commerce to show the lush golf courses, the sunset photos and the nice restaurants. What they don't tell you is the likelihood of you becoming a victim of a crime.

If you found this article by mistake and really want to know what they consider "great" about Phoenix, here is the Chamber of Commerce website for your viewing pleasure if you are only interested in the so-called positives to living here. Better yet, here is the Arizona Tourism website so you can see all the great things Phoenix has to offer.

Ok, now that we got rid of those people, let's move on...

With the tools provided on areavibes.com, I did some comparative research on crime in Phoenix and compared it to Los Angeles and New York City.

Phoenix vs. Los Angeles

Los Angeles has more violent crime than Phoenix, with the exception of rape. Yes, you are more likely to get raped in Phoenix than in Los Angeles. Phoenix leads Los Angeles in property crimes such as burglary, theft and vehicle theft. Living in Los Angeles, you are 21.3 % less likely to have your car stolen than here in Phoenix. Overall, areavibes.com says Los Angeles is 34 % less dangerous than Phoenix.

Phoenix vs. New York City

NYC has to be more crime-ridden than Phoenix, right? Well, that's what I thought until I looked at these numbers. Phoenix beat out NYC on all the major reported crimes, with the exception of assault. Phoenix beat NYC when it comes to murder, rape, theft, burglary and vehicle theft.

In Phoenix compared to NYC, you are 26.6 % more likely to be murdered, 69.7 % more likely to be raped, 5.9 % more likely to be robbed, 78.1 % more likely to be burglarized, 46 % more likely to have something stolen from you and a whopping 79 % more likely to have your vehicle stolen. Overall, New York City is 51.8 % safer than Phoenix.

Which cities do you want to compare? Check out other crime comparisons on the Area Vibes website. Although there are definitely more dangerous cities than Phoenix, it is shocking to see how much more dangerous it is than Los Angeles and New York City! No, I'm not promoting any websites here, it really is a great tool that I use.

My Thoughts

As a resident of the metropolitan Phoenix area, I can say you don't see much "random" violence against innocent bystanders. Violent crimes are usually caused by gang rivalries, drug deals gone bad or even domestic violence. Please watch for a future article on the growing drug problem in Arizona.

As a normal, everyday citizen you are most likely to be a victim of a property crime. You would think burglars normally stalk around at night, but in reality most burglaries happen during the day when people aren't home. The daytime burglaries can start with a knock on the door to see if anyone's home. If they get an answer at the door, they use some bull crap line about needing to use your phone or something like that. Some of these situations have even turned into home invasions.

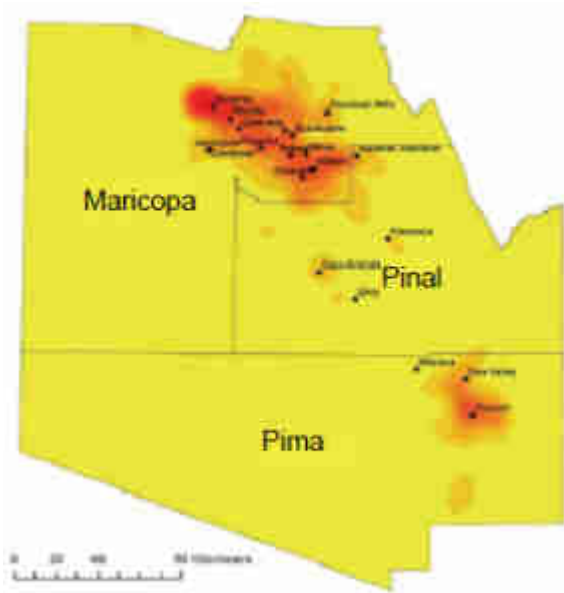
Auto theft is HUGE here, and if you have your vehicle stolen you will most likely never see it again. Stolen vehicles are normally taken onto the nearby Indian Reservations, which are considered sovereign nations of their own. Some stolen vehicles are also taken to Mexico. Many people don't realize just how close we are to Mexico! Phoenix is closer to Mexico than any other major city, beach or forest.

The best advice I can give if you're stuck living here like me is to do all you can to prevent these crimes happening to you. The crime WILL happen, it just depends on who the victim will be. Don't be an easy target. Keep your doors and windows locked on your house. ALWAYS lock your car and NEVER leave valuable items inside (iPod, purse, shopping bags, etc).

The #1 method of preventing crime is BEING AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS! The problem with people in Arizona is they are not neighborly or friendly and do NOT want to engage in eye contact or conversation! Yes, there will be an article about the people here but I'm getting off track! Anyway, when you're out in public look at what's around you. Watch the people, let them know you're watching. A criminal will pounce on the person who walks staring at the ground over the person who is alert of their surroundings. The alert people always make better witnesses, and criminals don't want witnesses.

Valley Fever In Arizona: "A Regional Epidemic" (2012-02-08 11:41)

The Arizona Air Can Make You Sick...Literally



What is Valley Fever?

Valley Fever, or Coccidioidomycosis, is an ailment in the lungs that is common throughout the lower Arizona deserts. It is caused by a fungus which grows in the dirt of the desert floor and become airborne when the soil is disturbed by dust storms, construction, farming and other activities. Once infected, the victim will have symptoms such as fatigue, cough, chest pain, fever, rash, headache and joint aches. Surprisingly, most people who become ill with Valley Fever do not seek medical attention because the symptoms are similar to other common ailments such as the cold or flu. It is estimated over 60 % of infected people have either no symptoms or experience flu-like symptoms and never seek medical attention.

Valley Fever Cases On The Rise

In 2011, there were 6,000 confirmed cases of Valley Fever in Maricopa County alone. I was one of those unfortunate souls who suffered from this terrible sickness, but I will go more into that later. Keep in mind that 6,000 cases are those who sought medical treatment (the 40 %), while 60 % of cases never seek medical attention or do not realize they've been infected.

According to the Valley Fever Center For Excellence, there were about 2,500 more cases of Valley Fever in 2011 than in 2010. Dr. Rebecca Sunenshine describes Valley Fever as a "regional epidemic" and says Arizona is "at the heart of where this disease is in the country. The full article can be found [here](#).

Treatment For Valley Fever

There is absolutely no cure for Valley Fever. Researchers are currently working on a vaccine, but as for now the only prevention for Valley Fever is simply not being in the valley. The severity of the infection affects how sick you will be and how long treatment will last. It may take months to even more than a year to resolve. Victims of Valley Fever often experience fatigue and joint aches for months. Some patients take antifungal medication for a few months; others need life time therapy.

Approximately 5 % of cases of Valley Fever pneumonia (infection of the lungs) result in the development of nodules in the lung. These nodules are small areas of infection, typically one to one and a half inches in diameter. On a chest x-ray, these nodules resemble lung cancer, which is another scare in itself.

Who's At Risk For Valley Fever?

"Anyone who lives in, visits, or travels through the endemic area may contract Valley Fever."

Valley Fever does not care about your race, religion, sexual orientation or even if you're human! Many people have lost their pets to this disease. Pretty much anyone who has been to Arizona is at risk, even the people who stop here for a layover at the airport.

Video: Dust Storm In Action

This video is real, and not made by Hollywood. These types of storms happen at least 4-5 times a year and are very common. We get more storms like this than we do rain storms...as a matter of fact, I can't remember what rain is.

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebO7KtP4J4c]

Video: Information About Valley Fever

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwcJrKWumyM]

My Thoughts

I contracted Valley Fever in 2011, and I was out of work for 7-8 weeks. With the word "fever" in it, you would expect there to be a fever. However, since it's not a virus there is no fever. It is a mold spore growing inside of your body, and it just makes you feel like total crap.

Imagine staying up all night and experiencing that tired feeling you get after about 24 hours of being awake. That is how Valley Fever made me feel ALL the time. I felt inhuman and had NO energy, even for the simplest of tasks! When it was time to go to the restroom, I would have to lay there and gather my energy and perform "the task" as quickly as possible. Afterwards, I would collapse back into my bed.

Valley Fever has a way of fooling you into thinking you're feeling better. My mind began thinking because I had a little bit of energy that I must be getting better, so I would do a chore like take out the trash or clean some dishes. Valley Fever became very angry and sucked my energy back out of my body and forced me to lay down for another two days. It is important to not try to exert yourself while sick with Valley Fever.

The scariest thing about Valley Fever are all the X-Rays and CT scans I had to take and having nodules show up. The doctor told me it could either be an infection from Valley Fever or lung cancer. Because lung cancer looks similar on scans, he had to tell me that. This was several months ago, and I'm waiting to go back to get another X-Ray to make sure the nodule is gone. If it's still there, then it may very well be cancer. Most likely, it's not because of all the symptoms I was experiencing.

The good news about this is I'll never contract Valley Fever again, unless something happens to my immune system. If I were to contract HIV or go through chemotherapy, my weak immune system would allow Valley Fever to re-emerge. I was told it will always be with me (much like The Force, I guess), but it will be dormant unless my immune system weakens.

By the time I contracted Valley Fever, I had already decided in my heart that I hate Arizona. This disease solidified my hate for Arizona and my desire to leave this hell on earth. My wife, who really wants to stay here, said, "Great, another reason for you to hate Arizona."

Damn right, I hate Arizona with a passion. I will fully admit this blog is subjective and slanted, but

I will not LIE or make up things which are not true about Arizona.

Read on, because herein lies the truth about Arizona.



Stay connected!

No Arizona provides information about Arizona and reveals the truth about life in the desert based on facts and observations.

Want to know more about Arizona that you can't find elsewhere?

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Phoenix Ranked As The #8 Rudest City In America (2012-02-08 12:31)



Travel + Leisure Survey Proves Arizona's Attitude Problem

In 2010, Phoenix was ranked as the 12th most-rude cities in America, but has moved up to #8 in 2011. This is really no surprise with all the self-centered snobs in Arizona. This was a reader survey out of 35 cities.

My Thoughts

When I first moved here, I maintained my down-home friendly style of waving at people, introducing myself to my neighbors, holding doors open for people, letting cars pull out as a friendly gesture and so on. As I did this, I noticed how no one thanked me for my kindness. Now, I did not act nice to be thanked because I was just raised that way. However, I was raised around people who were humble and thankful for these gestures.

I quickly began to observe when people did not acknowledge me, even face-to-face. I would wave as I drove by a neighbor, and they would literally turn their back toward me. I held a door open for a woman, and she looked at me strangely. I let a car out into traffic, and they give me a look like I'm a sucker for doing that. I allowed an elderly gentleman to retrieve a shopping cart before me and even spoke to him, but did not receive a response. What the hell is going on?

Much like a child who gets burned on the stove, I learned I should not be nice to these people. It was disappointing and VERY depressing, because I like friendly people. Hell, I grew up in the South where we're famous for our hospitality. What happened here? I slowly became more grouchy and avoided eye contact with people.

One morning, I was driving down my neighborhood street and saw a woman walking her dog on a leash coming from the opposite direction. I can see a long way down my street (all the streets are straight here), so I saw her for a long time. As I approached, she purposely stopped walking, turned around so her back would face me and pretended to talk to her dog. When I passed, she got back up and continued walking as if nothing happened! This woman MADE AN EFFORT to avoid me waving to her! This happens quite often around here, and if I think about it I'll get a video posted.

When I first moved into my neighborhood, there was an incident where my dog got out and barked at a neighbor as she walked by. She told my young daughter she was going to call the pound on the dog. This made my daughter very upset, and she thought her puppy was going to be taken from her.

I went to speak with the neighbor to assure her our dog was not vicious and to tell her it upset my daughter. Immediately, she became very angry toward me and told her husband to "call the cops"! Can you believe that? In a way, it WAS my fault because I forgot how you're not supposed to approach your neighbors here. They just want to be left alone. The best part was she was a New Yorker transplanted to Arizona, so she had a great thing going for her! I learned first hand how those two mix, but I also learned I will not walk up to a neighbors house without an invitation.

Do you have any examples of rude people in Arizona? Please share!



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Drive In Arizona At Your Own Risk (2012-02-13 23:56)



Arizona Drivers Are Among The Worst In The United States

Introduction

There are many statistics proving how bad Arizona drivers really are. As I stated in another post about rude Arizona people, the same can be said for the way they drive. It is difficult to comprehend how bad the drivers are here, until you're plopped into traffic on a street or highway in Arizona. If you have ever lived in Arizona, this makes complete sense to you. If you haven't been to Arizona to experience the adventure of driving here, read on.

Phoenix Ranked #8 Most Dangerous For Pedestrians

According to a report by Transportation for America, there were 1,479 pedestrian vs. vehicle deaths in Arizona between 2000-2009. In most Arizona cities, there are plenty of sidewalks and almost every intersection has a walk/no-walk sign. In other words, the streets are designed for pedestrian traffic. Unfortunately, the bad drivers in this state don't pay attention to pedestrians. Crosswalks here are very dangerous, especially for people in vehicles turning right...they just don't pay attention.

Phoenix Ranked #10 For The Most Drunk Drivers

I suppose the good news is Phoenix was ranked #4 in 2010, and moved down to #10 in 2011. When most people think DUI, they think alcohol. Although alcohol is a big problem in Arizona, so are drugs. There are just as many drugged drivers as there are drunk drivers. People have enough problems driving here sober, so why risk it when impaired by drugs or alcohol?



Phoenix Has the 4th Most Dangerous Intersection In The United States

A State Farm study revealed a [non] surprise about driving safety in Arizona...the 4th most dangerous intersection in the entire country is right here, in Phoenix. Take a trip to 19th Avenue and Northern Avenue and see if you survive! You can read more about it here.

My Thoughts

You would think driving in Arizona would be easy, and it is. However, for the driver who is distracted, inexperienced or just a bad driver, driving in Arizona can be treacherous. It is dangers for themselves and those driving around them.

If you don't live in Arizona, let me paint a picture. Most cities, especially in Phoenix, use the "grid system". What this means is streets are straight, and have a cross street every 1/2 to 1 mile. The major "cross streets" are every once mile. These streets can be as straight as an arrow for miles and miles. So, with

that in your mind imagine driving a straight line and coming to a traffic signal. At the next mile, you may have to stop at the stop light or turn left or right depending on where you want to go.

Looking at the photo of the 4th most dangerous intersection in the United States (above), that is a typical intersection in Arizona. You wouldn't think navigating these streets would be difficult, especially since you're just driving straight. For some reason (usually distraction), people often fail miserably at navigating these streets. The "grid system" is designed for simplicity and to give you various ways to get to your destination. Taking a look at the photo again, you can see the crosswalks. These intersections are so busy, drivers often fail to notice pedestrians in the sidewalk. All too often do you hear about another person run over by a car on the news.

Although the grid system is supposed to be simple and efficient, it makes for a VERY BORING drive. In most "normal" places, there are hills and curves. Here, there may be a curve here and there, but mostly it's straightaways. Here is a brief description of my drive to work: Turn left, go 2 miles at stop at stop sign. Go straight. Take one of the few curves and stop at the next stop light. Drive one mile, stop at the stop light. Drive another mile, stop at the stop light. Drive another mile, stop at the stop light and turn left. Drive another mile, stop at the stop light and turn right. I wish I were exaggerating, but that's how my drive is: twenty minutes of sheer boredom while watching out for the bad Arizona drivers.

I saw the funniest thing driving yesterday. There is a curve near my house on the main road that curves 90 degrees. Keep in mind, when it turns it's still the same road...NOT A T-INTERSECTION! As the vehicle in front of me approached the curve, the driver put on its turn signal before it entered the curve! At first, I thought it was turning onto one of the private streets...but, no. He fully intended on communicating to me that he was following the curve to the right! C'mon, people! Just because it's not straight, it doesn't mean it's a hazard...it's just a curve, deal with it! Ok, got that out of my system!

With the simplest roadway system in the world, Arizona drivers clearly cannot handle normal driving conditions. If it's curvy, it's a challenge. If it's rainy, it's nearly impossible to drive on (according to Arizona drivers). If it's curvy AND raining, start saying your prayers.

Do you have a story about your adventure of driving in Arizona? If so, please comment and share your story!

Mental Health In Arizona (2012-02-15 11:59)



Arizona, One Of The Most Depressing Places To Live

Phoenix was ranked in another one of the worst-of categories, suicides. According to Teen Life Line, suicide is the #3 leading cause of death in Arizona and #9 in the nation for teens. As for teens in Arizona, 26,400 of them attempt suicide each year. It is a phenomena in Arizona that is not anything new. Since 1985, Arizona has ranked in the top 10 of the nation for suicide rate.

According to the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition, suicide is the **LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH** in Arizona, with approximately 800 people taking their own lives each year. For teens, suicide is the second leading cause of death in Arizona. In Arizona, you are more likely to kill yourself than to be murdered as suicides are double the number of murders. Suicide is not restricted to a certain class of people, age group or ethnic group. Medicine.Net has a great article on suicide risks, statistics and prevention.

My Thoughts

The purpose of this article is not to teach you about suicide, as that goes beyond my realm of knowledge. I definitely do not intend to make depressed people more depressed. Seriously, if you're having suicidal thoughts, please seek help. For the record, I certainly do not have these thoughts.

It is my hope to highlight to you that although Arizona appears to be sunshine and happiness on the surface, it is one of the saddest states in the United States. I consider myself as a normal, everyday person but I also go through bouts of depression just from living here. The things that depress me about Arizona are written within this website. So far, I've covered the air quality, family life, criminal activity, rude people and bad drivers. Believe me, there are many more things than those that bring on negative feelings for me just by living in Arizona!

Below is a news report about the teen suicide in Arizona.

[youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_e0SP_UZfQI]



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Arizona Among States With the Highest Foreclosure Rates (2012-02-17 13:08)



Arizona Ranked #3 In The United States For Most Foreclosures

According to a CNBC article, Arizona has one of the worst housing markets as of Summer 2011. One in every 273 households have gone into foreclosure and often end up vacant. That is at least 1-2 foreclosed houses in each neighborhood in Arizona.

I'm no real estate guru, but I have a pretty good guess on why this came to be. Before the housing bust, houses around Arizona were overpriced. The upswing in prices was due primarily by investors and landlords. Most of these lived outside of Arizona, usually in California. The investors with the big money outbid one another, driving prices up for those who live in Arizona.

For example, a house I once owned in Arizona was sold to us for \$349,000 at the height of the housing boom. When the housing market turned sour, many homes in our neighborhood became abandoned and became eye sores. Some would be purchased after they were foreclosed and then rented out. This drove down the prices in my neighborhood even more, and brought in "undesirables" into the area.

Because of the area turning into "the hood", we were desperate to move. In order for us to leave, our \$349,000 house was sold for \$180,000. We had to go the "short sale" route, and I'm thankful we did. The area I lived in was once an area where the riff-raff could not afford, so I thought we were safe from the criminals. The housing market changed that and the neighborhood turned trashy. A drive through that neighborhood would reveal numerous for sale signs and weeds in the yard.

Arizona Is Slowly Becoming California

Californians are flocking to Arizona, bringing their attitudes and ideals along with them. For some reason, home builders are falling into the Californian way as well. Every house is bland and boring: Spanish-tiled roofs, painted some shade of brown and built too close to the next house. Some homes here are built so close together that their roof lines actually overlap each other! This is becoming very common, and it doesn't make any sense to build that close due to fire hazards. You could literally walk from rooftop to rooftop without jumping...just take a step. You might as well live in an apartment. Some houses even share driveways...mind did.

Stay tuned, I will take and post photos showing the hilarity of Arizona houses.

Ever see the Cat In The Hat movie?



No Arizona Is Now On Google Currents! (2012-02-17 21:40)

Find Us On Google Currents



The No Arizona blog is now set up with Google Currents, an application for your Android or iPhone device that displays news articles in a magazine-like layout.

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What Causes Arizona Dust Storms? (2012-02-21 12:11)



The Anatomy of an Arizona Dust Storm (aka Haboob)

Dust storms (aka haboobs) are a common occurrence in Arizona and they often wreak havoc when they blow through. Having been in several dust storms and not being from Arizona, I became curious as to why haboobs even happen. I'm used to storms blowing rain, not dust.

Desert Thunderstorms

Believe it or not, Arizona does get thunderstorms every once in a while but primarily in the monsoon season. They're not the "normal" type of thunderstorms, because these clouds really have to fight to get through the desert. The updraft of heat creates a bubble of hot air that is difficult to penetrate. So, when a thunderstorm DOES make it through, it's packing a punch. Storm clouds build up with water from the atmosphere, causing rain to fall to the ground and evaporates quickly, producing what meteorologists call "outflow". The outflow comes crashing down across the desert and pushes ahead of the storm like a giant push broom. This gush of air picks up dirt and debris and blows it across the landscape. Wind gusts can reach 30-70 mph, creating a huge wall of dust.

Effects of a Dust Storm

Dust storms look cool on TV and probably reminds many people of "The Mummy" movie. When they blow through, these storms can down power lines, cause property damage, halt traffic and always shuts down the airport. The National Weather Service estimated that the July 5, 2011 Phoenix dust storm reached a peak height of at least 5,000 to 6,000 feet, with the leading edge stretching for almost 100 miles. The dust storm traveled at least 150 miles.

The amazing fact about dust storms is they product little to no rain. It can storm like a hurricane, but you won't see a drop of water, only dust. If you're caught outside in a dust storm, it's very uncomfortable. Sand gets into your eyes, mouth and ear canals. If the windows to your car or house are open, you will find a layer of dust throughout.

Dust storms are so common here that people usually go on with their normal lives, albeit a lot slower on the roadways. It blows through after about 30-60 minutes, and it's sunny again and you would not have seen any rain. Honestly, I'd rather be in a severe rainstorm than a dust storm. For days after the dust storm, the air becomes more hazy than normal. One morning, I noticed a very white haze outside that made it look

like there was a nearby wild fire.

There isn't that much to say about dust storms, except they suck and serves as a reminder of the fact I hate living in Arizona. There are no soothing, soft rain storms here. Storms blow through hard and fast bringing wind, dust and damage. Additionally, it adds to the pollution problem and infects more victims with Valley Fever.

The Best Perspective of Arizona is Leaving (2012-02-22 11:50)



This is my favorite view of Arizona. Sitting comfortably in a seat by the window, watching the desert slowly get further and further away. As I fly higher, I wonder why people even live in this barren desert? At 30,000 feet, you can't see the cars, roadways and people. What you see is a brown desert with mountains, a place where people weren't meant to live.

On one particular flight out of Arizona, there was a family in the row behind me who were apparently visiting the desert and were heading back home. As we took off, the father said, "Look out the window, kids, and see all the colors."

The youngest son looked out the window and asked his father, "What colors?"

That statement from a young child stuck with me because it was as much a simple observation as it was true! What colors? Brown? Light brown? Tan? Sure those are colors, but they are all shades of brown! The brown clouds of pollution doesn't help either!

That child's innocent observation made me even happier to be leaving the desert. I knew it would be green where we would be landing, and I was ready to hit the lake to go skiing, swimming and fishing! There are those in Arizona who say you can ski, swim and fish in Arizona. Yes, they are correct. What they fail to tell you is you have to drive at least an hour to get to any lake. Once you're there, it's a small lake (compared to what I'm used to) and overcrowded. There isn't much room to ski because of the narrow waterways. The worst part of going to an Arizona lake is it's STILL DESERT! Being on a boat with cactus and rocks just isn't my kind of lake experience.



Taking a look at the two views from an airplane window, where would you rather be? As a disclaimer, I will tell you I used Adobe Fireworks to modify these images. I just don't have any good photos from the airplane window, but those are real and unaltered aerial photos. These pictures are for illustration purposes to relay the feelings I experience when leaving Arizona, and arriving in another destination (the best part). Although altered images, the desert really looks as it does in that photo, and where I like to visit really looks like the other photo.



What's just as good as flying out of Arizona? Driving out of Arizona! There is nothing I want more than to see Arizona in my rear-view mirror. I've flown and driven away from Arizona, and they're both just as satisfying. In a way, however, it is somewhat depressing. You see, when you're living your day-to-day life in Arizona, it's easy to stay in denial and ignore the fact you live in a desert. But, once you fly above it or drive out of town through the desert, you're reminded how sad and desolate the Arizona desert is.

How desolate? Arizona is in the Sonoran desert and it covers 120,000 square miles of southwestern Arizona and southern California. In case that's not enough desert for you, there are four deserts in Arizona. In northwest Arizona, there is the Mojave desert. Southeast Arizona is part of the Chihuahuan desert, and northeast Arizona lies in the Great Basin Desert. It takes a long time to fly away or drive out of the desert, but once you're gone it's such a great feeling to leave Arizona behind!

I know I'm not alone with these feelings, so please share your comments here and you can do so anonymously.

As with all articles, I realize there are also people who disagree and love living in Arizona. Arizona wouldn't have people if it didn't have its fans. I'm just not one of those people. I was raised with different ideals and four seasons. I prefer the people who love Arizona just stay here and wallow in their desert lifestyles, it's just not for me.

Poll: Living In Arizona (2012-02-23 11:22)



[poll daddy poll=5971848]

Poll: Do you Plan On Staying In Arizona? (2012-02-24 14:00)



[polldaddy poll=5976198]

Ladies And Gentlemen, Your "Miss Desert Sun" (2012-02-25 00:36)



Before



After

I don't even know what to say about this. The thug and criminal culture is so prevalent here, it even affects beauty pageants. I know, not all Arizonans become criminals but the opportunities are much more present and very apparent here.

[Read the fully story here.](#)

Excuse me while I go vomit.

Air Quality Alert Issued Today (2012-02-27 10:40)



Air Quality Alert, 2/27/2012

National weather service Phoenix AZ

High pollution advisory for Maricopa county including the greater Phoenix area and Pinal County Monday.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in Phoenix has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for the greater Phoenix area for Monday. The Pinal County Department of Air Quality has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for Pinal County including Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge and Florence for Monday.

An episode of strong and gusty winds is forecast to generate widespread blowing dust that may result in local coarse particle concentrations that pose a health risk. Adverse health effects increase as air quality deteriorates. Coarse particulate matter - also known as pm-10 - is an air contaminant that can aggravate heart and lung disease conditions, especially in older adults, children and those with asthma. A decrease in

physical activity is recommended.

Consolidate your travel, stabilize loose soils, slow down or avoid travel on dirt roads, reduce or eliminate fireplace use and avoid using gas-powered lawn equipment.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Maricopa county visit www.azdeq.gov or call 602-771-2367 for recorded forecast information.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Pinal county visit pinalcountyaz.gov.

My Thoughts

Well, this is what we live with here in Arizona...the dirty air. I grew up in a part of the country where there were plenty of trees and grass. Back home, during high pollen seasons, cars literally get covered with yellow pollen. With all that pollen in the air, I never had allergies. Here in Arizona, I constantly battle allergies. My eyes burn, my sinuses get irritated or stuffy and I have circles under my eyes. This place really has gotten bad for my health. Yesterday, I woke up feeling like I was hung over because of my allergy symptoms.

All the above allergy symptoms I experience in Arizona suddenly go away when I fly away from here. When I go to for a visit in the green areas of the country, I can breathe, my eyes don't burn and the circles under my eyes are gone. As soon as I land back in Phoenix, I go back to feeling miserable (mentally and physically).

If you haven't seen them yet, please read my article about pollution here in Arizona. I also have a picture I took showing how hazy it gets here. I also have an article about how depressing it is to live here, and I strongly believe the weather is a contributing factor.

Phoenix, Arizona Ranked #10 In Nation for Most Drunk Drivers (2012-02-27 11:03)



According to Forbes, Phoenix was ranked #10 for cities with the most drunk drivers in 2011. In 2010, Phoenix was ranked at #4. The MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) website has some disturbing

statistics about drunk driving in Arizona. In 2010, there were 194 DUI fatalities. Out of all traffic-related deaths in Arizona, 25 % were alcohol-related.

During the 2011 holiday season, DUI enforcement is focused around the Phoenix area. Amazingly, people decide to drive after a few drinks (or a lot of drinks) and they usually get caught. During the 2011 DUI task force, there were 46,200 traffic stops between Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas Eve. Out of those traffic stops, there were 18,322 non-DUI related arrests and there were 2,840 DUI arrests. The average BAC (blood alcohol content) was .149, with .08 the legal limit. Yes, driving around Phoenix can be dangerous with that many drunks on the road. Keep in mind, there were 2,840 who were caught by law enforcement...no telling how many slipped through the cracks. (Source: azcentral)

It's real simple, people. Don't drink and drive. Alcohol and drugs impair your ability to think clearly, and people ALWAYS think they're not as impaired as they really are. Drunk and drugged drivers are very selfish people in my opinion because they are not concerned with the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children who are also sharing the roadways. Losing a loved one to an impaired driver has to be the worst kind of pain because it is so senseless, especially when the drunk driver survives and the innocent doesn't.

Be careful out there, and if you see a suspected drunk driver call it in to local police. If possible, follow the vehicle as much as you can until police arrive. You just might save a life!

Everyone eliminates alcohol in different ways depending on age, weight, gender, etc. A general rule of thumb I personally follow is 1=1. One drink will eliminate in about one hour. Beyond that, keep in mind that a taxi is a lot less expensive than a DUI.

Windy Day In Arizona Makes For Poor Air Quality (2012-02-27 16:49)





Arizona Allergy Season (2012-02-29 12:30)



Did you know Arizona used to be a haven for people to move to who had allergies or other respiratory problems? Looking back on history, Doc Holliday moved from Georgia to Arizona to help with his tuberculosis. He was given only a few months to live, but he considered that moving to the drier and warmer southwestern United States might slow the deterioration of his health. (Source: Wikipedia)

I recall a quote by Doc Holliday in the Wyatt Earp movie: "Have you ever been to Georgia? Beautiful state, Georgia. Very green. I was forced to leave Georgia. I fear that I will never see it again."

Sometimes I fear I will never see my home again, either...but I'm determined to get out of Arizona!

Allergies are particularly bad this year. According to this article, January was the third driest month on record. That's saying a lot for a state known for being dry. The article goes on to say it will get worse

until we start getting 100+ degree weather a few days in a row. That means the alternative to nasty allergies is hot weather. Which would you accept? I reject both, but for now I have no choice until I leave this desert.

I found a perfect description of life in Arizona by Steph Borel:

I seriously feel like every ounce of moisture has been sucked from my body and I'm slowly dieing in a desert! I'm dizzy 24/7, and to top it off, my poor guitar is withering away into a dried up tooth pick that no humidifier can salvage! Winter time was perfect! It was great! I felt wonderful, had a wonderful run with my music.. but now leaving my house is torture! My electric bill is outrageous to boot, and the poor thing can't do any better than 82 degrees.. i have it set on 76, and i NEVER get 76!! I get 82 at best. O _o

So the solution? Time to pack it up and get out of dodge. I'm going back to Big Bear, closer to my family and to a place where I can leave the house without melting. Yes, there's snow..lots of snow.. but I'd much rather deal with cold snowy winters, than Hot Hot, beyond anything that anyone should ever live in, Hot summers. And people think it's tolerable because it's a "dry heat".. I've lived in the humid heat of Louisiana for a few years and NEVER had any problems.. the crawfish kept me alive out there.. but the dry heat.. whoa, its like the life is being sucked out of you.. dry heat is gods way of saying "PEOPLE YOU SHOULDN'T LIVE HERE"..

So that's my shpeal on this hot summer day in Scottsdale, Arizona. The heat didn't beat me, I'm just allergic. (Source: Steph Borel Web Design)

This is a great description of what living in Arizona is like. I reject the idea the only people with this point of view are people who aren't from Arizona. I have plenty of friends who were born and raised in Arizona, but hate it and want to move. Arizona is similar to that small town in movies where the kids dream of leaving one day. My mistake was moving here in the first place.

1.2 March

Arizona's Drug Addiction (2012-03-02 11:45)

Arizona has a very present drug problem. Drugs are readily available in Arizona, primarily because most drugs are brought across the border from Mexico. In Arizona, there is a greater likelihood your child will experiment with drug usage. According to the Adolescent Substance Abuse Knowledge Base, Arizona holds the highest incidence rate for marijuana use at 8.9 %, and the national average was 6.3 %.

The United States Department of Justice National Drug Intelligence Center released a publication called "Arizona High Density Drug Trafficking Area – Drug Market Analysis 2011" (PDF). There are some disturbing facts inside that publication. For detailed information, please refer to that publication. For the purposes of this article, I will highlight surprising (or, not so surprising) facts about drugs in Arizona.

A "key issue" to the drug problem in Arizona is the fact Mexican cartels are increasing the already high-levels of marijuana and heroin which maintains the high availability of these drugs. In 2009 there were 105,000 marijuana shipment seizures. That number increased to 119,000 in 2010. Heroin also saw a huge increase of seizures with 190 in 2009 and 263 in 2010. Keep in mind, these are the ones who are getting caught. The

Mexican border spans hundreds of miles, and the cartels are better funded than American law enforcement.

Drugs flowing into the United States by way of the Mexican border into Arizona brings crime along with it. In 2011, the drug which contributed the most to violent and property crimes was Ice Methamphetamine (aka Meth). It's not at all surprising seeing how addictive meth is, creating a high demand of customers. Just take a drive through down town Phoenix and you will see plenty of meth customers walking the streets.

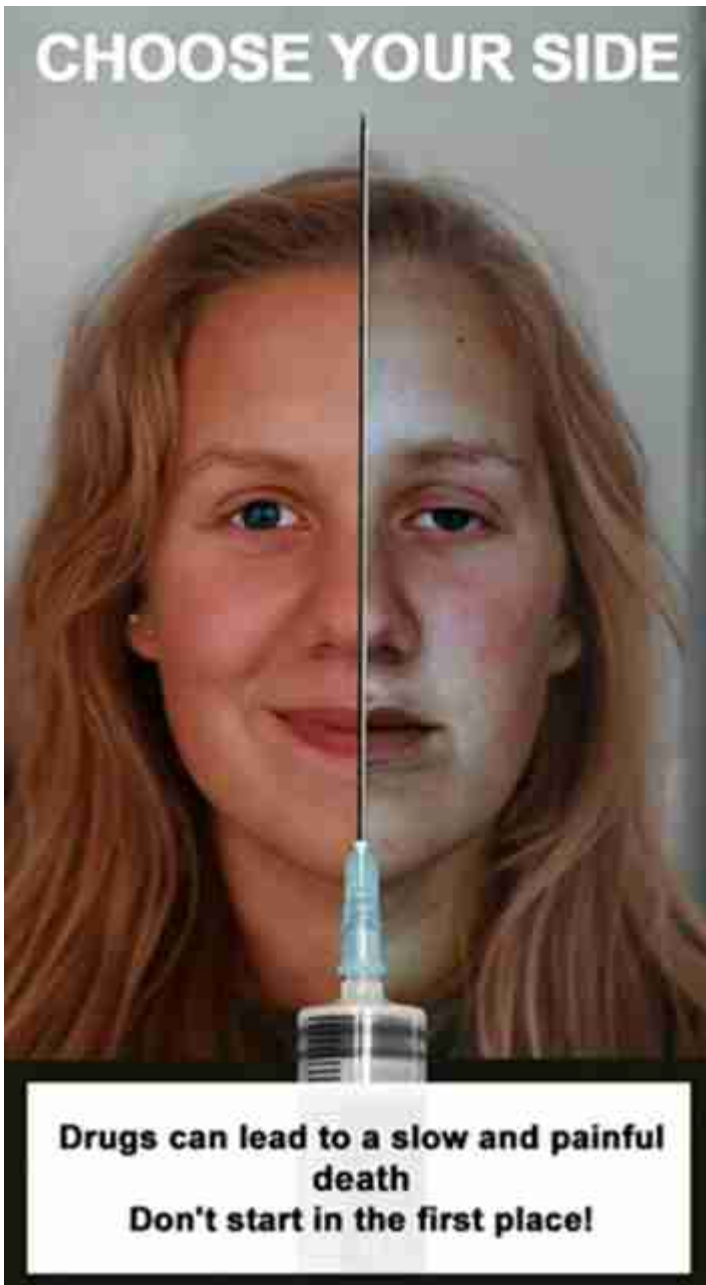
According to this report (PDF) by the Arizona Department of Health Services, the number of accidental drug overdose deaths are on the rise in Arizona. The number of drug-related deaths as a result of accidental poisoning has increased each year beginning in 2003, to the latest reporting period in 2009. The statistics include both legal and illegal drugs. Between 1999 and 2009, there were a total of 1,101 accidental drug overdose deaths. Keep in mind, this report is three years old and as the population increases here, so do its problems.

Every state has its own drug problems, but Arizona is unique. We border a country where the Mexican cartels are providing a heavy stream of drugs into the United States. Arizona is a popular gateway for the Mexican cartels to distribute their product throughout our country. Marijuana, meth, heroin and cocaine are readily available on the streets and there are no shortages of customers. Since living in Arizona, I've seen good people get on drugs and become different people. They steal from their families to support their habits, lie and often get arrested. It's very sad, but you can spot a "tweaker" just walking around on any city street.

Looking at the photograph at the beginning of this article, that is a meth user. The first photo was taken in March 1981, and the last photo was taken in January 1989. In eight short years, this woman aged 40 years and is most likely deceased at this point. Here are more meth users:

✕

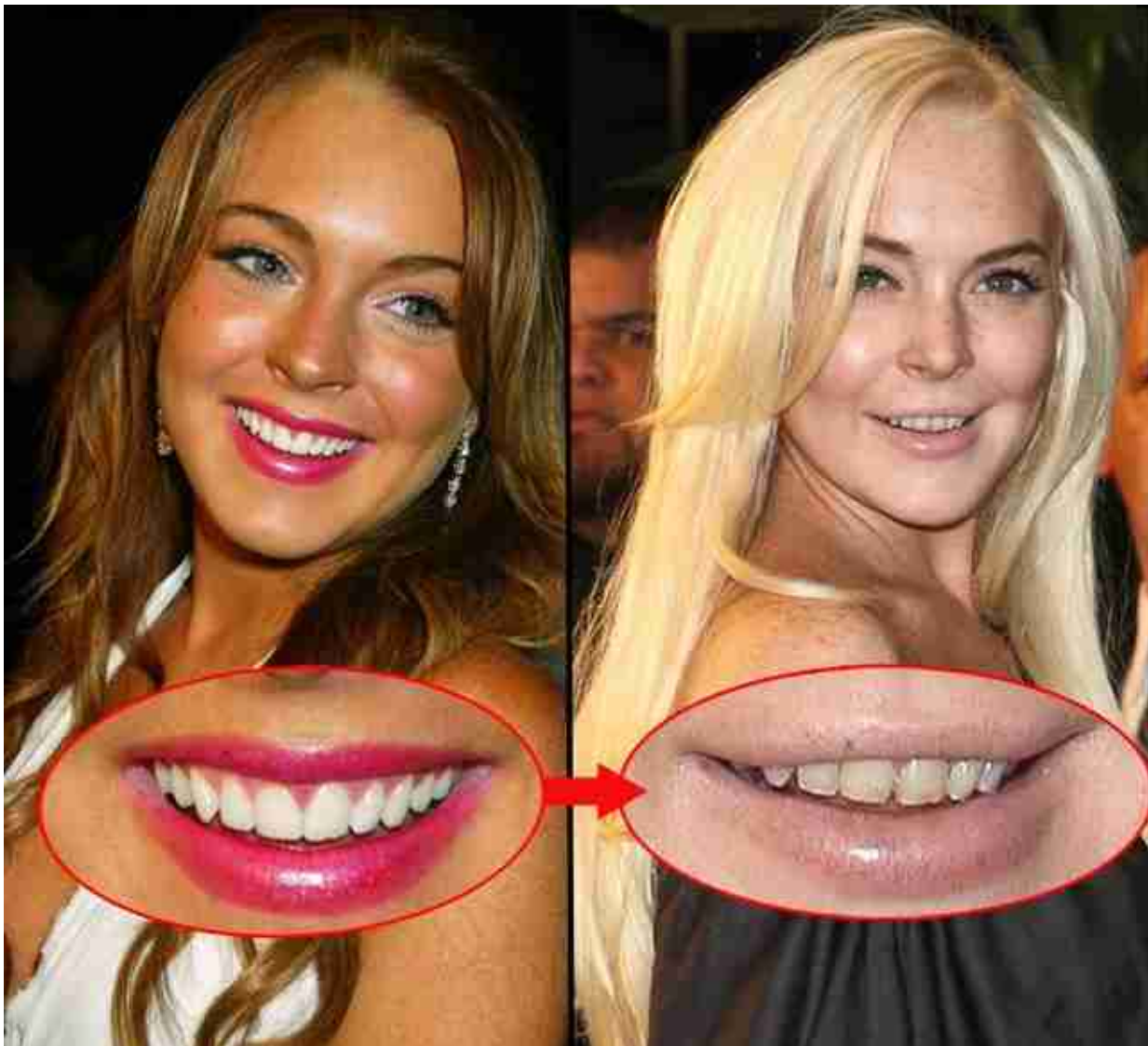
Heroin, anyone?



How about some cocaine?



Have you ever heard of “meth mouth”?





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Movie Makers Often Use Arizona For Its “Otherworldly” Features (2012-03-03 12:35)

✖ There is a recent article on Arizona Central touting Arizona's contribution to the movie industry. Sure, it's great for the economy and it's nice to see places you're familiar with on the big screen. Although Arizonans are proud to have their state used as a movie set, I can see through the Hollywood glitter for the real reason why Arizona is chosen for movies.

Let's face it, Arizona is a butt-ugly state – especially the deserts. There are certain parts of Arizona that looks more like Mars than on Earth. In the 1968 version of “Planet of the Apes”, Charlton Heston starred as an astronaut who crash lands on a strange planet. That strange planet is actually Lake Powell, just north of Phoenix. The director, Steven Ward, describes the scene as the actors “walking through the desolate, barren, forbidding lands”. I find that description accurate, and mirrors my opinion of the desert.

If you take a look at this list of movies filmed in Arizona, you will notice most of them are either westerns or science fiction films. Arizona's unusual landscape can easily be portrayed as another planet, such as in George Lucas' space adventures. It's a stretch to say Arizona is chosen for filming because of its beauty. I think the real reason filmmakers come to Arizona is because it's just too ugly to be real. But, it IS real and it's our every day hell we deal with living in Arizona.

Attack of the Bees: Arizona Bee Swarms (2012-03-05 11:48)



Danger In The Desert: Bees

Arizona made the news again this weekend. Believe it or not, it was sports news! Good news? No. The sports highlight in Arizona this weekend was a bee swarm at a MLB spring training game.

The game, held in Scottsdale, was delayed for 41 minutes because of the bee swarm taking up residency the end of the Giants' first-base dugout. Center fielder Chris Young said, "I didn't see them at first I just heard them. I am not afraid of one or two of them, I wouldn't flinch at that. When you start talking about 500 or 600 of them - I am afraid of that. I would be afraid of anything of that many. If there were that many mosquitoes, I would be afraid of that."

Fortunately, no one was hurt during this bee incident. Hearing about a "bee delay" for any kind of event sounds comedic and unique, but it's a common danger here in Arizona.

Bee Attacks On People

In September 2011, one man was killed and two injured after a bee attack In Prescott (Yavapai County). The deceased victim managed to walk to a neighbor's house before collapsing on their porch. (Source: azcentral)

In February 2012, four people were attacked by bees in Mesa. Firemen had to close access to the area several blocks around scene. Fortunately, there were only minor injuries. (Source: Tucson Citizen)

In March 2010, two women in Phoenix were attacked by a swarm of bees while they were out for a walk.

Here is a very morbid description of the scene by a witness: (Source: abcnews)

It looked like an Alfred Hitchcock movie. They were covered, I mean covered in bees, you couldn't see their face or their skin," Tony Garcia, another onlooker who tried to help the women, told KNXV. "The other guy was getting stung so he handed me the fire extinguisher and I was trying to get the bees to stop. It was something else, they [the women] had bees in their hair, ears, just all over."

Bee Attacks On Animals

In Bisbee, a 1000 pound hog was killed during a two hour bee attack. An 800-pound pregnant sow nearby also was stung so many times that she went into a coma and lost her litter. (Source: Huffington Post)

"It doesn't make any rhyme or reason," Booth said. "I've been doing this over 20 years. For some reason, this year, they're (Africanized bees) just going completely insane."

In Avondale, a bee swarm killed three dogs. One of the dogs jumped into a swimming pool in an attempt to escape the attack, but was still killed by the swarm. "Bees that attacked en mass - filling her dogs' ears, mouths and eyes with their venomous, stinging bodies." (Source: examiner)

The owner of the dogs, Teri, quickly learned she did not want to live in Arizona:

Teri went to Arizona to further her nursing education. Her hope? To earn a better living so that she could help rescue more dogs. Instead, she is struggling to rescue her own dog, and to keep her head above water in the chaos that has followed her since Thursday night.

Teri moved to Arizona from Washington state. Until Thursday, she was unaware of the killer bee threat in the area. Though the hive that housed the attacking bees has been destroyed, she no longer wants to live in Arizona.

I could go on for many more pages highlighting the dangers of bees in Arizona. They are here in Arizona and are a threat to all people and animals.

What To Do If You See Arizona Killer Bees

I'm not a bee expert, so I'm quoting from the Invader Pest Management website.

1. **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!** Don't assume they're not aggressive because they're in a hive and you're not acting in a threatening manner. It doesn't take much to set the bees off. If they start the attack, then
2. **RUN!** Seriously, if you believe there is a swarm of bees nearby, don't stick around to find out. Seek shelter, as that is the only way to stop the attack. If you're out in the desert hiking or in a field, you may have to continue running for one mile to escape the attack.
3. **DON'T JUMP IN A POOL!** The bees will wait for you to come up for air. The carbon dioxide you exhale when coming up for air is an attractant for bees.

Fortunately, I haven't been stung since living in Arizona. I've been near at least two swarms, but was able to get out of the way. The first time I became aware of these bees was when I was out in my driveway washing the car with my young daughter. I heard a buzzing sound coming from the distance and saw a pulsating cloud coming towards me. Surprisingly, it did sort of look like the cartoons! I ran inside, and they passed by. You usually hear the bees before seeing them.

Another time I was in a neighborhood where a dog was killed by swarm of bees, and a child was stung as well (but was ok). The fire department responded and sprayed down the bees with foam. I was told the foam sticks to them, making their bodies too heavy for their wings to support. The bees fall to the ground and the foam eventually suffocates them. The fire departments around here are supplied with bee suits! Even after the fire department pulled away, there were still a good amount of angry bees flying around. As soon as I got out of my vehicle, I began having bees buzz around my head.

This is a photo from that day...



Teri, who had her dogs killed by bees (see above), found her breaking point for wanting to leave Arizona. For her, it was the unfortunate loss of her dogs to bees. I'd like to think she made it out of the desert.

Like Teri, many of us who dwell here in the desert have certain things that bother us and it starts the thought process of Arizona not being what we thought it was. For me, my list for not wanting to live in Arizona is growing every day:

- Arizona Drivers
- Arizona Landscape
- Arizona Mental Health
- Arizona People
- Arizona Pollution
- Arizona Real Estate
- Arizona Valley Fever
- Arizona Weather
- Crime In Arizona
- Drugs In Arizona
- Escaping Arizona
- Family Life In Arizona

Air Quality Alert, Wind Advisory Issued Today (2012-03-06 10:45)



Air Quality Alert, 3/6/2012

National weather service Phoenix AZ

High pollution advisory for Maricopa county including the greater Phoenix area and Pinal County Monday.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in Phoenix has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for the greater Phoenix area for Tuesday. The Pinal County Department of Air Quality has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for Pinal County including Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge and Florence for Tuesday.

An episode of strong and gusty winds is forecast to generate widespread blowing dust that may result in local coarse particle concentrations that pose a health risk. Adverse health effects increase as air quality deteriorates.

Coarse particulate matter - also known as pm-10 - is an air contaminant that can aggravate heart and lung disease conditions, especially in older adults, children and those with asthma. A decrease in physical activity is recommended.

Consolidate your travel, stabilize loose soils, slow down or avoid travel on dirt roads, reduce or eliminate fireplace use and avoid using gas-powered lawn equipment.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Maricopa county visit www.azdeq.gov or call 602-771-2367 for recorded forecast information.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Pinal county visit pinalcountyaz.gov.

Wind Advisory for Greater Phoenix Area, AZ

Wind advisory now in effect from 2 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight. The wind advisory is now in effect from 2 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight.

Affected area: Southwest and south-central Arizona, including La Paz, Yuma, Maricopa, Northern Pinal and southern Gila counties. This includes the communities of Wenden, Dateland, Wickenburg, Gila Bend, Casa Grande, Globe And the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Timing: Winds will increase during the mid afternoon hours, peaking during evening rush hour traffic and continue to blow into the evening hours.

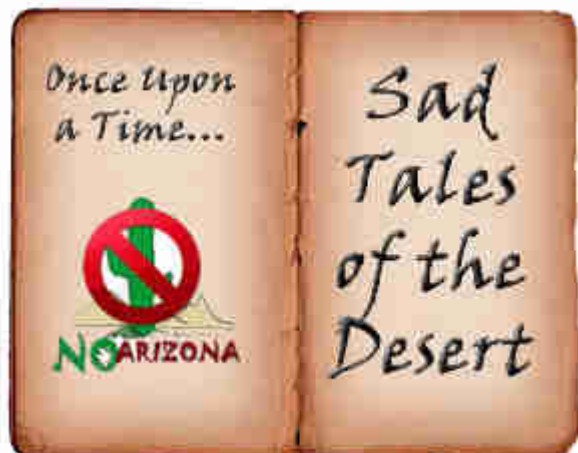
Winds: Southwest winds 25 to 30 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Gusts to 50 mph are possible over portions of La Paz county as well as isolated higher terrain and mountain sites.

Impacts: Travel difficulties for high profile vehicles and the potential for areas of reduced visibilities due to blowing dust across the lower desert elevations, especially along sections of interstate 8 and 10 near Casa Grande, Gila Bend and Tonopah. Recreational interests on area lakes may be hampered by the strong gusty winds.

Precautionary/preparedness actions: Motorists are urged to use extra caution this afternoon and evening. Be prepared for sudden reductions in visibility and more difficult handling conditions.

SOS FROM THE DESERT: PLEASE SEND OXYGEN TANKS!!

Poems About Arizona: Sad Tales of the Desert (2012-03-07 12:48)



For those of us who are struggling with life in Arizona, we know it's a depressing place. There are so many things that peck away at our souls while living in Arizona. Perhaps it's the "zombification" taking effect, forcing us deeper into denial of the fact we live in a desolate desert.

I took a look at poetry about Arizona, and found their words to be incredibly sad and serve as good depictions of how I often view the desert. Just a quick note, I do not intend to improperly post any of these poems. I have given proper credit to the authors and the sources.

Dance of the Dust Witches

by: William H. Simpson

Are you not weary,
O desert dust witches?

I cannot see who waltzes with you
In close embrace—
But your lips meet hotly in kisses,

Your hair is disheveled,
Your ribbons are flying,
Your skirts are in tatters.

The music you dance to—
It comes from fiddles bewitched.

Arizona

by: Christine Siebeneck Swayne

Stretched out from both my hands
Lie the parched, arid lands,
Thirsty and dry and bare,
Fanned by a furnace air;
Serrate against hard skies
Their mistless mountains rise,
Or, in the distance seen,
Glow with an opal sheen,
Violet, and blue, and rose,
Their gorgeous color flows,
Or ochre, orange, chrome,
Against a turquoise dome;
While the heat haze between
Vibrates, a hueless screen;
The sand around my feet
Glares in the sun's fierce heat.
Drifted and driven apace
It knows no resting place;
Despite the awful drought
Weird cacti writhe about,

And Spanish dagger sheaves
Spread out their fleshy leaves—
But here the faint heart clings
To any hope of springs—
Ah! here may vain ears strain
For blessed, dripping rain—
And here may burned eyes glare
On many a mirage fair:—
Far from all human reach
Lost bones may bare and bleach—
Stretched out from both my hands
Lie the parched, arid lands.

Song of the Sand Storm

by: Andrew Downing

I am the pitiless Sand Storm,
The whelp of a tameless breed—
My dam the desert, my sire the air;
I stealthily come from my shadowy lair,
And away, and away I speed!

I lie in the sun on the mesa
Outstretching my yellow length;
I drowse and I purr in a tigerish way,
Then suddenly leap on my terrified prey
With more than a tiger's strength!

I scar the cliffs in my fury,
Effacing their ancient runes;
I polish the skeleton bones that lie
Unnoted, unburied—and scurrying by,
Heap higher the gray sand dunes.

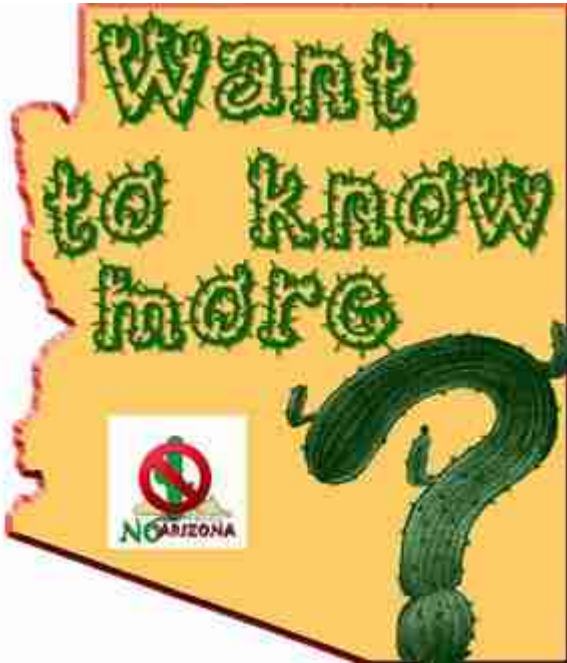
The arrogant sentinel mountains
Make challenge—yet little I reckon;
And vainly the obdurate cactus sets
In my pathway a million bayonets—
It never my course can check.

The pace of the caravan quickens
At the thought of my wild caprice;
And the thunder rouses and beats his drums
To tell the world that the Sand Storm comes—
And the songs and the laughter cease!

According to the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) website, Arizona received a D+ for its mental health. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Arizona, and it's not surprising to me at all.

Sure, the winters are nice because it resembles spring. But dealing with 5-6 months of 100+ degree weather really wears on your body and soul. Combine the heat with a desolate landscape, it's no wonder people are sad here.

Be sure to read our earlier article about Mental Health In Arizona.



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Links (2012-03-13 11:31)

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Why is Arizona So Hot? (2012-03-13 13:22)



Arizona heat is an unfortunate fact of life that makes life very miserable during the hot months. Between May and September, it is very uncomfortably hot in Arizona. Arizona is obviously a desert, but why? Why is it so hot here? There is a scientific reason why Arizona gets so hot.

The Laguna Mountains in California is the first barrier of cool air coming from the Pacific Ocean. Phoenix is situated in a valley, surrounded by mountains. Because of the updraft of heat, clouds and rain rarely make it into the valley. There are times when you can literally see a ring of clouds around the entire valley because the high pressure of the hot air is keeping the clouds at bay.

Arizona is located on the lee sides (AKA down-wind) of the mountains. When rain reaches the mountains, the precipitation rises up the mountains, cools and condenses into clouds. The rain clouds bring precipitation to the up-wind side of the mountains. When the air descends on the down-side of the mountains, it compacts and heats up. By the time the clouds reach the down-wind side of the mountains, the air is wrung drier than it was on the up-wind side of the mountains.

Because of the hot weather, there is almost constantly high pressure over Arizona. Under high pressure, the air sinks and clouds cannot form. Because of the lack of rain in Arizona, the humidity is very low. Dry air heats up fast because there is no humidity in the air to absorb the heat.

Urban Heat Islands

Arizona was already a hot desert before people settled here, but the development has made urban areas in Arizona even hotter. Urban Heat Islands (UHI) are areas that experience consistently higher temperatures than surrounding areas because of a greater retention of heat by buildings, concrete and asphalt. Phoenix is a prime example of an UHI.

According to this article (PDF), the Phoenix UHI is "jeopardizing the sustainability of Phoenix". The article states in 2010, there were seven days with a recorded low temperature over ninety degrees at Sky Harbor Airport; on these same days the low temperature in Queen Creek, in the southeast Valley periphery, was consistently ten degrees lower. Basically, the urban areas are normally ten degrees hotter than the outlying areas. Ten degrees might not sound like a lot, but when you're talking about 100 degrees vs 110 degrees it's a hefty difference.

I like to think of the Urban Heat Island effect as a heat bubble. It's a dome of self-contained hot air

that doesn't let much actual weather in. When weather does make it through the heat bubble, it's usually very severe and causes dust storms and poor air quality. At the time of this article, I cannot recall the last time I saw rain but I've seen plenty of dust storms.

What Arizona Hot Weather Is Like

It's difficult to explain what the Arizona heat feels like. Unless you've felt it, you won't truly understand it. The uncomfortable heat starts around late-April to early-May and ends late-September to early-October. You can count on half the year feeling miserable.

For me, I start getting uncomfortable and irritable at 105 degrees. Above 105, it doesn't matter what the number is because it's just HOT. So, let's describe a hot summer day in Arizona!

It's 6:00 AM, and the alarm clock is buzzing. The sun is already up because it rises at 5:00 AM in the summer. I wake up and start a pot of coffee. I really hate to drink hot fluids in the summer, but I like coffee. The trick is to not go outside until I've had my cup of coffee, because once the heat hits my skin, I don't want anything hot.

I walk outside to check the mail or get the paper, and it's already uncomfortable. The temperature is in the upper-80's to lower-90's, and it's not even 7:00 AM yet. I can feel the heat radiating from the concrete and asphalt beneath my feet and the sun is beating down on me from above. I run back inside to the air conditioning, which runs all the time. I have two air conditioning units and pay approximately \$400-\$500 per month on my electricity bill. My thermostats are set to 79-81, and NEVER goes below 79. I just can't afford that.

I take a shower, but I can't get any cold water. I turn on the cold tap, but only hot water comes out. I realize it's going to be another one of those days where everything will be hot and uncomfortable, and it puts me in a bad mood. The shower is too damned hot and I have no way to cool it off.

I drive to work and park in the parking lot, where it will sit in the hot sun all day. I spend all day inside at work in the air conditioning. When it's time to go home, the sun is still shining bright and it has heated up outside. As I walk out, the heat from above is even more intense and burns my skin. Not the sun burn type of burning, but the burning sensation you get when you're standing too close to an open flame. As I walk by buildings and structures, I feel the heat emanating from it as if I were walking by a heater.

As I touch the door handle to open my car door, the handle is too hot to touch. I have to use a towel to open the door. As my car door swings open, a gush of hot 130 degree air hits my face. I'm reminded of the sensation of opening a hot oven. I take a deep breath, hold it and enter the vehicle. I quickly start it up, crank up the air conditioning and roll down my windows to blow out the hot air. I have to sit there for a couple of minutes while the temperature inside my car reaches the ambient outside temperature of 110 degrees.

Finally, it cools down to 110 degrees and I'm able to roll up the windows and I can start to feel trickles of air conditioned air coming out of the vents. I reach up to touch the steering wheel, but it burns my hand. I have to drive with a towel on my steering wheel while the air conditioning struggles to cool it down.

On the drive home, the sun is lower in the sky and it's right in my face. There are no canopies of trees to drive under to shield the sun away. The sun is UP and SHINING until it goes below the horizon or a mountain. Although the air conditioning is cranked, I can feel the heat from my windows. Even my tinted windows aren't blocking the 110+ degree heat outside.

Once I get home, I decide to go for a swim in the pool. I have to wear flip-flops out to the pool because the concrete is too hot to walk on barefoot. Wearing my open-toed shoes, I can feel the heat on my toes and it literally burns.

I quickly discover the pool is hot, too. There is no refreshment because I feel like I just jumped into a giant bowl of soup. Well, this sure sucks. Maybe a cold shower will cool me down. Yes, it would cool me down but there are no cold showers in the summer. I find relief by getting wet hand towels and putting them in the refrigerator and wiping off with them. The refrigerator is the only thing that is cold. With the house air conditioner set at 79, it's still not refreshing because heat emanates from the walls and windows. The only true cool air is directly under the vent.

It is like this day-in and day-out for six months out of the year in Arizona. I'm always angry and irritated because of the heat. You might hear people say "it's a dry heat". Yes, it's a dry heat but the dry air is what makes it so hot in Arizona. I would welcome humidity because the moisture is sucked from my body from living in the desert.

Arizona heat is very unpleasant and it will suck the life out of you. The only escape from the summer heat is leaving Arizona.



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How Much Water Do You Need To Drink In Arizona? (2012-03-15 14:10)



Staying hydrated in the Arizona desert is sometimes a challenge, but a necessity. The sun here will literally suck the moisture from your body. You can feel dehydration take hold when you start experiencing a headache, lightheadedness, weakness and a racing heart.

I've heard it said in Arizona that if you allow yourself to become thirsty, you're already to the point of dehydration. It reminds me of a funny story when I tried explaining that concept to my parents. I told them, "Once you're thirsty, it's too late!"

Of course, the words came out wrong but it was kind of funny to think you're going to die of dehydration if you become thirsty in Arizona! By saying "too late", I meant you're already to the point of dehydration. With the Arizona desert being as foreboding as it is, death normally comes to mind when one uses the words "too late" and "Arizona" together! Perhaps it's from watching all the television portrayals of people crawling across the desert saying, "Water....water...water..."

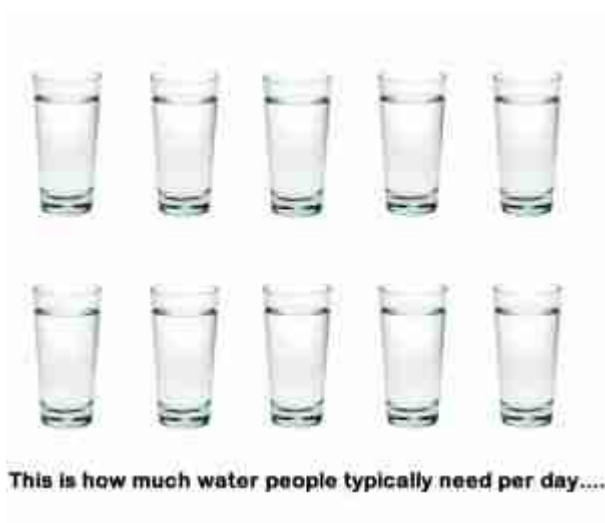
In most areas of the United States (I like to refer to them as "normal areas"), dehydration is an inconvenience and easily solved. In Arizona, water is a lifeline and you really have to pay attention to how much water you drink. During the summer months, you **MUST** take water with you everywhere. If your car breaks down on the freeway, don't count on someone stopping to help you! You must fend yourself and prepare yourself accordingly. I also suggest keeping an umbrella in your car, too. Shade makes a **HUGE** difference here. Shade is even more scarce than water here in the Arizona desert! Believe me, shielding yourself from the sun makes a huge difference!

I'm not going to bore you with dehydration facts, but if you want to read all about it, refer to this website. The writer focuses on staying hydrated in the Arizona sun.

How Much Water?

We've all heard the recommendation of 10 glasses of water per day. My guess is the people who made this recommendation were thinking of the "normal" areas of the country. Here in Arizona, it's a different story. According to the aforementioned website, it is suggested people in Arizona lose **THREE GALLONS** of water

per day without exertion. With that said, you have to drink that much just to maintain your current level of hydration. Here is a graphical representation:



So, get ready folks. We're only a couple months away from the 100's, and it will continue for months. If you plan on visiting Arizona in the summer, don't...just, don't.

I think The Most Interesting Man In The World got it wrong when he said, "Stay thirsty, my friends."

Thirst is your enemy in Arizona!

Arizona Tap Water

Ok, so I think I've established the need to drink water here in Arizona. But, where's the best water? In the "normal areas" of the country, you can turn on the kitchen sink and pour yourself a glass of water. In Arizona, we have what's called "hard water". What that basically means is there are high deposits of minerals in the water, making it almost impossible to drink. When it comes to washing off with tap water, the hard water prevents soaps from working as well as it should.

It is common for the nicer homes in Arizona to have soft water systems, and if you're lucky you have

reverse-osmosis to filter your water. Otherwise, most people get their water and ice from...well, the Water & Ice store! No joke, there is a chain of stores here where their main product is water...and ice! Don't believe me? Look here.

Many people own the large 5-gallon water cooler bottles and take them to Water & Ice stores to fill up. Otherwise, water delivery is big business in Arizona too. I think the Water & Ice stores should also start selling oxygen for the high pollution days!

I find it highly ironic that the driest state in the United States also has the worst natural drinking water. Arizona relies heavily on industrial technology for its survival (air conditioning, water, buildings, cars, etc). Arizona is not a natural habitat for people. We are just simply not meant to live here!



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Cluster Houses In Arizona (2012-03-15 22:01)



Your eyes are not deceiving you, these houses really do have overlapping roof lines! Look at how close the windows are to each other! It would be easy to be Spider-man here, jumping roof-to-roof and whatever a Spidey-man does. I really don't know the legality of intersecting roofs, but these houses are occupying the same space.

Fortunately, my house is not like this but this is a good representation of new builds in the Phoenix area. Builders are cramming as many houses into each acre as possible. It's all about money for them, while the people who live here are stuck looking at these ugly cluster homes. Notice the colors of the houses? Everything is always painted some variation of brown.

With houses this close together, they may as well be apartments!



Wind and Blowing Dust Advisory for 3/17/12 (2012-03-17 17:05)



Wind advisory in effect from 2 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight.

Blowing dust advisory in effect from 3 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix has issued a blowing dust advisory which is in effect from 3 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight. A wind advisory has also been issued. This wind advisory is in effect from 2 pm this afternoon to midnight MST tonight.

Affected areas: South-central Arizona including Maricopa and northern Pinal counties. This includes the communities of Gila bend Wickenburg Casa Grande and the greater Phoenix area, as well interstates 10 and 8 that traverse through this area.

Timing: Winds will increase through the late morning with the strongest winds expected after 2 pm and continuing through the evening hours. Winds will slowly weaken after midnight and will increase again Sunday afternoon. Another wind advisory may be needed for this area for Sunday.

Winds: Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts of 40 to 50 mph.

Visibility: Visibilities down to or below one mile due to blowing dust.

Impacts: More difficult steering of motor vehicles, especially for high profile vehicles and the likelihood of reduced visibilities due to blowing dust and sand. Recreational use of local waterways and lakes may be hampered by the strong gusty winds. Also small unsecured objects may become airborne.

Precautionary/preparedness actions

A wind advisory means that sustained wind speeds of between 30 and 40 mph are expected or wind gusts of between 40 and 58 mph. Winds this strong can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. In addition Strong winds over desert areas could result in briefly lowered visibilities to well under a mile at times in blowing dust or blowing sand. Use extra caution.

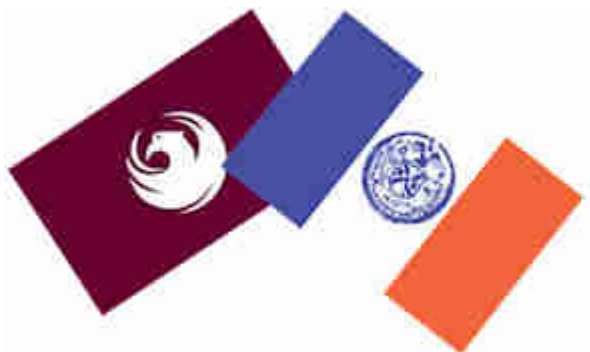
A blowing dust advisory means that blowing dust will restrict visibilities. Travelers are urged to use extra caution.

Phoenix's Mixed Up Weather (2012-03-20 08:00)

In Arizona, there are typically two seasons: Spring and Summer. It sounds nice, but living without four seasons makes me long for them. When I say Spring and Summer, I'm talking about what it FEELS like. Winter in Phoenix feels like Spring in the "normal" parts of the country. The summers here can only be compared to the Middle East.

The weather here is so mixed up, it got me to wondering how the climate compares to other parts of the world. With only two seasons in Arizona, what does our Spring and Summer feel like during different times of the year in other areas? For this weather-related article, I'm focusing on Phoenix because it's the most populated metropolitan area in Arizona. There are indeed areas in Arizona hotter than Phoenix, but I wanted to use Phoenix to compare its weather to other parts of the country.

Since the climate in Arizona is difficult to describe unless you've experienced it, let's compare Phoenix's weather to places you may be familiar with. (Source: weather.com)



Phoenix vs New York City

Let's compare Phoenix and New York City and see what happens!

During Christmas and New Year's in Phoenix, the average December high temperature is 65° and the average January high temperature is 66°. In comparison, NYC's April is 62° and their October is 65° while celebrating Easter and Halloween. The Phoenix holiday season would feel like Spring and Fall to a New Yorker.

What about Spring time in Phoenix? Phoenix's average high temperature in April is 84°. In comparison, New Yorkers are celebrating Independence Day in the same weather with an average high of 85°. To a New Yorker, Spring in Phoenix feels like the hottest part of their summer!

Phoenix's average low temperature in July is 76°, while NYC's average high is 79° during the same month.

The results:

- Phoenix winter = NYC spring and fall,
- Phoenix spring = NYC summer,
- Phoenix July nights = NYC July daytime temperatures



Phoenix vs Atlanta

Let's head to the southeast for a milder climate and see how Phoenix compares with Atlanta!

During winter in Phoenix, the average high temperature in January is 66°. The month with the closest comparable average high in Atlanta is March at 65°. A Southern transplant in Phoenix would think of a Phoenix winter as their native Spring!

Phoenix's spring time average high temperature is 84° during April. Atlanta's months with similar temperatures are in May (80°) and June (85°). The Phoenix Spring feels like the onset of Summer to a good 'ole boy from Georgia!

Phoenix's average low temperature in July is 76°, while Atlanta's average high temperature is 80° in May.

The results:

- Phoenix winter = Atlanta spring,
- Phoenix spring = Atlanta spring & early summer,
- Phoenix July nights = Atlanta's May daytime temperatures



Phoenix vs. Minneapolis

Minneapolis is Phoenix on opposite-day! On opposite day, I love Arizona and will never leave! When opposite day is over, I go back to hating life in Arizona!

While Phoenix is known for the heat, Minneapolis is known for its extreme cold. I was just curious to see how our arctic friends compare!

During winter in Phoenix, the average high temperature in January is 66°. Up in Minneapolis, May feels like Phoenix's January with an average high of 69°. Phoenix's spring time average high temperature in April is 84°, which feels like July in Minneapolis with their average high also at 84°. Easter in Phoenix feels like the Fourth of July in Minneapolis!

Phoenix's average low in July is 76°, while the average high in July is 79° in Minneapolis.

The results:

- Phoenix winter = Minneapolis spring,
- Phoenix spring = Minneapolis summer,
- Phoenix July nights = Minneapolis July daytime temperatures



Phoenix vs. Baghdad, Iraq

Phoenix is impossible to compare to other well-known parts of the country due to the extreme heat. Let's compare an American desolate desert to a Middle Eastern desolate desert! What the heck, right? U-S-A! U-S-A!

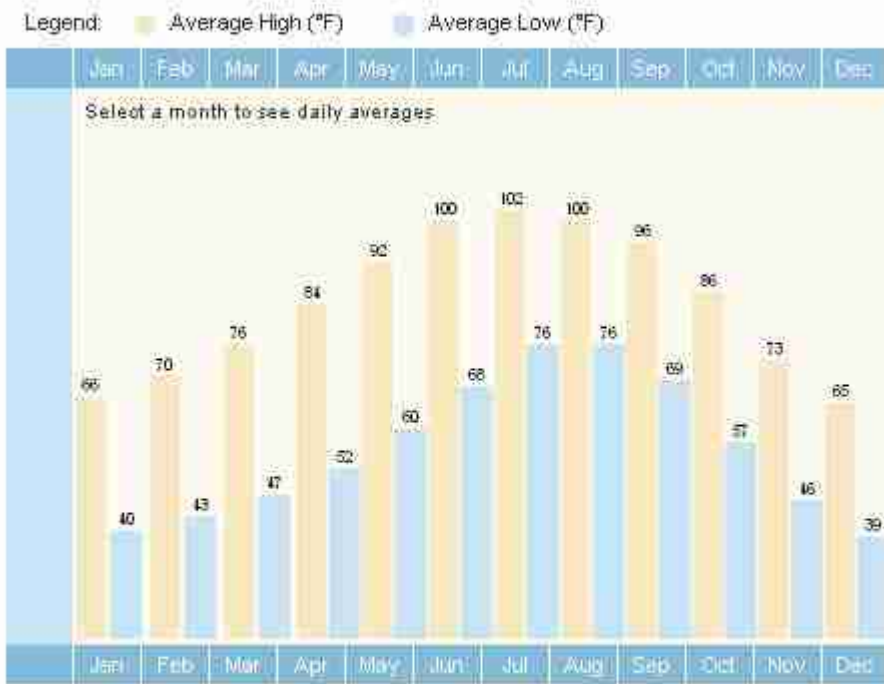
In the winter time Phoenix's average January high temperature is 66°, which feels like Baghdad's March with

an average high temperature at 62°! Phoenix's spring time April average high temperature is 84°. Baghdad HAS to be hotter in the Spring, right? Nope, Baghdad doesn't reach these average highs until May with their average high at 82°.

In Baghdad, there are typically 179 days over 90°, while Phoenix trails close behind with 167 days! Phoenix and Baghdad are tied at 122 days of what are considered extreme high temps. Sorry, I don't know what the meteorological society considers "extreme high temperatures", but I'm guessing they think of over 100° as extreme.

The results:

- Phoenix winter is HOTTERR than Baghdad's spring,
- Phoenix spring = May in Baghdad,
- Phoenix has nearly as many days over 90° in a year.
- Phoenix and Baghdad both have 122 days of extreme high temperatures per year



The above chart is a graphical representation of the average highs and lows in Phoenix. You can use this website to compare the weather between cities.

Ever since moving here, I knew something wasn't right with the weather. At first, it's nice being able to eat Thanksgiving dinner on the patio and to wear shorts while Christmas shopping! When you're not used to the weather, it's unique and it feels really nice!

Yes, the winters in Phoenix are nice, and that is why we get so many winter visitors (AKA "snow birds"). After a while, it becomes apparent there are only two seasons in Phoenix. It's either warm or hot...nothing else. It may get chilly every once in a while, but not real cold.

People who move to Phoenix from "normal areas" of the country eventually realize there are no natural indicators for telling what season it is. When the leaves fall and it gets chilly outside, you know Halloween and Thanksgiving are coming! Drinking hot cocoa for the sake of keeping warm! Christmas shopping wearing a coat and gloves! That is normal! In Arizona, the only way you can tell it's changing seasons is the "seasonal isle" at Walgreens and Wal-Mart.

As always, I'm not trying to convince anyone toward my point of view. There are some who love this weather and will never leave Arizona. As for me, I miss four seasons. I love waking up and seeing a fresh layer of snow. I love the beautiful fall colors. I like having a nice fire in the fireplace. I like looking forward to summer, not dreading it. I've been away too long, and I miss my home sweet home.

The Phoenix "Heat Bubble" In Action (2012-03-29 11:56)



In earlier articles, I delved into why Arizona is so hot and the mixed up weather in Phoenix. The weather in Arizona, particularly in Phoenix, is very unique and very unnatural for humans.

As I was driving this morning, I observed a straight line of clouds on the east side of the valley. As I wrote in a previous article, a ring of clouds is sometimes seen surrounding the Phoenix valley. A combination of the mountains and the warmer air keeps the clouds at bay, and I snapped a couple of photographs to represent what "the ring" looks like.

Although there wasn't a ring around the entire valley this morning, there is a distinct line of clouds over the east valley. These clouds will never cross the mountains to give us much needed shade. Shade is at a premium in Arizona, even on cooler days like today. Keep in mind, the word "cooler" is relative and unique to Phoenix. The forecast calls for the temperature to be in the upper-80's today, which is typically summer weather in other parts of the country.



I'm not a meteorologist, and I don't play one on TV either. Based upon my reading, I attribute the strange cloud formation to a combination of the Urban Heat Island (UHI - aka "Heat Bubble") effect and the fact Phoenix is surrounded by mountains. To learn more about the UHI effect in Phoenix, read this interesting article (PDF) about how it jeopardizes sustainability of Phoenix.



When I got home, I looked up the Phoenix weather map to see what the strange clouds look like from above. I was surprised to see the line of clouds almost perfectly trace along the geography of the surrounding mountains! Even on a "cool" day, the clouds cannot penetrate the rising warmer air and the mountains.

This weather phenomena really makes me dread the foreboding summer weather. The heat bubble surrounding us simply will not give us any relief. That's why summertime is the best time to leave Arizona.



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1.3 April

Fools Are Abundant 365 Days A Year In Arizona (2012-04-01 03:01)



Kick me!

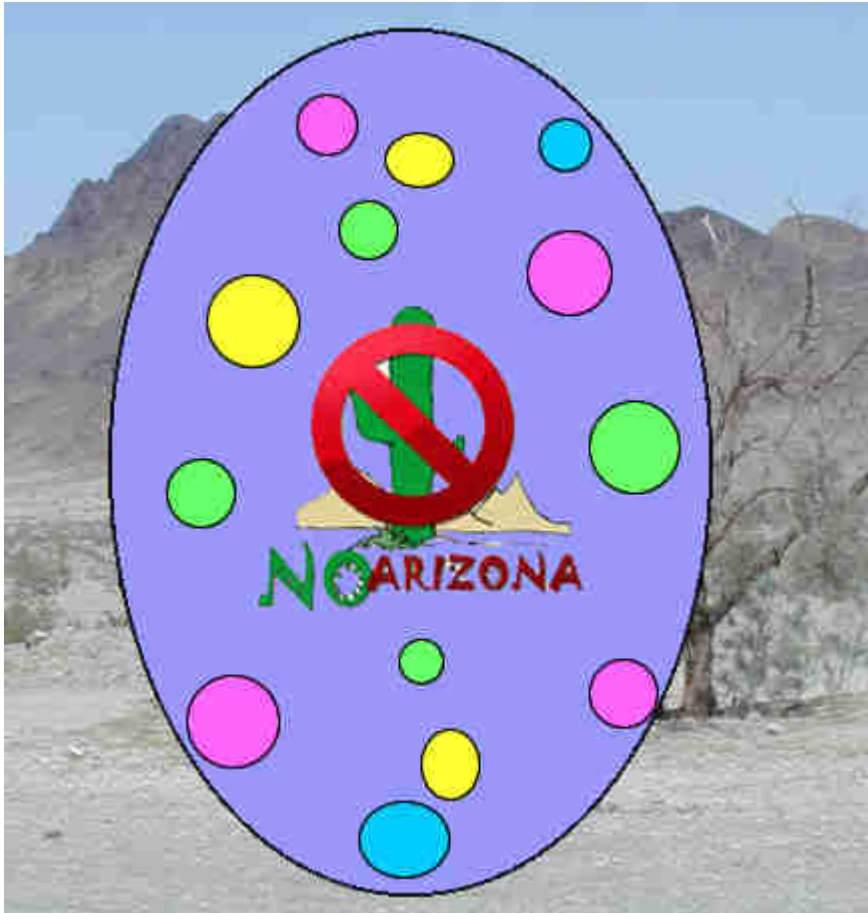
I moved to Arizona!

(Please send water and clean air)

Hope You Have A Happy April Fool's Day!

Happy Easter from NoArizona! (2012-04-08 12:25)

Nothing says Easter like 95 degrees, right?



More People Are Moving Out of Arizona Than Moving In (2012-04-11 00:11)



I recently saw a news report on TV where "U-Haul data shows many choosing to move to Phoenix". This didn't make sense to me because I live here, and I see numerous vacant homes. Besides, U-Haul providing data on moving patterns is like Holiday Inn giving advice on resorts.

This data is the hopeful Phoenix media creating something positive to convince more suckers to move here. I'd really like to see this data and see where people are moving FROM. Are they moving FROM one part of Phoenix to another? All we have to go by is the manager of a U-Haul saying how busy it's been.



Being the skeptic I am of any positive Arizona facts, I decided to look a little deeper into this. What I found directly contradicts the news story previously mentioned. We have the worst housing market here, and I'm very doubtful Phoenix is a popular destination for people relocating from different parts of the country.

The first article I found was from a Phoenix news radio station. In the article, it provided data from 2011 and showed 2,206 households moved out of Arizona and only 2,056 came in. Their source was the Phoenix Business Journal. This map shows the American migration pattern in detail.

A local Phoenix newspaper printed an article this month showing more people are moving out of Arizona than in. The article points to economic problems, both locally and nationally, as having stifled Arizona's population boom.

Surprisingly, none of the articles speak about the things that bother me the most about Arizona. The writers speak of the economy, jobs, etc...but no one in the media will touch on the fact living in Arizona just sucks! Arizona is bad for your mental health, has bad drivers, barren landscape, pollution, valley fever, HOT weather, crime, drugs and a poor quality of life.

I found a great article from a Seattle news outlet called The Stranger. The article was appropriately titled, "Fleeing Phoenix: Refugees Streaming North from the Desert Shithole". There are too many good quotes to list here, but this one really sticks out:

These days, unhappy white Angelenos are no longer moving north but east, into the desert cities of the Southwest. In an attempt to accommodate new residents used to slightly cooler climates, Phoenix's sprawl now clusters around artificial lakes (from which water evaporates in huge volumes), to create the illusion that Arizona is not a desert.

Today, on April 10, 2012, it was in the 90's in Arizona. That is summertime in most normal parts of the country. Although it's not even hot yet (by Arizona standards), I am already becoming agitated at the feeling of hot air. I guess I shouldn't complain too much because I'll be begging for the 90's by August and September.

I'm not surprised more people are moving out of Arizona than in. I'm hoping this website will serve as a source of information for people considering a move to Arizona and wondering if they should go through with it. If you're one of those people, keep in mind I'm not from Arizona originally and I did not grow up in the desert. Now that I'm here, I realize this is not the place for me. If you're considering a move to the desert, please read these articles and consider your options.

Of course, there are people who love Arizona and can shed positive light on desert living. You won't find cheerful articles about desert living, because I just don't find life in Arizona appealing. If you're looking for the hand-holding-sunny-cheerful side to Arizona, try Googling it. I already put in the search query for you, so go for it!



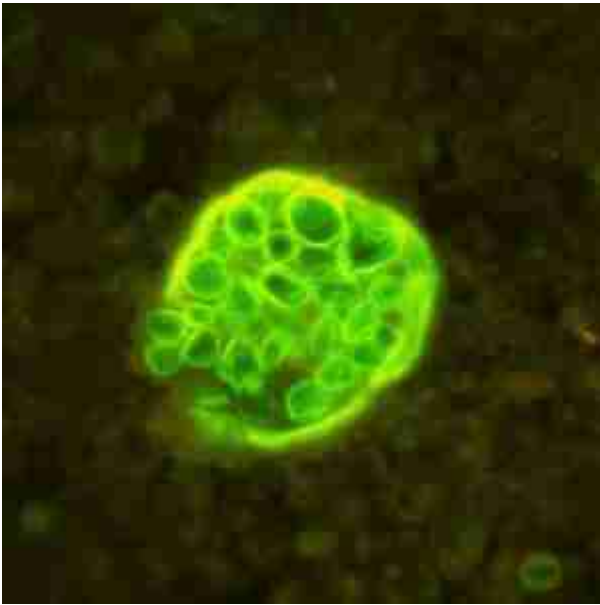
I have no political or personal agenda against Arizona. I'm not trying to sway your opinion. I hate living in Arizona, and the articles posted on this website detail the reasons why. It is my hopes that you, the reader, will find at least ONE sentence of these articles insightful regarding the quality of life in Arizona. If you're also missing home and living in Arizona, I hope you find your escape one day.

As for me, I will once again sleep under a canopy of tall, green trees. The crickets will be chirping at night. I will again witness the fireflies paint their light across the canvas of darkness. That's living!

Contact (2012-04-11 21:10)

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Quick Facts About Arizona Valley Fever (2012-04-12 08:00)



With the monsoon season quickly approaching and as a valley fever survivor, I thought it would be a good opportunity to share a quick list of facts about the disease.

- Valley Fever is contracted by inhaling spores of *Coccidioides* sp. fungus (see photo).
- The fungus that causes Valley Fever is regulated by the federal government in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. In accordance with this law, anyone possessing, using, transferring, or receiving any of the select agents (including *Coccidioides*) must notify the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, or is otherwise committing a federal crime.
- To guard against biological terrorism in the wake of the 9/11 terrorism and subsequent anthrax deaths, *Coccidioides* was regulated even further in the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.
- Valley Fever case reporting in Arizona has increased 3,931 % from 1990 (255 reports) to 2009 (10,279 diagnosed case reports). That is almost a four thousand percent increase in cases reported from 1990 to 2009.
- The *Coccidioides* arthroconidial spore is as small as the anthrax spore, making infection possible in your office, home, automobile, airport or hotel. It can pass through an open door in your home or a window screen. When driving in your car it is advisable to keep your vents closed, especially when it is dusty or windy outside.
- Arizona is an endemic area to the fungus.
- Stay indoors with strong winds and blowing dust and close your windows.
- An ordinary dust mask will NOT prevent Valley Fever! The tiny spore size of *Coccidioides* can easily be inhaled through the mask.

- It is possible to contract Valley Fever just by passing through Arizona, even by a visitor passing through an airport.
- Two thirds of all Valley Fever infections are contracted in Arizona.
- The Valley Fever Center for Excellence (VFCE), located in Tucson, AZ, has called coccidioidomycosis Arizona's "local secret." Very few people outside of Arizona know that Valley Fever even exists.
- Valley Fever is not a benign disease. Valley Fever can have devastating medical, emotional, and monetary effects on those who require treatment and their families. Valley Fever kills 200-500 Americans every year.
- It was estimated only 2 % of the total number of Valley Fever infections are diagnosed.
- Although Valley Fever can be contracted all year round, more cases are diagnosed in Arizona from June to July and October to November.
- Valley Fever can be contracted at any time of the day or night.
- Valley Fever is frequently misdiagnosed because it can have so many symptoms.
- Valley Fever starts in the lungs but can disseminate (spread to cause secondary infections) to other parts of the body such as skin, bones, joints, and the meninges (the lining of the brain).
- Once a person is infected, Valley Fever never completely leaves. To date, it can not be totally eliminated from the body by any medication. There is no cure.
- Valley Fever is with you for life. It can be inactive but can activate at any time, even 45 or more years later. No long term studies have been conducted to see how many asymptomatic cases reactivate or to gauge the strength of reactivated infections.
- Valley Fever can infect infants, healthy adults, the elderly and pretty much any mammal. Valley Fever does not discriminate.
- If you are in the 2nd or 3rd trimester of pregnancy, live in or visit Arizona, and contract Valley Fever, you have a significantly higher risk for a severe disseminated infection.
- Before antifungal drugs were used to combat cocci almost all cases of pregnant women with Valley Fever died.
- Men tend to have disseminated cases of cocci more often than women.
- Valley Fever is more likely to disseminate if there is an immune deficiency present – even if the victim was never aware of his or her initial infection, it could make its presence felt years later.
- One does not need an immune deficiency to have a disseminated case of Valley Fever. You can be a perfectly healthy person with no immune deficiency, contract Valley Fever, and have a severe or lethal case.
- People over 60 years of age are twice as likely to be diagnosed with Valley Fever and to have the most severe cases.
- An increasing number of dogs in Arizona are suffering Valley Fever infections. They have greater chances of contracting Valley Fever than humans
- It is widely believed that most people who get over a Valley Fever infection are protected from inhaling a second infection.

- Valley Fever does not always show positive in titer tests, even in an infected individual.
- Valley Fever's lung nodules have frequently been misdiagnosed as lung cancer.
- Like the West Nile Virus, Valley Fever has been transferred from organ donors to recipients.
- Despite the fact that disseminated coccidioidal infections spread through the bloodstream, the American Association of Blood Banks does not check the blood supply for cocci.
- As a result of their Valley Fever infections, some people have lost their jobs, health insurance, property, and homes because they are unable to work.
- Employees relocated into Arizona are not told about Valley Fever, what it can do to them, their children, their pets, or what they can do to mitigate the risks.
- Real estate companies and their agents in Arizona are not required to tell any prospective customers about the existence of Valley Fever.
- The Chambers of Commerce and Tourist Bureaus in Arizona do not send information about the state's naturally occurring bio-hazard in tourism literature.

If you've been out on a windy day or been in a dust storm, be cognizant of the symptoms of Valley Fever:

- FATIGUE
- Flu-like symptoms
- Pneumonia, but this is a fungal pneumonia
- Fever (high or low grade fever) Ø
- Shortness of breath/wheezing
- Coughing (can be chronic, severe, and include blood)
- Chest pain/pressure
- Night sweats/Chills (can be 24/7)
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Rapid weight loss (can lose 20 lbs. in 10 days)
- Rash (usually on legs, upper chest and arms)
- Burning sensations at various parts of the body (foot, joints, etc.)
- Malaise/chronic exhaustion
- Muscle aches
- Muscle stiffness

- Joint pain
- Joint swelling
- Joint stiffness
- Leg/ankle/foot swelling
- Chest pain

If you're experiencing these symptoms, I strongly suggest getting to the doctor and having a titer done. Although titers aren't always conclusive, they usually are. Mine didn't show up the first time, but it did later and a nodule could be seen on my lung x-ray.

Valley fever put me down for 7 or 8 weeks. The sooner you treat it, the sooner you can get back to your life.



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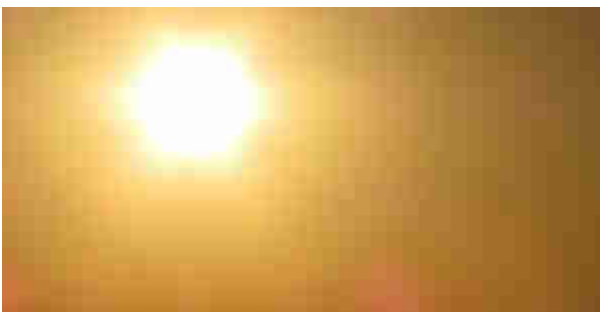
Friday 13th, and You're Living In Arizona (2012-04-13 00:13)

Hope Your Luck Improves...



You've Lived In Arizona If... (2012-04-13 08:00)

You've Lived In Arizona If...



You no longer associate bridges or rivers with water.

You discover, in July it only takes two fingers to drive your car, because your steering wheel is so hot.

The best parking is determined by shade.....not distance.

You realize that "Valley Fever" isn't a disco dance.

You can make sun tea instantly.

Hotter water comes from the cold water tap than the hot one.

It's noon in July, kids are on summer vacation and yet all the streets are totally empty of both cars and people.

You burn your hand opening the car door.

You think a red light is merely a suggestion.



All of your out-of-state friends start to visit after October but clear out come the end of April.

You think 60 tons of crushed red rock makes a beautiful yard.

Your house is made of stucco and has a red clay tile roof.

Vehicles with open windows have the right-of-way in the summer.

People who have black cars or black upholstery in their car are automatically assumed to be from out of-state or nuts.

You know better than to get into a car with leather seats if you're wearing shorts.

You know a swamp cooler is not a happy hour drink.



You take rain dances seriously.

When a rainy day puts you in a good mood.

When you drive two miles around a parking lot looking for a shady place

The temperature drops below 95 and you feel a bit chilly.

You would give anything to be able to splash cold water on your face.

You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.

Keep it going!

You've Lived In Arizona If... (leave a reply)

Dangers of the Extreme Arizona Heat (2012-04-18 12:49)



Beware of the Arizona Heat

The imminent 100+ degree weather is on its way to Arizona. While most parts of the country are looking forward to summer so they can have cookouts and days on the lake, Arizona residents are dreading the

expensive cooling utility bills, discomfort, irritability and cabin fever. Just like winter in Minnesota, Arizonans shut down and don't do anything during the summer. The neighborhood streets become abandoned while people are either inside or trying to cool off in their luke-warm swimming pools.

Exposure To Extreme Heat

In the extreme Arizona heat, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. High-risk factors include the elderly, youth (age 0-4), obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, prescription drug use, illicit drug use and alcohol use. When your body isn't able to cool itself, you are at dire risk for heat stroke.

A heat stroke occurs when the body's temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. Body temperature may rise to 106°F or higher within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.



Symptoms of heat stroke include:

- An extremely high body temperature (above 103°F)
- Red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating)
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Throbbing headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness

A less serious heat condition is heat exhaustion and can develop after several days of exposure to high temperatures and inadequate or unbalanced replacement of fluids. Those most prone to heat exhaustion are elderly people, those with high blood pressure, and those working or exercising in a hot environment. You really have to limit your activities in the extreme Arizona heat. The best time to do physical activity is early in the morning while it's still in the upper 80's and 90's. As soon as the sun comes up (normally around 5 AM), the temperature rises rapidly.

To prevent heat-related illness while in the Arizona summer heat, drink plenty of fluid, wear appropriate clothing and sunscreen, pace yourself, stay cool indoors and schedule outdoor activities carefully.



Are you outside of Arizona while reading this? Are you considering a summertime visit to Arizona? If so, the best prevention for you is DON'T COME TO ARIZONA! The most common victims of the heat in Arizona are often out-of-town visitors not used to having to drink as much fluids. Please refer to my earlier article about how much water you need to drink in Arizona.

The Arizona heat is no joke. This article cites a study where 1,500 people in Arizona died of heat-related illnesses between 1992-2009. The highest number of annual heat-related deaths occurred in 2005 with 225 deaths.

Below are some good video resources highlighting the reality of Arizona summers:

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6B8O7xcFBA>]

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZVzhTZvMJ4> &feature=related]
(It got up to 118 degrees Fahrenheit in July 2011)

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdFZ18Azwow> &feature=related]
(Yes, you can literally fry an egg in the Arizona heat)

If you're viewing this article in Google Currents or your mobile device, visit the full article to view the videos.

So here we go again, Arizona. Let's get ready for the summer heat and everyone please be careful out there. It's not even May yet and it's predicted to be 100 degrees by the end of the week.

On a personal note, the heat is the hardest thing to deal with living in Arizona. The temperature literally HURTS, and it's hard to explain. You always hear "it's a dry heat". Yes, but so is an oven and it's also incredibly uncomfortable. The only way to escape the heat is to leave Arizona. Arizona experiences the SAME number of extreme heat days as Baghdad, Iraq (see article)!

Arizona is just hot, and there's no escaping it. I really miss looking forward to summer and not dreading it. The people who say they love the Arizona summer heat either are crazy (a likely scenario), or they live a life where they are able to run between air-conditioned spaces. At least the "snowbirds" will be gone..

Poll: Which area of the United States do you prefer to live in? (2012-04-19 12:51)

[poll daddy poll="6153025"]

Arizona Drivers: A True Story (2012-04-20 13:34)

A Funny Arizona Driver Story Involving a 4x4 Pickup Truck



I saw the funniest thing I've EVER seen anyone do in a 4x4 truck this morning! But before I get into the story, I have to provide some background for those who aren't familiar with life in Arizona.

How Planted Plants Survive In Arizona

There are urban areas of the desert that appear "green" compared to outlying desert areas. Any plant that is aesthetic in Arizona was planted by a person, likely to add to the illusion of not living in a desert. You'll see a clump of trees here and there, lots of golf courses, grassy horse pastures, etc.



Now, in order for these plants to survive they need water, right? Water is scarce in Arizona and the Colorado River is the water lifeline to the Phoenix area. For each and every plant and blade of grass planted in the desert, it must have a source of water. Each tree usually has its own drip line and grass has sprinklers. There are some areas, particularly where there are horse properties, that have irrigation canals as a source for watering their pastures. It's the craziest thing, and I'd never seen such a thing until I moved here. The irrigation canals run like veins throughout the desert, allowing farmers to grow cotton, hay, etc. Also, many horse owners irrigate their property with it.

The way the irrigation canals work is the property owner buys water by the hour. No, I'm not kidding. They pay for each hour water flows from the canal into their pasture, and they have to sign up for a time slot a month in advance. Sometimes the water will overflow from their property onto the street causing a small puddle across the roadway.

Still with me? Good! Let's explain the second half of this story.

Urban 4x4 Trucks In Arizona

After moving to Arizona, I noticed a large number of 4x4 trucks in the area. I didn't really understand why there were so many 4x4's, and I still don't! Back home, people who drove 4x4's had them for practical purposes: hunting/fishing trips, being able to drive in the snow, "mudding", etc. In Arizona it seems 4x4's are purchased for the status of having a large vehicle. To their credit, there are those who like to go off-road at the sand dunes at the Arizona/California border. However, those sand dune trips are about 3-4 hour drives away. If someone were try to go off-road in the urban areas (where many of the 4x4's are seen), they'd have the police called on them in a heartbeat.



Take a look at the picture of this white pickup truck. It is a very typical vehicle seen in the Phoenix area. Most 4x4's you see around town are white trucks, lifted, customized and usually covered with stickers. In particular the "got sand?" stickers are VERY popular. Sometimes I just want to pull up next to them, roll down my window, and say, "Why, yes I do have sand! Would you like some?"

Other typical stickers on these trucks are "FOX", "Fear This", a tattoo shop sticker, "SoCal", "NoCal", "SRH", etc. It just depends on what kind of douche you're dealing with and what they're into. Arizonans like to broadcast and display their interests in the form of window and bumper stickers.

Let's not forget personalized license plates! I have never seen so many personalized license plates in any other part of the country! Again, people like to have something witty, advertising their interests. This is one of the few forms of communication between drivers in Arizona, because no one will wave at you, look at you, allow you in front of them or use turn signals. At least they're nice enough to give us some good reading material when we're stuck behind them.

The "Punchline"

I know, that's a lot of background to go over just for a silly Arizona driver story! It had to be laid out for the readers who are not familiar with the Arizona way of life!

Anyway, while driving out and about, I saw it was irrigation day along a particular street. One property had a little too much water and there was a trickle of water crossing the street. Nothing major at all, and barely flowing. Visualize a water hose left on, and that's how much water was crossing the street. I crossed the water at about 50 mph with no problems, and why would there be?

A large jacked up 4x4 truck was approaching me from the other direction, and I noticed it slow down considerably. At first, I thought they perceived a danger I didn't see (coyote, children, etc). As the truck passed me in the opposite direction, I noticed it slowed to about 5 mph. The truck then "tip-toed" across the water, riding the brakes the entire way. I mean, you don't want that big 4x4 to get out from under you

and sliding off the roadway! After the 4x4 crossed the trickling water, it continued on and built up speed. I literally asked myself, "Did that just happen?"

Really? Someone who owns a lifted 4x4 truck is afraid to cross a trickle of water on the street? It was hardly a puddle! Amazing! I thought for sure a driver of a 4x4 could handle that.

The point of this story is it appears most Arizona drivers own 4x4 trucks just for the looks and status of it. There are practical truck drivers in Arizona, and you usually see them hauling things in the bed of the truck and/or pulling a trailer. I fall into that category. I own a truck because I need to haul things and pull trailers.

Identifying a Douche Truck

If you look at this check list and if any of the following apply, you too will be able to easily identify an Arizona douche truck:

1. The truck has a large amount of bumper and/or window stickers
2. The truck is lifted with huge tires
3. The driver is wearing a flat-bill hat sideways or backwards
4. The driver is a male with piercings
5. The driver is wearing a wife-beater shirt to show off his tattoos
6. Music is blaring and the windows are down
7. The bed of the truck is empty
8. There is no trailer attached to the truck
9. The driver has difficulty driving on anything other than dry pavement

The above are all indicators of a douche truck with a douche bag driver, indigenous to Arizona.



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4/21/2012: The 100's Have Arrived In Arizona (2012-04-23 12:40)



Hello, 100°F+ Degrees, My Old Nemesis

Saturday, April 21, 2012 was greeted with this year's first 100°F degree weather, a week-and-a-half earlier than normal for Phoenix. Appropriately enough, the mercury hit 100°F degrees at 1:13 PM (lucky number 13).

Sunday got up to about 105 degrees and it was forecast to "DIP DOWN" into the 90's on Monday. At the time of this writing, it was 85°F degrees at 9:00 AM. (Source: azcentral)

I'm sure there are a few straggling snow birds who regret not leaving sooner and are probably packing up right now as we speak!

Weather Beyond Arizona

With 4/21/2012 as the first 100°F degree day, let's see what the weather was like in other parts of the country! The temperatures listed were the high temperatures for 4/12/2012.

- Seattle, WA: 68°F

- Minneapolis, MN: 52°F
- New York City, NY: 71°F
- Atlanta, GA: 75°F
- Washington D.C.: 82°F
- Raleigh, NC: 80°F
- Green Bay, WI: 52°F
- Miami, FL: 76°F
- Baghdad, Iraq: 85°F
- Cairo, Egypt: 83°F

(Source: Weather Underground)

Although the Heat Has Arrived, It's Still Not Hot By Arizona Standards

If you're new to Arizona and struggling with this heat, I'm sorry to report it gets much worse. In July and August, we will be wishing for the low 100's. I have written other weather-related articles about Arizona to help explain why it's so hot here and how to protect yourself from the heat.

Arizona Weather FAQ

Based on queries from the web logs, people are finding NoArizona when searching for topics about the weather in Arizona. I thought I would post answers to some of the most common search terms. If your question is not answered here, feel free to contact me.

Q: Why is Arizona / Phoenix so hot?

A: Although I'm not a weather expert, I wrote this article explaining the dynamics of the Arizona heat based upon my research.

Q: Why is Phoenix so polluted?

A: Primarily, because Phoenix lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. Read more about Arizona pollution in this article.

Q: What causes Arizona dust storms (haboobs) and what are the dangers of being caught in one?

A: They're caused by storm fronts blowing across the desert. Please see this article for more detailed information. The biggest danger of dust storms is contracting Valley Fever.

Q: What are Urban Heat Islands (UHI) aka "the heat bubble effect"?

A: UHI's are created by man-made structures that capture heat and make it even hotter in the desert. Read this article for more information.

Q: What are the challenges to living in the Arizona desert?

A: Too many! Please read the articles filed under the Arizona Weather Category.

Q: How much water do I need to drink while in Arizona?

A: Without exertion, the average person loses THREE GALLONS of water per day, so you need to drink

that much just to maintain. More detailed information can be found in this article.

Q: How do you get acclimated to the Arizona heat? Do you ever get used to the heat?

A: I'm sorry to say, you never get used to it. Your blood gets thinner living in Arizona. No, your blood doesn't actually thin as if you were on an aspirin regimen! What I mean by that is anything below 60 degrees feels cold to you. As for the summer heat, you never truly get used to it...you just know what to expect. I've been here many summers, and I'm still not used to it.

Q: How long does the heat last?

A: You can count on 100+ degree weather starting in April and lasting until October. Arizona typically deals with 6-8 months of hot weather. Don't let the Chamber of Commerce or the Arizona Tourism Board fool when they say it's only 3-4 months of hot weather. And please, don't fall for the "dry heat" excuse. It should really be called "you're an ant under a magnifying glass heat".

Desert = Forbidden Area; So Why Do I Live Here? (2012-04-23 13:39)



This is me getting into my car today:

"Uuuufffff (not a word, just a sound), gooooodddd (cried out as a passionate prayer), oh my god (seriously calling for help), this is sick, I feel nauseated, I hate Arizona (complete honesty)!"

And it's only April 22! This Arizona heat, well... there's no pretty way to say it, "it sucks."

Non-Arizonans make fun when we say "it's a dry heat," but they really don't know just how true it is! You can actually leave the word 'heat' out of it and replace it with anything: "it's a dry _ _ _ _ _ ." Because everything here in this desert is dry! Especially US. Our eyes are dry, our mouth is dry, our hair is dry, our skin is dry, and so on and so on and so on! The heat sucks every bit of moisture you have in your body out of you. This term is used to 'soften the blow,' as if comparing to Florida and incinuating that it's not hot and humid. However, don't be fooled - it's misleading! It's a bake oven, turned on 24x7.

This Arizona desert truly is for scorpions and cactus. It's not for me that's fo sho!

And you would think that from living here in the VALLEY OF THE SUN, that we would be sufficient on our vitamin D, but we're not. Is that really a big surprise? We are not out in the sun. We cannot be in the sun more than a few minutes at a time, unless we want to die from heat stroke! Put on a hat, rub down with sun screen, load up with water bottles, I don't care what extremes you go through to protect yourself, it doesn't work. Unless you're a scorpion you're going to die here. And I DON'T WANT TO DIE HERE. God, we have to get OUT!

One time, years ago, my sister came out to visit me here in AZ. She's very active and likes to walk each day, so I warned her about our "dry" HOT heat, and told her that you literally cannot walk to the mailbox and back without getting dehydrated, so to carry a water bottle or two at all times with her. She's a back

east girl and didn't listen. Must be a D.C. thing...we don't like to listen to others or take advice! When she returned from her walk, she was just short of delirious, or maybe she was. She said she saw Mother Mary and that she had a message for me. I can't really remember what the message was, it's been a few years (and now my brain is fried), it was probably to get the heck out of Arizona! But anyway, my sister went on to tell me that her mouth & eyes got so dry and how she began to panic from the heat. She thought she was going to die. Finally, just in the nick of time, she saw a little stream of water, from someone's sprinkler system, and she got down on her hands & knees and started sucking up the water and dabbing it on her face! Uh, she should've listened to me, right? She's never been the same after this incident! HAHA! I don't think she's coming back. She's living in Myrtle Beach now, so why would she come here, even for a visit?

2012 has been an odd year already and we have not seen rain in 5 months. Now we are entering the 'dry' season, therefore there is no hope of any rain until late July. OMG! Anyone who thinks they may be spending eternity in HELL, may want to come here for a day (yes, it would only take a day) to come to realize you may want to rethink your life!

And since this is 2012, with December 21st only months away, if the Mayan calendar is right, then it's time to go! Like I said, I do not want to die here! So Lee and I are thinking that we need to just pack & RUN for our lives....AND TAKE A CASE OF WATER WITH US!!!

When the day comes that Lee and I REALLY get out of here, I can tell you this...we will not be looking back, let alone ever coming back!

“Adios amigos and hasta la buh-bye.”

Mary Bortel

State of the Air 2012: Phoenix is the 7th Most Polluted City (2012-04-27 20:11)



What the Arizona Office of Tourism Won't Tell You

According to the American Lung Association State of the Air report (PDF), Phoenix was ranked 7th most polluted city for ozone levels and 6th for particle pollution. The ALA report ranked cities by particle pollution, both short-term and year-round, as well as by ozone levels.

Particle pollution includes dust, metals, smoke, exhaust and acids, like nitrates and sulfates. Arizona has no shortage of particle pollution. Ozone is created when burnt fuels are combined with ultraviolet light to form a gas. Many of the cities with the dirtiest air are in the sunny valleys and basins of the West, where pollutants can stagnate create the hazy smog.

Although Arizona requires emissions testing on vehicles, nothing can be done about the abundant levels of dust in the air, which put Phoenix in sixth place for year-round particle pollution.

Please read my other Arizona pollution article for more detailed information about the pollutants in the air in Arizona.

(Source: American Lung Association)

Thinking About Moving To Arizona?

As always, the intent is not to dissuade anyone from moving to Arizona. The purpose of these articles is to present facts and front-line coverage of what life in the Arizona desert is really like.

I moved here, and it was a mistake. My eyes, sinuses and lungs continually burn and I no longer have a sense of smell. Amazingly, when I leave Arizona I am able to breath again. The air is too dry and polluted, and I fear staying here will shorten my life span.

1.4 May

The Arizona Weatherman (2012-05-01 12:15)



Weatherman, weathergirl, weatherperson, weather forecaster, weather presenter or even meteorologist...no matter what you prefer to call it, if your desire is to be in weather, but perhaps you just don't have the skills to land a job yet, then ARIZONA is the place for you! That's right, no skills required. Can you read sun ball symbols?

If you have ever dreamed of having a job on the local TV news, but think you are not handsome or pretty enough to be a news anchor, or maybe you are not a big sports nut, or even find it uncomfortable doing human interest stories about the monkeys at the Phoenix Zoo having a birthday party with banana cake, then there is only one option left for you! Phoenix weather forecaster!

After living in AZ for 20 L-O-N-G years now, I can tell you how absurd it is to look at a weather forecast or even hear it given on local news. This coming week for instance the forecast shows 5 bright yellow sun balls in a row. No cloud symbols, no lightening, no wind, just baking sunshine. Literally, a weather person could pre-record his segment for the entire week, and then go to Florida and experience some real weather. Just think about it, the local weatherman in Florida has to deal with hot temperatures, extreme humidity, lightening, afternoon thunder showers, high surf warnings, rip tides, hurricanes, and even shark sightings! Wheewww, now that's some real, juicy, life threatening, serious reporting! The only water in an AZ report is the warning to be sure and carry a bottle of water with you wherever you go.



Last year, my daughter and I went to a 5:30 movie. When we left my house, it was HOT and not a cloud in the sky. The weather forecast made no mention of impending doom. Halfway through the movie the lights went out & left us in complete darkness. The loudest, piercing sirens I've ever heard in my life were going off, punctuated by an automatic voice telling us that an emergency in the building had been detected and for us to evacuate at the nearest exit immediately. Looking back, I can see that this emergency broadcast system was designed for an inside threat, clearly not what we were about to face. After nearly, excuse the raw truth, POOPING MY PANTS...I took off like a bat out of hell and left my daughter behind. Oh sure, we laugh about it now, but it was not funny at the time! Call me a bad mother, but even the airlines say affix your oxygen mask first, then your child's. I was planning to come back with help - really!! It was quite the circus act, as it was so dark no one could find the exit. Finally someone did and when they opened the door a lady screamed and yelled FIRE! All she could see was what appeared to be dark brown smoke! However, it was not a fire, and it was not a terrorist attack, it was a HABOOB!



A haboob is an intense dust storm, mostly heard about in Arabian countries. Here in Phoenix, AZ, we usually get boring old 'dust storms.' But not this lucky day. How did the weather guys & gals miss a HABOOB, an all engulfing cloud of dust and wind that is extremely life threatening? My gosh, it was 50 miles long and 5 miles high - a wall of death and destruction! Needless to say that it made national news. Arizonans who experienced it truly thought it was the end of the world. It looked apocalyptic for sure! Even the camel on Camelback Mountain was coughing up dust for a week!

There was a half inch layer of dirt left behind on everything from cars, to chairs, to sidewalks. It took over a week to get our pool back to normal. All pool supply stores had their inventory exhausted within hours.



The good news about Arizona weather reporters is that they can say "sunny and hot" so darn well, that when they miss even a HABOOB, they don't get fired!

Welcome to Arizona. Tomorrow will be sunny and hot...we think!

Mary & Lee Bortel

Arizona, Meet Your Criminals (2012-05-04 17:45)



Arizona's Criminals

Arizona certainly has no shortage of criminals, as the entire state is riddled with violent and property crimes. This article will give you a chance to meet criminals from Arizona face-to-face and learn a little about the crimes they've committed. A population's criminals are a representation of their populace, like it or not. Arizona bred and raised these monsters, so without further ado let's meet them!

Famous and Infamous Arizona Criminals



J.T. Ready, vigilante and white supremacist (and purely evil)

This beast went on a shooting rampage in a quiet Gilbert, AZ neighborhood, massacring four people before he took his own life. The four victims ranged from a 15-month-old infant to a 47-year-old grandmother.

Ready, a prospective Democratic candidate for Pinal County Sheriff, was founder of U.S. Border Guard and a member of the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps and he also belonged to the National Socialist Movement, which espouses White-supremacist theories.



Robert William Fisher

Robert Fisher was married to Mary Jean, and had two children. Brittney was 12 and Bobby Jr. was 10. His wife and two children's throats were slashed prior to the start of the fire. After the crime, Robert Fisher fled to northeastern Arizona near Payson with his dog. The dog and the SUV were later found, but Robert Fisher was not.

The case has appeared twice on America's Most Wanted. The story also appeared on Unsolved Mysteries. The FBI believes that Fisher may be working in a medical position, or living in a small town with a menial job. There is a reward for Fisher's capture.



Warren Jeffs

Warren Jeffs was the president of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS Church). Prosecutors charged the 55-year-old sect leader sexually assaulted two girls, ages 12 and 15, by arranging illegal marriages under the guise of his religious beliefs. Jeffs is believed to have 78 wives, 24 of them under age 17, according to prosecutors. Jeff's religious sect was located in Colorado City, Arizona.

Arizona dropped charges against FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs to facilitate the Texas prosecution. Warren Jeffs was sentenced to life in prison plus 20 years for sexually assaulting two girls he claimed were his "spiritual wives."



Billy the Kid

Billy the Kid is one of those historic characters everyone has heard of from the old wild west. The reality is he was a brazen criminal when he was alive and stole many lives. Billy the Kid was one of the most notorious outlaws of the American West. According to legend, he killed at least 21 men, one for every year of his young life



Sammy "The Bull" Gravano

Former hit man Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano, who helped bring down mobster John Gotti, was charged in late February, 2003 with murder for allegedly arranging the 1980 killing of a New York City police

officer.

Gravano is now in prison in Colorado, where he is serving state and federal sentences for masterminding an Ecstasy drug ring while he lived in Arizona.



Ike Clanton

Ike Clanton is famous for his role in the gunfight at the O.K corral. The Clantons moved to Tombstone, Arizona Territory, in 1877.

Ike Clanton and his brother Phineas were charged with cattle-rustling and pursued by detective Jonas V. Brighton. On June 1, 1887, at Jim Wilson's Ranch on Eagle Creek, south of Springerville, Arizona, Phin Clanton surrendered, but Ike resisted and was shot dead.



Cory Morris

Cory Morris, known as the "Crackhead Killer", was convicted of first-degree murder for the slaying of five Phoenix women between 2002 and 2003.

Morris admitted to killing all five during sex. He would then dump the bodies in alleys or streets near the intersection of 13th St and Roosevelt.



Mark Goudeau, "The Baseline Killer"

Already serving a more than 400 year prison term for raping a woman while holding a gun to her pregnant sister's belly, 47-year-old Mark Goudeau is sentenced again by the Phoenix jury that convicted him recently of nine murders and dozens of other counts including kidnapping and rape.



Ernesto Miranda

Arizona vs Miranda was one of the most important court cases of the twentieth century and his case is where "Miranda Rights" originated. Miranda later claimed he did not realize he had the right to legal counsel after he was convicted 20 to 30 years for rape. Although he confessed, the Superior Court overturned his conviction and set him free. Now all criminals must be read their Miranda Rights when they're in custody.

Arizona's Not So Famous Criminals

The above criminals were huge cases, but what about the everyday thug criminals running around Arizona? Well, let's meet them! These criminals aren't convicted, so their names will not be used.



Drug possession (ya think?)



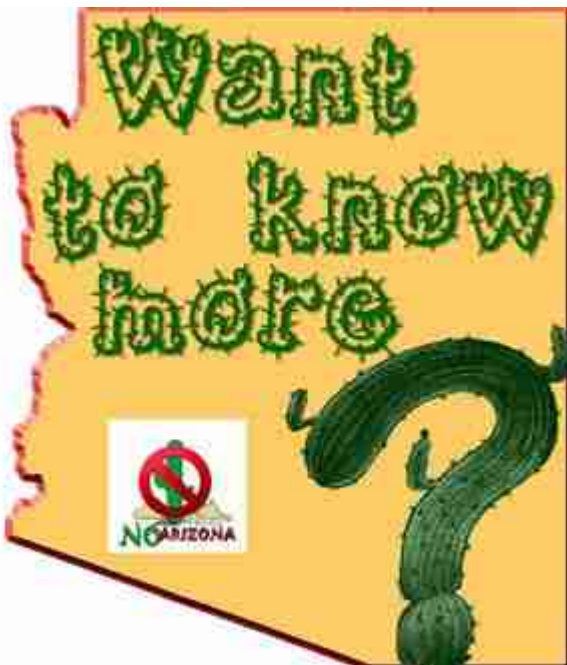
Forgery



Fraudulent schemes, money laundering, forgery, assisting crime syndicate, drug possession, misconduct with a weapon

See More Mugshots

There are plenty more mugshots to laugh at, and you can vote for the "mug shot of the day"! Check it out! I suggest you take a look at that website, especially if you live in the Phoenix area. It is eye-opening, to say the least, to see the faces of the people who are giving Arizona one of the highest crimes rates. As you'll probably notice, the drug offenses always have the most mugshots.



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High Pollution Advisory for the Greater Phoenix Area (5/11/12) (2012-05-11 12:23)



High Pollution Advisory 5/11/12

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in Phoenix has issued an ozone high pollution advisory for the greater phoenix area for Friday.

This means that forecast weather conditions combined with existing ozone levels are expected to result in local maximum 8-hour ozone concentrations that pose a health risk. Adverse health effects increase as air quality deteriorates.

Ozone is an air contaminant which can cause breathing difficulties for children as well as persons with respiratory problems. A decrease in physical activity is recommended.

If it is a regularly scheduled work day, you are urged to car pool, telecommute or use mass transit.

The use of gasoline-powered equipment should be reduced or done late in the day. (Source: weather.com)

Read our pollution-related articles for more information on the (lacking) quality of air in Arizona.

High Pollution Advisory for Maricopa County (5/12/12) (2012-05-12 10:49)



High Pollution Advisory 5/12/12

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in Phoenix has issued an ozone high pollution advisory for the greater phoenix area for Saturday.

This means that forecast weather conditions combined with existing ozone levels are expected to result in local maximum 8-hour ozone concentrations that pose a health risk. Adverse health effects increase as air quality deteriorates.

Ozone is an air contaminant which can cause breathing difficulties for children as well as persons with respiratory problems. A decrease in physical activity is recommended.

If it is a regularly scheduled work day, you are urged to car pool, telecommute or use mass transit.

The use of gasoline-powered equipment should be reduced or done late in the day. (Source: weather.com)

I realize these pollution advisory posts are redundant, and living in these conditions is just as redundant.

Read our pollution-related articles for more information on the (lacking) quality of air in Arizona.



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Arizona Is Burning (2012-05-15 21:01)



The 2012 Arizona wildfire season is off to a quick start, with no relief in sight. Arizona residents who live in areas where they do not need to worry about dust storms, they have the more prominent danger of fire destroying their homes.

The Gladiator Fire has scorched more than 1,700 acres so far. The community of Crown King had to be evacuated and the only road in and out of the area has been shut down. Crown King is (was?) a historic mining town in the Prescott National Forest. The Gladiator fire started from a house fire which caused a propane tank to ignite.

The Sunflower Fire is currently the largest fire in Arizona. It is located approximately 21 miles south of Payson in the Tonto National Forest. The Sunflower Fire has burned approximately 4,600 acres so far. At the time of this writing, the Sunflower Fire was only 5 % contained.

The Elwood Fire is located on the San Carlos Indian Reservation and has burned more than 1,500 acres so far. The Elwood Fire is only 5 % contained and how the started is currently unknown.

The Bull Flat Fire is located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The fire has grown to 1,329 acres so far and is only 45 percent contained. The Bull Flat fire started from a lightning strike Thursday night.

In 2011, over one million acres in Arizona were burned due to wildfires (Source: ABC15). To put that in perspective, that is 1500-1600 square miles of land burned in Arizona. Rhode Island is 1214 square miles, with a population 1,051,302. Do you like football? Well, the area burned in Arizona in 2011 was the equivalent of at least 1,320,000 football fields...over a million football fields!

The 2011 Arizona wildfire season was a record-setting year. With 2012 off to such an early start with numerous fires burning, I'm worried it will be another bad year for Arizona wildfires.

The worst aspect regarding Arizona wildfires is that the areas which usually burn are destinations for people who live on the desert floor to seek shelter from the summers. You HAVE to get out of the desert during the summer because the 100's just get old. With Arizona burning, those destinations are slowly slipping away from Arizona's landscape.



I captured this image from the southeast valley in the Phoenix area. This is the smoke from the Sunflower fire approximately 55 miles away. The winds are blowing the smoke into the Phoenix valley area, leading to very poor air quality. On the drive home for the past two days, the skies were gray and brown. It looked as if a storm was blowing through, but the reality was the "overcast" conditions were a combination of the ever-present pollution and the addition of the wildfire smoke. My eyes, nose and throat burn as I write this and wonder why I ever moved here.

Again, these are things you will never hear from the Arizona Tourism Board or the Chamber of Commerce. As always, you will learn the truth about living in Arizona here. Please be sure to sign up for email updates to get the latest articles.

Excessive Heat Watch (5/20/12) (2012-05-20 09:47)



Excessive heat watch in effect from Monday morning through Monday evening.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix has issued an excessive heat watch, which is in effect from Monday morning through Monday evening.

Affected area: The lower deserts of southwest and south central Arizona as well as southeast California.

Temperature: Max temperatures around 108 are expected in and around Phoenix, possibly exceeding

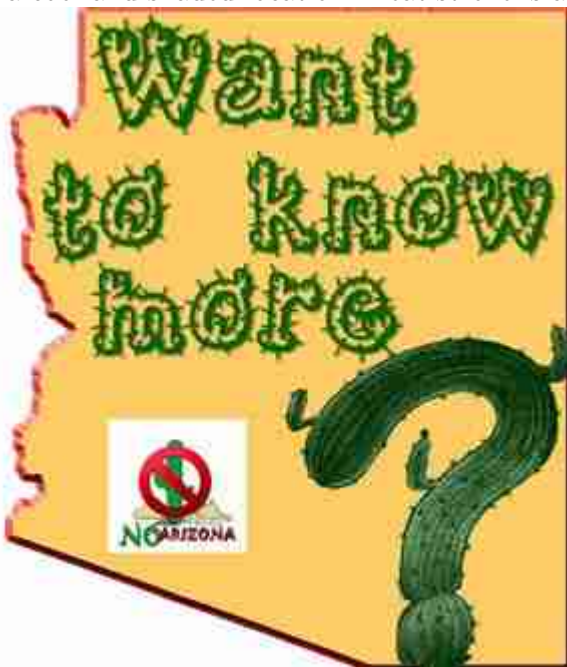
110 degrees across portions of southeast California and southwest Arizona.

Impacts: Excessively hot temperatures are dangerous and can negatively impact the body very quickly. Take the proper precautions to protect yourself from the heat.

Precautionary/preparedness actions:

Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside. When possible, reschedule strenuous activities to early morning or evening. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Wear light weight and loose fitting clothing when possible and drink plenty of water. If you wear a wide-brimmed hat, your head and body will be much cooler.

To reduce risk during outdoor work, the occupational safety and health administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency, call 911.



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Arizona Is (Still) Burning (2012-05-22 13:16)



Arizona Wildfires Continue to Burn

One week since our last article about the early start of 2012 Arizona wildfire season, the fires continue to burn out of control. Here is the latest on those fires as of 5/22/2012.

Bull Flat Fire

The Bull Flat Fire has scorched 2,145 acres on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (map). The Bull Flat Fire began May 10, 2012 in a remote area of the Fort Apache Agency about 20 miles northwest of Cibecue, AZ (map). It is believed to be lightning caused because the agency had several other starts by lightning on the same day. It is approximately 95 percent contained.

Firefighters will continue to patrol and monitor the perimeter of the Bull Flat Fire. Crews will also continue rehabilitation efforts on dozer lines and construct erosion control barriers to help stabilize the outside edges of the fire.

Elwood Fire

The Elwood Fire, which burned about 1,300 acres on the San Carlos Indian Reservation (map) is about 95 percent contained. The Elwood Fire started on May 11, 2012 and the cause is still under investigation. There are 140 fire personnel and one helicopter assigned to the Elwood fire. There have been five injuries so far

related to the Elwood Fire.

Gladiator Fire

The Gladiator Fire is an active threat to communities and continues to grow. So far, the fire has burned six structures, including two this week and forced the evacuation of Crown King (map), Battle Flat (map), Pine Flat and Turkey Creek (map).

The Gladiator Fire has burned approximately 14,963 acres so far and is only 19 percent contained. The Gladiator Fire originated from a house fire on private property. There are currently 29 fire crews, 43 engines, 37 water tenders, 5 dozers, 12 helicopters assigned to the Gladiator Fire. In all, there are 1,160 personnel working on the fire and 6 injuries have occurred fighting the fire.

Sunflower Fire

The Sunflower Fire is estimated at 16, 115 acres and is approximately 43 percent contained. The Sunflower Fire started on May 12, 2012 and its cause is still under investigation. The Sunflower Fire is located 21 miles south of Payson (map) with plenty of fuel to burn in the form of grass, chaparral and piñon pine. The terrain is steep and rugged, making it difficult to fight the fire.

There are 259 personnel assigned to the fire in the form of 3 crews, 9 engines, 1 dozer, 2 water tenders, 6 helicopters and 6 air tankers.



Campini Fire

The Campini Fire is burning in the Coronado National Forest (map), west of Montezuma Pass along and into the Mexican Border. The Campini Fire started on May 21, 2012 and its cause is unknown although it is believed to be human-caused. Most of the fire is in Mexico.

There is currently 1 firefighter crew, 3 engines, 1 water tender, 1 fixed-wing aircraft and 1 helicopter assigned to the Campini Fire. Currently, there are no structures threatened.

Collins Fire

The Collins Fire is burning in southeastern Arizona and is estimated to be 50 acres. It is located along Highway 83 north of Sonoita (map). The Collins Fire is burning in grass, brush and oak. Firefighters are making good progress with suppression efforts at this time.

The 2012 Arizona wildfire season is off to a quick start and it could very well be one of the worst fire seasons in history. Arizona is still burning...and so are my eyes, nose and lungs.



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Phoenix Is Hot...How Is It Elsewhere? (2012-05-23 06:22)

Instead of boring you with the typical "excessive heat warning" messages, let's compare the weather in Phoenix to the cities we covered in the article, Phoenix's Mixed Up Weather. We'll be taking a look at the weather from 5/22/2012 and see how Phoenix made out!



Phoenix vs New York City

Phoenix: High of 108° (F), Low of 76° (F).

New York City: 72° (F), Low of 60° (F).



Phoenix vs Atlanta

Phoenix: High of 108° (F), Low of 76° (F).

Atlanta: High of 78° (F), Low of 59° (F).



Phoenix vs. Minneapolis

Phoenix: High of 108° (F), Low of 76°.

Minneapolis: High of 82°, Low of 63°.



Phoenix vs. Baghdad, Iraq

Phoenix: High of 108° (F), Low of 76° (F).

Baghdad: High of 98° (F), Low of 72° (F).

And just for the record, Kabul Afghanistan was only 84°.

It is eye-opening to say the least to realize how hot it is in Phoenix. One may think of Iraq and Afghanistan as having the hottest, most desolate deserts in the world. Perhaps in regards of civilization, the Middle East is more desolate, but the deserts in the United States are hotter on average and becomes hotter earlier in the year. It's just weird to think it's more comfortable in Kabul than in Phoenix.

At least in Phoenix you don't have to worry about getting shot at...oh wait, yes you do.



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Air Quality Alert, Wind Advisory Issued for Friday, 5/25/2012 (2012-05-24 20:41)



Air Quality Alert, 5/25/2012

National weather service Phoenix AZ

High pollution advisory for Maricopa county including the greater Phoenix area and Pinal County Friday.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in Phoenix has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for the greater Phoenix area for Tuesday. The Pinal County Department of Air Quality has issued an airborne coarse particle high pollution advisory for Pinal County including Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge and Florence for Friday.

An episode of strong and gusty winds is forecast to generate widespread blowing dust that may result in local coarse particle concentrations that pose a health risk. Adverse health effects increase as air quality deteriorates.

Coarse particulate matter - also known as pm-10 - is an air contaminant that can aggravate heart and lung disease conditions, especially in older adults, children and those with asthma. A decrease in physical activity is recommended.

Consolidate your travel, stabilize loose soils, slow down or avoid travel on dirt roads, reduce or eliminate fireplace use and avoid using gas-powered lawn equipment.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Maricopa county visit www.azdeq.gov or call 602-771-2367 for recorded forecast information.

For details on this high pollution advisory for Pinal county visit pinalcountyaz.gov.

Wind Advisory for Greater Phoenix Area, AZ

Wind advisory now in effect from 1 PM MST to 10 PM MST Friday.

Affected area: Southwest and south central Arizona as well as the lower deserts of southeastern California. This includes the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.

Timing: Winds will increase during the morning hours on Friday, by early afternoon with strong gusty winds to continue into the evening hours.

Winds: South to southwest winds 20 to 35 mph gusting to near 50 mph especially in favored wind prone area or higher terrain locations.

Impacts: Strong winds will kick up areas of blowing dust and sand which will sharply lower visibility and create dangerous driving conditions. Southerly crosswinds will affect high profile traffic on east-west oriented roads such as interstates 8 and 10. Drivers of high profile vehicles should drive with caution.

Precautionary/preparedness actions:

A wind advisory means that sustained wind speeds of between 30 and 40 mph are expected, or wind gusts of between 40 and 58 mph. Winds this strong can make driving difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. In addition, strong winds over desert areas could result in briefly lowered visibilities to well under a mile at times in blowing dust or blowing sand. Use extra caution.

Valley Fever

Valley fever is a very real and dangerous risk during these conditions. Unfortunately, you will not receive these warnings from the local media or health officials.

Learn more about Valley Fever.



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Do You Hate Arizona? Wear It! (2012-05-25 13:03)



There's A Market for Hating Ari-

zona

While perusing the web for other like-minded people who do not like living in Arizona, I came across some fun products along the way! Check it out!

First of all, I'm not an affiliate to any of these retailers. I just wanted to share these items with you that I came across!

Cafepress.com has a lot of cool shirts for just about any topic you can think of...including hating Arizona!







There are more designs available if you do a Google Product Search.

If any readers purchase any of these types of shirts, contact us and we'll get your picture posted! Bonus points for photos of Arizona people giving you dirty looks!

Hmmm... ?



Welcome To The Valley Of The Sun; You Can Check-In Anytime You Like, But Can You Ever Leave? (2012-05-26 06:00)

Come one, come all, just don't come until the fall! If the sun and heat won't kill you, then breathing dirt will. As you have heard from the previous posts on this site, Arizona has been dealing with extreme heat and burning fires. It's like the old saying...kick me while I'm down. Can it get any worse?

Summers here are truly unbearable, and totally illogical. Seriously, why? I mean, the only reason I can think of to live here is if you are a sports figure who is making bazillions of dollars. Then fine, live here, but I'm sure you'll fly the hell out of here when you're not playing!

I was walking the other day (before it hit 110 that morning) and I don't know how I spotted this little guy, but I couldn't figure out if he was camouflaging or if the heat and sun had just soaked all his color from him?



Yesterday and today the winds have picked up here, and gusts of 30 mph are expected. This is that DRY Arizona heat that you hear so much about. It's like being in a blizzard of excruciating heat, sun, and dirt! High winds in the desert and scorching temperatures are not a

great pair.

BUT thank goodness we have our pools to get into. Just pile on that sunblock, throw a t-shirt over your bathing suit to block as much sun as you possibly can, wear the biggest hat and pair of sunglasses you can find, and you may just enjoy that 90 degree temperature water...R-I-I-I-G-H-T!!

Last week as my husband and I were watching the weather report we were remarking how there are always bright sun balls - it gets so tiresome! But this time one of the 'low' temperatures read: 775 degrees. We had to stop and freeze it to get a picture. I wonder if anyone else ever noticed it. We thought it was hysterical. Ironically, the low temps feels that hot at times.



Yes, Arizona is full of obnoxious weather. About two weeks ago we actually had what was quite similar to a monsoon, but it's only MAY! It was odd to say the least. As I was driving in the middle of it, this huge strange looking cloud came out of nowhere and burst open. It was a scary sight and I could not believe what I was seeing. I think I rubbed my eyes a couple of times before I decided to take a picture of it with my cell phone. It's a classic if you ask me. I'm not quite sure I've ever seen a cloud like this. But hey...maybe the heat distorts camera lenses too?



I really have no excuse for still living here, other than a shortage of \$ \$. I feel like I'm living the lyrics from Hotel California...

You can check-out anytime you like, but you can never leave!

Welcome to Arizona, I just happen to have the perfect home for you to buy!

Sweating hot Arizona love to you!

Mary

Happy Memorial Day! (2012-05-28 00:01)



Happy Memorial Day!

Have a safe holiday, and give thanks to those who served!

Automobile Maintenance for the Desert (2012-05-29 13:56)



Help Your Car Survive the Arizona Summer Heat

The extreme high temperatures in Arizona take a toll on your vehicle, making automobile maintenance a high priority if you want it to last. We'll take a look at the most important things to check up on to keep you in the driver's seat during the hot summer.



Battery

Hot summertime temperatures in Phoenix can wreak havoc on your car-battery. Heat shortens battery life faster than cold temperatures. The most common reasons for battery failure are usually due to excessive heat or over-charging, leading to car-starting failure. Heat causes the fluid inside the battery to evaporate and causes damage from the inside.

Before checking the battery, take a look to see if it's a service-free battery. What that means is there is no access to the internal battery fluid, so don't try to pry off the caps. If you have a serviceable battery, there are usually two caps on the top of it. Wear eye protection and gloves because the fluid is very acidic. You can pry off the two caps with a flat head screwdriver. Once it's open, shine a light inside and look for water. If you can't see water, the battery is running dry. You can put tap water inside the battery, filling it to the top of the hole. Once filled, replace the caps.

While you're looking in the battery, it's a good time to check for corrosion on the battery posts. The battery posts is where the car is physically connected to the battery. Household baking soda works at dissolving the corrosive material, but you can also check with your local auto shop for products that help get rid of and deter corrosion.



Air Filter

If you've spent any time in Arizona, you probably noticed there is a LOT of sand in the air and on the roadways. The soil is so dry here that it has the same consistency of talcum powder - literally! One small kick of dirt can cause a mini-dust storm, and you will be surprised how much dust flies in the air just from walking on it. When the wind blows, the dust flies into the air and it is sucked into your air filter.

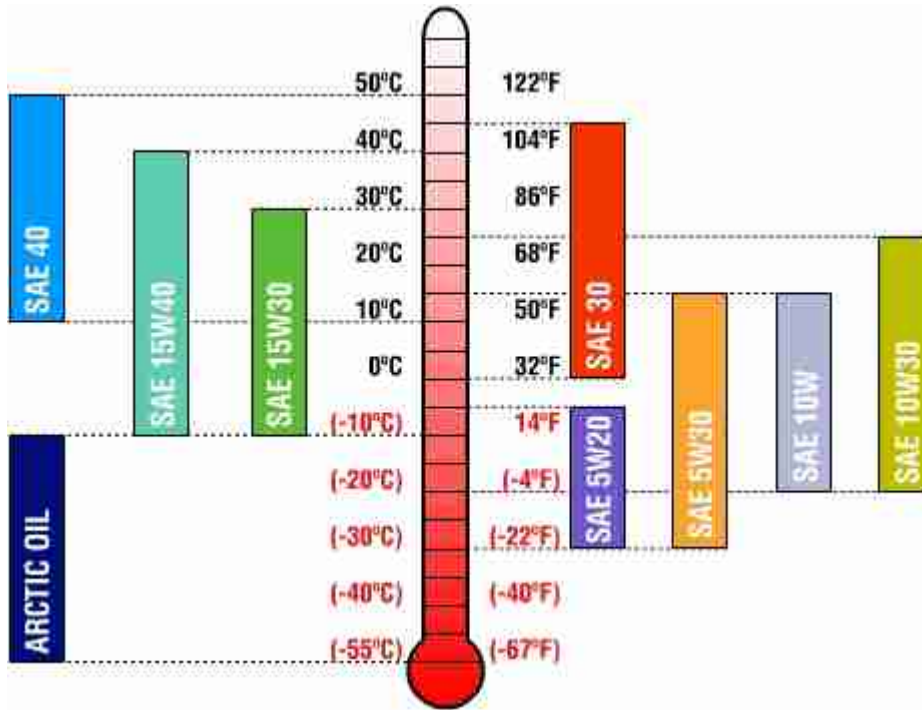
An air filter is an important part of a car's intake system, because it is through the air filter that the engine "breathes." An engine needs an exact mixture of fuel and air in order to run, and all of the air enters the system first through the air filter.

The air filter does just what the name implies: It filters out dirt and particles in the air, to prevent those particles from entering the engine. Air filters are normally made of paper. If the air filter goes too long without being changed, it will get clogged and not allow the engine to suck in enough air to run properly. The end result of a clogged air filter is lost power and poor gas mileage.

Check your owner's manual for how often you should change your air filter, but keep in mind that they should probably be changed more often than recommended due to higher temperatures and sand in the air.

Oil

Choosing the right oil is vital for operating your vehicle in desert temperatures. Oil is the lifeblood of your car's engine, so always have it changed every 3 months or 3000 miles, whichever comes first. The higher the oil viscosity, the better it lubricates your engine. Choose the right viscosity for your vehicle, and the person behind the counter at the auto parts shop can give you advice. You can also refer to this website to learn about the different levels of oil viscosity.



Air Conditioning

AC is a modern convenience, but a necessity when driving in the desert. On a 110 degree day, the temperature inside a vehicle can easily be 20 degrees higher, even when driving with the windows down. It is an unwritten rule in Arizona that a driver without AC has the right of way, so get out of their way so they can seek air conditioning!

Air conditioning service is important and I recommend having a professional do this for you. They will perform a pressure test on the cooling system, and examine belts and hoses for wear or deterioration. They will also check air volume and the air temperature coming out of the vents. Your AC should be checked annually, and right now in May is the best time to get it done.

Coolant

In the "normal" parts of the country, they refer to this as anti-freeze. In central Arizona down to the Mexican desert, there is no such thing as freezing temperatures. Thus, it is only referred to as coolant in Arizona, although the products sold are usually dual purpose (anti-freeze and coolant).

This is an easy check you can do yourself. Most vehicles these days have a plastic reservoir with a fill line. Some may have "hot fill" and "cold fill" lines. When I refer to a cold engine, that means it is an engine that has not been running for a while and is cool to the touch. A hot engine is an engine that is still emitting heat. When the engine is hot, refer to the "hot fill" line and vice-versa.

If your coolant level is low and the engine is hot, wait about an hour or so for the engine to cool. When the

engine is cool, remove the radiator cap and fill to the "cold fill" line...because your engine should be cool at this point. Do NOT open it while it's hot unless you want a melted face!

Coolant is usually sold in gallon jugs. It is recommended to dilute the coolant with water, because there IS a such thing as too much coolant. Some manufactures sell it already diluted, but most are the plain coolant.

Keep an eye on your water temperature. Some vehicles do not have water temperature gauges, only lights. However, if you notice the water temperature running high, you may have a leaky hose or a bad thermostat. The worst-case scenario with an overheating car is a broken water pump or cracked engine block. Worst-case = most expensive, so perform your preventative maintenance so you don't get to that point.

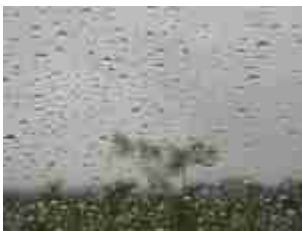


Tire Pressure

The tires are arguably the most important parts of your vehicle. Most all other parts are metal, while these are rubber and they keep you on the road. It is very important to monitor your tire pressure as the seasons change. It is estimated the PSI (pounds per square inch) of a tire will increase 1 pound for every 10 degree variance. For example, during the summer it's 110 degrees and you're running at 40 PSI. When the temperature drops to the 90's as the season changes, your tires could go down to 38 PSI, losing 2 pounds of pressure.

Two pounds of pressure doesn't sound like much, but tires lose air naturally through a process called permeation. Changes in the outside temperature can affect the rate at which your tires lose air. On the average, a tire will lose one or two pounds of air per month in cool weather, and more during the hot months.

Taking proper care of your tires can prolong tread life by as much as 50 percent! Just by taking just a few minutes a week to check the inflation levels and check for unusual wear patterns will add thousands of miles to the tread life and help increase fuel economy. We've all had to buy tires before, and it's very painful to the wallet, so make your tires last!



Windshield Wiper Blades

You might be wondering, why would I need wiper blades in the desert? Well, I was surprised after I moved here to find I purchased more wiper blades than I did in a rainy climate! The reason is because the dry air deteriorates the wiper blades faster! The auto parts store sell wipes to condition your wiper blades to make them last longer, but I always forget to do that.

Arizona has a "monsoon season". Where I'm from, it's called rain. Anyway, after your wiper blades

have been wrung dry by the hot desert sun, they will work VERY poorly during rain. It can rain pretty hard during the monsoon season. It's important to have a clear view out of your windshield so you can watch out for Arizona drivers trying to drive in the rain. When / if it eventually rains, try not to laugh at other people driving as if they were driving on a sheet of ice!



Exterior Paint

The Arizona sun is VERY hard on your vehicle's paint. It is very easy to spot cars where the owners did not properly prepare for the desert heat. A well-maintained finish on your vehicle really helps with the resale value.

The best way to prevent faded paint on your vehicle is to limit your car's exposure to the sun. In the desert, it's easier said than done. People will literally park in the back of a parking lot if there is shade from a tree. If you have a garage, park in the garage.

Wash your car frequently. The sun is always out, so get out there and do some car care and keep yourself cool at the same time! Washing it will remove pollen, dust and bird droppings that can deteriorate your exterior finish if left on the surface to bake in the hot Arizona sun.

Just In Case

I like to carry "just in case" items with me, especially if I'm driving long distance through the desert. It's a good idea to carry extra drinking water, basic tools, a blanket, sunscreen, a first aid kit, car coolant and extra oil. It is a helpless feeling breaking down on the side of the road, but that feeling is magnified when you're broken down in the middle of the desert. I wouldn't count on the kindness of strangers in Arizona.

Not Mechanically Inclined?

If all of this seems like gibberish to you, seek the assistance of a professional. I'm not going to recommend any particular mechanics because I perform most of my maintenance. There are also great resources online for seeking advice about your particular vehicle. Always check your manufacturer's recommendations, especially if your vehicle is under a warranty. You can easily void that warranty simply by using the wrong oil. Read your warranty carefully!

Proper maintenance will help your vehicle last in the brutally hot desert sun.



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Excessive Heat Watch for Thursday and Friday (2012-05-30 12:09)



Excessive heat watch in effect from Thursday morning through Friday evening.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix has issued an excessive heat watch, which is in effect from Thursday morning through Thursday evening. An excessive heat watch has also been issued from Friday morning through Friday evening.

This article also compares Phoenix weather to other parts of the world.

Affected area

The southwest and south-central Arizona deserts and lower deserts of far southeast California. Cities include the Phoenix metro area. Yuma. El Centro. Casa Grande. Wickenburg. Parker and Blythe.

Temperature

Record or near record temperatures on Thursday. From 108 degrees in Phoenix to 112 degrees in Parker. On Friday, from 111 degrees in Phoenix to 114 in Parker.

Impacts

Temperatures this high will make working outdoors considerably more difficult. Heat stroke will be more likely for those engaging in strenuous outdoor activities. The heat can cause undue health difficulties to the elderly and those without air conditioning.

Precautionary/preparedness actions

Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside. When possible, reschedule strenuous activities to early morning or late evening. Know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Wear light weight and loose fitting clothing when possible and drink plenty of water. If you wear a wide-brimmed hat, your head and body will be much cooler.

To reduce risk during outdoor work, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends scheduling frequent rest breaks in shaded or air conditioned environments. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency. Call 9 1 1.

Weather In Other Parts of the World Compared to Phoenix



Phoenix vs New York City

Phoenix: Thursday high of 108° (F), Friday high of 111° (F).

New York City: Thursday high of 78° (F), Friday high of of 71° (F).



Phoenix vs Atlanta

Phoenix: Thursday high of 108° (F), Friday high of 111° (F).

Atlanta: Thursday high of 90° (F), Friday high of 77° (F).



Phoenix vs. Minneapolis

Phoenix: Thursday high of 108° (F), Friday high of 111° (F). Minneapolis: Thursday high of 67° (F), Friday high of 68° (F).



Phoenix vs. Baghdad, Iraq

Phoenix: Thursday high of 108° (F), Friday high of 111° (F).

Baghdad: Thursday high of 101° (F), Friday high of 100° (F).

Other Resources

- Drink plenty of fluids
- It's hot, so may as well joke about it
- Learn more about the Phoenix Urban Heat Island (UHI - aka "Heat Bubble") effect
- Why is Arizona so hot?
- Learn more about the mixed up weather in Phoenix



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1.5 June

Arizona Stargazers Beware: Telescope Starts House Fire (2012-06-07 11:42)



Telescope In Arizona Starts House Fire

As if the sun weren't intense enough in Arizona, having a telescope in your home is also a fire hazard.

Who would think a fire extinguisher would be needed when it comes to using telescopes? In Carefree, Arizona, a house fire is thought to be started by a telescope. A Telescope can start fires the same way you use a magnifying glass to fry ants and burn things on a sunny day. The sun in Arizona already makes us feel like ants under a magnifying glass on a hot day (See "Why Is Arizona So Hot?").

A telescope starting a fire is extremely rare, and the stars literally have to align for it to happen. The sun must shine directly into the telescope for its rays and heat to be magnified. If the telescope is pointing at a wall, curtains, furniture, etc, it can very easily ignite a fire.



Fear not, it's a one in a million chance of it happening. It's a funny and ironic story worth sharing with fellow "No-Arizonans"! I mean, where else in the United States could this happen?

(Source: ABC 15)



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Rain, Rain, Please Stay and Go Away Another Day (2012-06-12 16:21)



Rain? What's That?

It's only June, and I already long for rainy days. Arizona is one of those strange places where cloudy, rainy days cheer you up. Arizona is the Twilight Zone of weather where reality is confusing and maddening.

The sun is shining bright, it's hot and there is not a cloud in the sky. Normally, that would sound like great summertime weather. In Arizona, it's another monotonous day of painful heat. Summer is dreaded in the desert, and cabin fever drives you mad. I can't remember when it rained last, and there are no realistic hopes for rain as of yet.

At the time of the writing, the Phoenix area has received only .7 of an inch of rain in 2012 so far. On average, Phoenix experiences 122 days of extreme heat in a year and 211 days of sunny weather. To put it another way, Phoenix experiences 3,872 hours of sun in a year and 85 % of the year is sunshine. That much sunshine wouldn't be so bad if it didn't hurt so much.

Yes, it IS a dry heat! But, it is best described as an anhydrous, arid, athirst, baked, bald, bare, barren, dehydrated, depleted, desert, desiccant, drained, dried-up, droughty, dusty, evaporated, impoverished, juiceless, parched, rainless, searing, shriveled, stale, thirsty, torrid, unmoistened and waterless heat!



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Lions And Tigers And Bears...Oh MY! (2012-06-14 14:57)



Lions and tigers and bears are nothing compared to the demonic creature found here in Arizona. Beware; they come out at night, when the human eye cannot see them very well. If you're smart, you'll keep a black light next to your bed and a pair of house slippers close by, but not on the floor! Should you have to get up during the middle of the night, these two items will be your best friend!

I'm referring to the evil SCORPION! Muuuahahahaha! That's right...even Boris Karloff, Vincent Price, Lon Chaney, Jr., and Bela Lugosi feared for their lives when encountered by this horrid creature of the night! They make vampires stay in their coffin and ghosts are happy that they float and not walk in the Arizona deserts!



Some people take their ultraviolet black light out at night and scan the perimeter of their house to find these devilish looking things. When the light shines upon them they glow in this freaky deaky neon blue color! The best way to catch them is to put double-sided tape around a long stick of some sort and when you find one, simply touch it with the stick - they get stuck to it; then you can burn them later. Just don't breathe the smoke when you are burning them or you may start growing little baby scorpions inside you - BOO! Are you creeped out yet? If not, maybe these photos will do the trick! Sleep with your lights on tonight!



Arizona, the Valley of the Sun, where cactus bloom & the skies are blue; where the air is dry, and scorpions STING YOU!

Enjoy your stay and ya'll come back now - ya hear?

Desert love, Mary.

Arizona Is (Perpetually) Burning (2012-06-19 12:08)



Arizona Wildfires Prolong

The Arizona wildfire season was already off to a quick start, and Arizona continues to burn well into June 2012. Here is the latest:

Fox Fire

The Fox Fire was started the Coronado National Forest was estimated to be 3,200 acres in size. About 180 crew members are working this fire and is 10 percent contained.

Poco Fire

The Poco Fire is burning six miles northeast of Young (map) in the Tonto National Forest. It is estimated to have burned 3,700 acres so far. The cause of the Poco Fire is under investigation.

Sunflower Fire

The Sunflower Fire has burned 17,618 acres 20 miles from Payson and is 80 percent contained.

Even More Fires

The 257 Fire has scorched 2,860 acres four miles southeast of Superior and is 85 percent contained. The Comet Fire has burned 200 acres and is approximately 11 miles from the 257 Fire. The Comet fire is 50 percent contained.



The wildfires and the typical Phoenix pollution is what makes breathing in Arizona uncomfortable. Difficulty breathing, itchy eyes and a burning sensation in your sinus cavity is normal for Arizona residents. I wish I could say you learn to live with pulmonary discomfort and searing heat on your skin, but there is no getting used to life in Arizona. Rather than becoming acclimated to those sensations, you learn to expect discomfort and pain during the summer and you're no longer surprised when they come. And as each year passes you become angrier, wondering why you moved here in the first place.

Be sure to read our other articles about Arizona Pollution.



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Arizona Becomes Hotter Each Year (2012-06-20 11:15)



It's Not Your Imagination, Arizona Is Getting Hotter

A new Climate Central study proves Arizona is becoming hotter as time passes. Arizona was found to be the fastest warming state in the nation, and it will only get hotter and see more severe droughts in the future. Arizona is currently in a 13-year drought.

Arizona daytime highs temperatures are not drastically changing, but the overnight lows are. Since the 1990's, the average overnight low in Phoenix during July and August has risen by about four degrees, from 81 degrees to 85 degrees. August 2011 was the hottest month in Arizona history.

If you're an active reader of No Arizona, you will realize this is not an enviro-political article. Do not refer to this article as proof for against global rising temperatures. No Arizona purposely stays away from political topics. The only agenda promoted here is why living in Arizona is a burden and a life-draining experience.

With that said, it is believed the reason Arizona, particularly the Phoenix area, is getting hotter is due to Urban Heat Islands (UHI). UHI's are the result of rising temperatures in a metropolitan area due to modern development. The UHI effect in Phoenix is so strong that it prevents entire weather systems from moving into the valley. For more information, refer to our article on the Phoenix "Heat Bubble".

The longer you wait to move from Arizona, the hotter it will become. A four degree rise in temperature in 20 years is quite dramatic, and Phoenix continues to build. Each house, building and roadway built is another heat trap. At night, you can literally feel heat radiating off of surfaces long after the sun has gone down. During the summer, it is common to see the temperature well above 100 degrees during the 10 o'clock news report. But it's a dry heat, right?



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Protect Your Pets During Extreme Arizona Desert Heat (2012-06-21 11:05)



Pets Suffer in the Arizona Summer, Too

There's no getting around the fact it's extremely hot in Arizona during the summer. Imagine going outside with a fur coat on in the 115 degree heat, and that is what your pets experience when they're outside. The extreme summer heat in Arizona is very uncomfortable for your pets.

Surprisingly, there are people who still leave their pets outside without access to shade and water or those who leave dogs in the car with the windows cracked. These situations fall under the realm of animal cruelty, which is a serious crime in Arizona.

The following guidelines will help your pets cope with the extreme heat:

- On extremely hot days, leave your pets at home and provide them with shade and water
- Leaving a pet in a parked car in the sun of a hot summer day is very inhumane in the Arizona summer heat. The inside of a vehicle can reach 160 degrees (F) or higher and cracking your window open will not provide enough ventilation to cool a pet. Just leave them at home.
- In the Arizona desert, a clear sunny day can quickly change lightning, thunder, flooding and violent rushing water. Sometimes there's no choice but to keep them outside, but keep in mind how rapidly the weather can change.
- Pavement heat is uncomfortable for your dog. People new to the Arizona desert are often unaware of just how hot the pavement can get. If you can't walk on the pavement barefoot, neither can your pet. Booties are available for your pets to walk on the hot pavement.
- Be aware of other desert critters: Javelinas (wild pigs), scorpions, rattlesnakes, gila monsters (giant lizards) and coyotes.

- Pets often contract Valley Fever and can die from it. Keep them inside during dust storms.

If you suspect animal abuse and/or cruelty in Arizona, please report it.



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Sad Tales of the Desert: A Poem By Nesima Aberra (2012-06-22 11:10)

Summer heat blows

Biting at my neck and face

No hand, no shade relieves



For more from this author, refer to the Young and Writerly blog.

Read more Sad Tales of the Desert.

Report: Phoenix Men Not Manly (2012-06-23 11:19)



Phoenix Is Below Top 20 Manliest U.S. Cities

Phoenix moved up from #32 to #25 in the manliness rankings.

A recent report by Mars Chocolate North America (yes, the candy bar company) conducted an annual study and ranked major U.S. cities in order of their manliness. You can read the full report [here](#).

The results of the study were based on city data such as the number of home improvement warehouses, steakhouses and manly occupations per capita.

The least masculine cities were in California, where testosterone is scarce. Oakland, San Francisco and San Diego took the last three spots.

The most masculine city was Oklahoma City.

If tough cowboys come to mind when you think of Arizona, you are sorely mistaken. The true cowboys in Arizona are outnumbered by the soft-handed metrosexuals and Scottsdale douche bags (funny YouTube video!).



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A Temporary Escape from Arizona (2012-06-26 10:27)



I am currently outside of Arizona and enjoying life again. Highs are in the 80s and I dread returning to the desert. I needed this trip to get right with my soul. I hope you find your escape. Hang in there, No Arizonans!

1.6 July

Poll: Arizona Residents, Which is the PRIMARY Reason You Stay In Arizona?
(2012-07-03 16:41)

Please take time to answer our poll questions.

[poll daddy poll=6363390]

An Unwilling Return to Arizona from My Temporary Escape (2012-07-03 17:10)



The photo you see is the area where I was spending vacation. There was water, trees and rain. Having grown up there, I was surprised to find those elements as a big deal. It felt comfortable and good to be home again. Unfortunately, it came to an end.



I had to come back to my life in Arizona. It's a life I wish I would have never started because family roots have grown in the desert floor. I'm trying desperately to pull those roots up with all my might and plant them among the trees. I became very sad when I took the picture from the airplane. I left my happiness behind, and I'm still having a hard time dealing with being in the desert again.

People around me often say I need to look at the positive side of things. It's the same people who talked me into moving into Arizona in the first place. In a way, they're right. My trip out of Arizona has strengthened my resolve to leave the desert. I feel like a warrior preparing for battle. However, this is a silent battle because the people around me can't understand why I hate living in Arizona so badly. It's a battle I will win.

This site was created for fellow No Arizonans to connect with and understand each other. I thank you

for your understanding, No Arizonans!

So, which is more desirable?

This?



Or This?



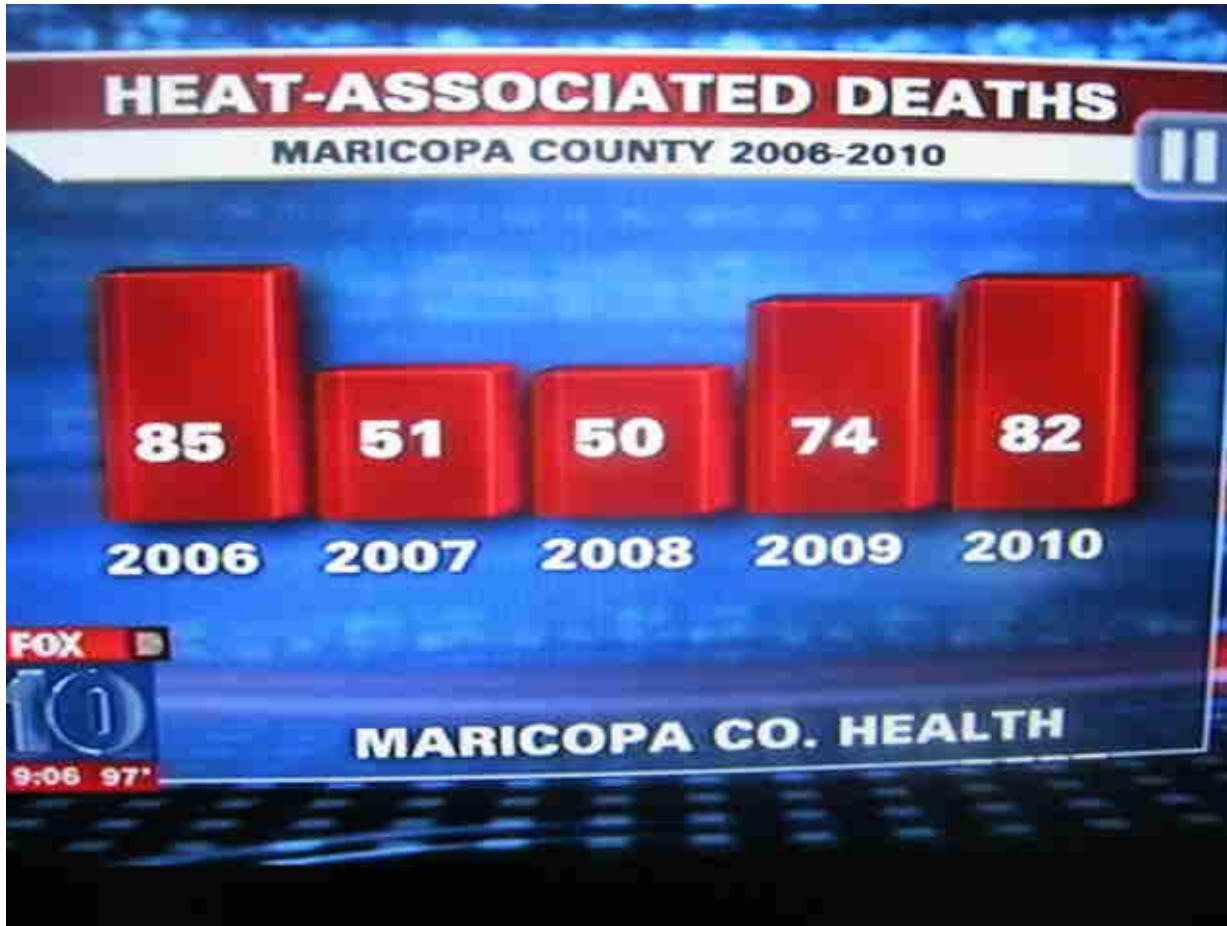
Stucco, Cactus and Scorpions, Is That All There Is? (2012-07-03 20:25)

Arizona has much to see. The Grand Canyon, Sedona, Flagstaff, Tucson, Tombstone, and even more. We're very close to MEJ-HI-CO (that's MEXICO for those of you who don't speak Spanish...LOL!); less than a 5 hour drive to San Diego, and not much further to LA, and other parts of Northern CA. But, this can all be enjoyed by a simple 'visit' or two to Arizona. There truly is no need to live here. If there is a job opportunity for you here in the Valley of the Sun, I suggest you spin that job wheel one more time and hope that it lands somewhere else!

Stucco, stucco and more stucco! Blaa...boring. All houses look about the same. Square stucco boxes. The only difference...some are bigger than others. Summers are hot, winters are perfect, so again, come visit when the climate is nice, but why pack up and set up camp here? Why did I do it? Ohhh...like I always say, "Everybody has a story." But how does the story go? Do the chapters change? Well, this chapter of my life will hopefully change soon and take me someplace more appealing. I prefer the East Coast, but Northern California - Wine Country, would be nice! Actually, there are many places I can think of where I'd rather be. A house in Italy would be great; Switzerland would be great, etc. etc. etc., all get-a-way places of course.

So, back to Arizona...well, there's never really much to say about this place. I mean, like I mentioned earlier, there are great scenic places here in AZ, and I have met quite a few nice people (most of them are from Back East...hey, what can I say!!??), but overall it's just a desert. Dry, hot, nothing exciting, and

scorpions all over the place. Sometimes I swear I can hear my air-conditioning unit crying.



The news breaks just to give heat warnings; which basically during the months of June, July and August, is just about every day. "Stay inside" they say, like we weren't planning on doing so? "Drink lots of water" they say, really? Thanks for the tip. The wind blew up some dirt two days ago, but not like a Habboob or a monsoon, just blowing dust (it happens a lot here). You would have thought the world came to an end - all local news channels were airing the "DUST STORM." This may have caught the eyes of visitors, but to us who have lived here it's like 'really?' But I guess I can't blame the newscasters and the weather people, they must be bored out of their minds. They'd have a nervous breakdown doing the news in NYC, Washington, DC, or perhaps even Florida! LOL!!

Every location has their good and bad points, so we just have to choose what's best for us. The Arizona desert is just not cutting it for me. Wanna swap houses (they're not selling)? It's always an option, Lee and I are open to it...I'm just say'n! :)

Hibernating until late fall...Love, Mary.

Independence Weekend In Arizona (2012-07-05 17:48)



Holiday Weekends In Arizona

I hope you all had a great Independence Day celebration. Many people forget the 4th of July is America's birthday. This became even more apparent to me as I watched the news and heard of all the terrible things that happened in Arizona over the Independence Weekend.

Below are just a few of the news stories (and tragedies) that occurred in Arizona. Terrible things happen everywhere, but the bad things that happen in Arizona are unique. Times meant for celebration often turn into something else in Arizona.



Interstate 10 crash kills man in SE Valley; lanes shut down for 6 hours



Vehicle Slams Into Pedestrians



Nogales Firefighter Dies After Hit and Run



Thieves Try to Steal Rifles, Pistols, \$14K gun



Naked Truck Driver Hits Home



Overnight Shooting Kills One



Deadly Motorcycle Accident



Man found shot to death behind Phoenix furniture store



Woman found dead in truck idling in middle of Phoenix street



Gilbert man struck and killed by train



Bicyclist accused of threatening motorist arrested by Mesa police after trying to bite them



Boy, 6, hurt after getting hit by car in Phoenix



Gilbert crash kills 2 men near SanTan Village mall

For each of the tragedies listed above, there are multiple families affected for the rest of their lives. The friends and family members of these victims will always remember Independence Day 2012 as the worst day of their lives.

Come on Arizona, Independence Day is meant to be a day of celebration!

What worries me most is Labor Day is only a couple of months away. Can Arizona get that holiday right? I'm not holding my breath.



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Sad Tales of the Desert: A Poem By Jeff Martin (2012-07-06 07:52)

A Line in the Sand
Tell me what would you do
If I told you the truth
And I took you by the hand
To see the dust swirl in pools
And a dark desert cool
In an empty wasted land

Tell me, what would you do
If this happened to you
Would it help you now
To understand
There's a line in the sand, a line in the sand
It'll keep you from the promised land
It's just a line in the sand

And what would you say
If I told you today
That your mother won't hold your hand anymore
She's broken and tired
She's inflamed with desire
To turn her head and walk away
From the line in the sand, the line in the sand
It'll keep you from the promised land
It's just a line in the sand
It's gonna keep you from the promised land

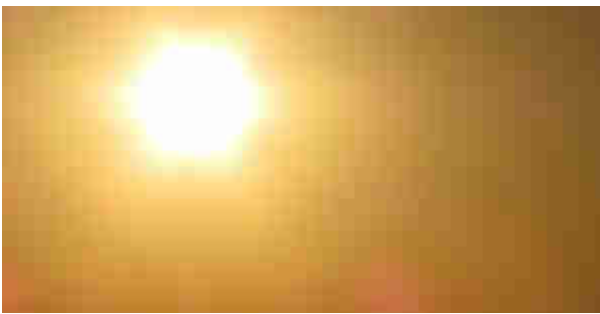
The refineries burn
And your mother she turns
To watch you stumble into the night
She's run out of tears
Have you run out of fear
Or is your candle still burning bright

You've crossed the line in the sand, the line in the sand
It's gonna keep you from the promised land
It's just a line in the sand



Read more Sad Tales of the Desert.

A High of 114° Today...How Is It Elsewhere? (2012-07-10 11:42)



There's no getting around the fact it's blazing hot in Arizona right now. This is the time of year where our thoughts drift off to other parts of the country, wishing we were enjoying cooler weather. Without further ado, let's compare the weather in Phoenix to the cities we covered in the article, Phoenix's Mixed Up Weather. We'll be taking a look at the weather on 7/9/2012 and see how Phoenix made out!

Let's see some reader participation on this one, No Arizonans! I have two very important questions for you at the end of this article...



Phoenix vs New York City

Phoenix: High of 114° (F), Low of 92° (F).

New York City: 72° (F), Low of 60° (F).



Phoenix vs Atlanta

Phoenix: High of 114° (F), Low of 92° (F).

Atlanta: High of 88° (F), Low of 69° (F).



Phoenix vs. Minneapolis

Phoenix: High of 114° (F), Low of 92° (F).

Minneapolis: High of 85°, Low of 67°.



Phoenix vs. Baghdad, Iraq

Phoenix: High of 114° (F), Low of 92° (F).

Baghdad: High of 113° (F), Low of 82° (F).

And just for the giggles, Kabul Afghanistan was only 97°.

For those who have never experienced the Arizona summer heat, you really have to feel it to truly understand. Imagine entering a room with multiple heating lamps on all four walls, the ceiling and the floor. It's a type of heat that stings and encompasses your entire body. It's a searing heat that literally hurts. Some could argue humidity is worse, but Arizona provides a very unique hot.

When people attempt to convince you to move to Arizona, they will tell you things like "it's a dry heat", "it's hot for only 4 months out of the year" and "it's not that bad". The unfortunate truth is a dry heat feels like an oven blasting your entire body, the hot months are between April to October (up to 7 months) and YES...it IS that bad!

Reader Participation

It only takes 5-10 seconds to respond to this article, so let us hear from you!

I have two very important questions for you:

1. Where would you rather be during this time of year?
2. How would you describe the Arizona heat to someone who has never been here?

As for me, I would rather be at this lake in Georgia (see below).





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Sad Tales of the Desert: A Poem By Edelmann & Vetterli (2012-07-12 06:32)

Serpent Moves
I'm moving, I'm changing
I might find myself
Out in the desert's land
Raise the moon
Call the dead
Touch the sky
Curse the sand

I might
Leave myself
Out in
The desert's land
Like the serpent
Glides from its skin
With gentle moves

On floors of sin

- Chris Vetterli & Marky Edelmann



Read more Sad Tales of the Desert.

1.7 August

August In Arizona (2012-08-08 04:29)



Endless Summer

It's August, and it's hot. It's a given fact that will never change and people in Arizona reluctantly accept it. It's hot for about six months in Arizona, but what's so unique about August?

In 2012, the first 100 degree day was in April (4/21/2012). Summer weather begins early in Arizona and lasts until approximately the middle of October. That is about 6 months of miserable weather each year, depending on when the heat finally releases its clutches on Arizona.

For the first few years of living in Arizona, I often made the mistake of using August as a benchmark for the near-end of summer. In my mind and in most normal climates, summer ends in September. After a lifetime of this fact being programmed into my brain, it was just natural for me to think cooler weather was coming.

Now that I've been in Arizona for 11 years, I am finally learning to force myself to not think about the end of the summer. Like a zombie, I trudge through my daily life accepting the unbearable heat and succumbing myself to the will of the Arizona sun. My attitude at this point of the season is the heat will end when it wants to end, and there is nothing I can do about it.

Like a dreaded dragon who terrorizes the village, the town folk of Arizona will celebrate and freely emerge from their homes to spend time outside without contemplating the return of the dragon (the sun). When the high temperatures get below 100 degrees, people of Arizona celebrate.

Then, when we're Christmas shopping in t-shirts and shorts, Arizonans will brag about "this is why we live here" and mock those who have to deal with snow. Again, Arizonans become very zombie-like not realizing we are missing out on a natural phenomena: SEASONS.

Right now, in August...in Arizona, everyone is miserable. By this time of the year, we are DONE with the heat but also realize there are about three more months remaining of summer. Everything is hot, and the heat makes us irritable. Tap water is HOT, the air is HOT, the car is HOT(even with the AC on full blast), pavement is HOT, the house is HOT, the pool is HOT, the door handles are HOT, the steering wheel is HOT, etc, etc...EVERYTHING is HOT.

For myself and other NoArizonans, we look forward to the day when the desert heat will no longer be an issue in our lives. That day will come, so just hang in there until then.



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Quiz: Arizona or Mars? (2012-08-09 06:00)



Is This a Photo of Arizona or of Mars?

With the successful landing of the Curiosity Mars rover, I noticed the images beamed back to earth appeared very similar to the landscape in parts of Arizona.

I thought it would be fun to have a little quiz to see if you can tell which photos are of Mars and which are of Arizona!

Please take time to answer our other poll questions.

[poll daddy type="iframe" survey="0B100FC7188F9055" height="auto" domain="noarizona" id="arizona-or-mars"]

Is Arizona Hot Enough To Fry An Egg? (2012-08-15 06:34)



Will This Egg Really Fry?

It's August in Arizona, and the weather is VERY hot right now. With the recent temperatures reaching above 115 degrees, I thought it would be fun to do a little experiment!

We've all heard the saying "it's hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk". Since I didn't want to clean up an egg mess from the sidewalk, I decided to use a common household pan.



I cracked the egg into the pan and let it sit for a while. The temperature was 117 degrees that day, but I wasn't really sure if it would really cook an egg. I went back into the air conditioning and waited about half an hour to check on it.



When I checked on the "eggsperiment", I was surprised to see the eggs were **OVERCOOKED!** Heck, even my dog wouldn't eat it!

The myth you can fry an egg in the Arizona heat is definitely true! It's so hot here, the only way to cope is to laugh about it.

This de-motivational picture gave me a great idea for the next experiment!



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Debunked: The Top Reasons to Move to Arizona (2012-08-17 04:02)



Many people who now live in Arizona were lured in by promises of paradise. Some of those people came to realize Arizona isn't quite normal and a difficult place to live.

This article focuses on the most common lines used to convince you to move to Arizona, and a rebuttal to each one. Enjoy!

Arizona has 300+ days of sunshine each year...nothing wrong with that!

There is something very wrong with that much sunshine in a year. More sun means less rain. Less rain means you'll be spending a lot of money just to keep the plants in your yard alive. Although it may sound strange to those who have never lived in Arizona, the sunny days become monotonous. (See Arizona Weather)



From Phoenix, you're only a 6-hour drive or 1 hour flight to Anaheim or San Diego!

Yes, but if you're not up for driving 6 hours, you can drive about 2.5 hours to the south and take in some old-fashioned international border violence!



Beautiful mountains everywhere!

You mean these mountains behind the brown cloud of pollution and dust? (See Arizona Pollution)



The Phoenix area has numerous golf courses to choose from!

Yes, those tiny specks of green are golf courses in the desert, and that's the most green you'll see there. (See Arizona Landscape)



The Arizona sunset is beautiful!

The setting sun is definitely something to look forward to...it means the heat from the sun will cease to beat down on you on a 115 degree day!



The beautiful Saguaro Cactus... nothing says "Welcome To The West" like the Mighty Saguaro.

Er, yes...very lovely, and prickly!



Spring Training! For only 7 bucks you can watch the big league players perform!

If you're a hardcore fan of baseball, this can be a positive. However, the fact is most of the fans who come for Spring training are from out of town. Phoenix sees this as an opportunity to mooch off of out-of-state visitors.

The cliché... "It's a DRY heat!"

The "dry heat" line is the number one excuse used to convince people to move to Arizona. You know what else is a dry heat? AN OVEN! High humidity is very uncomfortable, but my opinion is the intense dry heat is outright painful. It will literally burn your skin.

If you like cooking eggs outdoors, I suppose Arizona is the place for you!



Miss the snow?? You won't, but if you like to ski or snowboard, head to Flagstaff (peak elevation 12,000 feet!) during the winter.

On the contrary, I sorely miss snow. I love the anticipation of seeing a fresh blanket of snow in the mornings. It means winter is in full swing and it's cold for a reason!

If you live in Phoenix, Flagstaff is about a 3-hour drive north. Once you get there, you're greeted by high prices and a rude populace. Flagstaff is especially bad if you don't like hippies.

Calling friends and relatives in the middle of December, and complaining about getting sunburned.

This is part of becoming an Arizona zombie. The extreme heat of the summer makes the 80's in "winter" feel mild. If it gets below 70 degrees, it's cold. People who attempt to convince you to move to Arizona will tell you how nice the winters are. Yes, they ARE nice but it's NOT winter! Winter in the Phoenix area is Spring or Summer in other parts of the country.

If your Arizona relatives call you bragging about how nice the weather is in the "winter", they are essentially telling you they no longer know seasons. In Arizona, there are only two seasons: Spring and Summer.



Being able to sit outside in the evening without being attacked by mosquitoes!

As much as they want you to believe there aren't mosquitoes in Arizona, they are quite abundant. They're not as bad as other parts of the country, but they are usually found near standing water.

Mosquitoes are the least of your worries in Arizona. You have to be wary of scorpions, the brown recluse spiders, tarantula spiders and Africanized bees. These insects are more than pests and can be deadly.



The Phoenix area has one of the easiest "grid" systems for getting around the city; it won't take you much time to learn your way around.

Sounds great, huh? I can tell you it makes for a very boring drive. You basically drive a straight line for each mile until you either have to stop for a red signal or turn onto another street.

Arizona is also known as for having some of the worst drivers. Arizona ranks as #10 for the most drunk drivers, #8 for the most pedestrian accidents and has the #4 most dangerous intersection in the United States. (See Arizona Drivers)



No earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes... but we LOVE our monsoons.

You mean this??



Most of the country doesn't have "monsoons"...they have rain.

The people – you'll actually walk by people in the street who will say "Good morning" to you, instead of looking down and away, and ignoring you.

I would love to know which street this person was walking when someone acknowledged them! Arizona is notorious for having rude people! As a matter of fact, Travel & Leisure ranked Phoenix as the #8 rudest city in America! (See Arizona People)



Palm trees that make you feel like you're on vacation 365 days of the year!

Seriously?



Iraq



Arizona



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1.8 September

Labor Day Weekend In Arizona (2012-09-04 13:36)



Holiday Weekends In Arizona

It's been another party-related weekend in Arizona. Holiday weekends in Arizona often lead to preventable tragedies, so let's see how Arizona handled Labor Day.

After living in Arizona for a while, I noticed there was a LOT of bad news when holiday weekends come around.

In my previous article about Independence Day in Arizona, I pointed out the senseless tragedies that occurred over a weekend meant for celebration. In that article, I had hopes Arizona would get Labor Day right.

From the headlines from the Labor Day Weekend in Arizona:



Boy, 2, nearly drowns in Mesa backyard



Man, 41, drowns in Salt River, officials say



Tempe woman reported missing, police say



Scottsdale crash injures 4, authorities say



Search is on for man tubing at Salt River



Woman in middle of Phoenix road struck, killed



Unsupervised Mesa toddler drowns in pool



20 people injured in multicar collision north of Phoenix



Boy, 5, dies in Buckeye pool



2 hikers suffer heat exhaustion at Echo Canyon Park



Arizona officers make nearly 400 DUI arrests



Armed robbery outside McKellips coffee shop



Man steals beer, assaults police officer



Man shot in the face during drive-by shooting



Dust storm warning issued for Phoenix-metro area



Woman's body found in charred Glendale home



Puppies thrown out of moving tow truck



10-year-old boy nearly drowns at birthday party



Toddler falls out second story window



Motorcyclist dies after crashing into Glendale home

Labor Day Weekend in Arizona...a weekend with parents not supervising their children leading to drowning and falling out of windows, adults drowning in the Salt River (one of the very few bodies of water in Arizona), bad drivers, a high number of DUI arrests (thank you for getting them off the roadways), animal cruelty, armed robbery, kidnappings, arson and dust storms.

In all, it was another bad holiday weekend for Arizona. The desert cities are dangerous in day-to-day life, but Arizonans become even more irresponsible and violent during holiday weekends.





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Four Seasons? (2012-09-05 09:55)



A Quick Tutorial on "four seasons" in Arizona

Don't be fooled by the title of this article. Four seasons simply do not exist in the desert regions of Arizona, but this article will guide you how to differentiate between the four seasons most of the nation enjoys while

in Arizona.

Summer

Summer in Arizona, when the temperatures are above 110 degrees and everyone hides inside! The tap water becomes hot, air conditioning in your car struggles and outrageous electric bills! What a time for celebration! You will KNOW when it's summer in Arizona!

Let's take a look at what summer looks like in Phoenix:



Autumn

In most parts of the country, leaves are changing color and falling to the ground. Dads are putting the leaves into piles while the kids jump into them. Sounds like fun...and it is!

But with no real trees changing color in the Arizona desert, how are Arizonans to know it's becoming Autumn?

With perpetual summer in Arizona, you will be surprised how quick Halloween sneaks up! While existing in their zombie-like trances, the Arizonan need only to travel to the nearest store to find out what season is coming up next.



Did you guess Halloween? Good job! I know, it seems very strange since it's still over 100 degrees!

Still don't believe me? Check the TV:



What comes after Halloween? Quite easy, my zombie friend! Just keep checking the store aisles and see what's for sale!



Oh crap! Thanksgiving is coming?? But it's still in the 90's outside and everyone is wearing open-toe shoes and shorts!

Want to know a secret, my zombie friend? There are places outside of Arizona where the people need only to walk outside to see it's Autumn! Yes, for real!



Meanwhile, in Arizona...



Winter

Winter...the word conjures up images of snow, fireplaces and thick coats. In Arizona, it means 70-80 degree weather. It sounds nice, and it is Arizona's only reprieve from the summer heat. The 70-80 weather is cool to Arizona, while that same temperature range is normal summertime weather elsewhere.



Oh crap! Is it the Christmas season already?? But, we're still wearing shorts!

I'd better go decorate the yard:



There...not quite as ugly as usual!

You're catching on, my zombie friend! But when you're in a normal area of the country, this is how you know it's winter:



...and here's Phoenix again:



Springtime

Time to head to the store to see what's next:



The store is telling me Easter is coming up...so, that must mean Springtime, right! Ah, Springtime...when the flowers bloom and the birds are chirping in the trees! Not in Arizona!



Four seasons. Something I terribly miss.



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This Or That: Lakes! (2012-09-06 10:55)

Introducing "This Or That"

In "This Or That" articles, I will post photos highlighting features and characteristics of Arizona. The Arizona photos will be followed by a second photo showing the alternative to Arizona on the same topic. These will not be wordy articles (except for this one), and will only have photos asking you, "This or that?"

It is my hopes you will find these photos inspirational and assist you with looking beyond the distant

Arizona horizon.

The very first "This Or That" is a topic very important to me...lakes!

This Or That: Lakes!

This?



Or that?



To Live And Die In Arizona (2012-09-11 17:05)



Living (And Dying) In Arizona

If you've read NoArizona articles before, you've heard numerous reasons why Arizona is a bad place to live. I dug a little deeper and found dying in Arizona would be much worse.

I recently stumbled upon a website called "World Life Expectancy" that gives very detailed information in all areas of the world regarding what kills people. I was surprised to see all the problems the western United States have, Arizona specifically while looking at their USA Health Maps. Each part of the country has its own problems, but Arizona problems appear unique.

Below are clickable maps that are of concern to Arizona.

Alcohol Problem In Arizona



The western United States has a distinct alcohol problem. Arizona ranked #9 with alcohol-related deaths at a rate of 3.6 per 100,000 residents.

Drownings In Arizona



Arizona is one of the driest states devoid of large bodies of water, yet drowning is a major problem. On the television, Arizonans are bombarded with "watch your children around water" messages but unfortunately that message is lost. Although Arizona is dry, many people have swimming pools or at least access to them. Arizona ranked #17 for drowning deaths with a rate of 1.7 per 100,000 residents.

Arizona Drug-Related Deaths

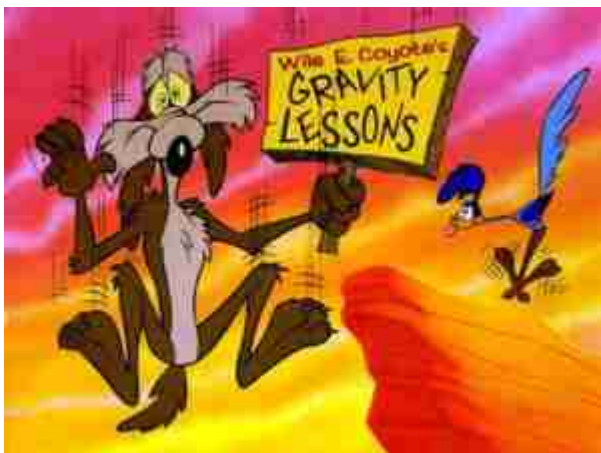


Drugs are very prominent and very available in Arizona. Arizona ranked #16 in the nation for drug-related deaths with .8 deaths per 100,000 residents. (See Arizona's Drug Addiction)

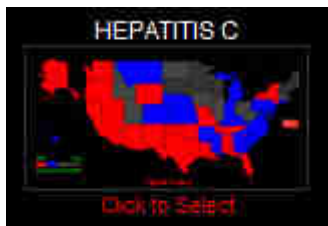
Falling Down (and not getting up) In Arizona



Unlike the Looney Toons Roadrunner cartoons, gravity in the desert doesn't pause and wait for you to realize you're not on solid ground before taking affect! Surprisingly, Arizona ranked #5 for death by falling at 11.5 per 100,000 residents. I'm sure at least 100 of those must be Wile E. Coyote!



Hepatitis C in Arizona



Arizona ranked #5 for deaths related to hepatitis C with 2.5 deaths for every 100,000 residents.

Liver-Related Deaths In Arizona



As you now know, alcohol is a major problem in Arizona. That naturally leads Arizona to be ranked #5 for liver disease deaths with 12.7 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Careful, That Might Be Poison!



Arizona is ranked #9 for poisoning deaths with 10.6 deaths per 100,000!

Suicides In Arizona



This is really no surprise (and no laughing matter) because suicide is a MAJOR problem in Arizona. It's a terrible place to live, and probably even worse as a kid. As bad as it is here, it's not worth hurting yourself.

What's really eye-opening is how red the map is in the west, as compared to the east. Virginia and

West Virginia are the only eastern states affected, while the northeast and southeast appear to be quite content with their lives. Why did I ever leave?

According to this article, one Arizona town has seen the suicide rate tripled in the past ten years. Police estimate they see nearly four threats, attempts or completions each week, with maybe one completed suicide per week.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact a local mental health professional, visit the Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition at azspc.org, or call the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255). Maricopa Crisis Response can be reached at (602) 222-9444. If it is an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

Arizona is ranked #8 for suicides with 16.1 per 100,000 residents.

Violent Deaths In Arizona



Arizona ranked #6 for violence-related deaths with 8.8 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Here are the latest two violent murderers from Arizona:



Jeremy Trujillo is a murderer who was booked into jail for a drive-by shooting. The details of his case are not available yet, but I would venture to say it's gang-related.

SAXTON BODHI BRANHAM : #P902974
Date Of Booking: 09/11/2012



Saxton Branham is a murderer who was also booked into jail today for reckless manslaughter. He was also arrested for driving on a suspended license, so perhaps his vehicle was his weapon of choice.

Here is Saxton's facebook profile, where he's really trying to look like a bad-ass. You finally killed someone, Saxton...that should get you some street cred, right?

Most Common Cause of Death By Age Group

- Age 0-14: #1, Congenital Anomalies; #2, Low Birth Weight
- Age 15-24: #1, Traffic Accidents; #2, Suicide
- Age 25-34: #1, Poisonings; #2 Suicide
- Age 35-44: #1, Poisonings; #2 Suicide
- Age 45-54: #1, Poisonings; #2 Breast Cancer
- Age 55-65: #1, Heart Disease; #2, Lung Cancer
- Age 65-74: #1, Heart Disease; #2, Lung Cancer
- Age 75+: #1, Heart Disease; #2, Alzheimer's

You can see the full chart here.

To Live And Die In Arizona

Living in Arizona is a terrible existence for many people, including me. Bad things happen to good people (and bad people) everywhere, but Arizona has it's own unique set of problems. According to the statistics I found, suicide is the #2 cause of death between the ages of 15 and 44. That is a huge spread and should really tell you something about Arizona.



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This Or That: Hiking (2012-09-12 07:12)

Which Do You Prefer?

This Or That: Hiking!

This?



Or that?



Autumn In Arizona (2012-09-22 07:49)



A Change of Seasons

It's September 22, the first day of autumn! Living in Arizona, you wouldn't know it...

Remembering Autumn



Although Arizona tries to make me forget, I remember autumn! The days were cooler and the nights were chilly. When you walked outside, you noticed the green leaves were changing colors. Every once in a while, a single leaf fell down and landed nearby. When you stepped on a fallen leaf, it crunched underneath your feet.

You could hear the deer and squirrels wandering the nearby woods because of the crunching leaves. Being outside, the air cooled quickly when the sun set and you had to put on a light jacket. You could feel the tingle of cooler air on your ear lobes. It was a relief summer was over, but you knew you were going to miss the summertime activities. The next thing to look forward to were the upcoming holidays and snow in the next few months.

Forgetting Autumn

Living in Arizona, I have to forcibly remind myself what Autumn is like. If I don't, I become the typical Arizona zombie. After a summer of 110+ degree heat, the daytime high temperatures between 100-103 seem "nice". I am not kidding in the least. The Arizona weatherman will spout about how nice it is outside and how it has "cooled down to the low 100's". Yes, it's a reprieve from the hot summer but the low 100's are a hot summer day where I'm from – NOT AUTUMN!

I try not to forget autumn because I don't want to be trapped in Arizona forever. If you fall for the

trickery of "nicer temperatures" and "mild winters", you will accept life without normal seasons and succumb to the Arizona way of life.

This is the time of year I desperately yearn to get out of Arizona. Summer is terrible, but seeing the season change throughout the country makes me miss it even more.

While watching football on TV, I see the fans and coaches wearing jackets while it's in the 100's in Arizona. Strangely, I'm subconsciously drawn into their reality of cooler weather because I used to live it. Then, I walk outside and the hot Arizona sun stings my skin. It is that moment when I am thrust back into the Arizona reality of no autumn. And, it makes me sad and homesick.

In Arizona, we still have to get through September and most of October before the cooler weather arrives. Remember, cooler in Arizona means the 70-80 degree range for high temperatures. I can't wait to share pictures with you of people wearing jackets outside when it's in the 70's...it's quite hilarious. A little bit of comic relief while living in the depressing Arizona desert.





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Phoenix: One of Top 20 Dirtiest Cities (2012-09-26 03:28)



Travel & Leisure Ranks Phoenix As 19th Dirtiest City

Phoenix joins cities such as San Juan Puerto Rico, Las Vegas, Miami, Los Angeles and New York City as one of the top-20 dirtiest cities.

Why? Read on!

Why Is Phoenix So Dirty?

One of my very first articles focused on the problem with pollution in the air (See: Air Quality in the Arizona Desert). I was glad to see others, who could be deemed as more objective, recognize the fact Phoenix is

very polluted. In their rankings, Travel & Leisure pointed out Phoenix ranked #7 on the American Lung Association's "Most Polluted Cities".

The air in the Phoenix area is very dirty and it's difficult to breathe here, primarily due to particle pollution. Please read my "Air Quality in the Arizona Desert" article to see what's floating in the Arizona air. You will be surprised!

I was watching the Phoenix newscast when I first learned about the latest ranking for Phoenix. I found it funny when the newscasters appeared shocked about dirty old Phoenix! I also got a kick out of the "people on the street" interviews! Watch it here:

- Phoenix Ranked as 19th dirtiest city (Video)

[slideshow]



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Rude Arizonans: Danica Patrick (2012-09-29 07:17)



Arizona Rudeness

Danica Patrick is a well-known NASCAR driver who calls Arizona home. She was born and raised in Illinois, but Danica chose Arizona as a place to live and call home. After reading stories from people who have met her in person, it makes sense Danica fits right into Arizona culture.

The Arizona Attitude

First of all, a disclaimer! This article is not intended as a debate as to whether or not Danica belongs in NASCAR. The focus on this article are real-life stories of people meeting Danica and noting how rude of a person she was.

Many people in Arizona are just plain rude. It's impossible to wave at people passing by because they tend to stare at their feet or turn their backs to you. When you do get to speak with an Arizonan, it's often short and crass.

I heard Danica Patrick lived in Arizona, so I wanted to see if she fit into the mold of a rude Arizonan. Unfortunately, she does.

The following are quotes from people who have met her in person:

I met her at a fan event and she was [a bitch]. The little girl in front of me was in head-to-toe Danica gear. Danica had her head turned, talking to someone behind her the entire time, even when the little girl said "I love you, Danica!"

One of my former teachers daughter is a friend of hers. We attended an event thrown by one of her sponsors. All I will say she was unpleasant, but even my teacher's daughter said she always been bitchy and pushed herself to be out front.

Having met her a few different times I can say without a doubt she is a total entitled biatch, rude, and unfriendly.

On flying for Danica Patrick:

Danica Patrick- rude and classless. Decided to throw her Coke can and peanut wrapper in the aisle rather than wait for trash collection.

When i met her she was VERY rude to her fans.

She just ignored me, which...whatever, but it really made me mad when she ignored the little girl behind me. The girl was maybe 7 and all dressed in Patrick stuff. Danica had her head turned around, talking to someone behind her while she signed the girl's autograph. This was at a signing too, so it's not like she didn't know what was going to be going on.

I met her once at Watkins Glen and she was kinda a B****.

I met her once... she was just really, really rude.

Danica Patrick: I met her at Barber Motorsports park in '11 for the Indy race, not a very friendly person. Hostile.

I didn't say she sucked, she is a freaking awesome driver and was my hero till I met her. And yeah have yet to meet a Scottsdale girl that wasn't snooty and rude.

The behavior described above does not only apply to celebrities, but is commonplace in Arizona. Rude, hostile, unfriendly, unpleasant. These words are used to describe some celebrities. In this case, it describes Danica Patrick and it describes typical Arizona rudeness.

I'm glad she lives in Arizona, and I hope she lives there for many years to come. In Arizona, she won't have to worry about friendly neighbors, people waving at her as she drives down the street or bother with engaging in friendly conversation with complete strangers.

In a Southern sport such as NASCAR, Danica Patrick does not comprehend Southern Hospitality. Rather, she embraces Southwestern In-hospitality.

Not only is Danica Patrick typical of Arizona people, she is also an Arizona driver:





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1.9 October

My Autumn Escape from Arizona (2012-10-04 11:19)

The days are warm with a cool breeze, and the nights are chilly. Fall is in the air!





Unfortunately, I will soon return to the desolation of the desert.



Finding Home (2012-10-19 08:08)



Where is your home? Is it the house you live in, or is it where you long to be? Many people call Arizona home, but it doesn't feel like home.

Home?

Living in Arizona, it doesn't feel like home. Arizona just happens to be where my house is located, but the Arizona I see through my windows doesn't feel like home. But what exactly makes home...well, home?

There are two definitions of the noun home that really stand out and apply:

home [hohm]

1. a house, apartment, or other shelter that is the usual residence of a person, family, or household.
2. the place in which one's domestic affections are centered.

The "usual residence of a person" is a house. It's a structure where you lay down at night and where you keep all your stuff. For me, inside my house feels like a home because the people I love live with me. The problem for someone like me who lives in Arizona and hates it, what lies outside of that house feels nothing like home.

The second definition describing "domestic affections" as home is very powerful and meaningful. My domestic affections are elsewhere, far away from the Arizona desert. The place I grew up and refer to as home is thousands of miles away.

When I go on vacation to leave Arizona and visit my home (where my domestic affections are centered), I unfortunately must return. When I return to Arizona, I don't tell people I'm going home. Rather, I tell them, "I have to go back."

Trying to Make Arizona Home When It's Not

For the past 12 years, I've tried my hardest to make Arizona home. I've been told it should feel like home because it's where my immediate family is and that home is where ever they are. I tried to believe that, and I think I did for a while. Then, I awoke to the realization of Arizona being a horrible place to raise a family.

I was lucky enough to meet a family in Arizona who moved to the desert from the same area I grew up in. They were a happy family of four and great people. They brought a piece of home with them, and it was refreshing. Sadly, it only took two years for them to move back and leave the desert behind. When they left, that piece of home left me. Thankfully, it made me realize home cannot be defined simply as the location of your immediate family. I later learned they held the same opinion of Arizona as I.

Another method I tried to make Arizona feel more like home was to purchase a home outside of the cookie-cutter neighborhoods where I had a large yard and room to run around. My first thought while purchasing the home was, "Well, this awesome house should help me deal with living in Arizona."

To a degree, it helped. I love the house I live in, but I hate what is outside! I still don't know my neighbors, and people walking by don't stop by to chat or even wave as you pass by!

I've come to the realization Arizona will never be home, and it's time to plan my escape from the desert.

Finding Home

So, how does one combine the "usual residence of a person" AND "domestic affections" in one place? Everyone's situation is different, and you have to really think about where you can live in a place where you love what is outside of your house as much as what's inside.

What helped me was to write out a "T-Chart" with the pros and cons of staying and living in Arizona. I was surprised to see most of the pros involved my career (advancement, pay, retirement, etc.). There was absolutely NOTHING in the pro column regarding personal happiness and fulfillment.

In your situation, think of yourself in your death bed with family surrounding you. Did you live a good life? Were you happy with the decisions you made? Did you have a happy life? Were you glad you stayed in Arizona?

For me, I've decided my career can no longer be the chains restraining me in Arizona. I am willing to accept a lower wage in order to live a happier life. Starting over is a very scary thought, but it's time to leave Arizona.

It's time to go home.



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Happy Halloween! (2012-10-31 05:18)



Happy Halloween from No Arizona!

May your AC's shut off soon!

Please be safe!

1.10 November

Arizona Gets "Dadded" On Popular TV Show (2012-11-23 07:14)

The FOX television show American Dad apparently doesn't like Arizona either:

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZCmbJwyttk>]

If you experience problems viewing the video, you can see it here.

Thanksgiving Weekend In Arizona (2012-11-24 02:18)



Thanksgiving Weekend In Arizona

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving! The Thanksgiving holiday is for feasts and quality time with family, but I learned Arizona has a difficult time with such a family-oriented holiday.

Just as I did with Independence Day and Labor Day Weekend, I checked the Arizona news websites to gauge how Arizonans handled Thanksgiving. It's gotten to the point where nothing is shocking anymore when doing this because it seems some people just couldn't handle this holiday weekend either.

Here are headlines from Thanksgiving Weekend:



5 hikers rescued from Phoenix mountains



Chandler house fire: Mom, 2 boys taken to burn center



Peoria crash: Woman in hospital after hitting wall, fire hydrant



Fiery collision in Phoenix sends 4 to the hospital



Child runs into street, hit by pickup



2 arrested in connection with Mesa home invasion



Man's body found behind Prescott convenience store



Teen killed in Apache Junction rollover crash



Police investigate deadly shooting in El Mirage



Motive behind child's kidnapping under investigation



Fatal collision on SR 347 south of Phoenix



Attempted homicide under investigation in Yuma



Pharmacist wrestles with attempted robber



Mesa police seek suspect in Thanksgiving Day shooting



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1.11 December

It's A Tough Day for Breathing in Arizona (2012-12-07 15:18)



Cough, Cough...Sniff, Sniff

The air stings my lungs. My eyes burn and my throat is sore .

What a great way to get us in the Christmas spirit with dirty air and 80 degree temperatures!

The photo of the mountain was taken today (12/7/12). That mountain was only about 1/2 mile from where I stood, and it is normally a much clearer view.

The second photo, also taken today, illustrates just how dirty the air is today. Normally, you would be able to see mountains in that photo. Instead, there's a white and brown mist hovering above the city. It almost looks as if the views are obstructed by smoke from a forest fire. However, there is no forest, thus no forest fire...it's just the nasty Arizona air.

Merry Christmas, Arizona.



Read more about Arizona Pollution.

This Or That: Christmas (2012-12-20 07:13)

Which Do You Prefer?

This?



Or that?



You might also like:

- [This or That: Hiking](#)
- [This or That: Lakes](#)

Year In Review: 2012's Most Popular NoArizona Articles (2012-12-31 08:22)



Thank You For Reading NoArizona!

As 2012 comes to an end, we take a look back at the year's most popular articles! Read on, there may be an article you missed!

Top 10 NoArizona Articles



10. [Quick Facts About Arizona Valley Fever - Valley Fever \(Coccidioides\)](#) is a well-kept secret, but it's a potentially deadly sickness found in the Southwestern United States. I have

personal experience with Valley Fever, and it was the worst sickness I've never experienced. The scariest aspect about contracting Valley Fever is the fact it looks like lung cancer, and you must go through additional testing to rule it out. If you don't know anything about Valley Fever, I would highly suggest reading this article.



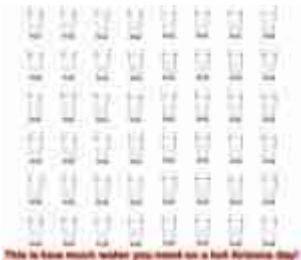
9. Air Quality In The Phoenix Desert - Pollution in Arizona's urban regions are another well-kept secret. The promotional materials provided by those who have a vested interest (\$) in people moving to Arizona will never show you photos of the brown cloud that hovers above the cities.



8. Valley Fever In Arizona: "A Regional Epidemic" - This was our first article about Valley Fever (Coccidioides). I hope readers have found this to be an informative article. Most never hear about Valley Fever, even after living in Arizona for a while. There are often stories about pets succumbing to the sickness, but there isn't much public discussion regarding infected people. The worst thing about Valley Fever is it will be in your body the rest of your life.



7. Chilling Crime Facts: Phoenix, Arizona - Crime is very prevalent in Arizona, especially in the urban areas. Every section of town, and almost every block, has its own gang. The thug culture is very prominent in Arizona, as it seems everyone has something to prove.



6. How Much Water Do You Need To Drink In Arizona? - The short answer is it is suggested people in Arizona lose **THREE GALLONS** of water per day without exertion. With that said, you have to drink that much just to maintain your current level of hydration. Having water readily available is a must while living in the desert.



5. More People Are Moving Out of Arizona Than Moving In - It seems when people move to Arizona, they eventually realize the mistake they made. I've met people who were born and raised Arizona who also wanted out of the state. Arizona is NOT the norm.



4. Automobile Maintenance for the Desert - This article came to be because of automobile problems I've experienced while living in Arizona. It's very difficult to keep your vehicle looking nice, especially if you have to park outside. The sun and dust in Arizona are VERY harmful to your vehicle, so you must be extra diligent in maintenance.



3. Arizona, Meet Your Criminals - The purpose of this article was to give a face to the crime problem in Arizona. Maricopa County posts their mugshots online, and you can even vote for mugshot of the day! It's very eye-opening to see the type of people who are arrested and the crimes they've committed. You can see what murderers, rapists, robbers and burglars are by visiting the mugshot website. Not only are they Arizona's criminals, but they are the citizens' neighbors.



2. Arizona's Drug Addiction - Arizona is one of the primary gateways from Mexico for drug distribution, so it makes sense drugs are very prominent there. Illicit drugs are readily available in Arizona, which leads to its high crime rate. Drugs are bad throughout the country, but it's a noticeable problem in Arizona.



1. Why is Arizona So Hot?

So why IS it so hot in Arizona? This article took a bit of research to piece the information together. There is a scientific reason as to why Arizona is so much hotter than the rest of the country, and I hope this article helps answers those questions.

The summers in Arizona are very unforgiving and you never truly get used to it. Rather, you know what to expect when the heat comes. Temperatures are typically above 100 degree between April and October, and it's getting hotter every year.

Thank You

When I first created this blog, I didn't realize there were so many others who, like me, hated living in Arizona. Knowing I'm not alone is what keeps this site going and drives me to finally move out of Arizona.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and a bountiful 2013!

Sincerely,



Chapter 2

2013

2.1 February

Poll: What do you dislike the most about Arizona? (2013-02-15 06:02)



There are many reasons to dislike Arizona, but you can only pick one!

If you have more to say, feel free to leave a comment! As always, thanks for reading!

[poll daddy poll=6899854]

2.2 April

If Arizona Is So Bad, Why Not Just Move? (2013-04-08 15:41)



Why Stay?

I often see comments come through from people who say we should just move out of Arizona since we dislike it so much. If it were that easy, it would be done. In this article, I will hopefully provide an explanation on that subject. For those who can empathize and also feel trapped in the desert, I appreciate your understanding.

NoArizona Comments

I really enjoy reading the comments people post on NoArizona. The comments posted on NoArizona are moderated to prevent harsh language, personal attacks and political rants. Whether the comments are positive or negative toward the viewpoints on this website, I do not censor them unless the comments cross the line. I'm honored someone would even take the time to share their thoughts, so THANK YOU!

If Arizona Is So Bad, Why Not Just Move??

It is a simple and innocent question, much like the inquisitive child: "Daddy, if your car breaks down so much, why don't you buy a new one?", "Mommy, if you don't want to go to work, why don't you just find a new job?"

What needs to be done is obvious to the child. However, the parent's understanding of the world is much more complicated. The "Daddy" needs to get a loan, fix his credit if it's bad, get a down payment, sell the car, shop for a new one without being ripped off and so on. The "Mommy" has a retirement account that she is not yet vested in, the job market is terrible in her profession, she has to get her resume together, apply for jobs, interview and so on.

For those who ask "why not just move?", I'm not saying you're childish or simplistic in your thinking. I don't know you, and you don't know me.

Those comments really made me ponder. Why can't I just move? Like an onion, I peeled away the layers to reveal different reasons of remaining trapped in Arizona. Keep in mind, whatever is keeping YOU in Arizona can be overcome! It can be done, and for me it will be done.

The Housing Market

In the early-to-mid 2000's, the Arizona real estate market was booming. As a result, home values became artificially inflated causing homes to be worth more than they really were. Many out-of-state investors swooped in and bought income rental properties and controlled most of the market. When the economy tanked, investors backed out and even abandoned their properties. The homeowners who stayed behind were left to deal with the aftermath. Their property values significantly decreased and neighborhoods were filled with vacant homes and unkempt yards.

As a result, many homeowners are "underwater" with their mortgages. Basically, they owe more than their house is worth. This article states 50 % of Arizona homeowners are underwater with their mortgages.

It's a staggering number, and it can be seen in just about every neighborhood.

Simply put, you can't sell a house for more than it's worth. You can't move...you're stuck. The only option is to walk away from the property and mortgage, but it will wreak havoc on your credit rating.

The National Job Market

In order to move out of Arizona, you need a job to go to. The downfall of the economy had a devastating effect on the job market. According to this article, if the economy were to produce 88,000 jobs every month, as it did in March 2013, the labor market would never return to pre-recession employment levels.

With a weak job market, finding a new job anywhere in the country is difficult. You must also factor in travel expenses just to interview for an out-of-state job.

Family

Moving across the country is very strenuous on a family. I speak from experience, because I've made the move twice. With children in the picture, you have to find good schools in a new area and help them cope with leaving their friends. Children are resilient and can handle it, but it is a stressful situation nonetheless.

If you have family in Arizona, it is difficult to leave them as well. Family issues offer varying degrees of complexity when it comes to move it. Some family members may take it personal and believe you are moving away from them (maybe you are!). For me, family matters outside of my nuclear family are inconsequential.

Friends

Perhaps you've made a lot of friends in Arizona, and leaving them would be difficult. For me, I have more friends in my native state than in Arizona. Getting to know people in Arizona is difficult. For more information, read about Arizona People.

Career

Another layer to this dilemma is your standing at your job. After working with the same people for a while, you gain respect and (hopefully) a good reputation. Starting over in a new workplace can be difficult. But, it can be done because you've done it before. I sometimes consider staying in Arizona until retirement, but then I'm reminded of those who retired before me. Once retired employees are gone, they are quickly forgotten. You even forget their names and their contributions! It's a shame, but it's the simple truth.

Money

A parent often tells the child, "Money doesn't grow on trees."

What binds many people to Arizona is money. The root of all evil, perhaps, but a necessary commodity in today's world. Packing up and moving could cost at least \$20,000. If you're looking to stay in the western United States, your costs may not be as high. For me, I want to move back to the Southeast and it's incredibly expensive. Unfortunately, playing the lottery is not a wise investment plan.

What Keeps YOU In Arizona?

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, I really do enjoy reading your comments! Please, share your thoughts!

- Do the aforementioned reasons for staying in Arizona apply to you?
- What other reasons are there keeping you in Arizona?
- Do you stay in Arizona because you truly love it?
- Did you leave Arizona? Share your experiences!



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Arizona [ar-uh-zoh-nuh] Defined (2013-04-22 17:36)



Arizona - A state in SW United States. 113, 909 sq. mi.

Capital: Phoenix. Abbreviation: AZ, Ariz.

The definition of Arizona itself is very nondescript as far as the quality of life. When you take a look at the definitions of words often associated with life in Arizona, it surely doesn't paint a positive picture.

Arid - ar·id [ar-id]

adjective

- 1.being without moisture; extremely dry; parched: arid land; an arid climate.
- 2.barren or unproductive because of lack of moisture: arid farmland.
- 3.lacking interest or imaginativeness; sterile; jejune: an arid treatment of an exciting topic.

Desert - des·ert [dez-ert]

noun

- 1.a region so arid because of little rainfall that it supports only sparse and widely spaced vegetation or no vegetation at all.
- 2.any area in which few forms of life can exist because of lack of water, permanent frost, or absence of soil.
- 3.an area of the ocean in which it is believed no marine life exists .

Wasteland - waste·land [weyst-land]

noun

- 1.land that is uncultivated or barren.
- 2.an area that is devastated, as by flood, storm, or war.
- 3.something, as a period of history, phase of existence, or locality , that is spiritually or intellectually barren.

Barren - bar·ren [bar-uh n]

adjective

- 1.not producing or incapable of producing offspring; sterile: a barren woman.
- 2.unproductive; unfruitful: barren land.
- 3.without capacity to interest or attract: a barren period in American architecture.
- 4.mentally unproductive; dull; stupid.

5. not producing results; fruitless: a barren effort.

Dry - dry [drahy]

adjective

1. free from moisture or excess moisture; not moist; not wet: a dry towel; dry air.
2. having or characterized by little or no rain: a dry climate; the dry season.
3. characterized by absence, deficiency, or failure of natural or ordinary moisture.
4. not under, in, or on water: It was good to be on dry land.
5. not now containing or yielding water or other liquid; depleted or empty of liquid.

Rude - rude [rood]

adjective

1. discourteous or impolite, especially in a deliberate way.
2. without culture, learning, or refinement: rude, illiterate peasants.
3. rough in manners or behavior; unmannerly; uncouth.

Unfriendly - un·friend·ly [uhn-frend-lee]

adjective

1. not amicable; not friendly or kindly in disposition; unsympathetic; aloof: an unfriendly coldness of manner.
2. hostile; antagonistic: an unfriendly act of aggression.
3. unfavorable; inhospitable or inimical, as an environment: an unfriendly climate for new ideas.

Pollution - pol·lu·tion [puh-loo-shuh n]

noun

1. the act of polluting or the state of being polluted.
2. the introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment: air pollution.

Valley Fever - Coccidioides Coc·cid·i·oi·des (kōk-sīd'ē-oi'dēz)

1. A genus of fungi, a single species of which, *Coccidioides immitis*, causes coccidioidomycosis.



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4/28/2013: The 100's Have Arrived In Arizona (2013-04-29 17:29)



Hello, 100°F+ Degrees, My Old Nemesis

Sunday, April 28, 2013 was greeted with this year's first 100°F degree weather, and we're now in it for the long haul until October...

I'm sure there are a few straggling snow birds who regret not leaving sooner and are probably packing up right now as we speak!

Weather Beyond Arizona

With 4/28/2013 as the first 100°F degree day, let's see what the weather was like in other parts of the country! The temperatures listed were the high temperatures for 4/28/2013.

- Seattle, WA: 61°F
- Minneapolis, MN: 82°F
- New York City, NY: 69°F
- Atlanta, GA: 61°F
- Washington D.C.: 68°F
- Raleigh, NC: 62°F
- Green Bay, WI: 72°F
- Miami, FL: 84°F
- Baghdad, Iraq: 95°F
- Kabul, Afghanistan: 68°F

(Source: Weather Underground)

Although the Heat Has Arrived, It's Still Not Hot By Arizona Standards

If you're new to Arizona and struggling with this heat, I'm sorry to report it gets much worse. In July and August, we will be wishing for the low 100's. I have written other weather-related articles about Arizona to help explain why it's so hot here and how to protect yourself from the heat.

Arizona Weather FAQ

Based on queries from the web logs, people are finding NoArizona when searching for topics about the weather in Arizona. I thought I would post answers to some of the most common search terms. If your question is not answered here, feel free to contact me.

Q: Why is Arizona / Phoenix so hot?

A: Although I'm not a weather expert, I wrote this article explaining the dynamics of the Arizona heat based upon my research.

Q: Why is Phoenix so polluted?

A: Primarily, because Phoenix lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. Read more about Arizona pollution in this article.

Q: What causes Arizona dust storms (haboobs) and what are the dangers of being caught in one?

A: They're caused by storm fronts blowing across the desert. Please see this article for more detailed information. The biggest danger of dust storms is contracting Valley Fever.

Q: What are Urban Heat Islands (UHI) aka "the heat bubble effect".

A: UHI's are created by man-made structures that capture heat and make it even hotter in the desert. Read this article for more information.

Q: What are the challenges to living in the Arizona desert?

A: Too many! Please read the articles filed under the Arizona Weather Category.

Q: How much water do I need to drink while in Arizona?

A: Without exertion, the average person loses THREE GALLONS of water per day, so you need to drink that much just to maintain. More detailed information can be found in this article.

Q: How do you get acclimated to the Arizona heat? Do you ever get used to the heat?

A: I'm sorry to say, you never get used to it. Your blood gets thinner living in Arizona. No, your blood doesn't actually thin as if you were on an aspirin regimen! What I mean by that is anything below 60 degrees feels cold to you. As for the summer heat, you never truly get used to it...you just know what to expect. I've been here many summers, and I'm still not used to it.

Q: How long does the heat last?

A: You can count on 100+ degree weather starting in April and lasting until October. Arizona typically deals with 6-8 months of hot weather. Don't let the Chamber of Commerce or the Arizona Tourism Board fool when they say it's only 3-4 months of hot weather. And please, don't fall for the "dry heat" excuse. It should really be called "you're an ant under a magnifying glass heat".



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Get "Uncaged" from Arizona! (2013-04-30 16:31)



This is just a friendly reminder that there are places outside of the boundaries of Arizona...



Gonna lift to the great wide open

Wanna set my spirit free



Won't stop till I reach the ocean

Gonna break these chains holding me



Gonna swim in the coldest river

Gonna drink from a mountain spring

Deep in the land of the great wide open

Let the water roll all over me



Uncaged

Oh, wanna swim in the sunshine

And every day find a way to face my fears

Oh, wanna get in the wind



Gonna take every chance I'm given

Feel the wind through the open plains
Freedom is a gift, get livin'



You got to get uncaged!
Go chase that sunset highway down

2.3 May

Sand, Sand Everywhere...But This Isn't Arizona! (2013-05-02 18:54)



Greetings from a place where people look forward to summer!

When Will Arizona Run Out of Water? (2013-05-06 15:54)



Arizona's

Water Supply

As a desert state, Arizona receives its water supply primarily from the Colorado River. The past few years have seen a boom in growth, especially in the Phoenix area. With all this growth and people moving in, will there be enough water to go around in the years to come? As I sought to answer this question, I came across some startling facts.

The Age of Thirst in the American West

I first came across a stunning essay by William deBuys, who goes into great detail about the water supply to the southwest. The primary message that stuck out to me:

And here's the bad news in a nutshell: If you live in the Southwest or just about anywhere in the American West, you or your children and grandchildren could soon enough be facing an age of thirst, which may also prove to be the greatest water crisis in the history of civilization. No kidding.

The fact Arizona could run out of water within our lifetime is very scary to think. It would be the end of civilization as we knew it in the southwest. The article states Arizona has been leaving beyond their water means for years.

Just think of the coming age of thirst in the American Southwest and West as a three-act tragedy of Shakespearean dimensions.

The Colorado River Runs Dry



This photo is of the Colorado, where it comes to an end in Mexico. The Colorado River, which once flowed all the way to the sea, now ends in a dry bed in the deserts of Mexico. This article also has a very ominous message about Arizona's water supply:

“There's not enough fresh water to handle nine billion people at current consumption levels,” says Patricia Mulroy, a board member of the Colorado-based Water Research Foundation, which promotes the development of safe, affordable drinking water worldwide. People need a “fundamental, cultural attitude change about water supply in the Southwest,” she adds. “It's not abundant, it's not reliable, it's not going to always be there.”

For some astonishing photos about the declining Colorado River, look here.

In this interesting article, a writer traveled the complete length of the Colorado and describes what he saw.

According to this article,

According to research conducted by 24/7 Wall St, ten major cities are in danger of expending their water supply by 2050 or sooner. The list includes Phoenix, Los Angeles, Orlando, Las Vegas, Fort Worth, San Francisco, and Houston.

This article's author also traveled the Colorado River, and brought interesting facts about the Colorado River to the light:

- 30 million people depend on the Colorado River and its tributaries for their water. The population is projected to grow another 10 million in the next decade. The river's supply will be hard-pressed to keep pace with that growth.
- The 1922 Colorado River Compact that divvied up use of the river's water by seven western states was based on assumption that the river provides 17.5 million acre feet in the average year. Recent modeling shows it averages closer to 14.5 million acre feet.
- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation calculates that the river could run short of water 58 to 73 percent of the time by the year 2050.

- Roughly one-fifth of the 1,450 miles of the river is "impounded" by dams. One of the grandest and most controversial dams, the Glen Canyon Dam, buried more than 2,000 Native American sites when it was commissioned starting in 1963.
- Las Vegas is known for gambling, but its casinos account for only 7 percent of the city's water consumption. Residential uses account for half, and 70 percent of the water used by residences is for landscaping.
- The Colorado River last reached the Sea of Cortez in 1998.



Repeating History: The Demise of Ancient Arizona Tribes

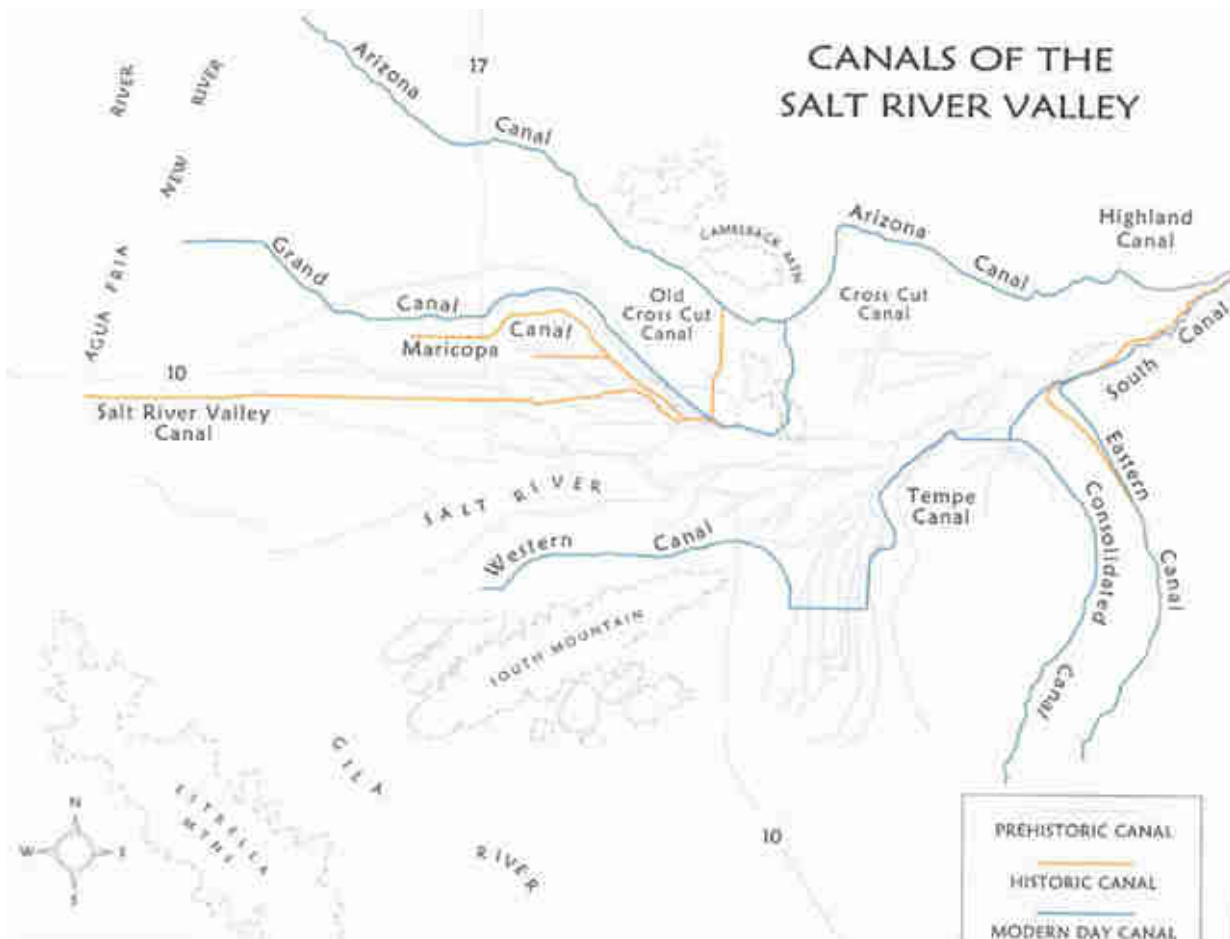
And Our Future

The Hohokam Indians inhabited what we know as the Phoenix area over 3,000 years ago. They enjoyed immense growth and development, and later strained their water supply as a result. Ancient water canals and irrigation systems have been found in Arizona built by these ancient civilizations. Ancient society spanned as far north as Flagstaff, through Phoenix and down to Tucson. This ancient society simply grew until it couldn't sustain itself. Is Phoenix headed for the same fate?

Hohokam is a Pima word that literally means "all used up". The Pima are a tribe who still exist today, and perhaps they knew the fate of the Hohokam better than anyone. When American settlers arrived shortly after the American Civil War, they discovered ancient adobe ruins, the remains of a lost culture. They called their new settlement Phoenix, imagining themselves rising from the ashes of a lost city.

The settlers eventually dug their own canals in the mid-1800s, and engineers planned new canals with almost all of them following the original Hohokam canal system. The Hohokam built nearly a thousand miles of irrigation systems and Phoenix repeated the same construction that eventually led to the demise of the Hohokam.

A leading theory regarding the fall of the Hohokam is that their overdeveloped civilization was not sustainable and they may have taken their water supply for granted. I fear the same is happening in Phoenix. Developers create new communities with indigenous plant life and houses crammed together. Every bush, tree and house all require their own water supply. The development in the Phoenix area gives the illusion you're not in the desert. People just don't think about it until they either fly above the city in an airplane, or drive beyond the development of Phoenix. There is simply no way of getting away from the fact Arizona is a vast desert. Phoenix is surrounded by desert on all sides for thousands of miles.



Is This The Future for Phoenix?





Arizona's School System Ranked 8th Lowest (2013-05-10 07:25)



Arizona's Low Grade Schooling

Arizona made the list for one of the worst school systems in the nation. The facts are startling, especially if you have children attending Arizona schools.

- **State score:** 72.2 (tied-7th lowest)
- **State grade:** C-
- **High school graduation rate:** 72.3 % (23rd lowest)
- **Per pupil expenditure:** \$8,698 (4th lowest)

Arizona received a grade of C- in terms of its students having a strong chance for success, a grade that was near the bottom of all states. Only 34 % of children ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in preschool in 2011, the second-lowest percentage in the country and well below the rate of nearly 48 % across the U.S. That year, only 39 % of children in school had at least one parent with a secondary degree, well below the 45.4 % of children across the country. Arizona is just one of four states to receive the worst grade for teaching profession, indicating that it is hard to retain and recruit talented teachers to the state. In 2010, Arizona joined most states in adopting more rigorous national education standards, called the Common Core Standards. But *The Arizona Republic* reports the state presently lacks the funding to properly train teachers or purchase supplies needed to implement the new standards.

Source



Read more about Family Life in Arizona.

Arizona's Failing Housing Market (2013-05-11 07:00)



Arizona Ranked #3 for Foreclosures

Most Arizona homeowners who haven't foreclosed already are upside-down in their mortgages. That is, they owe more on the home than it's worth. Arizona took a huge hit in the recession and it will take a long time to recover.

- **2012 foreclosure rate:** 2.69 %
- **November, 2012 unemployment:** 7.8 % (17th highest)
- **Home price change (2007Q2-2012Q2):** -45.1 % (2nd largest decline)
- **Processing period:** 90+ days

Over the 12 months ending in the second quarter of 2012, home prices in Arizona rose by 12.7 % — by far the largest increase in the U.S. during that time. Additionally, foreclosure activity in the state fell by 32.9 % — one of the largest decreases in the nation. Despite these

improvements, home prices in mid-2012 remained 45.1 % lower than they were five years before, the second-largest drop in the nation during that time, while the state's foreclosure rate remained among the nation's highest.

Source

2.4 June

Attack of the Monster Electricity Bill! (2013-06-26 10:47)



When June arrived in the Phoenix area, it was as if someone flipped a switch to turn the weather ridiculously hot. The high temperatures in Arizona bring in the dreaded season of high electricity bills.

SRP Owns Phoenix

The primary supplier of electricity to the Phoenix area is SRP (Salt River Project). You might think SRP was an acronym for Serial Robbery Professionals once you start receiving the summertime bills from them! SRP makes Phoenix livable. Without their services, it would be as barren as the Sahara Desert...and they know it!

To help keep track of my energy usage, I subscribed to SRP's email notification service that gives you the estimated balance of your electricity bill for that month. The email starts off like this:

Dear Customer,

You have asked to be informed whenever your expected monthly bill exceeds \$300. This is a courtesy notification to inform you that based on your usage through (DATE) for your SRP electric bill is estimated to be approximately (DOLLAR AMOUNT).

I have two air conditioning units in my home, and I keep them set at 80 degrees. You might think 80 is a bit warm, and it is. Every degree on the thermostat affects how long your AC runs and how much money you end up spending.

So, with both of my AC units set at 80, let's see how my wallet fared as the heat intensified. Here are my estimated bills from SRP and the date I received their email:



June 2: \$385.00

June 3: \$380.00 (Oh goodie, it went down!)

June 5: \$390.00 (Whoah, it just jumped \$10!)

June 6: \$405.00 (What happened??)

June 7: \$420.00 (Ugh!)

June 9: \$435.00 (How did it jump \$30 in three days??)

June 10: \$430.00 (Oh goodie, it went down \$5)

June 11: \$435.00 (I see SRP wanted their \$5 back)

June 12: \$440.00 (...and they wanted another \$5)

June 14: \$445.00

June 18: \$445.00 (holding steady...)

And the final June bill.... \$437.65! Wow, I can think of all the other things I could have bought with that money! The sad part is, summer is only beginning. We still have July, August, September and some of October to get out of the 100 degree temperatures.

I've done everything I can to lower my electric bill, but it helped very little. I've blown extra insulation in the attic, installed blackout curtains and put up window sun shades. Still, I'm stuck with a bill larger than my car payment.

The "Hot Room"

Every house in Arizona has at least one hot room, for whatever reason. It could be due to poor airflow, poor insulation, sun exposure or any combination of these factors. It seems no matter what you do, that hot room never cools down! The "hot room" is always miserable, especially if you close the door.

East / West Facing Homes = Higher \$ \$ Electric Bills

A huge consideration when buying a house in Arizona is which direction the structure faces. If the house faces east or west, it will receive much more intense sunshine and get really hot. You want a north or south facing house in Arizona. That should be one of the higher priorities when you look for houses in the Phoenix area.

Hot Pipes

During the summertime in Arizona, you can sometimes turn off your hot water heater. In my house, the cold tap gives uncomfortably hot water. There are no cold showers for me in the summer.

If you've been fooled to move to Arizona, another thing to keep in mind when buying a house is the plumbing. Find out if your water lines run from the foundation, or through the attic and walls.

The geniuses who built my house ran the water lines through the attic. The attic is the hottest part of the house and creates its own water heater.

No Trees

The Phoenix area has no real trees and foliage to insulate your house from the sun. When I say "real trees", I'm talking about the ones that touch the sky and huge limbs and leaves (or pine cones). The trees in the Phoenix area are more characteristic of weeds than what trees really are. What would plant life in Arizona be without prickles or thorns?

Trees provide natural insulation from the sun. In wooded areas of the country, trees protect the house from the sun and keeps it cool. With large, natural trees it doesn't matter which direction your house faces!

Stop Whining!

I know, I know...those who read this wonder why we complain and don't do anything consider all this whining. Perhaps it is, but I write these articles to reveal the truth about life in Arizona. I'm not here to make you HATE Arizona, move away from Arizona or not move to Arizona. Think of NoArizona as a bulletin board. It's what's going on. It's life in the desert. And when it hits 119 degrees tomorrow, life in the desert is about to get real.



[Read more about Arizona Weather!](#)

2.5 September

Summer In Phoenix 2013: Hottest Summer On Record (2013-09-26 21:50)



Another Hot(ter) Summer In Phoenix

Did this summer feel particularly hot? Well, it was the hottest summer on record for Phoenix, and don't be surprised if it keeps getting hotter as the Phoenix area builds out...

Hot, hot, HOT!

The summer of 2013 brought in a new level of heat to the Phoenix desert. Temperatures hovered near the 120 degree mark, and was often above 110 degrees. This type of heat burns and literally hurts. Grabbing a steering wheel with your bare hands in that kind of heat is a nasty reminder. It's very common to see door handles for businesses covered with a cloth material (much like an oven mitt) to prevent customers from burning their hands when they reach for the handle.

So How Hot Was It??

According to this article, the statistics come directly from the National Weather Service. The average temperature between June and August was 95.1 degrees.

The National Weather Service points to urbanization as the primary cause of the rising temperatures. With more buildings, houses, streets and pavement to absorb and store the heat, the air temperature does not have a chance to cool down at night. It's not the high temperatures that's causing the average temperature to rise, it's the rise of the low temperatures. The average low temperature for Phoenix in 2013 was 83.7 degrees!

Most areas of the country enjoy temperatures in the 80's as their highs, while the low temperature in Phoenix never dips below 80 in the summer. It's an odd sensation to be outside at night and you can feel heat emanate from the street below you or from the house or building nearby.

The Calendar Says Autumn, But the Thermometer Says Otherwise



I find it amazing how the seasons change on the calendar, but not in Arizona. I would not recognize the arrival of Autumn if it weren't for the television and Internet telling me summer was

over. It's still in the 90's and 100's in the Phoenix area, whereas Autumn to me is when leaves (from real trees) turn orange and a chill is in the air.

When I turn on the television, I notice there are commercials about Autumn and I see people wearing light jackets. Then, I go outside and the sun burns relentlessly...unless, of course, there is a dust storm blowing in.

When The Weather Finally Cools Down, Enjoy It...But Don't Get Summer Amnesia!

The so-called Phoenix winters ARE nice and comfortable. Although, it's not truly winter weather...it's just sunny and comfortable. When the cooler temperatures arrive, I've noticed the traffic to NoArizona slows down. Then, when summer rolls back around the activity picks back up. Why is that?

My theory is that WE EASILY FORGET! When it's nice enough to actually go outside, people (me, included) tend to forget about the relentless summers! Although I miss a true winter, I enjoy being able to go outside and enjoy the outdoors. The 110+ degree temperatures are far from my mind during that time!

It's part of a vicious cycle that keeps some people (me, included) in Arizona. We curse and complain during the summer and vow to move, but then we put that thought on the back burner when it cools down. During the cooler months (there are about 4 months), you will often hear people say things like "this is why we live here". But, what do they say during the summer that starts in May and ends in October?

Arizona Weather FAQ

Based on queries from the web logs, people are finding NoArizona when searching for topics about the weather in Arizona. I thought I would post answers to some of the most common search terms. If your question is not answered here, feel free to contact me.

Q: Why is Arizona / Phoenix so hot?

A: Although I'm not a weather expert, I wrote this article explaining the dynamics of the Arizona heat based upon my research.

Q: Why is Phoenix so polluted?

A: Primarily, because Phoenix lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. Read more about Arizona pollution in this article.

Q: What causes Arizona dust storms (haboobs) and what are the dangers of being caught in one?

A: They're caused by storm fronts blowing across the desert. Please see this article for more detailed information. The biggest danger of dust storms is contracting Valley Fever.

Q: What are Urban Heat Islands (UHI) aka "the heat bubble effect".

A: UHI's are created by man-made structures that capture heat and make it even hotter in the desert. Read this article for more information.

Q: What are the challenges to living in the Arizona desert?

A: Too many! Please read the articles filed under the Arizona Weather Category.

Q: How much water do I need to drink while in Arizona?

A: Without exertion, the average person loses THREE GALLONS of water per day, so you need to drink that much just to maintain. More detailed information can be found in this article.

Q: How do you get acclimated to the Arizona heat? Do you ever get used to the heat?

A: I'm sorry to say, you never get used to it. Your blood gets thinner living in Arizona. No, your blood doesn't actually thin as if you were on an aspirin regimen! What I mean by that is anything below 60 degrees feels cold to you. As for the summer heat, you never truly get used to it...you just know what to expect. I've been here many summers, and I'm still not used to it.

Q: How long does the heat last?

A: You can count on 100+ degree weather starting in April and lasting until October. Arizona typically deals with 6-8 months of hot weather. Don't let the Chamber of Commerce or the Arizona Tourism Board fool when they say it's only 3-4 months of hot weather. And please, don't fall for the "dry heat" excuse. It should really be called "you're an ant under a magnifying glass heat".



Stay connected!

No Arizona provides information about Arizona and reveals the truth about life in the desert based on facts and observations.

Want to know more about Arizona that you can't find elsewhere?

Like us on facebook!

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow us on Tumblr!

Receive updates to your inbox by signing up for email updates to get the latest articles!

2.6 November

Living In Phoenix Is a Matter of Perspective (2013-11-08 18:13)



Life In Phoenix, Arizona

After having this website up for a while, I have encountered many readers who have varying opinions about life in Arizona. It appears most of the readers who come across this website agree with the message of NoArizona, while there are a few who defend Arizona to the end. Through this NoArizona experience, I've learned the quality of life in Arizona is very subjective. In this article, I will delve a little deeper into why this website exists and hopefully provide insight into those looking to move to Arizona.

Arizona Is More Than Just Phoenix

I read many comments from people who agree Phoenix is a terrible city, but wish I would not lump all of Arizona into one lump just because of Phoenix. On the home page, there is a clear statement that addresses this: "Specifically, this site deals with the issues involved within the deserts of the Phoenix area."

For those readers, I agree there are other parts of Arizona that are indeed beautiful and green. Although it's beautiful, it's just not home for me. Besides, it's difficult to find employment in the more natural parts of Arizona. For employment, most have to look in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma or Flagstaff. It can be done, but that simply is not my desire. So, yes, Arizona is beautiful...just not the Arizona I see day-to-day. In a nutshell, the articles on this website are observations primarily in the Phoenix area.

How Do YOU See Phoenix?



Which one of these photos is more indicative of your thoughts about Phoenix? There's no right or wrong answer, it's a matter of opinion. This article tells of a Harris Polls survey about Arizona and Phoenix and people's desire to live there. The survey revealed Arizona and the Phoenix area rank high for places people want to live (coming in second to Hawaii among senior citizens). The same survey also ranks Arizona and Phoenix as the top places in the same poll as a place they do not want to live.

Those are very interesting survey results and it shows it just depends on who you ask. My opinion is the senior citizens like Phoenix so much because they only live there during the winter months and leave during the summer. That's something many wish they could do!

A New Perspective

I have never wanted to offend or insult anyone with this website. For me, this website has been more of a notebook to document the reasons why I personally do not like living in the Phoenix area. For this, I've been called a "hater" and branded as "negative". That may be true, but it certainly was never my intention.

One day, I realized being angry about living in Arizona was not getting me anywhere. Negativity breeds more negativity, and all that does is attract negativity into your life. It's a vicious cycle, and staying in that pattern was not getting me any closer to moving away. It was difficult because I thought if I acted happy and positive, there would be no reason to leave Arizona! I've come to realize I can live in a place I do not like while being happy by being grateful for the positive aspects of my life and simply realizing Arizona is just not for me!

You know, this new perspective has worked for me. Instead of feeling angry when I see the ubiquitous brown cloud hovering over Phoenix, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When it hasn't rained in months, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When I see a barren landscape devoid of trees, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When I burn my hand on the steering wheel, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When it's over 100 degrees at 10 PM, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When I see a huge dust storm, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

When I see someone tweaked out on drugs, I tell myself, "This is why Phoenix is not for me."

I am now able to focus my thoughts on energy on planning the move out of Arizona and I don't foresee myself being here much longer.

If you love Phoenix, I hear you! Enjoy your time here, and I'm glad it fits your lifestyle. It's just not for me!

If you love Arizona, I hear you! There are many beautiful places to visit away from the major cities. It's just not for me!

If you're struggling with life in Phoenix or anywhere in Arizona, I hear you! Relax your mind, be sure about what you want in life and don't doubt yourself! Ask (or pray) for what you want and write it down! Show gratitude for the good things in your life and trust that you won't be here forever!

In closing, here's a bit of humor for you. You have to laugh because you KNOW it's true!

50 DEGREES



50 DEGREES



IN PHOENIX

Chapter 3

2014

3.1 January

A Look At Religion In Phoenix (2014-01-29 07:45)



How Important Is Religion In Phoenix?

I recently read an interesting article regarding the most and least Bible-minded cities in the United States. The Bible is the oldest and best-selling book in history, and many parts of the country have embraced it while others have not.

Before You Read

While you read this article, keep in mind that the writer is a follower of the Christian Faith. I am not trying to sway you toward or away from religion. Christian Faith is an important part of our family, but I do not intend to preach to you or convince you of anything. The information in this article is from outside sources,

and really confirms what I have come to believe about religion in the Phoenix area.

If you are secular, Atheist or anti-religion, I would suggest you do not read this article. If you do read on, keep an open mind and be respectful of other's points of view. I realize religion is a touchy subject for some, but I have provided fair warning to those who tend to become upset over these types of things. Before you choose to comment, please keep in mind all comments are moderated.

Many visitors to this website are those who are thinking about moving to Phoenix and trying to learn more about the area. It appears there is not much information on the religious environment out there, so hopefully this will provide potential Phoenix residents with an idea of the culture.

The Most and Least Bible-Minded Cities

I came across this NPR article that highlights a study performed by The American Bible Society. I say the term "study" loosely, as it is my understanding is that it was a phone survey made all over the country regarding the importance of the Bible to the participants. And, of course, The American Bible Society is a group who supports the Bible and expanding its readership. Although the study was not "scientific" and was conducted by a religious organization, the results fell right about where you would think they would.

An interesting result of the study was the correlation of population size and Bible friendliness. All but three cities with over 1 million households were considered less Bible-friendly. The three that had over 1 million households and considered to be Bible friendly were Charlotte, Nashville and Dallas. Without further ado, here are the results.

Most Bible-Minded Cities/2013

1. Chattanooga, Tenn.
2. Birmingham, Ala.
3. Roanoke/Lynchburg, Va.
4. Springfield, Mo.
5. Shreveport, La.
6. Charlotte, N.C.
7. Greenville/Spartanburg, S.C./Asheville, N.C.
8. Little Rock, Ark.

9. Jackson, Miss.
10. Knoxville, Tenn.

Least Bible-Minded Cities/2013

1. Providence, R.I./New Bedford, Mass.
2. Albany, N.Y.
3. Boston
4. San Francisco
5. Cedar Rapids, Iowa
6. Buffalo, N.Y.
7. Hartford/New Haven, Conn.
8. Phoenix
9. Burlington, Vt.
10. Portland, Maine

For more information, refer to the American Bible Society website, where you can view a map of the data.

Religion In Phoenix

For being Bible-minded, Phoenix falls close to the bottom in between New Haven, Connecticut and Burlington, Vermont. I find that very interesting because Arizona is a very politically conservative state while Connecticut and Vermont are known to be liberal. I also find it very disturbing to learn that Las Vegas (aka "Sin City") is MORE Bible-friendly than Phoenix.

I became curious about the religion demographics in Phoenix, and I came across Sperling's Best Places. Sperling's is an excellent website for those looking to moving to new communities. According to Sperling's, the average in the United States of those who consider themselves religious is 48.78 %. Taking a look at Arizona, only 37.23 % consider themselves religious.

Of those Arizonans who consider themselves religious, 14.81 % are Catholic, 6.18 % are LDS (Mormon), 3.37 % Baptist, .39 % Episcopalian, 2.52 % Pentecostal, 1.52 % Lutheran, 1.09 % Methodist, .64 % Presbyterian, 5.44 % "Other Christian", .32 % Jewish, .82 % Eastern and .13 % Islam.

Religion In American Culture

It seems religion will be spotlighted in 2014-15 by Hollywood (of all places). A movie about Jesus Christ, called "Son of God" is coming out in February 2014. Also releasing in 2014 is the movie "Noah" and "Heaven Is For Real". Also in the works is "Exodus" and "Mary, Mother of Christ". For people of Faith, these are very anticipated movies.

In Closing

During the time I've lived in the Phoenix area, I have felt like a minority as a Christian. The most popular Christian churches are primarily the "big box" non-denominational churches, and the more traditional churches are more of the niches.

I do find the above data somewhat misleading because there is a ubiquitous Mormon population in Arizona. Just from driving around, it appears Arizona is more than 6.8 % Mormon. I say that because there is a LDS church every 1-2 miles, while some are in view of each other. Mormons seem to be very secretive, which leads me to believe many did not participate in the studies on religious demographics. So, perhaps the data is skewed. Now, Mormons are the friendliest people you will ever meet and I have nothing against them or their beliefs.

I am originally from one of the parts of the country considered more Bible-friendly. I think that might be another one of the reasons I feel so out of place in Phoenix. So, if you're considering a move to Phoenix and you're reading this from a Bible-friendly city, you should really visit and spend some time before deciding to plant some roots in the desert floor.

On the other hand, if religion is not important to you then Phoenix can work for you. Besides, Las Vegas is more "Bible-thumping" than Phoenix!

3.2 February

Recent Articles For Your Reading Pleasure (2014-02-17 12:00)



Interested in moving to Phoenix? You may want to read these articles first.

Phoenix In the News

There's more bad news for Phoenix, and the word is getting out. Phoenix residents certainly cannot count on the local news outlets for the realistic information on Phoenix. If you live in Phoenix, tune into the news. If you're not living in Phoenix, see if you can find an online video feed for the news. You will very rarely hear about the air pollution, crime and overall quality of life from the local news. Instead, the newscasters will brag about how they called all their friends back east during the winter and told them they were poolside. Sure, that's something to brag about. The "winter" is nice, but it will make some miss having four distinct seasons.

Why does the Phoenix news media not have air quality forecasts during the weather segments? Why don't they talk about the allergies they're suffering, the failing education system, the lack of financial security or the high rate of drug use? Instead, they talk about it being in the 70's and 80's in the "winter" and say, "This is why we live here! Isn't it great?"

I'm glad people are trying to stay positive about Phoenix, but you have to realize they have a vested interest in the area. It's sort of like selling a house. You want to show all the good things about the house, but you don't want to talk about the time the water heater busted or you had a pipe burst. The local Phoenix news media wants you to invest in the city because it's more viewers for them. Granted, one of the articles below is from a Phoenix news website, the newscaster puts a spin on the story at the very end about the high school graduation rate.

During this time of year, NoArizona receives a lot of traffic from search queries regarding moving to Phoenix. The assumption is they're from colder states and are tired of winter. As a matter of fact, yesterday NoArizona received the most readership in one day since its inception. People are curious about Phoenix because they see the 70's and 80's on the weather map. If you're one of those readers, thank you for visiting. My intention is not to sway your opinion about moving to Phoenix, but I do want you to know the truth

about the desert life.

It's these reasons and more that I've come to realize Phoenix is not the place for me. Life in Arizona is acceptable for some, while others have found it difficult to bear. Besides, it's a matter of perspective. If living in Arizona is so bad, why not just move? The long answer is in another article. The short answer is, I am moving.



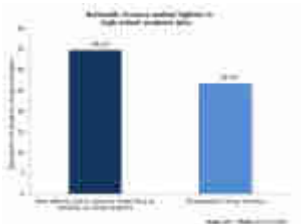
7 U.S. cities with the worst air pollution - Mother Nature Network (2/14/2014)



Arizona ranked 47th in nation for children's quality of life, new report shows (6/24/2013)



Arizona ranked among the worst for residents' financial security (1/30/2014)



Arizona worst or close in CDC measures of teen substance abuse (5/2/2013)

3.3 March

NoArizona On YouTube (2014-03-03 09:00)



NoArizona has started a YouTube channel! Stop by, and let us know what you think! Below is our premiere video, with more on the way.

[youtube=<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjAi4MXIryw>]

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Edited: March 21, 2014

