

# Visiting Prescott

## About Prescott - Everybody's Hometown

Prescott, Arizona is at the center of it all, and yet - it feels intimate and isolated from the hustle and bustle of a larger city. Surrounded by ponderosa pines and granite mountains sits this unforgettable city that defies stereotypes of what Arizona is all about. You won't find saguaro cactus here; instead you'll find Prescott College - a small, private liberal arts college that values the environment and social justice.

Prescott is nestled in the Bradshaw Mountains of Central Arizona. Arguably the most historic city in Arizona, it was the original Territorial Capital of Arizona and is home to historic Whiskey Row - one of the most famous streets in the west. You can still pan for gold in some of the creeks around Prescott, although you're unlikely to strike it rich these days. Dig deeper and you'll find centuries' worth of history all around you, with petroglyph sites and historic ruins that date back to 1100 A.D.

Today, "Everybody's Hometown" is a welcoming city - with festivals, live music, and great restaurants. With a rich art scene and a charming downtown, there's no shortage of activities to immerse yourself in throughout the year.

If you love the outdoors you won't find a better destination. Known for having over 300 days of sunshine a year, Prescottians also enjoy a mild four-season climate that includes snow in the winter and a glorious monsoon season. This mile-high city has been ranked a Top Adventure Town by National Geographic Adventure Magazine, and is one of the 7 Top Trail Towns according to Trail Runner Magazine. With a thriving mountain biking scene and over 450 miles of multi-use trails, Prescott is truly an outdoor paradise.

The City of Prescott is also home to several lakes and ample climbing spots, so outdoor adventurers have no shortage of areas to explore. A short drive from downtown, you'll find the Granite Dells, which resemble the landscape of Joshua Tree. The Granite Dells are a favorite spot for climbing and hiking, or just enjoying a breathtaking Arizona sunset.

Within a two hour drive you can explore the Grand Canyon, Phoenix, Sedona or Flagstaff - each with their own unique climate and culture.

## Lodging

If you need a place to stay while visiting Prescott College, there are many hotels, motels and inns located near the campus, from quaint to businesslike. There is a short list of some options below.

There are some On-Campus Lodging opportunities available for those seeking short-term lodging. (Facilitated through Student Housing)

Alternative lodging options include camping in the Prescott National Forest or finding community members who host guest through CouchSurfing.org.

Be sure to ask for discounted rates for Prescott College affiliation!

Lodging:

Hotel St. Michael

205 W. Gurley St. (928) 776-1999 .4 miles

Hassayampa Inn

122 E. Gurley St. (928) 778-9434 .5 miles

Hotel Vendome

230 S. Cortez St. (928) 776-0900 .6 miles

The Motor Lodge

503 S. Montezuma St. (928) 717-0157 .8 miles

Springhill Suites by Marriott

200 E. Sheldon St. (928) 776-0998 .8 miles

Motel 6

1111 E. Sheldon St. (928) 776-0160 1.4 miles

Best Western Prescottonian

1317 E. Gurley St. (928) 445-3096 1.7 miles

Comfort Inn

1290 White Spar Rd. (928) 778-5770 2.3 miles

Prescott Resort & Conference Center

1500 Hwy. 69 (928) 776-1666 2.4 miles

Forest Villas Hotel

3645 Lee Circle      (928) 717-1200      4.8 miles

Hampton Inn  
3453 Ranch Dr.      (928) 443-5500      4.9 miles

Holiday Inn Express  
3454 Ranch Dr.      (928) 445-8900      4.9 miles

## Dining

Coffee & Tea Shops

G = gluten-free options, V=Vegan options

Cuppers Coffee House (G,V)  
224 S Montezuma St.

Raven Café (G,V)  
142 N. Cortez St.

Wild Iris Coffee House (G,V)  
124 S. Granite St.

Restaurants:

G = gluten-free options, V=Vegan options

Bill's Grill (G,V)

Bill's Pizza (G,V)

Bistro St. Michael

Dinner Bell Café

El Gato Azul (G,V)

Gurley St. Grill

Iron Springs Cafe

Maya's Mexican Restaurant

Murphy's

Prescott Brewing Company

Raven Café (G,V)

Taj Mahal (G,V)

The Palace

Lone Spur Cafe

Papa's Italian Restaurant

Prescott Station (G)

Dry Gulch Steakhouse

## Things to do

Students love the town of Prescott which is famous as home to the World's Oldest Rodeo, and Arizona's Christmas City. Many other flavors of entertainment spice up the proceedings year-round. Social activities abound, both on campus and throughout the Prescott area, and flyers on billboards keep you up to date. From Fourth Friday Art Walks, to great live music (including open mikes) at local coffeehouses and watering holes, Prescott's performing arts festival, there's more than enough to do on any given weekend.

### Entertainment and Shopping

The Yavapai College Performing Arts Center schedules a wonderful variety of high-caliber musical and theater acts, including the Prescott Symphony and Prescott Jazz Foundation sponsored events. Tim's Toyota Center in Prescott Valley houses the Arizona Sundogs hockey team during the winter and hosts home and auto shows, large rock concerts, and conventions (as well as public ice-skating). National-level acts and events also come to Flagstaff and Phoenix, both about two hours away. Catch the latest cinematic releases at the Harkins Theatre Prescott Valley 14 and older movies at the The Raven Cafe on Monday nights.

### **Shopping**

Shopping ranges from funky antique and secondhand stores to the Tibet Gallery to a choice of big box emporiums to a wide range of boutiques and specialty shops. Prescott Gateway Mall, within minutes of campus, features national chain stores and restaurants including anchor stores Dillard's, JC Penney and Sears. For food shopping, downtown Prescott hosts three large chain groceries plus a smaller chain store with great organic and local produce. And there's a "herbthecary" a couple of blocks from the College. The whole community can purchase memberships in Prescott College's CSA (community supported agriculture

co-op), and Prescott Farmer's Market operates late spring through early fall Saturday mornings at nearby Yavapai College.

Historic Whiskey Row, where Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp gambled and lived large before heading to Tombstone, now hosts the likes of favorite student haunts Coyote Joe's Bar & Grill and Jersey Lilly's, along with shops, galleries and restaurants.

### **Outdoor Fun**

The Prescott YMCA has fitness facilities, a challenging climbing wall and an Olympic-sized pool, and it offers classes throughout the year. Trails of all kinds crisscross the plentiful forests and open space. Students hike, camp, and rock climb on nearby Granite Mountain, Thumb Butte and in the Granite Dells. Kayaking local Lynx, Watson and Goldwater Lakes, as well as horseback riding, make for fun activities.

Dedicated to nature conservancy and the preservation of animals, the Heritage Park Zoological Sanctuary provides homes to all sorts of creatures from rare scorpions to Mexican wolves – most of them incapacitated or rescued from the wild or from inappropriate captive situations. Highlands Center for Natural History provides outdoor science education to visitors of all ages.

### **Nearby hiking trails and outdoor recreation opportunities:**

#### Granite Mountain

Drive north on Grove Avenue to Iron Springs Road. Take a left onto Iron Spring Road and drive west approximately 2 ½ miles until you arrive at the Granite Basin turn off. Take a right here, onto Granite Basin Road, and continue driving to the Playa or Metate Trailhead parking lot. Here you can access a variety of trails from easy to difficult terrain. Fee upon entry.

#### Watson Lake

Drive south on Grove Avenue to Gurley Street. Take a left onto Gurley Street heading east through downtown. Continue on Gurley Street until you see the junction of Hwy 89N and Hwy 69. Go left onto 89N and continue driving until you reach the traffic circle. Go right into Watson Lake Recreational Area. Fee upon entry.

#### Thumb Butte

Drive south on Grove Avenue to Gurley Street. Take a right heading west onto Gurley and continue on Gurley Street as it bends southwest and turns into Thumb Butte Road. Follow Thumb Butte Road approximately 1 mile and enter right into the parking lot for the recreation area. Trails are located across the street from the parking lot with fee upon entry.

#### Lynx Lake

Drive south on Grove Avenue to Gurley Street. Turn left (east) onto Gurley Street and continue on Gurley as it turns into Hwy 69. Follow Hwy 69 to Walker Road (just past the

mall) and turn right (south). Follow Walker Road approximately 3 miles to the North Shore parking area; turn left into the entrance drive; fee upon entry.

### Goldwater Lake

Drive south on Grove Avenue to Gurley Street. Turn left (east) onto Gurley Street and continue to Mt. Vernon Street (Senator Hwy); turn right. Continue on road about 4 miles. Turn right onto road with sign that says Goldwater Lake. Parking/day fee. Facilities: boat ramp, fishing, ramada, barbecue grills, playground, fishing pier, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, picnic tables, restrooms.

### Climbing / Bouldering

For detailed climbing information, check out A Climber's Guide to Prescott, AZ.

### Groom Creek Bouldering

Groom is a bouldering destination and a place not to be missed. Groom Creek is off of Senator Hwy. (Mt. Vernon Rd., see Goldwater Lake, above). About a mile past the hamlet of Groom Creek is a parking area (on the left) and in the area is a collection of spectacular granite boulders where you can get lost for days or spend far too many hours falling, chalking, and going again.

### Thumb Butte

Home to some of Prescott's finest crack climbing and is perfect for a quick afternoon session to get your climbing fix or a whole day's climbing. The Butte is closed during the late winter through early fall for peregrine nesting, so be careful when you decide to climb there! The most obvious access is at the top of the trail and then wraps around the butte from both sides. Mecca & Cherry Ball are some ultra classic climbs that are well worth the approach!

### Granite Mountain

The Mountain is a climber's paradise. The approach is long, but the climbing is more than worth it! This is the place to go for killer multi-pitch climbing on stellar granite. Everything can be found here from slab, splitter cracks, manky off-widths, and anything in-between! Once you see the area, it speaks for itself. It can be found out Iron Springs Rd. at the end of Granite Basin Rd.

### The Granite Dells and Watson Lake Dells

The Granite-Diorite of the Dells is another great place to learn to climb in Prescott, is easily accessed, and serves as a gateway to some great lakes, birding, biking and adventure (see directions to Watson Lake, above). The Dells are fairly obvious and littered with a great climbs, diverse in their difficulty and style (Trad and Sport).

## Arizona and Southwest Region

When they have a break in their schedule, students at Prescott College want to explore Arizona and the culture of the Southwest. Road trips – always popular for filling a break in classes – are a great way to explore this astonishing countryside. From nearby ghost-town-turned-art-colony Jerome to the The Grand Canyon to the Sonoran Desert and the borderlands and beaches of Mexico, plus little-known gems like Montezuma's Well, the region never fails to delight.

The mountainside mining-and-tourist town of Jerome is just 35 miles from campus. Down the hill and over a bumpy dirt road is the Sycamore Canyon swimming hole and natural springs – well worth the drive and hike. The new-age art mecca of Sedona is just a few twists further down the road. Flagstaff, 75 miles from Prescott, is a wonderful historic downtown and venues for touring musical acts.

Arizona's National Forests provide recreational and wilderness opportunities. The Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Coronado, Kaibab, Prescott and Tonto National Forests provide innumerable recreational opportunities and are close enough for quick weekend getaways. Mind-boggling sites like the Grand Canyon, Montezuma's Castle, (one of the best preserved cliff dwellings of ancient peoples), and Meteor Crater (the best preserved meteor crater on earth) are close enough to explore on a regular basis. Big rapids are found on the Colorado River, just a day's drive north.

At times students thirst for the city life and escape to the metropolises of Phoenix and Tucson where they can see world-traveling science and art exhibitions and take in huge stadium shows.

Students with passports can escape to Rocky Point, Mexico, to enjoy the closest beach resort to Arizona. It is just a day's drive from Prescott.

## Arts & Culture

For a town its size, Prescott has a large number of cultural and artistic attractions. In fact, its art scene brings visitors from all over to browse the excellent galleries, including Prescott College's Sam Hill Warehouse Visual Arts Center. Art hangs in various non-gallery spaces, such as the The Raven Cafe, and theatrical and other performances take place around town. Larger entertainment venues, including the Yavapai Community College Performance Hall and Tim's Toyota Center in Prescott Valley, provide space for sports events and touring acts that draw big crowds.

### **The Arts Scene**

Several arts-related organizations located downtown sponsor monthly art walks and gallery showings, including the McCormick Arts District and the Mountain Artists Guild. Gallery shows, including Independent Study Shows and the Senior Arts Expo, showcase excellent

student projects. And galleries, ranging from funky to upscale, feature a wide variety of artistic styles.

Throughout the year students can watch or participate in theater productions at the Prescott Center for the Arts , Sharlot Hall Museum Blue Rose Theater , Elks Opera House, Yavapai College, and the Granite Performing Arts Center on the Prescott College campus. Film series sponsored by clubs or departments are generally free or inexpensive, while Hollywood features screen at the Harkins theater just twenty minutes from campus.

### **Museums**

Prescott boasts several museums devoted to Western life and art, Native American and Southwestern history, including Prescott's own colorful past (it's not just about Old West legends Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp!)

The most prominent of those museums resulted from the efforts of Prescott rancher, writer and activist Sharlot Hall (1870–1943), who realized as a young woman that the artifacts of her pioneer, ranching childhood were being scattered and lost. She began to rescue them, and her collection laid the foundations for the museum that bears her name. Sharlot Hall Museum , just a few blocks from Prescott College, hosts a variety of events through the year. The nearby Smoki Museum offers art and artifacts from the indigenous cultures of the Southwest. The Phippen Museum on the northern edge of town, features a range of Western and cowboy art.

### **Festivals**

The variety of entertaining and educational events within this town of 40,000 is astounding and well celebrated. Flyers posted daily on campus bulletin boards and around town keep Prescott College students updated.

Between Peace Day, Earth Day, Prescott Territorial Days and the Prescott Frontier Days Festival, everyone has plenty of opportunity to get a taste of Prescott's local flavor. From late spring into early fall, several art and craft fairs bloom on the Courthouse Square, not to mention the Wildfire Expo and other educational events. In early December, there's the "Acker Night", named after a Prescott resident and benefactor, when roughly 100 downtown businesses host local musical and performance acts, and much of the city turns out to stroll among the festival pre-holiday crowds and listen to the music. The event raises performing arts scholarship money for local students.

### **Open mics, writing workshops**

Prescott provides great venues for those who want to get involved, too. Poets and aspiring musicians find kindred souls at open mike nights at several area coffeehouses and bars. Peregrine Book Company hosts open-mic nights once a month.



For those gifted with a pen, there are both professional and amateur writing workshops available to Prescott residents. Yavapai College's Literary Southwest Series regularly brings in world class writers for readings and question and answer sessions.

### **Dance and movement**

Students can participate in performance groups such as the diverse Village Life Community Drum and Dance; they can learn the secrets of fire dancing, or tap into traditional contra dancing, and of course there's a Capoeira Club on campus. The College's dance students perform regularly for the public. Daily tai chi and yoga courses, posted on the College bulletin boards, are offered throughout Prescott.

## Walk, Bike, Drive

With its pre-World War II street layout and ready access to trails, Prescott is a walking and biking mecca, both for transportation and recreation. Prescott is also within 90 minutes driving distance to a mountain resort town, Flagstaff, and a desert metropolis, Phoenix.

Students living in the older part of town near the College can make do without a car very easily, though trips to the town's main health food store, New Frontiers, will take bikers and walkers on some of Prescott's busier roads. Within a mile of the school, however, are several chain grocery stores, Fry's, Safeway, and Sprouts as well as a plethora of restaurants, including Indian, Spanish, Italian, Thai, Japanese, and Mexican outlets, as well as various styles of American cuisine. The Raven Cafe, and Nick's Feed Your Face are two close-by student favorites.

### **Walk**

Along Granite Creek in some parts of downtown Prescott wind greenway trails suitable for both biking and walking. One section connects Prescott's "Ecohood," near the College, with downtown Prescott. The downtown area itself features the Prescott Public Library, Sharlot Hall Museum, and numerous venues for community involvement and conviviality.

### **Bike Prescott Cantina**

With its paved rural loops and comprehensive trail system, Prescott attracts both road bikers and mountain bikers from all over. Nevertheless, many of the trails are lightly used, meaning that students out for a ride will often have them to themselves. The gridded streets surrounding the courthouse square harken back to the planners President Lincoln sent out to design the town in the 1860s. They diffuse the number and speed of cars traveling Prescott's streets, making for more pleasant and safe walking and biking experiences.

For students with a passion for biking, there are several biking clubs and organizations.

### **Prescott Alternative Transportation (PAT)**

Prescott Alternative Transportation takes a positive approach to working towards a bicycle and pedestrian friendly Prescott. PAT members are out in force every spring for bike month and for Ride to Work with the Mayor day.

### **Raven Singletrack**

A mountain biking advocacy organization that works hard and doesn't take itself too seriously, Raven Singletrack organizes races, group rides, and trail maintenance and produces the Snap Map – a guide to Prescott's outstanding network of mountain bike trails.

### **Prescott Clandestine Bike Polo (PCBP)**

A community club for individuals who love to play one of the world's fastest growing sports. Members organize pick-up games weekly and invite anyone interested to join. Equipment is provided so players need only arrive ready to play with bikes and helmets. PCBP is a member of the North American Hardcourt Bike Polo and the League of Bike Polo .

### **Drive**

Presently, the treks to Prescott Valley, home of Tim's Toyota Center, movie theaters, the Yavapai County Fairgrounds, and the massive weekend swap-meet, Peddler's Pass, or to Chino Valley, home to the Granite Creek Vineyards, take place on the shoulder of a busy highway and are better accomplished by automobile than on a bike. Similarly, some of north and east Prescott's amenities, such as the mall, Wal-Mart and the Heritage Park Animal Sanctuary, are more convenient to reach by car. To get to Phoenix or other cities, you can catch a shuttle from Groome Transportation.

## Prescott City Statistics

### **Population**

43,011 in the city of Prescott

103,260 in the Quad-City area

### **Number of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places**

809

### **Elevation**

5,200 feet

### **Temperature**

Average summer high—86.2 F

Average summer low—54.2 F

Average winter high—53.7 F

Average winter low—25.5 F

**Average annual rainfall**

19.2 inches

**Average winter snowfall**

22 inches

**Average number of sunny days**

185

**Size of Prescott National Forest**

1.25 million acres

**Number of biomes within 10 miles of the center of Prescott**

6 — Riparian, desert grassland, chaparral, piñon pine/juniper, ponderosa forest, mixed conifer/aspen forest

**Number of lakes within 10 miles of Prescott**

5 — Watson, Willow, Goldwater, Lynx and Granite Basin lakes.

**Number of named creeks running through Prescott**

9 (the highest number of any town in the state) — Granite, N. Fork of Granite, Willow, Spence, Miller, Butte, Banning, Aspen, & Manzanita creeks