



Find untamed desert beauty just minutes away from Scottsdale's Old Town. Inset, Hotel Valley Ho's rooms channel '50s vibes.

BOSTON TRAVELER

Scottsdale, Arizona

Outdoor adventures, midcentury-modern architecture, and, yes, plenty of cacti await in this hip desert city. **By MADELINE BILIS**

Getting There

Ditch crunchy leaves for warm sands by hopping on a nonstop flight to Phoenix—American Airlines can deliver you out West in just over five hours. From there, sunny Scottsdale is a short 15-minute drive.

Staying There

Groovy tunes and '50s vibes welcome you to **Hotel Valley Ho**, a midcentury-modern landmark. Kick back like Bing Crosby, Ted Williams, and Zsa Zsa Gabor once did by sipping cocktails in a cabana. Or lay low at the **Bespoke Inn**, where you can catch a glorious desert sunset while floating in the rooftop infinity pool.

A.M.

The beauty of Scottsdale is that nature and culture are only minutes apart, so set your alarm early for a jaunt with **Arizona Out-back Adventures**. Its guides will lead you along trails flanked with saguaro cacti and up to the golden peaks of the **McDowell Sonoran Preserve**, or in a kayak down the Salt River, where wild horses and herons idle on the shores. Fuel up with a brunch of spicy tomato-poached eggs at **Virtu**, tucked in the bougainvillea-clad courtyard of Bespoke Inn, then hop in the car and prepare to be amazed by **Taliesin West**, Frank Lloyd Wright's desert home and studio. An architectural tour of the property—which doubles as the headquarters of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation—is a must-do for design lovers.

P.M.

Still swooning over the way James Turrell sculpted with light in his Mass MoCA exhibit? Catch an equally stunning display at his “sky-space,” dubbed *Knight Rise*, in the **Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art**. From there, take a spin through the 40-plus art galleries in Old Town, including the **Bonner David Galleries**, which boast an impressive collection of traditional and contemporary works. Round out the day with a meal at **FnB**, where James Beard–nominated chef Charleen Badman works her magic on daily-changing, vegetable-forward menus. Before turning in, satisfy your sweet tooth with a mesquite chocolate chip cookie from **Super Chunk Sweets & Treats**: One dunk in a glass of milk, and it'll be sweet dreams after a long day of desert adventures.