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## Five Fantastic Destinations in Arizona for Equally Fantastic Prices

by TFB EDITORS on MAY 31, 2012

By Jan Ross

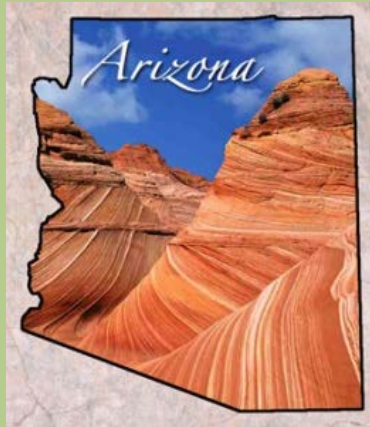
If you're looking for the perfect place for your vacation this summer, look no further than Arizona. It gets pretty warm in the summer, but drink plenty of water or jump in the closest pool because it's worth it for the great deals you are going to get.

There are plenty of things to do and see in Arizona at this time of year, from just relaxing by a pool to getting adventurous and taking a jeep tour of the gorgeous desert landscape. Whatever you do, make sure you choose the perfect place to stay at the perfect price. For you, that might be a lovely B&B where you can meet strangers over breakfast who will become friends, or a condo where you can grill your own steaks for dinner while enjoying stupendous mountain views.

Whatever accommodations meet your fancy, Arizona offers them. Here are five places we enjoyed on our recent trek to the [Grand Canyon](#) State.

### The Inns at El Rancho Merlita in Tucson, Arizona:

Formerly cosmetics queen Merle Norman's desert getaway, this lovely property has been transformed into a gorgeous bed and breakfast inn. Drive through the ornate iron gates into a desert paradise, complete with pool and some of the most incredible gourmet food you will ever have for breakfast every morning. Relax on the verandah to the sound of the beautiful fountain, stroll around the desert landscaped grounds, or have a massage. A variety of rooms and suites are available in both the Ranch House Inn, the original ranch house, or the Arroyo House Inn, the original guest house. All are equally lovely but we particularly enjoyed the Spanish Colonial Room with its huge walk-in closet and large soaking tub. The luxurious Merle Norman suite would also be a good choice. If you're looking for a bargain, the best time to stay here is the summer, when rates are as much as \$75 less than normal. [Check out those rates on their website.](#)

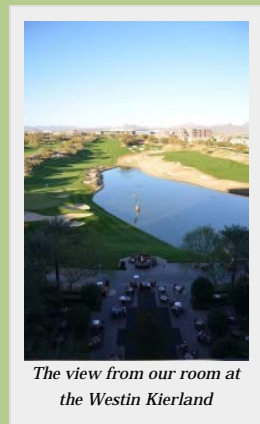


The front veranda at El Rancho Merlita

### Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona:

Although this gorgeous resort is conveniently located next to the upscale Kierland Commons shopping center and lots of other shopping and restaurants, you might find you never want to leave this fabulous place. Offering everything from a wonderful adults-only pool to a bagpipe player by the scenic outdoor fire pit every evening before dinner, this resort offers a truly unique stay. You can relax with a massage, take a yoga class, or take a seasonal eating class in the Agave Spa. You can also enjoy a delicious dining experience at "Deseo," where you can eat dinner overlooking the demonstration kitchen and try one of their famous "muddled" drinks. Best of all, the resort is offering its "10 Signature Resort Experiences" through September: You can get room rates from \$159 a night and choose any 10 of a number of signature experiences for only \$10. (A manicure or pedicure for only \$10? Sign me up!) [Check out the offer on the website.](#)

### Junipine Resort in Sedona, Arizona:



The view from our room at the Westin Kierland

Drive though the lovely town of Sedona, through the red rock canyons, until you



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reach the turn for the lovely creekhouses of the Junipine Resort. Scattered throughout the property the beautifully designed creekhouses are all individually owned so each has a distinctive feel and design, and each has its own incomparable view. We stayed in a two-bedroom creekhouse that overlooked the creek and the incredible, soaring mountains, but there are also some available with one bedroom and some that even have hot tubs outside. The great thing about the Junipine Resort is that each of the houses has a full kitchen so you can really save money by doing some grocery shopping in nearby Sedona and preparing some of your own meals. Junipine also has a great summer special, which offers two nights for four adults and two children, a \$50 food credit you can use at the Junipine Café on the property, a credit for all trail and park fees in the Sedona Red Rock District, and complimentary fishing gear, all from \$370 for a one-bedroom creekhouse. They also have a great deal on a hiking package.

[Check out the deal on their website.](#)



*A Creekhouse at the Junipine Resort*



*Guitars on display in the Hotel Valley Ho lobby*

#### **The Hotel Valley Ho in Old Scottsdale, Arizona:**

This unusual hotel was built in the 1950s but was recently renovated to update it yet maintain the mid-century theme. From the period music piped into the kitschy lobby to the cabana rooms with terraces overlooking the pool, this hotel is like stepping back in time. It's also very beautiful and supremely comfortable. Eat dinner on the patio at "Zuzu's," walk to nearby Old Scottsdale for a taste of the Old West, or relax in one of the private cabanas out by the pool. They have a special now through the rest of the year in which you can get your fourth night free.

[Check it out on their website.](#)

#### **The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort in Chandler, Arizona:**

We had no idea that when we turned off the Interstate that we would drive two miles through the resort property, which consists of gorgeous desert landscaping, before we even reached the resort itself! The resort was designed to be an authentic representation of the Gila River Indian Community's heritage and culture and the stunning architecture is a good example of the way they have stayed true to this vision. Visit the "Aji Spa" for one of their signature treatments, have dinner at the incomparable "Kai" restaurant, take a hike on one of the many trails that wind through the desert, or enjoy a sunrise horseback ride. They are offering some great specials this summer but one of my favorites is the Sunsational Savings in which you get a fourth night free, a food and beverage credit of \$100, and an upgrade on check-in, if available. [Check out the deals on their website.](#)



*Aji Spa at the Wild Horse Pass Resort*

**Have you explored Arizona? What are your favorite destinations and accommodations? Let us know in the Comments section.**

{ 1 comment... read it below or [add one](#) }

**Denise L** May 31, 2012 at 10:15 am



You make me wish I had more room on my travel calendar this year to visit Arizona. It is full but maybe next year!

REPLY