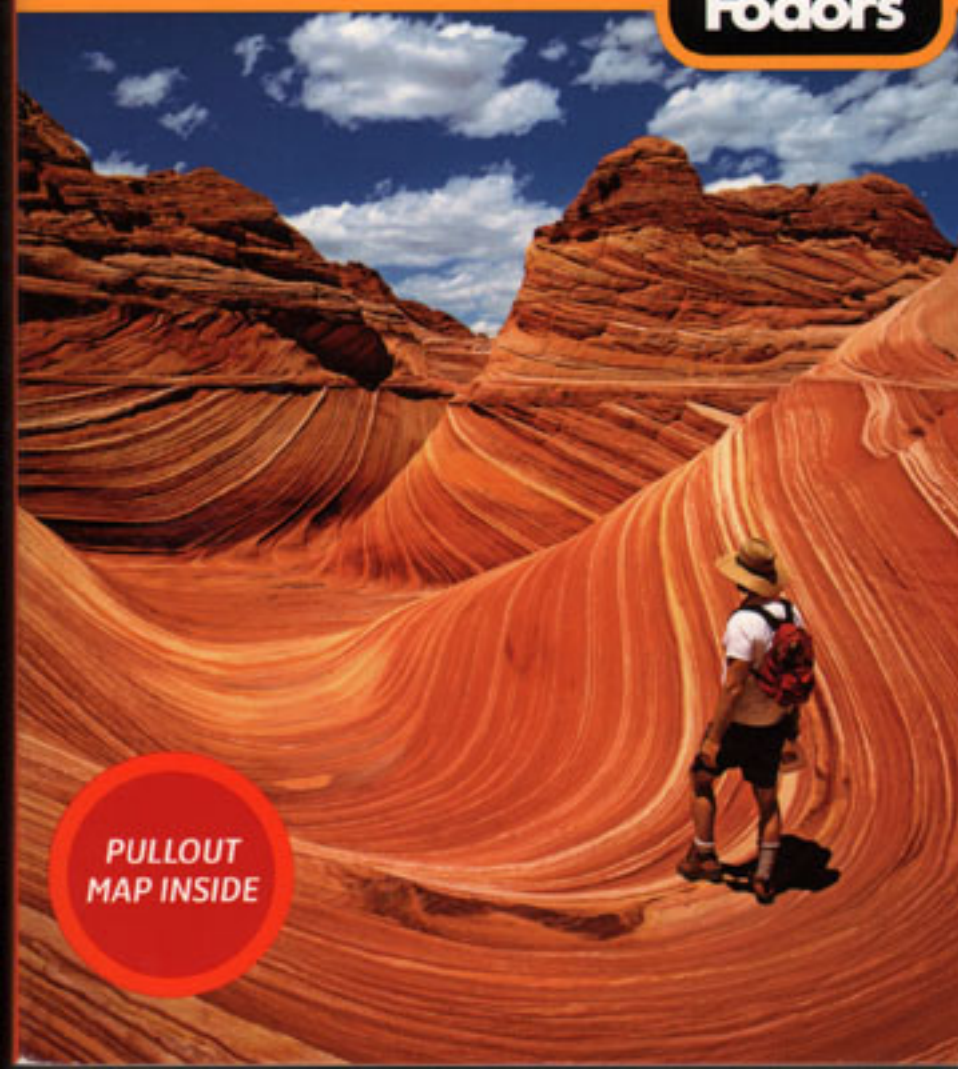


Arizona & the Grand Canyon

2009

Fodor's



**PULLOUT
MAP INSIDE**

WELCOME TO EASTERN ARIZONA

TOP REASONS TO GO

★ View nature's handiwork at Salt River Canyon:

Watch the desert cacti's disappear as the country's pine delights your senses.

★ **Get outside:** No place for couch potatoes, eastern Arizona is home to some of the state's best recreation areas for skiing, fishing, golfing, camping, and exploring. If you love the outdoor life, you may fall in love with this place.

★ **Be petrified:** Marvel at huge petrified logs and the dazzling colors of nature at Petrified Forest National Park.

★ **Hit the road:** Whether you're traveling the Colorado Trail National Scenic Byway or getting your kicks on Route 66, these roads were made for travelers.

★ **Discover native traditions:** The rich culture and heritage of Native American tribes permeates this area.

1 The White Mountains.

In a state known for its extreme temperatures, residents of the White Mountains are proud of their home's relatively staid climate. The comfortable conditions and panoramic mountain views draw thousands here in the summer, making the region a playground for golfers, hikers, and fishermen. But there's plenty to do if you don't want to get your hands dirty.

2 **The Petrified Forest & The Painted Desert.** Forget about a Hollywood sci-fi thriller—the Petrified Forest actually takes you back in time. One of Arizona's most unique sites, the park has yielded fossils dating back 225 million years. A visit to the forest is like exploring an outdoor museum. It's worth the trip, especially if you catch the brilliant colors of the Painted Desert at midday.



Chinle shale mounds at the Blue Mesa in Petrified Forest NP

Chinle formation in Petrified Forest National Park



Chinle formation in Petrified Forest National Park



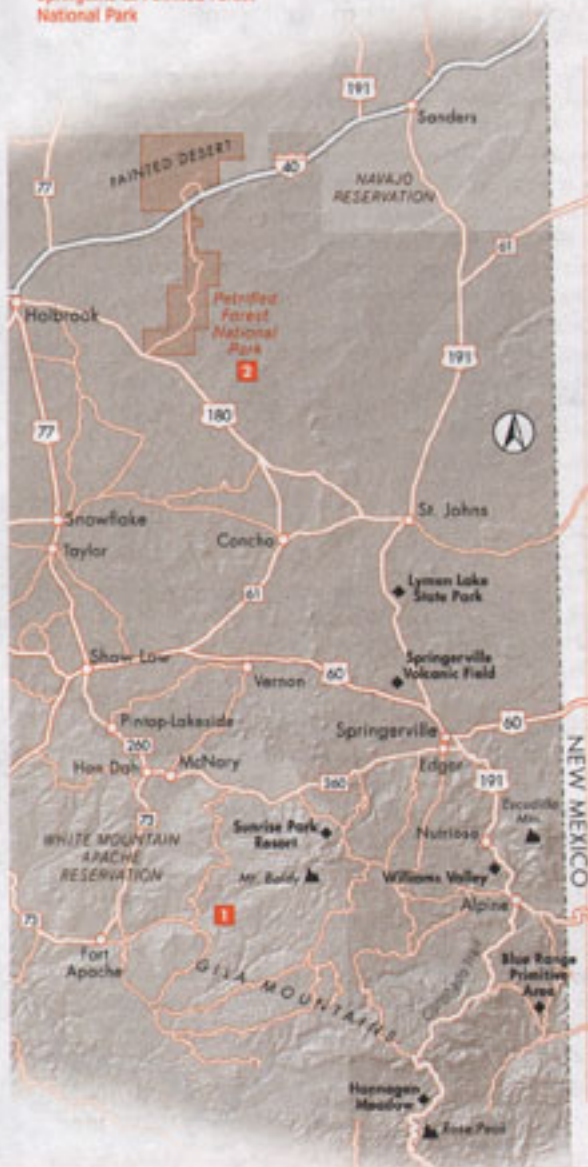
Springtime at Petrified Forest National Park



GETTING ORIENTED

Eastern Arizona is a large, somewhat loosely defined series of small towns and historic sites. Visitors searching for an escape from the desert heat head for the White Mountains and its majestic vistas of ponderosa pines. Others seek history and head northeast to the 186,000-acre Petrified Forest National Park. No matter the destination don't forget to stop and experience the area's local flavor, whether it's a museum of Native American crafts or a drive through a town whose name was derived from a losing hand of cards.

6



The newly renovated Painted Desert Inn was built in 1924

EASTERN ARIZONA PLANNER

Getting Here & Around

There isn't much choice: you'll be driving to and around eastern Arizona. Amtrak offers limited service, but it isn't that helpful for travelers. Part of the experience in eastern Arizona is the drive. Rent a car in Phoenix or Tucson, or even Flagstaff, and enjoy the open road.

When to Go

If you're a skier, winter is the time to tour the White Mountains. Sunrise Park Resort has 10 lifts and 65 trails, and a private snowboarders' park.

If you're not a winter-sports enthusiast, it's probably best to plan your trip to eastern Arizona for the high season (May through October). Residents of Phoenix and Tucson flock here to escape unbearably hot temperatures, but you can still find some solitude if you rent a cabin or choose a smaller, more remote resort or bed-and-breakfast.

Eastern Arizona is enjoyable year-round, but many lodging facilities, restaurants, and tourist attractions are closed in autumn and winter, so call ahead.

Making the Most of Your Time

The Petrified Forest is the main attraction for most of eastern Arizona's visitors. Plan to reserve a day for the forest and the Painted Desert, with one or two additional days to explore the neighboring towns. If solitude is your goal, consider staying at a lodge surrounded by private forest.

Pinetop-Lakeside offers the best base for your trip, with a wide range of lodging facilities and amenities. Neighboring area towns, such as Snowflake-Taylor or Holbrook, have storied motels and B&Bs.

Depending on your preferences, you can add day trips and excursions. Fans of the great outdoors have their choice of activities like fishing, skiing, hiking, and biking in the White Mountains. Those who like a little less sweat in their vacations can hit the open road and explore historic Route 66 or the Colorado Trail.

Sample Itineraries

If an outdoors adventure is the plan, head to Pinetop-Lakeside, Greer, or Springerville-Eagar and enjoy a day or two of hiking, biking, and fishing. In winter, hit the slopes or put on a pair of snowshoes.

Is your destination Petrified Forest National Park? Make the most of it by checking out neighboring towns during your journey. Spend a night at one of Snowflake-Taylor's quaint inns, then head for the park. Spend a second night in one of the historic hotels in Winslow or Holbrook, and head back to the city by way of Show Low on your third day.

If you have more time, there are more natural wonders: at Springerville-Eagar, you can connect to U.S. 191, also known as the Coronado Trail Scenic Byway. Towering over this southern part of the White Mountains is Mount Baldy, an 11,590-foot extinct volcano considered sacred by the Apache. Also worth exploring is the Mogollon Rim, a limestone escarpment that extends 200 mi southwest of Flagstaff to the White Mountains.

Paradise for Outdoors Enthusiasts

Like hiking? Hikers and mountain bikers of all abilities enjoy the White Mountains' 225 mi of interconnecting loop trails, open to those on foot or on nonmotorized wheels. Ranger stations have maps. Allow an hour for each 2 mi of trail, plus an additional hour for every 1,000 feet gained in altitude. Carry water and watch out for poison ivy.

Like fishing? Anglers flock to the more than 65 lakes, streams, and reservoirs in the White Mountains. In winter only artificial lures and flies are permitted. An Arizona fishing license is required; on tribal land, you'll also need a White Mountain Apache fishing license. Want an easier catch? Some lodges have private lakes stocked with trout.

Like golfing? The High Country's links draw golfers from all over and these mountain fairways angle through lush forests and past lakes and springs.

Like skiing? The 11,000-foot White Mountains offer hilly, wooded landscapes that invite downhill and cross-country skiing adventures. Greer's nearby Pole Knoll Trail System and surrounding Forest Service roads make for 33 mi of cross-country trails. No matter where you stay in the White Mountains, Sunrise Park Resort is never more than an hour's drive away.

Local Food & Lodging

Luxury travel this is not. Some local lodges, such as the Greer Lodge Resort, are expanding and offering more luxury services such as massages. Most places, however, offer clean rooms without many frills. Fine dining is difficult to find; home-style cooking, steak houses, and the occasional authentic Mexican joint pepper most towns. Reservations are suggested during the busy summer months.

DINING & LODGING PRICE CATEGORIES

€	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$
Restaurants				
under \$8	\$8-\$12	\$13-\$20	\$21-\$30	over \$30
Hotels				
under \$70	\$70-\$120	\$121-\$175	\$176-\$250	over \$250

Restaurant prices are per person for a main course at dinner. Hotel prices are for a standard double in high season, excluding taxes and service charges.

Native American Sites

North of Springerville-Eagar, Casa Malpais Archaeological Park is a prehistoric pueblo site with construction characteristics of both the ancient Puebloan and Mogollon peoples. Nearby Lyman Lake State Park has petroglyph trails with some of the region's more accessible rock art. West of Holbrook, Homolovi Ruins State Park is home to a large complex of Hopi ancestral pueblos. Petroglyphs and pueblos dating back more than 600 years can be found at stops along the 28-mi park road in the Petrified Forest National Park.

Heading Out for the Day?

The folks at Tin Star Trading Post in Greer (889/287-735-7540) can offer you everything from fishing gear to a cup of coffee and even a souvenir or two. Buy supplies for an afternoon picnic and feel free to use their wireless Internet service for a quick e-mail check.



Updated by
Cara LaBrie

IN A STATE OF DRAMATIC natural wonders, eastern Arizona is often overlooked—truly a tragedy, as it's one of Arizona's great outdoor playgrounds. In the White Mountains, northeast of Phoenix, you can hike amid the largest stand of ponderosa pine in the world, fish for trout in babbling brooks, swim in clear reservoirs fed by unsullied mountain streams, and, at night, gaze upward at millions of twinkling stars. The region's winter sports are just as varied: you can ski downhill or cross country, snowboard, snowshoe, and snowmobile on hundreds of miles of designated trails.

The White Mountains are unspoiled high country at its best. Certain areas have been designated as primitive wilderness and remain preserved. In these vast tracts, the air is rent with piercing cries of hawks and eagles, and majestic herds of elk graze in verdant, wildflower-laden meadows. Past volcanic activity has left the land strewn with cinder cones, and the whole region is bounded by the Mogollon Rim (pronounced *muh-gee-on*)—a 200-mi geologic upthrust that splits the state—made famous as the “Tonto Rim” in Zane Grey's books. Much of the plant life is unique to this region; this is one of the few places in the country where such desert plants as juniper and manzanita grow intermixed with mountain pines and aspen.

The human aspects of the landscape are equally appealing. Historic Western towns are friendly outposts of down-home hospitality, and the many prehistoric sites are reminders of the native cultures that once flourished here, and are still a vital presence. The Fort Apache Reservation, home to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, is north of the Salt River, and the San Carlos Apache Tribal Reservation is south of the river. Visitors are welcome to explore most reservation lands. All that's required is a permit, easily obtained from tribal offices.

Historic sites and natural wonders also attract visitors to eastern Arizona. To the north, along historic Route 66, are the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest National Park, and Homolovi Ruins State Park. The austere mesas of the Painted Desert are famous for their multihued sedimentary layers. Nature also has worked wonders on the great fallen logs of the Petrified Forest National Park. In Triassic times, the park was a great, steamy swampland; some 225 million years ago, seismic activity forced the swamp's decaying plant matter (and a number of deceased dinosaurs) deep underground, where it eventually turned to stone. Fifty miles west of these unusual geologic remains, Homolovi Ruins State Park marks the site of four major ancestral Hopi pueblos, two of which contain more than 1,000 rooms.

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

With elevations climbing to more than 11,000 feet, the White Mountains of east-central Arizona are a winter wonderland and a summer haven from the desert heat. In the 1870s, U.S. soldier and diarist John Gregory Bourke labeled the White Mountains region “a strange upheaval, a freak of nature, a mountain canted up on one side; one rides