



About The West Valley of Phoenix

Just 30 minutes from Sky Harbor International Airport, the western portion of the greater Phoenix area is known as the West Valley. Home to more than 50 golf courses, Maricopa County's largest park, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, and a large portion of the Great Western Trail, the West Valley has experienced significant growth during the last decade. Many event venues including University of Phoenix Stadium, Jobing.com Arena and \$1 billion Westgate City Center call the West Valley home and the area rose to national fame in 2008 when it hosted Super Bowl XLIII. The West Valley also boasts Arizona's largest theme park, Wet 'n' Wild, which features more than 30 exhilarating water slides and attractions. The West Valley includes the emerging metropolis of Glendale, Peoria and Surprise and other larger cities including Goodyear and Avondale.

Things To Do

Opportunities to enjoy first-class dining, entertainment, shopping and adventure in the West Valley are abundant and quickly accessible from The Wigwam. Westgate City Center offers a variety of indoor and outdoor entertainment, including AMC Westgate 20 Theater, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, Calico Jack's Cantina, Yard House, and for a bustling nightlife scene, Saddle Ranch, Hell's Half-acre, The Shout! House and live entertainment weekend nights at the Bellagio-inspired waterdance plaza. At the adjacent Jobing.com Arena and University of Phoenix Stadium, headlining music and sporting events are frequent and plentiful. Visit www.westgateaz.com/calendar for all upcoming events.

Five MLB spring training facilities are located just minutes from The Wigwam in the West Valley, drawing visitors from across the country each March for 30 days of America's favorite pastime. For adventure seekers, NASCAR speeds into Avondale's Phoenix International Raceway for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series each spring and fall and hosts a variety of nationally-syndicated races throughout the year. The famed Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium in Litchfield Park offers close-encounter adventures with Arizona's largest collection of exotic animals. Featuring more than 3,000 animals, 75 indoor exhibits and campus-style outdoor exhibits, the zoo is also home to a one-of-a-kind dining experience inside its new aquarium. For more, information visit www.wildlifeworld.com.

About Litchfield Park

Home to The Wigwam, Litchfield Park was established in 1926 by Paul W. Litchfield who selected the land on behalf of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. as the site for the company's new cotton ranch. Growing from a secluded cotton ranch to a charming resort and residential community in the heart of the West Valley, The Wigwam remains the cornerstone of the community and employs more than 300 local residents.

History

- Founded in early 1900s for cotton farming, following World War I's restrictions to obtaining cotton from traditional overseas suppliers.
- Headquarters for Goodyear Farms, which had thousands of acres under cultivation in the area.
- City named after Mr. Litchfield by Goodyear co-founder F.A. Seiberling.

- Home to the private Goodyear retreat, known as The Organization House, which opened in 1918 to host corporate executives visiting the cotton ranch. The retreat opened to the public in 1929 as The Wigwam.

Today

- Home to the renowned Wildlife World Zoo & Aquarium, the state's largest collection of exotic animals with about 500,000 visitors each year.
- Recognized by *Phoenix Magazine* as one of the eight best places to live in Arizona.
- Home to annual festivals and events including Oktoberfest and the Arts in the Park concert series.

About the West Valley's Largest Cities:

Glendale

With more than 250,000 residents, Glendale is the largest city in the West Valley and is located 15 minutes from The Wigwam. A sports enthusiast's ultimate destination, Glendale welcomed the Camelback Ranch MLB spring training facility last year and the city hosts exciting sports events at Jobing.com Arena, home to the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes, and University of Phoenix Stadium, home to the NFL's Arizona Cardinals and the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Glendale was put on the map around the world as host of the Super Bowl XLII in 2008 and continues to attract top sporting events such as the Tostitos BCS National Championship Game in January 2011.

History

- Founded in February 27, 1892, following completion of the Arizona Canal Co. project to bring water to the desert and the city's main throughway, Grand Avenue, which today still serves as a major crossroad.
- In 1940s, Luke Field was built to train civilian pilots for the Army and is now Luke Air Force Base.

Today

- In 2007, the Westgate City Center mixed-use entertainment district opened bringing new life to the West Valley. Notable tenants include Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, Yard House, Saddle Ranch and more.
- Host to the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox during MLB spring training season at Camelback Ranch, which opened in 2009.
- Historic Downtown Glendale was named by *USA Today* as one of the country's 10 best places for antique shopping and is home to Glendale Glitters, the largest free holiday light display in Arizona.
- Home town of American Idol winner Jordan Sparks and *Twilight* author Stephanie Meyer.

Peoria

Just 20 minutes from The Wigwam, Peoria was originally settled by four families from Peoria, Ill., in the 1880s as a farming community. The city has more than 150,000 residents and is Arizona's fourth-largest in land mass and ninth largest in population. Adjacent to the city of Glendale, Peoria has experienced significant growth alongside the entire West Valley over the last decade.

Highlights:

- Park West is a 250,000 square foot open-air shopping, dining and entertainment destination anchored by a 14-screen Harkins Theatre, nine restaurants, more than 50 specialty retailers and two beautiful parks.

- Host to the Seattle Mariners and San Diego Padres during MLB spring training season at the Peoria Sports Complex, which opened in 1994.
- Home to the Challenger Space Center of Arizona, an educational memorial to the astronauts of Challenger STS-51L flight that is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute.

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