Written by Morgan Tanabe



After enduring some of the Valley's hottest temperatures in 2012, Arizona residents will finally be experiencing some fall weather. During the summer, Arizona locals may opt to stay indoors, but as temperatures finally dip below 90 degrees, fall in Arizona provides the ideal opportunity for seasonal activities. Although bundling up in hoodies to survive the cool air does not compare to sunshine and poolside tanning, Arizona State University students can still enjoy the weather through different outlets. Do not fret—here are five ideas to help you "chill out" while maintaining a budget.



Enjoy happy hour specials

Happy hour is an easy way to get out and experience some of the best restaurants in the Valley of the Sun. For ASU students, the Mill Avenue District provides a variety of quaint, charming and budget-friendly restaurants.

Mellow Mushroom, located on the corner of Mill Avenue and 7th Street, provides a quirky array of pizza, salads and hoagies all made with the freshest ingredients. With an inexpensive list of draft and bottled beers and a full bar of daily drink specials, Mellow Mushroom is sure to not disappoint after a long day.

The décor of the hip spot is adorned with funky graffiti art murals. Skateboard decks painted by local artists hang from the wall throughout the restaurant. While the eclectic and creative atmosphere is what attracts patrons, the grub is what makes the experience. Come to Mellow Mushroom to enjoy happy hour Monday-Friday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and everyday 10:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. for half off alcohol and tasty appetizers. 740 S. Mill Avenue Tempe, AZ 85281, 480-967-6355. mellowmushroom.com

Other spots:

Fat Tuesday

680 S. Mill Avenue #106

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-967-3917

Happy hour: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

fattuesdaytempe.com

Canteen Tequila Bar

640 S. Mill Avenue #110

Tempe, AZ 85281

380-773-7135

Happy hour: 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

canteentequilabar.com

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Take a hike

Phoenix offers numerous ideal hiking spots across the Valley. Whether you are of the rugged-adventurous type or just enjoy a nice trail with a good view—Phoenix has it all.

Camelback Mountain has some of the best urban hiking trails close to Arizona State University. While the trails may prove to be vigorous for less-experienced hikers, the tranquility and spectacular view is worth the work. Camelback Mountain offers several trails varying in difficulty such as: Cholla Trail, Ramada Loop Trail and Echo Canyon trail. 3940 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85018, 602-956-0930. Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. phoenix.gov

In Scottsdale, Gateway trailhead on the east side of Thompson Peak Parkway and north of Bell Road in the city's McDowell Sonoran Preserve, provides a large span of breathtaking views and a plethora of trails for hikers to explore. Get up early and watch the sunrise then head over to Wildflower Bread Company, 15640 N. Hayden Road, for a hearty meal to get your day started. 23015 N. 128th Street, Scottsdale, AZ, 85255. Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. scottsdaleaz.gov

Other spots:

Pinnacle Peak trail

26802 N. 102nd Way

Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

scottsdaleaz.gov

Piestewa Peak Park

2701 E. Squaw Peak Drive

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (or sunset)

scottsdaleaz.gov



Escape up north

Sometimes to relax we just need to get out of town. When Mill Avenue gets old, or you just want to escape the hectic crowds for a weekend to recoup, head up to Sedona for a breath of fresh air and a change of scenery. Luckily, a daytrip up north will provide the necessary vacation just

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a couple hours away.

Explore Sedona and enjoy the city teeming with boutiques, galleries and one-of-a-kind shops. Sedona offers various gifts and activities, from Native American crafts and healing gemstones to authentic Mexican cuisine—the city has just about everything to fit any budget. On the way back to Phoenix, stop at the Oak Creek Brewery in Tlaquepaque, for an award-winning brew and a gourmet mushroom brie burger. 2050 Yavapai Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336, 928-204-1300. <u>oakcreekbrew.com</u>

Other spots:

The Hideaway Restaurant

251 Highway 179

Sedona, AZ 86336

928-282-4204

Hours: 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

sedonahideawayrestaurant.com

Sedona Crystal Vortex

271 N. State Rout 89A

Sedona, AZ 86336

928-282-3543

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

sedonacrystalvortex.com



Get cultural

Every Thursday in Downtown Scottsdale there is an art walk along Main Street and Marshall Way. Many different galleries in Old Town Scottsdale participate in the art walk. Visitors can explore and discover pottery, ceramics, paintings, jewelry and glass art. Enjoy live entertainment, food and beverage samples set up along the art walk. The art walk is a great way to experience new restaurants as well; however, you should aim to arrive early on Thursday nights to take advantage of good parking and less crowded streets.

Also, don't forget to visit the First Friday art walk rooted in the heart of downtown Phoenix the first Friday of every month. Crowds flood Roosevelt Street pouring into side neighborhoods where charming houses converted to bustling businesses come alive. Galleries and businesses of all kinds in Phoenix keep their doors open into the early morning for First Friday. With over 70 galleries, hundreds of market booth vendors and an array of lively restaurants and bars, the art walk in Phoenix is known for its friendly, hip crowd looking to relax after a long week.

Other spots:

Pick up a Cultural Pass at any of the ASU library locations and get free admission and other discounts to any of the following:

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- Arizona Historical Society Museum at Papago Park
- Arizona Museum of Natural History
- Arizona Science Center
- Cave Creek Museum
- Children's Museum of Phoenix
- Deer Valley Rock Art Center
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Desert Caballeros Western Museum
- Phoenix Art Museum
- Phoenix Zoo
- Pueblo Grande Museum
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art



Ride a bike and explore Tempe

Tempe campus strives to promote environmental awareness by designating cycling routes around Tempe. Being the seventh largest city in Arizona, Tempe provides a diverse array of recreational activities. Ride a bike around to Tempe Town Lake and stroll through Tempe Beach Park after.

Then head over to Four Peaks Brewery, 8th Street and Dorsey Lane, and indulge in affordable appetizers like the panko crusted calamari or try a specialty sandwich like salmon B.L.T. Ride back through the Tempe's Maple Ash neighborhood to view an eclectic collection of house fronts as diverse as the city itself. 1340 E. 8th Street, #104, Tempe, AZ 85281, 480-303-9967. <u>fourpeaks.com</u>

Other spots:

Z'Tejas

20 W. 6th Street

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-377-1170

Hours: Sunday through Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

ztejas.com

Cartel Coffee Lab

225 W. University Drive

Tempe, AZ 85281

480-225-3899

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Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

cartelcoffeelab.com