

Fourth of July Getaways

Written by Kiva Couchon

Nothing says the Fourth of July quite like watching fireworks, cooking out on the grill and enjoying time with friends and family. For many this year, it's also a three-day weekend and the perfect excuse to plan a long-awaited getaway. With so many Arizona destinations to choose from, we thought we'd suggest a few favorites for friends, families and couples to consider as last-minute staycations.

Happy Independence Day!

Staycation with Friends:



Staying close to home and enjoying the long three-day weekend might be just the thing to get you through the rest of summer. Why not staycation in town for an adventure with friends? Start by cooling off inside one of Phoenix's art and culture destinations. Enjoy Phoenix Art Museum's world-famous exhibits, the Heard Museum's extensive collection of American Indian art or the Musical Instrument Museum, an inspiring venue sharing the world's music through instrument experiences. Then before heading out to watch the fireworks, check-in to one of the city's new boutique hotels. Relax, unwind and sip cocktails poolside before dining at any number of five-star restaurants. End the evening, post fireworks, toasting the night at a rooftop hot spot or chic lounge.

Family Outings:



Perfect for families needing a refreshing respite from the stifling summer heat, Flagstaff Extreme offers a wealth of activities for kids of all ages. Adults will enjoy testing their physical strength and balance as much as the kids with swings, bridges and zip line obstacles set high atop the Ponderosa Pines. After a challenging day, gather the family and head to Snowbowl for the Scenic Skyride where you can watch the sun set while catching native wildlife roaming below. When day turns to night, opt for a truly one-of-a-kind experience for the family at the Flagstaff Nordic Center and stay off the grid in one of several yurts. This is a trip the family is sure to remember for years to come.

Loves Looking to Getaway:

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Sometimes you need to get away, just the two of you. About two hours southeast of Tucson is a place called Chiricahua National Monument. Known as the “Wonderland of Rocks,” it’s a favorite among hikers, bikers and adventure seekers alike. While you’re there, take a tour of the historic pioneer homestead known as Faraway Ranch. The ranch house was once inhabited by the Erickson family, the region’s earliest European settlers, and offers a glimpse into Arizona’s pioneer history.

For more last-minute staycation road trip ideas, visit summerinaz.com. There are many places, just a short drive away, and even two-day weekend itineraries complete with what to see, and where to eat and stay.