

Local Ways To Entertain Holiday Guests

Written by Kirstina Bolton

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When friends or family visit during the holidays, there seems to be an underlining tendency to fill their trip with more holiday-ness and less local-ness. Here are some local places to take out-of-towners, fit for holiday family and friends.



Japanese Friendship Garden

This Phoenix destination is the ultimate destination for peaceful seekers. Surround yourself in authentic 3 1/2 acre Japanese Stroll Garden with tea garden and tea house. This tranquil and beautiful setting features stone footbridges, lanterns, flowing streams, a 12-foot waterfall, and more than 50 varieties of plants. Remember to also marvel at the Koi pond with over 300 colorful Koi fish. An ideal reminder of what your friends and family mean to you. www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org



Golf

The Valley is known for their top-notch golf courses, from beginner greens to advanced levels. When the weather starts to cool, it's the perfect time to gather your friends and hit the range for a round. Keep a special lookout for holidays specials too. www.golfnow.com/phoenix



Dolly Steamboat

Hop aboard Arizona's world-class cruise and wow your visitors with breathtaking Southwest scenery as you glide through sparkling waters. Get some holiday flavor with a choice of dinner and astronomy opportunities aboard the magical steamboat. www.dollysteamboat.com



Hot Air Balloon Ride

Be whisked away for a great Southwest adventure. You'll be on cloud 9 (literally) with the stunning views and open environment. www.hotairexpeditions.com

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South Mountain Park

With over 16,500 acres, 58 miles of hiking and bike trails, scenic drives and horse back rides, it's the perfect place to bring your friends for a day of exploring petro glyphs and hikes, or enjoy a nice picnic near the lake. www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/south/index.html