

Top Pumpkin Patches in Phoenix

Written by Elizabeth Liberatore

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You can carve it, bake festive fall goodies from it and scoop out the slimy seeds in it. Tis' the season of pumpkins! Check out these Valley pumpkin patches to find just the right pumpkin for your home.



Pumpkin Patch at Kiwanis Park

Located in Tempe, The Pumpkin Patch at Kiwanis Park has farm-grown pumpkins, a bounce house city with plenty of other ghoulish games for the kids. The park will also offer festive Halloween treats, including candy apples and ice cream to satisfy your sweet tooth. <http://wheelfunrentals.com/content/page1.aspx>.

Freeman Farms Pumpkin Festival

Freeman Farms is located in Chino Valley, approximately five miles north of Prescott, and prides itself in offering Valley residents a "real farm experience." Join them as they present their family-friendly Sixth Annual Pumpkin Festival opening the weekend of Sept. 29 and 30. The festival will remain open every Saturday and Sunday in October. It includes real bouncy tents for kids, a real corn maze, real wagon hayrides and, of course, a real pumpkin patch. Don't miss out on one real fantastic event. <http://www.azpumpkin.com>.



Mother Nature Farms

This family-operated and -owned farm is located in Gilbert and offers visitors the best rated pumpkins, according to the *New Times*. The pumpkin patch at Mother Nature Farms is stocked with fresh pumpkins daily, ranging from one ounce to 500 pounds. The farm also hosts a pumpkin-weighing contest for all local pumpkin growers. This year's Pumpkin Weigh-Off will be held on Oct 6 www.mothernaturesfarm.com.

Apple Annie's Orchard

For pumpkins galore, head over to Apple Annie's Pumpkin Patch in Wilcox. Visitors can enjoy picking their own pumpkin from various sizes and colors, munch on sweet corn, travel through the corn maze and sip on apple cider. The pumpkin patch runs for five weekends, starting the last weekend of September. <http://www.appleannies.com>.



Agua Linda Farm

Agua Linda Farm is a family-owned farm in Southern Arizona offering harvest festivals, farm dinners, educational field trips, seasonal vegetables and a fall festival stocked with a cornucopia of pumpkins. The Fall Festival starts the second weekend of October and is open: Fridays 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. <http://www.agualindafarm.net>.

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MacDonald's Ranch

MacDonald's Ranch in Scottsdale is hosting its famous Annual Pumpkin Festival. The festival offers horse- or mule-drawn hayrides out to the pumpkin patch, where visitors can pick from a variety of different-size pumpkins to take home and carve or decorate. <http://www.macdonaldsranch.com>.



Schnepf Farms

Queen Creek's Schnepf Farms not only harvests a vast field of pumpkins, but they also warm the bellies of visitors with homemade chili. Every Thursday through Sunday in October, The Pumpkin and Chili Party will be taking place in addition to other great fall festivities. <http://www.schnepffarms.com>.

Vertuccio Farms

Vertuccio Farms will host their Fall Festival starting Sept. 28 through Nov. 4. Visitors can enjoy picking pumpkins, a 10-acre corn maze, barrel train ride, mini hay maze and much more. Come visit Vertuccio Farms in Mesa; your picture-perfect pumpkin is waiting for you. <http://www.vertucciofarms.com>.