

NATIVE AMERICAN ANCIENT TRAILS: 3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS

It is said that Native Americans consider Sedona a sacred place. Evidence of human activity has been found in the form of projectile points from the Clovis culture dating back to 11,500 B.C. Paleo-indians and Clovis were big-game hunters occupying the Verde Valley area until 9,000 B.C. Following this time different groups of hunter-gatherers migrated through the area until A.D. 300. Around A.D. 650 the Sinagua entered the area in two branches occupying the Flagstaff and middle Verde River areas. Expanding their footprint in the Verde Valley, the Sinagua began constructing cliff dwellings like Palatki and Honanki in the red rocks of Sedona around A.D. 1125. By A.D. 1400, the Sinagua abandoned Sedona and the Verde Valley. Since that time, Yavapai and Apache tribes have occupied the region eventually forming the Yavapai-Apache Nation we know today. Whether you come to visit awe-inspiring archaeological sites or stock up on authentic turquoise jewelry crafted by modern hands, there are myriad ways to experience the Native cultures of central Arizona.

DAY 1 – GET THE LAY OF THE LAND

Trolley ride

Enjoy a scenic overview of Sedona on a quaint open-air trolley. Two trolley companies are available in Uptown with various itineraries that will take you to the Chapel of the Holy Cross or out to Boynton Canyon. Visitors can expect dramatic picture stops and lively commentary by well-informed guides.

Helicopter tour

Take to the skies and view Sedona's red rock wonderland from a higher perspective. Tours are open to all ages and are available for small groups or a private flight for two. Two helicopter tour operators are available and leave from the Sedona Airport in West Sedona.

Hot air ballooning

After a gentle lift-off, you'll be gliding over gorgeous Red Rock Country. Sedona's natural wonders and wildlife sightings will delight as you float calmly with the air currents. Enjoy the stunning scenery of Coconino National Forest from the sky with two tour operator options. Tours are only available early mornings.

Jeep and open-air vehicle tour

Sedona is home to multiple world-class tour operators with off-road and paved tour options. Tours range from 1.5 to 5.5 hours in length and are safe for children of all ages depending on the tour choice. Off-road tours range from mild to rugged and can be combined with hiking or stops at area landmarks and historical sites.

See all Sedona tour options at ScenicSedona.com/Play

TIP: *Tours can sell out quickly in Sedona during busy seasons. Always try to book your experiences as early as possible.*

DAY 2 – WALK ANCIENT TRAILS

Tour Native American heritage sites

PALATKI (RED HOUSE) HERITAGE SITE – Guided tours of this Sinagua-era (A.D. 1150–1350) cliff dwelling and rock art site are only available by reservation. To reserve a tour time, visit Recreation.gov. A $1 reservation fee applies per ticket. A Red Rock Pass is required for all heritage sites when visiting with your own vehicle. Dogs are not allowed past parking areas.

HONANKI (BEAVER HOUSE) HERITAGE SITE – Sister site to Palatki, Honanki was also built by the Sinagua people. Both sites are only accessible by rough gravel roads. A high-clearance vehicle is recommended, or schedule a guided Jeep tour with Pink Adventure Tours to experience Honanki without your vehicle.

CRANE PETROGLYPH HERITAGE SITE – The Crane Petroglyph Heritage Site is another piece of the Sinagua history in the Verde Valley. Formerly known as V Bar V Heritage Site, it is the largest known petroglyph site in the Verde Valley, as well as one of the best-preserved. Guided tours are provided. Visiting hours are limited–see U.S. Forest Service website for operational hours.

MONTEZUMA CASTLE NATIONAL MONUMENT – Constructed as early as A.D. 1125, this 20 room five-story dwelling, nestled into a towering limestone cliff tells a story of ingenuity, survival and ultimately, prosperity in an unforgiving desert landscape. $10 entrance fee applies per adult. Be sure to include a visit to Montezuma Well located about 10 miles northeast of the Castle.

TIP: *Be sure to check heritage site and national monument websites for any timely updates, closures, fee changes, and other important information before planning your visit.*







DAY 3 – NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

Day trip to Native Lands

HOPI LANDS – Tucked within the Navajo Nation, the land of the Hopi Tribe is made up of a dozen villages across three towering mesas–named from east to west as First Mesa, Second Mesa, and Third Mesa–ancient pueblo villages at the top, and more modern communities at the base. Unlike some other indigenous communities, visiting the Hopi is possible by a guided tour only.

ANTELOPE CANYON / NAVAJO NATION – Seeing magnificent slot canyons on the Navajo Nation takes some advance planning. A permit and a tour guide are required to explore this special place. Several authorized local Sedona tour operators lead small groups to the canyons and share their knowledge about the area's history and geology.

TIP: *Day trips to Native American lands from Sedona can take up to 11 hours roundtrip and leave as early as 7:00 A.M. Book tour reservations early and plan to be gone all day.*

Native experiences in Sedona

Don't feel like leaving the Sedona area? We can't blame you. You can still experience Native American culture right here among Sedona's beautiful red rocks. Book a wellness walk, vortex hike, blessing, medicine wheel empowerments, or sacred ceremony with one of Sedona's local experts. Native American guides of note include but aren't limited to: Mystic Tours with Rahelio and Uqualla.

See all tour options at ScenicSedona.com/Play

DAY 4 – BRING SEDONA HOME WITH YOU

Uptown and Tlaquepaque Arts & Shopping Village

Uptown Sedona features a walkable area of red-rock-framed shopping hubs and nearby open-air plazas offering galleries, Southwestern and Native American goods, apparel, and unique souvenirs. Retailers of note include but aren't limited to: Clear Creek Trading Company, Garland's Navajo Rugs, Indian Touch of Sedona, Joe Wilcox Indian Den, Ninibah, and The Humiovi.

West Sedona

West Sedona is the primary residential, commercial, and everyday living hub of Sedona. It stretches roughly three miles along State Route 89A and is perfect for riding a bike or walking. Unlike the tourist-heavy, center of Uptown Sedona, West Sedona offers a relaxed, unhurried local atmosphere. Retailers of note include but aren't limited to: Kachina House and Sedona Artist Market.

Oak Creek Canyon

Oak Creek Canyon is quite possibly one of the most beautiful and scenic stretches of Arizona highway. Heading north of Uptown Sedona on State Route 89A, Oak Creek Canyon is about 12 miles long with towering canyon walls and lush greenery. Retailers of note include but aren't limited to: Garland's Indian Jewelry, Hoel's Indian Shop, and Native American Craft Market. Continuing north through the canyon takes you to Oak Creek Overlook Vista and the Native American Artisan Market where vendors showcase authentic arts, crafts, and jewelry.

For more shopping options visit ScenicSedona.com/Shop

Where red rocks meet starry skies



Sedona Stargazing

Nestled beneath the towering silhouettes of Arizona's red rocks lies a destination that transcends the ordinary. While Sedona is famed for its terrestrial beauty, its most profound wonders often reveal themselves after sunset. As an International Dark Sky Community, Sedona offers a window into the cosmos that is increasingly rare in our modern world. Whether you are a curious traveler or a dedicated amateur astronomer, Sedona's night sky is a sanctuary for the spirit and a masterpiece of natural preservation. Learn more at ScenicSedona.com/Sedona-Stargazing-Guide.com

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