

Accessible Travel Guide for Disabled People Visiting Phoenix

With an average of 300 sunny days each year, Phoenix is a popular winter tourist destination for those looking to escape cold weather in other parts of the country. However, many of the things that make Phoenix a popular tourist draw make it particularly appealing for travelers with disabilities. Upscale resorts combined with sunny days, no snow or ice, and very little rain make getting around easier for travelers with disabilities, and in particular, wheelchair users. Not only does Phoenix's weather make it attractive to tourists with disabilities, but it also stands out as [one of the most accessible cities](#) in the nation. In fact, the Phoenix Metro Area is home to a wide variety of indoor and outdoor attractions that are accessible to all visitors, and there are ample accessible transportation and accommodation options for visitors with disabilities. If you are considering planning a trip to Phoenix but are concerned about accessibility, keep reading to learn about the attractions, accommodations, and transportation options that make Phoenix one of the best accessible travel destinations in the country.

Accessible Accommodations in The Phoenix Metro Area

As travelers with disabilities likely know all too well, not all accessible hotel rooms are the same, and some hotels offer better accessible accommodations than others. Fortunately, with new hotels being built all the time in the Phoenix Metro Area, there are plenty of options for travelers with disabilities to choose from.

One of the best ways to find a hotel that suits your needs is to call a hotel you are interested in and ask about their accessible accommodations, as every traveler will have different accessibility needs. However, as a general rule, these are the hotels in the Phoenix area that disabled travelers have found to be the most accessible:

Hampton Inn & Suites Phoenix Tempe

One of the most popular hotels in the Phoenix area amongst disabled travelers is the [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) in Tempe. Five of the hotel's 115 rooms are accessible and offer helpful features for travelers with disabilities such as roll-in showers, tubs with grab bars, as well as lower beds, thermostat controls, and light switches that are easily accessible to wheelchair users. These features make this hotel a great option for disabled visitors looking to enjoy all that the Greater Phoenix Area has to offer.

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown

Of course, for those specifically looking to enjoy tourist destinations in Phoenix, staying outside the city in Tempe may not be ideal. If you would rather be located in the center of the action, another desirable hotel option is the [Sheraton Phoenix Downtown](#). Centrally located in downtown Phoenix close to the convention center and several other top attractions, this hotel is a great option for disabled travelers. This hotel features several great amenities for disabled travelers, including valet parking, accessible entrances to community spaces, and roll-in showers with drains that run the length of the shower, minimizing the amount of water that escapes into the rest of the bathroom. If you like being close to the action and want to enjoy the city's nightlife, this hotel is a great option.

Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Gainey Ranch

Of course, many people flying into Phoenix end up heading to Scottsdale, as this beautiful town just north of Phoenix is known for its resorts and golf courses, making it a popular tourist destination. If you have your sights set on a relaxing vacation in Scottsdale, look no further than the [Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Gainey Ranch](#). This property offers accessible common areas and well-appointed accessible rooms with roll-in showers.

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of the accessible hotel options in the Greater Phoenix Area. If there is a hotel that looks appealing to you, don't hesitate to call and ask what accessibility features they offer. Phoenix strives to be accessible to all travelers, and many hotels are accommodating to those with disabilities.

Tips for Getting Around

One of the most stressful parts of traveling with a disability is the uncertainty about whether you will be able to find accessible transportation methods once you arrive. Fortunately, there are a variety of wheelchair-friendly transportation options in the Greater Phoenix Area. Whether you need a ride from the airport to your hotel, or you are looking to visit top tourist attractions around the city, you will have multiple options for a safe, comfortable, accessible transportation experience. Keep reading for a brief overview of the best accessible transportation options in and around Phoenix.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

"America's Friendliest Airport" is also one of the most accessible to those with disabilities. All terminals in the airport have curb cuts, automatic doors, elevators, ramped access to lobby and gate areas, designated areas for vehicles with disability plates to load/unload, as well as wheelchair-accessible telephones, ATMs, restrooms, and drinking fountains. Recently, the

airport also added a sensory room in Terminal 4, as well as a [new app for guests who are blind or low-vision](#). You can learn more about accessibility at Sky Harbor Airport [on their website](#).

PHX Sky Train

The PHX Sky Train is a free, automated train that transports travelers between the Valley Metro Rail station at 44th and Washington to Sky Harbor Terminals 3 and 4. The train operates 24 hours a day and departs every 3 to 5 minutes. While it runs a fairly short route, it is fast, free, and most importantly, wheelchair friendly. It also allows guests to connect with the Metro Light Rail or City Bus at the 44th Street station, providing disabled travelers with an easy way to reach destinations throughout the city from the airport.

Rail Service

Once you are in Phoenix, one of the easiest and most affordable ways to get around the city is the Valley Metro Rail. With a one-day pass costing only \$4 and a seven-day pass just \$20, this light rail system provides travelers with a cheap and simple way to get around town. The 28-mile system connects 38 stations in Phoenix as well as the neighboring towns of Mesa and Tempe with stops at popular destinations such as Chase Field, the Phoenix Art Museum, the Heard Museum, and downtown Tempe. All trains are wheelchair accessible, and stops provide convenient access to many of the city's top destinations and hotels.

Valley Metro Buses

Of course, the Valley Metro Rail does have its limits as it primarily runs east and west, so you may have to transfer to a city bus to reach your final destination. Fortunately, Phoenix's bus system is first-rate, with all buses being equipped with wheelchair lifts. The bus system provides broad coverage throughout the Phoenix area, offering a convenient way for disabled travelers to get to top tourist attractions. You can learn more about accessibility on the Valley Metro rail and bus system by [visiting their website](#).

Dial-A-Ride

People with disabilities also have the option to use Dial-A-Ride from 4 a.m. to 12 a.m. by calling 602-253-4000 to make a reservation. Reservations can also be made online at [dar.phoenix.gov](#).

Accessible Attractions in Phoenix

Once you know where you want to stay and how you plan to get around in the city, you will need to decide what tourist attractions you want to hit while you are in town. The good news is that many attractions in the city are accessible, which is why it is such a popular travel destination for people with disabilities. Some of the most popular accessible attractions in the Greater Phoenix Area include:

Nature Trails

The Greater Phoenix Area is known for its iconic hiking trails, many of which are accessible to all visitors. If you are a nature lover and want to see some picturesque desert, lake, and mountain views while in Phoenix, take a look at a few of the [top barrier-free hiking spots](#) in the area. Popular options include the Japanese Friendship Garden and the Desert Botanical Garden, which introduce travelers to the plants of the Sonoran Desert on accessible paved and hard-packed trails

Musical Instrument Museum

If you are a first-time visitor to Phoenix, a must-see on your list of attractions to hit is the [Musical Instrument Museum](#). The Musical Instrument Museum is rated Phoenix's No. 1 attraction, and as the world's only global instrument museum, it's also ranked amongst the top 15 museums in the country. Home to more than 7,500 instruments from around the world, the museum is [wheelchair accessible throughout](#) and provides accessible seating in the Music Theater.

The Heard Museum

Another of Phoenix's renowned cultural institutions is the Heard Museum. The Heard Museum allows guests to learn about Native American art and appreciate works by native artists. The museum is entirely accessible and offers resources for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors as well as those with mobility issues.

The Phoenix Zoo

The Phoenix Zoo is the largest non-profit zoo in the United States that is privately owned. This 125-acre zoo is home to over 1,400 animals spread across different themed zones such as the Arizona Trail, Africa Trail, and Tropics Trail. The majority of the themed areas and trails within the zoo are accessible and fully paved. While much of the zoo is built on flat terrain, it's important to note that certain sections of the zoo trail have steep inclines, making it important that you consult zoo staff upon arrival to [learn about accessible trails](#).

Whether you want to explore nature trails, take in a world-class museum, or lounge by the pool, Phoenix is the perfect travel destination for people with disabilities. Feel free to contact us for more accessible travel tips, as well as to take a look at our inventory of wheelchair transport vans that you can browse and purchase from the comfort of your own home.