Effortless Phoenix Group Travel

Let Southwest Conference Planning help to make Phoenix group travel easier than you'd ever imagined possible. Extensive offerings in sight-seeing tours, team-building exercises, themed events and more make for incredibly memorable functions that are as entertaining as they are effortless.

OFF-PROPERTY GROUP TOURS

Horseback Ride

Enjoy the spectacular beauty of the Sonoran Desert, ride through the towering Saguaro, Prickly pear, hedgehog, Mormon tea and the oddly shaped Ocotillo. Let Arizona's mountainous scenic vistas take you back to the days when cowboys ruled this metropolitan area. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced rider, this ride will be a pleasure for all.

HUMMER Tour

The atmosphere comes alive as your HUMMER blazes through the Sonoran Desert. Explore breathtaking scenery and wildlife along the way. Our tour guides are experienced, knowledgeable and have a western flare for hospitality. The HUMMER provides four hours of excitement, thrills and beauty desert beauty.

River Floats

Enjoy one of the few remaining desert river tours of our great United States. Sit back in your raft and float leisurely along the cool, clear waters of the Rio Verde or Salt River. Enjoy the natural beauty of Tonto National Forest, from deserts and mountains to cacti and woodland. Glimpses of our Sonoran Bald Eagle, wild horses drawn to the cool lushness of the river, Blue Herons and many other desert friends are regular sights throughout this morning or afternoon leisurely float.

Desert Off-Road Tour

A true adventure through the Sonoran Desert. Travel with crazy yet courteous and experienced cowboys through a majestic forest of cactus. Photo opportunities abound, and look closely for our desert friends, the Red Tail Hawk, Sonoran Bald Eagle, Coyote and more.

Mountain Biking

On your biking adventure cruise a quiet desert mountain trail atop your high-performance bike. Whatever your ability, our experienced guides will assist you on this adventure. In addition to sharpening your mountain biking skills, this escape also allows you to learn about the fascinating flora and fauna, geology and history of the richly diverse Sonoran Desert.
Desert Hike

Venture into the lush desert to learn all about the unique flora, fauna, geology, and history with our knowledgeable, professional guides. Exploring on foot is the most intimate and educational way to experience the desert. You'll enjoy an up close and personal look at the elements that comprise the Sonoran Desert, and find answers to ever-popular questions - Just how old is that saguaro? Which cactus did John Wayne drink from? While more than a simple nature walk, the hikes are designed so that individuals of modest fitness levels as well as more active participants will enjoy themselves.

Sedona Red Rock Country

Travel through time on this scenic and informative tour of the area Indians call, "the place where the Gods live," otherwise known as Sedona. Travel through undisturbed desert and blazing red rock. En route, we'll stop at Sunset Point which overlooks the Bradshaw Mountains. Look closely and you'll see the original path of the Pony Express.

Next, we'll travel back to 1500 A.D. with a tour through Montezuma Castle, home of the Sinagua farmers, also known as the "vanishing people." Onward to Sedona where you'll have time to take awe inspiring pictures in the magnificent Oak Creek Canyon with its beautiful spires and buttes. We round out the afternoon with a little shopping in Tlaquepaque - filled with local art galleries, craft and leather shops.

Desert Botanical Gardens

Nestled amid the buttes of Papago Park, the Desert Botanical Garden hosts one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of succulent flora. Showcasing tens of thousands of plants, the garden takes great pride in housing 139 rare, threatened and endangered species from the world's deserts. One of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums, this one-of-a-kind living museum sits on 145 acres, 45 of which are dedicated solely to outdoor exhibits that serve to provide visitors with an inspiring and educational experience.

Scottsdale Shopping

Whether browsing or buying, this tour provides a unique and sophisticated atmosphere for any shopper. Your tour will begin as our guide points out many sights and landmarks throughout Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale. Choose from the following stops: Main Street Shops and Galleries, Scottsdale Fashion Square Mall or the Borgata, home to many exclusive boutiques.

City Tour

Experience a little of the Old West and discover the exciting New Southwest during our Phoenix City Tour. Our route travels through downtown Phoenix where you will see art, theater, government and sports highlights, both old and new. Heritage Square will open your eyes to early life in our city. Enjoy the spectacular scenery as your professional tour guide entertains you with tales of western adventure.

The Heard Museum

As a premier presentation of America's Southwest heritage, we invite you to begin your journey at the internationally acclaimed Heard Museum. Here you will see the arts and crafts of ancient cultures with the most celebrated collection of Indian artifacts in the Southwest. Discover the room devoted to Barry Goldwater's Kachina (spirit) doll collection (more than 400 varieties) and be sure to visit the gift shop for authentic Indian artifacts and jewelry.
Wrigley Mansion

This was the home of William Wrigley Jr. and his wife, Ada E. Wrigley. Mr. Wrigley built this home as a gift to his wife between 1929 and 1931. The mansion was one of five Wrigley homes, and was only used by the couple as a "winter cottage". With 16,850 square feet, 24 rooms, 11 fireplaces, and 17 bathrooms, it was the smallest of the Wrigley houses and was used only four to eight weeks out of the year. The 100 foot high, solid rock hill on which the home is built is about ten miles from downtown Phoenix. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and displays family memorabilia.

Custom Wine Bottling Experience

If your group enjoys wine then this is the perfect activity for them. Upon arriving at a Scottsdale winery the group will be greeted with a gourmet catered selection of fruit and cheeses. Guests can also have a chance to sample any 5 wines of their choosing to enjoy for the evening. Finally, guests will learn how to bottle their own wine through a unique bottling experience that includes cleaning and sanitizing the bottle, filling the bottle with a pre-selected wine, corks, and labeling the bottle with their own personalized wine label to take home with them to commemorate the event.

Tomcar Tour

Answer the call of the wild! Take control of your own exclusive tomcar. Unmatched for off-road drivability, safety, and performance, the Tomcar will insure a thrilling experience!

Now you can drive in the Sonoran Desert while learning how to off-road in the most eco-friendly manner possible, as prescribed by Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace. Our Tomcars are amazingly comfortable and if you can drive your car, you can easily operate our automatic vehicles. And you get to have all this great fun while learning about the indigenous plant & wildlife that populate our living desert, visiting our proprietary attractions like our turquoise mine, see amazing scenery and learn the incredible history of our surroundings.

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TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Salsa Challenge

Let us take your group and turn them into southwestern chefs. We will coordinate your group into cooking teams and give them colored bandanas to differentiate. We also give participants 10-inch paper chef hats and paper aprons so they all look and feel the part.

Chili Cook-Off

A combined score of the Chili Tasting, Chili Commercial, and Chili Billboard will give us our Chili Champions of the day. Official tasting judges will be scoring each team on zest, taste, original flavor and best all around chili. Let us take care of the DJ, the hot- hot-hot music, Master of Ceremonies, judges, team coordination, southwestern balloon decor, awards ceremony, chili recipes and all the freshest ingredients.
Hummer Photo Scavenger Hunt

The objective of the Photo Hunt team building exercise is to successfully work together to identify and photograph desert vegetation and/or wildlife. The desert vegetation will be assigned a point value based on the difficulty of locating various plants. However, the desert wildlife will be viewed as BONUS points due to the random viewing patterns and the difficulty of obtaining a picture of these mobile creatures.

Wild West Olympics

Imagine Olympics at the rodeo arena and you've got our Wild West Olympics. A heel kicking good time of western event relays, all team oriented such as: barrel racing, western progressive dress relay, tug o war, root beer chugging contest, bungee bull riding, cowboy hat frisbee discus, quick draw Pictionary and many more. All the frills of the regular Olympics with a distinct western flavor. Cowboy event staff and western gold medals round out this round up of fun and horsing around.

Bike Building 101 - Do it for Charity.

This team building event not only fosters communication and synergy, it emphasizes the benefits of building something that really matters to someone. Building a bicycle for an at-risk little girl or little boy will create memories that will last a lifetime, for the child and for your entire team.

Your group will be put into teams and will be using their building skills, artistic talent, and team dedication to build one boy bike and one girl bike, make two cards, come up with a team cheer and participate in the oversized Tricycle races. All teams will be provided with supplies, timed and given points according to how they finish. Upon completion of the event we will deliver the bikes to the charity of choice. Even better, with advance notice, we will bring the children to you, and YOU will present your gift to them.

Tin Can: Build Your Own Golf Course

Tin Can Build Your Own Golf Course is teambuilding and philanthropy at its best. This event combines the interaction of building and playing your own miniature golf course and donating can goods and the carpet to local food banks and homeless shelters. You will putt like Nicklaus and give to the needy. Food banks are finding their shelves bare and in need of donations and this program is a perfect solution. With a group of 100 a local food bank will receive in excess of 1000 can goods and food items. All of the paper products are recycled. This is truly a green, philanthropic and team building program all tied into one.

Tee Pee Building

From the moment your group arrives they are greeted by our colorful event staff, dressed to the theme wearing Indian Headdresses and passing out different colored bandannas to each guest. These bandanna colors will determine each "tribe." A "Head Chief" dressed in full Native American costume will welcome the entire group and explain all of the rules and objectives.

Covered Wagon Building

Teams become "families" setting out as Trail Blazers in Arizona's Wild West. Each "family" must design and build their own covered wagon with the supplies they have been given and moneys they may use to purchase supplies at the local "old store". After each family is given the rules, objectives and team packets they must get to work, there's a lot to do before the sun goes down.
Orienteering

We recognize that a successful teambuilding activity promotes three qualities that help corporations succeed – teamwork, individual confidence, and synergy. Participants are divided into teams of 5-10 and each team member is assigned to a different skill station. After teams receive maps, compasses, clue sheets, Polaroid cameras and their guide, they are led into the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation blindfolded and must navigate station-to-station utilizing the skills they have learned. Decision-making and teamwork, not physical speed, are required to excel.

Paintball

Goggles and headgear are worn at all times for maximum safety, and radio equipped referees are on the field to ensure fair and safe play. In paintball, physical size and strength do not determine the outcome.

The Ultimate Racing Experience

Indoor Cart Racing is simply the most thrilling experience around. Carts blend the excitement of open wheel racing with electronic timing systems and advanced safety measures to provide an intensely competitive and challenging event. Did we mention the track was designed and modeled after famous Formula One race tracks from around the world? The track is challenging enough for even the most seasoned racers, and amateurs will feel the excitement of pushing themselves to the limits while having a great time doing it.

Boat Building

The newest rave in corporate team building where your guests will work together to build the ultimate boat using provided materials. We divide your group up into crews consisting of designers, builders, and racers. Each crew gets stranded on a deserted island and in order to escape they must build a boat of supplies that have washed ashore with them. Together a crew designs a blueprint of a sailing vessel and then proceeds to construct it. The big test follows - will the boat sail or sink? We'll find out when the crew presents their sailing vessels with a group chant/cheer and then races in a mini boat regatta.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Background Music

Guitarist (Southwestern, Spanish, Classical, Jazz, etc.), Flamenco Guitarist, Pianist, Harpist, Violinist, Solo Marimba, Accordionist (French, German, Italian), Mariachi - A truly unique group consisting of Jazz Violin, Guitar, Bass, and Percussion, providing all the elegance of strolling strings without being uptight. The group performs elegant, snappy versions of Contemporary and Classic Jazz standards, Light Contemporary, and Latin. The music can be performed strolling (acoustically), or stationary (amplified or acoustic).

Strolling Cowboy Guitarist

Mark's band performs as a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists, including guitar, bass, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, piano, accordion, and/or drums, produce exactly the right entertainment for your event.
Frosty the Bull

A hilarious 20 minute comedy act performed by a rodeo clown and his full-grown, trained Brahma Bull, "Frosty". Have your CEO enter the event on the back of Frosty to create an event that your group will be talking about for years to come.

Astronomer with Telescope

On any clear evening there are a variety of things to see in the sky if you'll just look up. Among these objects are the Moon, the Sun, Stars, Nebulae, various Galaxies, and planets such as Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or even Pluto. Provide your guests with astounding, educational entertainment via 100 large portable telescopes and the wonders of the universe. An experienced, knowledgeable astronomer accompanies all telescopes to ensure your guests the ultimate viewing experience.

Cigar Roller

An attendant will set up a display with humidors, a large selection of antiques and cigar artifacts. Traditional rolling tools and bunches of raw tobacco will be used by the attendant to entertain the guests. The attendant will educate the guests with exciting stories about the history of cigars and how a cigar is constructed. This is, by far, the most popular option and a favorite part of any event.

Mariachi Band

A four-piece Mariachi band will consist of a guitar, a guitarron (bass), a vihuela (small guitar), and cabazas (hand held beaded percussion instruments) and perform wonderful Latin classics. The greatest appeal of the Mariachi is their strolling, jubilant style of performance.

Band-a-oke

Perform the latest Country, Top-40 and pop from the 60s up to the newest chart-toppers. This band travels internationally and entertains thousands with their brand of live interactive karaoke, making their guest singers feel like they are actually part of the band. The band's energy is infectious and the live audience participation is a refreshing change from your ordinary cover band. Another brilliant aspect is utilizing wireless technology to allow performers to get onto the dance floor and literally join the party. What ensues is great audience interaction and a great time for all.

Pig Racing

This highly entertaining and exciting event features our young, motivated Vietnamese Potbellied Pigs racing each other for the prized Oreo Cookie that waits at the finish line. We set a 48' X 10' racing track decorated with racing flags and chase lighting, then run a total of 4 races in a 2 hour period. Our uniformed personnel take bets that pay 3 to 1 on pigs that are named and numbered. Tickets will be given to winners, to be used in a raffle for prizes at the end of the event.

Glow-In-The-Dark Golf

This event is a truly unique take on the sport of golf. Groups remain stationary as they participate in a team-based format. Guests enjoy a fun, party-like atmosphere created by the glow-in-the-dark venue. The shoot-out is a great social mixer and/or team-building event as it equally appeals to all golfing interest
levels. The event is complete with a master of ceremony to administer the program and a large scoreboard display keeping track of the team results in real time.

Ask about other entertainment activities including:

- Cowboy Games
- Native American Entertainment
- Interactive Video Games

CHARTERED TRANSPORTATION

Reliable and efficient transportation is critical to any successful program. Southwest Conference Planners owns and operates our own fleet of sedans, vans, Mercedes Sprinters and mini coaches. This enables us to consistently operate each transfer at our own high standards of service. We take great pride in our clean vehicles, friendly staff and reliable service. Whether you are looking for airport transportation or transportation to off-property destination, Southwest Conference Planners can coordinate it all for you, flawlessly.