Scottsdale, Arizona, is located in the Sonoran Desert and is bordered by Phoenix to the west and the McDowell Mountains on the east. Scottsdale was founded by U.S. Army Chaplain Winfield Scott, who visited the Salt River Valley in 1888 and made a down payment on 640 acres to start a farming operation adjacent to the new Arizona Canal.

The Ellie and Michael Ziegler Fiesta Bowl Museum in Scottsdale exhibits memorabilia from Fiesta Bowl events and games, team helmets, and prestigious award trophies. The House of Broadcasting preserves and celebrates the history, personalities, and paraphernalia of radio and television. The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, African American Multicultural Museum, and the Scottsdale Historical Museum are also located in the city. Taliesin West is an architectural complex and National Historic Landmark that was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts hosts dance, musical, and theatrical performances and other cultural programs. The Arizona Women’s Theatre Company produces contemporary plays written by women. The Nash, which is owned by Jazz in Arizona, showcases classic and new jazz performances by touring artists, local professionals, and student musicians. Scottsdale Desert Stage Theatre produces plays and musicals for adults and children. Greasepaint Youtheatre at the Stagebrush Theatre provides theatrical experiences for young performers.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Downtown Scottsdale is home to Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center, an arts district, historic Old Town Scottsdale, City Hall, museums, shopping, and entertainment. Condominiums, lofts, flats, and townhomes in single- or mixed-use developments have been built in the downtown area. Apartments, ranch-style homes from the 1950s and 1960s, and Mediterranean-style homes from the 1970s and 1980s are available in the Monterey Arcadia neighborhood that wraps around the downtown. Desert Foothills consists of custom, single-family homes in Pueblo, Mediterranean, Western Ranch, and contemporary styles with native and desert landscaping; equestrian facilities are fairly common.

Many of Scottsdale’s neighborhoods are master planned developments with golf courses, community centers, and gated streets. Developed in the 1970s, McCormick Ranch contains various housing types in the Mediterranean style that were built on curvilinear streets with lush landscapes. The Pueblo/Santa Fe design style dominates Boulders, another older development that features diverse housing types. The Legend Trails development houses were constructed in Mediterranean or Pueblo style with landscaping composed of desert native materials. The Via Linda Corridor development was established in the late 1970s; it is home to the Scottsdale Health Care Shear Hospital, and features homes in Mediterranean design styles, Mediterranean and semiarid landscape, and interconnected neighborhoods. Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital is located in the Grayhawk development, which opened in 1996, and consists of neighborhoods with condominiums, townhouses, and single-family homes in many styles and sizes. McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park offers train rides, a carousel, and two playgrounds. The park’s Baggage Car houses the McCormick Railroad Museum. A model railroad building houses four model railroad clubs, three layouts, and various hands-on exhibits.

Scottsdale Civic Center Mall is an open public space adjacent to the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, fountains, the LOVE sculpture, One Civic Center, City Hall, a lagoon with swans, Civic Center Library, and an outdoor amphitheater.

Scottsdale’s McDowell Sonoran Preserve, which encompasses the McDowell Mountains, is the largest urban wilderness area in the country and features miles of trails through diverse and scenic desert terrain and wildlife. Camelback Mountain situated between Scottsdale and Phoenix consists of two rock formations that formed separately hundreds of millions of years apart from each other and is a popular urban hiking destination.

The annual Parada del Sol—“World’s Largest Horsedrawn Parade”—takes place in February before the Parada del Sol Rodeo, which is held a few weeks later at WestWorld of Scottsdale. WestWorld is a premier equestrian center and special events facility that also hosts non-equestrian events ranging from dog shows to auto auctions.

Scottsdale Stadium is the spring training home of the San Francisco Giants and the Arizona Fall League baseball teams.

**EDUCATION**

Scottsdale Unified School District educates about 26,000 students in 16 elementary, 6 middle schools, 3 kindergarten through grade 8 schools, 5 high schools, an alternative school, and a career/technical school. Portions of Scottsdale are served by the Balsz, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, and Cave Creek Unified School Districts.

Scottsdale Community College offers associate’s degree programs, professional certification, and a foundation for university transfer. In a joint program with Northern Arizona University, SCC also offers several undergraduate programs that lead to bachelor’s degrees.

Higher education is also available at Penn Foster College, which grants Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees, and at Western International University.

The University of Phoenix is located in nearby Glendale.

**HEALTH CARE**

The three hospitals of Scottsdale Healthcare have 834 acute care beds. A separate long-term acute care hospital is located within the system.

**CITY STATS 2011**

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Photograph courtesy of Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.