

CAREFREE/CAVE CREEK

Community Profile

Prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce

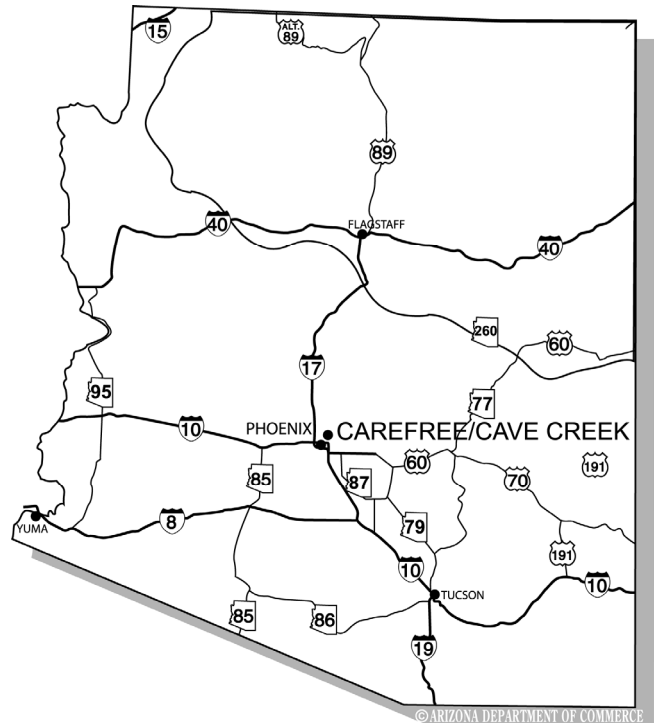
Carefree and Cave Creek, recreational-resort communities, offer a pleasant blend of older historical theme of Cave Creek with the newer planned community of Carefree. Both towns are nestled in the Arizona desert foothills, directly north of Scottsdale and approximately 15 miles northeast of Phoenix. Cave Creek, which was settled in the late 1870s, became a booming mining camp during the 1880s. Carefree was established in the late 1950s as a planned community. The surrounding natural scenery is spectacular, with massive piles of granite boulders, sharp mountains and an abundance of desert growth.

Carefree

Incorporated: 1984
County: Maricopa County
Elevation: 2,528 feet (approx.)
Distance to Phoenix: 15 miles

Cave Creek

Incorporated: 1986
County: Maricopa County
Elevation: 2,200 feet (approx.)
Distance to Phoenix: 15 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2004
Carefree	1,657*	2,927	3,310
Cave Creek	2,925	3,728	4,370
Maricopa County	2,122,101	2,806,100	3,524,175
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	5,832,150

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security, and U.S. Census Bureau.
* Revised 1990 Census population figure (original 1,666)

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The two communities are basically residential areas with heavy emphasis on resort-style living. Tourism contributes largely to the area economy. A substantial number of retail and commercial establishments serve the residents of the communities.

County Employment	2004
Education & Health Svcs	168,600
Financial Activities	136,600
Government	204,700
Information	35,500
Leisure & Hospitality	157,200
Manufacturing	127,700
Mining & Construction	139,400
Other Services	6,300
Professional & Business Svcs	268,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	332,200

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Carefree and Cave Creek are communities so embroidered into the surrounding landscape that it is difficult to determine where one begins and the other ends. Much of the natural scenery is spectacular, with massive piles of granite boulders, sharp mountains and an abundance of desert growth that thrives at the 2,200- to 2,700-foot altitude. Because of the low density development, residents share the area with deer, bobcats, cardinals, coyotes, javelinas, coveys of quail and an occasional mountain lion.

The area's man-made attractions include many unique homes perched on the mountains; Carefree Conference Resort, renowned for its facilities; Carefree Sundial, the largest and most accurate in the Western Hemisphere; the huge Kachina doll at Tonto Hills; Frontier Town, a recreation of an Old West town; and Cave Creek Museum, one of the best in Arizona.

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2004
Carefree Civilian Labor Force	720	1,065	1,196
Unemployment	42	28	46
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	2.6%	3.8%
Cave Creek Civilian Labor Force	1,586	2,376	2,656
Unemployment	57	37	62
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	1.6%	2.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	2000	2004
New Building Permits (Carefree)	N/A	186	289
(Cave Creek)	53*	338	201
Taxable Sales (\$) (Carefree)	N/A	95,266,000	85,876,200
(Cave Creek)	N/A	88,632,500	111,733,840
Net Assessed			
Valuation (\$) (Carefree)	45,104,550	79,934,552	125,526,983
(Cave Creek)	28,393,455	58,833,559	101,655,375

Sources: Arizona State University; Arizona Department of Revenue, Arizona Tax Research Foundation.
N/A: Data Not Available. NOTE: In 1990, the communities of Carefree and Cave Creek did not participate in the Arizona Dept. of Revenue Municipal Privilege Tax Collection Program.

In addition, there are a variety of places to shop. Los Portales Mall offers two levels of owner-operated shops, Spanish Village shopping center, which is modeled after a village in old Spain, the Easy Street shops offering an appealing mix of items; as well as an eclectic assortment of shops, bars and restaurants.

Scenic drives abound in the area. Black Mountain looms over the foothills from any vantage point. The Tonto National Forest borders the area on two sides with its untouched desert beauty. The Sonoran Desert south of Carefree, along Scottsdale Road, offers a wide variety of plant life and color. The best way to enjoy the "back country" is on foot, horseback, or jeep tour.

Nearby lakes at Bartlett Dam, Carl Pleasant Dam and the Verde River provide scenic areas for swimming, boating, water skiing, tubing and fishing.

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TAXES

Property Tax Rate*	1990	2000	2004
Elem/High School	5.14	5.76	3.58
City/Fire District*	0.00	0.00	0.00
County	3.51	3.35	3.09
Total	\$8.65	\$9.11	\$6.67

*Cave Creek has a City/Fire District rate of .64 in 2004.
Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation.

Sales Tax Rate

City (Carefree)	3.00%
Cave Creek	2.50%
County	0.70%
State	5.60%

Sources: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Department of Revenue.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Carefree/Cave Creek offers a broad range of community and cultural facilities. There are two museums, a library, a fine arts center (on school campus), two parks, a retreat center, three golf courses and a lighted softball field.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	4	1
High School	1	0
Middle School	2	1

Financial

Number of banks: 6

Government Agencies

Fire Department: Rural/Metro Fire Dept.

Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

Airports

Residents use the Carefree Airport which has a lighted 4,100-foot runway and is private.

Medical

24-hour medical center, extensive care.

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

The area offers one hotel with 16 rooms and seven suites; two resorts, one with 160 casitas and meeting space for 550, the other with 249 rooms and meeting space for 1,000; plus nine bed & breakfasts.

Industrial Properties

For more information contact the Carefree/Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce or the Town of Carefree.

Utilities

Electricity:	APS (statewide)	800.253.5405
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas	602.861.1999
Sewer:	Black Mountain Sewer Co.	480.575.7303
	Cave Creek Sewer Company	480.488.1400
Telephone:	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water:	Carefree Water Company	480.488.9100
	Cave Creek Water Company	480.488.3331

Cable Providers: Yes	Cable Internet Service: No
Digital Switching Station: Yes	Fiber Optics: Yes
Internet Service Provider: Yes	

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	40.5	63.5	1.37
February	42.9	66.7	1.41
March	46.5	71.3	1.72
April	51.5	79.5	0.62
May	60.4	89.8	0.14
June	68.7	98.2	0.14
July	75.5	101.7	1.18
August	74.8	99.8	1.64
September	69.4	94.6	1.08
October	59.5	84.2	1.17
November	47.9	71.2	1.05
December	40.5	62.8	1.44
Yearly Avg.	56.5	82.8	12.97

Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu. Period of record 1962-2004.
Average Total Snowfall .01". Nearest data available from Carefree, AZ.

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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