

# Visitors' Guide

**W**hen the Phoenix temperature drops below 90 degrees and the rest of the country is frozen and buried in snow, the thoughts of part-time residents and would-be visitors turn to Arizona as a Xanadu of blue skies and mild temperatures.

They're right. I can't think of a better place to spend the winter (and I use that term loosely) than Arizona. While my relatives in Michigan scrape ice off their windshields and pile their beds high with electric blankets, I can wear T-shirts well into December and have no use whatsoever for snow boots.

For the fortunate folks who get to take a break from the cold, cloudy skies of the rest of the country, we present our Jewish News of Greater Phoenix Visitors' Guide. In it, you'll find the Best of Jewish Phoenix, a fantastic guide to some of the city's best eating, drinking, shopping and more. You'll also get some suggestions on what to do and see in downtown Phoenix, a tourist-neglected part of town that nonetheless can be the setting for a wonderful day out. Finally, athletic types can read about renting equipment in order to participate in the many outdoor activities Arizona has to offer.

I hope that visitors and non-visitors alike will use some of the suggestions in this guide to make their Arizona experience more fulfilling. As a Midwest transplant who has spent half her life here and essentially "gone native," I can assure you that Arizona is a place of beauty and excitement — it's up to you to take advantage of it.

*Jennifer Goldberg*

Jennifer Goldberg  
Special Sections Coordinator

The Visitors' Guide is a special section of Jewish News of Greater Phoenix. Edited by Jennifer Goldberg, designed by Phyllis Brutcher. For additional copies and advertising information, contact Flo Eckstein, 602-870-9470.

On our cover: Arizona is a land of desert beauty. Photo is by Jennifer Johnston, courtesy of the Desert Botanical Gardens.

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# BEST OF JEWISH PHOENIX

Phoenix is a big city, and finding the best of everything can be daunting for even a long-time resident. To help our readers get the most out of their time in the Valley, we've compiled the Best of Jewish Phoenix, The Sequel. Read on to discover reader-to-reader advice on the best shopping, restaurants, activities, religious services and more.

## Eating & Drinking

Best selection of kosher wines:

### Trader Joe's

eight Valley locations

This alternative grocery store maintains a great selection of kosher wines from around the world. After picking up a few bottles, keep shopping for organic produce and dairy products, top-quality meat and fish, and gourmet treats of all kinds.

Best place to stock up for  
Passover:

### Segal's Kosher Foods

4818 N. Seventh St.  
Phoenix • 602-285-1515

A Phoenix institution for more than 35 years, Segal's is truly one-stop shopping for kosher food needs. In addition to a well-stocked grocery store, a bakery and restaurant are also located on the premises. Catering is available.

Best kosher catering:

### Danziger Kosher Catering

12701 N. Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale • 480-659-9180

Danziger Kosher Catering was founded 40 years ago in Chicago. Today, the company has expanded to the Valley and provides exquisite cuisine for The Café at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center. The company runs its catering business out of the JCC and also provides food for private events.

Best corned beef sandwich:  
**Chompie's Delicatessen**

three Valley locations

No matter what anyone says, size matters, and Chompie's corned beef sandwich wins Best of Jewish Phoenix for its massive girth and delicious taste. Choose from a variety of breads and side items to make your sandwich the perfect meal.

Best chocolate phosphate or  
egg cream:

### Scott's Generations

5539 N. Seventh St.  
Phoenix • 602-277-5662

These old-fashioned treats are getting harder to find, but you can still get a taste of the past at Scott's, a Central Phoenix deli. While you're there, make sure to enjoy Scott's menu of delicious sandwiches, soups, desserts and more.

Best selection of Dr. Brown's  
sodas:

### Miracle Mile Deli

three Valley locations

Black cherry, cream soda, orange, celery... Dr. Brown's sodas have been popular for over a century, yet they can be somewhat hard to find in the middle of the desert. Miracle Mile Delis, however, are a great place to sit down for some carbonated kosher refreshment.

The Chompie's at 32nd Street  
and Greenway Road in Phoenix  
is a perennial Valley favorite.

*Photo by Jennifer Goldberg*





Photos by Jennifer Goldberg

**Best bagels:**

**Einstein Bros. Bagels**

numerous Valley locations

Einstein Bros. wins Best of Jewish Phoenix this year for their delectable selection of bagels and cream cheeses. Choose from cinnamon raisin swirl, sun-dried tomato, onion, blueberry, pumpernickel and more, as well as cream cheeses including garden veggie, strawberry and onion and chive.

**Best knish:**

**Chompie's**

three Valley locations

Warm oven-baked knishes are a treat at this New York-style deli. Try a Coney Island-style knish, or a potato, veggie, kasha or meat-filled one.

**Best marble rye:**

**Karsh's Bakery**

5539 N. Seventh St.  
Phoenix • 602-264-4874

Pick up a loaf of savory marble rye as well as cookies, cakes and other baked goods. The smell when you walk in the door is enough to start your stomach growling.

**Best kosher hot dog:**

**Costco**

10 Valley locations

Believe it or not, the best place in town to chow down on a kosher dog is at the popular warehouse store chain. A warm Hebrew National is the perfect end to a bulk shopping trip.

**Best kosher desserts:**

**Cookies Amour**

1341 E. Northern Ave.  
Phoenix • 602-944-6789

Fresh-baked kosher cookies and other treats from Cookies Amour are a delight for anyone longing to indulge a sweet tooth. Varieties include oatmeal spice, snicker-doodles, chocolate chunk, peanut butter chocolate chip, macaroons and brownies.

**Best matzo ball soup:**

**Chompie's**

three Valley locations

When it comes to good taste and warm comfort, few things are better than a big bowl of matzo ball soup. The Chompie's variety is served in hearty portions. Try their Mish-Mosh chicken soup, which comes with noodles, matzo balls, carrots and krepelach.

**Best challah:**

**Arizona Bread Company**

five Valley locations

Our readers say this family-owned artisan bakery produces the best challah in town. Try the original or the round raisin variety. In addition to challah, the company produces a wide range of gourmet breads and offers light and healthful meals.

**Best deli platter:**

**Chompie's**

three Valley locations

When it's time to have company over, Chompie's does it with style with a variety of top-quality meats and more. Pair the cold cuts with some of Chompie's many varieties of bread for sandwiches that taste like heaven.

**Best breakfast:**

**The Good Egg**

11 Valley locations

It's the most important meal of the day, so why not try breakfast at this perennial Valley favorite? Choose from mouth-watering breakfast skilletts, omelets, frittatas, pancakes and more.

**Best restaurant for kids:**

**5 & Diner**

nine Valley locations

With its bright décor, tableside jukeboxes and simple, tasty food, 5 & Diner is a fun night out for kids and their parents. Finish up a meal with a hearty milkshake — they're a 5 & Diner specialty.

**Best steakhouse:**

**Ruth's Chris Steakhouse**

two Valley locations

This is the steakhouse that devoted carnivores dream of. Ruth's Chris serves perfectly executed steaks with a variety of delicious sides including garlic mashed potatoes and sautéed mushrooms.

**Best Chinese restaurant:**

**P.F. Chang's China Bistro**

five Valley locations

The readers of Jewish News love P.F. Chang's and its delicious dishes served family-style. Start with an appetizer of hot and sour soup or spring rolls, then move onto culinary delights like ginger chicken with broccoli or Mongolian beef.

**Best New York-style pizza:**

**NYPD Pizza**

five Valley locations

It's an offer you can't refuse. NYPD Pizza offers traditional New York-style thin crust pizza at reasonable prices. If pizza isn't what you want, the menu includes soups, salads, calzones and sandwiches.



NYPD Pizza in Scottsdale offers East Coast fare at affordable prices.

**Best Sunday brunch:**

**Casino Arizona**

524 N. 92nd St.  
Scottsdale • 480-850-7777

Who needs Las Vegas when blackjack, poker and buffets are right in your own backyard? The Sunday brunch at Casino Arizona offers a wide range of favorites for a reasonable price.

**Best Israeli or Middle Eastern food:**

## **Sabuddy Israeli Restaurant**

825 W. University Drive  
Tempe • 480-894-8387

Visit Sabuddy for delicious and inexpensive cuisine. Middle Eastern favorites such as baba ghanouj share menu space with European treats like schnitzel and goulash. Whatever you choose, it's a safe bet you'll be back for more.

**Best place to splurge on dinner:**

## **T. Cook's, Royal Palms Resort**

5200 E. Camelback Road  
Phoenix • 602-840-3610

Voted the top restaurant in Phoenix by Food & Wine Magazine, T. Cook's is a truly unforgettable dining experience. The luxurious atmosphere is echoed in the sumptuous dishes, which include caramelized leek and tomato ravioli, grilled beef tenderloin and seared duck breast.

## **Living**

**Best "come as you are" Friday night service:**

### **Temple Chai**

4645 E. Marilyn Road  
Phoenix • 602-971-1234

The point of this worship service is not how you appear, but what you can add to *tefilah* (prayer). The music invites participation and the moments of silence provide times for reflection. And maybe, just maybe, there will be dancing in the aisles.

**Best kid-friendly Friday night service:**

### **Temple Chai**

4645 E. Marilyn Road  
Phoenix • 602-971-1234

The service is early enough to pray as a family and still get home before bedtime. With the singing loud enough, children "being children" will not detract from the service. Also, children and adults alike can get caught up in the music.

**Most creative Friday night service:**

### **Raw Kaballah**

Beth El Congregation  
4118 W. Glendale Ave.  
Phoenix • 602-944-3359

Appetizers, onegs with creative themes and a worship service accompanied by a live band makes this Shabbat service for young adults a great place to see old friends and make new ones (and it'll make parents happy that their kids are finally doing something Jewish).



**Best place to buy bar and bat mitzvah clothing:**

### **Nordstrom's**

Scottsdale Fashion Square  
7055 E. Camelback Road  
Scottsdale • 480-946-4111

Top-quality clothes for kids are available at this upscale department store. You'll find beautiful outfits for that special day.

### **Best bridal shop: David's Bridal**

three valley locations

Don't trust bridal and bridesmaids' gowns to just anyone. David's Bridal has a reputation for beautiful merchandise. They have locations all over the country, which simplifies arrangements for out-of-town bridesmaids.

**Best place to buy a baby gift:**

### **Target**

numerous Valley locations

It's a no-brainer. From toys to books to clothes to diapers, Target is one-stop shopping for all a baby's needs.

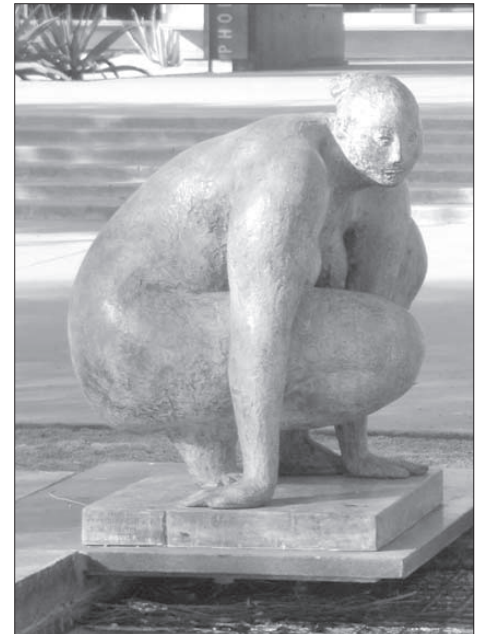


**Best hotel for out-of-town guests:**

### **Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa**

2400 E. Missouri Ave.  
Phoenix • 602-955-6600

The Arizona Biltmore will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year, and for good reason. The resort provides world-class accommodations and service in a breathtaking desert setting. The Sunday Champagne Brunch is a local favorite.



Photos by Jennifer Goldberg

**Best museum:**

### **Phoenix Art Museum**

1625 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix • 602-257-1222

The Phoenix Art Museum is the premier place in the Valley to appreciate world-class sculpture, paintings, pottery, clothing and more. Admission to all but the special exhibitions is free on Thursdays.

**Best place to see a play:**

### **Grady Gammage Auditorium**

Arizona State University  
Tempe • 480-965-3434

This striking building is a Frank Lloyd Wright design and routinely stages the most popular theater events such as "The Producers" and "Les Miserables." The hustle and bustle of nearby Mill Avenue make the theater an ideal spot for a night out.

## Best place to meet for coffee: Coffee Plantation

Biltmore Fashion Park  
2468 E. Camelback Road  
Phoenix • 602-553-0203

The central location and beautiful surroundings of the Coffee Plantation at Biltmore Fashion Park make it a popular meeting spot for old and new friends. Take a break from shopping to sit on the patio with a cup of java and watch the world go by.



Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

## Best spa: Spa at Camelback Inn

5402 E. Lincoln Drive  
Scottsdale  
480-596-7040

Get pampered at the Spa at Camelback Inn. Nestled in the heart of the five star, five-diamond resort, the spa has been recognized as one of the top 100 spas in the world. Visitors can get facials or massages, have their hair done, work out with a personal trainer, or dine at the spa's restaurant, Sprouts.

## Best fitness center: Valley of the Sun JCC

12701 N. Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale • 480-483-7121

The fitness center at the VOSJCC offers state-of-the-art exercise equipment as well as access to swimming pools, racquetball, exercise classes and personal trainers.

## Best trail for a morning hike: Squaw Peak

An early-morning mountain hike is a favorite Phoenix way to start the day. Squaw Peak offers trails, picnic areas and gorgeous city views.

## Best shopping mall: Scottsdale Fashion Square

7014 E. Camelback Road  
Scottsdale

This centrally located mall holds the best of the best in Valley shopping, including Kenneth Cole, Crate and Barrel, Tiffany & Co., and more than 100 more. When you're done walking around, eat at one of the many great restaurants, including Kona Grill, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, and Nick and Tony's.

Photo by Jennifer Goldberg

## Best day trip destination: Sedona

A two-hour drive from the Valley lands you squarely in the middle of some of the most beautiful scenery on Earth. Let the majesty of the red rock be a backdrop as you visit the art galleries, shops and hiking trails that Sedona offers.

## Best Judaica store: Israel Connection

5539 N. Seventh St.  
Phoenix • 602-265-6606

Israel Connection in Phoenix has plenty of everything to satisfy the needs of the Phoenician Jewish population. Books, gifts, cards, menorahs and much, much more occupy the shelves. If shopping makes you hungry, stop next door at Scott's Generations for a nosh.

## Best library: Scottsdale Civic Center

3839 Civic Center Blvd.  
Scottsdale • 480-312-2476

Located in the heart of downtown Scottsdale, the Civic Center Library is a beautiful and peaceful place to while away an afternoon. Settle down in front of the enormous windows that face Civic Center Park, browse through the library store, or read with the kids in the elaborate forest- and castle-themed children's room.

## Best indoor place to have fun with the kids: Makutu's Island

6919 W. Ray Road  
Chandler • 480-893-0106

This indoor playplace is heaven on Earth to rambunctious kids and their parents. There are



playground areas, a video arcade, a theater, a café and even special play areas for toddlers and young children. The affordable admission price makes Makutu's Island an ideal place to take the little ones.



Photo courtesy of Phoenix Zoo

## Best outdoor place to have fun with the kids: Phoenix Zoo

455 N. Galvin Parkway  
Phoenix • 602-273-1341

The pathways of the Phoenix Zoo are loved by children of all ages. Take an afternoon to stare at and learn about animal species from all over the globe.

## Best place to feel like a native Phoenician: Desert Botanical Gardens

1201 N. Galvin Parkway  
Phoenix • 480-941-1225

Frolic among the cacti and the desert wildlife at this one-of-a-kind Valley attraction. The rare flora and fauna will captivate you and have you feeling at home in no time.

## Meeting people:

## Best place to meet Jewish singles under 40: YLD programs

Although the Young Leadership Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix is for singles and couples, the variety of programming — from social and educational to community service and leadership building — provides a good way to meet people with similar interests.

**Best place to meet Jewish singles over 40:  
Valley of the Sun JCC events**

12701 N. Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale • 480-483-7121

Like a good matchmaker, the VOSJCC provides numerous monthly opportunities for singles to meet and mingle. Call for information on activities.

**Best bar for happy hour:  
Kona Grill**

two Valley locations

While practically every bar has happy hour specials, at Kona Grill patrons get discounted prices on truly delicious fare such as strawberry margaritas, sushi and gourmet pizzas. The patio at the Fashion Square location is a great place to relax after a long day's work.

**Best place to get engaged:  
Compass Restaurant**

Hyatt Regency,  
Phoenix • 602-440-3166

This revolving restaurant at the top of downtown Phoenix's premier hotels is an elegant and romantic place to pop the question. Enjoy gourmet food and a comprehensive wine list while admiring the city lights of the Valley of the Sun.

**Best bar for mingling:  
Casey Moore's Oyster House at Ninth and Ash**

850 S. Ash Ave.  
Tempe • 480-968-9935

Casey Moore's at night provides an endless stream of interesting people to meet. From stockbrokers to Arizona State professors to musicians, you never know who's sitting next to you at the bar.



Photos by Jennifer Goldberg

**Best place to people-watch:  
Mill Avenue, Tempe**

On any night and especially on the weekends, Mill Avenue from University Drive to Rio Salado Parkway is a bustling center of Valley life. People of all ages walk the tree-lined street to shop, eat, drink, and to see and be seen.

**Best bar for a trendy night out:  
Kazimirez World Wine Bar**

7137 E. Stetson Drive  
Scottsdale • 480-946-3004

Like any hip nightspot, this wine bar can be difficult to find, but the search is worth the results. Plush couches and a swank, sophisticated atmosphere provide a backdrop for one of the best wine lists in the city. Gourmet noshes such as exotic cheese platters and mini-pizzas are also available.

**Best dance club:  
Axis/Radius**

7340 E. Indian Plaza  
Scottsdale • 480-970-1112

Scottsdale clubs come and go, but Axis/Radius has been consistently popular with locals, visitors and celebrities for several years. Dress to impress and expect a large cover (by Arizona standards), but it's worth it.



# Exploring downtown Phoenix

JENNIFER GOLDBERG  
Staff Writer

**T**here's so much to do in the Valley of the Sun that tourists and residents often forget to explore and enjoy the heart of the city. Downtown Phoenix offers activities that can't be found anywhere else in town, as well as shopping, restaurants, museums and more.

Whether you're a visitor or just a resident who hasn't been downtown in a while, try some of the following suggestions and discover what the city has to offer.

## Attractions:

### Bank One Ballpark

401 E. Jefferson St.  
602-462-6000

The baseball season is only six months long, but visitors can explore Bank One Ballpark all year long. Tours of the BOB are offered several times each day for curious baseball fans. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the visiting team's clubhouse, the Diamondbacks dugout, the swimming pool, the memorabilia section and more. Tours cost \$6 for adults. After the tour, eat at the Friday's Front Row Grill that hangs over the left-field bleachers for a bird's eye view of the park.

### Arizona Science Center

600 E. Washington St.  
602-716-2000

The exhibits at the Arizona Science Center are designed for children to understand and learn from, but adults are just as fascinated. Five themed galleries teach visitors about the wonders of the human body, light and color, networking, the human mind, and the properties of physics. Dragon Bones, the center's current major exhibition, features reconstructions and actual dinosaur bones from the Mesozoic era and will close on April 11. After you're done exploring, the Awesome Atom's gift shop has many science- and nature-themed products.



Photos by Jennifer Goldberg

### Heard Museum

2301 N. Central Ave.  
602-252-8848

The Heard Museum is a Southwestern treasure; 35,000 pieces of Native American art from regional tribes, indigenous art from all over the globe, and Spanish and Hispanic art. The Heard Museum is also recognized for its cultural festivals and its superb museum shop, which features many one-of-a-kind and hand-made items including pottery, baskets and jewelry.

## Restaurants:

### Pizzeria Bianco

623 E. Adams St.  
602-258-8300

Owner Chris Bianco has developed a loyal following by creating unbelievably good pizzas made with the freshest ingredients. This charming restaurant comprises the main restaurant and an adjacent wine bar for dining or waiting for a table. After dinner, stroll around Heritage Square, a unique area bordered by Pizzeria Bianco, the Arizona Science Center, the Phoenix Museum of History and more.

### Duck and Decanter

1 N. Central Ave.  
602-266-6637

Sightseeing is hard work, and Duck and Decanter in the heart of downtown is a delicious way to stop for a break. A combination restaurant, catering company and gourmet shop, D & D's specialty is its large deli sandwiches made with top-quality ingredients. Save time to browse through the extensive cheese department and impressive wine section.

## Shopping:

### Arizona Center

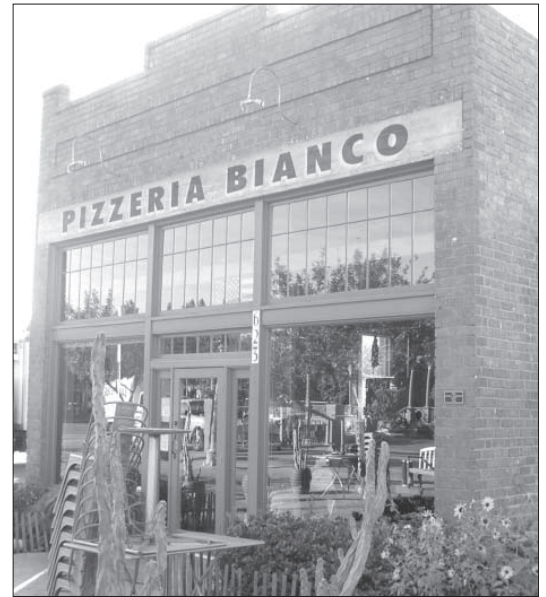
400 E. Van Buren St.  
602-271-4000

As the only true shopping center in downtown Phoenix, the Arizona Center draws many people to its outdoor combination of shops, restaurants, bars and 24-screen movie theater. Several of the shops feature Southwestern merchandise.

### Hard Rock Café

3 S. Second St., #117  
602-261-7625

The Phoenix branch of the legendary rock restaurant is a stone's throw away from Bank One Ballpark. Hard Rock Café has souvenir merchandise for all ages and price ranges. Choose from leather jackets, shot glasses, teddy bears, T-shirts, pins and more.



### Phoenix Art Museum Shop

1625 N. Central Ave.  
602-257-2182

The shop at the Phoenix Art Museum features lovely and unique home accessories, scarves and jewelry as well as a range of merchandise featuring pieces from the museum's collection. A selection of art books touches on Western and world art and the special exhibitions that have visited the museum.



Photo courtesy of JoBeth Jamison

# Gearing up for winter!

## Renting for outdoor recreation

**JOBETH JAMISON**  
Special to Jewish News

**T**hough it's impossible to say with a straight face, winter has come to the Valley. While the rest of the country is wrapping up in wool and goose-down, Phoenicians are pulling sweatshirts over their bathing suits and only turning on the AC in the late afternoon. It's time to lap up the sweet cream of the great outdoors. It's time to tackle that list of outside fun before thermonuclear temperatures force you back in. But, with the holidays in full swing and time and money being in short supply, *how* can you manage all of your recreational goals?

It's a common misconception that, in order to have the best of anything, you have to buy it. (It's a particularly marketable misconception around the holidays.) The truth is that you can get the best of many worlds, from hiking to biking, skiing to skating, hunting to fishing, etc., just by moving from the retail line to the rental sign. It's not just for tourists anymore.

### The benefits of borrowing:

Advances in sport creation and technology over decades past seemingly parallel that of computer technology. One day you spend your life savings on the latest model of skis or golf clubs and the next day they're obsolete. If you are devoted to a specific sport and constantly use the equipment, your purchase is probably a worthwhile investment. But, if your ambition tends to be all over the

map, those purchases can pile up — not only in cost but also in the space they consume. Renting can raise spending options and lower the pressure to build another garage.

While rental places usually offer basic lines of equipment, some offer a veritable gold mine of brand new, cutting edge gear. Fierce competition means manufacturers will try any number of ways to get their product into the hands of the consumer and put their word-of-mouth advertising to work. One of their most effective strategies is introducing new products to the renting public in the form of "demos," says Salomon sales rep Andy Kropp. This not only enables consumers to sample before they buy, it allows infrequent aficionados of a sport to enjoy the best it has to offer, even if it's just for one day.

With demos and rentals come instructions. While a salesperson might be willing to tell you (or avoid telling you) anything to make a sale, a good and reputable rental facility wants their equipment and renters to come back in one piece. If you're honest with them about your level of skill in a given area, they will be honest with you about the limitations of the gear and give you a comprehensive walk-through of whatever you intend to walk out with. They can also save you time by anticipating and pre-empting needs that may not occur to you as well as offer recommendations on where to best enjoy the equipment.

### What to do:

What *can't* you do? There aren't many places in

this country where you can snowboard, fish, rollerblade, rock climb, cross-country ski, mountain-bike, jet-ski and scuba dive all in the same season. Yes, even marine recreation is still a going

concern. Mary, a spokeswoman for the El Mar Diving Center in Mesa, says even though the water is colder, there are still great places nearby to dive and snorkel.

"You see different things in the winter," she says, citing examples of whale and squid near San Carlos, Mexico. She also says that visibility is better in many places.

Though some river operations are now closed until spring, you can take up kayaking. Local instructor Jay Williams, better known as "Kayak Jay," chuckles at the thought of shutting down for the winter. The Midwest native states, "In Minnesota, this a scorcher," and adds with a chuckle that, "Kayaking started in Alaska."

### Where to rent:

There are dozens of ways to get out and get to know this great state and there dozens more facilities that provide the means to do so, but, like anything, it's best to shop around. First, decide what you want to do. Then do some research — either through friends, the Internet, the phone book or all of the above. Try researching your activity by name instead of looking up rental businesses. Many places, like ski resorts, diving centers, and bike shops, are part of a larger



*Photos courtesy of JoBeth Jamison*

business that covers rentals and retail as well as instruction and guided tours or trips. To start, the Web site [www.azlife.net/Recreation](http://www.azlife.net/Recreation) is a very useful directory for a long list of activities statewide.

**Tips:**

- For Arizona snow sport resorts (especially Sunrise) or even when driving elsewhere, try renting your equipment in the Valley and then taking it with you. At the resorts, the demand on good snow days is high, the lines can be unbearable and demos will likely be gone.
- For golfers, most country clubs rent golf equipment but the demos are driver clubs that are generally limited for use on the driving range.
- If you want to take up diving, it's recommended to purchase a mask and snorkel and fins, though they can be rented at some places.
- For jet-ski or marine craft rentals, make sure you have access to a vehicle with a secure trailer hitch.
- For kayaking, Kayak Jay recommends renting a "sit-on-top" kayak for beginners (one less prone to tipping), especially in the cooler months.
- The best tip is to research any place you rent from. If you encounter battered or dirty equipment or sloppy salespeople who can't answer your questions, go with your instincts and go somewhere else.

*Jobeth Jamison is a free-lance writer based in Phoenix.*

