

Four Arizona cities make list of best places to live

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Pack your bags, Relocate-America has released it's list of America's Top 100 Places to Live for 2007 and Phoenix is not on the list.

Four Arizona cities made the cut, but the only hot spot in the metro area is Surprise. Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Sierra Vista also made the list.

The list is compiled based on nominations submitted throughout the year. Those nominations, along with data on education, employment, economy, crime, parks, recreation and housing are reviewed by Relocate-America's editorial team to make the final determination.

Surprise, Arizona

Founded in 1938, Surprise was just a sleepy square-mile farming community when it incorporated in 1960. Today, it's one of the nation's fastest growing cities with a new home completed almost every hour. But Surprise is about more than just bricks and stucco; we're striving to build a community beyond expectations - a place to call home for a lifetime.



At its center is our 2002 dream-come-true: The 132-acre Surprise Recreation Campus featuring the 10,562-seat Surprise Stadium , a regional library , state-of-the-art aquatic center , recreation center and 37-acre park with urban fishing lake. Known to visitors as the Cactus League Spring Training home of the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers, residents know it as the year-round site of a vibrant youth sports program and some spectacular special events.

Next in the line-up: DreamCatcher Park, a premiere sports complex for the mentally and physically challenged. It's the main philanthropic project of our 500-member-plus Surprise Sundancers (the smiling volunteers in the yellow shirts who keep the events at Surprise Stadium running smoothly), as well as our City.

I hope you'll take advantage of all Surprise has to offer: Hike to a rare desert waterfall in the nearby White Tank Mountains, discover a world of art at the West Valley Art Museum, or enjoy a round of golf on one of our eight scenic courses. Just in time for Thanksgiving 2005, a 16-screen theater complex will be opening, along with a satellite location for the Heard Museum, one of the world's premier purveyors of Indian artifacts and Southwestern history.

The City's sprawling new 180-acre recreation campus at Surprise Center features a 10,562 square foot Aquatic Center, a 23,000 square foot regional library that overlooks a five-acre lake, a 13,500 square foot recreation center, a 37-acre community park and the 132-acre Spring Training facility for the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals.



Within a short distance of Surprise is Lake Pleasant, which offers boating, fishing, sailing, water skiing, swimming, camping and scenic boat tours offering food and beverages. Nearby desert settings encourage hiking, rock hounding, horseback riding or picnicking.

Golf is a year-round recreational activity in the area, and the City of Surprise offers eight beautiful public golf courses. There are many other golf courses within a 30-minute drive, some being hosts to PGA and LPGA events.

Cultural opportunities abound in the area. The ASU Sundome Center for the Performing Arts is located in nearby Sun City West. The Sundome is host to well known, popular entertainers, as well as national and international traveling shows. The Sun Bowl in Sun City is about a 10-minute drive and provides a beautiful outdoor setting for concerts. The amphitheater hosts performances by international and local performers.

We have a great start on creating a city 'beyond expectations' and we don't plan on settling for the status quo ever.