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Set Your Sights on Scottsdale's Stellar Skies



June 1, 2005

With vast open skies offering plenty of stargazing opportunities, Scottsdale is a stellar site for celestial activities. Visitors can partake in a variety from one-on-one viewings with astronomers to guided night-vision hikes in the desert. And, it's not just astronomers looking to the stars. Several Scottsdale features on-staff astrologers ready to align the planets and give guests a glimpse of the future.

Jewels in the Desert

Guests at The Boulders Resort, Marriott's Camelback Inn and the Four Seasons Resort at Troon North can experience Sky Jewels™ by contacting their desks. Sky Jewels™, a local stargazing program, offers one- and two-night astronomy tours that change as often as the night sky. Depending on the year, guests can locate Jupiter, Saturn, the Orion Nebula, Mars, and other celestial sights. Astronomer Richard Allen hosts all sessions using state-of-the-art star charts, and he tells awe-inspiring stories about the heavens above. www.gemland.com

Stargazing in the Sonoran Desert

What better way to experience Scottsdale's starry nights than on a Hummer excursion through the Sonoran Desert. Offered by Stellar Adventures, this hour tour leaves at dusk and takes guests on a memorable experience through desert landscapes on the way to a remote observation area. An astronomer points out constellations and celestial wonders. www.stellaradventures.com.

Desert Storm Hummer Tours also takes the night sky by storm. Their tour is a sunset ride into the Four Peaks Mountains and as night falls the Hummer ascends to 4,000 feet above sea level, far from city lights. Using the latest field expert guides walk guests through the universe seeing the planets, moons, and fantastic star systems. The tour continues with a rock climb in the Hummer. Gen III military night-vision goggles allowing guests to see incredible wildlife in complete darkness. www.dshummer.com/nightstorm.htm

Nighttime Fun at Scottsdale Resorts

Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North offers telescopes in the constellation charts as their turn-down amenity. In addition, Astronomer Richard Allen conducts weekly star-gazing sessions for guests. www.fourseasons.com/scottsdale

Guests at The Boulders can sign up for guided night-vision hikes through the desert surroundings. Using high-tech Gen III military night-vision goggles, guests are given an intimate view of the Sonoran Desert at night including a char

wildlife! Coyotes, javelina, and jackrabbits are known to roam the property. Turning the black sky into hues of yellow and green, the night-vision tour includes commentary on the desert flora and fauna. www.wyndham.com

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Toes

Your feet say a lot more than just "oh these shoes are tight". Guests at CopperWynd Resort & Club can learn about their past, present and future with a ScenTao Total Body Treatment and Life Direction Toe Reading. The session incorporates a combination of personality profiling, ScenTao art. Performed by experienced therapist, Marie Bernat, toe reading provides insight into why their toes curl in, why there are lines on your big toe, what each toe means when one toe touches another. Guests marvel at the insight given by their toes and Bernat's recommendations for a new direction. www.copperwynd.com

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It's in the Stars

The Phoenician's Centre for Well-Being has an on-site spiritual guide to help with introspective rituals and astrology readings. Guests can gain insight in their present and future by having their astrological chart calculated from their birth time and place. Sessions are 80-minutes and provide a powerful tool for self-understanding and personal development. www.centreforwellbeing.com

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