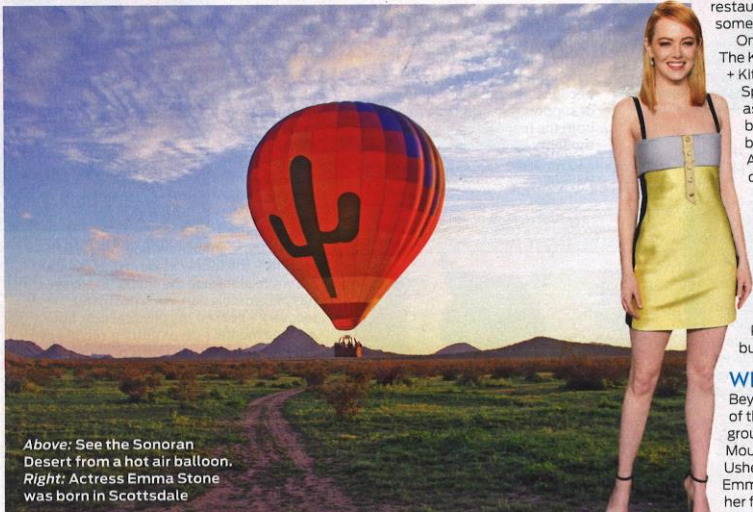


GREAT SCOTTSDALE!

OK! EXPLORES BREATHTAKING ARIZONA



Above: See the Sonoran Desert from a hot air balloon. Right: Actress Emma Stone was born in Scottsdale

WHERE CAN I EAT?

Brussels sprouts may not be everyone's favourite vegetable, but in Scottsdale you'll find them a menu staple. OK! loved the Brussels sprout nachos at Diego Pops, a colourful, quirky eatery featuring neon signs and serving Mexican fare with a modern twist in the Old Town. Vegetarians will love FnB, a buzzy farm-to-table gastro pub. We tucked into Tuscan kale falafel, while the restaurant's co-owner Pavle Milic let us try some of the local wines that they serve.

One of the coolest places OK! dined was at The Kitchen Table in the Weft & Warp Art Bar + Kitchen at the Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa. Set within a glass box, we watched as our inventive dishes were prepared, before tucking into blue cornbread, wheat berry risotto and mesquite chocolate tart. Afterwards we enjoyed a smoke-infused cocktail at the fire pit by the resort's pool.

For a truly special evening, dine under the stars at Elements at the Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort. Celebrity chef Beau MacMillan has cooked for Beyoncé and Jay Z, and highlights from the American-Asian menu included the hoisin-braised short ribs, burnt end mac and cheese and the PB Bombe – a mouth-watering peanut butter creation.

WHICH STARS WILL I SEE?

Beyoncé and Jay Z honeymooned in one of the eight private homes set in the lush grounds of the Sanctuary Camelback Mountain, where Adele, Britney Spears and Usher have also stayed. *La La Land* actress Emma Stone was born in Scottsdale and her family home overlooked the Camelback

Golf Course. A good place to star spot is at the upmarket Scottsdale Fashion Square, where Jennifer Aniston, Selena Gomez and Sarah Jessica Parker have all been seen. Label lovers will enjoy shopping at the likes of Macy's, Tiffany & Co, Gucci and Tory

Burch. You may also spot celebrities browsing the rails at the boutiques in the Scottsdale Quarter or Kierland Commons.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Arizona Outback Adventures offer kayak safaris on the lower stretches of the 200-mile Salt River, as well as mountain biking, river rafting and tubing excursions. OK! loved our two-hour kayaking trip as we paddled gently along the river, soaking up the beautiful scenery.

The most magical way to view the spectacular Sonoran Desert is from above in a hot air balloon. OK! headed up with Hot Air Expeditions and floated across the skies, taking in the breathtaking scenery as the sun rose. It was so peaceful you could hear a pin drop. The romance of the moment spurred one couple to get engaged, and we were able to toast their good news at the champagne breakfast that ended the trip!



Dine at The Kitchen Table at the Weft & Warp Art Bar + Kitchen at the Andaz

Arizona is renowned for its breathtaking geological contrasts, with the mind-blowing Grand Canyon and the dramatic red rocks of Sedona among its top visitor attractions. The southern American state, which shares a border with Mexico, offers plenty of outdoor adventures, such as hot air balloon rides, horse trekking and river rafting, in the cactus-studded deserts and national parks. As OK!'s Kirsty Hatcher discovered, you'll also find plenty of luxury golf and spa resorts and upscale shopping malls in the cosmopolitan city Scottsdale, which sits adjacent to the state capital Phoenix.

WHERE CAN I STAY?

Nestled in Paradise Valley, just a few miles from downtown Scottsdale, Mountain Shadows is a mid-century desert landmark that underwent a top-to-toe renovation, reopening recently with

a retro '50s vibe. Overlooking the hotel's golf course, OK!'s contemporary room featured floor-to-ceiling windows offering beautiful views of Camelback Mountain. We loved making drinks from the in-room cocktail cart and watching the sun set from our patio. The stunning granite and red sandstone mountains are the star attraction and you can admire them from either of the two pools or the rooftop bar.

Elsewhere, nestled in Scottsdale's historic Arts District, the effortlessly cool Hotel Valley Ho would sit perfectly in an episode of *Mad Men*. The 193-room '50s hotel boasts an illustrious guest book including Marilyn Monroe, Bing Crosby, Zsa Zsa Gabor and, more recently, Drake, Hugh Jackman and Katy Perry. Our modern Tower Suite featured a kitchen, walk-in wardrobe and views of Camelback Mountain. OK! loved the martini olive-shaped pool and chill-out tunes from the resident DJ.



Enjoy rooftop drinks at Mountain Shadows in Paradise Valley



Above: Explore Scottsdale's stunning desert landscape. Below right: Take a dip in the martini olive-shaped pool at the Hotel Valley Ho

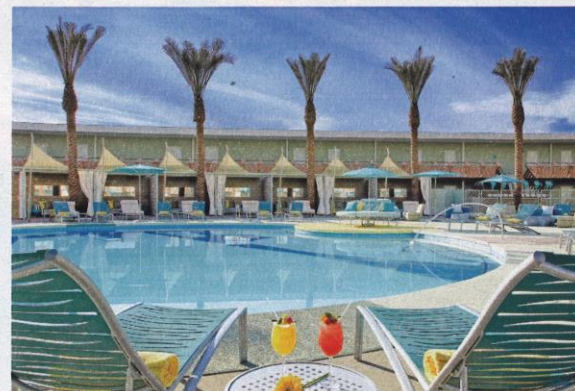
Hiking is a popular pastime and one of the best places to do this is on Camelback Mountain. As a beginner, OK! opted for the easier four-mile Gateway Loop Trail in the 30,000-acre McDowell Sonoran Preserve, where we marvelled at the different-shaped cacti and spotted wild deer and rabbits.

Scottsdale is renowned for both its mid-century architecture and hundreds of art galleries. The best way to learn more is to take the

free Scottsdale ArtWalk on Thursday evenings at 7pm.

After a hard day's sightseeing, retreat to the Palo Verde Spa & Apothecary at the Andaz. Many of the therapies use local botanicals, so guests can enjoy treatments such as Prickly Pear Body Therapy or the Cactus & Apple Stem Cell Facial. **OK!**

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ALAMY, ANDAZ SCOTTSDALE RESORT &
SPA, ARIZONA OUTBACK ADVENTURES,
GETTY IMAGES, HOT AIR EXPEDITIONS



HOW DO I GET THERE?

British Airways (www.ba.com) fly direct from London Heathrow to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport from £901 return. Price valid for travel in October.

Room rates at the five-star Andaz Scottsdale Resort & Spa (www.andaz.com) cost from £156; the five-star Mountain Shadows (www.mountainshadows.com) costs from £101 per night; and rates at the five-star Hotel Valley Ho (www.hotelvalleyho.com) start from £101. Price valid for travel in October 2018.

FOR MORE ON SCOTTSDALE, SEE WWW.EXPERIENCESCOTTSDALE.COM.

