

THE LOCAL COLLECTION / RELOCATION GUIDE

Scottsdale

Arizona, a little closer.

Old Town energy. Greenbelt connections. Sonoran Desert space.

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OCTOBER 2026

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Legacy Real Estate Team

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01 / GET ORIENTED

Picture your life in Scottsdale.

Scottsdale stretches across very different settings. A home near Old Town, a place along the central greenbelt, and a property near the northern desert can mean different commutes, maintenance needs, and daily habits. Use this guide to build a comparison around the way you actually live.

Define what Scottsdale means for you. Dining, trail access, room for guests, a shorter drive, or less home maintenance will each point the conversation in a different direction.

THREE USEFUL STARTING POINTS

Old Town and the Waterfront
Central Scottsdale and the greenbelt
North Scottsdale and the Preserve

INSIDE YOUR GUIDE

03 Areas to explore

04 Homes and questions to ask

05 Your daily routes

06 Schools and getting connected

07 Local life and recreation

08 Plan the whole monthly cost

09 Your moving playbook

10 Sources and photo credits

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02 / AREAS TO EXPLORE

A starting point for your shortlist.

These are broad areas for orientation, not school boundaries or a ranking of neighborhoods. Tour the properties and routes that fit your own priorities.

OLD TOWN AND THE WATERFRONT

Old Town combines arts, shopping, restaurants, and entertainment. The Arizona Canal is part of the Waterfront setting. Explore the district, then look closely at the streets around each potential home. [1]

On your visit: Check parking, evening activity, storage, outdoor space, and association responsibilities. A convenient location can come with a different noise or traffic pattern.

CENTRAL SCOTTSDALE AND THE GREENBELT

Use the Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt as an orientation point. It links parks, lakes, paths, and golf settings through the heart of Scottsdale. [2]

On your visit: Identify the actual public access point, the crossing between the property and the path, and any private community amenities that require separate access.

NORTH SCOTTSDALE AND THE PRESERVE

The McDowell Sonoran Preserve provides a network of desert trails and trailheads in northern Scottsdale. Homes in the broader area vary widely in their setting and distance from services. [3]

On your visit: Check legal trail access, road connections, upkeep, drainage, and the exact daily drive. A nearby preserve does not automatically mean a trail begins at the property.

SOUTH SCOTTSDALE

Include the southern part of the city when comparing trips toward Tempe, Phoenix, and Old Town. Explore individual blocks and the full property condition rather than choosing by a broad label.

On your visit: Ask about renovation history, the lot, street activity, and the route to your regular destinations. Confirm city services and school boundaries for the address. [4]

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03 / HOUSING

Compare the home behind the photos.

Use the same questions for each property so you can compare condition, responsibilities, and the full cost of ownership.

CONDOS AND TOWNHOMES

Compare dues, reserves, master insurance, planned projects, parking, and any leasing restrictions. Ask what the association maintains and what you would maintain yourself.

DETACHED HOMES AND REMODELS

Review roof and cooling-system history, plumbing, electrical changes, grading, and documentation for additions. The extent of a renovation matters more than the listing description.

GOLF AND GATED COMMUNITIES

Determine whether golf, recreation, and social memberships are included, optional, separate, or unavailable. Request the actual terms and fees for the property you are considering.

DESERT AND LARGER-LOT SETTINGS

Investigate access, drainage, utilities, landscape obligations, and the cost of maintaining more outdoor space. Ask qualified professionals about the conditions of the individual property.

Bring me your must-haves, your deal-breakers, and your timeline. We can turn them into a focused list of homes to investigate.

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04 / GETTING AROUND

Build the week before you pick the house.

Try the actual route at the actual time. Map estimates are useful starting points; your experience matters more.

A NORTH-TO-SOUTH COMPARISON

Plan trips from the exact address. Scottsdale locations can create very different travel patterns, so compare your work, activities, and airport trip separately.

OLD TOWN AND LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Walk the route to the places you expect to use. Check crossings, shade, parking, and activity during both daytime and evening visits.

TRANSIT PLANNING

Scottsdale provides transit-system information, including trolley and regional bus connections. Check current routes and hours for your specific trip. [5]

EVENTS AND AIRPORT SURROUNDINGS

If a property is near a major venue or airport, visit while normal operations are underway. Ask for relevant information and assess the experience from inside the home and in the yard.

SAVE THESE TRIPS

Work or campus / school pickup / groceries / healthcare / activities / airport / the place you go to unwind

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05 / SCHOOLS AND SERVICES

Check the address. Then make the connections.

SCHOOLS AND ENROLLMENT

Use Scottsdale's My Services mapping resources to check the school district boundaries associated with a parcel, then confirm the assignment with the district. Do not infer an assigned school from a Scottsdale mailing address or a nearby campus. [4]

QUESTIONS FOR THE DISTRICT

Ask about the assigned campus, enrollment steps, transportation, program availability, and any open-enrollment process. Visit the school and review information that matters to your student. No school placement or program admission is promised by a home purchase.

UTILITIES AND INTERNET

Start with the city's utility-service information, and verify the water provider and other utilities for the exact address. A Scottsdale mailing address alone should not be your service confirmation. [6]

BEFORE MOVING DAY

Confirm service start dates, deposits, collection days, and internet installation. Ask which services are individually metered or managed by an association. Keep account information in your own records.

Use official provider and district information for the home you choose. City names, ZIP codes, and listing descriptions are only a starting point.

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06 / LOCAL LIFE

Make time to explore.

A few places to include while you get a feel for Scottsdale. Check current hours, reservations, and access before a visit.

OLD TOWN ARTS AND DINING

Explore the different parts of Old Town on foot and use the current visitor map. The district is a useful first stop, even if you ultimately choose a home elsewhere in the city. [1]

INDIAN BEND WASH GREENBELT

Walk or ride a section of this park and path network to understand how it connects daily recreation. Check access and conditions for your planned outing. [2]

MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE

Choose a trail and trailhead using the official map. Check current closures and conditions before leaving, especially in warmer weather. [3]

NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

Compare the parks, programs, libraries, and facilities you would use regularly. A close-to-home option may matter more to your routine than a destination you visit occasionally. [7]

Visit in the season and at the time of day you expect to use a place. Summer routines, outdoor comfort, and traffic can feel different from a vacation visit.

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07 / BUDGET WORKSHEET

Look at the whole monthly picture.

Fill this in with property-specific figures from your lender, insurer, utility providers, association documents, and service estimates. Blank lines are for your planning, not price estimates.

Mortgage payment or rent	$ _____
Property taxes, if not already included	$ _____
Home or renters insurance, if separate	$ _____
Association dues and separate assessments	$ _____
Electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash	$ _____
Internet and other recurring services	$ _____
Pool, landscape, and routine maintenance	$ _____
Reserve for repairs and replacements	$ _____

SCOTTSDALE QUESTIONS

For a golf, gated, condo, or larger-lot property, separate the home price from association charges, optional memberships, maintenance, insurance, and any planned assessments. Ask for written figures for the exact property.

Avoid counting an expense twice if it is already included in an escrow payment, rent, or association dues. Plan separately for moving, deposits, inspections, and closing expenses.

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08 / YOUR MOVING PLAYBOOK

A thoughtful move starts with a clear plan.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Set a comfortable budget, list your daily destinations, and decide which needs are essential. Share your timing and the things you want to change about your current home.

ON YOUR SCOUTING DAY

Compare an Old Town-area option, a central greenbelt-area option, and a northern option. End by driving to your most frequent destination from the location you liked best.

BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Review the property condition, relevant documents, utility providers, and school assignment. Work with the appropriate professionals to answer the questions specific to the property.

AFTER YOUR MOVE

Confirm utilities and deliveries, learn the local service schedule, find your regular errands, and explore one new place each week. Save maintenance records and provider contacts together.

> *You do not have to figure out every neighborhood on your own. Let's talk about the life you want here, then build the home search around it.*

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09 / SOURCES AND CREDITS

A useful guide, with room to keep learning.

Local information researched October 6, 2026. Numbered references in the guide point to the official city, tourism, or community sources below. Open a source to check the latest details.

01 Experience Scottsdale: Old Town districts

02 City of Scottsdale: Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt

03 City of Scottsdale: McDowell Sonoran Preserve

04 City of Scottsdale: My Services and parcel maps

05 City of Scottsdale: transit system

06 City of Scottsdale: establish utility service

07 City of Scottsdale: parks and recreation

PHOTO CREDIT

Scottsdale Waterfront. Mark S. Süever, 2010. CC BY 3.0. Photo cropped for layout; images show the location when photographed and are not a current-condition guarantee.

Open original photo or footage | Read the license

This guide is a planning resource. Neighborhood descriptions are general orientation, not recommendations based on protected characteristics. Availability, school assignments, fees, access, rules, and services can change. Verify details for the property and consult the appropriate professionals before a commitment. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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