

ARIZONA

Thomas Wu, May 2011

SEDONA

Arizona's Grand Canyon is a geological wonder of grand scale, Sedona is just 100 miles south and 100 miles north of Phoenix, this red rock country is also a geological wonder. Many interesting rock formations of this region is caused by erosion, plateaus are reduced to buttes which in turn are reduced to spires, someday stone spires will also disappear. Two landmark rocks are the Bell rock and the Cathedral rock.



SCOTTSDALE

Sarah Palin recently bought a house in Scottsdale and she just launched a bus tour to explore public opinion about her bid for the US presidency, Good luck, Sarah! Fashion square mall consists of many upscale shops, the nearby Old Town shops and historical sites consist of many artistic galleries, shops and restaurants. Two pictures show Tom got acquainted with two Indian chiefs and visited their sitting room. The other picture shows that Mimi and her friend Jasneeth Metz enjoyed a good meal in a typical local restaurant in the Old Town area. Busy mall is also shown.



Pinnacle Peak Park

A hiking park, Pinnacle Peak's winding trail is physically challenging route, passing through a variety of desert plants consisting of many cactus. A signature cactus family of Sonora desert is Saguaro. Saguaro is Arizona's state flower, it is off white in color, it only opens at night and last less than a day. The plant will grow arms when it reaches 60-80 years old, the plant live more than 200 years old and reaches a height of 100 feet. Another common desert plant is Jojoba, Jojoba seeds are extracted for oil and used as lubricants and cosmetics.



PHOENIX

Several settlements around Camelback mountain are special, Sun valley gathers communities of retired people while Paradise valley is where rich and famous live. Palace like mansions that sit up high with panorama view and spacious 50,000 sq feet living space are in an exclusive community of Paradise Valley, their owners include Goldwater family and John McCain. Many visitors and conference goers are attracted here because of the weather, the comfortable hot and dry weather last a good ten months which lead to the establishment of many hotel and conference centers.

