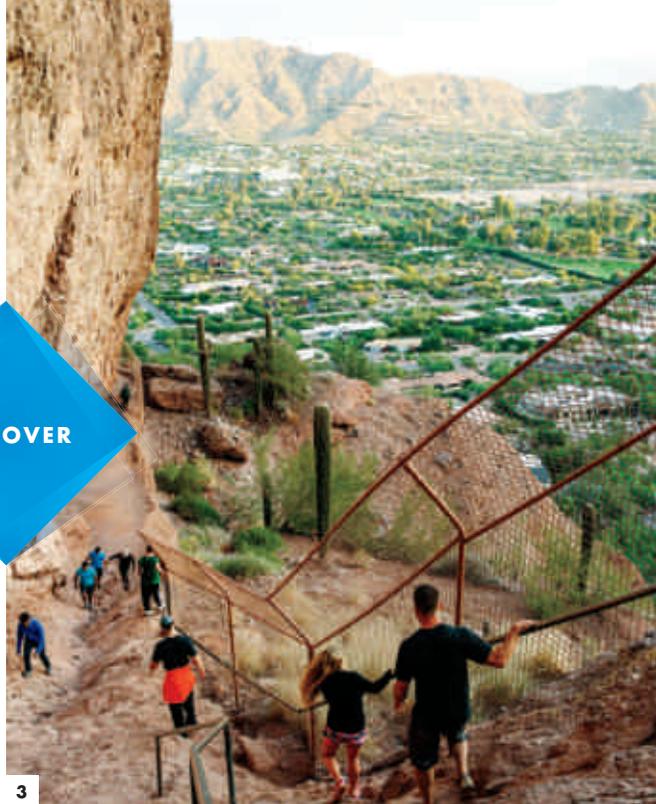




DISCOVER



3

**1. and 2.** The Henry offers classics with a twist, such as a black tea-infused Ole Kentucky. **3.** Hikers flock to Camelback. **4.** A plein air sculpture at Shemer Art Center. **5.** Berridge Nurseries: opened in 1938 and still going strong.



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A PERFECT DAY AT

# CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN

A spring day at Phoenix's stunning peak means gorgeous views, classy cocktails, and an inspiring garden festival. *By Nora Burba Trulsson*

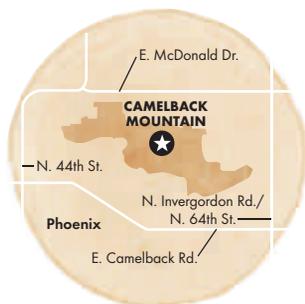
## A hike to heavenly vistas

Instantly recognizable for its dromedary shape, **Camelback Mountain** juts out of the desert, straddling Phoenix, Paradise Valley, and Scottsdale, lavish homes and resorts clinging to

its lower flanks. When development threatened the peak in the 1950s and '60s, a grassroots effort—spearheaded by Senator Barry Goldwater—spurred locals to save the area as a preserve. It's been a favorite urban hike since, but now there's a new

reason to head for the hill: Last year, the popular **Echo Canyon Trailhead** reopened after a \$4.5 million makeover, in which workers stabilized the trail, added more parking spaces, and built a shade shelter. The 1.3-mile trail begins gently, but

after the first quarter-mile, it's a strenuous, lung-busting scramble over lichen-dotted boulders. The reward? A stunning 360° view of the valley. *Free; 4925 E. McDonald Dr.; phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/camelback-mountain.* →



**GETTING HERE**

Camelback Mountain is bordered by E. Camelback Rd., N. 44th St., E. McDonald Dr., and N. Invergordon Rd./N. 64th St.

**Desert roses**

Near Camelback's southern slope, eucalyptus trees shade **Berridge Nurseries**, the local gardeners' go-to spot for nearly 80 years. The nursery specializes in desert-friendly roses, with more than 100 varieties. Resident cats Blackie and Spuds prowl gravel paths past shrubs, succulents, and quirky yard art. The on-site potting expert can help you design a showstopping container, or for more ideas, visit on April 11 for the free Art in the Garden festival, a day of art exhibits, gardening demonstrations, and food trucks. 4647 E. Camelback Rd.; [berridgenursery.com](http://berridgenursery.com).

**An artistic afternoon**

For more inspiration, head up the road to the **Shemer Art Center**. Built in 1919 as a winter home, the mission-style house and its grounds have blossomed into an art hub. Wander the galleries inside or

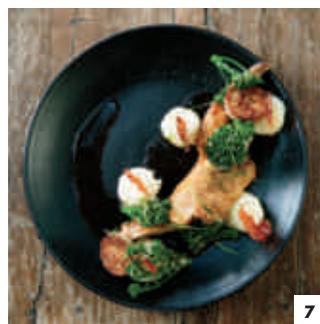
across the lawn, where 20-foot-high metal sculptures use the mountain as a backdrop. Like the art? Everything's for sale, plus there's a gift shop with everything from silk scarves to jewelry made from found objects. This month, Shemer's galleries will showcase sculpture, photography, and paintings by emerging artists. \$7 donation suggested; 5005 E. Camelback Rd.; [shemerartcenter.org](http://shemerartcenter.org).

**Drinks on the rocks**

When the sun slides low behind Praying Monk, one of Camelback's most notable rock formations, mountainside happy hours kick into high gear. On the north slope, **Jade Bar** draws valley glitterati with big views of Mummy Mountain and Paradise Valley. Sip a sweet litchi martini, munch on charred edamame, and drink it all in. Downhill, **El Chorro**—a onetime girls' school turned classy watering hole—entices with lush patios, an indoor-outdoor bar, and sticky buns. On the mountain's south side, **The Henry** combines serious mountain views with elevated appetizers (such as smoked salmon on hash browns) and adventurous cocktails. *Jade Bar*: \$\$; 5700 E. McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley; [sanctuaryoncamelback.com](http://sanctuaryoncamelback.com). *El Chorro*: \$\$\$; 5550 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley; [elchorro.com](http://elchorro.com). *The Henry*: \$\$\$; 4455 E. Camelback Rd.; [foxrc.com](http://foxrc.com).



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6. Camelback's 2,700-foot-high summit offers views of the University of Phoenix Stadium and the skyscrapers of downtown Phoenix. 7. Mary's organic chicken at T. Cook's. 8. Corpse Reviver #2 at Jade Bar.

**A dozen delicacies**

Chef Paul McCabe knew he had to tread lightly in revamping the menu and the look of **T. Cook's** restaurant at Royal Palms Resort, beloved for serving a Mediterranean menu in a romantic setting at the base of Camelback. The resort, which originated in 1929 as a winter retreat, has become a local landmark, its cobblestone courtyards and bougainvillea-draped grounds enchanting visitors for more than 60 years. The eatery now combines a brightened dining room and expanded bar with a new menu,

which melds Old World influences with top-quality local ingredients. McCabe pairs Colorado lamb with Arizona wheat berries and enlivens the roasted beet salad with oranges gathered from resort trees. For an indulgent return, reserve a spot for the weekly #PM31 (chef's initials and the table number where it happens) dinner, when McCabe prepares and serves an ever-changing meal of at least 12 courses for a small group. \$\$\$, #PM31 dinner \$150/person plus \$70/person wine pairing; 5200 E. Camelback Rd.; [royalpalmsresortandspa.com](http://royalpalmsresortandspa.com).

**THE LOCAL LOWDOWN**

*"It's a joy to come to work knowing what a wonderful view I have right outside my window. It's like a plein air painting experience every day."*

—JOCELYN HANSON, SHERMER ART CENTER