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Millionaire Home Buyers Have Turned Paradise Valley Into ‘a Different World’

*By Jessica Flint | Photographs and
Video by Kelsey Hale for The Wall
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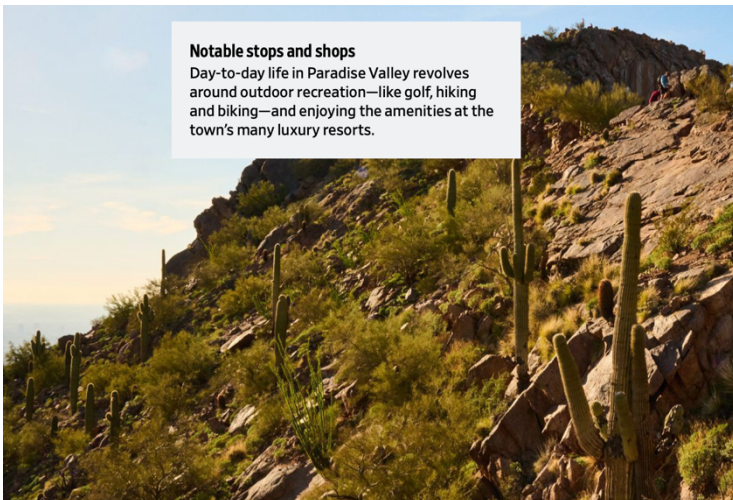
In central Arizona, tucked between Phoenix and Scottsdale in the Sonoran Desert, is Paradise Valley, a roughly 15-square-mile town where palatial houses with varying architectural styles have big views of Camelback Mountain and the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. Millionaires from across the U.S. moved here during the Covid-19 pandemic—and have stayed. “It’s a different world here now,” says Cheryl Anderson, a real-estate agent with Russ Lyon Sotheby’s International Realty. “Real-estate prices have gone crazy.” Today, Paradise Valley’s 85253 ZIP Code has the country’s priciest desert residential real estate as ranked by median listing price, at \$5.05 million in January 2024, according to Realtor.com. (News Corp, owner of The Wall Street Journal, also operates Realtor.com.)



Figure 1 PRAYING MONK near Camelback Mountain's Echo Canyon trail (Denisevdb)

Notable stops and shops

Day-to-day life in Paradise Valley revolves around outdoor recreation—like golf, hiking and biking—and enjoying the amenities at the town’s many luxury resorts.



Residents appreciate the warm weather, low taxes and large lots—typically an acre or more—that offer privacy in nature within proximity to the U.S.’s fifth largest city.

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Hiking Camelback mountain—which has a total elevation of 2,704 feet—is an iconic Arizona activity. Two difficult trails ascend to a summit that resembles the hump on a camel’s back. At the top, there are 360-degree city views.

The Spa at Camelback Inn. This 32,000-square-foot spa has 32 treatment rooms and all spa-related amenities, from whirlpools to a cold plunge. It’s at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.

There are more than 200 golf courses in the Phoenix and Scottsdale area, and good golfers belong to golf clubs. In Paradise Valley, golf clubs range from those that are private and members only, like the



The Short Course at Mountain Shadows Resort Scottsdale

Each hole on this public 18-hole course is a par three, with holes ranging from 75 to 200 yards. There is also an extra par two betting hole where 40-yard putts and chips can settle a match. Rusty’s at the Short Course is the on-site grill and lounge.

Paradise Valley Country Club, to the semiprivate, such as Camelback Golf Club, which is at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn and can be accessed by members, hotel guests and daily fee golfers.



Camelback Mountain

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Events of the year Winter is the desert’s high-season, with no shortage of well-attended events around the Phoenix and Scottsdale area from January through March, ranging from the Barrett-Jackson collector car auction and automotive lifestyle event

in Scottsdale to Major League Baseball’s Cactus League spring training across greater Phoenix to the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show to the WM Phoenix Open professional PGA Tour event.