



Community Profile for

Carefree

 Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

 Map of Carefree

Carefree is set high in the Sonoran desert amid lush terrain, ancient boulders and serene landscapes. This rich backdrop makes for some of the most interesting architecture in the state. Carefree offers a quiet refuge from the large cities while still catering to its residents and tourists year-round with festivals, fine dining, music and exquisite art. Carefree experiences slightly cooler, arid temperatures. The town is conveniently located just 30 minutes north of Scottsdale and 15 miles northeast of Phoenix.

Principal Economic Activities

The town is funded by a sales tax from local businesses and does not impose a property tax on its residents. Carefree was chosen in 2015 as one of the top places to retire outside of Phoenix, and as one of the top five best Phoenix suburbs to live in by online real estate source Movoto.com. The town emphasizes a “walkable community” within the town center that builds connectivity between the local residents and tourists. A substantial number of retail, restaurants and commercial establishments serve the residents. Carefree welcomes local franchises and unique shops that want to contribute to its walkability and healthy lifestyle.

Scenic Attractions

The attractions in Carefree include the home of the third largest sundial in the western hemisphere located within the Carefree Desert Gardens. The Gardens is listed on the national registry of the American Public Gardens Association and features native vegetation, fountains, a children’s play area with a giant Gila Monster slide and a splash pad. The Carefree Gardens amidst the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion is a setting for many cultural happenings as well as family attractions including the popular Carefree Christmas Festival with an attendance of more than 20,000 visitors. Other attractions at the Carefree Gardens include the Thunderbird Fine Art Festivals, live performances, Sunday Concert Series and local non-profit fundraising activities. In October, the town transforms its Gardens into the world’s only Desert Garden Enchanted Pumpkin display. The renowned sculptor Ray Villafane houses his best pumpkin carvings at the display. Ray has made the Carefree Desert Gardens his playground to display some of his best works. Carefree also is closely surrounded by resort style lodging, lakes, fishing, swimming, hiking trails and more than 20 golf courses.

Community Facilities

The town has its own fire station, medical and emergency services, grocery store, library and variety of non-profits such as the Caring Corp and Carefree Kiwanis supporting the residents and youth of the community. Many past and current residents are former corporate executives, professionals and entrepreneurs who have experienced tremendous success. As a result, many generous non-profit organizations are found in Carefree.

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BASIC INFORMATION

Founded:
Incorporated: 1984
Elevation: 2,528 ft.
Location: Maricopa

Distance to major cities:

Phoenix: 32 miles
Tucson: 144 miles
Las Vegas: 286 miles
San Diego: 381 miles
Los Angeles: 399 miles

POPULATION

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2023 (est.) |
|----------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Carefree | 2,790 | 3,358 | 3,708 |

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Carefree 3.00%
Maricopa 0.70%
State 5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2022 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,394 | 1,423 | 1,343 |
| Unemployed | 16 | 97 | 2 |
| Unemployment Rate | 1.1% | 6.8% | 0.1% |

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

| | Count Share | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Less than high school | 5 | 0.1% |
| High school or equivalent, no college | 508 | 13.9% |
| Some college or Associate degree | 954 | 26.2% |
| Bachelor's degree or advanced degree | 2,177 | 59.7% |

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

| | Count | Share |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Education, health care & social assistance | 352 | 27.2% |
| Construction | 226 | 17.5% |
| Finance, insurance & real estate | 223 | 17.3% |
| Professional, scientific, & administrative services | 128 | 9.9% |
| Other services, except public administration | 95 | 7.4% |
| Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services | 75 | 5.8% |
| Retail trade | 59 | 4.6% |
| Information | 52 | 4.0% |
| Transportation, warehousing, & utilities | 46 | 3.6% |
| Manufacturing | 36 | 2.8% |

American Community Survey

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

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