

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.



BASIC INFORMATION	
Founded:	
Incorporated:	1984
Elevation:	2,528 ft.
Location:	Maricopa
<b>Distance to major cities:</b>	
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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