

CAREFREE-CAVE CREEK

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Carefree and Cave Creek, recreational-resort communities, offer a pleasant blend of older historical theme of Cave Creek with the newer planned community of Carefree. Both towns are nestled in the Arizona foothills, directly north of Scottsdale and approximately 15 miles northeast of Phoenix. Cave Creek, which was settled in the late 1870s, became a booming mining camp during the 1880s. Carefree was established in the late 1950s as a planned community. The surrounding natural scenery is spectacular, with massive piles of granite boulders, sharp mountains and an abundance of desert growth.

Carefree

Incorporated: 1984
County: Maricopa County
Elevation: 2,528 feet (approx.)
Distance To Phoenix: 34 miles
Distance To Tucson: 140 miles
Highways: Interstate Hwy 17, St Hwy 74, St Hwy 101

Cave Creek

Incorporated: 1986
County: Maricopa County
Elevation: 2,200 feet (approx.)
Distance To Phoenix: 32 miles
Distance To Tucson: 141 miles



POPULATION

	1990	2000	2006
Carefree	1,657	2,927	3,500
Cave Creek	2,925	3,728	4,615
Maricopa County	2,122,101	3,072,149	3,648,545
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	6,044,985

Sources: AZ. Dept. of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The two communities are basically residential areas with heavy emphasis on resort-style living. Tourism contributes largely to the area economy. A substantial number of retail and commercial establishments serve the residents of the communities.

County Employment

	2006
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	373,800
Professional and Business Services	321,200
Government	212,400
Education and Health Services	187,000
Mining and Construction	184,600
Leisure and Hospitality	174,900
Financial Activities	151,100
Manufacturing	132,900
Other Services	68,500
Information	32,100

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security
Figures are organized under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	2000	2006
Carefree Civilian Labor Force	759	1,394	1,663
Carefree Unemployment	33	16	20
Carefree Unemployment Rate	4.3%	1.1%	1.2%
Cave Creek Civilian Labor Force	1,681	2,115	2,525
Cave Creek Unemployment	44	32	41
Cave Creek Unemployment Rate	2.6%	1.5%	1.6%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security

Growth Indicators

	1990	2000	2006
Carefree New Bldg. Permits	217	186	257
Carefree Taxable Sales	52.6 mil	95.3 mil	111.9 mil
Carefree Net Assessed Value (\$)	45.1 mil	58.8 mil	139.5 mil
Cave Creek New Bldg. Permits	53*	338	329
Cave Creek Taxable Sales	52.6 mil	88.6 mil	162.9 mil
Cave Creek Net Assessed Value (\$)	28.3mil	58.8 mil	134.8 mil

Sources: Arizona State University; AZ Dept. of Revenue; AZ Tax Research Foundation.
* Incomplete data: One or more months not available

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Carefree and Cave Creek are communities so embroidered into the surrounding landscape that it is difficult to determine where one begins and the other ends. Much of the natural scenery is spectacular, with massive piles of granite boulders, sharp mountains and an abundance of desert growth that thrives at the 2,200- 2,700-foot altitude.

Because of the low density development, residents share the area with deer, bobcats, cardinals, coyotes, javelinas, coveys of quail and an occasional mountain lion.

The area's man-made attractions include many unique homes perched on the mountains; Carefree Conference Resort, renowned for its facilities; Carefree Sundial, the largest and most accurate in the Western Hemisphere; the huge Kachina doll at Tonto Hills; Frontier Town, a recreation of an Old West town, and Cave Creek Museum, one of the best in Arizona. Nearby lakes at Bartlett Dam, Carl Pleasant Dam and the Verde River provide scenic areas for swimming, boating, water skiing, tubing and fishing.

CAREFREE-CAVE CREEK

Community Profile

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	2000	2006
Carefree Elementary/High School	\$ 5.14	\$ 5.76	\$ 3.76
Carefree City/Fire District	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Countywide	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.35	\$ 2.74
Totals	\$ 8.65	\$ 9.11	\$ 6.50
Cave Creek Elementary/High School	\$ 5.14	\$ 5.76	\$ 3.76
Cave Creek City/Fire District	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.65
Countywide	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.35	\$ 2.74
Totals	\$ 8.65	\$ 9.11	\$ 7.15

Source: Arizona Tax Research Foundation.
Note: Tax rate per \$100.00 assessed valuation.

Sales Tax Rate

Carefree	3.00%
Cave Creek	2.50%
County	0.50%
State	5.60%

Source: League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Arizona Dept. of Revenue.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Carefree-Cave Creek offers a broad range of community and cultural facilities. There are two museums, a library, a fine arts center (on school campus), two parks, a retreat center, three golf courses and a lighted softball field.

Educational Institutions	Public	Private
Elementary	4	1
High School	1	0
Middle School	2	1

Financial

Number of banks: 6

Government

Fire Department: Rural/Metro Fire Dept.
Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

Medical

24-hour medical center, extensive care.

Airport

Residents use the Carefree Airport which has a lighted 4,100-foot runway and is private.

Hotel & Lodging

The area offers one hotel with 16 rooms and seven suites, two resorts, one with 160 casitas and meeting space for 550, the other with 249 rooms and meeting space for 1,000; plus nine bed & breakfasts.

Industrial Properties

For more information contact the Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce or the Town of Carefree.

Utilities

Electricity:	APS (statewide)	800.253.5405
Natural Gas:	Southwest Gas Corporation.	602.861.1999
Sewer:	Black Mountain Sewer Corp. (Carefree)	480.575.7303
	Boulders Carefree Sewer Corp.	480.488.4152
Telephone:	Quest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water:	Carefree Water Company	480.488.9100
	Cave Creek Water Company	480.488.3331

Carefree

Cable Providers: Yes
Digital Switching Station: Yes
Internet Service Provider: Yes

Cable Internet Service: Yes
Fiber Optics: Yes

Cave Creek

Cable Providers: No
Digital Switching Station: No
Internet Service Provider: No

Cable Internet Service: No
Fiber Optics: No

Weather	Carefree			Cave Creek		
	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Prec. (in.)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. High (°F)	Prec. (in.)
Jan.	40.7	63.6	1.4	40.4	63.5	1.4
Feb.	43.0	66.7	1.5	43.0	66.7	1.4
Mar.	46.4	71.6	1.7	46.5	71.3	1.7
Apr.	51.6	79.6	0.6	51.5	79.5	0.6
May	60.5	90.0	0.1	60.4	89.8	0.1
June	68.8	98.3	0.1	68.7	98.2	0.1
July	75.5	101.7	1.2	75.5	101.7	1.2
Aug.	74.8	99.9	1.6	74.8	99.8	1.6
Sept.	69.5	94.7	1.1	69.7	94.6	1.1
Oct.	59.6	84.2	1.2	59.5	84.2	1.2
Nov.	48.0	71.2	1.0	40.5	62.8	1.4
Dec.	40.5	62.9	1.4	40.5	62.8	1.4
Annual	56.6	82.0	13.0	56.5	82.8	13.0

Source: Western Regional Climate Center, www.wrcc.dri.edu. Carefree Average Snow Depth 0.1". Period of record 1962 – 2005. Cave Creek Average Snow Depth 0.1". Period of record 1962 – 2004.

For further information, contact:

Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 734
Carefree, AZ 85377
480.488.3381/FAX: 480.488.0328
Email: chamber@carefree-cavecreek.com
Web address: www.carefree-cavecreek.com

Town of Carefree

100 Easy Street
Carefree, AZ 85377
480.488.3686

Town of Cave Creek

37622 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
480.488.1400, Fax: 480.488.2263
Email: townmanager@cavecreek.org
Website: www.cavecreek.org

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce in cooperation with local sources.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1700 W. Washington St., Ste. 600
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602.771.1100/FAX: 602.771.1200
<http://www.azcommerce.com>

Reproduction of this publication for commercial use is prohibited by A.R.S. 39-121. Permission to reprint may be granted upon written request to the Arizona Department of Commerce. 8/07