

# For Cool Summer Getaways

## HEAD DUE NORTH

BY BARBI WALKER

If you are getting a little cabin-feverish and the kids are complaining they are bored and are Xbox and TVed out, look no further than northern Arizona for cool, interesting and eco-fun day trips.

Some of the standard go-to places up north include the ever-beautiful Sedona, with its wet and fun Slide Rock; cool pines in Flagstaff; and the always fun, raucous and patriotic Prescott's historic Fourth of July festivities. But what about the not-so-obvious things to do when it's sweltering out?

### Here are some ways to cool the forehead and do some "green" vacationing at the same time.

Make a date with Flagstaff for a concert under the whispering pines. Every Saturday evening in summer, the Arboretum at Flagstaff, in collaboration with the Flagstaff Culture Partners, holds outdoor concerts of live world music to the backdrop of the San Francisco Peaks. From Bluegrass to Mariachi – there are many genres scheduled to play throughout the summer. Make sure to bring your blanket or chairs and a picnic dinner. For more details check the Arboretum's website, [thearb.org/events.php](http://thearb.org/events.php).

If you are looking for something a little more refined, perhaps something sans kids, then try Italian Night 2011. On July 9, 2011, this yearly tradition is held at Arcosanti, just north of Phoenix. Each year, the Colly Soleri Music Center entertains diners with family-style Italian food and enchanting music in the unique and eco-forward architecture of Arcosanti. Paolo Soleri, founder of Arcosanti, serves guests under the spectacular Arcosanti Vaults in the shadows of olive trees and Italian cypress. This year, pianist Sonya Lee returns for her 10th performance, according to the Arcosanti website, and accompanied by vocalist, Melina Kalomas. Together they will perform music from Italy and France. The night of European culture and theater continues as Edith Piaf takes you on a tour of French cabaret and the world of Baroque era music. The night concludes with passionate tangos. For the curious mind, a complimentary tour of Arcosanti starts at 5:00 p.m., then continues on to dinner and entertainment. To purchase tickets and make reservations, call 928-632-7135. For more information, visit [www.arcosanti.org](http://www.arcosanti.org).

For more kid-friendly events, try the Perseid Meteor Shower at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. The indoor program focuses on the upcoming Perseids meteor shower, and

includes observations through telescopes, live presentations with mini-planetarium programs, as well as a multimedia presentation. This year, the event is August 12 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The observatory also has many events throughout the summer, including opportunities to meet astronomers, hear live musical performances, and telescope viewing and daytime tours. Programs and events run from June 1 to August 31. For more information, call 928-774-3358 or check [lowell.edu](http://lowell.edu).

For a look at aviation history, the 7th Annual Thunder Over the Coconino Fly-In, located at the Grand Canyon Valle Airport, features planes, trains and plenty of pancakes – all that will keep your kids happy and zipping around all day. The event features exotic, homebuilt warbirds, antique airplanes and tractors. Round the day out with a car show and learn from featured guest speaker, Erik Lindbergh, grandson of aviation pioneers, Charles A. and Ann Morrow Lindbergh. This event promises to keep kids of all ages entertained, including the grownup ones! The event is Saturday, August 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information and ticket prices, call 928-635-5280 or go to [valleairport.com](http://valleairport.com) or [grandcanyonflyin.com](http://grandcanyonflyin.com).

To cap off the summer, you can't miss the 4th Annual Bullhead City River Regatta - Pirates of the Colorado, August 12 and 13 in Bullhead City. Tubing, kayak races, theme floats, live music and food make this the all-time, end-of-summer party. It starts with Friday's pre-party, "Ya Gotta Regatta" on the Colorado River, then Saturday you can lazily float down the eight miles of river, or participate in the non-motorized "float" parade and post-party, "Ya Hafta Afta" at Rotary Park. For more information, call 928-754-4121 or [bullheadregatta.com](http://bullheadregatta.com).

With so much to see and do this summer, you might just get lucky and miss the heat after all! ■

#### SOURCES

[arcosanti.org](http://arcosanti.org)  
[arizonaguide.com/events-calendar/see-all-events](http://arizonaguide.com/events-calendar/see-all-events)  
[bullheadregatta.com/](http://bullheadregatta.com/)  
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