



IS IT SAFE?

Scottsdale

SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY GUIDE

OVERALL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

RATING: Very Safe — among the safest cities in Arizona for solo visitors; heat an

Scottsdale is one of the safest cities in Arizona for a solo visitor, day or night. Old Town is well-lit, well-patrolled, and built for walking, and the city's resort economy means most of the area a 48-hour visitor will spend time in is actively maintained and monitored.

The genuine risks in Scottsdale are environmental rather than criminal: sun exposure, heat, and dehydration on the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and Pinnacle Peak trails are the most common causes of visitor injury, particularly for hikers who underestimate how quickly conditions change between morning and midday.

Petty theft — unattended bags, items left visible in parked cars — is the most common property crime a visitor might encounter, concentrated around crowded Old Town events rather than any specific neighborhood.

RATING SCALE: ★★★★★ Very safe ★★★★★ Safe ★★★ Use awareness ★★ Avoid at night ★ Avoid

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

AREA	RATING	NOTES
Old Town Scottsdale	★★★★★	Walkable, well-lit, actively monitored day and night.
Arizona Canal / Waterfront	★★★★★	Public, active path popular with walkers and cyclists into the evening.
North Scottsdale (Taliesin West / Pinnacle Peak)	★★★★★	Low crime residential and preserve area; hazard is heat, not people.
McDowell Sonoran Preserve trails	★★★★★	Well-managed and safe; carry water and check trail conditions before setting out.
South Scottsdale (near Tempe border)	★★★	Generally fine but less actively touristed; standard city awareness after dark.

COMMON SCAMS & RISKS

TIMESHARE AND RESORT-TOUR PITCHES

Some resort-area promoters offer free excursions or discounted activities in exchange for attending a timeshare presentation. These are legal but time-consuming; read the fine print before agreeing to anything described as “free.”

VEHICLE BREAK-INS AT TRAILHEADS

Parking lots at popular preserve trailheads occasionally see theft from unattended cars. Don't leave visible valuables in the car, even for a short hike.

OVERPRICED GOLF AND SPA PACKAGES

Peak-season resort pricing can include bundled packages with hidden fees. Confirm the total price, including resort fees, before booking any add-on activity.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center (7400 E Osborn Road) and Mayo Clinic Hospital (5777 E Mayo Boulevard) are the region's major full-service hospitals, both within a 15-minute drive of Old Town.

Heat-related illness is by far the most common visitor medical issue. Avoid strenuous hiking between 11am and 4pm from roughly May through September, and carry more water than feels necessary — the dry desert air masks dehydration until it becomes serious.

Urgent care clinics are widely available throughout Old Town and North Scottsdale for non-emergency needs. Travel insurance with medical coverage is recommended for all U.S. travel.

SOLO TRAVELERS

Scottsdale is an easy, comfortable city for solo travelers, including solo women. Old Town's compact, walkable layout and its counter-and-bar dining culture mean a solo visitor rarely feels conspicuous, and hotel and resort staff throughout the city are accustomed to single travelers.

The specific precautions are ordinary desert-city ones: hike the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and Pinnacle Peak in the early morning rather than midday, stay hydrated, and use standard city awareness walking back from Old Town bars late at night — the district is safe but can be lively and crowded on weekend evenings.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

SERVICE	CONTACT
Emergency (Police / Fire / Medical)	911
Scottsdale Police (non-emergency)	(480) 312-5000
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center	(480) 882-4000
Mayo Clinic Hospital	(480) 515-6296
Poison Control (US)	1-800-222-1222
Crisis Text Line	Text HOME to 741741
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	988

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