

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:	(n/a)	Incorporated:	1984
Elevation:	2,528 ft.	Location:	Maricopa County
Distance to major cities:			
Phoenix:	32 miles	San Diego:	381 miles
Tucson:	144 miles	Los Angeles:	399 miles
Las Vegas:	286 miles		

POPULATION

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Carefree	2,790	3,358	3,595
Maricopa County	3,072,149	3,824,058	4,137,076
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

Office of Economic Opportunity

PROPERTY TAX

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	5.76	1.76	2.41
City / Fire District	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maricopa County	3.35	2.79	4.06
Totals (Maricopa County)	9.10	4.55	6.47

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX

Carefree	3.00%
Maricopa County	6.30%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,394	1,423	1,286
Unemployed	16	97	24
Unemployment Rate	1.1%	6.8%	1.9%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

	Count	Share
Less than high school	20	0.6%
High school or equivalent, no college	470	14.1%
Some college or Associate degree	771	23.1%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	2,070	62.1%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)

	Count	Share
Education, health care & social assistance	331	28.6%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	310	26.7%
Finance, insurance & real estate	139	12.0%
Retail trade	126	10.9%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	104	9.0%
Public administration	50	4.3%
Wholesale trade	43	3.7%
Construction	36	3.1%
Manufacturing	18	1.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	2	0.2%
Information	0	0.0%
Other services, except public administration	0	0.0%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	0	0.0%

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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