

2026 EDITION

Relocating to Scottsdale

NEIGHBORHOODS | LOCAL RECS | SCHOOLS & MORE





Whether you're considering a move from across the country or just across town, relocating is rarely just about finding a house. It's about timing, lifestyle, and choosing a place that fits the life you want to live.

I created this guide to give you a clear, honest look at what it's really like to live in Scottsdale. From how different neighborhoods feel day to day to what most people wish they had known sooner.

I'm Sara Dietz, a Scottsdale-based top 2% real estate advisor who has lived here for over 20 years. My role is to help clients understand the landscape before they ever feel rushed to act.

I hope this guide helps you feel a little more at home, whether you're just exploring or already packing boxes.

A few things I love about living here

DOG-FRIENDLY EVERYTHING

SUNSHINE

WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

AMAZING RESTAURANTS

YEAR-ROUND PATIO LIVING



RECENTLY GOT MARRIED!



What makes Scottsdale special?

WHY PEOPLE LOVE IT

- Top rated public & private schools
- Top rated airport (and super easy to navigate)
- Close proximity to Phoenix, Flagstaff, Sedona and Tucson
- Easy access to hiking, golf, and desert preserves
- Year-round sunshine and an outdoor-first lifestyle
- Incredible sunsets
- Strong food, wellness, and design culture
- Dozens of parks, weekly farmers markets
- Resort-level amenities woven into everyday life

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 243,000 residents
- Median age: 49

FUN FACTS

- Home to McDowell Sonoran Preserve, one of the largest urban preserves in the country
- Known for having more golf courses per capita than most U.S. cities
- 300 sunny days per year

Local Favorites



COFFEE

- Fourtillfour
- Grounds on 2nd
- Berdena's
- Light Heart



GOLF

- TPC Scottsdale
- Grayhawk Golf Club
- Troon North Golf Club
- McCormick Ranch Golf Club
- Mountain Shadows



BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- Olive and Ivy
- Arcadia Farms
- Daily Dose
- Butter's Pancake House
- Hash Kitchen
- Prep and Pastry



WEEKEND FAVORITES

- McDowell Sonoran Preserve
- Phoenix Zoo
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Papago Park
- OdySea Aquarium
- Arizona Science Center



DINNER

- The Mission
- Pinyon
- Born & Bred
- Cafe Monarch
- Roka Akor
- Dominick's



SWEET TREATS

- Sugar Bowl
- Shakes & Cones
- Jeni's Ice Cream
- Sweet Provisions

If you're looking for something *specific*...

From established neighborhoods to golf communities, new builds, and family-friendly areas, there's something here for every lifestyle.

ESTABLISHED

McCormick Ranch
Gainey Ranch
Pinnacle Peak
Paradise Valley

NEW BUILDS

Ascent at the Phoenician
North Scottsdale New
Construction

WALKABLE TO SHOPS

Old Town Scottsdale
Scottsdale Waterfront
Kierland

LARGE LOTS & ACREAGE

Cave Creek
North Scottsdale
Carefree
Rio Verde

GOLF COMMUNITIES

Grayhawk
Troon North
Silverleaf
Terravita

QUICK ACCESS TO NATURE

McDowell Mountain Ranch
Ancala
Desert Mountain

< 20 MINS TO DOWNTOWN

South Scottsdale
Arcadia
Biltmore

GREAT FOR FAMILIES

Windgate Ranch
DC Ranch
McDowell Mountain Ranch

Local Neighborhoods

North Scottsdale



Silverleaf

Typical Budget: \$3M – \$15M+

Perfect For: Ultra-luxury buyers, executives, privacy-focused families, second-home owners who want gated prestige + country club lifestyle.

Energy: Refined, private, generational wealth feel.



Grayhawk

Typical Budget: \$750K – \$3M

Perfect For: Professionals, seasonal residents, lock and leave buyers who want golf + proximity to the 101 + Scottsdale Quarter.

Energy: Convenient, balanced, high resale stability.



DC Ranch

Typical Budget: \$900K – \$4M

Perfect For: Move-up families, professionals, part-time residents who want master-planned polish and community amenities.

Energy: Established, social, structured.

Local Neighborhoods

North Scottsdale



McDowell Mountain Ranch

Typical Budget: \$900K – \$3M

Perfect For: Active families, trail lovers, buyers who want preserve access + strong schools without ultra-luxury pricing.

Energy: Outdoorsy, practical, steady.



Windgate Ranch

Typical Budget: \$1M – \$3M

Perfect For: Move-up families, relocation buyers with school-aged kids, executives wanting community + security.

Energy: Social, family-forward, amenity-rich.



Troon

Typical Budget: \$1M – \$5M

Perfect For: Buyers wanting custom homes, mountain views, quieter luxury.

Energy: Scenic, prestigious, more laid-back than Silverleaf.

Local Neighborhoods

Central Scottsdale



McCormick Ranch

Typical Budget: \$700K – \$2M

Perfect For: Families, retirees, buyers wanting greenbelts + lakes + central convenience.

Energy: Established, lifestyle-oriented, steady appreciation.



Gainey Ranch

Typical Budget: \$800K – \$2.5M

Perfect For: Lock-and-leave buyers, golfers, seasonal residents.

Energy: Polished, gated, low-maintenance.



Cactus Corridor

Typical Budget: \$1M – \$4M+

Perfect For: Buyers wanting larger lots without heavy HOA rules, custom builds, room for expansion.

Energy: Spacious, flexible, residential.

Local Neighborhoods

South Scottsdale



Old Town

Typical Budget: \$500K – \$2M

Perfect For: Young professionals, DINKs, investors, buyers wanting walkability + nightlife.

Energy: Vibrant, urban, convenient.



South Scottsdale

Typical Budget: \$500K – \$1.2M

Perfect For: First move-up buyers, investors, buyers wanting proximity to airport + ASU.

Energy: Transitional, appreciating, centrally located.



Park Scottsdale

Typical Budget: \$600K – \$1.4M

Perfect For: Buyers wanting renovated ranch homes near the greenbelt.

Energy: Practical, solid long-term play.

Local Neighborhoods

Neighboring Communities



Arcadia

Typical Budget: \$1M – \$5M+

Perfect For: Buyers wanting charm + Phoenix access + strong schools.

Energy: Character-driven, established, high demand.



Paradise Valley

Typical Budget: \$3M – \$20M+

Perfect For: Ultra-luxury estates, privacy-focused buyers, legacy properties.

Energy: Quiet, refined, prestigious.



Desert Ridge

Typical Budget: \$600K – \$1.5M

Perfect For: Commuters, families wanting convenience + shopping nearby.

Energy: Practical, lifestyle-driven.

Schools in Scottsdale

Scottsdale is lucky to have some amazing schools! If you'd like to speak to someone with first-hand experience at one of our local schools, please reach out. I can likely connect you to someone with children there!

DAYCARE & PRE-K

La Petite Academy of Scottsdale
Central Scottsdale

Scottsdale Child Care & Learning Centers
Central Scottsdale

Scottsdale KinderCare
South Scottsdale

Children's Learning Adventure
North Scottsdale

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheyenne Traditional School
North Scottsdale

Cochise Elementary School
Central Scottsdale

Sequoia Elementary School
Central Scottsdale

Cherokee Elementary School
Scottsdale / PV border

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Chaparral High School
Central Scottsdale

Desert Mountain High School
North Scottsdale

Saguaro High School
South Scottsdale

Arcadia High School
Arcadia / Scottsdale border

PRIVATE & CHARTER SCHOOLS

Notre Dame Preparatory High School
North Scottsdale

BASIS Scottsdale
Central Scottsdale

Rancho Solano Preparatory School
North and Central Scottsdale

Phoenix Country Day
Scottsdale / PV border

Planning your Move

Whether you're considering a move for work, family, or a fresh start, there are several steps to ensure a smooth transition. Below is the process I guide my clients through to get them set up for success in Scottsdale!



The Process of Moving

- 01 Schedule a call.** During this call, I'll answer any questions you have about Scottsdale and we'll discuss your goals, budget and timeline.
- 02 Take a tour.** This is the fun part! We'll meet and see homes that match your criteria – neighborhood, price and timing. If we find a winner, we'll submit an offer! Not local yet? I provide this service virtually too.
- 03 Prepare to move.** Gather quotes for storage, movers, flights, etc. If the move is work-related, inquire with your employer about reimbursement.
- 04 Under contract on your new home.** There will be about a 30-day period where you're in the process of purchasing. We can coordinate the closing remotely or in-person!
- 05 Close on your home and make the move!** Plan for any renovations after closing and before your items arrive from movers for the easiest transition. (My trusted vendor lists is yours!)

here for you!



I'm your boots on the ground

Relocating to Scottsdale doesn't have to feel overwhelming. I relocated here from Washington myself, so I understand what it's like to start fresh in a new city.

I help newcomers get clear on the right neighborhoods, lifestyle fit, and long-term value so you can move with confidence. From strategy and negotiations to connecting you with trusted local vendors - movers, electricians, landscapers, and more. I'll make the transition smooth and straightforward. I look forward to helping you make the move fun and seamless!

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[SCHEDULE A 15 MIN CHAT](#)

"Relocating to Scottsdale felt overwhelming at first, but Sara's local expertise, clear communication, and strong negotiation skills made the entire process smooth and stress-free."

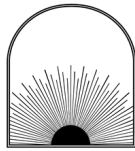
THE GURRADS

"Relocating from Tampa for our first home felt overwhelming, but Sara guided us every step of the way even from 2,000 miles away making the entire process feel easy, seamless, and worth it."

THE GORDONS

"Relocating to Arizona from out of state, we loved working with Sara! She was attentive, responsive, and went above and beyond with virtual tours, making the entire process smooth and easy."

THE ROESCHS



SARA DIETZ

ELEVATED LIVING BEGINS HERE

COMPASS