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Welcome to Surprise, Arizona

County: Maricopa
Population: 132,677
Founded: 1938
Square Miles: 108
Distance from
Sky Harbor Airport: 35 Miles
Approx. Drive Time: 65 Minutes
City Sales Tax: 2.2%
State Sales Tax: 5.6%
Average Sales Price: \$244,900



Surprise, Spring Training

Surprise is in the fast-growing northwestern part of the Valley of the Sun, along U.S. 60/state Highway 93. It was named by its founder, Homer C. Ludden, after his hometown of Surprise, Nebraska. The city is experiencing explosive growth in its residential, commercial and industrial sectors. More than 54,000 new residential dwelling units are planned for construction over the next 10 years. Surprise is the Spring Training home for the Texas Rangers and Kansas City Royals.

White Tank Regional Park, which borders the city to the west, has unusual Indian petroglyphs in its 26,000 acres where camping, hiking and picnicking are popular activities. Surprise is also home to the West Valley Art Museum, which houses an extensive art collection and an ever-changing series of visiting exhibits from around the world. Nearby Wickenburg, is a rugged cowboy town with top-notch resorts. To the northwest is "gold country" with many interesting ghost towns. Within a short distance of Surprise is Lake Pleasant where water sports are popular. Quiet desert settings encourage hiking, rock hounding, horseback riding and picnicking. Surprise is also home to the world-class retirement community Sun City Grand.

Surprise, AZ History

Surprise, Arizona, was founded in 1938 by real-estate developer Flora Mae Statler, according to a 2010 book put out by the city. Flora Mae Statler, founder of Surprise, and husband Homer C. Ludden