

Arizona: The Climate as Unique as the State

By Aaron Russ

When one visits the state of Arizona for the very first time, they may notice something. Arizona is not a traditional state in America; it is a culture that is like no other. So many things make Arizona what it is today, whether it is the desert landscape, the beautiful sunsets, or the vast mountains. However, arguably the most popular thing Arizona is known for is its climate. Its climate is different; it does not have snowy winters; it does not have yellow and red falls; it instead has only one aspect that changes and is the only aspect that needs to change: the temperature.

Because of the climate in Arizona, many people from the north migrate to Arizona to evade the harsh winter that would occur in the state they live in. This is so popular that there is a nickname for these people that do this. They are called "snowbirds". This annual migration significantly helps the economy of our state. This is not only because of the fees for travel, rental or buying of housing and other necessities, but also due to the increased number of customers of small and local businesses. Not only that, but word of mouth can help these businesses. For example, a snowbird may return to their home state and say, "Wow, I went to this local place and loved their food! You should visit next time." Besides the travel, the climate is also why Arizona has different agriculture. We grow the most pecans for the nation, as well as the second biggest for cantaloupes, honeydews, pistachios, and dates. Because of our climate, we can produce all these exclusive products, which greatly helps our economy as not many other places can make them.

One other favor that our climate does for us is the influence in culture. In fact, our climate is the reason that Arizona has a different culture than other states. First, because it is always warm, Arizona has many outdoor activities, such as horseback riding and hiking. Also, the climate is what has formed our special landscape. We are known for the Saguaro cactus, primarily exclusive to Arizona. Arizonans are also known for doing regular activities in extreme heat but wearing a jacket when it's still moderately warm. But even small aspects like this show how special our culture is.

But why do I care? I mean, what kid enjoys looking at economics instead of playing video games? Well, me being a former northerner who moved to Arizona in fourth grade, found the state to be so much different to what I was accustomed to. I am a former Michigander, and I remember being so happy with the weather there. So, when I was told I was moving to Arizona, a desert, I wasn't quite satisfied. However, I realized that in Arizona, you can have just as much fun as any other state, just in a different manner. Instead of sledding down a hill, you hike up a mountain. Instead of having a snowball fight, you go to the range. It's the same joy you would get, just in a different way.

Rounding it all up, Arizona's climate is like no other, causing it to greatly benefit our economy and culture. It makes Arizona what it is today. It is what makes it the Grand Canyon state.

