

Southwest region



The Southwest

0 200 Miles
0 200 Kilometers

The magnificent Grand Canyon is located in this region, as is Monument Valley, the starkly beautiful backdrop for many western movies. Monument Valley is within the Navajo Reservation, home of the most populous American Indian tribe. To the south and east lie dozens of other Indian reservations, including those of the Hopi, Zuni, and Apache tribes.



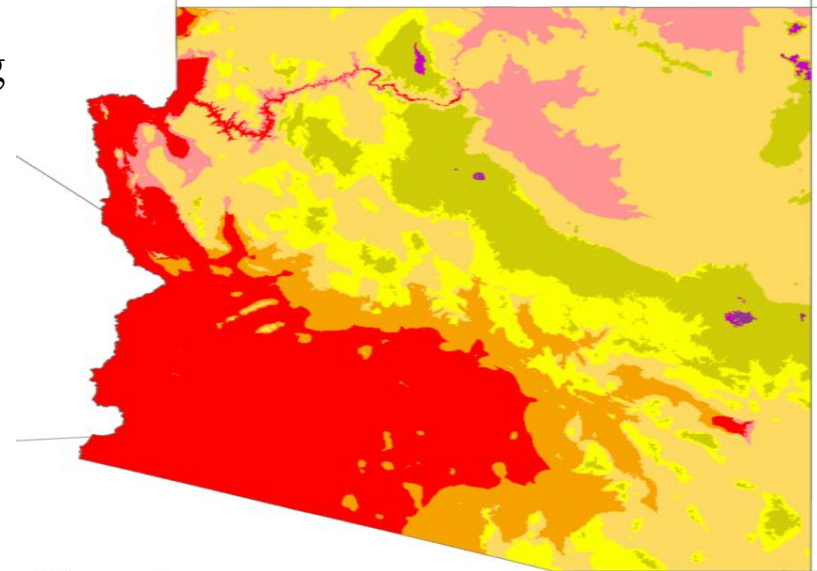
Southwest Region Brief History

- In the early history of the region, Father Eusebio Kino, a Jesuit priest spent the last 24 years of his life in the area exploring the San Bernardino Springs, now the Southwest Region's San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR). John Slaughter, rancher, Tombstone sheriff, and member of the Arizona House of Representatives 24th Legislature once owned all of what is now SBNWR, all adjacent lands and named these lands Slaughter Ranch. In the 1870s through 1880s, the Apache leader Geronimo used the lands to cross back and forth between Mexico and the United States. Parts of the Southwest once belonged to Mexico. The United States obtained this land following the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. Its Mexican heritage continues to exert a strong influence on the region, which is a convenient place to settle for immigrants (legal or illegal) from farther south. A lot of U.S. retirees prefer to live in Arizona.



Climate of Southwest region

- The climate in this region of the US is basically semi-arid to arid; however areas in this region with a high elevation can get very cold and receive significant snowfall. The region experiences the full range of climate extremes from 100-125°F (38-52°C) in the summer down to sub-zero in the northernmost regions in the winter. The dry, cold conditions in the northern mountainous regions make for excellent skiing, while the desert heat is perfect for those looking to escape winter's bite.



Köppen climate type

ET (Tundra)	Csa (Hot-summer mediterranean)
Dsc (Dry-summer subarctic)	BSk (Cold semi-arid)
Dsb (Warm-summer mediterranean continental)	BSh (Hot semi-arid)
Cfb (Oceanic)	BWk (Cold desert)
Csc (Cold-summer mediterranean)	BWh (Hot desert)
Csb (Warm-summer mediterranean)	

*Isotherm used to distinguish temperate (C) and continental (D) climates is -3°C
Data sources: Köppen types calculated from data from PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University; <http://prism.oregonstate.edu>
Outline map from US Census Bureau

Population and language diversity



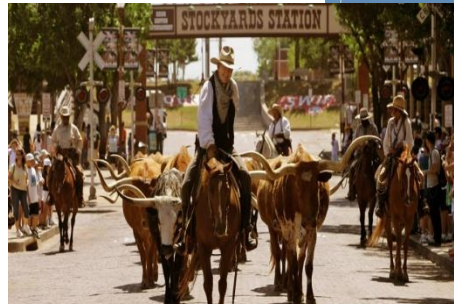
- English is the predominant language spoken throughout the Southwest, Spanish is also common among hispanic populations throughout the region. Most of this region was once under the rule of Spain and Mexico, and also has large immigrant populations from Mexico and Latin America. Numerous indigenous tribes throughout the region speak a myriad of languages; however, this is a trait most particularly observed within reservation boundaries. Linguistic diversity is more prevalent in larger metropolitan areas. The larger national parks and museums in the region provide signage and reading materials in other common languages such as German, French and Japanese. Nevada hosts scattered populations of Basque shepards who speak Basque which is notable for being the last Pre-Indo-European language found in Western Europe.

Southwest Region



Cultural (4 states)

- Southwest region consist 4 states: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. The four Southwestern states are the homes of numerous Indian reservations. Texas occupies the south-central segment of the country and is the largest state. Arizona is the sixth largest state in the country in terms of area. Oklahoma is an area containing the basic elements of Southern history, culture, politics, religion, and linguistic and settlement patterns.



Economy. Manufacturing

- Copper mining, particularly in Arizona and the discovery of petroleum and natural-gas deposits in the early 20th century in Oklahoma and Texas resulted in oases of prosperity from local oil booms. Along the Gulf Coast a flourishing industrial region developed around Houston and other Gulf of Mexico ports, largely based on petrochemical industries. Also, in Arizona and Texas, manufacturing has become important, notably in the electrical, communications, aeronautical, automobile-assembly, and aluminum industries. The growth of population and industry in the region also brought water shortages and, following the building of dams, disputes between states over the allocation of water resources, such as the diversion of water from the Colorado River.



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Sights



- The American Southwest contains more than its fair share of natural wonders: Grand Canyon, Arches National Park, and Carlsbad Caverns National Park are only three of the most famous natural attractions that draw people from all over the world. The region is home to a wonderful and vibrant mix of anglo, latino, hispanic, and American Indian traditions making it one of the more diverse, interesting, and picturesque corners of America with regards to history, landscape and culture.



- The Southwest also has many historical sites. Throughout Arizona and New Mexico are reminders of the Native American culture, from the ruins of great pueblos in Canyon de Chelly in northeastern Arizona, Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico, and Mesa Verde in nearby Southwestern Colorado, to the thriving culture in communities still inhabited, like Taos Pueblo in Taos, New Mexico. The Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico from Albuquerque to Taos was the site of some of the first permanent European settlements in the country, and many towns in the area hold on to their Spanish roots, with the town plan of a central plaza and an adobe church overlooking it, surrounded by small adobe homes.





**Thank you
for
attention!**