

Phoenix tops list as affordable vacation destination

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The contracting economy could prove troublesome for the area's tourism industry, but a new Hotwire.com report says Phoenix is still an affordable vacation destination.

The discount-travel [Web site](#) on Monday released its third annual Travel Value Index. Phoenix ranked first on the Top 10 list.

Rankings were based on prices and discounts on airfare and rental-car and hotel rates found on Hotwire.com, the availability of affordable entertainment and overall accommodation choices.

Phoenix scored 100 on the 100-point scale for overall travel value.

"From low prices on world-class hotels and resorts . . . Phoenix offers outdoor adventures, breathtaking golf courses, trendy shopping in the 'Beverly Hills of the Desert,' and nearly perfect year-round weather," the report said.

Some hotel and resort managers have reported a slowdown in [business](#) during what is typically the Valley's busiest time for tourism. Kevin Kamenzind, senior vice president of sales and marketing for the Greater Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau, said he believes the Hotwire ranking may help change the minds of consumers who think they can't afford to vacation in Phoenix.

Rounding out the Top 10 list were, in order, Dallas-Fort Worth; Orlando; Denver; Atlanta; Los Angeles; Washington, D.C.; Kansas City; Miami; and Milwaukee.