

Alaska BEYOND»

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KRISTEN BELL

HOLLYWOOD STAR BALANCES
IT ALL WITH HUMOR AND WIT

SEDONA GETAWAY

Explorations abound in this phenomenal Central Arizona destination

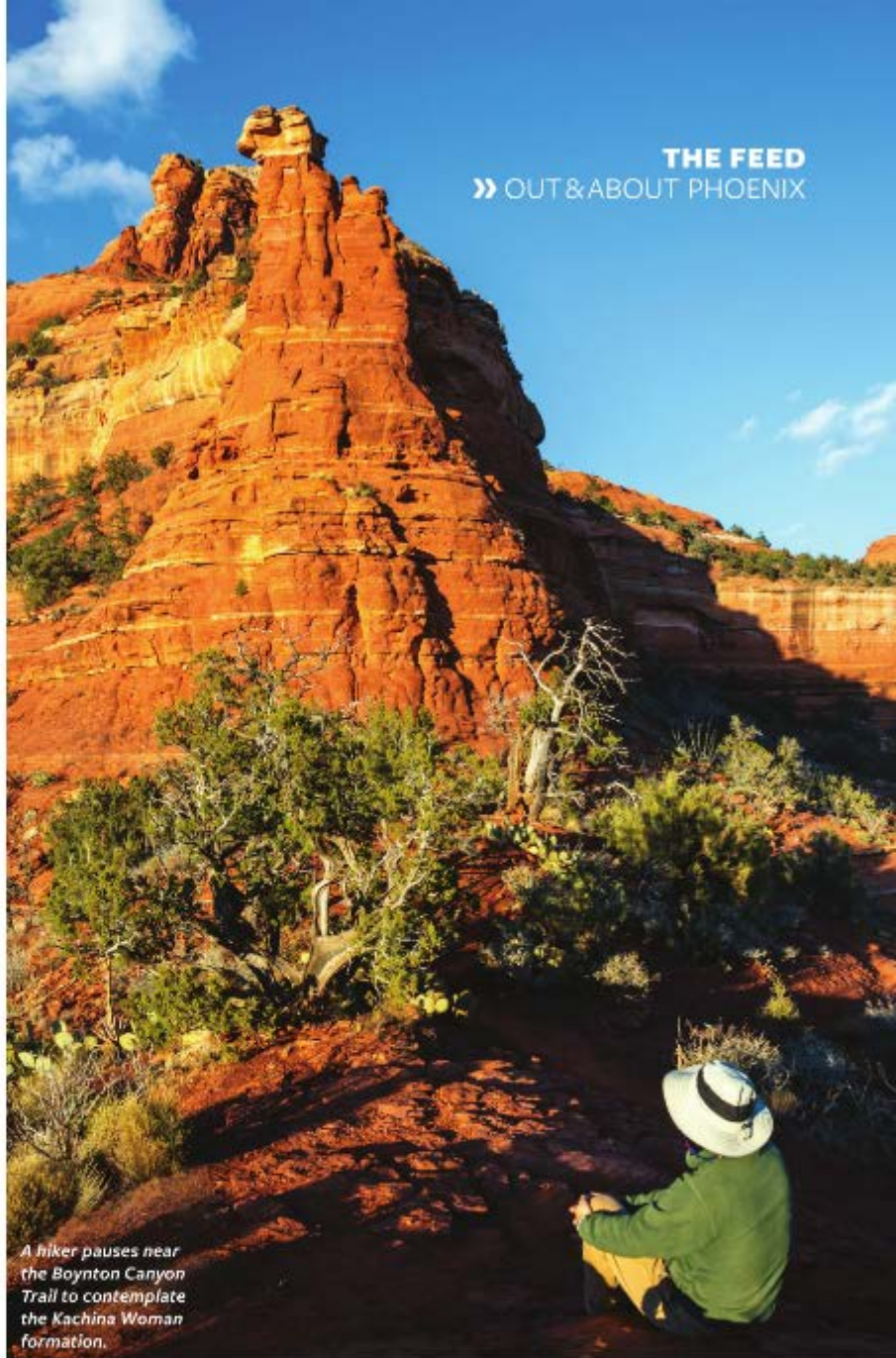
By Peter Potterfield

» About 115 miles north of Phoenix, the captivating high-desert town of Sedona is tucked among dramatic mountains of surreal red sandstone. Visitors are drawn to the Sedona area by its scenery, hiking, golfing, mountain biking, tennis and relatively relaxed pace. Sedona is also revered for its world-class resorts, excellent art galleries and five-star restaurants. And some claim the city's magic is palpable: Numerous visitors come hoping to connect with "vortex energy" reputed to exist here, with sufficient power to enhance spiritual growth.

There is something special about Sedona. The place is defined by these distinctive red hills that enfold the town and welcome hikers to explore ethereal beauty. Perhaps the most popular hike follows **Devil's Bridge Trail**, a moderate-difficulty 2-mile-roundtrip pathway to a natural bridge and stunning views. Another great choice is the glorious **Boynton Canyon Trail** that winds through desert onto broad red-rock ledges before heading up into a spectacular box canyon—all in about 6 miles of moderate-difficulty hiking through sublime landscape.

Along the Boynton Canyon Trail, you pass the back gate to the storied **Enchantment Resort**, a 75-acre property that features small adobe structures known as "casitas," along with tennis courts, a golf course and spa, plus a choice of two great restaurants. **Che Ah Chi** showcases contemporary American cuisine and its stunning red-rock backdrop. **Tii Gavo** is a more casual Southwest restaurant-tavern with its own excellent views.

Another of Sedona's classic resorts, **L'Auberge de Sedona**, is in town, set peacefully along lushly forested Oak Creek. This resort boasts creekside fine dining at **Cress on Oak Creek**, known for using locally foraged ingredients.



A hiker pauses near the Boynton Canyon Trail to contemplate the Kachina Woman formation.

Nearby, restaurateur Lisa Dahl has complemented her local-favorite **Dahl & DiLuca** with a newer, Latin-inspired grill, **Mariposa**.

You can also get in line at the Mexican-Southwest restaurant **Elote Cafe** (reservations not accepted), another beloved Sedona restaurant.

Whether it's outdoor activities or excellent dining that brings you, you'll find that Sedona is rustic and civilized in equal measure. Surrounded by 1.8 million acres of national forest land, the area is rich with tantalizing indulgences—and perhaps a touch of spiritual magic. ✕