

Overview: Scottsdale AZ

Scottsdale, which has been described as “a desert version of Miami’s South Beach,” is adjacent to central Phoenix. There are many places of worship in this city; Scottsdale residents used to be largely Christian, but now with recent drastic population growth, the area is much more diverse. Funeral homes reflect this and most are Christian based but more than happy to accommodate all faiths. Due to its warm weather, respected hospitals, reasonably priced homes and trendy restaurants and shopping centers, this area has become a favorite place for retirement.

Funeral Homes

If you plan to have a traditional funeral in Scottsdale with the body present (regardless of whether you choose burial or cremation) you must work with a funeral home to make your arrangements. As mentioned earlier, this area is predominately Christian but most all funerals homes will happily accommodate all religions.

Name	Rating	Price Level	Religion(s)
Able Funeral Services	Highly recommended	Low	All Faiths
A L Moore-Grimshaw Mortuaries Bethany Chapel	Highly recommended	High	Christian /All Faiths
Green Acres Mortuary & Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium /High	All Faiths
Greenwood Memory Lawn Mortuary and Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium	All Faiths
Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home	Highly recommended	Medium	All Faiths
Messinger Mortuaries	Recommended	Medium	All Faiths
Paradise Chapel Funeral Home	Recommended	Medium	All Faiths

Crematories

Normally, I would list direct cremation companies here. However, as mentioned above, because funeral homes in Phoenix can have crematories on site, there is not a separate “direct cremation” company. These are funeral homes that offer very reasonably priced cremations.

Name	Typical Price
Able Funeral Services	Low
Advantage Funeral and Cremation Services	Low
Affordable Cremation & Burial Chapel	Low

Cemeteries

You will work directly with the cemetery to arrange for a plot and the burial, but many of the details like buying a casket and body transportation will be coordinated by the funeral home you choose. Note: Some of these cemeteries have funeral homes on the premises.

Name	Rating	Price	Religion(s)	Location
Greenwood Memory Lawn and Mortuary	Highly recommended	Med/High	All Faiths / Christian	Phoenix
Phoenix Memorial Park and Mortuary	Highly recommended	Med/High	All Faiths	Phoenix
Green Acres Mortuary and Cemetery	Recommended	Med/High	All Faiths	Scottsdale

Funeral Homes

Recommended Highly

ABLE FUNERAL SERVICES

1627 North 51st Avenue
 Phoenix AZ, 85035
 (602) 442-7747
www.abelfuneralservices.com

This funeral home was spotlessly clean, modern, and very forward-thinking. When one drives around Phoenix, he cannot help but see billboards on the highways advertising Able’s very reasonably priced cremation services. The lovely and helpful ladies who greeted me told me that these ads bring in an overwhelming amount of business. Although I had expected a factory-ish feel, the funeral home has nice dark wood floors and a comfortable seating area, which gives this location a contemporary feel. The direct cremation is quite reasonably priced starting at under \$600.

A L MOORE-GRIMSHAW MORTUARIES BETHANY CHAPEL

710 West Bethany Home Road
 Phoenix AZ 85013
 (602) 2249-2111
www.almoore-grimshaw.com

This SCI-owned clean, modern, and spacious funeral home is a perfect example of a prime “Dignity” funeral home. Even from the outside, one can tell this funeral home is unique; the lawn outside is freshly cut and the vegetation is well maintained. Upon entering, one is not let down; the entrance is grand and clients are welcome to sit on a couch and enjoy the coffee table books, gaze at the fish tank, or go into the “hospitality suite” to enjoy some cookies. Chad, who has been with the company for over thirty years, is incredibly knowledgeable. They offer catered receptions (many different options) in a beautiful large room with a gorgeous vaulted ceiling. **GURU TIP:** Although you will pay more for the Dignity brand, you will also get all the associated benefits (there are too many to list.) Do ask about and take advantage of their MEM videos and photo albums.

GREEN ACRES MORTUARY & CEMETERY

401 North Hayden Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
(480) 945-2654

www.greenacresmortuary.net

Very few locations are able to offer as many special and personalized options as Green Acres. This SCI-owned “one-stop-shop” is willing and able to cater to any needs that clients have. They have a beautiful multi-denominational chapel, and then offer options for funerals and cremations. Clients will appreciate the lush grounds, ponds, and beautiful landscaping. Established in 1957, this location offers not only mausoleums (both classic and walk in), in ground options, and even a cremation garden. There is a separate garden for those of the Jewish faith, should they opt to be buried there.

GREENWOOD MEMORY LAWN MORTUARY AND CEMETERY

2300 West Van Buren Street
Phoenix AZ 85009
(602) 254-8491

www.greenwoodmemorylawn.com

This SCI-owned facility is large and conveniently located just off the highway. In Phoenix, this is the ideal “one-stop shop” location. The staff is professional and the facilities are spotlessly clean. Interestingly, this cemetery gets multiple positive reviews on yelp and other sites; it even has a Facebook page with lots of likes! This “combination” location offers everything from a Serenity Mausoleum to a Chinese Memorial Garden. The helpful staff will go through all your options with you and even take you on a tour of the cemetery if you would like.

WHITNEY & MURPHY FUNERAL HOME

4800 East Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 840-5600

www.whitneymurphyfuneralhome.com

This warm family-run funeral home is in need of an updated Website. Judging from the photos they posted, before I saw the place for myself I expected it to be dated and possibly verging on creepy. Immediately, I was proven wrong! This funeral home is well maintained and filled with a compassionate, professional, personable, and dedicated staff. Sean Murphy, the seventh generation owner, proudly showed off the bright main chapel and the other chapel that can be used for a wake or as a reception place where food can be served. Most of the staff has worked there for about 30 years because they love what they do. Unlike other funeral directors, Sean’s true passion for assisting others in their time of need was evident.

Recommended

MESSINGER MORTUARIES**“INDIAN SCHOOL MORTUARIES”**

7601 East Indian School Road
Scottsdale AZ 85251
(480) 945-9521
www.messingermortuary.com

This funeral home is family-owned and operated since 1959 and boasts its Courtyard Reception Room. This room can hold up to 100 people and is beautifully landscaped. They have a full catering kitchen and state-of-the-art video and sound system. It's quite clean and well kept and with their seven locations in Arizona it's no surprise that this is a local favorite.

PARADISE CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME

3934 East Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 955- 1600
www.paradisesunsetchapel.com

This all-women run funeral home has so many small details that make it warm and welcoming. From providing refreshments to an updated powder room, they go out of their way to remind clients how they can personalize their funerals. They have a bright chapel that can hold up to 200 people.

Cannot Recommend Yet

FUNERAL HOME PHOENIX

2942 North 24th Street #114
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 753-0284
www.funeral-home-phoenix.com

Direct Cremation Companies

Again, Phoenix/Scottsdale funeral homes have their own crematories on site. Because of this, they are able to offer direct cremations at very reasonable prices.

ABLE FUNERAL SERVICES

1627 North 51st Avenue
Phoenix AZ, 85035
(602) 442-7747
www.abelfuneralservices.com

When you drive along the highways in Arizona, you cannot help but see billboards advertising very reasonably priced direct cremations at Able Funeral Services. We did write about this location as a funeral home, but most of their business is direct cremation. It's very clean and highly recommended.

ADVANTAGE FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

1130 S. Horne
Mesa, AZ 85204
(480) 833-1716

www.AffordableCremationAZ.com

Part of the SCI conglomerate, this cremation chain is incredibly well organized and professional (they have a BBB rating). They are reasonably priced and operate five crematories. They also allow the immediate family to spend a brief period of time with their loved one in the Advantage chapel and say goodbye one last time. If you would like to do this, they will wash and prepare the body for you (this does not include embalming).

AFFORDABLE CREMATION & BURIAL CHAPEL

4141 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85015
(602) 263-7946

www.advantagefunerals.com

This is another part of the SCI conglomerate. It takes a lot to shock us and this location did so- in the BEST way possible! Although from the outside this is not the most warm and welcoming venue, inside you will find a fabulously run, warm location (they have a BBB rating.) All of their cremation packages are very reasonably priced. They also allow a small number of family members to visit with the body in their chapel for a nominal fee. **GURU TIP:** They have an exclusive deal with United Tissue Network (UTN) whereby if you donate the deceased's tissues, Advantage will take care of all the details and you will have the cremated remains returned to you for only \$195! You get to do an amazingly good deed *and* get a very affordable cremation.

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Phoenix Memorial Park and Mortuary

200 West Beardsley Road

Phoenix AZ 85027

(602) 434-7000

www.phoenixmemorialmortuary.com

This SCI facility is relatively new; it started in 1964. This cemetery was originally called Deer Valley Memorial Gardens, but as Phoenix grew, they wanted all citizens to feel welcome here. It is nicely laid out, modern and well kept. The staff will happily assist you and give you a tour of the location.

Hotels

Scottsdale became a famous all. Here you can find a hotel to suit a variety of tastes and budgets. We've selected a few that we think would be best while you are here planning a funeral. Here are just a few in the area:

\$	up to 150
\$\$	151 to 250
\$\$\$	251 to 350
\$\$\$\$	351 and up

Hyatt House Scottsdale

4245 North Drinkwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(480)946-7700

www.scottsdale.house.hyatt.com

This Hyatt caters to those who are looking for apartment like rooms for either brief or extended stays. The recently renovated hotel offers suites with kitchens and pullout couches, free wi-fi, complimentary hot breakfast, and even an outdoor grilling area. While you might not take advantage of the last amenity, you might appreciate the 24-hour gym or complimentary parking. With a few limitations, pets are welcome for a nominal fee. \$-\$\$

The Phoenician

6000 East Camelback Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(877) 488-1908

www.thephoenician.com

This is a luxury resort for those looking to take a break from pressures. Here, guests can relax and take advantage of the myriad of amenities (spa, driving range, golf course and fitness center), or just unwind with a walk through the well-designed cactus garden. There are plenty activities specially for children. The staff here goes beyond all expectations to be sure that guests are happy with their stay. \$\$\$\$

Valley Ho

6850 East Main Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 248-2000

www.hotelvalleyho.com

This retro-chic hotel gets rave reviews from numerous prominent magazines and newspapers. Some say it is, “the hottest place to stay” while others note that it simple has, “the hottest rooms in town.” Although you might not be fixated on staying in the trendiest location, the bright colors and stylish design will certainly put a smile on your face. There are plenty of conveniences to make your stay more enjoyable. This hotel is beyond pet-friendly. Your four-legged friend will be greeted at check in with a doggie bowl and treats (all complimentary). You can also feel good knowing that you are staying at a hotel that stives to be very Green. \$\$-\$\$\$

Restaurants

Needless to say there are numerous restaurants in Phoenix. Here are just a few recommended options for venues close to the funeral homes that can accommodate a group. If you opt for a different restaurant, just be sure to call ahead and ask if they can hold a crowd your size; the restaurant might have a private room and/or special menu. Also, you might want to consider a favorite local restaurant or a deli such as Paradise Bakery (there are multiple locations) or Grimaldi’s Pizzeria (there are multiple locations of these as well) to cater a Shiva, lunch or dinner at your home.

Arcadia Farms Cafe

2728 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 956-0900

<http://avanti-az.com>

This restaurant offers the old-school Italian comfort food that those in mourning might need. The rave reviews are most often about how the staff is very family-oriented, warm and happy to accommodate their clients’ needs- it’s not rare for the owner himself to seat you. The ambiance and décor match the “traditional” and old-world cuisine. It is worth noting that Avanti has an award-winning catering service. They offer multiple menus and will also assist with linens, china, and even flowers.

The Capital Grille

16489 North Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(602) 952-8900

www.thecapitalgrille.com

With almost 50 locations in America, The Capital Grill has mastered the upscale steakhouse chain. There are a few very nice steakhouses in the areas but the other amenities that The Capital Grill offers that made it stand out. It has multiple private rooms to accommodate parties of all sizes. Moreover, these rooms are equipped with presentation technology (including webcast) and live satellite broadcasting. These facilities will be helpful if certain guests cannot physically make it to celebrate the life of the deceased.

Olive & Ivy

7135 East Camelback Road
Suite #195
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 751-2200
www.foxrc.com

Part of the Fox Concepts food group, this is a great choice for those who are looking for something slightly more trendy and relaxed. This restaurant is a favorite location for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner. They have multiple group dining options, offering anything from a small area in their main dining room to multiple different size private rooms. It is worth noting that Fox Concepts has multiple locations around Scottsdale and Phoenix; if there is another type of cuisine that you are looking for, you might want to check out Blanco Tacos & Tequila, Culinary Dropout or Little Cleo's Seaford Legend.

Tommy V

7303 East Indian School Road
Suite #195
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 427-2264
www.tommyvscottsdale.com

This restaurant is a praised for its airy relaxing atmosphere, delicious food, and exceedingly kind staff. Although there is not an overly extensive menu, there is enough variety to please everyone. They have both private dining rooms and semi-private dining options. **GURU TIP:** If you need somewhere to unwind, you can come here and enjoy live jazz Friday and Saturday nights

Other Helpful Local Resources**Flo's on 7th**

4116 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85013
(602) 254-7861
www.flocrit.org/floson7th

This consignment store is constantly voted as the best in Phoenix. This fairly large store has a large selection of both high-end and everyday necessities. More importantly, you can feel good about donating your goods to (or shopping) here. This is because 100% of their net profits go to directly support Florence Criffton's program for at-risk youths and their families.

Foothills Animal Rescue Resale Boutique

23030 North Pima Road
Phoenix, AZ 85255
(480) 585-5777
<http://foothillsanimal.org/boutique>

We, the Everplans staff, LOVE animals. Lucky for us, we can happily recommend this thrift store because it not only offers lots of merchandise at very reasonable prices, but also gives 100% of the proceeds to the our four-legged friends.

Goodwill

8959 East Indian Bend Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
(480) 745-3710

www.goodwillaz.org

Goodwill's get mixed reviews, but this one is very highly ranked. Both those who are dropping off goods and those purchasing all say that the staff is beyond kind and helpful.

Switch

2728 north 68th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
(480) 874-0580

www.switchconsignment.com

This consignment store focuses mainly on furniture and home goods. After you send them a digital picture of the goods, the specialists will come up with a reasonable price for each item. Should you wish to move forward with the process, they have a list of independent movers who you can hire to bring the goods to them. There are two locations and clients rave about both.

'Til We Meet Again

1703 West Bethany Home Road
Suite D005
Phoenix, AZ 85015
(602) 242-6700

www.tilwemeetagainaz.com

Although we innately believe that malls sell everything, few of us were prepared for this store. Pat Kerivan brilliantly opened this shop in the Phoenix Mall that offers unique caskets, urns, jewelry keepsakes, and pet keepsakes. Although the shock value was what got him the publicity, clients should realize that he is selling distinctive products that some point we will all need. **Guru Tip:** Don't be scared! This store is worth checking out. We have seen plenty of caskets, but these are truly distinctive (and very reasonably priced).