

Maricopa County (AZ) Incorporated Municipality Highpoints

Compiled by Scott Surgent, Initial draft: December 4, 2012.

There are 24 incorporated towns and cities (municipalities) within Maricopa County. The highpoints of each municipality was determined by referencing <http://www.citypopulation.de/php/usa-arizona.php>, which shows the boundary of each municipality in detail, then referencing the topographical maps at www.mytopo.com, and carefully matching the boundaries from both sources together. The highpoint is within (or on) the boundaries, and excludes any higher ground within unincorporated county enclaves.

Some municipality highpoints have a strong “permanency” since the boundaries are unlikely to grow, or impossible if the municipality is locked in by surrounding municipalities. On the other hand, some municipal boundaries may grow and absorb higher land. A note regarding each municipality highpoint is given at the end. Latitude and longitude coordinates are derived from mytopo.com.

Avondale: Unnamed Peak 3,650+ feet, Estrella Mountains Regional Park, N33.294114, W112.32197.

Buckeye: Unnamed Peak 3,671 feet, south of White Tank Mountains Regional Park boundary near “Tower Road”, N33.544232, W112.55086.

Carefree: Black Mountain 3,398 feet, N33.815126, W111.94119

Cave Creek: Elephant Mountain 3,926 feet, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, N33.895877, W111.98233

Chandler: Spot elevation 1,293 feet, Northwest corner of Val Vista Drive and Hunt Highway at southeast corner of city, N33.204713, W111.75527.

El Mirage: Spot elevation 1,168 feet, Southeast corner of Dysart and Greenway Roads, northwest corner of city, N33.623470, W112.34196.

Fountain Hills: Inferred elevation 3,180+ feet (20-ft intervals), on southeast ridge of Peak 3804 in the McDowell Mountains, on Fountain Hills-Scottsdale city limits, N33.627723, W111.78733.

Gila Bend: Unnamed Peak 1,733 feet, peak in northeast appendage of city, N33.092668, W112.59312.

Gilbert: Inferred elevation 1,410+ feet (10-ft intervals), Northwest corner of Stacy and Recker Roads in at the southeast corner of the city, N33.206509, W111.70317.

Glendale: Unnamed Peak 1,862 feet, Hedgepeth Hills/Thunderbird Recreation Area near northeast corner of city, N33.689055, W112.17936.

Goodyear: Sevenmile Mountain 2,948 feet, southeast appendage of city, N33.126045, W112.22387.

Guadalupe: Inferred elevation 1,280 feet (10-ft intervals), on east slope of small hill on western city limits, N33.373056, W111.96855.

Litchfield Park: Inferred elevation 1,125 feet (5-ft intervals), small hill in La Loma Ranch, N33.513216, W112.36099.

Mesa: Unnamed Peak 2,786 feet, Utery Mountains near northeast corner of city, N33.488684, W111.63960.

Paradise Valley: Unnamed Peak/Ridge Point 2,429 feet, in western appendage in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve, N33.55337, W111.99228.

Peoria: Unnamed Peak 2,765 feet, east of Jackass Cove, Lake Pleasant, in northeast appendage of city, N33.88451, W112.22820.

Phoenix: Unnamed Peak 2,866 feet, near northwest corner of city, east of Lake Pleasant, N33.89695, W112.21772

Queen Creek: Inferred elevation 2,225 feet (25-ft intervals), northeast ridge of Peak 2399 in the Santan Mountains, southern appendage of city (within Pinal County), N33.16011, W111.68591.

Scottsdale: Butte Peak 4,890 feet, near northern city limits in New River Mountains, N33.89606, W111.86054.

Surprise: Spot elevation 1,921 feet, Southeast corner of North 195th Avenue and Joy Ranch Alignment, at northwest corner of the northern appendage, northeast of the Chrysler Test Track. Multiple areas east along the Joy Ranch Alignment also supersede 1,920 feet. N33.825495, W112.481697.

Tempe: Tempe Butte (Hayden Butte) 1,495 feet, N33.42814, W111.93576.

Tolleson: Benchmark 1,038 feet, southwest corner of McDowell Road and 83rd Avenue, at northeast corner of city, N33.465304, W112.237895.

Wickenburg: Unnamed hilltop 2,624 feet, west of Kellis Road/Turtleback Mountain Road and across from W. Via del Cielo, N33.946523, W112.738599.

Youngtown: Inferred elevation 1,150 feet (10-ft intervals), southwest corner of 111th Avenue and Grand Avenue, at northeast corner of city, N33.605124, W112.298652.

Strong permanency: The cities of Carefree, Cave Creek, Chandler, El Mirage, Fountain Hills, Glendale, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Tempe, Tolleson and Youngtown are completely surrounded by other cities, Indian reservations or national forest boundaries such that adding more land is essentially impossible. Thus, these city highpoints are likely to remain unchanged.

The remaining cities all have room to expand, but in some cases, such as Avondale, Gila Bend and Goodyear, it would be unlikely the room for expansion would include lands of higher elevation.

The highpoints of Phoenix, Peoria, Queen Creek and Wickenburg could change as the cities add more land. Peoria and Phoenix have added lands north to the Yavapai County Line (and some lands inside Yavapai County) which could include lands higher than the existing highpoint. Similarly, Wickenburg has nearly unlimited room in all directions. Queen Creek could conceivably grow by adding more lands within the Santan Mountains, but sections of these mountains are enclosed within the Gila River Indian Reservation