

# Maricopa, AZ

Maricopa, Arizona serves as the Amtrak stop for the greater City of Phoenix area. A few years back the freight railroad tore out the tracks leading into downtown Phoenix; thus Maricopa now serves as the city's Amtrak gateway.

The nearby Maricopa Wells, a source of water in this desert climate, provided impetus to establish a stop for the newly developed Butterfield Overland Mail Route. The mail route ran from both Memphis, Tennessee and St Louis, Missouri, and on through Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and eventually all the way to San Francisco. As the stagecoach routes and eventually the railroad made their way through this area, people soon realized that water was a scarce commodity. Securing this source of water was vital for the establishment and success of both the stagecoach and the railway. It also helped the agriculture industry, which led to the major growth of this region. Both agriculture and the railroad played a major role in establishing this area as a prominent city that was capable of sustaining the population.

Because of its proximity to Phoenix, Maricopa has become a booming city in recent decades, and was incorporated in 2003. Its population continues to explode, and as of 2007 it had an estimated population of 34,000. Both the Gila River and Ak-Chin Indian Reservations are adjacent to the city. While many amenities are available in Phoenix, new development and commercial enterprises are starting to call Maricopa home. Maricopa is also the closest Amtrak stop for both the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument and Hohokam Pima National Monument.

## Source(s):

<http://phoenix.about.com/od/govtcity/ss/Maricopa.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maricopa,\\_Arizona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maricopa,_Arizona)

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