

Downtown and Southside Walking Tours – Flagstaff, Arizona (map on last page)

Flagstaff's Southside and Downtown areas are fascinating places to get to know. Both are historic districts, have histories including segregation, economics, architecture, and gentrification. They are also places of artistic expression. What has been selected for this guide is by no means all that was available.

The guide has murals, buildings and breweries, just a bit of Flagstaff character. There is also a short restaurant list, again, very truncated, that might provide opportunity as you walk Southside and Downtown. We have not set a single path as your interests might be one or all of the subjects. So wander. "Not all who wander are lost."

Murals

Flagstaff is a city full of artistic expressions. Mural art abounds throughout the city and provides character and sense of place. Some of the murals in the Downtown and Southside are mapped and described. These create a sense of place for us.



****Murals on the map are identified by circles with a green border and have their numbers listed next to them****

#1. Furniture Barn Cow by Melanie Thomson-Myers, Natural Grocers, 503 W. Clay.

One of the most distinct landmarks in Flagstaff, navigation by the "Cow" is a normal process here. The mural consists of a 35-foot high Holstein cow. This registered historic building was constructed in 1920 as the Flagstaff Armory.

#2. Murdoch Center Mural by Ricardo Guthrie, 203 E. Brannen

This mural pays homage to the African-American and other influences in Southside. The Murdoch Community Center, the site of the mural, was first the Dunbar School, a segregated school. The mural contains influential African Americans as well as buildings that hold meaning to Southside. The artist, Dr. Ricardo Guthrie, is a professor in Ethnic Studies at NAU.

#3. Mother Myth Mural by Mural Mice Universal, Phoenix Ave. and S. San Francisco (behind Lumberyard Brewery)

A 60-year history of Route 66 in decades including the rise and fall of Route 66.

#4. The Mancuso's Boots by David Grandon and the German International Adventure Society, 14 W. Route 66.

Painted in honor of photographer and river guide George Lamont Mancuso whose life was cut short. His love of the Grand Canyon was all-encompassing.

#5. Piano Room Mural by Sage, Jill and Dan Drilevich and Ricco Distefano, 12 N. Leroux.

Looking back to another century.

#6. True Blue NAU by Mural Joe, 14 N. Leroux.

This NAU focused mural demonstrates the tie between the university and the city. From personal experience, this mural helps new students find a community tie to their new place.

#7. The Sound of Flight by Sky Black and Mural Mice Collective, Orpheum Theater 15 W. Aspen.

The mural expresses life from music, to classical thought, to the natural elements of the region. Contributions came from the public and the City of Flagstaff, and this is considered the largest mural in the state at 4,500 sq. feet.

#8. Learning to Fly by Sky Black, 115 W. Birch.

A joyful expression of youth, a young girl rising.

#9. The Flagstaff Portal by Sean Griffin, 111 W. Birch.

A portal awaits to take you through the trees to the mountains.

#10. History of Flagstaff by Joe Sorren, 120 N. Leroux.

This mural harkens back to the past of Flagstaff and industries such as livestock, the rail road and timber that were important to the early Flagstaff.

#11. The Verdic Gardens of Effie Leroux by Joe Sorren, 120 N. Leroux in Heritage Square.

A cult favorite (and next to Diablo Burger) and a bit otherworldly.

#12. Mural Alley

The area behind Criollo's Latin Kitchen, and the alley adjacent to Mart Anne's (both good food places!) is an area of less formally sanctioned artistic expression. The area has at least 7 major mural panels. The Green Car Company by Kory B., Aspen Machine Murals by Black Sheep Collective, a spirit piece by Chip Thomas and more. The images range from Native influences to – well, you'll see....

#13. All From a Moment Alive by Lyle Motley 202 E Route 66.

The joy of bike riding and being a kid! This mural reminds us of the biking culture here in Flagstaff.

#14. Among the Trees by Sean Griffin, 204 E. Route 66.

Adjacent to the Babbitt Ford parking lot, this mural includes initials (lower right) of an employee who passed away. The trees in the mural are stylized.

Buildings

Flagstaff has many architectural styles, from territorial, to Romanesque. As you wander the Downtown and Southside, you'll notice many of the building use native materials such as Moenkopi sandstone or malpais lava rock. The overall feel is of human scale.

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****Buildings are identified on the map by pink circles with numbers in them****

#1. Ewa's Thai Cuisine (formerly El Rancho Grande) 110 S. San Francisco

This building housed El Rancho Grande, the first African American business in Flagstaff. African American migration from the South into the West to work in the lumber mills. McNary and Flagstaff, AZ were lumber worker destinations. El Rancho Grande, a saloon, was a popular night spot for the African American community established in Southside.

#2. Tourist Home / Tourist Home All Day Café 52 S. San Francisco

Originally built in 1926 by Basques sheepherder Jesus Garcia and his mother Isabelle, as was a boarding house for the Basque sheepherding population in Flagstaff. The sheep herding was an early industry for Flagstaff. Nearly demolished after years of decay, this landmark was renovated and repurposed as a popular eating establishment.

#3. Basque Ball Court 52 S. San Francisco

Just behind the 'Tourist Home' lies the remains of the Pelota Fronton, a Basque ball court. It is a remnant of the time Basque sheepherders would come to Flagstaff for business and fun while moving their flocks. It is the last remaining ball court of its kind in Arizona.

#4. 1889 Depot Corner of Route 66 and S. San Francisco in the BNSF right-of way

In the early 1880s, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad came through Flagstaff. Although Flagstaff was not originally a planned stop, the town became an official stop with a depot. Over time the Railroad changed to the Santa Fe (ATSF) then the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). This depot, built of Moenkopi sandstone, has a very utilitarian Commercial design.

#5. David Babbitt Buildings East half of Aspen between Leroux and N. San Francisco (south side)

Constructed in 1907 and 1911, these commercial-style buildings were built by the eldest Babbitt brother, David. Arriving in Flagstaff in 1886, the 5 Babbitt brothers became legendary in Flagstaff and Northern Arizona history from ranching to commercial enterprises. The CO Bar Ranch, named for the home city of Cincinnati, Ohio, is the site of the state's largest conservation easement and the Babbitt Ranches host the famous Hashknife colt sale. The shorter building, Flagstaff second post office, was traditional masonry construction, the taller, has an iron frame and masonry walls. Tufa/limestone was used in both. The buildings have a courtyard that can be accessed through the alley.

#6. Heritage Square Aspen Ave. between Leroux and N. San Francisco (north side)

A true community square in the heart of Downtown. In the 1980s the entire block facing Aspen Ave. was covered by a multi-story Babbitt's Department Store (like JC Penney) which closed in 1986. Heritage Square was created as part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's

Main Street Program, which was active in downtown Flagstaff (north of Rt. 66) from the late 1980s to mid-1990s. The property is today owned by the Hopi Tribe under a long-term lease to the city. If you look around, you will see symbology relevant to the region as well as the layers of the Grand Canyon around the flagpole. The square hosts Movies on the Mall, live music and family activities. Look for the plaques as you explore.

#7. Babbitt Brothers Building / Babbitt's Backcountry 12 E. Aspen

Originally a Renaissance Revival built in 1888, modifications made over the years were stripped away in 1990 to showcase the original red Moenkopi sandstone. The building has housed county offices, an opera house and retail over the years.

#8. Hotel Monte Vista 100 N. San Francisco

Opening on New Year's Day 1927, the "Monte V" got its name from a contest. This Spanish Influence style hotel was built by community-raised funds- over \$200,000 was raised in 60 days. The hotel is said to be haunted by many ghosts such as the bank robber and the baby in the basement. Over the years the "Monte V" has had many famous guests such as Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, Bob Hope, Freddy Mercury and Jon Bon Jovi.

#9. Federal Building 114. N. San Francisco

A Federal Moderne style, the Federal building dates from 1936. The copper used is to represent the importance of copper mining to Arizona's economy at the time. Originally built as the city's post office, this office building today is privately owned – although it has occasionally been the site of anti-federal government protests.

#10. Coconino County Courthouse 200 N. San Francisco

Built in 1887 (original building), this Romanesque Revival building of local red Moenkopi sandstone. The population learned a lesson in architectural style over the years as additions created a mixture of styles that were less than appreciated. The newest addition uses color and elements to blend the modern with the historic. The courthouse lawn invites shoeless investigation, as Flagstaff grass lawns are not overly common.

#11. Orpheum Theatre 15 W. Aspen

John Weatherford built the first cinema in Flagstaff, the Majestic, in 1911. After the roof collapsed in 1916, the Majestic was rebuilt. Now named the Orpheum, it had a long life as a downtown movie outlet, closing in 1999. The last picture was Peter Pan with Robin Williams. I know because I was there (Dawn Hawley). It reopened in 2000 as a concert and special events venue.

#12. Weatherford Hotel 23 N. Leroux

John Weatherford began building what would become this Victorian hotel building in the late 1890s and opened a hotel in 1900. Zane Grey stayed here while writing. Other noted visitors were William Randolph Hearst and Theodore Roosevelt. A few years ago, an old speakeasy was found in the basement. Today it's the Gopher Hole Bar. And every New Year's Eve, the giant metal pinecone - yes, a really big metal pinecone - is "dropped" from the upper balcony to cheering crowds to signify the New Year.

#13. The McMillan / McMillan Bar and Kitchen Corner of Route 66 and LeRoux

Originally the Bank Hotel, Thomas McMillan built this Victorian structure in 1886. In an attempt to fireproof the building, it has a masonry interior and native stone exterior. It is currently a restaurant/bar.

#14. Flagstaff Amtrak and Visitor's Center: Santa Fe Rail Depot

Designed and built by the Santa Fe Railroad, this Revival Tudor depot opened in 1926. This depot is the Amtrak stop, where you can catch a train to Albuquerque or LA. It also serves as the Flagstaff Visitor's Center.

#15. Motel DuBeau Travelers Inn and Hostel 19 W. Phoenix

The Motel Du Beau was the vision of Albert Eugene Du Beau, a hotelier vacationing in Northern Arizona. He was interested in creating a place for overnight visitors headed to the Grand Canyon, part of a new breed of auto tourists. Opening in 1929, it was the first "Motel" in Flagstaff and one of the first "Motor Courts" in America. It is located one block south of Route 66.

#16. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 22 S. Kendrick

Hispanic parishioners built this church in a response to segregation issues at the Church of the Nativity in the Downtown. The church serves as a gathering place for the local community and showcases Hispanic cultural heritage. The building was designed by Father Edward Albouy, land was donated by Phelomena Babbitt, and local Hispanics provided most of the funding for its construction - some through lumber mill payroll deduction. Completed in 1926, it showcases local malpais (lava rock).

Breweries and Etc...

Flagstaff has had a strong home brewing component for decades. Brew pubs and craft brewing (commercial) came into the local landscape in 1994, and has expanded ever since. Listed are those in the downtown area. There are more in other areas of the city. Also listed are a couple winery's in the downtown area that may be of interest to you.



****Breweries are identified on the map by squares with a blue border surrounding them****

#1. Historic Brewing and Bottle House 110 S. San Francisco

Enjoy 20 beers on tap, cans to go and wine from their sister company, Grand Canyon Wine Company. This is the Southside tap room location as the main brewing facility is in East Flag. Another taproom is located in Williams.

#2. Lumberyard Brewing Company 5 S. San Francisco

Opened by the owners of Beaver Street (#8 below), the Lumberyard Brewing Company was created (in 2010) by a partnership between the City of Flagstaff that was looking for a use for the historic Halstead Lumberyard building, and Beaver Street, that was looking for expansion

opportunities. This was a million dollar renovation and long term lease project that answered the business needs of brewers and saved a historic building from Flagstaff's lumber days.

#3. Flagstaff Brewing Company 16 E. Route 66

Flag Brew is the second brewpub and microbrew facility opened in Flagstaff (1994). Jim Thorsett is the brewmeister/owner and believes in good whiskey as well. A solid offering of IPAs, porters, stouts and ales along with specialty offerings. The location is right off Route 66 in an alley/alcove area that locals love to relax in.

#4. Rickety Crickets Brewing 10 W. Route 66

This is a new tap room. Rickety Cricket brews in Kingman, AZ, its first location. Another taproom is located in Prescott. The taproom offers about 24 beers from traditional to boutique. Another garage brewer gone big.

#5. Blendz Winery and Bar 21 E. Aspen

Blendz serves at least 20 wine varietals on tap in oak barrels and there is the opportunity to create your own unique wine blend to drink or take home.

#6. Vino Loco 22 E. Birch

Not to forget wine drinkers, Vino Loco is a wine shop and bar with Tasting every Thursday and daily happy hour from 1-6 pm.

#7. Dark Sky Brewing 117 N. Beaver

A perfect name for a brewery located in the First International Dark Sky City. Dark Sky has over 400 recipes in their repertoire and try to introduce a new recipe every week. You'll find 10-18 beers on tap.

<https://brewtrails.podbean.com/> Yes, beer podcasts from Dark Sky Brewing

#8. Beaver Street Brewery and Whistle Stop Café 11 S. Beaver Street

The mother of the local brewery movement. Dick and Jean Wilson read an article on the new trend of microbreweries and brewpubs and told their daughter Winnie about it. Winnie and husband Evan Hanseth attended a small craft brewing conference, sold their home to finance to brewpub, moved to Flagstaff and the family opened Beaver Street, the city's first microbrewery and brewpub, in 1994.

#9. Mother Road 7 S. Mike's Pike

This original location is now Mother Road's experimental brewery and taproom. Kids and families are welcome as are leashed dogs (on the patio). A relaxed place to try one of their experimental batches. Next to the downtown connection center (NAIPTA bus transfer station).

Downtown Walking Tour

✓ Breweries, etc.

📍 Individual styles

- 1 📍 Historic Brewing Barrel + Bot...
- 2 📍 Lumberyard Brewing Company
- 3 📍 Flagstaff Brewing Company
- 4 📍 Rickety Cricket Brewing Tap...
- 5 📍 Blendz Winery & Bar
- 6 📍 Vino Loco
- 7 📍 Dark Sky Brewing Co.
- 8 📍 Beaver Street Brewery
- 9 📍 Mother Road Brewing Comp...

✓ Murals

📍 Individual styles

- 1 📍 Furniture Barn Cow
- 2 📍 Murdoch Community Center
- 3 📍 Mother Myth Mural
- 4 📍 The Mancusco's Boots
- 5 📍 Piano Room Mural
- 6 📍 True Blue NAU
- 7 📍 The Sound of Flight
- 8 📍 Learning to Fly
- 9 📍 The Flagstaff Portal
- 10 📍 History of Flagstaff
- 11 📍 The Veridic Gardens of Effie...
- 12 📍 Mural Alley
 - Naa Daa
 - Native Pride
 - I am the Change
 - Aspen Machine Murals
 - Untitled by Gilbert Parra
 - Green Car Company
 - Untitled by Kayley Monster
- 13 📍 All From a Moment Alive
- 14 📍 Among the Trees

✓ Historical Buildings/ Sites

📍 Sequence of numbers

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 📍 Ewa's Thai Cuisine, LLC. | 6 📍 Heritage Square | 11 📍 Orpheum Theater | 16 📍 Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel |
| 2 📍 Tourist Home All Day Cafe | 7 📍 Babbitt Brother's Building | 12 📍 Weatherford Hotel | |
| 3 📍 Basque Handball Court | 8 📍 Hotel Monte Vista | 13 📍 The McMillan Bar and Kitchen | |
| 4 📍 1889 Depot | 9 📍 Federal Building | 14 📍 Flagstaff Amtrak | |
| 5 📍 David Babbitt | 10 📍 Coconino County Flagstaff J... | 15 📍 DuBeau Hostel | |

