

about spring training are its bargain prices. Great seats behind home plate can be had for \$15 to \$25 while a ticket down the line goes for only \$10 to \$20. The charm of the small venues is a heaven for sunbathers, many journeying to the outer depths of the stadium to enjoy the sprawling grassy areas beyond the outfield fences. Fans tote blankets and suntan lotion after paying an admission fee as low as five bucks.

Arizona in March offers cozy ballparks, sun-drenched afternoons, and a month of games designed to get players in top condition for the upcoming season. Spring training is great fun, but to enjoy it to the max spectators are encouraged to make plans well in advance by purchasing tickets and booking hotel rooms. The annual spring ritual, formed in 1954, has become so popular that its impact on the state economy is now a big business, amounting to a cool \$200 million to the metro Phoenix and Tucson areas where crowds of about 10,000 are commonplace in the 12 stadiums, some sharing the same facility.

With parking at a premium, the key is to arrive early, find a spot in the lot and head for the training fields where players begin their day with a morning workout. The prime signing opportunities take place when players come to the park around 10 a.m., and again following the morning two-hour practice when they make their

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