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PHOENIX, SCOTTSDALE, AND TEMPE

Will the Southwest's extreme heat wave impact summer travel?



By Donald Wood

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In this 2013 file photo, 10-year-old Easton Martin, of Mesa, Ariz., stops to cool off in a misting fan while walking along The Strip while visiting Las Vegas with his family.

A heat wave in the Southwest United States has resulted in at least two deaths and has even forced a plane to return to its origin airport due to high temperatures.

The National Weather Service is reporting 17 daily heat records were broken Sunday, but the peak of the heat wave will come Monday. In some desert areas, temperatures are expected to reach around 120 degrees.

Officials confirmed Monday that two hikers had died from heat-related issues in separate incidents on Sunday. The first victim was a woman who died on a trail near Tucson, Arizona, and the other was a man found a short distance away. There is also another person missing who was last seen on the trail.

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In addition, the extreme heat forced a United Airlines flight from Houston to Phoenix to return to Texas when temperatures reached 117 degrees. The airline said it would compensate passengers and provide an added flight Monday morning.

For tourists making their way to the Southwest for summer vacation, the National Weather Service has issued excessive heat warnings for Tucson and Yuma, as well as popular destinations such as the Grand Canyon and Lake Havasu.

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