

tucson

a Sonoran Desert
EXPERIENCE



Why Tucson?

Because you're looking to go somewhere that not everyone has gone. A place that's totally different than what you've experienced in the past, but that still has the amenities you'd expect. A place with uniquely breath-taking natural sights, located in the heart of the Sonoran Desert and surrounded by five mountain ranges and two districts of Saguaro National Park. A place that was recognized by UNESCO as the first City of Gastronomy in the U.S. We encourage you to take the time to free yourself in Tucson, Arizona.

Clockwise from left, The Iconic Saguaro cactus, Mission San Xavier del Bac, Downtown Tucson

Soul of the
**SONORAN
DESERT**

This area isn't just incredibly beautiful, it's also rich with history. Visit a mission, experience an event, see art in myriad forms, meet the people who make this place special - you'll be amazed by the depth of Tucson's story.



“Goddess of Agave”
mural by Rock Martinez
with assistance from
Christina Perez



LIFE *in the* BORDERLANDS

Culture isn't some aside here, it's part of everything that happens in Tucson. Indigenous culture is alive and well, including active church life at Mission San Xavier del Bac and the reclaiming of native agricultural history next door at the Co-Op Farm. Tucson is made up of many voices, traditions, backgrounds and artistic expressions from the first to set foot here to those making their home here after being displaced from somewhere else.



All Souls Procession

People show up to experience the Procession in countless ways, in street clothes or fully in costume. Faces painted or just there to witness.

November



Barrio Viejo





Old West

Tucson is a modern city, but there's still a bit of the frontier era here as well, with numerous ways to experience the cowboy or cowgirl life.

SADDLES & SPURS

If Tucson reminds you of the Old West you used to see in the movies, it's probably because the movie you're thinking of was filmed here. Cowboy culture still lives on in Southern Arizona, ready to be experienced whether you're looking for a cookout steak after a day of riding, to be part of an actual cattle round-up, or to witness a re-enactment of the shootout at the O.K. Corral in nearby Tombstone. Our ranches are immersive, perfect for all members of the family and full of Western hospitality. They'll even hold on to your hat and boots for when you're ready to return.



Fiesta de los Vaqueros

One of the top 25 pro rodeos in the United States, staged at Tucson Rodeo Grounds in February since 1925.

February



Tombstone



Tanque Verde Ranch



- ATTRACTIONS/ LANDMARK
- ▲ NATURE PARKS & RESERVES
- CORONADO NATIONAL PARK

CITY	MI	KM	CITY	MI	KM
Albuquerque	451	726	Oro Valley	14	23
Bisbee	90	144	Phoenix	115	184
Denver	892	1436	San Diego	410	660
Flagstaff	257	411	Sedona	230	367
Globe	106	170	Scottsdale	117	188
Grand Canyon	338	541	Sonoita	47	75
Lake Havasu	317	507	Tombstone	70	112
Las Vegas	413	665	Tubac	44	70
Los Angeles	488	785	Yuma	240	384
Nogales, Mex	70	112			



Weather ☀️
 Tucson's dry, fresh air and average annual 325 days of sunshine make it the perfect place for outdoor activities. And though summer does get hot, low humidity and easy access to cool escapes nearby mean you can enjoy the region's diverse surroundings all year long.

Getting Here ✈️
 You can fly into Tucson International Airport, which features flights from eight airlines with direct flights to numerous destinations. The airport is just south of downtown and is easy to access from the interstate.



Gastronomy

Tucson celebrates its culinary history while incorporating flavors of the Sonoran Desert with flavors of the world.

City of GASTRONOMY

When Tucson was named the first UNESCO City of Gastronomy in the United States in late 2015, there were a fair number of surprised responses. However, once you're here, it'll be easy to experience the uniqueness of Tucson's cuisine and culture. With over four thousand years of food history leading to this point and four James Beard semifinalists in 2020, Tucson's a great place to eat because food (and drink) in Tucson simply taste different here, in magnificent and exciting ways.



Agave Heritage Festival

Celebrates the unique importance of the agave plant, deeply rooted in Tucson's fibers as an Arizona-Mexico border town.

April- May



DOWNTOWN Kitchen + Cocktails



Yamato Japanese Restaurant



Charro Vida

Rock climbing near
Mt. Lemmon

Outdoor & ADVENTURE

Get into Tucson's wide-open spaces, home of the majestic saguaro, and get ready to be filled with surprise, delight and wonder. Get ready to make some tough decisions, you won't be able to explore it all.



The SONORAN DESERT

The Sonoran Desert is unlike anywhere else on earth, it's not even like any desert you're familiar with; greener, more ecologically diverse, and ready to be explored. From 9,000 foot peaks down to the desert floor, if you love being outside, we have something for you.



Tucson has appeared in the **world's bicycling magazines** as a **premier destination** - and you can experience it yourself all on two wheels.



Tucson Mountain Park

Hiking

We couldn't possibly summarize everything there is to offer someone with sunscreen, a lot of water and the right shoes, but here's what you need to know - there are hiking trails for every level of explorer, all over town, and easy to access. Plus, opportunities for peak selfies for Instagram.

Cycling

Tucson has the rare combination of having it all, bike-wise: great urban paths surrounding the city, roads for training (including mountain climbs), all kinds of mountain biking from boulder work to trail rides, plus gravel galore and bike events, camps and more.

Birdwatching

Birdwatching is so hot right now and if you're looking to add some checkmarks to your guide book (maybe even the elusive Elegant Trogon), Southern Arizona has more than 250 species that spend some or all of the year near here.

A woman in a dark yoga outfit is performing a standing split yoga pose on a large rock. She is holding her right foot with her right hand and her left foot with her left hand. The background is a dramatic sunset over a desert landscape with mountains and sparse vegetation. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Health & WELLNESS

You might be up for some rest and relaxation or perhaps something more active, Southern Arizona is a destination for those looking for somewhere to improve themselves and enjoy themselves in the process.

Outdoor yoga at
Canyon Ranch

You feel it the moment you step off the plane, the minute you see the Santa Catalinas or Rincon Mountains from the highway. There's something about Tucson that helps the body settle, the mind clear and the soul unknot.

No wonder we're home to some of the best spas in the world: the renowned Miraval Arizona Resort & Spa and Canyon Ranch destination spas plus eight resort spas nestled in the beauty of Tucson's desert and foothills.

Recognized for award-winning cuisine, innovative treatments and programs that take wellness to new heights (sometimes literally!), Tucson spas promise an extraordinary escape, rest, recreation and personal growth.

Sweat, Then Sip

Several Tucson breweries offer yoga classes that include a pint of beer after, if you're looking for a different kind of wellness.

tucson

FREE YOURSELF.®

For more information about travel to Tucson
including group tours and professional meetings
go to **VisitTucson.org**

Cover Image: Tucson Mountain Park
Additional Images Provided by Tucson Foodie