

TUCSON, ARIZONA

# ASTRO TRAIL



VISIT  
**Tucson**

# TUCSON, ARIZONA

A SOUTHERN ARIZONA ASTRONOMY DESTINATION

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Tucson is renowned for its exceptionally dark skies, minimal light pollution, and unique variety of astronomical attractions — making it a paradise for stargazers, researchers, and curious minds alike. The remarkable combination of natural beauty and scientific discovery provides an ideal canvas for observing the cosmos.

The city's decades-long strict light pollution regulations allow it to host world-class observatories, research institutions, and public astronomy programs. These ordinances helped **Saguaro National Park become certified as the world's ninth Urban Night Sky Place in late 2023**. This coveted certification recognizes sites near large urban areas whose planning actively promotes an authentic nighttime experience in the midst of significant artificial light at night.

Whether you're a professional researcher seeking to unravel the mysteries of the universe or a curious visitor wanting to experience the magic of the stars, the Southern Arizona community and unparalleled celestial views make Tucson a must-visit destination for anyone fascinated by the night sky.



LEARN MORE ABOUT TUCSON'S ASTROTOURISM  
EXPERIENCES AT [VISITTUCSON.ORG/ASTRONOMY](https://visittucson.org/astromy).

### KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

Located an hour southeast of Tucson, on the Tohono O'odham Nation, Kitt Peak National Observatory is home to one of the largest arrays of optical and radio telescopes in the world.

### SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK EAST & WEST DISTRICTS

Certified as an Urban Night Sky Place by the DarkSky International, this national park bookends the city of Tucson and offers a variety of locations in which to celebrate the Sonoran Desert's night sky.

### FLANDRAU SCIENCE CENTER & PLANETARIUM

Flandrau is Tucson's destination for adventures in space and science! Located on the University of Arizona campus, Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium inspires visitors of all ages to discover the wonders of science.

### STEWARD OBSERVATORY

A University of Arizona campus landmark, this observatory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### RICHARD F. CARIS MIRROR LABORATORY

Tucked beneath the University of Arizona's football stadium, the Richard F. Caris Mirror Laboratory manufactures the gargantuan mirrors used in some of the most advanced telescopes throughout the world.

### PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Spread across 80 acres, Pima Air & Space Museum is one of the largest non-government funded aviation and space museums in the world. Make sure to visit the Aerospace Gallery!

## EXPLORE TUCSON'S ASTRO TRAIL



### MT. LEMMON SKYCENTER

Home to the largest dedicated public telescopes in the United States, The SkyCenter is an exceptional science learning facility located at Steward Observatory's "sky island" observing site just north of Tucson, Arizona.

### MOUNT GRAHAM INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY

Located two hours south of Tucson, in the Coronado National Forest, Eastern Arizona College's Discovery Park Campus is the official visitor's center for the telescopes on Mount Graham.

### ORACLE STATE PARK

Designated an International Dark Sky Park in 2014, this 4,000-acre wildlife refuge is in the northern foothills of the Catalina Mountains and offers exceptional conditions for viewing the wonders of the night sky. Observe the Milky Way and other celestial objects at one of their Star Parties!

### KARTCHNER CAVERNS STATE PARK

Best known for its caves, this state park is a designated Dark Sky Park by DarkSky International and only a short 50-minute drive from Tucson. A location ripe for stargazing, take part in a hosted educational star party or astronomy event!

### THE FRED LAWRENCE WHIPPLE OBSERVATORY (FLWO)

Just 45-minutes south of Tucson, FLWO opened in 1968 and is home to world-class telescopes. FLWO is the largest satellite facility of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, part of the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE DIGITAL ASTRO TRAIL AT  
[VISITTUCSON.ORG/ASTROTRAIL](https://VISITTUCSON.ORG/ASTROTRAIL)



Visit Tucson recognizes and respects that Tucson resides on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Tucson is home to the O'odham and the Yaqui tribes.

Learn more at [VisitTucson.org/native-american-culture](https://VisitTucson.org/native-american-culture).