



Visit Yuma
264 S. Main Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364
928.783.0071

Destination Fact Sheet

Description

Yuma, Arizona is a year-round, premiere travel destination. Boasting unique cuisines, outdoor adventures, historic landmarks, and events that attract visitors from around the globe, Yuma offers visitors plenty to do, see, and experience. From Historic Downtown that is packed with local shops and restaurants to the Colorado River that offers water sports, walkable trails, and scenic views, Yuma is more than a desert oasis; it is a destination to experience.

Location

Yuma is situated between San Diego, Calif. (173 miles) and Phoenix, Ariz. (185 miles). Just 12 miles from the Mexico border, Yuma is centrally located and easily accessible.

Yuma County includes the following cities and towns:

- Yuma
- San Luis
- Somerton
- Wellton
- Fortuna Foothills

Climate

Known as the Sunniest City on Earth, Yuma has sunny skies 91 percent of the year (4,055 hours per year of 4,456 possible). The average summer temperatures range from 76°F to 106°F. The average winter temperatures range from 41°F to 68°F. Yuma experiences minimal rainfall with an annual average of three inches.

Major Attractions

- **Yuma Territorial Prison Museum:** Voted as USA Today's "Best Haunted Destination in the U.S.", this museum is a must-see for ghost hunters and history buffs. Original prison cells and stories of the captive, as well as preserved artifacts will take you back to 1865.
- **Colorado River:** Yuma is one of the very few Arizona cities that can boast having the Colorado River right in it's backyard. Paddleboard, kayak, or relax on one of the beaches and enjoy this water wonder of the world.
- **Imperial Sand Dunes:** Grab your ATV or rent a side-by-side and hit the dunes. The beautiful cascading sand hills allow for endless hours of fun venturing this sandy oasis. Bravo TV called it one of the "22 Essential Places to Take a Selfie", so don't miss out on a perfect photo-op and the dreamy desert landscape.
- **Castle Dome Museum:** Take a tour of this ghost mining town bursting with history. Be sure to check out the underground fluorescent and phosphorescent mineral walls – you will be in awe.





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Spend the day or weekend moseying through this mine museum and see artifacts from over 300 mines.

- **Cocopah Speedway:** Nicknamed “Diamond in the Desert”, this dirt track is one of the best in the country, offering racing action from fall to spring. This track draws in competition from across the southwest and has seating for more than 4,000 attendees. Get revved up and come out for a night at the races.

Major Events

- **Midnight at the Oasis:** This premier classic car festival takes place the first full weekend of March, bringing in more than 900 gleaming cars, trucks, and motorcycles from across the southwest. Music from the 50s and 60s, this throwback event is a local favorite.
- **Rio de Cerveza Brew Fest:** If you are a craft beer connoisseur, this brew fest is for you. Live music, an array of food vendors, and endless beer from around the country, Rio de Cerveza is one of the many reasons to make Yuma a must-visit travel destination in March.
- **Yuma Air Show:** Don't miss this national celebration hosted annually in March. See military jets fly overhead, watch ground performances and the famous Wall of Fire. This is a must-see event that brings in visitors from around the country and world.
- **Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival:** Each November, Caballeros de Yuma presents this beautiful festival that fills the sky with colorful hot air balloons. A perfect family event, this three-day festival draws in a crowd from across the west and southwest.
- **Dorothy Young Memorial Electric Light Parade:** Illuminated floats and school bands covered in twinkling lights take over the streets in Historic Downtown for this annual Yuma tradition. This 1.5-mile parade brings together families and businesses to celebrate the holiday spirit.
- **Iceberg Drop:** Celebrate the new year with a giant iceberg lettuce dropping from the sky! A uniquely Yuman tradition, this new year's celebration has brought national attention to the Winter Lettuce Capital of the World. Be sure to celebrate with the community at this fun, unique event.

Outdoor Activities

- **Colorado River, Martinez Lake, Senators Wash, Squaw Lake:** The water activities in Yuma are endless – paddle boarding, kayaking, tubing, boating, canoeing, swimming, or just relaxing at one of the many beaches.
- **Imperial Sand Dunes:** Rent an ATV, RZR, or Rhino and hit the dirt hills. This national recreational area is nature's sandbox with much to explore and appreciate.
- **Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge:** Home to three national wildlife refuges, Yuma is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Hiking, biking, walking nature trails, and birding are all activities locals and visitors love about these outdoor areas. Be sure to check these wonders and see wildlife you haven't seen before.

Culture

In many Yuma shops and stores, Spanish may be the first language you hear. Restaurants, music, and art are all flavored by Mexican and native cultures. More people eat their breakfast with tortillas than toast, and Banda music and rock bands compete for the most listeners on local radio stations. Exciting



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murals, vibrant paintings, and colorful clothing show off the bright flowers of the desert. Parts of Mexican culture and life are also common in Yuma. With a strong emphasis on family, nearly all events and places are family-friendly, and visitors find Yuma's pace to be relaxing and comfortable. In the earliest days at The Crossing, the Yumans greeted the early explorers with gifts of hundreds of watermelons, beans, and gourds to carry water. Visitors today also remark on the very warm and friendly welcome they receive in Yuma.

Food and Breweries

Yuma is home to a diverse selection of restaurants and cuisines. From bars and a microbrewery in Historic Downtown, to alfresco fine dining, Yuma will satisfy every appetite. Known for the authentic Mexican cuisine, Yuma has some of the best South of the Border offerings. Also, home to some of the best local eateries, Yuma's food scene boasts unique dishes, craft beers, specialty drinks, and unforgettable dining experiences.

History

Discover Yuma's rich history by visiting the many museums the city has to offer. Start off at the Colorado River State Park and learn about how it once was the lifeline to military posts as the Yuma Quartermaster Depot and much more. Head to the Sanguinetti House Museum and uncover some of Yuma's best kept secrets. Visit the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park and explore the cells prisoners were kept in and read their stories. Historic Downtown has its own history, with buildings that have been wedding chapels that tell tales about famous Hollywood stars who came to Yuma to wed. The Pivot Point Interpretive Plaza details how the first railroad train came into Arizona from California in 1877, then was turned around to go back across the new bridge. Yuma is home to the richest history that is appreciated by visitors and locals alike.

Transportation

With many ways to get around town, and a variety of ways to get into town, the available transportation options for visitors are convenient. With many options from the local YCAT – Yuma County Area Transit – to transportation apps such as Uber and Lyft, locals and visitors commonly utilize these transportation methods to get to around. The Yuma International Airport allows for visitors from all over to conveniently fly in. For those looking for a ground option, the Amtrak and Greyhound are constantly traveling in and out of the city. If you are starting off in Phoenix, 1st Class Shuttle can assist you in making that commute to Yuma easy. If you are searching for a unique way to get to California, Nevada, or Puerto Peñasco in Mexico, Tour West America offers motorcoach tours and group charter services to make traveling to these destinations enjoyable and memorable.

