



Welcome to Arizona's Second Largest City

Tucson (TOO-sahn) is a growing metropolis of 1,000,000 that keeps getting better and better. The city's geography is a postcard image of cactus forests, rolling hills and awe-inspiring mountains. Tucson lies in the borderland, a region that blends the cultures of the United States and Mexico, and has a long history of settlement by ancient Native American peoples, Spanish explorers and Anglo frontiersmen. The weather is mild nearly all the time, just right for all kinds of fun activities.

Just fifteen minutes from Tucson at the base of the Tucson Mountains lies a preserved slice of Americana, Old Tucson Studios. Passing through the gates of an old frontier town, visitors from around the globe are transported back to a time when fearless men with six shooters ruled the Old West. Saunter down the streets of Hollywood's most famous movies; walk in the footsteps of movie legends like John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and hundreds more. In addition to its historic role as a film location, Old Tucson Studios is Southern Arizona's premier outdoor entertainment venue with a full array of live shows, thrilling stunts, Old West dramas, saloon musicals, trail rides and fun for the whole family. <http://www.oldtucson.com>

The real Old West was once alive in Southern Arizona. Tombstone, AZ, the site of the real-life "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral," is one of Arizona's most popular attractions. See reenactments of the gunfight and visit Boot Hill Cemetery. Countless Hollywood movies have been filmed here along the rustic boardwalks, against rugged mountain ranges.

Visit the Dragoon Mountains, historic homeland of the Apache Indians and former hideout of Chief Cochise.

Founded in 1880 when the trans-continental Southern Pacific Railroad came through Southern Arizona, near by Benson was this region's railroad hub until 1910. Its lifeblood was the copper and silver flowing from neighboring mining communities. Not far from Benson lies the adobe ruins of the Butterfield Stage Coach Depot, once a busy mercantile and rest area for cross-country travelers. While Benson's past is preserved in its historic downtown and replicated train depot, today it is best known as the home of Kartchner Caverns State Park.

Kartchner Caverns State Park - One of the great natural wonders of the western United States. It's believed that no human had ever seen this huge living cave prior to its discovery in the 1970s by two Tucson cave enthusiasts. Care has been taken to preserve the pristine conditions within. Remarkable because it is a "wet" or "living" cave, meaning the calcite formations are still growing. See a stunning variety of multicolored cave formations. <http://www.explorethecaverns.com/>

Tucson hosts two Major League Baseball teams for Spring Training: the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies. Games are usually played late February through early April.

Pima Air & Space Museum - 300 aircraft, 80 acres, 100 years of aviation history. Pima Air & Space Museum, where history takes flight, is one of the largest air and space museums in the world, and the largest non-government funded aviation museum. You'll see more than 275 aircraft and spacecraft including many of the most historically significant and technically advanced craft ever produced, both from the United States and throughout the world. Tucson's dry climate makes it an excellent place to store and preserve aircraft.

The Titan Missile Museum is the only publicly accessible Titan II missile site in the nation. Tour the underground missile site. See the 3-ton blast doors, the 8-foot thick silo walls, and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. Visit the launch control center, experience a simulated launch and more!

From modern malls, to quaint antique shops and one-of-a-kind art and Native American crafts, Tucson is a fun shopping experience.

For many more interesting things to do in the Tucson area - <http://www.tucsonattractions.com>.

Submitted by

Peggy Rahkola,
Secretary