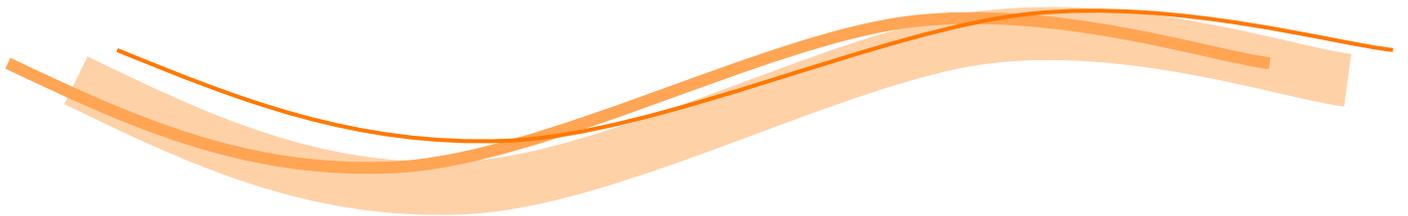




DESTINATION Southern Arizona





DESTINATION INFO	Southern Arizona
Location	Arizona is in the Southwest area of the United States, between California and New Mexico. Tucson is an hour drive from the Mexico border and about 1.5 hours from Phoenix. Surrounding states are California, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico, with Mexico itself forming its southern boundary.
Geography	Arizona is the 6 th largest US state at 114,000 square miles; highest point is Humphreys Peak at 12,633 feet; lowest point is just 70 feet at the Colorado River. Southern Arizona is a region of great contrasts, from desert lowlands to mountain "islands" to vast grassy plains. Mile-high elevations also account for southeastern Arizona having one of the most temperate climates in the world. The mild climate has attracted lots of retirees, and it also brings in rare birds (and birders) and helps support a small wine industry. The western part of southern Arizona is one of the least-visited corners of the state, in part because much of this area is a U.S. Air Force bombing range. You will, however, find Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument out this way (wedged between the vast Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and the Papago Indian Reservation). Tucson is at the northern edge of this region (and is not so temperate), but otherwise there are few communities of any size. However, there are a couple of interesting historic towns - Bisbee and Tubac - that have become artists' communities. The city of Tucson is 2,389 feet above sea level and covers nearly 500 square miles. The landscape mixes flowering desert, rolling hills, winding dry riverbeds, rugged canyons, and pine-topped peaks-all beneath an expansive clear, blue sky. Scenery on the 60-minute drive from downtown Tucson to the top of nearby Mt. Lemmon is much like what you'd see on a trip from Mexico to Canada. The sun rises over the Rincon Mountains on the east side. The legendary sunsets silhouette the Tucson Mountains on the west.
Name	The name is derived from the Indian word meaning "arid zone or desert", but some claim that the name is Aztec, from Arizuma, signifying "silver bearing."
Population	6 million; Phoenix: 1.5 million; Tucson: 850,000
Language	English and Spanish
Currency	US Dollar. Currently \$CDN = \$0.86 US (March 2007)
Tipping	Tipping is voluntary in Arizona and generally not included in the bill. (There are exceptions. Some restaurants may automatically add a 15% - 18% gratuity for groups of a certain size.) Generally, restaurant servers and taxi drivers are tipped 15-20%. Bellhops receive \$1 to \$2 per bag taken to a room and airport sky caps are tipped \$1 per bag.
Government	Arizona entered the Union on Feb 14, 1912.

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Documentation	Canadians now need a passport when flying to the US and soon will need one when driving across the border – so obtain a passport now if you don't have one already.
Time zone	Arizona is in the Mountain Standard Time zone. With the exception of the Navajo Nation in the northeast corner of the state, Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time.
Health	No problems, but remember to take travel insurance. Tucson is ranked tenth on a new list of the top 20 healthiest cities in the U.S. The list honors the top 10 American cities that best reflect the mission to "Eat Smart, Be Fit, and Live Well." Tucson was noted for its innovative restaurants, vibrant farmer's markets, abundant green space and parkland, and exercise options, among other factors.
Safety tips	Normal precautions in the cities; take special care to hydrate properly if hiking in the desert.

CLIMATE	
General climate	From the desert floor to the highest pine covered mountain peak, Arizona's renowned sunshine ensures that nearly every day is a perfect one for sightseeing, playing a round of golf, skiing a slope, or simply relaxing by a sparkling swimming pool.
Today's weather	25 degrees Centigrade and sunny (cool at night)
Best time to visit	Generally, the peak, or busiest season in the desert areas (southern half of the state) lasts from January through March; the next most popular shoulder season is from April to May and September through December; and the season when visitors can find the greatest values is June through August. Peak and value seasons in the mountainous regions (in the northern half of the state) are the opposite of the desert areas. Generally, peak season is from June through August, shoulder season is April to May and September through December, and value season is January through March.

GETTING THERE	
Flying time	5 hours from Toronto/Montreal to Phoenix
Cities	Tucson The real, natural southwest captivates the imaginations of visitors fortunate enough to spend time in Tucson. Images of the Old West of legendary gunfights, sunburned cowboys, and steadfast Indians have given way to a modern Tucson - world-class spas, challenging desert golf courses designed by the world's best golfers, fun family activities and impressive convention and meeting venues. A modern metropolis, Tucson's population of over 850,000 co-exists happily with Native American, Mexican and Pioneer heritage, a perfect complement to an uncomplicated way of life.

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	<p>Tucson is located in the Sonoran Desert, the only place in the world the majestic saguaro cactus grows. These tall and ancient cactus stand like silent sentinels in the shadows of the five mountain ranges which cradle the Tucson valley and are showered with sunshine over 300 days a year. The average winter temperature is 70.</p> <p>Visitors to Tucson can enjoy luxurious spas, resorts and hotels that offer fine dining and opportunities for relaxing by the pool, strolling through lush desert gardens or experiencing spa treatments at the world's top spas.</p> <p>Adventure seekers can visit Tucson's popular attractions, take advantage of sunny, warm weather to participate in sports events, explore the city's thriving arts community, visit the historic towns of Tombstone and Bisbee or take a day trip to Mexico for shopping. Outdoor activities are plentiful and include world-class golf courses, hiking, cycling, tennis and ranches with horseback riding.</p> <p>For more information, visit the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitTucson.org or call (800) 638-8350.</p>
Distances	<p>The distance between Tucson and Phoenix is roughly 115 km. The drive via Interstate 10 at the posted 75-mile-an-hour speed limit is a little under two hours.</p> <p>The Grand Canyon is 541 km north of Tucson and Bisbee is 144 km away.</p>
Trolley	<p>Although they don't go very far, the restored electric streetcars of Old Pueblo Trolley are a fun way to get from the Fourth Avenue shopping district to the University of Arizona. The trolleys operate on Friday from 6 to 10pm, Saturday from noon to midnight, and Sunday from noon to 6pm. The fare is \$1 for adults and 50¢ for children 6 to 12.</p>
Trains	<p>Amtrak provides service aboard the Southwest Chief between Flagstaff (for the Grand Canyon) and Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Kansas City, and Chicago. The Sunset Limited connects Tucson with Orlando, New Orleans, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, and Los Angeles. The fare from Los Angeles to Flagstaff is as low as \$51 one-way and \$102 round-trip. There is no rail service to Phoenix, but Amtrak will sell you a ticket and then put you on a bus from either Tucson or Flagstaff to Phoenix.</p>
Car Rental	<p>Because Phoenix and Tucson are major resort destinations, both have dozens of car rental agencies. Prices at agencies elsewhere in the state tend to be higher, so if at all possible, try to rent your car in one or the other of these two major cities.</p>
Buses	<p>Covering much of the Tucson metropolitan area, Sun Tran public buses are \$1 for adults and students, 40¢ for seniors, and free for children 5 and under. Day passes are available on buses for \$2.</p>

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Passes	Travel the region with your 2006-07 Tucson Attractions Passport – an exclusive pocket savings guide to the best there is to see and do in Southern Arizona. Enjoy money-saving 2-for-1 offers plus other great discounts. The cost is only \$15 at the Tucson Visitor Center.
ACCOMMODATION TYPES	Everything from B&B's to luxury spa resorts. I stayed at Triangle T Guest Ranch, Marie's Engaging Bed & Breakfast in Tombstone, and Westin La Paloma - located 18 miles north of Tucson International Airport, in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains.
TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	Creepy Crawly Good Times - Think bugs. Really big bugs. True-to-life insects painted 30 to 200 times their actual size. These are America's largest hand-painted scientific illustrations and they can be found until Apr 22, 2007 at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Jessa Huebing-Reitinger is a performance artist who paints enormous portraits of individual insects that inhabit planet Earth - while you watch. She works on a stage looking at actual insects under the microscope and transforming them into dramatic wall-sized oil paintings on canvas. While the artist paints on canvas, her husband James paints insect "tattoos" on children and encourages them to talk about their own insect discoveries. This interactive experience delights children and adults alike.
Teens	In Tucson you can learn all about the desert and the kids can pet snakes and tarantulas at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Spend the morning at this amazing place, which is actually more of a zoo than a museum, then after lunch head to Old Tucson Studios, a one-time movie set that is now a sort of Wild West amusement park. On one of your nights in town, have dinner at a cowboy steakhouse. Alternatively, you could just spend a couple of days at a dude ranch, of which there are three in the Tucson area. Do a day trip to Tombstone , where Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday once shot it out with the bad guys at the O.K. Corral. On the way down from Tombstone, you should be sure to head underground at Kartchner Caverns State Park . The caverns here are second only to Carlsbad Caverns for impressiveness.
Romance	Great scenery, wonderful sunrises and sunsets, world class spas...perfect territory to renew the sparks
Honeymoons & Weddings	The magnificent resorts in the Tucson area are wonderful venues for both weddings and honeymoons; make arrangements as far in advance as possible.

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Underground	Kartchner Caverns State Park and the Bisbee Queen Mine Tour
Seniors	Try something different...For much of the year, the desert has the perfect environment for hot-air ballooning - cool, still air and wide-open spaces.
UNIQUES	Arizona has the largest percentage of land designated as Native American Tribal land.
Surprising	<p>Sierra Vista, located in the southern portion of the state, boasts more hummingbird species than any other state and is referred to as "the Hummingbird Capital of the United States". South Mountain Preserve is the largest Municipal Park in the country.</p> <p>The only place in the U.S. where mail is still delivered by mule is in Havasupai, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.</p> <p>The world's largest antique, London Bridge, is located in Lake Havasu City. This is the only object or place in the United States that has World War II damage to it. (It was damaged in London prior to moving to Lake Havasu.)</p>
History	<p>The Hopi village of Oraibi is the oldest Native American settlement in the United States. The village was built 1100 and was discovered in 1540 by Pedro de Tovar, a lieutenant of Coronado.</p> <p>Tucson - was formally founded in 1775, about the time the nation's forefathers were signing the Declaration of Independence. Locally, the city is still called the Old Pueblo for the adobe fortress or "presidio" that marked its early borders. Over the past three centuries, Tucson has grown from Native American farming community, to Spanish outpost, to dusty frontier town, to bustling, territorial days' railroad hub, to the mature Southwestern metropolis it is today. Famous Arizonans include Cochise, Geronimo, Zane Grey and Linda Ronstadt.</p>
Books	<p>Frommer's Arizona Zane Grey spent many years living in north-central Arizona and based many of his Western novels on life in this region of the state. Among his books are Riders of the Purple Sage, The Vanishing American, Call of the Canyon, The Arizona Clan, and To the Last Man. If you're interested in learning more about the infamous shootout at the O.K. Corral, read Paula Mitchell Marks's And Die in the West: The Story of the O.K. Corral Gunfight.</p>

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<p>1000 Places to see before you die</p>	<p>Canyon de Chelly (pronounced 'd'Shay') National Monument: 130 sq miles canyon with 2,000 years of Native American history The Grand Canyon: 230 miles north of Phoenix Lake Powell: 186 mile long lake and Rainbow Bridge Red Rock Country: magnificent sandstone scenery around Sedona, 120 miles north of Phoenix</p>
<p>Must Sees in Southern Arizona</p>	<p>Cochise County - Nicknamed the "Land of Legends," Cochise County, southeast of Tucson, is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. The county's legendary communities of Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Sierra Vista, Tombstone and Willcox are full of opportunities to explore Old West history, art, birding and nature, hiking, astronomy and ghost towns.</p> <p>Benson - Originally a stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage mail delivery route, Benson is rich in Old West heritage and is home to Kartchner Caverns State Park, named one of the top ten caves in the world because of the color and types of geologic formations.</p> <p>Bisbee - Bisbee was always high-spirited, from its copper mine beginnings to its eclectic present. An artsy enclave in the canyons of the Mule Mountains has replaced the 20,000 miners, but the spirit is still high. Called the "Queen of the Copper Camps," visitors can take Queen Mine Tours daily and tour the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate.</p> <p>Douglas - Situated along the U.S.-Mexico border, Douglas is a captivating crossroads where Hispanic, Anglo and Native American cultures have mixed in harmony for hundreds of years.</p> <p>Sierra Vista - Sierra Vista is a proud and prosperous community that began as an outpost town, growing up outside Fort Huachuca's gates. The fort was critical to settling the West. One of the soldiers' paramount duties was to protect settlers from Apache raids.</p> <p>Tombstone - Tombstone is one of the Old West's best-known places. Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Big Nose Kate all walked the streets during its wild and wooly heyday of the 1880s. Armed conflicts became the stuff of Western legend, inspiring generations of historians and filmmakers alike.</p> <p>Willcox - Willcox began as a Southern Pacific Railroad construction camp. It lies in the stretched out high desert landscape of the Sulphur Springs Valley, where ranchers, farmers and cowboys follow the traditional work of the west.</p>

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<p>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Phoenix has the big teams: NBA: Phoenix Suns NFL: Arizona Cardinals NHL: Phoenix Coyotes MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks Baseball - Tucson is the only city in the United States to host three Major League Baseball teams for Spring Training. In Tucson, fans can catch the excitement of the Colorado Rockies, Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago White Sox as they get fired up for the regular season.</p>
<p>Golf</p>	<p>The mild climate and outstanding courses make Tucson a favorite golf destination. Take your best shot on a challenging desert golf course, or enjoy a more traditional links-style layout. Experience designs by Robert Trent Jones Jr., Tom Fazio, Tom Weiskopf and Jack Nicklaus almost any time of the year with Tucson's incredible weather. Among the city's resort courses, the Mountain Course at the Ventana Canyon Golf and Racquet Club is legendary, especially the spectacular 107-yard, par-3 hole 3. Likewise, the 8th hole on the Sunrise Course at El Conquistador Country Club is among the most memorable par-3 holes in the area. If you want to play where the pros do, reserve a tee time at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa, home of the Tucson Open. Randolph North, Tucson's best municipal course, is the site of the city's annual LPGA tournament. Keep in mind that resort courses and daily-fee public courses are not cheap. For most of the year, greens fees, which include golf-car rentals, range from around \$100 to \$200 or more. Municipal courses usually have greens fees of less than \$40 for 18 holes.</p>
<p>Fishing</p>	<p>The fishing scene in Arizona is as diverse as the landscape. Large and small lakes around the state offer excellent fishing for warm-water game fish such as largemouth, smallmouth, and striped bass. Good trout fishing can be found up on the Mogollon Rim and in the White Mountains, as well as in the easily accessible section of the free-running Colorado River.</p>
<p>Horse riding</p>	<p>All over Arizona there are stables where you can saddle up for short rides. Among the more scenic spots for riding are the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, the red-rock country around Sedona, Phoenix's South Mountain Park, the foot of the Superstition Mountains east of Phoenix, and the foot of the Santa Catalina Mountains outside Tucson.</p>

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<p>Hiking</p>	<p>In the Tucson area, there are hikes on Mount Lemmon and in Saguaro National Park, Sabino Canyon, and Catalina State Park. In the southern part of the state, there are good day hikes in Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Forest, Cochise Stronghold, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and the Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve and Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary.</p> <p>Trace the footsteps of Tucson's earliest residents along the new Presidio Trail, a self-guided urban walking tour featuring stories of Tucson's rich, multicultural heritage. The scenic, two-mile loop, marked by a turquoise stripe painted on the sidewalk, connects 23 historic sites and includes several restaurants. Walkers will visit an archaeological dig for remnants of the original adobe-walled city that was the Spanish Presidio of Tucson in the late 1700s, an outdoor shrine for lost lovers, and at a café in the 1920-era hotel where Tucson police captured the infamous John Dillinger gang.</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>In winter, there's good road biking around Phoenix and Tucson, while from spring to fall, the southeastern corner of the state offers good routes. There's also excellent mountain biking at several Phoenix parks, and Tucson is one of the most bicycle-friendly cities in the country.</p>
<p>Skiing</p>	<p>When it's a good snow year, Tucsonans head up to Mount Lemmon Ski Valley, the southernmost ski area in the United States.</p>

<p>CULTURE</p>	
<p>Arts</p>	<p>Although it hasn't been too many years since evening entertainment in Arizona meant dance-hall girls or a harmonica by the campfire, Phoenix and Tucson have become centers for the visual and performing arts. The two cities share an opera company and a ballet company, and the Valley of the Sun is home to a number of symphony orchestras and theater companies.</p>
<p>Tucson Art Galleries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - El Presidio Gallery specializes in fine art by well-known painters, mainly portraying Southwest-style landscapes. The gallery also features pottery and sculpture pieces. - Gallery West is located in the scenic Catalina Foothills and is an exquisite gallery offering visitors a glimpse at antique and new American Indian art, textiles, baskets, pottery, kachinas, jewelry and paintings. The gallery also features Plains beadwork from the 1800s. - Madaras Gallery: well-known Tucson artist Diana Madaras's gallery provides visitors with a wide selection of desert and Southwestern scenes. The Madaras Gallery's Foothills location features originals, prints and gifts in Diana's bold, colorful style.

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	<p>- Medicine Man Gallery specializes in the lifeworks of famed Tucson painter and illustrator Maynard Dixon and famed San Ildefonso potter Maria Poveka Martinez and family. The gallery also features Native American antiquities that include baskets, old pawn jewelry, beadwork, Navajo and Hispanic textiles, pueblo pottery and kachinas. The gallery also represents nationally acclaimed Southwestern painters and sculptors that include works by Cowboy Artists of America.</p> <p>- Settlers West Galleries feature fine wildlife and Western art from some of the world's finest artists, including Bob Kuhn, Pino, Howard Terpning, Kenneth Riley, William Acheff and Francois Koch.</p> <p>- Skyline Gallery is a unique gallery featuring the works of more than 100 highly skilled North American artisans. Offering one-of-a-kind jewelry, blown glass, pottery, fine woodworking and more.</p>
<p>Films</p>	<p>In 1939, a set was built in Tucson for the filming of the movie Arizona, and when the shooting was done, the set was left to be used in other productions. Today, this mock-Western town is known as Old Tucson Studios and is still used for film and video productions. Movies that have been filmed here include Tombstone; John Wayne's Rio Lobo, Rio Bravo, and El Dorado; Clint Eastwood's The Outlaw Josey Wales; Kirk Douglas's Gunfight at the O.K. Corral; and Paul Newman's The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean.</p> <p>Other films shot in Arizona include: Planet of the Apes; Traffic; Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas; Contact; Jerry Maguire; Wyatt Earp, Return to Tombstone.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>For a perfect introduction to Tucson and Southern Arizona's past, visit the Arizona Historical Society and the Arizona State Museum. Displays and artifacts chart regional history from the earliest inhabitants, to Spanish conquistadors, to statehood.</p>

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	<p>For a half-century the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson has enchanted millions of visitors with its exhibits of live animals in astonishingly natural settings, while intriguing and instructing them with fascinating educational programs. At the same time, the Museum has gained a worldwide repute in the scientific community as an institution committed to researching and protecting the land, plants, and the animals of the Sonoran Desert region. The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. In a nutshell, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place! Exhibits re-create the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert Region so realistically you find yourself eye-to-eye with mountain lions, prairie dogs, Gila monsters, and more. Within the Museum grounds, you will see more than 300 animal species and 1,200 kinds of plants. There are almost 2 miles of paths traversing 21 acres of beautiful desert.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>Viva Mariachi - Mariachi musicians and folklorico dancers from throughout the Western Hemisphere will gather in Tucson to learn and perform during the 25th Tucson International Mariachi Conference, April 23-26 2007 For its silver anniversary, the award-winning Tucson conference will host several stars of the genre, including Tucson's own Los Changuitos Feos.</p> <p>Wyatt Earp Days in Tombstone May 26-28 2007</p> <p>Arizona Junior Rodeo in Douglas June 23-24 2007</p>
<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	<p>Bisbee: Tucked in the Mule Mountains of southeastern Arizona, Bisbee's look reminds some visitors of a small-scale San Francisco, with winding hills and unique architecture. Begin your journey here with a tour at the Queen Mine, where visitors don hard hats with lights and yellow slickers. Then tour the Smithsonian-affiliated Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum before exploring some of the town's unique shops. Killer Bee Honey (award-winning honey and mustards) and Optimo Custom Hatworks (where Panama hats are custom-made from materials such as beaver, cashmere and rabbit) are shops that won't be found anywhere else. Bisbee is so well-preserved that the National Trust for Historic Preservation named it among " America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2005.</p>

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Birding	Arizona is a birder's bonanza. Down in the southeastern corner of the state, many species found primarily south of the border reach the northern limits of their ranges. Combine this with several mountains that rise like islands from the desert and provide an appropriate habitat for hundreds of species, and you have some of the best bird-watching in the country. Birding hot spots include Ramsey Canyon Preserve, known for its many species of hummingbirds.
Wildlife	The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the most notable wildlife parks in the world. Just south of Tucson lies the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, a pristine wildlife sanctuary. The Tucson Botanical Gardens, located in midtown, is a haven for native plants and birds.
Parks	Saguaro National Park: In 1933, to protect these desert giants, the federal government set aside two large tracts of land as a saguaro preserve. This preserve eventually became Saguaro National Park. The two units of the park, one on the east side of the city (Rincon Mountain District) and one on the west (Tucson Mountain District), preserve not only dense stands of saguaros, but also the many other wild inhabitants of this part of the Sonoran Desert. Both units have loop roads, nature trails, hiking trails, and picnic grounds.
Gardens	Tohono Chul Park, Tucson: Although this park is fairly small, it provides an excellent introduction to the plant and animal life of the desert. You'll see a forest of cholla cacti as well as a garden of small and complex pincushion cacti. From mid-February to April, the wildflower displays here are gorgeous (if enough rain has fallen in the previous months). The park also includes an ethnobotanical garden and a garden for children that encourages them to touch, listen, and smell.
Architecture	Visit Our Lady of the Sierra Shrine - High on a hill in the Huachuca Mountains, a 75 foot Celtic cross beckons visitors; a large angel with open arms welcomes visitors. Our Lady of the Sierra Shrine, completed in 1998, extends a serene invitation for travelers of all ages. The chapel, built with river rock from Ash Canyon, features beautiful religious art, a Spanish cross and original hand-hued wood beams.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	Finding a memento of your trip to Tucson - or any of the historic communities in Southern Arizona - can be just as much fun as being here. Serious shoppers will delight in the broad inventory of practical and whimsical gift items to be found at many homegrown specialty shops and major national retailers. Numerous smaller shopping opportunities are scattered in and around town - offering an inventory of things Southwestern, from museum-quality Native American textiles and jewelry to Mexican folk crafts and cowboy memorabilia. On a larger scale, explore four enclosed malls featuring hundreds of well-known stores and restaurants.
Markets	Antigua de Mexico , Tucson: warehouse-like shop full of crafts from Mexico Discount Agate House at 3401 N. Dodge St Phone 520/323-0781 Web site www.discountagatehouse.net If you can't make it to Tucson for the annual gem and mineral shows, don't despair. At this cluttered shop, you can pick through shelves crammed with all manner of rare minerals and strange stones.
Nightlife	The Downtown Arts District is the center of all the action, with the Temple of Music and Art, the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, and several nightclubs. The University of Arizona campus, only a mile away, is another hot spot for entertainment. Tucson is the mariachi capital of the United States, and no one should visit without spending at least one evening listening to some of these strolling minstrels.
Casinos	Casinos have sprung up on Native American lands. Two casinos close to Tucson are Casino of the Sun just off I-19 and Desert Diamond Casino with slots, blackjack, poker, keno and bingo.

CUISINE	
Food	Tucson is a city that lives for spice, and in the realm of fiery foods, Mexican reigns supreme. There's historic Mexican at El Charro Café and El Minuto, nuevo Mexican at Café Poca Cosa and J Bar, Mexico City Mexican at La Parrilla Suiza, and family-style Mexican at Casa Molina. So if you like Mexican food, you'll find plenty of places in Tucson to get all fired up.
Wine	Wine making is increasing in Arizona. Try Arizona Vineyard Winery near Nogales, 100km south of Tucson.
Restaurants	El Charro Café of Tucson, Arizona is The Nation's Oldest Mexican Restaurant in continuous operation by the same family, established in 1922, featuring traditional Sonoran cultural style and innovative Tucson style Mexican Food, El Charro is truly as Gourmet Magazine wrote: "A Taste Explosion". With a large array of products that feature a synergy of Sonoran ingredients, El Charro is Tucson's Culinary History.

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	<p>Café Terra Cotta, Tucson - This is a favorite Tucson dining destination and has its own Southwestern, creative regional flavor represented in its award winning signature dishes and decadent desserts. The unique and artfully decorated restaurant features a full bar with award winning wine list. This time of year one can enjoy dining on one of the two patios with city and mountain views and private dining areas.</p> <p>Barrio Food & Drink, Tucson - An intimate bistro in the heart of downtown. Contemporary little plates, greens, pastas, daily specials. Upbeat bar. Moments from theater, convention events.</p>
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	Tucson Official Visitors Guide
Website	www.arizonaguide.com

<p>HOTEL PRIZE PARTNERS</p>	<p>Triangle T Guest Ranch Situated in Texas Canyon on 160 acres of gently sloping land, the Triangle T's incredible boulder outcroppings pile high in startling formations. Amenities include lodging in historic casitas or the bunkhouse, RV hook-ups, a saloon and the Mesquite Grill Restaurant, a swimming pool, live music and cowboy entertainers. John F. Kennedy, the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers have stayed at the ranch.</p> <p>Westin La Paloma Located 18 miles north of Tucson International Airport, in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, this award winning, luxury resort offers meticulously landscaped grounds featuring century-old Saguaros, and mountain and desert views. Accommodations include 487 spacious, low-rise guest rooms, including 25 suites. Other amenities include: a Troon-managed, 27-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature course (rated a top resort course by Golf Digest); the Red Door Spa by Elizabeth Arden; Janos (one of Arizona's highest-rated restaurants since 1983 and winner of the James Beard Award for the Best Chef in the Southwest, with French-inspired Southwestern cuisine); 10 championship tennis courts including four superb Georgia clay courts; the Westin Heavenly Bed; and a newly renovated Westin Workout. Kid-friendly options include "The Westin Kids Club" featuring the "Kactus Kids Club" freestanding facility offering fully supervised childcare, as well as a kiddie's pool. The pool oasis features five pools, including an adults-only pool, and the main pool with Sabino's (swim-up) Pool Bar and Grill, as well as lagoon-style pools, with three whirlpool-spas, a waterfall, and a 177-foot waterslide. The resort also offers 59,000-square-feet of flexible, indoor meeting space.</p>
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AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNER	Air Canada
Flight details	Daily flights direct Toronto to Phoenix in 4.5 hours Montreal flights are via Denver or Chicago

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	<p>Chris' On-Location Travel Show Itinerary March 27-31, 2007</p> <p>Tuesday, March 27 12:47 p.m. Arrive at Tucson airport – Enterprise Rent a Car. 2:15 p.m. Arrive at Benson Visitors Center, met Luanne Mattson 3:00 p.m. Gammons Gulch - Meet Jay and Joanne Gammons, who have built this Western movie set. 4:15 p.m. Visit the Astronomer's Inn near Benson houses the Vega Bray Observatory. The celestial viewing center makes a stay in one of this hotel's four guest rooms among the most unique lodging experiences in the state. Telescopes range in size from six to twenty inches in diameter and are available for beginners, aided by one of the inn's Starguides. 5:30 p.m. Amerind Foundation, museum of Native American archaeology, art, history and culture 6:45 p.m. Dinner and overnight at the Triangle T Guest Ranch</p> <p>Wednesday, March 28 7:00 a.m. Depart Triangle T Guest Ranch Drive to Chiricahua National Monument The Chiricahua National Monument is a "Wonderland of Rocks." This forest of rock spires was eroded from layers of ash deposited by the Turkey Creek Volcano eruption 27 million years ago. Scenic drives and hiking trails abound for visitors to take in these wondrous sites. Hike part of the Heart of Rocks trail. Drive to Douglas 9:00 a.m. Visit the historic Gadsden Hotel and park/church square. This 100-year old hotel boasts splendid architecture and a colorful past. The spacious main lobby is majestically set with a solid white Italian marble staircase, an authentic Tiffany stained glass mural that extends forty-two feet across the wall of the mezzanine and four soaring marble columns. Legend has it that Pancho Villa rode his horse up the lobby staircase. 10:30 a.m. Drive to Bisbee</p>
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11:00 a.m. Queen Mine Tour—interview mine tour guide. Actual miners lead the tours and take visitors in yellow slickers, hard hats and mining lamps 1,500 feet into the Mule Mountains.
Lunch at the Copper Queen Hotel with Reed Booth, the “Killer Bee Guy,” a removal expert who removes regular and Africanized bees. He also sells honey mustards and honey butters out of a tiny storefront on Bisbee’s Main Street. He was recently featured on the Discovery Channel’s program, “Risk Takers.”
Drive to Sierra Vista to meet Erika Breckel with Sierra Vista CVB
1:30 p.m. Interview cowboy poet Bud Strom at his ranch, the Single Star ranch. Arizona Folklore Preserve
2:30-3:00 p.m. Visit Ramsey Canyon Preserve with a guide to interview and take a short hike.
Visit Our Lady of the Sierra Shrine in the Huachuca Mountains Arizona Folklore Preserve—Erika showed me the preserve and we walked the perimeter.
5:00 p.m. Visited Fairbank historic town-site with Erika where the Bureau of Land Management is renovating the schoolhouse; it will house a gift shop, which will be run by the Friends of the San Pedro River. The schoolhouse will open to visitors March 31.
Drive to Tombstone to meet with Jean Sullivan of the Cochise County Tourism Council for dinner.
6-6:30 p.m. Tombstone
Watch gunfight reenactment
6:30 p.m. Marie’s Engaging Bed & Breakfast
7:30 p.m. Dinner and night life at Big Nose Kate’s, Crystal Palace Saloon

Thursday, March 29

7:00 a.m. Bob Nilson, Tourism Manager for Benson, took me to Kartchner Caverns State Park for a tour of the caverns.
8:20 a.m. Rotunda Tour at Kartchner Caverns
11:30 a.m. Arrive in Tucson to Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
2:00 p.m. Visit De Grazia Gallery in the Sun to meet Lance Laber, executive director.
The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun is a 10-acre retreat featuring a Gallery of DeGrazia art; a Mission, and the artist’s home. The artist is Ted DeGrazia, beloved and well known for his impressionistic paintings of Indians. The buildings are works of art that DeGrazia built with the help of his Indian friends. Constructed of adobe they feature walls and ceilings painted by his hand in the hues of the desert, and a unique cholla cactus walkway . The textures and colors serve as a backdrop for DeGrazia’s artwork – paintings, lithographs, serigraphs, watercolors, ceramics and bronzes. The Mission in the Sun features DeGrazia murals.

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	<p>4:00 p.m. Check out art galleries in the Foothills area 7:00 p.m. Dinner at Café Terra Cotta with Kimberly Schmitz. Overnight Tucson at Westin La Paloma</p> <p>Friday, March 30 8:00 a.m. Hike Ventana Canyon Trailhead - this is at Lowe's Ventana Canyon Resort. 11:00 a.m. Presidio Trail walking tour/Turquoise Trail. 1:00 p.m. Meet Jessica Fish, PR Manager for the Metropolitan Tucson CVB, at Barrio Food & Drink 2:30 p.m. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum 7:00 p.m. Dinner at El Charro Downtown Overnight Tucson at Westin La Paloma</p> <p>Saturday, March 31 7:30 a.m. To Café Terra Cotta for set-up 8:00 a.m. Live broadcast of Travel Shows from Café Terra Cotta 2:55 p.m. Flight departs Tucson airport</p>
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