

TUCSON VISITOR INFORMATION GUIDE

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.

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. For more history, take the self-guided Downtown Walking Tour, available in our Tucson Official Visitors Guide, and stroll through a restored 19th century neighborhood, see Sonoran architecture, and the site of the original Spanish presidio. To learn about Tucson's significant aviation history, visit Pima Air & Space Museum, the world's largest privately-funded air museum.

WHERE THE DESERT MEETS THE MOUNTAINS

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.

Our skyline is our mountain ranges, we're surrounded by five.

- The sun rises over the Rincon Mountains on the east side.
- Our legendary sunsets silhouette the Tucson Mountains on the west.
- Flanking the north/northeast are the prominent Santa Catalina Mountains, a local point of orientation.
- Rising to the south and southeast are the Santa Rita Mountains.
- The Tortolita Mountains shelter the northwest.

Sentinel Peak (also called "A" Mountain) is at the western fringe of the downtown historic district. The base of this peak is the site of a major archaeological dig for remnants of Tucson's first settlement, about 3,000 years ago.

YEAR-ROUND PLAYGROUND

Tucson enjoys more sunshine than any other city in the United States, about 350 days each year. The days, with very few exceptions are warm and sunny. The mild temperatures during spring, fall, and winter are legendary. Temperatures rise in the summer, but low humidity helps even the warmest days feel comfortable. Tucson's surprisingly lush environment is replenished by two rainy seasons.

		Avg. High	Avg. Low
Coldest Month	January	65	37
Hottest Month	July	101	74
Annual Average		83	54

Rain

Wettest Month	August	2.13 inches
Driest Month	May	0.18 inches
Annual Total		11.16 inches

ARIZONA FACTS

State flower - Saguaro cactus blossom
State gem - Turquoise
State bird - Cactus wren
State tree - Palo verde

CONVENTION CENTER

The Tucson Convention Center is located in the heart of Historic Downtown Tucson and is the home of many events, cultural activities and conventions throughout the year (260 S. Church Ave., 791-4101 or 791-4266).

DESERT LIFE

The Sonoran Desert is a fragile ecosystem teeming with a variety of plant and animal species that depend on each other for survival; and law protects many of them. Please leave the desert just as you find it. Purchase cactus and other native plants at Tucson's established desert gardens or cactus nurseries.

TUCSON VISITOR CENTER

Make your first stop the Tucson Visitor Center located in colorful La Placita Village within walking distance of the Tucson Convention Center and most of the historic downtown area. Hours are: Monday-Friday 8a.m.-5p.m., Saturday & Sunday 9a.m.-4p.m. Call 1-800-638-8350. Our mailing address is 100 S. Church Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85701.

TIME ZONE

The State of Arizona is located in the Mountain Standard Time Zone (MST). Arizona is one of only two U.S. states that does not make an adjustment for Daylight Savings Time, and during the months of April through October, Arizona time mirrors Pacific Daylight Time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where are you? How can I get to you?

Tucson is located in the southern part of the state, between Phoenix and the Mexican border along Interstate 10.

Our Visitors Center is located at 100 S. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701, in La Placita Village, a business and retail plaza. This is in the heart of the city's original downtown core, near the Arts and Historic Districts that feature galleries, museums, and performance spaces. We are minutes from Tucson International Airport via the Interstate 10 freeway and within walking distance of the Tucson Convention Center. Drop by for helpful information or call 800-638-8350.

WHAT IS THE POPULATION OF METROPOLITAN TUCSON?

When it was founded in 1775, Tucson's population was just over 3,000. By 1920, the population had grown to 20,292. Today, roughly 900,000 people call Tucson home.

HOW HOT DOES IT GET?

The highest temperature ever recorded was 117 degrees Fahrenheit on June 26, 1990. The annual average is 82 degrees Fahrenheit/28 degrees Celsius for the high temperature, and 55 degrees Fahrenheit/13 degrees Celsius for the low temperature. Tucson's mild climate is legendary.

HOW FAR AWAY IS PHOENIX, ARIZONA, AND HOW LONG IS THE DRIVE? IS THERE A SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN TUCSON AND PHOENIX?

The distance between Tucson and Phoenix is roughly 100 miles. The drive via Interstate 10 at the posted 75-mile-an-hour speed limit is a little under two hours. Arizona Shuttle Service is Arizona's largest statewide shuttle service between Tucson and Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. View the chart below for driving distances to other popular Arizona destinations.

TRAVELING FROM TUCSON

Benson	46	Phoenix	115
Bisbee	90	Sierra Vista	70
Douglas	118	Tempe	112
Grand Canyon	338	Tombstone	70
Green Valley	24	Tubac	44
Nogales	63	Yuma	240

ARE THERE ATTRACTIONS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN NATIVE 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. Plan your trip around these sights and more.

WHICH BASEBALL TEAMS PLAY IN TUCSON?

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. The three teams play games during March at Hi-Corbett Field and Tucson Electric Park. Tucson's own minor-league franchise, the Tucson Sidewinders, is the AAA affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, and plays at Tucson Electric Park.

WHERE DO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA WILDCATS PLAY BASKETBALL? FOOTBALL?

Some of the nation's finest college athletes are in the Pacific-10 Conference. The University of Arizona Wildcats are no exception. The Wildcats play basketball in McKale Center and football at the Arizona Stadium. For more information, visit the U of A Athletics web site.

DRESS

Tucsonans take a relaxed approach to dress, and casual clothing is acceptable for most occasions. Summer wear includes wide-brim hats, sunglasses and lightweight fabrics. In the warmer months, indoor air conditioning can get chilly for some, so be prepared with a lightweight jacket or sweater. Sunscreen to protect the skin is recommended year-round. In the winter, a lightweight coat or jacket will usually suffice, unless you're planning to visit higher mountain areas where colder temperatures and snow are possible.

NEWSPAPERS

The Arizona Daily Star, morning paper, 573-4220; the Tucson Citizen, afternoon paper, 573-4561; the Daily Territorial, business news, 294-1200.

RADIO & TELEVISION

Radio: 14 AM stations and 16 FM stations

Television: Local channels are KVOA, 4 (NBC); KUAT, 6 (PBS); KGUN, 9 (ABC); KMSB, 11 (FOX); KOLD, 13 (CBS); KTTU, 18 (UPN); KHRR, 40 (Telemundo, Spanish); KUVE, 52 (Spanish); KWBA, 58 (WB).

TICKET SALES

Tucson Convention Center Box Office 791-4266

TicketMaster 321-1000

U of A:

Athletics 621-2287 Fine Arts 621-1162 Centennial Hall 621-3341

Arizona Theatre Company at Temple of Music & Art 622-2823

Tucson 
Real. Natural. Arizona
METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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