

10 Must-See Attractions TUCSON

Arizona State Museum



Arizona State Museum (ASM) is the oldest and largest anthropological museum in the U.S. Southwest, with expansive collections that are exceptional resources for the region's 13,000-year human history. It holds the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of American Indian basketry, composed of 35,000 specimens of woven fiber, representing nearly every major indigenous basket-making culture in North America, and dating back 7,000 years. ASM also holds the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Southwest Indian pottery, with 20,000 whole-vessel specimens dating back 2,000 years. Its photographic and library/archive collections are similarly unparalleled. **Website:** statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum



The Desert Museum is ranked as one of the Top 10 museums in the country and the #1 Tucson attraction. Unlike most museums, about 85% of the experience is outdoors! The 98-acre museum is a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum, and aquarium. See 21 interpreted acres with two miles of walking paths through various desert habitats, 242 animal species, plants from 1,200 taxa (56,000 individual specimens), and one of the world's most comprehensive regional mineral collections. The museum's conservation and research programs provide important information to help conserve the Sonoran Desert region. The Desert Museum's Art Institute inspires conservation through art education and gallery exhibits. The museum's publishing division, ASDM Press, has produced over 40 books and guides on the natural and cultural history of the Sonoran Desert region. **Website:** www.desertmuseum.org

Biosphere 2



The Biosphere 2 facility serves as a laboratory for controlled scientific studies, an arena for scientific discovery and discussion, and a far-reaching provider of public education. Its mission is to serve as a center for research, outreach, teaching and life-long learning about Earth, its living systems, and its place in the universe; to catalyze interdisciplinary thinking and understanding about Earth and its future. **Website:** biosphere2.org

Catalina State Park



Catalina State Park sits at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The park is a haven for plants and wildlife and nearly 5,000 saguaros. The 5,500 acres of foothills, canyons and streams invites camping, picnicking and bird watching — more than 150 species of birds call the park home. The park provides miles of equestrian, birding, hiking, and biking trails which wind through the park and into the Coronado National Forest. **Website:** azstateparks.com/catalina/

Old Tucson Movie Studios



Old Tucson is Arizona's one-of-a-kind Wild West attraction, featuring live action stunt shows, musicals and comedy entertainment. Built in 1939 for the movie, *Arizona*, Old Tucson is home to more than 400 film, television, and commercial productions, and remains the region's premier film location. **Website:** oldtucson.com

Kartchner Caverns



Kartchner Caverns State Park is located 9 miles south of the town of Benson and west of the north-flowing San Pedro River. Long hidden from view, the caverns were discovered in 1974 by local cavers, assisted by a state biologist who helped in its preservation. The caverns are carved out of limestone and filled with spectacular speleothems which have been growing for 50,000 years or longer, and are still growing. **Website:** azstateparks.com/kartchner/

San Xavier Mission



San Xavier Mission is located about 10 miles south of downtown Tucson on the Tohono O'odham Nation. The mission was founded in 1692 by Padre Eusebio Kino in the center of a centuries-old settlement of the Sobaipuri O'odham, located along the banks of the Santa Cruz River. The original church was razed during an Apache raid in 1770. The mission that survives today was built between 1783 and 1797, which makes it the oldest European structure in Arizona. **Website:** www.sanxaviermission.org

Saguaro National Park



Saguaro National Park has two sections on both the East and West side of Tucson. The park is named for the large saguaro cactus, native to its desert environment. In the western Tucson Mountain District, Signal Hill Trail leads to petroglyphs of the ancient Hohokam people. In the eastern Rincon Mountain District, Cactus Forest Drive is a loop road with striking views of the desert landscape. The giant saguaro is the universal symbol of the American west and these majestic plants, found only in a small portion of the United States, are protected by Saguaro National Park. **Website:** www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm

Pima Air & Space Museum



The Pima Air & Space Museum is one of the world's largest non-government funded aerospace museums. The museum features nearly 300 aircraft spread out over 80 acres on a campus occupying 127 acres. A large number of the museum's aircraft are displayed outside with the remainder located in one of the museum's four display hangars. The museum is adjacent to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), affiliated with the base, also known as the "Graveyard of Planes" or "The Boneyard," is the largest aircraft storage and preservation facility in the world. **Website:** pimaair.org

Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block



The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) is an art museum and art education institution located in the Presidio District of downtown Tucson. The museum comprises 74,000 square feet of exhibition space over a four-acre city block that includes a contemporary main museum and 19th-century historic homes that have been adapted for reuse as the Museum's restaurant, pottery school, and galleries. The Museum concurrently presents eight to nine exhibitions including international and traveling exhibitions, TMA-curated exhibitions, and ongoing exhibitions of permanent collections. The TMA's collection of more than 8,000 objects is focused on modern and contemporary art, as well as Latin American, Western and Native American, and Asian art. The Museum's campus of landscaped plazas host community and private events including artisans markets, festivals, live performances. The Museum hosts Creative Space, an interactive space for children and families. **Website:** tucsonmuseumofart.org

To find out more about the interesting places to visit, fun things to do, and incredible food to eat in the Tucson area, make sure to visit www.visittucson.org.