



FREE YOURSELF.®

tucson
VISITTUCSON.ORG

tucson



For those who venture off the beaten path,
Tucson is proud to be a little out there; a natural
oasis from the unoriginal and pretentious that
inspires the free spirit in us all.



GEOGRAPHY



Located in the heart of *southern Arizona*, in the diverse ecosystem of the *Sonoran Desert*, Tucson is about 110 miles (177 km) south of the state capital of Phoenix and only 70 miles (112 km) from the US-Mexico border. At an elevation of 2,389 feet (728 meters) above sea level, metropolitan Tucson covers nearly 500 square miles (46.45 square meters).

Surrounded on all sides by five picturesque *mountain ranges* and nestled between Saguaro National Park (East & West), Tucson is a place that beckons you to explore without boundaries.

Sitting atop the Santa Catalina mountain range is the alpine summit of *Mount Lemmon*,

which at 9,157 ft in elevation (2791 mt) it is *the tallest peak in southern Arizona*. Compared with the Tucson valley, summer temperatures here among the mountain's lush aspen groves and Ponderosa pine forests are 20 to 30 degrees cooler year-round.

TUCSON'S FIVE MOUNTAIN RANGES

Santa Catalina

Rincon

Santa Rita

Tucson

Tortolita



WEATHER



Tucson's clean, fresh air and **average annual 350 days of sunshine** make it the perfect place for outdoor activities. And though summer does get warm, low humidity and easy access to cool escapes nearby mean you can enjoy the region's diverse surroundings all year long.

Temperatures and rainfall in the **Sonoran Desert** vary widely depending on the season and elevation. Sunblock, sunglasses and plenty of water are essential items no matter the season.

January–April In early spring, dress in layers, as sunny days give way to chilly nights. Snowmelt from higher elevations brings the desert to life, making this a great time to enjoy outdoor activities, witness colorful wildflower displays, and encounter wildlife.

May–September Temperatures rise during this time of year. Be vigilant about sun protection and staying hydrated. Late summer monsoon storms spawn spectacular sunsets and lightning shows, so have your camera and rain gear ready.

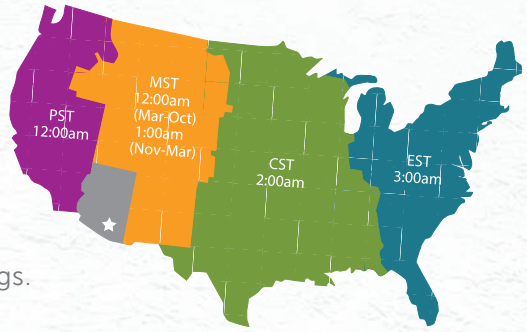
October–December Warm days and comfortably cool evenings make fall the perfect season for outdoor sporting events, concerts, hiking, cycling, al fresco dining and much more.

	Fahrenheit		Celsius	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
JANUARY	65	37	18	4
FEBRUARY	69	40	20	5
MARCH	74	43	23	7
APRIL	82	50	27	10
MAY	90	57	32	14
JUNE	100	67	38	20
JULY	101	74	37	23
AUGUST	98	72	36	22
SEPTEMBER	95	67	34	20
OCTOBER	86	55	29	14
NOVEMBER	74	44	23	8
DECEMBER	66	38	18	4



TIME ZONE

Arizona is in the *Mountain Standard Time Zone* and does not make the seasonal adjustment for daylight savings.



GETTING HERE

There are many ways to get to Tucson, including daily direct flights into *Tucson International Airport (TUS)*, from US cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and Dallas, just to name a few. For international visitors, multiple carriers feature flights to Phoenix, including British Airways which has a daily flight from London.

Getting from Phoenix to Tucson takes less than two hours via the *I-10 freeway*. Both the I-10 and I-8 are also great for visitors looking to experience southern Arizona by way of California, providing drivers with a direct route to Tucson from both Los Angeles and San Diego.

ACCOMMODATIONS

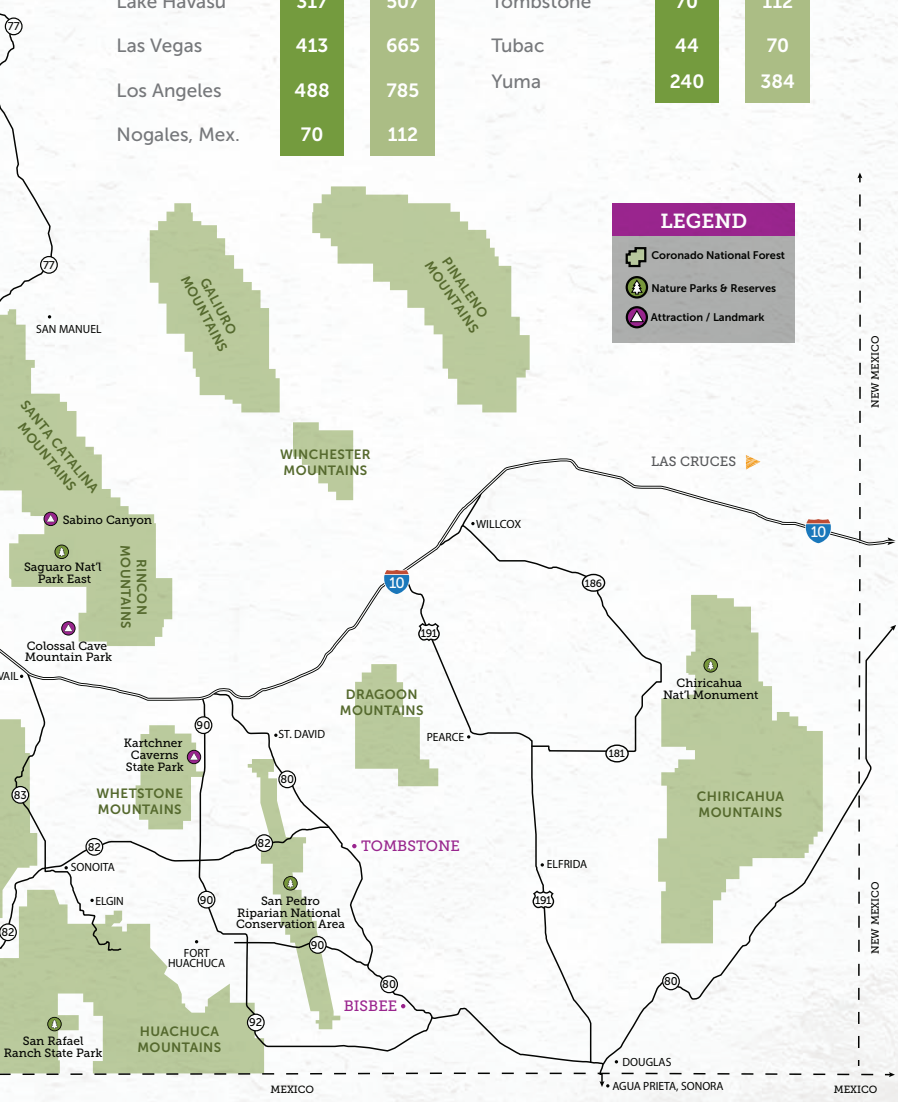
Tucson's diverse accommodations are attractions in their own right. Soothe your mind and body at a desert oasis like Miraval Resort & Spa or Canyon Ranch, *two of the world's top destination spas*. Saddle up for an authentic Western adventure at one of our *cozy guest ranches*. Or relax and flourish at a variety of *luxurious resorts* where pro-caliber golf and tennis, inspired cuisine, sparkling pools, and spectacular hiking trails can be found just steps away from your room.



*Maps not to scale

CITY	MI	KM
Albuquerque	451	726
Bisbee	90	144
Denver	892	1436
Flagstaff	257	411
Globe	106	170
Grand Canyon	338	541
Lake Havasu	317	507
Las Vegas	413	665
Los Angeles	488	785
Nogales, Mex.	70	112

CITY	MI	KM
Oro Valley	14	23
Phoenix	115	184
San Diego	410	660
Sedona	230	367
Scottsdale	117	188
Sonoita	47	75
Tombstone	70	112
Tubac	44	70
Yuma	240	384



LEGEND

- Coronado National Forest
- Nature Parks & Reserves
- Attraction / Landmark

ACTIVITIES



Visitors to Tucson will find a diverse mix of natural beauty and urban flair setting the stage for a phenomenal variety of activities. The breathtaking landscape of the Sonoran desert, the only place in the world where the *Saguaro Cactus* grows, makes every outdoor experience a memorable one.

As one of the world's top cycling destinations and an official *winter training capital*, Tucson proudly boasts hundreds of miles of mountain bike trails fit for any level of rider. Those looking to ride the road will find just as many options, including one of the country's most challenging hill-climbs up Catalina Highway on the way to *Mt. Lemmon*.

Teeing off at one of Tucson's distinctive golf courses can make even the most seasoned player see the game from a new perspective. From traditional links-style courses to *challenging desert courses* Tucson has an array of options to fit any handicap and every style of play.

Every February rockhounds and jewelry collectors from around the globe can't help but be drawn to the countless treasures found at the famous *Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase*, the world's largest marketplace of its kind.

Thrill-seekers can find their rush climbing rugged peaks and exploring ancient canyons and caves. And when the sun sets, the day is long from over with vibrant downtown nightlife and some of the world's best stargazing, easily seen with the naked eye or through high-tech telescopes like the ones found at *Kitt Peak National Observatory*.

Nature lovers will tell you that a trip to the *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum* provides a glimpse at one of the world's most unique collections of wildlife. Southern Arizona is also a paradise for birding enthusiasts, many of whom flock to the area every August for the *Tucson Bird & Wildlife Festival*.

And for those *looking to shop*, Western wear, Mexican folk art and Native American crafts can be found everywhere from small boutiques to major shopping malls.



HISTORY/CULTURE

Continuously inhabited for almost 12,000 years, Tucson's roots run deep. Native American, Spanish and Mexican cultures along with the lore of the Wild West come together to form the region's rich and fascinating history.

One symbol of this history is Tucson's most magnificent icon, *Mission San Xavier del Bac*, a National Historic Landmark noted as the finest example of Baroque mission architecture in the entire country.

Tumamoc Hill, another National Historic Landmark, is the site of a 2,500-year-old Hohokam Indian village, while The *Tucson Presidio museum*, a replica of the Spanish fortress established here in 1775, marks the modern city's birthplace.

When it comes to cowboy culture, southern Arizona is as real as it gets. *Old Tucson* offers a chance to see the locations of some of the greatest Westerns ever captured on film, along with gun-slinging stunt shows and entertainment right out of the 1800s.

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros Tucson Rodeo, held every February, features some of the swiftest steer-roping around. And, south of Tucson, the legendary town of *Tombstone* is home to Boothill Graveyard and re-enactments of its famed "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral."

And for visitors looking to fully experience the Western way of life, southern Arizona is home to a variety of rustic, yet comfortable *guest ranches*. Even the most sophisticated city slickers will enjoy riding the trails and sitting by the campfire for a real cowboy cookout.





ARTS



Tucson rivals many bigger cities when it comes to visual and performing arts. With the renowned *Tucson Symphony Orchestra*, a professional ballet, opera and theater companies as well as dozens of arts festivals, galleries and studios scattered throughout the city's 11 districts, it's no wonder Tucson has been acclaimed as a trend setting artistic community for decades. Visiting artists will find inspiration around every corner with opportunities to connect, collaborate, and let their creativity run free.

Music-lovers can also get into the groove at any of the city's countless live music venues, including the historic *Rialto* and *Fox Tucson* theaters, both of which host eclectic lineups, regularly featuring some of the hottest acts from around the globe.

DAY TRIPS

Tucson is also a jumping-off point for many exciting *southern Arizona day trips*. Within easy driving distance are the Old West mining towns of *Tombstone, Bisbee, Douglas & Ajo*; southern Arizona's wine country near *Elgin & Sonoita*; shops, galleries and art festivals in *Tubac & Patagonia*; spectacular rock formations in *Chiricahua National Monument*; and a taste of Mexico in *Nogales, Sonora*, just 70 miles south.



(UISINE



Casual settings, fresh ingredients and an unapologetic passion for food give Tucson a flavor that stands alone. Local chefs provide a sense of place by using **regional items** to flavor their dishes, like mesquite flour and honey, Tohono O'odham golden watermelon, and of course, saguaro & prickly pear cactus fruit. Open wide and make some room at any of the city's 100-plus local restaurants, including those that make up the **Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food**, the biggest and best collection of Mexican food restaurants north of the border. No matter what your taste, Tucson serves up an endless path of palate-pleasers sure to lead you towards an unforgettable culinary experience.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- Pima Air & Space Museum
- Mission San Xavier Del Bac
- Old Tucson
- Biosphere 2
- Kartchner Caverns
- Sabino Canyon
- Saguaro National Park East & West
- Mt. Lemmon Sky Center
- Kitt Peak National Observatory



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For more information about travel to Tucson
including group tours and professional
meetings, go to VisitTucson.org



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