

1 DAY ONE – TUCSON

Drive Phoenix ➤ Tucson 2hrs

What to do

In Tucson, you can do as much or as little as you want (no judgment either way). Start downtown near the University of Arizona, then wander into verdant Sonoran Desert trails, standout restaurants feeding a globally recognized culinary scene, and shops with serious local pride. This is a "slow your roll" kind of place — sun-soaked, flavor-packed, and refreshingly unpretentious — where the pace slows just enough for you to actually enjoy it.

Just outside Tucson, **Mission San Xavier del Bac** is a bit of a show-off, in the most breathtaking way. Founded in 1692 by Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, this stunning Spanish Colonial landmark continues to serve the Tohono O'odham community today. Step inside and you'll find centuries of history, artistry, and quiet reverence, all beautifully preserved, and still very much alive. sanxaviermission.org

There's a new stargazer must-see at **Kitt Peak National Observatory**. Tasogida Ki: Center for Astronomy Outreach is the first science center built inside a telescope. The massive decommissioned McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope is now home to the Center's interactive exhibits on astronomy research. Visit the center and stay for one of the many telescope tours at this working observatory. The private Overnight Telescope Observing Program — with a dedicated telescope operator — is a favorite for serious astronomy fans! kpno.noirlab.edu

At **Mission Garden**, history isn't behind glass. It's growing right in front of you. Set at the base of Sentinel Peak on the site of Cuk Son, a place sacred to the Tohono O'odham, this living garden brings centuries of Sonoran Desert agriculture to life. Wander the plots, taste what's in season, and yes...you'll leave knowing a lot more about beans than you expected. missiongarden.org

At the **Pima Air & Space Museum**, imagination takes flight — from the visionary Wright Flyer to a 787 Dreamliner. With 400+ aircraft spread across massive hangars and 90 acres outdoors, it's less of a museum and more of a full-on aviation playground. Fair warning: you may leave with flight lessons on your bucket list. pimaair.org

Outdoorsy types, The **Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum** is designed just for you. 85% of the exhibits are outdoors, and most of the collection is alive. Spy on Mexican gray wolves and see desert raptors in free flight as you make your way through our region's diverse ecosystems. desertmuseum.org

The saguaro cactus has become visual shorthand for the American West, but they have their true home right here in Tuscon. Visit **Saguaro National Park**, where these iconic giants are protected and revered. The park has two locations, West and East, on either side of the city. Get up close (but not too close) to the famous 50-foot, 200-year-old cacti. visitarizona.com/places/parks-monuments/saguaro-national-park


MISSION SAN XAVIER DEL BAC


SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK


SONORAN DESERT MUSEUM


PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Where to stay:

Friendly, funky and fully committed to affordable travel, **Hotel McCoy** is an artfully restored mid-century hotel. The grounds are covered in murals and full of delightful surprises, like a rainbow-painted A-frame entrance and a heated saltwater pool — good vibes embodied! hotelmccoy.com

Almost a century old, **Arizona Inn** was the creation of the state's first congresswoman, Isabella Greenway. Today, this pink adobe princess offers charming casitas and gracious hospitality just blocks away the University of Arizona. arizonainn.com



HOTEL MCCOY

Where to dine:

Tucson was designated a **UNESCO City of Gastronomy**, joining 49 capitals of cuisine around the world. It is the only city recognized for its culinary heritage and continued creativity in the U.S. Tuscon was singled out for having the longest tradition of cultivation in North America: 4,000 years of growing and gathering have led to its vibrant, far-reaching food culture.

Whiskey Del Bac (Hamilton Distillers): Scotch takes a desert detour and picks up a little mesquite along the way. Instead of peat, the malt is smoked over local wood, giving their signature Dorado a rich, smoky kick that feels distinctly Arizona. Want it without the smoke? Go Classic. Want it bold? Dorado or the Clear both bring that mesquite-fired flavor. It's not just whiskey; it's Southwest swagger in a glass. whiskeydelbac.com

BOCA by Chef Maria Mazon: Not all tacos are created equal. These prove it. Led by Chef Maria Mazon, this Fourth Avenue favorite serves up bold, Sonoran-inspired creations with salsas that deserve their own spotlight. Grab a seat, bring your appetite, and maybe pace yourself...or don't. bocatacos.com

El Guero Canelo: "Just a hot dog" doesn't apply here. Not even close. We're talking bacon-wrapped, piled high with beans, onions, tomatoes, and just enough jalapeño kick to keep things interesting. It's messy, it's legendary, and yes, it earned a James Beard Foundation "American Classic" for a reason. Napkins required. elguerocanelo.com

Tanque Verde Ranch: At this dude ranch, dinner comes with a side of wide-open sky. Pull up a chair at Cottonwood Grove for a cowboy cookout, where the fire's crackling, the grill's working overtime, and the desert sunset is doing its thing. Think hearty BBQ, homemade everything, and just enough Old West charm to make you wonder why all dinners aren't like this. tanqueverderanch.com

Tito and Pep: Tito and Pep's chef and owner, John Martinez, named the restaurant after the adventurous heroines in stories told by his grandmother Dorothy. Martinez inherited her creativity and has packed his menu with multicultural inventions grounded in Southwestern traditions. titoandpep.com

Tumerico: Head chef Wendy Garcia's "experiments" with heritage ingredients at Tumerico have more than succeeded: Her plant-based Latin-American fare has won fervent local fans, earned celebrity accolades, and landed the restaurant on best-of-the-U.S. lists. tumerico.com


TUMERICO


TANQUE VERDE


WHISKEY DEL BAC


TANQUE VERDE RANCH


EL GUERO CANELO

2 DAY TWO – BISBEE

Drive Tucson ➤ Chiricahua National Park 2 hrs ➤ Bisbee 2 hrs

What to do

On the way to Bisbee, in the boulder-strewn beauty of **Texas Canyon Nature Preserve at Amerind** is where culture and landscape show off a little. Set on 1,600 acres of ancestral Chiricahua Apache land, it blends powerful exhibits with a bigger mission: preserving Indigenous history and living traditions. Come curious, leave inspired, and take home some seriously good jewelry from the gift shop. amerind.org

Chiricahua National Park: This is not your average walk in the park. Here, jaw-dropping rock sentinels rise, twist, and tower. Wander 17 miles of trails through sky-high pinnacles and quiet canyons once home to the Chiricahua Apache, where stories of Cochise and Geronimo still echo. You'll leave with dusty shoes and a very full sense of wonder. nps.gov/chir/index.htm

At the **Copper Queen Mine**, you're not just hearing history, you're riding straight into it. Hop a mine train, suit up in a hard hat and headlamp, and head underground with retired miners who know every twist and turn. It's cool (literally, so bring a jacket), a bit rugged, and let's just say...this one goes a little deeper. copperqueenmine.com

The **Bisbee Séance Room**: In Bisbee, things get delightfully spooky after dark. Step into Magic Kenny Bang Bang's Victorian parlor, where the lights dim, the stories get strange, and Bisbee's ghostly past comes out to play. It's part magic show, part séance, and just enough chills to keep things interesting. You'll discover that the past doesn't always stay buried. thebisbeeseanceroom.com

Where to stay:

Eldorado Suites Hotel (Bisbee): This historic gem (circa 1914) — rated Best Hotel in Bisbee and recommended by Travel + Leisure — gives you room to spread out with full kitchens, breezy verandas, and views that make you linger. Step outside and you're in the heart of Bisbee's quaint downtown. eldoradosuiteshotel.com

It's been a hoot and a half to stay at **The Shady Dell Vintage Trailer Court** since 1927, when it hosted Highway 80 roadtrippers. Today, you have your pick of a wild and wide range of restored vintage campers...plus an Airporter bus and a Chris Craft yacht. When you get hungry, the 1950s-style Dots Diner is right on site. theshadydell.com

Where to dine:

Patisserie Jacqui: Bisbee takes a very delicious detour to Paris. This woman-owned gem, and James Beard Award semifinalist, turns out croissants, éclairs, and tarts that feel straight out of a French daydream. You'll come for a look...and leave with a box. patisserie-jacqui.com

Café Roka: The kind of place that turns a meal into a memory. Chef Rod Kass brings bold, seasonal flavors to the table using local ingredients, and somehow makes it all feel effortless. Add a glass from Dos Cabezas WineWorks or Callaghan Vineyards, settle into the art deco vibe, and prepare to linger. caferoka.com


BISBEE


AMERIND MUSEUM


CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL PARK


COPPER QUEEN MINE


ELDORADO SUITES HOTEL



THE SHADY DELL VINTAGE TRAILER COURT

3 DAY THREE – TOMBSTONE

Drive Bisbee ➤ Tombstone 30 mins

What to do

At **O.K. Corral**, history doesn't just sit still; it stages a comeback daily. The infamous 30-second shootout that put Wyatt Earp on the map now plays out in lively reenactments, right where it happened. Wander Tombstone's wooden sidewalks and stop by a saloon to say howdy. But be warned: The past doesn't fade here — it fires back. ok-corral.com

Some theaters have drama. The **Bird Cage Theater** has a past. Once packed with music, mayhem, and more than a few questionable life choices, this famously haunted hotspot still shows off its bullet-scarred walls like badges of honor. Spend a little time here, and you might leave entertained...or just slightly convinced you weren't alone. tombstonebirdcage.com

Where to stay:

Landmark Lookout Lodge: Get front-row seats to Tombstone. No spurs required. Perched just above the historic district, it serves up sweeping views and sunsets that feel straight out of a John Ford Western. Grab a spot by the firepit, swap stories, and settle in. It's relaxed, it's scenic, and it's hard to leave. lookoutlodgeaz.com

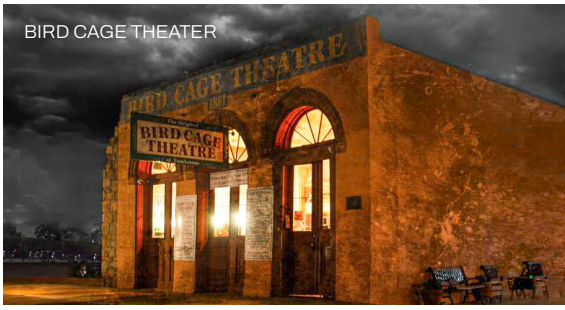
Tombstone Monument Ranch: The ranch hands may be on-the-job at Tombstone Monument Ranch & Cattle Company, but that doesn't mean you have to be ... unless you book the Working Ranch Package to tag along on cattle checks! The fully operational cattle ranch is also designed for Western R&R: horseback riding, archery, marksmanship, saloon hangs, and more. tombstonemonumentranch.com

Where to dine:

Tombstone Brewing Company: Even outlaws need to wet their whistle. Step in, cool off, and grab a pint of Tombstone Brewing Company's famed Tombstone IPA. It's hazy, hoppy, and bursting with tropical vibes (yes, in the desert). Bold, refreshing, and just the drink you need after a full day of historic adventures. tombstone.beer

Big Nose Kate's Saloon: Step inside for creaky wood floors, a legit 1880s bar, and live music that practically dares you not to toe-tap and knee slap. Grab a burger or some brisket, soak up the scene, and settle in, because this is one place where history knows how to have a good time. bignosekatestombstone.com













4 DAY FOUR – SONOITA

Drive Tombstone ➤ Sonoita-Elgin 45 mins

Drive Sonoita-Elgin ➤ Tucson 1 hr

What to do

Ramsey Canyon Preserve (Sierra Vista): Known as the hummingbird capital of the U.S., Ramsey Canyon Preserve has recorded 15 hummingbird species, more than almost anywhere else on the planet, drawn by a rare mix of Madrean oak woodland, a year-round stream, and a cool canyon microclimate at 5,400 feet.. Just down the road, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area keeps the bird party going. It has one of most important migratory corridors in North America, with 250+ species recorded along its banks. nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/ramsey-canyon-preserve/

Kartchner Caverns State Park (Benson): The real magic here happens underground. Hidden for decades and opened with care, this "living" cave is packed with towering formations, including the 58-foot Kubla Khan and the miraculous "soda straw" stalactite, which is 21 feet long...and growing. Slip through airlocks, follow a guided tour, and prepare to be amazed, because this is one place that truly rocks (and drips, slowly). azstateparks.com/kartchner

Welcome to Arizona wine country. Escape to southern Arizona's rolling hills, winding roads, and vineyards that feel a world away. Then stop by **Los Milics** Vineyards, where big dreams were turned into bottles worth lingering over. You can even leave with a bottle...or three. Who's going to tell? losmilicsvineyards.com

At **Arizona Hops & Vines**, wine tasting comes with zero attitude and a whole lot of personality. Run by two sisters who clearly know how to have a good time, this is where you sip, laugh, and maybe pet a goat along the way. Kids? Welcome. Dogs? Also welcome (on a leash, please). Wine snobs? Relax, you'll fit right in...or loosen up quickly. azhopsandvines.com

Where to stay & dine:

If you're going for "absolutely unforgettable," stay in one of **Los Millics**' nine vineyard casitas. The strikingly modern mini-houses overlook sun-drenched grapevines and the Mustang Mountains. Savor a leisurely wine tasting with tapas, explore the surrounding wine region, then dine at **The Biscuit** before a late-night stargazing session back at your casita. losmilicsvineyards.com

It makes sense that the family-owned **Dos Cabezas WineWorks** would also feature family-friendly accommodations. Next Door at Dos Cabezas has a Casa for up to six and a Casita for four — with a pizza oven in the backyard. If you'd rather someone else sling pies for you, Pronghorn Pizza pairs perfectly with your favorite Dos Cabezas bottle. Choose yours from their tasting room pours. doscabezas.com

Where to dine:

Horseshoe Café (Benson): Comfort food isn't a trend, it's a tradition (since 1936, to be exact). Think crispy, golden, no-regrets classics, a slice (or two) of pie, and a vibe that says, "go ahead, order dessert." This is not the place to practice restraint. thehorseshoebenson.com


RAMSEY CANYON


LOS MILICS


ARIZONA HOPS & VINES


KARTCHNER CAVERNS



HORSESHOE CAFÉ


SONOITA