INTRODUCTION

to Green Valley - Sahuarita's History and Culture

Welcome to the beautiful Green Valley and Sahuarita region. Situated south of Tucson along Interstate 19 and the Santa Cruz River, Green Valley and Sahuarita are thriving communities strongly connected to their past and dedicated to their future.

Green Valley is an unincorporated retirement community that was founded in 1964. Approximately 20 miles south of Tucson, Green Valley has an estimated population of 30,000. Known for its year-round golfing and exceptional birding opportunities, Green Valley is portrayed by Arizona Highways as the "town too good to die... populated by people who have learned how to live."

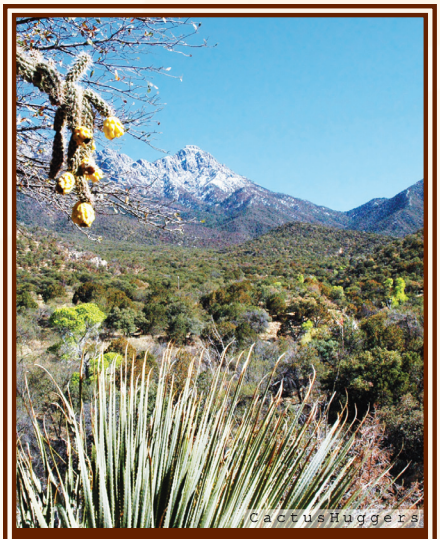
The relatively young Town of Sahuarita was incorporated in 1994, yet was founded in 1911 and even appears on maps as early as 1875 with the name Sahuarito. The Town of Sahuarita has experienced a rapid increase in population, growing from 3,242 residents in April 2000 to 25,659 residents in July 2011.

Southeastern Arizona, including Green Valley - Sahuarita, is unsurpassed among North American bird watching regions.

Photo courtesy of Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com.

Native American Roots

The Green Valley – Sahuarita region, and the greater Santa Cruz River Valley, has been inhabited by a variety of indigenous people dating as far back as 2000 BC. The Clovis culture was a Paleoindian adaptation that preceded the Archaic and Hohokam cultures. In 2009 a Clovis point spearhead was discovered by archaeologists in Sahuarita, only the second such relic to be found in the Santa Cruz Valley.



A scenic view of Madera Canyon and Mt. Wrightson in the Santa Rita mountains.

Photo courtesy of Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com.

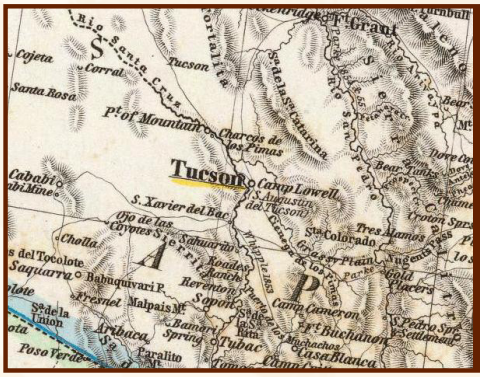
During the late 1600s, the Jesuit missionary Eusebio Francisco Kino explored the borderland region that now includes northern Sonora and southern Arizona. He and other early Spanish missionaries, explorers, soldiers, and colonists found the region inhabited by the O'odham people, who they called the Pima Altas ("Upper Pimas") to distinguish them from the Pima Bajos ("Lower Pimas") living in southern Sonora. Among the O'odham they distinguished several subgroups, including the Sobaipuri of the Santa Cruz and San Pedro river valleys, the Papago of the desert region between the Santa Cruz and Colorado rivers, and the Gileños living along the Gila River to the north. Over the next three hundred years several O'odham groups disappeared as a result of diseases introduced by the Spanish and displacements by colonizing Spanish and raiding Apaches. The Sobaipuri of the San Pedro Valley fled from the Apaches and resettled in the Santa Cruz Valley, where they became integrated with the Papagos, now known as the Tohono O'odham (People of the Desert).

Some modern scholars believe that the Tohono O'odham are one of the most ancient peoples of southwestern North America, occupying this region for many thousands of years. The Tohono O'odham themselves, and some scholars, trace their origins

to the Hohokam culture that flourished in this region between about A.D. 450 and 1450. A third view supported by a few scholars, and also by an oral history version of the origin of the Gila River Pimas recorded in the early 1900s, is that the O'odham migrated from southern Sonora to this region in the 1400s, and then warred against the Hohokam culture, contributing to its collapse. Regardless of which version is accepted, it is clear that the Tohono O'odham are a very ancient culture of the Sonoran Desert and are part of a chain of related, Piman-speaking cultures that extends from Jalisco in western Mexico to Phoenix, Arizona.

From ancient times until the late 19th century, the Tohono O'odham lived in dispersed villages (rancherías) along low-elevation drainages during the summer to grow crops of corn, squashes, melons, and beans in areas flooded by summer rains, and then moved to villages at higher elevations during the winter to use springs and wells that have water year-round. The saguaro wine festival marks the beginning of the Tohono O'odham year, and is an important part of the agricultural cycle.

Today, about 18,000 members of the Tohono O'odham Nation live in three reservations in southern Arizona, including the San Xavier District in the Santa Cruz Valley, established in 1874. Located on the San Xavier District is a Spanish colonial church completed in 1797, and representing a mixture of baroque and native styles. This church still serves the residents of the district, and the adjacent plaza is used for powwows and craft fairs. Traditional coiled baskets are made by elders, and also by young people learning the craft. Near the church is a farmers' cooperative that produces and sells native crops. A casino is an important employer and a source of funding for housing, education, and other services.



This 1875 map is one of the first maps to show Sahuarita, then called Sahaurito.

The name Sahuarita is an adaptation of Saguarito, or "little saguaro" in Spanish.

The region's ranching traditions date back to the late 1600s.

David Jewell © Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Ranching Traditions

Since the introduction of cattle, horses, and other livestock in the 1680s and 1690s with the first Spanish entradas to establish ranches, mission communities, and military forts in the Santa Cruz Valley, ranching and farming have continued to be two mainstays of the rural economy for more than 300 years.

Most of the earliest cattle ranches in the Santa Cruz Valley were established at mission communities, but the Spanish and later Mexican governments also offered substantial land grants to civilians in an attempt to create wealth and a tax base, by attracting settlers to increase the population and productivity of the region and to expand their claims. One such land grant is the historic Canoa Ranch.

In 1821, brothers Tomas and Ignacio Ortiz received a large land grant at San Ignacio de la Canoa along the Santa Cruz River. By 1859 this working cattle ranch included the Canoa Hotel on the east bank of the Santa Cruz River.

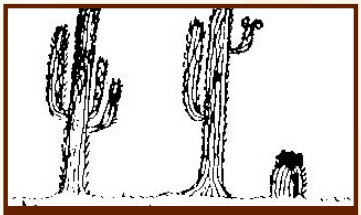
Indian warfare hindered American occupation of the southwest during this period. The Canoa Hotel, Crossroads Tavern and lumber sales operation are believed to have been briefly located in the southeast corner of the current 4,800 acres. Frederick Maish and Thomas Driscoll began running cattle on the Canoa Grant in 1875. In 1887 they initiated the Canoa Canal Company. In 1880 the Southern Pacific railroad crossed Southern Arizona, and in 1910 Canoa Ranch was linked to it by the Tucson-Nogales railroad.

Most of the abundant historic era resources remaining on the ranch date from the early 1900s, when the ranch was owned and operated by the Manning family. These

resources retain near complete historic integrity and remain much as they were during the mid 20th century.

Today, the interplay of Hispanic, American, Mexican, and Native American ranching continues this historical and living tradition, providing a link to the past and to the future.

While ranching is certainly a way of life that continues throughout the West, the high desert grasslands of the Santa Cruz Valley has always been a cultural crossroads on the frontier of settlement, where ranching has so profoundly shaped our cultural and natural landscape, land-use patterns, economic development, urban form, cultural composition and traditions, and self image.



Forty-Niner George Evans sketched these saguaros in the margin of his journal. From George W. B. Evans, Mexican Gold Trail: The Journal of a Forty-Niner, San Marino: Huntington Library, 1945.

49ers

Over 10,000 "49ers" heading for the California gold fields passed down the Santa Cruz Valley toward Tucson, passing through what is now Green Valley and Sahuarita, from June 1849 on into early 1850. Some of them left detailed diaries of what they saw on the trail. Many extol the richness of the grasslands, and the greenery along the Santa Cruz River. Several wrote of their amazement on seeing their first saguaros. Some of these may have been in what is now northern Green Valley and the southern part of Sahuarita. One of the 49er diarists, George W. B. Evans also included a little drawing in the margin of his diary, and wrote about what he saw.

"Aug. 18. At 4:00 p.m. we encamped on good grass, nine miles from Tucson and three miles from the Indian village. We met with some cactus on the mesquite plains today that astonished every beholder. At a distance they looked like small steamboat pipes, and in places grew very numerous. In order that the reader may have some idea of the saguaro, or cacti seen this day on our road, I have here attempted a sketch of these trees, and need only say that the largest of these measured in height at least twenty feet, and in circumference about thirty inches. This beautiful tree has five noble branches and stands a noble representative of those growing around it. But these plants must be seen to be appreciated. A number of Mexicans have visited us this evening. The distance made this day is about twenty-two miles."

- From George W. B. Evans.
Mexican Gold Trail: The Journal of a Forty-Niner
San Marino: Huntington Library, 1945.

Desert Farming

In response to President Woodrow Wilson's plea for a domestic supply of natural rubber during World War I, businessmen Joseph Kennedy, Sr., J. P. Morgan, and Bernard Baruch purchased 9,700 acres in the northern part of Canoa Ranch from Levi Manning in 1916. The land would be used to grow guayule, a native Southwestern shrub that yields latex, the raw material for rubber.

The new Intercontinental Rubber Company drilled deep wells for irrigation water, constructed processing facilities, and built housing for workers in the new village of Continental. When the war ended, guayule was no longer needed and production ended before rubber was successfully extracted in large quantities.

From 1926 to 1937, Continental Farm was leased to grow long-staple cotton. During World War II, a prisoner of war camp was built on the farm and some 40 German POWs worked in the fields. Sometime prior to 1945, Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands purchased a controlling interest in the farm from the original trio of businessmen, and continued to cultivate cotton.

In 1948, the queen sold Continental Farm to the Farmer's Investment Company (FICO), owned by R. Keith Walden. FICO doubled the cotton planting to 3,400 acres in 1952, and then rotated cotton with barley and corn, and experimented with Spanish peanuts, vegetables, and wine grapes. Between 1965 and 1969, Continental Farm planted 106,000 pecan trees on 6,000 acres after a wind-borne fungus damaged the cotton fields. The trees first started to produce pecans in 1970. Today, FICO is the world's largest integrated grower and processor of pecans and has more than 250 employees.

Natural Environment

Situated in the Sonoran Desert and surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges (known as sky islands), Green Valley - Sahuarita offers one-of-a-kind outdoor recreational opportunities. The southwestern sky island "archipelago" is unique on the planet, and is the only sky island complex extending from subtropical to temperate latitudes with a globally unprecedented array of plant and animal species of northern and southern origins.

These mountain islands are among the most diverse ecosystems in North America due to their great topographic relief and location at the meeting point of

major desert and forest biomes. This uniqueness results from several factors, including the region's wide range of elevations, the convergence of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, the north-south trending mountain ranges that contain a mingling of species from the Rocky Mountains to the north and the Sierra Madre Occidental to the south, and two rainy seasons.

Southeastern Arizona, including Green Valley - Sahuarita, is unsurpassed among North American bird watching regions. The diversity and rarity of bird species in southeastern Arizona owes to the range of elevations and habitats that are available.

With annual temperatures averaging a pleasant 80 degrees during the day and 50 degrees at night, Green Valley – Sahuarita's climate is ideal for year-round outdoor recreation.

Looking to the southwest at Mt. Hopkins and Whipple Observatory from the top of Mt. Wrightson in the Santa Rita mountains.

Photo courtesy of Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com.

General Criteria

The businesses, destinations, and annual events included in the Discover Green Valley - Sahuarita's Heritage tourism guide are located in the region of eastern Pima County identified on the map below, and meet the specific criteria described in each of the individual sections:

Destinations • Food • Lodging

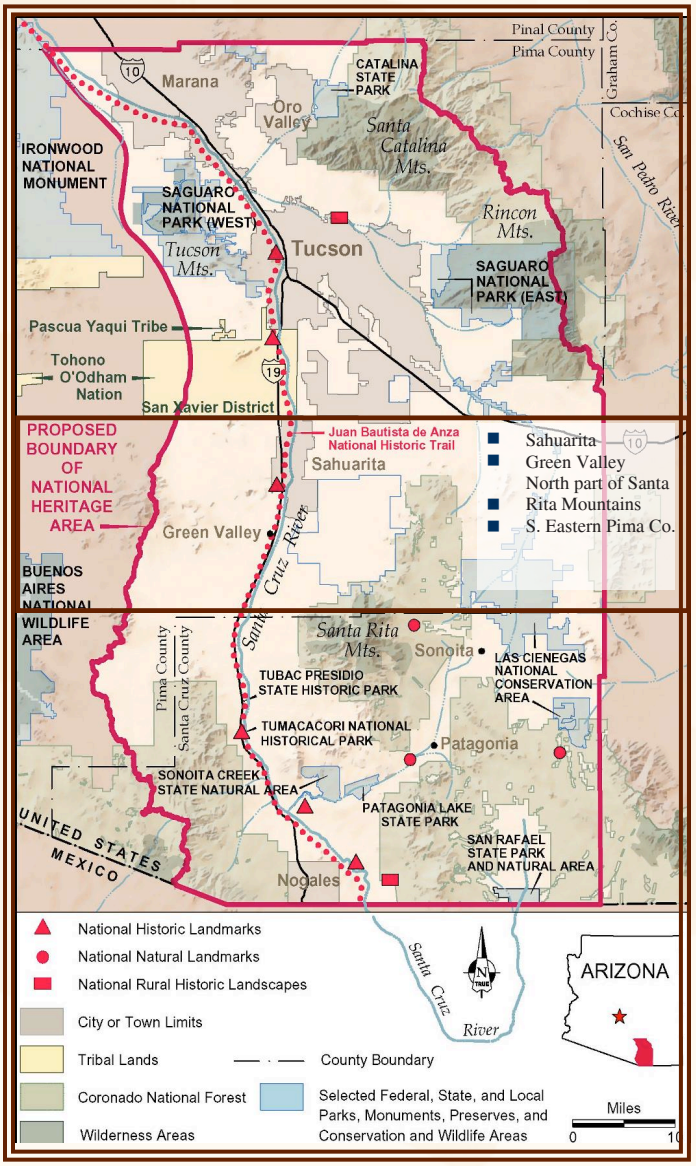
A "heritage business" should highlight one of the ten distinctive themes of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Area by encouraging the preservation, promotion and education of the theme in the daily business operations. There should be a clear and obvious connection to the theme.

Ten distinctive themes of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Area

- Sky Islands and Desert Seas
- Streams in the Desert
- Bird Habitats and Migration Routes
- Native American Lifeways
- Desert Farming
- Ranching Traditions
- Spanish and Mexican Frontier
- Mining Booms
- U.S. Military Posts on the U.S. Mexico Border
- U.S. Mexico Border Culture

www.SantaCruzHeritage.org/DiscoverGreenValley

Sources: Farmers Investment Co.; Green Valley-Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce; Dan Judkins; Pima County Canoa Ranch Master Plan; Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area Feasibility Study.



LODGING

Unique heritage lodging options available in the Green Valley-Sahuarita region include charming inns and bed-and-breakfasts nestled in the sky islands. These accommodations offer a wide range of experiences and special services for nature enthusiasts, equestrians, and history buffs.

The accommodations listed below are located in a scenic natural setting and represent at least one of the ten distinctive heritage themes of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Area as an integral aspect of its operations.

The diversity and rarity of bird species in southeastern Arizona owes to the range of elevations and habitats that are available.

Photo by Fred Hood © Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Chuparosa Inn B&B
1300 W. Madera Canyon Rd.
Madera Canyon, AZ 85614
Phone: (520) 393-7370
Website: www.chuparosainn.com
Description: Chuparosa Inn B&B is ideal for those seeking a peaceful retreat in the Santa Rita Mountains. The Inn offers a wonderful environment for couples with a romantic heart, nature lovers, hiking and biking enthusiasts, or anyone who enjoys meeting others in a relaxed atmosphere. The Inn has three guest rooms with a private entry, patio, kitchenette and bath.

Inn at San Ignacio
1861 W. Demetrie Loop
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Phone: (520) 393-5700
Website: www.innatsanignacio.com

Step outside anywhere in Green Valley and Sahuarita for spectacular scenic views of the surrounding sky island mountains.

Photo by Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com

Description: The Inn at San Ignacio has some of the finest, most spacious condo hotel accommodations in Green Valley. The Inn features beautiful villa rooms and condo style luxury villa suites. Guests can play golf nearby or just relax and enjoy the beautiful pool. The Inn at San Ignacio is centrally located for some of the best birding Arizona has to offer and has birding specials available.

Madera Kubo B&B
1259 S. Madera Canyon Rd.
Madera Canyon, AZ 85614
Phone: (520) 625-2908
Website: www.maderakubo.com
Description: Madera Kubo B&B has four cabins located in the heart of Madera Canyon. Two cabins are A-frames with spiral log stairs leading to a sleeping loft, and the other two are one-level cabins. All the cabins are decorated country style with lots of plants, hand made furniture, crafts, wood stoves for heating, and friendly hospitality.

Mi Gatita Inn
14085 Avenida Haley Rd. South
HCR 70 Box 3401
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
Phone: (520) 648-6129
Website: www.tucsonbirdinginn.com
Description: Mi Gatita (my little cat) was built on land that was once part of the historic Navarro Ranch and sits high on a rise overlooking Tucson and several mountain ranges. Mi Gatita is a true desert home, with cool tile and fans for the warm weather, and fireplaces to take the chill off the nights and winter mornings.

Santa Rita Lodge Nature Resort
1218 S. Madera Canyon Rd.
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Phone: (520) 625-8746
Website: www.santaritalodge.com
Description: Santa Rita Lodge is located in the beautiful Madera Canyon. Only 13 miles southeast of Green Valley, the lodge is a comfortable yet rustic hotel that has been in existence since the 1930s. The lodge has four cabins and eight efficiency apartments or "casitas". Located beside Madera Canyon Creek, which usually flows from monsoon season in July through March, the lodge offers guests a unique birding expereience, with sightings of rare species such as the Elegant Trogon.

FOOD

The Green Valley – Sahuarita region is part of a larger corridor for the cultural diffusion and exchange of foods and culinary traditions.

Green Valley and Sahuarita are located in the heart of the Santa Cruz River Valley, which is believed to be one of the longest continually cultivated region in the United States, with an agricultural heritage extending back more than 4,000 years. Over the past few centuries, the region has also been a corridor for the cultural diffusion and exchange of foods and culinary traditions. The Columbian Exchange—the reciprocal exchange of Old World and native foods when Europeans arrived—resulted in a uniquely blended cuisine in this region. Some traditional ingredients of this blend include cactus fruits, mesquite flour, corn, beans, squash, wheat, beef, chiles, cilantro, garlic, limes, pomegranates, and figs.

Ingredients and specialty products of heritage foods—locally produced foods tied to the region's history and cultural identity—can be found in restaurants, farmers' markets and grocery stores, and are highlighted at annual food festivals throughout the greater Santa Cruz Valley. Learn more about heritage foods at www.SantaCruzHeritage.org/foods.

The Green Valley and Sahuarita businesses and events included in this Heritage Foods section use, prepare, grow, or feature local or heritage foods. The following list includes local producers of value-added specialty products, stores, farmers' markets, restaurants that highlight local and heritage foods on their menus; and annual events that celebrate local and heritage foods.

Annual Food Events

Sahuarita Pecan Festival
1625 E. Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 820-3299
www.sahuaritapecanfestival.com
Description: The annual Sahuarita Pecan Festival is "the nuttiest festival in southern Arizona!" The festival takes place in November and features an agricultural heritage area, local food vendors, music and dancing, and two running events, the Pecan Classic and Nut Run.

Dining

El Charro Café
15920 S. Rancho Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 325-1922
www.elcharrocafe.com
Established in 1922 in Tucson, El Charro Cafe is the Nation's oldest mexican restaurant in continuous operation by the same family. El Charro Rancho Sahuarita features traditional Sonoran and innovative Tucson-style Mexican food.
Hours: Sunday - Thursday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

The chiltepin pepper grows in the wild south of Green Valley and is thought to be the genetic mother of all chiles.

The Grill at Quail Creek
1490 N. Quail Range Loop
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 393-5806
www.robson.com/custom.cfm?name=c_restaurant.cfm&activenav=QuailCrk
Savor special times and flavors at the Grill at Quail Creek and Oasis Bar & Lounge. With the lavishly appointed, yet casual setting & friendly atmosphere, you'll feel comfortable whether you're coming off the golf course or going out for the evening with friends. The menu includes prickly pear glaze and Green Valley pecans.
Hours: Breakfast 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Sunday only; Lunch 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., 7 days a week; Dinner 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday

Farmers Markets

Green Valley Farmers Market
Green Valley Village at Esperanza Blvd.
Green Valley, AZ
(520) 490-3315
www.greenvalleyfarmersmarket.org
Open Wed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Green Valley Farmers Market

The Green Valley Farmers Market features a variety of local businesses providing organic produce, arts, crafts, and more.

Specialty Products

Arizona Cactus Ranch
P.O. Box 8
Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-4419
www.arizonacactusranch.com
Arizona Cactus Ranch is located on forty square miles of desert near Green Valley and is surrounded by Engelmann Prickly Pear Cactus. Every August and September fruit buds from the cactus is harvested to produce a slightly sweet tasting juice that's 100% pure, concentrated prickly pear nectar with no sugar or preservative added. Research studies show that sugar-free prickly pear nectar helps balance blood sugar, electrolytes, triglycerides, cholesterol, and blood pressure. Arizona Cactus Ranch offers prickly pear nectar, jam, and fruit spread, and is available at on their website or at Green Valley Health Food Store.

Stores

Green Valley Health Food Store
125 W. Calle De Las Tiendas, #103A
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 625-3665
The Green Valley Health Food Store features a variety of health food, in particular, sugar-free prickly pear nectar from Arizona Cactus Ranch.

The Pecan Store/ Green Valley Pecan Co.
1625 Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 791-2062
www.pecanstore.com
The Green Valley Pecan Company's 5,000-acre pecan orchard is the world`s largest irrigated pecan orchard. Green Valley Pecan Co., owned by Farmer's Investment Co., grows and processes pecans that are world renowned for their farm to table freshness. The farms retail store, The Pecan Store, offers a nice variety of pecan products, including natural pecans, flavored and candied pecans, honey, jam, jelly, syrup, hot sauce, cookbooks, gift bags and more.

Food-Related Resources

Green Valley-Sahuarita Community Food Bank
250 E. Continental Rd., Suite 101
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(520) 625-5252
www.communityfoodbank.org

The fruit buds from the prickly pear cactus produce a slightly sweet tasting nectar.

DESTINATIONS

Green Valley-Sahuarita's diversity of heritage destinations reflects the region's rich cultural and natural heritage. From historic ranches and mining exhibits, to world renowned birding areas and star gazing, there is something for everyone in Green Valley-Sahuarita.

The destinations included here highlight the unique heritage experiences of the region tied to natural resources, historic sites, and cultural experiences. The parks and recreational areas included are those which highlight natural resources or have historical significance in the region.

The region's climate is ideal for year-round outdoor recreation, such as Mt. Hopkins and the Whipple Observatory in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Photo by Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com

ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center
1421 W. Pima Mine Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 625-8233
www.mineraldiscovery.com
The Asarco Mineral Discovery Center offers mine tours, school programs, and free exhibits to preserve part of the mining history of Arizona and the Western United States.
Admission: Free admission to exhibits. Tours are $8 Adults, $6 Seniors (62+ years) and Active Military, $5 Children (5-12 years), Free Children (under 5 years).
Hours: Discovery Center Hours of Operation: Tuesday-Saturday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tours Tuesday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

Box Canyon Road (FR 62), Coronado National Forest
Green Valley, AZ
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/scenic_drives/box_cyn.shtml
Description: Take a drive on the scenic Box Canyon Road in the Santa Rita Mountains and experience spectacular views and beautiful canyons and grasslands in an historic mining district dotted with operating cattle ranches. Box Canyon Road takes you into an area of the mountain range where open grasslands predominate and where broad views stretch across the immense basins and isolated mountain ranges that make up the Coronado National Forest. Box Canyon is visible as a deep gorge highlighted with bright green cottonwoods and silver barked sycamores.

Desert Diamon Casino
1100 W. Pima Mine Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 294-7777
www.ddcaz.com
Description: Desert Diamond Casino, owned and operated by the Tohono O'odham Nation, provides three exciting entertainment venues in Southern Arizona. The mission of the casinos is to provide the means for a better quality of life for Tohono O'odham Nation and all people in Southern Arizona. The casinos employ over 1,200 Native American and non-Native American people. They provide crucial funds for vital community services both on and off the Nation and generate millions of dollars in state tax revenue. Native American arts and crafts shows are often hosted at the Casino. Experience fine dining at Agave Restaurant.

Fiesta Sahuarita
375 W. Sahuarita Center Way
Sahuarita, AZ 8562
520-822-8896
www.ci.sahuarita.az.us/index.php/fiesta-sahuarita.html
Description: Fiesta Sahuarita is a special event held every year in September to celebrate the Town of Sahuarita's birthday.

The annual Fiesta Sahuarita attracts thousands of residents and tourists to celebrate the Town's birthday.

Photo courtesy of the Town of Sahuarita.

Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory
P.O. Box 6369
Amado, AZ 85645
(520) 670-5707
www.cfa.harvard.edu/facilities/flwo/visit_center.html
Description: The Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (FLWO) is the largest field installation of the Smithsonian Institution

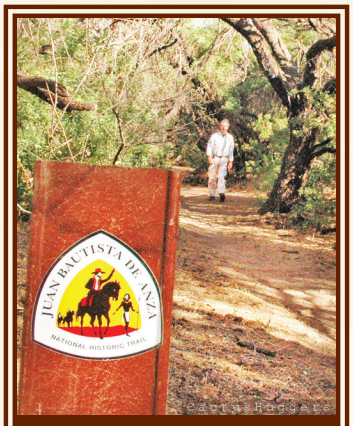
Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) outside Cambridge, MA. Since October 1968, the FLWO has been used as the site for experiments requiring extremely dark skies, dry climate, and good "optical seeing." The FLWO Visitors Center features displays and exhibits on astronomy and astrophysics, natural science, and cultural history. In addition to the interior exhibits, the Visitors Center complex includes an outdoor patio with a Native American petroglyph discovered on site during construction, interpretative signage describing desert flora, and stunning views of the surrounding Santa Rita Mountains. All exhibits and public areas are accessible, and major exhibit titles have been translated into Spanish.

Guided, reserved-seat bus tours of FLWO for the general public are conducted Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from mid-March through November. Tours originate at the Visitors Center, which opens at 8:30 a.m. A video presentation begins at 9 a.m. The bus leaves the office at 9:30 a.m. and returns by 3 p.m. Reservations are required and may be made in advance. Because of the duration of the tour, children under six years of age are not permitted. Tour participants should dress warmly, bring lunches, and be prepared for moderate exertion at an altitude of 8,550 feet.

Admission: Adults $7; Smithsonian Associates (with membership card) $6; Children (ages 6 to 12) $2.50.
Hours: The Visitors Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hiking Club, Town of Sahuarita
Sahuarita, AZ
(520) 445-7850
www.ci.sahuarita.az.us
Description: Offered through the Town of Sahuarita's Parks & Recreation Department, every other week an experienced hiking guide takes hikers to various local trails. Hikes depart every other Saturday from Anamax Park Recreation Center at 17501 S. Camino De Las Quintas. For more information about the hikes please call at 520-445-7850.
Admission: $35 for a 6 month pass or $5 per individual hike.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
www.nps.gov/juba
Description: In late October 1775, a large expedition commanded by Juan Bautista de Anza, a Lieutenant–Colonel in the Royal Spanish cavalry and Commander of the Tubac Presidio, traveled northward along the Santa Cruz River Valley, on its way to establish and colonize a Presidio at San Francisco, California. This National Historic Trail offers people the opportunity to experience Anza's five-month journey, on which everyone either walked or rode horses or mules. Trailheads are at Abrego and Canoa Ranch.
Hours: Dawn to dusk.
Admission: Free



Nearby hiking trails, such as the Anza Trail, offer endless opportunities to experiences the region's natural heritage.

Photo by Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com

This map illustrates the route Juan Bautista de Anza's expedition took to San Francisco, CA. The National Historic Trail is accessible from several trailheads in Green Valley and Sahuarita.

Madera Canyon, Coronado National Forest
Directions: Turn east off of I-19 at the Continental Exit 63. Follow the signs to Whitehouse Canyon Road and on to the Forest boundary, about 11 miles.
(520) 388-8300
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/forest/recreation/camping/sites/madera.shtml
Description: Madera Canyon is located in the northwest face of the Santa Rita Mountains, Coronado National Forest, east of Green Valley. A world-renowned location for bird watching, Madera Canyon is a major resting place for migrating species. Several trails are avialable for hiking, including the Mt. Wrightson Trail, the Super Trail, and the Old Baldy Trail. Facilities include picnic areas with grills and tables, restrooms, and nearby camping at Bog Springs.
Admission: $5 parking per vehicle.

Sahuarita Pecan Festival
1625 E. Sahuarita Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 820-3299
www.sahuaritapecanfestival.com

Description: The annual Sahuarita Pecan Festival is "the nuttiest festival in southern Arizona!" The festival features an agricultural heritage area, local food vendors, music and dancing, and two running events, the Pecan Classic and Nut Run.

Photo courtesy of Murray Bolesta/CactusHuggers.com.

The one-of-a-kind Titan Missile Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is an accurate exhibit of a Cold War missile silo.

Titan Missile Museum
1580 W. Duval Mine Rd.
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
(520) 625-7736
www.titanmissilemuseum.org
Description: The Titan Missile Museum in Sahuarita is the only Titan II missile site in the nation that is open to the public. The museum offers tours of the underground missile site where guests can experience the 3-ton blast doors, the 8-foot thick silo walls, and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. The Titan Missile Museum is a National Historic Landmark.
Admission: Varies by tour.
Hours: 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Additional Tourism Information available from the Green Valley- Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
275 W. Continental Rd. #123, Green Valley, AZ 85622
(520) 625-7575
www.greenvalleychamber.com

The Santa Rita Mountains rise above the pecan orchards near the Santa Cruz River on the valley floor.

Photo courtesy of Green Valley Pecan Co.

Discover Green Valley - Sahuarita's Heritage tourism guide prepared by:

Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance
PO Box 3445
Tucson, AZ 85722
(520) 429-1394
www.SantaCruzHeritage.org

Raul M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park

Article and photos from Pima County's Canoa Ranch Master Plan.

In the heart of Green Valley is the Pima County-owned historic Canoa Ranch. Since purchasing the 4,800 acre Canoa Ranch in 2001, Pima County has embarked on a number of projects at the ranch to preserve and protect the valuable natural and cultural resources.

In 2007, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted the Canoa Ranch Master Plan to guide the future development of the ranch as a significant educational and conservation center. The objective of this Master Plan is to integrate the historic site resources with the larger context of the Santa Cruz River Valley to preserve, restore and rehabilitate the site for public benefit.

Canoa's historic built resources include historical and pre-historical archaeological resources, historic buildings and structures, and historic landscapes. The preservation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as efforts to protect important habitat and restore natural systems are well underway, but the park is not yet open to the public.

For more information and updates on progress at the park, please visit www.pima.gov/cultural

The Santa Rita Mountains as seen from the Canoa Ranch.

The historic Canoa Ranch in Green Valley.