

# LIVING ON THE EDGE

ARIZONA'S WEST COAST  
YUMA, PARKER, AND LAKE HAVASU CITY

**ARIZONA**  
GRAND CANYON STATE

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# ARIZONA

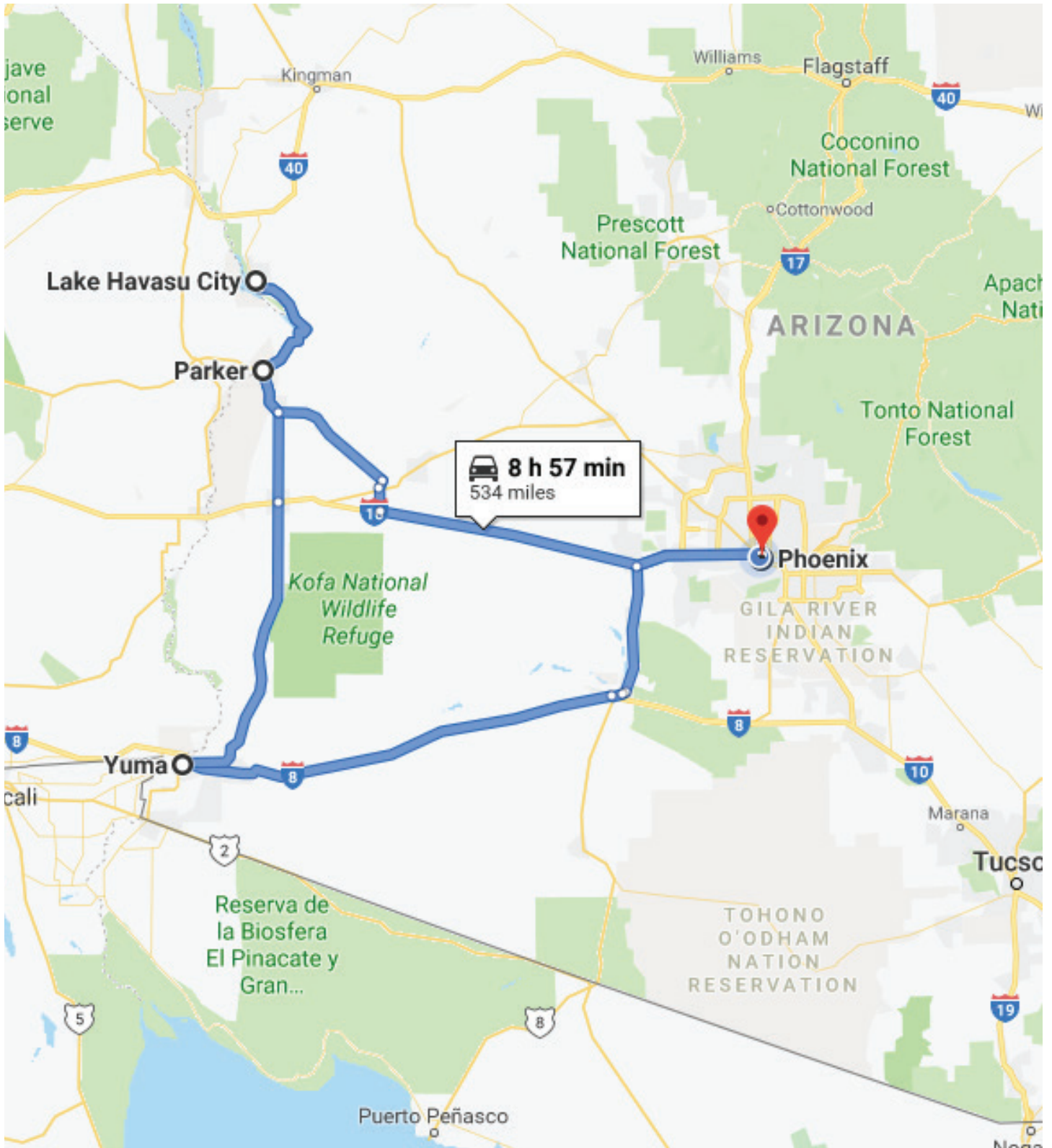
GRAND CANYON STATE

On this trip, dispel the myth that the desert lacks water. The Colorado River is Arizona's western border and has made agriculture and water recreation major attractions for the cities along the river. This itinerary will stimulate your mind, your palate and your adventurous side. Great for families, wildlife watchers, "geotravelers", and history buffs.





# LIVING ON THE EDGE ROAD MAP



## DAY 1

### PHOENIX – YUMA

#### MORNING

Three hours southwest of Phoenix, your tour begins in Yuma, where travelers have been crossing the Colorado River for hundreds of years. In fact, the first European explorers visited this area 80 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock! Visit many cultural and historical sites, or just wander through unique shops and stop for a drink or snack in a local restaurant.

Depart Phoenix for Yuma. The drive is 184.5 miles or 296.9 kilometers.

Visit **Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park** – Sitting on a bluff overlooking the Colorado River are the remains of Arizona's famous Territorial Prison. On July 1, 1876, the first seven inmates entered the Territorial Prison at Yuma and were locked into the new cells they had built themselves. A total of 3,069 prisoners, including 29 women, lived within the walls during the prison's 33 years of operation. You can enter the cells where the Southwest's most hardened criminals were once locked up.

**Tel: (928) 783-4771**

**220 Prison Hill Rd, Yuma, AZ 85364**

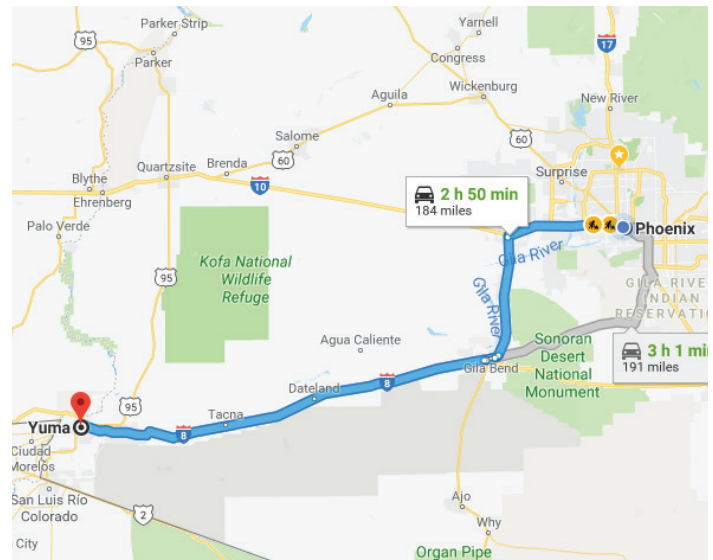
Visit the **Colorado River State Historic Park** – The Colorado River State Historic Park is located on a portion of the grounds of the old U.S. Army Quartermaster Depot (QMD) established in 1864. The Park includes a visitor center, the office of the Depot Quartermaster, the officer's quarters, the corral house, the storehouse, a passenger train car, and more. Learn about how supplies delivered by ship from the Sea of Cortez were distributed to Army forts throughout the Southwest.

**Tel: (928) 783-0071**

**201 N. 4th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364**



Yuma territorial prison



Visit **Pivot Point Interpretative Plaza** – See a 1907 Baldwin steam locomotive, hear a “ghost train” travel along the original railroad alignment, and learn about the historic importance of the Yuma crossing. The outdoor exhibit area opened in 2010 where Madison Avenue meets the River - the exact site where the first railroad train entered Arizona in 1877.

**Tel: 928-373-5198**

**N. Madison Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364**

**(At the northernmost point of the street)**

#### AFTERNOON

Visit the **Sanguinetti House Museum** – The home showcases Yuma's pioneer days in one of downtown's oldest buildings, surrounded by rose gardens and an aviary. It is now an Arizona Historical Society museum chronicling E. F. Sanguinetti's (1867-1945) life as the Merchant Prince of Yuma. Visit the museum and hear stories of how Sanguinetti came to Yuma penniless at just 15. He quickly grew to become a civic-minded businessman whose various enterprises—electricity, ice house, ranching, farming, merchandising, banking, and real estate—advanced his own well-being and that of the community he loved.

**Tel: (928) 782-1841**

**240 S Madison Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Lunch at **Lutes Casino** – The only gambling here is the sale of lottery tickets, but the building was a gambling hall and billiard parlor in the early 1900s. The inside is decorated in memorabilia that the owner has been collecting since the 1960s. For a unique treat, don't miss the hot-dog-topped cheeseburger “Especial,” their signature burger since 1951.

**Tel: (928) 782-2192**

**221 Main St, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Visit **Yuma Art Center** – The Yuma Art Center advances the arts by providing distinct opportunities for community participation and artistic growth. With over 100,000 visitors each year, the Yuma Art Center annually produces several theatre productions, over twenty visual art exhibitions, holds nearly fifty unique performing and visual arts classes, facilitates the annual summer mural program, screens dozens of films, supports the North End Artists Cooperative, coordinates festivals and special events, and advances public art throughout Yuma.

**Tel: (928) 373-5202**

**254 S Main St, Yuma, AZ 85364**

#### EVENING

For some fun after hours, there's plenty of action at the **Cocopah** or **Paradise Casinos**.

Overnight in Yuma.



## DAY 2

### YUMA

#### MORNING

Go golfing at one of the many courses in the area. The diverse challenges posed by Yuma golf courses have earned high marks from Golf Digest Magazine, so take a morning to enjoy an unhurried round under the sunniest skies in the United States.

-or-

Take a side trip to the **Imperial Sand Dunes** – Yuma serves as the gateway to one of the nation's largest mass of inland sand dunes, which extend for more than 40 miles along the eastern edge of California Imperial Valley. This has been a famed film location since the days of Rudolph Valentino and was a key filming location for Star Wars: Return of the Jedi and recently, Jarhead and Scorpion King. This natural sand box acts as a magnet for off-road enthusiasts and welcomes more than one million visitors every year.

**Tel: 760-337-4400**

-or-

Take a tour at **Martha's Gardens Date Farm** – Yuma is one of the world's largest producers of Medjool dates. Farm tours give guests a first-hand and in-depth look at what it takes to grow and harvest this delicious fruit. Don't miss the date shakes! It may seem like an odd combination, but date shakes have become a signature treat in Yuma.

**Tel: (928) 726-8831**

**9747 S Avenue 9 3/4 E, Yuma, AZ 85365**

#### AFTERNOON

Visit the **Camel Farm** – Interact with the animals at Camel Farm, a working breeding farm with a number of exotic species. Visitors can hand feed many of them. **\*\* Open seasonally. Call ahead to verify hours of operation. \*\***

**Tel: (928) 627-7511**

**15672 S Ave 1 E, Yuma, AZ 85365**

Visit the **Peanut Patch** – Go nuts over their yummy, homemade treats. Inside the retail store are hundreds of different candies and natural snacks. The Peanut Patch also gives free tours of their facilities every Tuesday and Friday at 10 am during January, February, March and November.

**\*\* Open seasonally \*\***

**Tel: (928) 726-6292**

**4322 E. County 13th St., Yuma, AZ 85365**



Yuma Wetlands



Yuma bridge



Imperial Sand Dunes

#### EVENING

Check out Yuma's other "green scene" with a trip to the **Yuma East Wetlands**, an innovative habitat restoration project that's one of the largest on the Colorado River. Among nearly 500 acres of restored freshwater marsh and native cottonwood and willow trees, you can see as many as 400 species of birds that live in or migrate through the Yuma area, including egrets, great blue herons, black-necked stilts and Yuma clapper rails. For an even better look at "the Nile of America," you can canoe down the Colorado by day or in the moonlight. **\*\*Please note, this is a natural habitat area, there are no paved paths, restrooms, or drinking fountains.**

**Tel: (928) 373-5198**

**Along the river east of the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Overnight in Yuma.



## DAY 3

### YUMA – PARKER

#### MORNING

Stop by the **Yuma Proving Ground Open Air Museum**. There are multiple tanks, missiles, anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers, and more on display.

Visit the **Heritage Center at the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground**. This unique museum preserves and shares the history of this U.S. Army testing facility – including General George S. Patton’s use of lands in the area for his Desert Training Center during World War II. *\*\*Entrance to the military base is limited to U.S. citizens except on escorted tours and requires vehicle registration, insurance card, and photo IDs.*

**Tel: (928) 328-3394**

**Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Enjoy a hike through **Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)**. Stop at the Visitor Center and then head out to see an old miner’s cabin, American Indian petroglyphs, and wildlife that may include big-horned sheep, wild horse, and burros. There are also observation areas that can be reached by car.

**Tel: (928) 783-3371**

**Wildlife Way, Yuma, AZ 85365**

#### AFTERNOON

Depart Yuma for Parker. The drive is 107 miles or 172.2 kilometers.

Tour the **Colorado River Indian Tribal Museum** for a look at the American Indian history of the river. It is located in the Tribal Government complex.

**Tel: (928) 669-8970**

**1007 Arizona Ave, Parker, AZ 85344**

For military history buffs, stop at the **Poston Memorial Monument**, a 30-foot-tall column erected in memory of the Colorado River War Relocation Center where 17,867 Japanese descendants were interned in three camps during WWII.

**Tel: (928) 669-9211**

**26600 Mohave Rd, Parker, AZ 85344**

If it’s the weekend, head into the Buckskin Mountains to find the **Nellie E Saloon-The Desert Bar**, a solar powered “watering hole” in an old mining camp. Wet your whistle before sunset though, as it closes early.

**Cienega Springs Rd, Parker, AZ 85344**

If it’s not the weekend, **Buckskin Mountain State Park** is always open. This 18-mile strip along the Colorado River offers incredible views and mountain hikes, as well as cabana sites, a campground, visitor center, beach, boat ramp, picnic area, basketball and volleyball court, playground, restaurant, store, arcade, and gas dock.

**Tel: (928) 667-3231**

**5476 North US Hwy 95, Parker, AZ 85344**

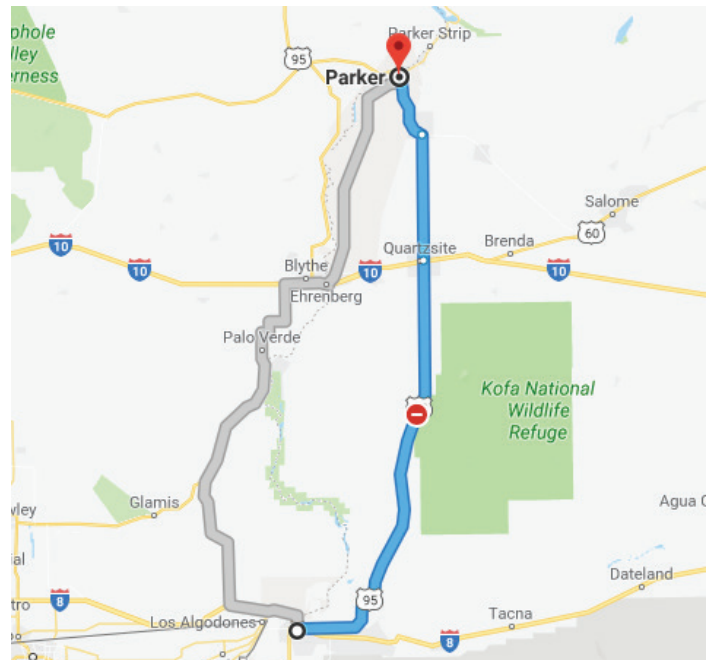
#### EVENING

Check into the **Blue Water Resort and Casino**. Every room has a view overlooking the Colorado River, and the Marina boat docks are just outside the patio doors. The Resort boast a 24/7 casino, an 18-hole golf course, a beach, a marina, a “skate-park style” wakeboarding experience, and a pool complex. The pool complex is located in an atrium with three indoor swimming pools at four different levels and features a 15-foot waterfall and a 2-story waterslide.

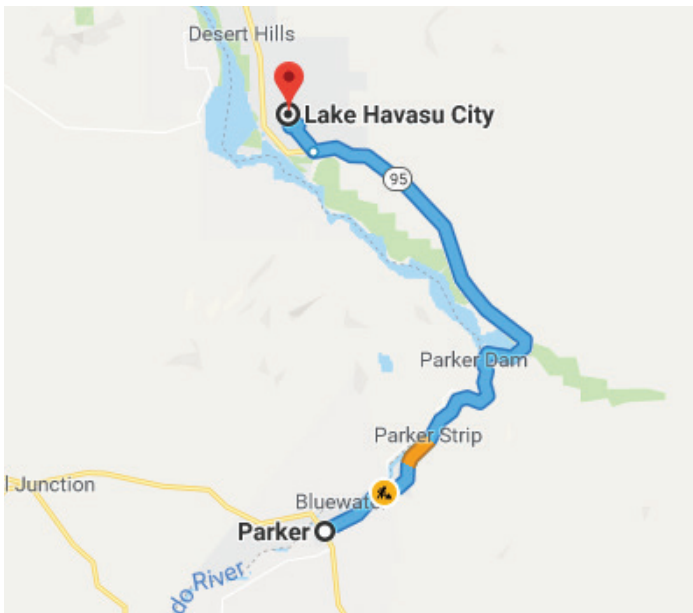
**Tel: (928) 669-7000**

**11300 Resort Dr, Parker, AZ 85344**

Overnight in Parker.







## DAY 4

### PARKER – LAKE HAVASU CITY

#### MORNING

Depart Parker for Lake Havasu City, home of the London Bridge. The drive is 37.7 miles or 60.7 kilometers.

Have a relaxing, lakeside brunch at **Makai Café**. This restaurant is only open for breakfast and lunch. It is known for its wonderful breakfast options, including the south of the border favorites, and its fabulous view of the London Bridge.

**Tel: (928) 505-2233**

**1425 McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

Grab your sunscreen and get in the water for a great view of the London Bridge and many photo opportunities.

#### AFTERNOON

Stop by **Scoops** for some amazing homemade ice cream. This old-fashioned ice cream parlor and soda fountain is sure to satisfy your sweet tooth.

**Tel: (928) 453-7084**

**2014 N McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

Take a narrated scenic and historic trip up the Colorado River with **Bluewater Jet Boat Tours**. The three-hour tour includes views of the lighthouses and a sunset over Lake Havasu. Tours are offered seasonally and depart from the boat docks at the ferry terminal building under London Bridge.

**Tel: (928) 855-7171**

-or-

You can rent just about any type of watercraft imaginable in Lake Havasu – pontoon boats, wave runners, ski boats, kayaks, etc. You can even parasail or take an air chair or wakeboard lesson.

Anyway you get around, be sure to spot all 27 of the 1/3 scale replicas of lighthouses from around the US.

#### EVENING

Check into the **London Bridge Resort**. The centerpiece of the Resort lobby is an exact replica of the gold coach used by British royalty on special occasions. The Resort boasts 122 suites that include free Wi-Fi and a fully-equipped kitchenette. The Resort also features a nine-hole golf course, a marina, a 94-foot water slide, and Kokomo Havasu, one of the most popular nightlife destinations in the city.

**Tel: (928) 855-0888**

**1477 Queens Bay, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403**

For dinner, head over to **Barley Brothers Brewery**. Enjoy the views of the London Bridge at night while sipping award-winning brews at Lake Havasu's original microbrewery. Among their popular menu items are their wood-fired pizzas and calzones.

**Tel: (928) 505-7837**

**1425 N McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

Take a nighttime **Ghost Tour** across London Bridge and learn of all its history. You will get to use paranormal investigation equipment and hear the legends and lore of the desert and the London Bridge.

**Tel: (928) 297-4507**

Overnight in Lake Havasu



Lake Havasu City



## DAY 5

### LAKE HAVASU CITY – PHOENIX

#### MORNING

After a good night's sleep, get up with the birds and take in the view of the lake and surrounding desert in a hot air balloon ride with **Wanderlust Balloons** or a seaplane ride with **Lake Havasu Seaplane**.

Balloon tours start before dawn to give you an amazing view of the sunrise, and you get to spend an hour floating with the wind. All balloon rides are followed by a picnic including homemade muffins, fresh fruit and sparkling cider (champagne upon request).

**Tel: (928) 486-1075**

Seaplane tours also last one hour and are perfect for sightseeing and photography. The plane provides a panoramic view with high wings and large, un-tinted windows. The pilot will take off and land on the water and point out landmarks during the flight.

**Tel: (928) 486-6997**

Go golfing with a view at one of Havasu's championship or executive courses. Lake Havasu City features 9- and 18-hole golf courses with golfing adventures for all skill levels. All courses are open to the public.

#### AFTERNOON

Take an off-road ATV tour of the Havasu Outback with **Sandbar Powersports**. See stunning desert views, the Mohave Mountains, wildlife, an old gold mine, and a historic cabin. The tours cover all types of terrain, not just dirt roads.

**Tel: (928) 854-4242**

**1595 Countryside Ave, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

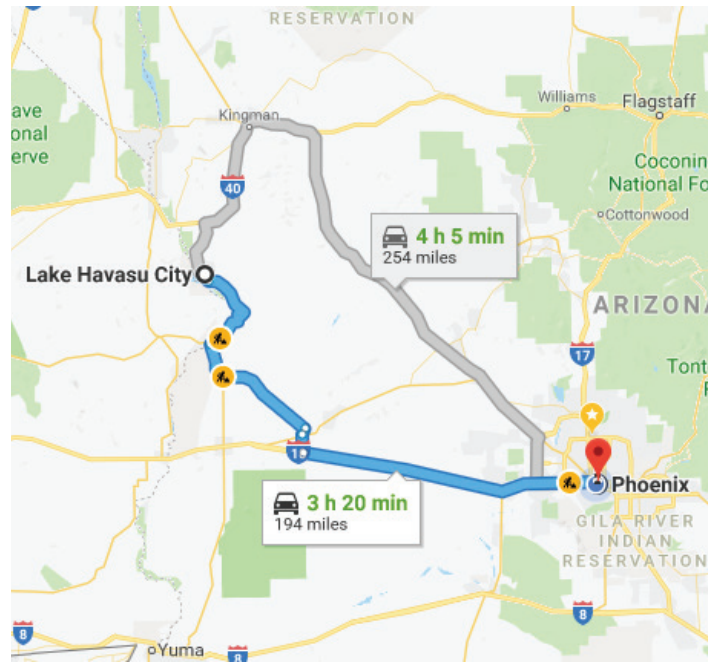
#### EVENING

Have dinner at **Cha-Bones Steakhouse and Tapas Bar**. This restaurant, filled with original artwork and copper water sculptures offers steak and seafood selections as well as 20 tapas to choose from. Tapas are Spanish-inspired dishes that are appetizer-sized and meant for sharing.

**Tel: (928) 854-5554**

**112 London Bridge Rd, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403**

Depart Lake Havasu City for Phoenix. The drive is 194.1 miles or 312.4 kilometers. Linger longer in the Phoenix area, or depart Arizona.



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Wanderlust Balloons