

# ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

## Arizona's "How To's"

Behind-the-Scenes Tours of Factories, Farms, Breweries, and More!



Have you ever wondered how golf clubs or ice cream cones are made, or perhaps wondered what it was like to be a paleontologist or penguin caretaker? Perhaps you have pondered what it takes to farm shrimp in the desert or what goes into your favorite lager. This is a list of places that offer backstage tours and access to unique experiences normally off-limits to the general public. Why search the internet to learn how things are made, when you could get an up-close view and see for yourself?

## Factories:

### Northern Arizona:

FLAGSTAFF: [Joy Cones](#) is the largest ice cream cone company in the world, baking more than 1.5 billion cones per year. Tours of the Flagstaff facility must be scheduled in advance and are offered only during the months of September, October, November, December, January and February on most Wednesdays and Thursdays. Many tour dates are for school and community groups, but a select number are set aside for the general public. Email the Administrative Assistant at [flag.tours@joycone.com](mailto:flag.tours@joycone.com) to book a tour.

Tel: (928) 774-0225

2843 W Shamrell Blvd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

FLAGSTAFF: [Willow Bend Environmental Education Center](#) offers [recycling center tours](#) every first Friday of the month and on select dates. Walk through of the Materials Recovery Facility (Recycling Center) to learn more about the “behind the scenes” of recycling.

Tel: (928) 779-1745

Recycling center location: 1800 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

SEDONA: [Sedona Recycles](#) is a nonprofit community recycling center that services Sedona and the Verde Valley. They offer a weekly tour of the facility every Wednesday at 9 am. Visitors can request a brief tour at any time, dependent on staff availability. They are also available for custom tours and other educational opportunities.

Tel: (928) 204-1185

2280 Shelby Dr. Sedona, AZ 86336

### Central Arizona:

FLORENCE: [Florence Copper](#) offers site tours and access to their technical experts. Visitors come away with a better understanding of how Florence Copper operates its Production Test Facility. The Florence Copper Project is possible because of a rare copper deposit located in the Historic Copper Corridor of Arizona. The unique extraction process occurs deep in the bedrock but without open pits, tunnels, or the large equipment typically associated with traditional mining. It involves a simple combination of physics and basic chemistry to dissolve and then pump copper-rich solution to the surface. Once at the surface, the solution is converted into large sheets of up to 99.999% pure copper cathode. Tours typically start at 10 a.m. and last about two hours. Call or visit the website to make a tour reservation.

Tel: (520) 374-3984

1575 West Hunt Highway, Florence, AZ 85132

GLENDALE: [Cerreta Candy Co.](#) offers 30-minute guided tours of their family-owned candy factory. They demonstrate how a sea of caramel becomes wrapped treats and how cream centers are enrobed in luscious chocolate. Two guided tours are offered daily, Monday through Friday, at 10 am and at 1 pm. Free admission and free samples!

Tel: (623) 930-9000

5345 W Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

PHOENIX: [Fariydale Brownies](#) and their secret recipe have become an Arizona favorite. They sell brownies online, and they also have a retail store at their factory location. Inside the retail store, there are large windows into the bakery section, where guests can watch the brownies being made. There is also a video about the company's history playing in the shop, which is open Monday-Friday.

Tel: (800) 324-7982

4610 E Cotton Center Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85040

PHOENIX: [KATERRA](#) factories produce a wide range of building components and materials, including lighting, cabinetry, truss assemblies, wall panels, and more. The Phoenix factory has advanced manufacturing equipment, automation, technologies, and systems give Katterra the capability and capacity to manufacture the major structural components and finish products to build 20,000 apartments per year.

The Phoenix factory also contains the Katterra Design Showroom where clients can view the full suite of products and interior design solutions in action, including fully finished apartment units made entirely of Katterra products. You can request a factory tour on the [website](#).

624 N 44th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85043

PHOENIX: [PING](#) has been manufacturing golf equipment since 1959. They offer a variety of clubs, from juniors on up, and boast dozens of Pro clients competing across 13 Tours. Ping offers factory tours Monday-Friday beginning at 9 am. To inquire on upcoming availability, or to schedule a tour call the consumer relations team.

Tel: (800) 474-6434

2201 W Desert Cove Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029

PHOENIX: [Stuffington Bear Factory](#) is one of the few stuffed animal manufacturers remaining in the US. They offer free tours Monday-Saturday at 1 pm. During these kid-friendly tours, they demonstrate how stuffed animals are manufactured and teach the history of the teddy bear.

Tel: (602) 225-9513

1717 E McDowell Rd, Phoenix, Arizona 85006

QUEEN CREEK: [Queen Creek Olive Mill](#) offers daily, 45-minute 'Olive Oil 101' tours. Guides teach the history of the company, qualities and standards of olive oil, health benefits & why it's important to 'Know Your Farmer'! Discover how to correctly taste olive oil without bread. Visitors are invited to shop in the gourmet Marketplace following the tour. Reservations are not required for groups of 8 or fewer.

Tel: (480) 888-9290

25062 S Meridian Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

SCOTTSDALE: [Salt River Landfill](#) is a comprehensive solid waste management facility that serves the Cities of Mesa and Scottsdale and the Town of Gilbert, as well as the Salt River Pima-Maricopa and Fort McDowell Indian Communities. The Salt River Landfill gladly offers tours of the recycling facility and the landfill. The tour consists of a 19-minute video with a trash trivia quiz at the end. A ride up to the working face of the landfill can be arranged as well. Tours are available from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday and must be requested online.

Tel: (480) 941-3427

13602 E. Beeline Highway, Scottsdale, AZ 85256

SCOTTSDALE: [Zak's Chocolate](#) is a local, award-winning small-batch craft chocolate maker and artisan chocolate shop. The company offers multiple factory tours, classes, and demonstrations that range from 45 minutes to 4 hours. One popular option is the [Chocolate Making Experience](#), during which visitors get to make their own chocolate starting with cocoa beans. Most tours may be scheduled by emailing [info@zakschocolate.com](mailto:info@zakschocolate.com). The Chocolate Making Experience is offered on select dates and may be booked online.

Tel: (480) 607-6581

6990 E Shea Blvd, Ste 116, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

TEMPE: [LEGOLAND Discovery Center Arizona](#) offers a [LEGO® Factory Tour](#) as a part of their family fun center, complete with two rides, 10 LEGO build and play zones, a 4D cinema, and much more! This top-secret, behind-the-scenes tour offers insight into how Lego bricks come in so many shapes and colors. For adults that want to experience the fun without the little ones around, check out [Adult Night!](#) The Discovery Center is located in the Arizona Mills Mall.

Tel: (855) 450-0558

5000 S Arizona Mills Cir #135, Tempe, AZ 85282

## **Southern Arizona:**

TUCSON: [HF Coors](#) offers tours of their dinnerware factory in Tucson, AZ that produces 25,000 "home grown" ceramic pieces every week. You can see a 200 foot long tunnel kiln and watch artisans hand carve master and production molds, cast and press clay pieces, hand paint dinnerware and more! Tours are given Tuesday mornings at 10 am by reservation only. Call for reservations.

Tel: (800) 782-6677 or (520) 903-1010

1600 South Cherrybell Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85713

YUMA: [The Peanut Patch](#) sells hundreds of candies and natural snacks, including fresh fudge, homemade peanut butter, peanut brittle, and more. The Peanut Patch gives free tours of their facilities every Tuesday and Friday at 10 am, only in the months of January, February, March and November. The tour consists of the history of The Peanut Patch, how peanuts are grown, a look at one of the original peanut combines, a walk through the back of the store where the homemade products are being made, a demonstration of how peanut butter is made, and a taste of the fresh product.

Tel: (928) 726-6292

4322 E County 13<sup>th</sup> St, Yuma, AZ 85365

## Farms:

### Northern Arizona:

WILLIAMS: [The Grand Canyon Deer Farm](#) lets visitors wander get up close to more than 15 types of animals, including several breeds of deer, llamas, wallabies, goats, bison, reindeer, miniature cattle, coatimundi, marmosets, and more. Visitors wander through the roaming deer and get to touch and feed the animals.

Tel: (928) 635-4073

6769 E Deer Farm Rd, Williams, AZ 86046

### Central Arizona:

CASA GRANDE: [Caywood Farms](#) is a fourth-generation, family-operated farm that grows cotton and alfalfa. They offer seasonal, hands-on [cotton farm tours](#) that include live music, an informative presentation, a cotton picking demonstration, a hayride through the property pulled by an antique tractor, door prizes, and more! Guests also have the opportunity to pick their own cotton to take home.

Tel: (520) 560-1119

841 E Highway 287, Casa Grande, AZ 85194

GILA BEND: [Arizona Shrimp Company/Desert Sweet Biofuels](#) farms shrimp and algae in the middle of the desert using environmentally responsible methods. Their 390-acre research and development facility has more than 60 Aquaculture ponds. They produce gourmet pure shrimp in unpolluted, mineral-rich well water, drawn directly from Arizona's deep ancient seabeds. Beyond their pioneering work in shrimp and desert algae production, they have developed processes for Carbon Negative Fuels and Carbon Modification Centers (CMCs), among other advances that can potentially double the world's food production, control carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, produce several types of fuel and energy, and protect oceans from overfishing. The center is open for tours; call for reservations. The tour center is located on the right side of the road if you are coming from Phoenix and on the left side if you are coming from Gila Bend.

Tel: (623) 393-0136

45075 S. Old US 80, P.O. Box A1, Gila Bend, AZ 85337

LAVEEN VILLAGE: [Danzeisen Dairy](#), located in Phoenix, is famous for their signature glass bottles. They offer periodic butter-making classes, and in March, they offer tours that show guests how they bottle milk the old-fashioned way. Make a reservation online; tours and classes fill up quickly.

Tel: (623) 478-9494

6024 W Southern Ave, Laveen Village, AZ 85339

MESA: [Superstition Farm](#) is a dairy farm in Mesa, AZ. They offer educational tours twice daily, Tuesday – Saturday. Tours consist of “Moo-University,” which teaches visitors about dairy farm life, a guided hayride, a petting zoo with rescue animals, and a milk bar to taste the milk and try different flavors.

Tel: (602) 432-6865

3440 S Hawes Rd, Mesa, AZ 85212

PICACHO: [Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch](#) is a three-generation, family-owned and operated, working ostrich ranch. Visitors to the ranch are able to feed and interact with all sorts of critters. This is neither an official farm tour nor a traditional petting zoo, but it is sure to be an unforgettable experience. The ranch has ostriches, Boer goats, miniature donkeys, fallow deer, Nigerian dwarf goats, Peking ducks, St. Croix sheep, rainbow lorikeets, bunnies, parakeets, diving ducks, and stingrays available for feeding all day.

Tel: (520) 466-3658

17599 E Peak Ln, Picacho, AZ 85141

QUEEN CREEK: [Hayden Flour Mill](#) is a family-owned flour farm and mill. They use heritage grains and make sure that it is non-hybridized, minimally processed, and flavorful. Tours offered on select dates. Reservations available online.

22100 S Sossaman Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

QUEEN CREEK: [Schnepf Farms](#) is a fourth-generational family farm that offers narrated hay ride tours around the farm to see their organic orchards and gardens. The tour also takes visitors through the 100-year-old farmhouse museum, country store and bakery. Train rides are available, and lunch is also served on the tour.

Tel: (480) 987-3100

24610 S Rittenhouse Rd, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

STANFIELD: [Shamrock Farms](#) offers 60-minute tram tours of their working Arizona dairy farm. With more than 10,000 cows, Shamrock Farms is the top milk processor and distributor in the Southwest. In addition to milk, they also produce sour cream, cottage cheese, whipping cream, half and half, and more. The tour also has hand-on experiences, with interactive displays and games. Reservations can be made by phone.

Tel: (602) 477-2462

40034 West Clayton Road, Stanfield, AZ 85172

## **Southern Arizona:**

YUMA: [Field to Feast Farm Tour](#) is a half-day educational and culinary experience led by local growers. During the tour, you are shuttled to a field at the *University of Arizona* research farm. There, you get a quick food safety lesson from Yuma food safety experts, along with hairnets, rubber gloves, lettuce knives and a recipe card telling you what's needed in the kitchen. Once you've filled the chef's "order," you can pick some fresh Yuma produce to take home. While you enjoy the rest of your tour through growing areas, culinary students from Arizona Western College will be hard at work turning fresh veggies from our field into a delicious and healthy lunch. Tours are on select dates. Purchase tickets online.

Yuma, AZ 85364

YUMA: [Martha's Gardens Date Farm](#) offers tours Monday-Friday. Yuma is one of the world's largest producers of Medjool dates. Farm tours give our 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. Call to book a tour.

Tel: (928) 726-8831 or (928) 726-8833  
9747 S Avenue 9 3/4 E, Yuma, AZ 85365

## **Breweries/Distilleries:**

### **Northern Arizona:**

FLAGSTAFF: [Mother Road Brewing Co.](#), a popular craft brewery in Flagstaff offers tours of both of their locations. Their Pike Brewery is the original location and where they get creative and produce experimental batches. Their Butler Brewery is adjacent to their 20-barrel Forgeworks brewhouse, where their major production happens. Tours to both locations are available for all ages and can be requested by emailing [hospitality@motherroadbeer.com](mailto:hospitality@motherroadbeer.com).

Pike Location – Tel: (928) 774-9139  
7 S Mikes Pike St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Butler Location – Tel: (928) 774-0492  
1300 East Butler Avenue, Suite 200, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

KINGMAN: [Desert Diamond Distillery \(D3\)](#) is family owned and operated and has the distinction of being Arizona's oldest craft distillery. The production room has a state of the art still from Arnold Holstein in Germany, and the tanks were made and installed from Bavarian Breweries out of California. This 1000L still has a double stack and has a semi automation process that was one of the first in the craft industry, designed and implemented by Bavarian-Holstein Partners. The tour is available for all ages.

Tel: (928) 757- 7611  
4875 Olympic Drive, Kingman, AZ 86401

## **Central Arizona:**

PHOENIX: [Helio Basin Brewing Co.](#) offers periodic, in-depth brewery tours, guided by Helio Basin's own co-founder/brewmaster, Dustin Hazer. Guests can stay cool indoors while getting an insider look at the brewing process and learning how Helio's beers are made. Each tour includes an educational presentation, a flight of 6 Helio Basin beers, a pint of beer and a commemorative glass. Email [info@heliobasinbrewing.com](mailto:info@heliobasinbrewing.com) for tour reservations; space is limited.

Tel: (602) 354-3525  
3935 E Thomas Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85018

TEMPE: [Arizona Distilling Co.](#) creates award-winning, handcrafted spirits and is popular for its Bourbon. Interestingly, even after prohibition's repeal on December 5, 1933, no whiskey was legally made in the Phoenix-metro area until Arizona Distilling Co. started in 2013. Tours are one hour, and include three 0.5 oz pours. Reservations are required and must be made 24 hours in advance. \*\*Tours are currently on hold until the company moves into their new facility.\*\*

Tel: (480) 921-2487  
601 W University Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281

TEMPE: [Four Peaks Brewing Co.](#) gives tours at two locations in Tempe, AZ—one on 8<sup>th</sup> St and one on Wilson St. Both tours cover operations, history, and an in-depth overview of the brewing process, but they have different points of focus. The 8<sup>th</sup> St brewery is the original location, housed inside a 100-year-old former creamery and ice factory which now is the best place to find Four Peaks specialty beers. This location offers tours every Saturday that showcases laboratory testing, water treatment, barrel-aging program, and more. The Wilson St brewery is the largest production brewery in Arizona and offers tours Friday evenings. This location showcases laboratory testing, bottling and canning lines, and more. Both tours are 21+. Book online.

8<sup>th</sup> St Location – 1340 East 8th St, Tempe, AZ 85281  
Wilson St Location – 2401 South Wilson St, Tempe, AZ 85282

## **Southern Arizona:**

TUCSON: [Three Wells Distilling Company](#) in Tucson creates craft spirits. They offer tours of their production facility by appointment. Schedule a tour and tasting over the phone. They have other events periodically that are listed on their events page.

Tel: (520) 205-1363  
3780 E 44th St. #120, Tucson, AZ 85713

## Other Behind-the-Scenes Tours:

### Throughout Arizona:

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS: **Fire Station tours** are offered by just about every city and town in Arizona. For more information on how to schedule a tour, visit the fire department website of the city whose station you would like to tour. Some cities require you to call, and others have tour request forms to fill out online. Some cities that offer tours of their fire facilities are: Phoenix, Chandler, Tempe, Gilbert, Tucson, Tolleson, Sierra Vista, Rincon Valley, Yuma, and the Pinewood Fire Department in Munds Park, AZ.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS: **Police Station tours** are available in many communities in Arizona. For more information on how to schedule a tour, visit the city website of the city whose station you would like to tour. Some communities also have ride-along programs that give guests a front-seat look at the action. Some cities that offer tours include: Tempe, Chandler, Bullhead City, Sierra Vista, and more.

### Northern Arizona:

CAMP VERDE: [Out of Africa Wildlife Park](#) offers a [VIP Behind-the-Scenes Tour](#) that allows guests to see, interact with, and get to know the animals and their personalities, behavior, history, and the conservation efforts to protect them. This 3-hour, in-depth adventure starts in a specialty vehicle on the Serengeti Preserve, where guests come face-to-face with giraffes, zebras, and other exotic animals roaming freely in their domain. Guests also get to meet a 5,000-pound southern white rhino and feed a royal white Bengal tiger. The tour includes lunch, after which guests are entertained by their choice of small mammals, birds, or reptiles. Finally, the tour concludes at the Tiger Splash Arena, where guests have reserved seating for the show.

Tel: (928) 567-2840

3505 W State Route 260, Camp Verde, AZ 86322

FLAGSTAFF: [The Museum of Northern Arizona](#) offers a behind-the-scenes [Collections Tour](#). The Museum has extensive cultural, natural science and fine arts holdings, and only a small portion is on display. The collections tour lets visitors see the art and artifacts that are not on display. Besides viewing collections, visitors find out about their life behind the scenes - who uses them, who borrows them, what current projects are underway, and why they exist. Museum personnel also instruct guests on how to care for their own family heirlooms.

Tel: (928) 774-5213

3101 N Ft Valley Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK: [Petrified Forest National Park](#) has a program which provides an introduction to paleontology field work. The Fossil Dig program is part of the [Petrified Forest Field Institute](#) offered by the Petrified Forest Museum Association. The one-day excursion includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the park fossil collections and the chance to go on a fossil dig with the pros. This is a real paleontological dig, not a simulation, and collected specimens become part of the park's museum collection.

Tel: (928) 524-6228 ext 239

1 Park Rd, Petrified Forest National Park, AZ 86028

## **Central Arizona:**

FOUNTAIN HILLS: [Sami Fine Jewelry](#), a family-owned jewelry enterprise, offers a [Four Peaks Arizona Amethyst mine tour](#) to see the beautiful Four Peaks amethyst gems close up. The mine is off limits to all visitors and hikers, except on this special tour. Arizona produces some of the highest quality amethyst in the world, and it is included in the crown jewels of five countries. This exclusive trip, only offered a few times a year, allows guests to travel to the mine by helicopter and meet the owner of the mine, Kurt Cavano, along with the miners. The miners accompany guests inside the mine to show how they extract this local beauty. Those who don't mind getting a little dirty are invited to try mining on their own. Reservations are required, and seats are very limited.

Tel: (480) 568-4743 or (855) 912-8135

6704 Avenue of the Fountains #100, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

GLENDALE: [University of Phoenix Stadium](#), one of the top multi-purpose sports & entertainment facilities in the country, offers a [behind-the-scenes tour](#) of the areas rarely seen by the public. Guests witness some of the unique operational features of the only stadium in North America with a roll-out natural grass field and retractable roof. The 75-minute experience involves approximately one mile of walking throughout the facility along with a video presentation about the stadium's construction. Tour dates and times are announced approximately 30 days in advance based on the stadium's event schedule. Call the tour hotline for reservations.

Tel: (623) 433-7165

1 Cardinals Dr, Glendale, AZ 85305

MESA: [Mesa Arts Center](#) gives [backstage tours](#) of their campus. The tour includes all theaters, art studios on the first level, the shadow walk, and the Mesa Contemporary Arts Gallery. The 75-minute tour must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance by calling the tour hotline.

Tel: (480) 644-6626

1 East Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201

MESA: [The Mesa Police Department Crime Lab](#) offers monthly public tours of their facilities. Get an inside look at what forensic experts do. To schedule a tour, call the main office; space is very limited.

Tel: (480) 644-2417

133 N Morris, Mesa, AZ 85201

PHOENIX: [Amazon Fulfillment Center](#) offers 60-minute tours that allow you to “see what happens after you click *buy*.” Visitors get an inside look at the massive warehouse that houses Amazon’s inventory and ships it to customers. Amazon has more than 75 fulfillment centers in the U.S. and Canada, four of which (including the one in Arizona) have received a LEED Certification. These LEED-Certified, high-volume distribution centers were constructed with recycled building materials and feature natural lighting, resource-efficient fixtures and lighting controls. Tours are offered the first and third Tuesday of each month for ages 6 and up. Reservations available online.

5050 W Mohave St, Phoenix, AZ 85043

PHOENIX: [Arizona Department of Transportation’s Traffic Operations Center](#) gives [tours](#) that let visitors see engineers and technicians managing highway incidents and traffic conditions in real time as well as real-time updates being provided to all major media outlets. The 2,100-square-foot control room includes 32 mounted video monitors and four work stations that provide coverage for the entire state, 24 hours per day. The staff is also responsible for dispatching officers or ADOT staff to incidents, posting messages on the Dynamic Message Signs over the freeways, and entering information to the Highway Condition Reporting System, which updates the 511 system. Call for reservations.

Tel: (602) 712-6988

2302 W Durango St, Phoenix, AZ 85009

PHOENIX: [Chase Field](#) offers 75-minute behind-the-scenes tours Monday-Saturday throughout the year. This state-of-the-art facility includes a retractable roof and one of the largest, high-definition video scoreboards in MLB. Call the tour hotline for reservations.

Tel: (602) 462-6799

401 E Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85004

PHOENIX: [The Musical Instrument Museum \(MIM\)](#) offers a [“VIP” Tour](#). Visitors join a specially trained museum guide on a one-hour tour of MIM through places not accessible to the general public. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the museum collection, the MIM Music Theater, and more. There is also personal time to explore the galleries before or after the tour.

Tel: (480) 478-6000

4725 E Mayo Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85050

PHOENIX: [Phoenix Zoo](#) offers multiple unique [Backstage Adventures](#) tours from which to choose. You can choose to get an up-close view of the Zoo’s Asian elephants, or visit the Galapagos or Aldabra tortoise enclosure. See the night houses of the African painted dogs and cheetahs and perhaps even see one up close, or meet the veterinary team at the Animal Care Center to find out how they care for more than 1,400 animals at the Zoo. Behind-the-scenes at the Johnson Foundation Conservation Center to look at a breeding center and offers an opportunity to meet the scientists. The Animal Care Center and Johnson Foundation Conservation Center adventures must be scheduled at least a week in advance.

Tel: (602) 286-3800

455 N Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008

PHOENIX: [Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass](#) has won multiple awards for its efforts to respectfully and authentically share Native American culture. The resort offers a number of cultural classes and demonstrations, as well as a [Cultural Concierge](#), who guides visitors on an hour-long tour that showcases the cultures of the Pima and Maricopa peoples and how they were worked into the architecture and construction of the resort. Tours are open to resort guests and the public; reservations required. The resort also has a 2.5-mile self-guided tour on the banks of a replica of the Gila River. Trail maps are available at the front desk.

Tel: (602) 225-0100

5594 W Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ, 85226

SCOTTSDALE: [The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation](#) offers behind-the-scenes [tours of Taliesin West](#). A highlight of the tour is mid-morning tea and snacks in the colorful Taliesin West Dining Room. This tour will visit all the spots on the normal tours, plus an exclusive viewing of a unique desert site. This tour is not intended for children under the age of 13.

Tel: (888) 516-0811

12621 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85259

SCOTTSDALE: [The Odysea Aquarium](#) offers two daily backstage experiences, the Penguin Interaction Program and Shark Behind the Scenes Tour, as well as a helmet diving experience and other limited engagement behind-the-scenes classes and experiences.

[The Penguin Interaction Program](#) (PIP) is an exclusive up close and personal experience with the African black-footed penguins, which allows guests to learn specifics about penguin behavior, eating habits, and what loving and devoted parents they are. PIP participants are also invited to join in the enrichment program, which incorporates interactive playtime with the birds to give them mental and physical stimulation, and allows visitors to observe the relationship between the birds and the Animal Care Specialists. PIP is 45 minutes long.

The 30-minute [Shark Behind the Scenes Tour](#) takes guests to the top of Shark Waters, one of their largest exhibits, where they get to step right up to the edge and see the sharks from above the water. On the way, visitors also learn about the round-the-clock veterinary care and see the food prep kitchen to learn exactly what and how a shark eats. Tours are available daily.

Tel: (480) 291-8000

9500 E Via De Ventura, Suite A-100, Scottsdale, AZ 85256

## **Southern Arizona:**

SAHUARITA: [ASARCO Grupo Mexico](#) offers seasonal, Saturday [mine tours](#) of a working, open-pit copper mine. The tour begins at the Mineral Discovery Center, which offers exhibits and films and is free to enter. Guests then board a bus to go to a lookout point on the south rim of the mine, which is a quarter-mile deep, two miles long, and a mile-and-three-quarters wide. The tour then goes through the South Mill, where the copper is ground into a fine powder and separated by flotation. Finally the tour views the reclamation areas. Purchase tour tickets at the Mineral Discovery Center; no reservations required.

Tel: (520) 625-8233 or (520) 625-7513  
1421 W Pima Mine Rd, Sahuarita, AZ 85629

TUCSON: [Arizona Repertory Theater](#) offers a [backstage tour](#)! University of Arizona theatre majors experience the arts by doing, and it is this side of the business that is rarely seen by the public. However, through this tour, you can see students design and paint flats, design specialized sounds and lighting to help create a specific mood, rig lights, act, sing, dance, design and manufacture costumes, as well as learn to organize cast and crew schedules for rehearsals. Contact the Marketing Department to schedule a tour.

Tel: (520) 626-2686  
1025 N Olive Rd, Tucson, AZ 85721

TUCSON: [The Steward Observatory Mirror Laboratory](#) offers 90-minute tours that provide a unique opportunity to learn how innovative engineering and optical technology meld with manufacturing techniques to produce the largest (8.4 meters / 27 ft) and most advanced telescope mirrors in the world. Visitors see the unparalleled technology and revolutionary processes involved in making the next generation of telescopes that will explore deep into outer space and produce cutting-edge scientific research. The University of Arizona College of Science is ranked number one among observational, theoretical, and space astronomy programs in the U.S., largely because of the cutting-edge telescope technology in this lab.

Tel: (520) 626-8792  
527 National Championship Dr, Tucson, AZ 85719