



TAKE THE LONG WAY 'ROUND

SCENIC HIGHWAYS IN SOUTHERN
AND CENTRAL ARIZONA

ARIZONA
GRAND CANYON STATE

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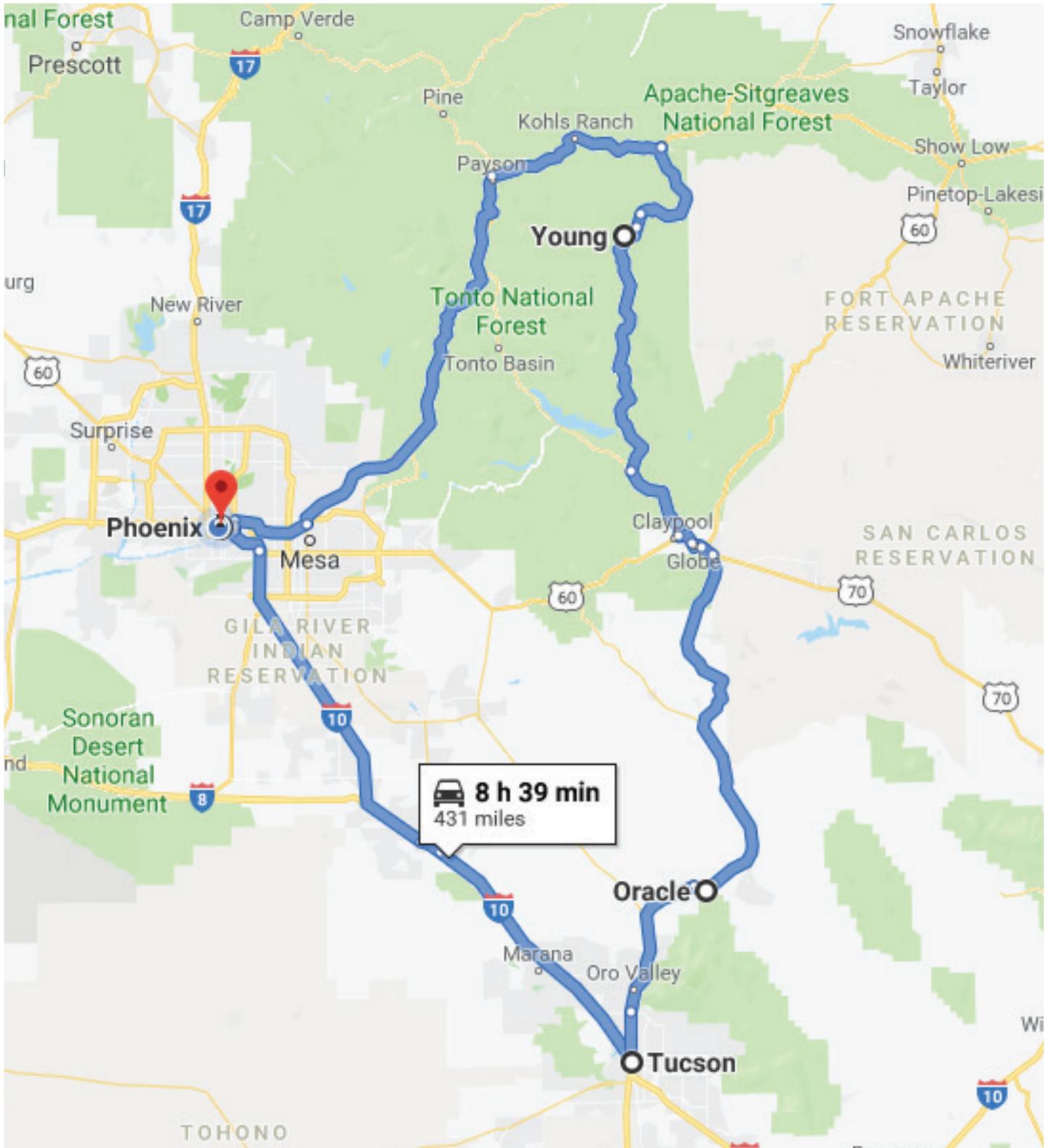
ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

Take a road trip without the crowded interstate. It may take a little longer to get to the destination, but there is a lot more beauty and joy in the journey when you travel the scenic highways and byways that wind through hills and valleys or along the banks of rivers and lakes. Experience that moment when the long stretch of road turns to reveal magnificent vistas and natural wonders. Drive through Arizona's varying climates and landscapes, from vast deserts to thick pine forests. This itinerary will take you to Saguaro National Park, Sabino Canyon, Mt. Lemmon, Oracle State Park, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Mogollon Rim, Tonto National Forest, and the Apache Trail. Hit the road for some of the most beautiful sights you will ever behold, and remember: it is worth it to take the long way 'round.



TAKE THE LONG WAY 'ROUND ROAD MAP



DAY 1

PHOENIX – TUCSON

MORNING

Depart the Phoenix Metropolitan Area via AZ-87 South through Chandler. The drive to Coolidge is 55.6 miles or 89.5 kilometers. As you get closer to the edge of town, you will start to pass agricultural fields and finally be released from the city into the open desert.

***At Hunt Highway, AZ-87 becomes the AZ-587 if you go straight. You need to turn left onto Hunt Hwy and immediately right to continue on AZ-87 South.*

Stop at the **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument** for a self-guided tour. The “Great House” and the surrounding compound were built circa the 1300s. It is one of the largest prehistoric structures ever built in North America, but its purpose remains a mystery. The site was abandoned around 1450 A.D., but the Sonoran Desert People who built it left no written language behind. The visitor center and the shelter were built in the 1930s.

Tel: (520) 723-3172

1100 W Ruins Dr, Coolidge, AZ 85128

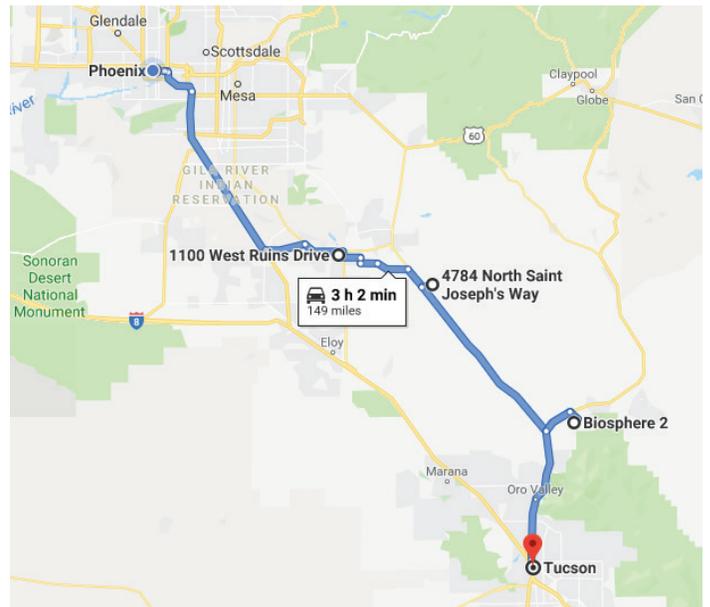
Drive east on AZ-287 to the AZ-79 South and see the lush, green farm fields amidst the desert backdrop. *** AZ-87 becomes AZ-287 at N Arizona Blvd.*

Stop at **St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery**. Visitors are welcomed by a monk at the gatehouse who offers a traditional kerasma (water and something sweet) and are then allowed to take a self-guided tour the grounds and many of the buildings. The main stone church is built in the traditional Byzantine style with a large dome and furnished with décor reminiscent of glittering European cathedrals. One of the other chapels was built in the Romanian style, though all furnishings and icons are from Greece. There are numerous fountains throughout the lush gardens that make this a peaceful oasis. Tourists are welcome until 2:30pm. If you wish to stay to watch the religious service, let the monk at the gatehouse know. Make sure to purchase some of the monastery's fresh-baked goods (especially since it will be a while before you see a restaurant). **Please note: this is a working monastery. Please silence your cell phones and refrain from shouting and smoking. Only enter buildings on the tour route. Feel free to take photographs of the buildings and grounds, but not of the monks. **To be respectful of the religious customs of Order, appropriate attire must be worn on the grounds. Men must wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. Women must wear loose-fitting long skirts, long-sleeved blouses, and scarves. All must wear flat shoes or closed-toe sandals with socks. There is a limited supply of clothing for visitor use in the bookstore.*

Tel: (520) 868-3188

4784 N St Joseph's Way, Florence, AZ 85132

Depart Florence for Oracle. The drive is 42.5 miles or 68.4 kilometers.



AFTERNOON

Continue south for a tour of **Biosphere 2**. Time Life Books named this facility as one of the “50 Must-See Wonders of the World.” Located at 4000 feet elevation in a magnificent natural desert preserve, Biosphere 2 is an escape into nature. On the tour, visitors are immersed in multiple ecosystems. You can smell the ocean and feel the damp, rainforest air, all without leaving the complex.

Tel: (520) 838-6200

32540 S Biosphere Rd, Oracle, AZ 85739

Stop in Oro Valley to take a hike through the natural beauty of **Honey Bee Canyon Park** and see the **Honey Bee Village Archaeological Preserve**. The village was continuously occupied from 450-1250 A.D. by the ancestors of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Park website has a map of the Honey Bee Canyon Park Trails, and the Village website has a schematic plan map that shows the layout of that area and where the two trails meet.

Tel: (520) 229-5050

13880 N Rancho Vistoso Blvd, Oro Valley, AZ 85755

Follow Rancho Vistoso Blvd over its hills and bridges all the way around until it turns into N 1st Ave and meets up with N Oracle Rd/ AZ-77. N 1st Ave offers a majestic view of the mountains. Have a late lunch at **The Parish** in Tucson. Tucson is the first UNESCO City of Gastronomy in the U.S., and this restaurant is Tucson's only Southern Fusion Gastropub. The menu has Southern favorites like Guedry's Gumbo with crawfish hushpuppies and original dishes like the Drunken Angel Pasta and the mouthwatering double-boned pork chop marinated in sweet tea.

Tel: (520) 797-1233

6453 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704

Drive through the scenic **Saguaro National Park West** and **Tucson Mountain Park**, stopping at the **Signal Hill Picnic Area** in the National Park. Just a short walk from the road, dozens of 800-year-old petroglyphs are visible. On the Tucson Mountain Park side, attractions include the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Old Tucson (an Old West town built for more than 400 films that features stunt shows, vintage rides, and other entertainment), and the International Wildlife Museum (a museum that displays more than 400 species of taxidermied mammals, insects, and birds from all over the world, some more than 100 years old).

Tel: (520) 733-5158

Signal Hill Rd, Tucson, AZ 85743

EVENING

Drive up **'A' Mountain** for beautiful city views overlooking the downtown area. The Mountain is traditionally called Sentinel Peak because it was used as a lookout point for the Spanish. An 'A' for the University of Arizona has been painted on the side of the mountain since 1915. The short trails on the mountain make this a great place to stretch your legs and take in a beautiful sunset.

Retire for the evening to **Casino Del Sol**. This four-diamond resort has 215 guest rooms and suites, as well as plenty of dining options, boasting 10 restaurants, including a full buffet. There is also a spa, golf course, pool, fitness center, and a 24-hour, 1,300-slot casino.

Tel: (855) 765-7829

5655 W Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ 85757

Overnight in Tucson.

DAY 2

TUCSON

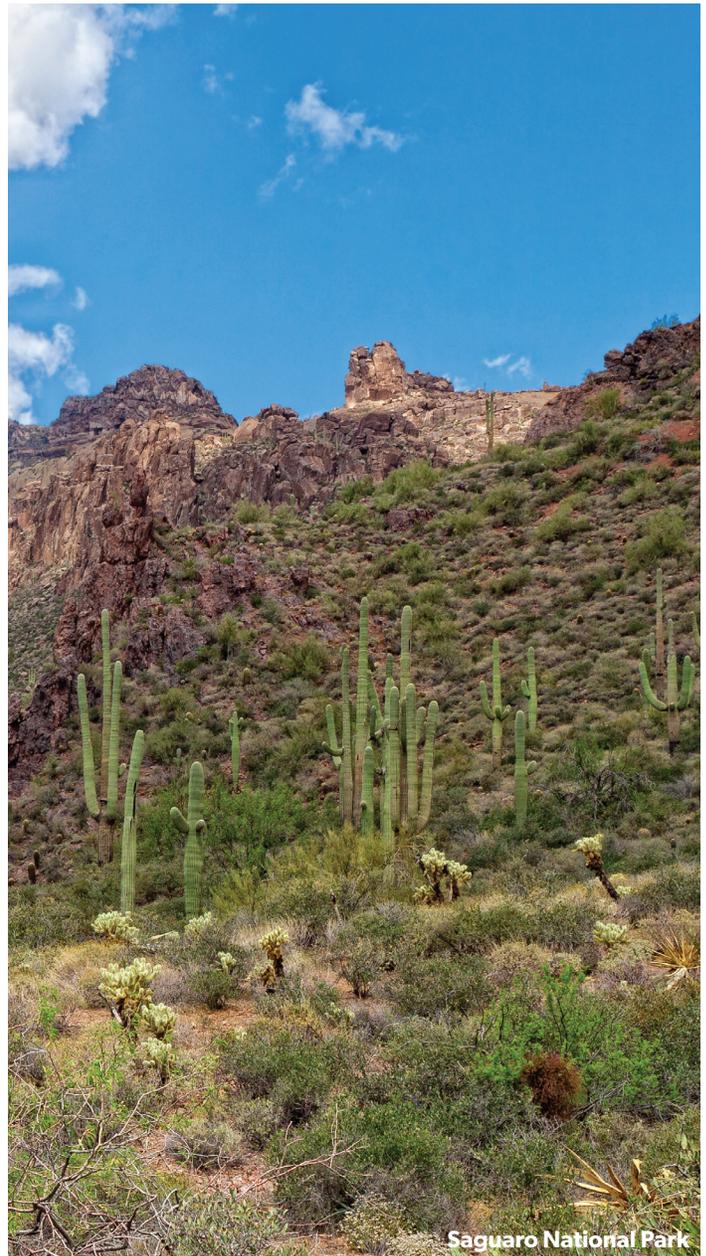
MORNING

Get an early start and tour **Mission San Xavier del Bac** - This active Franciscan mission is located on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. A recent renovation revealed intricate, centuries-old frescoes depicting the church's history of the Southern Arizona and Mexico. "The White Dove of the Desert" is one of Tucson's most beautiful attractions, founded by Father Eusebio Kino in the early 1700's. Its newest moniker is the "Sistine Chapel of North America" because an international restoration project has been uncovering vibrant colors and surprising levels of craftsmanship. Mass is conducted daily. The church also boasts a museum devoted to the native people of Bac and old religious artifacts.

Tel: (520) 407-6130

1950 W San Xavier Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746

Spend a couple of hours visiting more than 500 exotic animals from around the world in naturalistic habitats at the **Reid Park Zoo**. Expedition Tanzania, is home to a herd of five African elephants, including a female calf born at the zoo on August 20, 2014 - the first-ever elephant born in Arizona. Make



Saguro National Park



San Xavier del Bac



Pima Air & Space Museum

sure to participate in the morning Giraffe Encounter, during which you will have the opportunity to hand feed giraffes a portion of their normal daily diet under the supervision of trained Zoo staff and volunteers.

Tel: (520) 791-3204

3400 E Zoo Court, Tucson AZ 85716

-or-

Take a tour of the **Pima Air & Space Museum**. Sitting on 80 acres, it is one of the largest non-government-funded aerospace museums in the world, known for its significant collection of more than 350 commercial, private, and military aircraft housed in six huge hangars (three are dedicated to World War II). See the world's fastest plane (the SR-71 Blackbird), the smallest bi-plane, and the smallest jet, among other marvels. Docent-led walking tours and museum ground tram tours are offered daily. The museum also operates bus tours of the 2,600-acre "Aircraft Boneyard"/U.S. military and government aircraft storage facility. Aerospace Maintenance & Regeneration Group (AMARG)– often referred to as "The Boneyard" – is an aerospace storage and maintenance facility located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. The Boneyard controls more than 4,200 aircraft from all branches of the U.S. military (Air Force, Navy, Army, Marines and Coast Guard), which are either being regenerated or recycled. Tours must be reserved 10 days in advance and are available weekdays. US citizens must bring their driver's license or state-issued ID, and international visitors must bring their passport.

Tel: 520-574-0462

6000 E Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ 85756

AFTERNOON

Have lunch at **Zinburger Wine & Burger Bar**. Zinburger is known for its Certified Angus burgers, milkshakes, and hand-cut zucchini, sweet potato, and truffle fries. The restaurant also has perfectly paired wine selections to complement every style of burger on the menu. Make sure to try the burger of the week.

Tel: (520) 298-2020

6390 E Grant Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715

Take a scenic tram tour of the **Sabino Canyon Recreation Area**. This tram ride offers breathtaking views of the Santa Catalina mountain range while leaving your hands free to grab your camera. The Sabino Canyon Trail tour offers a narrated, educational 45- minute, 3.8 mile tour into the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. There are nine stops and nine stone bridges on this tour. For those looking for more adventure, the Bear Canyon Trail tram takes hikers to the head of the Seven Falls Trail. This 2.6-mile hike is rewards hikers with several pools of water. It can be a challenging hike, especially when the creek is flowing, so it is suggested that visitors allow a minimum of three hours to complete it.

Tel: (520) 749-2861

5700 N Sabino Canyon Rd, Tucson, AZ 85750

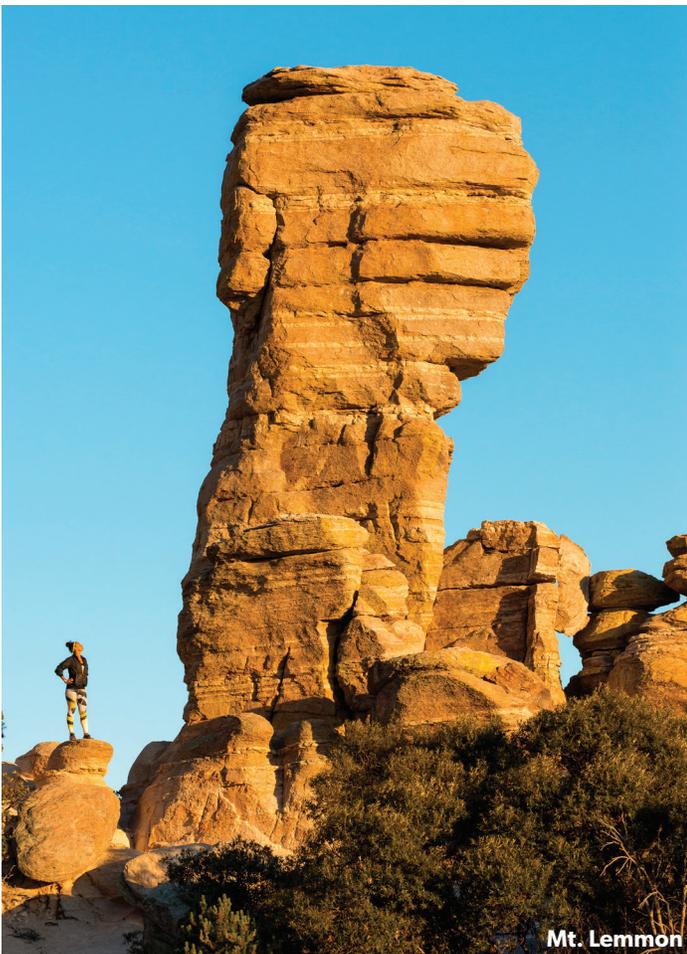
Ascend Mt. Lemmon. From the base of the mountain, the drive up the mountain takes about an hour of continuous driving, but make sure to leave time to take in the scenery. This beautiful drive has majestic vista viewing points to stop and take photos.

EVENING

Attend **Sky Nights at Mt. Lemmon Skycenter**. This tour, offered Thursday-Sunday, starts 2 hours before sunset. SkyNights is a popular after-dark program that takes advantage of the unique capabilities of the SkyCenter for experiencing the heavens. Learn the constellations, observe interesting atmospheric phenomena, and view the wonders of the cosmos from a high-quality astronomical site using an outstanding new 32-inch Schulman Telescope...Arizona's largest dedicated public viewing telescope! The five-hour program includes an astronomy lecture, a light dinner, sunset, and guided navigation of the night sky. A shuttle will take visitors from the meeting point to the observatory. **Persons with health issues affected by high altitude should consult their physician before touring.

Tel: (520) 626-8122

9800 E Ski Run Rd, Mt Lemmon, AZ 85619



Mt. Lemmon

Descend the mountain and stay the night at the **Comfort Suites at Sabino Canyon**. The property is only a short drive from the base of Mt Lemmon. It boasts 89 rooms and suites, free hot breakfast buffet, hacienda-style courtyards, and relaxing fountains, both indoors and out.

Tel: (520) 298-2300

7007 E Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson, AZ 85715

Overnight in Tucson.

DAY 3

TUCSON – BENSON – ORACLE

MORNING

Visit the **Saguaro National Park East** to drive the scenic Cactus Forest Dr. This winding, 8-mile loop takes a little more than 30 minutes. The single-lane, one-way road gives the impression of being isolated in a beautifully untouched desert landscape. A guide to the natural and cultural history of the Cactus Forest Loop Drive is available for \$2.00 at the visitor center.

Tel: (520) 733-5153

3693 S Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730

Take a cave tour at **Colossal Cave Mountain Park**. On the National Historic Register, the 2,400-acre Park showcases crystal-filled Colossal Cave and historic La Posta Quemada Ranch. During the hour-long cave tour, see beautiful cave formations like stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, boxwork, and helictites as the guide relates the Cave's history, legends, and geology. The tour route is a half mile long and has 363 steps, taking visitors six and a half stories underground and back up again.

Tel: (520) 647-7275

16721 E Old Spanish Trail, Vail, AZ 85641

AFTERNOON

Stop by **Charron Vineyards** for a tasting and a picnic. Charron is one of the oldest vineyards in southern Arizona. Tastings are available Friday-Sunday and come with a souvenir wine glass. Visitors can purchase a picnic basket filled with bread, meat, and cheese to enjoy with their wine, or they may also bring their own picnic.

Tel: (520) 762-8585

18585 S Sonoita Hwy, Vail, AZ 85641

Satisfy your sweet tooth at the **Old Benson Ice Cream Stop**. This retro ice cream shop has more than 50 flavors of soft serve, so there is something for all ice cream lovers to enjoy. The shop also serves sundaes, Italian sodas, and their signature Glaciers.

Tel: (520) 586-2050

102 W 4th St, Benson, Arizona 85602

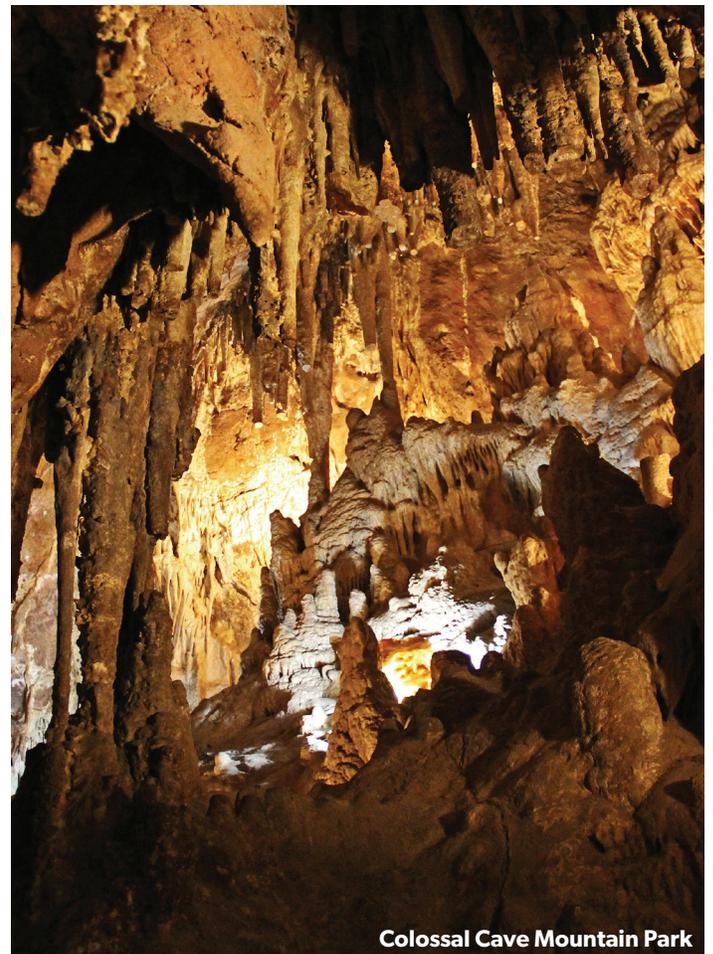
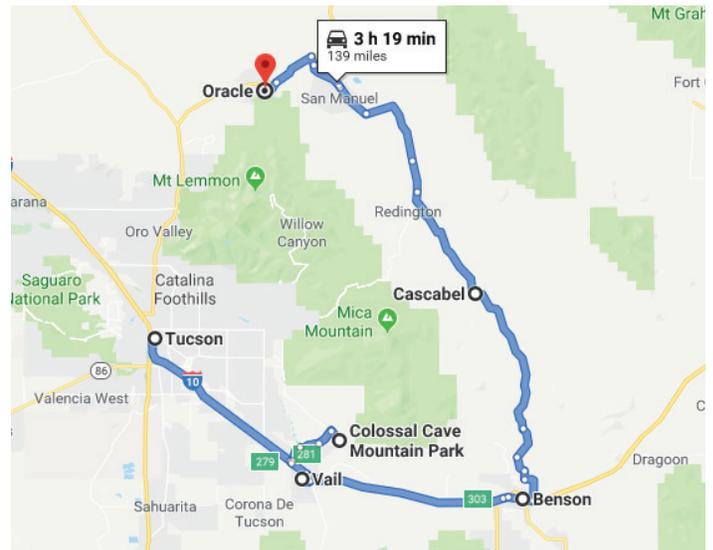
Take a tour of **Gammon's Gulch Movie Set & Museum**. This movie set has a wide main street with streets and alleys. Set in a time between the 1880s and 1930s, it serves as a location for movie productions and large events. It is open to the public for tours with reservations. As guests set out on their guided tour they are entertained by stories about how Gammons Gulch came to be and about the movie and antique items that fill the town. Call ahead to make reservations.

Tel: (520) 212-2831

331 W Rockspring Ln, Benson, AZ 85602



Mt. Lemmon



Colossal Cave Mountain Park



Old Tucson

Depart Benson for Oracle via N Cascabel Rd, which eventually joins Redington Rd. The drive is 59 miles or 95 kilometers, of which 32.2 miles or 51.8 kilometers is on a well-maintained, but unpaved road.

Check in to **El Rancho Robles**. This historic ranch is nestled at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains. In the 1920s, it became one of the area's most popular dude ranches. Each room offers a patio to help you experience your surroundings in comfort, as well as an eclectic mix of southwest furnishings reminiscent of the Rancho's history.

Tel: (520) 896-7651

1170 N Rancho Robles Rd, Oracle, AZ 85623

EVENING

Dinner at the **Oracle Inn Steakhouse & Lounge**. This Western-themed restaurant serves steaks and traditional American food, and it boasts a full bar. There are regular events, such as live.

Tel: (520) 896-3333

305 E American Ave, Oracle, AZ 85623

Stargaze at **Oracle State Park**. As an International Dark Sky Park, Oracle State Park offers exceptional conditions for viewing the wonders of the night sky. Oracle is far enough away from most light pollution sources making the Milky Way visible, along with many other celestial objects. Attend one of the periodic star parties, or go on your own and behold the wonder for yourself. The American Avenue Parking Area is accessible after hours.

Tel: (520) 896-2425

3820 Wildlife Dr, Oracle, AZ 85623

Overnight in Oracle.



El Rancho Robles



Oracle State Park

DAY 4

ORACLE – YOUNG

MORNING

Have an early breakfast at the **Oracle Patio Café and Market**. This restaurant is known for their breakfasts and pies. It is open for breakfast and lunch daily except Mondays.

Tel: (520) 896.7615

270 American Ave, Oracle, AZ 85623

Depart Oracle for **Show Low**, driving north on AZ-77. The drive is 153 miles or 246 kilometers. Along the way, the road will pass through multiple environments. You will drive through open desert with shrubs and towering saguaros, rise and fall over foothills and valleys, and spend 8 miles in a valley oasis alongside the Gila River. The AZ-77 joins the US-60 as it passes through Globe. On this stretch of highway, desert shrubs give way a dense forest. One of the most majestic views along the road is descending into the Salt River Canyon. The Salt River Canyon Rest Stop has a foot bridge over the river as well as stairs down to the canyon's edge. It is the perfect place to stretch your legs and take in the magnificent landscape.

AFTERNOON

Stop for lunch at **The House** in Show Low. This award-winning burger joint prides itself on creativity. You can even get bacon, egg, & cheese burger on two glazed donuts. They are known for their burgers and dishes like "Bonfire Shrimp" and "Cooley and Clark Salad." They also have plenty of gluten-free options, including gluten-free chicken strips. For those in the mood for something sweet, The Red Barn Creamery offers homemade ice cream next door.

Tel: (928) 537-9273

1191 E Hall, Show Low, AZ 85901

Depart Show Low for the **Mogollon Rim** on Forest Road 300/Rim Road. The drive is 63.3 miles or 101.9 kilometers.

Turn right on Forest Road 300/Rim Road to get to the Woods Canyon Overlook and the Rim Lakes Vista Overlook on the edge of the Mogollon Rim. Both of these overlook areas have parking and views that are hard to beat. You can stand on edge of a 2,000-foot cliff with unobstructed views for miles. It is even possible to see Mt. Lemmon if the sky is clear. The Rim stretches for 200 miles from Yavapai County to New Mexico and forms the southern edge of the Colorado Plateau. This area of the Rim has paved roads and paved pathways along the edge to make it accessible to all visitors. Just after the Woods Canyon Overlook, the road becomes gravel. Return to the AZ-260, and just across the street is the Mogollon Rim Visitors Center if you want to stop in for a few minutes.

Tel: (928) 333-4301

Rim Rd, Payson, AZ 85541

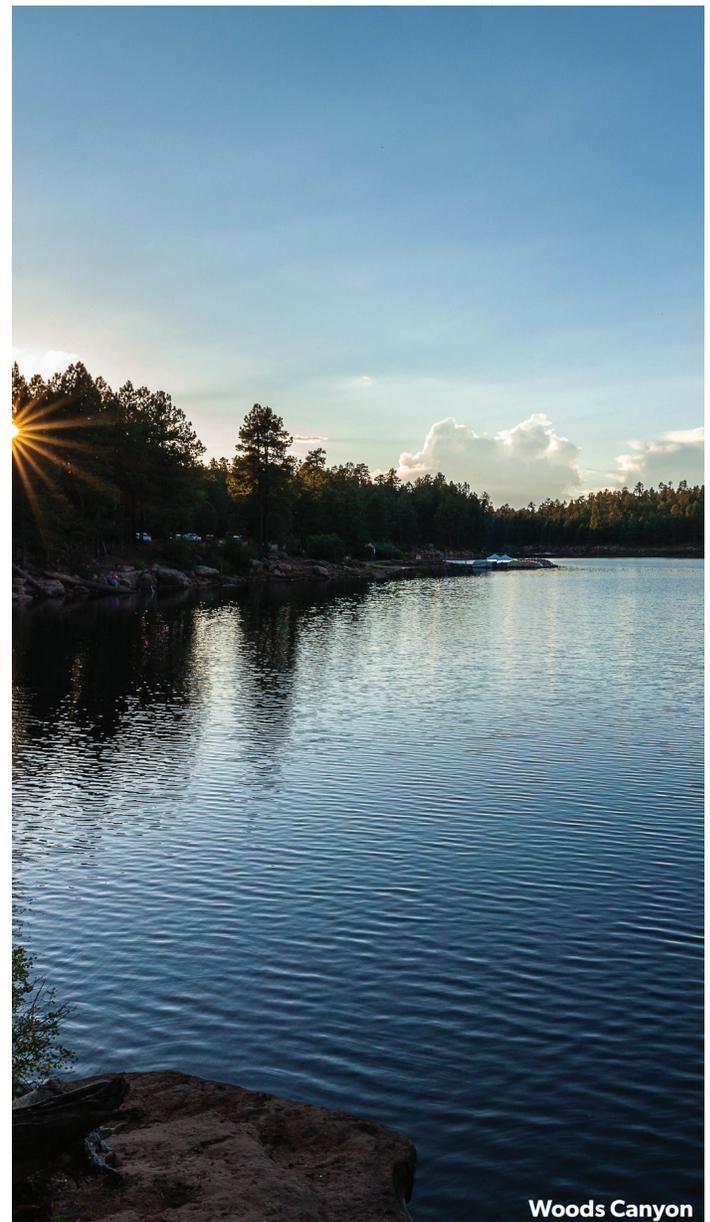
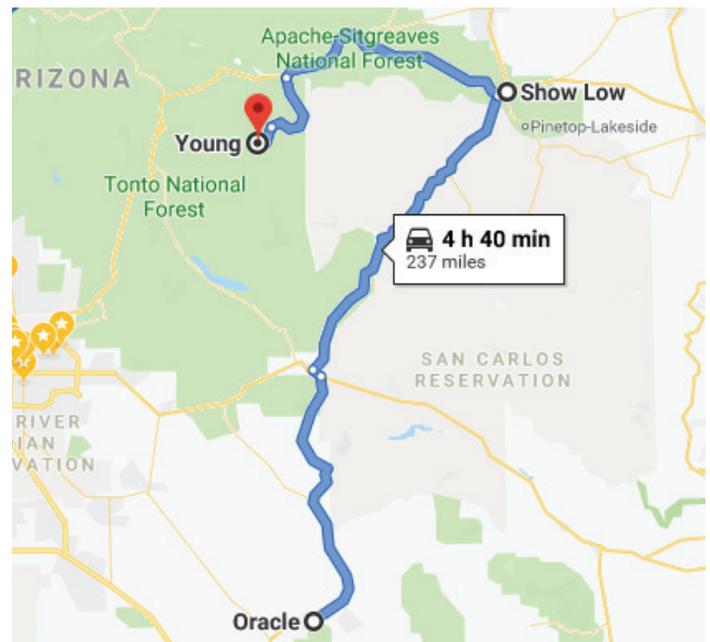
Depart the Mogollon Rim for Young. The drive is 35.3 miles or 56.8 kilometers.

Check in to **Cherry Creek Lodge**. Located on a working cattle ranch nestled within the scenic Tonto National Forest, this 40,000+ acre guest ranch offers horseback riding, archery, shooting, fishing, cattle drives, UTV and ATV tours, hiking, and hunting. Authentically rustic but complemented by modern conveniences, it is also the perfect place to just relax and take in the natural beauty of the area. This authentic American Cowboy Ranch experience with modern comforts includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and one activity.

Tel: (928) 462-4027

Forest Service Road 54A, Young, AZ 85554

Overnight in Young, AZ.



Woods Canyon

DAY 5

YOUNG – PHOENIX

MORNING

Depart Cherry Creek Lodge. Drive to Roosevelt. The drive is 67 miles or 107.8 kilometers. This scenic road through the mountains eventually leaves the forest, winds down into the desert foothills, and offers beautiful views of Theodore Roosevelt Lake.

If you are hungry, stop for an early lunch at **Ma's Kitchen**. This restaurant is popular for its comfort food and large portions.

Tel: (928) 467-2220

105 E Mesquite St, Roosevelt, Arizona

Stop at the **Tonto National Monument Lower Cliff Dwelling**. The 20-room, multi-story masonry and adobe pueblo was built in the cave around 1300 A.D. by the Salado people. The cave is 40 feet high, 85 feet long, and 48 feet deep. Unlike most cliff dwelling sites, this one actually lets visitors enter multiple rooms in the pueblo. The .5-mile trail to reach it is steep but paved, and the view to the lake from the mouth of the cave is absolutely breathtaking. **Do not be late, as there are strict hours of operation.

Tel: (928) 467-2241

26260 AZ-188, Roosevelt, AZ 85545

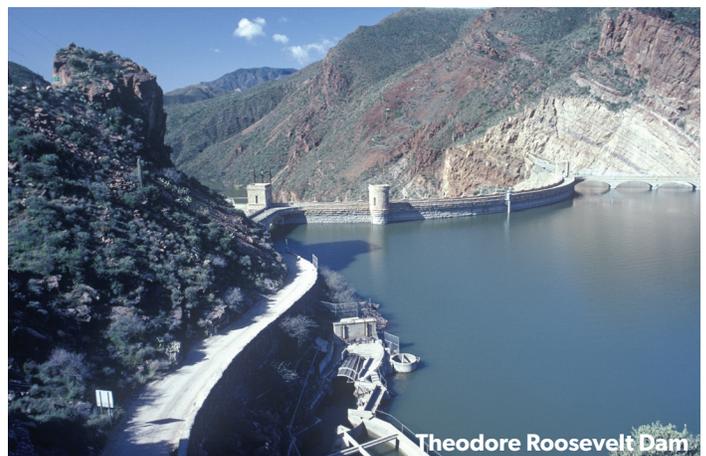
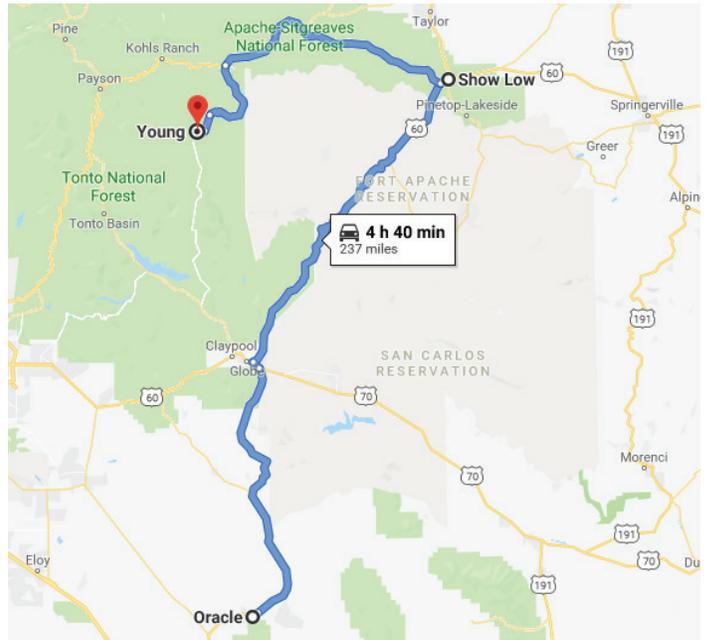
AFTERNOON

Continue down the Apache trail along the bank of the lake, merging onto the AZ-88.

Stop at the Inspiration Point Interpretive Overlook to view the **Theodore Roosevelt Dam**. Theodore Roosevelt Dam was originally constructed between 1905 and 1911 to control the erratic flow of the Salt River and to harness the water for irrigation. The dam turned the Arizona desert into land that could be farmed. From the overlook, there is a beautiful view of the dam, the bridge, and the lake.

Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Corporation

The **Apache Trail/AZ-88** is one of the most stunning scenic drives in Arizona. The drive is 43 miles or 69.2 kilometers. For 20 miles of the drive through the Superstition Mountains, the road is unpaved, but well-maintained. No special vehicles are needed to make the journey; just about any car can make it. The small, unpaved road blends in with the scenery. Much of the Trail rides the bank of the Salt River and other creeks in the area. It passes through numerous canyons and gorges that feel almost wholly unspoiled.



Stop at **Tortilla Flat**. Take a look in the small museum and bask in the Old West atmosphere. This tiny town with a proud population of 6 people started out as a stagecoach stop in 1904.

EVENING

For dinner, you can either eat at the Superstition Restaurant & Saloon in Tortilla Flat or book a Twilight Dinner Cruise on the Dolly Steamboat.

Superstition Restaurant & Saloon is known for its food and décor. The bar stools are saddles, and the walls are plastered with dollar bills from around the world. The restaurant boasts the biggest burgers, hottest chili, and coldest drinks. Visitors can also pick up salsa, chili spice packets, and prickly pear gelato in the Country Store.

Tel: (480) 984-1776

1 Main St, Tortilla Flat, AZ 85190

-or-

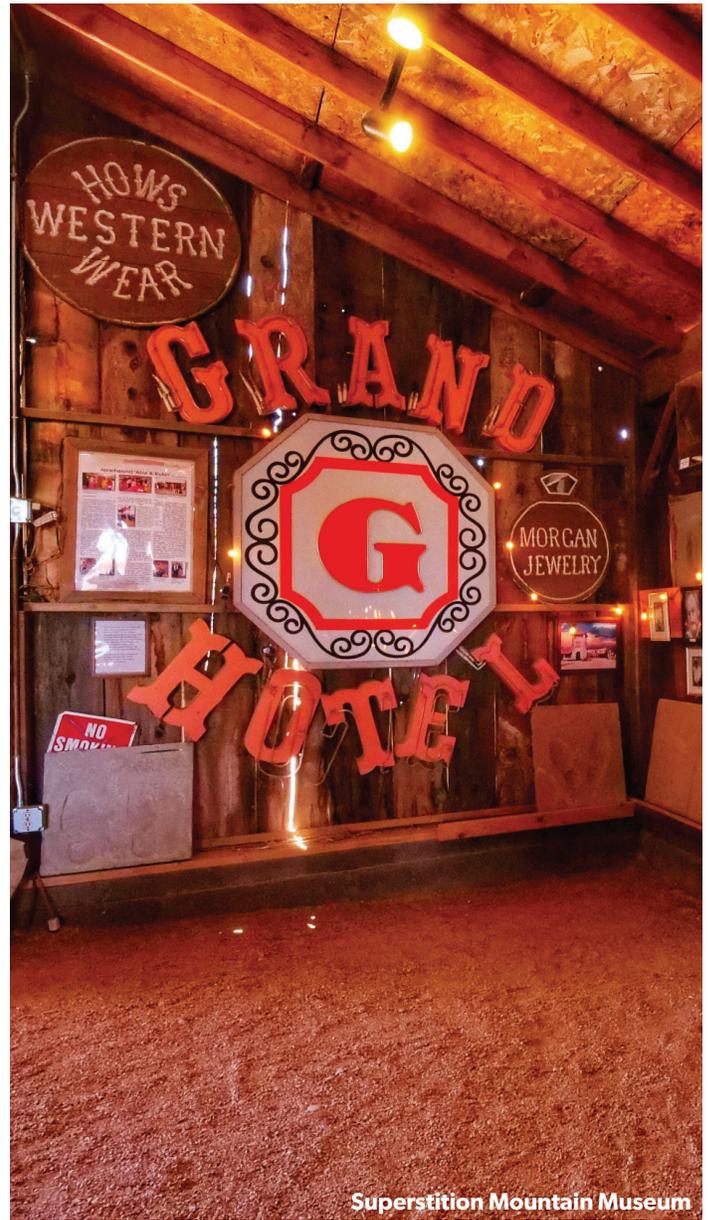
The **Twilight Dinner Cruise on the Dolly Steamboat**. Nestled in the heart of the Superstition Mountains lies the spectacular Canyon Lake, home of the Dolly Steamboat. Continuing a tradition of cruising since 1925, the Dolly Steamboat now cruises the secluded inner waterways of this beautiful lake. The serene lake is a haven for wildlife, from desert bighorn sheep to bald eagles, and during the twilight cruise you can observe them as they settle in for the evening.

Tel: (480) 827-9144

16802 E Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Continue on the Apache Trail and descend back into the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. The drive to central Phoenix is 49.2 miles or 79.2 kilometers from the Dolly Steamboat. On the way, you will drive along the lake's edge, cross the iconic One Lane Bridge, and wind your way down from the mountains and back into civilization.

Linger longer in Phoenix or depart Arizona.



Superstition Mountain Museum

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Dolly Steamboat