

Tucson 2020

Dillinger Days (January 19): This free, family-friendly event commemorates the 1934 capture of “Public Enemy No. 1” gangster John Dillinger at the Historic Hotel Congress. Festivities include reenactments, an historical artifacts exhibit, lectures, walking tours of downtown, a vintage car show, and shopping with great local vendors.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://hotelcongress.com/events/>

Tucson Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show (February 1-16): The annual Tucson Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Showcase is a one-of-a-kind shopping and learning experience. People from all over the world flock to our city to attend this each year, looking for rare and beautiful marketplace finds—gemstones, minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, jewelry, supplies, apparel, etc.

The show takes place at 50+ locations citywide, so we recommend downloading the app “Official Tucson Gem Show Guide” to find the shows that interest you most.

Tucson Rodeo (February 15-23): Since its inception in 1925, Tucson has celebrated its ranching heritage at La Fiesta de los Vaqueros[®] (Celebration of Cowboys), which centers around the Tucson Rodeo, which is one of North America’s top-25 professional rodeos. The nine-day spectacular is an incredible opportunity to see bull riding, barrel racing, roping events, steer wrestling, and more up close and in person. Be sure to check out the Rodeo Parade on Thursday, February 20—it’s the largest non-motorized parade in the country!

For more information and tickets, please check out their site at <http://tucsonrodeo.com/>

Tucson Festival of Books (March 14-15): This celebration of literacy is the third largest book festival in the United States. Hundreds of authors from all over the world will be in attendance to do presentations, panel discussions, exhibits, and meet-and-greets for fans of all ages.

For more information, please check out their site at <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

Fourth Avenue Street Fair (March 20-22): Produced by the North Fourth Avenue Merchants Association nonprofit group, the biannual Fourth Avenue Street Fair is THE place to shop. The fair hosts artists, vendors, and entertainment from all over the world in a celebration that is uniquely Tucson.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://fourthavenue.org/>

Roadrunners Hockey (through mid-April): Whether you’re a hockey novice or a lifelong fan, our local team—the Tucson Roadrunners—are sure to get your heart racing as they compete against teams from

all across North America. Tickets are very affordable, and can be purchased through ITT on base at a discount!

For more information and to see the season schedule, please check out their site at <https://www.tucsonroadrunners.com/>

For discount ticket information through ITT, please call (520) 228-3700

The Gardens at Tohono Chul (open daily): Tohono Chul is a truly unique place. Consisting of several gardens and natural habitats, it provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the various flora and fauna that make up the Sonoran Desert. Aside from the acres of gardens, there are also rotating art galleries/exhibits, special events, workshops, and a restaurant.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://tohonochul.org/>

Tucson Botanical Gardens (open daily): This 5.5 acre preserve consists of sixteen urban gardens that are connected by pathways for your perusal. There are also unique classes, events, and programs that cover everything from tai chi and yoga to gardening techniques and art creation. The Botanical Gardens are a true delight to witness in person.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://tucsonbotanical.org/>

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (open daily): This museum is a world-renowned zoo, aquarium, natural history museum, botanical garden, and art gallery all in one place. With 15 different attractions and over 2 miles of walking paths traversing through 21 acres of desert landscape to explore, there is no shortage of interesting things to see and do.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://www.desertmuseum.org/>

Saguaro National Park (open daily): Featuring parks on both the East and West side of town, Saguaro National Park is the home of the nation's largest cacti and some incredible wildlife. Whether you want to do the self-guided drive through tour, go for a hike, or do some backwoods camping, this park is a wild and beautiful place to learn about the fascinating desert in which we live.

For more information, please check out their site at <https://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm>

Pro tip: Active duty members of the military and their dependents can pick up a free annual pass to all national parks while visiting Saguaro National Park! Just bring your military ID.

MORE TUCSON HOTSPOTS/EVENTS

Colossal Cave (open daily): This 2,400-acre park showcases crystal-filled Colossal Cave and the historic La Posta Quemada Ranch. Experience cave tours, western trail rides, camping, and picnicking.

<https://colossalcave.com/>

Pima Air & Space Museum (open daily): This is one of the largest non-government funded aviation and space museums in the world, and features a display of nearly 300 aircraft. Aside from their own exhibitions and events, this is also the place to book your bus tour of the Davis-Monthan Boneyard.

<https://pimaair.org/>

Mission San Xavier del Bac (open daily): Dating back to the late 1700s, this stunning example of Spanish Colonial architecture is the oldest intact European structure in Arizona. Known as the “White Dove of the Desert” and located on the Tohono O’odham reservation, the church’s interior is filled with original statuary and mural paintings. Free docent tours of the grounds are available Monday-Saturday mornings while the church is not in service. <http://www.sanxaviermission.org/>

Biosphere 2 (open daily): This impressive and unique facility serves as a laboratory for controlled scientific research of the different ecosystems and environmental zones within the greenhouse. Managed by the University of Arizona, tours will take you from a tropical rainforest to the salty sea over the course of about an hour. <https://biosphere2.org/>