

TUCSON SUMMER: COOL TIMES

ELEVATION 2500'...AND ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON

Photo: David Jewell © Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau



Photo: MTCVB



LASER LIGHT SHOWS AT FLANDRAU

The University of Arizona Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium (above) hosts kid-friendly activities from 6 to 9 pm on Thursdays, and 1 to 4 pm on Sundays. Kids and adults will enjoy learning the stories behind the constellations with the fun and animated "Legends of the Night Sky" show in the planetarium, followed by a brief interactive star projector demonstration of how to find the constellations in Arizona's night skies. At 7:30 pm on Thursdays and 2:30 pm on Sundays, lean back and escape into a medley of music in a family-friendly laser light show. For more details about family fun time at UA Science: Flandrau, call 520-621-7827 or visit online at www.flandrau.org.

REID PARK ZOO

Reid Park Zoo in central Tucson is the perfect place to enjoy time outdoors while discovering the wonders of wildlife. Visitors travel from South America to the Asian rainforest, and then to the African savanna. During Summer Safari Nights (Friday evenings from 5 pm to 8 pm through July 8) enjoy cool evenings of family fun, with viewings of favorite animals, encounters with animal ambassadors, and crafts, games and face painting for the kids. The Zoo's summer hours (8am-3pm) run from June 1 through Aug. 31. Giraffe Encounter times also change for the summer: 9:30-10:15 am every day of the week, with an additional Giraffe Encounter at 1:30 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, call 520-881-4753 or visit www.tucsonzoo.org.

DINNER AND A MOVIE DOWNTOWN

The Fox Tucson Theatre (at left), downtown Tucson's elegant vintage movie palace, will show a classic movie on Fridays or Saturdays at 7:30 pm and again on Sundays at 2 pm, from June 18 through August 19. Movies are scheduled to include *American Graffiti*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Rocky*, and others. For details, call 520-547-3040 or visit foxtucsontheatre.org. Moviegoers have excellent choices for dinner before the show, in downtown Tucson's revitalized dining and nightlife scene. Newer restaurants include 47 Scott, A Steak in the Neighborhood, Downtown Kitchen + Cocktails, The Hub, Empire Pizza, Monkey Burger, and V Fine Thai. For more details, contact the Downtown Tucson Partnership at 520-837-6504 or visit them online at www.downtowntucson.org.

HELP ARIZONA STATE PARKS

Arizona Highways' award-winning photography and travel journalism have brought Arizona's beauty and splendor to visitors and natives alike for more than 85 years. Now the publication is teaming up with Arizona State Parks to help the parks remain open and accessible. For each \$24 one-year subscription to *Arizona Highways*, \$5 will be donated to the Arizona State Parks Foundation. Funds may be directed to a specific park; Tucson-area state parks include: Catalina, Kartchner Caverns, Oracle, Patagonia, Picacho Peak, Tombstone Courthouse, and Tubac Presidio. Call 800-543-5432 or visit www.arizonahighways.com/stateparks.html.

Photo: David Jewell © MTCVB



ROCKIN' DOWNTOWN WARDROBES

One-of-a-kind clothing made by talented independent and emerging designers has been a key aspect of the retail philosophy at Rockin' Queen since it opened in downtown Tucson in 2008. The small but imaginative boutique just celebrated its third year of delivering high-quality hand-made garments and outstanding customer service. For more information call 520-461-1076 or visit www.the-rockinqueen.com. Another boutique, Desert Bloom Downtown, is known for its artistic window dressings, which entice shoppers with clever displays featuring samples of the fabulously original high-end fashions within, which are collected from around the world. For more information, call Claudette at 520-792-9882.

SIZZLING SUMMER SOUNDS

Four weeks of musical magic are coming this summer to the Arizona Inn (below left), Tucson's famed historic luxury inn located in midtown near the University of Arizona. From June 21 through July 16, guests can enjoy weekly evening concerts featuring Tucson's finest vocalists and musicians performing in the Sizzling Summer Sounds Cabaret Series presented by Invisible Theatre Company. Special cabaret-and-hotel packages are available. For tickets and more information about ongoing performances, call Invisible Theatre at 520-882-9721 or Arizona Inn at 800-933-1093.



FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN

The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures (above center) is admitting adults for the kids' admission price of \$5, every Thursday. All ages will be delighted by the museum's three entertaining and interactive areas: Enchanted Realm, History Gallery and Exploring the World. Take a guided tour at 11:30 am, Tuesday through Saturday, or take your time and discover the magical mini kingdoms on your own. This 15,560-square-foot museum of amazing antique and contemporary miniatures is the only one of its kind in the Southwest. Call 520-881-0606 or visit www.theminitimemachine.org.

VENTANA CANYON WILD SUMMER

Loews Ventana Canyon Resort (below right) has partnered with two top Tucson attractions—Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and Tucson Botanical Gardens—to offer fun, educational experiences to vacationing families on weekends this summer. Desert Museum docents will show native animals, and lead treks on the property to investigate bats and plants, while stargazing parties will focus on Tucson's famed clear night skies. The Tucson Botanical Gardens will loan its wicked plants display and horticulturist Dr. Ergot Ratbane for special appearances. The resort's summer room rates start at \$99. For more information, call 800-234-5117 or visit www.loewshotels.com/en/Ventana-Canyon-Resort.



TWILIGHT GOLF AT EL CONQUISTADOR

Tucson's largest golf resort offers 45 holes of championship golf on three exceptional courses (above right). This summer, guests at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort can book any tee time after 3 pm for \$25 per player, plus tax. This special summer rate includes green fee, golf car, and practice balls. For more information, call the El Conquistador Country Club at 520-544-1801 or visit www.elconquistadorcc.com.

SUMMER HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Summer's harvests will be celebrated at two festivals in Southern Arizona. Triangle T Guest Ranch will host the 2nd Annual Garlic Festival and Benefit, July 29-30, with garlic from RichCrest Farms, garlic-infused dishes, garlic products, a cooking contest, and hand-crafted merchandise as well as horseback trips to raise money for the Wounded Warriors Project (520-586-7533). Apple Annie's Produce & Pumpkins presents Sweet Corn Extravaganza, July 16-17 and 23-24, with bushels of corn-on-the-cob and other fresh treats (520-384-2084).

FREE VISITOR INFORMATION

Download a free digital version of the *2011 Visit Tucson: Official Destination Guide* on www.visitTucson.org, or call 1-800-638-8350 to order a copy and begin planning your trip to Tucson and Southern Arizona. ■

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