

TUCSON ON THE CHEAP

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TUCSON FOR FREE...

Dillinger Days 75th anniversary. Tucson rolls back the calendar to 1934 for Dillinger Days, January 24. This time warp will mark the



75th anniversary of the capture of notorious John Dillinger and his gang. The Dillinger gang's Depression-era crime spree enthralled the nation and ended in Tucson after a nationwide manhunt. This story is now a motion picture, titled *Public Enemies* and starring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale, set for July release. This free, all-ages street festival features an action-packed re-enactment of the gang's capture at Tucson's Hotel Congress, lectures, tours, antique cars, 1930s music, food, and more. Details: Downtown Tucson Partnership, 520-547-3338 or www.DowntownTucson.org.

Gem Show. The Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase (January 31 - February 15) is a citywide rockhound event with over 40 different shows by international vendors and top-quality museums. Serious prospectors will find prime rock collecting sites in mineral-rich Tucson and Southern Arizona, though many are tricky to access. More convenient is the University of Arizona Mineral Museum, which holds one of the largest public collections in the US. Amateur rockhounds can imitate real miners on underground tours of the Copper Queen Mine in Bisbee and the Good Enough Mine in Tombstone; or explore geologic exhibits at Asarco Mineral Discovery Center, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum. Info: www.visittucson.org/visitor/events/gemshow.

Mission San Xavier del Bac. "The White Dove of the Desert." Nine miles south of Tucson in the Santa Cruz Valley on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, this is acclaimed as the finest example of mission architecture in the

US. It was built by famed Jesuit missionary and explorer Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, who first visited Bac—"place where the water appears"—in 1692. The foundation for the first church, two miles north of the present Mission,

was laid in 1700. The present church—an active parish—was built from 1783-1797, and is open every day of the year, from 8am to 5pm. www.sanxaviermission.org. Free admission.

The Arizona State Museum. Established in 1893, this is the largest and oldest anthropology museum in the Southwest. Located on the University of Arizona's midtown campus, the Smithsonian-affiliated museum is home to the largest Southwest Indian pottery collection in the world, with 20,000 specimens, more than 150,000 archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, and a quarter-million prints and photo negatives, with artifacts and histories of the Mogollon, O'odham and Hohokam Indian cultures, plus one of the country's best Navajo textile collections. Free admission (\$3 suggested donation).

University of Arizona Museum of Art. Located on campus, the University of Arizona Museum of Art is home to a remarkable collection of Renaissance as well as 19th to 20th century art including works of such giants as Rembrandt, Rodin, Georgia O'Keefe, Rothko and Hopper. In addition to the permanent 15th century exhibit upstairs, there are changing exhibits around prominent artists and themes. Free admission.

The Presidio Trail ("Turquoise Trail"). This historical walking tour around Downtown's historic sites is roughly 2.5 miles long, and lasts 1.5 to 2 hours. The Trail follows a turquoise-colored line past over 20 restaurants. 23 points of interest and nine optional stops including the 1850s Sosa-Carrillo-

Frémont House; the historic Fox Theater; and the old Railroad Depot. Walkers will visit an archaeological dig for remnants of the original adobe-walled Spanish Presidio of Tucson from the late 1700s; an outdoor shrine for lost lovers; and a café in the 1920-era hotel where Tucson police captured the Dillinger gang. A brochure and map are free from the Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau. The tour begins at the all-new Presidio San Augustin del Tucson in downtown. Call 520-624-1817 or visit www.VisitTucson.org. Free; self-guided.

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum. The transcontinental railroad, western heroes and outlaws, 1940s gangsters, Presidents and European royalty have all played a role in the history of Tucson's downtown Railroad Depot. The Historic Depot on Toole has been a centerpiece of downtown Tucson for more than a century. Free admission.

DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun. This 10-acre retreat features a gallery of Ted DeGrazia art, a mission, and the artist's home. DeGrazia is well-admired for his impressionistic paintings of native Southwest people. The buildings are works of art that DeGrazia built with the help of his Indian friends. They feature adobe walls and ceilings painted by his hand in desert hues, and a unique cholla cactus walkway, all a backdrop for DeGrazia's paintings, lithographs, serigraphs, watercolors, ceramics and bronzes. Free admission.

TUCSON FOR UNDER \$10...

Sosa-Carrillo Fremont House. In the heart of Downtown Tucson, the Sosa-Carrillo Fremont House is one of Tucson's original adobe houses. First purchased by José Maria Sosa in 1860, the house was later owned by the Carrillo family for 80 years and leased at one point to territorial governor John C. Fremont. The restored house is furnished in 1880s period décor and features displays of territorial life in the Sonoran Desert of Southern Arizona. Admission: \$3 adults; \$2 seniors and 12-18; 11 and under free.

Amerind Foundation Museum. Since 1937, the Amerind Museum has told the story of the Americas' first peoples, exploring the cultures of indigenous tribes from Alaska to South America, from the Ice Age to present day. The Fulton-Hayden Memorial Gallery features the work of western artists Harrison Begay, Carl Oscar Borg, William Leigh, Frederic Remington and Andy Tsihnahjinnie. Housed in Spanish colonial revival-style buildings designed by Tucson architect Marritt Starkweather, the Amerind Museum houses

archaeological and ethnographic research collections, a research library and scholarly archives on Southwestern anthropology, archaeology, history and Native American studies. \$5/adults; \$4/seniors 60 and over; \$3 children 12-18; and under 12 free.

Tucson Museum of Art. This museum's mission is to connect life and art; to inspire creativity and discovery; and to promote cultural understanding through art experiences. Established in 1924, the Museum has housed both permanent and rotating collections by



local and national artists. For current exhibits and more information, call (520) 624-2333 or visit www.TucsonMuseumOfArt.org. The first Sunday of the month, TMA offers free admission! (Otherwise, \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors.)

Saguaro National Park. This park is in two pieces. Just west of the city, the half-mile, mostly flat out-and-back Signal Hill Trail is perfect for kids, across a wash and up a hill of dark basalt rock, to the Signal Hill Overlook, where the thousand-year-old Signal Hill Petroglyphs, created by the extinct Hohokam tribe, include circular and other geometric rock art shapes clearly visible on the hilltop stones. The scenic, relatively flat 10-mile Cactus Forest Trail coils through the native cacti and succulents. Hike through Saguaro National Park East on the Cactus Forest Loop Drive, an 8-mile mostly paved trail through the Rincon Mountains. Or head off-road on the 2.5-mile Cactus Forest Trail, through stands of the park's namesake cacti. \$10 per car.

Sabino Canyon. North of Tucson, Sabino Canyon offers hiking adventures for beginners to experts. Take on the rugged Seven Falls trail, a three-hour trek that crisscrosses over Sabino Creek and ends at the falls, with natural pools in which hikers can wade, swim, relax and rejuvenate before the hike back down. Less avid trekkers can take a relaxing stroll along the paved Sabino Canyon Trail, or take a tram for a \$5 per-car fee.

Mt. Lemmon. Serious hikers and bikers need look no further than 9,157-foot Mount Lemmon, overlooking Tucson from the north.

Experienced hikers can enjoy a variety of climates on the mountain, from desert lowlands hiking near the bottom, to cool treks through the Ponderosa pines at the top. The more difficult Butterfly Trail near the top of the mountain rises nearly 2,000 feet over 5.7 miles, and the 2.6-mile Soldier Trail follows an old road and power line from the Catalina Highway to an abandoned prison camp. Experienced mountain bikers have steep, technical trails—like the Crystal Spring trail near the top, or the lower-elevation Agua Caliente trail. Adventurous road cyclists have

the 25-mile Catalina Highway, which twists and turns from the desert floor to the top—a 2-plus-hour, all-uphill excursion gaining 6,000 feet in elevation, with a 30-degree temperature drop atop the mountain. Bikers then enjoy an all-downhill cruise back. \$5 per-car fee for trail use (free if dining or shopping in Summerhaven).

H.H. Franklin Museum. This museum is a tribute to the Franklin automobile, manufactured in Syracuse NY from 1902 to 1934. The historic air-cooled cars were considered technologically advanced at the time. There are a number of classic Franklins, including a 1904 Model "A" 2 Pass and a 1918 Series 9B Touring Franklin. Founded by longtime Tucson resident Thomas Hubbard, the museum includes extensive company research materials. Admission: \$5. www.franklinmuseum.org.

"La Fiesta de los Vaqueros" Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum. This unique, authentically Western museum features 150 horse-drawn vehicles, from buggies to elaborate coaches. Guests can check out historic artifacts from pioneer days, re-created Tucson Main Street circa 1900. Tours last 1.5 hours. Open publicly January–March. Admission: \$5 per adult; 16 and under free.

Finger Rock & Pontatoc Ridge Trails. Hikers and birders can head to the foothills north of town for the Pontatoc Ridge and Finger Rock trails around the Santa Catalinas. The shorter, out-and-back Pontatoc trail is a 4-mile round trip, up 1,000 strenuous feet of elevation over craggy desert rocks. The longer

Finger Rock trail takes hikers on a difficult, steep 10-mile trek to the summit of Mt. Kimball. The six-to-seven-hour trek takes visitors from the cacti and palo verde trees of the Tucson Basin, up to the cooler pines of Mt. Kimball. Free parking and admission.

Tohono Chul Park. In the Tohono O'odham language, this means "desert corner." This 49-acre desert preserve is a center of desert nature, arts and culture—and is listed by *National Geographic Traveler* as one of the top 22 Secret Gardens in the US and Canada. Find a respite from your hectic pace and an informative look at the region's cultural traditions and its flora and fauna. Enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea in The Tea Room, in a handsome Spanish-Colonial home; or visit the museum shops. Admission: \$7 adults; \$2 children 5-12; \$3 students; \$4 seniors and military with ID.

Tucson Botanical Gardens. Tucked away in the heart of Midtown Tucson, the Botanical Gardens is a 5-acre oasis of natural beauty, inspiration and education about the natural desert. The Botanical Gardens feature 16 gardens with diverse themes—such as the Herb Garden, the Xeriscape Harden, the Butterfly Garden, the Backyard Bird Garden, the Cactus & Succulent Garden and more—located on the historic 1920s property of Tucson's Porter Family. Visit www.tucsonbotanical.org for information. Adults: \$7, children 4-12 free.

Kitt Peak National Observatory. The world's largest collection of optical telescopes is found high atop Kitt Peak, on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. It is home to 22 optical and two radio telescopes representing dozens of astronomical research institutions. The National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), funded by the National Science Foundation, oversees operations on Kitt Peak. Visitor Center exhibits and the gift shop teach astronomy. Take a tour and discover how astronomers unlock the mysteries of the universe. Visit the National Solar Observatory exhibit gallery and watch scientists operate the world's largest solar telescope. Guided tour: \$7 adults; \$4.50 children.

University of Arizona Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium. The University and local communities join to inspire the teaching and learning of science, technology, environmental sustainability and more, on campus. Attend Flandrau's special planetarium shows and get your hands dirty with hands-on science exhibits. Explore the history of Planet Earth at the mineral museum, and catch a glimpse of the heavens at the planetarium. Open Wednesday evening through Sunday afternoon. Adults: \$5 - \$7.50; Children: \$3 - \$5. ■