

TUCSON: WINE, MUSIC, HISTORY, ROCKET SCIENCE



STARGAZING AND ROCK HOUNDING. One of Southern Arizona's most treasured science-education attractions has reopened with new exhibits and an expanded schedule. Flandrau Planetarium, on the University of Arizona campus, is now open seven days a week, offering scheduled planetarium shows, science demonstrations, hands-on exhibits, telescope viewing in the observatory, an extensive mineral collection, and storytelling exhibits from the Miners' Story Project as well as the Treasures of the Queen Bisbee minerals exhibit. A Tucson tradition since 1972, Flandrau reopened under the



guidance of The University of Arizona College of Science, which houses one of the world's leading lunar and planetary research organizations. www.flandrau.org.

BEYOND THE BLAST DOOR. One hundred feet below ground, a National Historic Landmark offers insight into Cold War politics. The Titan Missile Museum, 15 miles south of Tucson, was once a top-secret missile silo, on alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now its deacti-

vated missile is the focus of the Beyond the Blast Door tour, available on the first and third Saturday of every month. Visitors wear hard hats to explore underground corridors featuring three-ton blast doors and eight-foot concrete walls. The tour includes the crew's quarters and the control center, where visitors stand directly beneath the missile and watch a simulated launch. A video chronicles the missile's history. Tour participants must be at least eight years old. www.titanmissilemuseum.org.

WYATT EARP DAYS IN TOMBSTONE. Pull on some boots or grab a parasol and head out to Tombstone for Wyatt Earp Days, May 29-31. The annual Memorial Day weekend celebration in "The Town Too Tough to Die" is much like stepping back in time. Men, women and children dress in 1880s Old West styles to celebrate the life and times of the town's most-famous lawman. Enjoy a chili cook-off, stagecoach rides, a fashion show, and mock gun-fights in the dusty streets. Tombstone is about 70 miles southeast of Tucson. www.tombstone.org.

WINE COUNTRY FESTIVALS. Southern Arizona's warm summer days, cool nights, mineral-rich soils, and elevations reaching over 4,000 feet are perfect for producing grapes of distinct quality and character in the rich grasslands and fertile farming country south of Tucson. Sample three new-release Arizona wines and enjoy live local music at the Kief-Joshua Vineyards' New Arizona Release and Music Festival, May 1-2 (kj-vineyards.com). Enjoy up to 10 Arizona Wine Growers Association member wines, with food and live music, at the Willcox Wine Country Spring Festival, May 15-16, in Willcox's Historic Railroad Park (azwinefestival.com). Spend Father's Day sipping wine, savoring local treats, and meeting the winemakers at the Mountain Empire's 2nd Annual Wine, Dine and Unwind Festival, June 19-20 (mountainempire-wineanddine.com). Don't miss the winery tours, tastings

and food pairings, and local music at Sonoita Vineyard's HarvestFest, July 31-August 1 (sonoitavineyards.com); explore the area on horseback with Arizona Horseback Experience (horsebackexperience.com).

ROCKET SCIENCE FOR KIDS. Space Day events around the world on May 7 are designed to nurture enthusiasm for the wonders of the universe for young explorers. At the Pima Air & Space Museum, they can make paper airplanes and gliders, watch seltzer rocket launches, and sample astronaut food, 1-4pm, all free with museum admission. If you miss Space Day, you'll find plenty at the Pima Air & Space Museum year-round. Look inside a training version of the Apollo space capsule, see a moon rock, and learn about the Phoenix Mars Mission. The museum houses more than 300 aircraft and spacecraft, many of which are historically significant and technically advanced. www.pimaair.org.

BODIES EXHIBITION IN TUCSON. Nearly 15 million visitors worldwide have viewed the collection of real, whole and partial body specimens featured in Bodies...The Exhibition. Tucson visitors now have the opportunity to experience this exhibit, which celebrates the wonder of the human form. More than 160 body specimens, meticulously dissected and preserved, provide an up-close look inside the skeletal, muscular, reproductive, respiratory, circulatory and other systems of the human body. A limited engagement at The Rialto Building in downtown Tucson begins May 15. Tickets are available online, starting at \$15. www.bodiestucson.com.

MUSIC ON MT. LEMMON. Bring a sweater if you plan on attending any of the 15 concerts presented in Tucson this summer by LAVA Music (Live Acoustic Venue Association). Although Tucson's summertime temperatures are famously too warm for wool, these concerts take place 30 miles north of Tucson, in the Village of Summerhaven, a small town near the 9,157-foot top of Mt. Lemmon, with pine trees, grassy meadow, craggy rocks, and endless vistas. Concerts take place Sundays, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., May 30 through Sept. 5. The family-friendly lineup leans toward acoustic bands playing bluegrass, country, blues, rockabilly, and folk rock, with some Cajun and R&B thrown in for balance. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. www.lavamusic.org. ■

