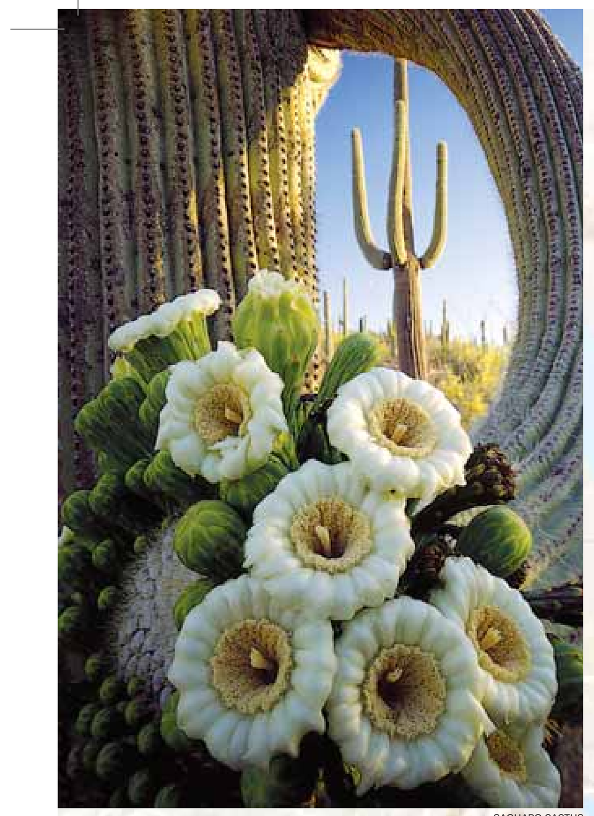


NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

GEOTOURISM MAPGUIDE

geo·tour·ism *(n): Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.*

CHOLLA CACTUS, KOFA N.W.R., NEAR YUMA, ARIZ. DAVID MUENCH/CORBIS

Arizona - Sonora Desert Region

TWO STATES, TWO COUNTRIES, ONE HERITAGE

"Yes, but it's a dry heat." OK, sure, it's hot here in summer—and startingly cold under a quarter moon on a clear winter night. The Sonoran Desert has always tested us, yet we've fashioned cities and towns and learned how to live in it and entertain ourselves in it. Geotourism involves travel based on geographical distinctiveness, and we have that aplenty. My first six months here I lived in a small adobe rental, and every morning I'd wake up and look out my bedroom window at a saguaro next to a wooden fence. I was convinced I lived on a movie set. Now, more than 35 years later, that same sensation takes hold, but it quickly yields to a fuller appreciation of the land, of how we've tamed it and how it's tamed us.

Camping out west of Nogales I first encountered the international frontier as a twisted barbed wire fence on the ground, and I gleefully hopped back and forth over it from one nation to the other. Charmed by this indication of the region's friendly anarchy, that evening I babbled to my friends over *carne asada*—grilled beef—that this land was really one country, with culture and language, for the most part, ignoring the arbitrary line that runs through it.

It all makes for a rich mix, sweetened by a most inviting and comfortable climate. To bring you the information on this map, scores of communities in two countries have sent in hundreds of recommendations—about food, wildlife, ranching, music, history—places and features that provoke special pride for us who live here.

Explore this remarkable region and it will sustain and reward you.

—Tom Miller, author, Tucson

SAGUARO CACTUS DYKINGA PHOTOGRAPHY

Desert Ecology

For a swatch of land known mainly for the roadrunner and the saguaro, you'd be astonished by the Sonoran range of landforms and climate, animals and plants. Binational conservation efforts are underway to link biosphere reserves in Sonora with adjoining protected lands in Arizona. Organ pipe cactus and bighorn sheep would certainly approve.

Jesús García, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum ethnobiologist:
"Most plant and animal migrations travel south-to-north along river corridors, such as the Yaqui and Sonora Rivers. As the javelina works its way north, for example, it excretes seeds consumed farther south, and new plants take root. When coyotes travel, they know their way around—where to hide, find water, and where to sleep. Birds migrate along the sky island archipelago, mountaintops above the desert floor with their own climates and ecosytems."

Peter Gierlach, native plant grower, Chiricahua Mountains
"The kangaroo rat is the ultimate desert rat. It doesn't drink water. When rain falls, it hides. It gets its moisture from the seeds and grass it gathers. It lives near earthen mounds and takes dust baths. It's the size of a golf ball and has an eight-inch tail.

"Over in the Sulphur Springs Valley, you have really hammered old agricultural land, but it has some of the best birding in North America."

On the Border

The line between Arizona and Sonora affects all that takes place north and south of it. It creates a remarkable hybrid culture that permeates both sides. Language, food, laws, and outlaws—all take a bow at the frontier, then move on. Despite its international complexities, the border can be invigorating, as when Douglas and Agua Prieta run a horse race with steeds on each side of the line (below).

Adriano González, spokesman, coffee cooperative, Agua Prieta, Son.
"I was born here and studied international business and learned English; it's opened a lot of doors for me. I work with a coffee cooperative in Chiapas that ships beans to us here in Agua Prieta, where they're roasted, then sold in the States. It's a good model for keeping people employed in Mexico. My grandfather came here from Guadalajara; he never thought of going farther north."

Keoki Skinner, owner, El Mitote, Douglas, Ariz.:
"I run the El Mitote juice stand in Douglas but I live in Agua Prieta, so I cross over early every morning to avoid any build-up later at Customs. Sometimes I take the juice truck to my daughters' soccer games."

In 2007, a dual-state traveler's advisory system goes live, one benefit of a half-century of trans-border cooperation by the Arizona-Mexico Commission.

INTERNATIONAL BORDER HORSE RACE, DOUGLAS, ARIZ. AND AGUA PRIETA, SON. CITY OF DOUGLAS

Geotraveler tips:

How to help the Sonoran region retain its character
Patronize businesses that support the community and its conservation and preservation efforts. Seek out local products, foods, services, and shops. When you support the people who support the place, they'll usually reward you with a richer, more memorable trip.

Visiting Tribal Lands
On an Indian reservation, you are a guest where people live and work. Taking photos and video is a sensitive issue, so ask permission first. Each tribe operates under its own unique governmental structure. Contact them in advance to obtain rules for visitors. Most have websites.

Thinking of moving here?
If you plan to relocate, skip the look-alike subdivisions that consume tracts of desert, and seek instead housing that suits the surroundings, whether a unique old house in a historic neighborhood, an endangered ranch house, or an eco-friendly place that blends into the desert.

Ranches
Long at odds over grazing, environmentalists and ranchers have been forging new alliances. Ranchers are adopting more eco-friendly practices as ranches themselves become an endangered species, threatened by encroaching development. When staying at a ranch, choose one that's conservation-oriented, and patronize restaurants that buy food from local ranches and farms.

Golf
A conventional golf course can use as much water as a U.S. town of 8,000—not good where water is scarce. Give preference to Audubon-certified courses or others that use "xeriscaping"—desert plantings suited to the climate and wildlife. Makes for a more interesting game, too.

Saguaros
Icon and signature species of the Sonoran Desert, a saguaro cactus takes scores of years to reach maturity, even to grow its first arm. Saguaros are protected. Report any signs of recent poaching or vandalism.

Visiting Archaeological Sites
Petroglyphs and other Indian archaeological sites are fragile and many are sacred. Look but don't touch, as oils from fingertips and constant rubbing erode the markings and paintings. Be mindful of sacred sites, accessing only by invitation and respecting the site with quiet reflection.

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
Take a boat ride to see the abundant waterfowl and shorebirds in the marshes of this oasis along the Colorado River. Watch for mule deer and bighorn sheep as you hike the desert hillsides.

Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Area
Named after the 1930s café that served the riverine community. Flooding in 1983 led to establishing a recreation area and wildlife refuge. Volunteers offer tours to see waterfowl and migratory species.

Cocopah Museum, Cocopah Indian Tribe
Walk through the desert park to learn about plants traditionally used by Cocopah Indians. View displays about clothing, beadwork, tattoos, tribal games, and warriors.

Santa Clara Marshland
Local guides from nearby Ejido Luis E. Johnson will guide you by boat through the largest wetland in the Sonoran Desert, rich with bird life. Look for the Yuma clapper rail.

Casa de Costa Brava
Excellent seafood in an elegant setting with ocean vistas

Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO)
Catch presentations on marine and desert ecosystems. Check out the CEDO Earthship, made entirely of recycled materials, and sign up for an ecotour to Morúa Estuary or nearby tidepools.

PIMA MINIATURE BASKETS, HEARD MUSEUM, PHOENIX, ARIZ. HEARD MUSEUM/JERRY JACKA

HEARD MUSEUM, PHOENIX, ARIZ.
Museum celebrates traditional and contemporary art and cultures of Southwestern Native Americans. If you're lucky, catch the annual hoop dancing contest or the basketry and native foods festival.

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
Five galleries showcase art, architecture, and design. Huge glass wall surrounding the outdoor sculpture garden changes color.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve
Residents of Scottsdale voted to increase taxes to fund conservation of the mountains and desert. The City now manages the area.

Tortilla Flat
This town (population: 6), an all-in-one establishment, was once for sale on E-bay. Grab a burger or some prickly-pear ice cream, listen to bluegrass, or stroll the wooden boardwalk.

San Carlos Apache Cultural Center
Tribal museum tells stories of the Apache's spiritual beginnings, the 1871 massacre, forced resettlement, and current day heroes. Artisans demonstrate their craft and sell local art.

Hotel San Carlos
Clark Gable and Mae West stayed here, and you can, too. This historic hotel was once the city's first school.

Heard Museum

Heritage & Science Park

Los Dos Molinos
Known for its fiery chile sauces, the New Mexican-style food is worth waiting for. Settle in with a margarita in the funky courtyard and prepare yourself for the heat.

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa
Luxury resort owned by the Pima and Maricopa offering native cuisine, horseback riding, and Gila River clay treatments

Huhugam Heritage Center
See arts and culture of Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh peoples in this facility, modeled after the Casa Grande ruins. Fine basket collection; ethnobotanical trail.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park
A Hohokam platform mound, ball-court, and ruins date back 1,500 years. Indoor exhibits illustrate Hohokam culture and archaeology.

Gila Indian Center

Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area
View 200 species of birds, including Bell's vireos and canyon wrens, from the Bonita Creek platform. Kayak or canoe on four rivers.

Morenci Mine Tour
Tour one of the world's largest open-pit mines with an informative "Copper Guide"

Black Rock Ranch
Fourth-generation family-run cattle ranch offers roping, branding, and herd culling demonstrations, plus homegrown cowboy poetry.

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Remains of the one of the largest structures built by the Hohokam culture

Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness
Go here for fall foliage

Painted Rocks Petroglyph Site
View hundreds of petroglyphs and historic inscriptions along this interpreted trail.

Terra Cotta
Savor Southwestern-style cuisine using local ingredients as you gaze upon the Santa Catalina Mountains. Original art graces the turquoise- and copper-accented dining room.

Dankworth Pond and Village (Roper State Park)
Fish or watch birds at this cattail-lined pond. Replicas of Native American dwellings and Mogollon Indian artifacts along self-guided trail at Dankworth Village.

Mount Graham International Observatory
Home of the world's most powerful telescope

Ironwood Forest National Monument
Rich stands of ironwood trees and Hohokam archeologic sites can be found in the desert valleys and mountain ranges.

Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch
Relax in the jacuzzi at this Spanish Colonial Inn favored by legendary movie stars. Enjoy mountain views as the award-winning grill serves fresh produce from the garden.

DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun
View art and architecture inspired by the Sonoran landscape. This 10-acre retreat includes the artist's home, chapel, gallery, and gift shop.

Fort Bowie National Historic Site
Site of numerous battles between the U.S. Military and Chiricahua Apaches, culminating in Geronimo's surrender in 1886. Hike 1.5 miles through Apache Pass to Fort Bowie remains.

Native Seeds/SEARCH
This organization helps protect agricultural diversity and cultural heritage by conserving Native American crop seeds. Visit the Tucson store for heirloom seeds, foods, and books.

Saguaro N.P.

Arizona Inn
Landmark 1930 Southwestern-style inn and gardens built by Arizona's first congresswoman

Muleshoe Ranch Cooperative Management Area

Singing Wind Bookshop
Spend an afternoon perusing the wide range of books packed into Winifred Bundy's home on this working cattle ranch.

Rex Allen Museum and Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame

Saguaro National Park

Colossal Cave and La Posta Quemada Ranch
Crystal-filled cave, museum, 128-year-old ranch, horseback riding through desert and canyons

Kitt Peak National Observatory
At 6,875 feet, views are spectacular from one of the world's largest astronomical observatories, boasting 24 telescopes. Tour the visitor center by day and stargaze with astronomers at night.

Arizona State Museum
Indigenous pottery, masks of Mexico, Navajo textiles, and much more reveal the cultural history of the Southwest from mammoth hunters to current day.

Amerind Museum
Native American art exhibits

Cochise Stronghold Bed & Breakfast
Sleep in a tipi, straw-bale guesthouse, or solar-powered deluxe ranch suite. The Dragoon mountains shelter Lucifer hummingbirds, javelina, ringtail cats, even ocelots.

Chiricahua National Monument
Canyons slice into a volcanic landscape of balancing rocks, spires, and organ pipe formations. Drive the 8-mile scenic road or hike the mountain to see rare wildlife.

Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve
A Nature Conservancy preserve with 300 species of birds, including the rare rose-throated becard. Look for unique plants such as the Santa Cruz beehive cactus.

Skywatcher's Inn
Clear, dark skies lend themselves to stargazing. Eight telescopes, a planetarium, museum, and on-site astronomer are available to guests.

Kartchner Caverns State Park

Fort Huachuca
Established to fight raiding Apache Indians including Geronimo. The Historical Museum chronicles famous western military battles.

Tombstone
"All you'll find in them ther' hills is your own tombstone." In 1877, Prospector Ed Schieffelin ignored the advice, struck silver, and founded the town. Staged gunfights and Old West facades evoke Tombstone's silver-mining heyday. Ask about what's authentic and what's Hollywood; it's an ongoing debate here.

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Home to 3,200 species of plants from the Sonoran Desert and beyond. Guided walks focus on lizards, birds, dragonflies, plants of the Bible. Art and photography exhibits.

Elgin vineyards

Patagonia
Artists haven and beginning for winery tours

San Pedro Riparian N.C.A.
Important birding site with over 400 species breeding or visiting here

Tubac Presidio State Historic Park
View underground remnants of the 1752 fort. At the visitor's center, learn why Tubac was Arizona's largest town in 1860. Hike the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail 4.5 miles to the Tumacácori National Historical Park.

Ramsey Canyon Preserve

Copper Queen Mine Tour and Hotel
Descend with hard hat and headlamp and hear a former miner tell of life in the copper mines. Then check out Italian mosaics in the 1902 hotel established by the Phelps-Dodge Corporation that practically ran Bisbee then.

SAN BERNARDINO N.W.R.

John Slaughter Ranch
Experience the life of early cattle ranchers in the restored home of Sheriff John Slaughter, including the Model T. Ford that he never learned to drive. Picnic at House Pond.

Arizona Folklore Preserve
Cultural center, next to Ramsey Canyon creek, offers presentations of Arizona's legends, cowboy poetry, and songs of Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official state balladeer.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD JOE McDONALD/CORBIS

RAMSEY CANYON PRESERVE, NEAR SIERRA VISTA, ARIZ.
Excellent wildlife viewing on guided nature walks in this Nature Conservancy Preserve at an ecological crossroads of mountains and desert. Fourteen species of hummingbirds and the rare Ramsey Canyon leopard live within the cool, spring-fed canyon.

Rancho de la Osa
The 1800s Spanish style hacienda offers horseback riding, mountain biking, and stargazing. The adobe cantina, with antique Mexican bar, was built as a trading post in the time of Father Kino.

Hacienda Corona de Guevavi
The 300-year-old cattle ranch, favored by John Wayne, is now an inn. Visit the Duke's suite, one of five themed bedrooms. Bullfighter and artist Salvador Corona painted the murals on the courtyard walls.

Yonke Art

Nogales Historic Area
Take a walking tour of the 1914 City Hall, Pimeria Alta History Museum, Bowman Mansion, 1904 Court House, and Crawford Street Historic District, to learn about the history of this borderland town.

La Roca Restaurant
Built into a cliff and decorated with Mexican art, this well-known restaurant offers Sonoran cuisine in a warm, romantic atmosphere.

La Proveedora Petroglyphs

Santa María Magdalena Temple
Arched walkways filled with handicrafts surround the large open plaza in front of the Santa María Magdalena Temple, originally founded by Father Kino in 1705.

Ajos-Bavispe National Forest Reserve and Wildlife Refuge

Ajos-Bavispe Reserve
The reserve includes eight "sky islands" separated by desert valleys and grasslands. It protects threatened species such as the Mexican spotted owl, thick-billed parrot, and horned lizard. See black bear, porcupine, and Sonoran beaver in the forests.

HARRIS'S HAWKS ON SAGUARO CACTUS JOHN CANCALOSI/NGS IMAGE COLLECTION

MULESHOE RANCH COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AREA, EAST OF TUCSON, ARIZ.
Hawks, bobcat, mountain lion, and endangered fish thrive in 7,600-foot-high mountains, desert grasslands, and perennial streams, thanks to community conservation programs, ecotourism, and cooperative management.

Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Temple
Remains of explorer Juan Bautista de Anza rest in the church. Palms and laurel trees flank the charming plaza, and a brick clock tower rises in the center.

Cerro de Trincheras
Even from afar, it's easy to see one of Sonora's most important archaeological sites: the terraced hill of the Trincheras people, who lived in the region around 1400.

Petroglyphs
Explore rock art portraying geometric designs and humanoid figures along a canyon wall just outside of town.

Casa Rural El Ranchito de Huépac
Spend a night with family and become part of the household, helping your hosts make fresh white cheese.

HACIENDA EL LABRADOR, URES, SON. COFETUR/JUAN LUIS FERNÁNDEZ M.

HACIENDA EL LABRADOR, URES, SON.
Stay overnight in the restored 1860s hacienda and enjoy horseback riding, birdwatching, and swimming in the natural whirlpool.

Plaza Hidalgo
Plaza Hidalgo's centerpiece is the four-ton rock with petroglyphs thought to represent an irrigation map of the ancient Opatas.

La Cruz del Diablo
Hold onto your hat as you gaze over the thousand foot cliff, a geologic fault that looks like the "Devil's Cross."

Homemade Delicacies
Make sure you taste some local homemade orange marmalade

Rancho La Inmaculada
Guests are welcome at this family-run cattle ranch, whose holistic techniques include sustainable forestry. The owners produce crafts, flooring, and flour from mesquite trees.

Agua Caliente Water Park
Relax in the hot springs pumped into pools by solar panels and picnic under the mesquite trees.

Fossil Site, San Clemente de Térapa
In the home of local resident Santiago Garcia, you'll find mastodon teeth and bones, turtle shells and ancient horse remains—a tiny fraction of the paleofauna currently being excavated.

Cyclist Route
The scenic 191-kilometer (119-mile) mountain bike trail goes from Nácori Chico to Huásabas. Lodging available along the way.

Hacienda El Labrador

Isla Tiburón
Now a nature reserve, Mexico's largest island is a traditional land of the Seri Indians. Today the Seris participate in research on endangered bighorn sheep. Catch a boat ride there with a Seri pilot.

Villa de Seris
Dine on *carne asada* (grilled beef) and typical side dishes at Xochimilco and then wander through this colonial neighborhood. Don't forget to buy *coyotas* to eat later: round crispy pastries filled with brown sugar.

Sonora Museum
Inside the old state penitentiary, built of brick and limestone from Cerro de la Campana, exhibits portray the chronology of life and cultures in Sonora.

Kino Bay Center for Cultural and Ecological Studies, Prescott College
While predominantly a marine research and educational facility, the field station staff can direct you to local ecotourism guides.

La Pintada
Images of humans and animals colorfully painted on rock may tell tales of the hunt at this Sierra Prieta site, once a refuge of Seri, Pima, and Yaqui Indians, and an area high in biodiversity.

NIGHTTIME TRIP CAMERA PHOTO OF A JAGUAR NORTHERN JAGUAR PROJECT/NATURALIA, A.C.

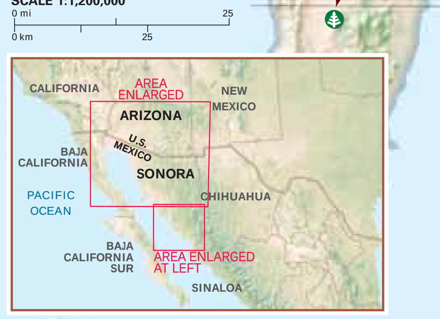
NORTHERN JAGUAR RESERVE
This newly developing preserve promotes jaguar conservation in the "sky island" habitats of Sonora's mountains. The endangered cats need to move among the peaks, but their migration into proposed Arizona preserves faces two barriers: growing subdivisions in the valleys and a hardening international border.

Map Key

- Archaeological site
- Festival
- Historical site
- Mission
- Museum
- Natural or scenic area
- Other point of interest
- Urban area

Protected Areas
- Biosphere reserve (Mexico)
- Bureau of Land Management (U.S.)
- National wildlife refuge (U.S.)
- Indian reservation (U.S.)
- Military reservation (U.S.)
- National forest (U.S.)
- National park (U.S.)
- Other protected area

Albers Conic Equal-Area Projection
Standard Parallels 29° and 33°
SCALE 1:1,200,000



SOUTHERNMOST SONORA

El Soldado Marsh
Small but rich with wildlife, especially aquatic birds that require wetlands as they migrate along the Pacific flyway.

Nacapule Canyon

Hotel Playa de Cortés
Built in the 1930s, the hotel offers courteous staff, spacious rooms, and sweeping views of the sea from the patio

NACAPULE CANYON, SAN CARLOS, SON. COFETUR/JUAN LUIS FERNÁNDEZ M.

NACAPULE CANYON, SAN CARLOS
A cool desert oasis with unusual rock formations and unique plants, including the tropical nacapule tree.

Mesa del Campanero
You can hike, bike and camp in this high altitude pine and oak woodland. Look for raptors as you take in the views, and for apple and peach products from nearby orchards in Yécora.

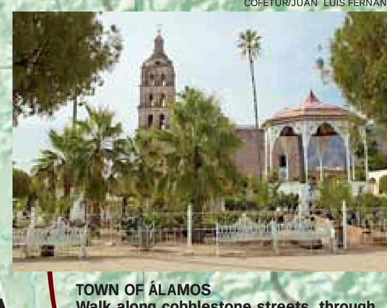
SEA OF CORTEZ PEARL FARMING, SON. COFETUR/JUAN LUIS FERNÁNDEZ M.

SEA OF CORTEZ PEARLS
While black pearls have always grown naturally in the Sea of Cortez, this facility produces cultured pearls. Tour it and see for yourself.

Yaqui Museum
This newly restored 1890 building features Yaqui arts and crafts, participatory dance, theatre and storytelling. Cócorit is one of eight Yaqui villages in the area, most of which have cultural centers.

Casa Rosalva
Guided tours add insight to the many works of modern art found inside this 1920s home

Tehuelibampo
Cross the Mayo River to see cave art nearly 3,000 years old, and visit accompanying site museum.


PLAZA DE ARMAS, ÁLAMOS, SON. COFETUR/JUAN LUIS FERNÁNDEZ M.

TOWN OF ÁLAMOS
Walk along cobblestone streets, through stately archways of white colonial mansions and into the well-kept Plaza de Armas, and see why Álamos is dubbed a "Magical Town."

Mayo Regional Museum
This former railroad station now offers exhibits on history and culture of the Mayo people and household implements in recent usage.

Scenic Lookout (El Mirador)
Popular picnic spot with a panoramic view of the town and surrounding hills

SIERRA DE ALAMOS-RÍO CUCHUJAQUI RESERVE

Leonardo Valdez Esquer Museum
View Mayo and Yaqui masks, toys, and other Mexican folk art exhibited in the collector's home.

Sonora Cultural Museum (Museo Costumbrista de Sonora)
Inside this 18th century building you'll see why Álamos was a boom town in the 1700s. You'll find historic photos and accoutrements of life in a silver-mining town.

House and Garden Tour
An opportunity to see inside faithfully restored mansions, while also supporting a local educational scholarship program.

City Hall (Palacio Municipal)
A grand brick building with stained-glass windows and 48 iron columns in the courtyard. Its theatre is a performance venue for the popular Alfonso Ortiz Tirado music and arts festival held every January.

Same scale as main map

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Mining & Ranching

Arizona and Sonora grew up together, mining copper and herding cattle. Today copper still comes from huge open pits on the edge of Cananea, Son. and elsewhere. You'll see earth-moving equipment bigger than many houses and third-generation miners punching in for their shifts. Learn about mining operations at New Cornelia Mine in Ajo or the mine tour in Morenci. As for cattle ranches, the 21st century presents challenges brought on by endangered species, grazing-policy concerns, rising land prices, and competing recreational uses on public lands.

Historian Humberto de Hoyos, Cananea, Son.:
"The Mexican revolution began here in 1906 when the miners struck for higher pay and better conditions. Copper had taken hold a decade earlier. The boom established the progressive style of architecture and urban design you see in Cananea today. Trees in the plaza and furnishings in the bank are from that era. The Chinese Quarter still has mining tunnels where residents hid from authorities back then. When people first come to Cananea, they wonder if they're still in Mexico."

CATTLE DRIVE, NEAR TUCSON, ARIZ. DAVID BURCKHALTER

Mac Donaldson, Empire Ranch, Sonoita, Ariz.:
"People have blamed ranchers for poor land conditions, but today we have new methods of breeding, vaccination, and feeding our cattle. We've got 72,000 acres here at more than 4,800 feet—a good altitude for the watershed and grasslands. We've established a foundation to protect the Empire's historical sites and give the public some history of the land." Visit in September for their annual Roundup Open House and Western Art Sale.

Experience ranching at La Inmaculada in Sonora and in the present-day ranch communities along the Sonoran River corridor.

What is geotourism all about?
According to National Geographic, geotourism "sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents." Geotravelers, then, are people who like that idea, who enjoy authentic sense of place and care about maintaining it. They find that relaxing and having fun gets better—provides a richer experience—when they get involved in the place and learn about what goes on there.

Geotravelers soak up local culture, hire local guides, buy local foods, protect the environment, and take pride in discovering and observing local customs. Travel-spending choices can help or hurt, so geotravelers patronize establishments that care about conservation, preservation, beautification, and benefits to local people.

FESTIVALS
Music, Crafts, Heritage & Nature

1. **Wings Over Willcox Birding and Nature Festival** Willcox, Ariz. *(second weekend in January)* Offers birding trips, natural history tours, and seminars **www.wingsoverwillcox.com**
2. **Alfonso Ortiz Tirado Festival** Álamos, Son. *(end of January)* Ten days of music performances, exhibits of paintings, Mexican folk art, and workshops **www.festivalortiztirado.com**
3. **Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering** Sierra Vista, Ariz. *(first weekend in February)* Features more than 50 poets and musicians **www.cowboypoets.com**
4. **Filibusters' Battle Celebration** Caborca, Son. *(April 6th)* Parades, fireworks, local crafts, and concerts **www.sonoratravel.com/destinations/caborca/festivities**
5. **Holy Week in Bacadéhuachi** Bacadéhuachi, Son. *(From Holy Thursday, Good Friday through Easter Sunday)* Reenactment of the passion of Christ through the streets, Last Supper, traditional dances, and horse races **phone: 01 (634) 34 6 80 85 / 34 6 80 55**
6. **Tucson International Mariachi Conference** Tucson, Ariz. *(April)* Mariachi and Baile Folklórico festival with workshops for all ages **www.tucsonmariachi.org**
7. **Pitic Festival** Hermosillo, Son. *(last week in May)* Presentation of national and international artists, art exposition, theater performances, cowboy artists, and dances **www.hermosillo.gob.mx, www.visitasonora.com, www.gotosonora.com/hermosillo-son-mx.htm**
8. **San Juan Bautista Festival** Navojoa, Son. *(starts four weeks before June 24th)* A celebration that dates from the arrival of Jesuit missionaries in 1614, this festival ends on June 24th with a procession, food, games, and native dances **email: presidencianav@hotmail.com / contralorianavojoa@hotmail.com**
9. **Fiesta de San Francisco** Magdalena, Son. *(October 4th)* Largest religious pilgrimage in the Sonoran Desert **www.parentseyes.arizona.edu/missions/magfiesta.html**
10. **Festival Luna de Montaña** Huachinera, Son. *(first week in October)* Celebration highlighting arts, crafts, and music of the region **www.isc.gob.mx/contenido/festivales/ii-festival-luna-de-montana.shtml**
11. **Patagonia Fall Festival: A Celebration of Music and Art** Patagonia, Ariz. *(second weekend in October)* Features musical performances, over 140 arts and craft exhibitors, and local speciality food **www.patagoniaaz.com/save_the_date.html**
12. **Anza Days** Tubac, Ariz. *(third weekend in October)* Living history of the Indian, Mexican, and Spanish colonial periods through military demonstrations, traditional dancing and music, and children's activities **www.tubacaz.com/calendar/events.asp**
13. **Orme Dam Victory Days** Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Fountain Hills, Ariz. *(third weekend in November)* Competition powwow, cultural songs and dances, all-Indian rodeo, parade, sports' tournaments, concert, and food **www.ftmcdowell.org**
14. **La Fiesta de Tumacácori** Tumacácori N.H.P., Tumacacori, Ariz. *(first full weekend in December)* Recognizes the past and present cultures of the region through traditional dance, music, crafts, and food **www.nps.gov/tuma/planyourvisit/fiesta.htm**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

National Geographic and the people of Arizona and Sonora present this Geotourism MapGuide to the Sonoran Desert region.

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Visit www.sonoraturismo.gob.mx/geoturismo-en-sonora.htm and www.arizonaguide.com to learn more about points of interest in the Sonoran Desert region.