

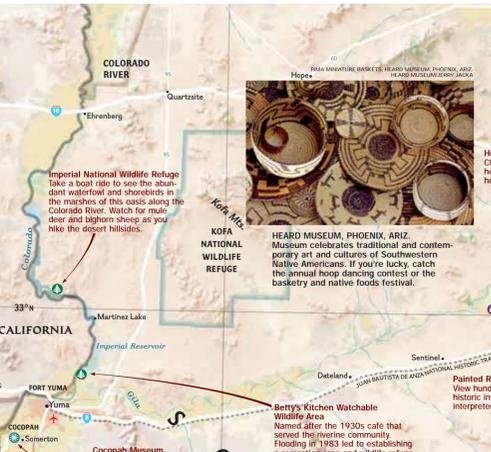
### Desert Ecology

For a swath of land known mostly for the road-runner and the saguaro, you'd be astonished by the Sonoran range of landforms and climate, animals and plants. Bifurcated 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 ecosystems.

**Peter Gleitsch, 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 realy 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 border, then move on. Despite its international complexities, the border can be invigorating, as when Douglas and Agua Prieta run a horse race with dogs on each side of the line (below).

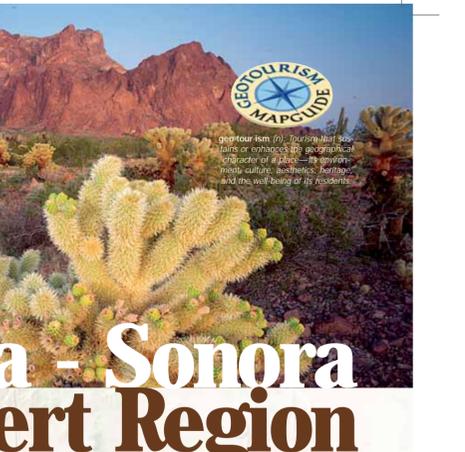
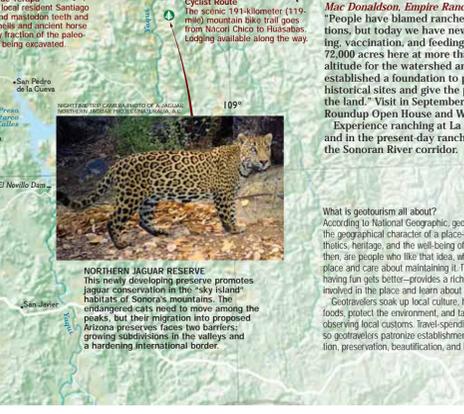
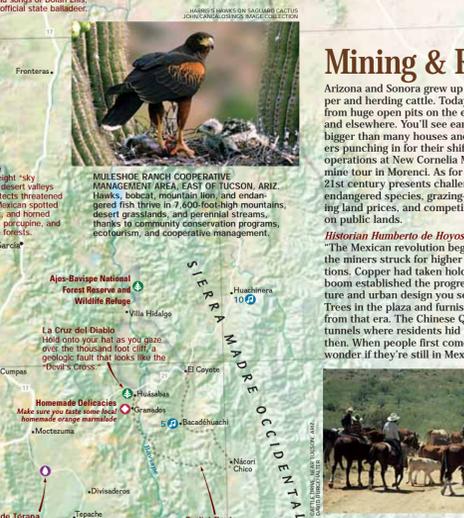
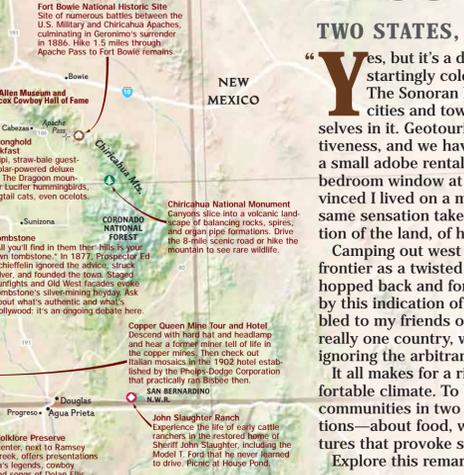
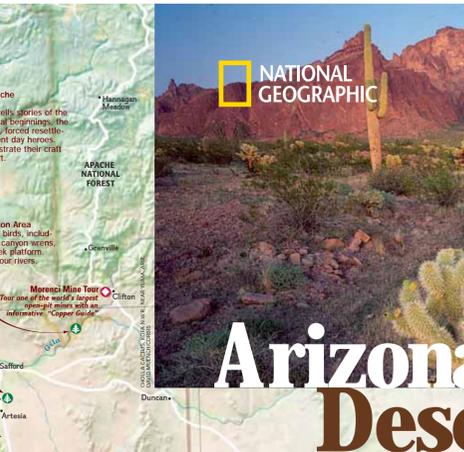
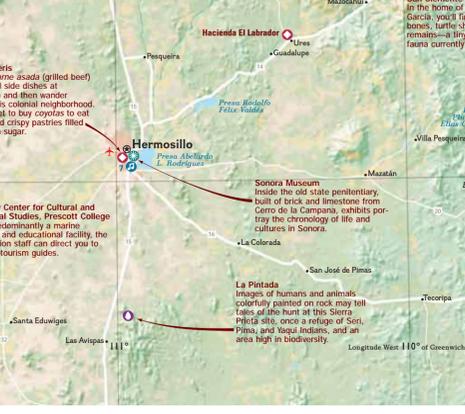
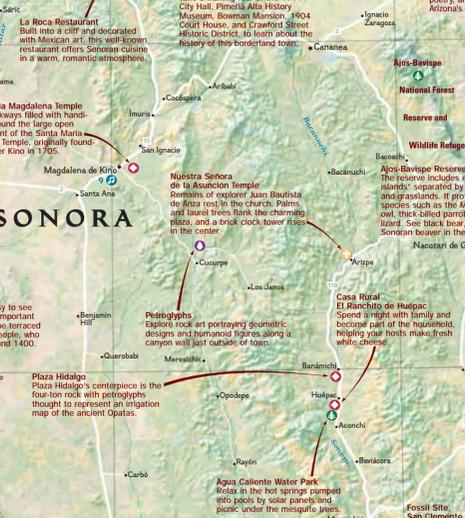
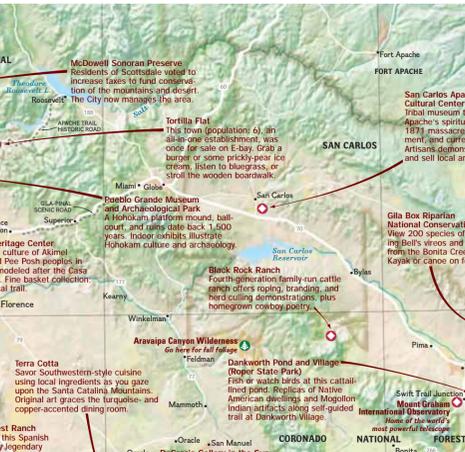
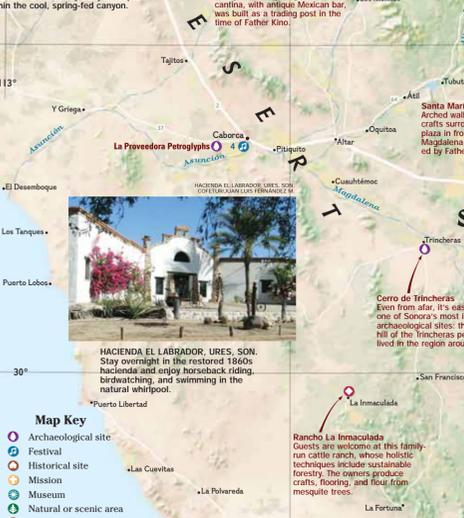
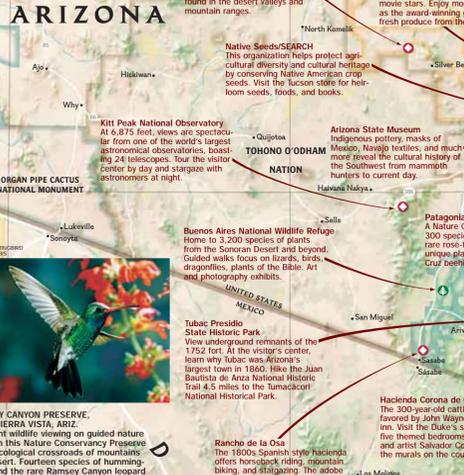
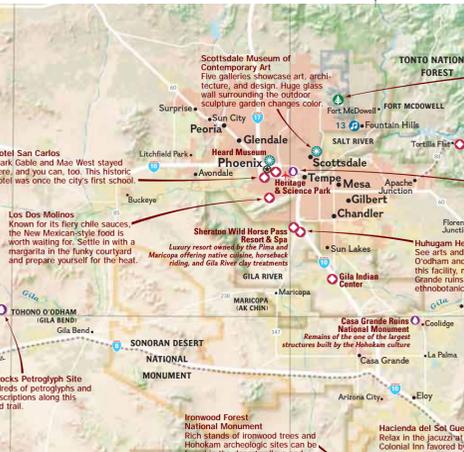
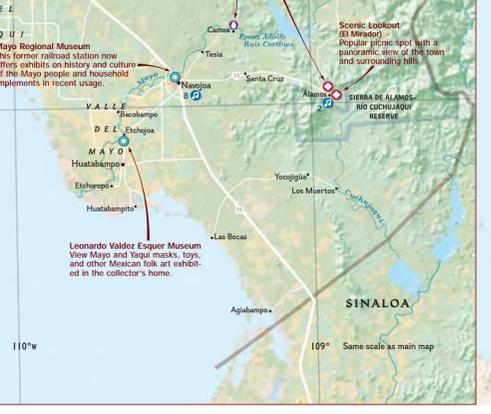
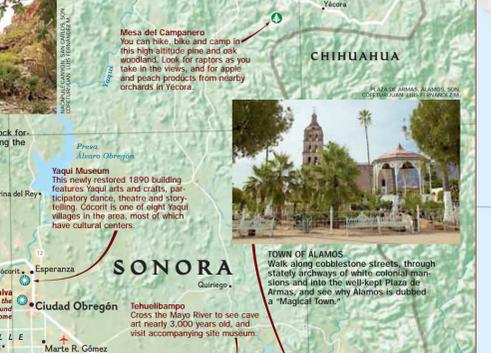
**Adriano González, spokesman, coffee cooperative, Agua Prieta, Son:** "I was born here and studied international business and learned English; it's opened a lot of doors for me. I work with a coffee cooperative in Chiapas that ships beans to us here in Agua Prieta, where they're roasted, then sold in 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."

**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 visit. The people who support the place, they'll usually reward you with a richer, more memorable trip.

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### SOUTHERNMOST SONORA



### 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 starting 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

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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.

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### FESTIVALS & HERITAGE

1. Wings Over Wilcox: Birding and Nature Festival. Wilcox, Ariz. (second weekend in January) Offers birding tips, natural history tours, and seminars. [www.wingsoverwilcox.com](http://www.wingsoverwilcox.com)

2. Atlixero: Ortiz Tribe Festival. Atlixero, Son. (end of January) Ten days of music performances, exhibits of paintings, Mexican folk art, and workshops. [www.festivalatlixero.com](http://www.festivalatlixero.com)

3. Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering. Sierra Vista, Ariz. (first weekend in February) Features more than 50 poets and musicians. [www.cowboypoes.com](http://www.cowboypoes.com)

4. Filibuster: Battle Celebration. Cananea, Son. (April 6th) Parades, fireworks, local crafts, and concerts. [www.sonoratourism.com/destinations/canaca/filibuster](http://www.sonoratourism.com/destinations/canaca/filibuster)

5. Holy Week in Basadreñeta. Basadreñeta, 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 (52) 34 6 80 85 / 34 6 80 55

6. Nacapan International March Conference. Tucson, Ariz. (April) March and Ball Folklorico festival with workshops for all ages. [www.tucsonmarch.com](http://www.tucsonmarch.com)

7. Fiesta Festival. Hermosillo, Son. (first week in May) Presentation of national and international artists, art exhibits, musical performances, cowboy art, and dances. [www.hermosillo.gov.mx](http://www.hermosillo.gov.mx), [www.visitasonora.com](http://www.visitasonora.com), [www.getsonora.com/wheremosillo-son-mx.htm](http://www.getsonora.com/wheremosillo-son-mx.htm)

8. San Martí Basadreñeta Festival. Son. (starts four weeks before June 24th) A celebration that dates from the arrival of San Martín in 1614. This festival includes on June 24th with a procession, folk games, and native dances. Email: [presidenciaavil@hotmail.com](mailto:presidenciaavil@hotmail.com) / [contratamexico@hotmail.com](mailto:contratamexico@hotmail.com)

9. Fiesta de San Francisco Magdaleno. Son. (October 4th) Largest religious pilgrimage in the Sonoran Desert. [www.pareteveyes.org/area/edemisionmagdaleno.htm](http://www.pareteveyes.org/area/edemisionmagdaleno.htm)

10. Festival Luna de Montaña Huachuca. Son. (first week in October) Celebration highlighting arts, crafts, and music of the region. [www.lugoc.com/montana/](http://www.lugoc.com/montana/)

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 specialty food. [www.patagonia.com/son.html](http://www.patagonia.com/son.html)

12. Anas Bajas. Uruapan, 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.tubac.com/anabajas.htm](http://www.tubac.com/anabajas.htm)

13. Orme Dam Victory Days. Fort McDowell Javahua National Monument, Fountain Hills, Ariz. (first weekend in November) Largest parade in the state, featuring traditional Indian rodeo, parade sports, tournaments, concert, and food. [www.tubac.com/](http://www.tubac.com/)

14. Fiesta de Tumacacori. Tumacacori N.H.P., Tucson, Ariz. (first full weekend in December) Recognizes the past and present of the region through traditional dance, music, crafts, and food. [www.nps.gov/tumacacori/](http://www.nps.gov/tumacacori/)

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85. Northern Jaguar Reserve. (first weekend in December) Celebrates the region's history and culture. [www.nor](http://www.northernjaguarreserve.com)



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

# Sonoran Heritage The Human Story

### THE EBB AND FLOW OF PEOPLES LEAVES A RICH LEGACY

Our good fortune to live in the land between Phoenix and Hermosillo comes from the way we adapt to desert living with engineering, art, and food. Witness the window-mounted swamp cooler—a terrific and simple invention that sucks dry hot air through cool damp straw. Often called the poor man's air conditioner, it's a somewhat more sophisticated version of throwing a damp towel over an electric fan. As for artworks, the oldest I've seen were well-preserved petroglyphs of animals, plants, hillsides, and people etched onto boulders outside Caborca, Sonora. They are said to date from about ten centuries ago, created by Indians headed to the coast for salt. As for food, Father Kino, the missionary, established wheat and beef as staples in

the regional diet three centuries ago, and that hasn't changed much, either.

Each of these three results from migration, the essential constant in life within our 100,000 square miles. From those early rock artists to a family newly settled in metro Phoenix, migration has shaped and reshaped this area. It began long before Plymouth Rock and is still in motion. Everyone who arrives brings a little of their last stop with them; those who leave carry some Sonoran Desert to their next anchor. I've heard wonderful *corridos*—Mexican folk ballads—in Arizona, and driving heavy-metal rock in Sonora. After a while you have to check your map to know which state you're in—as if that mattered.

—Tom Miller, author, *Tucson*



SANTA MARIA MAGDALINA TEMPLE, NEAR MAGDALINA DE KINO, SON. MARIA EDITOR/SONORA, C. QUERRENO

## The First Peoples

For starters, throw your stereotypes of Native Americans out the window. Then, begin to rebuild your impressions as you travel through the region. Indians living on the south edge of Phoenix balance tribal identity with metropolitan influences. The Seri, numbering under one thousand on Sonora's west coast, enjoy minimal outside contact. The ten-thousand strong San Carlos Apache live on the Nation's wooded 1.86 million acres in eastern Arizona. On the 2.8-million-acre Tohono O'odham reservation, tune in to the tribal radio station for local flavor.

Artist *Reuben Naranjo, Jr.*, one of the 20,000-member *Tohono O'odham Nation*: "Water is crucial to us all. To live in the desert we've always had a need for water. Many of our ceremonies are devoted to water. Except for littoral people like the Seri, all the Indians of the region are agricultural. American Indian spirituality is just as diverse as the rest of the country. We have atheists, traditional, progressive, and everything in between. Some Indians don't care, others balance both worlds. We have fall fiestas at Magdalena (Son.) and the Dia de la Santa Cruz (Feast of the Holy Cross) in the spring. Increased govern-

ment regulations have changed our art. Places where pot makers traditionally went for clay are now National Parks. Urbanization has reduced the bear grass that weavers use for binding baskets. This affects what and how much we create, and ultimately what people see of our art."

Purchase authentic art at TOCA's basket shop in Sells. Tour in the days leading up to Easter and you'll be enlightened by Tucson's Pascua Yaqui dancers.



MAGDALINA DE KINO, NEAR MAGDALINA DE KINO, SON. MARIA EDITOR/SONORA, C. QUERRENO



SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK The protected home of the slow-growing, iconic cactus of Arizona. The Tohono O'odham have long used its fruit for jam, syrups, and ceremonial wine, and its woody ribs for building shelters and fences.

LA PROVIDENCIA PETROGLYPHS Thousands of 1,000-year-old petroglyphs are easy to see on the rocky mountainsides. Pregnant animals, human stick figures and geometric designs of uncertain meaning.



SANTA MARIA MAGDALINA TEMPLE, NEAR MAGDALINA DE KINO, SON. MARIA EDITOR/SONORA, C. QUERRENO

## Arts

Arts take root in small towns, using their desert surroundings for inspiration. Major museums in Hermosillo and Phoenix exhibit the best of the region. Visit Ajo, Patagonia, Bisbee, and Tubac in Arizona, and Huachinera and Cananea in Sonora. You'll find energetic dance, lively music, inventive art, and contemporary crafts. Not to mention the creative attitudes that go with them. Many artists welcome visitors to peek in their studios behind the storefront galleries.

*Jess Davila, sculptor, Huachinera, Sonora*: "This was, frankly, a poverty-stricken village with its young leaving for education and bright lights. We've taken some land above the Bavispe River and we're turning it into a regional center for the arts."

*Michael Gregory, poet and arts activist, and Rose Johnson, artist, Bisbee, Arizona*: "I came here to get away from the art scene elsewhere, to find peace and escape to the frontier from standard art." *Rose*: "The strangeness of the desert comes through the art. When I painted my peace wall on Main Street I got a lot of support from the other artists." *Michael*: "We're not an arts colony. We're an arts community. At the Central School Project here intensely individualistic artists share one building. Every week or so, some event is open to the public."

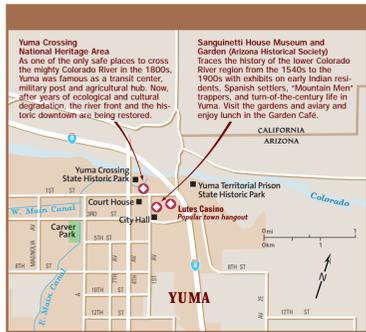


TOWN OF TUBAC This first European settlement in Arizona has gone from mining boomtown to ghost town to artists' colony. Walk the meandering streets to visit galleries, the Tubac Center of the Arts.



LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION DE CABORCA TEMPLE Exterior walls of white, twin-towered church built in 1809 display bullet holes from the successful 1857 attack by filibusters. U.S. military agitated.

music, dance, and literature. We've already built a sophisticated art gallery, and we're constructing other buildings right now. Our plans include extended workshops, with visitors staying in the homes of local residents. It's igniting the economy of this old ranching town with construction, culture, and the arts. The townspeople support us, and the youth—a lot are staying now."



Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area As one of the only safe places to cross the mighty Colorado River in the 1800s, Yuma was famous as a transit center. Military post and agricultural hub. Now, after years of ecological and cultural degradation, the river front and the historic downtown are being restored.



YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, YUMA, ARIZONA

## Yuma Crossing and Colorado River Delta

History has marched through this river crossing for centuries, from the Native Peoples (Kwapis, Quechans, and Mohaves) to conquistadors to gold rushers to César Chávez and his United Farm Workers. Recognizing the importance of this gateway to the American West, the U.S. Congress formally declared Yuma Crossing as a National Heritage Area in 2000. Its lifeline is the Colorado River, a once-muscular waterway now tamed and depleted by dams and diversion. The river offers visitors the chance to boat, fish, bird-watch, and hunt. The Mexico side of the Colorado River has lost most of its water, but the *Ciénega de Santa Clara*, a marshland created by accident, is now a splendid birding site. Daily passage across the border is a way of life for residents. Americans travel south to San Luis Rio Colorado for baseball and the upper Gulf of California. Mexicans cross north to Yuma for shopping and to visit family.

*Bob Lutes, part owner, Lutes Casino, Yuma*: "My Dad opened this restaurant in 1945. Our most popular item has always been the *especial*, a combination hot dog and hamburger. We've got all manner of junk on the walls, pool players on the floor, and domino players who they feel like it. Tourists and snowbirds come back year after year. We're pretty much an institution, though I'll never figure out why."

## Water

Desert dwellers are obsessed with water since they get so little of it. Numerous methods—man-made and natural, underground and surface—preserve what water they have and put it to good use. When thick summer clouds warn of impending deluges, humans and animals rush to take cover, and the cactus prepares for its annual big gulp.

extraordinary vistas of seasonal flowers, an eruption of colors and living organisms, and the rich experience of seeing rivers and arroyos full of a reddish liquid gushing between their banks." *Julia Fonseca, hydrologist, Tucson*: "Tucson's bone-dry Santa Cruz riverbed was a riverine mesquite forest into the 1940s. The only time it fills now is during the summer rain, the great secret of the Sonoran Desert. We're enchanted with desert storms and their smell. There's a real explosion of life in the monsoon season—sudden flowers, growing cactus. Outsiders don't appreciate the power and ferocity of our summer rain. The winter rain is lighter, steadier, and less intense. You can hear raindrops on the roofs. It gets stored in the soil, and you see results in springtime."



ELGIN VINEYARDS Elgin's iron-rich, gravelly soil is favorable for wine production. Tour the grounds of the award-winning Sonoma and Callaghan vineyards and sample wines.



ELGIN VINEYARDS Elgin's iron-rich, gravelly soil is favorable for wine production. Tour the grounds of the award-winning Sonoma and Callaghan vineyards and sample wines.

## Food and Produce

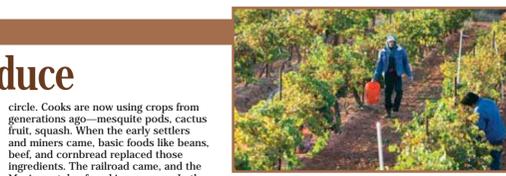
For a moment in the mid-20th century, Imuris, Sonora became the epicenter of Sonoran Desert food. There a modest restaurant opened featuring a new dish using old ingredients: cheese and flour. Doña María Ceferina Mejía Cortés has been serving *quesadillas*—warm flour tortillas folded over soft cheese—to hungry travelers ever since then, and seen their invention become a staple on menus throughout the region and beyond.

*Bordehands Folklorist Jim Griffin*: "I swear by street vendors in cities and food stands in the countryside. I usually stop for their *carne asada* (grilled beef). They sell it with cucumbers along with a green sauce made from chiles blended with avocado and pickled red onion. If you're lucky they'll also have grilled green onions with large bulbs. Lots of stands carry *quince* (mountain apple)



ELGIN VINEYARDS Elgin's iron-rich, gravelly soil is favorable for wine production. Tour the grounds of the award-winning Sonoma and Callaghan vineyards and sample wines.

and regional cheeses. People get creative and traditional at the same time—the Ronstlands have a family recipe of sweet bean tamales." *Regional cookbook author Carolyn Niehammer*: "Southwest ingredients have gone full



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circle. Cooks are now using crops from generations ago—mesquite pods, cactus fruit, squash. When the early settlers and miners came, basic foods like beans, beef, and cornbread replaced those ingredients. The railroad came, and the Mexican style of cooking grew up. In the early 1900s there was an explosion of culinary interest, with well-trained chefs who knew how to layer flavors coming to Arizona restaurants. There was renewed interest in the original foods. Now you can find Pima yellow watermelon on soup in Chandler and carnitas Napoleon with green chile-tomatillo sauce in Phoenix."

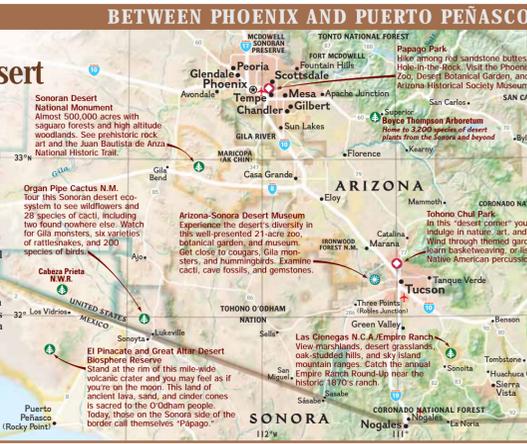


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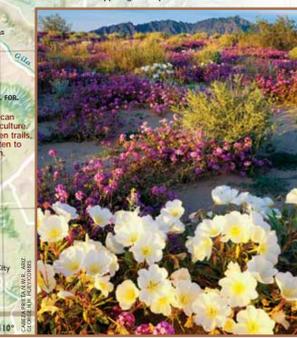
## BETWEEN PHOENIX AND PUERTO PEÑASCO

### BOUNTIFUL BEAUTY Heart of the Desert

Southwest of Phoenix you cross the bone-dry Gila River—the perfect habitat for that venomous "monster," the lizard whose name it shares. A town grew along the river, and for decades Gila Bend has been known for two distinct features: gateway to the Sonoran Desert National Monument, and the Space Age Lodge and Outer Limits Restaurant. South of Ajo, now making a valiant comeback from its copper years with retirement housing and the arts, the desert's heart thumps most proudly at the adjoining Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Pinalate Biosphere Reserve, with only the border in between. Organ Pipe, one of America's great public treasures, lies rich with lush cactus groves, brittlebrush, and hundreds more incomparable plants, an ecosystem troubled only by clandestine border crossings. South of the line, the Pinalate's extinct volcanoes, lava flows and sand dunes create a Twilight Zone ambience. In both, the secret allure is the air, its clarity and its weightlessness.



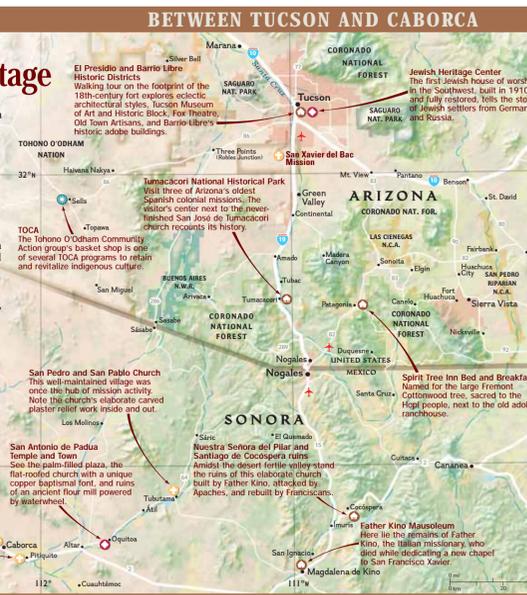
**CABEZA PRIETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** Recent rain sends waves of bloom across this refuge, shelter for pronghorn and over 300 other animals. It is best visited in cool weather with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The name—"black head" in Spanish—refers to a remote lava-topped granite peak.



## BETWEEN TUCSON AND CABORCA

### PASSIONATE PEOPLES A Spiritual Heritage

The Pima Indians—descendants of the Hohokam—were an agricultural folk with a developed economic, cultural, political, and linguistic system when the Italian harbored Jesuit, Eusebio Kino, appeared in the late 17th century and established missions on behalf of the Spanish monarchy and the Catholic Church. San Xavier del Bac, south of Tucson, is the only one whose congregation remains primarily the same people for whom Kino initially established the missions. There were some 15 of them in all, and while many have been destroyed and rebuilt and others have suffered water damage, today all exist a peaceful blend of history and spirituality.



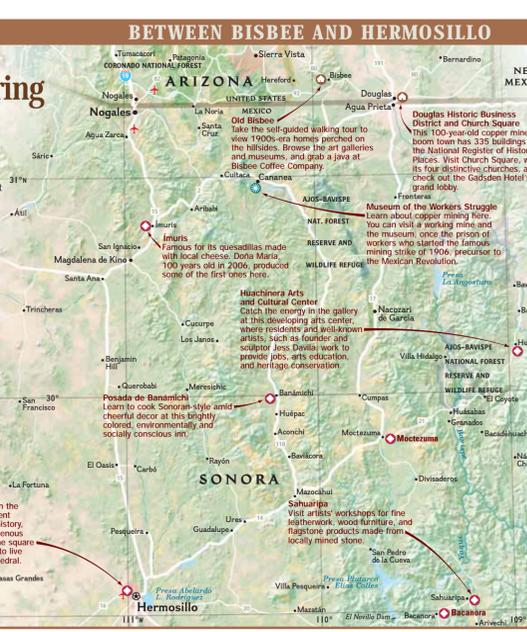
**SAN XAVIER DEL BAC MISSION** The 200-year-old restored church, founded by Father Kino and long protected by the sainted Tohono O'odham landowners, is an architectural marvel. Inside its six-foot stucco walls, domes and arches dazzle with color from paintings, carvings, frescoes and statues. Nearby are the mission school, a museum, and arts & crafts sales.



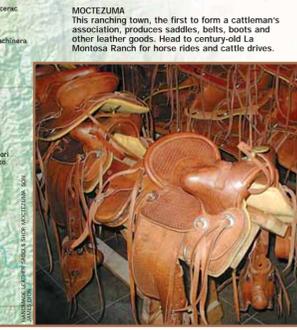
## BETWEEN BISBEE AND HERMOSILLO

### SOUL OF SONORA Cultural Wellspring

In this land of horses and rancheros, from the mountains to the southern anchor of the Sonoran Desert, lie the roots of Sonoran culture, of the cowboy way of life. Learn, for instance, the story of a 1957 horse race in Agua Prieta, when a chestnut named *Kelampago*, beat *El Moro*, the local favorite from the obscure central mountain pueblo of Cupmas, nearby Moctezuma, and neighboring pueblos are where the cowboy culture's roots grow deepest.



**BACANORA** Try the famous bacanora, a traditional drink made by many villagers for more than 300 years. The Sonoran liquor, produced from wild agave plants, was legalized in 1992.

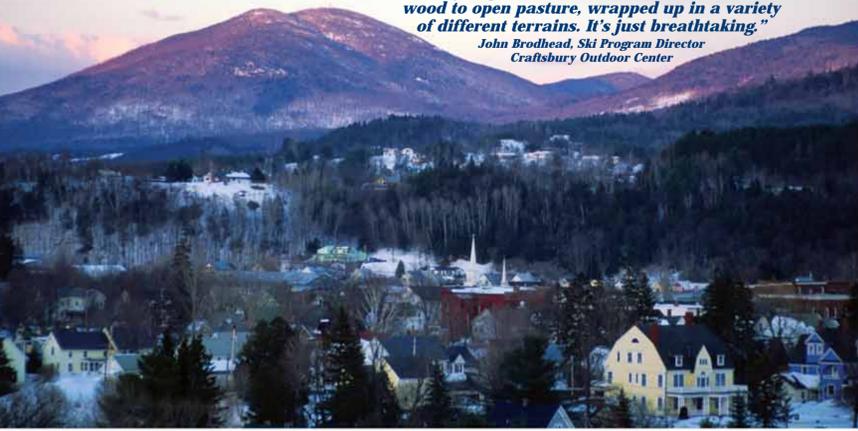


ELGIN VINEYARDS Elgin's iron-rich, gravelly soil is favorable for wine production. Tour the grounds of the award-winning Sonoma and Callaghan vineyards and sample wines.



**"The hills are dotted with little farmsteads. Perhaps even more spectacular are the big, big vistas you get. It's a mosaic—hardwood to softwood to open pasture, wrapped up in a variety of different terrains. It's just breathtaking."**

*John Brodhead, Ski Program Director  
Craftsbury Outdoor Center*



Chartered in 1780, Lyndonville makes a winter postcard. Early residents named localities and hills: Pudding Hill, Squabble Hollow, Mount Hunger, Owl'sboro, and Pleasant Street (for the fair ladies who lived here).

LYNDONVILLE

# WINTER Kingdom Vistas

Winter offers the year's most far-reaching views of a rolling northern countryside where people still farm the land and harvest the timber, keeping fields and views open. A revolution in outdoor sports and a region-wide network of trails has transformed the ways you can enjoy the outdoors.

- Outdoor sports: Craftsbury Outdoor Center for cross-country skiing ([www.craftsbury.com](http://www.craftsbury.com)); Highland Lodge and Nordic Ski Center, Caspian Lake (802-533-2647) for weekend guided snowshoe walks; Vermont Adventure Tours for ice climbing instruction ([www.vermontadventuretours.com](http://www.vermontadventuretours.com)).
- Downhill skiing: Jay Peak. (1-800-451-4449, [www.jaypeakresort.com](http://www.jaypeakresort.com)) or Burke Mountain, home to the nation's oldest ski academy. (1-888-BURKEVT; [www.skiburke.com](http://www.skiburke.com)).
- Fireside reading: Local authors include Howard Frank Mosher, Galway Kinnell, Leland Kinsey, Reeve Lingburgh, and Edward Hoagland at Green Mountain Books and Prints (Lyndonville, 802-626-5051) or the Galaxy Bookshop (Hardwick, 802-472-5533; [www.galaxybookshop.com](http://www.galaxybookshop.com)).

Exhibit 2



## FESTIVALS

1. Craftsbury Common, D5  
• Craftsbury Marathon Annual Race & Tour (late January)  
[www.craftsbury.com](http://www.craftsbury.com)
2. Jay, C1  
• Farmer's Appreciation Day (late January)  
[www.jaypeakresort.com](http://www.jaypeakresort.com)  
• Jay Peak Mardi Gras (late February)  
[www.jaypeakresort.com](http://www.jaypeakresort.com)  
• Vermont Telemark Festival (early December)  
[www.netelmark.com/Jay\\_Peak.htm](http://www.netelmark.com/Jay_Peak.htm)
3. Lyndonville, G7  
• Burklyn Arts Festival (early December)
4. Monroe, NH F10  
• North Country Chorus's Madrigal Dinner (January)  
[www.northcountrychorus.org](http://www.northcountrychorus.org)
5. St. Johnsbury, G8  
• First Night (December 31/January 1)  
• Victorian Holiday (early December)
6. New England Sled Dog Club Races (Region and date vary)  
[www.nesdc.org](http://www.nesdc.org)

JOHN DELEO:

## The Call of Snow-clad Hills and Icy Lakes

*"With long, cold days, abundant snow and sunny skies, people tend to want to be outdoors. This winter playground attracts all level of athletes with a variety of activities. You can ski down the groomed slopes at Burke Mountain and Jay Peak, or relax on a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Use caution as our roads can be muddy, greasy, or icy until packed snow creates a hard shell over dirt. People tolerate snow machines in winter, in part because the snow muffles the sound, but also as a handy way to get around. When trails are packed firm with snow, they're perfect for Nordic skiing or dog sledding. The trails crisscross the region, so you can ski solo in a quiet forest or compete in a lively race. Winter mountaineers like to scale the 300-foot cliffs of Mt. Pisgah, right above Lake Willoughby. Snowmobilers glide through frozen fields and woods, and there are ice shanties at lakes Averill and Crystal, ready for fishermen to catch trophy trout. Hunters search for snowshoe rabbits, and wildlife-watchers look for moose and deer."*

*—John Deleo, Professor of Recreation,  
Lyndon State College*



PIPEDREAM PITCH

Man against mountain, Alden Pelletier climbs Pipedream Pitch near Lake Willoughby. Adventurous mountaineers look for word to the formation of ice falls along these sheer cliffs.



MAIDSTONE

After cold winters, moose calves are born mid-May to early June. Watch out for protective mothers, especially in stands of balsam or birch!

## JASON BENOIT: Up and Doing: The Year's Busy Beginning

*"After a long winter, we really appreciate early signs of spring. The season definitely arrives later here, a month or so after the rest of the state. When sap starts to flow in the maple trees in March, even though there's snow still on the ground, we applaud the arrival of a new season."*

*"There are welcome sights to see and hear. The bloom of spring ephemeral wildflowers, of course, and the migration of amphibians to breeding pools. In early April wood frogs that survived the winter freeze leap through the last crust of ice into ponds. Be mindful then as well of the hundreds of spotted salamanders that scurry across roads at night. In the bogs, in mid-May, you can listen for the tapping call of milk frogs."*

*"When the sun warms up and the days start to lengthen, the spring peepers appear. Flowers like trout lily, spring beauty, and Dutchman's britches will leaf out and bloom before the canopy trees. Late May is also a good time to hear migratory birds, and see groups of warblers returning home."*

*—Jason Benoit, NorthWoods Stewardship Center*

A maple syrup bucket collects sap that is very mild in the beginning of the season. As the season ends, the sap is much stronger, good for making cooking syrup.



## FESTIVALS

1. Craftsbury Common, D5  
• Craftsbury Spring Fling (March)  
[www.craftsbury.com](http://www.craftsbury.com)
2. East Burke, H6  
• Burke Mountain Trout River Pond Skimming (late March)  
[www.skiburke.com](http://www.skiburke.com)
3. Hardwick, D7  
• Hardwick Mud Season Auction (April)  
• Hardwick Spring Festival and Craft Fair (Memorial Day)
4. Jay, B2  
• Jay Peak End of Season Party (April)  
[www.jaypeakresort.com](http://www.jaypeakresort.com)
5. West Danville, E9  
• Joe's Pond Ice Out Contest (April/May)  
[www.joespond.org/iceout.html](http://www.joespond.org/iceout.html)
6. Regional (multiple locations)  
• Green Up Vermont Day (early May)  
[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)  
• Maple Open House Weekend (March)  
[www.vermontmaple.org](http://www.vermontmaple.org)  
• Open Studio Weekend (Memorial Day)  
[www.vermontcrafts.com](http://www.vermontcrafts.com)

# SPRING

## The Flavor of Maple

Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring on a nature tour, or learn how maple syrup is made. Maple season is a special time when maple producers collect sap from sugar maples and boil it into pure Vermont maple syrup. Steam billowing from a sugarcure roof indicates that sap is boiling. Attend the annual Open House weekend in March, the official celebration of the maple season.

- Maple Farms: For the sweet taste of maple sugaring season, sample Couteur's Maple Shop and B&B (Westfield, 800-845-2733; [www.maplesyrupvermont.com](http://www.maplesyrupvermont.com)), Maple Grove Farms (St. Johnsbury, 802-748-5141; [www.maplegrove.com](http://www.maplegrove.com)), or Rowell Sugarhouse (West Danville, 802-563-2756), among many others. See [www.vermontmaple.org](http://www.vermontmaple.org) for a list of NEK sugar houses open to the public.
- Wildlife watching: Best place to view the rushing water and leaping trout of the Willoughby River is at Orleans Falls, just north of the Village of Orleans (Brownington Rd); View moose in the wallows (where they feed) along Hwy. 114 or Hwy. 105, through the Nulhegan Basin; the Basin's also a great place to view boreal birds, spruce grouse, and black-backed woodpeckers. See [www.birdtrail.org](http://www.birdtrail.org) for information on the Connecticut River Birding Trail.

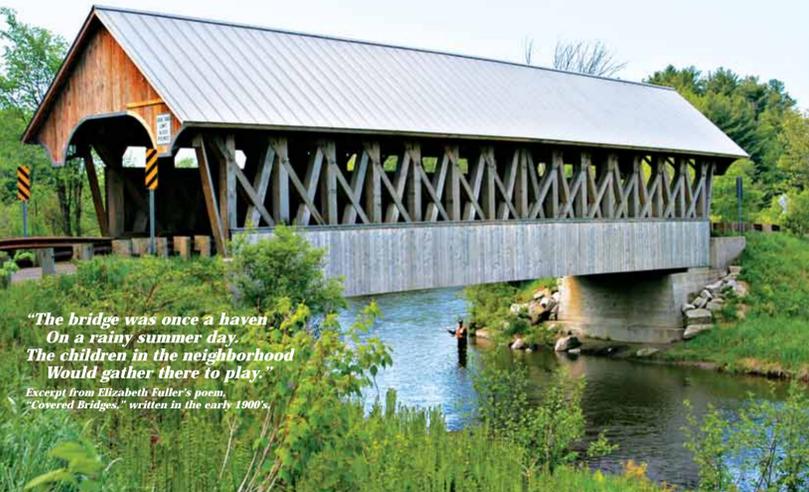
*"Sugarmaking is a project that you have to love to do because it's a lot of hard work. The family working together makes it more fun."*

*Martin Romeo  
Romeo Sugarhouse*



CONCORD

"On a good year, we tap 600 trees and make 250 gallons of syrup. Our oil-fired arch is more efficient than wood; a steady burn makes a better grade of syrup. You just have to pay attention when to pull it off the stove," says Martin Romeo, Romeo Sugarhouse, in Concord.



IRASBURG/COVENTRY

*"The bridge was once a haven. On a rainy summer day. The children in the neighborhood would gather there to play."*

*Excerpt from Elizabeth Fuller's poem, "Covered Bridges," written in the early 1900's*

With the original covered bridge lost to fire, this replica includes the symbolic 14-panel truss design used in the earlier Orme Bridge. The design pays tribute to Vermont's 14 counties. Vermont was also the 14th state to enter the union. The new covered bridge has restored travel between Irasburg and Coventry, across the Black River.

# SUMMER

## Hands-On Fun

Extended daylight and warm temperatures beckon outdoor enthusiasts to lakes, trails, and mountains. After a day's recreation, camp by one of the region's many glacial lakes ([www.campvermont.com](http://www.campvermont.com)) or in one of the Kingdom's state parks, like Maidstone in Guildhall ([www.vtstateparks.com](http://www.vtstateparks.com)).

- Outdoor Recreation: Kingdom Trails (East Burke, 802-626-0737; [www.kingdomtrails.org](http://www.kingdomtrails.org)) rated one of the best trail networks in the country for mountain bikers to find challenging downhill runs for all levels. NorthWoods Stewardship Center (East Charleston, [www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org)) offers ropes courses, hiking, guided birdwatching, and education programs. Outfitters in St. Johnsbury, Newport, and Island Pond will rent you kayaks, canoes, and bikes.
- Local history and arts: Weekly community bandstand concerts, Craftsbury Chamber Players (1-800-638-3443; [www.craftsburychamberplayers.org](http://www.craftsburychamberplayers.org)), the Bread & Puppet Museum (Glover, [www.breadandpuppet.org](http://www.breadandpuppet.org)), and local history museums in most towns offer a variety of learning.



## FESTIVALS

1. Barton, E4  
• Orleans County Fair (mid-August)  
[www.orleanscountyfair.org](http://www.orleanscountyfair.org)
2. Brownington, E3  
• Old Stone House Day (August)  
[www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org)
3. Colchester, NH/Canaan, VT L2  
• Moose Festival (last week of August)
4. Craftsbury Common, C5  
• Craftsbury Antiques and Uniques Festival (early July)
5. Danville, F8  
• Danville Fair (early August)  
[www.danvillevt.com](http://www.danvillevt.com)
6. East Albany, D4  
• Northeast Kingdom Music Festival (early August)  
[www.nekmt.com](http://www.nekmt.com)
7. Evansville, F3  
• Clan of the Hawk Craft Show (July)  
• Clan of the Hawk Powwow (August)  
[www.clanofthehawk.org](http://www.clanofthehawk.org)
8. Irasburg, D3  
• Irasburg Church Fair (late July)  
[www.vtcc.org/churches/irasburg.html](http://www.vtcc.org/churches/irasburg.html)
9. Jay, C1  
• Jay Challenge Annual 3-Day Off-Road Stage Race (late July)  
[www.jaychallenge.com](http://www.jaychallenge.com)
10. Lyndonville, G7  
• Burklyn Arts Festival (early July)  
• Caledonia County Fair (late August)  
[www.cfair.com](http://www.cfair.com)
11. Newport, E2  
• La Traversée Internationale (late July/early August)  
[www.ltiart.com](http://www.ltiart.com)
12. Peacham, E9  
• Peacham Fourth of July Gala  
[www.peacham.net/fourthofjulyindex.php](http://www.peacham.net/fourthofjulyindex.php)
13. St. Johnsbury, G8  
• Summer Works (early July)
14. Just across the border in Quebec (multiple locations)  
• Tour des Arts (mid-July)  
[www.tourdesarts.com](http://www.tourdesarts.com)

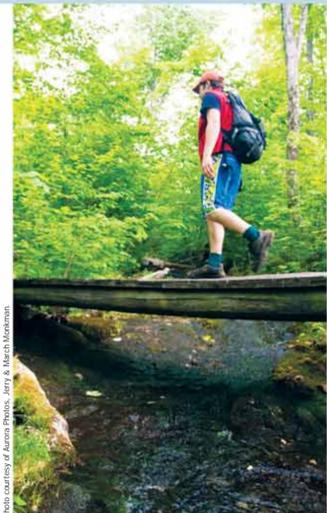
TIM TIERNEY:

## Long Days for Exploring the Kingdom's Trails

*"The plethora of lakes and waterways here lure canoeers, kayakers, fishermen, and wind surfers. You can take the kids kayaking on Casper or Echo Lake, then bank the boat and go off for a leisurely hike."*

*"Our system of multi-use, nonmotorized trails wind through farmland and hayfields and past sugar shacks. The trails attract active athletes, but also of the natural resources. Locals give back to the land through work trips, or by patrolling the trails to educate users. The volunteers say this stewardship actually enhances their recreation experience. After all, people want to take care of the character and qualities of the area."*

*—Tim Tierney, Kingdom Trail Association*



LEMINGTON

Hiker crossing stream on Monadnock Mountain in Lemington.



GROTON S.F.

Owl'shead is one of many easy, accessible trails you can hike in the Groton State Forest. At the top, climb the Old Stone Tower for great views.

## KEITH CHAMBERLAIN: Crisp Weather Brings Bountiful Harvest

*"Restaurants support local farmers and purveyors because a good establishment focuses on quality raw ingredients. Local produce and dairy are usually fresher, and therefore better quality. With help from the Vermont Fresh Network, restaurants like ours can buy direct from local farmers. That way we stimulate the economy, plus our guests get higher quality cuisine."*

*"Seasonally of the harvest means that our chefs bake breads in the morning, and use fresh-picked produce to prepare the evening dishes. We serve venison and rabbit dishes during hunting season. Blue plate specials may feature broiled haddock, macaroni and cheese, and broiled tomato. Farms supply restaurants with fresh milk and eggs year round."*

*"Cheese is always on the menu, whether as an all-Vermont specialty plate, or to enhance a dish or two. A couple of local favorites are Jasper Hill Farm's Bayley Hazen Blue and the French-style cheeses from La Fromagerie du Royaume—that's Neal's place. Don't be surprised if a cheesemaker stops in for dinner, and brings along a pound of cheddar for the chef."*

*—Keith Chamberlain, Elements restaurant*

Cabot Creamery has produced award-winning cheese for almost a century. The cooperative recently received the highest honor, World's Best Cheddar, at the World Championship Cheese Contest.

Photo courtesy of Cabot Creamery Cooperative.



## FESTIVALS

1. Barton, E4  
• Terry and Ben Clausen Memorial (October)  
• NorthEast Kingdom Lake Century Bike Tour (mid-September)
2. Cabot, D9  
• Cabot's October Apple Pie Festival (October)  
[www.cabotvt.us](http://www.cabotvt.us)
3. Danville, F8  
• Autumn on the Green (early October)  
[www.autumnonthegreen.com](http://www.autumnonthegreen.com)  
• Danville Methodist Game Supper (late November)
4. East Burke, H6  
• Burke Fall Festival (late September)  
[www.burkevermont.com](http://www.burkevermont.com)
5. Evansville, F3  
• Native American Day (October)  
[www.clanofthehawk.org](http://www.clanofthehawk.org)
6. Lancaster, K7  
• Lancaster Fair (September)  
[www.lancasterfair.com](http://www.lancasterfair.com)
7. North Troy, C1  
• Village Art Show (early October)  
[www.woodenhorsearts.com](http://www.woodenhorsearts.com)
8. Sheffield, F6  
• Sheffield Field Day Celebration (Labor Day)
9. St. Johnsbury, G8  
• Fairbanks Festival of Traditional Crafts (mid-September)
10. Regional (multiple locations)  
• Northeast Kingdom Fall Foliage Festival (early October)

# FALL

## Foliage and Festivals

Celebrate the season by paying homage to the harvest. Shop farmers markets or enjoy hayrides and corn mazes. Drive Burke Mountain Toll Road to see maple trees turn brilliant yellow and fiery red. Orange-tipped tamaracs blaze later in the season.

- Festivals: The Northeast Kingdom Fall Foliage Festival (early October) offers chicken pie and ham suppers, tours of local farms and art studios in seven villages ([www.nekchamber.com](http://www.nekchamber.com)); Cabot's Apple Pie Festival (mid-October, 802-563-3396); Danville Methodist Game Supper, the oldest in Vermont (November, [www.danvillevt.com](http://www.danvillevt.com)).
- Farmer's Markets: Start in the spring with new greens and continue to the fall harvest. Hardwick Farmer's Market (802-586-7372), Island Pond Farmers' Market (Fridays, 802-723-5963), Newport Farmers' Market (Wednesdays, Saturdays, 802-754-6917), Caledonia Farmers' Market, St. Johnsbury (Wednesdays, Saturdays, 802-626-8396). For a complete listing see [www.nofvt.org](http://www.nofvt.org).
- Community Game Suppers: Throughout the Kingdom. Check for listings in local newspapers.

Photo of fall foliage near St. Johnsbury courtesy of Stephen D. Musicko.



ST. JOHNSBURY

"Autumn in the Northeast Kingdom has more to do with the crunch of leaves beneath your feet as you hike a forgotten knoll than staring at a colorful mountainside from three miles away."

*Kari Stringer, Pure Country Motel and Cabins,  
Lake Wallace (near Canaan)*

## GEOTOURISM TRAVELERS' TIPS

### 1 What is geotourism?

The formal definition is, "tourism that sustains or enhances the geographic character of the place being visited—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents." In other words, travel for people who like distinctive places and care about protecting them.

### ALLIANCE MEMBERS

- Cabot Creamery  
[www.cabotcheese.com](http://www.cabotcheese.com)
- Connecticut River Byway  
[www.crivertravel.net](http://www.crivertravel.net)
- Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium  
[www.fairbanksmuseum.org](http://www.fairbanksmuseum.org)
- Kingdom Trails Association  
[www.kingdomtrails.org](http://www.kingdomtrails.org)
- Northeast Vermont Development Association  
[www.nvda.net](http://www.nvda.net)
- Northeast Kingdom Collaborative  
[www.nekcollaborative.org](http://www.nekcollaborative.org)
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont  
[www.nofvt.org](http://www.nofvt.org)
- The Northern Forest Canoe Trail  
[www.northernforestcanoe.org](http://www.northernforestcanoe.org)

NorthWoods Stewardship Center  
[www.northwoodscenter.org](http://www.northwoodscenter.org)

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge  
[www.fws.gov/ffscc](http://www.fws.gov/ffscc)

USDA Rural Development  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov)

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing  
[www.vermontvacation.com](http://www.vermontvacation.com)

Vermont Fresh Network  
[www.vermontfresh.net](http://www.vermontfresh.net)

Vermont Maple Foundation  
[www.vermontmaple.org](http://www.vermontmaple.org)

Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund  
[www.vsjf.org](http://www.vsjf.org)

Vermont WoodNet  
[www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org)

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
The Center for Sustainable Destinations at National Geographic seeks to use the economic leverage of responsible tourism to help protect and revitalize Earth's great places.  
[www.nation Geographic.com/travel/sustainable](http://www.nation Geographic.com/travel/sustainable)

The Mission of the Northeast Kingdom Trail and Tourism Association is to develop and support training and new community based tourism and recreation programs that exemplify the character of the Northeast Kingdom.  
[www.travelthekingdom.com](http://www.travelthekingdom.com)

The Nulhegan Gateway Association strives to coordinate community and economic development that will support the region's environmental stewardship and unique traditional character through education and advocacy activities. It has promoted cultural heritage tourism, sustainable business growth, and outdoor recreation by supporting development of a cultural heritage guide, the Nulhegan Fall Wildlife Refuge Friends group, water and hiking trail projects, the creative arts, and forestry and agricultural enterprises.  
[www.nulhegan.com](http://www.nulhegan.com)

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[www.uvm.edu](http://www.uvm.edu)