

## FREE AND CHEAP THINGS TO DO IN TUCSON WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

**Tanque Verde Swap Meet:** Bargains, bargains, bargains! From antiques to the latest technology, fresh veggies, crafts, new and used clothes, shoes, books, records & tools! You name it, you can probably find it out here. You can get your haircut, get a custom airbrush t-shirt, catch some entertainment, take the kids on rides or learn martial arts! [www.tucsonswap.com](http://www.tucsonswap.com)  
*Admission is free*

**Sabino Canyon:** Nestled in the Santa Catalinas north of the city, Sabino Canyon offers a wide range of adventures for beginners and experts alike. Outdoor adventurers can take on the rugged Seven Falls trail, a three-hour trek that crisscrosses over Sabino Creek and ends at the falls, which feature natural pools of water 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 along the wide, scenic path. [www.sabinocanyon.com](http://www.sabinocanyon.com) Free for walkers/hikers. \$5/car fee for vehicles. Tram: \$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children 3-12. Children 2 and under are free.

**Tucson Streetcar:** Gather your international friends and explore all the fun activities, venues and sights of downtown as you ride the rails together. <http://www.sunlinkstreetcar.com/> \$4 per person for all day pass

**Second Saturdays Downtown:** Grab some friends and head downtown! Every second Saturday of the month vendors, musicians and food trucks line the streets of downtown Tucson for your enjoyment. Many of the local restaurants and museums also offer discounts and deals. Go check it out! <http://saturday.elegantthought.com/>

**DeGrazia Gallery:** The DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun is a 10-acre retreat featuring a Gallery of DeGrazia art, a Mission, and the artist's home. The artist is Ted DeGrazia, beloved and well-known for his impressionistic paintings of the Southwest's native People. The buildings are works of art that DeGrazia built with the help of his Indian friends. Constructed of adobe, they feature walls and ceilings painted by his hand in the hues of the desert, and a unique cholla cactus walkway. The textures and colors serve as a backdrop for DeGrazia's artwork – paintings, lithographs, serigraphs, watercolors, ceramics and bronzes. [www.degrazia.org](http://www.degrazia.org) *Free admission.*

**Mount Lemmon:** Visit the Santa Catalina Mountains with a summit elevation of 9,159 feet. It is located in the Coronado National Forest north of Tucson and averages 200 inches of snow annually. Escape the summer heat, take a hike on a trail, have a picnic in the woods, witness the wonder of fall foliage, go off-roading on the backside of the mountain, build a snowman, satisfy your sweet tooth with homemade fudge and cookies, explore the general store and gift shop. [www.mtlemon.com](http://www.mtlemon.com) *Free if dining or shopping in Summerhaven. \$5/car for trail use. Summer Ski Lift Rides: Adult: \$10; Youth: \$7; child: \$5; Senior/Military: \$8*

**Mission San Xavier del Bac:** This "White Dove of the Desert" is located nine miles south of Tucson in the Santa Cruz Valley on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, the Mission is acclaimed as the finest example of mission architecture in the United States. San Xavier was built by the famed Jesuit missionary and explorer Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, who first visited Bac – "place where the water appears" – in 1692. The present church – an active parish – was built from 1783-1797, and is currently open every day of the year, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. [www.sanxaviermission.org](http://www.sanxaviermission.org) or [www.patronatosanxavier.org](http://www.patronatosanxavier.org) *Free admission.*

**Trail Dust Town:** What better place to experience the Wild West as screen on the big film than at Trail Dust Town! Take a train ride, circle around on the Carousel, see the sights from above on the Ferris Wheel, or watch an action packed Wild West Stunt Show!  
[www.traildusttown.com](http://www.traildusttown.com) Rides and amusements \$2. Stunt Show: \$4. Museum: adults \$3; children \$2

**The University of Arizona Museum of Art:** Located on the University of Arizona campus, 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. Apart from the permanent 15th century exhibit upstairs, there are changing exhibits around prominent artists and themes. [www.artmuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.artmuseum.arizona.edu) \$5 adults; Free for museum members, students with ID, faculty and staff, military personnel, AAM members, and children

**The Arizona State Museum:** Established in 1893, Arizona State Museum is the largest and oldest anthropology museum in the Southwestern United States. Located on the University of Arizona's midtown Tucson campus, the Smithsonian Institution-affiliated museum is home to the largest Southwest Indian pottery collection in the world, featuring 20,000 specimens. Guests can see more than 150,000 archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, and a quarter-million prints and photo negatives. The museum highlights the artifacts and histories of the Mogollon, O'odham and Hohokam Indian cultures, and possesses one of the country's best Navajo textile collections. [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu) \$5 adults 18+; free youth and students with ID; Free on Public program days

**Southern Arizona Transportation Museum:** The transcontinental railroad, western heroes and outlaws, 1940s gangsters, and 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. [www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org](http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org) Free admission.

**Center for Creative Photography:** Over the past few decades, the art of photography has found a home in Tucson, at the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography. The Center was created in 1975 with the help of famed photographer Ansel Adams, and today houses the archives of more than 50 renowned 20th century artists, the likes of Adams, Edward Weston, Richard Avedon and Lola Alvarez Bravo. The CCP also boasts a Polaroid Library (with more than 26,000 volumes on the history of photography), as well as more than 100 periodicals, rare books and personal book collections of photographers such as W. Eugene Smith. [www.creativephotography.org](http://www.creativephotography.org) Free admission.

**The Presidio Trail:** Also known as the "Turquoise Trail," the Presidio Trail is a historical walking tour of Downtown Tucson. The tour – designed as a loop around Downtown's historic sites – is roughly 2.5 miles long, and lasts between 1.5 and 2 hours. The trail itself follows a turquoise-colored line that winds around downtown, past more than 20 restaurants. The tour includes 23 points of interest and nine optional sites to visit. 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 Tucson, and coils through the city from there. [www.tucsonpresidio.com/turquoise-trail](http://www.tucsonpresidio.com/turquoise-trail) Free; self-guided.

**Arizona Historical Society Museum:** The Fort Lowell Museum resides in the reconstructed 1873 Commanding Officer's quarters of historic Fort Lowell, an Army post where

more than 250 soldiers and officers once patrolled the U.S.-Mexico border and protected Southern Arizona's settlers and goods. The post was abandoned in 1891-after the end of the Apache Indian wars-and today houses informative exhibits on military life on the Arizona frontier. [www.arizonahistoricalociety.org](http://www.arizonahistoricalociety.org) Admission \$3 adults, \$2 seniors and 12-18; 11 & under are free

**Tucson Museum of Art:** The mission of The Tucson Museum of Art 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. [www.tucsonmuseumofart.org](http://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org) *The first Sunday of the month, TMA offers free admission! (otherwise, \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; free for children)*

**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 Garden, the Butterfly Garden, the Backyard Bird Garden, the Cactus and Succulent Garden and more-located on the historic 1920s property of Tucson's Porter Family. [www.tucsonbotanical.org](http://www.tucsonbotanical.org) **May to Sept** \$8 Adults; \$7 Student/Senior/Military; \$4 Children 4-12; **Oct to Apr** \$13 Adults; \$7.50 Children 4-12; Children 3 and under and Members are always free!

**Reid Park Zoo:** Tucson's zoo features more than 400 animals, from elephants and rhinos to lions and polar bears. With regions of the park devoted to South American, African and Asian animals, Reid Park Zoo allows adults and children alike to view and learn about a wide variety of exotic animals, such as jaguars, anteaters, gibbons, zebras and giraffes. "The Flight Connection"-a full-flight, walk-through aviary-lets visitors explore the many different aspects of bird life. [www.reidparkzoo.org](http://www.reidparkzoo.org) \$9 adults; \$5 children 2-14 years; Free for children under 2. *Sometimes the refugee resettlement agencies have free tickets or the zoo offers a free day for non-profit organizations.*

**Tucson Children's Museum:** This nonprofit museum is Southern Arizona's interactive museum for kids, featuring 10 fascinating galleries of hands-on exhibits that allow children to participate in challenging activities. With fun exhibits such as Dinosaur World-highlighted by four life-sized robotic-animated dinosaurs-and Fire Station-which lets kids wear firefighting gear and climb into a real fire truck-the Tucson Children's Museum helps kids learn about nature, science, safety and more, all while having fun! [www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://www.childrensmuseumtucson.org) \$8 general admission; Free for children under 2; 2nd Saturdays is \$2 admission

**Kitt Peak National Observatory:** The world's largest collection of optical telescopes is found high above the Sonoran Desert at 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, overseas site operations on Kitt Peak. Explore the Visitor Center exhibits and gift shop to learn about astronomy. Take a tour and discover how astronomers use telescopes to unlock the mysteries of the Universe. Visit the National Solar Observatory exhibit gallery and watch scientists operate the world's largest solar telescope. [www.noao.edu/outreach/kpvc](http://www.noao.edu/outreach/kpvc) *Free admission to visitors center; Guided tour pricing: adults \$9, children \$3.25*

**The University of Arizona Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium:** The UofA Science Center brings together the University and local communities to inspire the teaching and

learning of science, technology, environmental sustainability and much more. Located on the UofA campus, this is the place to go for astronomy buffs for all ages. 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. [www.flandrau.org](http://www.flandrau.org) \$7 Adults; \$5 Children; Observatory FREE Thurs-Sat from 7pm-10pm, but call ahead to make sure it is open.

**Saguaro National Park:** Those in search of a trek through the classic, towering Saguaro cacti for which the Sonoran Desert is famous can set out on the many trails in Saguaro National Park in the Tucson Mountains just west of the city. At the park, take on the short, half-mile Signal Hill Trail – a perfect adventure for kids. The mostly flat, out-and-back trail leads to the Signal Hill Petroglyphs – ancient rock art created by the extinct Hohokam tribe. The trail takes hikers across a wash and up a hill of dark basalt rock, to the Signal Hill Overlook, where the thousand-year-old circular petroglyphs and other geometric rock art shapes are clearly visible on the hilltop stones. [www.saguaronationalpark.com](http://www.saguaronationalpark.com) \$10 per car.

**Driving Tour of Tucson:** Load a car up with friends and visit some important landmarks across Tucson... like Reid Park, Trail Dust Town, La Paloma and make a stop at an Eegees to introduce your friends to a Tucson treat.

**And here's some special events that provide great opportunities for fun with your international friends!**

Rodeo Parade (Feb)

World Refugee Day (June)

International Thanksgiving (Nov)

Winter Haven Lights (Dec)