

## Attractions in Tucson

Review the following list of interesting things to do while you are in Tucson for the ISPN Conference. Thanks to Judy Nolen, a member of the Conferences Committee, for compiling this list. Visit the Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau website at <http://www.visittucson.org> for even more information about this beautiful area.

DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun is about two miles from the Westin LaPaloma Resort ( <http://degrazia.org> ). Ted DeGrazia used many mediums in his art and the studio is now in what was his home when he was alive. There is a little chapel there built by him. Hours are 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. with free admission.

Sabino Canyon is about five miles from the Westin LaPaloma Resort and is a beautiful natural canyon of the Santa Catalina Mountains with Sabino Creek running through it. There are hiking trails and also a 45 minute tram ride up the Canyon (3.8 miles) which is narrated. The cost of the tram tour is \$8.00 for adults. Visit their website at <http://sabinocanyon.com>

La Encantada is an upscale mall about 1.5 miles from the Westin LaPaloma Resort. Visit [www.laencantadashoppingcenter.com](http://www.laencantadashoppingcenter.com)

Additional shopping malls in the area are the Tucson Mall ( <http://www.tucsonmall.com> ), Park Mall ( <http://www.parkplacemall.com> ) and Foothills Mall ( <http://www.shopfoothillsmall.com> )

San Xavier Del Bac Mission originated in 1699 when Father Kino came here and developed the mission for the Papago Indians (now Tohono O'odham). It is still on the Tohono O'odham reservation just south of Tucson. The current church was built in 1783-1797, and is still a functioning Catholic parish. It has been restored using the same methods currently used by the Vatican. There are also Native American artisans selling their wares (much jewelry) adjacent to the mission. Visit <http://www.sanxaviermission.org>

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum is a unique combination of zoo (animals natural to this area), natural history museum, and botanical garden. It is 14 miles west of downtown Tucson. The entry cost is \$12 and it is open from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at this time of year. Visit their website at <http://www.desertmuseum.org> for more information.

Old Tucson Studios was originally built in the late 1940s. Many western movies and television shows have been filmed there over the years including many John Wayne films, Little House on the Prairie and Father Murphy. It burned a number of years ago but has been rebuilt and offers live shows and stunts among the sets. It is open from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and April 1-3 is Wild West Days. Visit

their website at <http://www.oldtucson.com> . It is located approximately 12 miles west of downtown Tucson.

The Arizona Historical Society is a half block from the University of Arizona campus and houses many historical artifacts about Southern Arizona starting with the Conquistadores that explored the area, the cowboys, mining (even has a simulated mine built in the museum). A couple of hours at the museum is enjoyable and gives the visitor a good view of the history of the area. Admission is \$5.00 and the hours are 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Visit their website <http://www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org>

A few blocks away on the University of Arizona Campus is the Arizona State Museum which focuses on the cultures of Arizona, the American Southwest, and Northern Mexico. Many archeological artifacts are available for viewing. It is open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with a \$5 admission fee. Visit their website at <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu>

Fort Lowell Park has some of the original buildings from Fort Lowell, an army post from the 1800's, showing the frontier border. Visit their website at [http://oflna.org/fort\\_lowell\\_museum/ftlowell.htm](http://oflna.org/fort_lowell_museum/ftlowell.htm)

Pima Air and Space Museum is across from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and houses 300 restored planes and spacecraft. Because of the dry desert, Tucson is considered the boneyard for housing planes. It is a large area with much walking. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. but no entry after 4:00 p.m. Visit their website at <http://www.pimaair.org>

Saguaro National Park has two sites, one east of Tucson in the Rincon Mountains and one west of Tucson in the Tucson Mountains. Both have many of the old saguaro cacti so unique to the area. Hiking and biking trails are also available. Visit their website at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm>

Gaslight Theater is a local theater with their own cast of performers. They put on shows that are theme-based and are comedic in style. It includes singing and dancing and they take old songs and make-up words to fit the theme. Lots of laughter and fun! Visit their website at <http://www.thegaslighttheatre.com>

Further away is the town of Tombstone (yes it does exist and is a great tourist attraction). Visit their website at <http://www.tombstoneweb.com>

Karshner Caverns ( <http://www.pr.state.az.us/parks/KACA/index.html> ) is a huge system of caves which opened about ten years ago and is located about an hour away from Tucson.

Colossal Cave ( <http://www.colossalcave.com/welcome.html> ) is closer and smaller. It is near Saguaro National Park.