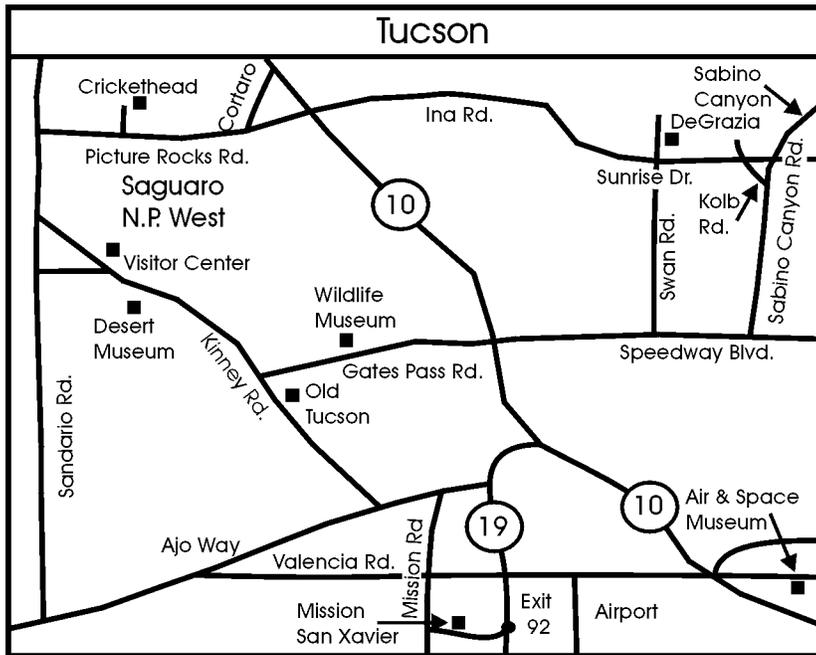


## The Day Before Day One

We recommend traveling to Arizona in the morning to get a bonus afternoon in the area. It's nice to squeeze more out of a day when you can arrange it.

What is there to do in Tucson that isn't in the seven-day tour? It can be a lot! Here are two suggestions: the Mission San Xavier del Bac, and the Pima Air and Space Museum. If you have still more time, see the list of "Alternative Attractions" at the end of Day One.

If you only have time for one attraction, we recommend the mission. To get there from Tucson International Airport, drive west on Valencia Rd., then south on Interstate 19 to Exit 92, and follow the signs to the mission. This map should help:



### Mission San Xavier del Bac

Located on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, San Xavier del Bac is the northernmost mission of a series established in Mexico, and now Arizona, in the 1600s and 1700s by Jesuit missionary Eusebio Francisco Kino. Mission San Xavier del Bac (say "ha-vee-air dell bock") is considered the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the

United States, and is a National Historic Landmark. The current structure was built by the Papago Indians and the Franciscan friars over a period of 14 years, when in 1768 the friars took over the mission. They continue to minister to the local American Indians to this day. (The name Papago [“bean eaters”] was given to them by Caucasians, but they prefer to be known by the name Tohono O’odham [“desert people”].) Tohono O’odham is pronounced, “toe-ho-no oh ode-um.”

Often called “The White Dove of the Desert,” Mission San Xavier’s external architecture is a beautiful blend of Moorish, Byzantine and late Mexican Renaissance styles (see the photograph in the front pages of this book). This structure is a gem inside and out. As you enter, you’ll be especially impressed by the richly ornamented altar/backdrop—mostly painted/gilded flat plaster walls—and the beautiful white vaulted ceiling that crowns the sanctuary. There are no marble or mosaics here, as in the great European cathedrals, and the statuary is striking. Visitors are encouraged to touch the reclining image of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of the mission.

The interior was most recently restored over a five-year period in the 1990s by an international team of conservators, portrayed in a fascinating 25-minute film that runs continually. Try to see it, and also to browse the interesting historical exhibits in the mission’s small museum.

Mission San Xavier del Bac is open to visitors 8am-5pm, every day of the year; 1950 W. San Xavier Road; 520-294-2624; *www.sanxaviermission.org*.

### **Pima Air and Space Museum**

To reach the Pima Air and Space Museum from the airport, drive a little over five miles (8 kilometers) east on Valencia Road, you’ll find it on your right (see the preceding map).

The museum is easily seen as a self-guided tour, using the map provided as you enter; or if you prefer, take a docent-led walking tour of the hangars (included with museum price of admission).

Displayed in five large hangars, and outside on the grounds, are more than 275 aircraft and spacecraft from military, commercial and civil aviation. They range in size from the world’s smallest plane—the “Bumble Bee,” in Hangar 1, with a length of 8’10” (2.7 meters) and a wingspan of 5’6” (1.7 m)—to NASA’s “Super Guppy,” which is 143’10” (43.8 m) long, has a wingspan of 156’3” (47.6 m), and of course, sits outside.

Aerospace enthusiast or not, you’ll want to board Air Force One, the aircraft used by Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson from 1961 to 1965, also outside. Johnson was sworn-in on this aircraft after Kennedy’s assassination. You’ll enjoy seeing the “Wright Flyer Replica” in

Hangar 1; the sleek 2,000-mph (3,219-km/hr) SR-71 “Blackbird” in the Spirit of Freedom Hangar; a WW II German “Buzz Bomb” in Hangar 3; and the B-29 “Superfortress” in Hangar 4.

Across the street at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, is the “Boneyard”, where several thousand military aircraft are mothballed in the desert; 90-minute, docent-narrated motor coach tours of the boneyard are available at extra cost (except on holidays and weekends, when it’s closed).

Open 9am-5pm, seven days a week except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Last admission is at 4pm; food is available from 10am-4pm. 6000 E. Valencia Rd.; 520-574-0462; [www.pimaair.org](http://www.pimaair.org).

### **A Unique Desert B&B**

*Simply put, we believe that the Crickethead Inn B&B does double duty: both as lodging for the night and as another wonderful attraction.*

To get there from Mission San Xavier del Bac or Pima Air and Space Museum, using the preceding map, take Mission-Ajo-Kinney-Sandario-Picture Rocks Roads (on Kinney, you’ll pass the two attractions that you’ll be visiting tomorrow) Or, take Valencia-Ajo-Sandario-Picture Rocks Roads.

The Crickethead Inn is just the kind of unique place where you can get close to the land and local people, to more fully appreciate the real Arizona. You’ll find this comfortable B&B, located on 20 acres (8.1 hectares) of authentic, unspoiled desert to be unusual, unpretentious and largely hidden by desert growth around it—isolated and rustic, which to us is a large part of its appeal. Used as a base from which to explore the Tucson area, staying at this B&B is a great way to deepen your desert experience. For the best scenic view, ask for a room in the guesthouse.

Just imagine that you’re: sitting at the inn’s kitchen table and watching coyotes, quail, grey foxes and javelinas come to the water hole to drink; or taking an early morning walk from the B&B past 40 kinds of cacti, toward a beautiful mountain ridge in adjacent Saguaro National Park; or standing surrounded by an incomparable desert sunset (straight out of *Arizona Highways* magazine; see photo inside front cover), with saguaro cacti silhouetted against a blazing red sky (see front cover photo). The risk is very low, but ask the owner, Mike Lord how to avoid potentially dangerous critters while walking in the desert.

The Crickethead Inn was built by Mike, who has lived in the area all his life; he and his Balinese wife, Wayan, will be your excellent hosts. Breakfasts and sleeping rooms are what you’d expect from a good B&B, and you’ll find furniture, musical instruments and many mementos from Indonesia, where Mike and Wayan visit every summer (June through August, when the B&B is closed).

The Crickethead Inn is located at 9480 Picture Rocks Road, 520-682-7126, [www.cricketheadinn.com](http://www.cricketheadinn.com). (The driveway is difficult to find—avoid arriving in the dark.) If the Crickethead Inn is unavailable, try one of the lodgings listed below.

\* \* \* \* \*

### It's Dinnertime!

If you stay at Crickethead or Casa de Angeles, we recommend the following restaurants.

- **El Molinito**, Mexican cuisine, located just east of I-10 Exit 248 at 3675 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85741, 520-744-1188, [www.elmolinitos.com](http://www.elmolinitos.com), \$.
- **La Parilla Suiza**, Mexican, just east of I-10 Exit 248 at 4250 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85741, 520-572-7200; [www.laparillasuiza.com](http://www.laparillasuiza.com), \$\$.
- **Little Abner's**, steakhouse, about 1-1/2 miles (2.4 km) north of Cortaro at 8501 N. Silver Bell Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-744-2800, no website, suggest you “Google” it and read Trip Advisor reviews, \$\$\$.
- **Roma Caffe**, Italian, just east of I-10 Exit 248 at 4140 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85741, 520-744-2929; [www.romacaffe.com](http://www.romacaffe.com), \$.
- **Vero Amore**, pizza, located about 4 miles (6 km) east of junction of I-10 and Tangerine Rd. at 12130 N. Dove Mountain Blvd., Marana, AZ 85658, 520-579-2292, new restaurant, no website as of publication of this book (see original location's website, [www.veroamorepizza.com](http://www.veroamorepizza.com)), \$-\$\$.
- An alternative, if fast food suits you, might be the Subway sandwich shop in the mini-mart of the Arizona Fuel gas station, three miles (5 km) west of the Crickethead Inn, at the intersection of Picture Rocks and Sandario Roads.

If you stay at Casa Tierra, Dunn's Way or La Zarzuela, we suggest that you ask the innkeepers for their restaurant recommendations.

If you choose to stay overnight in Tucson proper, we recommend the following restaurants; for others ask your innkeeper or front desk person, or visit [www.visittucson.org](http://www.visittucson.org) (culinary):

- **Buddy's Grill**, American, located about five miles (8 km) east of I-10 at 4821 E. Grant Rd., Tucson, AZ 85712, 520-795-2226, [www.buddysgrill.com](http://www.buddysgrill.com), \$-\$\$.
- **El Charro Mexican Café**, five locations in Tucson, the original is at 311 N. Court St., Tucson, AZ 85701, 520-622-1922, [www.elcharrocafe.com](http://www.elcharrocafe.com), \$-\$\$.

### Ginnodo-recommended Bed and Breakfasts

These are B&B's that are most convenient to the main attractions mentioned in this book. All require a two-night minimum stay. If you prefer to stay in a downtown Tucson location, visit [www.visittucson.org](http://www.visittucson.org), [www.bbonline.com/az](http://www.bbonline.com/az), [www.arizona-bed-breakfast.com](http://www.arizona-bed-breakfast.com) and/or [www.bedandbreakfast.com](http://www.bedandbreakfast.com).

- **Crickethed Inn B&B**, located about 8 miles (13 km) west of I-10 and Ina Rd. at 9480 Picture Rocks Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-682-7126, no fax, [www.crickethedinn.com](http://www.crickethedinn.com), closed Memorial Day-Labor day (approx. May 25-Sept. 7; you can leave messages during that time about reservations), \$.
- **Casa de Angeles Bed and Breakfast**, located about 4 miles (6 km) northeast of I-10 Exit 246 at 4655 W. Flying Diamond Dr., Tucson, AZ 85742, 520-744-1503, fax 520-579-3933, [www.casadeangeles.com](http://www.casadeangeles.com), \$\$.
- **Casa Tierra**, located about ¼-mile southeast of junction of Sandario and W. Mile Rds. at 1115 West Calle Pima, Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-578-3058, 866-254-0006, no fax, [www.casatierratucson.com](http://www.casatierratucson.com), \$\$-\$\$\$.
- **Dunn's Way Bed and Breakfast**, located about ¼-mile south of Gates Pass Rd. at 4975 W. Via Scaramuzzo, Tucson, AZ 85745, 520-629-9649, 866-629-9600, fax 520-622-0403, [www.dunnswaybb.com](http://www.dunnswaybb.com), closed May 16-September 14, \$\$-\$\$\$.
- **La Zarzuela, A Bed and Breakfast Inn**, located about ½-mile south of Gates Pass Rd. at 455 N. Camino de Oeste, P.O. Box 86030, Tucson, AZ 85754, 888-848-8225, fax 520-903-2617, [www.zarzuela-az.com](http://www.zarzuela-az.com), closed June 16-September 15 (reservations may be made online during that time), \$\$\$\$.

### AAA- or Mobil-recommended Motels/Hotels That Are Most Convenient to the Main Attractions in This Book

Located at Ina and Interstate 10/Exit 248:

- **Comfort Inn North**, 4930 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-579-7202, [www.comfortinn.com](http://www.comfortinn.com), \$-\$\$.
- **Red Roof Inn**, 4940 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743, 520-744-8199, [www.redroof.com](http://www.redroof.com), \$.

Located at Cortaro and Interstate 10/Exit 246:

- **Best Western Continental Inn**, 8425 N. Cracker Barrel Rd., Marana, AZ 85743, 520-579-1099, fax 520-579-6938, [www.bestwesternarizona.com](http://www.bestwesternarizona.com), \$.
- **Holiday Inn Express Marana**, 8373 Cracker Barrel Rd., Marana, AZ 85743, 520-572-4777, 1-800-HOLIDAY, [www.IHG.com](http://www.IHG.com), \$.

**Woodall's-recommended RV Parks and Campgrounds That Are Most Convenient to the Main Attractions in This Book**

- **Gilbert Ray Campground**, in Pima County's Tucson Mountain Park, off Kinney Rd. north of Aho Way; 520-877-6000, no fax, [www.pima.gov/nrpr/camping](http://www.pima.gov/nrpr/camping), 130 of 138 sites with electric hookups.
- **Rincon Country West**, ½ mile south of Ajo Way at 4555 S. Mission Rd., Tucson, AZ 85746; 520-294-5608, fax 520-294-0303, [www.rinconcountry.com](http://www.rinconcountry.com), 1083 50-amp sites, 1083 with full hookups.
- **Tra-Tel Tucson RV Park**, ½ mile south of Prince Rd. & I-10 at 2070 W. Ft. Lowell, Tucson, AZ 85705; 520-888-5401, 800-444-7822, no fax, [www.tra-tel.com](http://www.tra-tel.com), 66 sites 60 with full hookups.
- **Valley of the Sun Mobile Home & RV Park**, located ½ mile south of I-10 and Sandario at 13377 N. Sandario Rd., Marana, AZ 85653; 520-682-3434, fax 520-682-2447, [www.valleyofthesunrv.com](http://www.valleyofthesunrv.com), 143 50-amp sites, 143 with full hookups..
- **Western Way RV Resort**, located about six miles northwest of Ajo Way at 3100 S. Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85713; 520-578-1715, no fax, [www.wrvresort.com](http://www.wrvresort.com), 300 50-amp sites, 300 with full hookups.