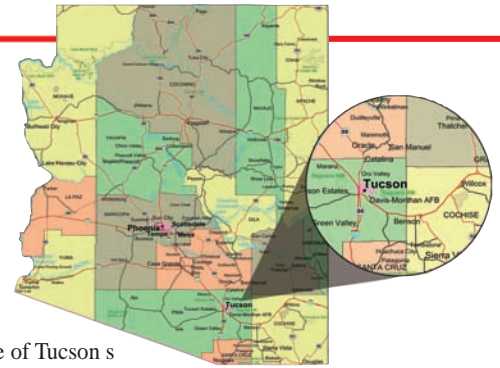


# Tucson



Verde Valley features Spanish haciendas, Southwestern ranches, and Santa Fe and Contemporary housing styles. Winterhaven, one of Tucson's oldest subdivisions, offers midcentury bungalows. In addition to these neighborhoods, Tucson has many golf and retirement communities. Some of Tucson's oldest structures can be found in Barrio Historico, once the center for Tucson's Mexican/Spanish community, which has preserved its distinctly Mexican flavor with flat-roofed adobe (mud-brick) houses and roofs made from saguaro ribs and packed dirt.

Located in the Sonoran Desert, Tucson, Arizona's second largest city, lies in a region that blends the cultures of the United States and Mexico and has a long history of settlement by ancient Native American peoples, Spanish explorers, and Anglo frontiersmen.

The Downtown, the historic and cultural heart of Tucson, encompasses an area that represented the entire city before 1900. Currently, 21 National Register Historic Districts are within the city limits. Two cultural resource parks—Vista del Rio and Julian Wash—contain significant archaeological resources. The reconstructed northeast corner and tower of the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson, part of the original Spanish fort, provides living history demonstrations, reenactments, and special tours. Other landmarks include the old Pima County Courthouse, St. Augustine Cathedral, the Charles O. Brown House, Hotel Congress, the Fox and Rialto Theatres, Temple of Music and Art, La Casa Cordova, El Tiradito "The Wishing Shrine", and two historic train depots. The downtown is home to multiple cultural attractions, including the Arizona Historical Society Museum Downtown; Jewish Heritage Center; La Pilita Museum; MOCA (Museum Of Contemporary Art); Presidio San Agustín del Tucson museum; Sosa-Carrillo-Fremont House Museum; Southern Arizona Transportation Museum; Tucson Museum of Art; Tucson Children's Museum; and a professional theater, opera, ballet, and symphony.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Tucson has 129 parks and playgrounds, including 25 with pools and 6 with off-leash dog areas. In addition, the city operates 5 golf courses and the Reid Park Zoo, which houses hundreds of animals in naturalistic exhibits. The Tucson Botanical Gardens promotes responsible and appropriate use of plants and water in a desert environment. Tucson is located between the Coronado National Forest and Tucson Mountain County Park, which have a variety of activities including hiking, camping, birding, horseback riding, and picnicking.

Tucson hosts two Major League Baseball teams for Spring Training at Hi-Corbett Field and Tucson Electric Park. La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, also known as the Tucson Rodeo, is week-long celebration that includes one of the country's top 20 professional rodeos and the world's longest nonmotorized parade

## TUCSON'S NEIGHBORHOODS

The Downtown's residential neighborhoods include nine National Register Historic Districts, with a variety of architectural styles that show the successive cultures in Tucson. For example, one of Tucson's first historic districts, Armory Park, features Victorian and Mission style homes, mature street trees, ornamental lamps, and large lawns. El Presidio, Tucson's earliest neighborhood, contains diverse building styles and many of Tucson's distinguished historic homes. Lofts, condominiums, apartments, and single-family detached homes are available or under construction in the area.

Beyond the downtown, Tucson's residential neighborhoods are also diverse. Civano, a pioneer of environmentally conscious neighborhoods, is a planned community that utilizes "green" building techniques and offers traditional and neoclassical houses with narrow, tree-lined streets, front porches, and garages along the alleyways. The Sam Hughes neighborhood, located near the University of Arizona, features wide streets, an eclectic mix of old (including some historic) homes and new homes, and a wide range of housing prices. Tucson's northeast Tanque

## EDUCATION

Tucson is served primarily by the Tucson Unified School District. However, because the city expanded by annexing subdivision developments in the unincorporated county area, some portions of the city are served by Amphitheater Unified School District, Sunnyside Unified School District, and Vail Unified School District. Tucson also has charter and private schools.

The University of Arizona offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. The University's Arizona Health Sciences Center (AHSC) includes the UA Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. The Art Center Design College and The Art Institute of Tucson offer bachelors and associate degrees in the arts. Many colleges offer associate degrees in such fields as business, technology, health care, or legal studies, including Pima Community College, Brown Mackie College, IIA College, Apollo College, and Tucson College

## HEALTH CARE

The 6 hospitals serving Tucson operate almost 2,000 beds. The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) is a 283-bed hospital providing primary care and subspecialty health care in numerous medical areas for eligible veterans. In addition, 2 facilities offer long-term acute care beds.

### CITY STATS

(2007)

City Population	525,529
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	996,593
Per capita personal income, Tucson MSA (2007):	\$31,755