

# ARIZONA

GRAND CANYON STATE

## Travel Classics West Pre-Tour Up, Down and All Around Southeastern Arizona (Maximum of 6 participants)

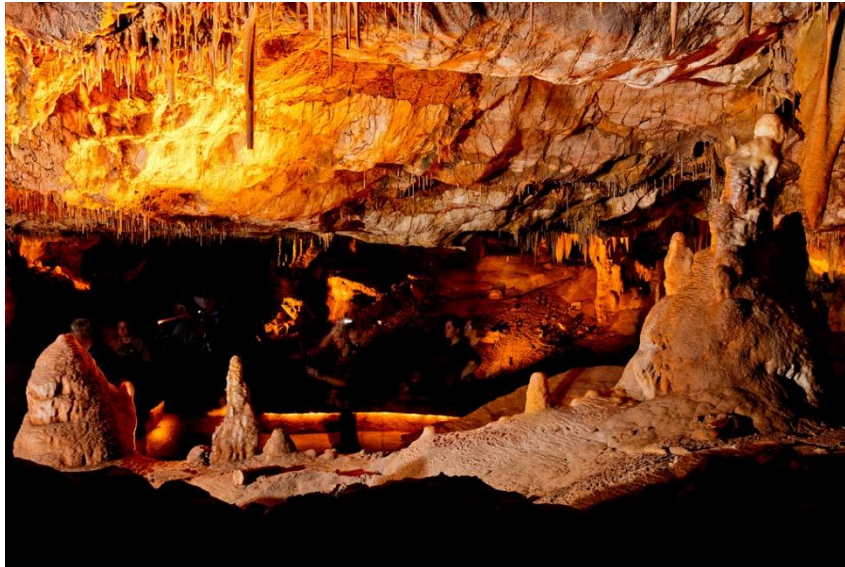
Monday, November 13 – Thursday, November 16, 2017



Southeastern Arizona has its ups and downs and ins and outs, literally. Discover pristine caverns that have been thousands of years in the making, a last-century hole in the ground carved by miners pulling valuable copper from the earth, sky-high peaks and gravity-defying stone pillars, and near-tropical valleys burgeoning with lush vegetation. See this part of Arizona, where cactus is rare, wine is plentiful, and sunny days surrender to starry nights. Rich in history and steeped in natural wonder, you won't want to miss this special Southeastern Arizona excursion.

### Monday – November 13 – Tucson – Benson – Sierra Vista

1:00 p.m. Gather at the airport  
Depart Tucson Airport and drive to Kartchner Caverns State Park. **Kartchner Caverns State Park** (near Benson, Arizona) is a wet, "live" cave with stunning limestone in Southeastern Arizona. Water percolates from the surface and calcium carbonate features continue to grow in the darkness. On the guided cave tours, visitors view dynamic structures such as stalactites dripping down like icicles and giant stalagmites reaching up from the ground, sometimes meeting to form a massive column. The caverns host some of the world's most diverse minerals and formations.



Kartchner Caverns State Park

Discover Sierra Vista's extraordinary skies and uncommon ground. Four seasons and high elevation mean a temperate climate, great for year 'round recreation. Glorious sunsets give way to dark skies, perfect for star gazing. And, sky islands create lush near-tropical climates that welcome unparalleled diversity of plant, bird and animal life. We'll have dinner and spend the night here.



Coronado National Memorial

## Tuesday – November 14 – Sierra Vista - Bisbee

morning

**We'll enjoy the great outdoors around Sierra Vista**, have lunch and drive to Bisbee.

Afternoon

**Explore Bisbee.** The editors of *Sunset Magazine* selected Bisbee as the Best Small Town of 2016 in their annual feature of the best hometowns in the West in February and USA Today has designated Bisbee as the Best Historic Small Town in America as determined by their readers.

We'll have dinner and spend the night in Bisbee.



Bisbee

### Wednesday – November 15 – Bisbee - Willcox

Morning

**Hike in Chiricahua National Monument** - Twenty seven million years ago a volcanic eruption of immense proportions shook the land around Chiricahua National Monument. One thousand times greater than the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, the Turkey Creek Caldera eruption eventually laid down two thousand feet of highly silicious ash and pumice. This mixture fused into a rock called rhyolitic tuff and eventually eroded into the spires and unusual rock formations of today. The monument is a mecca for hikers and birders. At the intersection of the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts, and the southern Rocky Mountains and northern Sierra Madre in Mexico, Chiricahua plants and animals represent one of the premier areas for biological diversity in the northern hemisphere. Of historic interest is the Faraway Ranch, a pioneer homestead and later a working cattle and guest ranch. It is a significant example of human transformation of the western frontier from wilderness to the present settlement. Faraway Ranch offers glimpses into the lives of Swedish immigrants Neil and Emma Erickson, and their children. The house is furnished with historic artifacts which not only give us reminders of our youth and our ancestors, but one can also trace the development of technology during the first half of the twentieth century. Acreage: 12,000 acres.



Chiricahua National Monument

Afternoon

**Drive to Willcox and sample some wine.** The Willcox area was recently granted AVA (American Viticultural Area) status. The designation of the Willcox AVA means that this area is now recognized as a unique and distinctive wine growing region in the United States. Great wine has been made here for years, and now you'll start to see the "Willcox" appellation on wine labels from this region. This area grows 74% of Arizona's wine grapes and is the source of the most highly rated Arizona wines by Wine Spectator, with 45 wines rated 88-90 over the past 5 year. We'll visit a wine tasting room or two to taste the locally grown and produced wines.

Hosted dinner and overnight in Willcox.

## Thursday - November 16 - Willcox - Tucson

9:00 a.m. Depart Willcox to **visit the Amerind Museum**. Set among the spectacular rock formations of Texas Canyon, the Amerind Foundation, established in 1937, houses one of the finest collections of historic and prehistoric artifacts from indigenous cultures in the Americas. The museum includes an art gallery, museums store, and picnic area.



Drive from Amerind to Westin La Paloma

Noon Arizona Marketplace begins at Westin La Paloma