



## ***Southwestern Arizona***

***Where history gets written and art gets made***

**(Maximum of 6 participants)**

### ***Ajo, Sasabe and Tubac***

**November 13-16, 2017**

All three of the towns you will visit on this southwestern Arizona tour have a strong history attached to them that has shaped who they are today.

**Ajo** was once a thriving copper mining town, and then the mine closed in 1985. Ajo is still thriving and blooming in the desert but in a different way. Now people come to create art, glimpse the past or explore acres of pristine desert.

In 1812, the Rancho de la Osa property in **Sasabe** was part of a land grant from Spain to the Ortiz family. Later in the century, the Gadsden Purchase was signed and it is now a part of Arizona. It was a large cattle ranch with a hacienda built in 1889. That ranching heritage is still celebrated today at Arizona's most historic ranch.

As Arizona's first European settlement, the village of **Tubac** has seen its share of history and change. It was first settled in 1752 when Spanish soldiers built a presidio and over the years, five flags have flown over the town. Today, you can either visit the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park or shop til you drop in any of a number of eclectic shops and art galleries.

## **Monday – November 13 – Phoenix – Ajo**



Ajo Plaza

Airport Arrivals in the morning to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PHX)

1:00 p.m. Depart Phoenix for Ajo

**Ajo**, Arizona is a fascinating, off-the-beaten path place, where you might see a javelina walking down the street on your way to a gallery opening, watch a Harris's hawk circle overhead during, or get lost staring into an 1,100-foot-deep hole in the earth. It's a town of hidden gems that rewards the curious traveler with new experiences, tastes, and adventures.

**Tour Ajo's Historic Town Center, Plaza and art murals**  
**Tour Sonoran Desert Conference Center and the Community Garden**  
**Dinner with a local chef**

**Overnight in Ajo at the Sonoran Desert Conference Center.** The new Sonoran Desert Conference Center offers one-of-a-kind hospitality that engages visitors in the rich culture of the Southwest. We are located in the heart of the spectacular Sonoran Desert on the beautifully restored Curley School campus just a short walk to the town's historic, Spanish style plaza. Our 21 guestrooms feature what we like to call the *Southwest Industrial* aesthetic, emphasizing comfort and color while preserving elements of the historic Curley School classrooms. Eight-foot tall windows give you full access to ample natural light. All rooms include a desk/work table, two easy chairs, air conditioning, ceiling fan, coffeemaker, and private bathroom with bathtub.

<http://sonorandesertconferencecenter.com/>

## Tuesday – November 14 - Ajo - Sasabe

Morning **Visit Organ Pipe National Monument.** Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was created in 1937 as a way to preserve a representative area of the Sonoran Desert and the Organ Pipe Cactus. The new monument was part of a movement in the National Parks to protect not just scenic wonders but also the ecological wonders of the country. More than 75 years later, Organ Pipe Cactus is now one of the best preserved examples of the Sonoran Desert wilderness. During our busy season we offer free daily ranger programs and van tours of the Ajo Mt Scenic Road. <http://www.nps.gov/orpi/index.htm>

Picnic Lunch

Afternoon Drive from Organ Pipe to Sells, to visit the **Tohono O'odham Nation Culture Center and Museum.** The Cultural Center & Museum is working to instill pride by creating a permanent tribal institution to protect and preserve O'odham "jewe c himdag". Working with elders, the Cultural Center & Museum will promote understanding and respect of O'odham "himdag" through educational programs and public outreach.



Rancho de la Osa

Then drive to Sasabe, and **Rancho de la Osa for dinner and overnight.** Relax under clear blue skies and enjoy a piece of the historical old west. Rancho de las Osa is one of the last great Spanish haciendas still standing in America. Its history has been lovingly preserved in the beautiful buildings that rest comfortably in the rolling grasslands of the high Sonoran Desert near Tucson, Arizona. Bordering the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, you can watch deer and antelope still roam in herds. Relax and catch some shade under one of the property's majestic eucalyptus trees, swim in the pool or set out by horse to explore the land on riding trails that have been traveled for over a hundred years.

**Wednesday – November 15 – Sasabe – Tubac**



Tubac Golf Resort

morning **Time on the Ranch (horseback riding, bike tour, hiking, bird watching) and lunch.**

afternoon Drive from Sasabe to Tubac

**Arrive in The Village of Tubac** - Arizona's oldest European settlement, Tubac was once the site of a Spanish presidio. It's now a thriving arts community, known as the place "Where Art and History Meet." The village features an eclectic mix of over 100 fine art galleries, artist studios and shops. The Tubac Chamber of Commerce sponsors art and history events, including the Tubac Festival of the Arts, Arizona's longest running art festival. Experience the blend of art, history and culture that Tubac has to offer.

**Visit Tubac Presidio State Historic Park**  
**Meet local artists and visit galleries/shops**

**Have dinner and overnight at the Tubac Golf Resort.** The Tubac Golf Resort is built along the banks of the Santa Cruz River in a region where Europeans first settled Arizona. The property was established as a working ranch in 1789. Today, the original hacienda houses meeting rooms and a honeymoon suite. The old stables, hayloft, and bunkhouse are now the restaurant, lounge and business office. Golf carts can be found in the family dairy barn next to massive vacant grain silos. The resort houses 70 rooms and suites, with an 18-hole, par 71 golf

course; tennis; swimming; restaurant; and banquet/meeting facilities. The golf course was built in 1959 by world-famous American singer/actor, Bing Crosby, along with a group of avid golfers from Tucson. The movie "Tin Cup" is loaded with scenes filmed at the resort, and the lake on the back nine was added as a prop for the film. The course is open to all, but guests staying at the resort get preferred tee times. Located 40 minutes south of Tucson International Airport, the 400-acre park-like property skirts the riparian perimeter of the lush Santa Cruz River and is surrounded by the Santa Rita and Tumacacori Mountain Ranges. It is located along the migratory path of various colorful birds.

## Thursday - November 16 - Tubac - Tucson

9:00 a.m. Drive from Tubac to Tucson

11:30 a.m. Arizona Marketplace begins

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