

Amado

From *GVnews.com* "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and *www.discoversouthernaz.com*

The hamlet of Amado is nestled in prime Arizona ranching country between Tubac and Green Valley, straddling Santa Cruz and Pima counties along Interstate 19. The area offers clear vistas, gentle mountains and green terrain.



Amado's rural lifestyle and striking scenery at the foot of the Santa Rita Mountains is a magnet for hikers and bird watchers. And for those who enjoy ATV, cycling, and horseback riding, the area offers many opportunities to enjoy recreational riding.

Once a halfway station along a stage route from Nogales to Tucson, the community south of Green Valley today is a mix of ranches, farms, homes and shops, restaurants and overnight accommodations.

Visit restaurants, small specialty shops, a bed and breakfast and an outdoor wedding and party destination — all of which make Amado a popular getaway for visitors and residents.



Farming operations include Wholesum Farms Arizona's organic tomato farm and The Ranch cattle farm. Amado Equine Hacienda offers boarding, lessons and training of horses and riders, while Equine Voices Rescue & Sanctuary is a working ranch with volunteers who care for horses and welcome visitors.

ATTRACTIONS

Amado Territory Inn bed and breakfast has guest rooms, a dining room for breakfast and hosts weddings and other special events. The Amado Territory

Ranch also is home to spiritual groups and artist studios. And it hosts the popular Amado Chili Cookoff and Classic Car & Motorcycle Show in November.



The giant longhorn skull on the west side of Interstate 19 at the Arivaca Road exit marks the home of the popular

Longhorn Grill and Saloon, which has appeared in movies, including the 1970s' "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore." Across the street, the historic Cow Palace Restaurant was long a hallmark of the community, now closed.

Stargazers will enjoy a visit to the renowned Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory visitor center and check out seasonal tours up to Mount Hopkins, the second-highest peak in the Santa Rita Mountains. Hikers will enjoy the historic Anza Trail, as well.



The 63-acre Agua Linda Farm also is a popular site for weddings and private parties. Its cornfields were the backdrop for the opening scene of "Oklahoma" in 1955.



Arivaca

From *GVnews.com* "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and *www.discoversouthernaz.com*



Arivaca is a beautiful rural community 23 miles off Interstate 19 south of Green Valley. The gentle winding road to Arivaca is the perfect training ground for bicyclists getting in shape for the Tour de Tucson race. Just be careful as you travel down this road. Be on the lookout for rabbits, coyotes, deer and open-range cattle. It is home to lively, friendly people who are proud of their local culture and tight-knit community.

Arivaca's was originally a Pima Indian village. Mining operations in the area began in 1856, and when the mines played out, ranching took over. Today, it's the home of the Arivaca Cienega, a wetland associated with the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. There are hiking trails and interpretive signs telling about the area and the wildlife you may encounter. The refuge is on the

avid birdwatcher's list and is home to many species of birds. Also to the west of town is the refuge's wooded Arivaca Creek Trail. To the south of town, canoe, kayak or fish at nearby Arivaca Lake.

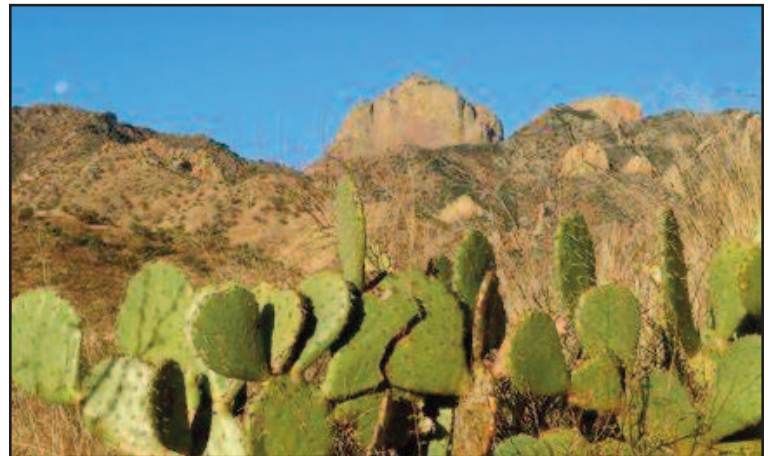


Good food and drinks are served at Sweet Peas Catering, Tumbleweed Cafe and La Gitana Cantina & Café, a historic 1880s adobe building that has been a popular meeting place since the 1940s. Stop in at the popular Arivaca Mercantile, check out the Hunt & Gather consignment shop Fridays through Sundays, and shop for local arts and fresh produce, baked goods and more at Marian's Saturday Farmer's Market from 8 to 11 a.m. on Main Street.

Don't miss the recently restored 1930s dance hall at Ruby Road and Fifth Street.

Enjoy fun, interesting local events, including annual festivities held for the Fourth of July, and weekend Farmer's Markets which are popular through much of the year.

The old mining town of Ruby, a modern-day ghost town, is open for history, fishing and camping, with permits required in advance. Historical information and maps are available for self-guided tours. Evening bat viewing also is available spring through fall. Visit online at rubyaz.com or phone 520-744-4471 for details and road conditions.



Nogales

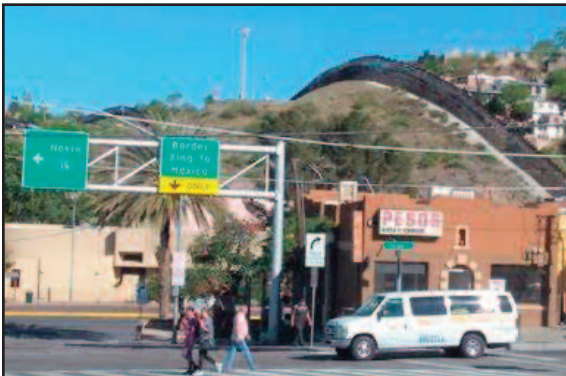
From GVnews.com "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and www.discoversouthernaz.com



The government seat of Santa Cruz County is Nogales, Arizona, home to about 25,000 residents. Its sprawling Mexican name-sake just to the south in Sonora has about 20 times that number.

Nogales, Arizona, and its sister city, Nogales, Sonora, are home to one of the largest international cooperative manufacturing, or maquiladora, clusters and share the largest port of entry for Mexican fruits and vegetables. A study by the University of Arizona indicates that the produce industry adds more than \$500 million annually to the local economy. More than four billion pounds of produce enter the United States through here annually. The impact of the manufacturing sector is nearly \$207 million.

All this international trade would be difficult to conduct without the state-of-the-art commercial crossing known as Mariposa Port of Entry. Completed in 2014 at a cost of about a quarter-billion dollars, it also serves as a testament to this area's history of international trade and travel. In fact, the footprints engraved on the external concrete walls throughout the facility symbolize the paths of travel and trade from one country to another. The prints are in three sizes to signify men, women and children.



Throughout history, migration and trade have played a huge role in defining Nogales both in positive and negative terms.

Illegal trade and violence is not new to this frontier. Executions, gunfights and destruction became routine

throughout the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920 in Nogales. For the next 20 years, U.S. troops set up camp in the hills of Nogales, Arizona, overlooking the valley of Nogales, Sonora. Despite his infamy throughout northern Mexico, the revolutionary Francisco "Pancho" Villa and his cavalry were once formally entertained by the 12th U.S. Infantry and Gen. John J. Pershing in Nogales on Aug. 29, 1914. During the revolution, Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at Camp Stephen D. Little in Nogales.

Many settled in the area, marrying and having children with Mexican and Native American women, adding to the cultural polyglot that has defined Nogales. Legendary jazz bassist and composer Charles Mingus Jr. was born at the Camp Little Army Hospital on April 22, 1922. His father, Sgt. Charles Mingus Sr., was stationed at the camp.

This border community remains an exciting place to live and experience. The city of about 20,000 often appears in state, national and international news due to its consequential geographical location. Many of the cities' inhabitants share familial and business ties, language and heritage relatively unobstructed by border barriers, which over the decades have evolved from intermittent barbed wire to menacing bollard fencing and concertina wire.

Following the Gadsden Purchase in 1853, surveyors discovered that "Los Nogales de Elias," a land grant dating to 1841, had been divided by the international line. Thereafter, the community at the terminus of what is now Interstate 19 became known in local vernacular as Ambos Nogales, which translates the two Nogales. The original land grant name was Rancho Casita when deeded to Don Jose Elias Camou and his family by the Mexican government. But the property included a vast grove of walnut or nogal trees, hence the community's name.

Until the middle of the 20th century, Ambos Nogales was divided only by barbed wire and some chain-link fencing. Vehicles, products, service providers and animals crossed the border freely. It was just as easy for Apache raiders to pass through. The famous Geronimo, according to local lore, was once held captive in La Caverna or The Cave, which later became

an internationally renowned restaurant about a block south of the border that was destroyed by fire in 1984.



To get a taste of Nogales, Arizona, cruise along the main streets of Grand and Morley avenues. Through its various incarnations, downtown had been the hub

of such iconic stores as J.C. Penny, Woolworths, Kress and Franklin's, which intermingled with local merchants such as the Brackers, Capins, Marcuses, Puchis and Korys. The North American Free Trade Agreement and heightened border security were not kind to these establishments and slowly they disappeared from the landscape. Only the Kory family remains with their two retail stores. Korean and Arab merchants served to revive downtown for many years, offering everything from toys to tools and fashion eyewear to perfumes. But the pandemic has taken a toll on them as well. Now, most of the local shopping occurs along Mariposa Road at national retail and big box stores.

The original Morley Avenue pedestrian border crossing, Nasib Karam Park and Old Town Hall are among the amenities that create a unique micro-urban flare.

More recently there has been a movement to showcase art and music in downtown, including an art gallery on Morley aptly called La Linea or The Line. On Fridays up the avenue, folks enjoy the Little Mercado farmer's market where booths feature fresh eggs, produce and arts and crafts. Stop in for a refreshment at the iconic Chiquita (Hilda's) Bar, a purple sliver of a building separating Grand and Arroyo boulevards, just south of the newly reconstructed and expanded historic Bowman Hotel, now known as Bowman Senior Residences.

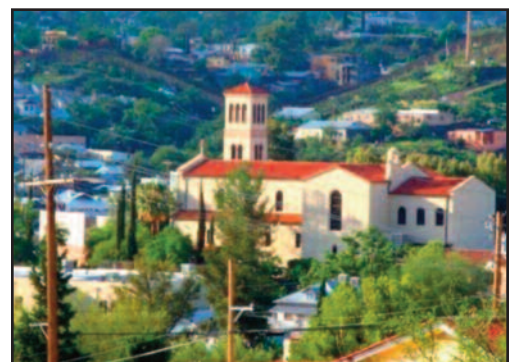
History buffs can visit the Santa Cruz County Historic 1904 Courthouse on Morley Avenue where the county schools superintendent only recently moved his offices from the government complex north of town. The courthouse was in daily official use by the Santa Cruz County government until 1989. It now houses offices of the Santa Cruz County Schools Superintendent, serves as an art and photography exhibition venue, and plans are to establish a screening room

and workshop. A classic portico at the entry and a roof-top dome are among the courthouse's beautiful attributes, as is Lady Justice at the peak of the cupola. They say justice is blind, but the statue at the courthouse curiously is not blindfolded. The building's two-foot-thick walls are constructed of locally quarried tufa stone, which was also used to construct many of the area's early commercial structures and several stately homes one can still observe along the original neighborhoods, including Court Street and Crawford Street.

In 2008, the courthouse was designated the symbolic United States starting point of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a major expedition in the 1770s that meandered from its assembly point just east of the Sonoran state capital of Hermosillo in San Miguel de Horcasitas to San Francisco. In 2015, the actual Nogales campground for the expedition was designated an official certified site of the Anza Trail by the National Park Service.

A short drive to Las Lagunas de Anza Wetlands Park off Country Club Drive is well worthwhile. A couple of blocks down from the courthouse and one street over is Old Town Hall on Grand Avenue. The century-old structure boasts a beautiful clock tower, which houses a rare Seth Thomas clock. The building also houses the Pimeria Alta Historical Society Museum, complete with an original horse-drawn fire engine and three huge murals by Salvador Corona (1895 to 1990), a Mexican-American bullfighter and artist. Chronicle Nogales' history through the multiple artifacts, photos and extensive newspaper archives. For more visitor information about Nogales and surrounding areas, call the Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce at 520-287-3685 or www.thenogaleschamber.org/

In Mexico, the city of Nogales is a modern factory and produce shipping center, but it's also a tourist destination. It's easy to get there. Just walk across the international border in downtown Nogales, Ariz. The tourist area immediately south of the border has restaurants, shops and, if you want, pharmacies.



Patagonia

From *GVnews.com* "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and *www.discoversouthernaz.com*

Few drives are prettier than Route 82 leading into Patagonia, with the backdrop of beautiful Red Mountain rising above the picturesque small town of Patagonia, a thriving arts community and tourist destination.



Visit Patagonia and be transported back in time by many of the town's early buildings that have been preserved and are

still in use as shops and residences, giving the town a historic frontier ambiance. Be sure to check out the Patagonia Library in Cady Hall, a refurbished adobe hotel on Duquesne Street, and the Patagonia Museum at 100 School Street. History buffs will also enjoy exploring the nearby ghost towns of Washington Camp, Mowry, Duquesne and Harshaw in the Patagonia Mountains.



Patagonia is a mecca for birders and hikers and is a well known hotspot for butterflies. Ravens-Way Wild Journeys, a nature adventure and

conservation organization, offers birding adventures, classes, wildlife safaris and biodiversity tours. The Audubon Center at the Paton house is always a prime spot to see an amazing variety of birds.

Just down the road from Paton's, the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, one of the most popular birding spots in the United States, features walking trails along Sonoita Creek. This oasis provides for a wide array of diverse species from endangered fish to butterflies and birds.



The mountains surrounding the town beckon hikers and birders to explore canyons and forests, and it is a short drive on dirt roads to the awe-inspiring San Rafael Valley, home to some of the most beautiful grasslands in the state and where many of the most iconic Western movies were filmed.

For those who want to swim in a mountain lake, Patagonia Lake State Park is just down the road. The park offers camping and fishing as well as birding and pontoon boat tours. Patagonia has become a center for environmental research and habitat rehabilitation in recent years. Borderlands Restoration and its partners work to protect and enhance biodiversity in the region through restoration projects. Visit the Borderlands Native Plant nursery for native plants and to learn more about the Borderlands mission. Patagonia is a great place for shopping. Global Arts has an eclectic collection of wares from all over the world, and the Patagonia Trading Company offers a wide variety of hand crafted goods by local artists. There are several art galleries within walking distance of the center of town. Be sure to visit the showroom at High Spirits Flutes, a local business crafting native wooden flutes for all levels of ability.

The Ovens of Patagonia will tempt with fresh baked goods and handmade fudge. The Gathering Grounds is an attractively decorated coffee and lunch spot and the Velvet Elvis has a well-earned reputation for gourmet pizzas. The Stage Stop Inn features the Wild Horse Restaurant and bar. Be sure to stop by the Wagon Wheel Saloon for a drink in an authentic cowboy bar.

Patagonia hosts a two-day arts and crafts festival in October that attracts more than 10,000 visitors and features 100 vendors, great music and entertainment.



Rio Rico

From *GVnews.com* “*Inside Green Valley Sahuarita*” and *www.discoversouthernaz.com*

Once part of a large Spanish land grant called the Baca Float No. 3, Rio Rico these days is mostly a bedroom community for commuters from Nogales and other Santa Cruz Valley locales, but it is quickly coming into its own with new shopping, restaurants, and a growing population. The Rio Rico History Museum at 1060 Yavapai Drive opened in 2018 and offers a historic tour. Details can be found at: rioricohistoricalsociety.org

Rio Rico was home to indigenous cultures for centuries prior to Spanish incursions. Yet most historical documentation of the unincorporated community begins not long before the settlement of what was then known as San Cayetano de Calabasas in 1756.

Fast-forward to the 1960s, when a real estate bonanza gave rise to the community that we know today — high adventure, violence, political intrigue, vice, rollercoaster economic booms and busts, greed and ambition all characterized the area that finally became modern Rio Rico.

Now, in addition to hosting folks from around the world, including many young families who call Rio Rico home, it has become a popular destination for birders who take delight in the variety of species that can be spotted without much effort. The Rio Rico area is a migratory route for many birds.

Some of the state’s most stunning scenery can be found in Rio Rico, with its clean air, beautiful sunsets behind both rolling and jagged hills that slowly usher in star studded nights.

Located in the upper Santa Cruz River Valley, wildlife such as coatimundi, coyotes, quail, hawks, doves, javelina and deer make the abundant green spaces and hundreds of acres of forest land here their home.

The curious and active visitor will be enchanted. Hiking, bird watching and riding horses are just part of the experience, as is fishing at nearby Peña Blanca Lake. There are daily reminders of the Old West, with cattle free to roam the open range and cowboys who still round them up — sometimes right on the roadways!

Sunshine throughout most of the year is a major draw for visitors to Rio Rico, along with mild temper-

atures and beautiful desert/mountain scenery.

From the heights of the San Cayetano Mountains to the east of the river, there looks to be a large body of water, but upon closer inspection, it’s actually 37 acres off of Interstate 19 replete with photovoltaic panels tilting like sunflowers toward the sun and generating enough energy to power 1,500 homes.

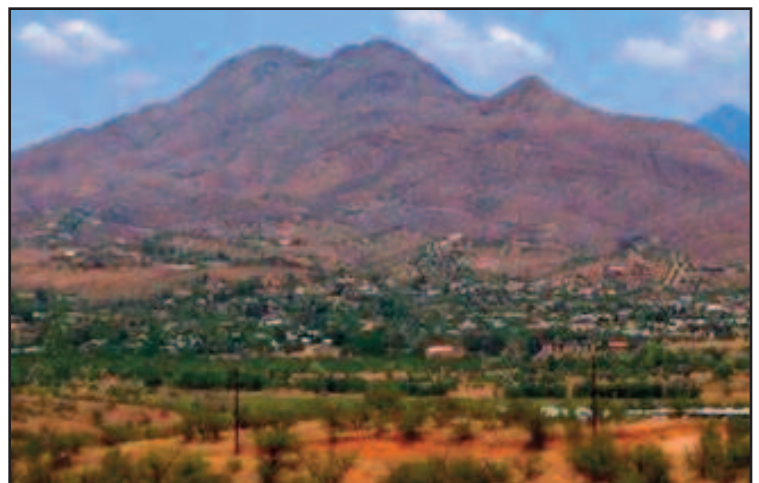
Residents here enjoy the casual, relaxing lifestyle of the Southwest with the added bonus of being within easy reach of a major city and the largest international land port in Arizona.

The community, now bigger than Nogales with more than 20,000 people, has a shopping center, a high school, two middle and three elementary schools.

The Rio Rico Performing Arts Center, constructed by Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District No. 35, opened in 2021, after voters approved a \$22 million bond a year earlier.

Rio Rico is home to century-old ranches tucked into the many hills while new housing projects are picking up steam. History and nature buffs will enjoy hiking the historic Anza Trail along the Santa Cruz River.

Restaurants in Rio Rico include Joe’s Place for traditional Mexican cooking; La Bocanita for seafood and regional fare; Hua Mei for Chinese; Nickel’s Diner for 1950s-style American fare; and Las Trankas, Mexican restaurant; and Pizza e Vino for Italian. Get your car washed while visiting the newly constructed Lava Car Wash. Grab some pizza at the new Little Caesars right next door.



Sahuarita

From *GVnews.com* "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and *www.discoversouthernaz.com*

The longtime family community of Sahuarita, Green Valley's older neighbor just to the north, marked 28 years as an incorporated town in 2022.

Home to a vibrant, growing mix of residential neighborhoods, commercial businesses and entertainment choices, the town — whose name roughly translates as "little saguaro" — has grown markedly since its 1994 incorporation and now is home to more than 35,000 residents.

Popular attractions include Desert Diamond Casino (www.ddcaz.com); the Titan II Missile Museum (www.titanmissilemuseum.org); and the Asarco Mineral Discovery Center (www.asarco.com).

The town's Anamax Park is its oldest and largest public park, covering 22 acres with a rec center, ball fields, picnic areas, dog park, playground and more. It's also home to the town's annual Fiesta Sahuarita community celebration.

Off Sahuarita Road east of Interstate 19, Sahuarita Lake Park includes a 10-acre public lake for fishing and a walking trail within the Rancho Sahuarita master planned community. The town also welcomes the public to its smaller Anza Trail Park, Parque Los Arroyos, North Santa Cruz Park and Municipal Park, which include a mix of sports fields, two dog parks, playgrounds, picnic tables and more.



Shopping opportunities include Rancho Sahuarita Marketplace at Interstate 19 and Sahuarita Road, anchored by the Fry's Marketplace and surrounded by a mix of smaller shops, restaurants and businesses, including The Corner at Rancho Sahuarita.

Along the Nogales Highway/Duval Mine Road thoroughfares are the Madera Marketplace on South Nogales Highway, home of the Wal-Mart Supercenter and a variety of retail and dining establishments; Sprouts, TJ Maxx, PetSmart, Bealls Outlet, Starbucks and more at The Crossing at Sahuarita; the Sahuarita Palms Plaza on West Duval Mine Road, anchored by a Safeway grocery store plus shops, restaurants and salons; the Valle Verde Center, home to the Ashley Furniture Homestore, a movie theater, ADOT Motor Vehicle office and more on West Duval Mine Road; the Sahuarita Plaza on the Frontage Road, with Big Lots, Ross Dress for Less, Ace Hardware, JoAnn Fabrics, Petco, Dollar Tree and more; as well as the Quorum Plaza on West Beta Street.



In addition, Northwest Healthcare's Sahuarita Medical Center on the southeastern corner of Interstate 19 and Sahuarita Road has been serving the community since the fall 2020. The 77,000-square-foot hospital has 18 beds with the capacity to expand.



A preliminary development plan for the 26.7-acre site also includes a hotel, two restaurants, two fast-food locations, six medical/dental offices, four general offices, two retail spots and a pharmacy. And a 17,700-square-foot Sahuarita public library to the east on Sahuarita Road opened in September 2021, offering a variety of features, including study rooms, several outdoor seating areas and a storytelling room.

Tumacacori

From GVnews.com "Inside Green Valley Sahuarita" and www.discoversouthernaz.com

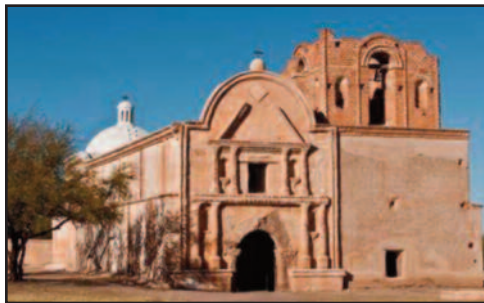
Visitors who enjoy rich history and spicy chilies will delight in a visit to the rural hamlet of Tumacacori, east of Interstate 19 between Tubac and Rio Rico.

The area was long home to the O'odham, Yaqui and Apache people before European explorers arrived.

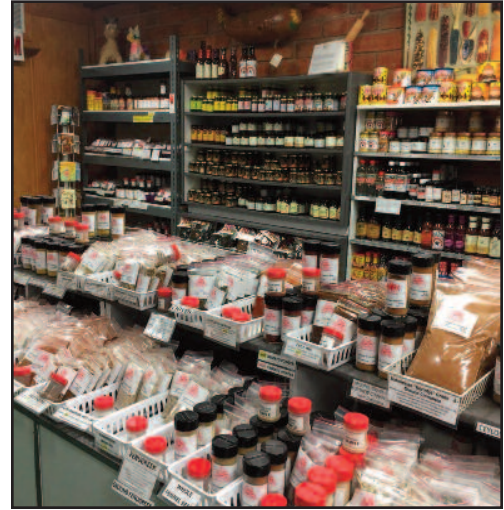


Today, Tumacacori National Historical Park brings the storied past to life at the site of a Spanish mission dating

from the late 1600s. It was first established by Jesuit priest Eusebio Francisco Kino. Franciscan missionaries, who succeeded the Jesuits, started work in about 1800 on the church that still stands. Guests can stroll by the church, through a visitors' center at the park, a shady garden and more.

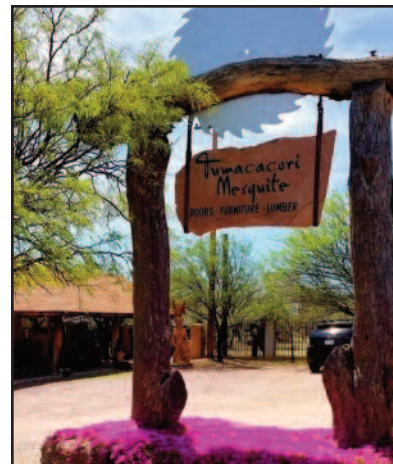


Special events usually include daily guided tours January through March, bird walks, hiking on a portion of the Anza Trail, and a colorful, multicultural fiesta in December. This national park is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except for Christmas and Thanksgiving. For more info, visit www.nps.gov/tuma/.



Visitors are invited to see the artifacts in the small museum, sample some chili products, find a certain spice, or just soak up the rich history and heritage of this mesmerizing land. Phone 520-398-2591 or visit santacruzchili.com

Dining options include the popular, family-run Wisdom's Cafe, serving delectable Mexican food. For some libations, stop in at Abe's Old Tumacacori Bar.



Shoppers will want to visit the Tumacacori Mesquite Sawmill, the single oldest mesquite source in Arizona. It is also a place where you can browse and shop for one-of-a-kind furniture items, crafts and lumber.



Across the street from the mission is the popular Santa Cruz Chili & Spice Co., a family-owned business that features fine chili sauces and pastes, a wide variety of gourmet Southwestern foods, cookbooks and a large selection of spices and herbs.

