

Arizona: Saguaro National Park & the Sonoran Desert

Bike Vacation Only

Get ready to experience the art, tranquility and stunning natural beauty of America's Southwest! From the saddle of your custom VBT bicycle, you'll set out across the open desert, surrounded by magnificent mountains and the wide Arizona sky. Along the way, you'll visit one-of-a-kind museums and art galleries, savor a wine tasting at a family-owned Arizona winery, and witness firsthand the region's unique plant and wildlife, including the iconic Saguaro cacti. Your Southwest vacation will also afford you tremendous opportunities for Arizona birding. Your lodgings at a charming B&B, a historic ranch, and a serene resort ensure that your experience of southern Arizona is authentic from start to finish.

Cultural Highlights

Delight in a wine tasting and picnic lunch at a family-owned vineyard.

Dig into the region's mining legacy at the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum.

Spend time exploring the highly regarded Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Join a Harris's Hawk (or other raptor) free flight demonstration

Take in local art at galleries in Bisbee and Tubac.

Peer up at the mighty Saguaro cactus in Saguaro National Park.

Relax with a game of golf or at the luxurious spa facilities of the Tubac Golf Resort & Spa.

Enjoy delicious food in a region that draws its culinary inspirations from Native American, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-American influences.

What to Expect

This tour offers a combination of easy terrain mixed with moderate hills, ideal for beginning and experienced cyclists. Our VBT van support shuttle is always available for those who would like assistance. This tour includes strategic shuttles on most days in order to access the best cycling routes, avoiding busy roads and repetitive scenery.

Tour Duration: 7 Days

Average Daily Mileage: 15 - 40

Average Cycling Time: 01:00 - 03:30

Climate Information

Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

Feb 68°/41°, Mar 73°/44°, Apr 81°/51°, Oct 84°/57°, Nov 73°/45°

Average Rainfall (in.)

Feb 0.7, Mar 0.7, Apr 0.3, Oct 0.9, Nov 0.6

DAY 1: Arrive in Hereford / Warm-up ride / Welcome reception and dinner / VBT Bicycle Vacation begins

Make your own arrangements for travel to Arizona and to our first inn. VBT offers a shuttle that departs from Tucson International Airport at 1:00 p.m., you are welcome to use it. Please make a reservation at <https://www.stagecoachexpressshuttle.com/vbt.php>. Once at the airport, meet your Stagecoach Express driver near baggage claim #7. The travel time to Casa San Pedro is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

If you are scheduled to arrive at the airport after the shuttle's departure or if you are delayed, you must take a taxi at your own expense. For guests driving to the tour, we recommend that you park your vehicle at the Tucson International Airport and make reservations with Stagecoach Express, as our tour ends in Tucson. Parking at the airport costs approximately \$10 a day in the garage, or \$4.50-\$6 a day in the economy lot offsite. Or you can park at Casa de San Pedro B&B for the week. Please contact the first inn if any travel delays or changes occur; they will inform your VBT Trip Leaders.

Take time to settle in and change into your biking clothes. At 3:00 p.m., meet your group and your VBT Trip Leaders for a safety and bike-fitting session, followed by a short warm-up ride. At 5:30 p.m., get to know your fellow travelers during a tour orientation and welcome reception before your transfer to Bisbee for dinner.

Hotel: Casa de San Pedro B&B

Meals: Dinner

Daily Option: 6 miles

DAY 2: Cycle to Bisbee

This morning, your Arizona vacation continues as you cycle to the historic mining town of Bisbee. Nestled among the Mule Mountains, Bisbee was founded in 1880 and remained a thriving community until large-scale mining operations ceased in the 1970s. Today, Bisbee is flourishing as an artists' colony. Upon arrival in Bisbee, begin exploring; make sure you stop in at the Bisbee Bicycle Brothel ("the best little wheelhouse in Arizona"). The Brothel does offer bicycles and other items for sale, both vintage and current. However, it serves as more of a museum than a bicycle shop. Don't forget the mining history of Bisbee, and take some time to visit the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum. After exploring, you will

gather at a local restaurant for an included lunch. Afterward, there'll be more time to explore the historic town.

At your leisure, cycle back to the inn, where you will have dinner.

Note: Casa de San Pedro does not have a liquor license and welcomes guests to provide their own. Your hosts will be happy to help you purchase something should you not have the opportunity to procure your choice of beverage prior to your arrival.

Hotel: Casa de San Pedro B&B

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Daily Options: 31 or 54 miles

DAY 3: Shuttle to Sonoita / Cycle to Patagonia / Shuttle to Tubac

Today, shuttle from Hereford to Sonoita and then cycle through beautiful open range to a local winery, where you enjoy a picnic lunch and a tasting. Kief-Joshua Vineyards is a small family business in beautiful Elgin, Arizona—right in the middle of what has become known as “winery row.” The vineyard’s first planting was in 2005, and its first harvest was in the fall of 2008. The winery practices traditional winemaking methods and eliminated the use of herbicides and pesticides in the vineyard in 2006.

In the afternoon, cycle into Patagonia, where you can visit eclectic local shops. Be sure to stop for “the best cup of coffee in Arizona” and a tasty treat at Gathering Grounds. Of course, if something cold is more to your liking, you will find plenty of options. In the late afternoon, board a shuttle from Gathering Grounds to Tubac Golf Resort & Spa. Settle into your private hacienda and enjoy the rest of the evening on your own.

Hotel: Tubac Golf Resort & Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Daily Options: 16 or 36 miles

DAY 4: Discover Tubac

After a leisurely breakfast, cycle a scenic ride into the town of Tubac then across the Santa Cruz River for a leisurely ride in the beautiful countryside. On your way back, you'll stop at Tumacacori National Historical Park, a mission dating to the 17th century, and enjoy a self-guided visit of the mission,

museum, orchard, garden and trails. You can also visit the family-owned and -operated Santa Cruz Chili & Spice Company. Afterward, you'll have time to explore Tubac, an artists' colony with an array of talented sculptors, painters, potters, artisans and jewelers.

After lunch on your own, the afternoon is free for you to explore at leisure. Relax at the resort, enjoy golf, or take advantage of the spa. If you desire a tee time or spa appointment during your stay, we recommend that you contact the resort prior to traveling.

Enjoy dinner this evening at the resort.

Hotel: Tubac Golf Resort & Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Daily Options: 24 miles

DAY 5: Shuttle to Tucson / Saguaro National Park West / Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Today, shuttle from Tubac Golf Resort & Spa to Saguaro National Park. Visit the remarkable Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, where you will have a chance to walk through the desert, see wild animals and desert plants, attend a live animal presentation, lectures and visit an art show. This unusual museum houses more than 300 animal species and more than 1,200 varieties of plants in a beautiful natural setting. Take a self-guided tour along the two miles of walking trails. You will have a chance to enjoy lunch on your own in either of the museum's two restaurants. In the afternoon, take an exhilarating ride through Saguaro National Your ride continues to stunning Gates Pass and then along The Loop, Tucson's new multi-use path, on to the hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Hotel: Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch

Meals: Breakfast

Daily Options: 33 miles

DAY 6: Saguaro National Park East / Farewell dinner

Today, after a shuttle from the ranch, you cycle a scenic route into Saguaro National Park. Here, you'll enjoy a picnic lunch while gazing at the universal symbol of the American West, the stunning Saguaro cactus, which can only be found in this region. Saguaro National Park, located on the edge of the modern city of Tucson, protects some of the most impressive forests of these subtropical, giant cacti. After lunch, you cycle to Broadway Bicycles and back to Hacienda del Sol. Be sure to leave time to stop and

purchase an Arizona cycling jersey.

Tonight, celebrate with the group during a farewell dinner at Hacienda del Sol's renowned restaurant, The Grill.

Hotel: Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Daily Options: 14, 22 or 34 miles

DAY 7: Depart for home / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

The tour concludes after breakfast at your hotel. A shuttle to the Tucson airport will be provided to guests at 9:00 a.m., arriving approximately 40 minutes later. If you are flying out of Tucson, we suggest a flight no earlier than 12:00 p.m. Guests who need to get to the airport earlier or later must make their own arrangements. The VBT shuttle is also available to shuttle guests whose cars are parked at the first inn. It will arrive at the inn by noon.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations

May vary depending on departure date.

Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch (Days: 5,6)

Designed in a Spanish Colonial style, Hacienda del Sol was inspired by the Moorish architecture of the 18th and 19th centuries. Through the gated mission-style entrance, you are greeted by tranquil gardens, a backdrop of unspoiled desert landscape, and a dramatic view of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains. Each air-conditioned room has its own personality, adorned with unique surprises, from hand-forged iron and copper headboards to original artwork and custom-designed furniture. The resort's courtyard and porches offer a quiet place to relax. With large terraces for al fresco dining, its restaurant, The Grill, is one of Tucson's best and is AAA Four Diamond Award-winning. Legendary patrons such as Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, John Wayne, and Howard Hughes enjoyed the comforts here. A magical setting has been, and remains, the very cornerstone of Hacienda del Sol.

Casa de San Pedro Bed & Breakfast (Days: 1,2)

An idyllic haven on the San Pedro River, the Casa de San Pedro is built around a charming courtyard and

lovely fountain, evoking the traditional architecture of Spain and Mexico. This air-conditioned bed & breakfast, exquisitely decorated and furnished with hand-carved furniture from Mexico, is committed to providing exceptional service while conserving energy and resources. Located on ten acres and adjacent to the San Pedro River and Riparian National Conservation Area, Casa de San Pedro boasts a beautiful natural setting, a delightful butterfly garden, and landscaping that supports Southwest native species, including bats and numerous birds. Enjoy magnificent views of the surrounding mountains as you walk peacefully through its seven-cycle labyrinth.

Tubac Golf Resort & Spa (Days: 3,4)

With historical roots dating back to 1789 when the property was a working 500-acre cattle ranch on the first Spanish land grant in the Southwest, the Tubac Golf Resort & Spa enjoys beautiful landscapes of the property situated between the stunning backdrop of the Tumacacori and Santa Rita mountain ranges. Unwind in spacious accommodations featuring Southwest-inspired décor, comfortable furnishings, and individual patios with verdant surroundings. Savor delicious creations at Stales Bar & Grille showcasing flavors of the region. Take a saddle seat at the Stables Bar to have your photo taken. Or enjoy the 3,000 square-foot hacienda-themed spa. Golf enthusiasts are sure to appreciate the three nine-hole courses designed by renowned architect Red Lawrence, and don't miss the opportunity to take a peek at the hole made famous by the movie Tin Cup filmed here in 1996.