

Yuma, Arizona Great Things To Do

Yuma Crossing National Heritage Tours

Yuma is among the only two National Heritage Areas in the west, blessed with a rich cultural heritage and desert beauty. The following attractions and entertainments are located in the Heritage Area.

- **Yuma Territorial Prison State Park** - Between 1876 and 1909, this penitentiary housed many of Arizona's most dangerous and notorious criminals. Famed in literature, movies (3:10 to Yuma) and television, the remains of the prison are now Arizona's most visited State Historic Parks. Museum exhibits document the story of the prison. Call (928) 783-4771 for hours of operation and information.
- **Yuma Crossing State Historic Park** - Site of the historic U.S. Army Quartermaster's Depot. A tour of the Crossing Park will include early adobe homes, stagecoaches, and a historic adobe corral. The park, also home to the U.S. Reclamation Service in its earliest days, also includes exhibits on the amazing engineering feats that brought irrigation water to the Yuma Valley, including the construction of the Yuma siphon. Call (928) 329-0471 for hours of operation and information.
- **Segway Yuma Tours** – A unique and fun way to glide through Historic Downtown Yuma. Hop aboard your own segway and travel over the Ocean-to-Ocean bridge to see the Yuma Territorial Prison, experience the captivating history of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, glide along the Colorado River to Pivot Point, the Quartermaster's Depot and the beautiful West Wetlands Park. For more information please call (928) 342-1969 or visit www.segwayumatours.com.

Outdoor Recreation

Yuma is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the sunniest place on earth with 339 bright days a year and less than 4 inches of rainfall annually.

- **Golf in the Desert** - Golf Digest Magazine has rated Yuma as the 7th best city in the United States for golf. The Yuma area has 16 diverse and challenging golf courses including Desert Hills, Arizona's top municipal golf course, and Mesa del Sol Golf Club, an Arnold Palmer designed course, which sits at the base of the Gila Mountains. Yuma has also been the home to the Nike Open and the LPGA. For more information about golf in Yuma and the Foothills please call the Yuma Visitors Bureau (928) 376-0100.
- **Yuma West Wetlands Park** - Relax or picnic at the beautiful regional riverfront park. Highlights include riverfront walking and equestrian paths, lakeside ramadas available for parties and events, the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Interpretive Playground, and a boat ramp for jetskis or small boat access to the Colorado River.
- **Yuma East Wetlands** – Quiet, tree-lined walking paths along the Colorado river east of the Ocean-to-Ocean bridge, great for bird watching, or a leisurely sunset stroll.
- **Gateway Park** – Beachfront property in Arizona! Located in historic downtown Yuma, Gateway Park offers easy public access to the Colorado River. The city's multi-use pathway system is integrated into Gateway's design and links the historic riverfront to West Wetlands Park and the East Wetlands restoration areas. Bring your towel, sunscreen, and cool off in the Colorado River.

Colorado River Excursions

There are a few places in the world where you can spend a day traveling the cool waters of the river while viewing the natural wonders of a desert. Yuma and the Colorado River is such a place.

- **Yuma River Tours** - Yuma River Tours takes your group through the scenic wilderness of the Imperial Wildlife Refuge filled with bird and wildlife watching. The tour includes dinner on the Knowlton family land, and stops along the way at old ranch sites, gold miner cabins, Native American petroglyphs and other historical points of interest. Group prices available. Approximately 5 ½ hours. Call (928) 343-4400 for more information.
- **Colorado King River Cruise** - Captain Ron will capture your attention and imagination with historic yarns about the history of the Southwest, and the riverboats and their captains who navigated the river over one hundred years ago on this one-of-a-kind paddleboat. A catered lunch or dinner will be served on board. Approximately 3 hours. Call for reservations and pricing at (928) 343-4400
- **West Wetlands Canoe Tour** - Local guides will take your group down the Colorado River in the darkness as you search for nocturnal animals. This can be leisurely, but also quite an adventure. Approximately \$10 per person, call Yuma Parks & Recreation @ (928) 373-5240.
- **Colorado River Tubing** – Enjoy some good, old-fashioned fun, playing on the Colorado River with friends and family, floating, picnicking, swimming, or just relaxing in the sun. Located in West Wetlands Park, Yuma River Tubing offers shuttled river tubing adventures. Open from 11am-7pm daily, for more information visit www.letsготubing.com or call 866-712-8823.
- **Jet Rent Yuma** – Rent's ATVs, Rhinos, Toy Haulers and Personal Watercraft, open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. For more information visit www.jetrentyuma.com or call (928) 314-4345.

Other Tours, Attractions & Museums

- **The Golden Knights** - The Army's precision parachute team jumps onto grassy Cox Field January through March from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is also a Heritage Center on the property for visitors. Call (928) 328-3394 for more information.
- **Sanguinetti House Museum** - This regional museum of the Arizona Historical Society is one of Yuma's oldest and most historical buildings. Once the home of pioneer merchant E.F. Sanguinetti, the museum now exhibits artifacts, photography and furnishings of Arizona's territorial period.

Other Tours, Attractions & Museums (continued)

- **Imperial Sand Dunes & Old Plank Road** - The Sand Dunes are the site of famous movie scenes as well as a popular area for dune buggy enthusiasts. The Old Plank Road, located in the Sand Dunes, was built in 1918 as a route to cross the desert. A sample of the road can also be seen in the Yuma Crossing State Park.
- **Yuma Art Center & Historic Yuma Theatre** - The Historic Yuma Theatre is now managed by the City of Yuma with events occurring year-round including original film screenings, community theater productions, Saturday children's matinees, Arizona Historical Society tours and film series, jazz festivals, art symposiums, education workshops, graduation ceremonies, choir concerts, and special events and presentations in connection with downtown mall events. For more information please call (928) 373-5202.
- **Silver Bullet Motorsports** - Your source for outdoor fun, offering Historic ATV Trail Rides in various locations like Fortuna Mines, Martinez Lake, Picacho Peak, and many more locations. We make it fun and exciting for everyone. All our trail ride guides are CPR certified and will be carrying two-way radios and a GPS (Global Positioning System) at all times. We have knowledgeable guides that will take our customers to the numerous petroglyphs, historic mines, and beautiful scenery of the Yuma area in a leisurely way. For more information call (928) 344-2117 or visit www.silverbulletmotorsports.net.
- **Castle Dome Silver Mines Museum and Ghost Town** – Arizona's Castle Dome Mining District was a haven for those wanting to get rich quick and desperados hiding from the law seeking opportunity. There were shootouts, brawls, murders and untimely deaths. Fortunes were made and fortunes were lost. That way of life is gone, but preserved in Castle Dome City. Open November through March Tuesday-Sunday from 10am-5pm, for more information please call (928) 920-3062.
- **The Camel Farm** – A working breeding farm that specializes in exotic animals, this family-run business features a herd of dromedary camels (that's the one-humped variety from the Middle East) along with 200 animals representing more than 25 other species. For more information call (928) 627-7511 or visit www.southwestblend.com/camelfarm.
- **Center of the World and Museum of History in Granite** – A unique attraction, the "Center of the World" figures into a children's book authored by Felicity's mayor and founder, Jacques-Andre Istel, a French-born veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who was a pioneer of free-fall parachuting. An even more ambitious project, the Museum of History in Granite captures the history of humanity and other subjects on 16 massive monuments that hold 3,000 linear feet of etched granite panels. For more information please call (760) 572-0100 or visit www.historyingranite.org.

Agriculture Tours

Yuma is the winter vegetable capital of the nation. In Yuma County, vegetable production makes up around 85% of the total revenue produced by this thriving industry.

- **Imperial Date Gardens** - This date is one of the oldest cultures tree crops, with records showing it was cultivated in Mesopotamia more than 5,000 years ago. Grab a date shake and see how this sweet treat is packaged, processed, and picked. (760) 572-0277.
- **Bard Date Company** – The largest Date grower in the area, Bard Date Company has a retail outlet downtown at Basket Creations & More, where you will find all grades of Medjools and chopped, cooking and pitted dates, plus many different gift packages, souvenirs, southwest jellies and candies. Call (928) 341-9966 for more information.
- **The Peanut Patch** - The Peanut Patch offers fresh peanuts, peanut brittle, peanut fudge and other such delicacies. Did you know that peanuts are a vegetable? You will learn all about this legume during your tour of the Peanut Patch, which has become a rich tradition in Southwest Arizona. For tours, call (928) 726-6292.
- **Yuma Conservation Gardens** – This 28-acre educational garden features native Sonoran Desert plants, a duck pond, antique farm machinery, desert tortoises, a botanical garden, walking paths, and a 100-seat outdoor classroom. Open seasonally, for more information please call (928) 317-1935

Annual Festivals & Events

- **Yuma Birding and Nature Festival** - Join us for this four day festival, as we celebrate the rich diversity of birds and wildlife along the Lower Colorado River. Explore the Sonoran Desert, Imperial Wildlife Refuge, Yuma West Wetlands, Imperial Sand Dunes, Palm Canyon and guided tours to Mexico. **April**. Call the Yuma Visitors Bureau at (928) 376-0100.
- **Midnight at the Oasis** - This annual celebration is one of a kind. Stroll down Memory Lane to an incredible nostalgic festival, featuring the cars and music of the 1950's and '60's. Something for the entire family – concerts and dance, vendors, Show 'n' Shine of 800 pre-1972 American cars, trucks and foreign classics, good food and great entertainment. **March**. Call Caballeros de Yuma at (928) 344-1715.
- **Yuma River Daze** - Featuring more than 125 artisans. Historic reenactments, at several locations in Yuma's Historic North End. **February**. Please call Heritage Festivals @ (928) 782-5712 for more information.
- **Old Town Jubilee** - Over 100 artisans and craftspeople. Find your every shopping need. Food, fun and family entertainment. **January**. Please call Heritage Festivals @ (928) 782-5712 for more information.
- **Yuma Lettuce Days Festival** - This annual festival celebrates our agriculture industry and has events such as lettuce box car derby, lettuce cooking contests, the World's largest salad contest and much much more. Held **January**.
- **Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival - November**. More than 50 hot-air balloons of all shapes and sizes will take to the skies, rising high above Yuma. This annual event draws thousands of people each year to witness the colorful spectacle of the graceful balloons flying above. Admission is free. Please call Caballeros de Yuma @ (928) 344-7505 for more information.

For more information please contact the Yuma Visitors Bureau at (928) 919-2534