

Vzpomínka (62)

ARIZONA - SONORA Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ

Prospekt ze sbírky IL



WHAT IS THE DESERT MUSEUM?

The Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum is a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place. You will see interpretive displays of living animals and plants native to the Sonoran Desert region—an area encompassing parts of Arizona and California in the United States and the Mexican states of Sonora and Baja California.

Within the Museum grounds, you will see more than 300 animal species and 1200 kinds of plants on display—alive in their natural desert settings. There are almost two miles of paths traversing 21 acres of beautiful desert. Look closely—you may see native animals scurrying across pathways.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO SEE EVERYTHING?

Like any good zoo or museum, you cannot always see everything at the Desert Museum in one visit. The action of the animals, captivating plants, and docent demonstrations will all compete for your time. If your time is limited, take a few minutes to review the map on the other side and the Daily Events Schedule in the Orientation Room to make sure you see what interests you most.

FOR YOUR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

The Desert Museum is primarily an outdoor experience, so wear a hat, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes. Drinking fountains, shade ramadas, and restrooms are scattered throughout the grounds for your convenience. All indoor exhibits are cooled for your comfort.

Wheelchairs and Strollers

These are available free of charge for your convenience. Please pick up and return them on the west side of the entrance patio. Motorized scooters are available for rental.

WHERE TO EAT

11 Ironwood Terraces Restaurant

This quick-serve grill offers sandwiches, salads, pizza, hamburgers, Southwestern fare, and a children's menu. Dine indoors or on one of several outdoor patios.

12 Ocotillo Café

This restaurant features Sonoran cuisine in a fine-dining atmosphere. You can choose indoor or patio dining. A children's menu is available. (Open only at select times.)

13 Phoebe's Coffee Bar

Located just east of the Museum entrance, Phoebe's serves fine coffees and delectables.

14 The Cottonwood

This snack bar is nestled under the cottonwood trees near the Riparian Corridor.

Sorry, picnicking is not permitted on Museum grounds. Picnic and camping facilities are available nearby, in Tucson Mountain Park and Saguaro National Park West.

WHERE TO SHOP

15 Mountain House Gift Shop

Located near the Museum entrance next to Phoebe's Coffee Bar, this gift shop has a wide variety of educational products and native crafts.

16 Ironwood Gift Shop

This smaller gift shop, located just outside the Ironwood Terraces Restaurant, specializes in bird- and pollinator-related merchandise.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Gallery at the Desert Museum hosts a variety of temporary art exhibits.

GENERAL DO's AND DON'Ts

Special parking is available in the Museum parking lot for vehicles with permits for the disabled and for motor homes. Parking is not permitted along Kinney Road, except in designated areas.

This is not a place for pets—only trained service animals assisting visitors are permitted on the grounds. And, of course, do not leave your pets unattended in an automobile for any amount of time, particularly in warm weather.

Smoking is only allowed in designated areas.

You'll often see wild animals on the Museum grounds: lizards, snakes, squirrels, coyotes, and birds of many kinds—including hummingbirds. Please do not feed or harm them.

WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE IN WHITE SHIRTS WHO KNOW SO MUCH?

They're docents—specially-trained Museum volunteers—here to answer your questions about the plants, animals, and natural environment of the Sonoran Desert. Look for them giving demonstrations and talks throughout the grounds. (The Orientation Room has a Daily Events Schedule which lists some of the interpretive talks given throughout the day.) Feel free to ask questions and interact with the docents and staff.

WHAT'S TO SEE?

This exhibit listing is organized as if you were to start at the entrance and travel counter-clockwise along the main route, branching off onto secondary paths for specific exhibits.

Reptiles & Invertebrates

Lizards, snakes, scorpions, and tarantulas are all safely tucked behind glass so you can take as close a look as you'd like—or dare! Make sure you see the Arizona wildflower models—they're stunning!

Orientation Room

Learn a bit about deserts, the Sonoran Desert in particular, the Desert Museum itself and

Don't miss this! Be sure to check out the Daily Events board for a schedule of today's activities and tours.

Overlook

The view from here is breathtaking. The gray-green sea of the Avra Valley separates six mountain ranges. Look west across the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation and south beyond the Mexican border, 60 miles (97 km) distant.

Earth Sciences

A limestone cave, complete with stalagmites, stalactites, pools, and salamanders, this exhibit explains the formation of caves and of the earth itself. Kids especially will enjoy the optional loop trail—a true caving experience with 75 feet of low ceilings, rough footing and tight passages. Also discover one of the finest collections of regional minerals and gemstones anywhere.

Amphitheater

This small amphitheater is usually open only for special events.

Mountain Woodland

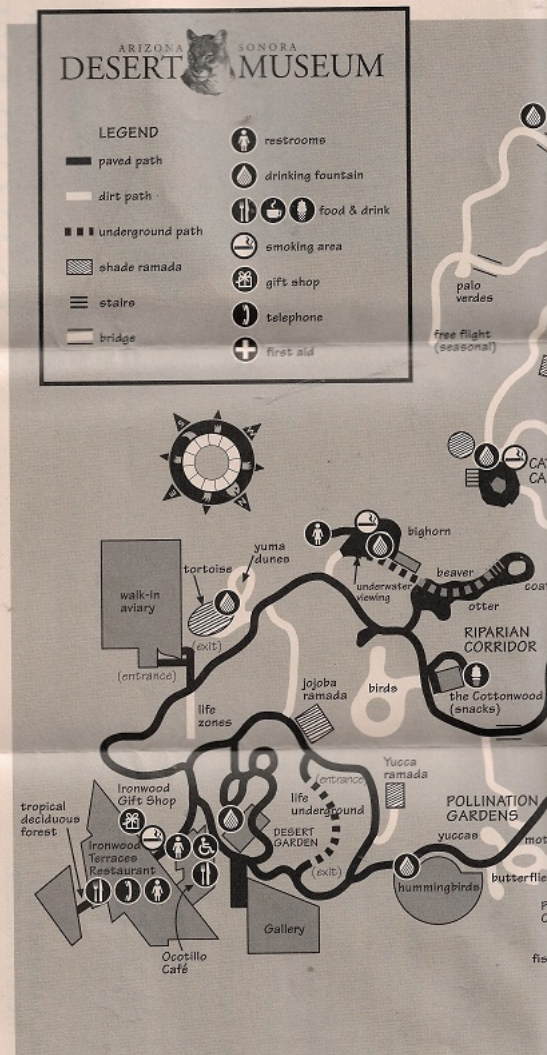
Ever get close enough to a mountain lion to count the whiskers on its muzzle? You often can in this exhibit—look for the viewing window just as you enter this area. The animals and plants here represent those found in the mountain "islands" within the Sonoran Desert region.

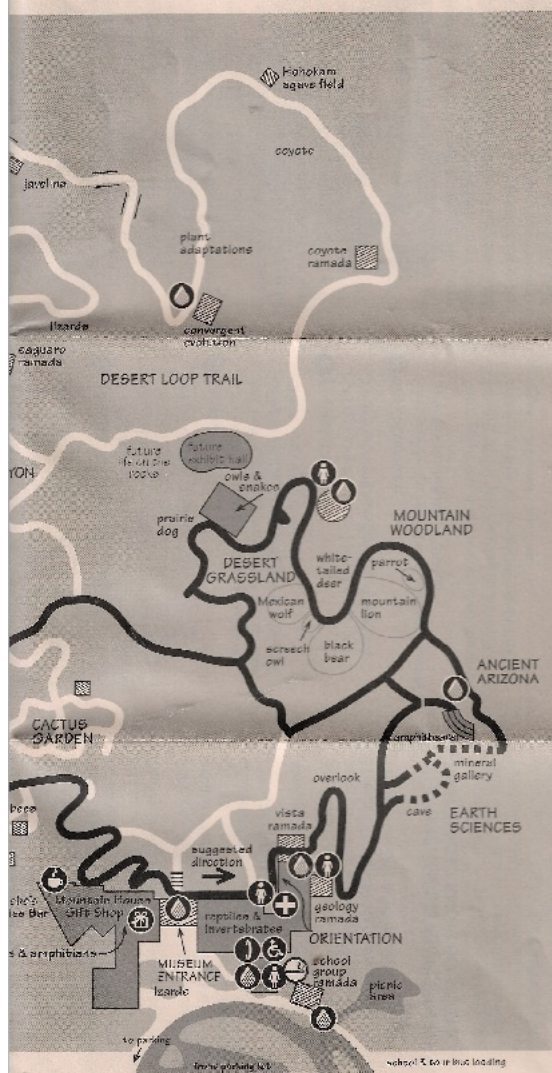
Desert Grassland

Discover why the grasslands are so important in the Sonoran Desert region. And don't miss the prairie dogs. Their antics delight all ages.

Cat Canyon

See the region's wild cats—bobcat, ocelot, and jaguarundi—from vantage points both above and below the exhibit.





Desert Loop Trail

This 1/2-mile loop offers an intimate desert walk with sweeping views of the Sonoran and Altar valleys. Several exhibits are still in progress, giving you the chance to see how Tucson Museum exhibits are constructed.

Riparian Corridor

The word "riparian" means stream-side. Yes, these are places where water flows freely in the desert, supporting an abundance of wildlife.

Birds

A spacious new home is planned for these large birds but in the meantime you can still get an intimate view of these majestic raptors, jays, and parrots.

Bighorn

This exhibit lets you watch bighorn sheep in a naturalistic environment, climbing along rock ledges. Look too for other exhibit residents—rock squirrels and spiny-tailed iguanas.

Walk-in Aviary

Cardinals, Gambel's quail, doves, doves, and nearly 40 other species of native birds live together in this avian sanctuary.

Desert Garden

Do you think that desert-native plants are dull and drab, or that a scarcity of water means no leaves and bare stems? Learn just how colorful desert plants can be.

Life Underground

Quiet please! Discover night-active desert dwellers hiding out during the heat of the day.

Pollination Gardens

Did you know that a third of our food and 90% of all wild plants depend on animal pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds? Learn about these complex creatures and their floral partners in these enchanting gardens.

Hummingbird Aviary

This world-famous exhibit lets you walk freely among seven species of native hummingbirds. These harmless hoverers may shock your head as much as they feed from your sweater to help build a nest.

Cactus Garden

Over 100 species of cactus and other desert plants are grown in this landscaped setting.

Fishes & Amphibians

Fish in the desert? Yes, in fact, there are 35 species of native fish in Arizona alone (we have 8 on display here—along with toads, frogs, and turtles).