

2026-27

VisitYuma.com

YUMA

Go Guide



Adventure in Yuma
All Year Round

Adventure awaits at every turn in Yuma (and across the county). The best way to immerse yourself in it is season by season. This Go Guide is your passport to sun-soaked desert landscapes, shimmering waters and a region bursting with flavor, history and charm, no matter when you visit.

Winter transforms the region into a haven for birdwatchers, stargazers and anyone chasing sunshine while escaping colder climates.

Look for the seasonal icons throughout this guide to help you easily plan the right itinerary at the right time. Inside, you'll uncover must-see sights, hidden gems, local flavors and authentic experiences that make Yuma more than just a destination — it's a place to savor and remember.

Pack your curiosity, follow the trails and let the seasons guide you. Your Yuma adventure starts here. **Ready. Set. GO!**

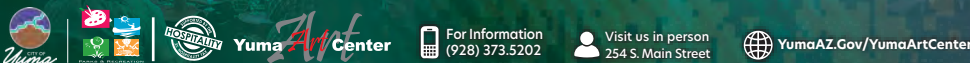
Spring awakens the outdoors with blooming wildflowers, warm, gentle breezes and endless trails for hiking, biking and river adventures.

Summer mornings and evenings come alive by the water, perfect for kayaking, fishing and sunsets that paint the desert sky.

Fall brings cooler days, golden light and festivals celebrating local food, art and culture.

MAR 13 | **GARTH LIVE!**
7 PM

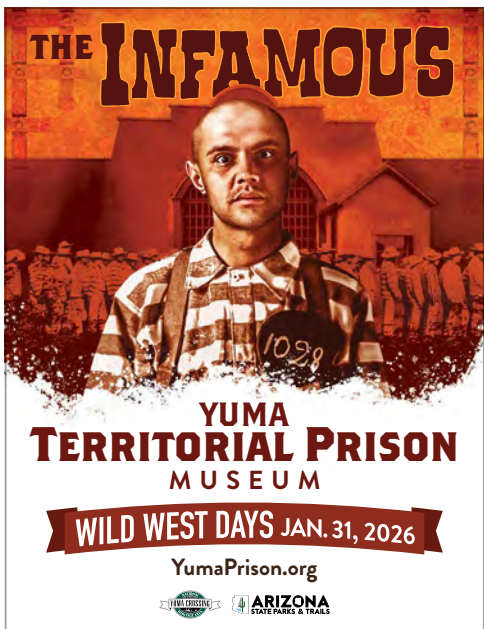
The Yuma Art Center/City of Yuma are not the producer or the sponsor of these live performances at the Historic Yuma Theatre. For questions or concerns regarding these events, please contact the producer/promoter.



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**Want to
Dive Deeper?
Visit Yuma.com**



THE INFAMOUS

YUMA TERRITORIAL PRISON MUSEUM

WILD WEST DAYS JAN. 31, 2026

YumaPrison.org

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS



U.S. ARMY QUARTERMASTER DEPOT MUSEUM

Explore Frontier Army life at the Colorado River State Historic Park

ColoradoRiverPark.com ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

BEAUTY RESTORED

YUMA EAST WETLANDS

NATURE PRESERVE

YumaHeritage.com



Colorado King Paddlewheeler

Sunset Dinner Cruises - Scenic Cruises - Private Charters

www.lowercoloradoriverexcursions.com

Fisher's Landing Resort

UNIQUELY YUMA

Telegraph Pass

From vast lettuce fields to pink sherbet skies and offbeat attractions, there's no place quite like Yuma. Visitors often leave with stories as vivid as the desert sunsets, and maybe a few unexpected souvenirs.

Museum of History in Granite and the quirky **Stairs to Nowhere**.

Yuma's sunsets are legendary, painting the sky in dramatic colors morning and night. Locals recommend vantage points like **Saint Thomas Indian Mission**, **Telegraph Pass** and the **Yuma Territorial Prison's Guard Tower**.

Art thrives in the desert, too. Murals, installations and gallery exhibitions bring color to the landscape, while the **Historic Yuma Theatre** hosts performances in its classic art deco space. The city's artists and authors — including Shanen Lee Aranmór of **Weld Like a Girl** and Alice McLerran, author of **Roxaboxen** — reflect Yuma, creating work that captures the region's energy, stories and distinct character.

Adventure and a touch of the unexpected: this is Yuma County.



Loren Pratt's Little Chapel

Start your tour at **Loren Pratt's Little Chapel**, or "Tiny Church," seating just 12 and living up to its name. Nearby, the **McPhaul Suspension Bridge** stretches across an empty canyon beside the Gila River, while the **Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area** offers 40 miles of grit, adventure and Hollywood allure (see if you can discover which blockbusters were filmed here). Just beyond Yuma, Felicity, California, features the pink granite "Center of the World," the

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area

SIGNATURE EVENTS

No matter the season, Yuma comes alive with big, bold and uniquely local events. Plan your visit around these can't-miss happenings, then check VisitYuma.com/Events for the full lineup.



SUMMER June - August

- **Lutes Summer Jazz Series**
Cool tunes and icy drinks under the desert sun, featuring Yuma Jazz Company and guest performers.
- **4th of July Spectacular**
Fireworks, music and family fun light up the city.



FALL September - November

- **Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival**
Vibrant hot-air balloons paint the sky over the Sonoran Desert.
- **Tacos & Tunes**
Enjoy local flavors with live music.



WINTER December - February

- **Somerton Tamale Festival**
The "Woodstock of tamale events," with music, cultural dances and plenty of tamales.
- **Yuma AGFest**
Explore the region's agriculture with exhibits, tastings and hands-on fun.



SPRING March - May

- **Yuma Airshow**
Thrilling aerobatics and aviation history in the wide-open, sunny skies.
- **Yuma County Fair**
Classic fair fun with rides, local food and entertainment.



INCLUSIVE ADVENTURES

Barrier-free Fun for Everyone

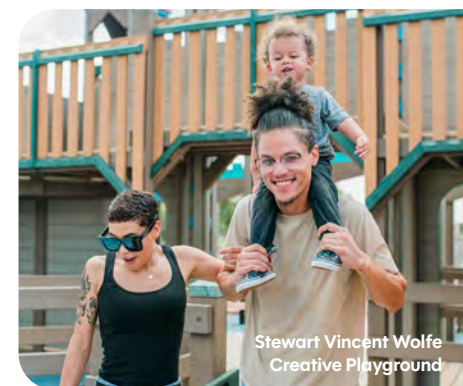
Yuma welcomes visitors of all ages and abilities with attractions, parks and events designed to go beyond accessibility basics. From paved trails and zero-entry pools to wide walkways and shaded rest areas, you'll find spaces that make exploring the desert both comfortable and rewarding.

A highlight is the Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground, a new inclusive play area that ensures children of all abilities can interact side by side — not just accessing the playground but fully engaging in play together. It's one of several efforts by Yuma Parks and Recreation to expand inclusive design across the city's parks, from adaptive play features to future splash pads and large-scale play spaces.

Wherever your travels take you, Yuma offers barrier-free adventures that bring everyone into the fun.



Yuma Territorial
Prison State Historic Park



Stewart Vincent Wolfe
Creative Playground

Explore with ease at these locations, offering paved pathways **A**, level terrain **B**, ramps **C**, accessible parking **D**, wide corridors **E** and zero-degree entry pools **F**:

- Arizona Marketplace: **A B C D E**
- Children's Museum of Yuma County: **A B D E**
- Colorado River State Historic Park: **A B C D E**
- Gateway Park: **A B C D E**
- Historic Downtown Yuma: **A B C D E**
- Kennedy Memorial Park: **A C D E**
- Sanguinetti House Museum & Gardens: **A B D E**
Note: Restrooms are not wheelchair accessible

- Sunset View Wildlife Area: **C D**
Note: Paths are accessible with hardened decomposed granite; most terrain is fairly level
- Valley Aquatic Center: **A B C D E F**
- Waylon's Water World: **A B C D E F**
- West Wetlands Park: **A B C D E**
Home to inclusive Stewart Vincent Wolfe Creative Playground
- Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park: **A D**
Note: Some dirt paths and narrow passages

RIVER, DESERT, MOUNTAINS, LAKES

Yuma offers many trails to wander and spots to dip your toes in the water. The key below shows you some of the most notable locations for natural recreation in the area.

Find more adventure:

VisitYuma.com/Things-To-Do



California

Cargo Muchacho Mountains

Imperial Sand Dunes

KEEP YUMA WILD & WELCOMING

The region is full of natural treasures worth protecting. Stick to trails, respect wildlife and follow Leave No Trace principles — pack out everything you bring in and leave nature as you found it.

Learn more about Leave No Trace and AppreciateAZ at Tourism.AZ.gov/AppreciateAZ



TRAILS AND WATER ACCESS

1 Imperial Sand Dunes



2 Picacho State Rec. Area



3 West Wetlands Park



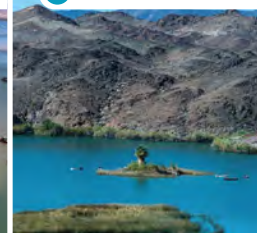
4 East Wetlands Park



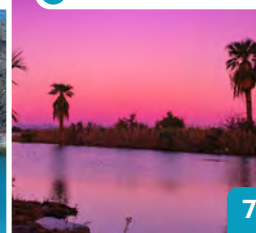
5 Martinez Lake



6 Xanyō Xamshré



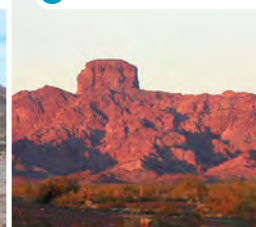
7 Mitty Lake



11 Miggins Peak Trail



10 Castle Dome Peak



9 Telegraph Pass Trail



8 Jester's Trail



GO PLAY ON THE WATER

Seasonal Excursions

on the Colorado River and Beyond

Yuma is one of the few Arizona destinations with year-round access to rivers and lakes. From peaceful paddleboarding to fast-moving floats, there's a spot for every water enthusiast, no matter the season. Grab a cooler, your favorite water toy and let the current carry you.



Winter: Cool, calm waters — averaging 57°F — make this the perfect time for kayaking, paddleboarding or a gentle float along **Playa Linda Beach**.



Spring: With river temperatures around 77°F, spring is ideal for tubing and beach days, or for a beginner-friendly paddle along **West Wetlands' riverfront trail**.



Summer: Early mornings and late evenings are your best bet when the river hits 85°F. Try floating under the **Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge** or cooling off at **Gateway Park**.



Fall: Averages 62°F — perfect for seeing Yuma from a kayak or exploring sand-bars upriver. **Martinez Lake** and **Senator Wash Reservoir** offer boating, fishing and water skiing for thrill-seekers.

Quick Tips

- **Non-motorized, beach entry, swimming:** Centennial Beach, Gateway Park, Playa Linda
- **Motorized watercraft, public boat launch, fishing:** Senator Wash, Martinez Lake, Mittry Lake, Xanyō Xamshré Lake

Cultivating Crops, Careers & Community

Founded and headquartered right here in Yuma for more than 60 years, Gowan is a family-owned, global agricultural solutions company dedicated to helping farmers protect crops and feed the world. From defending crops to promoting sustainable agriculture, our work starts in Yuma's fields and reaches over 70 countries.

We are proud to call Yuma home, and just like our growers, we believe in cultivating strong roots in our community. Whether it's supporting local events, providing quality jobs, or investing in the next generation of innovators, Gowan is committed to growing together, right here in the Desert Southwest.

Founded in
Yuma, AZ,
in 1962

Working with
growers in
70+ countries

Over 1,700
employees
worldwide

Careers in
Science,
Business, and
Agriculture

Proud
community
supporter &
local employer



APPLY TODAY
gowanco.com/careers

Grow your future with us! From hands-on field research to global business and science roles, your next career move could start in Yuma and impact the world.

Gowan

Yuma's Public Radio

Trusted News.
Music That Crosses Borders.
Local Stories.
Real Conversations.



Download
the app

Listen at kawc.org

SEASONAL ITINERARIES

Every season in Yuma brings its own way to explore. Whether chasing sunshine, seeking water or savoring a slower pace, you can shape an itinerary that fits your mood and the time of year.

Black Hill



SUMMER

Soak up the Season

Summer in Yuma is about staying cool and making the most of long desert evenings. Mix and match these ideas to create your perfect day.



Gateway Park

Start the Day

- Morning is a great time for a hike at **Kofa National Wildlife Refuge** before the heat sets in.

Midday Escape

- Families can dive into hands-on fun at the **Children's Museum of Yuma County** or jump it out at **Get Air Trampoline Park**.
- Adults can beat the heat indoors with gaming, dining and entertainment at **Yuma area casinos**.

Afternoon Adventures

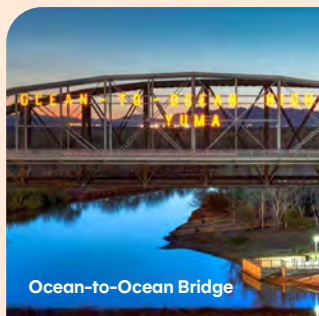
- Looking for a slower pace? Grab a shaded spot along the **Colorado River** and enjoy a picnic or fishing break.

Evening Wind-Down

- Watch the sun go down from a float beneath the **Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge**.



Colorado River



Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge



FALL

Harvest and Horizons

Fall in Yuma blends golden light, crisp mornings and events that celebrate the season. Fill your days with these options.

Start the Day

- Hike **Telegraph Pass** or another local trail for wide-open views.
- Go **dove hunting**, a longstanding local tradition. Visit YumaDoveHunting.com for regulations and more information.

Midday Escape

- Stop by **Naked Dates** for farm-fresh treats (don't miss a date shake!) and shaded groves that feel a world apart.
- Spend a relaxed afternoon in **Historic Downtown Yuma**, exploring murals, shops and local fare. Pause at **North End Coffeehouse** for a refreshing sip.

Afternoon Adventures

- Take part in **Howling at the Moon**, a lively community event with music, food trucks and vendors.
- Enjoy quiet time outside — **Gateway Park** is perfect for a stroll or an impromptu photo stop.

Evening Wind-Down

- End your day with dinner al fresco at **Julieanna's Steak and Seafood**.
- Yuma's fall skies are among the best of the year, so check out the new **Sunset View Wildlife Area in East Wetlands**.

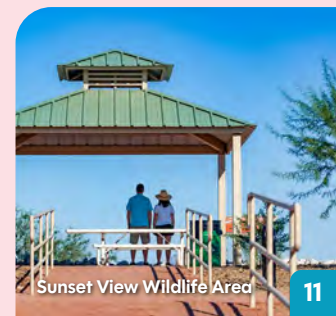
Telegraph Pass



Naked Dates



Gateway Park



Sunset View Wildlife Area

Photo courtesy of
Yuma Crossing
National Heritage Area



WINTER

Sunshine Season

Winter draws visitors chasing blue skies and warm desert air. Create an itinerary that revitalizes your soul.



Mittrey Lake

Start the Day

- Head out to **Mittrey Lake** to birdwatch. Don't forget the binoculars for spotting waterfowl and migratory birds.
- Bike along the scenic and peaceful trails at **West Wetlands**.

Midday Escape

- Sample varietals at **Old Town Wine Cellar** while you nosh on a charcuterie board.
- Dine outdoors at **The Garden Café**, surrounded by lemon-scented trees and birdsong.



Old Town Wine Cellar

Afternoon Adventures

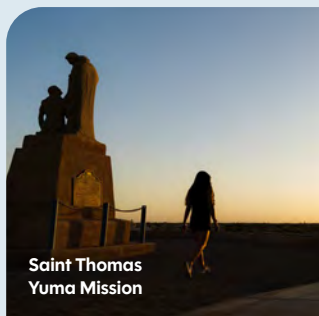
- Explore the **Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park** for a dose of history.
- Taste what's on tap at **Prison Hill Brewing Company** while dining on one of their prison-themed entrees.



Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park

Evening Wind-Down

- Catch golden hour from the **Saint Thomas Indian Mission**, offering sweeping views.
- Unwind with the **Village Jazz Series** with live music under a starry sky.



Saint Thomas Yuma Mission



SPRING

Fresh Start

Spring is Yuma's season of renewal, with blooming landscapes and perfect outdoor conditions. Build your own balance of play and relaxation.



Desert Hills Golf Course

Start the Day

- Tee off at **Desert Hills Golf Course** after grabbing coffee and avocado toast at **Cafecito**.
- Cast a line at sunrise on **Martinez Lake** where the fish are plentiful and the morning light sparkles on the water.

Midday Escape

- Step back in time at **Castle Dome Mine and Museum**, set in one of the most stunning Southwest landscapes.
- Step into the **Yuma Art Center**, where rotating exhibits and local works fuel your imagination.



Castle Dome Mine and Museum

Afternoon Adventures

- Kayak the **Colorado River** when the water warms to ideal spring temps.
- Trek through the **Muggins Mountains**, where spring flowers and blooming cacti color every path.



Colorado River

Evening Wind-Down

- Sample your way through local bites at **Friday Night Munchies** at the **Yuma County Fairgrounds**.
- Grab a partner and dance the night away with Salsa or Bachata lessons at **Fuego Dance Studio**.



Friday Night Munchies

YUMA'S DESERT DWELLERS

Your Guide to
Plants and Wildlife

Welcome to Yuma, where the spirit of the desert pulsates a rich variety of flora and fauna uniquely adapted to thrive under the sun. The region's three national wildlife refuges — Imperial, Cibola and Kofa — each play a crucial role in protecting this biodiversity, extending past the forest into habitats that range from desert and upland to riparian and grassland areas.



SAGUARO

This iconic tree-like cactus can grow over 40 feet tall and live for more than 150 years. The saguaro is Arizona's state wildflower and provides food and shelter for many desert species.

Blooms: Spring through fall



WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

Exercise caution and admire from a distance. Recognized by their diamond-shaped pattern and rattling tail, they are a key part of the region's ecosystem.

When: Spring, active at night in summer



DESERT LILY

Blooming after rain, this rare beauty shoots up white, fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers resembling Easter lilies from sandy soil.

Blooms: Late winter through spring



BIGHORN SHEEP

Majestic and sure-footed, these sheep are often seen on rocky slopes and are identifiable by their large, curved horns.

When: Spring to early fall



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Often spotted by their vibrant green and pink feathers, these tiny birds are a delightful sight, zipping from flower to flower.

When: More common in spring, observed year-round



SNOWY EGRET

Elegant with a snowy white plumage, these waders can be observed along riverbanks and marshes, hunting with their sharp bills.

When: Year-round

OCOTILLO

Not a true cactus, this plant has long, prickly stems that burst into bright red flowers after rainfall.

Blooms: Spring



YUMA DESERT FRINGE-TOED LIZARD

Perfectly adapted to sandy environments, this lizard can be spotted burying itself in loose sand to escape heat and predators. Head to the dunes!

When: Spring through summer



KOFA MOUNTAIN BARBERRY

This tough shrub with spiny leaves bears yellow flowers and red berries. It is distinctive to the Sonoran Desert and is found in the shady, rocky canyons of the Kofa mountain range.

Blooms: Late winter through spring



LONG-BILLED CURLEW

With its distinctively long, down-curved bill, this large shorebird is often seen probing mudflats, grassy meadows and shallow waters for food.

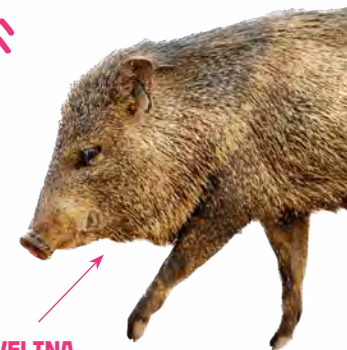
When: Winter



CHAPARRAL YUCCA

This yucca sprouts a flamboyant cluster of fragrant, purple-tinged white flowers atop a long stalk, a key resource for native insects.

Blooms: Spring



JAVELINA

Look for these rugged, medium-sized hoofed animals traveling in packs. They are not pigs but peccaries, adapting well to desert life.

When: January to February, largely nocturnal in summer



SILVER CHOLLA

Watch (from a distance) for this cactus with its silvery sharp spines and greenish-yellow flowers that bloom under the beaming sun.

Blooms: Spring



Wellness in the Desert



Yuma isn't just sunshine and sand; it's a place to recharge, refresh and reconnect. From desert peaks to river retreats, the region offers wellness experiences for travelers seeking balance and calm.

Healing in Nature

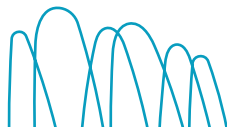
Hike to **Signal Peak** or explore **Big Eye Mine** in the **Kofa National Wildlife Refuge** to find geodes and the desert's natural energies. These serene settings invite reflection and stress relief amid Yuma's dramatic backdrop.

Mind and Body Flow

For structured wellness, head to **Studio Y Yoga** in Historic Downtown Yuma or **Vida Holistic Healing** for yoga, barre, Pilates and meditation. Want to try something unique? **Paddalini** offers Kundalini yoga, meditation and relaxation on a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) year-round on the **Colorado River** or **Martinez Lake**.

Rejuvenation and Self-Care

Journey2Self offers Reiki sessions to balance energy, improve sleep and leave you centered. Luxurious spa treatments at **Lotus Day Spa**, **Amara Rejuve Medical Spa** and **Fluid Energies Inc.** provide massages, facials and holistic treatments designed to restore body and mind.



MARTHA'S GARDENS
DATE FARM

ARIZONA'S FINEST
MEDJOL DATES

SUMMER STORE HOURS
MON-FRI
10:00AM - 4:00PM
WINTER STORE HOURS
MON-SAT
10:00AM - 5:00PM

★ THE BEST DATE SHAKES AROUND! ★ ENJOY OUR PATIO! ★ RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON OUR FARM TOURS! ★

FARM TOURS | DELI & FARM STORE | DATE SHAKES

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Se habla español

*"Let my 34 years of
pride, work ethic, communication
and dedication work for you."*





Here's to adventure. Here's to life.

Convenient, expert emergency and walk-in care near you.

Feeling adventurous? Get out there and experience all that Yuma County has to offer. Wherever you go, we're never far away. From minor bumps to major blunders, our convenient locations have you covered from head to toe.

Emergency Care

- Major injuries
- High fever
- Heat stroke or seizures
- Serious burns, cuts or bleeding
- Poisoning



**Onvida Health
Yuma Medical Center
Emergency Department**
2400 S. Avenue A
Yuma, AZ 85364



**Onvida Health
Foothills Medical Plaza
Emergency Department**
11351 S. Frontage Rd.
Yuma, AZ 85367

Urgent Care

- Minor injuries, sprains, burns or cuts
- Ear infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Fever, flu and allergies
- Workman's comp
- Minor procedures, joint injections or toenail removal



**Onvida Health
Walk-In Clinic Foothills**
11142 S. Scottsdale Dr.
Yuma, AZ 85367

onvida HealthTM

Learn more at
onvidahealth.org