

Tucson, located 100 miles southeast of the Valle of the Sun, Arizona's second largest city spreads out over 500 miles at an elevation of 2,389 feet and is protectively cocooned by five mountain ranges. The craggy Santa Catalinas dominate to the north. The Torlolitas are in the northwest. To the east are the Rincons, to the south the Santa Ritas and to the west, the Tucson Mountains. The result is eye-catching backdrops in every direction. Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Western legacies ooze through Tucson's every pore, conjuring up a distinct sense of history and tradition. With a terrific collection of superb restaurants and cultural attractions. Enjoying a superb weather here are some of the events that will take place during February and March 2010 in our lovely City of Tucson.

La Fiesta de Los Vaqueros, February 20-28. On Thursday February 25 the Tucson Rodeo Parade.

Tucson in 1925 was a frontier town: The first Tucson Rodeo was held in the middle of Prohibition. With so many visitors expected, decisions were made to clean up the town. Arizona State Prohibition Director Frank Pool led a force of federal officials to town two weeks prior to the rodeo. The *Arizona Daily Star* reported that 25 stills were captured and an estimated 3000 gallons of moonshine destroyed.

Each year, more than 200,000 people enjoy the western-themed floats and buggies, historic horse-drawn coaches, festive Mexican folk dancers, marching bands and outfitted riders. The route begins at Park Avenue and Ajo Way, continues south to Irvington Road, then heads west on Irvington Road to South 6th Avenue.

Spring Training, March 2010. Major league baseball warms up in Tucson. Catch all the excitement as the Arizona Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies and other big league teams play in Tucson.

WA:K Pow Wow at San Xavier, March 13-14, On the second weekend in March, the local Tohono O'odham, or "Desert People," conduct their great gathering at Mission San Xavier, a few miles south of Tucson off I-19. At that time, the members of the tribe share their own traditions and the culture of other Native American people. A powwow, of course, is mainly about ritual dancers and drummers, but there other cultural items offered such as arts, crafts and Indian fry bread with honey or meat. Photographs can be taken, but not video footage.

Mission San Xavier del Bac is situated in the Santa Cruz Valley nine miles south of Tucson, Arizona. Framed in the warm browns of the surrounding hills and the violet shadows of more distant mountains, it rises, brilliantly white from the desert floor of dusty green mesquite and sage. The imposing dome and lofty towers, the rounded parapets and graceful spires etched against the vivid blue complete a skyline with a graceful enchantment.

Fourth Avenue Street Fair, March 19-21. The Fourth Avenue Street Fair began in 1970 when Fourth Avenue merchants put tables in front of their stores to attract customers before the holidays. From that beginning it has developed into one of the premier street fairs in the nation, drawing crowds of 200,000 to 350,000 and ranking as one of the top visual arts fairs in the country.

The La Frontera Tucson International Mariachi Conference, April 20-24. And for the ones that like to enjoy Mariachi music, The La Frontera Tucson International Mariachi Conference will once again take center stage as music lovers converge in the Southwest for the 28th year. This year will be an extraordinary week celebrating the 50th anniversary of our lead Mariachi group, the world-famous Los Camperos de Nati Cano. At the Spectacular Concert they will be joined by Lila Downs, Mariachi Cobre and Los Arrieros.