



## Travel Classics Pre-Tour Yuma/Mesa, Arizona

(Maximum of 6 participants)

Sunday, Nov. 13-Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016

\*Please note activities are subject to change

### Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016

Arrive into Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and transfer to hotel TBD for check in.

### Monday, Nov. 14, 2016

At leisure

Breakfast on own

7:45am

Check out and load van

8:00am

Depart Scottsdale for Yuma

11:30am

#### Mr. G's for Lunch

This Yuma favorite serves up authentic recipes from founder (now deceased) Bessie Gutierrez, and it's simple, traditional bean & cheese burritos has ranked as one of the country's top 10. Both the flour and corn tortillas are made by hand – Mr. G's and its sister restaurant, Chile Pepper, run through about 420 dozen flour and 630 dozen corn tortillas every day that they're open and serving!

12:30pm

#### Castle Dome Mines Museum

At one time, the population of Castle Dome City far exceeded that of Yuma. But when the mining boom faded, so did the rowdy town.





On this mining claim surrounded by Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Allen and Stephanie Armstrong have re-created a ghostly town of more than 50 buildings at the foot of Castle Dome peak, along with a self-guided trail with spectacular vistas. New this year, they're offering mine tours, demonstrations of a restored 1890s-era stamp mill used to crush ore and Old West re-enactments.

4:00pm

#### **Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park**

The Yuma Territorial Prison only operated for 33 years - but that was long enough to etch a fearsome reputation into the history of the Old West, a legacy that lives on in movies like "3:10 to Yuma." Authorized in 1875 with a construction budget of \$25,000, the prison opened in July of 1876 when the first seven prisoners were locked into cells they'd hacked out of the granite of Prison Hill with their own hands. Over the next three decades, a total of 3,069

prisoners, including lady stagecoach robber Pearl Hart and 28 other women, lived within the prison's walls. Hear echoes of hard time in a hard place as you walk through the cellblock: motion sensors trigger audio inspired by prisoner diaries, bringing to life the reality of what some called the "hellhole."

5:00pm

#### **Check-in at hotel**

6:00pm

#### **Dinner at The Patio Restaurant & Bar at the Hills**

Renowned area chef, Alex Trujillo, has designed a new ambiance for the Patio Restaurant and Bar at the Hills, replete with fresh and enticing menus while offering priceless views!



Enjoy a Jalapeno Margarita at the Patio Bar or a glass of wine by the fire pit overlooking the Yuma valley sunset, whether relaxing after a round of golf, or, a night out on the town.



**Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016**

7:00am

**Breakfast at hotel**

8:00am

**Mini Field to Feast Tour**

Get down – and a little dirty – with a hands-on look at Southwest farming. Our **Field to Feast tours** start a visit to the University of Arizona’s Yuma Agricultural Center to see how things work out on the fields. A Yuma grower takes you on a drive through farming areas, introducing you to the growing process of the Lettuce industry

12:00pm

**Tina’s Cocina for Lunch**

Tina Clark, Chef, Archaeologist and Historian, is passionate about historic preservation and good food. She has found a way to combine these interests in her historic kitchen. Enjoy learning how to make tamales and tasting the “perfect margaritas” Flavors of the southwest will be the highlight of the afternoon.



1:30pm

**Return to Hotel to change for canoe/kayak trip**

2:30pm

**Load van for canoe/kayak paddle on Colorado River**

Since 2002, hundreds of acres along the river in Yuma have been transformed from a trash-strewn jungle of non-native vegetation into riparian habitat for all kinds of birds and animals. This is no small project: since the restoration began, workers have planted more than 150,000 trees, plant and shrubs and moved more than 330,000 cubic yards of dirt.





As the tangle of invasive vegetation has been replaced with native plants and trees and water quality has improved, wildlife has voted with its wings, with the bird population doubling and species diversity increasing by 75 percent. As the habitat continues to improve, the renewed wetland is expected to provide a desert oasis for more than 330 species of birds and wildlife.

4:30pm

**Back to hotel to refresh and change for Dinner**

5:30pm

**Date Night Dinner**

Enjoy an unforgettable 'Date Night' in Yuma, the world's largest producer of Medjool dates. Dinner under the Stars at a real producing date grove, a multi-course gourmet featuring dates, entertainment and, and even samples of beer and wine made from dates (a cash bar is also available on site).



### Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016

7:00am

**Breakfast at hotel**

8:00am

**River Walk and Bird Watching Walking Tour**

Meet Charles Flynn, Director of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area for a stroll near the lazy Colorado River as you make your way through the East Wetlands Park, while our tour guide reminisces about riverboats and the raging river waters of days gone by. Take time along the way to spot some of the 400 species of birds who make a seasonal stop or year-round home amid the area's diverse habitat.



10:00am **Depart for Mesa** (Allow 3.5 hours transportation time)

1:30pm **Arrive Mesa**

### **Experience Arizona's Fresh Foodie Trail**

Visit Mesa has launched Arizona's Fresh Foodie Trail, a self-guided road trip that connects many of the culinary-themed attractions surrounding the city. In Mesa, the bountiful harvest is proudly shared with visitors throughout the year. Here, fresh experiences and a treasured heritage of family farms and long-standing festivals make for lasting memories.

Serving as the culinary gateway to Greater Phoenix, the neighboring farms and Agritourism attractions in and around Mesa provide a continuous bounty of seasonal goods to top chefs and for visitors to enjoy. The Fresh Foodie Trail Guide maps out each of the attractions and highlights the region's farmers markets, food truck events, and includes a dining section with restaurants that feature locally-grown items on their menus. The guide also includes information on food-inspired events, Arizona craft breweries, and a seasonal guide to produce.

Food tourism is on the rise and becoming a popular requested activity by visitors. The American Culinary Traveler report, distributed by Mandala Research, finds that more than 39 million leisure travelers are "deliberate" culinary travelers with an additional 35 million who are "opportunistic". Because Mesa's culinary attractions are open year-round, Arizona visitors can time their stays to experience multiple harvests, a variety of culinary events and happenings, and enjoy various products at different times of the year from citrus in January, peaches in May, to olives in October, and more. To learn more about Mesa's Fresh Foodie Trail for visitors, [www.freshfoodiemesa.com](http://www.freshfoodiemesa.com)

1:30pm

### **Olive Oil 101 Tasting & Tour**

#### **Harvesting & Cold Pressing will be in process for viewing**

Just east of Mesa is the Queen Creek Olive Mill, Arizona's only family-owned and operated working olive mill and farm, where olives are grown and pressed for the production of high quality extra virgin olive oil. Grown at the base of the San Tan Mountains, an area known for its fertile soil, this flood plain region is famous for its high quality fruits and vegetables. The combination of long sunny days and cool desert nights provide the ideal growing conditions for the olive trees. After a tour and complimentary tasting of oils, olives and tapenades, guests are invited to dine at the mill's Tuscan-inspired eatery featuring fresh gourmet sandwiches, panini's as well as soups, salads, gelato and espresso. When the weather is ideal, guests can dine in the olive grove. Iced coffees and lattes will be provided by Superstition Coffee.

25062 S. Meridian Rd., Queen Creek, AZ 85142

480-888-9290, [www.queencreekolivemill.com](http://www.queencreekolivemill.com)



2:45pm

Depart for Agritopia

3:00pm

**Tour & Tasting at Agritopia, Joe's Farm Grill & Barnone – Arizona's newest Craftsman Community**

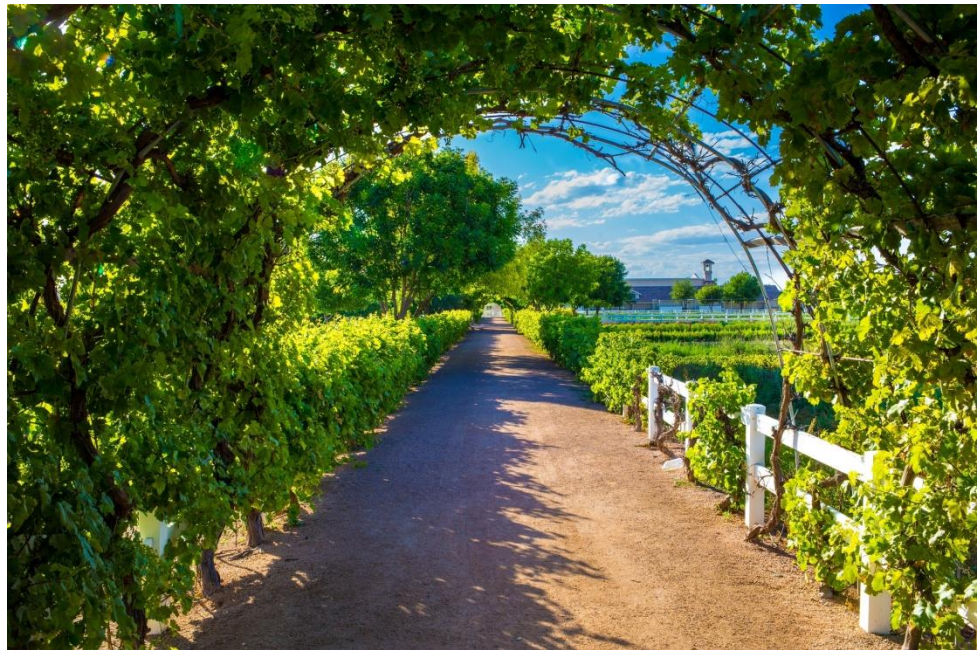
Agritopia is a community on the edge of the rural/urban interface. Lauded by New York Times as the United States leading agri-hood, this organic farm was designed to flourish in the urban setting. Instead of a huge field of one crop, you find a patchwork of numerous specialty crops. The same-day harvest is sold at The Farm Stand, as well as the being served at the adjacent Joe's Farm Grill and The Coffee Shop. Their Johnston family homestead has been converted into a 1960's era mid-century modern diner featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives and is surrounded by century-old trees offering year-round shade.

Our group will tour Barnone, Arizona's newest Craftsman Community located inside a rustic Quonset hut built with metal from WWII planes that served the nearby Air Force base that has been brought back to life as an innovative artisan collective on the urban agriculture campus. Barnone will feature 14 resident crafts people across a wide array of disciplines including Arizona winemakers Todd and Kelly Bostock an their micro-winery *Garage East*, the Arizona Wilderness Brewing nano-brewery and micro-distillery, a medicinal garden serving as a modern-day apothecary, and culinary machinist designing kitchen tools for the serious home chef including coffee roasters, espresso machines and more. Two restaurants will also be onsite, *Fire & Brimstone* featuring hearth-based cooking using locally grown and foraged ingredients, and



Uprooted Kitchen, a vegan eatery featuring produce grown steps away in the Agritopia farm. Barnone is slated to open to the public in winter 2016.

***Tastings followed at Joe's Farm Grill with award-winning cupcakes from The Coffee Shop at Agritopia – winner from Food Network's Cupcake Wars***



4:15pm

Depart for Sheraton Mesa Hotel and Wrigleyville West

4:45pm

**Check in: Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West\***

Mesa, Arizona is garnering national attention with the recent grand opening of the Sheraton Mesa Hotel. This new boutique property boasts 180 well-appointed rooms in the heart of the city's new multi-million development, Mesa Riverview and Wrigleyville West. The area is composed of 170 acres of sports facilities, recreation, and public event space. Visitors are within walking distance to the Mesa Riverview 250-acre shopping and entertainment complex featuring more than 1.3 million square feet of retail space, and will be just minutes from Downtown Mesa. The hotel is less than 8 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). The hotel itself has pulled out all the stops by incorporating some incredible event spaces into the design of the property. Upon arrival, guests will enter the open-air lobby and step into Stats Sports Grill. This 10,000-square-foot lounge with separate bar and living room areas is adjoined by a modern, glass-enclosed wine cellar featuring 300 wines from



around the globe. Not to be outshined, the hotel also boasts a second-story lounge, On Deck, offering 5,000 square-feet of sun-kissed meeting space overlooking the Chicago Cubs spring training home, Sloan Park, and Mesa's stunning Red Mountain. Schedule an exclusive spa experience at Brightlynn Salon, a holistic spa centered on rehabilitation and recovery.

860 N. Riverview, Mesa, Arizona 85201

Tel: 480-664-1221

[www.sheratonmesa.com](http://www.sheratonmesa.com)

*\*Subject to availability*

6:30pm

**Depart on Arizona Brewery Tour with hosted dinner at Beer Research Institute**

The beer craze has hit Arizona and the easiest way to experience the craft brew scene is to HOP-on a custom Arizona Brewery Tour. Tonight's tour will feature three of Mesa's most popular Arizona craft breweries and we'll learn about what makes our region unique, go behind the scenes on the small-batch beer making process, and get all our questions answered about hops and barley. Our guide will point out local landmarks and share local history along the way.

[www.azbrew.com](http://www.azbrew.com)

9:30pm

**Drop off at Sheraton Mesa Hotel**

**Thursday, November 17, 2016**

**6 a.m.**

**Optional Guided hike up Wind Cave Trail – Utery Mountain Regional Park**

**A Visit Mesa representative will meet you in the lobby of the Sheraton.**

**Approx return time 8:30 a.m. Hike time: 90 minutes**







Located on the Valley's east side, this park takes in 3,648 acres set at the western end of the Goldfield Mountains, adjacent to the Tonto National Forest. The park contains a large variety of plants and animals that call the lower Sonoran Desert home. Along the most popular feature of the park, the Wind Cave Trail, water seeps from the roof of the alcove to support hanging gardens of Rock Daisy. The Wind Cave is formed at the boundary between the volcanic tuff and granite on Pass Mountain. Breathtaking views from this 2,840-foot elevation are offered to all visitors.

3939 N. Usery Pass Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207

480-984-0032, [www.maricopa.gov/parks/usery/](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/usery/)

- 8:30am **Meet for hosted Visit Mesa breakfast at Stats Restaurant followed by property tour**
- 10:00am **Group check-out and departure for Travel Classics West in Scottsdale**
- 10:30am **Arrive at Omni Montelucia for Travel Classics West**