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Travel · Posted on Dec 5, 2021

I'm Sorry, But Tucson Is The Best City In Arizona And I Have Proof

I bet Phoenix can't call itself a UNESCO City of Gastronomy...



by [Ana Maria Glavan](#)
BuzzFeed Staff

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The coronavirus pandemic is still impacting travel, and destinations around the world have different COVID-19 restrictions in place. Always check and adhere to local government policies as you're planning future trips.

I hear a lot of chatter about Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Sedona, but I'd like to discuss the true unsung hero of Arizona: Tucson.

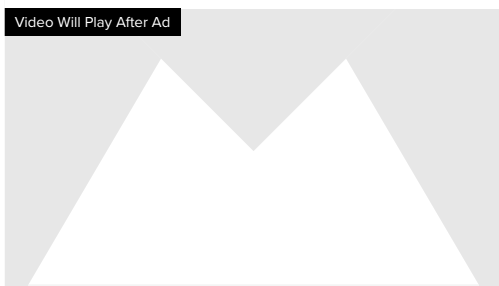



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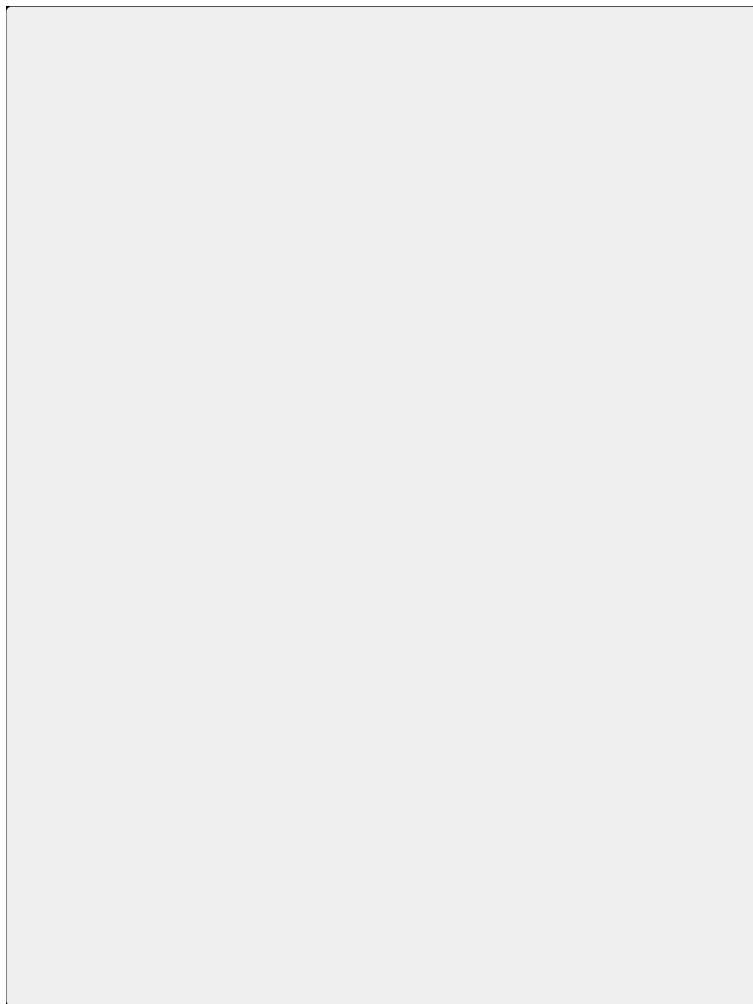
I hereby present the argument that Tucson is *the* best Arizona city to visit by way of the below points. Argue in the comments if you must.



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1. First and foremost...take a gander at this random block. So quaint. So picturesque. It's Friday and I'm in love.

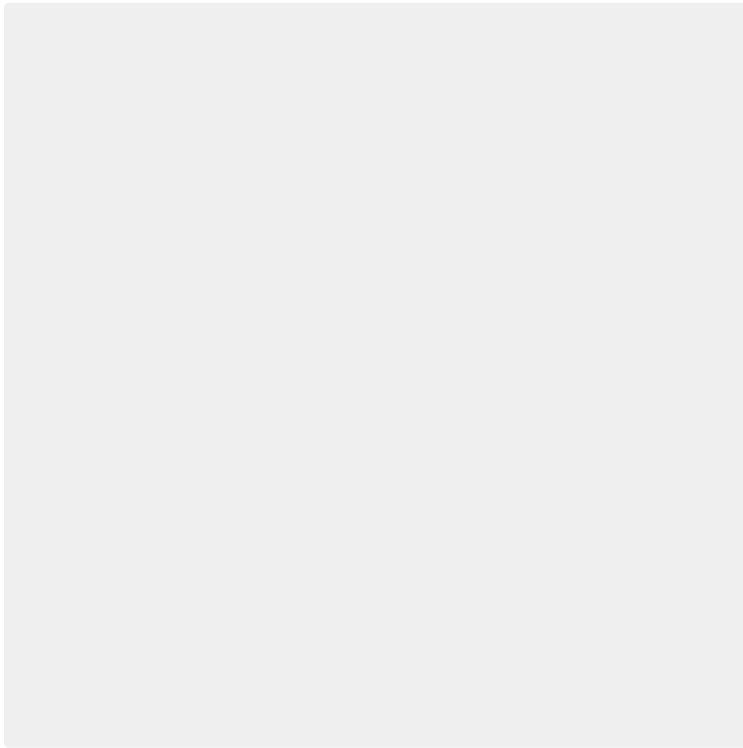


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Aesthetics aside...

2. The bar scene is awesome. For example: Drinks can be drunk from a pew at [Owls Club](#), a former funeral home turned bar for folks who prefer gin with a ghost garnish (maybe).



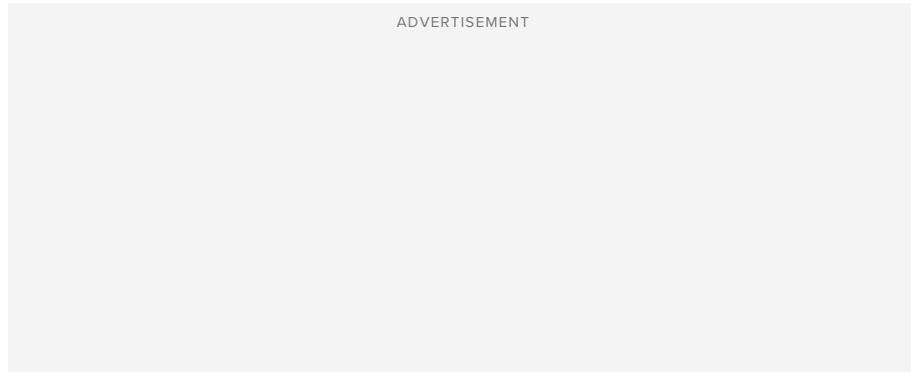
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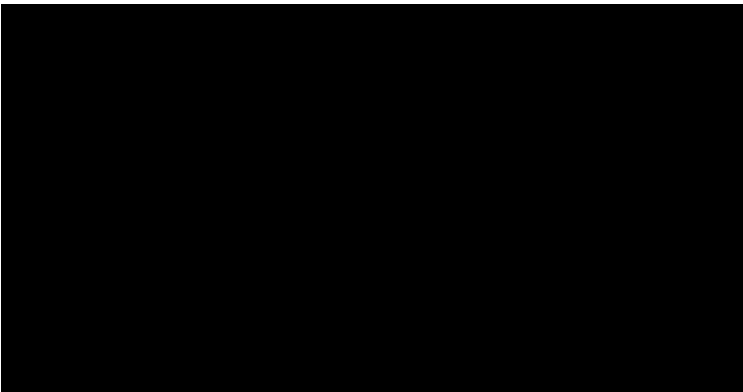
Speakeasy vibes + delicious cocktails + a slice of Halloween every night = the perfect spot. And that's not up for debate.

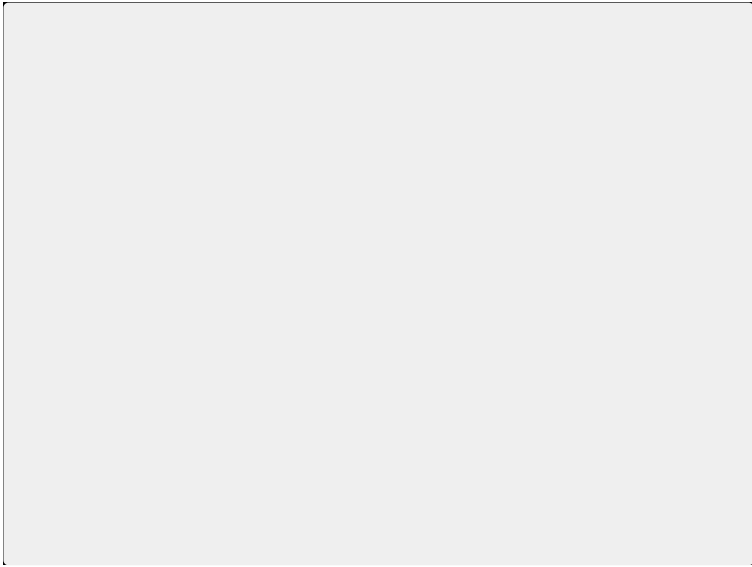
Address: 236 S. Scott Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

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3. It's impossible to walk a five-block radius without seeing some sort of street art — it's everywhere and it's all stunning.



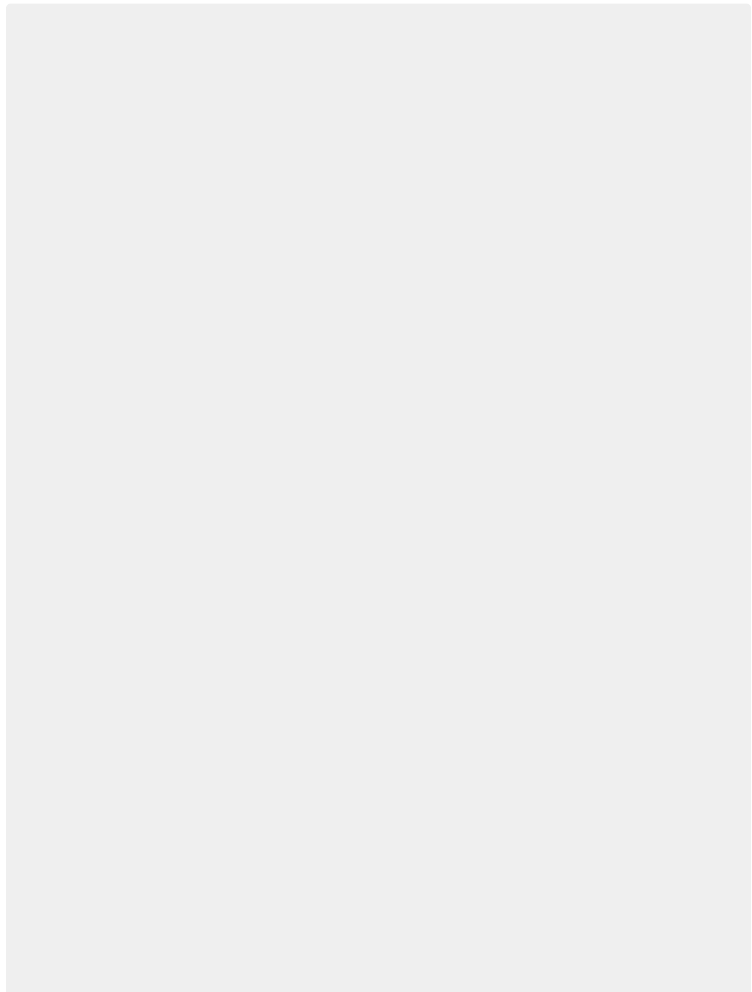


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This gorgeous street art is located by [5 Points Market & Restaurant](#).

4. There's [San Xavier del Bac Mission](#), a stunning church and national historic landmark built in 1797. The ornate details *inside* are enhanced by the barren desert backdrop on the *outside*.

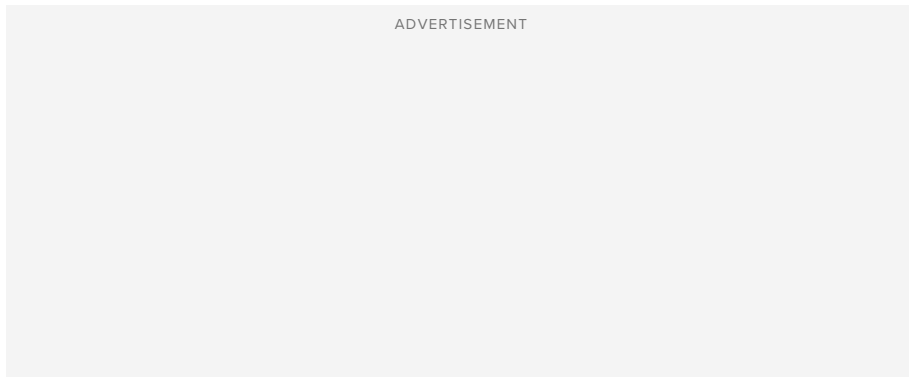


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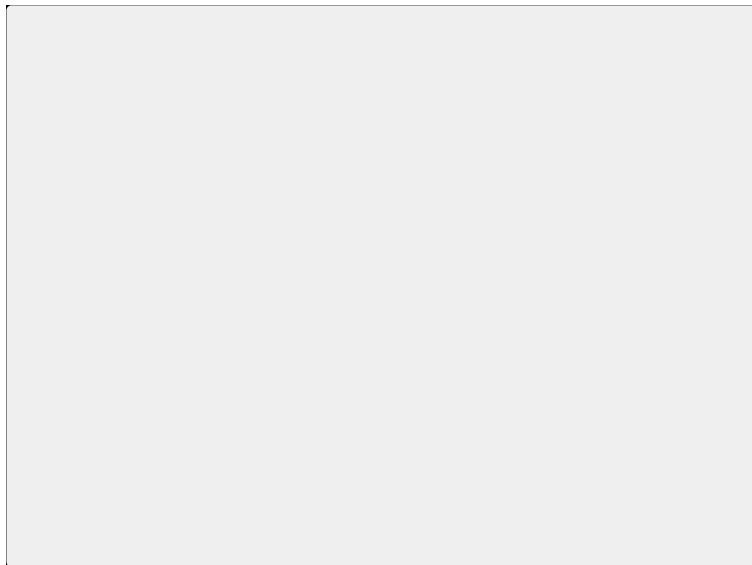




Address: 1950 W. San Xavier Rd., Tucson, AZ 85746



5. One can and should inhale pastries at the family-owned [La Estrella Bakery](#). This local biz has been around since 1986, is beloved by the community for its fresh gingerbread ~pigs~ (El Cochito) and sweet bread (La Concha), and, best of all, the spread below cost less than \$6.

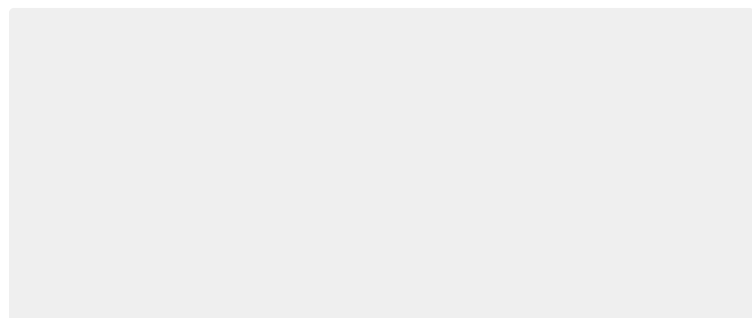


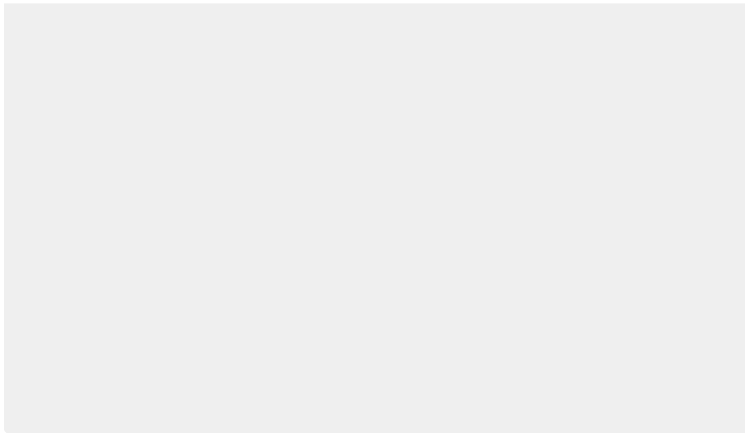
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The original location is at 5266 S. 12th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85706, but you can check out their *second* location at Mercado San Agustin.

6. Tours through the west side of [Saguaro National Park](#) are just a casual afternoon drive. Nothing special to see here...
sweats in sarcasm



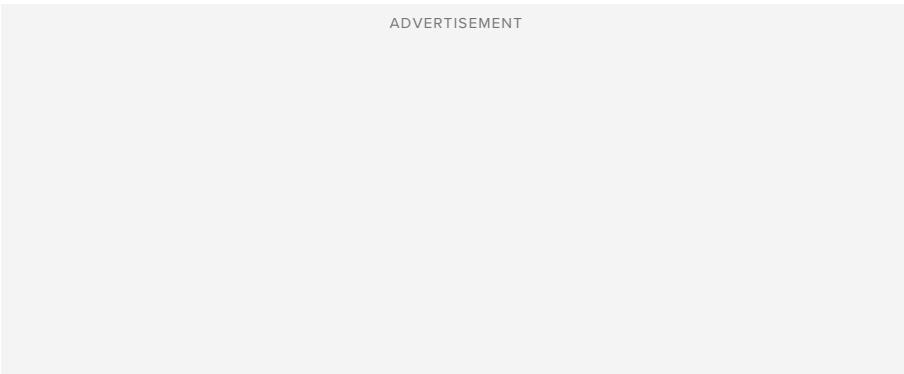


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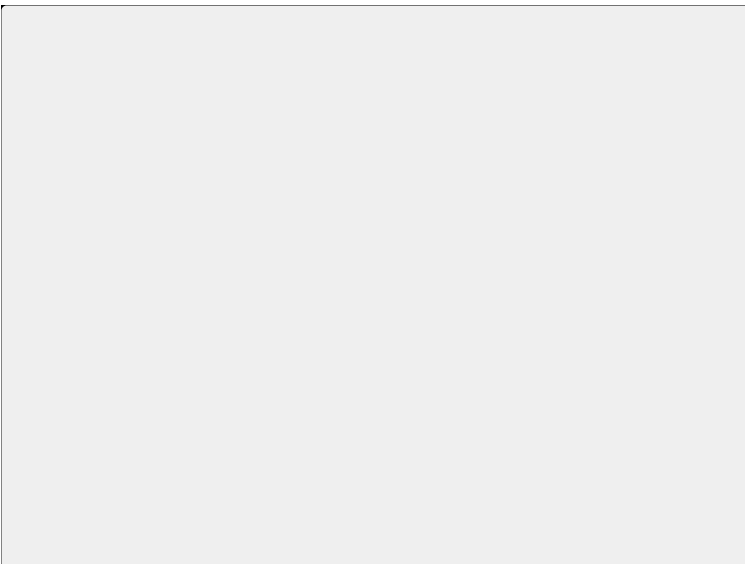


This scenic loop is an easy half-hour ride, there are pull-in spots so you can stop and gawk, and the views are breathtaking.

Address: 2021 N. Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743



7. And if you really love saguaro views? Then the [Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum](#) is heaven. This place is a zoo, botanical garden, aquarium, and art gallery plopped in the middle of 21 acres of desert.

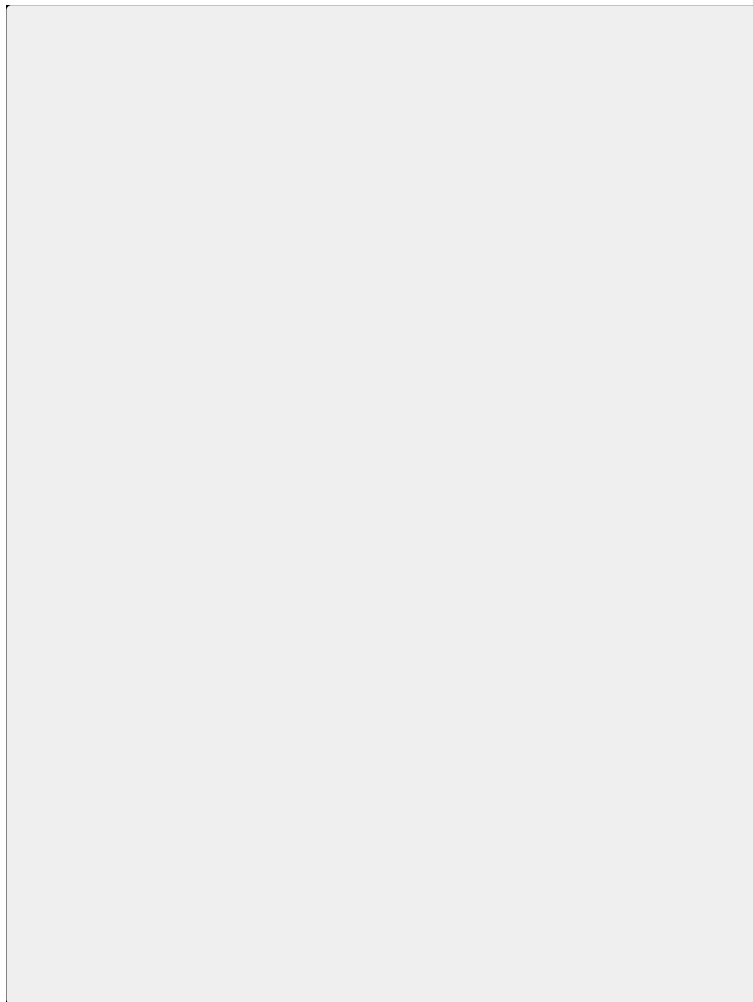


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Address: 2021 N. Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ 85743

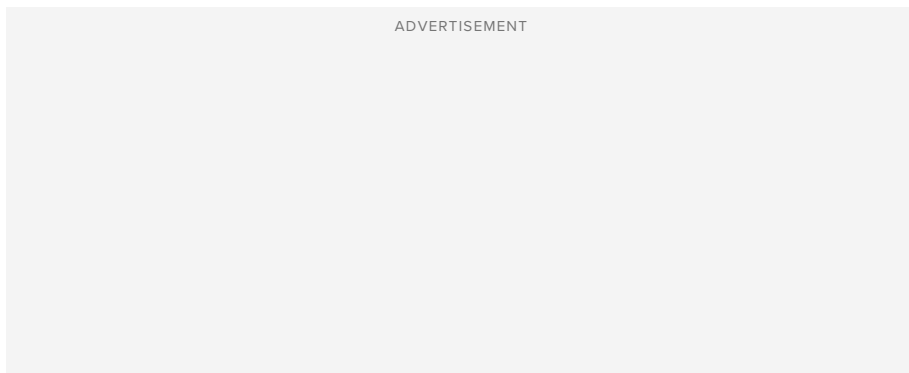
8. Neon is embraced and celebrated at [Ignite Sign Art Museum](#), a kitschy refuge for historically significant (as the name would imply) signs. There's even a mini scavenger hunt for folks who value healthy competition over casual strolling.



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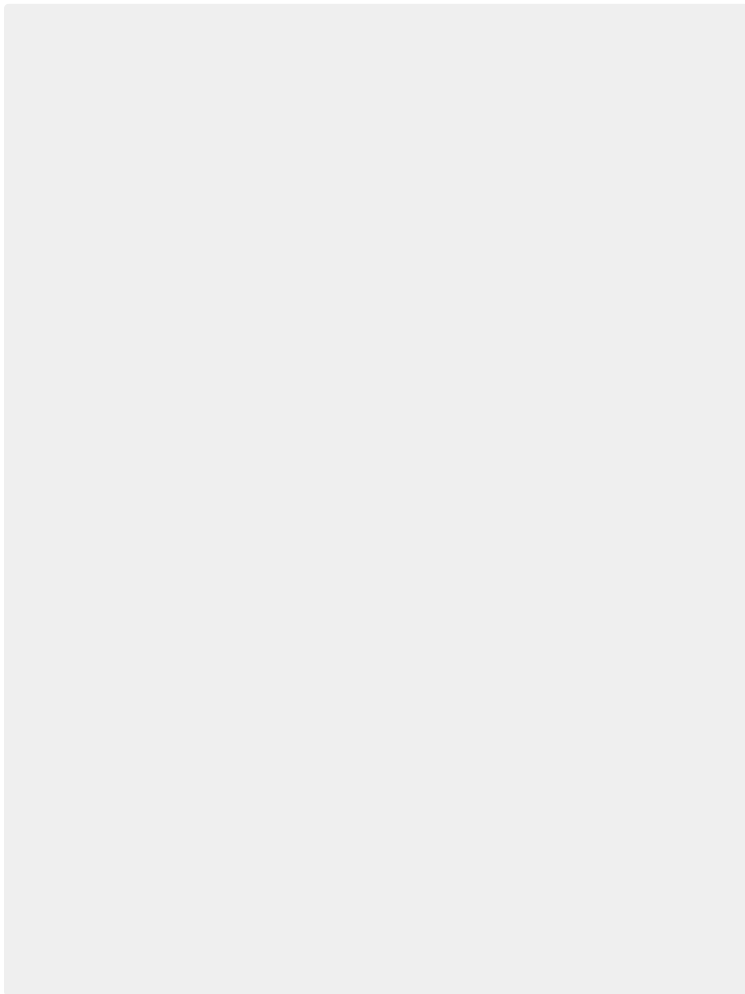


Address: 331 S. Olsen Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719



9. The Mexican food here = outstanding. The chorizo burrito and bacon taco at [Seis](#) are yum; be sure to wash it down with a fresh agua fresca (watermelon cucumber was my fave) *and* a house-made horchata. I say "and" because you have to

guzzle down both.



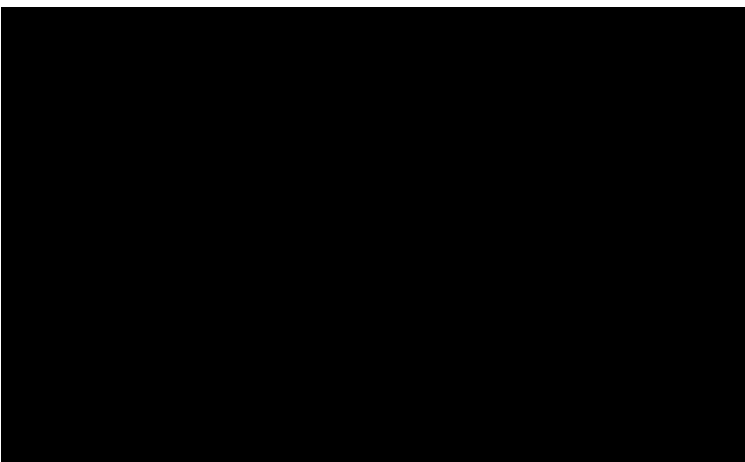
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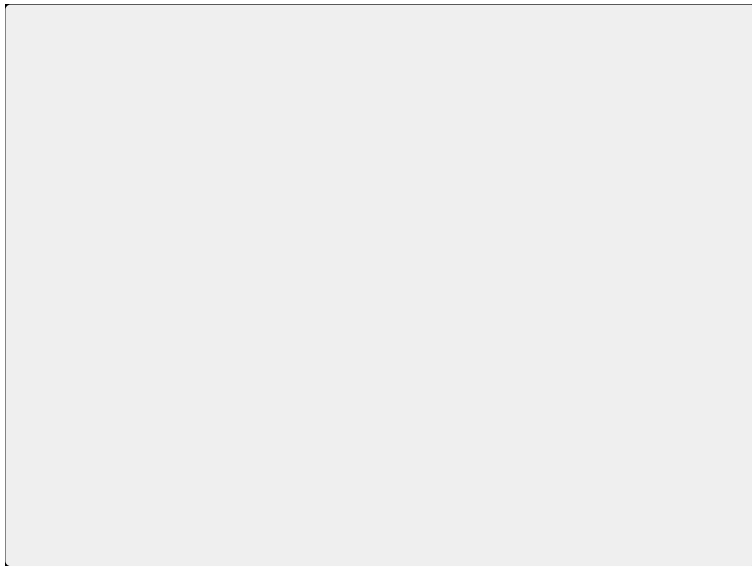


Horchata is a Mexican plant milk made from cinnamon, rice, and vanilla that you'll want to drink by the jugful.

You can check out all of the Seis locations [here](#).

10. Afternoons can be spent weaving in and out of the institutions lining [Historic Fourth Avenue](#), which includes Antigone Books (oooo we love a #smallbookshop) and the Hut (a tiki-inspired lounge you enter through an Easter Island statue).





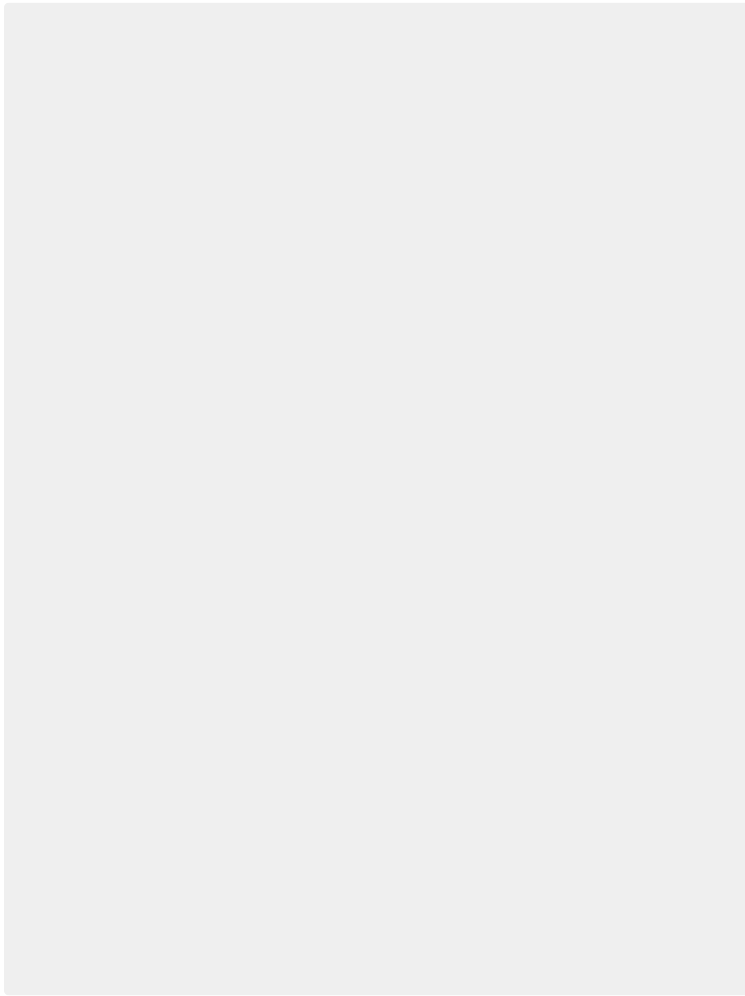
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You can also refuel after doing some Fourth Avenue shopping at [BOCA Tacos y Tequila](#). And if the name wasn't enough indication of what it's serving up... It's tacos! Delicious ones for as low as \$3.50 a pop. Be sure to order a GIANT bag of chips for the table to pair with their four house-made salsas, the flavors of which change daily.

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11. There is no shortage of fantastic places to shop. A sampling of my favorites: [Hurricane Records](#), [Bon Boutique](#), [St. Vincent de Paul thrift store](#), [Tanline Printing](#), [How Sweet It Was Vintage](#)... The list goes on.

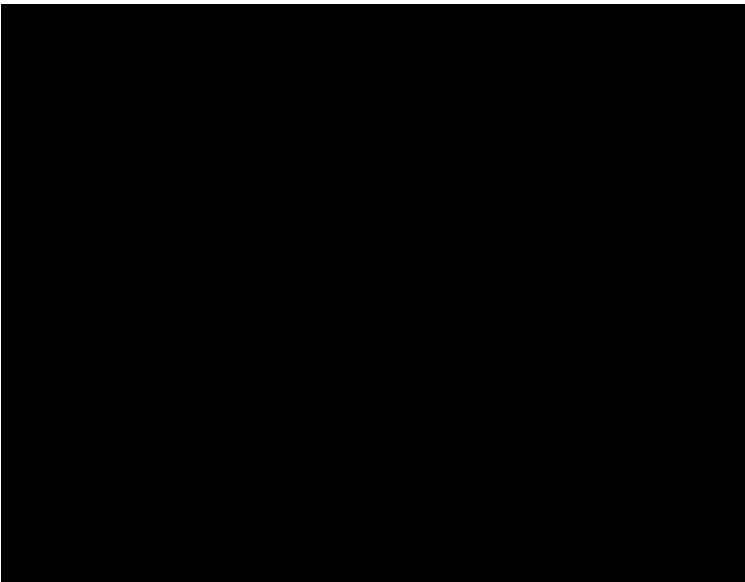


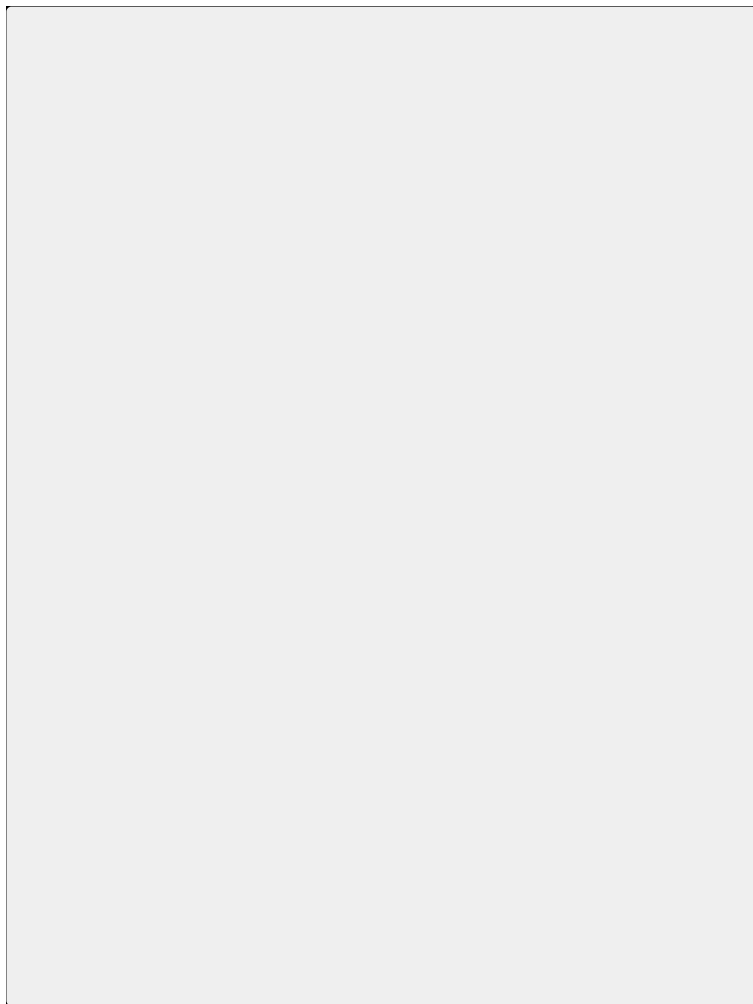
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Tucson values small shops to big-name retailers, so expect tons of unique finds.

12. The [brewery](#) scene is . Tucson is home to 12 craft breweries that pride themselves on unique recipes that infuse everything from cactus to Mexican spices. Every sip = an adventure.

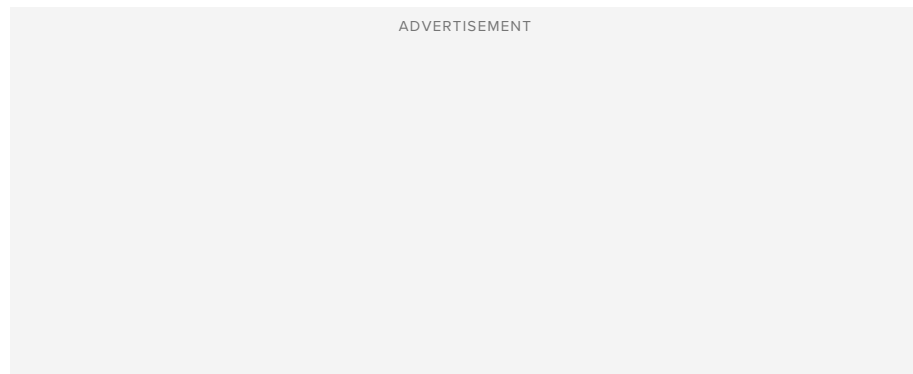




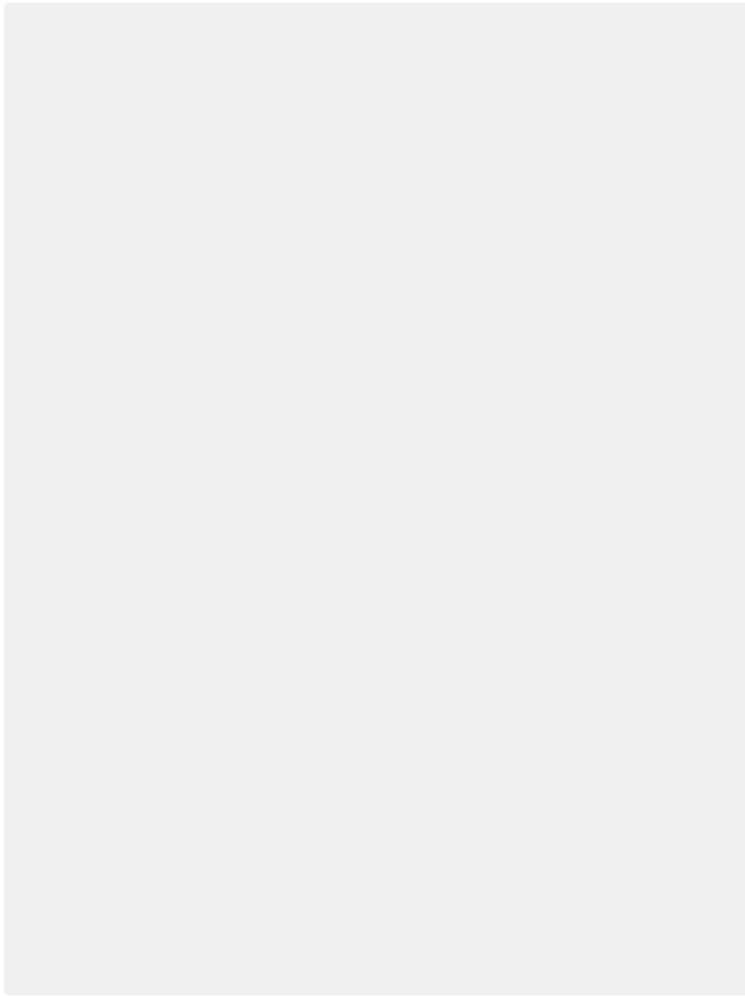
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13. I usually hate pizza that isn't made in the five boroughs...but [Anello](#) is so. Damn. Good. It's loved by locals for its simple menu, which means that each churned-out pie will be nothing short of perfection. You'll also want to inhale the jam- and cheese-topped focaccia starter.

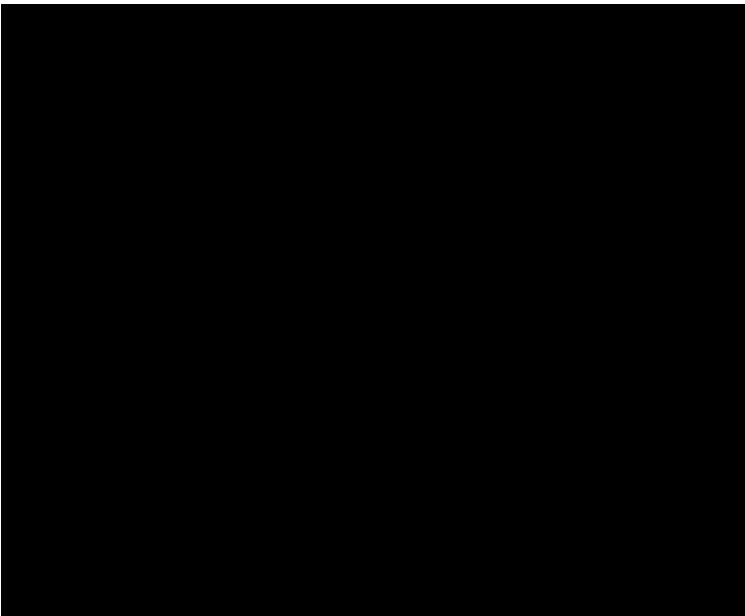


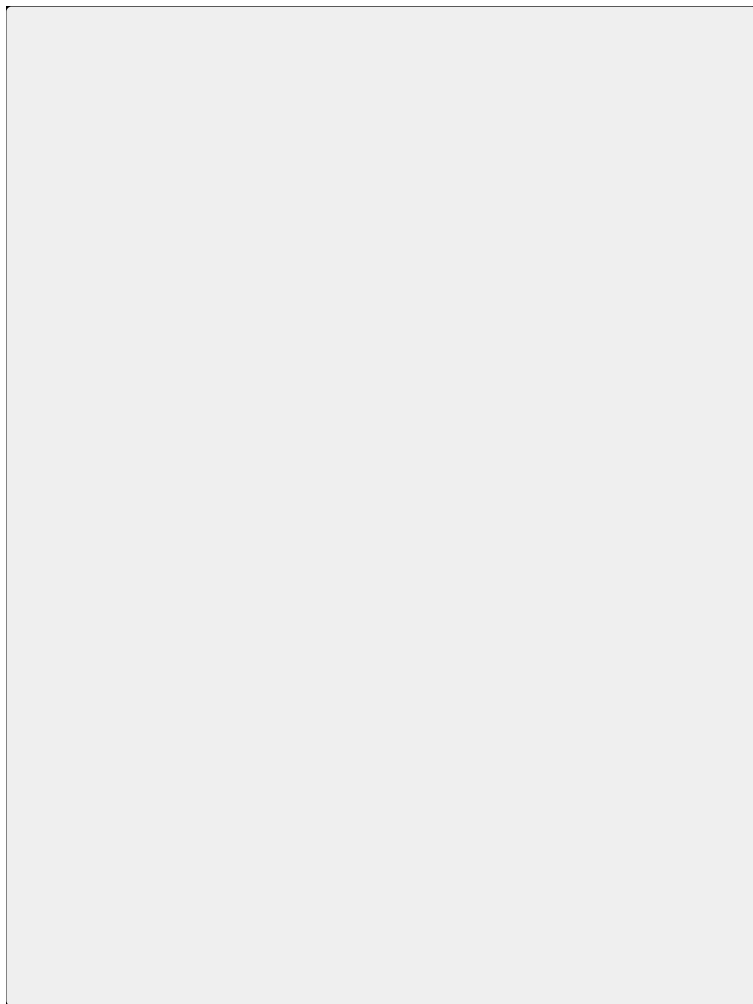
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Address: 222 E. 6th St., Tucson, AZ 85705

14. There are award-winning spirits up for sampling at [Hamilton Distillers](#), where one can swig some of its specialty: a hot whiskey infused with mesquite. This place is one of six in the nation that makes its own single malt!

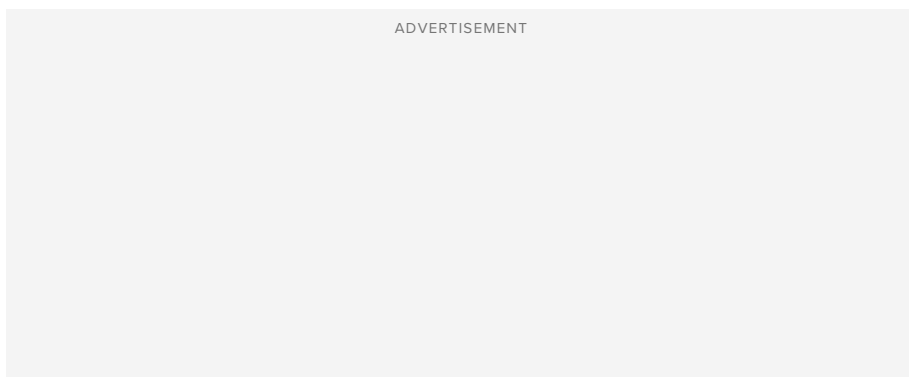




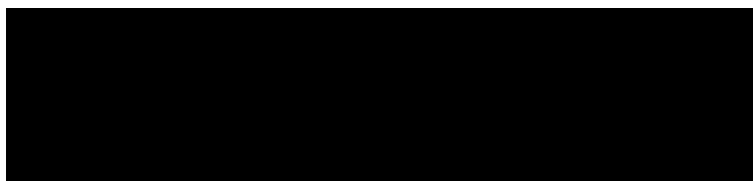
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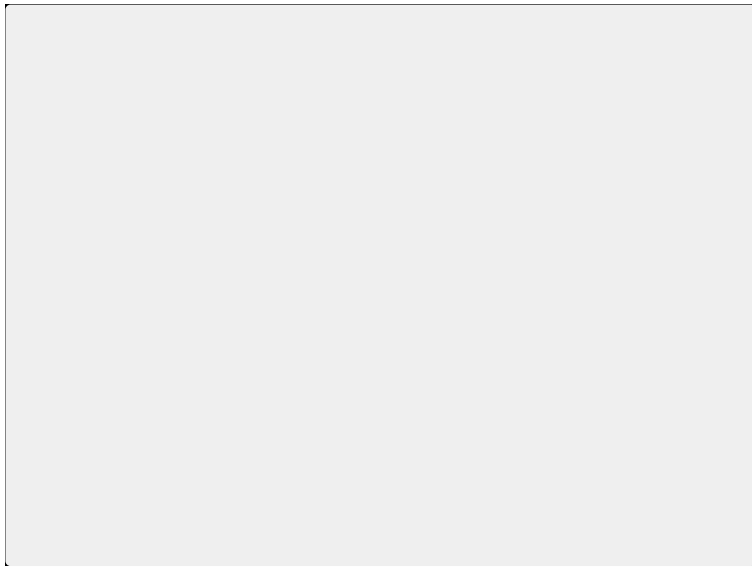


Email events@whiskeydelbac.com to reserve a tour *or* call (520) 628-9244.



15. Once again, the art scene is brilliant. Peruse the masterfully curated [Tucson Museum of Art](#), which houses an impressive collection of Indigenous, Latin American, and local Arizonian art...





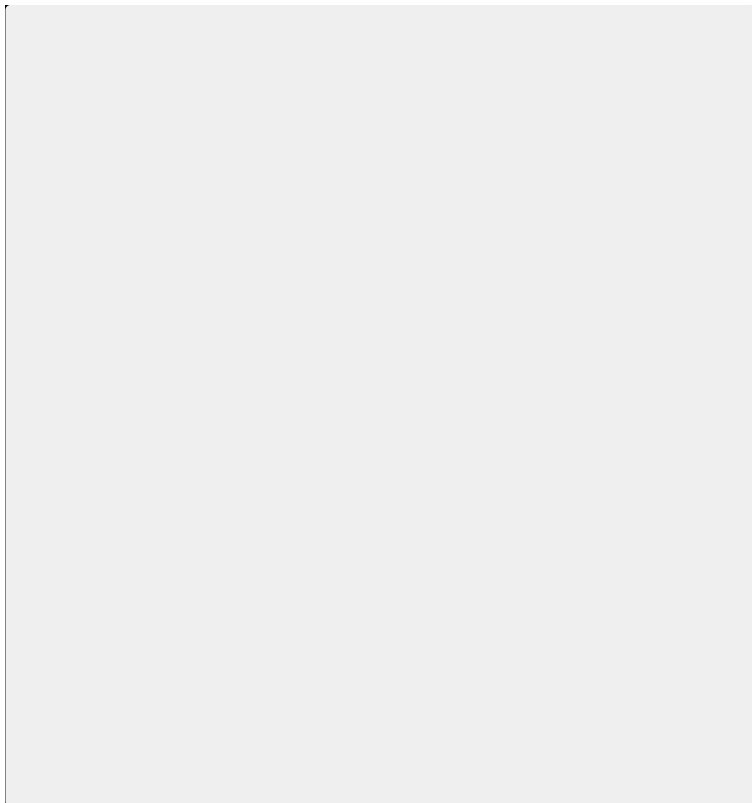
AnaMaria Glavan / BuzzFeed



The space itself is also airy and open, a lovely reprieve from all that dry heat.

Address: 140 N. Main Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

16.and then dedicate time to the [DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun](#) designed by Arizona artist Ettore “Ted” DeGrazia. It showcases over 15,000 pieces of original artwork that offer an intimate glimpse into the history and native cultures of the Southwest.

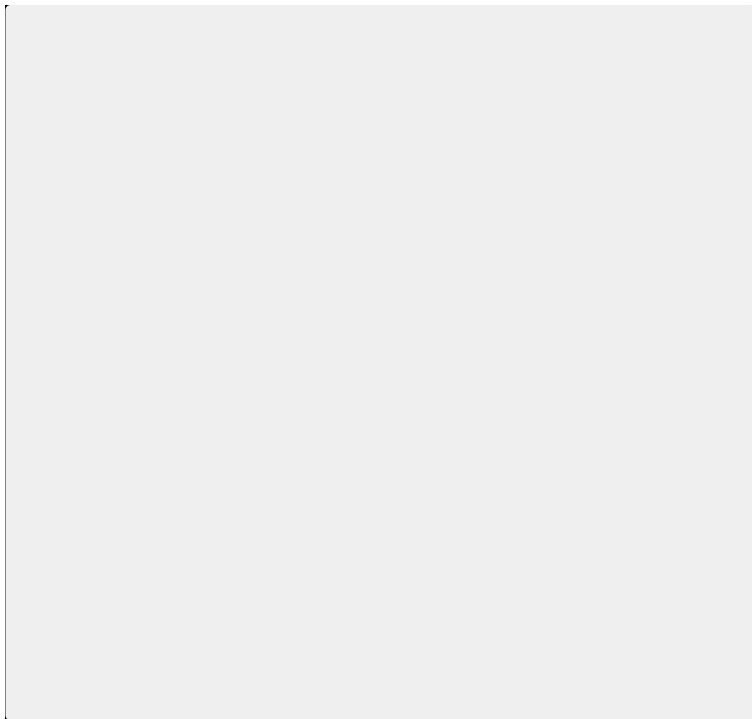


AnaMaria Glavan / BuzzFeed



Address: 6300 N. Swan Rd., Tucson, AZ 85718

17. Ice cream! Enjoy the handcrafted kind at [the Screamery](#). Delicious flavors include Rough At Sea (sea salt base, honey-butterscotch swirl, candied pecans, almonds, and pistachios) and Sweet Sonoran Desert (honey ice cream with peanut butter swirl and homemade toffee). Plus, you can get a ~flight~ to sample six flavors in one swoop.



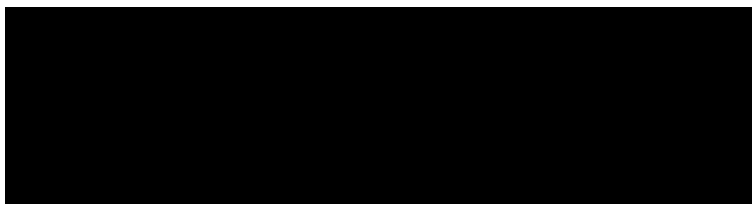
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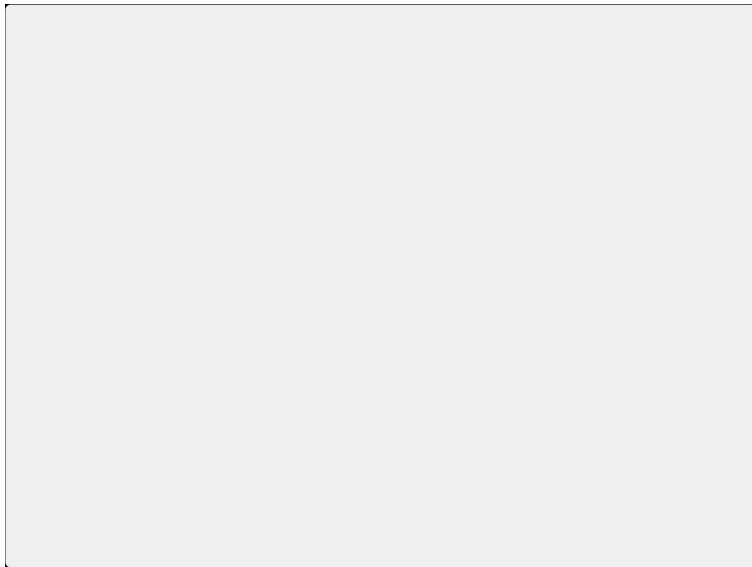


You can check out its four Tucson locations [here](#).

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18. [Mercado San Agustin](#) and [MSA Annex](#) (both across the street from one another) are *chef's kiss*. They're sprawling open markets that have a bit of everything: food, coffee, dessert, and local shops you can spend an entire afternoon exploring.



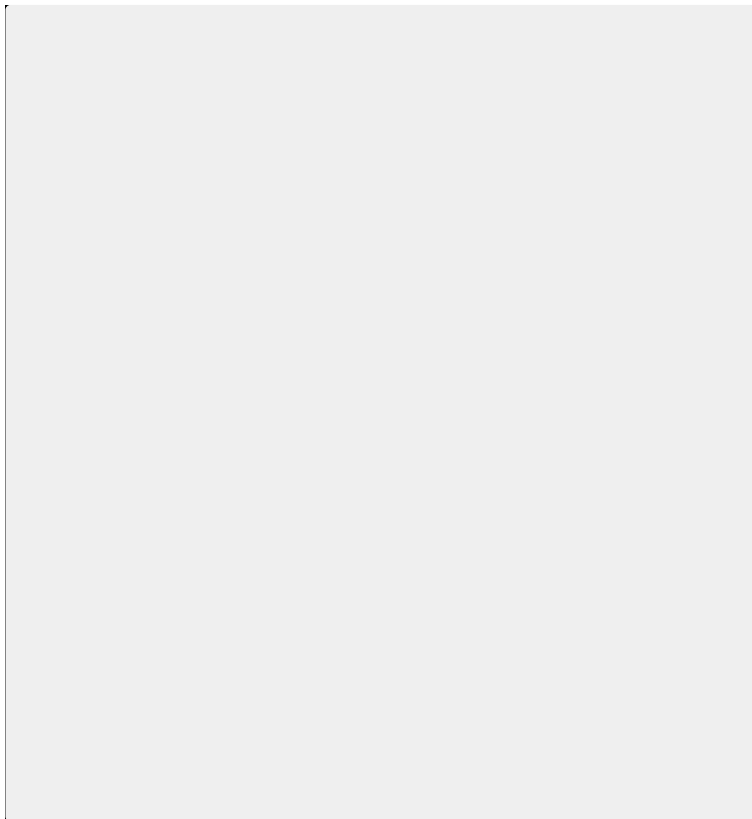


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Address: 100 S. Avenida del Convento, Tucson, AZ 85701

19. Folks can cool down with a raspado! This iconic Mexican snow cone consists of shaved ice and is *often* combined with condensed milk and ice cream. If your main personality trait is "indecisive," then follow my flavor recommendation: peach.



AnaMaria Glavan / BuzzFeed



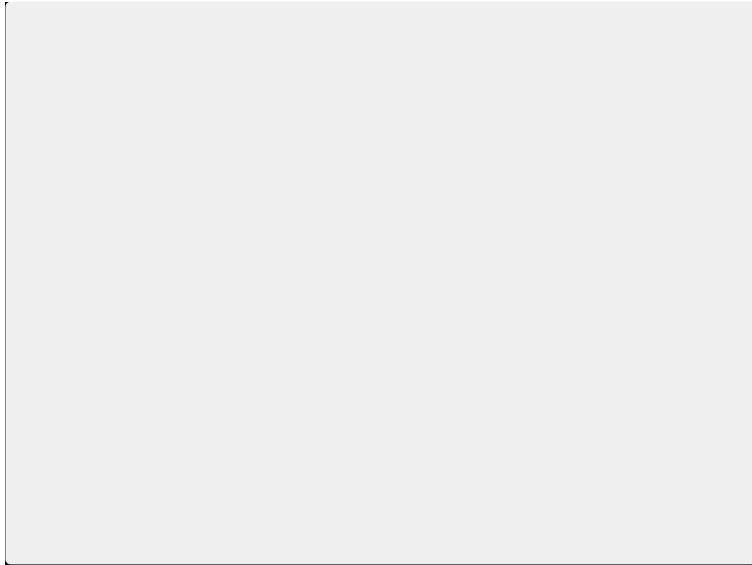
Here are just a few places you can get 'em throughout Tucson:

Taqueria Pico De Gallo: 2618 S. 6th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85713

Oasis Fruit Cones: 4126 S. 12th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85714

Sonora Sno-Cones: 120 S. Avenida del Convento #120, Tucson, AZ 85745

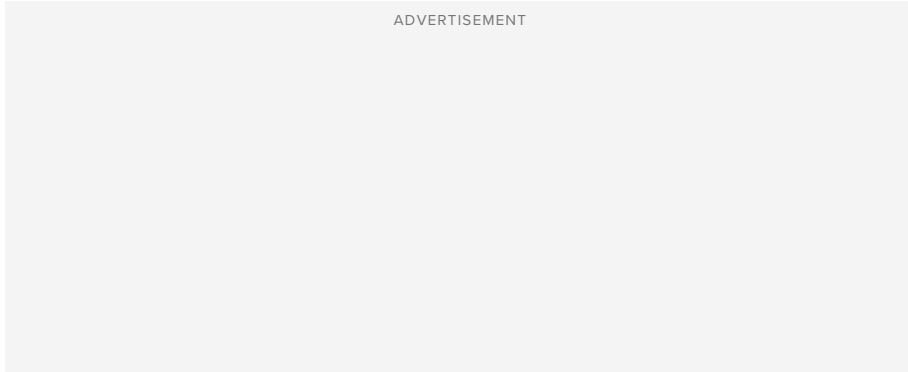
20. The University of Arizona is home to a [gem and mineral museum](#), which is a truly fascinating pit stop sure to inspire several "engagement ring stone costs" Google searches post-visit.



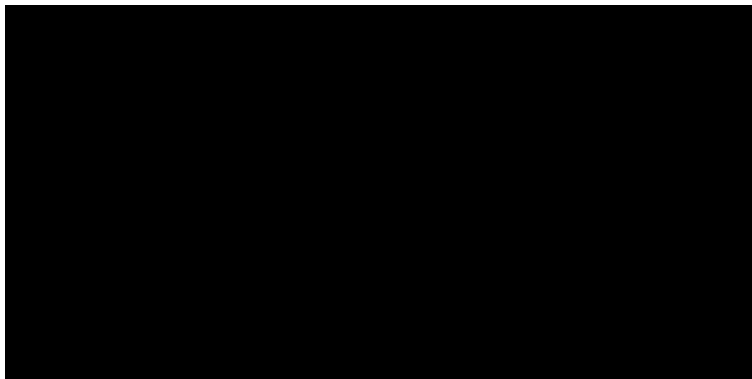
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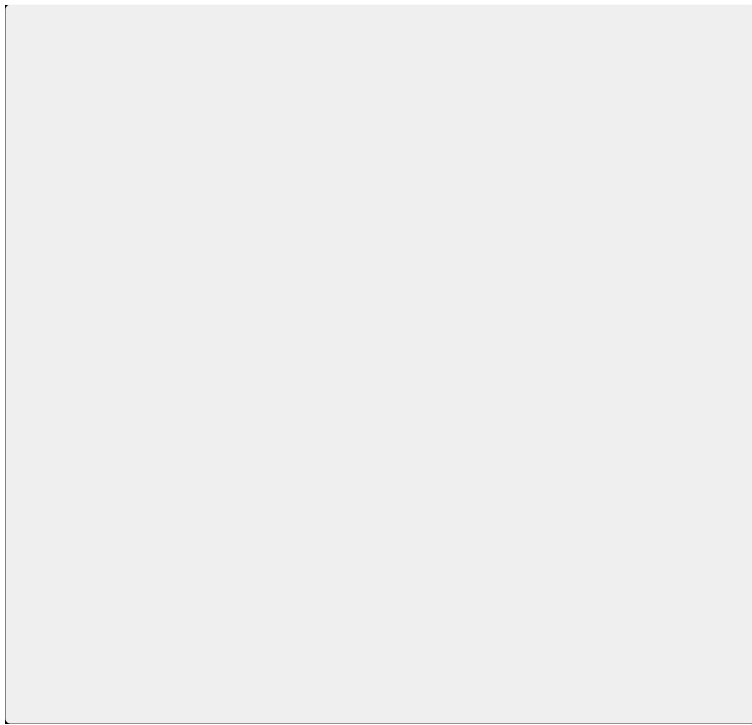


Address: 115 N. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701



21. There are so many good brunch spots with unique menu offerings — [Prep & Pastry](#) included! Their PB&J toast, for example, combines peanut butter ricotta fluff, strawberry jam, blueberry preserves, cinnamon, sugar, and Japanese milk bread.





AnaMaria Glavan / BuzzFeed



Prep & Pastry has two locations in Tucson, below:

6450 E. Grant Rd. #160, Tucson, AZ 85715

2660 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719

TL;DR: Tucson is the best city in Arizona, as evident by the food, the art, the drinks, the shopping... I expect words of agreement in the comment section below.

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Do not tell the people about Tucson.

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To bad the mayor is a Nazi, her own mandates , puppet

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[matwinkl](#)

17 days ago

You forgot a highly corrupt local government. Literal buss loads of sick illegals being dumped off at the hotels. Walking over a pile of homeless people to get to each of those places that you mentioned. And more trash and litter (I mean piled up trash and bags) everywhere! This... [Read more](#)

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