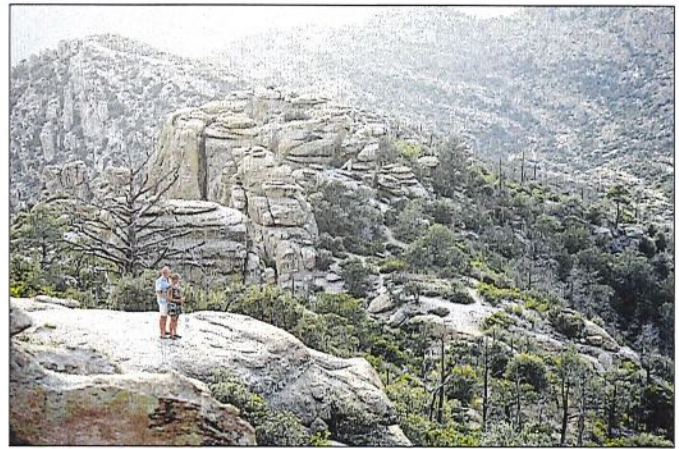




Wilko is located near the University of Arizona campus and offers a variety of fresh menu items.



Old Tucson cast members entertain with a variety of reenactments and demonstrations, including stunt and musical. Old Tucson has hosted over 300 television and film productions since 1939.



The curvy drive up Mount Lemmon, which peaks at over 9,000 feet and is the highest point in the Santa Catalina Mountains, lends itself to many spectacular views and trails.

Same Old West

Enjoy a taste of Tucson

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NIDA OBERT
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It was a walk down memory lane. I hadn't been back to Tucson, Ariz., in nearly 20 years. Not since completing graduate school in 1996 from my beloved alma mater, the University of Arizona. Go Wildcats! It was a national tennis tournament in October that brought me back. And while much had changed, much

remained the same. It was still sunny, for example. And surrounded by glorious mountains. But that was to be expected. Also to be expected was how much I had missed those familiar hiking trails at Sabino Canyon and the curious Saguaro Cactus. I did. The truth is, once you get a taste of the Southwest, it won't soon be forgotten.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Elizabeth Nida Obert is a Post Bulletin senior staff photographer.
GETTING THERE: Flew into Phoenix and rented a car. Tucson is about two hours south.
WHERE TO EAT: El Charro has a fabulous atmosphere and is known for the "best Mexican food since 1922." We even spotted TV personality Geraldo Rivera — a University of Arizona graduate — there.
SIDE TRIPS: Take a few days to travel south and visit Tubac, Bisbee and Tombstone. Sedona, to the north, is also worth your time.
YOUR TRAVEL TIP: If you really, really like "dry heat," visit Tucson in the summer. Not so much? The region is very comfortable during our chilly winter months.
MORE INFORMATION: www.tucsonattractions.com



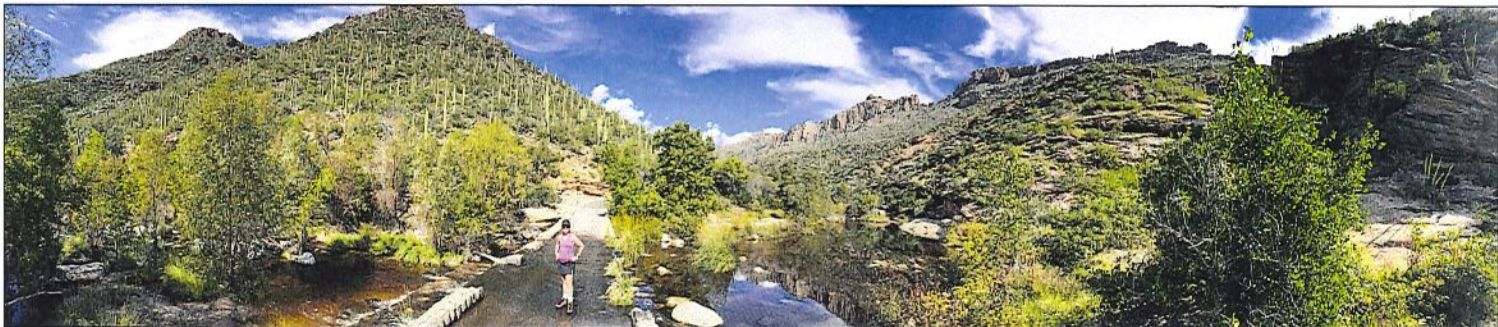
Cacti are abundant at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.



A variety of desert habitats and plants — over 56,000 — await at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.



Desert wildlife, including a coyote, can be spotted within confined spaces of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Visitors may also see mountain lion, bear and javelina.



Sabino Canyon, located in the Coronado National Forest in Tucson, Ariz., is a hiker's delight. Trails — and saguaro cactus — are abundant. Tram rides are also available and offer a 3.8-mile tour into the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Photos by Elizabeth Nida Obert / enida@postbulletin.com

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