



ADVENTURES  
*in good company*



## ARIZONA HIKE & SKETCH

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Settle in at [Tanque Verde Ranch](#) - recognized as the last luxurious outpost of the old west and located on 60,000 acres of Tucson's most breathtaking desert landscapes
- Experiencing and learning about variety of Southwest desert ecosystems
- Learn field sketching skills designed for all levels of artists
- Hiking and Horseback riding
- Practicing using your Nature Journal in a new way to really see and record the beautiful vistas

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Tucson, AZ
Activities:	Other Adventure
Arrive:	Arrive in Tucson by 3 PM (flying) or 4 PM (driving) on Day 1.
Depart:	We'll be back at the Tucson airport by 11 AM and you can plan flights out after 1 PM on the last day.

### Trip Overview

Nestled on the outskirts of Tucson, the [Tanque Verde Ranch](#), is an ideal spot for exploring the surrounding mountains and desert. Each day is a new activity, with lots of fun in the desert sun. Our guides are not only hiking experts, but talented artists as well, so will offer sketching opportunities on several hikes. We'll start the week with a Cowgirl Cookout and spend some time improving our riding skills and strengthening our hiking legs on nearby trails. A trip to southern Arizona wouldn't be complete without an opportunity to also explore its culture and cuisine. So we will travel south one day to hike at Madera Canyon. With Tanque Verde Ranch as our base, there's a little something for everyone on this Sonoran Desert adventure! We provide a watercolor set and journal that fits in your day pack, along with expert art instruction and a supportive, creative hiking group. Maximum group size: 10

### Rating

This trip is for women in good physical condition who can hike for three to six hours a day in a desert environment. There will be hikes of over six miles on four of the days, plenty of sketching instruction, and also some time to relax at the ranch. You will have the option to participate in all of the hikes if you train for a level 3 rated trip by engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross-country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** 1 [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#) 4 5.

### What's Included

- Two of our experienced hiking guides; one is Botanical Artist/Art Educator and other is a long-time Field Artist/Nature Sketcher.
- Five nights of double occupancy accommodation
- All meals except dinner on Day 4
- All transportation once you arrive in Tucson, AZ
- National Park and other entry fees
- Private horseback ride
- A small travel sketch set with journal, water brush, travel watercolor set, and micron pen

**What's not included:** Travel to and from Tucson, one dinner, travel insurance, spa services, alcoholic beverages, and guide gratuities.

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

### DAY 1

Welcome to the beautiful southwest! Please plan to arrive at the Tucson International Airport by 3 PM or if you're driving, at the Tanque Verde Ranch by 4 PM. After brief introductions, we'll settle into Tanque Verde Ranch, our home base for the trip. Located on the edge of the Rincon Mountains and overlooking the rolling foothills of Saguaro National Park, Tanque Verde Ranch offers charming, southwestern lodging, and is one of Tucson's top destinations for hiking, sketching and horseback riding. We'll take a short hike to familiarize ourselves with the ranch and then gather for a Welcome Cookout Dinner! After dinner, relax around the campfire or enjoy the sunset from the courtyard outside our rooms. (D)

Overnight: Tanque Verde Ranch

### DAY 2

After an early breakfast, we'll have a private riding lesson and then saddle up for a ride around the ranch. After this warm-up ride, we'll stretch our legs on a hike and sketch in neighboring Saguaro National Park. With our packed lunches and sketchbooks, you will have a choice to "hike more" on a 6.5-mile loop hike of Gardwood Dam and Little Wildhorse Tank trail, or "sketch more" stopping more to sketch the spectacular views and variety of cactus and wildlife along the way. For those wanting an extra challenge, there's also the option to take a 1.2-mile round-trip spur trail to Bridal Wreath Falls. We will get back to the ranch in time to take a quick dip in the pool or hot tub and freshen up before heading into Tucson for dinner (and a margarita if you choose!). (B, L, D)

Overnight: Tanque Verde Ranch

### DAY 3

After a hearty breakfast we'll drive about 90-minutes south to explore Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains. The canyon is one of the most renowned birding locations in the United States and we'll definitely add to our bird lists. Today is a "Sketch More" day, hiking as far as we want, again stopping several times to pull out our sketchbooks, complete with short sketching lessons and tips. We will keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife, including the stunning Elegant Trogon! After our hike, we will continue about an hour south to the historic town of Tubac, which was founded as a presidio, or fort, in 1752 as the Spanish empire expanded into the desert Southwest. Today, Tubac is a thriving artist community with over 100 galleries, shops and great restaurants. You'll have the option to stroll the town at your own pace or shuttle a short distance to the Tumacácori mission - a 19th-century Franciscan mission and now a National Historic Park. You can take a tour of the park or walk 4 miles back to Tubac along the historic Anza trail that follows the Santa Cruz river. We will meet back up around sunset for dinner at Elvira's - an iconic, vibrant and award-winning Mexican restaurant. If you want to try mole while in Arizona, this is the place to do it! (B, L,D)

Overnight: Tanque Verde Ranch

## DAY 4

Today begins with an early breakfast and plenty of cowgirl coffee! We'll then drive a short distance to Sabino Canyon and catch a shuttle to the Seven Falls trailhead. It's one of Tucson's most popular hikes but it's easy to see why and worth getting there early to beat the crowds. On this 5-mile out and back trail, we'll be surrounded by saguaros, cholla, ocotillo and the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. And after a gradual and steady climb, we'll be rewarded with the views of Seven Falls and time to relax and dip your feet in the cool pools. You will have a chance to learn techniques to practice painting water in your sketchbook. We'll return on the same trail, and take the short shuttle ride down the canyon. We'll then visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a world-renowned zoo, natural history museum and botanical garden, all in one place! We'll arrive in time to witness the Raptor Free Flight and have a private guided tour of this unique museum, taking sketch notes along the way. (B, L)  
Overnight: Tanque Verde Ranch.

## DAY 5

After an early breakfast we'll drive about an hour to the top of Mt. Lemmon, stopping along the way at a few of the highlights and viewpoints. Depending on the conditions and energy levels we'll hike one of the many shaded trails near the top of the mountain. After a lovely picnic lunch, maybe we'll treat ourselves to a special dessert! We'll be back at the ranch by mid-afternoon with options to partake in one of the numerous activities and amenities at the ranch, take more time with your nature journal and/or a sunset horseback ride. Save your energy and your appetite though because tonight's dinner is not to be missed. We will celebrate together with a special final dinner, laughing and reminiscing on our wonderful trip. (B, L, D)  
Overnight: Tanque Verde Ranch.

## DAY 6

Wow, it's our last day, already? We sure packed a lot of fun into these 5 days together! You are free to leave any time after breakfast. We will have you to the airport by 11 AM for flights out after 1 PM. Or there are shuttles and ride-shares available for a fee if you would like to leave at another time.

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

1. Arrive at the Tucson International Airport (TUS) by 3 PM on the first day of the trip.
2. If you are driving, plan be at the Tanque Verde Ranch by 4 PM. There will be options to park your vehicle for the duration of the trip at the Tanque Verde Ranch.
3. Details will be provided in the Pre-Departure document sent 4 months prior to start of your trip.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exitto Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exitto, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

## Accommodations

There are five double-occupancy "salas" rooms available each with two queen beds, as well as a single occupancy "casitas" for a supplement. All of the rooms are located on the north side of the property in "Quail Hollow" with a nice grassy courtyard that invites you to relax and enjoy the sunset with your travel companions. The casitas are more spacious with their own sitting areas and are available for a supplement of \$895. Both are [described here](#).

## Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early. [Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions](#).