

# Map & Guide

Official Visitors' Guide to Tohono Chul



Discover

The Sonoran Desert's  
Nature, Art & Culture



**Tohono Chul**  
GARDENS • GALLERIES • BISTRO

OPEN DAILY 8AM - 5PM | 7366 N. PASEO DEL NORTE  
520.742.6455 | [WWW.TOHONCHUL.ORG](http://WWW.TOHONCHUL.ORG)

IMAGE © LARRY J. PARKHURST 2019

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*The mission of Tohono Chul is to enrich people's lives by connecting them with the wonders of nature, art and culture in the Sonoran Desert region and inspiring wise stewardship of the natural world.*

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## DOWNLOAD OUR FREE IPHONE & ANDROID APP!

- Interactive GPS map so you'll never be lost
- Tons of information about Tohono Chul

———— BROUGHT TO YOU BY GLOBAL IDENTITIES ————



## Dear Visitor,

*Welcome to Tohono Chul! It is a delight to have you here. You are in for an experience that will be enriching, enlightening and just plain wonderful in every way.*



It is a special pleasure to have you here to celebrate Tohono Chul's 34th Anniversary. Tohono Chul began with the gift of this property by Dick and Jean Wilson (pictured above). It was the home they loved. And it was their vision to share the wonders of nature, art and culture in the Sonoran Desert with you.

## With Warm Regards,

*Christine Conte, PhD | Executive Director*

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If you would like to include Tohono Chul in your will or estate plan, you can become a member of the Wilson Legacy Society. Please contact the Philanthropy Office at 520.742.6455 ext. 243

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# WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

## MONDAYS

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct-Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May-Sept: 10am

### **TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am**

### **ECO-STATION | Winged Things | Overlook**

Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm | May-Sept: 9am to 11am

## TUESDAYS

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct-Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May-Sept: 10am

### **EVENT | Gallery Buzz | Oct-Apr: 11am**

### **TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'**

Mar-Apr: 10am

### **EVENT | Stories in the Garden | Children's Ramada**

Year-round: 10am

### **ECO-STATION | Ocean to Desert | Overlook**

Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm | May-Sept: 9am to 11am

## WEDNESDAYS

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct-Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May-Sept: 10am

### **TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul | Year-round: 8:30am**

### **EVENT | Birds of Prey - Night & Day**

Periodically 2nd & 4th Wednesdays | 11am to 1pm

Check our website for the Birds of Prey - Night & Day schedule

### **ECO-STATION | Rocks & Ruins | Overlook**

Oct-Apr: 11am to 1pm | May-Sept: 9am to 11am

## THURSDAYS

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct-Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May-Sept: 10am

### **EVENT | Gallery Buzz | Oct-Apr: 11am**



## **TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'**

Mar–Apr: 10am

## **ECO-STATION | Desert Chow | Overlook**

Oct–Apr: 11am to 1pm | May–Sept: 9am to 11am

## **FRIDAYS**

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct–Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May–Sept: 10am

### **TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul**

Year-round: 8:30am

### **TOUR | Connecting Plants & People**

Year-round: 11am

### **EVENT | Reptile Ramble | Overlook**

mid-Aug–mid-Nov: 10am | Mar–May: 10am

[Check our website for the Reptile Ramble schedule](#)

## **ECO-STATION | Creepy Crawlies | Overlook**

Oct–Apr: 11am to 1pm | May–Sept: 9am to 11am

## **SATURDAYS**

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens**

Oct–Apr: 10am, 12pm & 2pm | May–Sept: 10am

### **TOUR | Birds of Tohono Chul**

Year-round: 8:30am

### **TOUR | Wildflowers: What's Bloomin'**

Mar–Apr: 10am

### **TOUR | Butterflies & Their Plants**

Year-round: 11am

### **TOUR | Desert Landscaping | Year-round: 9am**

## **ECO-STATION | Plants & People | Overlook**

Oct–Apr: 11am to 1pm | May–Sept: 9am to 11am

## **SUNDAYS**

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### **TOUR | Walk in the Gardens | Year-round: 10am**

### **TOUR | Art in the Gardens | Oct–Apr: 12pm**

### **TOUR | Butterflies & Their Plants | Year-round: 11am**

# GARDEN BISTRO

Open Daily 8a.m. – 5p.m.

(last seating at 4:30p.m.)

Brunch: 8am - 4:30p.m. daily

Reservations for parties of six or more call: 520.742.6455 x501

JOIN US FOR

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY BUFFETS

EASTER | MOTHER'S DAY | HOLIDAY NIGHTS

(Please check our website for pricing and menus)

*Garden Bistro Chef Recipe*

### Ibarra Chocolate Mole Sauce

Time: 3 hours | Yield 6 Cups

- 2 c dried cascabel chile, stem & seeds removed
- 2 large dried ancho, stem & seeds removed
- 2 tbsp dried cumin
- 1 tbsp whole clove
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp dried anise seed
- 4 smashed garlic cloves
- 2 tsp black pepper
- 1 c chopped pecans
- 1 c pepitas
- 1/2 c dried corn
- 1 1/2 c Ibarra chocolate, chopped
- 2 c heavy cream
- 6 c hot water
- 1 poblano pepper, stem & seeds removed, roughly chopped
- 1 large white onion, roughly chopped
- 1/4 c cilantro leaves



In dry large pan toast the first 11 ingredients on low heat until fragrant. Transfer to a mortar and pestle or metate and grind into near fine paste and return paste to the pan.

Add the remaining ingredients and cover, stirring occasionally over very low heat for 2 hours. Cook the mixture until the sauce can coat the back of a spoon and the chiles are soft. Remove from heat and blend until all chunks have been removed and a fine smooth rich sauce emerges. The sauce will thicken slightly when blended and will continue to thicken while cooling.

Enjoy on any Sonoran style chicken or turkey dish.

Enjoy the Hummingbird Garden  
or territorial hacienda and courtyard...



While Sipping on Wine or a  
Prickly Pear Margarita  
or another one of our specialty crafted cocktails...



and Feast on Sonoran  
Inspired Cuisine  
that is locally sourced and prepared with care.







# ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

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## Be Desert Savvy

Comfortable, sturdy footwear is recommended as are hats and sunscreen even on cloudy days. Drink plenty of water during your visit; drinking fountains are noted on the map.

## Be Aware & Alert

You may meet some of our resident wildlife on the trails, so please remember that even innocent-looking animals may bite if threatened. Never try to feed or touch wildlife.

Rattlesnakes, scorpions and other venomous creatures make their homes here, too. Always stay on the paths and never put your hands or feet anywhere you haven't looked first.

## Be Smart

When thunder roars, go indoors.

## For Your Health & Safety

Children must be supervised at all times. Pets are not permitted on grounds or in vehicles, but please be sure to inform the Admissions staff if you are accompanied by a service animal. There is no smoking at Tohono Chul and firearms are prohibited.

# MUSEUM SHOPS

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**TAX-FREE SHOPPING!**  
**MEMBERS ENJOY 10% OFF**  
**PURCHASES!**

## La Fuente

Adjacent to the Garden Bistro in the charming 1963 hacienda-style “West House,” La Fuente features the work of contemporary local artists along with regional cookbooks and spicy Southwest food items.



## La Galeria

Located in the Exhibit House (the original 1937 Santa Fe-style home), this Shop occupies the renovated garage with its brick floors and carriage windows. It specializes in traditional Native American crafts, unique folk art of the region and books on the Southwest.



## La Entrada & Retail Greenhouse

Next to Admissions, La Entrada has something for every plant enthusiast, from casual weekend gardeners to dedicated do-it-yourself landscapers. Along with our selection of hardy native and arid-adapted plants, you will find yard art, decorative planters and an assortment of books on gardening and plant identification.



# GARDENS

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## Hummingbird Garden

Planted with salvia, desert honeysuckle, desert willow and many other plants with flowers attractive to nectar-loving hummingbirds

## Desert Palm Oasis

Our newest garden brings to light the Sonoran Desert's tropical connection in a biome interpretation not found anywhere else

## Sonoran Seasons Garden

Reflects the seasonal variations of the Arizona Upland, the Sonoran Desert subdivision that boasts five seasons with two summers - dry foresummer and monsoon summer

## Penstemon Garden

As proponents of drought tolerant and wildlife friendly landscaping, we have dedicated an entire garden to one of the most visually and environmentally appealing genera viable in the Sonoran Desert, the Penstemon

*Alice Y. Holsclaw*

## Performance Garden

Beneath a canopy of mature sweet acacia trees, this open-air venue hosts concerts, special events, and weddings

*Bank of America*

## Garden for Children

Built for children, the garden captures imaginations and provides opportunities for creative learning and discovery

## Ethnobotanical Garden

Displays plants used for food, medicines, dyes, materials, and ceremonies by contemporary and ancient native peoples of the Southwest

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# CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & TRAVEL

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At Tohono Chul we celebrate lifelong learning with a wide variety of mission-related programs to enhance members' and visitors' understanding of our desert home. From gardening classes to craft workshops using native materials, and from lectures on the colonial history of the region to birding expeditions in distant places, we're all about engagement and discovery.

**For the current schedule, visit [tohonochul.org/events](http://tohonochul.org/events)**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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## WHO?

Volunteers play an essential role in the daily life of Tohono Chul

## WHAT?

Volunteer opportunities are as diverse as our active volunteer community – retail sales, office/clerical, special events, plant propagation and grounds maintenance. Or you can train to be a Docent interpreter.

## WHEN?

Daily schedules are flexible; commit to a regular weekly shift or be available as a substitute

## WHY?

To celebrate the desert, find fulfillment in public service and provide visitors with a welcoming and enriching experience

## HOW?

Contact Volunteer Services at **742.6455 x 235** or **[volunteer@tohonochul.org](mailto:volunteer@tohonochul.org)**

# TOHONO CHUL & THE ARTS

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The Exhibits Program at Tohono Chul presents visual stories linking the nature, art and cultures of the Southwest.

*Tohono Chul houses a permanent collection with over 350 items relating to the Southwest.*

## EXHIBIT HOUSE

*Main Gallery* – Four thematic exhibitions reflect Tohono Chul's mission and celebrate the creative talents found in Arizona.

*Entry Gallery* – An exhibit space that celebrates Arizona artists through seven unique exhibitions.

*Welcome Gallery* – Four exhibitions feature the work of local artists along with selections from the Permanent Collection.

© RYAN MIHALYI 2012





© RYAN MIHALYI 2012

## DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER

*Foyer Gallery* – A semi-permanent exhibition culled from objects and archives that tells the story of Tohono Chul.

## SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS

Sculpture from The Permanent Collection can be discovered in the gardens along with works by sculptors from the region.

Oro Valley, AZ

it's in our nature



**A natural choice.** Surround yourself and your family with everything the beautiful Town of Oro Valley has to offer, outdoor recreation and the natural beauty of Southern Arizona. We offer world-class cycling, swimming, hiking, spas, golf and some of the most stunning desert sunsets on Earth. Take a look at Oro Valley.

[www.orovalleyaz.gov](http://www.orovalleyaz.gov)





# A BRIEF HISTORY

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In the 1920s, the entire northwest section of Tucson—called the “thermal belt” because of the foothills’ milder winter climate—was considered ideal for growing frost-sensitive citrus and date palms. Both were planted on the property that would become Tohono Chul.



In 1937 John T. de Blois Wack of Santa Barbara bought 80 acres and built what is today’s Exhibit House. Adobe bricks for the 18” thick walls were made on site and Ponderosa pine beams were brought down from Mt. Lemmon. In the days before central air conditioning, adobe kept interiors cool in summer and warm in winter. The house design also took advantage of cooling breezes with French doors installed throughout and a large concrete swimming pool, one of the first private pools in Tucson, was built in what is now the Garden for Children. Shortly before completion of the house, power lines were strung and Oracle, a two-lane country road, was paved.



UofA Geologist Richard Wilson and his wife Jean began purchasing property in the area in the late 1960s. Their home at the time was the hacienda-style “West House,” built by John Sullivan when his family owned the acreage; today it is the Tohono Chul Garden

Bistro. After opening the Haunted Bookshop in 1979, the Wilsons began planning their next project—a park. “At first, we just went out and put down some lime to make a path and marked the names of some of the plants and bushes, but then it started to snowball.” Tohono Chul Park was formally dedicated on April 19, 1985. [For more information visit tohonochul.org/history](https://tohonochul.org/history)



## *The Wilson Legacy Society*

The Wilson Legacy Society is named in honor of Dick and Jean Wilson who created Tohono Chul with a gift of their home and property 30 years ago. The society celebrates those who are leaving estate gifts to Tohono Chul. You can make similar arrangements and be a member of the Society as well.

For more information, please visit [tohonochul.org/planned-giving](https://tohonochul.org/planned-giving) or contact the Philanthropy Office at [philanthropy@tohonochul.org](mailto:philanthropy@tohonochul.org) or 520-742-6455 x243

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

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## TOHONO CHUL'S EVENTS

*Please check website for specific dates & times (subject to change).*



### Plant Sales

Twice a year, during our Spring & Fall Plant Sales, the Propagation area is open to provide visitors with local, arid-adapted and cold-hardy plants. *(Members' Preview is held the Wednesday before.)*

The last weekend in July hosts our Monsoon Madness Plant Sale at the Overlook.

## Trunk Shows

Zuni fetishes and jewelry, Mata Ortiz Pottery, Mexican Folk Art, Zapotec Rugs, Guatemalan Crafts and other unique cultures are featured in our specialty trunk shows. Please check the website for further information.

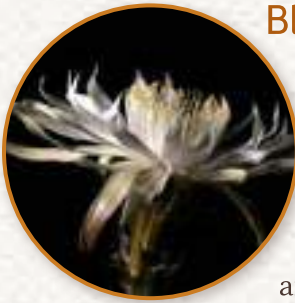


### Sonoran Spring Gala

Join us each spring for the biggest and best garden party in the Sonoran Desert. You will enjoy culinary treats from the best chefs in town, while libations and live music

flow freely. If fine food, drinks, and dancing weren't enough, you will be able to purchase original artwork from the region's best artists during the silent auction.





## Bloom Night

Once a year the Queen of the Night, *Peniocereus greggi*, blooms en-masse filling the summer evening with an intoxicating scent. We are home to the world's largest collection of these famous flowers and stay open until midnight for guests to enjoy this unique natural event. Sometime between mid-June & mid-July. Sign up for alerts at [tohonochul.org/get-engaged](http://tohonochul.org/get-engaged)



## Chiles, Chocolate & Day of the Dead

Celebrate the cult of the fiery chile—and decadent chocolate—two ingredients that define life in the Southwest. Last Friday & Saturday in October.



## Holiday Nights

The garden's largest event, with a million twinkle lights, five entertainment venues, free hot chocolate & cookies. The Garden Bistro is open for their sumptuous Holiday Buffet (reservations separate). *First three Fridays and Saturdays in December.*

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For additional information on these and other special events, sign up for our e-newsletter at [tohonochul.org](http://tohonochul.org)



# GARDEN PAVILION COMPLETE

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## THANKS TO YOU!

We are so excited to see the final phase of the Gathering in the Garden Campaign completed with the construction of the Garden Pavilion. Your support made this dream a reality!

## GARDEN PAVILION FEATURES:

- Space for up to 400 to gather rain or shine. No more squeezing into spaces designed for a nuclear family. No more worries about canceling planned and paid for Tohono Chul events due to bad weather. No more lost rental income from weddings and other private events because we don't have space and can't guarantee rain or sun protection.
- Minimal impact on the gardens as most of it is sited on what is now an asphalt lot.
- Conservation-friendly design—the pavilion roof will harvest rainwater and support solar panels for sun-powered electric fans and heaters.
- Beautifully designed by nationally-acclaimed architect John Douglas, in this easily maintained space. You will see performing arts and other programs that have never before been possible.

Learn more about the Gathering in the Garden Pavilion Project and how you can help by visiting our website at [tohonocho.org/support](http://tohonocho.org/support)



# CELEBRATIONS

## IN A SETTING TO REMEMBER

Close to Tucson's best resorts, our well-maintained facilities and outstanding catering services can meet most any need, whether the occasion is for 20 or 500.

Surrounded by continually changing natural beauty, a celebration here will take your breath away. [For more information visit tohonochul.org/private-events](http://tohonochul.org/private-events)





# ***Discover La Posada***



***Everyone calls it beautiful...***



***You could call it home***

Over 100 acres of beautifully maintained grounds with a variety of home options: from spacious apartments to award-winning houses. Only 30 minutes from Tucson.

**For More  
Information:  
520-648-8131**

**La Posada**<sup>TM</sup>

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[PosadaLife.org](http://PosadaLife.org)



La Posada is an award-winning, accredited  
not-for-profit continuing care community.