

Here are a few safety recommendations when traveling to Tucson:

- **Travel Documents:** Keep your original passport or ID and visa documents (if applicable) in the hotel safe or another safe place. Carry a photocopy with you. Tucson is close to the southern border with Mexico. If you drive south of Tucson (south of interstate highway 10), you may encounter border patrol and may be asked to present your documents. For that case, take your original documents with you.
- **Wildlife:** Tucson and the Southwest are home to a number of fascinating but dangerous species. Venomous animals include scorpions, tarantulas and black widow spiders, gila monsters, and the rattlesnakes. None of those are lethal to healthy adults, but don't touch. If you see or hear a rattle snake (you WILL know), stop moving, identify where it is, and slowly move away. There are also bears, Mountain Lions, Bobcats, and Coyotes. Hike in groups, use common sense, and consider yourself lucky if you see one. Don't approach, don't panic or run. Slowly walk away.
- **Climate:** Tucson climate is very pleasant this time of the year but should not be underestimated. The sun is very strong, it can get quite hot and temperatures can change quickly, and the low humidity amplifies these conditions and presents its own dangers. Use sunscreen and always take water with you. Drink often, if you feel thirsty you didn't drink enough before. Hike in groups and opt for shorter hikes. Always carry a cell phone.
- **Crime:** Tucson is not a particularly dangerous city. Still be safe. Avoid walking in the dark alone and avoid dark alleys, parking lots/garages, etc. If an area of town looks sketchy, don't go there. Don't pick a fight or challenge a robber, in other places they might punch you, here they might pull a gun.
- **Encountering police:** Police will assume you are carrying a gun and are a threat until shown otherwise. Be calm, non-threatening, and always keep your hands visible, out of pockets, etc. When stopped while driving, pull over (use a minute to find a safe place to do so, parking lot, side road, etc.) and turn off the car. Leave your hands visible on the wheel, don't unbuckle. When prompted, pull down the window. Stay calm, follow instructions, and keep your hands visible. Don't open the door or leave your car unless requested by the officer.