**Scott’s Favs from 17 Years in the Old Pueblo (car/uber/taxi required and distance from Ventana Canyon Resort noted)**

Restaurants

Downtown (14 miles): ***Café Poca Cosa:*** My Numero Uno. Think French inspired Chef using fresh and new ingredients from the heart of Mexico. Other choice spots downtown, ***Maynard Kitchen’s*** and ***Hotel Congress/Cup Cafe***, offer unique ambience, cocktails and diverse menus.

***Contigo***. An interesting restaurant located within the La Paloma Resort (6 miles). Latin American & Caribbean inspired cuisine.

Traditional Mexican/Sonoran. Many good ones throughout the city, but the best are in the City of South Tucson (about 17 miles away). ***Mi Nidito--***a favorite of Bill Clinton (before his vegetarian conversion of course). No reservations but worth it if you have some patience and time. ***Rigos*** and ***Crossroads,*** good nearby alternatives if seeking similar cuisine and time is not on your side.

Side Trips (staying an extra day or so and have a half day minimum to explore, check out these).

***Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum***. 2/3rds nature preserve featuring animals and plants from the region and 1/3rd museum. Always a favorite for visitors and a good time of year to go, particularly early in the morning.

***Mt Lemmon***. Drive from the desert floor (about 2200ft) to the top of a “Sky Island”, one over 9000ft. Expect about a 35 degree temperature change. Download the UA Mt. Lemmon Science Tour app to learn about geology as well as flora and fauna representing life from the Sonoran Desert to the Canada. <https://www.visittucson.org/mtlemmonsciencetour>. Iron Door Café (open except T/W) is a nice spot for lunch, beer and pie. Other cafes are also available in Summerhaven Village.

Final note: ***Hiking*** (from the resort, or the nearby Sabino Canyon). Never underestimate the amount of water you may need, and keep it short unless you are experienced and start out very early.