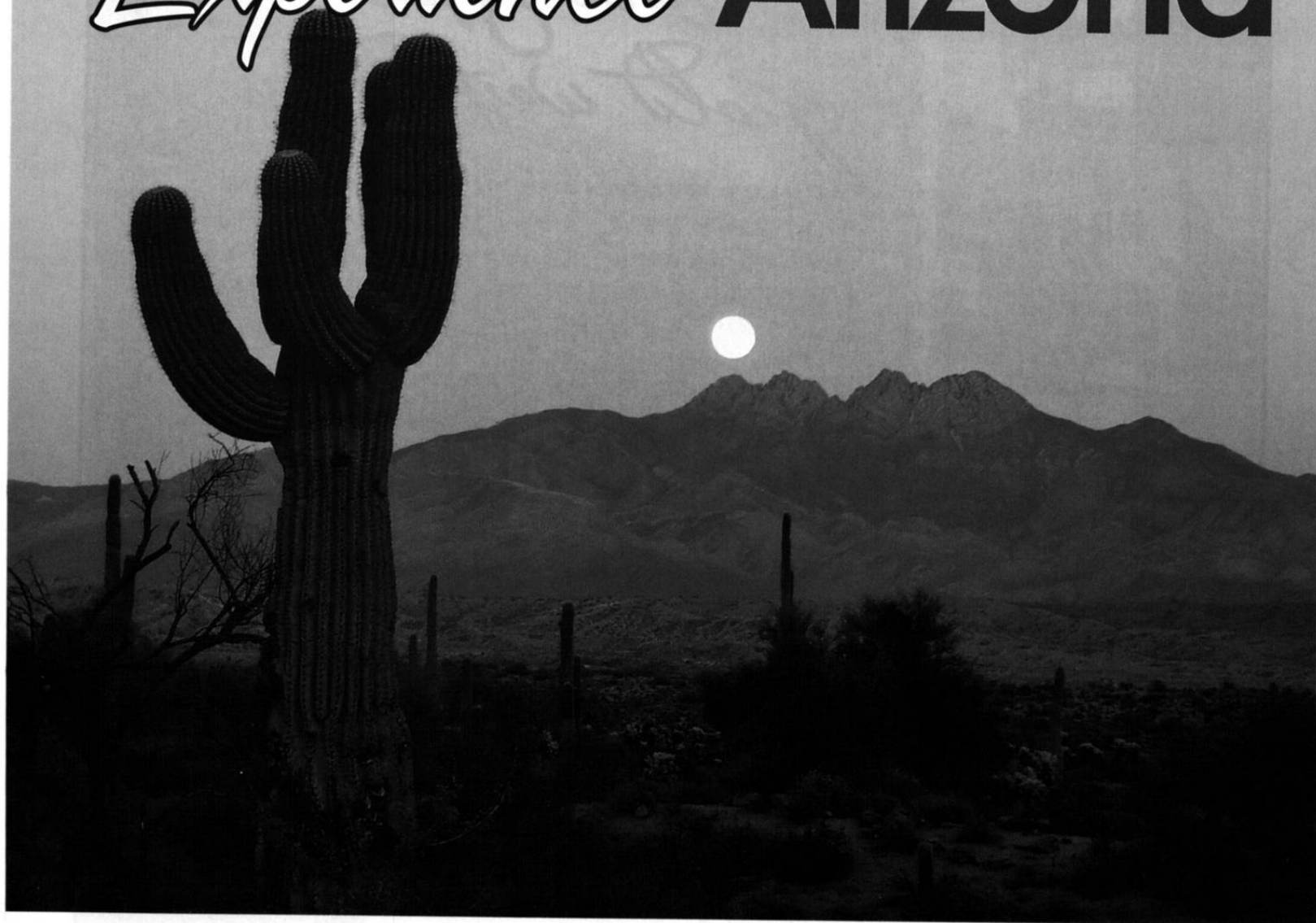


Experience Arizona



Welcome our first segment of Experience Arizona.

Arizona is a place of canyons (they may not all be "Grand" but they are all spectacular) mountains, lakes, rivers, forests, deserts, tabletop flat mesas, fall foliage, springtime blossoms and open roads. Whatever your riding style is you will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy it in Arizona.

With a Sunbelt climate that allows riding for much of the year and some the most incredible scenery in the country, Arizona is a place that you will want to visit time and again. Here are a few previews of articles and stories we will be featuring in future editions:

Mining Towns

Arizona's history and reason for settlement can be attributed, in

large part, to mining. Areas where big "booms" happened started out strong, but as mining came to an end, many of these towns began a slow decline in population.

An example is Bisbee, tucked in the Mule Mountains of southeastern Arizona. **Bisbee's** look reminds some visitors of a small-scale San Francisco, with winding hills and unique architecture. Begin your journey with a tour at the Queen Mine, where visitors

don hard hats with lights and yellow slickers. Then tour the Smithsonian-affiliated Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum before exploring some of the town's unique shops. Bisbee is so well-preserved that the National Trust for Historic Preservation named it among "America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations" in 2005.

Fall Colors

Why worry about bundling up and possible rain when you just want to see Mother Nature at her best? Arizona's mild climate and almost-guaranteed sunny days make viewing fall foliage ideal. Here are some favorite spots where visitors can enjoy Arizona's amazing autumn colors:

The Desert in Bloom

Springtime in the desert is a remarkable experience as everything comes alive in a wild explosion of colors. If you love photography you owe it to yourself to be in Arizona when the deserts are in full bloom. The weather will be mild and pleasant and the scenery unmatched.

Unique Railways

Railroads bring back a certain sense of nostalgia from days gone by. These days, it can be difficult to escape the fast pace of life and experience those times again. The Grand Canyon State offers several one-of-a-kind railway destinations for kids of all ages. Hop on board and visit any of these relics of the by-gone eras of travel by rail.



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Saloons of the Old West

The Palace Saloon, located on Prescott's famed Whiskey Row, used to be a favorite of Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp. The saloon is so loved by its patrons that in 1900 when a fire was tearing through Whiskey Row, they literally carried the bar

across the street and kept right on drinking while the buildings went up in flames. It's the same ornately carved bar that is used today, and it complements other elaborate carvings throughout the saloon

At the Rusty Spur Saloon in Scottsdale, drinks are guaranteed to be

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City Manager
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Coronado Trail

Seeking treasures of the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola, in 1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his men struggled through the rugged mountains of eastern Arizona. Though the Spaniard's quest failed, the name of this scenic highway recalls his effort. You'll discover the area's real wealth on a ride over Coronado's old route – rugged mountains covered with majestic forests rolling in waves toward the horizon. The splendor of aspen in the autumn is matched by the display of wildflowers in summer. The 123 miles of paved highway between Clifton and Springerville twist over country little changed from Coronado's day.

Old West Highway

Travel in the footsteps of the legends of the west while experiencing 600 years of Western History. The Old West Highway U.S. 60 and 70 between Apache Junction Arizona and Lordsburg New Mexico wanders through 600 years western history, weaving a path between fact and legend. From lost civilizations to lost gold, home of gunfighters Apaches and Silver. From Arizona's largest lake to the site of Billy the Kid's first gunfight and through the land of Coronado and Copper.

Salt River Canyon

On U.S. 60 just a few miles north of Globe AZ. The Salt River Canyon is sometimes called the mini-Grand Canyon. This giant cleft in the landscape a 2,000 –foot-deep river canyon is loaded with history and views. With it's stark, sweeping vistas carved by millions of years of erosion it is a one-of-a-kind experience as it snakes down one wall of the canyon, crosses the Salt River via a scenic bridge, then climbs up the other side. It's a nine-mile ride from rim to rim featuring a spectacular series of switchbacks.

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nice and cold - thanks to the bank vault that serves as the refrigeration area. Built in 1921, the Rusty Spur's building used to house a bank. To-day, the Hashknife Pony Express riders pay homage to history each January when they make the 200-mile trek from Holbrook, Ariz. to Scottsdale to deliver mail. And there's no better place for the riders and their horses to rest after a long ride than beyond the authentic swingin' doors at the Rusty Spur.

We hope you enjoy this introduction to Arizona and the features in our future issues, then plan your own visit to Amazing Arizona.

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