

DISCOVERING TUCSON ON MANY LEVELS

TUCSON EVENTS HIT THE STREETS, SKY, TRAILS, STUDIOS, THEATERS AND MORE



EL TOUR BEST BIKE EVENT & FIESTA

Bicycling Magazine gives three initial reasons for ranking Tucson as the second-best place among cities its size for riding a bicycle: "Sunshine, sunshine, sunshine." The sun should be bright on Saturday, November 20, for the 28th El Tour de Tucson, one of the most successful road bicycling events in the US (www.pbaa.com). More than 8,000 cyclists, 2,700 volunteers and 27,000 spectators are expected. Riders will find events at all levels, including 109-, 80-, 67-, and 35-mile races, plus a 4-mile and ¼-mile Kids & Family Fun Ride. Spectators will find plenty to do at the El Tour Downtown Fiesta, starting at 6:30am, with exhibitor and food booths, and live music between award presentations. Next door at the Tucson Museum of Art's Holiday Craft Market are more than 120 Southwestern artisans, live music, and a beer garden, from 10am to 5pm (www.tucsonmuseumofart.org).

ART HOUSE FILM FESTIVAL

Tucson's premier venue for art films will host its first international film festival, November 11-18. Inspired by the untamed spirit of alternative, cult, independent, and foreign movies, The Loft Film Fest will showcase 24 feature films, including favorites from Cannes and Sundance, and a variety of short films and special events. All screenings take place at The Loft Cinema, which boasts a 500-seat auditorium with a fabulous 50-foot-wide screen. The nonprofit Loft Cinema is one of 19 community-based cinemas in the US invited by the Sundance Institute to join its Art House Project in 2008. For more information, go to www.loftfilmfest.com.

GLOWING HOT AIR BALLOONS IN TUBAC

Giant bumblebees and towering cartoon characters will glow in the evening sky at the first annual Tubac Balloon Festival on Saturday, November 20 from 4-10pm. Audiences of all ages will delight in the clusters of colorful balloons hovering over the fairways at Tubac Golf Resort & Spa, located on the historic 500-acre Otero Ranch in the Santa Cruz River Valley, 41 miles southeast of downtown Tucson. A variety of food and beverages will be available from the resort's Dos Silos restaurant and The Stables Grill; country music will be performed by Beau Renfro and The Clear Country Band; and arts and crafts will be sold by local merchants. The grand finale will be a glow-in-the-dark sky-diving show by the Arizona Skyhawks Parachute Team. Tickets are \$5 to \$8 at the door. For more details, visit: www.tubacballoonfestival.com.



ORO VALLEY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Just in time for the holiday gift-giving season, more than 80 arts and crafts vendors will sell their wares at the Oro Valley Holiday Festival of the Arts, December 4-5, at the 115-acre Oro Valley Marketplace, located on Metro Tucson's north side. Shoppers will find unique arts and crafts items, including handmade jewelry, sculptures, textiles, photography, framed paintings, candles, glass art, pottery, apparel, and more; gift-wrapping will be available. A play area with jumping castles and arts-and-crafts activities will offer entertainment for children; and a food court will provide sustenance. Learn more at www.SAACA.org.

EXPLORE ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIOS

Visual artists will open their studios to the public during Tucson's fall Open Studio Tour, from 11am to 5pm, November 13-14. This free, self-guided and self-paced tour into the creative and entertaining heart of Tucson's visual arts community makes a fun and educational weekend adventure for all ages. View artists of every kind: bookmakers, sculptors, photographers, ceramists, fiber artists, metalsmiths, glass blowers, and painters. See artworks in every stage of production, and explore what lies behind the creative process. For more information, visit the Tucson Pima Arts Council online at www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org. ■

