

Arizona

Arizona Giant Traveling Map Lesson

Arizona Landmarks

Arizona has many landmarks. Some of our state's landmarks are pretty places in our deserts, mountains, and plateaus. Other landmarks tell the story of Arizona's history and its earliest peoples. Many National Parks and Monuments and Arizona State Parks have been created to protect special natural areas and very old buildings. Our state has so many interesting sites and beautiful locations that there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Perhaps you and your family or friends have visited an Arizona landmark. Have you seen the Grand Canyon or Meteor Crater? Have you visited cliff dwellings of Arizona's earliest peoples or a mission built by the Spanish when they arrived many years ago? Have you played in a river, fished in a lake, or hiked in the mountains? If so, you have visited an Arizona landmark. There are so many different types of landmarks in our state that everyone can find an interesting or lovely place to visit.

As you learn more about Arizona's landmarks, you may find that there are interesting places as close as your own hometown! If you aren't able to visit them in person, you can always "see" them in books, photographs, and on the internet!

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Bagdad Copper Mine

Freeport-McMoRan Inc. owns the Bagdad copper mine, one of the largest copper resources in the world. Mining began here in 1882 and in 2016 more than 173,000,000 pounds of copper were mined.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum (Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park)

Boyce Thompson Arboretum is the largest and oldest botanical garden in the state of Arizona. It is one of the oldest botanical institutions west of the Mississippi. Founded in 1924 as a desert plant research facility and “living museum”, the Arboretum is located in the Sonoran Desert on 392 acres along Queen Creek and beneath the towering volcanic remnant, Picketpost Mountain. Boyce Thompson Arboretum is located 3 miles west of Superior, Arizona. (From Boyce Thompson SP website)

Canyon de Chelly (Canyon de Chelly National Monument)

For nearly 5,000 years, people have lived in these deep, branched sandstone canyons - longer than anyone has lived uninterrupted anywhere on the Colorado Plateau. Its prominent features include Spider Rock spire, about 800-feet tall, and towering sandstone cliffs surrounding a green, lush canyon. Near Ancestral Puebloans ruins, Navajo families make their homes, raise livestock, and farm the lands in the canyons. The monument is located in Chinle, Arizona and is entirely on Navajo Nation lands.

Casa Grande Ruins (Casa Grande Ruins National Monument)

An Ancestral Sonoran Desert People's farming community and "Great House" are preserved at Casa Grande Ruins. It is not known if the Casa Grande was a gathering place for the Desert People or simply a waypoint marker in an extensive system of canals and trading partners. There is evidence that the ancestral Sonoran Desert people who built the Casa Grande also developed wide-scale irrigation farming and extensive trade connections which lasted over a thousand years until about 1450 C.E. (From Casa Grande Ruins NM website)

Coronado Trail

The Coronado Trail National Scenic Byway is a very scenic, steep, and winding road through the White Mountains of eastern Arizona. It is 123 miles of U.S. 191 in eastern Arizona from the twin mining cities of Clifton and Morenci in the south to the twin White Mountain cities of Eagar and Springerville in the north. The route follows the trail thought to have been used in 1540 by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado as he searched for the fabled “Seven Cities of Cibola.”

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Fort Bowie National Historic Site

Fort Bowie was a 19th-century outpost of the United States Army located in southeastern Arizona near the present-day town of Willcox, Arizona. Fort Bowie was the focal point for military actions by the US Army against the Chiricahua Apaches for over 20 years.

Four Corners Navajo Nation Park

The Four Corners Monument marks the point where the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah meet. It is the only point in the United States shared by four states, leading to the area being named the Four Corners region. The Four Corners Monument is administered by the Navajo Nation Department of Parks and Recreation.

Gila Trail

The southern overland route to California and the Pacific Ocean through present-day Arizona has been in use for centuries — first by Native Americans then by Europeans since the 1500s but especially in 1846-1850 during the Mexican-American War and the California Gold Rush. This was not a single road, but several routes that entered modern-day Arizona from the east and south. The trails joined at the Pima Villages on the Gila River, then followed the Gila River in a westerly direction to its confluence with the Colorado River at Yuma Crossing. Thousands made their way over the various routes of the Southern Overland Trail. In late 1877, the Southern Pacific Railroad followed some of this corridor as it connected California, across Arizona, to the rest of the United States. Travelers on modern Interstates 8, 10, and 19 closely follow parts of the same route.

Glen Canyon Dam

Rising 710 feet above bedrock within the steep, rust-colored sandstone walls of Glen Canyon, the dam was constructed to harness the power of the Colorado River in order to provide for the water and power needs of millions of people in the West. Glen Canyon Dam is the second highest concrete-arch dam in the United States, second only to Hoover Dam (which stands at 726 feet). Water is stored in Lake Powell, created by Glen Canyon Dam.

Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon National Park)

Grand Canyon National Park is home to much of the immense Grand Canyon, with its layered bands of red rock revealing millions of years of geological history in a canyon, formed over millions of years by erosion, that is 277 river miles long, up to 18 miles wide, and a mile deep. The Grand Canyon is the result of a distinct and ordered combination of geologic events. It began almost two billion years ago with the formation of the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the inner gorge. Above these old rocks lie layer upon layer of sedimentary rock. Then, between 70 and 30 million years ago, through the action of plate tectonics, the whole region was uplifted, resulting in the high and relatively flat Colorado Plateau. Finally, beginning just 5-6 million years ago, the Colorado River began to carve its way downward. Further erosion by tributary streams led to the canyon's widening.

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Still today these forces of nature are at work slowly deepening and widening the Grand Canyon. (From Grand Canyon NPS website)

Grand Canyon Caverns

The Grand Canyon Caverns in Northern Arizona is natural limestone cavern. It is the largest dry cavern in the U.S., located 200-300 feet below the surface.

Grand Canyon Railway

The Grand Canyon Railway is a historic railroad which carries passengers between Williams, Arizona, and the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The 64-mile railroad, built by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, was completed on September 17, 1901.

Hi Jolly Memorial

Hi Jolly Memorial is a monument in Quartzsite, Arizona. This pyramid-shaped marker honors one of the United States Government's first official camel riders. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis had a new idea to transport freight and people across the desert southwest on camels. In 1856, he imported over 70 camels and along with the first batch came a Syrian caretaker, Hadji Ali, whose American name was Hi Jolly. However, by 1866, the start of the Civil War as well as problems with using the camels brought the project to an end. The camels were set free to fend for themselves in the desert near Quartzsite. Hi Jolly remained in Quartzsite, living into his seventies.

Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the U.S. states of Nevada and Arizona. It was constructed between 1931 and 1936 during the Great Depression and was dedicated on September 30, 1935, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is the highest concrete-arch dam in the United States at 726 feet.

Hopi Reservation

The Hopi Tribe is a sovereign nation located in northeastern Arizona. The reservation occupies part of Coconino and Navajo counties, encompasses more than 1.5 million acres, and is made up of 12 villages on three mesas. Traditionally farmers, the Hopi continue to farm, respectful of the land and its resources. Over the centuries they have managed to retain their culture, language and religion despite influences from the outside world. Walpi is the oldest village on First Mesa, having been established in 1690. (From the Hopi Tribal website)

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Kartchner Caverns

Long hidden from view, the caverns were discovered near the Whetstone Mountains in 1974 by two local cavers and then assisted by a state biologist who helped preserve the caverns until it opened as a state park. The caverns are carved out of limestone and filled with spectacular cave formations which have been growing for 50,000 years or longer and are still growing. A State Park was created to use careful and technical development and maintenance of the area to preserve the cave system. The park features a cave with 2.4 miles of passages. It is located 9 miles south of the town of Benson and west of the San Pedro River. (From Kartchner Caverns SP website)

Kitt Peak National Observatory

The most diverse collection of astronomical observatories on Earth for nighttime optical and infrared astronomy and daytime study of the Sun are found at Kitt Peak. The National Solar Observatory, founded in 1958, operates three major nighttime telescopes and hosts organizations which operate over 20 optical telescopes and two radio telescopes. Kitt Peak is located 56 miles southwest of Tucson, AZ, on the Tohono O'odham Nation and has a Visitor Center open daily to the public.

Lavender Pit Mine

The Lavender Pit is a former open pit copper mine near Bisbee, Arizona. It is located near the famous Copper Queen Mine. The Lavender Pit was named in honor of Harrison M. Lavender, who was Vice-President and General Manager of Phelps Dodge Corporation. Lavender conceived and carried out the plan for making the previously unprofitable low-grade copper bearing rock of the area into very profitable commercial copper ore.

London Bridge

London Bridge is located Lake Havasu City, Arizona. It was built in the 1830s and formerly spanned the River Thames in London, England. It was dismantled in 1967 and relocated to Arizona. The Arizona London Bridge is a reinforced concrete structure clad in the original masonry of the 1830s bridge. The bridge, completed in 1971, crosses over a man-made lake which links an island in the Colorado River with the main part of Lake Havasu City.

Lowell Observatory

Lowell Observatory is an astronomical observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Lowell Observatory was established in 1894 by Percival Lowell. It is among the oldest observatories in the United States and is a National Historic Landmark. It was at the Lowell Observatory that the dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930.

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Meteor Crater

Meteor Crater is a meteorite impact crater approximately 37 miles east of Flagstaff and 18 miles west of Winslow in the northern Arizona plateau. The crater is the result of a collision that rocked the American Southwest approximately 50,000 years ago with the energy of more than 20 million tons of TNT. It is nearly one mile across, 2.4 miles in circumference and more than 550 feet deep.

Monument Valley

Monument Valley is a region of the Colorado Plateau on the Arizona – Utah border near the Four Corners area. The area is characterized by a cluster of vast sandstone buttes, the largest reaching 1,000 feet above the valley floor. Delicate pinnacles of rock are surrounded by miles of mesas and buttes, shrubs and trees, and windblown sand, all comprising the magnificent colors of the valley. The valley lies within the territory of the Navajo Nation Reservation.

Mount Graham

Mt. Graham is a mountain in Graham County, Arizona, approximately 70 miles northeast of Tucson. The mountain reaches 10,724 feet in height and is the highest elevation in Graham County, the Coronado National Forest and the Pinaleno Mountains. Located there is the Mount Graham International Observatory owned and operated by The University of Arizona. The mountain is also home to the Mount Graham red squirrel, one of 25 subspecies of red squirrels found throughout North America. The Mount Graham subspecies, which is found only these mountains of southeastern Arizona, was thought to have been extinct in the 1950s. However, small numbers of squirrels were found in the 1970s. The squirrel was added to the federal endangered species list in 1987 when the estimated population in 1986 was fewer than 400.

Mount Lemmon

A summer retreat, Mount Lemmon is approximately 30 degrees cooler than nearby Tucson, which is only about one hour away. Located in the Santa Catalina Range, Mount Lemmon is surrounded by the Coronado National Forest. The Southwest's largest dedicated public telescope, the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter Observatory, is located above Ski Valley Ski Resort at the top of Mount Lemmon. With a summit elevation of 9,159 feet, it is the highest point in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Mount Trumbull

Mt. Trumbull is located north of Grand Canyon National Park. It is 8,028 feet high. The area is home to a variety of animals. Mule deer are a common sight in the mornings and late afternoons. There are a large number of squirrels including the Kaibab squirrel.

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Oatman

Oatman was settled over 100 years ago as a mining tent camp and quickly became a flourishing gold-mining center. Today Oatman is a fun place to visit -- an authentic old western town with burros roaming the streets and gunfights staged on weekends. Oatman is fortunate that it was located on historic U.S. Route 66 and today attracts lots of visitors.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is both a U.S. National Monument and UNESCO biosphere reserve located in extreme southern Arizona and shares a border with the Mexican state of Sonora. The park is the only place in the United States where the organ pipe cactus grows wild.

Painted Desert

The Painted Desert is a broad region of rocky badlands where the landscape features rocks in every color-- from deep lavenders and rich grays to reds, oranges, and pinks. Located in Northern Arizona, the Painted Desert stretches from the Grand Canyon National Park eastward to the Petrified Forest National Park, with a large portion lying within the Navajo Nation.

Painted Rocks Petroglyphs (BLM Site)

Painted Rock is an ancient archaeological site containing hundreds of symbolic and artistic rock etchings, or petroglyphs, produced centuries ago by prehistoric peoples. There are also inscriptions made by people who passed through during historic times. It is located 18 miles from Gila Bend. Although considered a Hohokam rock art site, Painted Rock is on the extreme western edge of the Hohokam cultural area. East of Painted Rock, petroglyphs take on more typical Hohokam characteristics, while petroglyphs farther west take on more characteristics of the Patayan Culture. (From Painted Rock BLM website)

Petrified Forest National Park

The Petrified Forest National Park is located in the greater Painted Desert. (They are not two separate parks.) Home to a variety of grassland plants and animals, the park is named for its large deposits of petrified wood. It is known for its fossils, especially fallen trees that lived about 225 million years ago. Many years ago, trees grew and giant reptiles roamed the land. As the climate began to change, trees died and were buried under sediment. As water flowed over the sediment the trees began to decay. Minerals in the water caused a stone mold to form in place of the trees' cells. This resulted in petrified trees. Many colorful petrified logs from these trees are visible today. (From Petrified Forest NPS website)

Pioneer AZ Living History Museum

Located in Phoenix, the museum, (also known as Pioneer Village), has 30 historic original and reconstructed buildings from the 1880s and early 1900s.

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Powerhouse Route 66 Museum

The Arizona Route 66 Museum is located in Kingman's Historic Powerhouse and depicts the history of travel along the 35th parallel that became Route 66. It is a museum of history, housed in a historical building that created the power to light the way for the earliest Route 66 travelers. (From Powerhouse Museum website)

Prescott

The town of Prescott was founded in 1864 as the Territorial Capital of Arizona. Situated near early gold mining activity, it was also designated as the County Seat of Yavapai County. Today it is a popular location for summer visitors.

Red Rocks of Sedona

Beautiful red sandstone formations can be found near Sedona, AZ. The formations appear to glow in brilliant orange and red when illuminated by the rising or setting sun. Nearby Red Rocks State Park preserves an area for public use.

Roosevelt Dam

Roosevelt Dam is on the Salt River located northeast of Phoenix. The dam is 357 feet high and forms Theodore Roosevelt Lake where it stores the water of the Salt River. Originally built between 1905 and 1911, the dam was renovated and expanded in 1989–1996. The dam is named after President Theodore Roosevelt, and the water in the reservoir is mainly for irrigation, public water supply, and flood control. The dam also has a hydroelectric generating capacity of 36 megawatts.

Saguaro National Park National Park

Located in Pima County in southeastern Arizona, the 92,000-acre, Saguaro National Park preserves Sonoran Desert landscapes, fauna, and flora, including the giant saguaro cactus. It consists of two separate areas: the Tucson Mountain District about 10 miles west of the city of Tucson and the Rincon Mountain District about 10 miles east of Tucson.

Salt River Rafting

During the summer, thousands of Arizonans travel down the Salt River by tubing or rafting. The Salt River begins in the White Mountains and flows west-southwest until it joins the Gila River about 15 miles west of Phoenix. Today, dams built on the river have restricted its yearly flow.

San Xavier Mission (Mission San Xavier del Bac)

A National Historic Landmark, San Xavier Mission was founded as a Catholic mission by Father Eusebio Kino in 1692. Construction of the current church began in 1783 and was completed in 1797. It is the oldest intact European structure in Arizona. The church's interior is filled with original statuary and mural paintings. The church retains its original

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purpose of ministering to the religious needs of its parishioners. The mission is 9 miles south of downtown Tucson.

Sunrise Ski Resort

In the heart of Arizona's White Mountains, Sunrise Park Resort is a recreational site offering a wide range of activities. In winter, three mountains offer skiing; and during the summer, cool temperatures and outdoor adventures include scenic lift rides, zip-line tours, downhill mountain biking, nature hikes, archery course, water sports and horseback tours. The resort is owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Sunset Crater (Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument)

Sunset Crater is a cinder cone located north of Flagstaff, Arizona. The crater is within the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument. Sunset Crater is the youngest in a string of volcanoes (the San Francisco volcanic field) that is related to the nearby San Francisco Peaks. The eruption began between A.D. 1064–1065. However, more recent geologic and archaeological evidence places the eruption around A.D. 1085. (From Sunset Crater NPS website)

Tombstone

The town of Tombstone was founded in 1877 by a prospector named Ed Schieffelin in what was then Pima County, Arizona Territory (today Cochise County). It grew quickly as the local mines produced \$40 to \$85 million in silver bullion. It was the largest productive silver district in Arizona. Its population grew from 100 to around 14,000 in less than seven years, one of the last boomtowns on the American frontier. Best known as the site of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, it currently draws most of its income from tourism. (From Tombstone, AZ website)

Tonto Natural Bridge State Park

Tonto Natural Bridge is a natural arch in Arizona that is believed to be the largest natural travertine bridge in the world. Travertine is a hard white or light-colored limestone that develops quickly in hot springs and caves. The area surrounding the bridge has been made into a state park called Tonto Natural Bridge State Park.

Tumacácori (Tumacácori National Historical Park)

The National Historical Park consists of 360 acres in three separate units. The park protects the ruins of three Spanish mission communities, two of which are National Historic Landmark sites. The first Spanish Colonial Jesuit missions in southern Arizona were established in 1691. Mission San Cayetano de Tumacácori and Mission Los Santos Ángeles de Guevavi are the two oldest missions. The third, Mission San Cayetano de Calabazas, located in the upper Santa Cruz River Valley, was established in 1756. (From Tumacácori NHP website)

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Vermillion Cliffs

Located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, Vermillion Cliffs is part of the remote and unspoiled 294,000-acre Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. The monument is a geologic treasure, containing Paria Plateau, Vermilion Cliffs, Coyote Buttes and Paria Canyon. The landscape includes views of towering cliffs and deep canyons.

Walnut Canyon National Monument

Walnut Canyon is located in the pine forests near Flagstaff, Arizona. It is a steep canyon which cuts through the rolling plateau. Twenty miles long, 400 feet deep and ¼-mile wide, it was carved by Walnut Creek over a period of 60 million years. Walnut Canyon has a long human history. Artifacts show that Archaic peoples, who traveled throughout the Southwest thousands of years ago, occupied the canyon at times. Later the first permanent inhabitants came and flourished in the region from about A.D. 600 until 1400. Archeologists labeled this prehistoric culture Sinagua, from the old Spanish name for the region meaning “mountains without water.” Today visitors to the Monument follow a 0.9 mile long loop trail that descends 185 feet into the canyon passing 25 cliff dwelling rooms constructed by the Sinagua, from about 1100 to 1250 CE. The Walnut Canyon community thrived for another 150 years before the people moved on. (From Walnut Canyon NPS website)

Woods Canyon Lake (Woods Canyon Lake Recreation Area)

Woods Canyon Lake is a beautiful, canyon bound, deep lake, with plenty of trout fishing opportunities. At an elevation of 7,510 feet, it is 30 miles east of Payson on the Mogollon Rim. Woods Canyon Lake covers 55 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 40 feet.

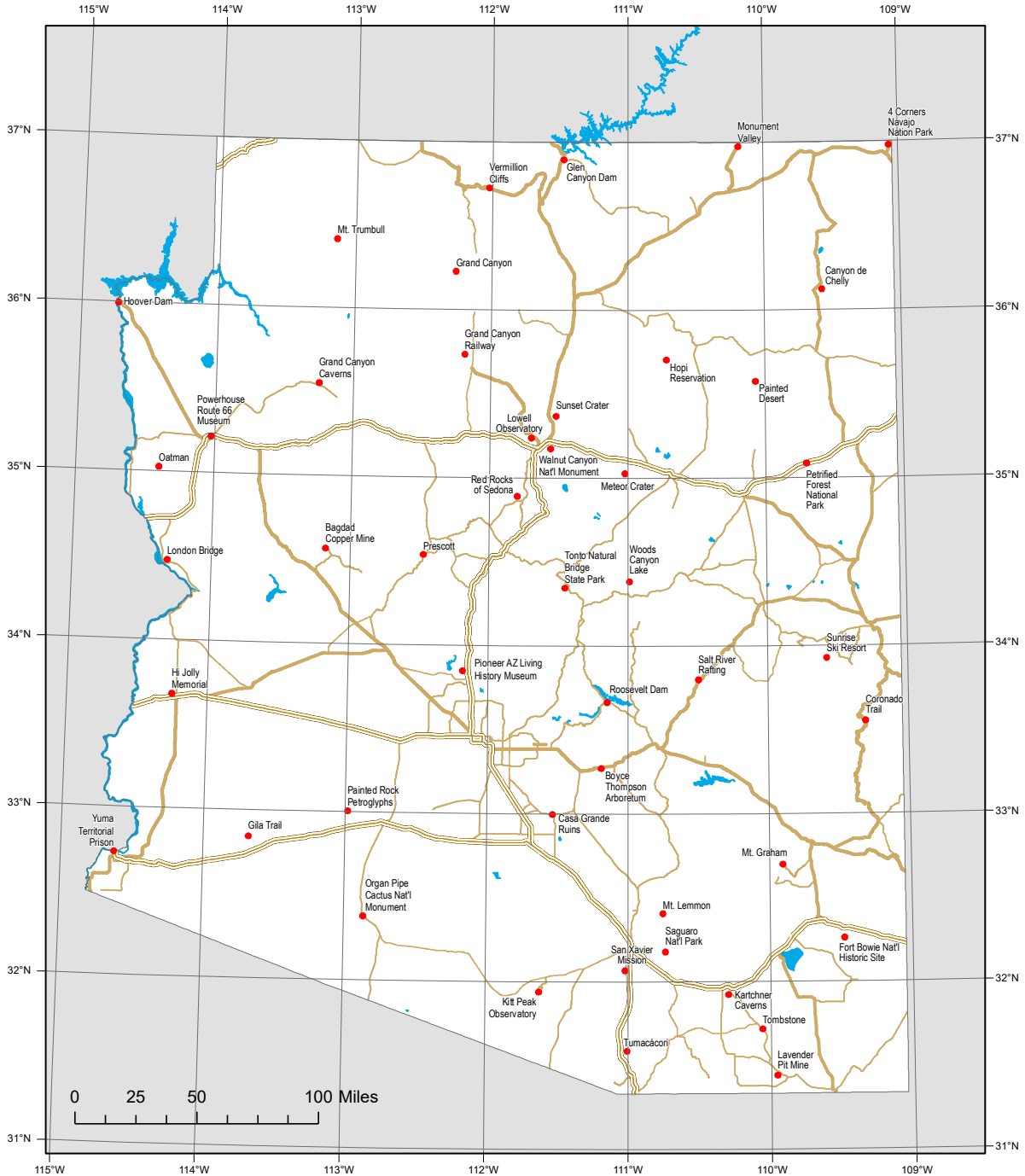
Yuma Territorial Prison (Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park)

On a bluff overlooking the Colorado River, three miles west of the confluence of the Colorado with the Gila River, are ruins of Yuma Territorial Prison. The town of Yuma began as the location for many immigrants to cross the Colorado River by ferry on their way to the California gold fields in 1849. In 1850, a military post was established at the crossing. As Yuma grew, it was chosen as the location of the new Arizona Territorial Prison. The first seven inmates moved into the facility on July 1, 1876. The prison held a variety of law violators, including the legendary female stagecoach robber Pearl Hart. The prison continued in operation for 33 years when, due to overcrowding, all inmates were moved to a new facility in Florence, Arizona. (From Yuma Territorial Prison SP website)

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Giant Arizona Map: Landmarks Key



Courtesy: Arizona Geographic Alliance
<http://geoalliance.asu.edu>
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
Arizona State University
Cartographer: Barbara Trapido-Lurie
AZLandmarkLocations.pdf

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Arizona Giant Traveling Map Lesson Key - Activities 1 and 2

Landmark	Human or Physical (best answer)	Grid Coordinates (can be latitude and longitude for older students)
Bagdad Copper Mine	human	C6
Boyce Thompson Arboretum	human	F4
Canyon de Chelly	physical	G9
Casa Grande Ruins	human	E4/F4
Coronado Trail	human	H4 to H5
Fort Bowie National Historic Site	human	H3
Four Corners Navajo Nation Park	human	H10
Gila Trail	human	B4 to C4
Glen Canyon Dam	human	E10
Grand Canyon	physical	D9
Grand Canyon Caverns	physical	C8
Grand Canyon Railway	human	D8
Hi Jolly Memorial	human	B5
Hoover Dam	human	A9
Hopi Reservation	human	F8
Kartchner Caverns	physical	F2
Kitt Peak Observatory	human	E2
Lavender Pit Mine	human	G2
London Bridge	human	B6
Lowell Observatory	human	E7
Meteor Crater	physical	F7
Monument Valley	physical	G10
Mount Graham	physical	G4

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Mount Lemmon	physical	F3
Mount Trumbull	physical	C9
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	physical	C3
Oatman	human	B7
Painted Desert	physical	G8
Painted Rock Petroglyphs	human	C4
Petrified Forest National Park	physical	G7
Pioneer AZ Living History Museum	human	D5
Powerhouse Route 66 Museum	human	B7
Prescott	human	D6
Red Rocks of Sedona	physical	E7
Roosevelt Dam	human	E5/F5
Saguaro National Park	physical	F3
Salt River Rafting	human	F5
San Xavier Mission	human	F3
Sunrise Ski Resort	human	G5
Sunset Crater	physical	E8
Tombstone	human	G2
Tonto Natural Bridge State Park	physical	E6
Tumacácori	human	F2
Walnut Canyon National Monument	physical	E7
Vermillion Cliffs	physical	D10 to E10
Woods Canyon Lake	physical	F6
Yuma Territorial Prison	human	A4