



DAY TRIP TO CONTINENTAL

From Tucson • Pima County, Arizona



FARM AND
RANCH



Photo: \$1LENCE D00600D, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

LIVING COMMUNITY

Part of the Green Valley area. The old school is a community center; the old adobe houses are private homes.

Continental itself is a short stop: the 1918 schoolhouse, a few old adobes and the cemetery, all inside a newer suburb. Make a day of it from Tucson with the Titan Missile Museum, just off I-19 on the way down, and a picnic in Madera Canyon, up the road from the old town. The adobes are private homes, so look from the street.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:10 a.m. | Leave downtown Tucson on Congress Street to I-10 east, then take I-19 south. |
| ☐ 9:45 a.m. | Take exit 69 and turn west on Duval Mine Road to the Titan Missile Museum, which opens at 9:45. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | The first silo tour, 45 minutes, booked online ahead. Or look around the topside display for \$7. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Continue south on I-19 to exit 63. Take Continental Road east across the Santa Cruz River, then Whitehouse Canyon Road into the old town. |
| ☐ 11:20 a.m. | See the 1918 schoolhouse, now the community center, and the old adobes from the street. Then the cemetery to the northeast. Keep it quiet and leave everything as you find it. |
| ☐ Noon | Drive about 11 miles up Whitehouse Canyon Road to Madera Canyon. Pay the \$8 day fee and picnic by the creek. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Walk from the picnic areas. The Forest Service's visitor information station is usually open Friday to Sunday. |
| ☐ Late afternoon | Drive back down the canyon and north on I-19 to Tucson. |

In summer the Titan Missile Museum opens Thursday to Monday only, by reservation. Check before you go.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The old schoolhouse.** Built in 1918 and now the community center, as in the photo at the top of this guide. Shoot it from the street.
- **The cemetery.** Our gallery photo frames the graves with the Santa Rita Mountains behind. Be discreet. It is still in use and held sacred.
- **The pecan orchards.** The old farm's trees fill the land toward the river, as the aerial in this guide shows. Shoot the rows from public roads.
- **The Titan missile.** Personal photos and video are fine underground, but flash isn't, so raise the ISO.
- **Madera Canyon.** The creek and its picnic areas, in the Santa Rita Mountains above the old town.
- **Drones.** Continental is homes and a school. We'd leave the drone in the bag here.



USGS topographic map, 1904 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	28 mi, about 36 min each way from downtown Tucson. From Green Valley: 2 mi, about 6 min.
THE OLD TOWN	Public streets through a lived-in neighborhood. We found no visiting hours for the community center in the old schoolhouse, so see it from outside. The cemetery is northeast of the school, inside the Madera Reserve subdivision. We found no posted rules for it, and Wikipedia notes that local Native people regard it as a holy site.
TITAN MUSEUM	1580 W. Duval Mine Road, I-19 exit 69. October to May, daily 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. (9:15 a.m. in March); June to September, Thursday to Monday by reservation. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.
TITAN TICKETS	The 45-minute silo tour is sold online only: \$19.50 adults, \$16.75 seniors 65 and over, \$17.50 military and veterans, \$15 ages 5 to 12. Topside only is \$7 at the door, without the silo.
MADERA CANYON	Coronado National Forest day use, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. \$8 per vehicle a day; Coronado and interagency passes are accepted. A paved road runs up the canyon to creekside picnic areas.
RESTROOMS	At the Titan Missile Museum, and vault toilets in Madera Canyon. None listed in the old town.
FOOD AND WATER	We found no café or store listed in the old town. Madera Canyon has picnic tables and drinking water, so pack a lunch. Only bottled water is allowed on the Titan tour.
ON FOOT	The silo tour goes down and up 55 stair steps, with no elevator. The museum asks for walking shoes, not heels or flip-flops.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The Titan museum allows personal photos and video, but no flash, tripods or selfie sticks. The Forest Service's Madera Canyon page doesn't mention drones.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 31.85080, -110.97470 • 31°51'03"N
110°58'29"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/continental/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.