



Spice up your Yuma visit with a taste of border culture

Home to two Indian tribes for thousands of years, Yuma was part of Mexico until 1854. This multicultural heritage makes Yuma a perfect spot to gain a deeper appreciation of Native American traditions – and for safe and easy trips to Mexico.

Cocopah Museum and Cultural Center

The Cocopah – the River People, in their language – have made their home along the lower Colorado River and its delta for more than 3,000 years. At the museum (above), you'll learn about the traditions of Yuma's first people, and the way the Colorado River met their needs. About 40 minutes from the interstate, free admission (donations welcome), guided tours by appointment. Gift shop features beadwork by Cocopah artists and other items. Allow one to two hours.

South of the border

Los Algodones, Baja California, is a small, visitor-friendly village just minutes west of Yuma that may just have the heaviest concentration of physicians, pharmacies, dentists and opticians of any four-block area on the planet, along with souvenirs, curios and tasty Mexican food and drink. Just five minutes from Interstate 8, this is a safe and easy day trip. Allow three to four hours; please note that border crossers need a passport or other approved ID for re-entry to the U.S. (see www.visityum.com for details). The Algodones Visitors Bureau will welcome your group.

Cooking with Sabor (Cooking with Taste) classes at Main Street Café

As part of Yuma Visitors Bureau's new Agri-Experience program, this homestyle café – operated by a local nonprofit that empowers women by training them for culinary careers – will host twice-weekly cooking classes preparing locally grown foods with border *sabor*. About 45 minutes from interstate, Tuesdays and Thursdays Nov.-March (classes rotate), group rates, allow ½ day.

Gaming fun at three great casinos

Under compacts with Arizona and California, the Quechan and Cocopah Indian tribes now operate three casinos: Cocopah Casino and Resort (just south of Yuma, 500+ slot machines, 275-seat bingo hall, eight blackjack tables); Paradise Casino (across river from downtown, 500+ slot machines, 300-seat bingo hall); and Quechan Casino and Resort, aka "The Q" (on interstate seven miles west of Yuma, 1,000 slot machines, 24 table games, live poker room). Non-gaming highlights include a resort-style pool area with a lazy river at The Q, and a family entertainment center with bowling and laser tag at Cocopah. Both Cocopah and The Q have on-site hotels and welcome groups; The Q is five minutes from the Los Algodones border crossing, Cocopah is 10-15 minutes from the Cocopah Museum and Cultural Center or Main Street Café cooking classes. Entertainment and bargain dining options make both great choices for an overnight – and more.

For more information about this and other Yuma tours, contact Leslie McClendon at 928-318-6539