



Make your stop in Yuma historic

The first European explorers visited Yuma 80 years before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock, and we've been welcoming travelers ever since. Because this was the best place to cross the Colorado River, Yuma has been a crossroads for centuries ... and the site of many firsts, including one of the first national heritage areas in the West.

Yuma Territorial Prison State Park

The Yuma Territorial Prison only operated for 33 years – but that was long enough to etch a fearsome reputation into the history of the Old West, a legacy that lives on in movies like *"3:10 to Yuma."* The prison opened in July of 1876 when the first prisoners were locked into cells they'd hacked out of the granite of Prison Hill with their own hands. Walk through the original cells, dare a peek into the "dark cell," take your own vintage mug shot and enjoy new exhibits in the renovated museum. Right off of Interstate 8, group rates, gift shop, picnic facilities. Allow 1-2 hours for guided tours.

Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park

For nearly 20 years beginning in 1864, all the military posts in the Southwest traced their lifelines to the Yuma Quartermaster Depot. Ocean vessels brought goods to the Gulf of California, where they were loaded onto steamboats for the trip upriver to Yuma. From Yuma, supplies were shipped farther upriver or overland in wagons pulled by the 20-mule teams of Western lore. One minute off the interstate, this park offers a visitor information center & an extensive gift shop, free admission. Allow 1 hour.

Pivot Point Interpretive Plaza

If you want a quick orientation to Yuma history, you'll want to catch the "ghost train," now arriving hourly at this outdoor exhibit area located at the site where the first train entered Arizona in 1877. With a 1907 steam locomotive as its centerpiece, the plaza's colorful panels provide a walk through local history and an overview of the role of the Yuma Crossing over the centuries. Laser display is shown after dark. Five minutes off the interstate, free admission. Allow 30 minutes.

First Flight statue and monument

The first plane to land on Arizona soil touched down in Yuma on October 25, 1911, when Robert G. "Bob" Fowler landed his biplane (with an engine rented from the Wright brothers!) enroute from California to Miami. A state monument marks the spot, along with a new statue of Fowler that was dedicated in the spring of 2010. Five minutes off the interstate, free admission, allow 15-30 minutes. Next to Yuma Landing restaurant, which offers group-friendly dining and a terrific photo collection highlighting Yuma aviation history.

Downtown Ghost Walk

Take a candlelight stroll through one of the most haunted towns in Arizona, while listening to true-life stories of murder, tragedy and ghostly apparitions. See and feel another dimension of Yuma – sprinkled with a good dose of humor. This downtown tour is led by Tina Clark, our city historian. Five minutes off the interstate, group rates, allow 1-2 hours.

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