

Exploring history along the Chuck Huckelberry Loop

A trip along the Loop and nearby neighborhoods and communities offers a fascinating look at dozens of historical points of interest here in Pima County. From the iconic Pima County Courthouse near the Santa Cruz River to the site of ancestral homes of Native Americans at the confluence of the Rillito River and Pantano Wash, users will find cultural and historic points of interest on whatever path they choose.

This guide will help you explore that history. And visit pima.gov/LoopHistory for more detailed explanations of the historic districts and areas found on this map.

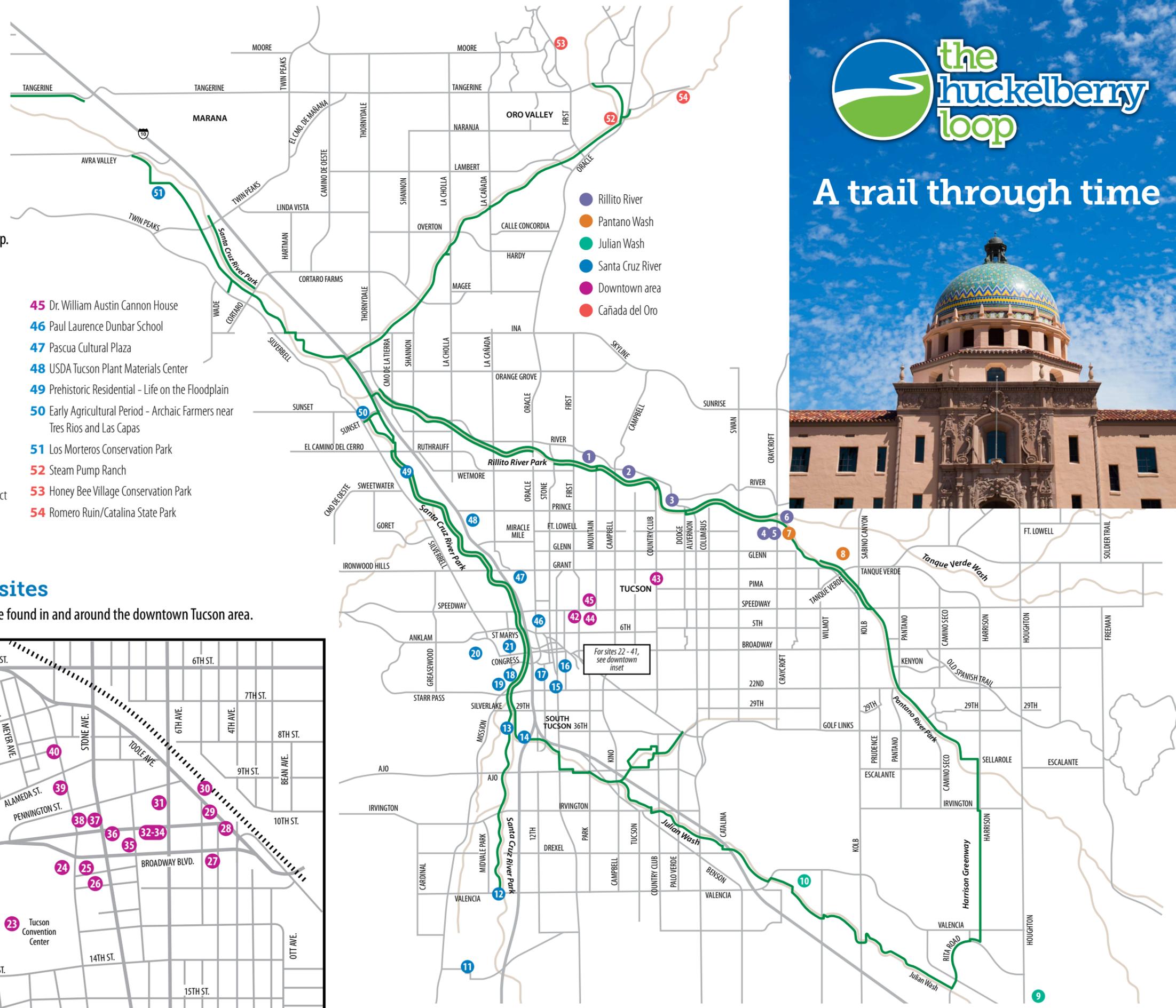
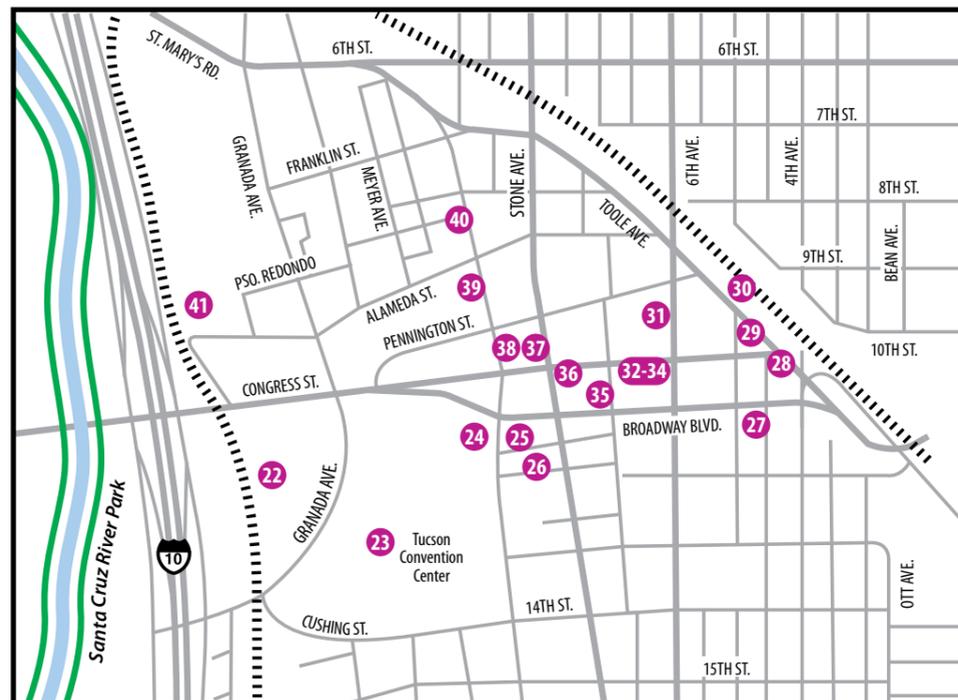
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Downtown-area sites

Nearly two dozen historic sites can be found in and around the downtown Tucson area.



A trail through time



For more information on these sites and additional historic districts, visit: pima.gov/LoopHistory

Click on the Maps tab at pima.gov/theLoop for:

- Loop Art Map
- Loop Pathway System Map
- Tucson Metro Bike Map
- Downtown Murals Map
- Loop Interactive Map



Tumamoc Hill • Santa Cruz River

Tumamoc Hill or Chemamagi Do'ag, a Tohono O'odham place name meaning Hill of the Horned Lizard, has attracted humans for over 2,000 years. Since the early 1900s, this area has been recognized for its value related to science, art and invention. In 1903, the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution opened on Tumamoc Hill, focusing research on arid-land plants.

Research at the hill continues today and the road leading to the laboratory buildings near the peak serves hikers and wildlife. Mined volcanic rock from the hill was used to construct the laboratory buildings and some residences in nearby historic neighborhoods.

Partial acquisition was done with Open Space Bonds.



Pima County Courthouse • Santa Cruz River

Built in 1929 by prominent local architect Roy Place, the iconic Pima County Courthouse is perhaps the most outstanding Spanish Colonial Revival building in Arizona and features a brilliantly colored tile mosaic on the roof of the central dome. The 1929 Courthouse replaced the 1881 County Courthouse building, and operated until 2015 when Justice Court and other services were moved into the Pima County Public Service Center. By 2020, it will be home to the Southern Arizona Heritage and Visitor Center and the Gem and Mineral Museum.

One notable court case tried in the 1929 Courthouse was the extradition trial of John Dillinger, a notorious gangster captured in downtown Tucson in 1934. The "Dillinger Courtroom" remains unchanged since his trial.



Los Morteros • Santa Cruz River

Named for its bedrock mortars, where mesquite was once milled by the ancestors of present-day Native American Tribes, Los Morteros was settled near reliable water over 1,000 years ago. Villagers were artisans and farmers who built a communal plaza, irrigation system and an oval ball court, interacting with neighboring villages and trading as far south as the California Gulf. Acquisition was done with Open Space Bonds.

Los Morteros again became an important place in historic times. Juan Bautista de Anza's 1775 Spanish expedition had 240 travelers and 1,000 animals camp here. A century later came the 1858 "Point of Mountain" stagecoach station and a Pascua Yaqui village.



Pima Air and Space Museum • Julian Wash

In 1966, while celebrating the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, members of what is now the 309th Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Group lamented the loss of America's aviation heritage as they watched historic World War II and 1950s-era aircraft taken from storage and fed into smelters.

Base officials began setting aside aircraft stored in military yards that was representative of the nation's aviation history. In 1976, the museum opened its gates to the public and today, military and commercial planes stored at the museum communicate the history of American aviation, a history specific to the growth of Tucson.



Fort Lowell Area • Pantano Wash

Located at the confluence of Pantano Wash and Tanque Verde Creek, where the Rillito River forms, is Fort Lowell Park. Where the pithouse villages of ancestral Native Americans stood, the United States Army built a supply base between 1873 and 1891 during the "Apache Campaigns" to protect settlers, freighters, and ranchers.

The base location was selected in part to avoid malarial conditions near the Tucson Presidio on the Santa Cruz River and there, soldiers built Officers' quarters, barracks, stables, a commissary, hospital, kitchens, a bake house, all surrounding a parade ground. Today, the ruins have been acquired for future restoration.

Important landmarks: San Pedro Chapel, Officer's Quarters (no. 3). Building rehabilitation was done with Historic Preservation Bonds.



Binghampton Rural Historic Landscape-Brandi Fenton Memorial Park • Rillito River

The Binghampton Rural Historic District is significant in Tucson history as the first Mormon agrarian settlement, founded in 1898 on the floodplain north and south of the Rillito River. Over two decades, Mormon settlers transformed the land into a patchwork of irrigated crops, orchards, dairies, and pasture fields and built a one-room schoolhouse that still stands today.

From the 1920s to the 1950s, the area served as owner-occupied ranches and farms. Residents pastured prized horses and cattle and built residential complexes in Southwestern Revival architectural styles with exotic and native landscaping. Today, horse culture remains important in the rural landscape. Building rehabilitation was done with Historic Preservation Bonds.



Steam Pump Ranch • Cañada del Oro

Steam Pump Ranch houses the remains of an 1870s blacksmith shop and adobe building once protecting a prized groundwater pump driven by steam power, its water used to fatten cattle for railroad shipping and raise chickens for eggs that would supply the Pioneer Hotel in Tucson. This place played a key role in the burgeoning ranching and food production businesses of the region and the development of Oro Valley.

Today, Steam Pump Ranch contains adobe buildings and structures that supported the working ranch and agricultural enterprise — an architecture reflective of two eras of ownership, the (a) Pusch era (c. 1874-1931); and (b) Procter/Leiber era (c. 1933-2005). Mature trees surround residential ranch houses, bunk houses, outbuildings, a barbecue, outdoor stage, and chicken coops. Building rehabilitation was done with Historic Preservation Bonds.



Romero Ruin/Catalina State Park Cañada del Oro

One of several large Hohokam villages in the Tucson Basin, the Romero Ruin is the largest archaeological site in Catalina State Park. Decorated pottery found at the site suggests the Hohokam lived at this settlement continuously for 1,000 years.

Four centuries after the Hohokam left this place, Francisco and Victoriana Romero made this site their home. They built several structures on top of the Hohokam settlement, within the wall that had enclosed the last phase of the ancient village.

The walls of this mid-1800s settlement are still standing today.