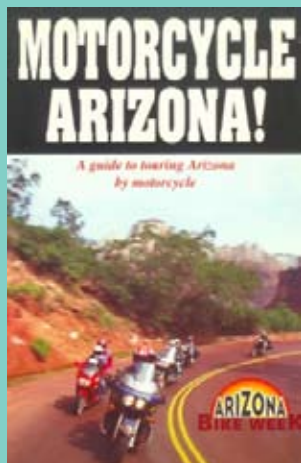


Where to Ride

by Frank Del Monte
Two Great Days!

You know, when I can steal two whole days I can't resist the sound of the Chiricahua Mountains calling my name. I absolutely love the Southeast corner of this state! (On the other hand, if you've never visited Chloride in the exact opposite corner, you haven't lived.)

So start your first day early (but don't include a Monday, as the major sites on this trip are closed on Mondays) and head into a blinding morning sun on good old Arizona Route 60E. Have breakfast at the Buckboard Café in Superior and then hang a right onto Route 177 and boogie south. Spend about an hour straightening some really great curves on your way to Winkelman and connecting to Route 77. Follow Route 77 through Oracle (good restaurant there) onto Route 79 and into Tucson. At Ina Road turn right and follow Ina to I-10. At I-10 turn left and head south around the rest of Tucson.



Leave I-10 at exit #281 (Route 83) south to Sonoita where you'll hang a left onto Route 82 heading east. Then turn right onto Route 90, and ride through Huachuca City to Sierra Vista. In Sierra Vista turn right onto Route 92. This is a small, lightly traveled road and is a nice low-key ride through Nicksville, Miracle Valley, Palominas and to the traffic circle south of Bisbee. At the circle just follow the signs to Historic Bisbee and call it a day. I like staying at the Copper Queen Hotel, or the Bisbee Inn B&B.



In the morning head south out of Bisbee back to the traffic circle and follow the signs to Route 90E to Douglas. Just before Douglas you'll see Route 191, so hang a left and head north. This will take you past the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport and Corrections Center. (No joke. I guess this makes it easier for escapees who want to leave the country quickly). Continue north on Route 191 to Route 181. Make a right and follow 181 to the Chiricahua National Monument. This place is fantastic! Ride the main road

all the way up to the top to the Massai Point lookout. It's at 6870 feet, so your bike might be huffin' and puffin' when you get there.



When you leave the Chiricahua National Monument, backtrack on Route 181 to Route 191 and turn right. Ride a few miles and watch for the left turn to the "ghost town" of Pearce, Arizona. It's a loop-road, and it goes in and out of Pearce. Pearce is as cute as a bug in a rug, and the grocery store has good coffee! Leaving Pearce ride north to Route 191 and then follow Route 191 north to

Dagoon Road. Turn left and ride toward the Amerind (American Indian) Foundation.

About this time you should be ready for lunch, so ride past the Amerind about a quarter-mile to the Triangle-T Guest Ranch. They have a saloon built around a REALLY BIG ROCK, and a small restaurant. After lunch ride back to the Amerind Museum.

The Amerind Foundation holds the world's largest private collection of Indian art and artifacts, representing native peoples from Alaska to South America. William Fulton founded this research museum in 1937, and it is his collection housed in two large Spanish-style buildings. The artifacts and the Indian art on display are beyond belief . . . magnificent! By the way, they also have the cleanest restrooms I've ever seen. (I'm impressed by things like that.)



When you leave the Amerind Foundation turn left and follow Dagoon Road to I-10, jump on the super-slab and glide on home. That is unless you want to make it a three-day trip, in which case I just gotta tell you about Kartchner Caverns, and Mission Del Bac, and the Pima Air Museum, and the Rex Allen Museum, and, and, and . . .

Ride On! Ride Safe!

Frank Del Monte is the author of "Motorcycle Arizona." He also owns Arizona British Bikes, a British motorcycle repair and restoration service in Phoenix. 602-647-2965. See his web site at: www.AzBritBikes.com.