SEP Tucson 2018 Useful Information

Venues: See Map Below – all are within an easy walk.

 University Park Hotel – main conference hotel and opening reception

 Old Main, Silver and Sage Room, Friday and Saturday sessions (on the UA campus)

 Arizona History Museum, Closing Banquet

Transport: Upon arrival at airport the simplest is to take a taxi just outside the terminal. It should be about a $30 cab ride to the hotel, and should take 20-25 min at most. Uber/Lyft also available.

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Restaurant Suggestions

Lunch: There are many options in the UA student union, which is on campus very close to Old Main. None of them are top of the line, but most are perfectly reasonable. At least on Friday, one can readily get salads, soups, sushi, burgers, and more. There are also a large number of places to eat, including a variety of ethnic choices on University Ave, such as sushi (average), Vietnamese (better-than-average banh mi), Chinese (average), Indian (fast food but good), pizza, burgers, Greek take-away. The place called The Dutch is new, replaced a local favorite (WILKO sign is still there), and has not drawn good reviews. Try it at your own risk.

Dinner: Within walking distance of the hotel there are all the restaurants mentioned for lunch. Slightly further west, walking away from the University past the University Park hotel is 4th Ave, where there are even more options if one heads south (left) on 4th Ave. Continuing south on 4th, one eventually gets to the ‘downtown’ with even more choices. The walk to the downtown is less than 2 miles. The same set of options is accessible via the streetcar. And if you take the streetcar all the way to the end you come to Mercado Agustin, a newly built market area that houses a quite good restaurant – Agustin Kitchen.

If you want to go further afield, by car (Uber and Lyft operate here), Tucson offers excellent dining options at all levels and pretty much including any kind of food you might want. Some of our favorites, which you can scope out online:

Mexican – Café Poca Cosa, Rosa’s (family style classic Sonoran food – if that’s what you like, this is the place); Mariscos Chihuahua (Mexican seafood - shrimp, octopus, whole fish fried, with great murals); Taqueria Pico de Gallo (no-nonsense taco place; frequently wins Best in Tucson).

Italian – Vivace (high-end northern Italian, very good)

Modern/Fusion (all these are really good) – Agustin Kitchen, Wildflower, Wild Garlic Grill (large portions), Maynards (downtown), Cup Café in the Hotel Congress (downtown). There’s also Pastiche, north of the U by about 2 miles -- good.

Chinese – Jun Dynasty (pretty authentic Szechuan), China Szechuan (the same, but make sure to get the Szechuan menu)

Sushi – Kazoku (nothing fancy but excellent sushi. Sit at the bar if possible).

Indian –Sher-e-Punjab, Gandhi (best is actually Saffron, but it is a 30-35 min drive)

Seafood – Kingfisher, El Barraco (Pacific rim seafood – innovative but can be noisy)

Greek – Athens (some people swear by it)

**Sunday Suggestions**

We could not in the end organize a group hike, but for those who are staying through Sunday there is excellent hiking in just about every direction, and not more than a 15-20 min drive.

Most popular tourist sites: Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Reid Park Zoo, Kartchner Caverns – guided tours of spectacular caves, very well preserved, reservations may be required

A visit to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum can be readily coupled with a walk/hike/drive in Saguaro National Park West, which is less than a mile west of the Museum.

