



Calabazas and Guevavi Mission Tours 2009 - 2010



Visiting the Missions

Tumacácori National Historical Park protects the ruins of three Spanish missions along the Santa Cruz River between the present day towns of Nogales and Tubac, Arizona. Two of these missions are not open to the public, and can only be visited on a reserved tour. As a participant in this special tour, you will visit the ruined remains of the three missions and learn about the lives of the people who lived there.

A Brief History

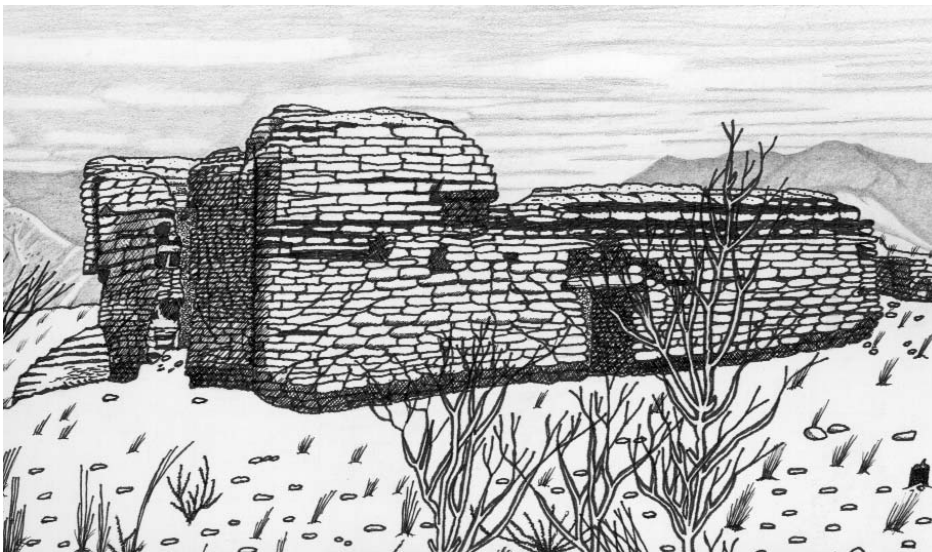
Jesuit Father Eusebio Francisco Kino first visited the O'odham communities of Tumacácori and Guevavi in January of 1691. With that visit, the two villages officially became Missions of the Spanish government. Father Kino chose Guevavi as the *cabecera*, or headquarters church, from which a resident priest would serve the surrounding mission communities.

Many years later, in 1756, Father Francisco Pauer of Guevavi gathered together residents of O'odham communities between Guevavi and Tumacácori to create a new mission village, which he called Calabazas.

Guevavi remained *cabecera* for the region until the arrival of the Franciscan missionaries, who transferred their headquarters to Tumacácori by 1770, shortly after taking over management of the missions in the wake of the expulsion of the Jesuits from New Spain.

As the everpresent threat of attack by Apaches grew, people gathered together for protection. In 1775, *Los Santos Ángeles de Guevavi* was totally abandoned. By the end of the 1780s, most of the residents of Calabazas had moved to *San José de Tumacácori*, and *San Cayetano de Calabazas* had been converted into a stock ranch for the Mission.

Tumacácori remained the *cabecera* for the region until the mission's last resident priest was deported by the new Mexican government in 1828. Village residents remained, caring for their church without a resident priest, for another twenty years before finally abandoning the mission in 1848.



Ruins of the Guevavi Mission church

Illustration by Vernon Barney

The Mission Tours



Pacheco "Diamond Bell" Brand

Three Missions Living History Tours
Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 10:00 - 3:30
Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 10:00 - 3:30
Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 10:00 - 3:30
Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 10:00 - 3:30

Four tours are special "Three Missions Living History Tours," which visit Tumacácori, Guevavi and Calabazas. These tours begin at Tumacácori at 10:00 a.m. and return at 3:30 p.m.

A ranger or volunteer will provide an interpretive walking tour at each of the three mission sites. The group will also be met at each site by a "living history" character out of the past who will help the group understand mission life during their times.

The tour begins at the Tumacácori Visitor Center. After a tour of the Tumacácori Mission church and grounds, participants ride in vans to Calabazas. Lunch is on your own at Calabazas

County Park. (Water, but no food, is available at the park.) The group then continues on to Guevavi. After approximately an hour at Guevavi, the tour returns to Tumacácori. The price of this tour is \$36.00 per person.

Calabazas and Guevavi Tours
All other Tuesdays, November 2009, January through March 2010, 1:00 - 4:00
April 2010, 9:00 - 12:00

On all other Tuesdays, the tours include only the **Guevavi and Calabazas** sites. These also include a ranger or volunteer guide, but not living history. In November, January, February and March these tours leave the Tumacácori Visitor Center parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and return at 4:00 p.m. In April, due to the increasingly warm weather, the tour leave Tumacácori at 9:00 a.m. and return at 12:00 noon. The price of this tour is \$20.00 per person.

Reservations

To make reservations: Participation in all tours is by advanced reservation only. All reservations and transportation for the tours are being handled by Spirit Steps Tours.

Reservations can be made by calling Spirit Steps Tours at 520-398-2655 or 866-508-0094.

For questions regarding the tours (other than reservations), call the park at 520-398-2341.

Important Things to Remember!

You will need water, clothing appropriate to the weather, and comfortable walking shoes.

terrain at each site, with one short, rough, uphill section of trail. There is **NO SEATING** available along the trails.

For the all - day Three Missions Living History Tour, bring a packed lunch.

There is no shade or shelter, except at the lunch stop. You must be prepared for the weather.

Travel is in fifteen-passenger vans, but you must be able to stand and walk for a large part of the tour. The tours are not wheelchair accessible. There is some walking on uneven

Bathroom facilities are available only at the beginning and end of the day at Tumacácori, and at the lunch stop.



Ruins of the Calabazas Mission church

Illustration by Vernon Barney
