

### Trip 4 – Episode #7: To Tubac and Beyond

On our trip through Arizona last January, we heard about a village called Tubac which we were told was an “artists’ colony”. It’s about an hour south of Tucson, and it sounded intriguing, but we didn’t have a chance to check it out. This year, we made it a destination. And we were glad we did.

There weren’t a lot of options for places to stay. We chose the closest campground to town, called Sunflower Camp. It was a little off the beaten track – literally!



And if the name of the campground sounds like it was from the hippie generation, there was a reason.











But it was comfortable and quiet and we got a nice sunset.





The next day, we ventured into town and explored the amazing array of artsy shops and galleries. Some stores were overflowing with pottery and chachkas that looked like they'd been churned out in China. But others were legitimate galleries and shops, with higher level artistic creations.

The whole town was unlike anything we'd seen before. There weren't many people there that day, so we were able to wander at a very leisurely pace.















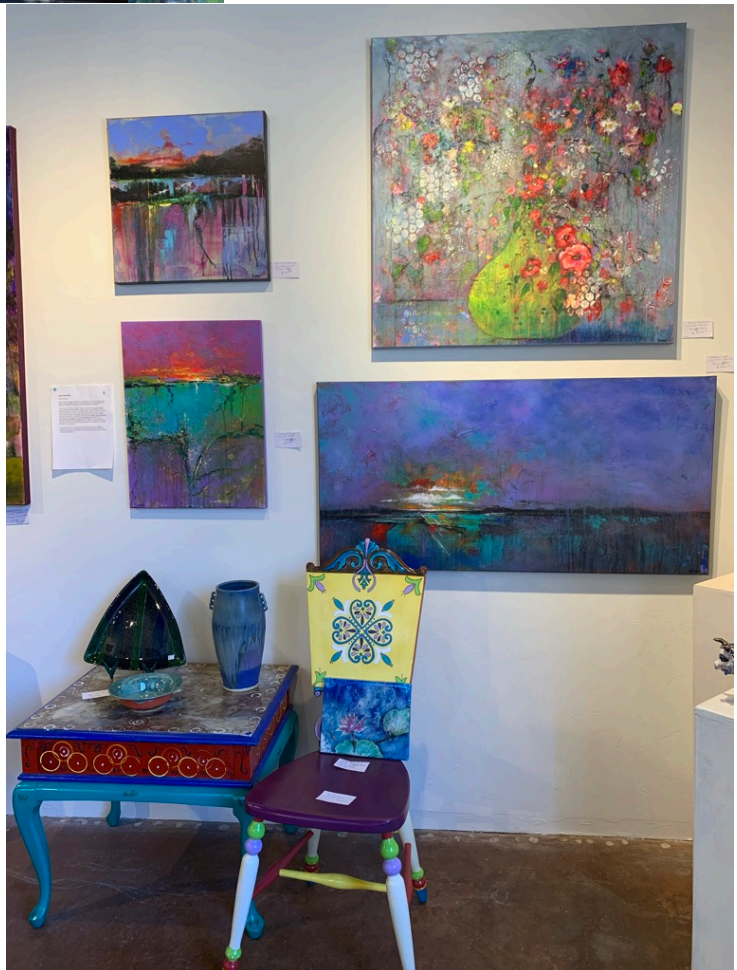
The more astute of you (which is most of you) will notice that there's a van behind these metal mules that appears to be Charles. But it's actually another LTV van, also from Ontario. We never met the owners.













There was a definite western theme to a lot of the art.



Some were real works of art (or copies of them).





Others were kinda cringeworthy.



There was also a lot of work by Native American artists, much of it quite lovely.





Not quite sure what  
this was.



I was intrigued by these pieces made from layered rock slabs. I was able to resist. Just.







It was kind of mind-rattling, with so many different styles of work – some truly art and some cheap souvenirs. If you're ever in the area, it's definitely worth a visit.

We could have stayed longer and explored more. But we had places to go.

We needed to stop once more before we'd get to the California border. And we happened to find another unusual campground.





Gold Fever Adventures & Resort was even more off the beaten track than the Sunflower Camp. And weirder. The owner/manager of the camp kind of reminded me of The Dude. Responding to the sign announcing Gold Panning, I asked if anyone had ever found any gold. He laughed, like it was a dumb question.



We had an expansive view. And it definitely wasn't crowded.





There was a large clubhouse. It was hard to imagine it was ever full. Or even used.



Some of the club members looked like they'd been regulars for a long, long time.





One of my favourite touches was that the washer and dryer were in the women's washroom.



And obviously it wasn't a great place to build a career in music.





As charming as it was, and even with the chance that we could find some gold, we decided to move on.

We knew where we wanted to go and we knew how to get there. We just had to follow this guy.

