




Biosphere 2

Guided Tour

Biosphere 2's most comprehensive tour is available throughout the day. See admission clerk for tour times and start locations. The guided tour includes all the features of the self-guided tour, plus a guided tour of the interior of the Biosphere 2 structure. The tour goes through an airlock door into the wilderness areas of Biosphere 2 to allow visitors to experience firsthand the environments of this engineering marvel. While some areas of Biosphere 2 are wheelchair accessible, certain areas cannot accommodate non-ambulatory guests because of the steep terrain and presence of stairs through sections of the under-the-glass tour.

Self-Guided Tour

If you would rather go at your own pace, you can choose the Self-Guided Tour that includes the movie theater, human habitat, exhibits, ocean viewing gallery, and the exterior of the Biosphere 2 structure. These areas are accessible to wheelchairs and strollers.

General Facts

- Biosphere 2 facility is 3.14 acres
- 91 feet at its highest point
- 6,500 windows and 7,200,000 cubic feet of sealed glass
- Sealed from the earth below by a 500-ton welded stainless steel liner
- 34.5 acre campus
- 300,000 square feet of administrative offices, classrooms, labs, conference center and residential housing

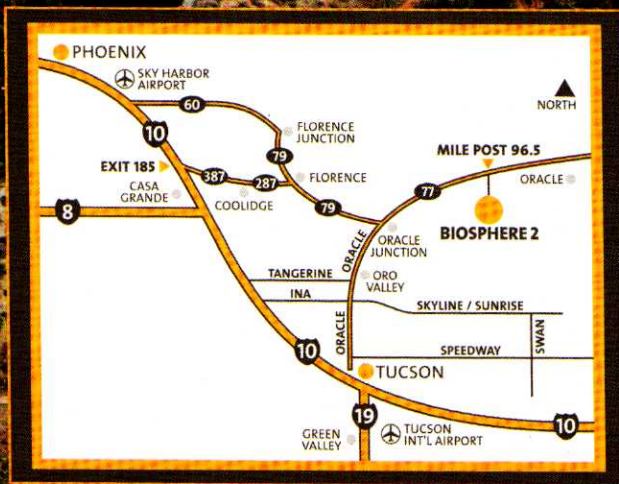
History

In the 1800's, the Biosphere 2 property was part of the Samaniego's CDO Ranch. After several changes of ownership, it became a conference center in the 1960's and 1970's, first for Motorola, then for The University of Arizona. Space Biospheres Ventures bought the property in 1984 and began construction of the current facility in 1986. Human Missions 1 and 2 lasted from 1991-1994. In 1994, Decisions Investments Corporation took over the property and Columbia University managed it from 1996-2003. The property was sold June 4, 2007, to CDO Ranching and its development partners. In July 2007, The University of Arizona assumed management of Biosphere 2.

General Information

Biosphere 2 is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas. No reservations are required. Call for rates, hours, directions or information about group tours.

Membership and donor/sponsorships are available.



Biosphere 2 is located off of Oracle Road (Highway 77) at Mile Post 96.5 – approximately 20 minutes north of Tucson, and 90 minutes south of Phoenix.

**32540 S. Biosphere Road
Oracle, AZ USA 85623**

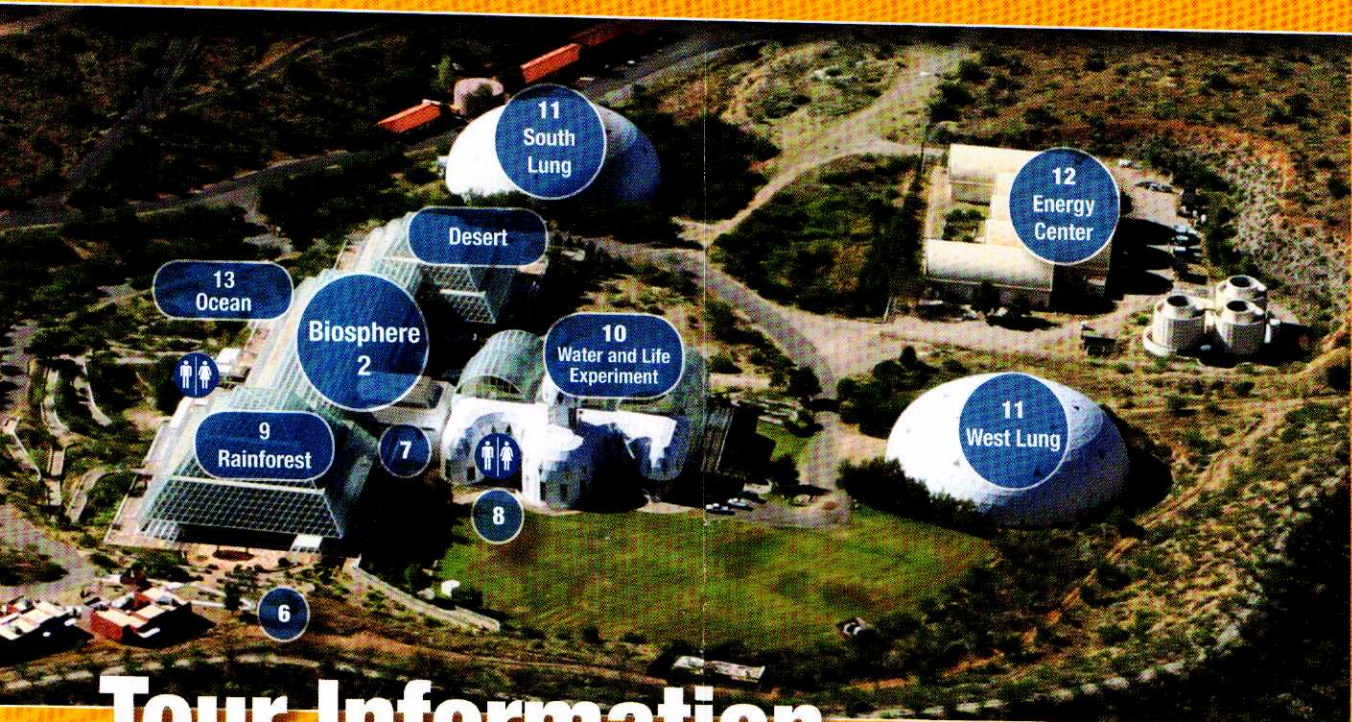
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Tour Information

Biosphere 2 was opened to the public in 1990. This engineering marvel was created to better understand how natural environments create habitable conditions for human sustainability. It is a unique facility that can be used to understand the role of life on Earth and the effects of climate change. Biosphere 2 contains recreations of five of Earth's biomes, plus a human habitat and a large ecological experiment facility.

For your Biosphere 2 tour, we recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and a hat. Sorry, no pets are allowed at Biosphere 2.

1. Parking

2. Admissions

3. Gift shop This shop features special apparel and gifts to remind you of your visit.

4. Visitor Center Exhibits provide an overview of Biosphere 2 - water harvesting, solar panels, material used for sustainable Conference Center and overlook map to explain the scenic panorama.

5. B2 Café

6. Solar Test Bed Demonstration of novel solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on steep, unstable terrain.

7. Biosphere 2 Upper Habitat The former living quarters for those who were sealed inside, it now houses the Command Center as well as offices, laboratories, and classrooms.

8. Biosphere 2 Lower Habitat

9. Rainforest The Rainforest, at the north end of Biosphere 2, was modeled after the Venezuelan rainforest. This recently opened biome contains over 90 different species of 10-plant, some more than 60 feet tall and offers the visitor a firsthand experience of a misty tropical jungle.

10. Water and Life Experiment developing an unprecedented experiment to understand the transformative nature of water.

11. Lungs The two white, dome-like structures are variable air-volume control devices.

12. Energy Center This area generates electricity to power Biosphere 2.

13. Ocean Descend into the ocean viewing gallery to learn more about the species in this living ocean laboratory.



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