As you leave the Plaza, set your odometer to 0.0 and turn right onto the highway. Go three blocks then turn left on Rocalla Ave.

MILE 1.1 Keep left for the Scenic Loop (Alley Rd). The pavement soon ends and you begin 7.5 miles of graded but bumpy dirt road.

MILE 1.5 The large cross atop the mountain to your left honors John Campbell Greenway, first mine superintendent and founder of Ajo. The townspeople erected this cross shortly after the beloved founder’s untimely death in 1926.

MILE 1.7 To your right is Gibson Arroyo, one of the major drainage channels through town.

MILE 2.2 Excellent examples of organ pipe cacti may be found on either side of the road.

MILE 3.0 Ahead of you are many expansive views and unusual volcanic rock formations. Ajo Mountains are to the far, far distant left, across the Valley of the Ajo.

MILE 4.2 Note the lush vegetation as you cross this sandy arroyo. Here, as in other dry washes, water flows underground. Desert trees with their extensive tap roots are able to reach this source. Over time a small forest develops, creating habitat for many species of wildlife and birds.

Now open this flap and fold other side.

On this 10.4 mile drive you will travel through an historic section of Ajo, then through a wonderland of saguaro, organ pipe, and other diverse cacti and Sonoran Desert vegetation. You may see a variety of desert wildlife, including some of the many bird species that inhabit this lush landscape.

Mileage from the plaza will be used to provide directions. Map and details are inside this folder - see the right side headed by START HERE.

Savor your journey as you travel through this magical desert!
You are welcome to stop for photos, etc., but please pull to the side of the road. Do not drive OFF the road into the desert. Many BLM roads intersect the Scenic Loop. Street-legal vehicles are permitted on these roads.

From March 15 to July 15 all intersecting roads to the right (west and south) of the Scenic Loop are closed for the fawning season of the highly endangered Sonoran Pronghorn (antelope).

This is mining country and you will frequently see evidence of old diggings. Many are on private property, as are homesteads and ranches. Please respect their privacy. No trespassing!