

START HERE

Please keep this side folded in as you begin your journey.

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.

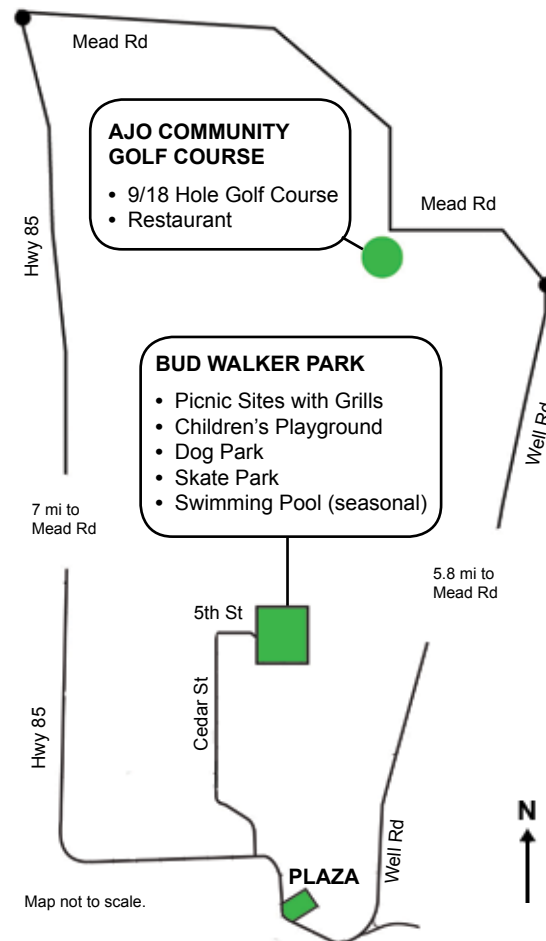
MILE 2.2 Excellent examples of organ pipe cacti may be found on either side of the road.

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.

Birds ... and more relaxation ...
await you at beautiful local park settings.
Bring your birding binoculars!



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**Welcome to the
Heart of the Sonoran Desert**

The Ajo Scenic Loop



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!*

Please keep this flap folded in for the second half of your journey.

MILE 4.6 Ahead of you to the left is your first glimpse of the back side of the old Ajo Mine (New Cornelia Mine). It will be to your left for the remainder of the drive.

MILE 6.0 On the left are the remains of an historic Hia C'ed O'odham homestead. Although no one lives here permanently now, the family still uses this location for special occasions.

MILE 6.1 Intersection of Darby Well Road on the right. One hundred years ago this road was part of an extensive transportation network that ended at the international border.

MILE 6.3 To your right is the Cameron Ranch. This family was one of the original homesteaders in the area. Only the old water tank is now visible from the road.

MILE 7.9 Warning! You have now reached AZ State Hwy 85 and fast cars. Turn left to return to the Ajo Plaza. Turn right for a 30 mile drive to the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Visitor Center.

MILE 8.9 The rock pillar on the hill to the right marks the old Rowood town site. When Ajo was founded in 1916, it was only one of four small towns clustered around the mine. Rowood and Clarksdale were devastated by fire, then swallowed by the mining operations; Gibson became part of Ajo.

When you arrive at the plaza, you have completed your Scenic Loop journey. Thank you for visiting Ajo!



Saguaro Cactus



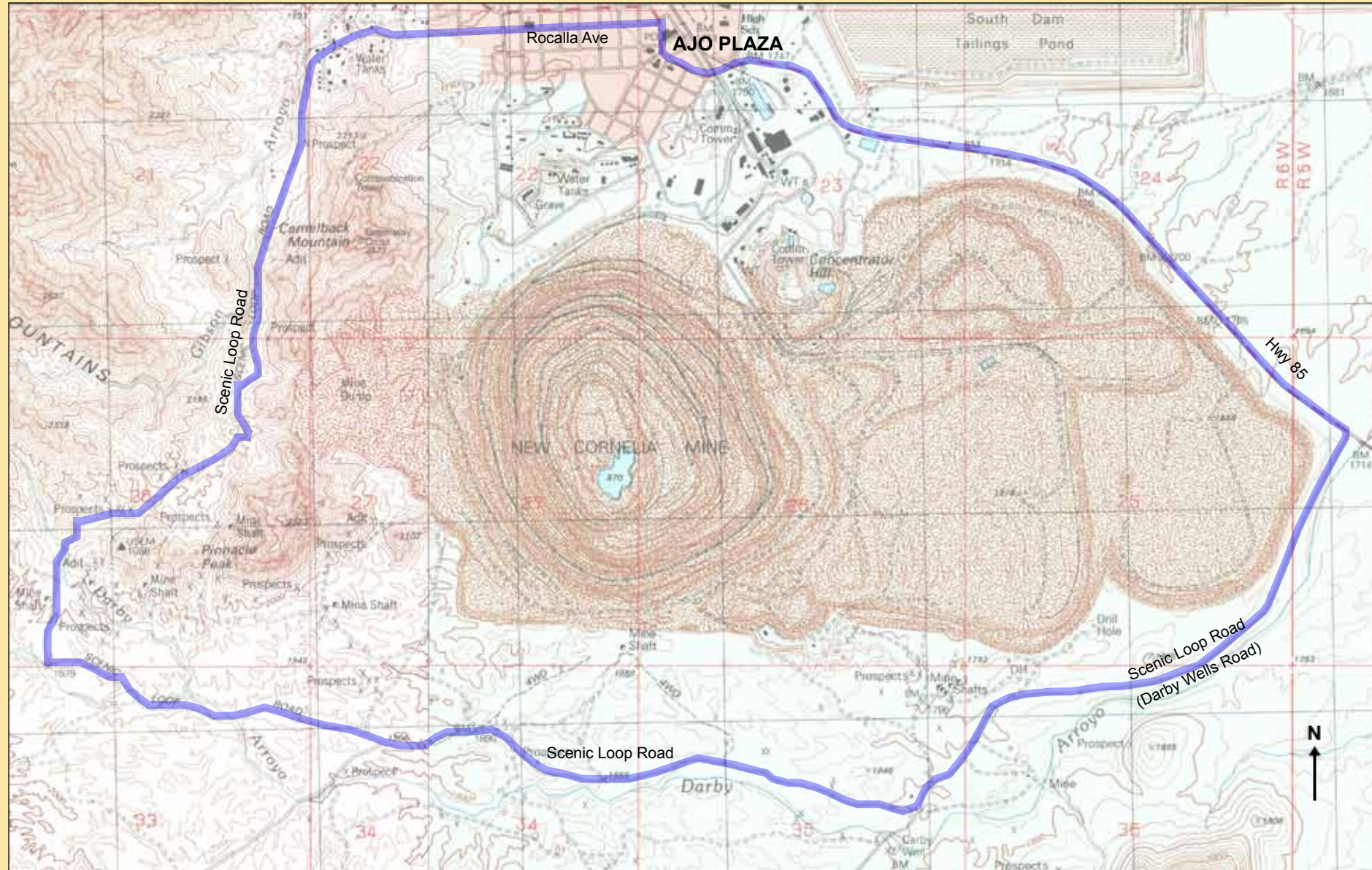
Ocotillo Shrub



Organ Pipe Cactus



Cholla Cactus



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.



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!



Coyote



Cactus Wren



Javelinas



Bobcat