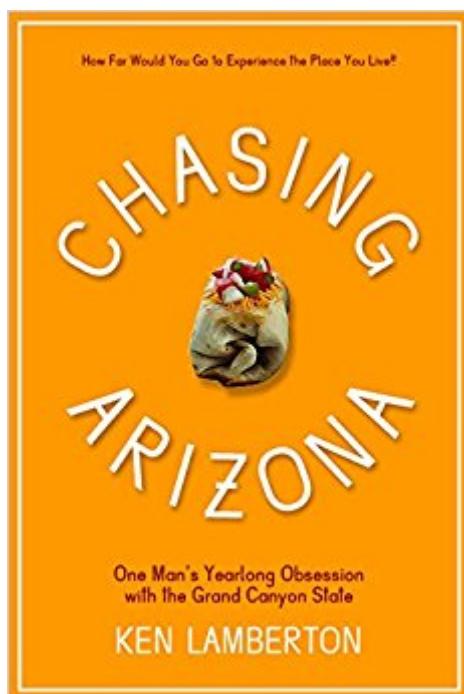


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# Chasing Arizona: One Man's Yearlong Obsession With The Grand Canyon State



## Synopsis

It seemed like a simple plan—visit fifty-two places in fifty-two weeks. But for author Ken Lamberton, a forty-five-year veteran of life in the Sonoran Desert, the entertaining results were anything but easy. In *Chasing Arizona*, Lamberton takes readers on a yearlong, twenty-thousand-mile joyride across Arizona during its centennial, racking up more than two hundred points of interest along the way. Lamberton chases the four corners of Arizona, attempts every county, every reservation, and every national monument and state park, from the smallest community to the largest city. He drives his Kia Rio through the longest tunnels and across the highest suspension bridges, hikes the hottest deserts, and climbs the tallest mountain, all while visiting the people, places, and treasures that make Arizona great. In the vivid, lyrical, often humorous prose the author is known for, each destination weaves together stories of history, nature, and people, along with entertaining side adventures and excursions. Maps and forty-four of the author's detailed pencil drawings illustrate the journey. *Chasing Arizona* is unlike any book of its kind. It is an adventure story, a tale of Arizona, a road-warrior narrative. It is a quest to see and experience as much of Arizona as possible. Through intimate portrayals of people and place, readers deeply experience the Grand Canyon State and at the same time celebrate what makes Arizona a wonderful place to visit and live.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A 2015 Southwest Book of the Year! "...Lamberton introduces us to a circus of captivating

experts in everything from the O.K. Corral to rattlesnakes and turquoise. " If you read one book about Arizona this year, make it this one."--Bill Broyles, panelist, Southwest Books of the Year."Ken is not only a master storyteller who spews out lovely sentences at nearly every turn but is an enthusiastic fan of Arizona history. This is quite simply a keeper"•enjoyable without being silly, and well-researched without being stuffy."•Gary P. Nabhan, author of Cumin, Camels, and Caravans: A Spice Odyssey" I love reading a good writer. And it's even better when the author writes about a subject I love. Ken Lamberton" Chasing Arizona is a collection of memorable essays about the state we love." As" entertaining as he is curiously profound, Lamberton is Arizona's 21st Century Thoreau, blessed with the depth, eye, and patience of Joseph Wood Krutch, and the delicious" literary flair of the late Charles Bowden."•David Fitzsimmons"Ken Lamberton" Chasing Arizona is a book full of fascinating information, surprising insights, good humor and wonderful writing. I thoroughly enjoyed it."•Thomas Cobb, author of With Blood in Their Eyes."Lamberton" love of all things Arizona is evident in his exuberant writing, and the excitement is contagious. Each chapter left me curious, itching to explore, taste, and experience it for myself."••Edible Baja Arizona

A yearlong, 20,000-mile joy ride across Arizona, from the haunted hotels of Bisbee to the vortexes of Sedona.

This is a book I will return to again and again, just for the sheer pleasure of it. Ken is not only a wonderful wordsmith, but his knowledge spans nature and history and people and place, to say nothing of literature. He's sensitive to the sacred and does not shy away from letting the reader know his heart. Some of his paragraphs are simply luminous. Plus, he's got an off-beat sense of humor that is delightful. I say -- get it, read it, and revel in its delights.

This is a handy reference if you live or are traveling in Arizona, with a bit of history. Good read

Great story about Arizona and it's many facets. I have lived here my entire life but I learned many things about this state and it's history. Great guide book for visitors.

I enjoy learning new things and I appreciate when someone writes something that makes learning fun.What an education on the state of Arizona!

I need books that inform without being dry, that make me laugh, that have a voice I start responding to, sometimes aloud. A number of years ago I read Ken Lamberton’s first book *Wilderness and Razor Wire* and in the past few months I have been reading his *Chasing Arizona*. (I usually have more than one book waiting for me.) I write to fellow readers (those perhaps with books lined up) that *Chasing Arizona* is one that should be put at the top of the pile by the bed. Lamberton provides entertaining and often surprising material on a range of subjects from Tom Mix to peppers to the Lost Dutchman Gold Mine to Biosphere 2 to Buffalo Bill being duped, smoothly integrating research and beautifully integrating his artwork. As someone who has read and written about travel literature (a type of creative nonfiction, not merely guidebooks), *Chasing Arizona* certainly illustrates how so many travel writers are closet teachers and in this case an excellent teacher and one who makes a reader laugh, often about the ironies of life. I think of The Gila Bend sign noted in Week 17’s “1700 Friendly People and 5 Old Crabs” — those five Old Crabs searched for by Lamberton and his sidekick Karen, his wife. Being someone who reads travel literature, I have to note that so many travel writers have sidekicks but I think this is the first travel book I have read with someone’s wife as a sidekick (and his daughters also). Together they help Lamberton expose Arizona in all its curiosities and intrigue, including ghosts from the Wild West. This author is one writes so well about all sorts of subjects, including nature, the animals, the birds, the environment, in a way that mimics his artwork — he brings to life, both in his art and in his words, the mountain, the desert, the rattlesnake (this list could go on and on). To write so well about nature takes a special eye and a craftsmanship that he possesses. And just as in *Wilderness and Razor Wire*, the voice bringing to life so many subjects is a voice you want to hear — appreciative, intelligent, funny, and affectionate toward his sidekicks, the people he encounters, the nature he experiences, the subjects he researches, his state of Arizona. Normally I don’t write reviews but this book is special and whether a person has lived in Arizona as I have for many years or is thinking about visiting or moving to this “grand” state, *Chasing Arizona*. One Man’s Yearlong Obsession with the Grand Canyon State is a book to put on the top of the pile. Reading it makes me realize how much a place offers to those willing to open their eyes and see and learn. Reading it makes me realize how much I wouldn’t see and learn without authors like Lamberton.

One of the very best books I’ve read about the fabulous state of Arizonan!

Heavy on camping and ghost sightings in hotels but a enjoyable story and picture of Arizona. I noted several spots I want to visit in the future.

Good reference to have while touring.

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