



## Tonto National Monument

**AS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST**, Duane Hubbard worked on many of the nearly 100 archaeological sites at Tonto, one of the oldest monuments in the Park Service and the only one devoted to the Salado people. So he feels connected to the sites, particularly when he sees the fingerprints of the builders, including children's prints, in the plaster. "I have two kids of my own, and I think that's a personal connection," he says. Most of the sites are closed to protect them, but two well-preserved dwellings remain open.

And unlike at many parks, visitors can still walk into these 700-year-old ruins. "You can have that experience, that feeling, because of how well preserved they are," Hubbard says. "The rooms are intact to actually see how people built these sites." Now, as the monument's superintendent, Hubbard stays connected by regularly hiking to the cliff dwellings that overlook the monument. It reminds him, he says, why he comes to work every day.

**ABOVE:** Larry Lindahl got a rare opportunity to photograph this Tonto National Monument cliff dwelling at sunrise. "Our tripods were set up, but the sky didn't look promising," Lindahl says. "Finally, a hint of color began to glow on the belly of the clouds. In that moment, I wondered about the ancient dwellers watching and waiting for sunrise."

**RIGHT:** At sunrise, trees cast shadows on the walls of one of the old missions at Tumacácori National Historical Park, where photographer Tom Daniel camped during a special event. "In the evening, an overcast sky and flat light made photography impossible," he says. "The morning brought a dramatic storm and glorious light."

## Tumacácori National Historical Park

**"PEOPLE OFTEN COMMENT** on the peacefulness of the site and the feeling of the presence of history," says Anita Badertscher of Tumacácori, one of three missions the park protects. "There's something about seeing the bare bones of the structures that hits people." That history is complicated and layered, and there are elements of it everywhere: an orchard planted with heritage fruit trees, a garden designed in the 1930s, tortilla makers and other cultural demonstrations during the park's peak season. Tumacácori also protects a mile of riparian habitat along the Santa Cruz River. But Badertscher's favorite place is the church at Tumacácori, particularly when she's alone. "The light when it's closing time is beautiful," the chief of interpretation says. "I like to sing in that space. The dome helps create good acoustics, and if you can sing at all, it sounds beautiful."

