

Tucson Auto Museum



CLASSIC AND RESTORED CARS

May 2022 Newsletter



Tucson Auto Museum

(520) 207-5715
990 S. Cherry Ave
Tucson, AZ
Tucsonautomuseum.com

New Cars in the Museum

We have a new car on the floor!

1975 ACOMA Mini Comtesse

The 1975 ACOMA Mini Comtesse was designed and produced in France. ACOMA's Mini Comtesse was built in the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s to take advantage of one of the country's more perplexing regulations at the time: the 'L-Category' of voiture sans permis, or cars available to be driven by individuals without licenses, a slightly terrifying proposition for licensed and law-abiding drivers, but an exciting one for those without!

The odd styling, folding gullwing door on one side and regular door on the other, and dangerous instability didn't hurt sales at all. The single powered front wheel was helped by a pair of "training" wheels to improve safety. Brakes were to the rear wheels only. Various "improved" models were produced.

In terms of powerplant, the Mini Comtesse, the smallest of the microcars produced by ACOMA, was similar to England's Peel P50, boasting three wheels and a 49-cc, single-cylinder engine which only produced 3 bhp (compared to the 4.5 bhp of the Peel). With a smaller output in terms of horsepower, it comes as no surprise that the Mini Comtesse only had two forward gears (compared to the Peel's three) and no reverse gear as well. Top speed was quoted at 20 mph.

One of the car's more unique features, especially when considering its size, was the fact that it had not one but two doors. On the driver's right is a conventionally hinged door, while on the driver's left is a roof-hinged gullwing door. This was implemented due to the Mini Comtesse's size, which allowed it to park perpendicularly between two parked cars. In this case, it would prove difficult to disembark from the driver's right. To the left, however, egress and entry would be much easier.

Upcoming Events

Tucson Classics Car Show
October 15, 2022



Recent highlights

- We are pleased to announce that our 1965 Corvette convertible won Best Classic/Antique at the 1st annual Pipes n' Paws Car Show held on historic 4th Ave.
- Our Museum Manager, Courtney Carr, was a guest recently on the Cars Yeah Podcast. She discusses her background, her love of all things car related and highlights many of the museum's unique cars. <https://carsyeah.com/ourportfolio/2057-courtney-carr/>
- We are now closed for the season. We will still be open for private tours. If interested, please reach out to the museum via our phone number or email.

Our next area of focus

We are looking for volunteers! We have several opportunities available for people looking to get out there and fill their free time with some fun volunteer opportunities within the museum.

Homefront: Museum Liaison for the Homefront area. Answer questions about the cars, know about the historical background on the various vehicles.

Information Desk: Greet and count visitors entering the Museum. Direct visitors to areas around Museum. Answer general questions.

Vehicle Restoration: Dust off vehicles, clean windows, direction from the museum's mechanic for any other restoration help.

Please reach out to the museum manager if you would like to volunteer within our museum. ccarr@tucsonautomuseum.com



