

# Desert Undertones

Instrumental Surf Rock Band — Tucson, AZ



[www.desertundertones.com](http://www.desertundertones.com)



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## Booking Contact:



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## Biography:

Desert Undertones is an instrumental surf rock band from Tucson, AZ.

The band incorporates the classic 60's vibe of artists like The Ventures and Dick Dale as well as many of the 2nd and 3rd wave bands such as Jon & The Nightriders, Insect Surfers and Los Straitjackets. There is also a western influence harkening back to spaghetti western film soundtracks.

The seeds of the band were planted in 2005 when guitarist Dylan Oldham was at Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. He and guitarist Gustav Wilhelmsson (of The Riptide Rats) formed a project playing surf music around LA.

After music school, Dylan headed to New York and put surf music on pause. He relocated to Tucson, AZ in 2020, and began assembling a surf band. Things finally came together in early 2023 with bassist Christopher Marshall, who had been part of an early iteration of the band, and drummer Curt Pleiss, who had recently relocated to Tucson from Denver, CO. Curt also brought recording and mixing skills to the table which enabled the band to self-produce their own music.

With the lineup solidified, the band quickly put together a collection of surf covers and started playing a few small shows around Tucson. They found an enthusiastic core audience for surf music and began writing new original material. The first EP "Paniolo" was released in December 2023. They released several singles throughout 2024 culminating with a full length album "The Sentinel" in December 2024.

## Desert Undertones Are:

**Dylan Oldham - Guitar**

**Christopher Marshall - Bass**

**Curt Pleiss - Drums**

Our show contains a mix of original music and surf covers ranging from the early 60s classics through the 80s & 90s second and third wave popularized with the movie Pulp Fiction, to current artists continuing the tradition and pushing the genre forward.





## Latest Release “The Sentinel”

The title is inspired by the giant saguaro cacti, “The Sentinels Of The Desert”, of the Sonoran Desert covering much of southern Arizona, Southeastern California and Northern Mexico.

Released on all streaming platforms Dec 2024 and available on vinyl and CD at:



[Desert Undertones Bandcamp](#)



[Double Crown Records](#)

## Some Past Highlights:

**Dec '23** — Released debut EP “Paniolo”

**May '24** — Released 2-sided single  
“Massacre Canyon”

**Aug '24** — Surfapalooza surf music festival in  
Tucson, AZ

**Sep '24** — Show with Jenny Don't & The  
Spurs at Hotel Congress Plaza Stage Tucson,  
AZ

**Dec '24** — Released full-length album “The  
Sentinel”

**Dec '24** — Selected for inclusion in Pima  
County Public Library “Desert Streams”  
streaming service highlighting Tucson area  
local music

**2024 Year End Stats** — Over 10K streams  
and over 300 radio spins

**Feb '25** — KXCI radio 91.3 Tucson, AZ in-  
studio live performance

**Feb '25** — Show with international surf  
legend Surfer Joe in Tucson, AZ

**Feb '25** — Valentine's in Valentine music  
festival in Valentine, TX

## Upcoming Schedule Highlights

**Mar 2, 2025** — Surf By Surf East surf music  
festival in Austin, TX

**Sep 7, 2025** — Surfin' Sundays at the pier in  
Huntington Beach, CA

## Press Highlights:

**The Continental Magazine** (review of Massacre  
Canyon 7”) — “these songs feature some great  
performances, songwriting and production ... they  
have an enticing sound that really delivers some vivid  
imagery”

**JFJ Conspiracy Podcast** (review of Paniolo) — “Its  
delicious, its twangy ... well engineered, well  
produced and well written”

**Pi Records** (review of Massacre Canyon) — “Great  
spaghetti western vibe ... very cinematic ... they really  
delivered on this one”

**Dave Arnon of Insect Surfers** (commenting on The  
Sentinel & Paniolo) — “your stuff is really good and  
well recorded ... I've had Paniolo and The Sentinel in  
my CD player for many weeks now”

**Colorado Instrumental Fanzine**, Issue #3, Winter  
2024 — Full 5-page band interview.

**Pipeline Magazine UK** Issue #130 Spring 2025 —  
“The Sentinel” album selected #5 on editors top  
playlist.

