

2006-2007 OFFICIAL GUIDE TO COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA

COCHISE COUNTY

Land of Legends



Inside:
BENSON/KATCHENEE CAVERNS
BIBBEE
DOUGLAS
SIERRA VISTA/FORT HUACHUCA
SONORA, MEXICO
TOMBSTONE
WILCOX



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Experience Natural Wonders

COCHISE offers so many things to do.

Take I-10 to Benson and enjoy the natural, underground wonder of Kartchner Caverns. Or get those hiking boots tied and water bottles filled and head to some of the most beautiful hiking in the southwest. Be sure to visit the revered Cochise Stronghold where you'll be captivated by five miles of trails marked by incredible vistas and breathtaking rock outcroppings.

Rest and RELAXATION

Kick back at one of the several guest ranches in the nearby Dragoon Mountains. Wake up refreshed and head out to the Amerind Foundation to learn about Native American culture. Or meander over to the charming western town of Willcox where more than 20 miles of wilderness trails crisscross the Chiricahua National Monument.

Premier BIRDING Destination

In Southeastern Arizona experience the annual Wings Over Willcox and Southwest Wings Birding Festival events that define Cochise County as one of the top birding destinations in the nation. Begin your sightings just west of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and take the time to explore Carr, Ramsey, and Miller Canyons. You'll be astounded by more than 400 species of birds in flight!

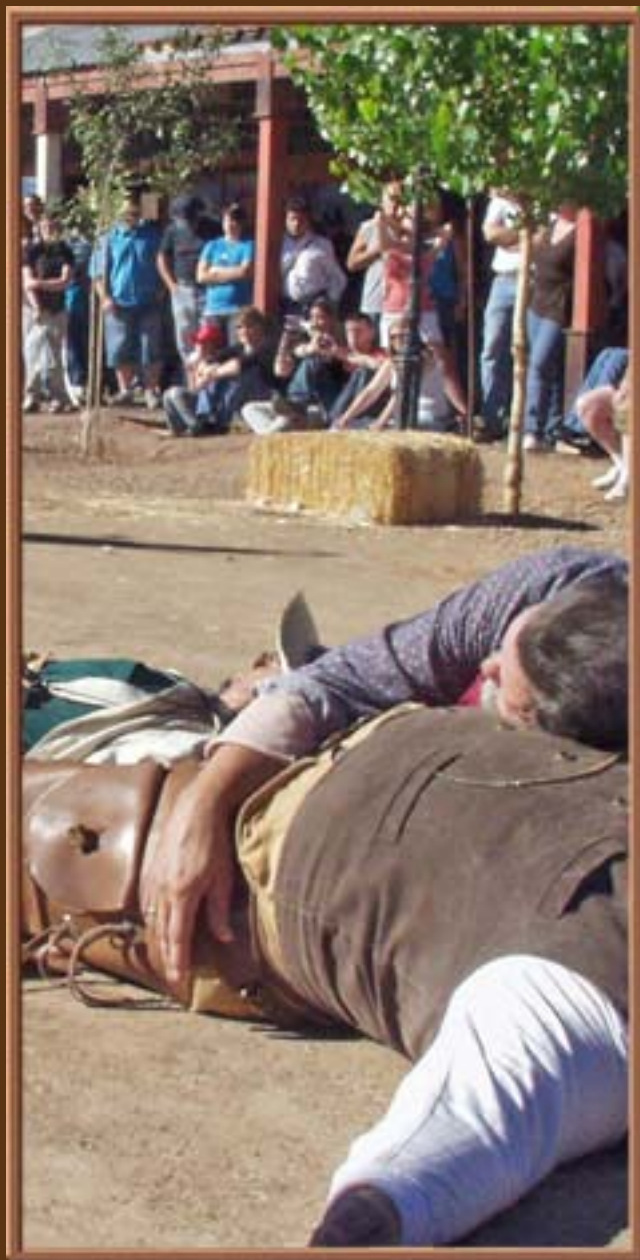


Photo courtesy of Cathy Murphy

A Top

HISTORICAL Destination

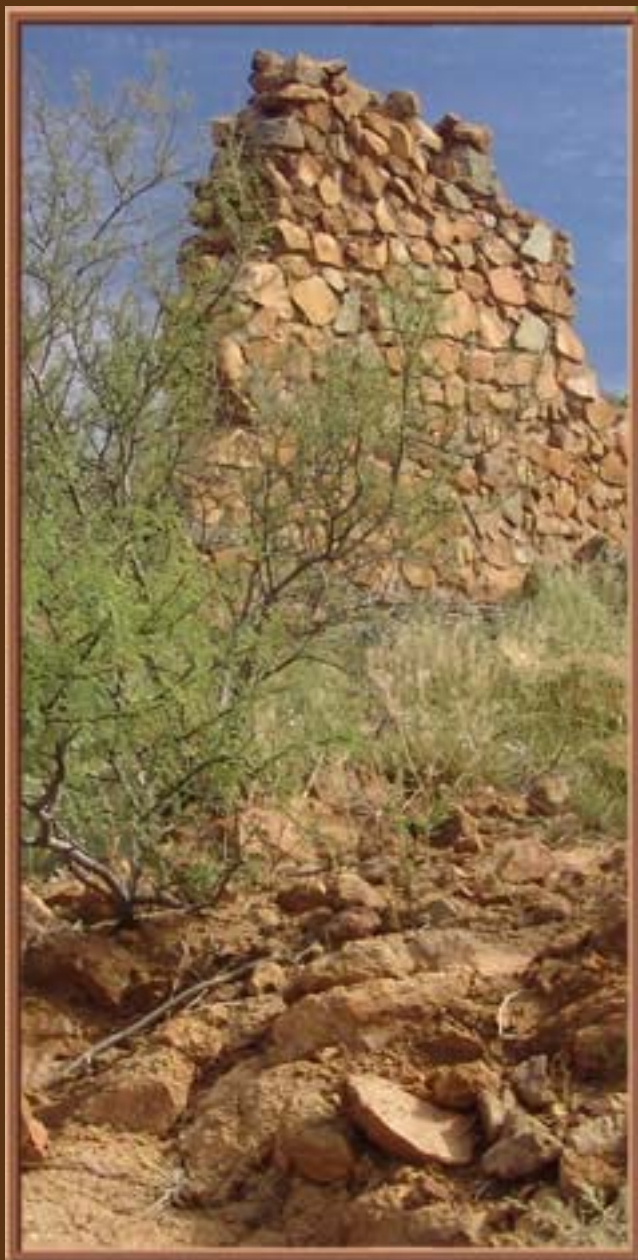
If you're looking for western American history, then Cochise County should top your list of destinations. Travel back in time to October 26, 1881, when 25 gunshots were fired in 30 seconds at the **OK Corral in Tombstone**, changing the West and American history forever.

Return to a time when historic **Bisbee** was the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco, and Queen of the Copper Camps. The picturesque mining-town turned artists colony is much the same as it was back then - down to the Copper Queen Hotel and the lively nightlife along Brewery Gulch.

Retrace the steps of the **Spanish Conquistadors** with a trip to what is now **Coronado National Memorial**. The pristine vistas harken back to what it must have looked like during the original expeditions in the 1540's.

For a dose of western military history, make your way to **Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista**. Home to the venerated Buffalo Soldier and one of the most important military outposts in the entire American Southwest, it's a place where much of the history of Arizona's conflicts and victories can be relived. Enjoy museums with displays of the Apache Wars, Pershing's expedition and much more.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Get into the **LEGENDARY Outdoors**

Located in the high Chihuahuan desert, Cochise County is an outdoor nirvana. Outside magazine ranks hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains as one of the top 50 outdoor experiences in the country. Money magazine declared Bisbee and Cochise County one of the top 10 vacation destinations in the United States.

THE SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

is one of the most fragile and ecologically sensitive conservation areas in the entire United States. It has a lush, 40-mile greenbelt preserve that is home to more than 400 species of birds. The pristine Kartchner Caverns is one of the top 10 living caves in the world and an underground experience that will take your breath away!

HIKING BUFFS, will find a five-mile trek amidst the giant, craggy rock formations of Cochise Stronghold hard to beat. And they can get into some serious wilderness country near the town of Willcox. The nearby Chiricahua National Monument is renowned for its dramatic rock formations and outdoor solitude. Within the Monument you can enjoy a long weekend of just kicking back and watching stars shoot across a clear desert night's sky.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Have a Legendary Arizona Experience

Cochise County is about unforgettable vacation experiences. The diversity of events, towns, activities and attractions is vast. The possibilities for creating unique and customized vacations are limitless.

Two-Day Trip for Hikers - a five-mile trek at Cochise Stronghold can be topped off with a night's stay at a B&B in the heart of the Dragoon Mountains. The next day finds you heading on out to Cochise Stronghold and exploring more than 20 miles of unique wilderness trails in the Dragoons.

Five-Day Western History Excursion - a leisurely, fun-filled getaway into the past starts where the myth of the west began: Tombstone, Arizona. Experience a re-creation of the OK Corral shootout, visit the famous Tombstone Courthouse, and stop by Boothill Cemetery. For more information call the Tombstone Chamber of Commerce at 888-457-3929.

Day two, in Sierra Vista you'll visit the home of the Buffalo Soldier, experience the military history at Fort Huachuca, and observe the many archeological and birding sites in the area. To learn more call the Sierra Vista Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 800-288-3861.

[Click here](#) for more information!



Visit Arizona's LEGENDARY Communities

BENSON AND THE SAN PEDRO VALLEY

Home to Kartchner Caverns State Park and crisp blue skies, Benson is the region's gateway to those coming from Tucson and Phoenix. Kartchner Caverns is nestled in the Whetstone Mountains and is regarded as one of the most visually stunning caverns in the entire world. The Holy Trinity Monastery is a favorite among bird watchers because of its 1.3 mile-long bird sanctuary. A great way to experience the town is by taking the Benson Historic Walking Tour. For the tour or for more information about Benson and the San Pedro Valley contact the Benson Visitor's Center at (520) 586-4293.

www.cityofbenson.com

www.bensonvisitorcenter.com

BISBEE

Located a mile high in the Mule Mountains, Bisbee is a former mining town and now home to a thriving arts and antiques community. The many unique shops and galleries along Main Street are complemented by an array of fine restaurants. For a glimpse of what life was like in Bisbee's 1800s heyday, visit the town's famed Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum (a Smithsonian Institute affiliate) or take the fascinating 75-minute Queen Copper Mine Tour conducted by knowledgeable former miners.

[Click here](#) for more information!