

Places to Visit

Mescal Movie Set: <https://www.mescalmovieset.com/>

Scene of numerous movies and TV shows from 1993's *Tombstone* to *Young Riders*, *The Quick & the Dead*, *Dirty Dingus Magee* with Frank Sinatra and *The Outlaw Josie Wales*. Directions: north on Highway 80 to I-10, west toward Tucson about 8 miles to Mescal Rd., then north about 3 miles.



Empire Ranch: <https://www.empireranchfoundation.org/>

One of the oldest Anglo owned ranches in Arizona with many buildings surviving from the 1860s and start of the last great cattle drive all the way to Temecula, CA, in 1892. It has also been seen in over 40 movies from John Wayne's *Red River*, to Steve McQueen's last, *Tom Horn*, and even *Oklahoma!* The ranch had its own mountain range, Empire Mountains and train station, Vail.

Directions: North on Highway 80 about 3 miles to Highway 82, west on 82 for about 40 miles to Sonoita, then north on Highway 83 for about 8 miles to the ranch entrance (you've been on the ranch for the last 30 miles.)



Fairbank: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/fairbank-historic-townsite>

Fairbank was a railroad town built in 1882. Eventually, three railroads met here: the El Paso and Southwestern, the Union Pacific, and the Santa Fe (New Mexico & Arizona). It was the scene of a famous holdup attempt in 1900, when Jeff Milton was shot defending the express car.

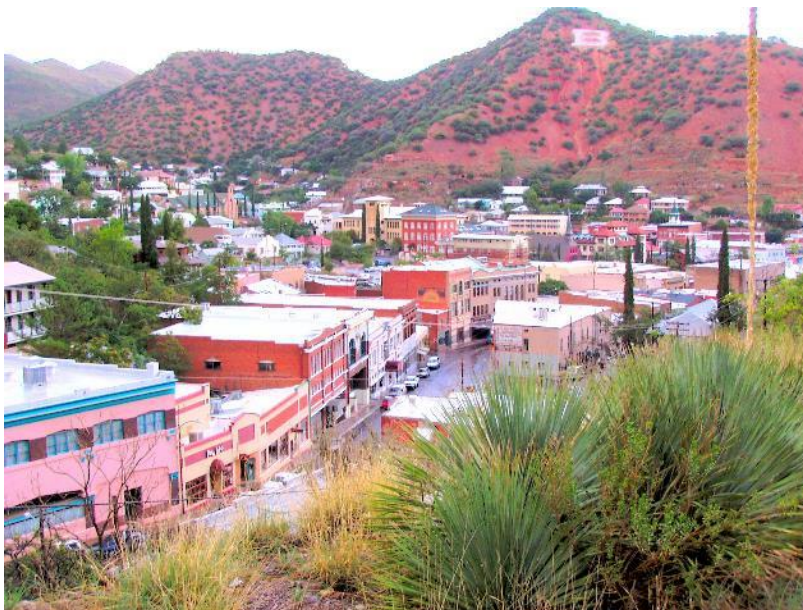
Directions: North on Highway 80 about three miles, then west on Highway 82 for about 8 miles. Town is well marked on the right.



Bisbee: <https://www.discoverbisbee.com/>

Bisbee was founded at about the same time as Tombstone and is home to the Copper Queen Mine which is worth a visit as is the Copper Queen Hotel and the Bisbee Mining and History Museum.

Directions: Take Highway 80 south from Tombstone 23 miles passing through Banning Canyon and the Time Tunnel.



Ghost Town Trail: <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/az-ghosttowntrail/>

The ghost town trail beyond Gleeson is a well-maintained dirt road. It passes through Gleeson, Courtland, Pearce, and ends at Cochise.

Directions: South on Highway 80 to the edge of town and follow signs for Gleeson (a left turn and a right at the bottom of the hill). This will get you to Gleeson where there is an old jail and a mail street on the left and cemetery. Beyond Gleeson a few miles the ghost town trail goes north on dirt through Courtland. Best to consult a map.



Fort Bowie: <https://www.nps.gov/fobo/index.htm>

In 1854, Lt. Parke camped here with the railroad survey. In 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail built a station here. In 1861, Lt. Bascom faced off with Cochise over a stolen boy in what some consider the start of the Chiricahua Wars. In 1862, Cochise and Mangas Coloradas ambushed the California Column in the Battle of Apache Pass. In consequence, first and second Fort Bowie were built to defend the water source. Geronimo's son, Little Robe, is buried here and Geronimo and Naiche were brought here in 1886.

Directions: This is about 1-1/2 hours drive. Take Gleeson Rd., to Highway 191 (formerly Route 666, the Devil's Highway, until they got tired of replacing signs) and go north to Highway 181 and turn right. The highway turns north at the entrance to Turkey Creek. Continue on highway passing the entrance to Chiricahua National Monument to the entrance to Fort Bowie on the right.

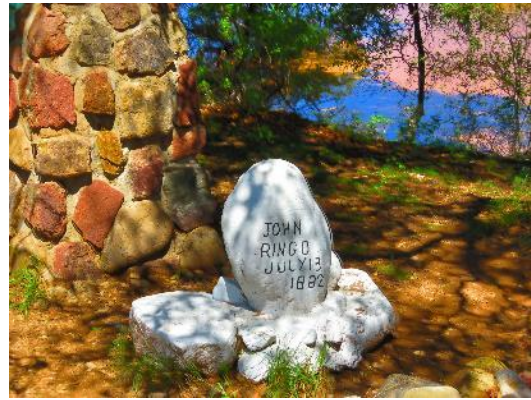
Warning: the parking area is 1-1/2 miles from the fort and you have to walk, but all the interesting sites are along this path.



Ringo's Grave: <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/49824>

He's buried under the tree where he either committed suicide or was killed, perhaps by Wyatt Earp, though I think Frank Leslie more likely.

Directions: This is about 1 hour drive. Take Gleeson Rd., to Highway 191 (formerly Route 666, the Devil's Highway, until they got tired of replacing signs) and go north to Highway 181 and turn right. The highway turns north at the entrance to Turkey Creek. Continue into Turkey Creek on what soon becomes a dirt road for about 3 miles. Watch for a small pull out on the left.



Fort Huachuca: <https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/fortHuachuca/index.html>

Until the fall of 1876, most of Cochise County was the Chiricahua Apache Reservation. In 1877, Fort Huachuca was established and is still there home to the Military Intelligence Headquarters and School. After 1886, the fort became home to the Buffalo Soldiers. It has three museums: Cavalry/history, UAV (drones), and Military Intelligence history. There is also an Indian Wars era graveyard.

Directions: From Highway 80, turn left on 3rd St. to Allen and turn right to Sumner and signs for Sierra Vista. This becomes Charleston Rd. Follow it for 18 miles to Highway 90 Bypass and turn right about three miles to the Main Gate.

Warning: if you do not have military ID, it takes about ½ hour to clear the gate.



Charleston, Millville, and Brunckow's Cabin: <https://southernarizonaguide.com/a-hike-to-the-ghost-town-of-charleston-arizona-territory/>

Ore went from Tombstone to Millville to be processed. The stepped, stone walls are the remains of two mills. No drinking was allowed in Millville, so Charleston was established across the river and soon had an evil reputation as a hangout for Johnny Ringo and Curly Bill. Brunckow's cabin is about a mile to the west, south of Charleston Rd., on a hill. It was probably a Spanish mine seen by Col. Cooke's battalion in 1846. In 1860 Brunckow was working the mine when he and his co-workers were slain by Mexican laborers starting an evil reputation as the "murder house."

Directions: From Highway 80, turn left on 3rd St. to Allen and turn right to Sumner and signs for Sierra Vista. This becomes Charleston Rd. Follow it for 8 miles to parking lot near the river.

Warning: Charleston is on the far side of the river and there are many remaining building hidden by the mesquite bosque. However, you have to wade the river to get there. It's usually ankle deep.



Dragoon Springs & Amerind Museum: <https://www.amerind.org/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsIokbEKX2o>

The Dragoon Springs Station was established in 1858 by the Southern Overland Mail, the Butterfield. It was soon the scene of a massacre as Mexican laborers killed three sleeping Americans. In 1862, invading Confederate fought Apaches in the nearby canyon leading to claims after 1996 that 4 Confederates are buried here; they're not. In 1872, it was here that General Howard and Cochise explained the terms of the treaty with Apache to officers from Fort Bowie. The Amerind (American Indian) museum has a fine collection of artifacts and artwork from Native Americans.

Directions: Go north on Highway 80 to I-10 and then east for about 15 miles to the Dragoon exit. The Amerind is on the left after about 2 miles. Continue on crossing the railroad tracks and immediately turn right. Follow the dirt road, opening and closing the ranch gate. Watch for signs on the left to the Dragoon Springs Station. There is another ranch gate and the road is very rough.



Council Rocks: <https://www.arizonahighways.com/route-council-rocks>

Council Rocks is a native American petroglyph site. It is about 1 mile south of West Stronghold Canyon and about ½ mile south of the two sites associated with the 1872 Treaty with Cochise. One spot is where General Howard, Cochise, and Tom Jeffords negotiate. The other nearby site is where Cochise explained the terms to his people and got their agreement.

Directions: Follow the directions in the link above.



Kartchner Caverns: <https://azstateparks.com/Kartchner>

This is one of the most beautiful caverns in Arizona

Directions: Highway 80 north to Highway 82 then turn west (left) and go about 18 miles to Highway 90. Turn right and go about 10 miles to Kartchner Caverns.

Slaughter Ranch: <https://www.slaughterranch.com/history/>

Our sheriff, John Slaughter, was the subject of a Disney TV series in the 1860s as *Texas John Slaughter*. Slaughter leased/owned the Mexican land grant San Bernardino Ranch which spanned the border.

Directions: Take Highway 80 south through Bisbee to Douglas and follow the directions on the website. It's over 60 miles, the last 16 on well-maintained dirt road.

Willcox: <https://visitwillcox.az.gov/>

Willcox was a true Cowtown and wild as they come. It's Rex Allen's hometown and they have a special museum about Rex <http://www.rexallenmuseum.org/>. There is also a Chiricahua Regional Museum and Research Center which is just around the corner and well worth a visit.



Directions: Take Highway 80 north to I-10 and then go east to the first exit for Willcox. At the traffic signal on Maley, turn right and your there. The Rex Allen Museum is just ahead on Railroad.

Tumacácori & Tubac: <https://www.tubacpresidio.org/>
<https://www.nps.gov/tuma/index.htm>

Tumacacori was founded about 1691 as a Jesuit mission. Tubac Presidio was founded in 1750. The Spanish plan was to send soldiers and their extended families to establish a colony. Tubac has been attacked and burned twice. It now has one of the finest museums in the state. The town is now an arts community with many fine shops and restaurants. Directions: Take Highway 80 north to Highway 82 and turn west passing through Sonoita and Patagonia. (Three miles south of Patagonia, the road actually passes through Micky Free's house. Watch for it above on the left at the cut just before the narrows.) Continue on to South River Road (across from the Little Red Schoolhouse; be careful to obey the ridiculously low speed limits on South River). Turn right on Via Frontera and left on Ruby Road following it to I-19, then north to the exit for Tumacacori.



St. John Episcopal Church, Tombstone, 55 N 3rd St, Tombstone, AZ 85638

This is the first Protestant Church in Arizona founded in 1882, built of adobe. Jon Donahue or Heather Rose of the Corral can give you a tour.



King Solomon #5, Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Arizona

It is upstairs over the lobby of Schieffelin Hall where it has been since 1881. This is the lodge that "black balled" Virgil Earp. It is the first Masonic lodge in Arizona. When the Grand Lodge of Arizona was formed there were five lodges in existence. They drew lots for their lodge numbers and the first became #5. The jewels of the lodge, imagine the badges of office worn by British lord mayors, were made of Tombstone silver mined in town.

