

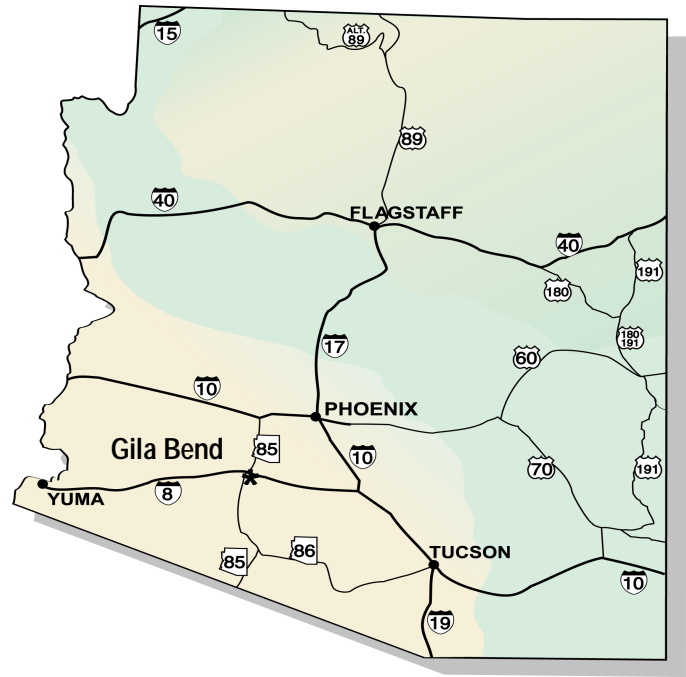
GILA BEND

Community Profile

Prepared by the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Gila (pronounced "hee-la") Bend, near a sharp bend in the Gila River, is on a desert plain in southwestern Maricopa County. It is located near a prehistoric Hohokam Indian village visited by Father Eusebio Francisco Kino in 1699. Kino found the fertile banks of the Gila River had been abandoned by an early Indian tribe called the Opas, who had established a rancheria and raised two grain crops annually, irrigating from the Gila River. This same rancheria was visited by Spanish Captain Juan Bautista de Anza, commander of the Presidio at Tubac, and founder of the City of San Francisco, and Father Francisco Tomas Garces in 1774. They named it Pueblo de los Santos Apostales San Simon y Judas.

COUNTY: Maricopa County INCORPORATED: Yes - 1962
 DISTANCE TO PHOENIX: 68 miles ELEVATION: 735 feet
 HIGHWAYS: I-10, State 85 DISTANCE TO TUCSON: 124 miles



POPULATION

	1990	1998	1999
Gila Bend	1,747	1,740	1,745
Maricopa County	2,122,101	2,806,100	2,913,475
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	4,924,350

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Agriculture, with 90,000 acres under cultivation in the trade area, is the mainstay of the Gila Bend economy. Cotton heads the list of crops grown, along with alfalfa and grain. Gila Bend is located on Highway 85, where it intersects Interstate 8, one of the major routes connecting Phoenix and Tucson with the Pacific Coast. Highway 85 continues south to Rocky Point, Mexico. These heavily traveled roadways make the city a popular overnight stop.

County Employment	1990	1999
Agricultural Services, Forestry & Fishing	7,319	
Construction	59,340	113,000
FIRE	70,213	122,600
Manufacturing	140,616	167,400
Mining	1,759	900
Retail Trade	184,837	
Services	267,983	457,000
TCPU	58,199	78,800
Trade		359,200

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security and U.S. Census Bureau.

LABOR FORCE DATA

	1990	1998	1999
Civilian Labor Force	763	972	1,018
Unemployed	60	48	55
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	4.9%	5.4%

Sources: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Growth Indicators	1990	1998	1999
New Building Permits	10	26	4
Taxable Sales (\$)	12,844,150	16,760,640	17,416,360
Net Assessed Valuation (\$)	6,062,886	4,809,316	5,424,678

Sources: Arizona State University; Arizona Department of Revenue.

SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Remnants of early civilizations that inhabited this basin are still in evidence. Some relics are on display in the town museum. San Lucy, an 1883 Indian village, is to the north on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. Painted Rocks has nearly a full acre of petroglyphs, complete with a winding trail through the huge rock mound. Camping and picnicking areas are available. Nearby is Painted Rocks Dam, the state's largest flood control reservoir. The Gila Trail, a major 18th century Arizona thoroughfare, was traveled by Christopher (Kit) Carson, Gen. Stephen W. Kearny, leader of the so-called "Army of the West," and the Mormon Battalion led by Capt. Philip St. George Cooke. Gila Bend is also in the process of developing the Gatlin Archeologist site, north of town.

TAXES

Property Tax Rate	1990	1998	1999
Elem/High School	3.41	9.25	7.06
City/Fire District	3.00	2.77	2.51
County	3.51	3.44	3.43
Total	\$9.92	\$15.46	\$13.00

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

Note: Property tax in Arizona is based on assessed valuation which is 10 percent of market value for residential property. Average tax rate on homes in Arizona before exemptions and rebates is 1.3% of market value.

Sales Tax Rate

City	3.00%
County	0.70%
State	5.00%

Sources: Arizona Tax Research Foundation

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Gila Bend has a museum, community center, three parks, a swimming pool, four tennis courts and lighted baseball and softball diamonds.

Educational Institutions

	Public	Private
Elementary	Y	N
High School	Y	N

Financial

Number of Banks: 1

Governmental Agencies

Fire Department: Staffed City/Local Fire Department

Law Enforcement: Sheriff's Office

Airports

Gila Bend has an airport with a radio-activated, lighted, paved 5,000-foot runway with a beacon.

Medical

One medical clinic, hospitals in Phoenix

Hotel and Lodging Facilities

Number of Rooms: 229

Meeting Rooms: 3

Capacity of Largest Facility:

Industrial Properties

Several sites are available. For current information contact the Town Manager of Gila Bend, or the Gila Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Utilities

Electricity	APS (Statewide)	800.253-5405
Natural Gas	Southwest Gas Corp. (Statewide)	800.766.9722
Solid Waste	Municipal (Gila Bend)	520.683.2255
Telephone	Qwest (statewide)	800.244.1111
Water & Sewer	Municipal (Gila Bend)	520.683.2255

Cable Providers: Yes

Cable Internet Service Provider: No

Digital Switching Station: No

Fiber Optics: No

Internet Service Provider: Yes

Weather

Month	Average Temperature (°F)		Average Total Precipitation (Inches)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum	
January	37.5	67.8	0.62
February	40.3	73.3	0.44
March	44.6	78.0	0.65
April	51.3	87.5	0.30
May	59.3	96.6	0.10
June	66.7	104.8	0.04
July	77.1	109.1	0.76
August	76.3	106.8	1.08
September	69.0	103.1	0.50
October	57.3	92.3	0.33
November	45.3	77.9	0.35
December	38.6	69.4	0.59
Yearly Avg	55.3	88.9	5.76

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Department of Commerce Communications Division in cooperation with local sources.

For further information, contact:

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