

Tombstone is one of the most famous mining towns in the United States. In the 1870s, prospector Ed Schieffelin left Fort Huachuca in search of silver in the heavily populated Apache territory. He was told all he would find was his tombstone and the Native Americans would never let him return. Thus, he named his first silver mine Tombstone, which became the town name. The town was notorious for saloons, gambling houses and the Earp-Clanton shootout at the O.K. Corral. Tombstone grew quickly and was known as the most cultivated city in the west, but this boom town came to an end in 1911. In the 1930s, Tombstone survived the Great Depression and the shifting of the county seat to Bisbee to become known as the “Town Too Tough To Die.”

Principal Economic Activities

Tombstone’s economy has changed drastically since its days as a mining town. The town’s colorful history is the key factor for steady growth. In 1962, the Department of the Interior designated the Tombstone Historic District a National Historic Landmark District. A restoration zone was established and a commission organized for the preservation of its landmarks. Tourism is a mainstay of the economy. The mild year-round climate and low humidity make Tombstone an attractive place for retirement.

Scenic Attractions

Cochise County, including Tombstone, is the site of a fascinating chapter in American history. It was home to the Apaches, Chief Cochise and Chief Geronimo. Chiricahua National Monument, Fort Huachuca and the 1877 Calvary Post Museum preserve Native American and pioneer heritage. Tombstone’s historic buildings include the courthouse built in 1882 that now serves as a state park. Other historic buildings include the Rose Tree Museum, three churches, Bird Cage Theater, Crystal Palace Saloon and Big Nose Kate’s Saloon. Daily stagecoach tours are offered of historic Tombstone. Tombstone’s early days are re-enacted in October during the Helldorado Celebration. Daily shows depict the town’s western heritage at the O.K. Corral, Helldorado Town and Six Gun City.

Community Facilities

Tombstone offers a wide range of community facilities including a library, four museums, three parks, two lighted tennis courts, a swimming pool and a lighted baseball field.



BASIC INFORMATION	
Founded:	1879
Incorporated:	1881
Elevation:	4,540 ft.
Location:	Cochise
Distance to major cities:	
Phoenix:	181 miles
Tucson:	70 miles
Las Vegas:	477 miles
San Diego:	478 miles
Los Angeles:	556 miles

POPULATION			
	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Tombstone	1,504	1,381	1,313

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX	
Tombstone	3.50%
Cochise	0.50%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE			
	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	732	564	493
Unemployed	22	30	21
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	5.3%	4.3%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT		
	Count	Share
Less than high school	71	7.1%
High school or equivalent, no college	296	29.6%
Some college or Associate degree	481	48.1%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	152	15.2%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)		
	Count	Share
Public administration	95	21.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	71	15.9%
Retail trade	69	15.4%
Education, health care & social assistance	50	11.2%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	42	9.4%
Finance, insurance & real estate	35	7.8%
Construction	22	4.9%
Information	22	4.9%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	19	4.3%
Other services, except public administration	14	3.1%
Manufacturing	8	1.8%

American Community Survey

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