

Gila (pronounced “HEE-la”) Bend is located 45 minutes southwest of Phoenix in Maricopa County. The town was founded in 1872, and is rich in historic western and ancient Native American ties. This growing town is poised for future world-class, yet sustainable, economic development.

Principal Economic Activities

Gila Bend’s strategic location serves as the major crossroad between San Diego, Mexico, Tucson and the Phoenix Metropolitan area. A quickly emerging manufacturing and distribution sector is blossoming due to the town’s increasingly advantageous positioning and draws from the 1.6 million residents of the Phoenix west valley. There is a strong presence in the agribusiness and energy generation industries. Gila Bend houses six sustainable and growing dairies with over 90,000 acres in cultivation of alfalfa, cotton and grain. Residents have access to a robust water aquifer able to meet the highest-level of demands for agriculture and energy generation. The 367 MW utility-scale solar system, in addition to the gas-fired generation station, makes Gila Bend a leading source of reliable and responsible energy. Gila Bend continually seeks to take advantage of tools to leverage its competitive advantage. This can be exemplified with the adoption of its solar field overlay, allowing for a truly expedited permitting process.

Scenic Attractions

Outdoor assets include 500,000 acres of scenic landscape, three archaeological sites, historical trails and various choices for outdoor adventures. Local attractions include the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site, Gatlin Archeological Site, Fortaleza, Gillespie Dam Bridge, Butterfield Stage Route, Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail and the Sonoran Desert National Monument. Additionally, the town is two-and-a-half hours from the popular beach destination Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico. Gila Bend is also within a five hour or less drive-time of the scenic attractions that the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, San Diego, Flagstaff and Pinetop-Lakeside have to offer.

Community Facilities

Gila Bend has 13-acres of developed parks and lighted fields, an airport, a 12,000-square foot Town Museum and Office of Tourism, a 20-acre public shooting range, a 5-acre rodeo ground, a public pool and a town office. The town promotes community vitality through its robust Family Resource Center and county-leading senior center which provide a wide-range of activities and programs for the 60-and-over age group.



BASIC INFORMATION	
Founded:	1872
Incorporated:	1962
Elevation:	737 ft.
Location:	Maricopa
Distance to major cities:	
Phoenix:	68 miles
Tucson:	124 miles
Las Vegas:	318 miles
San Diego:	286 miles
Los Angeles:	375 miles

POPULATION			
	2000	2010	2023 (est.)
Gila Bend	1,980	1,932	1,893

Office of Economic Opportunity

SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX	
Gila Bend	3.50%
Maricopa	0.70%
State	5.60%

Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation

LABOR FORCE			
	2000	2010	2022
Civilian Labor Force	839	738	944
Unemployed	47	57	8
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	7.7%	0.8%

Office of Economic Opportunity

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT		
	Count	Share
Less than high school	374	28.7%
High school or equivalent, no college	454	34.8%
Some college or Associate degree	320	24.6%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	155	11.9%

American Community Survey

INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)		
	Count	Share
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	148	16.4%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	120	13.3%
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	115	12.7%
Education, health care & social assistance	114	12.6%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	114	12.6%
Finance, insurance & real estate	92	10.2%
Retail trade	81	9.0%
Manufacturing	50	5.5%
Construction	46	5.1%
Other services, except public administration	22	2.4%

American Community Survey

This profile was prepared by the Arizona Commerce Authority in cooperation with local sources. For further information, please contact:

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