

# Community Profile for

## Gila Bend

Arizona Commerce Authority Logo

Map of Gila Bend

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.

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## Gila Bend, Arizona

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### 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%
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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:

### **Gila Bend Economic Development**

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### **Greater Phoenix Economic Council**

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