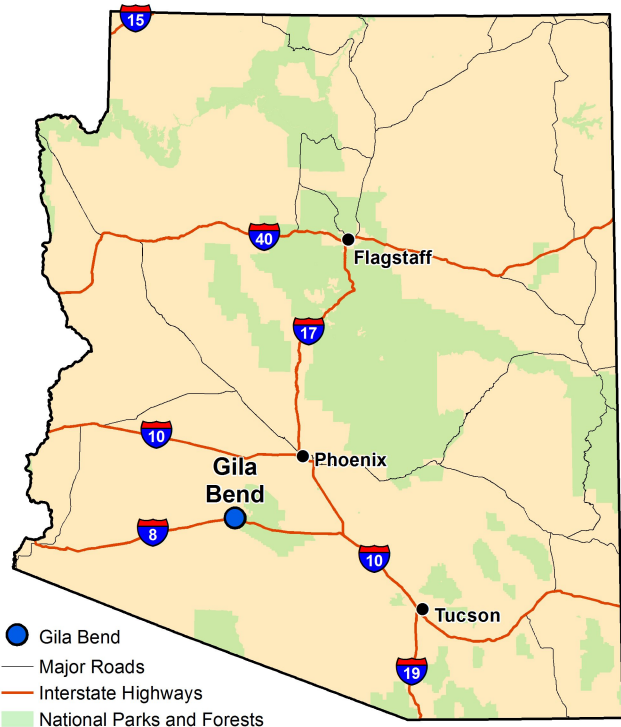


Gila (pronounced “HEE-la”) Bend is located 45 minutes southwest of Phoenix in Maricopa County. The town was founded in 1872, and is rich in historic western and ancient Native American ties. This growing town is poised for future world-class, yet sustainable, economic development.

### 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**

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

**POPULATION**

	2000	2010	2016 (est.)
Gila Bend	1,980	1,932	1,998
Maricopa County	3,072,149	3,824,058	4,137,076
State of Arizona	5,130,632	6,401,569	6,835,518

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**PROPERTY TAX**

	2000	2010	2016
Elementary / High School	5.32	2.36	2.98
City / Fire District	1.64	0.25	0.38
Maricopa County	3.35	2.79	4.06
Totals (Maricopa County)	10.31	5.41	7.42

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**SALES TAX / TRANSACTION PRIVILEGE TAX**

Gila Bend	3.50%
Maricopa County	6.30%
State	5.60%

*Arizona Dept. of Revenue & Arizona Tax Research Foundation*

**LABOR FORCE**

	2000	2010	2016
Civilian Labor Force	839	738	719
Unemployed	47	57	26
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	7.7%	3.6%

*Office of Economic Opportunity*

**WORKFORCE EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

	Count	Share
Less than high school	376	38.8%
High school or equivalent, no college	221	22.8%
Some college or Associate degree	225	23.2%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	146	15.1%

*American Community Survey*

**INDUSTRY (RANKED BY EMPLOYMENT)**

	Count	Share
Arts, entertainment, food & recreation services	105	16.5%
Retail trade	81	12.7%
Construction	77	12.1%
Public administration	75	11.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, & mining	71	11.2%
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	60	9.4%
Education, health care & social assistance	49	7.7%
Professional, scientific, & administrative services	35	5.5%
Manufacturing	26	4.1%
Other services, except public administration	22	3.5%
Wholesale trade	18	2.8%
Information	11	1.7%
Finance, insurance & real estate	6	0.9%

*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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 Email: [info@gpec.org](mailto:info@gpec.org)  
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ACA has partnered with APS to provide you with **Arizona Prospector**, a free database to access available real estate opportunities in rural Arizona. Click [here](#) to access available properties in this community.