

TOMBSTONE

Living History in the Real West



HERE LIES
LESER MORE
FOUR SLUGS
FROM A44
NO LES
NO MORE

**Gunfights!
Museums!
Boot Hill!
Zipline!**



HISTORIC SALOONS

Great Food,
100 Stores,
22 Motels,
RV Friendly!



DISCOVERTOMBSTONE.COM

Visitor Center, 4th and Allen -- (520) 457-3929



Stop by and ask for your FREE Souvenir Highway 80 Magnet!



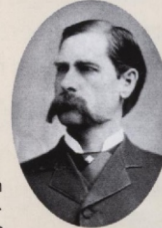
It all starts in

BENSON on 1-10 **EXIT 303**
EXIT 303
TO **80** EAST
Tombstone
Douglas
1/2 MILE

SINCE 1926,
the 'Broadway of America', your
Gateway to the Land of Legends



Cochise, Wyatt Earp, Geronimo, Doc Holliday. 14 railroads out of Benson, taking the silver from Tombstone to the mint in New Orleans, and then copper from Bisbee down to the smelters in Douglas, back in the day.

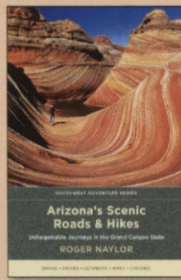


And then the cars came. Automobiles and trucks, Fords and hundreds of other brands like Locomobiles and Durants, on the first dirt and gravel all-weather coast-to-coast highway. In 1926, they called it the Broadway Of America, and you can drive it today an easy 72 miles through the most beautiful landscape in our country, through Cochise County, the Land Of Legends, with living history and the True West awaiting you at every turn.



See you soon!
ARIZONA
THE GRAND CANYON STATE

Prize-winning author writes about our highway...



Get Roger Naylor's
'Arizona's Scenic
Roads & Hikes'
...your best guide to
Old US Highway 80!



Thanks for supporting the
ARIZONA 80 FOUNDATION
Preserving our past Arizona80.org/



HISTORIC

COCHISE COUNTY

Highway 80

DRIVE INTO THE TRUE WEST



Since 1926, gateway to the Land of Legends



ONLY 72 MILES

- Benson
- Tombstone
- Bisbee
- Douglas!



The Gadsden Hotel, Douglas



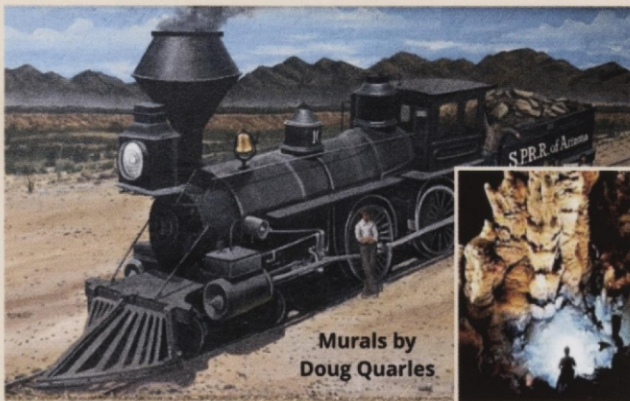
HANG OUT IN Benson



Drive a Real Train at the Gateway to Cochise County

Great fun for the whole family at the Benson Visitor Center -- get your Locomotive Driver Certificate as you drive a real (small) train!

And you are just steps away from the famous Benson Murals... with the Kartchner Caverns State Park only minutes away.



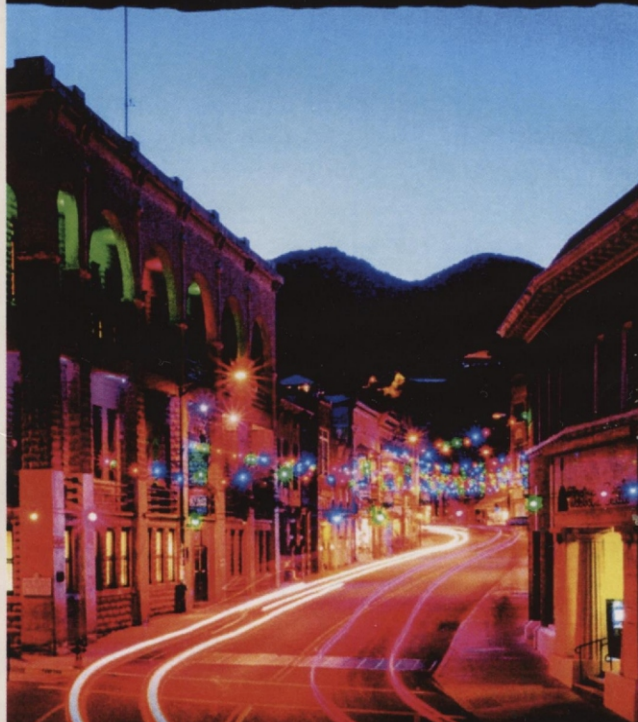
Murals by Doug Quarles

Come drive the train! Benson Visitor Center at 249 E. 4th Street Phone 520-586-4293 <https://www.bensonvisitorcenter.com/>

Stop by the Benson Visitor Center and ask for your FREE Souvenir Highway 80 Magnet!

BISBEE

out of the ordinary



Mile high magic in Bisbee.

Nestled in at a mile high, Bisbee stands out in Arizona as the idyllic town to visit. A storybook scene awaits you with the allure of glowing lights, live music and a lively arts scene. Shopping, dining, entertainment, and lodging all wrapped up in historic charm. Bring the whole family to make memories of a lifetime.



Plan your adventure at discoverbisbee.com

Follow us on social @discoverbisbee

BISBEE VISITOR CENTER

In the Queen Mine Tour building, at 478 Dart Rd. (520) 432-3554

Stop by the Bisbee Visitor Center and ask for your FREE Souvenir Highway 80 Magnet!

CITY OF DOUGLAS

The Best Of The Border

Douglas at the border... an exciting, vibrant city with so much to offer at the end of your drive down historic Highway 80. Like the fun Art Car Museum at 401 E. 9th, and the classic Gadsden Hotel on Ave. G at 11th St. Enjoy the most elegant lobby this side of the Fairmont in San Francisco, huge Tiffany stained-glass windows -- and great food, typical of the superb cuisine you'll find all around Douglas!



HONORING OUR VETERANS

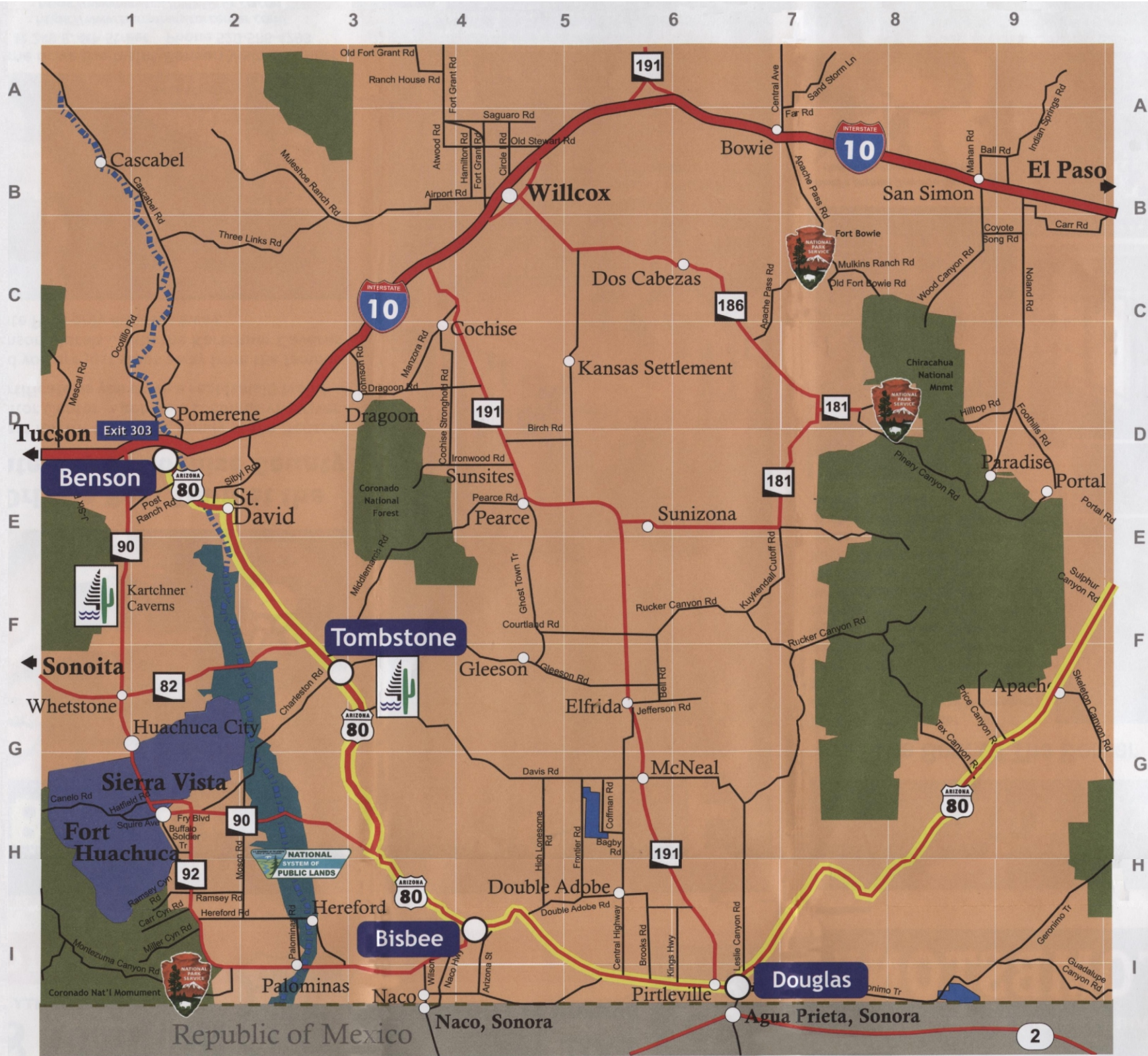
From the Veterans Commemoration Project in the Gadsden Hotel, to the F-16 Fighting Falcon at Veterans Memorial Park -- Duty, Honor, Country



Amelia Earhart flew into Douglas during the Powderpuff Derby!



Douglas Visitor Center (520) 417-7354
345 16th St. DouglasAZ.gov/444/Visitor-Center
Stop by and ask for your FREE Souvenir Highway 80 Magnet!



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Cascabel

Willcox

Bowie

San Simon

El Paso

Cochise

Dos Cabezas

Kansas Settlement

Tucson

Benson

St. David

Dragoon

Sunsites

Pearce

Sunizona

Paradise

Portal

Sonoita

Tombstone

Gleeson

Elfrida

McNeal

Apache

Sierra Vista

Fort Huachuca

Bisbee

Double Adobe

Douglas

Hereford

Palominas

Naco

Pirtleville

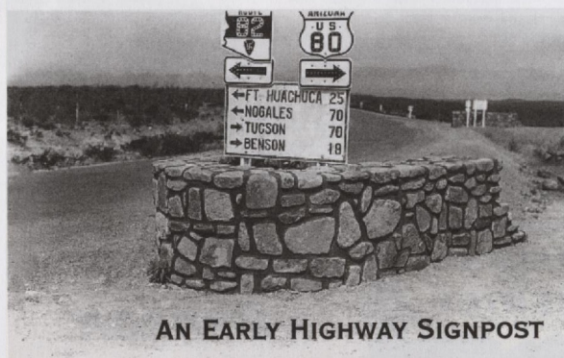
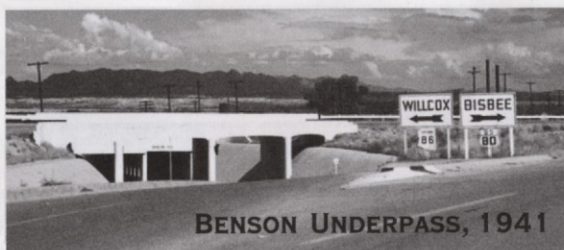
Agua Prieta, Sonora

Republic of Mexico

Naco, Sonora

2

Same as 1926, start your Historic Highway 80 drive in beautiful Benson, the Train City



In 1853, the Gadsden Purchase brought this land into the United States, as a possible southern route for the railroad. After the Civil War, wagon roads followed the Old Spanish Trail through the region, and by 1915 the first macadam roads were paved here to accommodate the early cars and trucks. In November of 1926, US 80 was completed from ocean to ocean with federal and state aid. Called the 'Broadway of America', it extended 2,726 miles across the southern United States. US 80 was our country's first all-weather coast-to-coast route. Here, the different highways which ran from Rodeo, New Mexico, to Yuma via Bisbee, Tombstone, Benson, Tucson, Florence, Phoenix, and Gila Bend, were all numbered U.S. Route 80. Arizona's first east-west highway was now part of U.S. Route 80, one section of the southern West's most important highway, connecting El Paso with Tucson, Phoenix, and Los Angeles.

At the same time in 1926, AASHO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) approved the uniform marking system. The standard stop sign was a 24-inch hexagon with black letters on a yellow background. These yellow stop signs were used until 1954, when they were replaced by a red background with white lettering. The now-familiar symbols for U.S. and Arizona highways were also adopted. Federal highways were marked with a shield, while state highways were marked with an outline of the state. The Arizona Highway Department also began putting up standardized road signs. These included octagons for stop signs, black-on-yellow diamonds for warning signs, and circles for railroad signs. As part of this program, all previous signs put up by the private highway associations and local governments were taken down.

The new highways cost big money, using a State Highway Fund, funded through a \$250,000 annual appropriation, a one mill property tax, vehicle registration fees, and drivers' license fees. In addition, the fund received revenue from Arizona's first gasoline tax, which was set by the legislature at four cents per gallon, and also the first common carrier taxes, imposed on bus and freight lines operating in the state.

Was the investment worthy it? Every penny. According to one highway department study, 385,440 out-of-state cars traveled to and through the state in 1928. The department planners figured that each car carried an average of 3.5 persons and that each person spent \$3 per day... for an inflow of \$20.24 million dollars. That figure was nearly four times the highway department's budget for that year (\$5.65 million), which meant that "tourists in 1927 not only paid the cost of good roads ... but the citizens of the state received a net dividend." They certainly did, as the \$20.24 million then equates to \$327 million in 2021 dollars!

Welcome to the Broadway of America. One of America's most scenic and historic drives, from Benson down to Douglas, and then up through a sea of grass to Portal on the way to Lordsburg. A beautiful drive... enjoy!

(text and photos courtesy of the Arizona Department of Transportation) **SUPPORT THE ARIZONA 80 FOUNDATION -- ARIZONA80.ORG**

