

Traveling in our Fabulous Gay World

by Donald Pile and Ray Williams

BISBEE, ARIZONA

The town's motto is "Everyone's welcome in Bisbee" and indeed they are! The last time we were there, we had a very interesting time. There is so much to see and do and the



weather is nearly always perfect since it is located in the Mule Mountains with an elevation of over a mile high. The highest peak, Mount Ballard rises to 7,500 feet. Bisbee, about 90 miles southeast of Tucson has a population of just a little over 6,000. Bisbee was founded as a copper, gold and silver mining town in 1880. Bisbee is noted for it's gay population and it's Gay Pride Days is considered one of the top 5 rural Gay Pride Days in the country. Bisbee gays have their own website at bisbeepride.com. The 2008 Bisbee Gay Pride celebrations included a Leather and Lace Street Party, poolside BBQ, a lingerie pub crawl, the Bert Lundy Dance Party and a turn of the century ball. Ten U. S. AIDS Memorial Quilt panels were on display at Bisbee's famed Copper Queen Hotel.

There are several great places to stay in Bisbee including the Doublejack Guest House, <http://www.doublejackbisbee.com/>. Built before 1900, this fully restored and charming one-bedroom miner's cottage is located along an old mule path turned staircase above street-level parking. Audrey's Inn, www.audreysinnc.com/. They offer a nice selection of rooms and suites and located at 20 Brewery Ave. David's Oasis Camping Resort, www.azgaycamping.com. It is a "member's only" gay resort for gays and lesbians and has a gay bar. The Eldorado Suites, www.eldoradobisbee.com. is located right downtown in historic Bisbee and they do have beautiful suites. Bisbee does have something for everyone so check out all of their websites to get a better idea on where you want to stay. For dining, we recommend Bisbee Breakfast Club, 75 Erie St. A2, Café Roka, 35 Main Street and the Mexico Lindo Express, 20 Brewery Ave. They have the best Mexican food in Southeast Arizona.

For shopping and services, be sure and check out The Copper Shop, www.copperlady.com, 23 Main Street. Artisan, Robyn Downey offers quality, handcrafted copper

art pieces and has been in business since 1975. Finders Keepers Antiques and Collectibles, www.fkeepers.com, 81 Main Street. They specialize in vintage jewelry, quality antiques and collectibles. Belleza Fine Art Gallery, www.bellezagallery.org, 27 Main Street. They are owned and operated by the Renaissance House, a non-profit treatment center for homeless women. They have a wide diversity of paintings, watercolors, sculptors and Adirondack furniture. Warm Hands Therapeutics, 27 Subway St. www.warmhandsonline.com, Owned by Nicholas Night, Warm Hands Therapeutics offers a wide range of massage therapy including Craniosacral and Lymphatic Drainage Technique.

Sites of interest includes: Cochise County Courthouse which was built in the art deco style, the Copper Queen Mine was once a major copper producer and can be toured daily, the Phelps Dodge General Office Building which is a National Historic Landmark home of the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, the Lavender Pit which is an inactive open pit mine in the center of the city, the Warren Ballpark which was built in 1909 and is baseball's oldest park still in use. Also visit the Thomas Ranch which is a family-owned and operated beef cattle ranch since 1902.

Since Bisbee has such an array of landscapes, several Hollywood movies have been there. Before traveling to Bisbee be sure and check out www.discoverbisbee.com and www.gayarizona.com. The Bisbee June Pride Festivities will be June 19, 20 and 21. Check out that website at www.bisbeepride.com. For our readers in the West part of the country, this would be a perfect place to visit. If you plan on visiting anywhere in Arizona, email: info@gayarizona.com and request a free Arizona Pride Guide.

Always remember to have fun when traveling, meet new people and talk to everyone!
TRAVELING IN OUR FABULOUS GAY WORLD is written by Donald Pile and Ray Williams, Award-winning, Celebrity travel columnists who write for gay publications from coast to coast (And now legally married). Proud members of the IGLTA. You can email them at gaytravelers@aol.com and visit their website at <http://gaytravelersataol.blogspot.com/>