



Open Daily 10:00 – 4:00

Fees: Adults \$7.50 • Seniors (60+) \$6.50  
Children under 16 \$3.00

No. 5 Copper Queen Plaza  
Bisbee, Arizona  
[www.bisbeemuseum.org](http://www.bisbeemuseum.org)  
(520) 432-7071

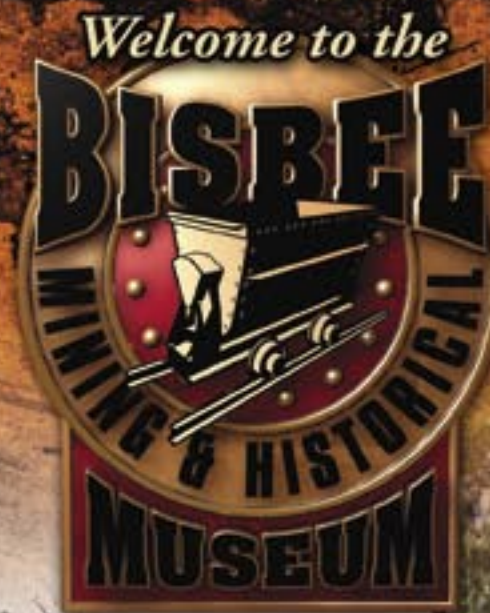


Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

## WEIGHTS & MEASURES

**1** *There are an estimated 2,200 miles of tunnel under and around Bisbee, enough to travel from Portland to Chicago without seeing the light of day. In fact, many local homes and businesses come complete with their own subterranean passageways. Other tunnels are plainly visible on the sides of the Lavender Pit and surrounding mountains.*

**2** *Copper's atomic number is 29, its atomic weight is 63.54. It melts at 1,083° centigrade and boils at 2,595° centigrade.*



**O**nce known as The Queen of the Copper Camps, Bisbee nestles among the Mule Mountains of southeast Arizona, world renowned for its diverse minerals and wealth of copper. Although its mines closed in the 1970s, the town's legacy has been preserved not only in its architecture and mining landscape, but in a museum that has welcomed, educated and entertained hundreds of thousands of visitors.

**You haven't seen Bisbee until you've seen the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum – and been inside a mountain.**

Bisbee's storied past is recorded, reflected and retold in this museum like no other; it is one of only 2,000 sites nationwide honored as a National Registered Landmark. Once the corporate headquarters of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company (eventually purchased by Phelps Dodge Corporation), the museum is at the center of town and at the heart of its history, an evolving tribute to the community, its determined citizens and the industry that helped build it.

What's more, it's part of the Smithsonian Institution's Affiliations Program, the first museum in the southwest to be designated – and distinguished – as an Affiliate. Since 1998, this has been a growing partnership between the nation's largest museum and one of its smallest.

It gets better. Because once you've seen who did it and how it was done, you can walk over to the Queen Mine Tour, put on a hard hat and venture underground to see where it was done.

## This museum belongs in a museum.

The building that houses the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum was constructed in 1897. Although it has undergone the occasional spacelift – including the handsome addition of a copper roof – it retains most of its original exterior and interior design and many of the period furnishings from its days as an office building.

Phelps Dodge Corporation donated the building to the City of Bisbee in 1971; it opened as a museum later that same year and has since hosted more than three-quarters-of-a-million visitors.

Today it has a working library whose shelves are lined with volumes chronicling Bisbee's rich, colorful and sometimes dark adolescence. Several newspapers are also on file along with an archive of 7,000 historic images, an ongoing record of a community and an industry that shaped each other – and history.



## One of the world's greatest mineral deposits.

Don't know your *azurite* from your *malachite*? That's alright.

Beyond its abundant reserves of copper, Bisbee is home to one of the world's richest varieties of mineral deposits, much of which sits all nice-and-shiny in gleaming museum showcases. *Azurite* (a deep blue mineral consisting of hydrated carbonate of copper) and *malachite* (a green naturally-occurring carbonate of copper) are just scratching the surface.



## COPPER NUGGETS

① *Over 8 billion pounds of copper have been mined from local claims, enough to lay a three-quarter-inch pipe from here to the moon and back three-and-a-half times.*

② *An excellent conductor of heat and electricity, copper (symbol Cu) is widely used for electrical wiring, water piping and as a corrosion-resistant component of alloys such as brass and bronze.*

## Digging In: where Bisbee's past is present.

On the museum's second floor is "Digging In", a state-of-the-art mining exhibit designed entirely by Smithsonian designers. You'll enter through a change house before winding through an underground mine rich with minerals, a crystal cave, and the history of hard-rock miners who blasted, drilled and mucked more than two thousand miles of tunnels through the surrounding mountains.

From there you segue into today's world of open-pit mining, where new technologies address challenges posed by a high-demand marketplace and low-grade ore. Environmental issues surrounding mining and your role in the copper story are also examined.



## Everybody has a place in history.

It was the dawning of the Age of Electricity. It too was a "wireless" world, if only because most homes and businesses didn't have any. A global society of instant energy, mass production and nonstop innovation beckoned. The small, mountainside town of Bisbee heeded the call.

Not only will a trip to the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum return grandparents to a bygone

era, today's tech-driven youth will be transported to a distinctly dissimilar place and time – a time when there was no substitute for a strong back, a stronger will and a long shift in an underground office surrounded by walls of metal-rich rock.

Plus, everybody is sure to learn something; hundreds of school classes have made the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum a field-trip favorite.



## Urban outpost on the frontier.

In its heyday as a mining metropolis, Bisbee was the largest town between San Francisco and New Orleans, a copper smelter of ethnicities and religions. Its immigrant citizens were citizens of the world, each one in search of the American dream. Many found and lived it here.

The population peaked at 20,000 intrepid pioneers. All of them confronted (and most conquered) the steep odds, infernal gods and Mother Nature. In their time off the men wore

hats and pocket watches and played faro in local saloons. The women donned gloves, used parasols, and accounted for much of the town's above-ground business and pleasure (superstitious miners forbade them from working underground).

They traveled alone and together to the mines, churches and pubs, ferried by trolley, mule and horse-drawn carriage. Beer and prostitutes poured forth in steady streams from

Brewery Gulch. And a red-dish-brown metallic element was the currency that fueled it all.

On the first floor of the museum is the exhibit honoring those people and that time. "Bisbee: Urban Outpost on the Frontier," is an in-depth look at the depths – and heights – to which miners and settlers went to dynamite a community and a living out of solid rock.

