

# Southwest weekend

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## Arizona day trip Bisbee

**Why go now:** Get a dollop of small-town nostalgia—and some of the best vintage shopping in southern Arizona to boot. **Vibe:** Old West meets artsy. **Heyday:** In the early 1900s, this mile-high copper town was one of the largest cities between St. Louis and San Francisco. **Second life:** When the mines closed in the '70s, it became an artists' community. **Take the temperature:** Bisbee is a breezy 60° in February. **Miles from Mexico:** 8 **Where to shop:** Main Street **Go back in time:** Pore over exquisite minerals (yes, they're cool) and funky Americana like old Bisbee Pumas yearbooks at the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum (\$7.50; 5 Copper Queen Plaza; [bisbeemuseum.org](http://bisbeemuseum.org)). **Claim to fame:** There are 5,000 steps in Bisbee; many lead to homes built high up in the Mule Mountains that surround town. **Stay the night:** Check into the Shady Dell (from \$45; [theshadydell.com](http://theshadydell.com)), a vintage trailer park turned motel. **Reason to come back:** A semipro Copper Kings game at Warren Ballpark (\$5; [bisbeecopperkings.com](http://bisbeecopperkings.com)), the oldest in the country. Opening day is in late May.

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### 1. Go four-wheeling

For panoramic views of downtown, sign up for a ride with **Lavender Jeep Tours**. There are seven tours in all, including a ride through Old Bisbee—the historic downtown with an art deco courthouse and large plaza—and a drive up into the Mule Mountains. From \$35; [lavenderjeeptours.com](http://lavenderjeeptours.com)

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## 2. Breakfast with a view

The **Bisbee Breakfast Club** sits 20 feet from the rim of the Lavender Pit gorge, a massive nonworking copper mine west of town. Grab a seat at the wraparound counter and try the waffles (*Sun*), home-made sticky buns (*Sat–Sun*), or California omelet with guacamole and mild chiles. \$; 75 *Erie St.*; 520/432-5885.

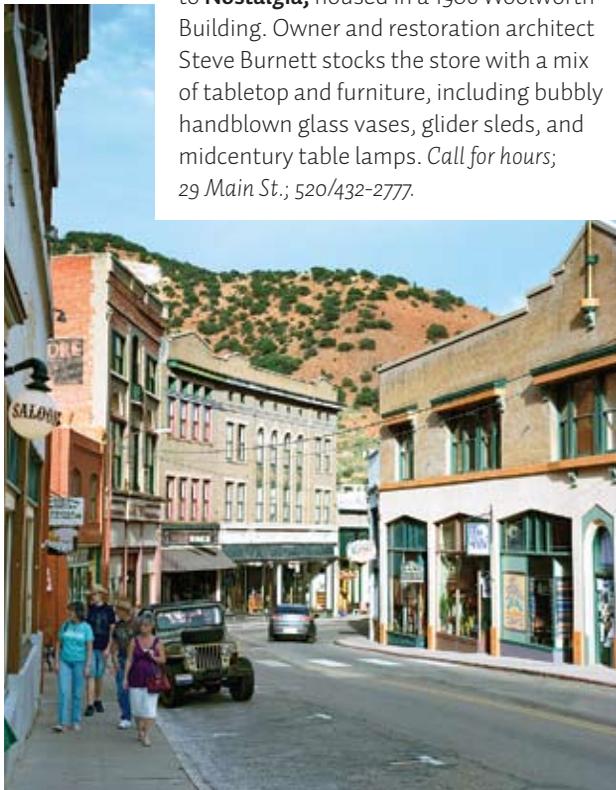


## 4. Cocktails alfresco

For a taste of the local scene, get a table on the outdoor patio at **Angela's Restaurant** at the famed Copper Queen Hotel, where John Wayne once stayed. Order a Bisbee Blue margarita (a nod to the high-quality turquoise mined here) or a glass of the private label Merlot or Chardonnay. On weekend evenings, there's live music. \$\$; 11 *Howell Ave.*; [copperqueen.com](http://copperqueen.com)

## 3. Unexpected treasures

Main Street is lined with quirky shops, but for the coolest vintage finds in town, head to **Nostalgia**, housed in a 1906 Woolworth Building. Owner and restoration architect Steve Burnett stocks the store with a mix of tabletop and furniture, including bubbly handblown glass vases, glider sleds, and midcentury table lamps. *Call for hours*; 29 *Main St.*; 520/432-2777.



## Where to shop in Bisbee



### A LITTLE POT OF HEAVEN

At his tiny shop **Killer Bee Honey**, bee expert Reed Booth stocks the floor-to-ceiling shelves with all things sweet—cinnamon and prickly-pear honey butters, chipotle-infused honey mustards, and, of course, the plain old pure stuff. 20 *Main St.*; [killerbeeguy.com](http://killerbeeguy.com)

### HOUSE OF CURIOS

Pick up retro items like neon signs, ceramic tiki tumblers, and a 1940s jukebox at **Flying Saucers Souvenirs of the 20th Century**. *Call for hours*; 26 *Brewery Ave.*; 520/432-4858.

### THROWBACK FINDS

Rummage through old movie posters, vintage metal signs, and jewelry at **Va Voom**, on the edge of Old Bisbee. 1 *OK St.*; 520/432-1540.

## Bisbee after dark

Kick off an evening on the town with a game of pool at the **Stock Exchange Saloon**. The walls are covered with old stock tickers (during Prohibition, the bar had a second act as a brokerage firm), and most Saturday nights, you can listen to live gigs from across the country. 15 *Brewery Ave.*; [stockexchangesaloon.com](http://stockexchangesaloon.com)



## Getting there

Bisbee is 90 miles southeast of Tucson. From I-10, take exit 303 onto State 80. Continue for 41 miles.



**SHARE YOUR WEEKEND FINDS.** Favorite small towns? Local hike? Email your suggestions to the weekend guide editor at [wgeditor@sunset.com](mailto:wgeditor@sunset.com)