



Department of Mines and Mineral Resources

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ARIZONA ROCKHOUND INFORMATION

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by Diane Bain

The Department receives numerous requests for information on visiting Arizona's mines and mineral collecting sites. The following is a brief compilation of information on the subject which we hope will be useful. It includes sites where mining operations may be viewed, two fee areas for mineral collecting, mine tours, a gold panning area and a very brief list of publications on mineral collecting.

We urge you to visit the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum. After viewing the excellent mineral collection on display, the Museum's reference library may be used to obtain further information on mineral collecting in Arizona. Field trip guides to some of the State's many other collecting areas may be reviewed and/or photocopied. Information on mines and mining may also be obtained from the department's staff and library.

For those interested in joining a rock and gem club, a circular entitled *Earth Science Clubs in Arizona* is available free of charge at the Museum or by mail. A listing of Arizona mineral shows is also available.

OPERATING-MINE OVERLOOKS

MORENCI OVERLOOK

Located in eastern Arizona on the scenic Coronado Trail, this site provides a spectacular view of Arizona's largest mining operation - the Phelps Dodge Morenci mine. The overlook is about 5 miles north of the town of Morenci on Highway 666. The Morenci mine produces over

500 million pounds of copper a year and moves nearly 100,000 tons of ore every day!

RAY MINE OVERLOOK

Approximately 85 miles east of Phoenix is the Asarco-owned Ray Copper Mine, a major copper producer. Mining operations and equipment may be viewed here daily from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm or until dusk. The overlook is located approximately 12 miles south of Superior on Highway 177.

MINE TOURS

BISBEE

Tours are available of the famous Copper Queen Mine and the colorful, historic mining town of Bisbee.

Copper Queen Underground Mine Tour. Historic mining equipment still in place. Open 7 days a week. The one hour tours beginning at 10:30, 12:00, 2:00, 3:30.

Lavender Pit. A large open pit copper mine. Daily at noon. For further information call (520) 432-2071.

BAGDAD

Bagdad Mine. Free tours by appointment. Call (520) 633-3490.

MORENCI

Morenci Mine Free tours are by appointment daily at 8:30 am and 1:15 pm. The age requirement is nine years. Cameras are allowed. For an appointment call (520) 865-4521, extension 206. Ask for Karen.

TUCSON

Mission Mine One hour tours of the open pit. \$4.00 - children (5-12 years); \$6.00, adults; \$5.00 senior citizens (62 and older). Group tour rates available. 15 mi. south of Tucson on I-19 and Pima Mine Road. (520) 625-7513.

TOMBSTONE

Good Enough Mine A rich silver mine dating from the 1880's. Half hour tours, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. Hard hats and lights are furnished. Toughnut Street.

APACHE JUNCTION

Blue Bird Mine Underground tour of a 1893 gold mine. The tour includes a display of fluorescent minerals. 4 1/2 miles NE of Apache Junction on Highway 88. (602) 982-2653

WICKENBURG, ARIZONA

Vulture Mine Camp, including assay office. Take US 60 from Wickenburg about 3 miles to the west. Turn left at the Vulture Mine Road at the Safeway shopping center and continue on paved road for about 12 miles. Mine tours are offered between 9 am and 5 pm daily. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. For information call (520) 377-0803.

WICKENBURG, ARIZONA

Robson's Mining World. Exhibits of mining equipment, mine tours, mining camp town. Six miles north of Aguila on Hwy. 71. (520) 685-2609.

MINERAL COLLECTING - FEE AREAS

PETRIFIED WOOD

At the junction of Highway 180 and the south end of the Petrified Forest National Park, 19 miles east of Holbrook, the Petrified Forest Giftshop operate a fee area for collecting petrified wood. The fee is \$250 for 250 pounds. Group rates are available. A large selection of petrified wood is available at the shop. (520)524-3470

GOLD PANNING

LYNX LAKE WITHDRAWAL AREA

This area has been set aside for recreational gold panning. Gold pans and hand tools may be used but not mechanized equipment. No permit is required.

Take State Highway 69 towards Prescott, Arizona to FS 197 (paved), turn south. The Lynx Creek turn off is approximately 3 miles, on the left.

LAKE PLEASANT PARK

Gold panning is allowed in the park, but not metal detecting or rockhounding. There is a nominal entrance fee. Twenty miles northwest of Phoenix on Castle Hot Springs Road.

SUGGESTED READING

Gold Panning in Arizona, Diane Bain, Ariz. Dept. of Mines and Mineral Resources, Phoenix, Arizona

Mineralogy of Arizona, Anthony, Williams, Bideaux, & Grant. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, Arizona. 1995

Placer Gold Deposits of Arizona, Maureen Johnson. Geologic Survey Bull. 1355, reprinted by Del Oeste Press, Tarzana, California

Western Gem Hunters Atlas, Cy Johnson & Son. Susanville, California

Gem Trails of Arizona, Bessie Simpson. Gem Trails Publications, Glen Rose, Texas

Geology of Arizona, Nations and Stump. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Duquque, Iowa,

Roadside Geology of Arizona, Halka Chronic. Mountain Press Publishing Company