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## **In-depth ideas for cultural and heritage travelers to Cochise County**

New 'Cochise Origins' video delves into historic themes, provides county-wide links

**Cochise County, Ariz.** (July 10, 2009) – Visitors have a new way to learn about Cochise County's culture and heritage. Cochise Origins, a 22-minute video details five cultural themes. It is playing at six visitor centers and seven attractions within Cochise County (see below for a list of locations). It is also available on the [Cochise County Tourism Council's website](#).

The video won the Cooperative Marketing award at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, held at the Westin Kierland resort, July 8-10, 2009. Cochise Origins was chosen because of the project's demonstration of collaboration among various private and public entities.

Cochise Origins provides an overview of themes unique to Cochise County, many of which shaped Arizona and the American West. It plays on high definition TVs and Blu-ray DVD players, purchased through funding from the Arizona Office of Tourism's Rural Tourism Development Grant program.

The five historic themes include:

- **[Hispanic/Mexican Influence](#)**: The Spanish first crossed into the U.S. with Coronado's famous expedition to find the mythical Seven Cities of Cibola, which had a profound influence on the southwestern U.S. Now visitors can begin to learn about how western culture was shaped by the Spanish and Mexican explorers at **Coronado National Memorial**. In addition, **Douglas** celebrates its Hispanic heritage with its close ties to neighboring Agua Prieta in Mexico.
- **[Apache/Native American Experience](#)**: Cochise County is where the famous Apache Indians Cochise and Geronimo roamed. The **Amerind Foundation Museum** details the history of the Apaches and explores the American Indian experience. The museum continues to study the native peoples of the Americas from Alaska to Argentina.
- **[Geology/Mining](#)**: Mineral discovery and mining wealth led settlers across the Western landscape. Gold? There was some, but copper built much of Arizona's wealth. Learn about the impact of the mining industry at the **Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum**. In addition, explore the geologic forces that made the region what it is by visiting the **Chiricahua National Monument**. The living caves in Kartchner Caverns State Park show how geology continues to shape the land.
- **[Old West/Ranching](#)**: Iconic stories are alive in **Tombstone** and at the **John Slaughter Ranch**. Visit the site of the infamous Old West gunfight and learn about the Old West in the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. A visit to Slaughter Ranch near Douglas will bring to life the days of the famous rancher and former sheriff of Cochise County, John Slaughter, who brought law to a lawless time.
- **[Military History](#)**: the famous **Buffalo Soldiers** made their base in Sierra Vista's **Fort Huachuca**, and the Army's B Troop helped settle the West. The Army post was established as a result of the Indian Wars of the late 1800s and many artifacts of those times are represented in the Fort Huachuca Museums.

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From each of these attractions, visitors can find a wealth of information related to its cultural theme. In addition, information for each of the themes within Cochise Origins is available under the “Legendary Origins” tabs of the [Cochise County Tourism Council’s website](#).

Cochise Origins is playing at the following visitor centers:

1. [Benson Visitor Center](#), 249 E. 4th Street, Benson AZ 85602, 520-586-4293
2. [Bisbee Visitor Center](#), #2 Copper Queen Plaza/Convention Center, Bisbee, AZ 85603, 1-877-224-7233
3. [Douglas Visitor Center](#), 425 10th Street, Douglas, Arizona 85607, 520-417-7344
4. [Sierra Vista Visitor Center](#), 3020 East Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, 1-800-288-3861
5. [Tombstone Chamber of Commerce](#), 395 E. Allen Street, Tombstone, AZ, 1-888-457-3929
6. [Willcox Visitor Center](#), 1500 N Circle I Road, Willcox, AZ 85643, 1-800-200-2272

And at the following attractions:

1. [Amerind Foundation Museum](#), 2100 N Amerind Road, Dragoon, AZ 85609, 520-586-3666
2. [Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum](#), No. 5 Copper Queen Plaza, Bisbee, AZ 85603, 520-432-7071
3. [Coronado National Memorial](#), 4101 East Montezuma Canyon Road, Hereford, AZ 85615, 520-366-5515
4. Fort Huachuca Museum, Brown’s Parade Field, Fort Huachuca, AZ, 520-533-5736
5. [Kartchner Caverns State Park](#), Benson, AZ, 520-586-2283
6. [Tombstone Courthouse](#), Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Toughnut Streets, Tombstone, 520-457-3311
7. [Slaughter Ranch](#), 6153 Geronimo Trail, Douglas, AZ 85608, 520-558-2474
8. [Chiricahua National Monument](#), 12856 East Rhyolite Creek Road, Willcox, AZ 85643, 520-824-3560

*Located in southeastern Arizona, Cochise County is one of the most culturally, historically and geographically diverse areas in the American Southwest. Its legendary communities—Benson, Bisbee, Douglas, Tombstone, Sierra Vista and Willcox—were strategically located less than a day’s journey by stagecoach and are now just a short drive from one another. For more information about Cochise County, contact the Cochise County Tourism Council at 1-800-862-5273 or visit their website at [www.explorecochise.com](http://www.explorecochise.com).*

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