



Media Contact: Luanne Mattson
PR for the Cochise County Tourism Council
Tel: 602-826-2892

Holiday fun in Cochise County, Ariz.

Enjoy hometown parades, Christmas apple festival, historic home tours and more

Cochise County, Ariz. (Oct. 14, 2011) – Holiday events in [Cochise County](#) get visitors away from the madness of holiday shopping to appreciate the intimate settings of rural Arizona. Visitors can enjoy the fall arts festivals near Benson, larger-than-life Santas in Sierra Vista, the Christmas Apple Festival in Willcox, the historic home tour and an artistic chair auction in Bisbee, and a Christmas parade in Douglas.

Nov. 20, Thanksgiving Fiesta, Benson

Singing Wind Bookshop hosts a medley of regional authors of history, fiction, natural history and children's books. The setting for this event is a bookstore housed within a working ranch. Music provided by Don and Victoria Armstrong.

When: 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20

Where: 700 W. Singing Wind Rd. I-10 to Benson exit 304, 2-¼ miles north; right on Singing Wind Rd.

Admission: Free

Info: 520-586-2425

Nov. 20 – Dec. 4, 12th Annual Festival of Trees, Sierra Vista

Christmas trees, wreaths and centerpieces donated by business and individuals are placed on display at The Mall at Sierra Vista. All entries are judged and winners are presented with ribbons that are displayed with their entry. All items are sold through silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center Foundation.

When: Mall hours, Nov. 20 – Dec. 4

Where: The Mall at Sierra Vista, 2200 El Mercado Loop, Sierra Vista

Admission: Free

Info: 520-417-4990

Nov. 25, Festival of Lights, Bisbee

The holiday season officially begins with a merry lighting ceremony and celebration. Santa will arrive on a flashy fire truck with goodies for all the children.

When: 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 25

Where: Grassy Park, next to the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum

Admission: Free

Info: 520-432-6016

Nov. 25 & 26, Historic Home Tour and the annual Art Chairs of Bisbee silent auction, Bisbee
Historic homes in Bisbee's Warren District will be on display. Turn-of-the-century splendor comes to life when Bisbee residents open their doors. Visitors will get a glimpse into the town's architectural history. Docents answer questions about the distinctive structures. In the silent auction on Nov. 26, visitors can bid on local artist's decorated chairs done in a variety of media.

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 25; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26
Where: Home Tour: Bisbee's Warren district; Chair auction: Grace EV Lutheran Church, 501 Arizona St.
Cost: Home Tour: \$12 in advance; \$15 after Nov. 25
Info: 520-432-3554 or 1-866-2BISBEE

Nov. 26, Christmas Light Parade, Douglas

Annual Christmas Light Parade through historic downtown Douglas. The light parade kicks off the holiday season with Christmas Light Parade floats, music, caroling and a visit from Santa Claus.

When: 7 p.m.
Where: G Avenue in downtown Douglas
Admission: Free
Info: City of Douglas Parks and Recreation Division 520 417-7340

Nov. 26 & 27, Thanksgiving, Arizona Style, Sierra Vista

Dolan Ellis, Arizona's Official State Balladeer, performs "*Thanksgiving - Arizona Style*." Reservations are required.

When: 2 p.m. each day
Where: 56 E. Folklore Trail, off Ramsey Canyon Road, Sierra Vista
Admission: \$15 for adults, \$6 for students 17 and under,
Info: 520-378-6165 or www.arizonafolklore.com

Dec. 2, Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony & Old World Santas, Sierra Vista

The annual tree lighting ceremony will also display the collection of Old World Santas. Standing over eight-feet tall, each Santa is unique and hand painted, representing a different country or theme.

When: 5:30 p.m.
Where: Veterans' Memorial Park, Fry Blvd
Info: 520-417-6980

Dec. 2 & 3, Christmas Apple Festival & Christmas Lighted Parade, Willcox

Events include a bazaar with handcrafted arts and crafts vendor, raffles and fun with drawings for door prizes, apple cooking contest and entertainment. The parade will be held at dusk (about 6 p.m.) on Dec. 3. Bring a friend and enjoy two fun-filled days of surprises and holiday shopping.

When: 10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3
Where: Willcox Community Center
Admission: Free
Info: Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 520-384-2272

Dec. 3, 53rd Annual Holiday Parade, Sierra Vista

This holiday parade is a family event with Santa Claus, floats, marchers and bands.

When: 5:30 p.m., Dec. 3
Where: down Fry Blvd. from Buffalo Soldier Trail to Coronado Drive
Info: 520-458-6940; www.sierravistachamber.org or 520-417-6960

Dec. 3 & 4, Cascabel Community Christmas Fair, Cascabel (near Benson)

The Cascabel Community Fair is a celebration of rural Arizona history, hospitality, diversity and artistic expression in an awe-inspiring outdoor setting. Akasha Center of Light will offer paintings and Christmas decorations from the resident artist. Cascabel Clayworks will have an open house and studio pottery sale. Other fine artisans will display works in fiber, wood, jewelry, clay, leather and photography. Live local music will be featured. Cascabel is located along the banks of the beautiful San Pedro River about a 1.5-hour drive from Tucson.

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Dec. 3 & 4

Where: Cascabel; Take exit 306 for Pomerene Road toward Benson. Follow Pomerene Road north, which turns into Cascabel Road. Turn left onto Teran Road. (Pavement ends at Milepost 15; Cascabel is at Milepost 20)

Admission: Free

Info: <http://www.cascabel.org/fair.html>

Dec. 4, Holiday Tour of Historic Homes, Sierra Vista

Visit the turn-of-the-century homes, still occupied by officers, on the National Historic Landmark District of Fort Huachuca. These homes are beautifully decorated for the holiday season.

When: 1-5 p.m.

Where: Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Admission: Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of the tour

Info: 520-417-6960

Note: Fort Huachuca is an active military installation. Visitor passes are available to U.S. citizens at the Fort's Main Gate with a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance (or rental vehicle agreement). All passengers over 13 must have photo identification.

Dec. 10, Christmas on Main Street, Benson

A favorite event, the Benson Chamber of Commerce presents Christmas on Main Street. Vendors, local entertainment and the Saint David High School Choir make downtown Benson a holiday delight, culminating with a visit from Santa Claus and the tree lighting.

When: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Downtown Benson

Admission: Free

Info: 520-586-2842 or www.bensonchamberaz.com

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, visit the Cochise County Tourism Council website, www.ExploreCochise.com.

###