

# GREEN VALLEY AT A GLANCE

Almost everyone already knows about Tombstone, Arizona, “the town too tough to die.” Now more and more people across the country are hearing about Green Valley, Arizona, a place Arizona Highways described as the “town too good to die... populated by people who have learned how to live.”

That’s because Green Valley was designed to offer the good life and it does.

Selected as one of the country’s best places to retire to by “Where to Retire” and “New Choices for Retirement” magazines several times, Green Valley, located in the historic Santa Cruz Valley, combines the best of two worlds and four cultures.

The community is part of the original San Ignacio de la Canoa Land Grant from the king of Spain, an area filled with rich history ranging from the Indians who settled the area about 1 A.D. to the conquistadors, missionaries, cowboys, miners and ranchers, and modern day health seekers.

Green Valley appeals to those who enjoy small-town living, where you know your neighbors, and traffic jams are a rare occurrence.

Yet the retirement community located 23 miles south of Tucson, and 145 miles south of Phoenix, also offers the desirable amenities of city life, including cultural activities, shopping, and a wide range of recreational activities.

Linked to communities both north and south by Interstate 19, Green Valley is bounded by Duval Road on the north, Elephant Head Road on the south, the Santa Cruz River and Madera Reserve on the east and the Sierrita Mountains to the west.

The area is known for its unique blend of Native American, Spanish colonial, Mexican and Anglo cultures. Four flags have flown above the region: Spanish, Mexican, Confederate and American. Located at an elevation of 2,900 feet, at the foot of the ruggedly spectacular Santa Rita Mountain Range, Green Valley and the surrounding areas are blessed with sunshine more than 300 days a year.

## **Prime Attraction**

Annual temperatures average 80 degrees during the daytime and 50 degrees at night, making the area a prime attraction for visitors who flock here to enjoy outdoor activities, especially golf, all year long.

The sunny and mild winters, healthful, clean dry air and combination of rolling grasslands, high desert and majestic

mountains and canyons also lure hikers, tennis players, bird watchers, bicyclists, horseback riders, and swimmers to visit or, better yet, move to Green Valley each year.

Many are drawn to Green Valley and to nearby Tucson, Tubac and Tumacacori by the historic attractions, which range from early Spanish missions, old mines, ghost towns, sprawling cattle ranches and wildlife preserves to Old West theme parks and artists’ colonies.

Nearby Sahuarita is home to the Titan II Missile Museum, which draws visitors from all over the world to explore what was previously an intercontinental ballistic missile site.

Open daily, the museum offers a guided tour of an underground silo that once housed the largest ICBM ever developed by the United States.

Scenic drives and recreational opportunities abound in the area surrounding Green Valley, including four lakes and Madera Canyon, the “sky island” that ranks as one of the best bird-watching areas in the world.

## **Astronomy Capital**

Also nearby is the Fred Lawrence Whipple/Mount Hopkins Observatory, a world-renowned facility that rests atop the second highest peak in the Santa Rita Mountains. Also close by and contributing to Southern Arizona’s reputation as the “astronomy capital of the world” is Kitt Peak Observatory, which houses the world’s largest collection of telescopes.

Lovers of art and history are drawn to historic Tubac, the oldest European settlement in the area and a shopper’s paradise with nearly 100 galleries and shops in addition to its historic park and museum.

About 45 miles south of Green Valley are the twin cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, a favorite of bargain-hunters, that draws visitors from miles around to its hundreds of shops offering goods ranging from leather, pottery, rugs, jewelry, furniture, decorative accessories to arts and crafts.

Nogales, Arizona, with its many lovely homes and historic old courthouse, is the seat of government for Santa Cruz County.

Nearby Patagonia, Sonoita and Elgin offer scenic views of rolling mountain countryside populated by cattle and horse ranches and wine vineyards.

# Green Valley at a Glance

## Employment

Major public employers in the Green Valley/Sahuarita area are Pima County with installations at the Pima County Government Center and Pima County Library, the U.S. Postal Service, Continental School District, and Sahuarita Unified School District.

Major private employers in the area are the two copper mines, the home building and real estate industry, the Smithsonian Institution's Whipple Observatory, Farmers Investment Co., which grows and sells pecans, Caterpillar, Inc. Training Center, Safeway, Carondelet Medical, Best Western Hotel and the Tohono O'odham Nation, which recently opened a \$52 million casino and entertainment complex, just up the road at Interstate 19 and Pima Mine Road.

There are four main shopping centers in the Green Valley-Sahuarita area, with approximately 370 shops.

The Green Valley Chamber of Commerce has a membership roster of more than 450 businesses, including banks, real estate professionals, accounting, legal and title services, doctors, dentists, health care providers, service providers, retail outlets and many more.

Green Valley is primarily a retirement community so much of the community's income is derived from social security payments, private retirement benefits, investment income and saving.

The median income in Green Valley is \$43,000 a year, with 32 percent of residents reporting \$50,000 plus annual incomes.

## WEATHER

Month	Average Temperature (° F)		Avg. Precipitation in inches
	Daily Max	Daily Min	
January	67.1	31.0	0.66
February	71.3	35.4	0.50
March	75.2	37.8	0.58
April	84.3	43.5	0.25
May	93.0	50.8	0.07
June	101.1	60.6	0.29
July	101.3	68.4	2.66
August	98.6	66.3	2.03
September	96.1	60.2	1.28
October	88.2	47.4	0.63
November	74.5	40.4	0.58
December	67.7	34.0	1.33
Year	84.9	48.0	10.86

Average total snow, sleet and hail annually: 1.0 inches

\*Sahuarita Reporting Station (based on a 30-year average)

## Recreational Facilities

Green Valley offers an abundance of recreational facilities, including nine golf courses, 12 recreation centers, 23 heated swimming pools, shuffleboard, tennis, bocce and racquetball courts. Green Valley Recreation offers numerous activities at its centers, including cultural events, arts and crafts rooms, sewing room, fitness centers, lapidary, ceramics and woodworking, photography, shuffleboard and billiards and computer instruction.

## Medical Facilities

Health care facilities include nearly two dozen adult care homes, two nursing homes, four assisted living centers, a facility for those with memory disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, an oncology center, several medical clinics, dental clinics and ambulances with trained Emergency Medical Technicians and paramedics.

Nearby Tucson offers nearly a dozen hospitals and numerous clinics with their own specialties.

A complete listing of health care providers may be found in the *Green Valley News* 2003 Health Services Directory.

Green Valley has its own twice-weekly newspaper, the *Green Valley News and Sun*, and its own radio station, KGVY, A.M., both of which focus on community events. The area is served by seven television channels from Tucson, and cable and satellite TV.

Green Valley is governed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors and served by a Sheriff's substation. The Green Valley Fire District and Rural/Metro are the two fire departments that serve the area.

The incorporated town of Sahuarita has its own police department.

There are three motels in Green Valley and nearby you can find resort hotels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, RV parks and guest ranches.

Tucson International Airport is located off Interstate 19, about 23 miles north of Green Valley.

## POPULATION

	1990	1998	2000
Green Valley	20,644	25,504	26,500*
Pima County	666,880	823,900	843,746
Arizona	3,665,228	4,764,025	5,130,632

Sources: AZ Dept. of Economic Security and US Census Bureau \*1998 estimate projected from county population growth Rates. The US Census Bureau released its population count for Green Valley as 17,283, a figure local leaders are contesting as too low. Pima County and the AZ Dept. of Commerce have been estimating a population of between 22,000 and 25,000 in Green Valley since 1998, based on such factors as the number of occupied dwelling units and water hookups.

## GREEN VALLEY LABOR FORCE DATA\*\*

	1980	1998	2000
Civilian Labor	958	2,474	2,521
Employed	838	2,428	2,424
Unemployment	12.5%	1.8%	3.8%

\*\* Green Valley is mainly a retirement community.

Source: AZ Dept. of Economic Security

