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La Paz County, Arizona

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This article is about the county in Arizona. For the city in Bolivia, see La Paz. For other uses, see La Paz (disambiguation).

La Paz County is the 15th county in the U.S. state of Arizona, located in the western part of the state. As of the 2020 census, its population was 16,557,^[1] making it the second-least populous county in Arizona. The county seat is Parker.^[2] The name of the county is the Spanish word for "the peace", and is taken from the early settlement (now ghost town) of La Paz along the Colorado River.

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History [edit]

See also: Yuma County, Arizona

La Paz County was established in 1983 after voters approved separating the northern portion of Yuma County, making it the only county to be established after Arizona became a state in 1912, and currently the second youngest county in the United States (behind the consolidated city-county of Broomfield, Colorado, which was established in 2001). The county did not have a large enough tax base to begin supporting a separate county government immediately and had to rely on state money at first. As a result, Arizona laws were changed to make splitting other existing counties much more difficult.

Under the revised Arizona laws, a county shall not be formed or divided by county initiative unless each proposed county would have all of the following characteristics: (1) at least three-fourths of one percent of the total state assessed valuation and at least the statewide per capita assessed valuation; (2) a population of at least three-fourths of one percent of the total state population according to the most recent United States decennial census; (3) at least one hundred square miles of privately owned land; (4) common boundaries with either (a) at least three other existing or proposed counties; or (b) at least two other existing or proposed counties and the state boundary.^[3] A county formation commission is required to be formed to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed county.^[4] A proposal to divide a county must be approved by a majority of the votes cast in each proposed new county.^[5]

The Colorado River Indian Reservation is located in the western portion of the county. Part of the reservation extends westward into San Bernardino and Riverside counties in California.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 4,514 sq mi (11691 km²), of which 4500 sq mi (11655 km²) is land and 14 sq mi (36 km²) (0.3%) is water.^[6]

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Richard history

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Coordinates: 🥥 33°50′25″N 113°56′34″W



The area that now makes up La Paz County was formerly part of Yuma County.

Flora and fauna [edit]

La Paz County hosts a variety of flora and fauna.^[7] The endangered California Fan Palm, Washingtonia filifera grows in a few spots in the county.^[8]

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Mohave County north
- Yavapai County northeast
- Maricopa County east
- Yuma County south
- Imperial County, California southwest
- Riverside County, California west
- San Bernardino County, California northwest

National protected areas [edit]

- Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge (part)
- Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (part)
- Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (part)
- Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the 2000 census, there were 19,715 people, 8,362 households, and 5,619 families living in the county. The population density was 4.4 people per square mile (1.7/km²). There were 15,133 housing units at an average density of 3.4/sq mi (1.3/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 74.2% white, 0.8% black or African American, 12.5% Native American, 0.4% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 9.4% from other races, and 2.7% from two or more races. 22.4% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 18.9% reported speaking Spanish at home.^[12]

There were 8,362 households, with 21.2% having children under the age of 18, 54.2% were married couples living together, 8.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.8% were non-families. 26.6% of households were made up of individuals, and 12.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.32 and the average family size was 2.79.

The county population had 21.1% under the age of 18, 6.1% from 18 to 24, 20.4% from 25 to 44, 26.6% from 45 to 64, and 25.8% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 47 years. For every 100 females there were 105.50 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 105.10 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$25,839, and the median income for a family was \$29,141. Males had a median income of \$26,642 versus \$20,965 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$14,916. About 13.6% of families and 19.60% of the population were below the poverty line, including 28.5% of those under age 18 and 12.9% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 census, there were 20,489 people, 9,198 households, and 5,584 families living in the county.^[13] The population density was 4.5//sq mi (1.8/km²). There were 16,049 housing units at an average density of 3.56/sq mi (1.37/km²).^[14] The racial makeup of the county was 69.8% white, 12.8% American Indian, 0.6% black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 12.5% from other races, and 3.7% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 23.5% of the population.^[13] In terms of ancestry, 22.4% were German, 15.9% were Irish, 15.3% were English, and 2.1% were American.^[15]

Of the 9,198 households, 19.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 47.2% were married couples living together, 9.4% had a female householder with no husband present, 39.3% were non-families, and 32.1% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.19 and the average family size was 2.72. The median age was 53.9 years.^[13]

The median income for a household in the county was \$32,147 and the median income for a family was \$37,721. Males had a median income of \$35,464 versus \$27,484 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$21,165. About 14.3% of families and 20.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 36.4% of those under age 18 and 6.5% of those age 65 or over.^[16]

Government [edit]

La Paz County is entirely within Arizona's 4th congressional district, currently represented by Republican Paul Gosar.

United States presidential election results for La Paz County, Arizona^[17]

[show]

Area • Total 4,514 sq mi (11,690 km²) • Land 4,500 sq mi (12,000 km²) • Water 14 sq mi (40 km²) 0.3% Population (2020) 16,557 • Density 3.7/sq mi (1.4/km²) Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain) Congressional district 4th	Largest town	Parker
• Land 4,500 sq mi (12,000 km²) • Water 14 sq mi (40 km²) 0.3% Population (2020) - • Total 16,557 • Density 3.7/sq mi (1.4/km²) Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain)	Area	
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Population (2020) • Total 16,557 • Density 3.7/sq mi (1.4/km²) Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain)	• Land	4,500 sq mi (12,000 km ²)
• Total 16,557 • Density 3.7/sq mi (1.4/km²) Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain)	• Water	14 sq mi (40 km ²) 0.3%
• Density 3.7/sq mi (1.4/km ²) Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain)	Population (2020)	
Time zone UTC-7 (Mountain)	• Total	16,557
· · ·	• Density	3.7/sq mi (1.4/km ²)
Congressional district 4th	Time zone	UTC-7 (Mountain)
	Congressional district	4th
Website www.co.la-paz.az.us	Website	www.co.la-paz.az.us 🗗

January 1, 1983

Parker

Founded

Seat





Classic wulfenite specimen from the \square old Red Cloud Mine, western La Paz County



Hi Jolly monument near Quartzsite

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	<u>%±</u>
1990	13,844	_
2000	19,715	42.4%
2010	20,489	3.9%
2020	16,557	-19.2%
U.S. Decennial Census ^[9] 1990–2000 ^[10] 2010–2018 ^[11]		

Transportation [edit]

Major highways [edit]

- 🔟 Interstate 10 • 95 U.S. Route 95
- 60 U.S. Route 60
- 72 State Route 72
- 95 State Route 95

Air [edit]

Avi Suquilla Airport (FAA LID: P20) is a public use airport located one nautical mile (1.9 km) east of the central business district of Parker, Arizona. It is owned by the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Rail [edit]

The county is served by the Arizona and California Railroad for freight through Parker, Arizona.

Communities [edit]

Towns [edit]

- Parker (county seat)
- Quartzsite

Census-designated places [edit]

- Alamo Lake
- Bluewater
- Bouse
- Brenda
- Cibola

Cienega Springs

- Ehrenberg
- La Paz Valley
- Parker Strip
- Poston

Salome

- Sunwest
- Utting
- Vicksburg
- Wenden



Unincorporated community [edit]

- Hope
- Love

Ghost towns [edit]

- Clip
- Drift Desert
- Empire Flat
- Eureka
- La Paz
- Mineral City
- Nortons Landing
- Olive City
- Swansea
- Williamsport

Indian communities [edit]

Colorado River Indian Reservation

County population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of La Paz County.^{[18][19]}

† county seat

Rank 🗢	City/Town/etc. 🗢	Population (2010 Census) +	Municipal type 🗢	Incorporated +
1	Quartzsite	3,677	Town	1989
2	† Parker	3,083	Town	1948
3	Cienega Springs	1,798	CDP	
4	Salome	1,530	CDP	
5	Ehrenburg	1,470	CDP	
6	Bouse	996	CDP	
7	Wenden	728	CDP	
8	Bluewater	725	CDP	
9	La Paz Valley	699	CDP	
10	Brenda	676	CDP	
11	Parker Strip	662	CDP	
12	Vicksburg	597	CDP	
13	Poston	285	CDP	
14	Cibola	250	CDP	
15	Utting	126	CDP	
16	Alamo Lake	25	CDP	
17	Sunwest	15	CDP	

See also [edit]

• National Register of Historic Places listings in La Paz County, Arizona

References [edit]

 * "Explore Census Data" &. data.census.gov. Retrieved August 5, 2022. * "Find a County" &. National Association of Counties. Retrieved 	 9. ^ "U.S. Decennial Census" ₽. United States Census Bureau. Retrieved May 18, 2014. 10. ^ "Census 2000 PHC-T-4. Ranking Tables for Counties: 1990 and 	15. ^ "DP02 Selected Social Characteristics in the United States – 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates" & United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original & on
June 7, 2011.	2000" 🔂 (PDF). United States Census Bureau. Retrieved May 18,	February 13, 2020. Retrieved January 20, 2016.
 3. ^ Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 11-132(B) 4. ^ Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 11-136 5. ^ Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 11-137(H) 6. ^ "2010 Census Gazetteer Files" ☆. United States Census Bureau. Retrieved August 23, 2015. 7. ^ Forrest Shreve and Ira Loren Wiggins. 1964. <i>Vegetation and flora</i> 	 2014. 11. ^ "State & County QuickFacts" & United States Census Bureau. Retrieved May 18, 2014. 12. ^ "Language Map Data Center" & apps.mla.org. 13. ^ a b c "DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data" & United States 	 16. ^ "DP03 Selected Economics Characteristics – 2006–2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates" &. United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original & on February 13, 2020. Retrieved January 20, 2016. 17. ^ "Dave Leip's Atlas of United States Presidential Elections" &. Retrieved June 11, 2011.
of the Sonoran Desert, pp. 50 et seq., Stanford University Press, 1740 pages ISBN 978-0804701631 8. ^ C. Michael Hogan. 2009. <i>California Fan Palm: Washingtonia</i> <i>filifera</i> , GlobalTwitcher.com, ed. Nicklas Stromberg & Archived & September 30, 2009, at the Wayback Machine	Census Bureau. Archived from the original & on February 13, 2020. Retrieved January 20, 2016. 14. ^ "Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density: 2010 - County" &. United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original & on February 13, 2020. Retrieved January 20, 2016.	 18. ^ Bureau, US Census. "Decennial Census of Population and Housing by Decades" &. Census.gov. 19. ^ "2010 Census Maps" &. Archived from the original & on December 29, 2014. Retrieved December 7, 2017.

External links [edit]

- County website 🗗
- 📓 Geographic data related to La Paz County, Arizona 🗗 at OpenStreetMap
- "Bills tackle county growth" &, Arizona Republic, February 10, 2005
- "Arizona County Formation" 🖉, Arizona Association of Counties

Places adjac	cent to La Paz County, Arizona [show]
V·T·E Municipalities and commun	ities of La Paz County, Arizona, United States [show]
V·T·E	State of Arizona [show]
	Authority control 🖍 [show]

Categories: Arizona counties | La Paz County, Arizona | Populated places established in 1983 | 1983 establishments in Arizona

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