

Trip 2 – Episode #25 – Tombstone: “Where History Comes Alive”

I guess I don't have to tell you which one of us really wanted to go to Tombstone.

We knew it was going to be touristy, but I don't think either of us was prepared for how over the top it would be.

On a sidenote, looking at this picture, you have to wonder what's stored in Tombstone's Self Storage, don't you?



So we got to Tombstone and started walking around, trying to figure out what we *needed* to see and what was just hype.

At first, it reminded us a little of Dawson City in Yukon. But the mandate in Dawson was to maintain the integrity of the original town. Here it seemed it was much more about commercializing the lore of the old west.







Aside from this building, which was the courthouse way back when Tombstone was a thriving town, there was only original building in town.



This is it, The Birdcage Theatre. This is where wild west personalities like Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson and Diamond Jim Brady hung out, drank, played cards, watched shows, and rendezvoused with certain ladies.



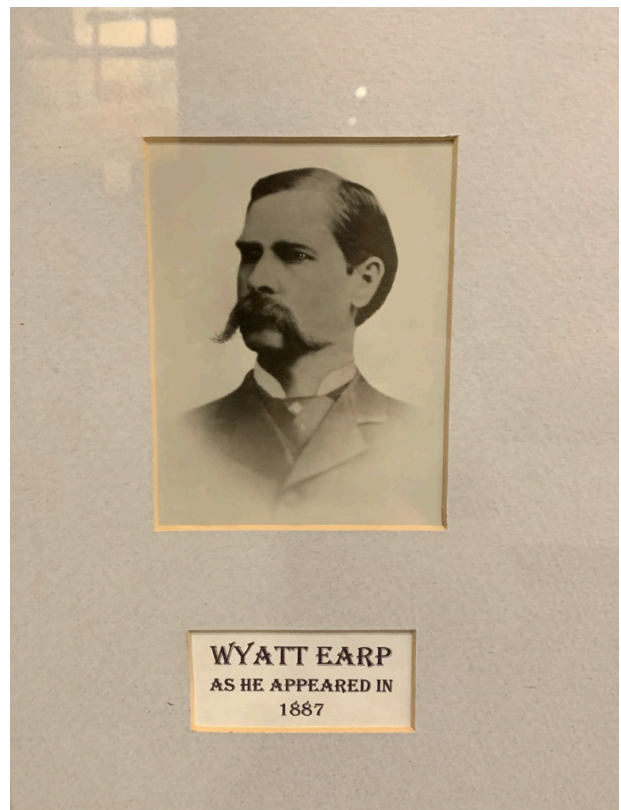
Jim sidled up to the bar and bought a couple of tickets so we could tour the theatre.

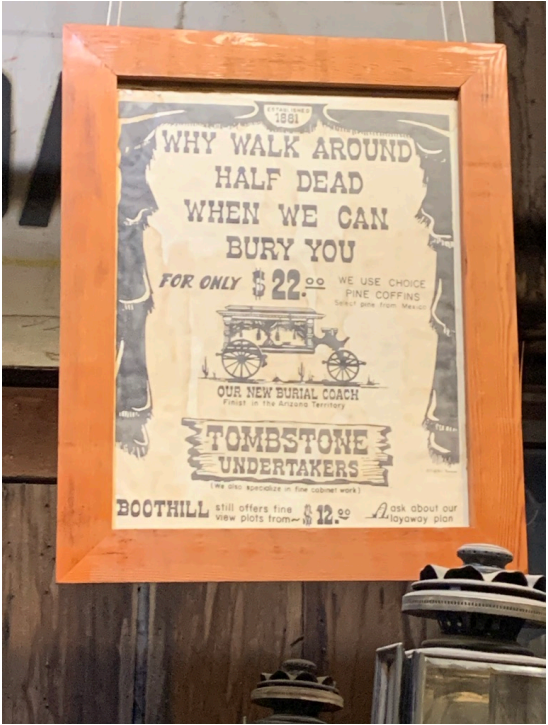


Downstairs was where the shows and the card games took place. It was a fun journey through a storied era, filled with photos and artifacts of the time (from about 1881 to 1892).









Part of the lore is the idea that there are ghosts in the theatre. (We didn't see any.)



These are supposedly the original table and chairs from "the world's longest poker game." I don't think that's an actual card player though.



Things have changed in Arizona since the olden days.



After touring the Bird Cage Theatre, we walked through town, which mostly offered souvenirs and eating opportunities. Some of which we chose not to go into.



Some of Old Tombstone ... didn't look original. I'm just saying.



Of course, when "the Duke" tells you to go see a shootout, you go.





Three actors recreated scenes from famous gunfights, which basically meant the same two guys kept shooting each other, sometimes over a girl, sometimes over a card game, sometimes just because. It wasn't exactly high drama, but I was pretty impressed that I managed to catch the actual gunfire on my camera once.



After wandering around Tombstone and witnessing some gunfights, we had to make one last visit – to Boothill, where those who lost the gunfights ended up. Having already paid for the museum and the gunfights, we didn't feel the need to pay to see their graves. So we can only guess who lies here.



We were surprised to discover that Boothill was also a Jewish Memorial. Who knew?



Good to also find out that there was redemption available for cowboys in Tombstone.



Having done our duty and paid our respects to Tombstone, we got back on the road, headed for Tucson...