



Equestrian Opportunities (Riding Trails and Open Range)

Most trails on the Coconino National Forest are multi-use for non-motorized recreation (equestrian, mountain biking, hiking). There are very few trails where horses may be prohibited, however there are several trails that are not recommended for horses, due to the nature of the trail (i.e. segments of steep slick-rock, narrow ledge trails). One popular area where trails are not recommended for equestrians is in Oak Creek Canyon where trails are short, very steep, narrow, and the parking does not accommodate horse trailers.

The following table contain trail recommendations based on two criteria:

- 1) ease of road access and parking for truck and horse trailer
- 2) areas appropriate for horses and riders of beginning to intermediate skills who follow reasonable horse safety practices.

More experienced trail horses and riders may find additional trails appropriate to their skills as they learn about the area.

Be Aware: Most trailheads are primitive having limited or no facilities other than parking. Information is intended to help equestrians with trip planning so they may enjoy the beautiful Coconino National Forest.

We welcome horses!

Additional information can be found at www.coconinonationalforest.us or visiting the Red Rock Ranger Station Visitor Center, 8375 State Route 179, Sedona, Arizona 86351. **Phone 928-203-2900.**

Some maps are available through our partners, the Arizona Natural History Association at www.aznaturalhistory.org, and the Friends of the Forest at www.sedonaredrocktrails.org.

TRAIL NAME	ONE WAY MILEAGE	DESCRIPTION
Access from Aerie Trailhead on FR152C (Boynton Pass Road)		
<i>Camping is NOT permitted in this area.</i>		
Cockscomb	3.6	These trails intersect each other providing an endless combination of routes to ride in the Dry Creek area northwest of the city of Sedona. Access to the trailheads are paved. Some of the parking areas are not paved. This system of trails roll in and out of dry washes with open red rock views including Cockscomb Rock, Lizard Head Rock, Chimney Rock, Bear Mtn., Doe Mtn., Mescal Mtn. and more. Trail users can also connect across roads to the east and north from these trails to include Fay Canyon and Chuckwagon Trails for a longer ride.
Girdner	4.6	
Rupp	0.9	
Dawa	1.6	
OK	0.3	
Arizona Cyprus	1.6	
Anaconda	1.6	
Snake	0.4	

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TRAIL NAME	ONE WAY MILEAGE	DESCRIPTION
<p>Access from Bruce Brockett Trailhead (a.k.a. Bell Trail Overflow Parking) at the end of FR624 off FR618</p> <p><i>Camping is not permitted at this trailhead, however there are dispersed camping opportunities just over one mile away.</i></p>		
Bruce Brockett	0.5	This short trail connects the equestrian and over flow parking area to the Bell Trail over a low ridge with wide views. Named for a former owner of the V Bar V Ranch.
Bell	7.4	An historic cattle run named for rancher Bell, this trail is the primary access into the Wet Beaver Creek Wilderness and offers views of the creek. At the 3.5 mile point the Bell Trail crosses Wet Beaver Creek and climbs up the canyon to the north end of Cedar Flat. In the warm seasons the first 3.5 miles of this trail is very crowded with people accessing the creek.
Apache Maid	8.5	This trail has a 1,600 ft. vertical climb to the rim and branches off the Bell Trail about 3 miles past the Bruce Brockett junction. At the top, the trail is harder to find. Following trail markers and old roads you can ride the Bell/Apache Maid Loop (approximately 28 miles). Excellent navigational skills (map & compass) are required to follow this loop.
White Mesa	1.1	This trail branches off the Bell trail about 2.5 miles past the Bruce Brockett junction and has a 1,000 ft. vertical climb to the rim of Casner Canyon north of Casner Butte.
<p>Access from Jacks Canyon Trailhead on Jacks Canyon Road in the Village of Oak Creek</p> <p><i>Corral and loading facilities at this trailhead are the property of the cattle permittee and not intended for public use.</i></p> <p><i>Camping is NOT permitted in this area.</i></p>		
Jacks Canyon	6.8	A 2,000 foot elevation gain on this Wilderness trail leads up to a high saddle connecting the Mogollon Rim and Munds Mountain with good views. Trail does not receive regular maintenance and often has a few trees down across the trail.
Hot Loop	9.9	Trail travels up onto the south end of Horse Mesa in the Munds Mountain Wilderness with views. It is not recommended to take horses down the trail at the north end of Horse Mesa.
Woods Canyon	5.2	This canyon in the Munds Mountain Wilderness occasionally has water in winter months and during monsoon season.

Remember to use your "Horse Sense" and practice Leave No Trace techniques when riding on National Forest Lands. More information at www.bcha.org and www.lnt.org.


- Clean trailers at home not at the trailheads. Straw, feed, and manure carry weed seeds that can be detrimental to local ecosystems. Use certified weed seed free products.
- Courteous trail users improve everyone's experience.
- Protect native trees and ranch fences from horse damage. Only tie up for very short periods of time for breaks, if at all.



TRAIL NAME	ONE WAY MILEAGE	DESCRIPTION
<p>Access from Jim Thompson Trailhead up Jordan Road in uptown Sedona on FR633 (Recreation Pass Required)</p> <p><i>Camping is NOT permitted in this area. Call the Red Rock Ranger Station 928-203-2900 for the gate combination to access horse trailer parking at the trailhead. Good for small groups/riding clubs.</i></p>		
Jim Thompson	2.6	Trail crosses by Steamboat Rock to Midgley Bridge and has views of many rock formations close to the city of Sedona.
Brins Mesa	3.2	This trail goes up and over a low pass and drops down to FR152 (a 4X4 road) where other trails can be accessed for a much longer trail ride using Secret Canyon, Bear Sign, and Chuckwagon Trails.
Soldier Pass	2.0	These trails are short but link together with the first half of Brins Mesa Trail to make a nice loop option. Soldier Pass Trail is heavily and a portion of it parallels a popular 4X4 road in an area with a lot of slick rock. This area has popular geologic features including Devil's Kitchen, Coffee Pot Rock, and Seven Sacred Pools.
Jordan	1.5	
<p align="center">Independent trailheads.</p> <p align="center"><i>Camping is NOT permitted at these trailheads, however there are dispersed camping opportunities just over one mile away.</i></p>		
Dogie	6.0	Accessing the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, this trailhead is used for 1-3 night pack trips, when there is water in Sycamore Creek, or long, remote day trips into the Wilderness away from crowds. The road to the trailhead is very rough and long trailers are not recommended due to a few steep dips in the road, narrow tight turns, and small trailhead.
Loy Canyon	4.9	Most of the year this is a dry canyon trail, climbing 1,700 feet in elevation up to the Mogollon Rim and Secret Mountain in the Red Rock –Secret Mountain Wilderness. Longer trailers (bigger than 2 horses) are not recommended do to limited turn around space.
Lime Kiln Trail and Kachina Trail System from Deer Pass Trailhead on FR89B	Various	This trailhead allows access both eastbound and westbound on the Lime Kiln Trail that connects both the Dead Horse Ranch and Red Rock State Parks. In the eastbound direction the Lime Kiln Trail intersects the old Kachina Trail System, a system once part of a horseback riding operation, it is no longer maintained. Kachina uses single track trails as well as old jeep roads to make several loops through the area.
Parsons Spring and Packard Mesa from Parsons Spring Trailhead on FR131	3.8 5.0	Parsons Spring follows Sycamore Creek up to the spring source. Packard Mesa crosses Sycamore Creek and climbs up onto the mesa on the southern end of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area. Trailhead is access for 1-3 night pack trips into the Wilderness, connecting to other trails, when the middle and upper reaches of the creek has water. Trailhead is accessible by nearly all horse trailer sizes.

TRAIL NAME	ONE WAY MILEAGE	DESCRIPTION
Independent trailheads.		
<i>Camping is NOT permitted at these trailheads, however there are dispersed camping opportunities just over one mile away, except as noted.</i>		
Chavez	9.0	This designated National Historic Trail follows the old Chavez Wagon Road that was also part of the Palatkawapi Trail before European settlement of the area. Trail begins on State Route 179 just south of the Red Rock Scenic Byway on FR9204S and climbs up to join the west side of the Stoneman Lake road exit on Interstate 17. Only a two-horse trailer can access this small trailhead and get turned around. There is a Texas gate in the fence where a truck and trailer can pull in and get turned around to park.
General Crook from Clear Creek Day Use Area	30.0	This designated National Historic Trail follows the old trail and wagon road used by General George R. Crook and U. S. Army Soldiers in the 1870s and 1880s who traveled to and from Fort Verde at the Verde River. Parking is at the end of FR626 just past the Clear Creek Campground. Trailhead is very crowded especially in the warm season when people are swimming in the creek. No overnight parking and only 2-4 horse trailers recommended. Gate is closed overnight, call for opening times.
Bill Ensign	2.0	These trails are part of a network constructed in partnership with the Coconino National Forest and Arizona State Parks. Primary trailhead access is at the Dead Horse Ranch State Park in the city of Cottonwood. A less crowded trail system and ideal for riding in the cooler times of year. The state park has a horse riding concession for hire and equestrian camping is available in the Raven Camping Loop inside the park. State Park Entrance Fees Apply.
Thumper	4.3	
Raptor Hill	4.8	
Bones/Lower Bones	5.0	
Open Range Riding Areas		
Beaverhead Flat Road (County Road #78) near Jct. Cornville Road (County Road 30)	Various	Pinion-juniper rangeland setting. Easy trailhead access and open range riding along Beaverhead Flat Road and adjacent Forest Roads up to House Mountain.
Black Tank along FR 525C at junction FR9549M	Various	Pinion-juniper setting on the edge of the red rock landscape. Maintained gravel road access suitable for all trailer sizes with open range and non-maintained forest road riding. Dispersed camping with horses is permitted along designated motorized forest roads in this area, but not adjacent to cattle or wildlife tanks (water sources).
Apache Maid area along FR229 (take Stoneman Lake Road exit off Interstate 17)	Various	At about 5,000 foot elevation this area features small meadows broken up with a mix of pinion, juniper, oak, and Ponderosa pine trees. Maintained gravel road access suitable for all trailer sizes with open range and non-maintained Forest Road riding. Dispersed camping is permitted along designated motorized forest roads in this area, but not adjacent to cattle or wildlife tanks.

TRAIL NAME	ONE WAY MILEAGE	DESCRIPTION
Access from Tissaw Trailhead on Tissaw Road between Cornville and Cottonwood		
<i>Camping is not permitted at this trailhead. There are dispersed camping opportunities over five miles away.</i>		
Backbone	7.0	The Cornville Non-Motorized Trails provide unobstructed views and open landscapes. These trails were developed to reduce impacts in the area's highly erosive soils and still meet the need of local recreationists. It is not recommended to travel these trail during rain as they can be muddier than most. Due to the openness and low elevation, trail use is best in the cooler seasons and cooler times of day.
Creosote Loop	1.0	
Dog Leg Loop	0.5	
Black Gramma Loop	2.2	
Side Oats Loop	1.6	
Zalesky Loop	0.4	
Loy Link	0.7	



Remember to stay on designated trails where identified, use your “Horse Sense” and practice Leave No Trace techniques when riding on National Forest Lands. More information at www.bcha.org and www.lnt.org.

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