



Equestrian Opportunities (Riding Trails and Open Range)

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

Our staff and local equestrians have evaluated our trails and trailheads on the Red Rock Ranger District and recommend the following trails, listed in the table below. These recommendations are based on two basic 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 follows reasonable horse safety practices. More experienced trail horses and riders may find additional trails appropriate to their skills as they learn about the area.

Please be aware that most trailheads are primitive having limited or no facilities other than parking. The Red Rock District continues to improve trailhead facilities for all users but this takes time and lots of funds. This list 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 at this trailhead.</i> | | |
| Cockscomb | 3.6 | All 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 trailhead, and the trailhead, are all paved. This system of trails roll in and out of dry washes with open red rock views including Cockscomb Rock, Lizardhead 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 Chuckwagon, Fay Canyon. 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 | |

U.S.D.A. Forest Service - "Caring for the land and serving people."

| TRAIL NAME | ONE WAY MILEAGE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|-----------------|--|
| <p>Access from Bell Trail Overflow Parking (a.k.a. Bruce Brockett Trailhead) at the end of FR624 off FR618</p> <p><i>Camping is permitted at this trailhead.</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 local V Bar V Ranch. |
| Bell | 7.4 | An historic cattle run name 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 branches off the Bell Trail about 3 miles past the Bruce Brockett junction. Apache Maid Trail has a 1,600 ft. vertical climb to the rim. At the top, the trail is harder to find but with a good map. Following trail markers and old roads you can ride the Bell/ Apache Maid Loop (approximately 28 miles). Excellent navigational skills 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. White Mesa Trail 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 at this trailhead.</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 wide open 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 align="center">Access from Jim Thompson Trailhead up Jordan Road on FR633 (Recreation Pass Required to Park)</p> <p align="center"><i>Camping is NOT permitted at this trailhead. Call the Red Rock Ranger Station 928-203-2900 for the gate combination to access horse trailer parking at the trailhead. Ideal for small group/riding club rides.</i></p> | | |
| Jim Thompson | 2.6 | Trail crosses by Steamboat Rock to Midgley Bridge and has views of many of the 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 a heavily used trail 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, Coffeepot Rock, and the Seven Sacred Pools. |
| Jordan | 1.5 | |
| <p align="center">Independent trailheads.</p> <p align="center"><i>Camping is NOT permitted at these trailheads.</i></p> | | |
| Dogie | 6.0 | Accessing the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness, this trailhead is often used for launching 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 Dogie Trailhead is very rough and longer trailers are not recommended due to a few steep dips in the road, narrow tight turns, and small trailheads. |
| Loy Canyon | 4.9 | Most of the year this is a dry canyon trail that climbs 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 | Follows Sycamore Creek up to the spring source. |
| | 5.0 | Crosses Sycamore Creek and climbs up onto Packard Mesa on the southern end of the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area. This is a primary 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. |

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| Independent trailheads. <i>Camping is NOT permitted at these trailheads.</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 on weekends especially in the warm season when people are swimming in the creek. No overnight parking and only 2-4 horse trailers recommended. |
| Bill Ensign | 2.0 | These trails are part of a network constructed in partnership with the Coconino National Forest and Arizona State Parks. The 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 | | |
| South end of Beaverhead Flat Road (County Road #78) | Various | Pinion and 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 and 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. |
| Apache Maid area along FR229 | Various | At about 5,000 foot elevation this area features small grassy 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. |