

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

HORTON CREEK TRAIL 285

RANGER DISTRICT

Payson Ranger Station
1009 East Highway 260
Payson, Arizona 85541
Phone (928) 474-7900 Fax (928) 474-7999

TRAILHEADS (TH)

Upper Tonto Creek Campground

TERMINI INFORMATION

North end: (6420 feet elevation): at Highline Trail 31

South end: (5360 feet elevation): at Upper Tonto Campground

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Heavy

Trail difficulty: Easiest

Trail length: 3.5 miles

Estimated hiking time: 2-3 hours

Season of Use: Spring - fall

USGS maps: Promontory Butte

Elevation change: 1380 feet

TRAIL NARRATIVE

The trail starts at Upper Tonto Creek Campground and travels along Horton Creek. Lush colonies of roses, wild grape, poison ivy, ferns and strawberries cover the forest floor when the trail veers close to the creek. Beyond the north end of the trail, water gushes out of the ground, forming Horton Spring.

ATTRACTIONS

- This trail follows treads along Horton Creek, past waterfalls and winds through magnificent stands of pine.
- Great for loop hikes

CONSIDERATIONS

- No motorized vehicles are allowed
- **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Hikers, yield the right of way to trail stock
- Portions of the trail are rough in places and should be traveled with caution.
- Trail users may complete the loop hike by turning southeast on the Highline trail. After three (3) miles turn right (southwest) at the junction with Derrick Trail 33 and back to Upper Tonto Creek Campground.

RELATED INFORMATION SOURCES

- *Visitors Guide to Mogollon Rim*, Southwest Natural & Cultural Heritage
- *Arizona's Mogollon Rim*, Don Dederer, Arizona Highways Books

