Carr Canyon
Come and experience this beautiful canyon in the Huachuca Mountains. Explore area history and Carr Creek in the lower canyon, view seasonal Carr Falls, or drive up to the high country for incredible vistas and access to trailheads and campgrounds.

Know before you go

SEASONS: Year-round. Road closes seasonally for snow, floods, or fire danger. Contact ranger station for current conditions.

BEAR SAFETY: Store and dispose of all food in bear-safe containers and trash receptacles.


Attractions

CARR CANYON SCENIC DRIVE
This rugged road climbs 2,500 feet as it winds past the cliffs of Carr Reef and up into the pines. The first 1.4 miles are paved; the remaining 6.3 miles are dirt with steep, narrow, and rocky sections and many switchbacks. A high-clearance vehicle and mountain driving experience are recommended beyond Clark Spring. Allow 40 minutes drive time plus stops.

CARR HOUSE INFORMATION CENTER
This historic home near the base of Carr Falls offers exhibits, a children's discovery room, educational videos, nature programs, and maps. Carr House closes in winter; picnic tables and Nature Trail access are available year-round. Walk in from the road when the gate is closed. For current hours and event schedule, visit www.huachucamountains.org.

Multiuse Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiuse Trail</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Access Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carr House Nature Trail (H, B, E)</td>
<td>0.5 mi.</td>
<td>to junction w/ Perimeter Trail. Access this easy trail from Carr House. Follow the path to the stone walls of Carr Ranch ruins where a plaque tells about area pioneers. Multiple loops wind through the riparian woodland. Great for birding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perimeter Trail (H, B, E)</td>
<td>3.75 mi.</td>
<td>one way to Miller Canyon. Access this rocky trail overlooking the San Pedro Valley from the parking area on lower Carr Canyon Road. Hike out and back any distance or connect with the Carr House Nature Trail. Popular for mountain biking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark Spring Trail (H, B, E)</td>
<td>1.6 mi.</td>
<td>one way to Miller Canyon. Access this rocky trail from the parking area below the seasonal closure gate. Popular with mountain bikers who use the alternate John Cooper Trail to avoid a section of the Miller Peak Wilderness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Sawmill Spring Trail (H, E)</td>
<td>0.7 mi.</td>
<td>one way to Carr Peak Trail. Access this trail from the parking area across from Reef Townsite Campground. The trail passes Sawmill Spring at 0.5 mi. Link with the Carr Peak Trail to reach the summit (2.8 mi. one way with 2,000 ft. of climbing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Springs Trail (H, E)</td>
<td>2.3 mi.</td>
<td>one way. Access this moderate trail from Ramsey Vista Campground. Reach Comfort Springs at 0.6 mi.; continue another 1.7 mi. (one way) to the Hamburg Trail (Ramsey Canyon) junction. Great for birding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carr Peak Trail (H, E)</td>
<td>2.7 mi.</td>
<td>one way. Access this moderate trail from the parking area outside Ramsey Vista Campground. Follow the trail to the more difficult Carr Peak Spur Trail for the last 0.3-mi. pitch to the spectacular summit (1,800 ft. of climbing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reef Townsite Interpretive Trail (H)</td>
<td>0.75-mi. loop</td>
<td>Access this easy trail at the Reef Townsite Campground. Learn about the historic Reef mines and see relics from the mining days. Old mine tailings are visible on the slope just before the campground entrance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911

SIERRA VISTA RANGER STATION: (520) 378-0311

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About Carr Canyon

The Huachuca Mountains, one of southern Arizona’s isolated sky island mountain ranges, rise out of the surrounding grasslands like a forested island in a desert sea. Experience cooler temperatures as you ascend Carr Canyon and witness the vegetation change from agave-studded grassland, to oaks and juniper, then pines and fir. Deciduous, riparian trees, including sycamore, cottonwood, and maple, shade Carr Creek. This varied environment creates excellent habitat for an amazing diversity of wildlife. More than seventy species of mammals, including coati, javelina, black bear, and mountain lion, occur here. Resident and migratory birds, including trogons, gray hawks, wild turkeys, and many species of warblers and hummingbirds, can be found throughout the range. More than sixty species of reptiles, including the rare ridge-nosed rattlesnake, make their home here as well.

This canyon bears the name of James Carr, who operated a sawmill on the slopes of Carr Peak in the 1880s. He filed a claim for the Huachuca Mill Toll Road, the original route up the mountain, in 1881. Other pioneers pursued livelihoods in the canyon over the decades, raising horses and cattle and tending fruit orchards. Remnants of their homesteads are still visible today.

Waves of prospectors drifted into southern Arizona in the late 1800s, and signs of their toils abound in the range. Reef Townsite, named for the band of cliffs known as Carr Reef, grew as a community in the early 1900s. Miners dug for gold, silver, and tungsten here with limited success into the 1950s. Some old mines and tailings are visible along the road.

Produced by the Public Lands Interpretive Association www.publiclands.org

This site is managed in partnership with Friends of the Huachuca Mountains.

www.huachucamountains.org