



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Coronado National Forest, Nogales Ranger District | RG-R3-05-32 | November 2023

Casa Blanca Canyons

ARIZONA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Come hike, run, pedal, or horseback ride this singletrack trail that rolls through the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains—just one hour from Tucson and minutes from the towns of Patagonia and Sonoita.



Know before you go



LENGTH: 20.8 mi. one way. Travel out and back any distance or make a loop. See route descriptions and map on next page.



DIFFICULTY: Moderate to difficult. Nontechnical trail with significant elevation gain between south and north trailheads.



SHARE THE TRAIL: Open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, are prohibited.



TRAILHEAD AMENITIES: None. Please pack out all trash. Food and water available in gateway towns of Patagonia and Sonoita.



SEASONS: Fall through spring. Extreme heat, venomous wildlife, overgrowth, and monsoon storms occur during summer months.



PETS: Pets are allowed but must be leashed on the first 1.1 mi. of trail within the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve.



WATER: Bring plenty with you! Purify any water sources found along the trail before drinking.



CAMPING: Dispersed camping is available along FRs 72, 92, and 152. Please follow the [Dispersed Camping Best Practices](#). No camping at the trailhead or in the wildlife preserve.

Directions

NORTH TRAILHEAD - APACHE SPRINGS (31.71873, -110.75704):

Take scenic AZ 83 to Gardner Canyon Road (4 mi. north of Sonoita). Follow Gardner Canyon Road (FR 92) west 5.5 mi. to the trailhead on north side of road. **Dirt road; high-clearance vehicle recommended.**

SOUTH TRAILHEAD - CASA BLANCA (31.600342, -110.724119):

Take scenic AZ 82 to Casa Blanca Canyon Road (4 mi. north of Patagonia). Head west for 0.25 mi. to the trailhead on the south side of the road. Trailer parking available. **No vehicle restrictions.**

Trail description & elevation profile



The Casa Blanca Canyons Trail #161 is Passage 4 of the 800-mi. Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZNST). This spectacular trail segment begins 4 miles north of Patagonia. A

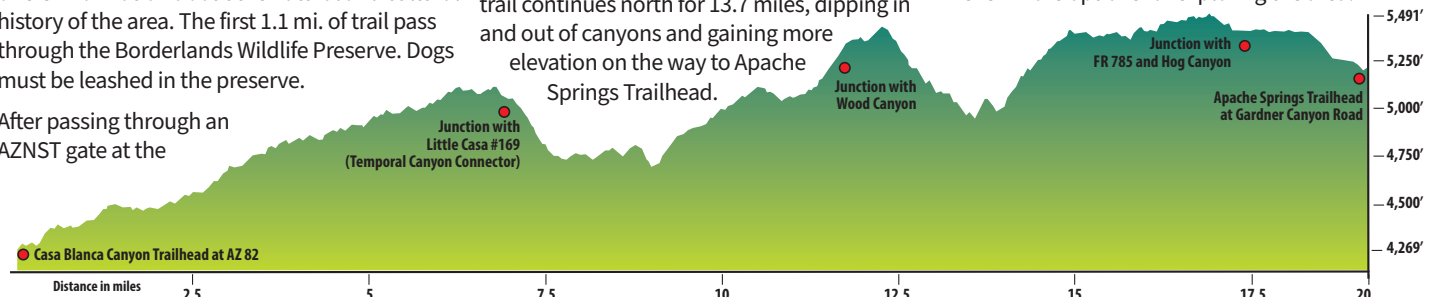
kiosk at the trailhead has a detailed map and offers information about the natural and cultural history of the area. The first 1.1 mi. of trail pass through the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve. Dogs must be leashed in the preserve.

After passing through an AZNST gate at the

preserve boundary, continue on smooth, flowing, singletrack trail as it contours the rolling hills beneath Mt. Wrightson for the next 7 miles, gradually gaining 1,000 ft. of elevation. Along the way, vista points with panoramic views offer good turnaround places for shorter outings or rest stops for longer journeys.

At mile 7, the 4.6-mile Little Casa #169 connects to Temporal Canyon Rd. to the south, and this trail continues north for 13.7 miles, dipping in and out of canyons and gaining more elevation on the way to Apache Springs Trailhead.

Between 2020 and 2023, the Arizona Trail Association, with the help of many donors, trail crews, and volunteers, built 31 miles of scenic, sustainable singletrack here, including Casa Blanca Canyons #161, as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate roads from the AZNST. Passage 4 now avoids roads and provides a route for mountain bikes outside of wilderness. Eight miles of new singletrack trail east of AZ 82 offer even more options for exploring the area.



EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911

NOGALES RANGER STATION: (520) 281-2296

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