



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.**

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

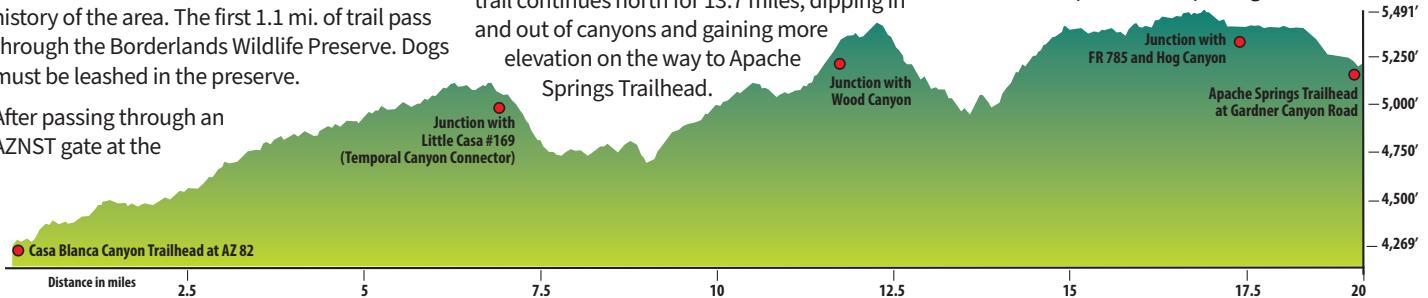
kiosk at the trailhead has a detailed map and offers information about the natural and cultural history of the area. The first 1.1 mi. of trail pass through the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve. Dogs must be leashed in the preserve.

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.

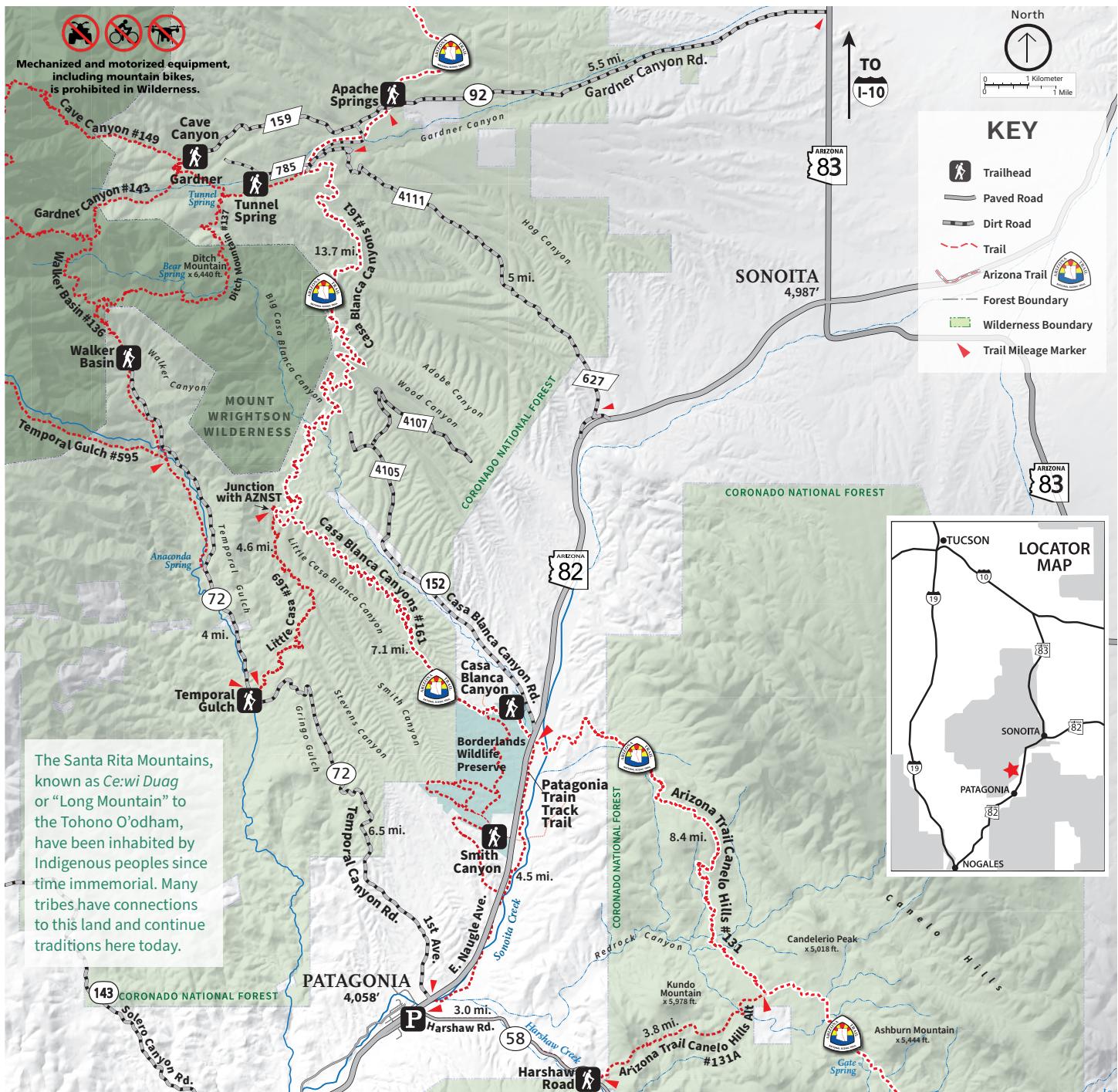
At mile 7, the 4.6-mile Little Casa #169 connects to Temporal Canyon Rd. to the south, and this trail continues north for 13.7 miles, dipping in and out of canyons and gaining more elevation on the way to Apache Springs Trailhead.

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



Multiuse Routes and Linkages

H - Hike B - Bike E - Equestrian MV - Motor vehicle

Share the trail. Communicate and be courteous with other users. Leave all gates as you find them.

Casa Blanca Canyons #161 (H, B, E)	20.8 mi. one way AZNST Passage 4	From the Casa Blanca Canyon Trailhead, follow the 0.3-mi. connector trail through the Borderlands Preserve to reach the Arizona Trail. See map for loop options. Visit www.aztrail.org for detailed Passage 4 route information.
Temporal Canyon Rd. FR 72 (H, B, E, MV)	6.5 mi. one way to parking area	From Patagonia, take 1st Ave./Temporal Canyon Rd., which turns into FR 72, for 6.5 mi. to the Temporal Gulch parking area. From here, take Little Casa #169 (4.6 mi. one way) to link to the AZNST. High-clearance recommended.
Borderlands Wildlife Preserve (H, B*, E*)	Various options	Visit www.borderlandswildlifepreserve.org for information about the Preserve and trail descriptions. *Dogs, horses, and bikes are prohibited on certain Preserve trails.
Patagonia Train Track Trail (H, B, E)	4.5 mi. one way	This flat, easy trail starts at the old railroad depot in Patagonia and extends north to the Arizona Trail. Enjoy an out-and-back trip or use to make a loop with the AZNST and other trails and forest roads in the area.
Arizona Trail Canelo Hills #131 (H, B, E)	17.7 mi. one way AZNST Passage 3	From the Casa Blanca Canyon Trailhead, cross under AZ 82 to access this trail that rolls through the oak-studded Canelo Hills, or park at Harshaw Road Trailhead and follow the 3.8-mile Canelo Hills Alt #131A connector trail.

The Casa Blanca Canyons Trail is managed in partnership with the Arizona Trail Association.

www.aztrail.org