

INFORMATION FOR FULL WEST FORK CANYON TRIPS



Overnight parking is not allowed at [Call of the Canyon](#), so this trip must begin at the [top of West Fork](#), where you will need to park somewhere safely off the side of Forest Road 231. The entire trip from the top of West Fork to Call of the Canyon/West Fork Trailhead off state Route 89A is strenuous and 14 miles long, with a 1,178 ft. elevation loss. It requires swimming in up to seven cold and deep pools and should only be attempted by individuals who are in **GOOD physical condition, GOOD swimmers, have proper survival equipment and are prepared for the unexpected**. There is no clear trail beyond the 3-mile point from SR 89A in Oak Creek Canyon.

RESTRICTIONS

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** in the West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon. Propane stoves are allowed.

IMPORTANT PREPARATION NOTES

- Do not attempt this route by yourself! There is extremely little to no cell coverage.
- This trip should only be attempted in warm weather (June through September).
- Make sure to check the forecast! Do not attempt the trip if flood conditions are predicted. Monsoon months, such as July-August can be very dangerous due to flash floods.
- Plan to do an overnight trip. Pack extra clothing, a warm jacket, a garbage bag, a sleeping bag, shelter, plenty of food, a water filter for filtering creek water, shoes for wading, a hat, sunscreen, and preferably a wetsuit. Make sure you bring clothes to get wet in and separate dry clothes to put on to avoid hypothermia. A full wetsuit is a good idea to bring to change in and out of when having to swim through cold pools.
- Only occasional sunlight reaches the canyon floor, so a hot day may still seem cool.
- Swimming in at least three cold pools is required (sometimes up to seven pools); a person must be a strong swimmer and well prepared. A floatation device such as a small inflatable raft, a river dry bag, waterproof backpack, or two air mattresses works well.
- There are *miles* of difficult boulder hopping which causes trauma to the knees and numerous deep pools need to be waded that cause a person to be wet and cold much of the time. Prepare accordingly.

FOLLOW THE ABC'S OF BACK COUNTRY TRAVEL

- A. **ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE** where you are going (be specific) & when you will return.
- B. **BE PREPARED** for the unexpected.
- C. **CARRY** a survival kit.

FOLLOW THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF "LEAVE NO TRACE"

1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare:** Before heading out, research the area, check weather conditions, and prepare for emergencies. This includes knowing about regulations, permits, and potential hazards.
2. **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:** Stick to established trails and campsites and avoid creating new ones. Choose durable surfaces like rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow when camping.
3. **Dispose of Waste Properly:** Pack out everything you pack in, including food scraps and trash. Dispose of human waste responsibly—bury it six inches deep at least 200 feet from water and trails. Use toilet paper sparingly and bury it deep or pack it out.
4. **Leave What You Find:** Leave natural objects like rocks, plants, and cultural artifacts undisturbed. Do not remove them from the area.
5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts:** Only propane stoves are allowed. Campfires are strictly prohibited, so do not burn any material.
6. **Respect Wildlife:** Observe wildlife from a distance and never approach or feed them. Store food properly to prevent attracting animals.
7. **Be Considerate of Other Visitors:** Be courteous and respectful of other users. Yield to others on trails, keep your group size small, and minimize noise.

MAP RESOURCES

- [West Fork \(Starting Point off Forest Road 231\) Google Map](#)
- [West Fork FSTOPO \(Dutton Hill Quadrangle\) Map](#)
- [West Fork FSTOPO \(Munds Park Quadrangle\) Map](#)