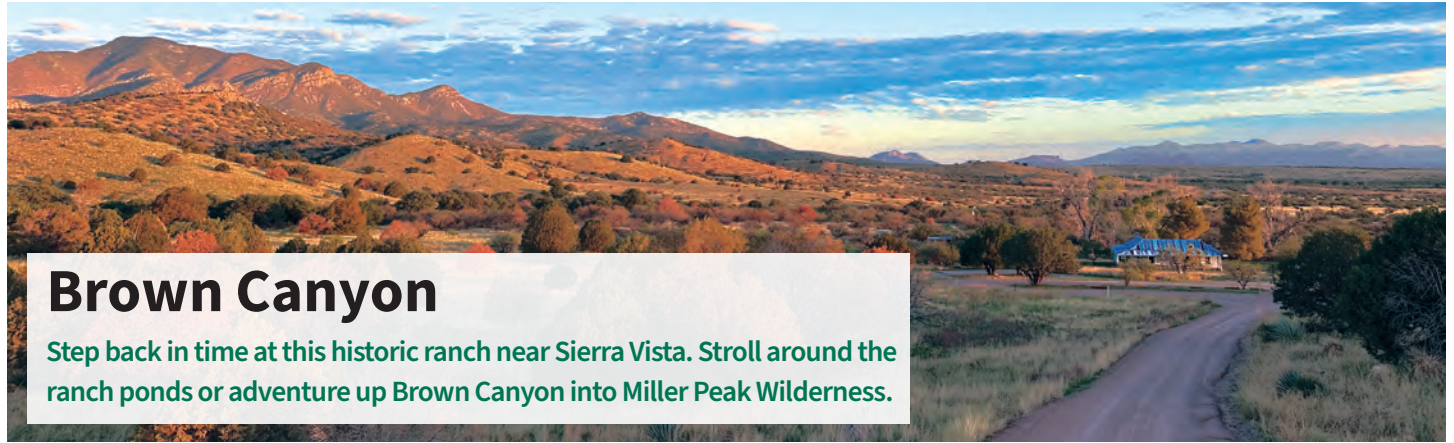




# Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista Ranger District | RG-R3-05-40 | January 2026



## Brown Canyon

Step back in time at this historic ranch near Sierra Vista. Stroll around the ranch ponds or adventure up Brown Canyon into Miller Peak Wilderness.

### Know before you go



#### DAY USE FEE AREA:

Scan the QR code or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) to buy a digital pass, or buy one on site with cash or check. A free parking area is located 1 mile down road. See map.



**HOURS:** The Brown Canyon Ranch House is open dawn to dusk. No camping at the parking lot, ranch, or trailhead.



**AMENITIES:** Picnic tables, trash can, vault toilet, interpretive exhibits, and trails.



**SEASONS:** Year-round. Be prepared for extreme heat and monsoon storms in summer and cold weather in winter.



**WATER:** No drinking water is available at Brown Canyon Ranch. Bring plenty with you.



**PETS:** Pets are permitted, but must be leashed at Brown Canyon Ranch. Please pick up pet waste.



**TRAILER PARKING:** The large parking area accommodates trailers, and a horse trough is available for watering animals.

### Attractions

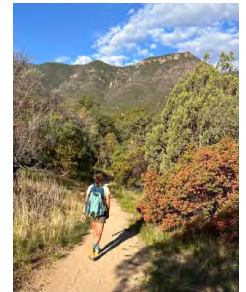
#### BROWN CANYON RANCH

This historic, four-room, adobe ranch house was built between 1905 and 1907 by brothers James and Tom Haverty as headquarters for their cattle ranch. It passed through many ranching families over the decades before being acquired by the US Forest Service in 1998. The Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch work with the USFS to preserve the site and educate visitors. The ranch house is open dawn to dusk. Learn more at [browncanyonranch.org](http://browncanyonranch.org).



#### HIT THE TRAILS

The trails around Brown Canyon Ranch offer options of varying distance and difficulty for visitors on foot, mountain bike, or horseback. A variety of routes allow short or long loops, with spurs connecting to Sierra Vista's multiuse paths. Easy trails near the ponds and grasslands are excellent for viewing wildlife, including birds, waterfowl, coyote, javelina, Gould's turkey, and Coues' white-tailed deer.



#### Multiuse Trails (See map on reverse)

H - Hike B - Bike E - Equestrian

Share the trail. Communicate and be courteous with other users.

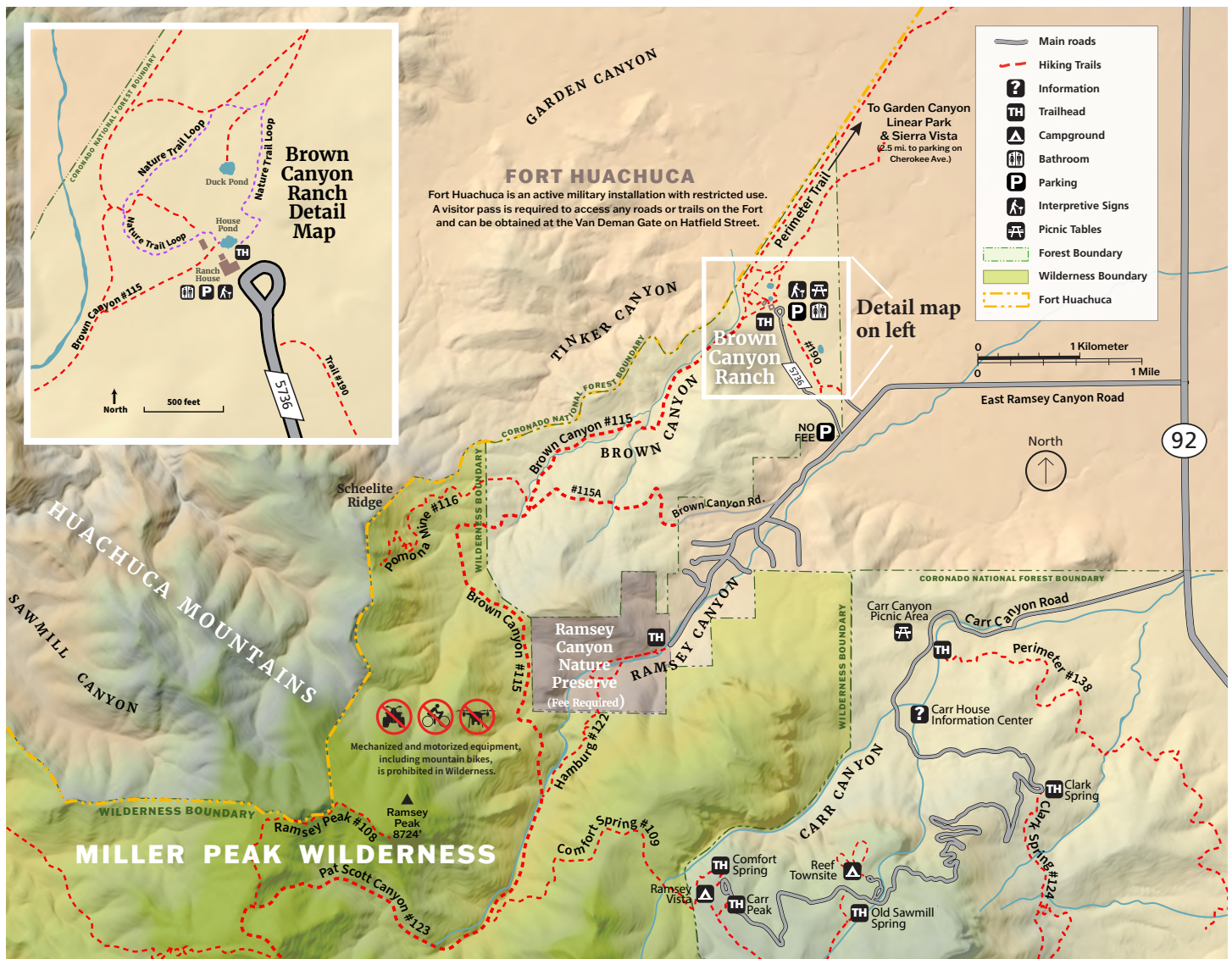
<b>Brown Canyon Nature Trail</b> (H, B, E)	1-mile loop	Access this easy trail from Brown Canyon Ranch. Multiple short loops wind through grassland and around the House and Duck Ponds. Informational signs along the route. Great for birding and wildlife viewing. <b>*EASY</b>
<b>Brown Canyon #115</b> (H, E)	4.5 mi. one way to Hamburg #122	From the windmill at the ranch house, follow this trail into Brown Canyon, winding along the drainage as you gain elevation. Climb gradually into a forest of tall oaks and juniper. Pass the gravesite of an early resident around mi. 1.2. Reach the junction with #116 at mi. 2. Reach #122 at mi. 4.5. Elevation gain: 2,500 ft. <b>*MODERATE</b>
<b>Pomona Mine #116</b> (H, E)	3.5 mi. one way from ranch	Follow Brown Canyon #115 for 2 mi. to reach this trail, which starts as an old roadbed that was built by the Pomona Mining Co. in 1946. Climb steeply for 1.5 mi. to reach the mine. Do not enter the mine. Elevation gain: 1,670 ft. <b>*HARD</b>
<b>Brown Canyon Mountain Bike Loop</b> (H, B, E)	5-mile loop	From FR 5736, ride up Ramsey Canyon Rd. and turn right on Brown Canyon Rd. Climb up the rugged dirt road to the ridge and then descend into Brown Canyon. Turn right on #115 to return to the trailhead. Link with the Perimeter Trail to add more miles (see map). <b>SHARE THE TRAIL!</b> Mountain bikers yield to horses and hikers. <b>*MODERATE</b>
<b>Brown &amp; Ramsey Canyons Loop</b> (H)	8-mile loop	Follow Brown Canyon #115 for 4.5 miles, climbing into pine-oak forest and the junction with Hamburg #122. Turn left on #122 and descend into Ramsey Canyon. Follow Ramsey Canyon Rd. back to the trailhead. <b>NOTE:</b> A fee is required at The Nature Conservancy Ramsey Canyon Nature Preserve. No dogs or horses in the Preserve. <b>*MODERATE</b>

**EMERGENCY OR FIRE: DIAL 911**

**SIERRA VISTA RANGER STATION: (520) 378-0311**

Trail mileages are approximate.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



## About Brown Canyon

While nearby Garden and Ramsey Canyons reveal signs of human use for millennia, it was the establishment of Fort Huachuca in 1877 and the discovery of silver in Tombstone in 1880 that brought settlers to Brown Canyon.

John Thomas Brown, for whom the canyon is named, settled in the canyon with his family around 1880. He worked as a hotelier, farmer, rancher, and carpenter, selling wood to support Tombstone's silver boom.

It was the Haverty family, however, that applied for a Forest Homestead and built the four-room, adobe ranch house, now known as Brown Canyon Ranch, between 1905 and 1907. The ranch was the first in the eastern Huachuca Mountains to have running water with a kitchen sink, bathtub, basin, and toilet.

Jim Haverty had a contract selling beef to the Fort, but after a fatal family feud over cattle in 1921, he went to prison and sold the property and his herd to William Carmichael.

Carmichael had many ranch holdings in the area, but never lived at the ranch house. Instead, he rented it to prospectors, woodcutters, and their families, and it became a lively gathering place over the years.

The ranch changed hands many times over the decades, with each subsequent owner maintaining the US Forest Service grazing lease for cattle. The last owner of the ranch, Sarah Barchas, wanted to ensure the preservation of the property that her family had owned since 1957. This became a reality in 1998 when Brown Canyon Ranch became part of Coronado National Forest.

Today, the Forest and Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch work together to preserve the property and educate the public about the rich ranching history of the area.

## Preserving the past

The Haverty's used local materials, adobe and lime plaster, to construct the ranch house and adjacent storeroom (pictured here) more than a century ago. Despite numerous owners, the structures at Brown Canyon Ranch changed little over time, except for the natural deterioration of the building materials.



*Brown Canyon Ranch storeroom*

Recognizing the importance of this historic site, the Coronado National Forest embarked on stabilization and preservation efforts in the late 1990s, engaging experts, volunteers, and students from Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, and utilizing traditional methods and materials. Preservation efforts continue today.

When you visit the ranch, notice the architecture of the era and the care taken to preserve the original structures. Enjoy a rest on one of the patio benches, and imagine what life was like living at this stunning location long ago.