



TRAILS

NANKOWEAP TRAIL #57

General Attractions: The Kaibab Ranger District's part of this trail is located within the Saddle Mountain Wilderness and the rest is within the Grand Canyon National Park. In 1881, J. W. Powell and C. D. Walcott blazed a horse trail into Nankoweap basin by following an old Indian path. Trail #57 off Forest Development Road (FDR) 8910, climbs to Nankoweap Saddle, passing through big Ponderosa pine, red and white cliffs, and steep canyons. At the saddle the hiker can view a multitude of jagged buttes and the drainages of Marble Canyon. They can then enter the Grand Canyon National Park or continue to the upper trailhead on the Forest.

As a result of the 1960 Saddle Mountain fire, locust and aspen have invaded the first mile of the trail off of FDR 610, leaving this section in poor condition. Because of the steep terrain and narrow pathway, riders should use only experienced trail horses.

Fee: None.

Access #1: From the Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center go south on AZ 67, a paved road, for 27.5 miles (0.6 miles beyond DeMotte Park Campground entrance) and turn left onto FDR 611; in about 1.4 miles turn right onto FDR 610 and go 12.3 miles to the end of the road and the trailhead. FDRs 611 and 610 are both suitable for passenger cars.

Access #2: From the Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center go east on US 89A, a paved road, about 20 miles to FDR 8910 (House Rock Wildlife Area); turn right and go 23.5 miles to where FDR 8910 forks and take the right fork and then go another 4 miles to the trailhead. Then you need to hike about 1 mile on South Canyon Trail #31 to the junction of Trail #57. FDR 8910 is suitable for passenger cars.

Water & Facilities: None. Bring everything that you will need.

Round Trip Driving Distance from Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center: Access #1 - 82.4 miles; Access #2 - 95 miles

Length of Trail One Way: 4 Miles

Elevation: 8800 feet at Access #1; 6480 feet at Access #2

USGS Map: Point Imperial

Recommended Seasons: Spring to early summer; fall to early winter

Use Restrictions: No motor vehicles or motorized equipment may be operated in the Saddle Mountain Wilderness.

Difficulty: Difficult

Use: The trail is heavily used in the fall and spring by hikers accessing the Grand Canyon National Park's Nankoweap Trail.



Nankoweap Trail #57

