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HIKING TO THE FAMOUS RED ROCKS

Sedona is “America’s Day Hike Capital”. Bennington, Vermont and Charlottesville, Virginia offer lots of great trails but Sedona has them beat by a long shot with over 100 officially designated trails in the Coconino National Forest, not including the Red Rock State Park & elsewhere. Sedona has 43 trails within a 5 mile radius, 86 within a 10 mile radius and 113 trails within a 20 mile radius.

Seattle, Washington and Jackson Hole, Wyoming have great trails but you have to drive an hour to find them. In Sedona you spend less time in the car and more time in nature. The majority of Sedona’s hiking paths are rated “gentle” or “moderate” so they are not only close but you can enjoy them without heavy gear or preparation.

Sedona is located in the southwestern rim of the Colorado Plateau at roughly 4,500 feet above sea level, making it an enjoyable 15 degrees cooler than Phoenix or Tucson, with four relatively mild seasons. Summer highs range from the 80s and 90s with nighttime lows in the 60s while winter highs are typically in the 50s with occasional 70- and 30-degree days. The 17-plus inches of annual rainfall exceed the true definition of a desert, providing lush greenery and beautiful cactus blooms and 300 sunny days each year. This spells a high and dry climate with an opportunity for year-round hiking.

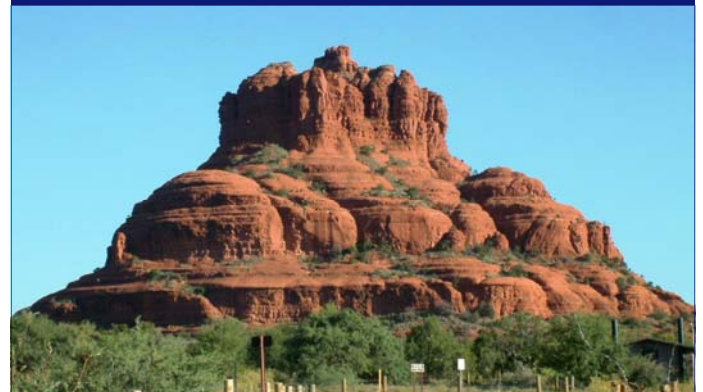
Bend, Oregon and Aspen, Colorado have great trails, but for several months of the year snow covers them. While it is impossible to escape the humidity of South Carolina’s “Low Country” or the hills of Georgia, our summer temperatures can be avoided in shady Oak

Creek Canyon and summer temperatures can drop 40 degrees overnight creating ideal morning hiking adventures.

So now you’ve got abundance, convenience, an agreeable climate and you can add the inexhaustible splendor of the red rocks, the pristine beauty of the Coconino National Forest, the sound of Oak Creek and the clean air & water. Not to mention that Sedona promotes health and well being and it is recognized as a place of healing – one that inspires, refreshes and renews. Is it any wonder that Sedona is considered “America’s Day Hike Capital”?

We have chosen 10 hikes that will take you to the famous red rocks that you have probably seen from a distance. Red Rock Passes are required for parking at the trailheads & it is advisable to take lots of drinking water along.

Hike No. 1 - Bell Rock



Trailhead: Bell Rock Pathway in the Village of Oak Creek.

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 6.2 miles south on SR 179 and turn left into the Bell Rock Pathway parking lot.

Hiking Details: Take the Bell Rock Pathway from the south end of the parking lot. Keep left on the wide dirt path and pass 2 junctions on the right (the Big Park Loop & Courthouse Butte). You will hike one-mile on a scenic hike before you reach the base of Bell Rock. Follow the cairns (wire baskets filled with stones) up the well-worn trail. You'll need good hiking boots as the surface of the rock is smooth and you'll need good traction. This is a **“moderately”** strenuous hike. The Bell Rock Pathway is a 3.5-mile trail. It curves around the base of Bell Rock, linking up with the Courthouse Butte Loop, Templeton Trail, HT Trail, Little Horse Trail and Mystic Trail. You will see the following other famous landmarks on the hike:

Courthouse Butte



Seven Warriors



Castle Rock



Hike No. 2 - Cathedral Rock



Trailhead: Cathedral Rock Trail in Little Horse Park (Chapel Area).

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 3.3 miles south on SR 179 to the Back O’ Beyond roundabout and turn right. The Cathedral Rock Trail parking lot is 0.6 miles on the left.

Hiking Details: The trail is on the south side of the parking lot. It is for **“experienced”** hikers only as it requires some strenuous climbing. Cross a dry creek bed & then make a 150 foot climb to the top. Go right at Templeton Trail & then jog left.

Cathedral Rock Spires



Hike No. 3 - Chimney Rock



Trailhead: Thunder Mountain in West Sedona

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 3.1 miles southwest on SR 89A, turn right on Dry Creek Road & then right on Thunder Mountain Rd. Drive 0.5 miles to the trailhead parking lot on the left.

Hiking Details: Take the Thunder Mountain Trail north under power lines to the Chimney Rock/Thunder Mountain Trail junction. Take the left fork to Chimney Rock. This is a “**moderately**” strenuous hike.

Thunder Mountain



Back of Chimney Rock



Hike No. 4 - The Cockscomb



Trailhead: Aerie & Aerie Vista in West Sedona

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at SR 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 3.1 miles southwest on SR 89A, turn right on Dry Creek Road, left on Boynton Canyon Road, left on Boynton Pass Road, left at the Aerie Road & right at the Aerie & Aerie Vista Trailhead Sign.

Hiking Details: Follow the Cockscomb Trail from the parking lot & look for a path going right (marked by cairns on either side) at the base. You will climb 400 feet to the top following the cairns. This is a “**moderately**” strenuous hike.

View of The Aerie from Cockscomb



Top of Cockscomb



Hike No. 5 - Coffee Pot Rock



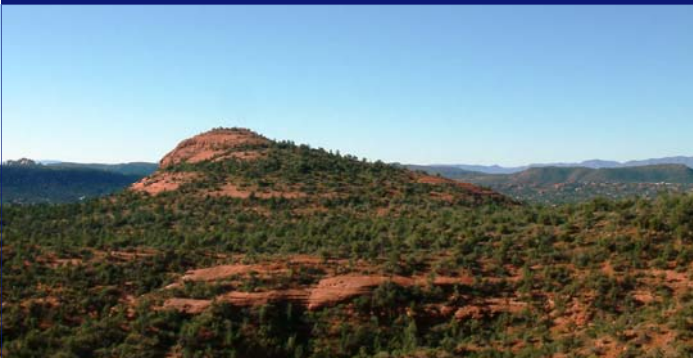
Coffee Pot Rock Ledge



Coffee Pot Rock Spout



Sugarloaf



Trailhead: Sugarloaf in West Sedona

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 2 miles southwest on SR 89A & turn right on Coffee Pot Road, left on Sanborn Drive, right on Little Elf and curve right on Buena Vista Drive & the trailhead parking lot is on your left.

Hiking Details: Walk north from the parking lot & take the Teacup Trail. Keep right and at the Thunder Mountain Trail junction go right to a second junction for the Sugarloaf Summit Loop - go straight & keep on the Teacup Trail for 100 yards & you will see a bush surrounded by stones - take the left fork & leave the main Tea Cup Trail. You will curve around to the left & then back toward Coffee Pot Rock & the walking ledge.

Hike No. 6 - House Mountain



Trailhead: Turkey Creek Trail in the Village of Oak Creek

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 6.9 miles south on SR 179 & turn right on Verde Valley School Road. Go 4 miles and turn left on Turkey Creek Road. Park to your left or if you have a high clearance vehicle you can continue 1 mile & park to your left at the trailhead.

Hiking Details: Take the Turkey Creek Trail toward the mountains & follow the cairns for 1.5 miles & you will pass Turkey Creek Tank on your left. The road narrows to a footpath & you will cross a dry creek bed. The hike is easy to this point but then you steeply ascend the mountain on the canyon’s west wall.

Turkey Creek Tank



Hike No. 7 - Merry-Go-Round Rock



Trailhead: Merry-Go-Round Rock is off Schnebly Hill Road in Uptown Sedona. It is a **rough, unpaved road so you need a high clearance vehicle** to get there. The road is closed in the winter & extremely slippery during & after a rainstorm & unsuitable for any vehicle.

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 0.3 miles on SR 179 and turn left on Schnebly Road. Drive 4.5 miles to the metal pipe gate on your left. You can park in the pullouts on either side of the road.

Hiking Details: Walk past the boulders on the west side of the road toward Merry-Go-Round Rock and the fork in the trail. Take the right fork to the Summit where you will see views of the Cow Pies, Bear Wallow Canyon, Munds Mountain and Sedona. Go down to the base of the rock 70 yards to a junction with the Munds Wagon Trail. Take the right fork and curve around the south & west sides of the rock on an elevated platform midway up the rock.

Cow Pies



Hike No. 8 - Snoopy Rock



Trailhead: Marg’s Draw in Uptown Sedona.

Driving Directions: From the “Y” (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 0.6 miles south on SR 179 & turn left on Sombart Lane. You will see the trailhead parking lot on your left just before the road bends left.

Hiking Details: Cross Sombart Lane from the parking lot and go through a trail gate. Go up the hill & you will see the views of Crimson Cliffs, Uptown & West Sedona. Follow the path east to a T-junction & take the right fork 40 yards to an unmarked foot path on your left. Bear left & walk through the open forest. Parallel the south flank of the Crimson Cliffs and you will see Snoopy on your left. This hike is **“moderately”** strenuous.

Crimson Cliffs



Red Rocks of West Sedona



Hike No. 9 - Steamboat Rock



Trailhead: Steamboat in Uptown Sedona

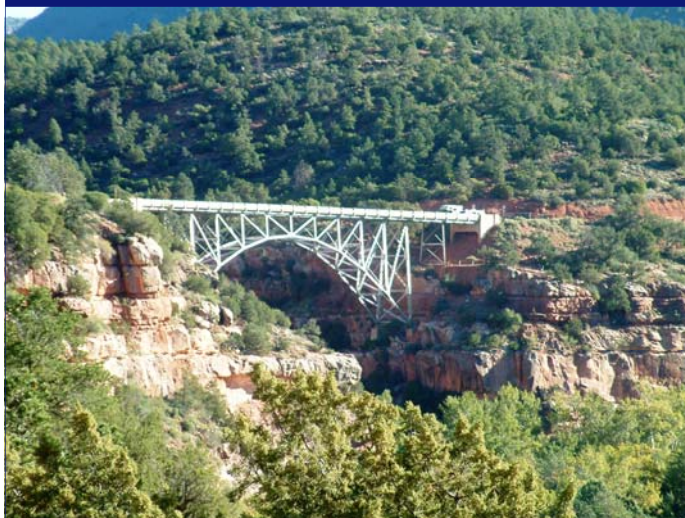
Driving Directions: From the "Y" (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive north 1.8 miles on SR 89A & turn left at Midgely Bridge into the parking lot.

Hiking Details: You will see Steamboat & the Fin on your left. Take the Steamboat Path & a path along the rock may be accessed by walking into Wilson Canyon & crossing to the other side.

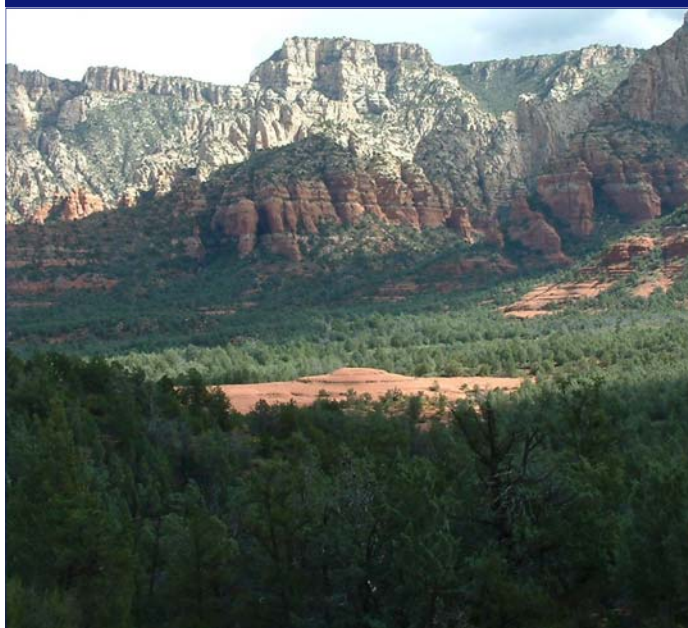
The Fin



Midgely Bridge



Hike No. 10 - Submarine Rock



Trailhead: Broken Arrow in Little Horse Park

Driving Directions: From the "Y" (at State Route 89A & 179 junction in Uptown Sedona) drive 1.4 miles south on SR 179 & turn left on Morgan Road at the roundabout. Go to the end of the road & the parking lot is another 0.1 mile.

Hiking Details: Take the Broken Arrow Trail past a sinkhole (Devil's Dining Room) to a trail junction. The trail to the right goes to Chicken Point - take the left fork that goes downhill to Submarine Rock. The trail crosses the road & you will see a sign to get to the north end of Submarine Rock. There is no marked trail up to the top of the butte but it is easy to find your way. You will also see Battlement Mesa, the Twin Buttes to the west & Munds Mountain to the east along the way. Submarine Rock is at the south end of Marg's Draw, a scenic bowl.

Top of Submarine Rock

