



ESCUDILLA WILDERNESS

The mountain, shaped like an upside down soup bowl and covered with aspen, spruce, fir, ponderosa pine, Rocky Mountain maple, and Gambel oak, stands 10,912 feet high, the third highest peak in Arizona. Black bear, wolves, elk, and deer inhabit the area. The 3.3-mile Escudilla National Recreation Trail begins at Terry Flat and ascends to the highest fire lookout tower in Arizona near the mountain's peak.

Location: 157 miles from Payson. Turn off U.S. Route 180/191 about 21 miles south of Springerville and 6 miles north of Alpine between Mileposts 420 and 421.

Phone Number: (928) 339-4384.

Entry Fees: No; day use recommended because of scarcity of water and relatively small size of wilderness.

Reservations Required: No.

Internet Address: www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/

Facilities: This is a wilderness experience, so no facilities on site. Camping in Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Restrooms, food, gas, lodging, restaurants, and campsites in Springerville, Eagar, and Alpine.

Wheelchair Accessible: No.

Special Amenities: Hiking trail to the fire lookout.

Other Helpful Information Sources: Round Valley Chamber of Commerce (Springerville), (928) 333-2123; Alpine Chamber of Commerce, (928) 339-4330.

Best Seasons to Visit: Summer and fall.

Special Rules: Follow all wilderness regulations; stay on designated trails; pack it in, pack it out; all animals on leashes; no motorized or mechanized vehicles inside wilderness; pack stock allowed; observe posted precautions for re-introduced Mexican gray wolves.

Above: The road from Terry Flat meanders through pine and aspen forest as it winds its way to the base of Escudilla Mountain, here covered in autumn's golden finery. RICHARD MAACK

CORONADO TRAIL SCENIC HIGHWAY

This may be Arizona's most scenic roadway, especially the 89 miles between Alpine and Morenci. From Alpine, the road traverses a high ridge, with elevations sometimes topping 9,000 feet, and twists through a wilderness of oak, ash, maple, aspen, pine, fir, spruce, and juniper trees. Motorists can see Rose Peak, named for its abundance of wild roses, and the Blue Range Primitive Area. Wildlife includes deer, elk, antelope, bear, wolves, javelina, and squirrels. The paved route has steep grades, more than 450 hairpin curves, and takes nearly 4 hours to drive.

Location: 123 miles on U.S. Route 191 from Springerville to Clifton.

Phone Number: Round Valley Chamber of Commerce (Springerville), (928) 333-2123; Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce (Clifton), (928) 865-3313.

Entry Fees: No.

Reservations Required: Recommended for lodges, inns, cabins, and improved campgrounds.

Internet Address: www.wmonline.com
www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/

Facilities: Roadside services limited to food, gas, lodging, and restaurants at Alpine, Hannagan Meadow Lodge, and Clifton/Morenci; accessible restrooms at Blue Vista Overlook, 7 miles south of Hannagan Meadow; camping in nearby Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

Wheelchair Accessible: Partial.

Special Amenities: Highway provides access to Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest's back roads, campsites, mountain trails, wilderness areas, lakes, streams, and wildlife. Cross-country ski trails near Alpine and Hannagan Meadow. Wildlife refuges at Luna Lake and Luce Ranch (Alpine).

Other Helpful Information Sources:

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Springerville, (928) 333-4301, and Alpine, (928) 339-4384; Alpine Chamber of Commerce, (928) 339-4330; Hannagan Meadow Lodge, (928) 339-4370.

Best Seasons to Visit: Summer and fall.

Special Rules: This is a long, mountainous drive through remote country, so plan accordingly. Keep pets leashed at all times; Mexican gray wolves have been re-introduced in the area, and special rules are posted.