

23. HIKING & FISHING IN GREER

Greer

Elk, antelope, mule deer, bighorn sheep, turkeys, black bears, gray wolves, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, reptiles... there's a lot of wildlife in the White Mountains. Not to mention the trees and meadows and rivers and streams. In Greer, the Butler Canyon Nature Trail gives a good introduction to the area. The one-mile hike takes about an hour, depending on how much time you spend at the 29 points of interest. Along the way, you'll meet a 300-year-old ponderosa, which isn't far from where "R.T." carved his/her initials in an unsuspecting aspen. Trail guides are available at the trailhead. For those of you who'd rather go fishing, there are three lakes (actually reservoirs) in Greer – Bunch Reservoir, River Reservoir and Tunnel Reservoir – which are noted for their blue-ribbon trout. Another option is the Little Colorado River, which has about 23 miles of fishable water. Like the lakes, trout is the fish du jour.

ELEVATION: 8,500 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Payson, take Highway 260 east through Show Low to Pinetop-Lakeside. From there, continue on Highway 260 for about 30 miles to Highway 373. Turn right, and drive five miles to Greer. The total driving distance from Phoenix is approximately 225 miles.

LODGING: There are several inns and B&B's in Greer. For information, visit greerarizona.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 928-333-4372 or fs.fed.us/r3/asnf

24. BEAR WALLOW WILDERNESS

Hannagan Meadow

The Bear Wallow Wilderness Area was established in 1984, and it features some of Arizona's most remote forest – 11,080 acres of pine, fir, spruce and green riparian hardwoods. It's also home to one of the state's largest tracts of virgin ponderosa pine. Running through it all is Bear Wallow Creek, which flows year-round and provides a habitat for the endangered Apache Trout – anglers can try for other species in the creek and its north and south forks. Early explorers were impressed by the large number of well-used wallows, which revealed how plentiful the area's population of black bears was. Black bears still abound, and you may also see elk, deer, squirrels, as well as a diverse community of smaller mammals, birds and reptiles. If you like wildflowers, Bear Wallow specializes in that, too, especially after the annual summer rains.

ELEVATION: 6,700 feet to 9,000 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Springerville, head south on Highway 191 to Hannagan Meadow, and continue south for another six miles to Forest Road 25. Drive three miles on Forest Road 25 to the Bear Wallow Trailhead.

LODGING: Hannagan Meadow Lodge, 928-428-2225

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 928-333-4372 or fs.fed.us/r3/asnf

25. GRAND CANYON RAILWAY

Williams

Grand Canyon Railway has been serving Arizona travelers

since 1901, but before it was catering to tourists, it was used to transport ore from the Anita Mines. These days, though, it's all about sightseeing. From Williams to the heart of Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim, the 65-mile train ride offers a peaceful and unique way to explore the area. Each day, the Old West is brought to life with strolling musicians, cowboy characters and a mock robbery. Passengers can choose from five seating classes for the two-hour ride, and they're given several hours to enjoy the natural wonders of the Canyon – either on their own or through a guided tour.

ELEVATION: 7,000 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Flagstaff, go 32 miles west on I-40 to Exit 163. From there, go five miles south on Grand Canyon Boulevard to the train depot.

HOURS: The Grand Canyon Railway train departs daily at 10 a.m. and returns at 5:45 p.m.

ADMISSION: Tickets start at \$58 per adult, plus a \$13 Canyon entrance fee. Canyon tours start at \$36 per adult.

LODGING: Fray Marcos Hotel, 800-843-8724

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 928-773-1976 or thetrain.com

26. BLUE RIDGE CAMPGROUND

Mogollon Rim

Blue Ridge Campground is located near the Blue Ridge Reservoir, a narrow, winding body of water that looks more like a canyon-bound river than a lake. Nestled between forested canyon walls, it provides picturesque water recreation in a secluded, wooded setting. If fishing is your thing, you can angle for rainbow, brown or brook trout. If you're not into fishing, there's plenty of sightseeing, wildlife watching, hiking and mountain biking available. Or, if you'd rather kick back and sit around a campfire, Blue Ridge is the place to do it. The campground features 10 sites, tables, fire rings, cooking grills, drinking water and toilets (vault type).

ELEVATION: 7,000 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Payson, drive approximately 50 miles north on Highway 87 and look for the Moqui-Blue Ridge Campground signs at Forest Road 138. Turn right and drive about one mile to the campground, which will be on your right.

SEASON: Memorial Day to mid-September

RATES: \$8 per night per campsite for up to eight people and two vehicles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 928-477-2172 or 928-477-2255

FALL

27. FALL LEAVES ON THE CORONADO TRAIL

Eastern Arizona

The Coronado Trail, which was designated a scenic drive in 1989, begins in the rolling grasslands of Springerville. From there, it climbs into the spruce-fir forests near the small Swiss-like village of Alpine, and on to Hannagan Meadow, which offers some of the most incredible fall scenery in Arizona. As you cruise along, keep your eyes peeled – within a stone's throw of

the road are more than 400 species of fish and wildlife. Heading south of the meadow you'll come to the Blue Vista rest stop at the edge of the Mogollon Rim, which allows you to see forever. From there, the road tests your nerve with some hair-raising curves. Clifton and Morenci, at the end of the trail, are a little depressing, because of those giant strip-mined holes in the ground, but the rest of the drive is spectacular. And the fall leaves are out of sight.

ELEVATION: 4,700 feet to 9,400 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Payson, head east on Highway 260 to Eagar. The Coronado Trail follows Highway 191 from Eagar to Clifton, through the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. There are several sharp curves and steep drop-offs along this narrow road – in some cases, there are no guardrails, and in some areas, speeds may slow to 10 mph.

LENGTH: 123 miles

LODGING: Hannagan Meadow Lodge, 928-428-2225

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 928-339-4384

28. TUMACACORI

Near Green Valley

The first thing you might say to yourself when you see Tumacacori is: "Hmmm, this old church could use some help from Bob Vila." It won't happen, though. The National Park Service, which took control of the site in 1916, intends to leave things exactly as they are. So, instead of some phony replica polished for tourists, what remains at Tumacacori is a stark church with cold walls and an eerie sense of abandonment. At the height of its occupation, though, it was a striking landmark with a painted façade and plaster walls embellished with red brick. The designers of the church were hoping for something along the lines of the baroque beauty to the north – San Xavier – but the impoverished mission never made it happen. Bad weather, Mexican occupation and Apache raids eventually forced the last residents out of Tumacacori in 1848. Today, visitors see what those last hearty souls left behind.

ELEVATION: 3,275 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Tucson, take I-19 south toward Nogales for 45 miles to Exit 29 and follow the signs.

HOURS: Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

LODGING: Facilities are available in nearby Green Valley (25 miles north) and Nogales (18 miles south). For information, call 520-287-3685.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 520-398-2341 or nps.gov/tuma/

29. EL TOVAR

South Rim, Grand Canyon

To some, El Tovar is a beauty with poor timing and ill-fitting raiment, yet she is without a doubt the most sought-after belle at the ball. Had she been commissioned a few years later, El Tovar might have been designed by Mary Jane Colter, and constructed using native materials rather than Oregon fir. Instead, architect Charles Wittlessey draped this grand dame of historic hotels in a façade reminiscent of a European chalet, combined

with the rusticity of an American hunting lodge. Yet no one would say that the effect is not striking, particularly at sunset, when El Tovar's exterior reflects the golds and russets of the canyon's walls, just 20 feet away. Most of the hotel's 78 rooms are small and simply furnished, offering full baths, telephones and TVs, though not Canyon views. Themed suites are larger and more attractively decorated, and four suites provide the only Rim views on the property. These are priced at a premium, and are often reserved a year or more in advance.

ELEVATION: 6,876 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Flagstaff, take Highway 180 to Highway 64 and continue to the entrance to Grand Canyon National Park. The lodge is located in Grand Canyon Village.

RATES: \$123-\$286; reservations can be made as far in advance as 23 months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 303-297-2757 or grandcanyonlodges.com

30. TOMBSTONE COURTHOUSE

Tombstone

Tombstone reached its pinnacle of riches and fame, and then faded, all within the short span of eight years. The gunfight between the Earp brothers and the Clanton Gang near the OK Corral, of course, is the most famous event in the town's history, and the Cochise County Courthouse is a link to those days. Built in 1882 at a cost of nearly \$50,000, the courthouse was a stylish building, as well as a comfortable symbol of law and stability in those turbulent times. It housed the offices of the sheriff, recorder, treasurer and the board of supervisors. The jail was at the rear, under the courtroom. Except for an ill-fated attempt to convert the courthouse into a hotel during the 1940s, the building stood vacant until 1955, when the Tombstone Restoration Commission acquired it and began rehabilitating the courthouse as a historical museum. Today, it features exhibits and thousands of artifacts.

ELEVATION: 4,535 feet

DIRECTIONS: From Tucson, drive east on I-10 past Benson to Highway 80 (Exit 302). The park is located on the corner of Toughnut and Third streets, two blocks off Highway 80.

HOURS: Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

LODGING: There are several options in Tombstone. For information, visit cityoftombstone.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 520-457-3311 or pr.state.az.us

31. SHADY DELL TRAILER PARK

Bisbee

A 1949 Airstream, '57 El Ray and a '54 Crown are just a few of the things that make this motel of restored travel trailers unique. The park opened in 1927 as a place for travelers to park their RVs or pitch their tents. Today, it houses eight sleek aluminum trailers and a '47 Chris Craft yacht. Each trailer, from the longest 33-footer to the shortest 10-foot homemade model, is decked out in its original retro décor, and comes equipped with dishes, linens, a refrigerator and stove. Old magazines, black and white movies and cassette tapes of classic radio programs