

Hikes that offer some shade

Allen's Bend at Grasshopper Point – 1M RT (Fee Area - \$8 per car)

This is an excellent shady hike that winds through an old orchard and under many riparian trees. Oak Creek, while just far enough that it can't be seen from the trail, is just a short path away. This is an easy hike at .5 miles one way or 1-mile round trip.

Baldwin Trail to Cathedral Rock Trail – 3M RT (Red Rock Pass required). This trail begins at the Baldwin Trail Head near the end of Verde Valley School Road. From the trail head map, head to the left approximately .3 miles down to the Templeton trail. Turn right on the Templeton Trail and hike approximately .5 miles along a shaded, forest trail along Oak Creek. If you continue along the Templeton Trail for another .5 mile, you'll find yourself at the base of Cathedral Rock. Here you have the option of hiking up to the vortex located in the "saddle" of Cathedral Rock. This moderate hike is approximately 3 miles. Note: the hike up to the saddle of Cathedral is more strenuous and steep.

Boynton Canyon Trail – 5M RT (Red Rock Pass required). This southern exposure hike is very popular with visitors to Sedona and is the location of one of Sedona's vortex sites. We like it for the good red rock views. Once you hike past the Enchantment Resort, the trail is shaded, and views are excellent. You'll see some nice Fall colors during the third week of October after hiking in about 2 1/2 miles. This is an easy to moderate hike for the first 2 miles; the trail ascends another .5 miles to the end of a box canyon. Note the alligator juniper trees (reputed to be up to 1000 years old) along the end of the hike.

Boynton Vista Trail - .8M RT. This trail begins approximately .2 miles in from the Boynton Canyon trail head. The walk up to the vista has a southern exposure and is approximately .2 miles. It's a great hike to see the towering sandstone formations and experience the most prominent energy vortex site. The overlook provides sweeping views of Sedona including several well-known Sedona landmarks. Park at the Boynton Canyon trail head (Red Rock Pass required).

Cathedral Rock Trail to Templeton Trail – 2M RT (Red Rock Pass required). This is one of the most romantic Sedona Hikes with the majesty of Cathedral coupled with the beauty of Oak Creek. The canopied forest guides hikers on a charming hike along the bubbling creek. Begin at the Cathedral Rock Trailhead. The trail intersects the Templeton trail at .3 miles. Continue for approximately .5 miles down to a shaded area along Oak Creek. This moderate hike is approximately 2 miles round trip.

Fay Canyon – 2.4M RT. Fay Canyon is a favorite hike for many who prefer a shorter hike with minimal elevation gain or who enjoy the grandeur of red sandstone walls towering overhead. The trail begins across the road from the parking area off Boynton Pass Road. There is a side trail to a natural stone arch about 0.6 miles from the main trailhead on the right. You'll have to scramble up this trail if you want to see the arch, which is located up next to the cliff face. Note that this side trail is very steep, unmarked and is not maintained. There is a narrow slot beneath the arch where the rocks have separated, and you can "disappear" into the opening. This is an easy hike, good for beginners, at 1.2 miles one-way or 2.4 miles round trip.

Hiline Trail from Yavapai Vista Trail Head – 4M RT (Red Rock Pass Required). This trail offers unparalleled panoramic views of the red rocks. A great hike any time, but shady along the escarpment late afternoon, with lovely lighting on the red rocks to the east. Hike past the interpretive sign board, past the metal railing to the intersection of the Kaibab Trail and Yavapai Vista Trail. Continue hiking on the Kaibab trail for .2 mile to the Slim Shady Trail. Turn left (south) on the Slim Shady and hike approximately .2 mile to the Hiline trail marker. The Hiline Trail is used by many mountain bikers so you may encounter them on this narrow trail. The trail has a number of tight spots so watch your footing. You'll have nice views of Courthouse Butte, Bell Rock, Lee Mountain, Rabbit Ears, and Cathedral Rock. A good place to stop is 2 miles from the parking area at a flat area overlooking Cathedral Rock and the valley below. Turn around here for a 4-mile round trip hike.

Huckaby Trail from Midgley Bridge Parking Lot – 1M RT(Limited Parking, Red Rock Pass required). This easy, approximately 1-mile, round-trip hike starts from the parking area at Midgley Bridge and descends to an overlook then gradually down to a shady area along Oak Creek. Nice views of Steamboat Rock and Midgley Bridge from below.

Long Canyon Trail 7.6M RT. The Long Canyon trail is a great way to see Sedona's scenic red rock backcountry. Many cypress trees and a good amount of vegetation provide shade along this scenic trail. Several cliffs, spires and arches are visible from this trail including Steamboat Rock, Wilson Mountain, and Maroon Mountain. At the end of the trail, there are a few small Indian ruins and primitive rock pictographs. This moderate trail is 3.8 miles one-way or 7.6 miles round trip.

Note: Parking is limited for this trail head off Long Canyon Road, approximately .5 mile from the intersection of Dry Creek and Long Canyon Roads.

Slim Shady/Templeton/Hermit Trails from Yavapai Vista – 2.5M RT (Red Rock Pass required). Shady in the late afternoon. Hike past the interpretive sign board, past the metal railing to the intersection of the Kaibab Trail and Yavapai Vista Trail. Continue hiking on the Kaibab trail for .2 mile to the Slim Shady Trail. Turn right on the Slim Shady trail and hike approximately 1.1 miles to the intersection of the HT and Templeton Trails. Turn right on the Templeton trail and hike approximately .6 mile to the Hermit Trail. Continue on the Hermit Trail back to the parking lot for a 2.5-mile, round trip hike.

West Fork Trail – 6.2M RT (Fee Area - \$10 per car). This pleasant hike is one of the most popular trails on the Coconino National Forest. Hikers can stroll along the picturesque trail under a canopy and along a stream that ripples along the canyon floor. The first three miles of the trail is marked for hikers and some advanced hikers choose to continue their journey to the Secret Mountain/Red Rocks Wilderness. This moderate hike is 3.2 miles one-way or 6.4 miles round trip. Parking - \$10 per car.

Wilson Canyon Trail – 3M RT (park at Midgley Bridge, Red Rock Pass required). This trail begins at the picnic Ramada just up the old roadway from the Midgely Bridge parking area. At .1 mile, bear right onto the trail marked by large rock cairns. At first the trail is wide but narrows further on. At about .5 miles you'll intersect the end of the Jim Thompson Trail. The trail crosses the bottom of the canyon about a dozen times as it winds in about 1.4 miles. And the red rock views are near the end of the hike because there are Arizona cypress blocking many of the views before that.

The following hikes can only be accessed with a high-clearance vehicle. Do not attempt to drive this road in a passenger car or small SUV. These trails are infrequently used, have a truly remote feel, are shady and can be hiked in summer.

Bear Sign Trail – 6M RT. Drive 4.4 miles north on Forest Road 152 to the Vultee Arch trail head. Begin on the Dry Creek Trail that immediately enters the Secret Mountain Wilderness and turns right as it meets Dry Creek and follows along this usually dry streambed. At .75 miles, there is a junction with the Bear Sign trail. The Dry Creek Trail continues ahead to the right. The trail climbs gradually parallel to the drainage with views of the red rock walls of this rugged canyon. Later, the trail narrows and becomes less distinct, but is never far from the dry streambed and is marked by cairns. As the trail nears the Mogollon Rim, it becomes harder to follow. Be sure to turn around while you still have a distinct trail to follow. Superb views of the white Coconino sandstone cliffs are visible from this trail.

Dry Creek Trail – 5M RT. Drive 4.4 miles north on Forest Road 152 to the Vultee Arch trail head. Begin on the Dry Creek Trail that immediately enters the Secret Mountain Wilderness and turns right as it meets Dry Creek and follows along this usually dry streambed. At .75 miles, Bear Sign trail goes to the left past the metal trailhead sign. The trail climbs gradually parallel to the drainage with views of the red rock walls of this rugged canyon. Later, the trail narrows and becomes less distinct, but is never far from the dry streambed and is marked by cairns. At 2.5 miles, the trail crosses a large wash, and becomes much harder to follow. This junction is a good place to turn around.

NOTES:

A valid National Park Interagency Pass may be used in lieu of a Red Rock Pass (America The Beautiful annual, military, senior, access, or 4th Grader pass). Passes are only required if parking and hiking onto the National Forest. If stopping just to take pictures a pass is not needed. Pass machines (credit card only) are located at all trail heads that require a Red Rock Pass.

Hiking mileage is approximate.

10 Essentials for Hikers

- Map and compass
- Extra food
- Plenty of drinking water
- Sun protection
- Multi-use tool
- Matches or flint/striker
- Light source
- Space blanket
- First aid kit

Bring a working cell phone or GPS locator and when hiking in more remote locations, set up a check-in time with family or friends.