

Full
Color

ATV

30
Trails,
with 33 Maps,
188 Color Photos
Plus GPS Waypoints

Trails Guide Arizona Phoenix Region

By Charles A. Wells & Matt Peterson



UTVs
See Pg. 6



Easy • **Moderate** • **Difficult**
ATV Riding Adventures

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Maneuvering through narrow Box Canyon, Trail #26, Moderate.

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Trail List

UTVs: See notes at bottom of page. 

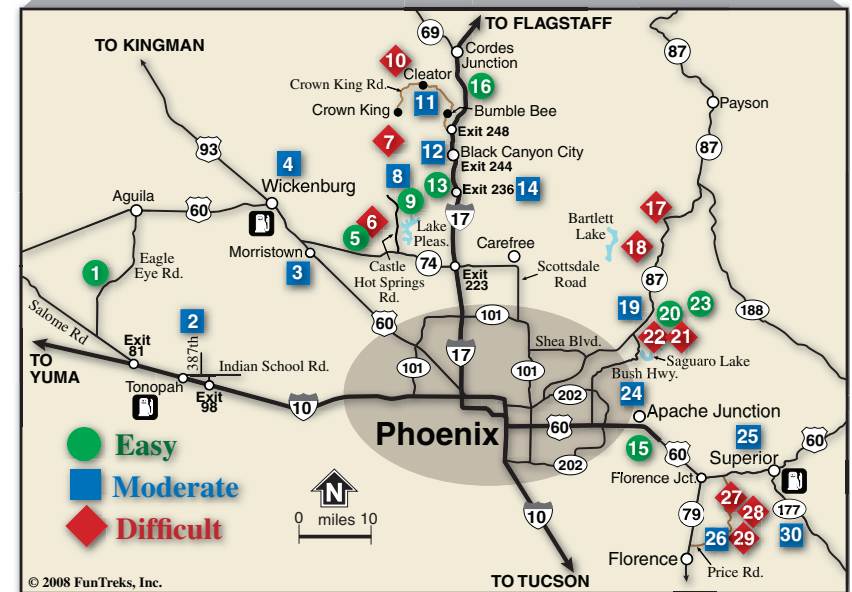
No.	Trail	Page	Rating	UTVs
1.	Harquahala Mountain*	32	Easy	OK
2.	Belmont Mountain	36	Mod.	OK
3.	Vulture Mountain, Hassayampa River	40	Mod.	OK
4.	Wickenburg Mountains*	44	Mod.	OK
5.	Boulders OHV Area, Lower Loop	48	Easy	OK
6.	Boulders OHV Area, Upper Loop*	52	Diff.	Read
7.	Backway to Crown King*	56	Diff.	Read
8.	Tule Creek Homestead	60	Mod.	OK
9.	Northshore Lake Pleasant*	64	Easy	OK
10.	Desoto Mine	68	Diff.	Read
11.	Dead Cow Gulch	72	Mod.	OK
12.	Black Canyon	76	Mod.	OK
13.	Gillette Historic Tour	80	Easy	OK
14.	New River Canyon	84	Mod.	OK
15.	Desert Wells Multiuse Area	88	Easy	OK
16.	Bloody Basin, Sheep Bridge*	92	Easy	OK
17.	Sunflower Mine	96	Diff.	Read
18.	Log Corral to Bartlett Lake*	100	Diff.	Read
19.	Sycamore Creek, Sugarloaf Mtn.	104	Mod.	OK
20.	Rolls OHV Area, North	108	Easy	OK
21.	Rolls OHV Area, South*	112	Diff.	OK
22.	Saguaro Lake Coves	116	Diff.	OK
23.	Four Peaks*	120	Easy	OK
24.	Bulldog Canyon	124	Mod.	OK
25.	Montana Mountain*	128	Mod.	OK
26.	Box Canyon*	132	Mod.	OK
27.	Woodpecker, Ajax Loop	136	Diff.	Read
28.	Martinez Canyon*	140	Diff.	Read
29.	Coke Ovens	144	Diff.	OK
30.	Walnut Canyon*	148	Mod.	OK

*Author's Favorites



UTV refers to 60"-wide side-by-sides. "OK" means entire trail is suitable for UTVs. "Read" means READ TRAIL DESCRIPTION to find out which part of the trail may be too narrow or too difficult. "Rating" applies to ATVs. UTVs may find the trail more difficult.

Trail Locator Map



Trails Listed by Difficulty

Although trails are grouped into three major categories, there are still differences in difficulty within each group. For example, Trail #9 is easier than Trail #13, even though both are rated easy. Trails are progressively more difficult as you pan down the list, although you may have to skip several trails to see any significant difference.

No.	Trail	Page	Rating
15.	Desert Wells Multiuse Area	88	Easy
9.	Northshore Lake Pleasant	64	Easy
20.	Rolls OHV Area, North	108	Easy
23.	Four Peaks	120	Easy
1.	Harquahala Mountain	32	Easy
5.	Boulders OHV Area, Lower Loop	48	Easy
16.	Bloody Basin, Sheep Bridge	92	Easy
13.	Gillette Historic Tour	80	Easy
8.	Tule Creek Homestead	60	Moderate
2.	Belmont Mountain	36	Moderate
19.	Sycamore Creek, Sugarloaf Mtn.	104	Moderate
26.	Box Canyon	132	Moderate
3.	Vulture Mountain, Hassayampa River	40	Moderate
14.	New River Canyon	84	Moderate
25.	Montana Mountain	128	Moderate
11.	Dead Cow Gulch	72	Moderate
30.	Walnut Canyon	148	Moderate
24.	Bulldog Canyon	124	Moderate
4.	Wickenburg Mountains	44	Moderate
12.	Black Canyon	76	Moderate
21.	Rolls OHV Area, South	112	Difficult
22.	Saguaro Lake Coves	116	Difficult
29.	Coke Ovens	144	Difficult
7.	Backway to Crown King	56	Difficult
27.	Woodpecker, Ajax Loop	136	Difficult
6.	Boulders OHV Area, Upper Loop	52	Difficult
18.	Log Corral to Bartlett Lake	100	Difficult
17.	Sunflower Mine	96	Difficult
10.	Desoto Mine	68	Difficult
28.	Martinez Canyon	140	Difficult

Trail Ratings Defined

Trail ratings are very subjective. Conditions change for many reasons, including weather and time of year. An easy trail can quickly become difficult when washed out by a rainstorm or blocked by a fallen rock. You must be the final judge of a trail's condition on the day you ride it. If any part of a trail is difficult, the entire trail is rated difficult. You may be able to ride a significant portion of a trail before reaching the difficult spot. Read each trail description carefully for specific information. Turn around when in doubt. Always wear a helmet.

● Easy Trails

Gravel, dirt, clay, sand, or mildly rocky trail or road. Gentle grades. Water levels low except during periods of heavy runoff. Adequate room to pass. Where shelf conditions exist, trail is wide and well maintained with minor sideways tilt. Most trails are passable when wet; however, certain types of clay can become impassable under wet conditions. Smaller, two-wheel-drive ATVs are usually adequate in good weather. Easy trails are best suited for novice riders.

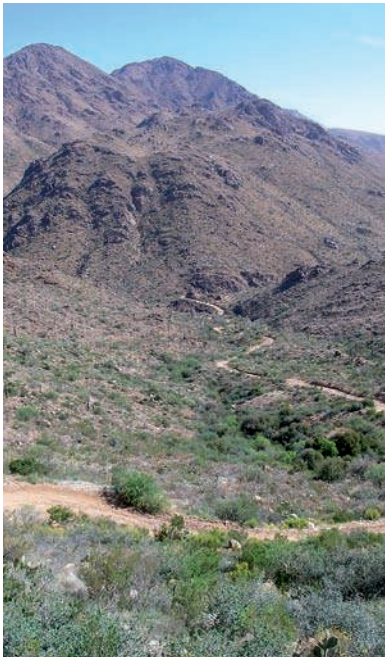
■ Moderate Trails

Rougher and rockier surfaces require slower running speeds. Some riding experience is needed for steeper climbs and descents. Rock-stacking may be necessary to get over the worst spots. Considerable weight shifting may be necessary to offset sideways tilt. Mud can be deep and you may get stuck. Certain types of clay can become impassable when wet. Sand can be soft and steep. Water may be too deep for smaller ATVs. Larger ATVs can usually get through except during periods of heavy runoff. Aggressive tires needed for two-wheel-drive machines. Four-wheel-drive is usually best.

◆ Difficult Trails

Very rough and rocky surfaces require careful tire placement. Slopes may be extremely steep with scary sideways tilt. Skillful riding is necessary to avoid tipping or flipping over. Rock-stacking may be necessary in places, and the worst spots could require assistance from other people. Sand can be very soft and steep. Shelf roads can be very narrow with daunting cliffs. Water and mud can be very deep. Wet clay surfaces can be impassable. Some powerful two-wheel-drive ATVs may get through under good weather conditions, but four-wheel-drive with low-range gearing is highly recommended.

New River Canyon 14



Road leads into Tonto National Forest.



Bear left through this gate.



Optional F.S. Road 462 is short and fun.



Trail crosses New River twice.



F.S. Road 41 winds through foothills.



Shady spot north of Waypoint 03.



Washed out section of road.

Getting There: From Phoenix, head north on Interstate 17 to Table Mesa Road, Exit 236. Bear right and head east on wide dirt road.

Staging/Camping: After you exit, you'll see a large parking area on the south side of Table Mesa Road. Park near sign for state trust land to avoid private property. Camping is allowed on state land, but not many people camp here. If you do, make sure you pack out your trash. A STATE TRUST LAND PERMIT is required on this trail.

Difficulty: Moderate. Steep rocky climbs and washed-out conditions. Two water crossings. River is often dry but can be deep after heavy rains. Trail is in remote backcountry; don't go alone.

Highlights: An in-and-out trail which accesses scenic high desert. Because it's close to Phoenix, it makes a great day trip. Trip can be shortened by skipping Forest Roads 37 and 17, or extended by continuing east to F.S. 24. (F.S. 24 is a larger forest road with more traffic and requires "MC" license plate.)

Trail Description: Don't be misled by signs along first part of trail that say "ABSOLUTELY NO ATVs." If you stay on Table Mesa Road and have a state trust land permit, it is legal to proceed to forest boundary. Bear left through gate at 1-mile point; do not go right into a private ranch.

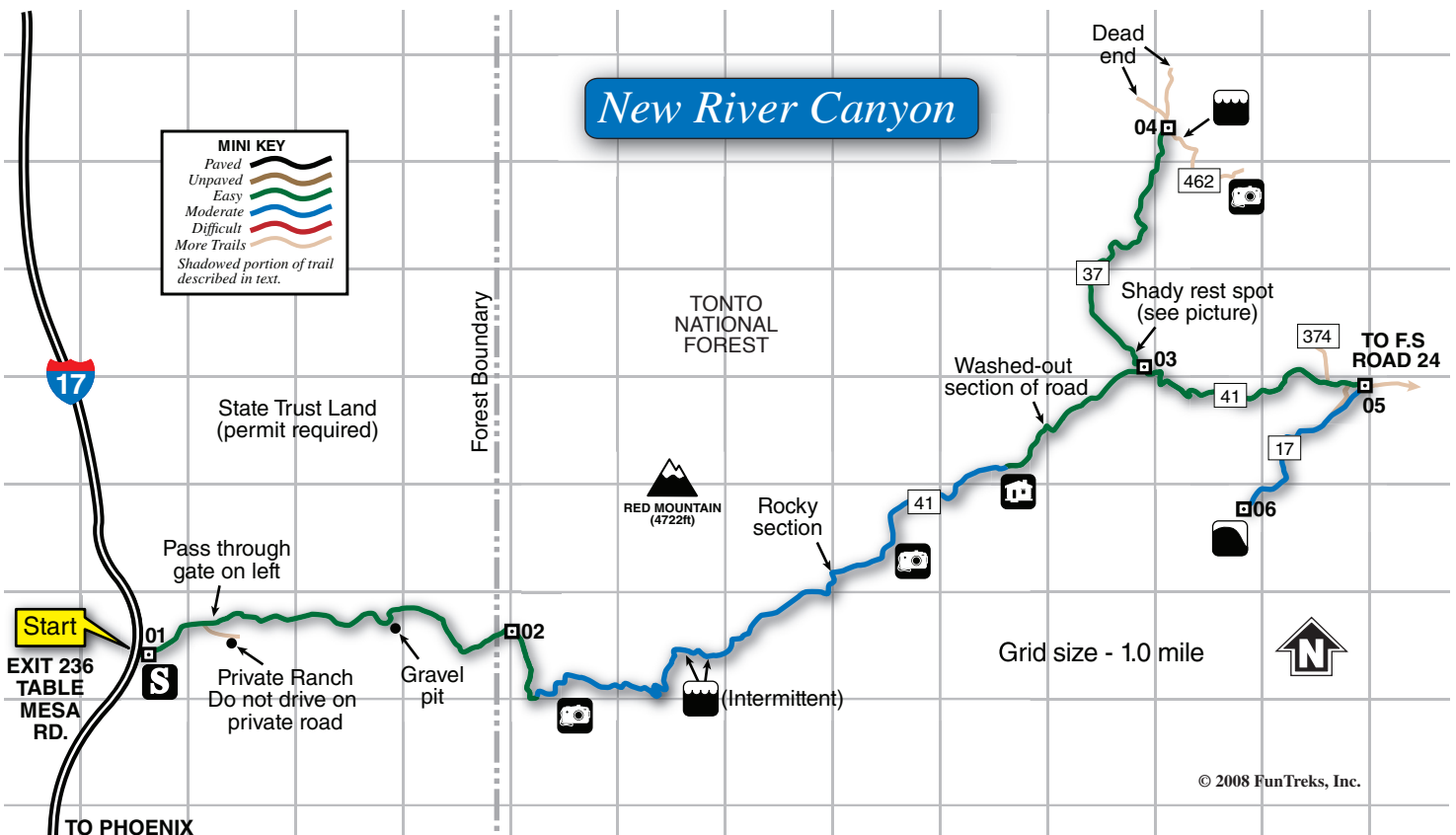
Once you reach forest boundary, road becomes F.S. 41. At this point, maintenance ends and the road gets rougher. Trail damage is worse in a few places where a fire occurred in 2005. At one point, the road is completely washed away; however, a manageable bypass has formed. Trip north on F.S. 37 is steeper with deep ruts and washed-out sections (frankly, this is what makes the trail fun). Trip south on F.S. 17 is mildly rocky and climbs toward a high plateau. It finally deteriorates to a point where it is unsafe to proceed. A shady spot just north of Waypoint 03 is a great place for lunch.

Time & Distance: Trip as described totals 43 miles. Allow 4 to 5 hours. Explore other roads to extend day.

Services: None on trail. Closest services are in town of New River, south at Exit 232.

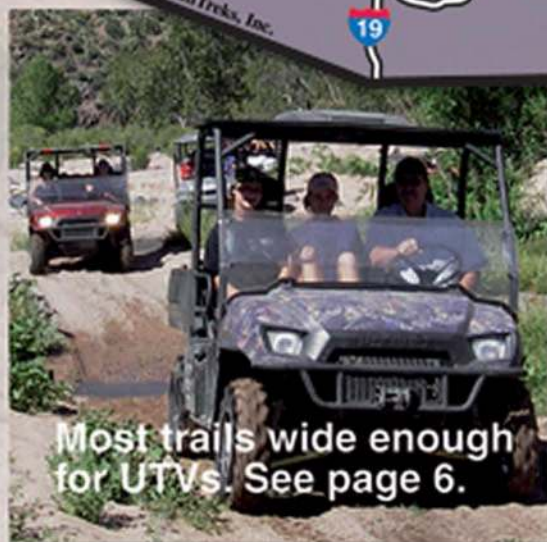
WP	Mile	Action
01	0.0	$N33^{\circ} 58.12'$ $W112^{\circ} 07.52'$ Head east on Table Mesa Road from staging area.
	1.0	Turn left through marked gate bypassing a private ranch. (Right is road to private ranch.)
	2.7	Stay left of gravel pit.
	4.1	Cattle guard marks forest boundary. Road becomes F.S. 41.
02	4.2	$N33^{\circ} 58.33'$ $W112^{\circ} 03.79'$ Bear right on more traveled road.
	5.1	Follow rocky road uphill past clearing.
	7.3	Cross river.
	7.4	Cross river again. Driver's choice after you cross river. (Right is easier.)
	9.2	First of several short rocky sections.
	11.5	Continue straight at water tank and dilapidated cabin.
	12.1	At washed-out section of trail, bear left down steep bank and follow newly formed road as it circles right back to original road.

WP	Mile	Action
03	13.4	$N34^{\circ} 00.57'$ $W111^{\circ} 57.28'$ Turn left on to F.S. Road 37. Road twists and turns heading north.
	13.5	Shady spot near river on right.
04	16.7	$N34^{\circ} 02.62'$ $W111^{\circ} 57.02'$ Turn around and return to Waypoint 03. (Optional and more challenging F.S. 462 goes right.)
03	20.0	Reset Bear left and continue on F.S. Road 41 heading east as road climbs through foothills.
	2.4	Continue straight where F.S. 374 joins from left.
	2.7	Continue straight where F.S. 374 joins from right. (Optional shortcut to F.S. 17.)
05	2.8	$N34^{\circ} 00.42'$ $W111^{\circ} 54.96'$ At bottom of hill, make hard right on F.S. 17.
	4.0	Continue straight on more traveled F.S. 17. (Right is F.S. 3201 which eventually dead ends.)
06	4.8	$N33^{\circ} 59.39'$ $W111^{\circ} 56.21'$ End of trail; return to start. (Road continues up mountain but deteriorates badly. Author turned around here.)





Precise directions, custom maps, and stunning color photos guide you to and through the heart of Arizona's backcountry. All trails are day trips from Phoenix. Routes for all skill levels. Learn where to unload and the best places to camp. GPS Waypoints. Great for UTVs and dirt bikes, too.



Most trails wide enough for UTVs. See page 6.

FunTrek
Adventure
Responsibly