

# Red Rock Scenic Byway

Red Rock Scenic Byway winds through Sedona's Red Rock Country, often called a "museum without walls." Travelers are amazed by the high desert's power, diversity, and sense of intimacy with nature. Inhabited for thousands of years, the stunning red rocks are alive with a timeless spirit that captivates and inspires.



Length: 7.5 miles / 12.0 km

Time Take 20 minutes to drive,  
to but allow several hours to  
Allow: include all activities along  
the byway.

## Local Information

### Sedona- Oak Creek Chamber of Commerce

928-282-7722

[Send E-mail](#)

### Red Rock Scenic Byway

[Send E-mail](#)

## Visitor Services

### Fees



Certain stops along the byway require a \$5.00 use pass to access.

### Accessibility



Service is available on certain trails and in most restaurants and hotels.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



There are excellent bike rental/bike guide shops available for exploring the area as well as beautiful wide red rock sidewalks for pedestrians.

### Food



There are many different fast food, casual and fine dining restaurants for visitors.

### Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

### Information



The visitor center, open seven days a week, offers a more extensive display of Red Rock Country information as well as Red Rock Passes, free brochures,

magazines/books for sale, and lodging, restaurant, area attractions and special event information.

### **Lodging**



Along the byway, visitors have access to motels, hotels, and bed and breakfast establishments.

### **Restrooms**



Available on the byway at the Forest Service Visitor Center before you reach town, and in town at the Outlets Shopping Center.

### **Retail**



There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

Disabled travelers will find user-friendly accommodations along the road. Besides one major hotel/spa, there are six hotels/motels, ten restaurants, four fast food restaurants, one theater, and four convenience stores; all have paved handicap parking, access, and seating. Oak Creek Factory Outlets also has paved parking and handicap access to all shops. The Bell Rock Pathway Trailheads at MP 307.2 and 309.9 allow wheelchair access to a hard packed trail about 12 feet wide.

## **Restrictions**

During snow or rain, the road can be slick in spots, but because of a year-round moderate climate, closures are rare or of short duration. Visit Sedona Weather for accurate reports. Some off-road, unpaved roads exist off the SR 179 corridor. The use of 4-wheel drive is advised in those areas.

## **Seasons**

### **Best Time to Drive**

The crisp, sunny air of fall is the best time to view the giant red rocks, clear blue skies and golden cottonwoods. It is also a favored season for hiking, biking, and golf.

### **High Season**

The busiest time for the byway is during the holidays and most long weekends.

# Map and Directions



## Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

## Driving Directions

- The byway starts on AZ 179 at the Highway Bridge that crosses Dry Beaver Creek.


- Drive north on AZ 179 for two-tenths of a mile past Mile Marker 310.
- Just past the Little Horse Trailhead there is a scenic pull out and parking area.

## Getting to the Byway



### Nearby cities

**Flagstaff, AZ** (31 miles / 49.89 km, 49 minutes)


**Start:**  I-17 southbound, Flagstaff, AZ  
[N 35.179° W 111.661°](#) [?]

- Directions:**
- Take I-17 south out of Flagstaff.
  - Turn onto AZ-89A south heading toward Sedona.
  - In Sedona merge onto AZ-179 south.
  - The byway starts at the intersection of AZ-179 and Back O Beyond Road.

**Junction with byway:** \* Intersection of Back O Beyond Rd and AZ-179, Sedona, AZ  
[N 34.826° W 111.779°](#) [?]

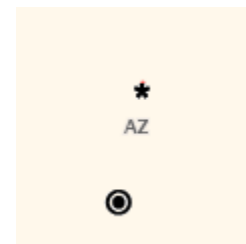


**Phoenix, AZ** (103 miles / 165.76 km, 1 hour 40 minutes)

**Start:**  I-17 northbound, Phoenix, AZ  
[N 33.449° W 112.108°](#) [?]

- Directions:**
- Take I-17 north towards Flagstaff.
  - Turn left when you get to AZ-179 (exit 298) going towards Sedona.
  - The byway begins about three miles north of the intersection of AZ-179 and I-17.

**Junction with byway:** \* Intersection of AZ-179 and Beaverhead Flat Road near Sedona, AZ  
[N 34.734° W 111.777°](#) [?]



## Road Trip: Red Rock Splendor

**Departure:** The National Forest/Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Arizona

**Destination:** Little Horse Trail and Bell Rock Pathway Northern Trailhead, Arizona

**Time to allow:** 1 day

This guide is for the traveler who has limited time, but wants to experience one of America's most dramatic drives in one of the hiking/biking meccas of the world. Fall through spring is best for the recreation, but driving is beautiful year round. At every turn, this route reveals wondrous views.

### Day 1

- **Start: The National Forest/Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center**

Here's where you'll find brochures, fact sheets, trail map handouts...all you need to know for staying and playing in Red Rock Country: comprehensive history/geology information, trail maps, hiking/biking tips, lodging, food and entertainment. For this itinerary, pick up a trail map handout that shows "Little Horse Trail" on it -- and buy your Red Rock Pass for parking and recreating on Forest Service lands.

- **Stop 1: Picture Yourself at Red Rock Crossing on Oak Creek**



**From previous stop:** 17 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

**Directions:** As you come out of the Visitors Center driveway, turn north (left) on SR 179 and you'll see a major intersection with a stoplight. Turn west (left) onto Verde Valley School Road and go 4.7 miles where the road dead ends into the Red Rock Crossing parking lot. Do not park anywhere but the parking lot. This road travels through residential areas so be aware of the 30-35 mph speed limit; also, for the last 1.2 miles, the road is unpaved as well as curvy, hilly, and subject to flooding after excessive rains. From the parking lot, it is a very short walk to the the pathway that will lead you down to the unique redrock banks of Oak Creek.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour

Don't forget your camera, because you're at one of the most photographed sites in the country as well as one of the most naturally beautiful settings in Sedona. If it's a Saturday, chances are there's a small wedding taking place at the north end of the crossing. Most days there will be artists painting or photographers setting up their shots or people just soaking up the inspiring view. If the creek water's low enough, step across the red rock stepping stones, which is the crossing, to Red Rock State Park situated on the other side.

• **Stop 2: Bell Rock Vista and Pathway Southern Trailhead**



**From previous stop:** 45 minutes / 5.8 mi (9.3 km)

**Directions:** Turn east (right) out of the Red Rock Crossing parking lot and take Verde Valley School Road 4.7 miles back to its stoplight intersection with SR 179, where you will turn north (left). Proceed straight, through the Village of Oak Creek, and just past the next stoplight, on your right hand side, will be the entrance to the Bell Rock Vista and Pathway parking lot.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Here's where you'll discover the size and power of the red rocks; this is a travelers up close experience with mystical Bell Rock and mammoth Courthouse Butte. Feel the red rock energy and enjoy the views. There are many pathways to choose from, all going to or near Bell Rock that can be done in a half hour or as long as you feel like walking.

- **End: Little Horse Trail and Bell Rock Pathway Northern Trailhead**



**From previous stop:** 5 minutes / 2.6 mi (4.2 km)

**Directions:** Turn north (or right) out of the parking lot onto SR 179; proceed straight and be on the lookout for signs that say "Little Horse Trail" and "Bell Rock Pathway"; entrance to this stop's parking lot will come up fairly quickly, on your right.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 3 hours

Discover a little serenity among the glorious hiking and biking trails that meander to hidden washes and breathtaking red rock panoramas. Little Horse Trail is a local 1/2's favorite, rated moderate, and 6.5 miles if you do the full round trip. Remember the rules of the trail, and have fun! Also at this stop, view the "Three Nuns" with the renowned Chapel of the Holy Cross perched below.

Officially, the scenic road ends just beyond this point so after your hike, and before resuming your drive, take a moment to look West and gaze upon famous Cathedral Rock, a huge rock formation with multiple red rock spires. Whether it is silhouetted against a glowing sunset or shining in the midday sun, it is considered one of the most beautiful of all the red rock formations in the Sedona area, and surely a fitting way to end your day of Red Rock Splendor.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 13.4 miles / 21.4 km

**Total Travel Time:** 1 hour 7 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 4 hours 45 minutes