

# Coronado Trail Scenic Byway

Drive through high desert and forests, and see former Native American footpaths first used as horse paths by Conquistadors and prospectors, then as wagon trails for pioneers. While admiring the scenic beauty, imagine nomadic tribes of hunters, gatherers, trappers, outlaws, homesteaders, lumberjacks, and ranchers living along the byway.

Length: 123 miles / 196.8 km

Time Four to five hours of driving to time, including over 400

Allow: switchbacks



## Local Information

**Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce**

928-865-3313

**Hannagan Meadow Lodge**

928-339-4370

**USFS Apache-Sitgreaves Nat. Forest Alpine Ranger District**

928-339-5000

**USFS Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Clifton Ranger Station**

928-687-8600

## Visitor Services

### Fees



There are no fees along the road itself, but some campgrounds charge fees.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



The byway can be traveled by bicycle, though due to safety reasons, biking directly on the byway is discouraged. Instead, enjoy the beauty of the byway by visiting the trails in the Apache National Forest. Mountain biking and

hiking opportunities also abound. There are over 1000 miles of hiking trails in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, including the Escudilla National Recreation Trail, which leads to Arizona's highest fire lookout tower. Contact the [Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest](<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/>) for hiking and mountain biking trail information.

### **Camping**



Developed campgrounds along the Coronado Trail Scenic Byway include Alpine Divide, Luna Lake, Hannagan, KP Cienega, Upper Juan Miller, Lower Juan Miller, and Granville. Some campgrounds may charge fees. Dispersed camping is allowed throughout the Apache National Forest, except in a few designated areas. Contact the Springerville Ranger District at 928-333-4372 or the Alpine Ranger District at 928-339-5000 for camping information. Camping is available in the Alpine Ranger District District.

### **Food**



Restaurants and grocery/general stores are available in Springerville, Eagar, Alpine, Hannagan Meadow, Morenci, and Clifton.

### **Gasoline**



Fuel is available in Springerville, Eagar, Alpine, Hannagan Meadow, Morenci, and Clifton. There are no fuel or food stops though between Morenci and Hannagan Meadow, a distance of 69 miles. After sundown, there are no fuel or food stops between Morenci and Alpine, a distance of 89 miles.

### **Information**



There is an authoritative information center along this byway.

### **Lodging**



From motels and rustic cabins to the historic Hannagan Meadow Lodge, lodging along the byway is available in Springerville, Eagar, Lapine, Hannagan Meadow, Morenci, and Clifton.

### **Phone**



Public phones are available along this byway.

### **Restrooms**



Restroom facilities are within 30 miles of each other (or no more than one hour's drive time) while traveling from Morenci to Hannagan Meadow.

### **Retail**



There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

In some parts of the road, drivers may not travel at more than 10 to 15 miles an hour. The road is steep and winding, and many sharp curves lack guardrails.

With the road primarily going through mountain ranges and passes, and reaching elevations as high as 9,148 feet, travel at night and weekends during winter storms is ill-advised but not prohibited. Plows are stationed near each end of the Coronado Trail for seasonal snow storms and the occasional rock slide.

The majority of the Coronado Trail Byway is open range (no fences). Big Horn sheep, mule deer, white-tail deer, elk, javelina, cattle, the occasional bobcat, black bear, wolf, and mountain lion may be seen along or crossing the highway. Motorists traveling the higher speed sections should use caution.

### **Restrictions**

This road is not recommended for vehicles towing a trailer or for RVs over 40 feet in length. In fact, at one point you will encounter a turning area and a sign requiring vehicles over 40 feet to turn back. The road beyond that point is twisty and full of dips which may catch your trailer hitch. Many switchbacks are a full 180 degrees.

The road is passable during winter, but snow may not be plowed at nights or on weekends. Occasional road closures due to snow are possible.

### **Seasons**

#### Best Time to Drive

Fall leaves and spring wildflowers make those seasons the best times to drive the byway.

#### High Season

The average daily travel for the heart of the byway is less than 100 cars per day, although fall color and hunting season visits increase fourfold.



- Drive north on U.S. Hwy. 191 to Alpine.
- Drive north on U.S. Hwy. 191 to E. Main St. in Springerville.
- Drive west on E. Main St. to U.S. Hwy. 180/S. Mountain Ave. where the byway ends.

### Getting to the Byway



#### Nearby cities

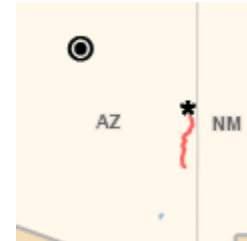
**Flagstaff, AZ** (174 miles / 280.03 km, 2 hours 50 minutes)

**Start:**  2485 Butler Ave E, Flagstaff, AZ  
[N 35.192° W 111.620° \[?\]](#)


**Directions:**

- Get on I-40 east toward Gallup.
- Turn right on Hwy. 77 south toward Show Low.
- Turn left on U.S. 180 east.
- Turn left on Hwy. 61 north to St. Johns.
- Turn right on U.S. 191 south to Springerville where the byway begins.

**Junction with byway:** \* 1100 Main St E, Springerville, AZ  
[N 34.133° W 109.270° \[?\]](#)



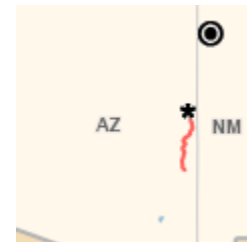
**Gallup, NM** (124 miles / 199.56 km, 2 hours 5 minutes)

**Start:**  519 Hwy 491, Gallup, NM 87301  
[N 35.530° W 108.760° \[?\]](#)

**Directions:**

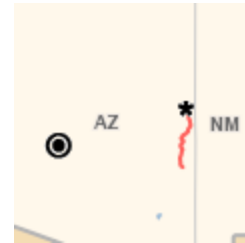
- Get on I-40 west toward Flagstaff.
- Turn south on U.S. 191 to St. Johns.
- Turn left and continue on U.S. 191 to Springerville where byway begins.

**Junction with byway:** \* 1100 Main St E, Springerville, AZ  
[N 34.133° W 109.270° \[?\]](#)



Phoenix, AZ (226 miles / 363.71 km, 4 hours 15 minutes)

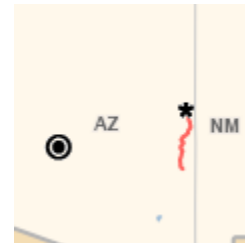
- Start:** ● (Route B) 7th Ave 1192, Phoenix, AZ  
N 33.461° W 112.083° [?]
- Get on Hwy. 87 north to Payson.
  - Turn right on Hwy. 260 east to Show Low.
- Directions:**
- Turn left on U.S. 60 east to Springerville where the byway begins.



**Junction with byway:** \* Main St. Springerville, AZ  
N 34.133° W 109.270° [?]

Phoenix, AZ (226 miles / 363.71 km, 4 hours 15 minutes)

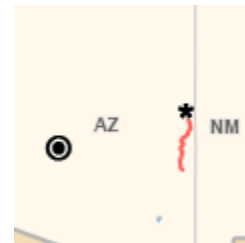
- Start:** ● (Route A) 7th Ave 1192, Phoenix, AZ  
N 33.461° W 112.083° [?]
- Take I-10 east toward Tucson.
  - Merge onto US-60 east toward Mesa.
- Directions:**
- Follow US-60 until you reach Springerville where the byway begins at US-191.



**Junction with byway:** \* Main St. Springerville, AZ 85938  
N 34.133° W 109.270° [?]

Phoenix, AZ (226 miles / 363.71 km, 4 hours 15 minutes)

- Start:** ● (Route B) 7th Ave 1192, Phoenix, AZ  
N 33.461° W 112.083° [?]
- Get on Hwy. 87 north to Payson.
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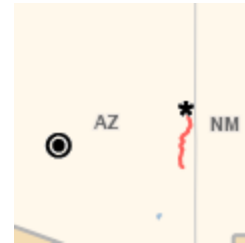
**Phoenix, AZ** (226 miles / 363.71 km, 4 hours 15 minutes)

**Start:** ● (Route A) 7th Ave 1192, Phoenix, AZ  
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**Directions:**

- Take I-10 east toward Tucson.
- Merge onto US-60 east toward Mesa.
- Follow US-60 until you reach Springerville where the byway begins at US-191.

**Junction with byway:** \* Main St. Springerville, AZ 85938  
N 34.133° W 109.270° [?]



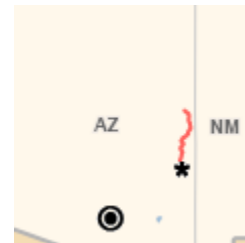
**Tucson, AZ** (171 miles / 275.20 km, 3 hours)

**Start:** ● 1874 E Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713  
N 32.177° W 110.943° [?]

**Directions:**

- Get on I-10 east toward El Paso.
- Turn right on U.S. 191 north.
- Follow until you reach Morenci where the byway begins.

**Junction with byway:** \* Coronado Trail & Burro Alley Morenci, AZ 85540  
N 33.050° W 109.325° [?]



## Road Trip: Touring the Coronado

**Departure:** Springerville & Eagar, Arizona

**Destination:** Morenci Open Pit Mine, Arizona

**Time to allow:** 1 day

Enjoy a trip that includes a unique landscape--from the earth tones of rock outcrops, high desert cacti, and shrubs to the lush greens of the conifer forest.

### Day 1

- **Start: Springerville & Eagar**

Visit the town of Springerville, known as the "Gateway to Arizona's White Mountains", where you can gather supplies for the various archaeological attractions nearby. Eagar is a central point to many of the areas recreational opportunities.



- **Stop 1: Casa Malpais Indian Ruins and Archaeological Park**



**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** The ruins can be reached from the center at 318 E Main St in Springerville, AZ. Park your car and hike up to the ruins.

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

Take a close up look at a large Great Kiva, catacomb burials, an astronomical observatory and solar petroglyph markers at the Casa Malpais Indian Ruins. Covering over 17 acres, this preserved area is attributed to the Mongolian culture.

- **Stop 2: Alpine**



**From previous stop:** 33 minutes / 27.1 mi (43.4 km)

**Directions:** Starting in Springerville on E. Main St (US-180), go toward N. Supai St. Turn right to follow US-180 and then left on E. Central Ave. After .2 miles E. Central Ave becomes US-180; go for 24.1 miles until reaching the center of Alpine.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 20 minutes

Visit the town of Alpine, which started out as a small fort and then later became a commercial hub for settlers and ranchers. Sitting along a mountain meadow at the base of rocky peaks, it's the perfect spot to get a glimpse of bald eagles, osprey, geese, and wild swans.

- **Stop 3: Hannagan Meadow and Lodge**



**From previous stop:** 36 minutes / 22.4 mi (35.8 km)

**Directions:** Drive south of Alpine on U.S. 191.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 1 hour 30 minutes

In Hannagan Meadow, learn how the Coronado Trail earned its name, and rest at the rustic, 2-story lodge that provides scenic views of the forest and large meadow, oft frequented by elk and deer herds grazing at the meadows edge. From the lodge, you can hike, mountain bike or enjoy a day of cross-country skiing.

- **End: Morenci Open Pit Mine**



**From previous stop:** 1 hour 42 minutes / 63.7 mi (101.9 km)

**Directions:** Starting on 576 R, turn right on US-191. Go 63.7 mi<sup>3</sup> to arrive at the center of Morenci.

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

At the Morenci Mine Overlook get a glimpse of how mountains that have been and are being moved to produce the copper we need for our nation's homes, vehicles, and businesses.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 113.2 miles / 181.1 km

**Total Travel Time:** 2 hours 51 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 3 hours 50 minutes