

If you're looking for a true wilderness hiking adventure, Aravaipa Canyon is the destination for you! Only 50 people are permitted to enter the 19,000-acre wilderness daily, so seclusion is not a problem; having to leave after a day, or even three days, is. Much of this hike is in and along Aravaipa Creek, so be ready to get your feet wet. This is also a great trip for beginning backpackers looking for an easy hike.

This isolated canyon in southern Arizona is a bastion of untouched natural beauty and a Natural Conservancy site with over 7,000 protected acres, so you'll be able to experience the canyon in its pure state. Aravaipa is completely undeveloped; there are no campgrounds, signage, well-defined trails or other facilities in the canyon. But, you will be surrounded by the native riparian vegetation- including Cottonwood, Ash, Willow, and Sycamore trees.

Aravaipa is best known for its bird species. Over one hundred fifty varieties of native birds have been seen in the canyon. The cacti, which populate the canyon's rocky outcrops, are an ideal home for woodpeckers and owls. Other desert dwellers who make their home in the canyon are mule and white-tail deer, coyotes, coatimundi, and javelina. High above the canyon, desert bighorn sheep peer down to observe your progress. The Aravaipa Creek is home to seven varieties of native fish as well. This is one time you don't want to forget your camera!

Hiking through Aravaipa Canyon will provide you with a truly unique experience, a chance to visit the beautiful desert canyon in an exceptionally natural state, an easy hike into the wilderness, the opportunity to observe native plants and wildlife firsthand, and the singular experience of treading through the history of Arizona's native peoples.

Difficulty	OH @#%&!	Solitude	Number of backpacking (miles/km)	Elevation changes (feet/m)
3	1	7	20/32.2	400/121.9

Day 1

The hike starts a few hundred yards from Aravaipa Creek, but allows us to hike through a beautiful part of the Sonoran Desert. We will hike upstream for about 8 miles (12.9 km) to our first night of camping, across from Hell Hole Canyon. Hell? More like heaven! The Hell Hole Canyon area is a gorgeous place to camp. You will find yourself dwarfed by towering sandstone cliffs, with sun peering through a large hole near the rim. If time allows, we will take an afternoon hike up Hell Hole Canyon for a good taste of a large slot canyon, following the stream and enjoying the towering sandstone cliffs around us.

Day 2

Today we start the day by hiking to the East Entrance of Aravaipa Wilderness. If Hell Hole Canyon was not explored on the first day, we will do that today, as well as investigate the ruins at Turkey Creek. After we get back to camp, we will pack and move our way back down stream about 4 miles (6.4 km) to the Horse Camp Canyon area. There are a few campsites in this area where a homestead was built in the late 1800's. Today's hike will be about 12 miles depending on the amount of side hikes we decide to go on.

Day 3

Before we pack up camp, we will spend some time exploring Horse Camp Canyon. From there, it's all downhill and downstream. We should be back to the vehicle between noon and 2:00 PM depending on our explore time, bringing us back to Phoenix no later than 5:00 PM.

Cost

\$650 per person

The following is included in the tour price:

- Round trip transportation from Phoenix
- All permits, fees and taxes.
- All food while on the trail, prepared on the trail by your guide
- All necessary gear (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, meal kit, trekking poles, headlamp, etc.) – Check out the "About Us" section on our website for more information about our gear.
- A certified, medically trained guide that will lead you safely on your journey.
- An unforgettable experience!

Our prices do not include guide gratuity (10% of the tour price is recommended).