

A SAMPLING OF TRIPS/DRIVES FROM FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ

Local trips/drives (any time of year)

- Overlook in Shea Blvd just west of Palisades Blvd is an ideal place to park and view the east valley, especially if there are haboobs in the forecast.
- McDowell Mountain Drive north from FH through Rio Verde, then left on Rio Verde Drive (signs to Scottsdale) to Vista Verde Golf course on right – great scenery when there is snow on the mountains, or right after storm passage. Beware of 45 mph speed limit on McDowell Mountain road, however.
- Take Beeline (Route 87) north, make right onto Bush Highway, proceed to Saguaro Lake – best in early morning. Also is a good scenic back route to east Mesa and Route 60 east, to Lost Dutchman State Park (Superstition Mountains) and Boyce-Thompson Arboretum on Rte 60 on way to Superior. After passing Saguaro Lake, be sure to turn left onto Usury Pass Road to get to Apache Junction. Also can be used as first leg of trip to Tortilla Flat on Rte 88 out of Apache Junction (see next entry).
- Drive to Tortilla Flat on Rte 88 out of Apache Junction is a must for first timers (residents or visitors). Road is a very scenic, twisty road (with 2 one lane bridges) through the mountains, and provides great vistas of Canyon Lake. Be sure to plan for lunch at Tortilla Flat. This route is also a favorite of motorcyclists, partly due to the twisty roads.

Day drives (best for summer, to take you away from the heat)

- Beeline Highway (Rte 87) north to Payson – great scenic drive, especially with storm clouds.
 - Option 1 - Continue east from Payson on 260 (beware of speed traps just outside Payson), end up on top of Mogollon Rim (lunch in Overgaard on the way is an option) – great drive in mid-summer, it's cooler up there. Be sure to stop at the Mogollon Rim overlook as soon as you reach the top of the Rim.
 - Option 2 – Continue north on 87 from Payson to towns of Pine and Strawberry, up in the pine forest. In winter, if it's stormy, you may find snow falling up there. Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is halfway between Payson and Pine.
- Drive up route 87 to Payson, east on 260 through Overgaard, and then on to Show Low. Have lunch there, then take Rte 60 south, which takes you along and through the Salt River Canyon, giving you great views of one of the deepest canyons in the state. This trip is about 350 miles roundtrip, and takes you up to 6,400 feet altitude at Show Low.
- Roosevelt Dam – Take Beeline Hwy (Rte 87) north, make right turn on Rte 188, proceed to the Dam. The biggest attraction of this trip, besides the countryside, is the Dam itself. When you're done there, continue on 188, making a right turn onto Route 60 just south of Globe, and head back to east Mesa.

Notes

- Be sure to familiarize yourself with the routes sketched out here using MapQuest or some other web site, so you know the distances to various milestones and turns.
- Please note that the suggestions listed above are just a starting point - there are many other trips available from Fountain Hills and its environs. These trips, east of the Phoenix metropolitan area and Route 17, generally keep you out of major traffic issues, and represent worthwhile alternatives to the standard trek to Sedona (with all its traffic and crowd challenges).
- Here is an excellent resource for researching scenic roads in Arizona statewide – paste this in your browser. <http://www.arizonascenicroads.com/>