

Another Must-Try Motorcycle Ride in Arizona

{Editor: this is second in a series of touring articles shared with us by Wes Pentana, Founder & Weekend Warrior of FirstCheckpoint.com}

The Devil's Highway is considered one of the best routes in Arizona for an unforgettable motorcycling adventure.



The Devil's Highway Loop

Ride Distance: 215 miles | Recommended Ride Time: 5-6 hours

Description: They regard this as the most scenic of all routes in Arizona and is a biker's dream with over 600 corners over 215 miles of smooth asphalt. The route takes in the Coronado Trail on the US191 from the town of Three Way north to the town of Alpine, then south down the US180 from Luna, New Mexico to the Gila National Forest, before heading westwards and back into Arizona along the twists and turns of State Highway 78 back to Three Way, Arizona. With this route's challenging riding conditions, don't forget to stop along the side of the roads to take in the simply breath-taking views as you ride around the Apache National Forest and over the White Mountains. The Gila National Forest (technically it is in New Mexico, but we can't ignore this fantastic route because of this slight overlap into the neighboring state) will blow your mind with its vast size, waterfalls visible from the side of the road, and sweeping mountain views.

Points of Interest:

Every turn on this route will reveal ever more picture-perfect views of mountains, cliffs, and forests. This central eastern region of Arizona is dotted with towns and communities offering old-world charm, hospitality, and unforgettable scenery.

- **Gobbler Point:** Just outside the town of Alpine, Gobbler Point offers panoramic views from its peaks in the White Mountains range. With many stopping points, you must stop at as many as you can to absorb the sheer size and beauty of this section of Apache County.

- **San Francisco Hot Springs:** The San Francisco Hot Springs is just off the US180 south of Pleasanton. You'll need to walk

for 1.5 miles to reach the truly worthwhile and rewarding hot springs: these are rock and gravel hot springs with temperatures ranging from 100 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Take a brief walk further along the trail to Bubbles Hot Springs!

- **Old Clifton Jail:** This is a jail built entirely from stone in 1878. Carved out of a cliff, it is unique in its stone-cut cells and views. It houses just two cells, but the experience of visiting (and entering) the jail will leave you pleased you weren't locked up behind those bars.

Route 191 was originally designated Rte 666 in 1926; as it was the 6th branch of Route 66. Over time it gained the nickname Devil's Highway. In 1992 it was renumbered to Highway 191. For those who might be interested, there is much that can be read on this topic, including [this article from the Federal Highway Administration](#).

Where to Stay:

- **Gila National Forest:** Stop along the route to take in the unforgettable scenery of the Gila National Forest to explore its beauty while camping or stay in one of their comfortable cabins.

Alpine:

- **Meadows Edge Cabins:** Located outside the town of Alpine, Meadows Edge Cabins offer sweeping views of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, wildlife and birding opportunities, and fishing to take the edge off a long day behind the handlebars.

Clifton:

- **Clifton Hotel:** This is a hotel offering "Old West" hospitality with modern touches. It is situated close to Clifton town's centre and overlooks the nearby San Francisco River. It offers comfortable rooms at reasonable rates for road-weary bikers.

In addition to Arizona routes, [FirstCheckpoint](http://FirstCheckpoint.com) offers motorcycle touring articles describing some of the best rides of Michigan, California, and Colorado. With these articles to help you plan your road trip, you can look forward to enjoying an unforgettable motorcycling adventure. Thank you Wes Pestana of [FirstCheckpoint](http://FirstCheckpoint.com) for sharing your adventures with our Readers!

Thank you also to Akos Kovach of the Greenlee County Tourism Council, for sharing the photos you see here.

