

Crooked Creek Access Trail



Crooked Creek is inaccessible in most places due to spectacular canyon cliffs. This is an easy 1/3 mile walk descending about 200 feet elevation. Because of the limestone geology, which allows underground drainage, there is little surface water in the Pryors. Crooked Creek is the largest of the few streams in the Pryors. This delightful hike takes you to a riparian landscape/ecosystem which is unusual in the Pryors. This is also #6 of the nine special botanical spots described in “A Botanical Guide to Special Places in the Pryor Mountains, which describes the moist and lush riparian plant the creek. See the Crooked Creek Access Hike page at: www.PryorMountains.org for links to this Botanical Guide.

Getting There:

Detailed Driving Directions to the Crooked Creek Access Trailhead from either the north or south - with Maps - are included in the Driving Directions linked at the Crooked Creek Access Hike page at: www.PryorMountains.org.

For people who already know how to get to Crooked Creek Road: The trailhead is on the east side of Crooked Creek Road 3.8 miles south of its junction with Pryor Mountain Road (#2308), and 6.2 miles north of the USFS / BLM boundary fence and cattle guard. The road turns sharply at the unmarked trailhead. (See Google Earth view below.) Park in the wide area on the outside of the turn - on the west side of the road.

The Hike:

Walk down the obvious drainage on the east side of Crooked Creek Road. It begins shallow, broad and grassy but soon becomes narrower, deeper and with more trees. The route is easy to follow so no trail is needed, but there are some tracks to follow – especially on the bottom half of the hike. Part way down there is a fence to cross. Look for a gate near the right (south) side of the drainage. Continue down to the creek. Enjoy the special area. Don't hurry back!

