

AFALCONGUIDE®

Hiking **Arizona**

Second Edition

Bruce Grubbs and Stewart Aitchison

Kinder Crossing Trail

In Partnership with



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47 Kinder Crossing Trail

Description: This is a short, historic trail providing access to East Clear Creek. You can explore up- or down-stream from the foot of the trail. East Clear Creek runs year-round, and the deep, clear pools are a delight in the hot days of summer.

Location: 70 miles southeast of Flagstaff.

Type of hike: Out-and-back day hike.

Difficulty: Easy.

Total distance: 1.2 miles.

Elevation change: 500 feet.

Water: East Clear Creek.

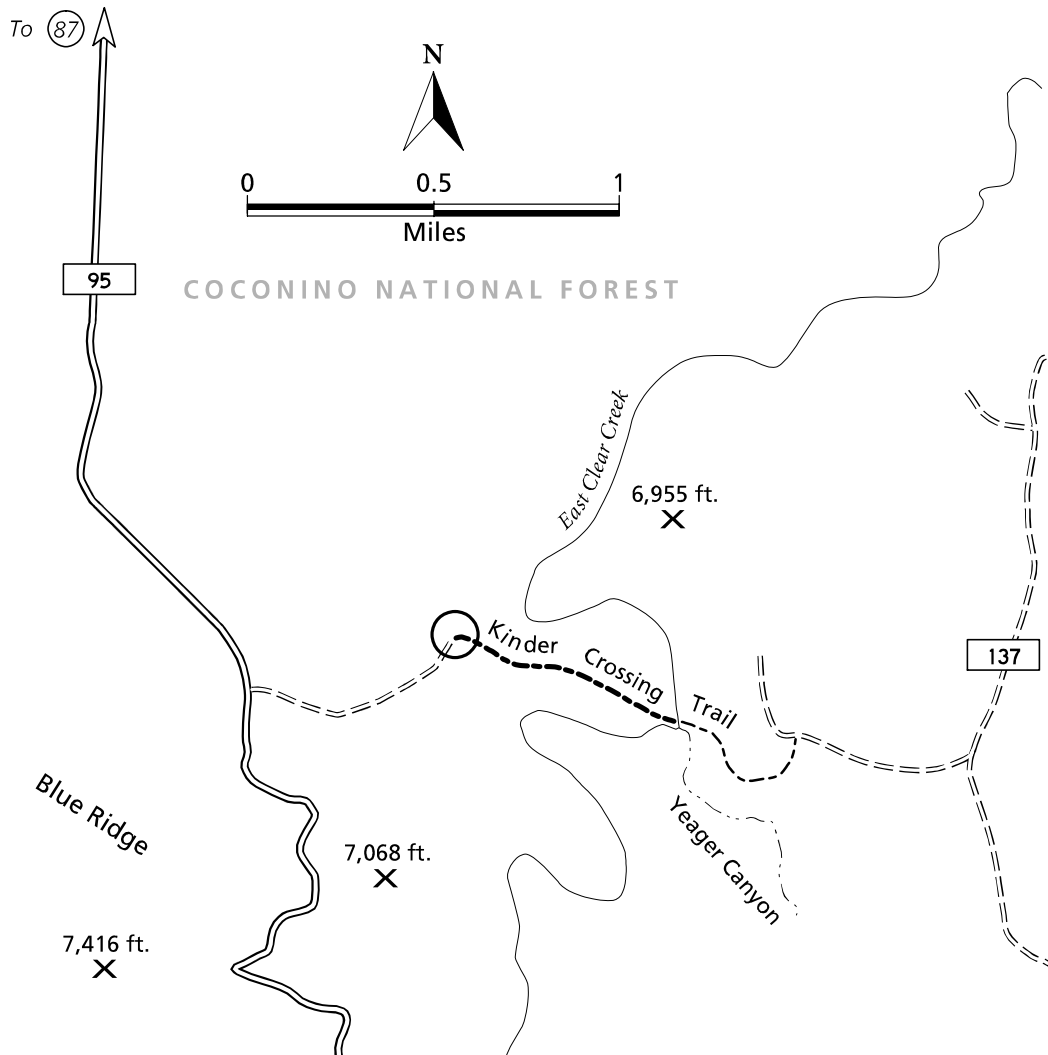
Best months: April–November.

Maps: Blue Ridge Reservoir USGS; Coconino National Forest.

Permit: None.

For more information: Coconino National Forest, Blue Ridge Ranger District.

Kinder Crossing Trail



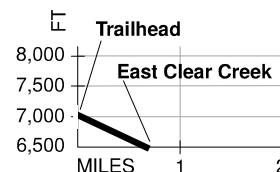
Finding the trailhead: From Flagstaff, drive about 55 miles southeast on Lake Mary Road (Forest Highway 3) to Clints Well. Turn left on Arizona 87, drive 9 miles, and turn right on Forest Road 95. Continue 4.2 miles on this maintained road, then turn left (east) on the unmaintained road to the Kinder Crossing Trail. Continue 0.6 mile to trailhead at the end of the road.

Clints Well can also be reached from Camp Verde by driving 30 miles east on the General Crook Trail (Arizona 260), then turning left (north) on Arizona 87 and continuing 11 miles to Clints Well.

Key points:

- 0.0 Kinder Crossing Trailhead.
- 0.6 East Clear Creek.

The hike: The Kinder Crossing Trail descends into East Clear Creek by following the ridge to the east, reaching the creek at the confluence of East Clear Creek and Yeager Canyon. There is a large and very inviting swimming hole at the confluence. After cooling off, it's fun to explore the canyon, in either direction.















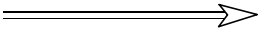

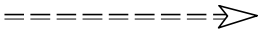





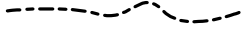



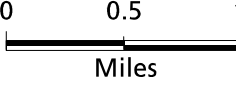




This trail is one of several historical trails that cross East Clear Creek and other canyons on the forested Mogollon Plateau north of the Mogollon Rim. During the settlement and ranching days, before the present road network was built, the primary access to the area was via pack trails. Canyons like East Clear Creek created formidable barriers to travel and were crossable by trail at only a few points. Even today, the forest road system is constrained by the crossing points along the deep canyons.

Option 1: Follow the remainder of the Kinder Crossing Trail, which climbs 0.5 mile out the west side of the canyon to a spur road from Forest Road 137.

Option 2: With a car shuttle, hike cross-country downstream about 3 miles to Horse Crossing.

—Bruce Grubbs

Map Legend

Interstate		Campground	
US Highway		Cabins/Buildings	
State or Other Principal Road		Peak	
National Park Route		Point	
Interstate Highway		Hill	
Paved Road		Elevation	
Gravel Road		Gate	
Unimproved Road		Mine Site	
Trailhead		Overlook/Point of Interest	
Main Trail(s) /Route(s)		National Forest/ Park/Wilderness Boundary	
Alternate/Secondary Trail(s)/Route(s)			
Parking Area		Map Orientation	
River/Creek		Scale	
Spring			
One-Way Road		Meadow	
		Cliff	

Using This Guide

The hikes are presented in an easy-to-read format with at-a-glance information at the start. Each hike description contains the following information:

Hike number and name. The hike number is also shown on the overview map, to help you visualize the general location of the hike. We have used the official, or at least the commonly accepted, name for a trail or hike wherever possible. Hikes that use several trails are usually named for the main trail.

Description. This is a general description of the hike, including special attractions, and the name of the designated wilderness or other specially protected area, if any.

Location. This is the distance in miles, and direction from the nearest large town.

Type of hike. Out-and-back hikes are two-way hikes; you'll return by backtracking the trail. Loop hikes start and end at the same trailhead, but avoid retracing the trail. There may be some repeated sections in order to connect a loop hike. Shuttle hikes are one-way hikes starting and ending at different trailheads. You will have to leave a vehicle at both trailheads, or arrange for reliable pickup at the exit trailhead. Some day hikes can be expanded into easy backpack trips, and ambitious hikers may cover a backpack trip in one day.

Difficulty. All the hikes are rated as easy, moderate, or difficult. This is a subjective rating, but in general, easy hikes can be done by nearly anyone and take a few hours at most. Moderate hikes take all or most of a day and require moderate physical abilities. Difficult hikes are long, with significant elevation change, requiring a full day or several days to accomplish, and may involve cross-country hiking and route finding. Only experienced hikers in good physical condition should attempt these hikes.

Total distance. For out-and-back hikes, this distance in miles includes the return. For loops and shuttle hikes, this is the one-way distance.

Elevation change. The total altitude change in feet, not including ups and downs along the way, is given for each hike.

Water. Known and usually reliable sources are listed. Don't ever depend on a single water source, no matter how reliable it's been in the past. Remember that all backcountry water should be purified.

Best Months. This is the recommended time of year to do the hike. The season may be longer or shorter in some years. "Year-round" hikes may be hot in summer; you may want to hike early in the morning.

Maps. The appropriate USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles are always listed, and other maps if useful.

Permit. Camping and other restrictions are also noted here.

For more information. The name of the land management unit having jurisdiction over the hike.

Finding the trailhead. Driving directions are given from the nearest large town for all of the hikes. Distances are in miles.

Key points. This is a listing of trail junctions and important landmarks along the hike. You should be able to follow the route by reference to this section. Distances are given from the start of the hike in miles. All but a few level hikes have a corresponding elevation profile, to provide a picture of the climbs and descents of the hike.

The hike. In this narrative, we describe the hike in detail, along with interesting natural and human history. The description uses references to landmarks rather than distances wherever possible, because distances are listed under key points.

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Maps: Bruce Grubbs

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