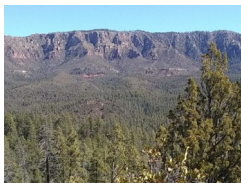


## Arizona Trail 2020



- [Take the Burrito](#)
- [Canelo](#)
- [Patagonia](#)
- [Stetson's Gold](#)
- [Santa Rita Mountains](#)
- [Vail, Colossal](#)
- [Saguaro National Park](#)
- [Santa Catalinas](#)
- [Summerhaven](#)
- [Maelstrom](#)
- [Tortilla Mountains](#)
- [Gila River](#)
- [Superior Views](#)
- [Reavis](#)
- [Superstition Wilderness](#)
- [Roosevelt Lake](#)
- [Pine Mountain](#)
- [Mazatzal Divide](#)
- [East Verde River](#)
- [Pine](#)
- [Mogollon Rim](#)
- [Mud](#)
- [Not Lake Mormon](#)
- [Lake Country AZ](#)
- [Around Flagstaff](#)

*The Grand Canyon is closed for Covid-19, so my thru-hike is on hold. Can we #FlattenTheCurve enough to reopen before snow closures?*



# Take the Burrito

- AZT 2020 Day 1, March 9, Monday
- Start Coronado National Monument at Mexico border, mile 0 (passage1mile0)
- End 1 mile north of Miller Peak (passage1mile7)
- Trail miles walked: 7

Trail angel Scott (“Train” AT2012 AZT2017) picks me up at Tuscon Airport and we stop on the way to the trailhead for burritos in Sierra Vista. It is a tradition he has with hikers, and he says that hikers that skip the burrito tend to not finish the trail.



He drops me off at the visitor’s center to Coronado National Monument, and I walk 4 miles to the border marker to start the trail



There is no border wall here because of the Huachaca Mountains, just a low barb wire fence, and an observation blimp nearby. One can see wall in the distance, further in the hike.



The hike is along a ridge with good clear views in moderate sunny weather, but later in the day clouds appear, part of a weather system to endure the rest of the week. Towards Miller Peak, climbing to altitude 9k, the air gets really cold, and just past the peak the trail is covered in snow.



The day is becoming late, but I push on to get lower in altitude and to some bare dry ground to camp.

# Canelo

- AZT 2020 Day 2, March 10, Tuesday
- Start 1 mile north of Miller Peak (passage1mile7)
- End Middle Canyon mile 31 (passage2mile10)
- Miles walked: 24

Descending the Huachaca Mountains, I meet “Bruise”, Vince, and “Lucy Lulu”.

Farewell to the vistas from the Huachacas, as we follow Parker Canyon down to the Canelo Hills, to 5k elevation.



We pass several streams, pools, and one lake, and the ground is often wet from a recent rain. Vegetation turns to pine forest, and then mixed conifer shrubs and mountain mahogany.





I meet “Butterfy” in the afternoon, a lot faster than me, but we end up camping near each other as the day ends early with rain, that continues through most of the night.

# Patagonia

- AZT 2020 Day 3, March 11, Wednesday
- Start Middle Canyon mile 31 (passage2mile10)
- End 3 miles past town of Patagonia, mile 54.1 (passage4mile2.9)
- Miles walked: 23.1

From camp the trail climbs up to a saddle, and one can look back on the east Canelo Hills.



The trail altitude profile shows a gradual descent into town, but the up-and-down rolling hills take a lot more effort than expected.





With last night's rain, plenty of pools stand and creeks flow.



I meet and pass Paul and "Best Western" a few miles from town.



Downtown Patagonia is along a long narrow park, with shops on each side facing towards the park.



The convenience store has low prices for hiker staples, and I buy enough for three days to the next town.

Wild Horse Tavern has a pleasant elevated porch where smelly hiker trash can eat outside, where I meet “Crunchmaster”, “Eagle Eye”, and Corey. Soon Paul and “Best Western” come by to chat.



Most hikers are staying in town for the night, but I continue on 3 miles out of town to national forest land to camp. Storms are expected tomorrow.



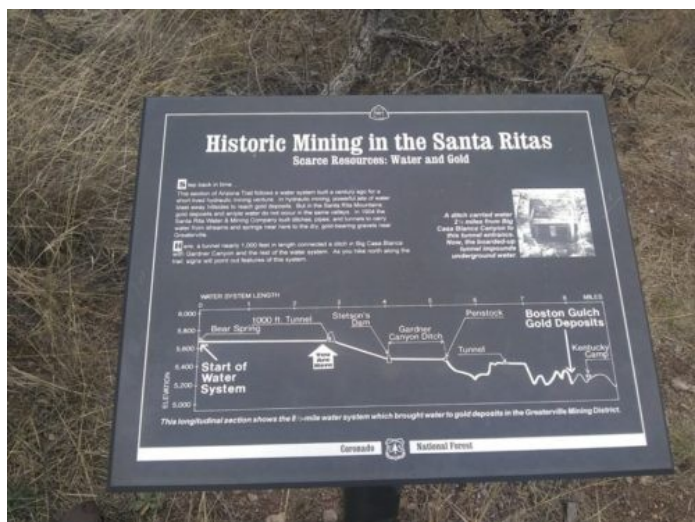
# Stetson's Gold

- AZT 2020 Day 4, March 12, Thursday
- Start 3 miles past town of Patagonia, mile 54.1 (passage 4 mile 2.9)
- End 1 mile past Kentucky Camp mile 77.7 (passage 5 mile 4.7)
- Miles walked: 23.6

The morning followed dirt road, and then one hour of trail in wilderness area, to climb 2k feet over a saddle. Intermittent light rain starts late morning.



Down the other side the trail follows Bear Spring and Bear Spring creek. Several interpretive signs tell the story of a mining operation in 1904 that takes water from Bear Spring 8.5 miles in pipes past Kentucky Camp to hydro-mine for gold.



The trail goes along an old road bed, likely put in for the mine operations. That would be a lot of rock work for a hiking trail.



At Kentucky Camp several historic buildings are open for visitors, with displays and artifacts.







Past Kentucky Camp the rain starts in earnest, and I set up camp for shelter. Rain and wind continue through the night. I did not meet any hikers going my way at all today, but did pass one tent.

# Santa Rita Mountains

- AZT 2020 Day 5, March 13, Friday
- Start 1 mile past Kentucky Camp mile 77.7 (passage5mile4.7)
- End mile 105 (passage7mile5.1)
- Miles walked: 27.3

The sun shines for the first of several days, as the trail continues on rolling hills in grassland with scattered low trees and a few cactii.





Further in the day the land seems to be more arid, with less grass, as the route gradually descends below 4k altitude.



A woman on horseback is busy marking the route of an endurance race with survey ribbon.



I meet no other thru-hikers today, but pass a couple of tents in the morning. A mountain-biker going the other direction reports several hikers, at least 6, not far ahead of me, so we may be going a similar pace.

Finished audiobook [Wodehouse in the Strand, A Short Story Collection](#), by P.G. Wodehouse.

# Vail, Colossal

- AZT 2020 Day 6, March 14, Saturday
- Start mile 105 (passage 7 mile 5.1)
- End just outside Saguaro National Park mile 126.2 (passage 8 mile 13.6)
- Miles walked: 21.2

Approaching the town of Vail and the noise of a highway the trail passes through a grouping of prickly pear, or related cactus.



The Gabe Zimmerman Trailhead was named for a legislative aide killed in a mass shooting. The trailhead is very active this morning, with many cars parked and mountain bikers, trail runners, and day hikers nearby.



I start the 6 mile road-walk into the small town of Vail, on the outskirts of Tucson, to resupply. I get picked up after a mile by a trail angel who was returning hikers to the trailhead. She takes me to Safeway, and waits a half hour until I am done and returns me to the trailhead. This is her first year as trail angel, and she often hosts hikers in her home. (I do not include her name and photo because she is a young woman living alone—brave to be taking care of so many strangers.)



The first saguaro on this trip presents itself, and many more appear throughout the day.



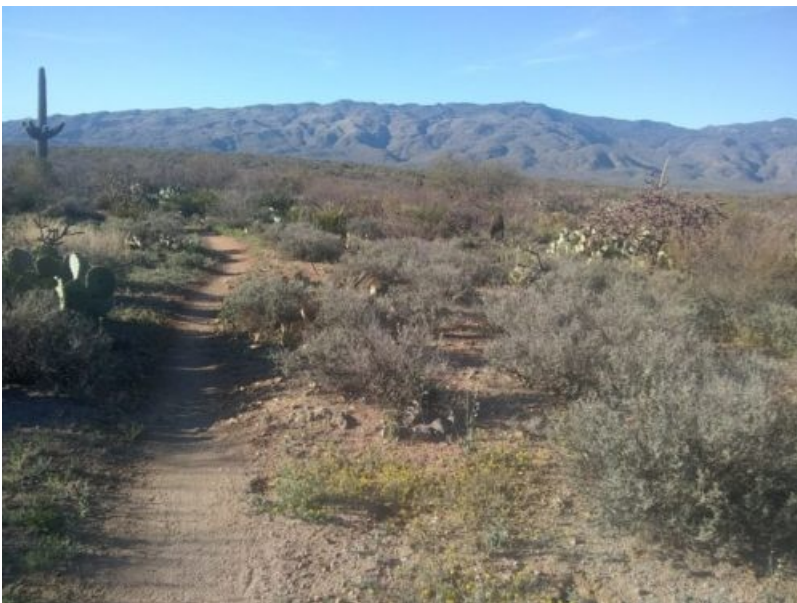


Colossal Cave Park is a private park offering cave tours. Several buildings on grounds were built by the CCC. I detour from the AZT a mile to check out the main building.



On the way up I meet “Two-Step” and “Rubiks”, and up top meet Matt ((CT twice).. Several hikers mail a supply box here, which would have saved me a read-walk if I realized before. Snacks and charging station and views are a welcome break.

Several hikers camp just on the outskirts of Saguaro National Park. Since backcountry permits are required for camping, and camping is restricted to a couple of campgrounds, most hikers will traverse the park in one day.



A huge climb on Mica Ridge is ahead tomorrow, over 5000 feet.

# Saguaro National Park

- AZT 2020 Day 7, March 15, Sunday
- Start just outside Saguaro National Park mile 126.2 (passage8mile13.6)
- End mile 148.8 near Italian Trap Trailhead (passage9mile22.3)
- Miles walked: 22.6

An early morning walk through a forest of stately spires is a good way to start the day.





A long-dead saguaro gives clues to its internal structure.



Soon begins the long steady climb up to Mica Mountain at 8666 feet, ascending into ponderosa forest.



Just beyond the summit is one of the grandest panoramas I have ever beheld, which sadly my camera cannot capture, but my eyes can.



Out of the park, the trail descends to 4k elevation, rolling grassland. What a day of contrasting environs.

Finished audiobook [Little Women](#), by Louisa May Alcott.



# Santa Catalinas

- AZT 2020 Day 8, March 16, Monday
- Start mile 148.8 near Italian Trap Trailhead (passage9mile22.3)
- End mile 173.7, half-mile to Cathedral Rock Trail (passage11mile9.4)
- Miles walked: 24.9

At the next trail junction I meet “Boomerang”, who bikes or hikes a section of trail, backtracks, and moves his van to the next section, hence the name.

The trail passes by a small lake, named “The Lake“ on maps. Is this the only natural lake on the AZT? No, not really.



After climbing up and over a saddle, I descend down to Catalina Highway, past a couple of very busy campgrounds, and enter into a series of remarkably deep canyons with steep rock walls.





I meet “Detour” (PCT2018) and a PCT personality I met before on that trail who is travelling incognito. I walked with “Incognito” a few miles, short of Cathedral Rock, since it appears several hikers were camped there and level ground beyond that point is scarce.



Finished audiobook [Tom Sawyer Detective](#), by Mark Twain.

# Summerhaven

- AZT 2020 Day 9, March 17, Tuesday
- Start mile 173.7, half-mile to Cathedral Rock Trail (passage11mile9.4)
- End mile 191.5 at road junction on Oracle Ridge (passage12mile8.7)
- Miles walked: 17.8

I passed a dozen tents near Cathedral Rock junction, where the trail starts to climb out of a box canyon.



But instead of going over the saddle, the trail turn toward one of the walls, beginning a climb up to Mount Lemmon.





During the ascent the trail goes through a maze of rounded boulders on Wilderness of Rock Trail, and finding a footpath on flat rock presents a challenge.



Later the trail follows along Lemmon Creek, with many water crossings, and finally reaches a campground and a short roadwalk into the resort town Summerhaven. I pick up my supply box at the general store, and go out to their side patio to pack, snack, recharge electronics, use wifi, and make calls.



“Detour” (PCT2018), who I met yesterday, comes by, and we chat.



He goes off to lunch and I download podcasts and snack more and somehow two or three hours have gone by. That’s the trouble with towns.



Leaving Summerhaven the trail goes along long narrow Oracle Ridge, with views on both sides.



The ridge descends very gradually, and looks to finally join some hills below, and I will find out for sure tomorrow.

# Maelstrom

- AZT 2020 Day 10, March 18, Wednesday
- Start mile 191.5 at road junction on Oracle Ridge (passage12mile8.7)
- End mile 218.6 (passage14mile11)
- Miles walked: 27.1

The trail continues along Oracle Ridge, slowly descending to the hills below. I meet “Detour”, and we walk a few miles together in conversation before he stops for breakfast.



Today we are over a quarter the way through this trip.





The route meanders along low hills in Oracle State Park, among a network of other trails.



The route makes wide turns through taller hills, named the Black Hills, for some miles, then stays along the heights, as steady rain begins.



Wind and rain threaten to overwhelm my rain gear, so I camp early. Tent stakes do not go in the hard ground. This must be the soil locals call caliche. Finally, drenched, the tent is up and I escape inside. During a brief pause in rain I go out and secure tent stakes against high winds with rocks. It is a good thing to do. All night rain and wind beat at the tent, while I cower inside, dry.

# Tortilla Mountains

- AZT 2020 Day 11, March 19, Thursday
- Start mile 218.6 (passage14mile11)
- End mile 244.9, near junction to Ripsey Ranch (passage15mile10.2)
- Miles walked: 26.3

Clouds build and threaten in the morning, but eventually the sun gets through part-time.



I saw a javelina in the morning, and several rabbits and jackrabbits through the day, not seen much earlier on the trip. A few cows are grazing, likely kept to a small number on this vegetation. Later in the day the hills flatten out, and vegetation changes somewhat—the saguaros seem to prefer slopes, and more thorny bushes grow here.





A couple of places I see dirt dug scooped up to hold water from the rain. Could this be a waller made by javelinas?





# Gila River

- AZT 2020 Day 12, March 20, Friday
- Start mile 244.9, near junction to Ripsey Ranch (passage15mile10.2)
- End mile 272.5 along Gila River (passage16mile10)
- Miles walked: 27.6

After some road and trail the route goes up a ridge between two great washes, or arroyos as we would say in New Mexico.





At the top are 360 views of mountains, canyons, and a copper mine.



Descending down to the Gila River Canyon, the route crosses a bridge and follows the Gila River. I did this river section as part of the Grand Enchantment Trail in 2017, but in the opposite direction.



Often the trail climbs high up the river canyon on switchback, then back down again, as the river winds near one side of the canyon walls and then the other. The plant diversity is awesome here. Trees and shrubs near the water are grown so thickly together that it would be nearly impossible to reach the bank of the river by bushwacking.





Here is an opportunity for crosscut saw that we do not have in my own state.



Good night.



# Superior Views

- AZT 2020 Day 13, March 21, Saturday
- Start mile 272.5 along Gila River (passage16mile10)
- End Picketpost Trailhead mile 300.5 (passage17mile11.7), and then trail angel ride into town
- Miles walked: 28

The trees at the bottom of Gila River Canyon, manzanita and willow and some mesquite, are not very green yet like the canyon walls. Perhaps it is the types of trees, or maybe they get less sunlight until the sun goes higher in the season.



The route leaves the Gila River and starts climbing into some truly splendid high canyons. The route is different than on the Grand Enchantment Trail, which explains why it all seems new to me.





After meeting hiker “Sparkly Mañana”, later I chat with cyclists Justin and Danielle.



Still later meet thru-hiker Ross, hiking a couple of sections with his mother Becky.

I take so many photos of gorgeous canyon views.







At the trailhead I meet young thru-hiker Palmer, soon to start college.



Trail angel and camp host Aliza briefs us on the irrational hoarding triggered by covid19, which will prevent hikers from resupplying in small trail towns, where store shelves are becoming bare. She arranges a ride for us into the nearby town of Superior, which I visited before on GET2017. I get my supply box from a motel to which I mailed it, but rooms are allegedly full. Palmer and I are invited into the home of trail angel MJ for the night, and we get showers, clean clothes, dinner, and good talk.







# Reavis

- AZT 2020 Day 14, March 22, Sunday
- Start Picketpost Trailhead mile 300.5 (passage 17 mile 11.7), and then trail angel ride into town
- End mile 320.6 on Reavis Ranch Trail (passage 19 mile 1.6)
- Miles walked: 20.1

Trail angel MJ brings me back to the trailhead after a substantial breakfast, and hiking starts around 9.

Our route goes up Reavis Canyon, crossing the stream several times.





ATVs and 4WDs are out today, vrooming about the canyon. Eventually the route climbs out of the canyon, with some views.





Down the passage goes on the other side, along Reavis Ranch Trail, along and often crossing a fast-flowing stream going straight down with few turns, with many exposed rocks from flooding. Burned forest along the stream has not grown back enough for ground cover to reduce erosion.



The trail here has less room to wind around and often goes straight down slope, with few erosion control features,



After crossing the fast water several times, darkness falls and I make camp on bare sand at the edge of burned low trees. Two night hikers pass by as my tent goes up.

Finished audiobook [A Prefect's Uncle](#), by P G Wodehouse.

# Superstition Wilderness

- AZT 2020 Day 15, March 23, Monday
- Start mile 320.6 on Reavis Ranch Trail (passage19mile1.6)
- End mile 342.4 forest road 341 (passage19mile23.5)
- Miles walked: 21.8

Today the route continued to cross back and forth across streams, often wet-foot crossings because the water is so high or the bank is washed out. But I don't want to include a picture of that, so here is a cool rocky bluff characteristic of the Superstitions.





The trail condition today is unusually rugged, with plenty of large rocks, poor drainage, mud, and PUDs (pointless ups-and-downs). Or maybe this is the new normal? We will see tomorrow. I could not make my usual mileage today– it was tough going, guys.



In the distance here is huge Roosevelt Lake, which perhaps we will see better tomorrow. We are really high up from surrounding lowlands, but the altitude here is only 5k, but the lowlands is so much lower.





Homer is a pack goat on a practice hike. Jason and Richard were camping with Homer at Cottonwood Creek, heading toward Picketpost, near Superior. If Jason has a good hike he will be trained as a pack animal.



I criss-crossed Cottonwood Creek for several pleasant miles. The creek just had a tiny bit of water, an unusual condition for the last couple of days.



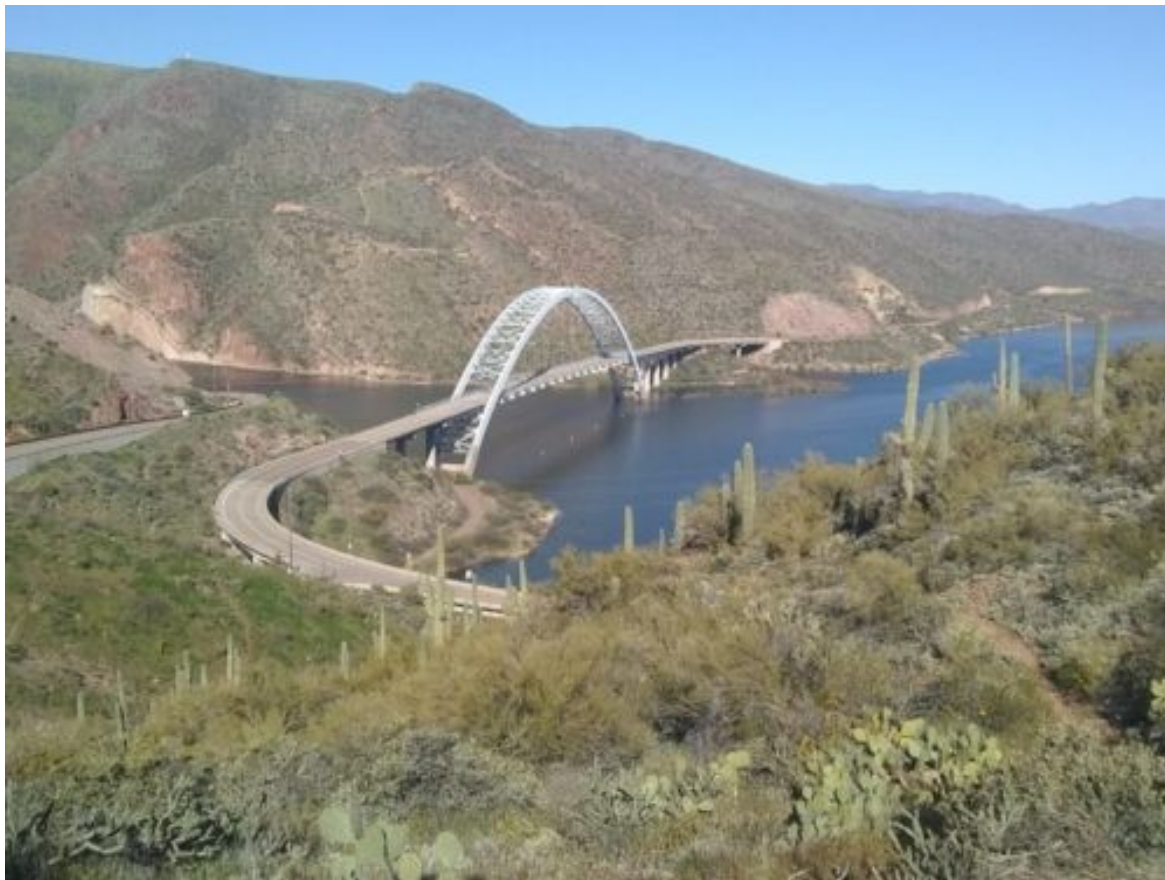
# Roosevelt Lake

- AZT 2020 Day 16, March 24, Tuesday
- Start mile 342.4 forest road 341 (passage 19 mile 23.5)
- End mile 366 near junction to Bear Spring (passage 20 mile 17.9)
- Miles walked: 23.6

Road and trail lead me to Roosevelt Lake, a man-made reservoir on the Salt River.



I do not go down to the marina for snacks or resupply, for “social distancing”. Next is walking on a suspension bridge, near the dam at the outlet of the lake.





The trail now heads west and later northwest to go around the lake. climbs a series of ridges forming a buttress to the Mazatzal Mountains.



Trail conditions today are rather good, with lopping and sawing needed on the heights. The path is often rugged, crossing many rocks and talus fields. After a 3k climb from the lake, the route actually stays fairly level going along the side of mountains.





Until darkness falls, I can still see Roosevelt Lake below.

Finished audiobook [I Will Repay](#), by Baroness Orczy.



# Pine Mountain

- AZT 2020 Day 17, March 25, Wednesday
- Start mile 366 near junction to Bear Spring (passage20mile17.9)
- End Saddle Mountain mile 396 (passage22mile9.4)
- Miles walked: 30

Several miles of dirt road, welcome after rugged trails, allows me to really stretch out legs and do some distance.

The road gradually descends, with a change to smaller trees.



A path through a series of low canyons gradually descends to a highway underpass. So many creek crossings underscores that Arizona is having a high water year, and that in other years the hike might be very different, having to worry about the next water source.

As the trail starts climbing again to Mazactal Wilderness, I meet three thru-hikers already encamped: Breadcrumb, Canyon Rat, and Everything. We chat about strategies for leaving the trail at Flagstaff because of world events.

These are the only hikers I have seen today, and previous days have likewise been missing people.





# Mazatzal Divide

- AZT 2020 Day 18, March 26, Thursday
- Start Saddle Mountain mile 396 (passage22mile9.4)
- End mile 422.9, down from rocky ridge (passage25mile19.7)
- Miles walked: 26.9

On Sheep Creek Trail are some little ravines cut by a creek, often not wide enough at the bottom for a creek and a trail, so they have to share. Sometimes it widens a bit, with an isolated stand of tall pine trees where all nearby plants are no taller than a shrub.



We are now half-way done on this 800 mile trail!



Climbing up to Mazatzal Divide Trail, the route stays up at around 6k elevation the rest of the day, going on mountainsides and crests and saddles, with curious colorful peaks of curious design, and distant views to east and west.







I am forced to set camp at high altitude, but find a site surrounded by mountain mahogany for a wind break. The sky at dusk is clear of clouds, but rain comes later.

# East Verde River

- AZT 2020 Day 19, March 27, Friday
- Start mile 422.9, down from rocky ridge (passage23mile19.7)
- End mile 450.2, FR 194 (passage25mile11.8)
- Miles walked: 27.3

Red Hills Trail shows off mountains with exposed red rock outcroppings, and hillsides covered with small broken pieces of the same rocks.



After going down and up a couple of canyons the route plunges down to East Verde River on Brush Springs Trail, losing 3k altitude. Storms threaten all around, but other than a freakish snow flurry, no rain. When the sun is blocked by clouds, the temperature plunges to new daytime lows.





A guest ranch is established near the river, and horses and mules loiter nearby. A peacock cry out.



The East Verde River is a wet-foot crossing, and the currents this year of abundant moisture are fast.



On the climb back to 6k altitude the route climbs up Hardscrabble Mesa, rocky trail, following cairns for miles.



My water bottle partially freezes in the night, inside the tent.

Finished audiobook [The Queen's Necklace](#), by Alexandre Dumas



# Pine

- AZT 2020 Day 20, March 28, Saturday
- Start mile 450.2, FR 194 (passage 25 mile 11.8)
- End Pine trailhead mile 461.1 and into town of Pine (passage 25 mile 21.8)
- Miles walked: 10.9

A light snow last night is slow to melt in the cold morning, and patches of mud on the road stay frozen until mid-morning.



Getting close to the town of Pine, tall pine forest has been thinned, presumably for fire defense.



Yesterday on the way down to the river, I got cell signal and reserved a cabin in town for a modest price. Pine is traditionally a favorite town for hikers, who tend to gather and tell tales at brewpubs and restaurants, but with covid19 most establishments are take-out. I do happen to meet two separate thru-hikers at the laundry, Ridgerunner and Barefoot, and gather intelligence.



Since the Grand Canyon routes are closed by covid19, many hikers plan to stop at Flagstaff, where there are transportation options to get off... and then get back on, the trail: plane, train, bus, interstate, car rental. That is, if we can hike from Pine to Flagstaff, with trail conditions possibly being still too muddy or snowy. I plan to try, taking advantage of several days of reasonable weather, and will turn around if it gets too bad and have family pick me up at Pine.

The cabin is nice, but water pressure is just a trickle, a problem with the town water system. Fortunately the laundromat gets water from a separate supply, so I get clean clothes, if not a hot bath.

I have a mailing mixup, my fault, but can resupply at the grocery. Some store shelves are rather bare. Everyone else in America has already experienced this in person, but I have been on trail and out of touch.

At midnight I get enough water pressure, and try out the fancy whirlpool for my sore muscles.

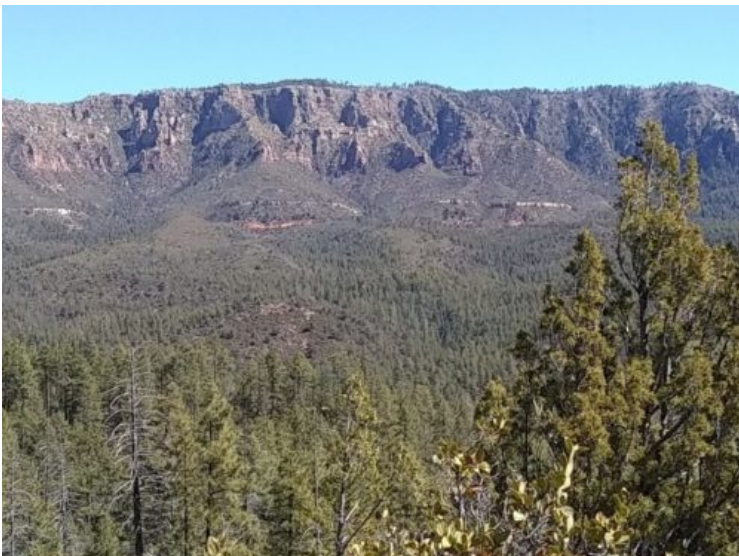
# Mogollon Rim

- AZT 2020 Day 21, March 29, Sunday
- Start Pine trailhead mile 461.1 and into town of Pine (passage 25mile21.8)
- End mile 483.8 in General Springs Canyon (passage27mile2.6)
- Miles walked: 22.7

On my walk out of Pine, a herd of elk are in front of the supermarket. Locals do not seem excited, so it must happen often.

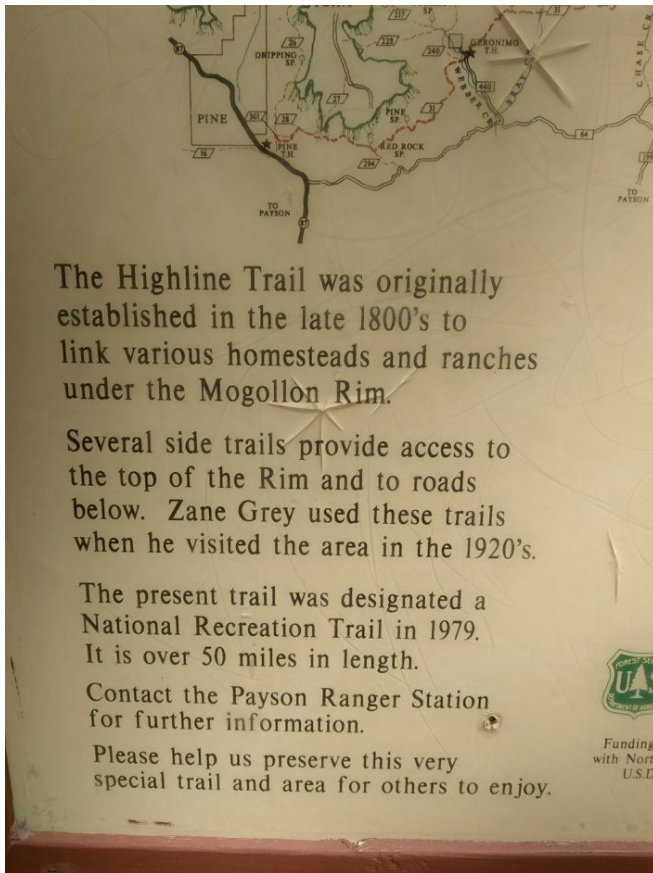


The hike today mostly is just below the Mogollon Rim, a cliff many miles long. To the south of the Rim land is mountainous, and to the north a relatively flat high plateau.





We go along the Highline Trail, first established in the late 1800s to connect local ranches and homes under the Rim.



The trail is rather hilly and rocky, requiring careful attention to hike.



I meet a couple of mountain bikers coming the other way, who report lots of mud on top of the Rim, but that is possible to hike through.

Later in the day I meet “Solo”, who just learned from a satellite message from his wife that the next supply store at Mormon Lake is closed due to covid19, and he might not have enough food to get to Flagstaff.

Climbing up on top of the Rim, going from elevation 6k to 7k, is enough for the temperature to drop noticeably, with patches of snow.





The route does not go along the edge of the Rim along the top, so no views of below are seen. The top is much more hilly than I expected, with canyons and ravines and a lot of creeks, but the flatness starts a few miles in.





# Mud

- AZT 2020 Day 22, March 30, Monday
- Start mile 483.8 in General Springs Canyon (passage27mile2.6)
- End mile 514.7 near Wild Horse Tank (passage28mile18)
- Miles walked: 30.9

In the early morning the ground is frozen, so any patches of mud in the trail are not a problem to walk on.

Further away from the Rim the terrain becomes more flat, in pine forest, with no views of distant mountains.





Later in the morning the mud on the trail becomes pretty challenging, slowing walking, too big in extent to walk around on dryer ground. Sorry, no photos, it just does not show well on camera.

Around mid-day, just past Hwy 87, the terrain changes to dryer ground, with fewer creeks and canyons. Dirt tanks start appearing as water sources for cattle, though no cows are present this early in the season, with grass barely starting to show any green sprouts.

Once the trees thin enough to see, but not photograph, distant views. Few mountains can be seen to the west, mostly just wide mesas.

As the trail get dryer, the mud becomes sticky, like clay, but is certainly easier to walk on. The route seems slightly downhill, and I can stretch legs and make some miles.

I do not see any human today, but do pass a tent just before I stop to camp.

# Not Lake Mormon

- AZT 2020 Day 23, March 31, Tuesday
- Start mile 514.7 near Wild Horse Tank (passage28mile18)
- End mile 542.7 near old railroad bed (passage30mile1.8)
- Miles walked: 28

As the terrain of our route becomes more rolling low hills, patches of snow are sheltered from the sun, extending snow melt season. The wet mud from yesterday morning returns, not everywhere, just enough to keep things interesting.



Several seasonal lakes cluster together, with frogs singing.





I meet Paul mid-day as he passes me. We discussed the Grand Canyon section of the AZT closing due to covid19. Several hikers, including myself, will get off the trail at Flagstaff, with the hope of resuming later in the year. Amtrak runs between Albuquerque and Flagstaff, making transportation easier for me if/when I can return.

Some interpretive signs chronicle the logging in this area.



This pine forest seems thinned of trees, perhaps by prescribed burns.





I bypass the 1 mile spur trail to Mormon Lake recreation area, which has a lodge and store and post office, because of covid19 closure. Views of the lake from the trail are hidden by trees.





# Lake Country AZ

- AZT 2020 Day 24, April 1, Wednesday
- Start mile 542.7 near old railroad bed (passage30mile1.8)
- End mile 565 Flagstaff. Urban Trail junction (passage31mile6.3)
- Miles walked: 22.3

The route goes by the remains of an old logging railroad from 1923.



The San Francisco Peaks above Flagstaff come into view, seen throughout the day.



Elk have made an appearance the last several mornings.





Several shallow lakes appear today on Anderson Mesa.



Far down below is Lake Mary, with a huge wetlands area.



Sandstone bluffs with curious patterns end a short hiking day, as I reserve time to do repairs on gear.



Finished audiobook [Pride and Prejudice](#), by Jane Austen, read by Karen Savage.



# Around Flagstaff

- AZT 2020 Day 25, April 2, Thursday
- Start mile 565 Flagstaff. Urban Trail junction (passage 31 mile 6.3)
- End mile 587.1, base of Little Eiden Mountain
- Miles walked: 22.1

Two choices of trail are before me. The main route goes east of Flagstaff, crosses I40, and then heads northwest until it reaches north of Flagstaff, crossing the outskirts of the city. Total is roughly 30 miles. The urban route goes straight north into town, passes near the grocery store, and continues north to meet up with the first route, about 15 miles. I suspect my family wants me to maximize social distancing (strange term), so the longer route it is.

First I explore Walnut Canyon a little, but find it too brushy. Nice rocks though.





Climbing up one side of Walnut Canyon, now on the real route, one can admire the canyon below.





For the past couple of days water sources have become less frequent, aside from tanks and lakes. Few seasonal springs, creeks, or seeps from snow melt are found in this area. A rainfall collector for wildlife uses corrugated roofing and a concrete box in a simple elegant design, my main water source for the day.



From the top of Walnut Canyon, the route follows a crest that widens into a mesa, for a pleasant level hike. When people pass each other on the trail now, each goes far over on opposite sides of the trail, trying to maintain 6 foot distance. At a trailhead, the normal log book where hikers sign in to document their location is taped off, to prevent touching pens and paper that might spread a virus.



After crossing the interstate, our trail goes through Picture Canyon Open Space network of trails, with several more interconnected trails when back on Forest Service land. The peaks to the north of Flagstaff are altered when seen from the east approach.



Near sunset, I appreciate some final views.







My family picks me up tomorrow morning, and I take a break from the AZT until we our country can “flatten curve”, or at least until the Grande Canyon trails open up again. Sure hope it happens this year, before snow starts.