



Saturday November 16, 2021

West Fork of Oak Creek in Color, Sedona

Approximately 125 Miles and 2.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: Day Hike	Max Rtg/Pts: 2/1	Elev. Change: 200 Feet	Length: 6.7 Mi or GPS
Start Time: 7:30 A.M.	Duration: 3-5 Hours	Max No of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: Oct 2017

- Major Hike:
- Cross-Country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options:
- Pass/Fees Rqd.:

	Coordinator	Alternate
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Required Equipment: Walking Stick or hiking poles. Camera! Waterproof boots or extra shoes and socks for after the hike.

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Cautions and Special Preparations:

Description: This is a hiking club favorite, an easy day hike along the West Fork of Oak Creek. The trail starts from US89A in Oak Creek Canyon about 10 miles north of Sedona, and crisscrosses the West Fork of Oak Creek through dense foliage which will hopefully be in autumn colors of red, orange, yellow, rust and browns within the red walls of the canyon. Walk slowly, take lots of pictures and enjoy! Bring snacks or lunch, and at least 1 liter of water per person. Tennis shoes are adequate for hiking, but since we will be crisscrossing the creek on rock, it is possible your feet will get wet, so waterproof hiking boots would be preferable. (If you wear tennies, you may want to bring a spare pair of socks & shoes just in case!) Walking sticks are helpful to keep your balance when crossing the creek. Carpooling is recommended due to very limited parking. Allow at least two (2) hours for the drive to Sedona plus a half hour to the parking lot. **2020 Update:** Per the Oak Creek Visitor's Center/Ranger Station: "The parking lot now opens 6:30 (earliest) to 7am as the line to get in is so long by 8am, it disrupts 89A traffic. If you get there by 8am, the lot will probably be full with a long wait line." It is recommended that you get there no later than 7 am to get a parking spot. Be sure to bring the right change as there may not be an attendant that early. The parking fee is \$11.00- up to 5 people per car (\$2.00 for each additional person). If you park & walk in, it is \$2.00 per person. **2021 Update:** There are now pylons at the entrance to the parking lot to prevent cars lining up on the 89A shoulder which will limit the number of cars in line to maybe 10. In addition there is now a no left turn sign when coming from Sedona so you must pass the parking lot entrance and travel up the canyon till you can turn around and get in line via a right hand turn. It is going to make getting into the parking lot a lot more difficult. See attached pictures. We will hike up the canyon almost 3.4 miles to a pool where we will snack and turn around. It looks like a freeze is likely on Tues night, Nov 12th. We usually see very few people on the trip in but lots of hikers on the way out. Passing people on the trail can get tight so you might want to bring your mask, not

only for the trail, but for going into town and even carpooling. Options: Go as far as you like and turn around anytime. Be sure to let the hike leader know where you turn around.

Driving Directions: North on I-17, 100 miles from central Phoenix to SR 179, turn north (left), go about 15 miles to Sedona, then turn right (north) onto US 89A, drive north of Sedona about 10 miles to just north of MP 384.0 to the parking area (on the left). **No left turn is now in effect.** Fee is charged at the parking area, car pooling is encouraged, especially with the new restrictions at the parking lot entrance. Restrooms are available at the parking lot.



View of pylons and no left turn sign when traveling north from Sedona. Parking lot attendant indicated there had been some bad accidents and the no left turn is an attempt to prevent any future accidents.



View of Pylons when traveling south toward Sedona. Cars can no longer wait in line along the shoulder. If you can't get in line with a right hand turn, you must continue south till you can turn around, come back north past the entrance, turn around again and make another run at turning right into the parking lot entrance, if there is room. Looks like a lot of potential U-turns. Be careful!