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# **Boyce Thompson Arboreum:**

# A Secret Oasis

Nestled in the heart of central Arizona, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum offers a unique blend of natural beauty, diverse plant collections, and rich history. Col. Boyce Thompson, the mining magnet who invested in the development of the Magma Mine in Superior, sought a path for a sustainable future and developed the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in parallel with his investment of the Magma copper mine. His early vision and determination created what is Arizona's oldest and largest botanical garden.

### **NUGGET**

Covering the Copper Corridor Communities of Globe, Miami, Superior, Kearny, Hayden, Winkelman, Dudleyville, Aravaipa, Mammoth, San Manuel, Oracle, SaddleBrooke and Catalina.

James Carnes	Publisher
Jennifer Carnes	Managing Editor
Michael Carnes	General Manager
Mila Besich	
John Hernandez	

#### Email:

Editorial: jenniferc@MinerSunBasin.com Advertising & Questions: michaelc@MinerSunBasin.com

### CopperArea.com

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### **Telephone**

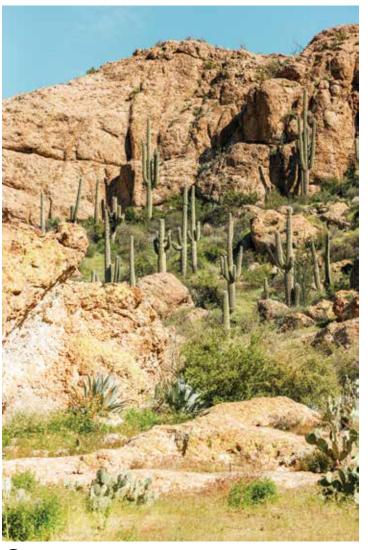
San Manuel Office: (520) 385-2266 San Manuel Office Fax (520) 385-4666 Kearny Office: (520) 363-5554 Kearny Office Fax (520) 363-9663

"We sure could use a little good news today."

— Anne Murray

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Call Mila at (520) 827-0676 or go online to: CopperArea.com and click on "Customer Service," then click on "Contact Our Advertising Department."





#### SAGUARO LANDSCAPE

Saguaro cacti dots the landscape throughout the Arboretum. Photo courtesy of BTA

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His vision to grow and study plants from across the world was not only for the beauty of plants but to study what types of foods could be grown in the world's arid deserts. Knowing that the planet may become more arid and dry, food sustainability was a key driver for his development of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. For 101 years, this oasis in the desert has been at the forefront of important plant-based research while also providing a respite and oasis for the those seeking outdoor recreation and to experience the beauty of the plants from across the world.

The Arboretum hosts diverse plant collections from around the world. Spanning 392 acres, the Arboretum showcases over 3,900 taxa and 19,000 plants representing deserts from the United States, Mexico, Australia,

Madagascar and more. Notable collections include the Australian Deserts Exhibit, featuring one of the largest stands of eucalyptus trees in North America, and the Cactus and Succulents Garden, home to rare and endangered species.

With 4.7 miles of trails winding through gardens representing 11 different regions, visitors can immerse themselves in the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. The High Trail offers a more strenuous hike with panoramic views, while the main trail provides an accessible route through diverse plant exhibits.

One of the unique plants growing at the Arboretum is the Boojum Tree, which resembles a tree that might be in Dr. Seuss book. These trees will captivate your imagination with it's unusual upside-down shape and towering presence. Take the time to visit the Boojum Cove along the Main Trail to truly experience this whimsical tree. The Boojum Tree is a remarkable specimen, and is native to the Baja California and Sonora region of Mexico.

Visiting the Demonstration Gardens will provide a plethora of gardening and landscaping ideas that look lush and colorful, while utilizing plants that are drought tolerant. These garden demonstrations also provide many

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Quick Tip - Use your panoramic setting on your phone camera to take a full photo of the oldest eucalyptus trees, known as "Mr. Big".



### **LOCAL WILDLIFE**

Lizards, gray foxes and coatimundi call the Boyce Thompson Arboretum home. Their wildlife cameras have caught these normally shy animals on film. Photos courtesy of BTA





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### **Arboretum**

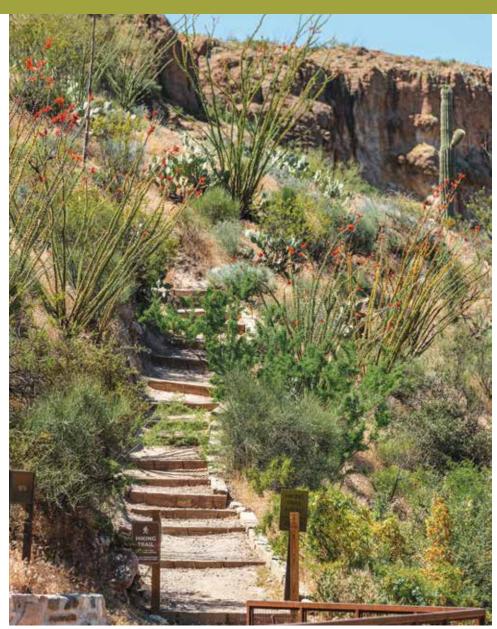
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wonderful places to sit for a respite, read or sketch.

If a self guided walk is not what you are looking for, the Arboretum offers a variety of guided tours which can help you immerse your self in knowledge in addition to enjoying this outdoor masterpiece. Tours include the Edible & Medicinal Plant Tour, Birding Walk and the Geology Walk. These tours provide insights into the practical uses of desert plants and the geological features of the area. Tours are subject to availability and can be registered for at the admission window. In addition to guided walks, there are a variety of classes and events hosted throughout the year, from meditational activities such as forest bathing, yoga classes and floral design classes and one of the signature annual events is the Flavor Festival!

Stay on the look out during your walk through the Boyce Thompson Arboretum – you might just see a variety of desert wildlife! Early morning and late afternoons, visitors may see an occasional Big Horn Sheep, the playful and determined Coati family, and of course rabbits and squirrels all live happily in this oasis. The Arboretum is designated as an Important Bird Area. The Arboretum and the adjacent Arnett and Queen Creeks are known for spectacular birding opportunities. A stop at Ayer Lake on the Main Loop Trail is a treat in the desert, watching ducks and birds enjoy the lake. Additionally, Ayer Lake is providing an important habitat for the endangered Blue Pupfish.

Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a history buff, or simply seeking a peaceful retreat, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum offers a multifaceted experience that highlights the beauty and diversity of desert landscapes. For a truly immersive experience, make a reservation to stay at the "Hill House" short term rental, a two-day minimum is required. Stay in the know on all of the many activities and programs at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum by visiting



### **THE HIGH TRAIL**



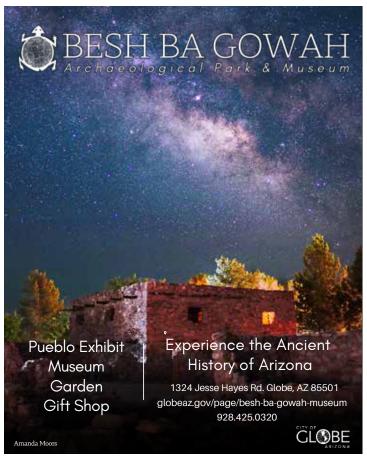
One of the hiking trails at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Photo courtesy BTA

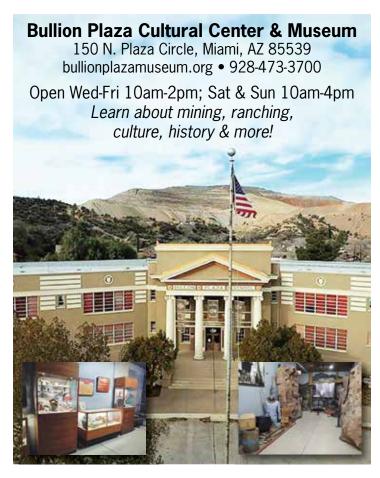
their website: www.btarboretum.org
Admission prices are \$24.95 for
Adults and Youth ages 13-17. Children
ages 5-12 are \$10. Members and
children under 5 are not charged
an admission. The Arboretum has
many membership categories to
accommodate almost everyone's
budget. Membership is a great way
to enjoy the Arboretum year around.
Hours do change throughout the year.
October through April hours are 8 a.m.
to 5 p.m. 7 days a week. In May, the

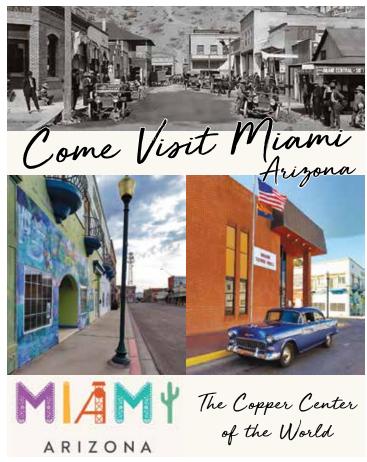
Arboretum reverts to Summer Hours to allow guests to visit during the cooler morning hours. May: Open daily from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. June through August, the park is open 6 a.m. to noon Wednesday through Monday (CLOSED TUESDAYS). September, the Arboretum is open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. (CLOSED TUESDAYS). Last admissions are one hour before closing. The Arboretum is closed on the following holidays: Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

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# Off-road Adventure in the Copper Corridor

Jennifer Carnes Pinal Nugget

# Adventure can take many forms: hiking, biking, horseback riding. The idea is to just get moving and experience the great outdoors.

For some, this adventuring comes in the form of a UTV/ATV. Three communities in the Copper Corridor have these machines for rent. Topo Joes in Globe is one.

Topo Joes sits conveniently in the historic district of Globe along with several restaurants, boutiques and art galleries. Their private parking lot ensures you will have a place to put your vehicle. The forest road system is at least less than a mile from their door. Looking for a place to stay

or camp? Topo Joes can assist with multiple options. Owned and staffed by multigenerational friendly faces, they can help you get the most out of the area!

The *Pinal Nugget* reached out to experienced off-roader Kevin Carnes for a trail suggestion.

What is the name of the trail and how do you find it? Where is the parking for this trail?

Montana Mountain Loop. I found it on Fun Treks (https://funtreks.com) years ago. There are a couple of places to park. You can access the loop from Hewlitt Station (Queen Valley Rd.) or right across US Hwy. 60 from the Boyce Thomson Arboretum.

How advanced is the trail? How much experience do you need to have for this ride?

This trail is rated easy by Fun Treks so not a lot of experience is needed for this one.

What kind of vehicle do you need to safely do this trail?

Any side by side will safely complete this loop or a lifted



#### **ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE**

The Montana Mountain Loop requires an All Terrain Vehicle like this one: a 2014 Polaris RZR 1000. Photo by Kevin Carnes





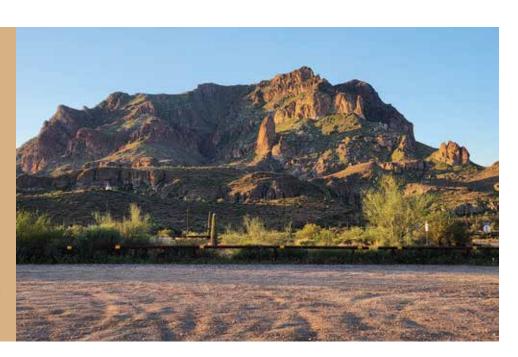
### **TRAIL**

A long view of the Montana Mountain Loop. Photo by Kevin Carnes



#### **PARKING WITH A VIEW**

Parking for the Montana Mountain Loop is directly across US Hwy. 60 from the Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior. Picket Post Mountain in full view. Photo by Kevin Carnes



4X4 at the very least. Is the trail open to the public?

The trail is open to the public.

How long is the ride?

The loop is 29 miles.

you climb in elevation.

What is the terrain like on this particular trail? This trail is rocky in places with a lot of switch backs as What is the coolest thing about this trail?

The coolest thing about this trail is the foliage changes as vou climb.

How do you find the

trails you choose? Is there an app and, if so, what is it?

Fun Treks has a lot of GPS treks that you can download

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# GET OUT IN GLOBE WITH TOPO JOES!

## **FULL SERVICE BICYCLE & OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SHOP**



Dedicated to enhancing your outdoor experience in our area, Topo Joes is located in the historic downtown district of Globe. Offering beginner to advanced Mountain bike, BMX, eBike sales, service, and rental with shuttle service for anyone looking to hit local routes and trails in the Pinal Mountains.

Topo Joes is also a Polaris Elite Adventure Outfitter with late model, top notch side by sides to explore the area. AZBDR riders, overlanders, off-road groups and outdoor lovers all welcome to stop and share their adventure!















# Your Adventure 4 **Itinerary: Explore** Superior, Arizona

Elevate your spirit of adventure and spend a day in Superior! Savor local flavors, discover colorful streets. connect with friendly locals and make new memories in our vibrant small town.

#### **MORNING: FUEL UP & HIKE**

Grab breakfast at Gypsy Sisters or Mountainside Coffee, then hit the Legends of Superior Trails at Picketpost Mountain for breathtaking views.

#### MIDDAY: NATURE & OFF-ROADING

Stroll Boyce Thompson Arboretum or rev up with Superior UTV Rentals for an off-road adventure.

#### AFTERNOON: SOAR & STROLL

Take flight with Superior Soaring for epic aerial views or wander historic downtown for shops and murals. Delight in a tasty lunch at Bellas Cafe on Main Street.

### **EVENING: SUNSET MAGIC & DINNER**

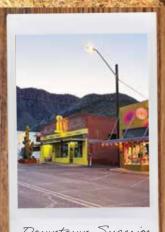
Catch a stunning Superior sunset, then enjoy drinks and a meal at a downtown favorite such as Porter's Saloon & Grill or Silver King Smokehouse & Saloon.



Your day in Superior is waiting - start 뭐 planning now!

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Downtown Superior



Picketpost Mountain





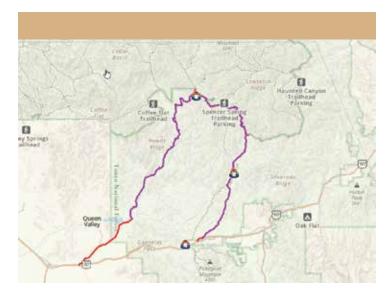
Legends of Superior Trails



Superior Soaring



Superior UTV Rentals



### **MONTANA MOUNTAIN LOOP**

A map of the Montana Mountain Loop can be found online at: https://offroadpassport.com/forums/topic/5905-sat-9182021-montana-mountain-loop-near-gold-canyon-azeasy-to-moderate/

## Off-Road

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for free (one at a time) or a card can be purchased. I use ONX maps myself (https://www.onxmaps.com).

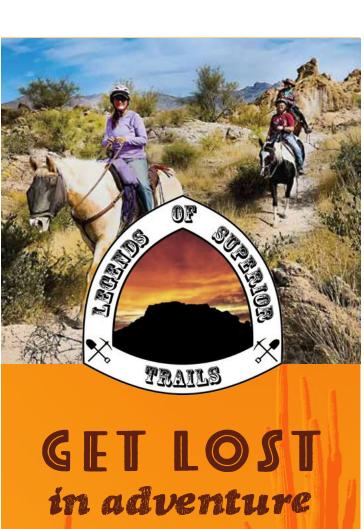
Are there any other trails in the Copper Corridor area that you would recommend?

Box Canyon and Walnut Canyon are also cool trails in the area.



### ON THE TRAIL

Bring a camera with you when you go on the Montana Mountain Loop. Photo by Kevin Carnes

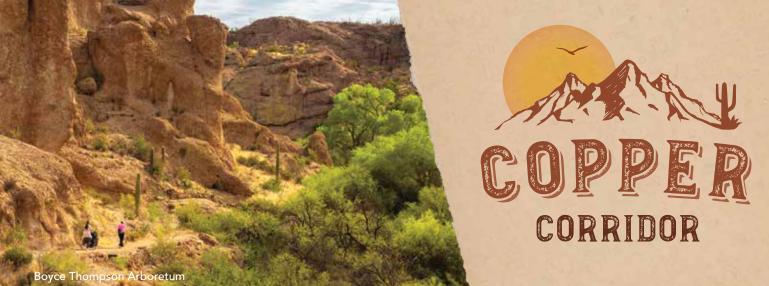


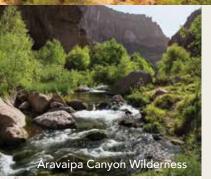
Journey through history and nature on the 11.65-mile Legends of Superior Trails—perfect for hiking, biking, and horseback riding through Superior and the stunning Sonoran Desert!

#lostinsuperior



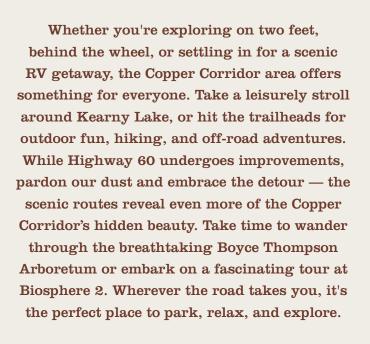
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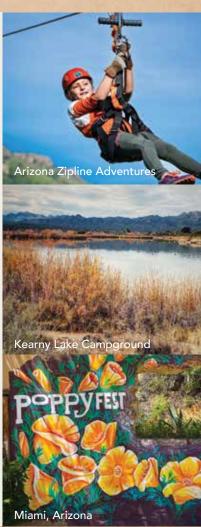




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