

Coronado National Forest

Huachuca Mountains

Miller Canyon Trail #106



Trails

A fine riparian area, plenty of evidence of the area's mining past and good views from the Huachuca Crest are some of the rewards you'll reap along this trail. After detouring around a piece of private property, the trail drops back into Miller Canyon to follow what was once an old mining road. The trail passes the remains of the townsite of Palmerlee and a number of abandoned mining digs as it slants steadily up the canyon. Down in the bed of Miller Creek, which usually has water in it year-round, you'll be able to see lengths of the old carbon steel pipe that were placed here in the nineteenth century to carry water to the boomtown of Tombstone.

Along lower stretches of the trail, large old sycamore trees shade the streambed, and sunlight filters down through the limbs of tall Douglas firs. There are a number of bigtooth maples along the streambed in this area, too, making it a colorful place to visit in mid to late October when the leaves of these trees paint the canyon in hues of orange, red, and yellow.

After crossing the stream several times, the trail switchbacks its way up the north side of the canyon into an area that was burned by a large forest fire in 1977. Here you'll find good views down-canyon of the San Pedro Valley and the Mule Mountains around Bisbee while Miller Peak stands high above the canyon rim to the southwest. From this point, the trail continues to climb, visiting the stream a couple of more times and passing several more old mine sites before it intersects the Crest Trail #103 high in the Huachucas.

To reach the summit of **Miller Peak**, follow the Miller Canyon Trail to its intersection with the Crest Trail. Turn left on the Crest Trail for 1.6 miles and continue onto the Miller Peak Spur Trail for 0.5 miles to the summit. Total distance from the trailhead to the summit of Miller Peak (elev. 9,466') is 5.6 miles.

Attractions:

Views of peaks and valley
Historic mining area
Fall colors
Access to Huachuca Crest

Season: Spring, summer, fall

Length: 3.5 miles

Elevation: 5,800'-8,600'

Rating: More difficult

Use: Moderate

USGS Map(s): Miller Peak

Access: Drive south of Sierra Vista on AZ Highway 92 about 9 miles to the Miller Canyon Road (FR 56). Follow FR 56 to the parking area at the end of the road.

Notes: Purification of water is recommended prior to use. 3.3 miles of this trail are within the Miller Peak Wilderness.

Motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment, including mountain bikes, are not permitted in Wilderness. See the Wilderness section of this guide for more wilderness rules and ethics.

Before using this trail, call the Sierra Vista Ranger District for current trail conditions, which can vary with season, weather and maintenance status.

For further information contact: Sierra Vista Ranger District, 4070 South Avenida Saracino, Hereford, Arizona 85615, (520) 378-0311.