



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail

Arizona



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To say that the connected rail-trails of Prescott are oases in sun-baked, north-central Arizona is no exaggeration. Wherever water touches this arid landscape—and it does along the Peavine and Iron King trails—jade cottonwoods cluster, popping out against the desert's pale yellow and burnt brown palette. And, at 5,300 feet above sea level, with cool breezes tempered by hot sunshine, Prescott is an ideal place for trail trips in the late winter and spring.

About the Route

The southern end of the 6-mile Peavine Trail begins just south of Watson Lake at the gravel parking lot by the lush

Watson Woods Riparian Preserve. The crushed stone and dirt trail runs through a sea of green as it traverses the preserve. Through the trees it's even possible to hear the rush of nearby Granite Creek, swollen after a bout of rain.

A mile in, the trail leaves the preserve and curves around the southern end of Lake Watson to reach the Granite Dells, massive mounds of weather-beaten rock. This natural formation is a big tourist draw. Passing through the cool cuts in the granite, visitors are enfolded in a kind of castle of desert stone.

All along this route water leaches from cracks in the rock walls and improbable, hearty flowers—red and yellow—pop from the crevasses. The temptation to scramble up the smooth, stony inclines for a scenic vista is keen, but no sight is more arresting than the perfectly framed view of far-off Granite Mountain over Lake Watson.

Continuing northward, the trail follows the former Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railway corridor that fed into Prescott, once the territorial capital of Arizona and famous for its copper mining. Wooden decking and railroad ties lie scattered along the trail. At mile 3 and the Point of Rocks, the railroad's ghost is impossible to miss. Here the trail passes through a cut made for trains in a tall, sheer rock cluster. A trailside historical marker shows a photo of the identical view, taken some 100 years earlier. In the photo a hulking engine chugs through the pass.

Beyond Point of Rocks, there is a fork in the trail. Head left to continue on the Peavine Trail to its end point near the Prescott Municipal Airport (Ernest A. Love Field). Along the way, there is a gravel-covered railroad bridge, where a two-lane country road (AZ-89A) runs beneath the trail and private property spreads in vast tracts beyond. As tantalizing as the call of the open range might be, don't consider trespassing. Instead, head back to that fork in the road, turn right to hop on the [Iron King Trail](#).



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail

Arizona

States: Arizona

Counties: Yavapai

Length: 6miles

Trail end points: North of AZ-89A (Prescott) to Peavine Trailhead (1624 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott)

Trail surfaces: Ballast,Cinder,Crushed Stone,Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail runs between just north of AZ-89A and the Peavine Trailhead (1624 Sundog Ranch Rd, Prescott), where there is paid parking available.

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



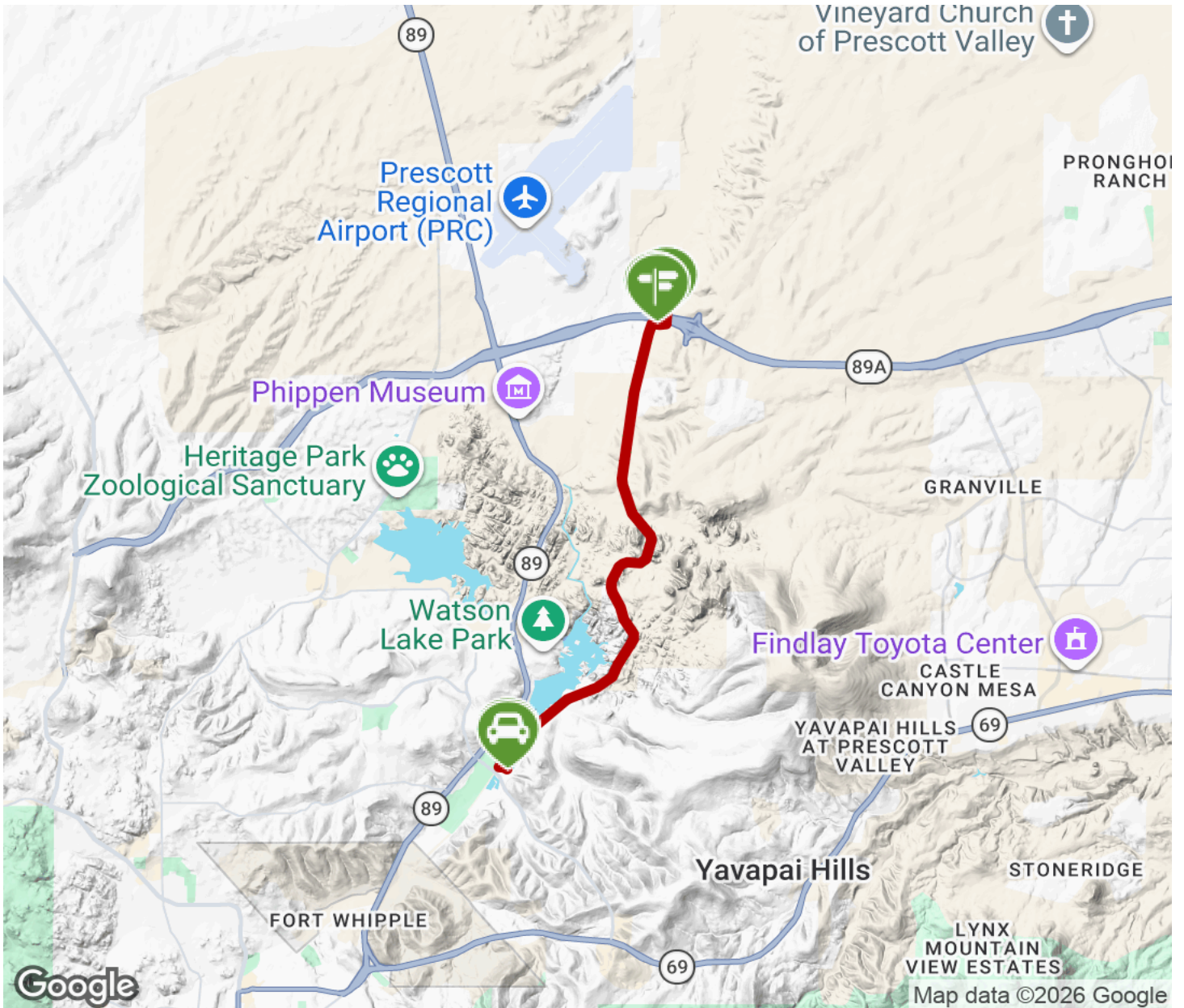
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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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