

# THE MOGOLLON RIM: ARIZONA'S HIDDEN BEAUTY

Carved majestically out of the high-desert landscape, the Mogollon Rim – extending from tributaries of the Grand Canyon to Sante Fe, New Mexico – is a wilderness rampart of exceptional beauty. From Pine to Young, Arizona, the Rim's face is rarely less than a near-vertical drop of 1200 feet, and at many overlook points its height is close to 2000 feet above the mountains that stretch across Tonto Basin. Traveling through the gorges, exposed walls of horizontally layered sedimentary rock attest to the dynamic upheaval that occurred on a young and vigorous Earth millions of years ago.

South of Show Low, Arizona, the steep edge is blanketed by the remains of recent volcanism. Forming the White Mountains, the once-molten blanket hides much of the Plateau's edge as it winds into New Mexico.

Around 1600, the Rim country and the adjacent mountains in New Mexico became known as the Mogollones, named for Juan Iguacio Flores Mogollon, a Spanish governor and captain general of New Mexico, at the time a part of New Spain.

Mogollon Rim Road (Forest Road 300) is a perfect place to enjoy a scenic drive and stop for lookouts. Fourteen miles east of Kohl's Ranch on Highway 260, turn left just as you reach the top of the Rim. Vista points along the way provide an awesome view of the Tonto National Forest below. Fishing in the lakes, picnicking, camping, boating, hiking and wildlife-viewing are just a few of the attractions along the way. Though sometimes rough and narrow, and not maintained through the winter, the road can be traveled in a passenger vehicle under normal conditions at an average speed of 25 mph.

And along with the natural beauty of the drive, the Rim Road itself is a twisting, graveled legacy to settlers and the United States Cavalry. With only minor changes, much of General Cook's road is still being used today.

