

Courtesy of  
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# AUTUMN COLORS

## DRIVING & HIKING MAP



### SYCAMORES

These are very common and usually found along streams or mountain washes. They can be found throughout the mountains of southern Arizona, along the high desert washes in the Tonto National Forest and the Superstition Wilderness Area northeast of Apache Junctions, the Sycamore Wilderness Area north of Jerome and all along the jumbled-up terrain stretching from Prescott to Safford.

**DRIVE TOUR**  
 Forest Service Road 300: Top of Rim, drive through ASPENS: Turn left at Wood Canyon Lake Road.

### WILLOWS, ASH AND WALNUTS

Like cottonwoods and sycamores, these desert trees can be found along streams and dry washes. Leaves tend to be narrow and yellow or silver.



Walnut

### HIKE TOUR

#### Horton springs Trail 292

Rating: Most Difficult \* Length: 1.5 miles  
 The lower half of this trail is a steep, rocky side hill with switchbacks. Not recommended for horses. Easiest access is from forest Road 300, 15.7 miles west of Hwy 260. The trail sign is on the south side of the road.



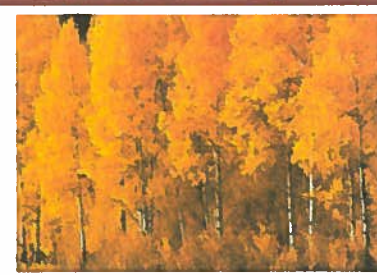
### SUMAC

A small, bush like tree, sumac is found in the ponderosa pine forests. Sumac has the reddest leaves of any tree. You can find it beside forest roads where, when its leaves change, its crimson colors make it an easily seen standout.

### HIKE TOUR

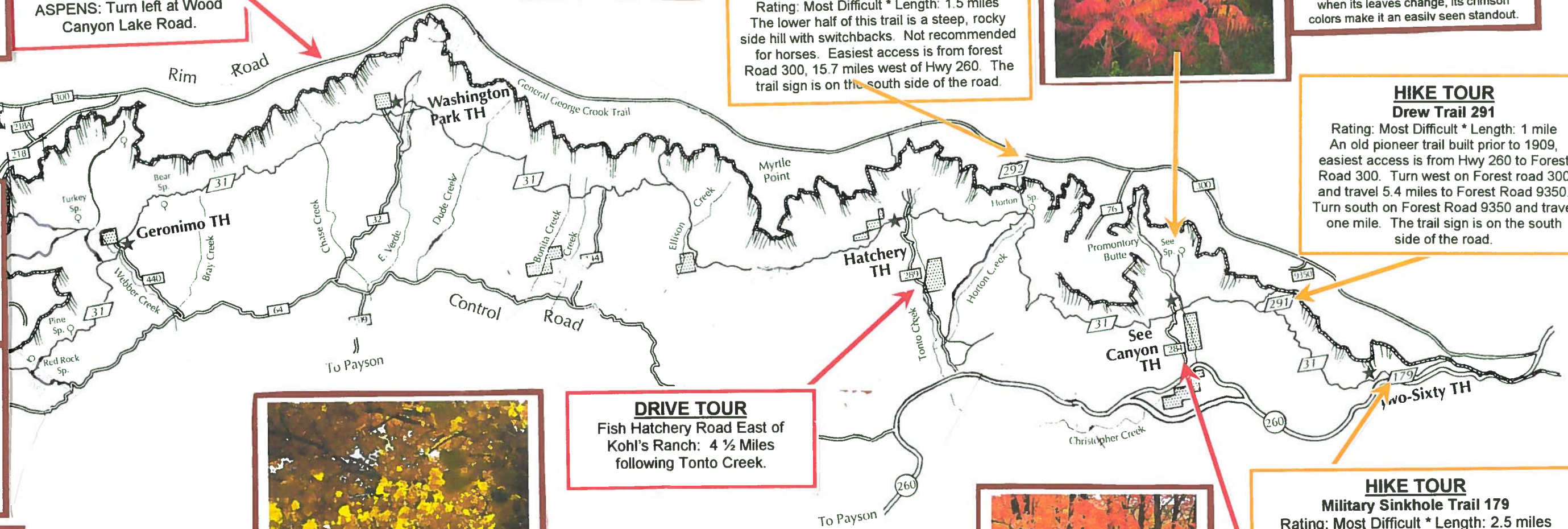
#### Drew Trail 291

Rating: Most Difficult \* Length: 1 mile  
 An old pioneer trail built prior to 1909, easiest access is from Hwy 260 to Forest Road 300. Turn west on Forest road 300 and travel 5.4 miles to Forest Road 9350. Turn south on Forest Road 9350 and travel one mile. The trail sign is on the south side of the road.



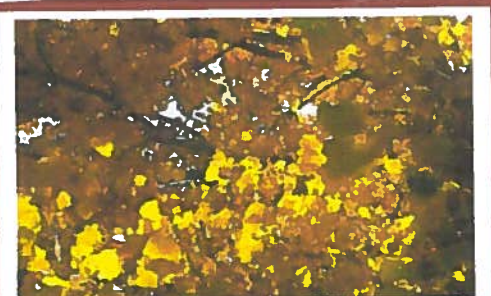
### ASPEN

These are almost always found at altitudes of 6,000 feet and above. Look for gold-leaf, silver trunk trees in the mountains, particularly along the Mogollon Rim, Flagstaff, the White Mountains and the North Kaibab National Forest. My favorite area is U.S. 666 above Clifton, especially the section between Hannagan Meadow and Nutrioso



### DRIVE TOUR

Fish Hatchery Road East of Kohl's Ranch: 4 1/2 Miles following Tonto Creek.



### COTTONWOODS

Leaf lovers often ignore the cottonwood tree. However, in its full-blown golden colors, it is a magnificent sight. Cottonwoods are common and are found throughout the mountains and deserts below the Mogollon Rim. Look for them along rivers, streams and dry washes. Best areas are along the Verde River, especially above and below Camp Verde, along the Salt and Gila rivers and in all the drainages of Pima, Cochise, Graham and Santa Cruz counties. The most magnificent cottonwoods are the ancient, towering giants along the Cienega (wet meadow) next to the small town of Arivaca, west of Nogales.



### BOX ELDERS

This is a rather rare tree in Arizona. The leaves are colorful and are considered close behind the maple in overall beauty. Look in the Pine Mountain Wilderness Area, Oak Creek and in the Verde Valley.



### MAPLES

I believe maples have the best fall color, although they are hard to find in any great numbers. There are some in Oak Creek Canyon, a few in the deep canyons off the Senator Highway above Prescott, a grove or two along the road to Pine Mountain Wilderness Area east of Douglas and some in the Sierra Ankh Wilderness Area.

### HIKE TOUR

#### Military Sinkhole Trail 179

Rating: Most Difficult \* Length: 2.5 miles  
 The trail starts on the Rim near the military road built by Gen. George Crook. Access is from either 260 trail head off Forest road 300; 1.9 miles west of Hwy 260 (at the scenic vista parking lot)

### DRIVE TOUR

Forest Service 284 Road: Across from Tall Pines Market in Christopher Creek, 2 miles to stand of Maples. Look down on colorful OAKS & MAPLES.

### OAK

Arizona's are smaller than the majestic oaks of New England and The Midwest. Sometimes they look more like a bush. They occupy differing habitats, including high desert chaparral, ponderosa pine forests and canyon bottoms. Oak Creek Canyon, near Sedona, is perhaps the best-known location for oaks. They also can be found throughout the belt of ponderosa pine that clothes the Mogollon rim from I-17 to Alpine. Also, look in the Prescott National Forest and in all of the "mountain islands" found in the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona

