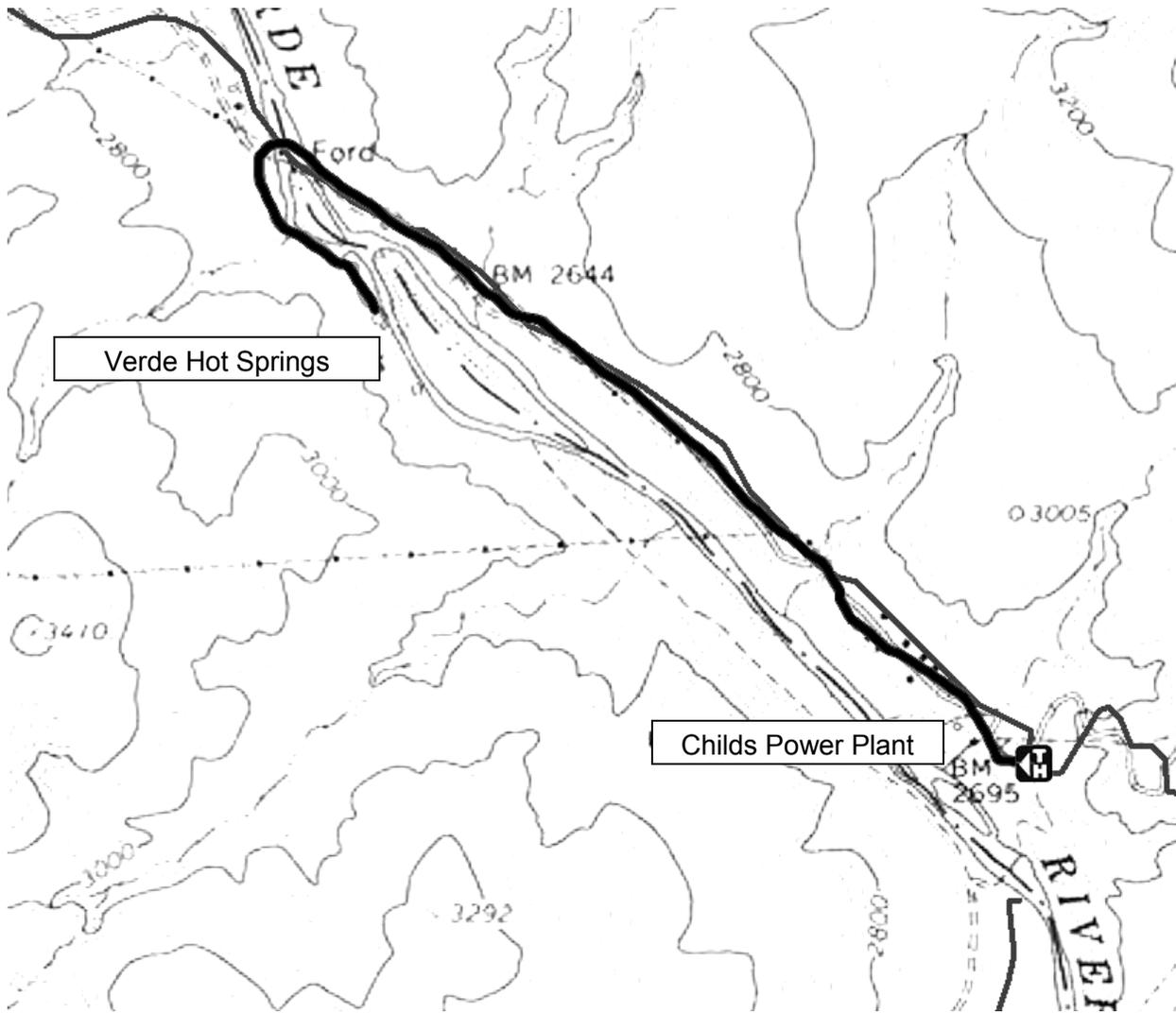


Coconino National Forest Trail Guides - Verde Hot Springs Trail



Length: 3miles (round trip)

Rating: Easy

Use: infrequent

Season: Summer during low water season

Hiking time: 2 hours (round trip)

Cumulative Elevation: 1860 ft.

USGS Maps: Fossil Creek

Notes: No mechanized vehicles allowed beyond closed gate.

For more information contact: Red Rock Ranger District, P.O. Box 20429, Sedona AZ 86341, (928) 203-2900

This trail takes you to the remains of an old resort that burned down in the early sixties. People came to enjoy the hot springs out in the middle of nowhere. Today you can hike to the area and enjoy the cement formed pool free of charge. You must cross the Verde River, this is potentially dangerous. Beware of flooding. It's best to wait several days after the last rain to let any runoff pass through. The natural hot springs are at the end of a 20 mile drive on a very narrow, rough road and a short hike. From Sedona, plan a full day.

From the old Childs Power Plant gate follow the old roadway up-stream to the low river crossing. Power lines cross the river twice on the way up. There are large red metal balls in the middle marking the power lines for low flying aircraft. The second power line is near the crossing just past a fish sign. Also on the way up you will see a palm tree or two on the other side of the river marking the old resort. You must pass the trees and continue on upstream where the road dips into the creek. The reason you pass the resort and come back down is because the river is shallow and you might not have to swim.

Once on the other side continue back downstream to the hot springs. I'm not really a hot springs nut. I've seen a number in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Nevertheless it was interesting. There is a small cave. Water channels out and over into the pool through a small cement canal. I dipped my feet into the pool basically to wash off the sand from the trail. Yep it was warm. Just as I was beginning to enjoy the moment a woman popped up out of the

Access: Take Interstate 17 to exit 287 and turn East on State Route 260 (towards Payson) drive for about 8 miles to the intersection of Forest Road 708(dirt, MP228.5). Turn right (towards Childs) and continue about 16 miles to intersection of Forest Road 502 Turn right on FR502(high clearance vehicle recommended) and continue 6.3 miles to a dispersed camping area next to the Verde River, park here and look for trail signs to the north follow river bank north about a mile to un-bridged river crossing. Cross river, into the Tonto NF, by wading knee to waist deep water (**cross at your own risk! it can be dangerous, do not attempt during high water times**) then head down stream to the former resort sight and springs near river. Trail is 1.5 miles one way. This is not a managed site. Please respect private property rights.