

## **LOOP TRAILS RECOMMENDED TO BE HIKED UP TO THE RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK THEN DOWN TO THE CREEK BOTTOM**

**LOOP 1** • 2 1/2 miles round trip • to Castle Creek Trail (.2 miles) • little shade • easy - moderate • must follow cairns

Follow RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK TRAIL. After about 3/4 mile there is a trail sign to the right. The trail goes down a steep hill, makes a sharp right, hooks around the bottom of the hill then makes a sharp left. Follow the cairns down the ridge (stacked rocks are visible from each other). This moderately easy hike will take you along the top of a drainage where you can see the delicate red rock formations created by years of erosion. Watch for the trail as it dives off to the left and down into the creek bottom where you can cool your feet in the running water, and stop for a snack. Turn right to return down the CASTLE CREEK TRAIL back to the lodge.

**LOOP 2** • 3 1/2 miles round trip • little shade • moderate • Views of Creek and Balancing Rock  
Follow RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK TRAIL past LOOP 1. Follow the trail sign to the right and stay right. Follow the cairns (stacked rocks are visible from each other) They will lead you near a cliff edge where red rock formations have been carved by wind and water. Just beyond the ridge to the south Balancing Rock will be visible. You may hear the call from a Canyon Wren, or have lizards accompany you on your hike. As you descend down the first ridge watch for loose rocks, and keep your eye on the trail below. Past the ridge you will find an easy walk to the left down into the creek bottom. Turn right to follow the CASTLE CREEK TRAIL back to the lodge.

**CASTLE VALLEY OVERLOOK** • 2 1/2 miles one way • difficult • no shade • nice views  
This hike is for those wanting a little more adventure. The trail winds along the base of the mountain to an impressive view of Castle Rock. Three other trails fork off of this one. Easiest return is back down the same trail.

**BALANCING ROCK** • 2 miles one way (0.2 miles off main trail) • dead end • easy • shade under balancing rock • nice viewpoint  
Follow RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK TRAIL to CASTLE VALLEY OVERLOOK TRAIL, then look for a trail sign to the right. The trail will lead you down a ridge to a impressive balancing rock structure. There you can rest in the shade and watch hikers and horseback riders below. THIS IS A DEAD END Please do not attempt to go down here, there are dangerous cliffs below!

**LOOP 3** • 4 1/2 miles round trip • Advanced Hikers only • little shade • Extraordinary Views • Loops to Castle Creek Trail • Follows cairns (stacked rocks) in some parts  
Follow RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK TRAIL past LOOP 1 & 2, and past BALANCED ROCK VIEWPOINT TRAIL. After the trail makes the first steep descent look to your right for the trail sign. The trail is a steep switchback down the talus slope to the base. Then it follows the drainage to Onion Springs. There you will see a small spring oozing from the slick rock where the water has stained the rock surface with minerals. You may see toads, lizards, and deer. Notice the contrast of the area where the dark red sandstone and white stone meet. From the spring you will follow the trail down the drainage where it will join the creek bottom. Turn right to follow the CASTLE CREEK TRAIL back to the lodge.

**CASTLE ROCK LOOP TRAIL** • 5 miles round trip • amazing view of Castle Rock •  
Follow RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK TRAIL past LOOP 1 & 2, past BALANCED ROCK VIEWPOINT and past LOOP 3. Continue up the trail a bit farther to the CASTLE VALLEY OVERLOOK where you can enjoy the cool breeze and stop for lunch. You may return down the same trail, or if you want a little longer loop return down the trail to the right (it is very steep with loose rocks). The CASTLE ROCK LOOP TRAIL goes down the talus slope and then veers left where you will follow stacked rocks down the slick rock drainage to the creek bottom. Turn right and follow the CASTLE CREEK TRAIL back to the main lodge.



## **TRAILS**

(ALL TRAILS BEGIN AT THE LODGE ENTRANCE)

- Tread Lightly
- Bring Plenty Water (1 gallon/person)
- Pack it in - pack it out
- Be aware of your time
- Horses have right of way
- Let someone know where you are
- Bring a salty snack
- Watch for loose rocks
- Stay on Trails
- Allow space for wildlife

**Welcome to Red Cliffs Lodge! For your convenience we have created some hiking trails that start right here at the lodge! Trails range in difficulty, so read the descriptions provided. Be sure to stop by the gift shop to pick up snacks, water, sun protection, and a camera. Enjoy your adventure!**

**PLEASE USE THE RED CLIFFS LODGE ACCESS TRAIL TO BEGIN ALL HIKES (AVOID CROSSING THE HWY).** The Red Cliffs Lodge access trail starts at the main entrance of the lodge. Go straight across the driveway and through the 'Corrals and Trails' archway and follow the fence to the left down the driveway until you reach a man gate. Go through the man gate and turn right (same way to the horse corrals). BEFORE CROSSING THE CREEK turn left and follow the path next to the creek (UNDER THE BRIDGE) to the trail head markers.

**CASTLE CREEK TRAIL** • 1 3/4 miles one way • Easy to moderate • shade/sun • close to creek  
From the trail head markers follow trail sign on the left. The trail starts up the road and passes the maintenance buildings. Before the road crosses the creek follow the trail sign to the left where the trail turns into a single track. At first you will hike above the creek where you can hear the rushing water, see the birds, and smell the sweetness of the trees below, then the trail will drop down to the creek bottom where the water meanders. Intermittent shade, creek crossings and the cool breeze will keep you refreshed on this hike. You may stop to have a picnic, or soak your toes in the cool water. The trail ends approximately 2 miles upstream. Return using the same trail, or for the more adventurous hikers you can link into one of the other 4 loops provided.

**RED CLIFFS OVERLOOK** • 2 miles one way • Moderate • steep • no shade • amazing views  
From the trail head markers turn left and through the man gate. You will be next to Hwy 128. Walk down the road just past the driveway and follow the trail marker to the right. Begin you ascent here. The trail is very visible and easy to follow. It climbs 800 feet in less than 2.5 miles and the views are amazing! It will prove to be well worth the effort to pack a camera. The view of the Colorado River, Red Cliffs Lodge, and Fisher Towers are spectacular, and the higher you hike the better the views! You may return using the same trail, or for more hiking adventures you may continue on up to the Castle Valley Overlook and one of the other three loops provided. (Some trails are difficult and for experienced hikers only)

**WALK TO THE RIVER** • 1/4 mile one way • Easy • Shade • View of Colorado River  
From the Lodge follow the driveway down alongside the pool and grass area where you cross the bridge following the driveway that leads to the Cabins. Just beyond cabin #564 to the right is a picnic area where you can rest in the shade, bird watch, and watch the boaters tackle Whites Rapid.