



Sedona and the Grand Canyon With Kids

Get the full itinerary on [Simply Awesome Trip's website](#) or find it on [Amazon](#).

Overview

The best way to experience the scenery of Sedona's red rock formations is to explore this fantastic landscape on its trails. Sedona offers trails for any hiking level, and all of the hikes in this itinerary are suitable for a fun family outing. The trails described here are short and relatively easy with amazing scenic views with just a small investment of time and effort.

A typical day might include at least one hike in the morning before it gets too hot, and afternoon time relaxing at the hotel pool.

Remember to apply sunscreen, wear sturdy shoes, and bring plenty of water.





Red Rock Passes (Parking Passes)

This was a bit confusing to us at first, but it's actually pretty straight forward. Many of the hikes in the national forest require a "Red Rock Pass" to be displayed in your car when you park at the trailheads.

You will need a pass for most of my recommended hikes. If you have an America the Beautiful National Parks Pass (\$80), you can display it instead of a Red Rock Pass. Otherwise, you will need to purchase a weekly (\$15) Red Rock Pass or a Daily Pass (\$5).

Red Rock Passes are available for sale at most of the Visitor Centers and is also sold at many grocery stores, gas stations, retail stores, and resorts. They are also offered at many of the trailheads. You can even purchase online- www.fs.usda.gov.

Tip: Consider buying the America the Beautiful National Park Pass. Not only will it grant you admission to other sites you'll be visiting on this trip (Montezuma Castle, Sunset Crater National Monument, Wupatki National Monument, and the Grand Canyon National Park) but you'll have admission to other national parks throughout the country for one year from date of purchase.



Bell Rock Hike

Bell Rock is an iconic red rock formation located just north of the Village of Oak Creek and is an easy one to spot. My daughters loved hiking and climbing about half way up Bell Rock to the “meditation perch.” Bell Rock is one of the most prominent Sedona vortex sites.



The unmistakable Bell Rock from afar

This is a moderate hike and will require supervision. It's roughly 1.5 miles round trip depending on how much “bouldering” you do. The views are beautiful and it's a fun scramble. Keep in mind, that you don't necessarily need an end point on this hike. You can climb to any point that is safe and affords a great view.



View from Meditation Perch

You can do as much or as little hiking as you'd like here- it's a fun place to hang out. Make sure you park in the *north* Bell Rock parking area (Courthouse Vista Parking Area)--the south side of Bell Rock is too steep to climb.

Once you park in the north lot, hike past the sign board and head to Bell Rock Trail. Follow it about 1/10th of a mile to its intersection with Courthouse Butte Loop Trail.

You can either continue on Bell Rock Trail to explore the northeast area of Bell Rock or turn right and follow Courthouse Butte Loop for approximately 500 feet to a sign post on your left. Turn left here and begin climbing up towards Bell Rock. Be sure to count the rock cairns and between the 10th and 11th cairn turn right and head towards the large flat rock shelf. You will see where you start to climb to Meditation Perch.



Want a longer hike?

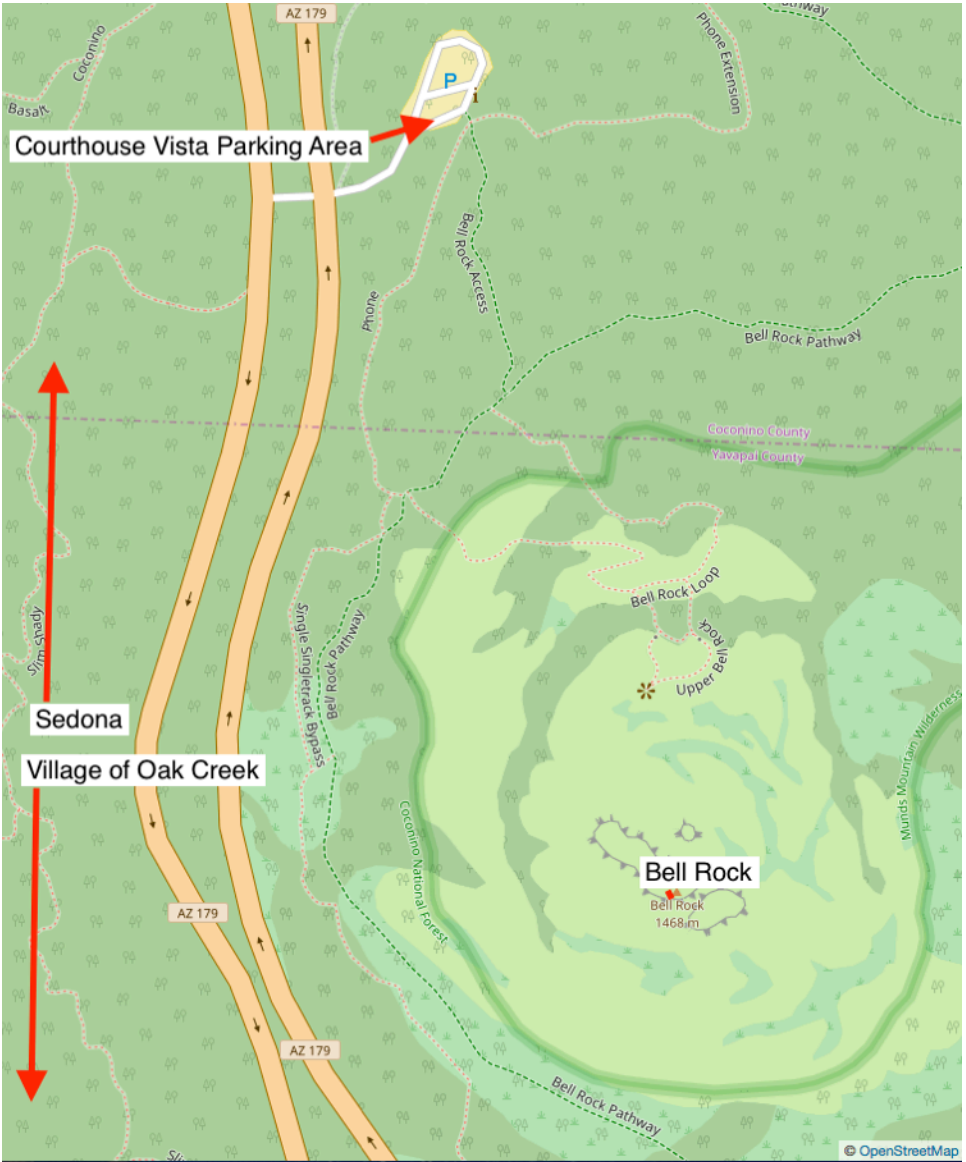
If you don't want to scramble up Bell Rock or want to add more hiking distance, you can also walk the trail circling Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte. The Bell Rock Pathway is an easy, wide and flat trail totaling 3.6 miles roundtrip. There is a popular observation area on the west side of Bell Rock not accessible from the highway. Hiking it in a clockwise direction is recommended.



Map courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service



Directions to the North Trailhead--Courthouse Vista Trailhead (north of Bell Rock): From the Village of Oak Creek, take 179 north and turn right toward Courthouse Vista, milepost 308.2. Remember to display your Red Rock Pass.



Bell Rock Trail: Park in the Courthouse Vista Parking Area



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What Makes Our Itineraries Unique?

Where To Stay

The lodging choices for each destination have been carefully selected for their ideal location, price point, safety, and proximity to the day's activities. We tell you the best area to stay so you can minimize driving or walking distances and maximize your moments having fun. Knowing what part of town to stay in is a huge part of making a trip a success, and that's hard to do when you are not familiar with a destination. We save you time and energy by doing all the research for you.

Where To Eat

Local dining establishments are highlighted. The kind where children are welcome but isn't necessarily a restaurant geared primarily towards kids. You won't find many restaurant chains in our itineraries, just good local food mirroring the destination's culture. This could mean a food truck, a pizza place, or a nice sit-down restaurant, but always delicious. If there are any local brews, specialty foods, wines, or coffee houses around, we'll mention those too.

Where To Play

The organization of each day has been thoughtfully planned in order to group activities together by proximity, ideal time of day to visit, and the best nearby dining choices. It's all been laid out for you, along with directions, maps, travel tips, links to more info, and more. We cover the most worthwhile activities to do in a destination (based on our own family's reviews) without forgetting that vacations are meant to be fun and relaxing, not a list to be checked off while hauling around whining children.

You'll find plenty of outdoor activities for the family as well as cultural and historical sites unique to the destination. Many itineraries include easy

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hikes, bike rides, and float trips that have been selected for their kid-friendly length and ease of difficulty as well as their scenic beauty. (Always worth it!) We are all about getting families outdoors so we include as much fresh air as we can in our itineraries, whether it is a day-long trek in a national park or just the location of a fantastic playground perfect for a break from sight-seeing.

Unbiased Recommendations

At the founding of Simply Awesome Trips, we agreed to travel as we always have with our families—on our own dime. No free nights, no comped visits, not even any swag. We continue to feel good about that decision. We do participate in affiliate marketing with some of the companies that we personally use (Booking.com, VRBO.com). They don't pay us to write, we simply get a commission if you enter those sites through our "gate" as opposed to say a Google search.

But we also recommend lodging, restaurants, and activities, where we don't receive any commission, such as Airbnb or private rental companies. We don't change recommendations based on vendor. If it's good; it's good.

As Seen In

