

Arizona BMW Z-series Club Tour to Alpine & Coronado Trail
Oct. 22nd – Oct. 23rd, 2019

Day One – Apache Junction to Alpine, AZ

Off we go to visit the historic Fort Apache, near Whiteriver, AZ. After we take a break in Globe. The drive will take us up through the Salt River Canyon. On the way up the far side; there are a number of “scenic look outs”. Be on your toes, encase the lead vehicle calls for a photo stop. In the distance, you will be looking out over Skeleton Canyon. The scene of the last major battle between the Apaches and the US Calvary. The area was deemed too rocky for graves. Hence the canyon name.

After we crest the north rim of the Salt River canyon; we will be driving through Pinion and Pine forests. Lunch will be at the Arrowhead Café. Which is across the street from Fort Apache. Go to www.legendsofamerica.com/az-fortapache/ for a complete history of the Camp/Fort. I don’t know how much of the movie “Fort Apache” (starring John Wayne & Henry Fonda) was actually filmed here. But, I assume some of it was. John Wayne enjoyed this area so much that he bought a ranch in the area.

We have built in time for folks to explore the Fort and/or shop for native crafts.

I have always admired the White River Apaches for their seeming natural entrepreneurship. They have regularly turned lemons into lemonade. When they were “encouraged” to raise livestock instead of raiding their neighbors. They didn’t just gather up what they could find. But, imported pure-breed Herefords. And, I don’t have to like the huge sums they charge to hunt Elk on their reservation; in order to admire the fact that they turned it into a nice little renewable business. Even Herefords are not worth \$5,000.

After lunch, we will drive up through the forest to McNary. We won’t be stopping in McNary, but keep your eyes open. This was once a huge lumber mill. Before the fire anyway.

We will pass through Eagar. Originally settled by Mormons. They had quite a problem with outlaws living in the east part of town. The outlaws found Eagar’s proximity to New Mexico convenient. When the law would show up; they would run for the border. And Vis a versa. Ike Clayton of the OK corral shoot out fame,

lived and was killed near Eagar. Wyatt Earp may have had something to do with that last part.

We will be spending the night at the Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge which is about 4 miles north of Alpine on Hwy 191. The actual address is 40 County road 2220 and the phone number is **928-339-4319**. Ask for Loren, she booked the rooms, tell her you are with the Arizona BMW Z Series Club.

The Tal-Wi-Wi lodge has a strange cancellation policy which folks might want to know about before they book a room.

They charge your credit card for 50% of the room rate at the time of booking. However, if you cancel the reservation, they will refund all but 15% of the room rate. Room rates vary from \$105 to \$148 depending on whether you get a room with a fireplace and or Jacuzzi, or not. Alternatives include; Alpine Inn and Sportsman's Lodge in Alpine. Or, a bunch of hotels in Springerville & Eagar.

The restaurant at Tal-Wi_Wi Lodge is closed this late in the season. but there are a number of restaurants located in Alpine., 4, I believe and there are numerous restaurants located 27 miles away in Springerville/Eagar. Dinner will be “on your own” tonight so as not to crush the staff at any one eating establishment.

We should arrive early enough for you to combine some exploring/shopping with your dinner plans.

Day Two – Alpine to Safford, Apache Junction & home

The Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge does not provide breakfast, please make your own plan and note that we will depart from the Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge parking lot at 9:30 am.

This morning we will be heading south on Highway 191. Also known as the Coronado Trail. Also known as “The Devil’s Highway” since up to about 20 years ago this road was officially designated Hwy 666.

From Alpine to Clifton, this road is pretty much the western version of the famous (infamous?) “Tail of the Dragon” road in the Carolinas but much longer.

If you or your passenger are susceptible to motion sickness: you might want to consider departing Alpine on Hwy 180 into New Mexico. Travel south to Hwy 78. Which will bring you back over to Hwy 191 south of Clifton. This route is a few additional miles. But, google maps reports that the travel time is just about the same.

Either way, we will be having lunch in Safford at the Manor House restaurant. It will be a good idea to gas up in Safford to insure you have plenty of fuel for the last leg of our journey.

This last leg is a pretty straight shot to Globe and then on to Apache Junction with an estimated drive time of 2 hrs. and 15 minutes. We can make a potty stop in Globe if folks are feeling the need to “stretch their legs”.

Hopefully, we will be driving into town when everyone else is driving out :)