

BIKE ON SEDONA'S BEST TRAILS

Sedona's stunning views and expansive trail system make it a mountain biker's dream come true. One of the owners of Sedona's Thunder Mountain Bikes, Mike Raney, actually moved to Sedona from Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the mountain biking.

"It has incredible, unique terrain, and that terrain is interwoven into the town," says Mike. "So you can ride from pretty much anywhere. It doesn't really matter where you stay or what area you're in, you're going to have amazing views and spectacular riding. You get that feeling of being on these big epic rides, but you don't have to spend half a day driving off in the middle of nowhere to get them. You can get them right out your front door."

Sedona's most famed attraction, the city's red rocks, are also ideal for mountain biking.

"The red rocks are super unique," says Mike. "Beautiful, but also get great traction to do some really unique things with your bike. You can go up and down some slopes that you probably wouldn't be able to do if it was dirt. The mix of trees and soil with the red rock is pretty unique."

Mike tells us that many of Sedona's trails were designed with mountain bikers in mind, meaning the trail meanders and doesn't have hard-to-maneuver corners. Here are a few of Mike's top Sedona mountain biking trails. Mike estimates Sedona has close to 300 miles of single-track trail and has plenty for bikers to explore.

"There's so much to do in Sedona, it's outrageous," says Mike. Here are a few trails of varying skill levels to try out. Many of Sedona's main roads also have bike lanes if you'd prefer not to go mountain biking and want some relatively easy, smoother terrain.



Easy Trails

Sedona Bike Skills Park

Located on Posse Grounds Park in West Sedona, the Sedona Bike Park is an ideal spot where you can develop biking skills. The park features jumps, drops and trails. “It’s a good place to repeat different skills until you really get them,” says Mike. “They built it with the natural terrain in mind. There’s a lot of features in there that get you ready for some of the bigger things on the trail.”

525 Posse Grounds Park in West Sedona,
928-282-7098, sedonaaz.gov

Bell Rock Pathway

Located in the Village of Oak Creek, Bell Rock Pathway is 3.6 miles long and features views of Bell Rock and Courthouse Butte. It’s perfect for beginners because it’s a wide trail that doesn’t feature too many challenges. “Bell Rock Pathway is probably our best beginner trail,” says Mike. “It’s a little wider. It has ups and downs and has sections of a little bit of slickrock. At the same time, it’s maybe six-feet wide. A lot of the hard stuff has been removed to make it more accessible.”

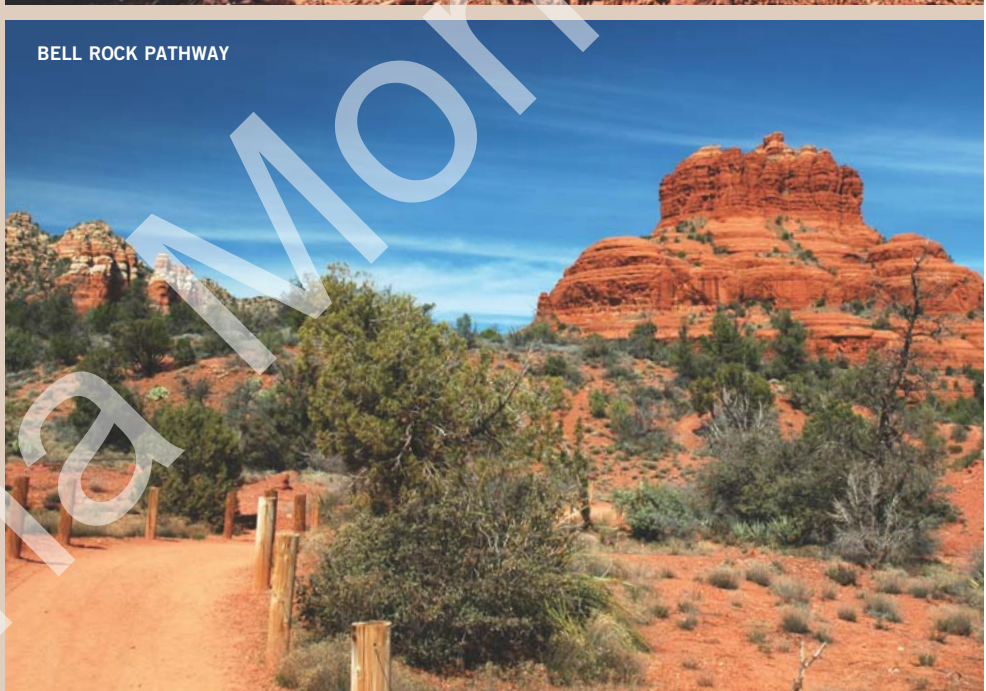
Long Canyon & Deadmans Pass

Deadmans Pass is 2.6 miles out and back and is a connector trail between Long Canyon (a 7.2 miles out-and-back trail) in West Sedona. Deadmans Pass starts off as dirt, offers a wide dirt trail along Long Canyon Trail and finally, offers some single track over a few rocks. “They are more single-track, but they have more soil and less rocks,” says Mike. This makes this a good trail for beginners looking to sharpen their skills.

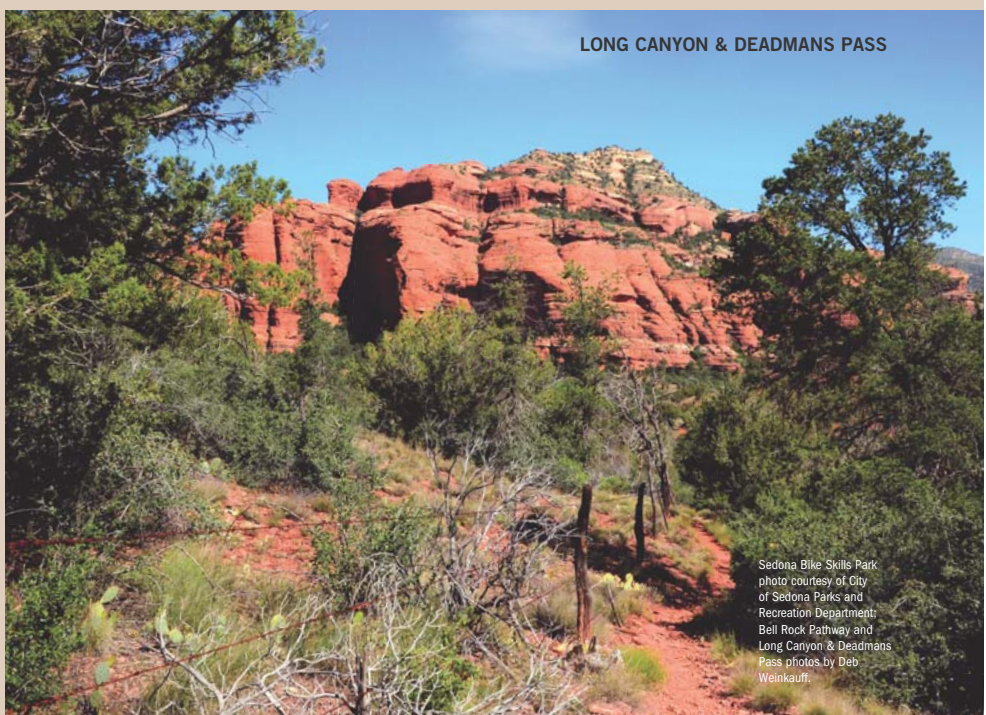
SEDONA BIKE SKILLS PARK



BELL ROCK PATHWAY



LONG CANYON & DEADMANS PASS



Sedona Bike Skills Park
photo courtesy of City
of Sedona Parks and
Recreation Department.
Bell Rock Pathway and
Long Canyon & Deadmans
Pass photos by Deb
Weinkauff.

Intermediate Trails

Intermediate trails offer many of the same stunning views of the harder trails without requiring as much skill, or as much risk, to complete. “So what makes all these trails really great is you get a lot of the same feelings as the really hard ones: You get the views, you get the playful trail building. And the big difference is you don’t get the danger here. You don’t have the crazy steep, high-consequence things. You can go out and enjoy and let your mind wander a little more,” says Mike.

Mescal Trail

Mescal Trail is about 5.6 mile out-and-back trail in West Sedona. “It gets up on that slickrock ledge, and it gives you the feeling of exposure,” says Mike. “However, when you get near the edge, it’s kind of tapered off and you’re not going to fall forever. You just get the feeling that it’s there.” Look forward to views of Cathedral, Courthouse and Bell Rock on this trail that’s primarily switchbacks. “You get that up high feeling without having to do a super nasty climb. It’s pretty neat,” says Mike.

Chuck Wagon

Located in West Sedona, Chuck Wagon is 4.6 miles one way. Mike says this is an enjoyable trail that’s not too tough. “It’s got a little more like rockiness to it, technical sections,” says Mike. “It’s not boring. It keeps you engaged the whole time. It’s not necessarily overly challenging. It’s just fun.”

Slim Shady

Located in the Village of Oak Creek just off AZ-179, Slim Shady is about 2.6 miles long and offers bikers a fast trail. “Slim Shady is like a luge ride. It’s high-speed,” says Mike. “It’s got a lot of bank turns and a lot of slickrock rollers. It’s really unique terrain. And the trail building there is great. The trail uses the terrain very well.”

Broken Arrow

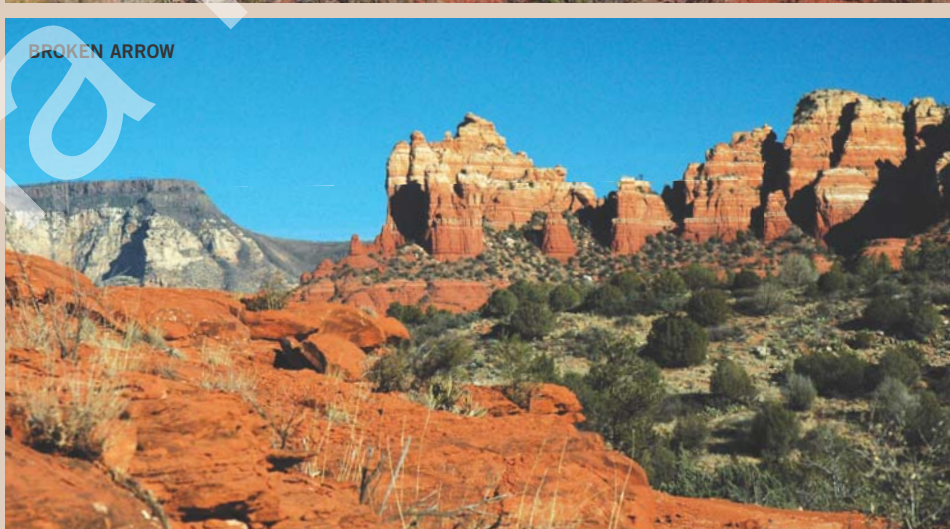
What makes the just less than 3-mile loop trail Broken Arrow special, in Mike’s words, is that it has plenty of slickrock. “It’s amazing out there. You’re looking out on the wilderness the whole time. You skirt up this slick rock, and then all of a sudden you like pop out and terminate at Chicken Point, and it’s a spectacular view,” says Mike.



MESCAL TRAIL



CHUCK WAGON



BROKEN ARROW



Mescal Trail photo courtesy of Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau; Chuck Wagon and Broken Arrow photos by Deb Weinkauff; Bottom photo by @JohnnyRoadtrip

Advanced Trails

Hiline Trail

Like many trails in Sedona, the 8.4 mile out and back Hiline Trail in the Village of Oak Creek offers stunning vistas. “You have this feeling of exposure,” says Mike. “When you get up on the top, you’re on this mesa that’s all gorgeous, playful slickrock. It’s a big natural skate park for bikes. You’ve got big rollers, playful little things up there. And you also get some of the most amazing views. You’re eye-level with Cathedral Rock. The only other way to get that is by helicopter.”

Hangover Trail

The exposure and steep slopes can make the Hangover Trail one tough ride. But the breathtaking views make it worth it. “Totally spectacular,” says Mike of The Hangover Trail, located in east Sedona. “It follows a cliff band above Schnebly Hill Road. You have an overhanging rock on you for a big section of the trail. And the views are just spectacular, and it’s incredibly difficult.” Even though this trail is only for skilled bikers, it’s also an only-in-Sedona experience. “Things like the Hangover Trail don’t exist anywhere else. That’s pretty special,” says Mike. If you choose the out-and-back option, the Hangover Trail is about 5.8 miles. If you choose to tackle the Hangover Loop Trail featuring Munds Wagon, Cow Pies and the Hangover Trail is about 8.2 miles.

Sedona Biking Resources

Bike Shops

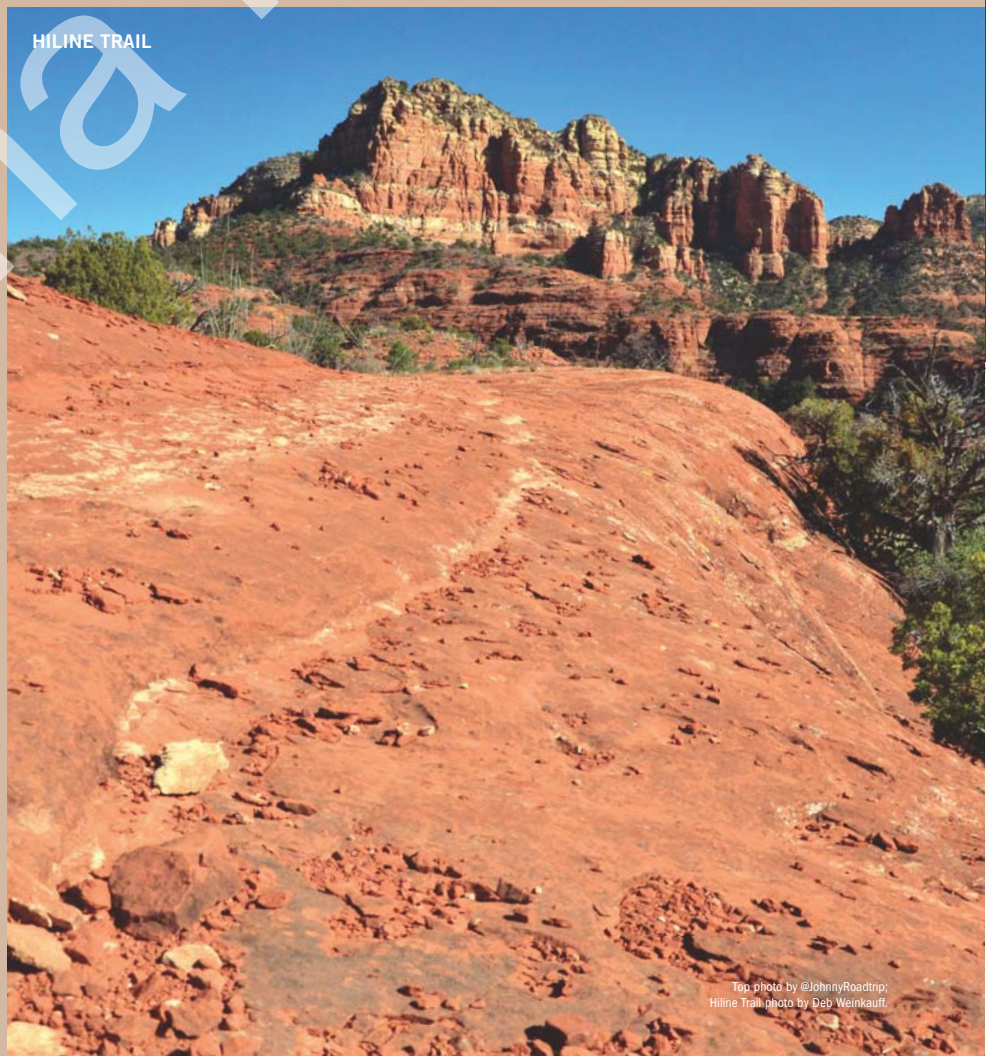
Thunder Mountain Bikes, 928-282-1106,
thundermountainbikes.com

Absolute Bikes Sedona, 6101 AZ-179. Ste. B,
928-284-1242, absolutebikes.net

Bike Rentals

Sedona Trail Zen, 928-284-2654,
sedonatrailzen.com

Bike & Bean, 30 Bell Rock Plaza,
928-284-0210, bike-bean.com



HILINE TRAIL