

Spend a Day at Roper Lake State Park

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Ever wake up on a Saturday morning and just want to get away for the day? Perhaps do something outdoorsy? Well, we found a hidden jewel that's often overlooked because it's not in town. If you don't mind a car ride, then this day trip may just be what you're looking for.



Located in Safford (two hours northeast of Tucson), Roper Lake State Park offers the perfect family fun outdoors. This park's picture-perfect setting comes complete with five miles of trails ideal for hiking, biking or bird-watching and a lake meant for canoeing, sailing, swimming and fishing. (Filled with largemouth bass and rainbow trout, Roper Lake offers the perfect first-timer fishing experience—sure to catch at least one fish.)

Back on the park's 400-acre mainland, 71 campsites suggest a great family-fun way to spend a night or two. And for those not fond of sleeping among the stars, Roper Park also rents cabins. This option helps balance one's love for the great outdoors with the cozy comforts of home. But, the best perk is the park's natural hot springs. The rock-lined six foot by several foot deep tub takes in a natural artesian well beneath ground reaching water temps of 100-plus degrees. As one of the state's biggest attractions, rules suggest that bathing suits always be worn and to wait for others to exit the springs before entering.



The park also suggests 15-minute time allotments to afford all visitors a turn enjoying the natural springs. Its prime piece of real estate allows visitors, from both far and away, a great opportunity to see the park's 360 degree views, including Mt. Graham off in the distance. With the beginning of the workweek now behind us, arrange a day trip to Safford this weekend to explore Roper Lake state park's beauty and grandeur for yourself. We chance this won't be your only visit.

For more information about Roper State Park, please visit www.azstateparks.com.