



The Top 3 Places in Pinetop/Lakeside That You HAVE To Visit

When you're visiting Pinetop/Lakeside, AZ, you're probably overwhelmed by the amount of sheer green you see. Trees outnumber people about a thousand to one (don't quote me on that) and the greenery is mesmerizing. It seems to call to you. You just want to run your hands through the leaves that shimmer with the sun and shake with the wind. You want to run through the expanse of grass until you come to the end of the horizon. You want to soak in the cool weather and never, EVER go inside. Well,

for all of you wanderers who find yourselves lucky enough to be here, we've got the full scoop on where exactly you can go to enjoy nature, and Pinetop, to the fullest. Here are our picks for the top three places in Pinetop that will get you up close and personal with nature.

Sunrise Ski Resort

Don't let the fact that it's still (barely) Summer deter you from exploring one of the most beautiful parts of the state. Sunrise Ski Resort is fun to explore in the Winter and it is just as great in the Summer! Riding the ski lift to the tops of the mountains will leave you breathless as you look out over the expanse of trees and grass. If you're lucky enough to go when the leaves and aspens are changing colors, you'll notice that colors shift and change seemingly as you are still riding up to the top. Yellow aspen leaves, green pine trees and all sorts of colorful flowers wave at you and you forget altogether that Arizona is supposedly a desert state. Don't forget to bring someone to snuggle with on the ski lift!

Woodland Lake Park

I'm partial to Woodland Lake Park over any other parks in the area, simply because it is so enjoyable to walk around the path. The park is full of ramadas where you can stop and have picnics or barbecues as well as playgrounds and sand volleyball courts for your younger ones. There are softball and soccer fields across the lake on the opposite side that are available for pickup games of baseball, softball, Frisbee or (if you're adventurous enough to go after dusk!) German spotlight. The lake is always full of wildlife to admire as you walk or run around the edge. Ducks and geese are always aplenty and fishermen always set up poles in the hope of catching one of the many fish who call the lake home. Woodland Lake is an excellent afternoon trip.

Ice Cave Trails

Whether your company includes young kids or teenagers, the Ice Cave Trails are always adventurous enough to keep the whole party happy! Located right across from the White Mountain Humane Society, the Ice Cave Trails take you about a mile into the lush, green forest. About halfway through the hike, you come to the edge of Scott's Reservoir: a perfect break for a picnic lunch or just to sit down and enjoy the outdoors. If you continue on the path, you eventually come to a fenced area with underground caves that are moderately accessible (young kids love going in but babies are probably not suited for the trek down). Inside, you feel the cool sensation of the underground rooms and your sense of pure, wild adventure is finally satiated! These trails are great for adventurers, hikers and anyone who wants to see some pretty amazing natural works of art.

So next time you're in Pinetop/Lakeside, Arizona, do some exploring! If you find a favorite nature walk or spot to hike, let us know! Happy trails!