



The Lost Cabins

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Tule Cabin (32.22647, -113.74977)

I haven't found a lot of information while researching the internet for this relic of a cabin



located in the deep desert of south-western Arizona. It would be nice to find out the origins and purpose for this cabin's creation and post an update here, but until such time this will be a culmination of information pulled from Google Maps of someone who visited the cabin.

As of November 2022 there was only a single review posted by a user by the name of Mat-

thew Breadner and he stated "This is by far the best cabin I have ever stayed in. How can I describe its design, other than ergonomic! No clutter here, no wasted space. Very rustic. And for peace and quiet? Nothing beats it. Just off the side of the

scenic Road of the Devil, a must see stop for anyone looking to escape the stress of modern life. The next time you're fleeing boarder patrol as you illegally enter the United States and need a place to put your feet up, look no further!"

For anyone looking for an adventure and would-

n't mind providing boondocking4life with a deeper dive into this piece of history head to the GPS coordinates provided above and make your way out to Tule Cabin for a nice evening



Wilbanks Cabin (33.33949, -113.98818)

If you would rather go to a cabin that's more civilized and less apt of be filled with coyote's running migrants from the south through Tule Cabin, then you might choose a night at the Wilbanks Cabin. This cabin is located in the center of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge and per the historical sign mounted nearby guests are invited to spend the night in the Wilbanks Cabin and "experience the dream." There is little doubt there will be

dreams, but those dreams might not be filled with sugarplumb fairies depending on your method of inebriation.

The Wilbanks Cabin has a very well documented past. The cabin and the family who built it was recounted by Barbara Wilbanks the daughter of Jack and Martha Wilbanks on the site

in-the-desert.com. Barbara describes how Jack came and



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Wilbanks Cabin (continued)

visited the cabin for years even after the family moved away and was living in Parker, Arizona.

“While living in Parker, Jack often returned to his “Home” in the Kofas. With his bedroll, chuck box and saddle in his pickup, he would drive east to Vicksburg then south into the Kofas. He loved to watch the sun rise like a precious opal spreading brilliant rays across the vast horizon, and sleep under a blanket of sparkling stars. He loved to watch storm clouds roll in from the south with the scent of rain even though they were fickle and often rolled away leaving only a rainbow arched across the hillsides, sometimes so close he could reach out and touch it. In the spring after a rain-storm, he loved to watch the dry hillsides bloom with green

tadpoles living only a few weeks in a rain puddle among

exploring all the wonders of nature.”



the boulders; the crusty old lizards who survived and multiplied during the hottest, driest

Getting to the cabin from the south seems limited to traveling north on I-95 to Quartzite and then taking Interstate 10 to the east to New Hope. At the intersection of I-10 and Vicksburg road in New Hope, head south by turning right on Vicksburg road. Take Vicksburg Road south for approximately 8 miles (19-20 minutes). At the intersection take the El Paso Natural Gas Company Access Road to the West, turning right. Travel just over 5 miles

(15 minutes) to the fork in the road. Take the fork in the road to the left, this is Wilbanks road. This road is traversable for the about 15 miles which may take 90 minutes to cover. At this point the road ends and it’s cross

“The family lived in the small storage shed until Jack built a two-room cabin with a lean-to porch.”



The wood burning kitchen stove that is still present today Jack had brought into the cabin from one of the abandoned mines and placed it in the corner before the walls were erected.

dry hillsides bloom with green grass and purple verbenas, creamcups, bluebells and daisies. He loved all wildlife, the bighorn sheep that came down off the steep mountains to drink from his water wells; the deer browsing along the wide washes; the wiry old jack rabbit nibbling on the tall grass; cottontails, chipmunks and squirrels scurrying among the scrub brush; the howling coyote; the mama quail with her timid chicks; the delicate

summers; and even the black buzzards flying in wide circles high in the sky. Mostly, he

-country from here on out.



loved riding horseback among the Kofa hills and mountains

Kofa Cabin (33.51237, -113.85536)

Kofa Cabin is a stone cabin that was built by the Civilian Con-

class so most higher clearance vehicles should have no issues.

as storage for the old wood burning stove, some roofing



servation Corps (CCC) in the late 1930's. The main purpose of these camps was to build waterholes for the bighorn sheep and the efforts to save the bighorn population. Today the cabin is part of the refuge



managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Online directions say to drive south on Hwy 95 all the way to the Stone Cabin and the official Refuge Entrance on King Road. About 11 miles south of Quartzite there is a brown sign mentioning the Refuge, the Crystal Hills area that directs drivers onto a graded gravel road (Blevens Road).

Some maps differentiate between "4-Wheel Drive Recommended" and "Any High-Clearance Vehicle" and shows this route as being in the latter

The drive is around two and a half hours when driving slowly.

materials and fence posts and barbed wire as well as small rodent poop all over the place. Luckily the living side has been nicely kept up and swept out by earlier users. To the left of the

At roadside junction marker (16) you are only a few minutes away and once turning south for the last few hundred me-



ters.

The cabin has two halves. The left side is the living space and the right side is being used

front door inside is some shelving where people have left some bottled water, a few granola bars and some paperback books and magazines for those who travel light. There is usually some firewood left by previous visitors, but don't count on it. The cabin has no electricity or water and little or no cell phone service.

If you expect to stay a few days also plan on having a number of visitors each day during the season. This is a well travelled area by off-road enthusiasts, so be prepared to play tour guide or host to these temporary guests.

"The east side of this two room basalt stone cabin is open to the public to visit and camp overnight on a first-come, first-served basis."

Hoodoo Well Cabin (33.34304, -113.85542)

Heading to Hoodoo Cabin which does not show up on some maps, but following directions to Hoodoo Well will get you there, because it's at the same location. Get on Pipeline Road and look for Marker 14 (Kofa Mangane

se Road) this will be the turn off for Hoodoo Well. Just beyond Marker 14 is Charco 4, which signifies a watering hole. Once there you will see there is a corral and loading ramp as well as a wind-mill, tank and shaded, open, ground level watering hole.

Back on Pipeline road and headed back to Marker 14 and the turn off to Hoodoo Well, there is a sign that says 14 miles. This road agains says it's designated for "Any High-

appropriate for 4-wheel drive vehicles exclusively. There are sections that are up steep, rock water to the cabin). Once inside one of the walls that make up the main room are on pulley systems and can be pulled up out-of-the-way to create, essentially a screened-in porch. Directly west of the cabin about 100 yards away is a wash that has abundant wa-

"100 yards away is a wash that has abundant water at certain times of the year because green plant life abounds."



ter at certain times of the year because green plant life abounds.

At this crossroads with the #34 Junction, turn right and hope for the best. Head down the hill through the wash and then out of the wash up the hill on the other side and you should see the top of a white structure which is the Hoodoo Cabin.



The cabin It is a spacious two area layout with a bathroom in the rear (that sadly does not work because of no

Clearance Vehicle" or "4-Wheel Drive Recommended." This road would be more ap-



ter at certain times of the year because green plant life abounds.