



Desert Bloom Rally

Ride Descriptions

February 12-15, 2015

Please wear your wristbands. You will not be allowed on the rides without a wristband. There will be 4 rides offered in 4 days of guided rides. You will choose the ride you wish to go on as long as the maximum number of participants has not been exceeded for a particular ride. Most rides will leave at 9 AM from Rally Central and should be completed around 2 PM with the exception of the Bouse Ride, which has a lunch stop and is the longest ride. The KC HiLiTES Colorado River Ride will start during the daylight at 2:00pm and end at night. Each ride will be lead by a highly experienced trail guide with several years of off road experience to ensure a safe and enjoyable day. There will also be a trailing vehicle to ensure that everyone makes it through the trail.

Terrain – Quartzsite will offer a vast array of varying terrain with one constant....DUST! Most trails and roads are hard packed dirt with a loose, slippery top for minimal traction. There are some pockets of silt (talc powder type dirt) and of course, lots of rocks, some lying on the trail and some buried in the ground. There will be plenty of sand washes that range from beach sand to coarse gravel and rock. There are rocky trails and hill climbs but nothing that cannot be easily traversed with a stock ATV or UTV. Most flat tires that we encounter are sidewall punctures from rocks on the side of trail.

TRAIL 1: KC HiLiTES COLORADO RIVER RIDE

Difficulty: EASY

Length: 74 miles round trip

This scenic ride heads south out of Desert Gardens then works its way northwest through the Cunningham Mountain canyons and up to 1700 feet in elevation. This is one of our easiest rides with many graded roads and offers the least amount of dust as the second half of the run is on sandy trails. Just before we reach I-10 we head southwest through the Dome Rock Mountains. Keep your eyes open for big horn sheep on the side of the hills (not while driving of course). We work our way through the sand terrain toward the farm fields of Blyth, CA until our journey ends on the banks of the Colorado River at 239 feet above sea level. This is our only ride that is the same exact trail both ways. Come be part of something big.

TRAIL 2: DISCOUNT TIRE BRENDA RIDE

**Difficulty: MODERATE to
DIFFICULT**

Length: 45 miles round trip

Heading east along I-10 through the many BLM campsites that Quartzsite offers, we keep our dust to a minimum until we cross over Mitchell Mine Road, away from the campers. Picking up the pace, we continue east until we cross under the interstate just past the turn off for the stone cabin and Dripping

Springs. Toward the Gold Nugget Road over pass heading west the trail turns back to the northeast as we quickly begin our accent into the Plomosa Mountains toward Tikaani Pass. The trail is good as it snakes through the canyons and amazing views are abundant. Once through the pass, at 1851 feet above sea level, we begin our decent into the valley and to Brenda. After a quick stop at the Brenda General Store, we will head back to Quartzsite traveling parallel to US 60 until we cross under I-10 just after the junction. From there we will head south west on a really fun but narrow trail that is gorgeous but littered with lots of jumping cactus. If you stay on the trail you will have no issues as we make our way to Gold Nugget Mine road and back into Quartzsite. You will not want to miss out.

TRAIL 3: SIDE X SIDE BOUSE RIDE**Difficulty: MODERATE****Length: 64 miles round trip**

One of our more popular rides, this journey will offer something for everyone. Heading east along I-10 through the many BLM camp sites that Quartzsite offers, we keep our dust to a minimum until we cross over Mitchell Mine Road, away from the campers. Picking up the pace, we continue east until we cross under the interstate just past the turn off for the stone cabin and dripping springs. Headed past all of the General Patton training camps, the trail becomes a little rocky and very dusty as we travel on the exact trails that Patton's tanks trained on in the 1940s. We continue north along the foothills that take us through washes, over hills and around beautiful desert. As we begin to climb into and over the Plomosa Mountains, the terrain grows increasingly rockier but the trail remains constant and drivable. As we crest the summit at 1400 feet off the desert floor, we can see Bouse in the distance as we work our way to the oasis in the desert. We will stop in Bouse for a rest, drinks, food, gas or window shopping for about an hour. Once underway, we will head northwest, along HWY 72, through the Bouse wash for several miles as we work our way around the most northern tip of the Plomosa Mountains. Once around the tip, we will head due south along the foothills, parallel with HWY 95 almost 20 miles as we retrace our steps under I-10 then back to camp. A great adventure for sure.

TRAIL 4: PRP SEATS HOGS BACK RIDE**Difficulty: MODERATE****Length: 35 miles round trip**

Starting at 867 feet above sea level, the Hogs Back Ride will offer you the biggest and grandest views of the rally soaring up to 2637 feet. Starting east of US 95, the trail starts out fast and dusty as the black flat rocks give way to silt and sand washes. Heading east we begin our first big climb to Scadden Wash Pass up to 1933 feet past Belle Mine as we turn south up the wash to Apache Mine and the stone cabin at 2030 feet. We continue climbing up the beautiful wash, through the canyons as we approach the short but steep hill climb that opens the door to Hogs Back. Now at our highest point we begin to straddle the ridge of the Kofa Mountains for a few miles as we pause to take in the amazing sights and beauty of the Kofa Wildlife Refuge and the valley of life below. As we drop off the edge and plummet over a 1000 feet in only 2 miles, we work our way down to the desert floor. Mountains give way to dusty trails and sand washes as we continue the decent back down into Quartzsite and eventually into Rally Central. What a view, what a ride!

Geocaching is an outdoor sporting activity in which the participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches," anywhere in the world.

A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook where the geocacher enters the date they found it and signs it. Larger containers such as Tupperware or ammunition boxes can also contain items for trading, usually toys or trinkets of little value. After more than 12 years of activity there are over 1.7 million active geocaches published on various websites. I would guess there are at least 10 geocaches within a 5-mile radius of your house and you never knew it. Quartzsite has more than you could fathom.

There are several free or inexpensive geocaching apps you can download to your phone. Bring your trading items and hunt for treasure in the desert! Come discover the fun!