

## Arizona Highway 89-A/89 Flagstaff to Congress

This highway is like many around the country, it is a fun ride with all sorts of curves, up and downs and the scenery is just fantastic. I first ran across 89-A on the way from Oklahoma City to Yuma to visit some snowbirds there.

If you come in from the north, head south from Flagstaff on I-17 for a few miles, watch for the signs, it wasn't well marked last I was there. If you had thought that Arizona was all flat desert you are wrong. There are sizable mountains here and for the most part the road runs down the valleys and occasional, up and over into another valley. This photo was taken in January, early in the morning. As you can see, the famous red cliffs are all over. This area is very scenic and there are all sorts of pull outs and trailheads for hikers so beware of those. Also, there is quite a bit of wildlife in the area so, again, beware.



Here is an example of the roads down the canyon. As this was early January and we are near Flagstaff, that is actually snow in the shadows.

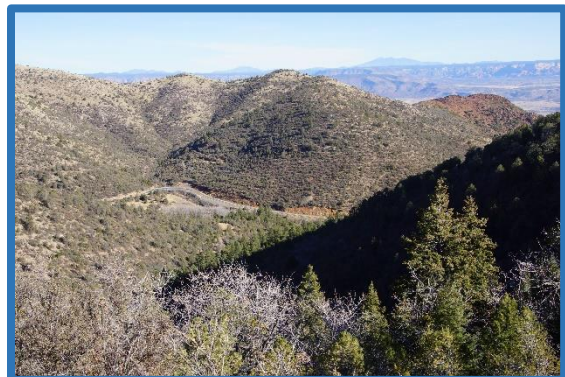
And the views go on and on. A little past Oak Creek Vista the road winds around if you are the peg dragging type, have fun but be careful.

On down the road a bit we come to Sedona, a very busy and well know tourist destination. It is a very beautiful area and the congestion reflects it. There are motels, spas, restaurants, all the usual tourist

stuff. However, it is pricey and a reservation is advised.

It takes patience and time to clear the Sedona area but stick with it and eventually you will come into Jerome, an old copper mining town.

Jerome sits up on the side of Cleopatra Mountain and was incorporated in 1899. It is full of old building and a bunch of historical signs. Here is a view of the road coming into Jerome, that is the Verde Valley in the background.



One of the more interesting places in the town is named the “Haunted Hamburger” you need to find out about than one yourself.

After Jerome, the scenes get better and for the peg dragging types much more interesting. However, as there are a lot of blind corners and not so much in the way of guard rails, take care. There are a lot of trailheads, camping and hiking in the area.

Eventually the road leads down out of the mountains and into the Prescott Valley area. Just before Prescott, Hwy 89-A ends at a T intersection. Turn right on Hwy 89 and follow it into Prescott.

Prescott is a sizable town with all the usual that goes along with that, motels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. If you need a place to stop, Prescott will work.



Exiting Prescott, Hwy 89 climbs up into the mountains with lots of scenic views and nice motorcycling roads. And, again it runs down into a valley and again, back up into the hills around Yarnell. Just past Yarnell is a view to see. The mountains stop and the road drops, it is quite a site.



At the top is a pull out, well worth a stop. This is the road going down into the valley, or coming up, depending on you view. If you are heading down, you are looking at Congress and pretty much the end of this write up.

From Congress to Flagstaff is a bit less than 150 miles. It is a very scenic, historic and

interesting road to ride.

If you don't like to ride in hot weather, I would not do this in the summer as this area can get very warm. Spring, fall or winter would work really well. But, check the weather as Flagstaff is high and can and does get winter weather.

Enjoy:

*the ride goes on forever*