

Q Ranch: How to Get There



If you are coming from the Phoenix area, take Ariz. 87, the Beeline Highway, north to Payson. At the intersection of Route 260 in Payson (adjacent to McDonald's) turn east/right onto 260 and proceed 33 miles to the Young turnoff, between mile markers 284 and 285. Turn south/right and proceed 15 miles. After three miles, the road is unpaved but graded.

When you encounter the sign for Forest Service Route 202/Q Ranch, at mile marker 318, turn east (left) onto this road. You are now 8 miles from the ranch and there are no more mile markers.



If you are coming from Tucson or Florence Junction, take Rte. 79 to US 60 towards Superior/Miami. Pass through Miami and turn left onto Rte. 188, also called the Apache Trail or Globe-Young Highway. The road is unpaved between miles 281-283 and miles 287-303. Turn right when you reach Rte. 288 and remain on that road until you get to the town of Young, at about mile 303. Drive through Young, traveling north and east. Rte. 288 becomes the Young-Heber Road, which is FS Rte.

512. The pavement ends at about mile marker 316. Just before mile marker 318, turn right at the sign marked Q Ranch, Rte. 202.

The remaining directions apply to drivers coming from all points.



At mile 5 on FS202 (remember, there are no mile-markers), you encounter a fork designated "Nail Ranch—Dead End." Bear right. About 1.5 miles later you encounter this caution sign. Sometimes there is also a "No Trespassing-Private Land" sign that you may safely proceed past. (It blows down frequently



so you may not see it.)

A mile later you encounter the first of several cattle gates. If a gate is closed, open it, drive through it and close it again before continuing! The rule of access on private land is to leave a gate in the position you found it. At the second green gate, you are within one mile of Q Ranch.



After crossing two washes, you will see the two-story, green ranch house on your left behind another gate. Drive in and park on your left, facing the stockade fence that surrounds the historic cemetery. Lucy the ranch dog may come out to greet you.

If this is your first visit, you should not attempt driving there in the dark. High-clearance vehicles are best for negotiating the roads, which may be full of ruts in the final two miles. Four-wheel drive is not required. Carpooling is highly recommended.

