The Apache Trail is one of my favorite roads in Arizona and I typically drive it twice a year (see e.g. another trip) continuing to Globe and then back to Apache Junction. This time of the year, when it is still hot, there are few others on the road. A friend from Germany joined and we saw a lot. Starting from Tempe at 5 am and driving east, the sun was an amazing presence. The Trail goes from Apache Junction to Tortilla Flat to Roosevelt Lake, via some amazing declines, e.g. Fish Creek.
Along Fish Creek, toward the north

Apache Lake, with the electricity cables left in!

A well-graded road
The road was so well-tended: we encountered a number of snowplows but fortunately not on Fish Creek Hill. We came down before one was just going up; it is a one lane dirt road at best. We stopped at the dam that stops Roosevelt Lake from going down the Salt River to Phoenix and then went up a little on the Vintage Trail to get a better view of the Lake. Theodor Roosevelt dedicated this dam in 1911; it was to serve water storage, irrigation, and electricity. It was resurfaced (with concrete) between 1989 and 1996 and that project also raised the height of the dam.

![Roosevelt Dam, downstream](image)

Up to the resurfacing project, all traffic had gone over the dam. A new bridge relieved the dam which is a marvel of construction: the longest 2-lane, single-span bridge in the US.

![Roosevelt Lake Bridge, with the 188 crossing, connecting Globe to Payson](image)
The next stop was the Tonto NM, which has cliff dwellings, inhabited by the Salado people, from the 12th to 14th centuries. Before the river was dammed up as a lake, the river provided a reliable water source and the area was (still is) rich in agave, yucca, prickly pear, saguaro, mesquite, and nut trees. The Salado are known for beautiful Salado polychrome pottery among other things and are the ancestors of current tribes living in the area.

The dwelling are high up and provide a wonderful look-out point from where the people could actually have been in contact with others in the area.
We then briefly took the 288 (direction Young) to see the Salt River before it becomes Roosevelt Lake. Below is a picture of the bridge across the Salt.

From there, we went to Besh ba Gowah, the Apache name for Globe, but also the name for a prehistoric pueblo, inhabited by the Salado as well. It sits on a ridge overlooking a creek. We were there on a Monday when the museum was closed but could roam the actual pueblo (together with ADC inmates who were tending the yard).
This area, from Globe to Superior and then east to Superior and south is full of active, open-pit copper mines. They are a sore for the eye but popular in the towns. The below map doesn’t list the newest, very controversial Resolution Copper Mine close to Oak Flat. It will not be an open-pit but they’ll create a shaft that goes down 7000 feet. Oak Flat is claimed by the Apaches as hunting and gathering ground.

The Arts Center in Globe is a great asset although I haven’t seen indigenous art there. It is an old courthouse (for Gila County) that was beautifully restored into a center for visual and performing arts. There are art classes, theatre, exhibits, and much more. I have been coming to this center since moving here over 20 years ago. The women running the Center were extremely helpful and thanks to them we got a tour of the (now abandoned) county jail in a building adjacent to the courthouse.

The jail was built in 1910 and decommisioned in the early 1980s. Currently, jails hold people that are convicted for less than a year and prisons house those who receive more than a year. In the early days, people could spend 20 years or more in the Globe Jail. There was one toilet and sink per tank, which was a concrete and steel room with cells, and the smell was apparently overwhelming. The doors and levers
had come from the old territorial jail in Yuma, AZ, which had closed just before 1910. I had not heard of the Trustee system before: If inmates ‘behaved’, they could live in slightly less confined areas of the jail. Female inmates also lived on a ‘better’ floor. A lot of my information comes from an article in the **Globe and Miami Times** and from the extremely knowledgeable volunteer called Robert. Nowadays, there are Haunted Jail events.

From the Courthouse to the Jail

“You can make one call”

Cell block, or tank. Imagine the heat/cold/stench!
On the wall

Advertisement for the Haunted Jail trip

Globe Main Street

After Globe we just drove through Claypool, Miami, and Superior, all very scenic mining towns. Miami has bridges that resemble Italian ones, over a stream that has no water. Usually by the time I get to this point, there is no time to visit the Apache reservation or the museum in Miami or various other highlights.

A very enjoyable trip!