

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: A Hike - McDowell SP - East End Mountain Long Loop including Prospector Trail (PCHC # 1).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 17 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 3800 feet. Long and strenuous hike through the McDowell Sonoran Preserve on good trails with sweeping views. From the Gateway parking facility, take the Gateway loop trail south then climb the Bell Pass trail over the saddle to the Prospector Trail. At this point we take a right turn on the Prospector Trail, follow a faint trail through grass and climb up to Prospector Point. After returning to the Bell Trail, connect to the East End trail and at East End Saddle scramble to the top of East End Peak for lunch. After returning to the saddle, climb up to the Tom Thumb monolith and then cross over to the Lookout before returning downhill to the parking lot via the Tom Thumb and Gateway loop north trails.</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: High mileage and good park trails (Long rocky downhill on Toms Thumb Trail). Two extended uphill sections (Bell Pass and East End trails). Long rocky downhill on Toms Thumb Trail Scramble to top of the trailless East End Peak. Beautiful vistas especially from Prospector Point, The Lookout and East End Peak.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Gateway Loop, Bell Pass, Prospector Point, East End, East End Mountain scramble, Toms Thumb, Toms Thumb Trail, The Lookout, Toms Thumb Trail, Gateway Loop Trail</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No park fees. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 miles up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Bell-East-Peak-Toms-Thumb-Gateway-Loop/A-HikeBell-Pass-East-Peak-LoopLynnW2021-2022</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Bell-East-Peak-Toms-Thumb</p> <p>HIKE: A Hike - McDowell SP - East End Mountain Short Circuit (PCHC # 251).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12.9 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 2700 feet. A long, strenuous hike on excellent trails with sweeping views. From the Gateway Trailhead, take the Gateway Loop Trail south, then climb the Bell Pass Trail to its highpoint. Continuing the Bell Trail, connect to the East End Trail. Climb to the junction with the Tom Thumb Trail. Turn left and climb upwards to the junction with the Tom Thumb spur trail. Turn right here for an inandout to visit Toms Thumb. On return to the Tom Thumb Trail turn right and then left at the next junction towards the Lookout. After visiting the Lookout return to the Tom Thumbs Trail. Turn left and return to the parking lot via Toms Thumb Trail, Windgate and Gateway North Loop Trails.</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Optional upandback rough track to East End Peak adds 0.6 miles and 300 Elevation Gain.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Gateway Loop, Bell Pass, East End, Tom Thumb Trail, Lookout, Windgate, Gateway Loop Trail</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No park fees. Restrooms at trailhead. Water at trailhead.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Bell-East-Peak-Toms-Thumb-Gateway-Loop/A-HikeToms-Thumb-15-Mile-LoopLynnW2020-2021</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-WxTgCXz</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4azWILr4VSRq87kZWj?e=TQE8Qd</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 251</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: B Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Brown Mountain and Cathedral Rock and Balanced Rock Loop (PCHC # 261).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: B hike rating exceeded: Mileage.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12.5 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. The hike proceeds in a clockwise direction from Browns Ranch Trailhead, visiting the summit of Browns Mountain, followed by lunch on the patio at Cathedral Rock and finishing with a stop for a group photo at impressive Balanced Rock. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring can be very colorful after good winter rains. An interesting loop through the impressive terrain of Browns Ranch, including a short spur hike to the top of Browns Mt.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Upper Ranch Brown Mt., Corral, Cholla Mt., Balanced Rock, Chuckwagon</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-sMqPSnf</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amTULV_mfrWQQE1gr</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 261</p>
<p>HIKE: B Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Marcus Landslide, East End, Toms Thumb Loop (PCHC # 278).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: steep.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10.6 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 2100 feet. It first climbs from the north to Toms Thumb on a short but steep trail and then proceeds south on East End (very steep), Windmill, Coachwhip, Pemberton, Boulder, Marcus Landslide in a CCW loop, eventually passing in front of the Marcus Landslide area. There are great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas, plus views of impressive granite boulders.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead TRAILS: Tom Thumb, East End, Windgate, Coachwhip, Pemberton, Boulder, Marcus Landslide</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 108 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-xJD4qN7/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amTeat5WQxc-dNjxQ</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 278</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: B Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Quartz Trail and Taliesin Overlook (PCHC # 282).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: steady uphill going and downhill coming back.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1424 feet. The hike starts through a neighborhood of houses, before climbing the mountain. There is a huge quartz outcropping along the way as the hike continues up. There are great views of Scottsdale and Phoenix. The last mile+ of the Quartz trail is a rocky, sandy wash. The Taliesin Overlook is a short out and back spur off of the Lost Dog Wash trail where the top of the Frank Lloyd Wright house is visible.</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This hike typically takes 4.5 hours with breaks.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Quartz Trailhead TRAILS: Quzrtz</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park entrance fee</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Quartz Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn south (right) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn left on McDowell Ranch Road. Turn right into Quartz Trailhead parking. DRIVING DISTANCE: 101 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Quartz-Trail</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-3kqhDcz</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amThJCxl3hd-shuL9</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 282</p>
<p>HIKE: B Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Toms Thumb Peak via Windgate Pass & Gateway trails (PCHC # 286).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: mileage, elevation, steep.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 2100 feet. The hike starts at the Gateway Trailhead area and passes through a typical saguaro forest. The Gateway Trail is flat, the Windgate Trail is moderate, and the Toms Thumb Trail is rather steep. At Toms Thumb you get nearly 360 degree views of the Phoenix area (on a clear day you can see University of Phoenix stadium to the West and Bartlett Reservoir to the East).</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Gateway, Windgate, Tom Thumb</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 mi. up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-K9CzRk/A</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 286</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Bell Pass (PCHC # 252).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 8.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1470 feet. The hike starts on the Gateway Trail and passes through a large saguaro forest. Just past the saddle you can see the fountain at Fountain Hills (on the hour for 15 minutes). The fountain will show up between you and Weavers Needle. Distant views include Four Peaks, Weavers Needle, Fountain Hills, and Scottsdale.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Gateway</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No park fees. Restrooms at trailhead. Water at trailhead.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead . Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 miles up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop-Windgate-Pass</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop-Windgate-Pass/B-HikeMSP-Gateway-Bell-Loop-04-18-2022LynnW2021-2022/i-3VWXM2q</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 252</p>
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon, Granite Mountain (PCHC # 255).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 9 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 800 feet. It passes through a large forest of saguaro. There are 2 crested saguaro cacti along the trail: one has a very rare double crest. The hike then goes around Granite Mountain to Balanced Rock, a large, pointed boulder that sits on its point. It finishes by going through a small area of yuccas and large saguaros. There are 3 rock formations that look like camels along the final section of the trail. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon, Granite Mountain Loop</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QzrN7rh</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amTSm0kCzBVN0XCYZ</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 255</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Brown Mountain Saddle to Cathedral Rock (PCHC # 259).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 9.2 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1400 feet. This route goes past Browns Saddle and adds Cathedral Rock to the hike. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead **TRAILS:** Upper Ranch, Browns Mt., Corral, Cholla, Chuckwagon

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going Right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles. (Name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead

DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-sMqPSnf/A>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4alwqmyq7Gr2HqLAbu>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 259

HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Gooseneck, Saguaro Nest, Pemberton (PCHC # 266).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10.7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 feet. The route goes past a double crested saguaro and a second crested saguaro, around Granite Mountain, and over to Balanced Rock. It passes through a forest of very large and old saguaros. And there are many banana yuccas and crucifixion thorn trees along the trail.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead **TRAILS:** Gooseneck, Saguaro Nest, Pemberton

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at Trailhead. No Park Fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 108 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gooseneck-Meander>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QzrN7rh>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4alwuaKljLatyzvqSk>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 266

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Granite and Cholla Mountain Loop (PCHC # 267).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 9.7 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 650 feet. The hike circles both Granite Mountain and Cholla Mountain going past both Balanced Rock and Cathedral Rock. There are a lot of intersecting trails so suggest taking a map on this hike. A lot of nice scenery and easy trails to walk on.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Granite Mountain loop Trail, Branding Iron Trail, Cholla Mountain Loop Trail, Balanced Rock Trail, Granite Mountain Loop Trail, Bootlegger</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QzrN7rh</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4alwwSP1g192QfoY4I</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 267</p>
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Granite Mountain Loop via 138th Street Express, Renegade, High Desert, Divide, Branding Iron, Granite Mountain, Bootlegger (PCHC # 702).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 11.1 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. The hike takes a wide circle north from Granite Mountain Trailhead via 136th Street Express and loops counter clockwise via Renegade, High Desert and Branding Iron. This route then loops around Granite Mountain to its south and then joins with Bootlegger to return to the parking lot. Highlights include a double saguaro, Michelin Man Saguaro, many rock formations and distant views of the Four Peaks, Superstitions and other mountain ranges.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: 136th Street Express, Renegade, High Desert, Divide, Branding Iron, Granite Mountain, Bootlegger</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 702</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Granite Mountain, Diablo, Cholla Circuit (PCHC # 649).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. This hike begins at the Granite Mtn TH and proceeds north along the east side of Granite Mtn. It then goes northwest to the Diablo loop, returning south along the west side of the Cholla Mtn Loop. The hike then follows around Cholla Mountain to Balanced Rock, a large pointed boulder that sits on its point. It finishes along the south trail of the Granite Mtn Loop, and returning via the Bootlegger Trail. There are yuccas and large Saguaros, and excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of Pebble Creek.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead **TRAILS:** Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon, Desparado, Renegade, High Desert, Divide, North Diablo, South Diablo, Cholla Loop, Balanced Rock Trail, Granite Mountain Loop, Bootlegger

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-63znTRV>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4asRU7k-ohttAuXWIM?e=hrVawl>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 649

HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Hawknest, Divide, Branding Iron, Coyote Canyon, Soapberry, Dove, Barb, 136th Express (PCHC # 269).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 11.7 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 700 feet. The highlights of this hike include a double crested saguaro, Michelin Man II Saguaro, many rock formations, and distant views of Four Peaks, the Superstitions, and other mountains. From the parking area head south on the 136th street express trail and turn tight on Hawknest. Follow approximately 2 miles to the Divide Trail. Turn left on Divide approximately 2 miles to the junction with Branding Iron. Turn left on Branding Iron, then left on Granite Mountain Loop and then another left on Coyote Canyon Trail. Take this north until the junction with Desperado at which point tun on this trail and a quick right onto Soapberry Wash Trail. Finally take Dove and Barb trails back to the 136th Street Express and follow north back to the parking lot.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This hike typically takes 4 hours with breaks.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Tonto National Forest Trailhead **TRAILS:** Hawknest, Divide, Branding Iron, Coyote Canyon, Soapberry, Dove, Barb, 136th Express

FEES AND FACILITIES: No restrooms at the trailhead (but you can stop off at the Browns Ranch Trailhead by turning left on Alma School Parkway and going about a mile to the end).

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Tonto National Forest Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (changes name to Rio Verde). Turn left on 136th Street. Drive about 5 miles to entrance to Tonto National Forest the last 2 miles are on a well maintained dirt road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 130 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Northwest-Loop-Trails>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-oJqPLVq>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo - Cone Mountain Loop (PCHC # 694).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10.5 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 665 feet. Begin at Browns Ranch by going right onto Latigo Trail, following it for 1.2 miles. At the intersection proceed straight onto Hackamore Trail & follow it for 0.5 miles. Turn right onto Cone Mtn. Trail for 1 mile. Turn left onto Upper Ranch Rd. Proceed for 0.5 mile, turning left back onto Cone Mtn. Rd. for another mile. Turn right to continue hiking on Hackamore for 0.6 miles. Turn left on West Express for 0.1 mile; then turn right onto Snake Eyes Trail for 1 mile, which then becomes Hawknest. Go 1 mile & turn left onto Rock Tank. After 0.5 miles, turn left onto Latigo for over 2.5 miles to return to the car.</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: New Hike for the 2022/2023 season.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Hackamore, Cone Mtn, Upper Ranch, West Express, Snake Eyes, Hawknest, Rock Tank</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 694</p>
<p>HIKE: B Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Whiskey Bottle, Monument, 136th St, Turpentine, Whiskey Bottle, Chuckwagon (PCHC # 652).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 11.7 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet. This figure 8 loop hike begins at Browns Ranch TH. It goes through typical Scottsdale desert with nice views of distant mountains. These sections of Latigo and 136th Exp parallel private land; turning west off of 136th Exp will bring the hike back to Browns Ranch.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Whiskey Bottle, Monument, 136th St, Turpentine, Whiskey Bottle, Chuckwagon</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-NX8bF99</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amQ3euftVsxtBTyBo</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 652</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Balanced Rock Loop (PCHC # 263).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Add Balanced Rock.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.7 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 302 feet. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains. The optional side trip is to the Balanced Rock formation to the east.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Brown Ranch, Corral, Dry Gulch, Cholla Mt., Balanced Rock, Chuckwagon, Vaquero, Brown Ranch</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Cathedral-Rock</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-7xTQGNp/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aoRsYtCyBXhdZh6H2?e=DKdtq4</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 263</p>
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon, Granite Mountain (PCHC # 254).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Mileage.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 9 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 800 feet. It passes through a large forest of saguaro. There are 2 crested saguaro cacti along the trail: one has a very rare double crest. The hike then goes around Granite Mountain to Balanced Rock, a large, pointed boulder that sits on its point. It finishes by going through a small area of yuccas and large saguaros. There are 3 rock formations that look like camels along the final section of the trail. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon, Granite Mountain Loop</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-63znTRV</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 254</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Brown Mountain Loop with Desert Meander (PCHC # 782).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Mileage.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 8.2 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1200 feet. It includes a desert meander between mile 2 to 4 that is rolling desert landscape before you return to the Upper Ranch Trail and then ascend to the Brown Mt summit, which is steep and rocky. Great views of different mt ranges around the Valley including Tom Thumbs and Four Peaks. Can be very colorful with flowers in a wet spring. Excellent trail overall and very well marked.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Upper Ranch, Rustler, Latigo, Hackamore, West Express, Cloudburst, Brown Mountain, Wrangler</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going Right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles. (Name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 112 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-b7cJvzS</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4awGB7VDt8HIWdm9UX?e=Yjw2yD</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 782</p>
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Cholla Mountain from East (PCHC # 264).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Mileage. Additional challenges include: added mileage.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 8.8 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 870 feet. It passes through three different cactus forests: saguaro, jumping cholla, and yucca. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. From the Granite Mountain Trailhead, take Bootlegger Trail, turn left on Saddlehorn, left on Granite Mt. Loop, straight onto Balanced Rock Trail, straight onto Cholla Mt Loop Trail to Cathedral Rock and reverse trails back to parking lot.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Bootlegger, Saddlehorn, Granite Mt. Loop, Balanced Rock, Cholla Mt. Loop</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Gateway Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 miles up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-DGXftqK</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 264</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Lost Dog Wash Trail, Quartz Trail Lollipop Loop (PCHC # 277).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: scramble to quartz outcrop.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.6 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. It starts as a good trail at the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead but there are long stretches of rocky trail but with competent footing. It leads up to the Talisen Overlook and then onto the Quartz Trail to a spot where some will choose to scramble up a steep, rocky trail 300 and 0.2 miles to an outcropping of milk white quartz. This scramble is what turns the hike into a C Challenge, but it is worth the climb. We return to the Outlook for our break before completing the lollipop loop on an old jeep trail and then following the Ringtail Trail back to the trailhead. Highlights of this hike are beautiful views in new territory for most of us.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead **TRAILS:** Lost Dog Wash, Quartz, Jeep, Ringtail, Lost Dog Wash

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Lost Dog Wash Trailhead in McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Hwy 101 North all the way around to Exit 38 for Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. Take a slight left onto N Pima Road after 0.5 miles. Turn a slight left onto East Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard and go 4.4 miles. Turn left on Via Linda and go 1.3 miles to North 124th Street. Turn left and follow it to the trailhead parking.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-wvrgnpb>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 277

HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Marcus Landslide, Submarine Rock, Rock Knob (PCHC # 688).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 11 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. Good trail through the Marcus Landslide Geologic Interpretative Area. The trail continues into a range of rock sculptures including the huge Submarine Rock. The trail continues back and then right to the Rock Knob with a short scramble to a rise giving great views over the McDowell Range. The path retraces itself back to the parking lot.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead **TRAILS:** Marcus Landslide, Rock Knob, Pemberton, Boulder, Marcus Landslide, Feldspar, Tom Thumb

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms. No park fee

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 108 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Mw4kC6m/A>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 688

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Gooseneck/Saguaro Nest/Maricopa (PCHC # 802).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Mileage. Additional challenges include: Distance is exceeded.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10.2 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 628 feet. This 10.2 mile lollipop hike with a clockwise loop has an elevation gain of 628 ft. It is a typical wellgroomed Scottsdale trail through a range of rock sculptures, passing a luxury housing development (Storyrock), a jumping cholla forest and through the 2023 Diamond Fire scar, showing the natural and manmade results (including white barrel cacti, replantings of cholla, scarred saguaros). Frequent views of the Four Peaks and Tom Thumb.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead TRAILS: Marcus Landslide, Rock Knob, Pemberton, Boulder, Marcus Landslide, Feldspar, Tom Thumb</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms. No park fee</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 108 miles</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 802</p>
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Quartz Trail (PCHC # 281).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: steady uphill going and downhill coming back.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1100 feet. You start out hiking through a neighborhood of nice houses, before starting to climb the mountain. About 2.6 miles from the trailhead is a steep, rocky, unmarked 1/4 mile trail off to the right. It leads up to the quartz outcropping. Its a great break spot with views of Scottsdale and Phoenix.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Quartz Trailhead TRAILS: Quartz</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park entrance fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Quartz Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn south (right) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn left on McDowell Ranch Road. Turn right on 104th St. Turn right into Quartz Trailhead parking lot. 104th St connects McDowell to the parking lot. DRIVING DISTANCE: 101 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Quartz-Trail</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-3kqhDcz</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCkksMycFC4eZ1nW</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 281</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Sunrise Trail (PCHC # 283).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: added elevation.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1400 feet. You start at the Lost Dog Wash trailhead. The first 2.75 miles of the trail go up gradually but very steadily about 800 feet to a saddle through typical desert flora. There is an optional peak that goes up .25 and another 100+ feet. If your timing is right, you get great views of the Fountain Hills Fountain from the saddle and top. You get 360 degree views from the top including Camelback Mountain to the west, and Four Peaks and Weavers Needle to the east.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead TRAILS: Sunrise</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North. Exit onto Shea Boulevard East (turn left). Turn north (left) onto 124th Street. Trailhead parking is at the end of 124th Street (about 1 mile). Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead: Alternate. Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left). Exit onto 202 East. Exit onto 101 North. Exit onto Shea Boulevard East (turn right). Turn north (left) onto 124th Street. Trailhead parking is at the end of 124th Street (about 1 mile) DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Sunrise-Trail</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-RzbcZMS/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCpGkYqL9v2FJKL_</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 283</p>
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Toms Thumb and The Lookout from the North Trailhead (PCHC # 285).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Elevation. Additional challenges include: added elevation and slippery surface.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.3 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1800 feet. The Toms Thumb has a steep, steady climb for the first 1.5 miles. Follow this trail and signs all the way (taking advantage of a variety of overlooks along the way) to the base of Toms Thumb. This is a 140 foot high granite rock sticking up on the top of the mountain. On return to the main trail, take a side trail (Lookout Trail) up to a spectacular viewpoint with 360 degree views. There are excellent views of Scottsdale and areas to the west as well as Fountain Hills and the Superstition Mountains to the east. Reverse directions back to the car via Toms Thumb Trail.</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The uphill portion of the trail is decomposed granite, making for a somewhat slippery surface to hike upon so the hike will go at a slower than normal pace.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead TRAILS: Tom Thumb</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive.) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Lq7NTpv/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCvyz9Olo-hTGfu5</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 285</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Windgate Pass & Gateway Trails to Inspiration Point (PCHC # 289).</p> <p>REASON FOR CHALLENGE: elevation and mileage.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1297 feet. The hike starts at the Gateway Trailhead area and passes through a typical saguaro forest. The hike goes from the Gateway Loop Trail to the Windgate Trail to Inspiration Point and slightly beyond. The top of Toms Thumb can be seen near the far point of the hike.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve TRAILS: Saguaro, Gateway, Windgate,</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Gateway Trailhead—Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 miles up the road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-fbdLQbq/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aoRPAF9jKlzzG3SkK?e=zECHaw</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 289</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon Trails (PCHC # 253).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 630 feet. It passes through a large forest of saguaro. There are 2 crested saguaro cacti along the trail: one has a very rare double crest. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Coyote Canyon</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-hPk9vjw</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 253</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Brown Mountain Loop via Rustler and Hackamore (PCHC # 779).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. This route is a slightly longer version of trail #258 and leads to Browns Saddle via Rustler and Hackamore Trails. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Upper Ranch, Rustler, Hackamore, Brown Mountain, Wrangler</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going Right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles. (Name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 112 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-xx6HKjF/A</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 779</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Brown Mountain Saddle Only (PCHC # 258).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. This route leads to Browns Saddle. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Upper Ranch, Cone Mt., Browns Mt., Wrangler, Cone Mt.</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going Right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles. (Name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-xx6HKjF/A</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 258</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Browns Ranch loop around Cone Mountain (PCHC # 260).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.4 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. Take Upper Ranch Trail to Cone Mountain, then left on Hackamore, and right on Latigo.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Upper Ranch, Cone Mountain, Hackamore, Latigo,</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-hPk9vjw</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 260</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Cathedral Rock Loop (PCHC # 262).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.5 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Weavers Needle, Four Peaks, Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail. There are many different cacti species here and late spring could be very colorful after good winter rains.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Brown Ranch, Corral, Dry Gulch, Cholla Mt., Chuckwagon, Vaquero, Brown Ranch</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Cathedral-Rock</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-7xTQGNp/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCZFzatG8DIxxtqd</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 262</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Granite Mountain Loop (PCHC # 268).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.8 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 427 feet. From the Trailhead take the Bootlegger Trail west to Saddlehorn Trail. Turn left on it to Granite Rock Mountain Trail. This is a loop trail around the mountain. Turn left to take the trail in a clockwise direction. At the junction with the Balanced Rock Trail go left for a brief in and out to this famous landmark. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end Perfect for a photo opportunity!. Retrace your steps back to the Granite Mountain Trail. Turn left and continue the loop. To complete the loop stay on the trail past the first junction with Bootlegger and continue to Saddlehorn Trail. At this point turn left. Take a right on Bootlegger Trail back to the parking lot. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek. It passes through three different forests saguaro, jumping cholla, and two types of yuccas. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead **TRAILS:** Bootlegger, Saddlehorn, Granite Mountain, Balanced Rock, Granite Mountain,Saddlehorn, Bootlegger Trails

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-63znTRV>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aoSXctQw6eFTxy9W8?e=eh5xfm>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 268

HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Granite Mountain Loop (PCHC # 758).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.3 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 577 feet. From the Trailhead take the Bootlegger Trail west to Saddlehorn Trail. Turn left on it to Granite Rock Mountain Trail. This is a loop trail around the mountain. Turn left to take the trail in a clockwise direction. At the junction with the Balanced Rock Trail go left for a brief in and out to this famous landmark. Balanced Rock is a gigantic granite boulder balancing on its pointy end. Perfect for a photo opportunity! Retrace your steps back to the Granite Mountain Trail. Turn left and continue the loop. To complete the loop, visit the scenic outlook and then return to the trail past the first junction with Bootlegger and continue to Saddlehorn Trail. At this point turn right for 0.1 miles and then turn left on the Granite Mtn Trail proceeding south to its intersection with the Powerline Trail. Turn left and proceed back to the parking lot. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek. It passes through three different forests saguaro, jumping cholla, and two types of yuccas. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead **TRAILS:** Bootlegger, Saddlehorn, Granite Mountain, Balanced Rock, Granite Mountain, Saddlehorn, Granite Mtn, Powerline Trails

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mountain-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-63znTRV>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 758

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Hawknest, Divide, High Desert, Renegade, Soapberry, Desperado, Coyote Canyon, Dove, Barb, 136th Express (PCHC # 270).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 8 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. The highlights of this hike include a double crested saguaro, Michelin Man II Saguaro, many rock formations, and distant views of Four Peaks, the Superstitions and other mountains. Trail condition: a very good hiking trail.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Tonto National Forest Trailhead TRAILS: Hawknest, Divide, High Desert, Renegade, Soapberry, Desperado, Coyote Canyon, Dove, Barb, 36th Express</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: No restrooms at the trailhead (but you can stop off at the Browns Ranch Trailhead by turning left on Alma School Parkway and going about a mile to the end). No parking fees.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Tonto National Forest Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (North) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (changes name to Rio Verde). Turn left on 136th Street. Drive about 5 miles to entrance to Tonto National Forest the last 2 miles are on a well maintained dirt road. DRIVING DISTANCE: 130 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Northwest-Loop-Trails</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-HC928gV</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 270</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Hawknest (PCHC # 275).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.4 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 400 feet. The trail passes an excellent example of a crested saguaro early in the hike. This newly opened trailhead offers hikes through a boulder studded desert environment with many interesting rock formations.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Sidewinder, Rock Tannk, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion, Hawknest,</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-NX8bF99</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 275</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion (PCHC # 272).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.2 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 232 feet. The hike originates at the Pima Dynamite Trailhead and has excellent trails. The trail passes an excellent example of a crested saguaro early in the hike. This newly opened trailhead offers hikes through a boulder studded desert environment with many interesting rock formations.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion.</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QMFkJ3K</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aoSb_3OS7NkLij8rG?e=6mZLTz</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 272</p>

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Snake Eyes (PCHC # 274).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.7 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 680 feet. The trail passes an excellent example of a crested saguaro early in the hike. This newly opened trailhead offers hikes through a boulder studded desert environment with many interesting rock formations.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Snake Eyes, Scorpion, Latigo</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-FpzHqJB/A</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCcdqZEXKBH9dBBq</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 274</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Whiskey Bottle, Vanguard, Wrangler, Rustler, Latigo Loop (PCHC # 271).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.8 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 374 feet. There are great views of the surrounding area, as well as many large saguaros and great rock formations along the trail.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Latigo, Whiskey Bottle, Vanquero, Wrangler, Cone Mt., Hackamore, Latigo</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Laigo-Loop</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-B7gb4zq</p> <p>URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aoSeDNInS5_YlhpuC?e=dYGxNW</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 271</p>
<p>HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Lost Dog Wash Trail, Quartz Trail Lollipop Loop (PCHC # 276).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.2 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. It starts as a good trail at the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead but there are long stretches of rocky trail but with competent footing. It leads up to the Talisen Overlook and then onto the Quartz Trail. We stop at the outlook for our break before completing the lollipop loop on an old jeep trail and then following the Ringtail Trail back to the trailhead. Highlights of this hike are beautiful views in new territory for most of us.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead TRAILS: Lost Dog Wash, Quartz, Jeep, Ringtail, Lost Dog Wash</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Lost Dog Wash Trailhead in McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Hwy 101 North all the way around to Exit 38 for Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. Take a slight left onto N Pima Road after 0.5 miles. Turn a slight left onto East Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard and go 4.4 miles. Turn left on Via Linda and go 1.3 miles to North 124th Street. Turn left and follow it to the trailhead parking.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-wvrgnpb</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 276</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Marcus Landslide, Rock Knob Loop (PCHC # 280).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.5 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 740 feet. There are lots of great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas. Plus, there are views of great granite boulders.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead **TRAILS:** Marcus Landslide, Rock Knob, Pemberton, Boulder, Marcus Landslide, Feldspar, Tom Thumb

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 108 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Mw4kC6m/A>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCj0jFkloiJbCK0q>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 280

HIKE: C Hike - McDowell SP - Whiskey Bottle, Turpentine, Black Hill Loop (PCHC # 287).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.4 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. The trail goes through a typical Scottsdale desert with nice views of the distant mountains. A highlight is a pair of saguaros, one a perfect specimen and one with lots of curved arms: A Felix & Oscar pair.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Fraesfield Trailhead **TRAILS:** Whiskey Bottle, Turpentine, Black Hill, Dixie, 136th St Expressway, Monument, Black Hill

FEES AND FACILITIES: No restrooms at the trailhead (but you can stop off at the Browns Ranch Trailhead by turning left on Alma School Parkway and going about a mile to the end).

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Fraesfield Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (name changes to Rio Verde). Trailhead is on the left just before 136th Street. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 105 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Fraesfield-Trailhead-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-XWQrXmt/A>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4anCxYL2cVINbEND6->

PCHC TRAIL ID: 287

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Browns Ranch to Cathedral Rock Amphitheater (PCHC # 257).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: D hike rating exceeded: Mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 365 feet. Browns Ranch Road/Maverick/Cholla Mtn Loop to the Cathedral/Cholla Mtn Loop to the Amphitheater/Watershed/Chuckwagon/Browns Ranch Road. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Four Peaks, the Boulders and Toms Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail with many different cacti species. Trail condition: very good hiking trail.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead **TRAILS:** Brown Ranch, Maverick, Cholla, Watershed, Chuckwagon

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 100 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-wKQtqT6>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 257

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Desert Park, Horseshoe, Gateway, Saguaro Loop (PCHC # 265).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: added mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 5 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet. This is a loop hike beginning from the Gateway Trailhead through typical desert scenery with many very nice saguaro cacti. The trail climbs to the Gateway Saddle with views of the north edge of Scottsdale before returning to the trailhead.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Gateway Trailhead, McDowell Sonoran Preserve **TRAILS:** Desert Park, Horseshoe, Gateway, Saguaro

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Gateway Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then Highway 101 North all the way around to Scottsdale. Exit at Princess/Pima Bell Road (exit #36). Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road. Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approximately 1.4 miles. Turn north (left) onto Thompson Peak Parkway. Turn right into trailhead parking 0.5 miles up the road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 88 miles

DRIVING DISTANCE: 88 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-pZK6dqK/A>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 265

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Dare A Sarah (PCHC # 710).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: D hike rating exceeded: Mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 5.1 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 340 feet. The hike originates at the Pima/Dynamite Trailhead and has excellent trails. The trail passes an excellent example of a crested saguaro early in the hike. This newly opened trailhead offers hikes through a boulder studded desert environment with many interesting rock formations.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead **TRAILS:** Latigo, Sidewinder, Rock Tank, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion (North), West Express, Latigo

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms at Trailhead. No park fee

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 85 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QMFkJ3K>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4as3g8ksH-BKv6hYLS?e=Z4f8VB>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 710

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion (PCHC # 273).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: D hike rating exceeded: Mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 400 feet. The hike originates at the Pima Dynamite Trailhead and has excellent trails. The trail passes an excellent example of a crested saguaro early in the hike. This newly opened trailhead offers hikes through a boulder studded desert environment with many interesting rock formations.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Pima Dynamite Trailhead **TRAILS:** Latigo, Dare A Sarah, Scorpion.

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Pima Dynamite Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road. Turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard. Cross Pima Road, trailhead driveway a short distance on the left. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 102 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-QMFkJ3K>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4aowhxisZSaYwiZuC2?e=tWTrHa>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 273

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Marcus Landslide (PCHC # 279).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: D hike rating exceeded: Elevation.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4.7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 700 feet. The hike has much of the elevation gain on the return trip. There are lots of great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas. Plus, there are views of great granite boulders.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead **TRAILS:** Marcus Landslide

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead

DRIVING DISTANCE: 108 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Cq8tZfz>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 279

HIKE: D Challenge Hike - McDowell SP - Toms Thumb from the North Trailhead (PCHC # 715).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: D hike rating exceeded: Elevation, Trail Condition. Additional challenges include: added elevation and slippery surface.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1027 feet. The Toms Thumb has a steep, steady climb for the first 1.5 miles. Follow this trail and signs all the way (taking advantage of a variety of overlooks along the way) to the base of Toms Thumb (a 140 foot high granite rock sticking up on the top of the mountain). There are excellent views of Scottsdale and areas to the west as well as Fountain Hills and the Superstition Mountains to the east. Reverse directions back to the car via Toms Thumb Trail.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The uphill portion of the trail is decomposed granite, making for a somewhat slippery surface to hike upon so the hike will go at a slower than normal pace.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Toms Thumb Trailhead **TRAILS:** Tom Thumb

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Toms Thumb Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Drive.) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Parkway. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th Street. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th Street. Stay left as the road runs into the trailhead.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Lq7NTpv/A>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 715

DESCRIPTION:
<p>HIKE: D Hike - McDowell SP - Bootlegger, Granite Mountain, Turpentine (PCHC # 256).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4.5 mile counter clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. It passes through a large boulder field of interesting shapes. It finishes by going through a small area of turpentine bushes. There are 3 rock formations that look like camels along the final section of the trail. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains as well as numerous granite rock formations. This is one of the most scenic trails within an hour of PebbleCreek.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Granite Mt., Black Hill, Turpentine</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL PHOTOS: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Granite-Mt-North</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-PGCBq8V/A</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 256</p>
<p>HIKE: D Hike - McDowell SP - Granite Mountain North (PCHC # 63).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4.2 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 300 feet. There are lots of interesting saguaro cacti, granite rock formations and distant views of the surrounding mountains. This is one of the best trail surfaces of any hike we do. Scottsdale has done an excellent job with their McDowell Sonoran Preserve trails. From the parking area, take Bootlegger Trail, turn left on Saddlehorn Trail, turn right on Granite Mt Loop Trail to Scenic View and reverse.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Granite Mountain Trailhead TRAILS: Bootlegger, Saddlehorn, Granite Mt Loop</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Granite Mountain Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Dove Valley Road. Turn left on Cave Creek Road. Turn right of Dynamite Road. Turn left on 136th Street and then left into the parking lot.</p> <p>DRIVING DISTANCE: 110 miles</p> <p>URL MAP: https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-d8Bv357</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 63</p>
<p>HIKE: D Hike - McDowell SP - Special Event - Lifestyle of the Saguaro Educational Walk (PCHC # 809).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 2 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 365 feet. Short hike from Browns Ranch accompanied with a park ranger. Theme is to learn the lifestyle of a Saguaro</p> <p>IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The hike is less than 2 miles all participants are granted 5 miles for attending.</p> <p>TRAILHEAD NAME: Browns Ranch Trailhead TRAILS: Brown Ranch</p> <p>FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom at the trailhead. No park fee.</p> <p>DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Browns Ranch Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right at first light on Dynamite Boulevard (later changes to Rio Verde). Turn left on Alma School Parkway. The road dead ends at the trailhead. DRIVING DISTANCE: 100 miles</p> <p>PCHC TRAIL ID: 809</p>

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: D Hike - McDowell SP - Taliesin Overlook (PCHC # 284).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 300 feet. You start at the Lost Dog Wash trailhead. There is a crested saguaro on the left about 100 yards from the trailhead. The trail goes up very steadily but gradually about 400 ft to a saddle through typical desert flora. From there you can see the top of the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Scottsdale

TRAILHEAD NAME: Lost Dog Wash Trailhead **TRAILS:** Lost Dog Wash, Quartz, Jeep, Ringtail, Lost Dog Wash

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restroom and water at the trailhead. No park fee.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Lost Dog Wash Trailhead in McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I10 East (left), then take Hwy 101 North all the way around to Exit 38 for Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard. Take a slight left onto N Pima Road after 0.5 miles. Turn a slight left onto East Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard and go 4.4 miles. Turn left on Via Linda and go 1.3 miles to North 124th Street. Turn left and follow it to the trailhead parking.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 102 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Taliesin-West-Overlook>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-n3cKcqd/A>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 284

HIKE: D Hike - McDowell SP - Whiskey Bottle, Turpentine, Black Hill Loop (PCHC # 288).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 4.7 mile clockwise loop hike with an elevation gain of 500 feet. The trail goes through typical Scottsdale desert with nice views of the distant mountains. A highlight is a pair of saguaros, one a perfect specimen and one with lots of curved arms: A Felix & Oscar pair.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Fraesfield Trailhead **TRAILS:** Whiskey Bottle, Turpentine, Black Hill

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms at the trailhead, but there is no drinking water available.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Fraesfield Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. But stay right and immediately take exit 222 going right onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive). Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Boulevard (name changes to Rio Verde). Trailhead is on the left just before 136th Street. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 105 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Fraesfield-Trailhead-Loop>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/McDowell-Sonoran-Preserve/i-Gf3qS6x/A>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 288