

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Challenge Hike - Tonto NF - Barnhardt Trail - Mazatzal Wilderness (PCHC # 215).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: B hike rating exceeded: Mileage.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12.2 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1900 feet. The trail out is mostly up to the Mazatzal Divide. There are some nice views of the valley around you as you limb to the top. With luck and timing, you may come across some waterfalls as you make the climb (around the 3 mile point). Trail is very rocky in many spots and goes along an open edge of the hillside several times

TRAILHEAD NAME: Barnhardt Trailhead **TRAILS:** Barnhardt Trail

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is no park entrance fee and no facilities at the trailhead.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway to I10. Take I10 East (left) to Route 202 East. Continue east of Route 202 to Gilbert Avenue (exit 14). Turn left on Gilbert Avenue and proceed to AZ 87 toward Payson. The turnoff (FR 419) is 4 miles beyond the junction with AZ 188 (rest stop). Turn left at FR 419 and follow it for 5 miles to the end. The parking area is fairly large. Barnhardt trailhead is located at the west end of the parking area **DRIVING DISTANCE:**

208 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Payson/Barnhardt-Trail>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Tonto-National-Forest/>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amSwD3T5tGvAdv2ix>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 215

HIKE: B Hike - Tonto NF - Hells Hole Trail (PCHC # 697).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1500 feet. This trail begins as a gradual uphill climb from the trailhead located at Reynolds Creek Campground. The 1st part of the trail is well marked. At about 15 minutes you will pass an Alligator Juniper and a large manzanita. At the 30 minute mark will be a very large ponderosa pine; further along the view begins to open up. After about an hour, you arrive at Workman Creek. You will officially cross into the Salome Wilderness Area as you begin a long uphill climb. You will pass an intersection with the Boyer Trail. Keep to the right as you cross a muddy mesa. The last 0.5 mile of the trail is a steep descent into Hells Hole (which is a real challenge when making the return trip) where the trail deadends. This area can be overgrown, so you need to pay attention. After about 3 hours of hiking you will arrive again at Workman Creek, the end of the trail.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: High point of trail is at 5480; snow is possible even in spring. Call ahead to Pleasant Valley Ranger station to check road and trail accessibility: 928 462 4300 or www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto. Driving logistics make this a difficult hike to plan.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Reynolds Creek Campground **TRAILS:** Hells Hole Trail FR#284

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is a Portajohn at the trailhead. Tonto National Daily Pass \$8. Free with National Park pass.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Take I10 East from N. Pebble Creek Parkway. Follow I10 East towards Phoenix for about 15 miles. Take exit 143B for I17S toward US60 E/I10 for 12 miles. Keep right at the fork to continue on US60 E for Globe Mesa for 74 miles. From Claypool (between Miami and Globe), take State Highway 88 northwest for approximately 15 miles to its junction with State Highway 288. Turn right onto Highway 288 and drive north for approximately 27 miles. The trailhead is on the left (west) near the Reynolds Creek Group Site, (approximately 100 yards south of the gate to the Group Site). Access to this trailhead is suitable for sedans. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 292 miles

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PCHC TRAIL ID: 697

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Hike - Tonto NF - Horton Creek - Payson (PCHC # 217).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 8 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1060 feet. The hike starts right outside of Payson. We will hike down to Horton Spring. The first 3 miles is pretty straight forward with the last ½ mile being a set of switchbacks away from the creek. The elevation change is gradual and is hardly noticed. Horton Creek Trail leads to the creek in 3.5 miles. The long way back is to take the Highline Trail #31 to the right for 3.0 miles, and then the Derrick Trail #33 for 2.5 miles back to the Upper Tonto Creek Campground. The Highline Trail has some climbing for 1 to 1.5 miles and the Derrick Trail is rocky

TRAILHEAD NAME: Horton Creek Trailhead **TRAILS:** Horton Creek #285

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

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway to I10. Take I10 East (left) to Route 202 East exit onto Gilbert Road. Turn left on Gilbert Road to Route 87. Turn right on Route 87 to Payson. From Payson take 260 East for 16 miles to FR 289 which is Tonto Creek road just past Kohls Ranch. Turn left on to FR 289 and follow a mile to the Upper Tonto Creek campgrounds. The trailhead is near the slope up into the campgrounds. The parking is actually past the campgrounds across a bridge in a small lot. Park at the picnic area, cross back over the bridge then follows the road to the left that goes to the campground for about 150 feet where the trail to Horton Creek starts. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 220 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Payson/Horton-Creek-Trail>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Tonto-National-Forest/>

URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4amS0bX6n_1pUgw96u

PCHC TRAIL ID: 217

HIKE: B Hike - Tonto NF - Roosevelt Lake, Vineyard Trail #131 (PCHC # 654).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1510 feet. This trail is a segment of the AZT that connects Roosevelt Lake with mountains in the Four Peaks Wilderness. It has expansive views overlooking two major reservoirs, the Superstitions, and the Four Peaks. In the first 1.5 miles, you ascend 1100 ft. The remainder of the hike is over rolling hills as it winds towards the Four Peaks and overhead views of the dam. As you hike, you pass Camp ORourke, where dam workers lived in the 1900s. To your left the Salt River flows through Alchesay Canyon, named after an Apache Chief who allegedly convinced Geronimo to surrender.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Due to long driving distance, consider an overnight hike.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Vineyard Trailhead **TRAILS:** Vineyard Trail #131

FEES AND FACILITIES: The closest restrooms are located at Roosevelt Lake Marina. There are no park fees

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: to Roosevelt Lake Vineyard Trail, Mills Ridge Trailhead (AZ88) ** This hike can be accessed via AZ88 or AZ87** Take I10 East from N. Pebble Creek Parkway. Follow I10 East towards Phoenix for about 19 miles Take exit 147 for AZ 202 Loop E and continue for about 23 miles Take exit 26 for E. Brown Road At the traffic circles, stay on E Brown Rd for 4miles E Brown Rd will become Lost Dutchman Blvd; follow for 3.4 miles Turn left onto AZ88/Apache Trail; follow for 44 miles until it ends at Roosevelt Lake Bridge Turn left onto AZ188 to cross the bridge Look for a parking pullout on the side of the road **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 200 miles

PCHC TRAIL ID: 654

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Challenge Hike - Tonto NF - Barnhardt Trail - Mazatzal Wilderness (PCHC # 216).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: C hike rating exceeded: Elevation.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1900 feet. The trail out is mostly up to the Mazatzal Divide. There are some nice views of the valley around you as you limb to the top. With luck and timing, you may come across some waterfalls as you make the climb (around the 3 mile point). Trail is very rocky in many spots and goes along an open edge of the hillside several times

TRAILHEAD NAME: Coachwhip Trailhead **TRAILS:** Barnhardt Trail

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

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway to I10. Take I10 East (left) to Route 202 East. Continue east of Route 202 to Gilbert Avenue (exit 14). Turn left on Gilbert Avenue and proceed to AZ 87 toward Payson. The turnoff (FR 419) is 4 miles beyond the junction with AZ 188 (rest stop). Turn left at FR 419 and follow it for 5 miles to the end. The parking area is fairly large. Barnhardt trailhead is located at the west end of the parking area **DRIVING DISTANCE:**

208 miles

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URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Tonto-National-Forest/>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 216

HIKE: C Hike - Tonto NF - Tonto Natural Bridge and Fossil Creek Trail - Strawberry (PCHC # 218).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 5 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 600 feet. A pair of short hikes totaling about 5 miles (under 3 for Natural Bridge and 2.4 for Fossil Creek) with an elevation gain of about 600 feet. The bridge is a beautiful 180 high, 150 wide, 400 long natural travertine bridge with lots of colors in the rocks. With a little climbing, you can cross right under it, or go up and around to see it from the opposite side. There are several places where you have to scamper over large boulders, but its more hiking than climbing. Fossil Creek trail has little elevation change, but lots of boulder hopping that provides great views of many rapids and waterfalls. We will stop at a beautiful 15 waterfall.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Fossil Creek Trailhead **TRAILS:** Tonto Natural Bridge, Fossil Creek

FEES AND FACILITIES: Portajohns are at both trailheads. \$5.00 entry fee per person.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway to I10. Take I10 East (left). Take Route 202 East. Turn left (north) on Gilbert Road. Turn right on Route 87. Stay on 87 and go through Payson. Tonto Natural Bridge State Park will be a turn to the left. Pay the entrance fee at the office. Then proceed to the trailhead. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 280 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Payson/Fossil-Springs>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Tonto-National-Forest/>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 218