

CAMELBACK 03-07-22

Trail maps for various segments on Camelback

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Camelback-Mountain/>

Two Humps of Phoenix (Camelback and Piestewa Peak). Rating A or B Challenge. These are two short hikes to two icons of the valley. Total length is 8-9 miles and total elevation gain is approximately 2500 feet. Firstly, we will hike Camelback Mountain via the Summit Trail from Echo Canyon Trailhead. This is approximately 4 miles up and back. The route up has two steep sections: the first section is over slanting flat rock with cut steps and handrails positioned to aid hikers and the second section is over large boulders within a ravine. This is a busy route so attention should be paid to other hikers (especially those going downhill). The summit is a large flat area offering grand 360-degree views over the area. Return to the parking lot by the same route in reverse. Secondly, we will hike Piestewa Peak via Summit Trail 300 from the East Piestewa Peak parking lot. This is approximately 4.5 miles up and back. The trail winds its way up to the summit via rock steps. The final .25 mile is a scramble to the peak. This is a busy route so attention should be paid to the many other hikers on the trail. There is usually a queue of hikers waiting to scramble the final few yards to the summit. The summit is a boulder strewn area offering good views across the east valley. Return to the parking lot by the same route in reverse. **What you need to know:** Low on mileage but high in elevation gain. Elevation gain is approximately 600 feet vertical per mile hiked. Trail condition on Camelback is rough, on Piestewa is good. You will NOT be alone – pay close attention to other hikers/runners on these routes. Keeping a large group together will be difficult on these trails. Restrooms at both parking facilities, no fees. Total driving distance is 75 miles round trip including the distance between the two parking areas.

Directions to Camelback Mountain - Echo Canyon Trail Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 east to Highway 51. Go north on 51 to the Camelback Road exit. Turn right (east) on Indian School Road. Turn left (north) on 44th Street. Continue around bend onto E McDonald Drive. At light turn right onto E McDonald Drive]. At traffic circle turn onto Echo Canyon Parkway and follow signs to Echo Canyon Trailhead parking area.

Directions to Piestewa Peak from Echo Canyon. From Echo Canyon Trailhead parking area return to the traffic circle and go back to East Macdonald drive (left off of the circle). At light turn right onto Tatum Boulevard (north) Follow Tatum to Lincoln Drive and turn right (west). In 3.5 miles turn right onto Piestewa Peak Drive (once named Squaw Peak Drive) In .7 miles look for the parking lot for Piestewa Summit Trail #300

Cholla Trail. (Camelback) Rating C Challenge, B. This is a 4.8-mile hike, out and back with an elevation gain of 1250 feet to the saddle and 1500 feet to the peak. The trailhead elevation is about 1,400 feet, the elevation at the saddle is 2,177 feet and the summit is 2,637 feet. The trail rises steadily and affords very good views of the surrounding valley as you climb. The trail is very well marked and easy to follow. The first portion of the trail climbs to a saddle that affords views of almost 360 degrees. From the saddle, the trail becomes significantly steeper, and is rated B due to some stretches that required hand over hand climbing. The trip to the saddle is suitable for most hikers. Some will want to wait at the saddle while the more adventuresome climb to the summit and back down. There are no restrooms and no parking whatsoever at the trailhead. You will need to park along street. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 75 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CamelbackMountainEchoCanyonRec/Cholla-Trail>

Directions to Camelback Mountain - Cholla Trail -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn onto I-10 East and continue to Highway 51 North. (Note: there is no HOV lane exit to Highway 51). Follow Highway 51 north to Glendale Avenue/Lincoln Drive exit. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and follow Lincoln Drive east to Invergordon Road. Invergordon would be 64th Street if it were numbered. Turn right on Invergordon and follow south past McDonald Drive. You will then come to Cholla Lane on the right (westside of the road). There is no parking on Cholla Lane at the trailhead. You must continue south on Invergordon past Cholla Lane about two blocks. You will then find parking permitted on the west side of Invergordon Road. Park and walk north on Invergordon Road to Cholla Lane. Follow Cholla Lane west (left) about three city blocks to the trailhead, which is on the left side of the road.

Echo Canyon. Front slope. (Camelback) Rating B. This is a 2.5-mile hike, out and back. Elevation gains of 1,300 feet. Average grade of 23 degrees. Average hike, round trip, is 2 hours. A Valley favorite, especially for the speed hikers who do it in under one hour. We will access off McDonald. McDonald runs east of 44th Street as it turns into Tatum Boulevard. Limited parking at trailhead. Use extreme carpooling and park on surface streets as close to trailhead as legally possible. From the trailhead large railroad ties make the steps leading up to the first saddle. Be on the alert for sprinters coming down. Beautiful views to the east unfold from the saddle. Prime viewing is early morning. From the first saddle, the trail turns a sharp right south. You will hike along a massive undercut wall. This shaded area provides a habitat for plant life. Another series of railroad ties takes you to the most difficult section. Two consecutive steep slopes must be climbed. Pipe handrails and chains are in place for assistance. After the handrails comes a steep gully. It is a short scramble up. Next comes a quiet valley with a moderate incline. There is loose gravel in this area. Next comes the ascent. The trail scrambles in several directions, in fields of boulders but your inclination will be towards the top of Camelback. When you reach the summit, take a look around. If you do the Cholla Trail and Echo Canyon Trail together with a return to the starting parking space the distance is 5.5 miles with an elevation gain and descent of just over 2,100 feet. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 75 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CamelbackMountainEchoCanyonRec/Camelback-BillP-02-12-15>
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Traverse--2 Humped Camel. (Camelback) Rating A. Trails: Echo Canyon Trail, Camelback Summit, Cholla Trail, Cholla Trailhead, Camelback Summit, Echo Canyon Trailhead. This is a short scenic hike of 5.5 miles with an elevation gain over 2800 feet. The hike will traverse the Camelback Ridge twice. We'll hike from the Echo Canyon Trailhead, over the summit, down to the Cholla Trailhead, then reverse the climb back to the Echo Canyon Parking lot. Fantastic views north over Paradise Valley and south over the city of Phoenix and beyond. Be prepared, there are 2 steep climbs to the summit over rugged granite and sandstone boulders. Bring plenty of liquids and food for energy. There are no park fees. Driving distance is about 75 miles roundtrip.

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