

## CAMELBACK 5-6-20

### Trail maps for various segments on Camelback

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

**Camelback Traverse – 2 Humped Camel (Camelback Mountain). 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. No park fee. Driving distance is about 75 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Camelback-Mountain>

### Directions to Camelback Mountain - Echo Canyon Trail

I-10 east to Hwy 51

North on 51 to Camelback Rd exit

Turn right (east) on Camelback Rd

Turn left (north) on 44th St.

Turn right (east) on McDonald

After passing Tatum, turn right on Echo Canyon Parkway

**Cholla Trail (Camelback Mountain). Rating C+/B.** This is a 4.8 mi hike, out & back with an elevation gain of 1250 ft to the saddle and 1500 ft to the peak. The trailhead elevation is about 1,400 ft, the elevation at the saddle is 2,177 ft and the summit is 2,637 ft. 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 C 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 rest rooms and no parking whatsoever at the trailhead. You will need to park along street. There are no park fees and no restrooms. Driving distance is 75 miles RT.

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

### Directions to Camelback Mountain - Cholla Trail

I-10 E to Hwy 51 North. (note : there is no HOV lane exit to Hwy 51).

Follow Hwy 51 North to Glendale Ave/Lincoln Drive exit.

Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and follow Lincoln Dr. east to Invergordon Rd. Invergordon would be 64th St if it were numbered.

Turn right on Invergordon and follow south past McDonald Drive.

You will then come to Cholla Lane on the right (west side 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 Rd. Park, walk north on Invergordon Rd. to Cholla Lane, then follow Cholla Lane west (left) about three city blocks to the trailhead, which is on the left side of the road.

Total mileage one way is 37 miles.

**Echo Canyon (Camelback Mountain). Front slope. Rating B.** This is a 2.5 mile hike, out and back. Elevation gain of 1,300 ft. Average grade of 23 degrees. Average hike, round trip, is 2

hours. A Valley favorite, especially for the speed hikers (they do it in under one hour). We will access off of McDonald. McDonald runs east of 44<sup>th</sup> Street as it turns into Tatum Blvd. Limited parking at trailhead. Use extreme carpooling and park as close to trailhead as legally possible. Generally, on surface streets. 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 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 overcome. Pipe handrails and chains are in place for assistance. After the handrails comes a steep gully. It's 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 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 ft. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 75 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CamelbackMountainEchoCanyonRec/Camelback-BillP-02-12-15>

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