

CAVE CREEK AREA 3-14-22

Trail maps for various segments in the Cave Creek Area

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Cave-Creek-Area/>

Blue Wash, Camp Creek Falls Trail. (Cave Creek Area). Rating C. This is a 7 to 8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1000 feet. It goes down a series of dry waterfalls to an intersection with Camp Creek. Just past the intersection going up the ridgeline is a section of the Maricopa Trail. We take that up to the road. On the return we stay in an interesting wash, which comes out at Camp Creek. Then we go up Camp Creek about a third of a mile to a wet waterfall of about 15 feet. Beyond that the creek stays above ground and meanders through a lush riparian area to a campground. The return goes up the ridge running parallel to Blue Wash, providing views of the whole area. Trail condition--part is in a sandy wash and part is an average trail with one steep section going out of the main wash. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 122 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Other>

Directions to Cave Creek - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Trailhead -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Turn north (left) on I-17. Turn east (right) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort) Turn right on Cave Creek Road and continue past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive just over 2 miles past that turnoff. Trailhead will be on the left just past the Blue Wash #1 sign.

Directions to Cave Creek - Blue Wash/Camp Creek Trailhead - Alternate -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on I-10, and take 101 North. Turn left on to Cave Creek Road. Turn right on Carefree Highway (Highway 74). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort) Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive just over 2 miles from that intersection. Trailhead will be on the left just past the Blue Wash #1 sign.

Cave Creek - Blue Wash, Camp Creek Falls Trail. Rating C. This hike has two parts. Hike to the waterfall, then a short hike to the Sears Kay Native American Ruins.

Part 1. This is a 6.5-mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 700 feet. It goes down a series of dry waterfalls to a wide wash. We follow that to the power lines where we intersect the Maricopa Trail. On the return we stay in an interesting wash, with a spring (if we find it) and a slot canyon which comes out at Camp Creek. Then we go up Camp Creek about a third of a mile to a wet waterfall of about 15 feet. We then return to the main wash and follow that back to the cars. Trail condition--part is in a sandy wash and part is an average trail with one steep section going out of the main wash. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 122 miles roundtrip.

Part 2. We then drive a mile up the road to a small park. We do a 1-mile total in and out hike to about 40 Indian ruins and a scenic overlook. You can leave your packs in the car for this part of the hike.

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Double Loop (via Go John, Quartz, Slate, Overton, Go John Trails), (Cave Creek Area)..

Rating B. Neal Wring will lead. This hike is an 11.5-mile double loop with an elevation gain of approximately 1000 feet around Cave Creek Regional Park. The route starts at the Go John Trailhead and climbs north on the Go John Trail for 1.3 miles until the junction with the Overton Trail. Continue right at this junction for 0.9 miles. At this point the Maricopa Trail leaves the trail and heads north towards Spur Cross.

The route then follows the Go John trail east and rounds the loop for 2.4 miles to the junction with the Quartz Trail. At this point the route turns left and follows the Quartz Trail 1.4 miles all the way until it ends at the Slate Trail. Then turn right and follow Slate 0.8 miles until it joins the Overton Trail. At this point turn left on the Overton trail. The trail will climb for approximately 2 miles to the junction with the Go John Trail. Turn right here and return downhill to the car in 1.3 miles. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is a park entrance fee of \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 93 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads – Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Go north on I-17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left onto 32nd Street and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee required to enter the park. Continue along the main park road - just before the horse staging area, you will see the access road for the Go John Trailhead on the left (Tonalite Drive).

Go John, Quartz, Slate Trails Loop. (Cave Creek Area). Rating D. This is a 4-mile loop hike on a combined trail with an elevation gain of about 400 feet. The trail is marked, and is in good condition. On the Lime Kiln Trail (on the right as you hike from the trailhead) about .3 miles from the Quartz Trail intersection is a strange looking saguaro named the Michelin Man Saguaro. The Quartz Trail has quite a bit of quartz rock along it. About .5 miles from the trailhead on the Go John Trail (on the left as you hike away from the trailhead, near the junction of the Jasper Trail) there is a group of 3 saguaros that look very much like the hiking club logo. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Driving distance is 93 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/organize/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Go north on I-17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left onto 32nd Street and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee required to enter the park. Continue along the main park road--just before the horse staging area, you will see the access road for the Go John Trailhead on the left (Tonalite Drive).

Overton, Go John, Quartz, Flat Rock, Slate Trails Loop. (Cave Creek Area). Rating C.

This is a 6 .6-mile loop on combined trails. The elevation gain is 700 feet. Start on the Overton Trail, cross Tonalite Road/parking lot and take the Go John Trail (not the Go John North) to Quartz--turn right on Quartz and then left on Flat Rock. The trail continues out of the park into the Seitts Preserve becoming the Military Trail. Reenter the park by turning right on the Slate Trail. On the Slate Trail, approximately .3 mile after you pass the Quartz Trail intersection, there is a strange saguaro on the left named the Michelin Man Saguaro. About .5 miles from the trailhead on the Go John Trail (on the left as you hike away from the trailhead, near the junction of the Jasper Trail) there is a group of 3 saguaros that look very much like our hiking club logo. Trail Condition--good hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the Go John Trailhead. Driving distance is 93 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/organize/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads – Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Go north on I-17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left onto 32nd Street (sign on right, no light but a left turn lane) and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee/car or Maricopa County Pass. Continue along the main park road -park at the Nature Center and begin at the left end of the parking lot.

Go John Trail to Maricopa Trail. (Cave Creek Area). Rating C, B. This is a 6 to 10-mile hike with an elevation change of 500 feet. The trail is marked and is in good condition. The trail starts out with a 400-foot climb over a ridge, before descending back down to meet the Maricopa

Trail. On the return from the Maricopa Trail, you can turn left and add a mile plus to the hike passing 3 saguaros that look a lot like the PCHC logo. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is a park entrance fee of \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 93 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads – Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Go north on I-17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left onto 32nd Street and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee required to enter the park. Continue along the main park road - just before the horse staging area, you will see the access road for the Go John Trailhead on the left (Tonalite Drive).

Overton, Go John, Quartz Trails. (Cave Creek Area). Rating C Challenge. This is an 8-mile hike on a combined trail loop with an elevation gain of about 1100 feet. We usually travel the trail in a clockwise direction but could dispatch a group counterclockwise, which provides steeper climbs. On the Lime Kiln Trail about .3 miles from the Quartz Trail intersection is a segmented saguaro named the Michelin Man. About .5 miles from the trailhead (near the junction of the Jasper Trail) there is a group of 3 saguaros that look very much like the hiking club logo. Trail condition--average hiking trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is a park entrance fee of \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 93 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Regional-Park/GoJohnOvertonQuartz-and-Variat>

Directions to Cave Creek - Overton/Go John Trailheads--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Go north on I-17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left onto 32nd Street and continue into Cave Creek Regional Park. There is a \$7 fee required to enter the park. Continue along the main park road--just before the horse staging area, you will see the access road for the Go John Trailhead on the left (Tonalite Drive).

P.A. Seitts Preserve Fingers Hike. (Cave Creek Area). Rating D, C. This is a 4.5 to 7.5-mile multi-finger in & out hike with an elevation change of 400 to 880 feet. There are several short trails branching out from the trailhead. The hikers will select some of them to hike. This is a preserve to protect the assorted vegetation along this portion of Cave Creek. The C version crosses the creek bed. There is a wide variety of desert vegetation including many large saguaros. This is a good area for spring wildflowers. Trail condition--good hiking trail. There are no restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 110 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Other/B-Exploratory-HikeSeitts-Preserve-Cave-Creek-ParkLynnW2017/>

Directions to Cave Creek - P.A. Seitts Preserve Trailhead--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends I-17. Turn north (left) on I-17. Exit 223A to the east (right) on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway) Turn north (left) on Cave Creek Road. Go .6 miles and turn west (left) on New River Road (look for Canyon Creek sign on right) Go .3 miles and turn right on 54th Street (Rancho Manana Boulevard) Go .4 miles to the parking area on the right near the intersection with 52 Street.

New Directions to Cave Creek – P. A. Seitts Preserve Trailhead--Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway, turn west (left) on Indian School Road, then take Loop 303 North and follow until it ends at I-17. Left onto I-17 North. Exit 223 to the right onto Carefree Highway. Turn left on North Cave Creek Road. Turn left on East New River Road. Turn right on North 54th Street (Canyon Creek.) Continue North on 54th Street, past Prickly Pear, staying left. Parking on the right near North 52nd Street.