

EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREA 2-15-22

Trail maps for various segments in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Eagletail-Mountains-Wilderness-Area/i-77gMj25>

Eagletail Mountains--Ben Avery Trail. Rating C. This is an 8-mile hike with an elevation gain of 650 feet. There are views of Courthouse Rock for most of the hike. From the trailhead, it is 3.6 miles along an old jeep trail and in a wash to over 100 Native American petroglyphs. The trail itself is fairly easy hiking. You can then continue through a high walled canyon for another 1.5 miles. Along this canyon is a series of volcanic lava flows, many of which have melted quartz rock imbedded in them. Trail condition - good hiking trail. There are no facilities at the trailhead and no park fees. Driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Ben-Avery-Trail-Courthouse-Directions-to-Eagletail-Mountains-Ben-Avery-Trailhead> -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Go west (right) on I-10 to Exit 81 (Salome Road). Turn south (left) across I-10. Turn right on Harquahala Valley Road and go 6.0 miles. Turn right on Centennial, a straight dirt road (to the left is Courthouse Road). Go 7.0 miles to a 3-way intersection (BLM Wilderness sign on the left). Take the right fork, which parallels a natural gas pipeline. Go 4.0 miles. This road may be quite rutted and require a high clearance vehicle. There is a BLM Wilderness sign off to the left about 50 feet. Turn left and go 1.5 miles to trailhead. The last .4 miles definitely requires a high clearance vehicle, but you can park on the side and hike to the trailhead, adding .8 miles to the total hike. The final 12.5 miles is on dirt roads and the roads are good until the last 5 1/2 miles.

Eagletail Mountains--Ben Avery & Arch Loop. Rating B. This is 9-10+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. There are views of Courthouse Rock for most of the hike. From the trailhead, it is 3.6 miles along an old jeep trail and in a wash to over 100 Native American petroglyphs. The trail to the petroglyphs is easy hiking. To get to the arch you follow an old road, then go through a wash before bushwhacking up a steep hill of loose rock and stones to reach the arch. Trail condition--good hiking trail to the petroglyphs then a semi-bushwhack to the arch and back. There are no facilities at the trailhead (rest stop on I-10 near MP 84) and there is no park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches-Directions-to-Eagletail-Mountains-Ben-Avery-Trailhead> -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Go west (right) on I-10 to Exit 81 (Salome Road). Turn south (left) across I-10. Turn right on Harquahala Valley Road and go 6.0 miles. Turn right on Centennial, a straight dirt road (to the left is Courthouse Road). Go 7.0 miles to a 3-way intersection (BLM Wilderness sign on the left). Take the right fork, which parallels a natural gas pipeline. Go 4.0 miles. This road may be quite rutted and require a high clearance vehicle. There is a BLM Wilderness sign off to the left about 50 feet. Turn left and go 1.5 miles to trailhead. The last .4 miles definitely requires a high clearance vehicle, but you can park on the side and hike to the trailhead, adding .8 miles to the total hike. The final 12.5 miles is on dirt roads and the roads are good until the last 5 1/2 miles.