

EAGLETAIL MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREA 5-7-20

Trail maps for various segments in the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Eagletail-Mountains-Wilderness-Area/i-77qMj25>

Ben Avery Trail (Eagletail Mountains). Rating C. This is an 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 650 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Ben-Avery-Trail-Courthouse>

Directions to Eagletail Mountains - Ben Avery Trailhead

Go West 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. There is a BLM Wilderness sign off to the left about 50 ft.

Turn left and go 1.5 miles to trailhead.

The last .4 miles 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, but the roads are good until the final .4 miles.

No facilities at the trailhead; there is a rest stop on I-10 between Buckeye and exit 81.

Ben Avery & Arch Loop (Eagletail Mountains). Rating B. This is 9-10+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. 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 fairly 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 and no park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches>

Directions to Eagletail Mountains - Ben Avery Trailhead

Go West 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. There is a BLM Wilderness sign off to the left about 50 ft.

Turn left and go 1.5 miles to trailhead.

The last .4 miles 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, but the roads are good until the final .4 miles.

No facilities at the trailhead; rest stop on I-10 between Buckeye and exit 81.

Eagletail Mountains Arches Loop (Eagletail Mountains). Rating C+. This is a 7.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. **Rating B.** This is an approximately 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. The highlight of this hike is the 6+ arches you can see along the way. But there are also many great rock formations to see. Trail Condition - only the last mile or so of the hike is on a trail - it is mostly open desert crossing many washes; the main wash you ascend is boulder hopping or loose rocky soil. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EagletailMountainsWildernessAr/Eagletail-Mountains-Arches>

Directions to Eagletail Mountains - Arches Trailhead

Go West on I-10 to Exit 81 (Salome Road).

Turn South (left) across I-10.

Turn right on Harquahala Valley Road and go to the end of the road (12 miles).

Turn Right on Baseline Road.

Go to end and turn left on 547th Ave (a dirt road).

Go approx. 1 mile and bear **right** where the main road turns left at Eagletail Rd.

At the Sun Up Corral, open the gate on the right and drive through (close gate).

The road becomes rough at this point.

Go approx. 1 mi past the gate to an intersection just past a wash (kiosk on the left).

Turn right on a faint road and go another 2 miles to the kiosk at the end of the road.

High clearance vehicles are needed, but not 4WD.

No facilities at the trailhead (rest stop on I-10 around MP 84).