

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK 5-6-20

Trail maps for various segments in Estrella Mountain Regional Park

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Estrella-Mountain-Regional-Park/i-KnPVJfh>

Rainbow, Baseline, Saddle, Quail Loop. (Estrella Mountain Reg Park). Rating D. A loop hike with typical desert scenery. 4.1 miles, 400' elevation gain. Restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7. Driving distance RT is 20 miles.

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. (just across the Gila River).
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and restrooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Butterfield/Gadsden Loop Trail (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. Approx 7.6 miles, with an elevation gain of 900 ft. Take Coldwater .2 miles to Butterfield, turn left on Gadsden, then turn right back onto Butterfield at the far end. The trail is relatively flat, with long views of the Estrella Mountains and valley to the East & West. There is a small arch in one of the washes next to the trail. There are foothills to the left and larger mountains to the right as you travel east on the Gadsden Trail. Trail condition – good hiking trail. A Porta-John is located at trailheads. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Coldwater-GadsdenButterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Butterfield TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the near (East) side of rodeo arena.

Coldwater/Gadsden Trails/Butterfield Trails (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. A 6.6 mile hike with an elevation change of 370 ft. The **Coldwater** Trail is wide and relatively flat. It intersects the Gadsden Trail. We will loop back on the Butterfield Trail. Porta-John at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT. **[SCG=6.7/600/2.9]**.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Coldwater-GadsdenButterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Competitive Track – Long Loop (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating C+. This is a 9.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. This hike goes through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaro cactus. The first half of the hike goes up 700 ft very gradually, then

starts a slow descent. Trail condition – a good hiking trail. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station

Continue on to the parking on the right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

Competitive Track – Technical Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 6 mile double loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station

Continue on to the parking on the right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

Desert Rose to Gadsden Trail – (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating C/D. This is a 5 to 7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail meanders through typical desert terrain with many bushes and Saguaro cactus. There is no restroom at the trailhead. Trail condition - average hiking trail. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Desert-RoseGadsden>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Desert Rose Trailhead

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for PIR turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station

Angle right immediately after the self-pay station into the open parking area.

Drive across at a 45 degree angle – there is a trail sign indicating the trailhead.

No restrooms are at the trailhead.

Quail/Rainbow/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating C. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail goes from the Nature Center and wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It then goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. There are restrooms at trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quail-Trailhead>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Quail Trailhead

Turn left onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw and go to the other side of I-10.

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Turn right just past the golf course entrance into Estrella Mountain Park.

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle .. continue straight on Casey Abbott Dr North.

Turn right at the turn-in to Nature Center).

Park at the Nature Center.

Montezuma Peak (Sierra Estrella Wilderness) Rating A. This is a very steep hike of 5.5 miles with an elevation change over 2900 ft. It's a rugged off trail hike to the top of **Montezuma** Peak, which at 4337 feet is the second highest point in the Estrella Mountain range (an unnamed peak to the northwest tops out at 4512 ft). This hike is best suited to experienced hikers familiar with off trail hiking and climbing over rough and unstable terrain. There are likely many routes one could take to the summit, none of which are particularly user friendly.

From the car park hike north through the desert along the base of the Estrella range a short distance towards two parallel ridgelines. Looking up the ridges you will see that they join about 3/4 of the distance to the top at which point the single ridge heads the remaining distance to the summit of the mountain, at a point just north of **Montezuma** Peak. You should walk up the southernmost of these two ridgelines, which was rugged and required the use of hands in several places. You'll have to dodge chollas and deal with loose and unstable rocks as you make your way up the steep slope. After the two ridgelines join you'll come to several spots where you'll want to bypass large rock outcrops on one side of the ridge or the other. Some additional hiking and scrambling will bring you to the summit ridge where the walking becomes easier. Turn south (right) at this point and hike along the mountain to the first of two small antennas (which no longer appear to be operational). Passing the antenna, the path becomes rough once more as you drop down a short distance to shallow saddle, and then begin climbing the final pitch of the peak itself. The easiest route to the summit is to continue directly up the ridgeline until you reach a point where you can work your way left into a shallow cleft on the east side of the peak. The cleft will allow you to make your way up to the official summit of **Montezuma** Peak (identified by a USGS marker which lists the elevation at 4337 feet), and great views in all directions. To get back down you could retrace your steps, or, opt for the steep wash, which leads down to the west from the saddle you passed earlier between the antenna and the peak. The wash is basically a steep hillside at first and is covered with loose rocks that demand your full attention. Further down, water has scoured out the canyon to bare rock, making travel and footing less precarious. The gully eventually becomes less steep, eventually passing the rock walls of an old Indian ruin located on the left side of the wash. Continue down the drainage until leaving the foothills of the mountain, at which point you'll want to head out of the drainage on the left (south) and route find back to the rough road and your car. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 76 miles RT.

Directions to Estrella Mountain - Montezuma Peak Trail

Take Estrella Parkway south 8.3 miles to the intersection with Elliot Road.
Turn right on Elliot and drive 2.6 miles
Turn left on Rainbow Valley Road and go 9.3 miles (about 1/2 mile past the Cotton Citrus Feed store).
Turn left on Riggs Road (dirt road)
Follow the drainage ditch about .25 miles.
You can cross the ditch and come back on the other side, coming out just past the blockade.
Continue on Riggs 4 miles to a 4-way junction with an unsigned road (listed as Buzzard Rd on the BLM map).
Continue straight at this junction (still on Riggs)-follow phone lines on right.
After an additional 5.3 miles (along the way passing Rainbow Rancho, an old dirt airport) you will arrive at a 'T' junction with a road running parallel to some large, high tension lines.
Follow the small trail sign and turn right.
Drive 1.9 miles further to a left branching road with another 'trail' sign and arrow (this left turn leads to the Quartz Peak Trailhead).
Continue straight for another 1.2 miles and turn left.
Follow this somewhat rougher dirt road 2.4 miles and turn left again.
Follow an even rougher and rockier road about a mile and park.

Petersen Long Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is a 15 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain with distance views of the west side of the Estrella Mountains. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Quartz Peak (Estrella Mountain\ s). Rating B+. This is a 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2550 ft. Quartz Peak Trail, in the 14,400-acre [Sierra Estrella Wilderness](#), leads visitors from the floor of Rainbow Valley (elevation 1,550 feet) to the summit ridge of the Sierra Estrella at Quartz Peak (elevation 4,052 feet) in just 3 miles. Along the way, visitors are treated to a variety of Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife, scenic vistas, and evidence of the area's volcanic history. The views from the summit are spectacular--to the west is a dramatic panorama of rugged mountain ranges and desert plains, and to the east metropolitan Phoenix unfolds over the valley of the lower Salt River.

The trail begins at Quartz Peak Trailhead by following a closed four-wheel-drive track approximately 1/4 mile. Look to the left as you walk up the old road and see a narrow trail ascending the ridge to the north. The trail is rough trail with a scramble to the top - the final 1/4 mile to Quartz Peak is a scramble over boulder and talus slopes that requires careful footing. Quartz Peak is a point on the spine of the Sierra Estrella capped with an outcrop of white quartz.

Quartz Peak is accessed from Rainbow Valley and Riggs Roads in Rainbow Valley, Southwest of Pebble Creek. Trail condition - this is mostly a steep, boulder hopping, bushwhack hike. A high clearance vehicle is necessary to get to the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 70 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quartz-Peak>

Directions to Estrella Mountains - Quartz Peak Trail

Drive south on Pebble Creek Pkwy for 9.3 miles and turn right (west) at Elliot Rd. Continue on Elliott Rd for 2.6 miles and turn left (south) onto Rainbow Valley Rd. Drive 9.3 miles on Rainbow Valley Road to Riggs Road and turn left (east). Proceed on Riggs Road for 3.9 miles to Bullard Avenue. Turn right (south) and then take an immediate left onto an unmarked dirt road. Follow the dirt road 5.3 miles and turn right (south) at the "T" intersection where a tiny sign post points towards a "trail". Continue for another 2 miles and turn left (east) at a tiny trail sign. Drive another 1.9 miles to the trailhead parking area and restroom. It's possible to access this trailhead in a car, but a higher-clearance, all-wheel drive vehicle is recommended because of loose sand, rocks and a few rough areas.

Rainbow Valley/Dysart/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating D. This is a 4 mile loop with a 400 ft elevation gain. Beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The **Rainbow Valley** trail is wide and relatively flat. It intersects the Dycsart Trail. Turn left onto the Dysart Trail to the Toothaker Trail. Turn left on the Toothaker Trail and head back to the rodeo. Trail condition - good hiking trail. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south) South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River. Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle. Drive around the park to the left. Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Rainbow Valley/Toothaker Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 6.7 mile loop hike beginning on the west side of the rodeo. It has an elevation gain of 800 ft. The trail goes through typical desert terrain. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat. It ends at the Toothaker Trail. Turn left onto the Toothaker Trail to return to the rodeo. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. Restrooms & water are at the trailhead. Park entrance is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

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Rainbow Valley/Toothaker/Coldwater Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8.3 mile loop beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The **Rainbow** Valley trail is wide and relatively flat (320ft elev. Change and 900 ft elevation gain). It intersects the Toothaker Trail. Turn right onto the Toothaker Trail to the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Pedersen Trail for a short distance to the Coldwater Trail and the turn left again and head back to the rodeo. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

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Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Rainbow Valley/Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B. This is a 9.6 mile loop beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The **Rainbow** Valley trail is wide and relatively flat (320ft elev. Change). It intersects the Toothaker Trail. Turn right onto the Toothaker Trail to the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Gadsden Trail, then right on the Butterfield trail and head back to the rodeo. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker-Gadsen>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
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Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Toothaker/Baseline/Rainbow Loop (Estrella Mtn Regional Park). Rating D. This is a 4.4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 400 ft. The trail wanders through the front portion of EMRP with distant views to the north. It goes south into more typical desert areas. Trail condition - a very good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Baseline-Rainbow-Dysart>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Toothaker/Coldwater Trails (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 770 ft. The **Toothaker** (TH) trailhead is on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. This is a shared trailhead with the Rainbow Valley Trail (RB). Very soon after starting, the **Toothaker** Trail will split off to the south (left). In 1.1 miles you will come to the Dysart Trail (DS) junction. Stay on **Toothaker**, in .9 miles you will cross the Rainbow Valley (RB) junction. Continue on **Toothaker** (TH) trail for another 1.6 miles to the Pederson Trail (PD) junction. Take the Pederson Trail to the left for .7 miles to the Coldwater Trail (CW) junction. Turn left on to the Coldwater Trail and follow it back to the Butterfield Trail. Turn left and follow it back to the parking lot. Trail condition – good hiking trail. There are restrooms on this side with running water. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Toothaker-Gadsen-Butterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek/Estrella Pkw (south)
South of I-10, turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.
Turn right into Estrella Mtn Park and pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle.
Drive around the park to the left.

Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Toothaker/Dysart/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating D. This is a 4.2 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 ft. The **Toothaker** (TH) trailhead is on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. This is a shared trailhead with the Rainbow Valley Trail (RB). Very soon after starting on the path **Toothaker** Trail (TH) will split off to the south (left). In 1.1 miles you will come to the Dysart Trail (DS) junction. Turn left to go to Butterfield trail. Turn left again on Butterfield to get back to **Toothaker**. Turn right on **Toothaker** to return to the trailhead. Park on the west side of the Rodeo Arena. There are restrooms on this side with running water. There is a \$7.00 park entrance fee. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Toothaker-Gadsen-Butterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

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Drive around the park to the left.
Trailheads and rest rooms are on the far (West) side of rodeo arena.

Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating C. Approx 7 miles, out and back, with an elevation gain of 750 ft. We will follow the trail to a large wash, and parallel the wash for 2 miles or so. The trail is relatively flat, with long views of the Estrella Mountains and valley to the East & West. There are foothills to the left and larger mountains to the right as you travel east on the Gadsden Trail. Porta-Johns are located at trailheads. Park fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is 20 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Coldwater-GadsdenButterfield>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Toothaker/Rainbow TH

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