

THURSDAY D HIKES FOR FEB, 2020

Feb 6, 2020. Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating D. A 4.5 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600-1080 ft. It follows the National Trail starting at the Buena Vista lookout, looping at Hidden Valley through boulders and rock tunnels, and returning on National Trail. Interesting, fun hike, with a few large boulders to climb over and slide down. An optional extra half-mile hike with an elevation change of 130 ft can be added by taking a side trail to the right at marker #18. This trail goes to the top of the ridge giving hikers a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. Trail condition - mostly an uneven surface of rock so you need to keep your eyes on the trail. Restrooms are at the park office. No park fee. Driving distance is 60 miles RT. [SCG=5.0/750/2.6]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance Take I-10 east to I-17 south (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Ave. Turn right on 7th Ave to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Ave. Turn right onto Central Ave. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office / restrooms. Caravan to trailhead (trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area).

Feb 13, 2020. NEW HIKE! Maricopa Trail at Tres Rios Wetlands. Rating D. This is a 5 mile easy hike with minimum elevation gain. The Wetlands is at the confluence of the Gila, Salt, and Agua Fria rivers. Hike on roads and trails past wooded wetlands and the flowing river. Watch for many different bird species. Driving distance is 26 miles. No restrooms.

Directions to Tres Rios. Drive East on I-10 to Avondale Blvd, drive south, and just across the Gila River Bridge, watch for a left turn just before the racetrack grandstands. Park near the trailhead.

Feb 20, 2020. Pipeline Canyon to Bridge + Yavapai Point Trails (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D+. This is a 4.9 mile hike in Lake Pleasant Regional Park with an elevation gain of 500+ ft. The hike goes from Area 3 on the Pipeline trail to the floating bridge. It then returns to the Yavapai Point trail and goes up to the point, before returning to Area 3. There are excellent views of the lake from the top of Yavapai Point. It's a good spring wildflower hike if we get any winter rains. And keep your eyes peeled for wild burros - there are many in the area. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is a park fee of \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/800/2.3]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/>

Directons to Ramada 3 (Pipeline North), Lake Pleasant Regional Park Drive north on Loop 303 to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn let (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74. Turn left on Hwy 74 (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road (Lake Pleasant Regional Park turnoff) and turn right (North). Turn right on Castle Creek Drive (T intersection where pavement ends). Pay \$7.00 park fee... Turn right on Cottonwood Lane. Restrooms are at the trailhead.

Feb 27, 2020 Marcus Landslide/Rock Knob Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating D,

The D version is an in-and-out hike to the Marcus Landslide area of 4 miles with an elevation gain of 300 ft. There are lots of great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas. Plus there are views of great granite boulders. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Driving distance is 108 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Marcus-LandslideRock-Knob-Loop>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Tom's Thumb Trailhead. (108 mi. RT) Take Loop 303 North to I-17. Turn left (North) on I-17. But stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 miles (becomes Sonoran Desert Dr.) Take Cave Creek Road North (left). Turn right on Dynamite Blvd (becomes Rio Verde). Turn right on Alma School Road. Turn left on Jomax Road. Turn right on 118th St. Turn left on Ranch Gate Road. Turn right on 128th St. Stay left as the road runs into the new trailhead. There are restrooms but no water at trailhead.