

GOLDFIELD MOUNTAINS 12-31-21

Trail maps for various segments in the Goldfield Mountain

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Goldfield-Mountains/i-gXfCKH7>

Goldfield Mountains--Blue Point to Rhyodacite Canyon. Rating C Challenge for Elevation. This is an 8 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 1600 feet. Most of it is on an old jeep road with some of it on a trail, then through a wash, and the last half mile is bushwhacking to the end of the canyon. There are many mountain ridges, desert vegetation and one crested saguaro. There are views of part of Saguaro Lake and the river along the hike. There are no restrooms and no park fees. The driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Blue Point Trailhead (#5 Trails) – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take the I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway). Drive 1.8 miles past Usery Pass Road. The trailhead parking is on the right. The Blue Point words are on the lower right on the trailhead sign. If you cross the bridge, you have gone too far.

Goldfield Mountains—Goldfield Mountains Trails #2 and #3 - Peak 3004 Loop. Rating C Challenge for Elevation. This is a loop hike of 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1500 feet. This hike goes up a very rocky trail through a saguaro forest to Bulldog Saddle. There are terrific views of the Goldfields and mountains to the north from the saddle. From there the trail drops into the valley before turning left and going back up to the Pass Mountain Trail. You then follow the Pass Mountain Trail back down through the saguaro forest before turning left and returning to the trailhead. There are no restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Meridian Trailhead (#2 & #3 Trails) --Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Brown Road. Turn left on Meridian Road. Drive to the trailhead at the end of the road.

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trails 4 & 3. Rating C Challenge. This is a loop hike of 7.5 miles with an elevation gain of 950 feet. At the beginning of the hike, you will have terrific views of the Superstitions Mountains as well as views of Apache Junction and an arch. As we make the loop, we will come to two more arches called the Mask Arches. All around are the great golden rocks for which the Goldfields are noted. There are no restrooms at the trailhead, so stop at the park on the right on Idaho Road (drive around on the right side of the park, near the tennis courts). There are no park fees. The driving distance is 114 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Trails-4-3-multiple-Arches>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)–Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East. There is HOV all the way. Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn left on Idaho Road. Turn right on McKellips Road. Turn left on Wolverine Pass Road. Turn right on Tonto Street where the pavement ends. Turn left on Cactus Road. Turn right on McDowell Road. The last 0.1 miles are a dirt road. Park at the trailhead (road blocked).

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trails 4A & 4D - Hat Top Loop. Rating C. This hike is a 7.8-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 960 feet. It follows an old jeep trail through rolling desert to Hat Top Mountain. There are several arches as well as some interesting rock formations on this trail. On the return there are terrific views of the Superstitions Mountains as well as views of Apache Junction, plus another arch. Trail condition--good hiking trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead, but you may stop at the park on the right on Idaho Road (drive around on the right side of the park, near the tennis courts). There is no park fee. The driving distance is 114 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Trails-4A-4D>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)–Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. There is HOV all the way. Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn Left on Idaho Road. Turn right on McKellips Road. Turn left on Wolverine Pass Road. Turn right on Tonto Street where the pavement ends. Turn left on Cactus Road. Turn right on McDowell Road. The last 0.1 mile is dirt road. Park at trailhead (road blocked).

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trails #5A & 5D--Gateway Canyon Trail.

Rating B. This is an in and out hike of 9 miles with an elevation gain of 1200 feet. The first part of the hike goes along the Salt River on a rounded boulder trail. At about 2 miles it turns right and goes up Gateway Canyon to a saddle at the top of the Goldfields. From the saddle there are terrific views of the Granite Reef Dam, Fountain Hills, and Phoenix. There are no restrooms and no park fee. The driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Blue Point Trailhead (#5 Trails)–Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take the I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Power Road which becomes Bush Highway. Drive 1.8 miles past Usery Pass Road. The trailhead parking is on the right. The Blue Point words are on the lower right on the trailhead sign. If you cross the bridge, you have gone too far.

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trail 6D, 3A, Golden Valley Trail with Arches. Rating C Challenge for Elevation. This is an in and out hike of 7.0 miles with an elevation gain of 1200 feet. The first 2 miles of this hike is on an old rocky jeep road through typical desert terrain. It then becomes a regular trail up through a golden rock valley. All around you is the golden rock that is famous in this area. At the saddle you get great views of the surrounding mountain ranges, including the Superstition Mountains. The B level becomes very steep and goes up to Peak 3134 and provides 360-degree views all around. On the return there are a couple of arches called the Mask Arches. Trail condition--mostly dirt roads, but the section up the golden valley is rough and steep. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. However, there are restrooms at Prospector Park. After turning left on Idaho Road, the park is about 1/3-mile down the road on the right. Turn right again as soon as you enter the park, then turn left into the parking area (restrooms are in the back by the tennis courts). There are no park fees. The driving distance is 114 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Trail-6D>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)–Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway. Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East. It is HOV all the way. Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn left on Idaho Road. Turn right on McKellips Road. Turn left on Wolverine Pass Road. Turn right on Tonto Street where the pavement ends. Turn left on Cactus Road. Turn right on McDowell Road. The last 0.1 mile is dirt road. Park at trailhead (road blocked).

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trail #7 - Helmet Rock Extended

Loop. Rating B. This is a 9-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1400 feet. The hike goes over a ridge with views of Helmet Rock. It then goes around Helmet Rock through a very colorful golden canyon. It then goes through a very colorful rocky canyon. This is a very scenic trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. There are no park fees. The driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/IQ-Arch-and-Helmet-Rock-Loop>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Willow Springs Canyon (#6 and #7 Trails)–Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway and take I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn left onto Apache Trail (Highway 88) and go past Lost Dutchman State Park. The trailhead and parking are on the left side of the road, right in front of mile marker 204.

Goldfield Mountain--Goldfield Mountains Trail #7--IQ Arch & Helmet Rock

Loop. Rating C Challenge for Elevation. This is a 7-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1240 feet. The hike goes over a ridge with views of IQ Arch and Helmet Rock. It then goes around Helmet Rock through a very colorful golden canyon. Trail condition--average hiking trail. This is a very scenic trail. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. The driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/IQ-Arch-and-Helmet-Rock-Loop>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Willow Springs Canyon (#6 & #7 Trails)—Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn left onto Apache Trail (Highway 88) and go past Lost Dutchman State Park. The trailhead and parking are on the left side of the road, right in front of mile marker 204.

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Mountains Trail #8--Horns of a Dilemma Trail. Rating

C, B. This is a 6–7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 900-1200 feet. The C version (6 miles/900 feet) goes up a narrow canyon below the horns and then up to a saddle opposite the horns before returning to the trailhead. The saddle offers great views of the horns and two lakes. The B version adds a hike up to the Horns of a Dilemma with expansive views of both Saguaro Lake and Canyon Lake as well as the area between them. Trail condition—there is no real trail, just a rough, semi-bushwhack hike. There are no park fees. There are no restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Horns-of-a-Dilemma>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Mailbox Trailhead (#8 Trails)—Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then East (left) on I-10. Exit on Loop 202 East. Drive east on Loop 202 to Brown Road which is exit 26. Turn left on Brown Road to Apache Trail (Highway 88). Brown Road is Lost Dutchman Boulevard in Pinal County. Turn left onto Apache Trail (Highway 88) and go past Lost Dutchman State Park. The trailhead and parking are on the left side of the road, right by a mailbox just past MP 208, before the road makes a big turn to the right.

Goldfields Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trail. Rating B. This is an 8.8 miles loop hike with an elevation change of 640 feet. The rating is due to the 4+ miles of sandy wash on this hike. The hike starts next to the Salt River which is always flowing. At ½ mile, the trail goes up a wash. About .3 miles into the wash is a very large and unusual saguaro on the right around a bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven--a manmade oven used for firing bricks. The hill opposite the oven offers very nice views of the surrounding area. At 4 miles, on top of a ridge, there are views of Saguaro Lake, Four Peaks, Carefree and Cave Creek. At 5.5 miles there is a lone palm tree at a micro-oasis just before going under the road through a giant culvert. The trail then goes back to the river for a short distance with great views before crossing the Water Users Trailhead parking lot and continuing on the trail. A 7-mile C level hike can be done by doing 2 in-and-out hikes--one from this trailhead (Blue Point) to the oven and back and another from Water Users Trailhead (2.2 miles further down the road) going to the ridge and back. There are restrooms at the trailhead. The park fee is \$6.00 with a Tonto pass, but free with a Senior Parks Pass. The driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trailhead—Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take the I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Power Road which becomes Bush Highway. Drive 2 miles past Usery Pass Road. Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trail. Rating C. This is a 7-mile hike with an elevation change of 900 feet. This is a double in-and-out hike. The hike starts out at the Blue Point Trailhead and goes next to the Salt River which is always flowing. At ½ mile, the trail goes up a wash. After .3 miles in the wash is a very large and unusual saguaro on the right as the trail goes left around a

bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven--a manmade oven used for firing bricks. The trail then returns to the trailhead for our break before driving down the road about 2 miles to the second trailhead which is Water Users Trailhead. From this trailhead the trail goes upriver and under the road via a giant culvert. On the far side of the culvert there is a lone palm tree at a micro-oasis. The trail then goes up to the top of a ridge. On the top there are views of Saguaro Lake, Four Peaks, Carefree and Cave Creek. There are restrooms at the trailhead. The park fee is \$6.00 with Tonto pass, but free with a Senior Parks Pass. The driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trailhead--Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take the I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Power Road which becomes Bush Highway. Drive 2 miles past Usery Pass Road. Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.

Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trail. Rating D. This is a 3.5-4 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation change of 200 feet. The hike starts out at the Blue Point Trailhead and goes next to the Salt River which is always flowing. At ½ mile, the trail goes up a wash. About .3 miles into the wash is a very large and unusual saguaro on the right as the trail turns left around a bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven--a manmade oven used for firing bricks. This is a good place for a break before returning to the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead. There is a park fee of \$7.00 with a Tonto pass, but \$3 with a Senior Park Pass. The driving distance is 110 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Goldfield Ovens Trailhead--Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway and take the I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Power Road which becomes Bush Highway. Drive 2 miles past Usery Pass Road. Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.

Goldfield Mountains--Hackamore Trailhead Loop. Rating C, B. This is a 7–9-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1300 feet. The C version goes by one arch and a second arch is seen above the snack break area. The B version goes by Cottonwood Spring which is usually wet, then goes up to and past the second arch. There are views of many golden mountains on this hike. There are no restrooms and no park fees. The driving distance is 120 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Hackamore-Trailhead>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Hackamore Trailhead (#4 Trail)--Drive south on PebbleCreek Parkway and take I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East which is HOV all the way. Turn left on Brown Road which later becomes Lost Dutchman Highway. Turn Left on AZ 88 (Apache Trail) and continue for 0.8 miles. Turn left on Hackamore Road just past the Apache Junction sign. Drive to the end of the road. Park at trailhead (road blocked).

Goldfield Mountains--Willow Springs Canyon Trail. Rating B. This is an 8 to 12-mile hike along the Willow Springs Wash with an elevation change of 400 feet. While there is very little elevation change, the amount of soft sand you hike through makes this a difficult trail. At the 6-mile point there are views of Saguaro Lake. The first 3 miles are mostly loose sand. The final 3 miles are a mix of boulder hopping and loose sand. There are no facilities at the trailhead and no park fee. The driving distance is 130 miles roundtrip.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains--Willow Springs Canyon (#6 & #7 Trails) – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 East (left) to Loop 202 East. Turn left on Brown Road which becomes Lost Dutchman Boulevard. Turn left onto Apache Trail (Highway 88) and go past Lost Dutchman State Park. Trailhead and parking are on the left side of the road, right in front of mile marker 204.