

GOLDFIELD MOUNTAINS 5-7-20

Trail maps for various segments in the Goldfield Mountain

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

Blue Point to Rhyodacite Canyon (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C+. This is an 8 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 1600 ft. Most of it is on an old Jeep road, with some of it on trail, through a wash, and the last half mile bushwhacking to the end of the canyon. Lots of mountain ridges, desert vegetation and one crested Saguaro. There are views of part of Saguaro Lake and the river along the hike. No restrooms. No fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Blue Point Trailhead (#5 Trails)

From Pebble Creek take the I-10 East to Loop 202 East

Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway).

Drive 1.8 mles 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 went too far.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

Goldfield Mountain Trails #2 and #3 - Peak 3004 Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C+. 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 down into the valley before turning left and going back up to the Pass Mountain trail. You then follow the Pas Mountain trail back down through the Saguaro forest before turning left and returning to the trailhead. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains - Meridian Trailhead (#2 & #3 trails)

From Pebble Creek take the 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.

No restrooms at trailhead.

Goldfield Mountain Trails 4 & 3 (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C+. This is a loop hike of 7.5 miles with an elevation gain of 950 ft.. At the beginning of the hike, you will have terrific views of the Superstitions Mountains as well as views of Apache Junction, plus 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 the Goldfields are noted for. No restrooms are 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). No park Fee. Driving distance is 114 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)

Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East (HOV all the way).

Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd).

Turn Left on Idaho Rd.

Turn right on Mckellips road.

Turn left on Wolverine Pass road.

Turn right on Tonto Street (pavement ends).

Turn left on Cactus Road.

Turn right on McDowell Road...last 0.1 mi. is dirt road.

Park at trailhead (road blocked).

No restrooms at trailhead. There are restrooms at Prospector Park - after turning left on Idaho, the park is about 1/3 mile down Idaho 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).

Goldfield Mountains trails 4A & 4D - Hat Top Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating

C. The C level hike is a 7.8 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 960 ft. It follows an old jeep trail through rolling desert to Hat Top Mountain. Along the way you will see a couple of arches as well as some interesting rock formations. On the return you will have terrific views of the Superstitions Mountains as well as views of Apache Junction, plus one more arch. Trail condition - good hiking trail. No restrooms are 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). No park Fee. Driving distance is 114 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)

Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East (HOV all the way).

Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd).

Turn Left on Idaho Rd.

Turn right on Mckellips road.

Turn left on Wolverine Pass road.

Turn right on Tonto Street (pavement ends).

Turn left on Cactus Road.

Turn right on McDowell Road...last 0.1 mi. is dirt road.

Park at trailhead (road blocked).

No restrooms at trailhead. There are restrooms at Prospector Park - after turning left on Idaho, the park is about 1/3 mile down Idaho 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).

Goldfield Mountain Trails #5A & 5D - Gateway Canyon trail

(Goldfield Mountains). 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. Terrific views of the Granite Reef dam area, Fountain Hills, and Phoenix are visible from the saddle. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 110 mile RT.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Blue Point Trailhead (#5 Trails)

From Pebble Creek take the I-10 East to Loop 202 East

Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway).

Drive 1.8 mles 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 went too far.

Goldfield Mountains Trail 6D + 3A - Golden Valley Trail with arches

(Goldfield Mountains). Rating C+. This is an in and out hike of 7.0 miles with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The first 2 miles of this hike is on an old rocky jeep trail 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 Superstitions. The B level becomes very steep and goes up to Peak 3134 and provides 360 views all around. On the return we go up to a couple of arches called the Mask Arches. Trail condition – mostly on dirt roads, but the section up the golden valley is rough and steep. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 114 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Dome Mountain (#4 Trails)

Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East (HOV all the way).

Take Exit 26 and turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd).

Turn Left on Idaho Rd.

Turn right on Mckellips road.

Turn left on Wolverine Pass road.

Turn right on Tonto Street (pavement ends).

Turn left on Cactus Road.

Turn right on McDowell Road...last 0.1 mi. is dirt road.

Park at trailhead (road blocked).

No restrooms at trailhead. There are restrooms at Prospector Park - after turning left on Idaho, the park is about 1/3 mile down Idaho 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).

Goldfield Mountains #7 - Helmet Rock Extended Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating

B. This is a 9 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1400 ft. 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. No Park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains - Willow Springs Canyon (#6 & #7 Trails)

From Pebble Creek take I-10 East to Loop 202 East.

Turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd)

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 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.

There are no facilities at the trailhead.

Goldfield Mountains #7 - IQ Arch & Helmet Rock Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating

C+. This is a 7 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1240 ft. 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. No Park fee. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains - Willow Springs Canyon (#6 & #7 Trails)

From Pebble Creek take I-10 East to Loop 202 East.

Turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd)

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 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.

There are no facilities at the trailhead.

Goldfield Mountains #8 - Horns of a Dilemma trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating

C/B. This is a 6-7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 900-1200 ft. The C version (6 mi/900 ft) 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 – no real trail, just a rough, semi-bushwhack hike. No park fee. No restrooms. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains - Mailbox Trailhead (#8 Trails)

East on I-10.

Exit onto Loop 202 East.

East on Loop 202 to Brown Road (exit 26).

Turn left on Brown Rd to Apache Trail (Hwy 88).

(Brown Rd is Lost Dutchman Blvd in Pinal County)

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 88) and go past Lost Dutchman State Park.

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).

Parking is free. There are no facilities at the trailhead.

Goldfield Ovens Trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8.8 miles loop hike with an elevation change of 640 ft. The rating is due to the 4+ miles of sanding wash you hike through on this hike. The hike starts out next to the Salt River (which is always flowing). At ½ mile, the trail goes up a wash. .3 miles into the wash is a very large & unusual Saguaro on the right as you go left 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, 4 Peaks, and behind you Carefree & 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. You then go back to the river for a short distance (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. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 (Tonto pass - but free with a Senior Parks Pass). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

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

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Goldfield Ovens Trailhead

From Pebble Creek take the I-10 East to Loop 202 East

Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway).

Drive 2 mles past Usery Pass Road.

Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.

Restrooms are at the trailhead.

Tonto National Forest Pass required (\$3.00 with Senior parks pass, or \$7.00 without). Stop at the drug store on the left on Power Road to get passes.

Goldfield Ovens Trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C. This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation change of 900 ft. 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. .3 miles into the wash is a very large & unusual Saguaro on the right as you go left around a bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven - a manmade oven used for firing bricks. We will then return to the trailhead for our break before driving down the road about 2 miles to the second trailhead (Water Users Trailhead). From this trailhead we will go up river 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. We then go up to the top of a ridge. On top there are views of Saguaro Lake, 4 Peaks, and behind you Carefree & Cave Creek. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 (Tonto pass - but free with a Senior Parks Pass). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Goldfield Ovens Trailhead

From Pebble Creek take the I-10 East to Loop 202 East
Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway).
Drive 2 mles past Usery Pass Road.
Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.
Restrooms are at the trailhead.
Tonto National Forest Pass required (\$3.00 with Senior parks pass, or \$7.00 without). Stop at the drug store on the left on Power Road to get passes.

Goldfield Ovens Trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating D. This is a 3.5-4 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation change of 200 ft. 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. .3 miles into the wash is a very large & unusual Saguaro on the right as you go left around a bend. At 1.7 miles is the trail's namesake oven - a manmade oven used for firing bricks. We will take our break here before returning to the trailhead. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 (Tonto pass - but free with a Senior Parks Pass). Driving distance is 110 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Oven-and-Water-Users-Trails>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Goldfield Ovens Trailhead

From Pebble Creek take the I-10 East to Loop 202 East
Turn left on Power Road (which becomes Bush Highway).
Drive 2 mles past Usery Pass Road.
Just after crossing a bridge over the Salt River, turn left into parking area.
Restrooms are at the trailhead.
Tonto National Forest Pass required (\$3.00 with Senior parks pass, or \$7.00 without). Stop at the drug store on the left on Power Road to get passes.

Hackamore Trailhead Loop (Goldfield Mountains). Rating C/B. This is a 7-9 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1300 ft. 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 (usually wet), then goes up to and past the second arch. There are views of lots of golden mountains on this hike. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 120 miles RT.
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/GoldfieldMountains/Hackamore-Trailhead>

Directions to Goldfield Mountains – Hackamore TH (#4 Trail)

Take I-10 East to Loop 202 East (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 mile.
Turn left on Hackamore Road (just past the Apache Junction sign).
Drive to the end of the road.
Park at trailhead (road blocked)...No restrooms at trailhead.

Willow Spring Canyon trail (Goldfield Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8-12 mile hike along the Willow Spring Wash with an elevation change of 400 ft. 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 you will have 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. Driving distance is 130 miles RT.

Directions to Goldfield Mountains - Willow Springs Canyon (#6 & #7 Trails)

From Pebble Creek take I-10 East to Loop 202 East.

Turn left on Brown Road (which becomes Lost Dutchman Blvd)

Turn left onto Apache Trail (Hwy 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.

There are no facilities at the trailhead.