

## LAKE PLEASANT AREA 12-23-20

### Trail maps for various segments in the Lake Pleasant Area

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Lake-Pleasant-Area/i-Gj5b6fT>

**BLM Trails LP1 & LP2 (Hwy 74, MM 14). Rating C.** This is an 8 mile loop hike on **BLM** land with an elevation gain of about 900 ft. The LP2 trail follows a wash for 2 miles and then becomes a regular trail. On the return, turn left at the intersection with LP1 and follow LP1 back to LP2 and the cars. LP1 has one main hill of 260 ft to go up over and back down. The trails wander through typical desert terrain with assorted cacti and scrub brush. Trail surface - part is an average trail with 1-2 miles in a coarse sandy wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT - on paved roads, with a dirt parking area.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP2-LP1-Lollipop>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here.

There is parking for about 12 cars outside the gate.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**BLM Trails LP1 & LP2 (Lake Pleasant - Hwy 74 MM 14). Rating D.** This is a 4 mile loop hike on **BLM** land with an elevation gain of about 400 ft. The LP2 trail follows a wash for 2.2+ miles. At the second intersection with LP1 turn right and follow LP1 back to LP2 and the cars. LP1 has one main hill of 260 ft to go up over and back down. The trails wander through typical desert terrain with assorted cactus and scrub brush. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles

RT.<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP2-LP1-Lollipop>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here.

There is parking for about 12 cars outside the gate.

No restrooms. No park fee.

#### **BLM Trails LP1 & LP2 & Lollipop Loop (Lake Pleasant - Hwy 74 MM 14). Rating**

**C+.** This is a 8+ mile loop hike on **BLM** land with an elevation gain of about 1300 ft. You take LP2 to LP1 and turn right. The trail then goes right and makes a loop back to LP2. There are views of Lake Pleasant on several high points along the trail. Trail Condition - most of the trail is in good shape, but there is about 2 miles that travels in a sandy/stoney wash. The trails wander through typical desert terrain with assorted cactus and scrub brush. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles

RT.<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP2-LP1-Lollipop>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here.

There is parking for about 12 cars outside the gate.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**BLM Trail LP2 & Canyon (Hwy 74, MM 14). Rating C.** This is an 8 mile loop hike on BLM land with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. The LP2 trail follows a wash for 2 miles and then becomes a regular trail. After passing the junction with LP3 in a wash, we follow the wash to a tight (not quite a slot) canyon, where we will have our break and then return to the cars. The trail wanders through typical desert terrain with assorted cacti and scrub brush. Trail surface - part is an average trail with 1-2 miles in a sandy wash. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT - on paved roads, with a dirt parking area.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP2Canyon>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here and park.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**BLM Trails LP2 & LP3 & LP1 (Lake Pleasant - Hwy 74 MM 14). Rating C.** This is a 6.8 mile clockwise loop hike on BLM land with an elevation gain of about 1100 ft. The LP2 trail follows a wash west for .5 miles. At the intersection with LP3, turn right. At the bottom of a wash around the 3 mile point we turn right and go through the wash for about .5 miles to the intersection with LP2. We turn right and return to the trailhead. LP3 has a series of rollercoaster hills with an option to go over or around one steep hill. The trails wander through typical desert terrain with assorted cactus and scrub brush. There are views of Lake Pleasant from the top of some of the hills. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/LP3-LP2-Loop>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here.

There is parking for about 12 cars outside the gate.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**Boulders BLM Trails A+LP8+LP7. (Hwy 74, MM 11.5). Rating D.** This is a 4 mi in-and-out hike on BLM land with an elevation change of 400 ft. Overall the hike goes through typical desert terrain. The highlight of the hike is the wreckage of an early 1950s Buick - the chrome is still shiny, though the rest of the car has heavy rust. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Boulders-BLM-LPA-LP8-LP7>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: Boulder Staging Area trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North.

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left, heading west.  
About 10 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road on the right (a little past milepost 12). Turn right here.  
Drive about half mile to the trailhead.  
There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee.

**Boulders BLM Trails A+LP8+LP7. (Hwy 74, MM 11.5). Rating C.** This is a 6 mi in-and-out hike on BLM land with an elevation change of 900 ft. Overall the hike goes through typical desert terrain. The highlight of the hike is the wreckage of an early 1950s Buick - the chrome is still shiny, though the rest of the car has heavy rust. Trail condition - the trail is on off-road roads. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.  
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Boulders-BLM-LPA-LP8-LP7>

#### **Directions to HWY 74: Boulder Staging Area trails**

Take 303 North.  
Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North.  
At the intersection of Route 74, turn left, heading west.  
About 10 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road on the right (a little past milepost 12). Turn right here.  
Drive about half mile to the trailhead.  
There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee.

**Burro Flats Loop (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating B.** This is a 12 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation change of 500 ft. The hike starts out on Cedar Basin Road, turns off on the Horse Creek trail, connects to the **Burro Flats** trail and finally returns via Cedar Basin Road. The hike passes through Lucifer's Gate, a large pass in the mountains of Hells Canyon Wilderness. There is a small arch at the top of the South side of the "gate". There are multiple Saguaro forests as well as an Ocotillo forest as well as many rock formations. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 96 miles.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Hells-Gate-Wilderness-Area>

#### **Directions to Burro Flats Trailhead (Near Morristown)**

Take Rt. 303 to Rt. 60 (Grand Ave.).  
Go left on Rt. 60 towards Wickenburg.  
At Morristown turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road.  
Drive about 15.5 miles.  
This road is a dirt road for the last 13 miles  
Turn right on Cedar Basin Road.  
Go 2.3 miles to an unmarked trailhead.  
The trail goes from the left side of the road.  
No Restrooms at the trailhead.

**Chalky Spring/Slot Canyon Hike (Lake Pleasant Area). Rating C/B.** This is 6-10 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 600-900 ft. The hike starts out going into Morgan City Wash for about a mile. It then turns into a side canyon with an overgrown riparian area due to the wet Chalky spring. Once past the spring area the canyon narrows into a very scenic slot canyon. The B version can be created by adding more of the main wash down to the Morgan City Wash riparian area loop we do on other hikes. This would make up to a 10 mile hike with about 900 ft of elevation gain. There is a good chance to see wild burros and owls on this hike. Trail condition - 1/3 is along a sandy wash, 1/3 is through a wet riparian area with lots of brush, and 1/3 is through a slot canyon with short dry waterfalls to scramble up/down. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 74 miles RT.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/ChalkySprings-SlotCanyonHike>

### **Directions to Chalky Springs/Morgan City Wash (Lake Pleasant)**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 1.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is the first significant wash you encounter).

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Coyote Springs Trail (Lake Pleasant Area). Rating C.** This is a 6.6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 700 ft. The hike follows a wash for the first mile going to the springs, which usually has some water. There's a good chance to see some wild burros as there are many in this area. The hike continues on to the top of a ridge, providing great views in all directions. Trail condition - mostly a typical desert trail with some sandy wash. No park fee and no restrooms. Driving distance is 76 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Coyote-Springs-Trail>

### **Directions to Coyote Springs Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left (west) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn right on the unmarked paved road just before mile marker 17.

Drive to the end of the paved road.

Drive on dirt road until just before going down into wash.

(it's maybe .2 miles of dirt, but gets very rough going into wash)

Park in the clearing on the right.

The hike goes down into the wash and goes left for 2.1 miles.

The trail then goes off on the left through a side wash.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

### **Garfias Wash/Hells Canyon (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating B.**

This is an 8.5 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 700 ft. It mostly follows the wash and goes through Hell Canyon, a short slot canyon. There is lots of boulder hopping and sand, plus interesting views of many rock formations. We saw more wildlife on this hike than any other single hike. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distanced is 100 miles RT with the last 15 miles on a dirt road (Castle Hot Springs Road & Cedar Basin Road).

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Garfias-Wash-Through-Hell-Cany>

### **Directions to Garfias Wash Trailhead (Near Morristown)**

Take Rt. 303 to Rt. 60 (Grand Ave.).

Go left on Rt. 60 towards Wickenburg.

At Morristown turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road.

Drive about 15.5 miles.

This road is a dirt road for the last 13 miles

Turn right on Cedar Basin Road.

Go about 2/3 mile to an unmarked flat parking area on the left just before the road goes downhill.

The trail goes left out of the parking area down into the wash.

No Restrooms at the trailhead.

**Governors Peak/Hells Canyon (Lake Pleasant). Rating B.** A short 5 mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of 1,700 ft. From the trailhead you immediately drop down into the huge wash. Which, in fact, is Castle Creek. It's interesting to imagine what type of thunderstorm it takes to fill this broad swath. If you have really good eyesight you can just make out the white login podium across the wide creek bed. If not just remember it's north of the fence by maybe a tenth of a mile. The trail starts on the north side of the low-lying mesquite filled canyon dumping into Castle Creek.

The Spring Valley Trail takes off up a small rise then heads fairly flat in a west-southwestern line. It's well maintained but you will only be on this trail for a short distance. Be on the lookout for the Hermit Trail slanting out to the right. It's less noticeable and the junction is not signed. As of this writing it was cairned. If you miss the junction, the Spring Valley Trail soon dips through a wash so you shouldn't lose much time.

On the Hermit Trail you appear to be headed for the steep ridge ahead. Fear not as the trail slowly curves northeast gently rising you to the first of three saddles. Prior to the first saddle be sure to peek over your shoulder and catch a view of Lake Pleasant.

Continue over the saddle. The trail drops into a tight/deep ravine and back up quickly. In fact it keeps raising a bit more to yet another saddle. This area is simply awesome. This ravine is larger and is named Four Tanks Canyon. The Hermit Trail ends at this saddle. The Bell Trail continues on. Why the change in trails? Well the Bell Trail is an older trail that used to quickly gain this ridge. Private property changed all that good stuff and the Hermit Trail was blazed to accommodate.

A few steps down into Four Tanks Canyon and you'll soon realize this trail is definitely older and overgrown. If only it was that good! Upon reaching the bottom you're faced with a hearty ascent. Bad news being the trail is more or less gone. The good news being it's not much further to **Governors Peak**. Peak 2992 looms sharp to your right and its slopes are plastered with healthy Saguaros. It's a stunning view!

With basically no trail to follow you need to study the map. The old trail is cairned but I wouldn't waste much time on the scattered mix of cairns. Here's what it boils down to. You have Peak 2992 on your right. The peak ahead of you is a false peak to **Governors Peak**, but it can be conquered inline if you so desire. The route of choice is to gain a saddle, jag left and then ascend **Governors Peak**. Which is easy but you will want to watch your footing.

The views are magnificent in all directions. If this is your first trip in the area you will likely be salivating at the options in the western range of Hells Canyon Wilderness! No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 97 miles

RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Governors-Peak-Trail>

### **Directions to Governors Peak/Spring Valley Trails**

Take Loop 303 north and exit at Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right on Castle Hot Springs Rd and follow 5.2 miles to the "T" intersection.

Turn left and follow 5.0 miles to pullout on left side of dirt road. The last mile is on the creek bed and there is a cattle guard at the end, so you can't miss it.

Parking is just past the cattle guard on the left.

The hike starts by continuing up the road about 50 yards and cutting across the creek bed on the left. (From the parking area, directly across the creek, you can see cairns in the creek bed and in a gap in the bushes you can see the sign-in box.)

**Indian Mesa (Lake Pleasant Area, I-17 at Exit #236) Rating C+.** This is an in and out hike of 7+ miles with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. The hike starts out by crossing the Agua Fria River. If the river is low you can hike along it to the base of **Indian Mesa**. If not, once across you go up out of the riverbed and hike parallel to it. If the lake is full, you will add a mile to the hike to get around a finger of the lake. You can see **Indian Mesa** from the parking lot – just look down the road at a flat-topped white stone mesa. You will probably encounter some of the free-range cattle that wander around along the riverbed. There are lots of views of the riverbed, Lake Pleasant, and the mountain ranges to the west of the lake. This area is closed from 15 December to 15 June as a Bald Eagle breeding area. The final 10 feet or so up to the top is very steep, but there are great views even from the saddle 50 feet below the top. No restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 100 miles RT. [SCG=6.6/1000/3.1]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Indian-Mesa>

#### **Directions to Lake Pleasant East and Indian Mesa Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 north to I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 (north) toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 236 (Table Mesa Road).

Turn left crossing over I-17, then immediately turn right.

(Pavement ends within a mile; approx. 4 miles of unpaved road to the parking area)

Keep **right** at the first Y (1.2 mi. from I-17--road going left goes into a quarry).

Keep **left** at the next Y (1.6 mi. from I-17).

Keep **left** at the next Y (3.7 mi. from I-17; sign points to Boat Launch).

Pay \$7.00 at the self-pay station.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

#### **Lake Pleasant Island Hopping Loop (Walking Jim to Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C/B.**

Only do this hike when the lake is very low – late summer to early fall.

This is a 7-9 mile Loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000+ ft. The trail goes under Castle Hot Springs Road and goes down the main wash to the lake. There are some interesting rock formations along the way. You then follow burro trails angling right onto the main peninsula (islands when the lake is high). Once you get to the far right end of this area, you work your way back left going across various land bridges. Once you get past the boat launch parking area, you will pick up a clear burro trail and work your way back to the cars using various burro trails. There are lots of interesting views of the "bathtub rings" and a good chance to see some burros. No restrooms at the trailhead, but you go past some in the boat launch area. No park Fee (by parking at Walking Jim TH). Driving distance is 80 miles

RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Lake-Pleasant-Islands/C-Exploratory-HikeLk-Pleasant-IslandsLynnW2018-2019/>

#### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Lake Pleasant North Canyons (I-17 at Exit #236) Rating C+/B.** This is a loop hike of about 6-8+ miles with an elevation gain of 500-900 ft. The B version includes going through a slot canyon near the parking area. We cross the river and hike along an old jeep road before turning into the main canyon. We may encounter some of the free range cattle that wander around along the riverbed. There are lots of views of the riverbed, Lake Pleasant, and the mountain ranges to the west of the lake. Trail condition - Part is along an old jeep road, part is a boulder hop through the canyon, and part is along the sandy riverbed. No restrooms at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

#### **Directions to Lake Pleasant East and Indian Mesa Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 north to I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 (north) toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 236 (Table Mesa Road).

Turn left crossing over I-17, then immediately turn right.

(Pavement ends within a mile; approx. 4 miles of unpaved road to the parking area)

Keep **right** at the first Y (1.2 mi. from I-17--road going left goes into a quarry).

Keep **left** at the next Y (1.6 mi. from I-17).

Keep **left** at the next Y (3.7 mi. from I-17; sign points to Boat Launch).

Pay \$7.00 at the self-pay station.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Lake Pleasant Northwest Meander (Lake Pleasant). Rating C/B.** This is a meandering hike of 7-10 miles with an elevation gain of 700-1000 ft. along a dirt road and then fingers sticking into Lake Pleasant. There are random wild burro trails that we use to navigate the area. Besides the great views of the lake and side canyons, this seems to be where the wild burros live. We have seen over 30 burros each time we have hiked this area – they seem to be everywhere. Trail condition – mostly old roads and burro trails. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

#### **Directions to Lake Pleasant Northwest Meander (Lake Pleasant)**

Take Loop 303 north and exit at Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right on Castle Hot Springs Rd and follow 5.2 miles to the "T" intersection.

Turn left and go a couple of miles, crossing the bridge over the edge of the lake.

About .5 miles across the bridge, turn right on Cow Creek Road (there's a kiosk on Cow Creek Road).

Drive 1 mile to the campground (there's a kiosk at the turn into the campground)

Drive in about 100 yards and park on the left.

The hike heads straight across the parking area to a dirt road.

No Restrooms at the Trailhead.

**Maricopa Trail - Lake Pleasant East (Lake Pleasant). Rating C-.** This is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. The hike goes across the front of the Lake Pleasant dam about half mile away. It goes through several washes as it climbs up above the level of the dam. It goes below, though not under the Arizona Canal (you have to do the hike to see why). Lots of typical desert brush including many types of cactus. This trail can be

combined with the Morgan City Wash trail to form a nice 7 mile hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

### **Directions to Morgan City Wash Trail (Lake Pleasant)**

Go left (west) on Indian School to Loop 303.

Turn right (north) on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Hwy 74.

Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22.

Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22.

Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right).

No park fee, but no facilities at the trailhead.

**Morgan City Wash Trail (Lake Pleasant). Rating D.** This is a 3 mile lollipop loop with an elevation gain of about 320 ft. The hike starts below the Lake Pleasant dam and goes .6 miles to the lower end of the Morgan City Wash. There are three trails starting at the bridge. There is one on each side of the wash along the ridgeline and an overgrown trail through the wash itself. The easiest route is along one of the ridgeline trails and occasionally dropping down into the wash for a short distance. This is considered one of the better birding areas in the state. There was running water in the wash (it sounded like a babbling brook) in September 2011 when we explored the area. This trail can be combined with the Maricopa Trail Lake Pleasant East to make a mile 7 mile C hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Morgan-City-Wash-Maricopa>

### **Directions to Morgan City Wash Trail (Lake Pleasant)**

Go left (west) on Indian School to Loop 303.

Turn right (north) on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Hwy 74.

Turn left (west) and drive past MP 22.

Turn right on Beardsley CSR Road a couple of hundred yards past MP 22.

Drive about a quarter mile to the Maricopa Trail trailhead on the left (just as the road turns right).

No park fee, but no facilities at the trailhead.

**Rollercoaster Trail - BLM LP2+LP3 Loop (Hwy 74). Rating B.** This is an 8 mile hike with an elevation change of 600 ft, but elevation gain of 1800 ft. It reminds one of a rollercoaster - steep ups and downs all the way. The trail surface is loose stone in many areas. There are great views of Lake Pleasant, Phoenix, and the surrounding mountain ranges. No restrooms. No park fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

### **Directions to HWY 74: LP1-LP2-LP3 trails**

Take 303 North.

Exit onto Lake Pleasant Parkway North (left).

At the intersection of Route 74, turn left heading west.

About 7.5 miles from the Agua Fria Bridge look for a jeep road and gate on the right (just past milepost 14). Turn in here.

There is parking for about 12 cars outside the gate.

No restrooms. No park fee.

**Spring Valley Trail/Hells Canyon Wilderness (Lake Pleasant). Rating C.** A 6 mile round trip hike with 900 ft of elevation gain. From the trailhead you immediately go down the road and drop down into the huge wash. Which, in fact, is Castle Creek. Then turn back to the left passing



a couple of very large cairns in the creek. It's interesting to imagine what type of thunderstorm it takes to fill this broad swath. From the right side of the parking lot, you can see the cairns and the yellow login podium across the wide creek bed between some bushes. If not just remember it's north of the fence by maybe a tenth of a mile, almost opposite the parking lot. The Spring Valley Trail takes off up a small rise then heads fairly flat in a west-southwestern line (slightly left). This is a well maintained trail (lots of large cairns). You will pass through a fence and get distant views of Lake Pleasant as the trail slowly curves to the right. It will make a gradual decent into a wash. The wash is our turnaround point. After our break, we will return the way we came. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 97 miles RT (5 miles of dirt road).

After the hike you can drive about 2 miles further down the dirt road to the Castle Hot Springs Resort (which is expected to reopen in late 2018).

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Spring-Valley-Trail>

### **Directions to Governors Peak/Spring Valley Trails**

Take Loop 303 north and exit at Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right on Castle Hot Springs Rd and follow 5.2 miles to the "T" intersection.

Turn left and follow 5.0 miles to pullout on left side of dirt road. The last mile is on the creek bed and there is a cattle guard at the end, so you can't miss it.

Parking is just past the cattle guard on the left.

The hike starts by continuing up the road about 50 yards and cutting across the creek bed on the left. (From the parking area, directly across the creek, you can see cairns in the creek bed and in a gap in the bushes you can see the sign-in box.)

**Walking Jim / Big Jim Summit Loop (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating AA.** 13.5-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of approx. 3000 ft. Taking the Walking Jim loop trail counterclockwise the trail is relatively flat as it parallels a dry creek for 4.5 miles. At the Big Jim mountain trail marker, turn right and climb steeply onto a high ridge and follow the cairns to the summit of Big Jim Mountain. Return to the Walking Jim trail and continue in the counterclockwise direction back 4.5 miles to the parking lot. What you need to know: Long Mileage (13.5 miles) 4.5 miles of hiking until the steep uphill to summit No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead Take**

Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74. Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

**Walking Jim/Big Jim Loop (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating B+.** A 12.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 3200 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cacti) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). It then goes up to a high ridge with great panoramic views. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles

RT. [SCG=12.5/3200/6.8]. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim/B-HikeLk-Pleasant-Area-Big-Jim-PeakLynnW2018-2019/>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Walking Jim Big Loop Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating C+.** This is an 8.6-9.1 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1365 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). The break occurs at an interesting red rock outcropping covered with lichen. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. There are no restrooms and no park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating C.** This is a 7 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 900 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). The break occurs at an interesting red rock outcropping covered with lichen. Trail condition – an average hiking trail. There are no restrooms and no park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Walking Jim Trail (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating D.** An 4-4.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 400 ft. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek and offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (wild burros, etc). No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles

RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Walking Jim North to Lucifer's Gate (Hells Canyon Wilderness). Rating C/B.** The C version is a 7.4 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The B version is 11.1 miles with an elevation gain of 1300 ft and goes all the way to Lucifer's Gate at Burro Spring. The trail parallels a mostly dry creek before heading north on an old dirt road. It then continues along a canyon and creek to the spring. It offers a wide variety of vegetation (from cottonwood trees to Saguaro cactus) and wildlife (lots of wild burros have been seen). Trail condition - most of the trail is a good hiking trail with one section of loose stones on an old jeep road. The B extension is in a boulder filled sandy/rocky wash that gives new meaning to rock hopping. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/Walking-Jim-North>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Walking Jim Trailhead to Pipeline bridge Loop (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C/B.** This is a 7-9 mile Loop hike with an elevation gain of 700-1000 ft. The trail follows wild burro trails for a mile, paralleling Castle Hot Springs Road. It then crosses the road and goes down a canyon leading to the Pipeline bridge. Along the canyon is an active spring with cottonwood trees. It then goes into a semi-slot canyon before coming out at the bridge. Only do this hike when the lake is very low, as the walls of the canyon show water levels of as much as 30 ft when the lake is full. No restrooms. No park Fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Pipeline-Canyon/C-Exploratory-HikePipeline-CanyonLynnW2018-2019/i-RfftKn9>

### **Directions to Walking Jim Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 North to Lake Pleasant Road.

Turn left on Lake Pleasant Rd and follow until it ends at AZ 74.

Turn left on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway).

Go west to Castle Hot Springs Road (the Lake Pleasant turn off).

Turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road and follow 5.0 miles to a pullout/parking area on the left (This is about .2 miles before you come to a "T" intersection).

The trail goes off the left end of the parking area.

No restrooms at the trailhead.