

C LEVEL HIKING GROUPS - MONDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:00 am, depart at 7:15.

January 6 - Joshua Tree North (Highway 93). Rating C+. This is a 6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. It utilizes old jeep roads, regular trails, sandy wash, and a little bushwhacking to go around a white monolith rock called Shiprock. This area is part of the Tres Alamos Wilderness. There are good examples of Saguaros and Joshua trees living side by side in the desert. The rock outcroppings are very scenic as are the Joshua Trees. Trail condition - mostly on old roads with a couple of sections following animal trails. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-North>

Directions to Wickenburg - Joshua Tree North Trailhead

Take Loop 303 north to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60 for approx. 28 miles.

Turn right on Highway 93.

Go approx. 36 miles to a pull-off area on the left just before MP 163.

No restrooms...might want to stop at McDonald's in Wickenburg.

January 13 - Black Canyon Trail - Black Canyon City North (Black Canyon City Trailhead - Exit 244). Rating C. This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. The trail goes around, up/down and through several little canyons parallel to Black Canyon City. There is an abundance of cacti including hundreds of pincushion cacti, plus more small saguaro cacti (under 5 ft) than large (over 5 ft). The canyons have many interesting rock formations and there are expansive views of Black Canyon City. At the 2 mile point, the trail crosses Black Canyon Creek, which is usually dry. At the crossing is a rock formation they call the China Wall. This could be a great spring hike when the cacti are in bloom. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BlackCanyonCity>

Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Black Canyon City Trailhead

Take Loop 303 and follow until it ends at I-17.

Turn left onto I-17 North toward Flagstaff.

Take exit 244 (Black Canyon City).

Start measuring from the stop sign at the top of the off-ramp.

Turn left (West), crossing I-17.

At .2 miles turn left, then a quick right on Maggie Mine road.

At .9 miles, turn left onto Maren Ave and cross the river.

At 1.2 miles turn right onto Lisa Drive.

At 1.3 miles (just before the bottom of a deep wash),

turn left on Soap Creek Road (narrow dirt road - fine for any car).

At 1.5 miles, there is a pullout for 2-3 cars. The BCT trail sign is on the right just past the pullout area. There is lots of parking about .25 miles further up the road, where the Black Canyon Trail goes south.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

January 20 - 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).

January 27 - Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve).

Rating C/C+. This is a 6 to 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1200 to 1500 ft. The 6 mile version goes up 2 peaks along the loop. The 7.6 mile version adds another 1.5 miles and 200 ft EG. There are excellent views in all directions. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, steep to the peaks. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT. [SCG=5.7/1000/2.8].

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-Mt-Loop>

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Dixie-MountainUnion-Peak-Lolli>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South

Take 303 North to I-17.

Turn South (right) on I-17.

Turn East (left) on Jomax Road (exit 219, should be the 1st exit).

Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1st light).

Turn right on North Valley Parkway (a "T" intersection).

Go .2 miles and turn left on Copperhead Trail.

Go .1 miles and turn left on W Melvern Trail.

Go .2 miles and turn right on Desert Vista Trail.

Go to the end of the road.

Trailhead is at the end of the road.

There is no park fee.