

## **JANUARY D LEVEL HIKING GROUP - TUESDAYS**

**Meet at the Eagles Nest Clubhouse at 7:15 AM, depart at 7:30 AM.**

### **January 7 – Brethren South – SR/PA/RR Loop (Estrella Foothills Park).**

**Rating D.** This is a 5.0 mile Lollipop loop considered somewhat of a desert ramble with elevation gain of 300'. Nice pleasant hike to get some of the holiday cheer off the waistline. Helps begin the post-holiday conditioning program to get back in the groove. Trail condition - good hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No parking fee. Driving distance 13 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Estrella-Foothills>

### **Directions to Estrella Foothills Park - High School Trailhead**

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkwy (south), which becomes Estrella Pkwy on the other side of I-10.

Continue into and through the Estrella Mountain development.

Turn left into the parking lot just before the Estrella Foothills High School building.

Park at the far end of the parking Lot. Restrooms are on the left by the ballpark.

No park fee.

**January 14 – Black Canyon Trail – Table Mesa Segment to River (I-17 Exit 236) Rating D.** This is a 4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 300 ft. The hike goes to the Agua Fria river and returns. It goes through typical rolling desert terrain with distant views of Lake Pleasant. There is a small stand of wild palm trees along the trail. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/Table-Mesa-Loop>

### **Directions to Black Canyon Trail – Table 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; 2.5 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). Go another 1.9 mi. to a side road on the right (3.5 mi. from I-17). Turn right on the road and the trailhead parking is immediately on the left. No restrooms at the trailhead

**January 21 – Wild Burro/Pipeline trails to floating Bridge (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating D.** This is 4.4 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 500 ft. The hike starts out at the Twisted Talon parking area and goes north to a floating bridge. The Wild Burro trail goes along the lake around a small cove before rising up to the Pipeline Trailhead and then on to an unusual floating bridge. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.  
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Wild-Burro-Trail-DougJ-Photos>

**Directions to Ramada 9 (Wild Burro), Lake Pleasant Regional Park**  
Drive north on 303 to Lake Pleasant Road. Turn left (north) on Lake Pleasant Road to Arizona 74. Turn left (west) and continue to Castle Hot Springs Road and turn right (North). Go 2.1 miles and turn right onto Lake Pleasant Access Road. Pay \$7.00 park fee then turn right on South Park Road. Turn left on Desert Tortoise Road and drive about .25 miles. Trailhead is on the left. Restrooms are at this trailhead.

**January 28 - Brown Mountain (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating D+.**  
The Brown Saddle portion is a loop hike of about 5.6 miles with an elevation gain of 500 ft. The Cathedral Rock/Ampitheater portion is a 5.6 loop with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. There are great views of the surrounding mountains (Four Peaks, the Boulders and Tom's Thumb, etc.) as well as great rock formations along the trail with many different cacti species. Trail condition - very good hiking trail. There is a nice restroom at the trailhead and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Brown-Mountain>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Brown's Ranch Trailhead  
Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.  
Turn left (North) on I-17.  
Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road.  
Follow Dove Valley Road about 10 mi. (name changes to Sonoran Desert Drive).  
Take Cave Creek Road North (left).  
Turn right at first light on Dynamite Blvd (later changes to Rio Verde).  
Turn left on Alma School Road.  
The road dead ends at the trailhead.  
There are restrooms at the trailhead.