

PHOENIX SONORAN PRESERVE 12-16-21

Trail maps for various segments in the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Phoenix-Sonoran-Preserve/i-PWHn6DH>

Apache Wash, Sidewinder, Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North Section).

Rating C, B. This is an 8–10-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1200 feet. The loop combines several trails - the Apache Wash, Ridgeback, Sidewinder, and Ocotillo Trails. The C version cuts off one section of the loop. There are expansive views of the north side of Phoenix, Anthem, and Cave Creek. The hike goes through rolling desert terrain. Trail condition - this is a very good hiking trail with no rocks, stones, steps, etc. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 80 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Apache-Wash-Trailhead>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Apache Wash Trailhead) – Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I-17. Turn left (north) on I-17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road. Follow Dove Valley Road as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Continue for approximately 5.1 miles (from I-17). Turn left into the Apache Wash Trailhead.

Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating D Challenge, C, C Challenge.

This is a 4.6-to-7.6-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 to 1500 feet. The main loop hike (4.6 miles) goes up and down a couple of saddles through typical desert terrain. The 6-mile version adds 500 feet elevation gain going up 2 peaks along the loop. The 7.6-mile version adds another 1.5 miles and 200 feet elevation gain. 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 fees. Driving distance is 68 miles roundtrip. [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 -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take 303 North following until it ends at I-17. Continue straight, going under I-17. Turn right on North Valley Parkway. Go past Norterra Parkway (coming in on the right) and turn left on Copperhead Trail. Go .1 miles and turn left on West 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.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South – Alternate – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East. Turn left (east) and then take 101 North. Turn North on I-17. Turn east (right) on Jomax Road. Turn north (left) on Norterra Parkway. 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 West 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.

Sidewinder, Apache Wash, Ocotillo, Ridgeback, Sidewinder, Apache Wash Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North). Rating C.

This is an 8-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 feet. The loop combines several trails and goes up to the top of 2 peaks. There are expansive views of the north side of Phoenix, Anthem, and Cave Creek. The hike goes through rolling desert terrain and a couple of washes. Trail condition - this is a very good hiking trail. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 64 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/OcotilloSidewinder-Western-Loo>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Apache Wash Trailhead) -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I-17. Turn left (north) on I-17. Stay right and immediately exit onto Dove Valley Road.

Follow Dove Valley Road as it changes name to Sonoran Desert Drive. Continue for approx. 5.1 miles (from I-17). Turn left into the Apache Wash Trailhead.

Sidewinder, Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North). Rating D Challenge. This is a 5.4-mile loop hike on very good trails, with an elevation gain of about 680 feet. The hike goes through typical desert terrain around a hill from the new trailhead off Carefree Highway with views of the Phoenix Sonoran Desert, Cave Creek and Anthem. New trailhead off Carefree Highway with a large box fan for cool down after the hike. Trail condition - average hiking trail surface. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 80 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve>

Ocotillo Sidewinder Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Desert Hills Trailhead) -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left), take Loop 303 North and take it until it ends at I-17. Turn left (north) on I-17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway. Continue for several miles. At 700 West Carefree Highway, turn right into trailhead parking. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No Park fees.

Alternate Directions --Exit Highway 303 at Lake Pleasant Parkway, turn left and proceed to Highway 74. Turn right on Highway 74/Carefree Highway and proceed to Desert Hills Trailhead.

Sidewinder, Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North). Rating D Challenge

This is a 5.4-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 680 feet. The hike goes through typical desert terrain around a hill from the new trailhead off Carefree Highway with views of the Phoenix Sonoran Desert, Cave Creek and Anthem. New trailhead off Carefree Highway with a large box fan for cool down after the hike. Trail condition - average hiking trail surface. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 80 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/OcotilloSidewinder-Western-Loo>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Desert Hills Trailhead) -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I-17. Turn left (north) on I-17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway. Continue for several miles. At 700 West Carefree Highway, turn right into Trailhead parking.

Three Peaks Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating B. This is a 10.6-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1900 feet. This is a new trail system made up of well-maintained trails. The hike loops around and up to three peaks in the preserve going through typical desert terrain. The hike provides excellent views in all directions. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 68 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Three-Peak-Loop>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take 303 North following until it ends at 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 West 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 are no park fees.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South – Alternate – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East (left) , then take 101 North. Turn north on I-17. Turn east (right) on Jomax Road. Turn north (left) on Norterra Parkway. 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 West 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.

Union Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South). Rating C, B. This is a 7.2 (C level) or 8.4 (B) mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000-1200 feet. This trail system is made up of well-maintained trails. The hike goes through typical desert terrain before ascending a hill for excellent views to the south. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail Condition – average hiking trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 68 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/East-Peak-Loop>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take 303 North following until it ends at 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 West 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.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South – Alternate -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East (left), then 101 North. Turn north on I-17. Turn east (right) on Jomax Road. Turn north (left) on Norterra Parkway. 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 West 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.

Valle Verde, Desert Tortoise Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating D. This is a 4.2-mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 400 feet. The hike goes through typical desert terrain before ascending a hill with excellent views to the south. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. Trail condition - excellent hiking trail surface. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 68 miles roundtrip.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixSonoranPreserve-1/Hawks-Nest-Valle-Verde-Des-Tortoise-Phoenix-Sonoran-Preserve/>

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South -- Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take 303 North following until it ends at 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 West 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.

Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South – Alternate – Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, take I-10 East (left), then take 101 North. Turn north on I-17. Turn east (right) on Jomax Road. Turn north (left) on Norterra Parkway. 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 West 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.