

## PHOENIX SONORAN PRESERVE

### **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 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

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

### **Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Apache Wash TH)**

Take Loop 303 North to 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.

No Park Fee...Restrooms are at the trailhead.

**Dixie Mountain Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating D+/C/C+.** This is a 4.6 to 7.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 to 1500 ft. 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 ft EG going up 2 peaks along the loop. The 7.6 mile version adds another 1.5 miles and 200 ft E. 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 1<sup>st</sup> exit).

Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South - Alternate**

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 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.

**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 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 64 miles RT.

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

**Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Apache Wash TH)**

Take Loop 303 North to 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.  
No Park Fee...Restrooms are at the trailhead.

**Sidewinder/Octillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North). Rating D+** This is a 5.3 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 550 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

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

**Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve North (Desert Hills TH)**

Take Loop 303 North and drive to I-17.  
Turn left (North) on I-17.  
Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway.  
Continue for several miles.  
At 700 W Carefree Hwy, turn right into Trailhead parking.  
Restrooms are at the trailhead.  
No Park fee.

**Three Peaks Loop Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve). Rating C.** This is a 10.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1900 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> exit).  
Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South - Alternate**

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 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.

**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 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

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

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> exit).  
Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South - Alternate**

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 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.

**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 ft. 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 fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

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

#### **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 1<sup>st</sup> exit).

Turn North (left) on Norterra Parkway (should be the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **Directions to Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South - Alternate**

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 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.