

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK

Picacho Peak (Picacho Peak State Park). Rating B. Hunter Trail trailhead elevation: 1780 ft, summit elevation 3160 ft. From Barrett Loop road take Hunter Trail 2.1 miles to the summit with an elevation change of 1380 ft. From the saddle hike down the Hunter trail to the Sunset Vista Trail then to the top of Picacho Peak using the permanently installed guide cables to get to the top. Bring cotton or leather gloves for holding on to the cables. Return requires a climb down Sunset Vista trail then up the Hunter Trail again to the saddle. This is a short strenuous, hike and a favorite among hikers. The alternate route is to drive 1.8 miles further into the park and take the Sunset Vista trail 2.2 miles to first cable climb or 2.8 miles to summit. The Sunset Vista Trail crosses the Hunter Trail just past the first cable assisted climb.

This hike overlooks the site of Arizona's only Civil War battle (The Battle of Picacho Pass on Apr 15, 1862). Twelve California Union Cavalrymen and one scout, commanded by Lt. Barrett, conducting a sweep of the Picacho Pass area, surprised and captured three of Captain Sherod Hunter's lookouts, but seven other confederates fought more than an hour, killing Union Lieutenant Barrett and two men, and wounding three others. Both sides withdrew from the **Westernmost Civil War Battle**. The confederates in Tucson returned to Texas, and Union forces divided Arizona from New Mexico Territory, along the present line. So, the Civil War made Arizona a separate Territory and later State (1912), instead of remaining part of the original New Mexico Territory stretching from Calif. to Texas (Two of the three Union soldiers buried at Picacho Pass, were later returned to Calif. Lt. Barrett's grave, found by railroad workers, is unmarked to avoid disturbance and is located near the rock outcrop across I-10). The park's roads are named after these leaders. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. The park entrance fee is \$6.00. Driving distance is approx 200 miles RT. [SCG=6.0/2400/4.7].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PicachoPeakStatePark/Picacho-Peak-Trail>

Directions to Picacho Peak Trails

Take Pebble Creek Pkwy to I-10 East.

Take I-10 to Picacho Peak State Park – exit 219.

Turn right into park and pay fee at Visitors Center.

Trailhead for the Hunter Trail (front side of mountain) 2.0 miles to summit is on Barrett Loop.

Trailhead for the Sunset Vista Trail (back side of mountain) 3.1 miles to summit is at the end of the road.

Rest room is on Barrett Loop