

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Challenge Hike - Seven Springs Area - Cave Creek #4, #247, #248, #250, #246, #247, #4 (PCHC # 447).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: B hike rating exceeded: Mileage, Elevation.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 13.6 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 2860 feet. At about .8 miles the trail splits: Cave Creek (#4) to the right, Skunk Creek (#246) to the left across a small creek.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: You have to drive 10 miles on a dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Skunk Tank Trailhead **TRAILS:** #4, #247, #248, #250, #246, #247, #4

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Seven Springs, Skunk Tank Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. Directions to Cave Creek Skunk Tank Trailhead: Alternate Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Turn right (east) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Bloody Basin Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to

HIKE: B Challenge Hike - Seven Springs Area - Skull Mesa Summit from Seven Springs (PCHC # 451).

REASON FOR CHALLENGE: B hike rating exceeded: Mileage, Elevation. Additional challenges include: Advanced route finding skills required for the overgrown eastern part of the Skull Mesa Loop.

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 12.4 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 3180 feet. Skull Mesa Trail # 248 features panoramic views of the desert foothills. This is a good place to see deer, javelina, and snakes. This is not recommended for novice equestrians or inexperienced stock. Due to the tall grasses in the area, you'll find the rock cairns a useful guide to finding the path. From the west junction with Cottonwood Trail at an elevation of 3260 feet the trail climbs many switchbacks, gaining over 1000 feet in a mile. For next mile, traverse Skull Mesa reaching elevation 4560 feet, then drops to the junction with Quien Sabe Trail. The trail climbs and descends for 1.5 miles to its east junction with Cottonwood Trail.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Spur Cross Trailhead **TRAILS:** Skull Mesa trail #248, Quien Sabe trail, Cottonwood trail

FEES AND FACILITIES: Portajohns at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Spur Cross Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left (north) on Cave Creek Road. Turn left (north) on Spur Cross Road. Go 4.5 miles (1.5 is gravel) to the parking area on the right. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 110 miles

URL PHOTOS: <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Skull-Mesa>

URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4a10bJo_2kvHEI_1HU?e=tcjepz

PCHC TRAIL ID: 451

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Hike - Seven Springs Area - Bronco Trail #247 (PCHC # 445).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7.6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1600 feet. The trail rises up about 400 feet to the ridge line within 1.5 miles and then travels along the ridgeline before dropping into a valley with a small pond before rising up to a saddle. The hike continues down the other side to meet up with Trail 248.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Bronco Trailhead **TRAILS:** Bronco Trail #47

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required. This fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Bronco Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn north (left) on I17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive about 8 miles to the Bronco Trailhead on the left. The last several miles are a dirt road. Directions to Cave Creek Skunk Tank Trailhead: Alternate Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Turn right (east) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Bloody Basin Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 130 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Seven-Springs/>

URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4a10XIsyLDvtxy_rRH?e=iDjSIG

PCHC TRAIL ID: 445

HIKE: B Hike - Seven Springs Area - Cottonwood trails (PCHC # 448).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 10 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. From the Cave Creek Trailhead pick up the Cave Creek Trail #4 as it travels behind the campgrounds paralleling the road. The path crosses a dirt road (ignore the unsigned junction on the left, and remain on #4) and drops down beside Cave Creek to a junction with the left branching Cottonwood Trail #247. Turn left on #247 which crosses the stream then climbs a hill to the junction with the Skunk Creek Trail #246 which branches right. Stay left on the Cottonwood Trail which climbs a grassy slope dotted with: juniper, prickly pear and cholla cacti, scrub oak, cats claw and sugar sumac. The path bends right and enters a wide gully, traveling along a hillside; first on the right, then on the left side, until you eventually reach a junction with the left branching trail #245 (which is not shown on the map, but I believe it leads to the Bronco Trailhead). The trail then begins climbing gently through an area of low rolling hills, past a fence then down the other side to follow a wash. Shortly after climbing out of the wash on the right, you'll reach a junction with the right branching Skull Mesa Trail #248 (5 miles). Turn around at this point.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: You have to drive 10 miles on a dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Skunk Tank Trailhead **TRAILS:** #4, #247

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Seven Springs/Skunk Tank Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 following until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: B Hike - Seven Springs Area - Maricopa trail south from Bronco trailhead (PCHC # 450).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 9.6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1500 feet. The hike goes to a bridge over a slot canyon. An optional side hike is to drop down into the slot and go along it for a short distance. The hike then goes up to a high point overlooking the entire area.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Bronco Trailhead **TRAILS:** Maricopa Trail

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required. This fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Bronco Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to I17. Turn North (left) on I17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive about 8 miles to the Bronco Trailhead on the left. The last several miles is a dirt road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 130 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Maricopa-Trail-Carefree>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Seven-Springs/i-G98gnLC>

URL GPX: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4al0eumJQ0JcKX5NbH?e=UMHsGB>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 450

HIKE: B Hike - Seven Springs Area - Skunk Tank, Cottonwood, #4 Loop (PCHC # 446).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is an 11.1 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1800 feet. At about .8 miles the trail splits: Cave Creek (#4) to the right, Skunk Creek (#246) to the left across a small creek.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: You have to drive 10 miles on a dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Skunk Tank Trailhead **TRAILS:** Skunk Creek #246, Cottonwood

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Seven Springs, Skunk Tank Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. Directions to Cave Creek Skunk Tank Trailhead: Alternate Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Turn right (east) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Bloody Basin Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 140 miles

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Challenge Hike - Seven Springs Area - Skunk Tank Trail (PCHC # 452).**REASON FOR CHALLENGE:** .

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 800 feet. This hike passes through a wooded area before rising up into more typical desert terrain. There are interesting views of the seven springs valley area from the top of the ridge.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: You have to drive 10 miles on a dirt road with 2 possible creek crossings to reach the trailhead, but a 4WD is not needed.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Skunk Tank Trailhead **TRAILS:** Skunk Tank Trail

FEES AND FACILITIES: Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee for hiking.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Seven Springs, Skunk Tank Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Go north on I17. Turn right on Highway 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. Directions to Cave Creek Skunk Tank Trailhead: Alternate Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Turn right (east) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Bloody Basin Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road

HIKE: C Hike - Seven Springs Area - Bronco Trail #247 (PCHC # 444).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 6.2 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 1100 feet. The trail rises up about 400 feet to the ridge line within 1.5 miles and then travels along the ridgeline before dropping into a valley with a small pond before rising up to a saddle.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Bronco Trailhead **TRAILS:** Bronco Trail #47

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required. This fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Bronco Trailhead. Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following until it ends at I17. Turn north (left) on I17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive about 8 miles to the Bronco Trailhead on the left. The last several miles are a dirt road. Directions to Cave Creek Skunk Tank Trailhead: Alternate Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North following it until it ends at I17. Turn left (north) on I17. Turn right (east) on AZ 74 (Carefree Highway). Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road. Turn right on Bloody Basin Road. Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road as it changes to Forest Road 24 as you enter the Tonto National Forest. At the 4.5 mile point (on FS 24) the pavement ends in a well graded dirt road. Continue winding along the road, at the 12 mile point you'll hit a short stretch of pavement as you enter the Seven Springs Recreation area and Cave Creek Campground. A creek crosses the road twice (cement road at this point), but it is shallow. Drive past the camp sites & look for a green Trail sign which points to a parking area on the left side of the road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 130 miles

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Seven-Springs/>

URL GPX: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgywFpJqBF4a10XIsyLDvtxy_rRH?e=iDjSIG

PCHC TRAIL ID: 444

DESCRIPTION:

HIKE: C Hike - Seven Springs Area - Maricopa trail south from Bronco trailhead (PCHC # 449).

DESCRIPTION: This hike is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. The hike goes to a bridge over a slot canyon. An optional side hike is to drop down into the slot and go along it for a short distance.

TRAILHEAD NAME: Bronco Trailhead **TRAILS:** Maricopa Trail

FEES AND FACILITIES: There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required. This fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Directions to Cave Creek Bronco Trailhead: Head north on PebbleCreek Parkway to Indian School Road, turn west (left) and take Loop 303 North to I17. Turn North (left) on I17. Turn right (east) on Carefree Highway (Highway 74) and drive to the end. Turn left on Tom Darlington/Scottsdale Road (just in front of the Boulders Resort). Turn right on Cave Creek Road. Continue on Cave Creek Road past the turnoff to Bartlett Reservoir. Drive about 8 miles to the Bronco Trailhead on the left. The last several miles is a dirt road. **DRIVING DISTANCE:** 130 miles

URL PHOTOS: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Maricopa-Trail-Carefree>

URL MAP: <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Seven-Springs/i-G98gnLC>

PCHC TRAIL ID: 449