

## **SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**Brittlebush Trail (Sonoran Desert National Monument). Rating C+.** This is a fairly flat 8.1 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 300 ft. It goes through typical desert terrain with nice views of the surrounding mountains. At the far end of the trail is a series of Mexican Jumping Bean plants (unique in Arizona). We sometimes do a little bushwhacking along the route, but it's open desert and not difficult. Trail condition - overall a pretty good trail. There are restrooms about a mile into the trail. No park fee. Driving distance is 116 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-2/Brittlebush-Trail>

### **Directions to Brittlebush Trailhead**

Go West on I-10 to Highway 85 (exit 112).

Drive South on Hwy 85 for about 34 miles.

Just past MP 121, turn left on Maricopa Road (AZ 238).

Go approx.10 mi. almost to MP 15 and turn left into parking area at a NM Kiosk.

(if the gate is open you can drive 4 miles on the dirt road to the original Brittlebush trailhead and hike from there).

There is a restroom about a mile into the trail from the parking area.

**Margies Cove West (North Maricopa Wilderness) Rating C & B.** This is an out and back hike of up to 10 miles with a gradual elevation change of 700 ft. The elevation change is so gradual you think you are hiking on a level surface. Part of the trail is through a sandy wash, though the sand is well packed so the hiking is not too tough. You can hike as little or as much as you want. Most of the hike is through typical Sonoran desert landscape with lots of Saguaros. There is a restroom at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 82 miles RT. The final 5.5 miles requires a high clearance vehicle.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-2/Margies-Cove>

### **Directions to Margie's Cove West Trailhead**

Go West on I-10 to Highway 85.

Drive South on Hwy 85 for 20 miles.

Turn left on Woods Road.

Turn left just after the cattle guard onto the dirt road.

Turn left just past the fence and go .5 miles.

Turn right and go 3.7 miles.

Turn right and go 1.2 miles to the parking area and restrooms.

The final 5.5 miles are on a dirt road that requires a high clearance vehicle.

There is a restroom at the trailhead.