

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PARK 4-26-22

Trail maps for various segments in the South Mountain Park

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/South-Mountain-Park/>

Alta East (South Mountain). Rating C Challenge. This is a 6.4 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 1,300 feet. It's a fairly steady climb with a full circle view at the top. We start on the Bajada Trail, then cross the road to get to the Alta Trail. Hike up to a ridge then turn west and hike towards the summit. There is an unusual crested saguaro about 50 yards straight ahead at a sharp hairpin turn about half way up. After your snack break, you return same way. Trail condition - overall a good trail, but there are several steep switchback sections. Restrooms are at the Ranger Station. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Alta-Trail>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then take I-10 East (left) to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Bajada/National, Alta Trail Loop (South Mountain). Rating B. 9-mile loop with an elevation gain of about 1860 feet. It is 2.2 miles from the Bajada Trail parking lot to the National Trail, then 1.5 miles to the Alta Trailhead, then 1.5 miles and 1,100-foot climb to the summit and then 2.6 miles back to the parking lot. Restrooms are at the Ranger Station. No park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Alta-National-Bajada-Trails>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take I-10 East to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office, restrooms. Caravan to trailhead.

Busera-National, Pyramid (South Mountain). Rating B. This is a 10-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 900 feet. The trail starts off through typical desert landscape (which would be colorful after good winter rains) before going up to the ridgeline of South Mountain 620. The ridgeline provides great views to the south including the Estrella Mountains, Gila Indian Reservation, and Ahwatukee. The trail drops down to the valley and goes back up through the Gila Valley to the National Trail before returning to the trailhead. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 52 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Busera-National-Pyramid>

Directions to South Mountain Park (South) Telegraph Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Turn right (south) on 202. Take the exit for 17th Avenue go left (north) under the highway. Turn left (west) on Chandler Boulevard. Turn right (north) on 19th Avenue. Turn left (west) into the trailhead parking lot.

Corona de Loma-Midlife Crisis Loop. (South Mountain) Rating B. This is a 12-mile, 2000 feet. loop combining Corona de Loma, Desert Classic, Old Man, Midlife Crisis and National trails, with an optional detour through Fat Man Pass. The hike starts at the Buena Vista parking area and quickly heads downhill past the Chinese Wall to the Desert Classic trail on the south side of South Mountain, then takes the first left to head up the steep Old Man Trail to the top of the ridge to intersect the Midlife Crisis Trail. The hike then proceeds east on Midlife Crisis which follows the ridgeline (some scrambling required) parallel to the lower National Trail; Midlife Crisis provides great views of Phoenix and nice lunch areas on the rock ledges and eventually leads to the National Trail where the hike proceeds west toward the Buena Vista parking area. Along the way, an optional short,

fun deviation is to go through Fatman Pass from the east and then reconnect to the National Trail to continue back to the parking area.

[https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Midlife-CrisisNationalFatman-PassMidlifeCrisis+National+FatmanPass - PCHikingclub \(smugmug.com\)](https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Midlife-CrisisNationalFatman-PassMidlifeCrisis+National+FatmanPass-PCHikingclub(smugmug.com))

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take Exit 138, SR-202 Loop South. Take either the Baseline Road or Dobbins Road exit and turn left onto them. Turn right onto Central Avenue into South Mountain Park. Go through the South Mountain Park guard shack (no fees). Go through another guard shack to the Park Office area. Proceed up the Summit Road about 6.5 miles following the signs to Buena Vista Parking area. Trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area.

Fat Man's Pass from the East (South Mountain). Rating C. This is a 7.1-mile round trip hike with an elevation gain of about 960 feet. A nice hike to Fat Man's Pass starting in Ahwatukee at the 48th Street entrance to South Mountain Park. The trail starts out flat going out of the parking lot on an old road, then climbs to Hidden Valley where it loops back through large rocks and tunnels. There are great views of the valley from the ridge on which we will be hiking. This popular trail is considered to be fun by many past hikers. Trail condition – an average hiking trail, but a steady climb up to Hidden Valley. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There are no park fees. Driving distance is approximately 66 mi roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-East>

Directions to South Mountain Park (East) Pima Canyon Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take exit 138 onto 202 South. Take exit 55 A-B to merge onto I-10 West. Take exit 157 (Elliot Road). Turn left on Elliot Road. Turn right onto S 48th Street. Turn left to stay on S 48th Street. Turn left onto Pima Canyon Road. Follow Pima Canyon Road into South Mountain Park.

Fat Man's Pass/Desert Classic (South Mountain). Rating B. This is a 11.5-mile round trip hike through to Fat Man's Pass starting in Ahwatukee at the 48th Street entrance to South Mountain Park. The trail starts out of the parking lot flat, climbs then levels off to Hidden Valley where it passes through large rocks and tunnels. From here the trail will continue to the left on the National Trail to the Buena Vista parking lot. Then it's down the road a short way to an unnamed trail down to the Desert Classic Trail. Turn left on the Desert Classic Trail and take it back to the parking lot. There is an optional big climb near the end of the trail before we return to the 48th Street parking lot. There are great views of the Valley from the ridge on which we will be hiking. The ascent is 890 feet. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 66 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (East) Pima Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to 48th Street. Right turn onto 48th Street. (Exit 153). Turn left at the roundabout (just before entering The Pointe at South Mountain--Pointe Parkway East). One block past Guadalupe Road turns right onto 48th Street. Turn left onto Pima Canyon Road (just before stop sign to enter The Pointe at South Mountain). Follow Pima Canyon Road into South Mountain Park.

Fat Man's Pass via Javalina Canyon (South Mountain). Rating C. A 7.3-mile hike along the Javelina Canyon Trail, left onto the Mormon Loop Trail, right on the National Trail, then left on the Hidden Valley Trail. Go over and thru boulders and rock tunnels and Fat Man's Pass. You return on National Trail to Mormon Loop Trail. Near the end of the Mormon Loop Trail turn left onto the Javelina Trail. An interesting, fun hike, with only a 250 feet elevation change with a few large boulders to climb over and slide down. We will carpool down I-10 E to Baseline Road, exit to the right on Baseline Road, straight ahead to 46th Street. Turn left onto 46th Street and follow it into South Mountain Park. There is no restroom at this trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (46th St) Beverly Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to 48TH Street. Right turn onto 48th Street. Right turn onto Baseline Road. Left turn onto 46th Street. 46th Street will end at the parking lot inside the park.

Fat Man's Pass from the West (South Mountain). Rating D Challenge, C. A 4.5 to 6.8-mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of about 600-1080 feet. It follows the National Trail starting at the Buena Vista lookout, looping at Hidden Valley through boulders and rock tunnels, and returning on National Trail. Interesting, fun hike, with a few large boulders to climb over and slide down. An optional extra half-mile hike with an elevation change of 130 feet can be added by taking a side trail to the right at marker #18. This trail goes to the top of the ridge giving hikers a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. A second optional addition is a .8 mile out and back hike (150-foot elevation change) going west from the parking lot to the China Wall, a natural rock formation that looks like a manmade wall from a distance. A third option is to go to an overlook to the left of the parking area, adding another .8 miles and 50 feet elevation gain. Trail condition - mostly an uneven surface of rock so you need to keep your eyes on the trail. Several "drop your poles and slide on your butt" areas. Restrooms are at the park office. No park fees. Driving distance is 70 miles roundtrip. [SCG=5.0/750/2.6].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Fat-Mans-Pass-West>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take Exit 138. SR-202 Loop South. Take either the Baseline Road or Dobbins Road exit and turn left onto them. Turn right onto Central Avenue into South Mountain Park. Go through the South Mountain Park guard shack (no fees). Go through another guard shack to the Park Office area. Proceed up the Summit Road about 6.5 miles following the signs to Buena Vista Parking area. Trailhead is at the Buena Vista Parking area.

Gila Ruins Trail (South Mountain). Rating D. This is a 4-mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of about 300 feet. Starting from the south side of South Mountain, we hike through a valley up to the ruins of an old resort. After our break, we then return to the trailhead. No facilities. No park fees. Driving distance is 70 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (South) Telegraph Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Turn right (south) on 202. Take the exit for 17th Avenue and go left (north) under the highway. Turn left (west) on Chandler Boulevard. Turn right (north) on 19th Avenue. Turn left (west) into the trailhead parking lot.

Holbert Trail (South Mountain). Rating C Challenge. This is a 5.7-mile in and out hike, with an elevation gain of 1,330 feet. The trail starts out flat, goes onto a paved road uphill for a short distance then off to the right where it continuously climbs up to Dobbins Lookout (a paved parking area with benches, optical viewers & restrooms). The Holbert Trail intersects with the National Trail near the top. We go up to the National Trail and then return to the Dobbins Lookout for our break. Pit toilets are located at Dobbins Lookout parking lot. There may be Native Americans at the lookout selling jewelry. Trail condition – mostly a steady uphill/downhill hike. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Holbert-Trail>

Directions to South Mountain Park (Holbert Trail) -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take Exit 138. SR-202 Loop South. Take either the Baseline Road or Dobbins Road exit and turn left onto them. Turn right onto Central Avenue into South Mountain Park. Go through the South Mountain Park guard shack (no fees). Turn left immediately towards the Nature Center and keep going until you reach the parking lot with the bathrooms on the left. Trailhead is across the street.

Holbert/National, Box Canyon Loop, Los Lomitas Loop, Kiwanis (South Mountain). Rating B. This is a 7.7-mile loop, with an elevation gain of 1,420 feet. This hike starts at the top of

Telegraph Hill on the Summit Road. Take the National Trail North & East for 2.25 miles to the Horton Trail. The Horton Trail leads to Dobbins Lookout and then to the parking lot at the bottom of South Mountain. Take the road to the left about .1 miles to the Box Canyon Loop Trail and follow it for about 1.0 miles and then turn left onto the Los Lomitas Loop Trail. From here begin the climb back to the car. In about ½ mile you will come across a parking lot with picnic tables to the left. This is where you will find the Kiwanis Trail. Take the climb up the Kiwanis Trail to the car. Restrooms are at the ranger station just after entering the park. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 60 mi roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (Holbert Trail) -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take I-10 East to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue and continue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline and continue to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central Avenue into South Mountain Park. Turn left just past the entrance hut. Drive to the end of the parking lot on the left.

Holbert/National, Kiwanis, Los Lomitas, Box Canyon Trails (South Mountain). Rating

B. Distance 9.0-mile round trip loop, with an elevation gain of 2000 feet. From the parking lot The Holbert Trail climbs up the valley to the left of Dobbins Lookout. A spur trail leads steeply up to Dobbins Lookout. From here retrace your steps back to the Holbert Trail, turn right and continue up to the junction with the National Trail. Turn right and proceed up the road and follow the trail to the north of the microwave towers to the junction with the Kiwanis Trail. Take a break at the stone ramada. Take the Kiwanis down to the valley, then turn right onto the Los Lomitas Trail to the junction with the Box Canyon Trail. Again, turn right and follow the trail back to the parking lot. Restrooms at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Holbert-Trail>

Directions to South Mountain Park (Holbert Trail) - Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take Route 202 S to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline and continue to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue and drive into South Mountain Park. Turn left just past the entrance hut (if you get to the Ranger Station, you've driven too far). Drive to the end of the parking lot on the left.

Kiwanis, National, Gila West, Ruins, National, Ranger, Los Lomitas Trails Loop (South Mountain). Rating B Challenge. This is a 10.6 -mile loop with an elevation change of 1000 feet. This is a way to incorporate the trail system to the south of the National Trail. It is 1.45-mile gradual climb up the Kiwanis Trail parking lot to the National Trail, then up past the ramada to the near the top of the hill in just over .5 miles to the Gila West Trail. Follow the Gila West Trail around the first hill top, then down a steep hill to a junction with a service road. This section should be about 2.1 miles. Turn right down the service road and enter a wash for about 1 mile. To your right there will be a path out of the wash point to the ruins. Follow this path to the southwest corner of the ruins and start the climb back up to the National Trail. This is a 1.2-mile climb and will get your heart rate pumping. At the junction with the National Trail turn right and follow it for 2 to the Ranger Trail. Turn left onto the Ranger Trail and go down the hill and across Summit Road to the Los Lomitas Trail in almost 1.5 miles. Turn right on the Los Lomitas Trail for a 1-mile hike back to the parking lot. Restrooms are at the Ranger Station. No park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/KiwanisNationalGila>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take I-10 East to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Maricopa Peak Big Loop (South Mountain): Bajada, Alta to Maricopa Peak, National to Goat Hill, Ranger, Bajada Rating A. This is a 14-mile hike with an elevation gain of approximately 2500 feet. From the triangle parking zone, we'll take the Alta Trail, steeply climbing to the Ma Ha Tauk Ridge. This high ridge gives spectacular views over Phoenix and the Estrella Range

and further allows access to the trailless summit of Maricopa Peak. After a long descent and crossing of the valley we'll climb onto the National Trail traversing the Gila Range. After a quick stop on Goat Hill, we'll return to the car via the Ranger and Bajada Trails. This is a Trail to Ale hike - After the hike we'll convene at the Grand Avenue Brewery at 1205 West Pierce Street in Phoenix for refreshment! What you need to know: Long Mileage (14 miles) Two extended uphill sections (Alta and National Trails) Off Trail Climb to summit of Maricopa Peak Trail to Ale hike. Restrooms and water are at the ranger station at entrance to park Driving distance is 60 miles round trip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to parking area at 'Triangle'

Maricopa Peak Big Loop (South Mountain) outbound via Crosscut, Hau'Pal, Alta Ridge Trails with return via National and Ranger Trails: CrossCut Trail to Hau'Pal Ridge Trail to Alta Trail to National Trail to Ranger Trail. Rating A This is a 12.6-mile hike with an elevation gain of approximately 3400 feet. Park at 5 Tables / Ranger Trailhead from Ranger Trailhead follow park road north for .25 mile to the Crosscut Trail. Turn left on Crosscut Trail to the junction with the Hau'Pal Trail. Bear left and follow this trail uphill to the ridge line. The Hau'Pal Trail abruptly turns right and steeply climbs the open ridge over several rocky outcrops to join the Alta Trail rising from the left. Follow the Alta Trail along the ridge and at the point the Alta Trail turns north, leave the path and climb to the trailless summit of Maricopa Peak. On the far side of the summit drop onto the Alta Trail for the long descent to the San Juan Lookout. At this point follow the National Trail as it crosses the valley and steadily climbs onto the ridge of the Gila Range. After a quick stop on Goat Hill turn left downhill on the Ranger Trail to return to the car. What you need to know: Long mileage (12.6 miles) with 2 main uphill sections (Full Alta and National Trails) One Off-Trail section (summit of Maricopa Peak) Restrooms and water are at the ranger station at entrance to park Driving distance is 60 miles round trip.

Directions to South Mountain Park Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to 202 South. Exit 202 South at Baseline. Turn left onto Baseline. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to parking area at the Ranger Trailhead in the Five Tables picnic area -- note -- as of September 2021 the park road just after the ranger station is under construction -- take care to follow the posted diversion signs.

National, Kiwanis, Los Lomitas Loop, Ranger, Bajada Trails (South Mountain). Rating A. This is a 20.0-mile loop, with an elevation gain of 3,900 feet. None of the hill climbs are difficult there just are a lot of them. Start at the San Juan Parking lot and take the National Trail to the east. At the 3.6-mile mark is the first mine shaft, at 4.6 there is another mine. The junction with the Ranger Trail is at the 6.0-mile mark, stay on the National Trail. At 6.9 miles there is the Telegraph Pass Ramada. Continue on the National Trail, which crosses the Summit Road at 7.25 miles until .5 miles beyond the junction with the Holbert Trail. Turn around at the 10.0-mile mark and return to the Kiwanis Trail just below the Telegraph Pass Ramada (12.8 miles). Take the Kiwanis Trail to the parking lot then find the Los Lomitas Loop Trail going off to the left and follow that for almost 1 mile to the Ranger Trail. Take the Ranger Trail left for about .2 miles to the Bajada Trail. Follow the Bajada Trail for 3.2 miles to the National Trail and go west 1.7 miles back to the San Juan parking lot. Restrooms at the Ranger's station. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approximately 60 mi roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (Far West) San Juan Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Take Loop 202 South (near 59th Avenue). Take the exit for Estrella Drive (exit 68) and go east across 51st Avenue. Bear right as the road makes a sharp left. Parking is on the right near the end of the road. San Juan lookout is over the hill heading southeast.

Pima, Javalina, Ridge Line, Beverly Canyon, Desert Classic trails from 48th Street (South Mountain). Rating C. This is a 6.5-mile hike with an elevation change of about 800 feet. The hike starts out at the 48th Street entrance to South Mountain Park. Take Pima Wash past a golf course to Javalina Trail. Take Javalina to the top of the ridge, then take the Ridgeline Trail left. There are great views of downtown Phoenix along this ridge. Turn right on Beverly Canyon to the Desert Classic Trail. Turn left on Desert Classic and take this back to the parking area. There are 100s of pincushion cactus on the beginning and ending sections of this hike. Trail condition - overall a good hiking surface. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fees. Driving distance is 66 miles roundtrip. Directions to South Mountain Park (East) Pima Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to 48th Street. Right turn onto 48th Street. (Exit 153). Turn left at the roundabout (just before entering The Pointe at South Mountain--Pointe Parkway East). One block past Guadalupe Road turns right onto 48th Street. Turn left onto Pima Canyon Road just before stop sign to enter The Pointe at South Mountain. Follow Pima Canyon Rd into South Mountain Park.

Pyramid, Bursera, Gila Loop (South Mountain). Rating C. This is a 6.6-mile loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1200 feet (this includes the short hike to the ruins). Starting from the south side of South Mountain, we hike up a ridge to the west with great views of the Estrella Mountains and areas to the south. We then drop into a valley of typical desert vegetation. We then return up over a saddle and down through a second valley. You can take an optional .25-mile trail to the ruins before going back to the trailhead. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Busera-NationalPyramid>

Directions to South Mountain Park (South), Pyramid Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Turn south on 202. Take the exit for 17th Avenue – exit 62 -and go left/north under the highway. Turn left on Chandler Boulevard. Turn right on 19th Avenue (there is no road sign). Turn left into the trailhead parking lot.

Ranger, Bajada, Max Delta, Tusk, Crosscut Loop (South Mountain) Rating D. This is a 4-mile hike with an elevation gain of about 300 feet. This route goes through typical desert vegetation with some unusual barrel cacti and a crested saguaro. The high point provides a view of downtown Phoenix. Restrooms are at the ranger station. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Ranger, National, Bajada Trails (South Mountain). Rating B. Distance 8.3 miles round trip loop, elevation change 900 feet, elevation gain/descent 1,300 feet. The hike starts by going up the Summit Road for about .5 miles to the Ranger Trail. Proceed to the right and climb to the National Trail then turn right to the Bajada Trail. Following the Bajada Trail to the left will bring you back to the Summit Road and the auto(s). We carpool on I-10E to I-17S, Exit at 7th Avenue, straight ahead to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central which goes into South Mountain Park. We will stop at the restroom by the park office. Car pool to the junction of the Summit Road and San Juan Road, near the two-mile post. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Ranger-National-Alta-Bajada>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Ranger, National, Kiwanis, Los Lomita Loop Trails (South Mountain). Rating C. This is a hike of 5.5 miles with an elevation gain of about 1000 feet. This hike has nice views of downtown Phoenix and the mountains on the North side of Phoenix. The hike starts by climbing up 800 feet to the National Trail on the ridge. It then goes along the National Trail to a ramada where we will take our break. We will then follow the Kiwanis Trail down to the bottom and take Los Lomita back to the cars. Restrooms are at the ranger station on the right after you enter the park. Trail condition - steep going up to the ridgeline and steep with lots of steps coming down the Kiwanis Trail. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Ranger, National, Mines, Pyramid, National Trails (South Mountain) Rating B. This is a hike of 9.3 miles with an elevation gain of about 2000 feet. This hike has nice views of downtown Phoenix and the mountains on the North side of Phoenix. The hike starts by climbing up 800 feet to the National Trail on the ridge. It then goes to the Pyramid Trail, which goes down the south side of the mountain before going back up to the National Trail. It then goes along the National Trail to a ramada where we will take our break. We will then follow the Kiwanis Trail down to the bottom and take Los Lomita back to the cars. Restrooms are at the ranger station on the right after you enter the park. There are no park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles roundtrip.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/Ranger-National-Mines-Pyramid>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Ranger, National, Ruins, Gila West, National, Kiwanis, Los Lomitas, Ranger Trails Loop (South Mountain). Rating B Challenge. This is a 11-mile loop with an elevation gain of 2000 feet. This is a way to incorporate the trail system to the south of the National Trail. It is 1.75 miles climb up the Ranger Trail from the parking lot to the National Trail, then turn left on the National Trail for 2 miles to an unmarked junction with the Ruins Trail. Turn left and go down the hill past the ruins and into the wash in 1.2 miles. Turn left in the wash to a service road. The junction with the Gila West Trail will be found in 1 mile. Turn left on the Gila West Trail and begin the big climb up to the National Trail. This leg is about 2 miles long. Turn right at the junction with the National Trail and start the descent going past the ramada to the Summit Road. Cross Summit Road to the Kiwanis Trail. Follow this trail for 1.45 miles to the Los Lomitas Trail just the other side of the parking lot. Turn right onto the Los Lomitas Trail and follow for about 1 mile to the Ranger Trail. Turn right for about .25 miles to the Five Tables parking lot. Restrooms are at the Ranger Station. No park fees. Driving distance is 60 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-4/KiwanisNationalGila>

Directions to South Mountain Park (North) Main Entrance -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to I-17 South (exit 143B). Exit I-17 at 7th Avenue. Turn right on 7th Avenue to Baseline. Turn left on Baseline to Central Avenue. Turn right onto Central Avenue. Follow Central into South Mountain Park. Meet at park office. Caravan to trailhead.

Ruins from Bursara Trailhead. (South Mountain) Rating B. This is a 9-mile loop hike (elevation ??????). Start at the Bursara Trailhead parking lot in Ahwatukee Foothill Village. Take the Bursara Trail for a short distance then the Pyramid Trail for a short distance then take a side trail to The Lost Ranch Ruins. On the west side of the ruins is a trail leading to the top of a mountain and the National Trail. Turn right then to the Telegraph Hill Ramada which is past the Pyramid Trail junction.

Return to the Pyramid Trail and turn left onto the trail. Follow this trail back to the Bursera Trail and then to the cars. No fee, restroom situation ??????.

Driving directions to Busera Trailhead: Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10 to Loop 202 and turn south to 17th Ave (exit 62). Turn right and follow to W. Chandler Boulevard. Turn left to S. 19th Avenue. Turn right and go to the parking lot.

Telegraph Pass Long Loop (South Mountain). Rating B. This is a 9.9-mile loop with an elevation change of 800 feet, elevation gain of 1,783 feet. This is a loop on the south side of South Mountain going near the Foothills development. Take the Telegraph Pass Trail down .7 miles then turn left on to the Desert Classic Trail to sign post 45, turn left and follow the unnamed trail to the National Trail then turn left and return to the Telegraph Pass Trail. On the Desert Classic Trail there are two spots where determining the correct path may present problems. At sign post 62 take the path to the right and you will find the trail on top of the little rise. The other turn is at sign post 54, here you take the trail to the left. Restrooms are at the Park Office on the right as you enter the park. There is no park entrance fee. Driving distance is approximately 64 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (South) Telegraph Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Turn right (south) on Pecos Road (exit 161B) and go about 9 miles. Turn right on 17th Avenue. Turn left on Chandler Boulevard. At the end of the road turn right, then left into the trailhead parking lot.

Telegraph Pass Short Loop (South Mountain). Rating B. This is a 7.0-mile in and out with an elevation change of 700 feet, elevation gain of 1,018 feet. This is a trail on the south side of South Mountain going near the Foothills development. Take the Telegraph Pass Trail down .7 miles then turn left on to the Desert Classic Trail to sign post 52, turn around and return to the Telegraph Pass Trail. On the Desert Classic Trail there are two spots where determining the correct path may present problems. At sign post 62 take the path to the right and you will find the path on top of the little rise. The other turn is at sign post 54, here you take the trail to the left. Restrooms are at the Park Office on the right as you enter the park. There is no park entrance fee. Driving distance is approximately 64 miles roundtrip.

Directions to South Mountain Park (South) Telegraph Trailhead -- Head south on PebbleCreek Parkway, then go east (left) on I-10. Turn right (south) on Pecos Road (exit 161B) and go about 9 miles. Turn right on 17th Avenue. Turn left on Chandler Boulevard. At the end of the road turn right, then left into the trailhead parking lot.