

Wednesday 2020-2021 B Hike Descriptions

9-23-2020: Dinosaur Wash/Box Canyon Loop (Wickenburg), Rating B. This is a 9 mile hike w/an elev. gain of about 600 ft. At least 2 mi. is on soft sand along the Hassayampa River and in Dinosaur Wash. This is a very scenic hike, quite different than most desert hikes because of the canyons & water. This is an area where the river is above ground, but it's not very deep except after a rain. There are several slot canyons along Dinosaur Wash and two areas called narrows along the river. The box in Box Canyon is a short canyon somewhat hidden behind a stand of large trees. There are no restrooms at the trailhead, but there are restrooms at a Dairy Queen/gas station you drive past about 8 miles from trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 105 miles RT.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Dinosaur-WashBox-Canyon>

Directions to Wickenburg - Dinosaur Wash/Box Canyon TH

Take Loop 303 north to U.S. 60.

Turn west (left) onto U.S. 60.

Turn right just past McDonald's (restroom stop) on Highway 93.

Go 4.6 miles to MP 195 & turn right onto unpaved Scenic Loop Drive. [this is the first road going right that is past the Dairy Queen on the left]

Scenic Loop Drive is a dirt road (you might need an SUV after heavy rains)

Drive 6.4 mi. to a wide wash leading off to the right (6 mi. from end of asphalt).

Park here and hike .4 miles through a slot canyon to the top of the box canyon.

Return & drive another 0.7 mi; veer right onto an unmarked 1 lane road at 7 mi.

(At the turn, there normally is a sign indicating "No Dumping")

Parking area is .1 miles ahead on the rim of the canyon (no restroom).

The trail leads off down the old jeep trail to the right.

9-30-2020: Quartz Mine/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle/Chuckwalla/Granite Falls/Turnbuckle Loop (Skyline Regional Park). Rating B. This is a loop hike of 9.8 miles with an elevation gain of 1800 ft. This hike does a loop around the outer edges of the park (as of Aug 2016). There are lots of views of the west valley. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 30 mi RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Outer-Loop-Trails>

Directions to Skyline Regional Park Trailhead

Go West on I-10.

Turn north (right) on Watson Road.

Drive to the end of road and trailhead parking. Facilities are at the trailhead.

10-7-21: Mesquite Trail + Ford + Willow Springs Trail (White Tank Mountains). Rating B. This is an 8.7 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of 1490 ft. The Mesquite Trail **trailhead is at picnic area number seven**. The trail goes west through a rocky section for 1.8 miles to a junction with the Willow Canyon Trail. Continue west on the Mesquite Trail for another 2.4 miles to the Ford Canyon Trail. Take the Ford Canyon Trail to the right for .9 miles to the other end of the Willow Springs Trail. About .3 mile into the Willow Springs Trail there is an old corral and a spring feed water tank – Willow Springs. This is a good place for a lunch stop. Continue on the Willow Springs Trail another 1.4 miles to the Mesquite Trail. Turn left to go back to the parking lot. Trail condition - average hiking trail, but steady uphill on Mesquite trail. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. Park fee: \$7.00 per vehicle. Driving distance is approx 30 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountainRegionalPark/Ford-Canyon-Mesquite>

Directions to White Tank Mountains Regional Park

Take 303 North (right).

Exit at Northern (next to zoo) and turn left (West).

Turn right on Cotton.

Turn left on Olive and follow it to the park gate.

Park fee is \$7.00/car for all trailheads.

Restrooms are at the trailhead for each of the hikes.

Mesquite Canyon/Waddell trailhead is at Picnic area #7. Turn left on Waterfall Canyon Rd and then left at the road just past the Waterfall Trail trailhead to find Picnic area #7.

10-14-20: Competitive Track – Long Loop+ Jr. Loop (Estrella Mountain Regional Park). Rating B.

This is a 10.7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. This hike goes through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaro cactus. The first half of the hike goes up 700 ft very gradually, then starts a slow descent. Trail condition – a good hiking trail. There is a porta-john at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 26 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark>

Directions to Estrella Mountain Regional Park - Competitive Trails

Turn left out the main gate onto Pebble Creek Pkw/Estrella Pkw (on other side of I-10).

Turn left onto Vineyard Ave. just across the Gila River.

Follow Vineyard as it curves to the right, becoming 143rd Ave

Turn left on Indian Springs Road

At the fence that begins the parking for ISM turn right

Follow signs to trails

Pay park fee of \$7.00 per vehicle at the self pay station

Continue on to the parking on the right.

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

10-21-2020: Palo Verde Trail (Bartlett Reservoir). Rating B. This is a 8.6 mile hike. It has little elevation change, but an elevation gain of about 580 ft. The trail is loose, decomposed granite. Consequently, please wear proper hiking footwear. This is a lovely hike with continuous water views. The Bartlett Reservoir is part of the Verde River between New River and Mazatzal Mountains. It is visible the entire hike. Trail condition – mostly granular granite and sandy/rocky beach. Restrooms are at the Rattlesnake trailhead. The park is free with a Golden Age Parks Pass (no need to stop at the ranger station – just put pass in the window). Driving distance is approx 136 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BartlettReservoir/Palo-Verde-Trail>

Directions to Bartlett Reservoir - Palo Verde Trail

Take Loop 303 to I-17.

Go North on I-17.

Turn right on Hwy 74 (Carefree Highway).

Turn left on Scottsdale Road/Tom Darlington Drive (at Boulders Resort).

Turn right on Cave Creek Road.

Turn right on Bartlett Dam Road.

Stop at Ranger Station (.25 mi down rd on left) & pay \$7fee (free w/Golden Age Pass).

Follow signs to lake (about 13 miles).

Turn right on Rattlesnake Cove turnoff and drive .8 miles to trailhead.

Follow the paved path at the North end of the facility to the fishing dock.

Trailhead starts to the left where the paved path meets the dock.

Restrooms and water at the trailhead.

10-28-2020: Quartz Trail (McDowell Sonoran Preserve). Rating C/B. This is a 7-8.5 mile out and back hike with an elevation gain of 1100-1500 ft. You start out hiking through a neighborhood of nice houses, before starting to climb the mountain. The C version goes up to a quartz outcropping while the B version continues further up the mountain. There are lots of great views of Scottsdale and Phoenix. Trail condition - overall an average hiking trail, but steady uphill going and downhill coming back. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park entrance fee.

Driving distance is 101 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Quartz-Trail>

Directions to McDowell Sonoran Preserve - Quartz Trailhead

Take Hwy 101 north all the way around to Scottsdale

Exit at Princess/Pima-Bell road (exit #36)

Continue straight through the light to get to Bell Road

Turn east (left) on Bell Road and go approx. 1.4 miles

Turn south (right) onto Thompson Peak Parkway.

Turn left on McDowell Ranch Road.

Turn right into Quartz Trailhead parking.