

## WICKENBURG 5-8-20

### Trail maps for various segments in the Wickenburg area

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Trail-Maps/Wickenburg/i-XPZ3WLF>

**Blue Tank Falls + DC Trails (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a 7.5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. This first part of the hike goes into a sandy wash and up the Blue Tank Falls, a very interesting area of rock formations. The second part goes up over a ridge with expansive views in all directions. There are lots of varieties of cacti in this area. A side trail goes by a large Ocotillo forest. Trail condition - most of the trail is an average hiking trail, but the Blue Wash area has a short waterfall and is sandy. There are no restrooms (but a McDonalds is on the way to the trailhead). There is no park fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/DCBlue-Tank-Falls>

#### **Directions to Wickenburg - DC/Blue Tank Falls Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Turn North (right) on El Recreo Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road.

The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles.

Drive 4.4 miles from the point it becomes unpaved (stay right going past the intersection with Blue Tank Road).

Trailhead parking is on the side of the road.

The trail heads off to the left on a faint jeep road marked with cairns.

**Bootleggers trail (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a lollipop loop of 5+ miles with an elevation change of 525 feet. This hike starts at Sophie's Flat and goes through typical desert terrain and then along a canyon before crossing the Blue Tank Wash and returning. There are some interesting canyon areas and a dry waterfall. There are also many views of the Wickenburg area as well as the other mountains in Wickenburg. Restroom at the trailhead. No Park fee. Driving distance is 98 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Redtop-Mountain/C-HikeLynnW2013-2014/i-BtDhds8>

#### **Directions to Wickenburg - Sophie Flats Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Turn North (right) on El Recreo Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road.

The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles.

Drive 1 mile from the point it becomes unpaved to Blue Tank Road.

Turn left on Blue Tank Road.

Go 1.3 miles to the Sophie Flats trailhead (This is the trailhead we use for the Red Top Mountain Trail).

Trailhead parking is on the right.

The last 2.3 miles are on an unpaved, but well maintained road (SUV not needed).

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

**Dinosaur Wash/Box Canyon (Wickenburg), Rating C.** This is a 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 500 feet. This is actually three short in and out hikes in a 3 bladed fan shape. At least 2 miles of it is on soft sand along the Hassayampa river and in Dinosaur Wash so don't be deceived by the lack of elevation change. This is a very scenic hike, quite different than most desert hikes because of the canyons and possible 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 Salt Cedar trees. We'll approach it from both above and below the falls area. Trail condition – the first third is in a rough rocky slot canyon, the last 2/3 is along a sandy wash with likely some creek sized crossings of the river. There are no restrooms at the trailhead, but we usually stop at the McDonalds in Wickenburg on our way to the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 105 miles RT (7 miles of dirt each way).

<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 miles 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 and 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.

**Dinosaur Wash/Box Canyon Loop (Wickenburg), Rating B.** This is a 9 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 600 feet. At least 2 miles of it is on soft sand along the Hassayampariver and in Dinosaur Wash. This is a very scenic hike, quite different than most desert hikes because of the canyons and 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 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 the 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 miles 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 and 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.

**Escondido Arch Trail (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 600 ft. The hike follows an old jeep road for 2.5 miles before going into a sandy wash for about half a mile. The arch is up a slight hill and is just big enough to climb through. There are

expansive views of the surrounding area, including views of the backside of Vulture Peak in one direction and Wickenburg Peak in the other. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Escondido Arch Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Stay on U.S 60 through Wickenburg.

Turn south (left) onto Vulture Mine Road (a stoplight).

Turn left on Vulture Peak Road (dirt road) [about .3 miles past mile marker 23].

Continue down Vulture Peak Road for 3-4 miles.

Park on the side of the road at the top of the hill overlooking Big Spar Mine (in the valley on the right).

There is no restroom at the trailhead.

(We will stop at the McDonald's in Wickenburg for a pit stop).

**Red Top Trail A Loop (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 700 ft. The well groomed trail starts at Sophie's Flat and goes through typical desert before joining an old jeep road. Once it crosses the Blue Tank Wash it goes back to a typical desert trail. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park Fee. Driving distance is 102 miles RT.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Sophie Flats Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Turn North (right) on El Recreo Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road.

The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles.

Drive 1 mile from the point it becomes unpaved to Blue Tank Road.

Turn left on Blue Tank Road.

Go 1.3 miles to the Sophie Flats trailhead

Trailhead parking is on the right.

The last 2.3 miles are on an unpaved, but well maintained road (SUV not needed).

There is a porta-john at the trailhead.

**Hassayampa River Preserve (Wickenburg). Rating D.** This is a series of short trails totaling 3.2 miles with one hill overlooking the preserve that has an elevation gain of about 200 ft. The preserve is one of the two areas where the Hassayampa River flows above ground. There are lots of tall palm and cottonwood trees as well as lush undergrowth. Over 50 bird species call this home for part of the year. The best time to go is spring (March). Open F/S/S May 15 to Sept 15. Open W/T/F/S/S Sept 15 to May 15. There are restrooms in the visitor's center. Park fee is \$5.00 per person. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Hassayampa River Preserve**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

The Preserve is on the left near Milepost 114.

Distance is 80 miles RT.

There are restrooms at the preserve.

Entrance fee is \$5.00 per person.

The Preserve opens at 8:00 AM Sept-May.

**Red Picacho Trail, near Morristown (Castle Hot Springs Area). Rating C+.** A 5+ mi. out and back hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. The hike will lead through canyons and washes surrounded by scenic mountains and go past an old mining operation. Good views. We may see some wild burrows and javalina along the way. The trail starts as a jeep trail, crosses a wash and then goes by the old mine. There are lots of Hedgehog cacti near the far end of the trail. Great wildflowers after a rainy winter. Trail condition - part is an average trail, part is rocky, and one section is on very steep, loose soil. There are no facilities and no park fee. Driving distance is approx 90 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Castle-Hot-Springs-Area>

### **Directions to Old Red Picacho Trail (Near Morristown)**

Take Rt. 303 to Rt. 60 (Grand Ave.).

Go left on Rt. 60 towards Wickenburg.

Near Morristown turn right onto Castle Hot Springs Road for 13 miles.

This road is a dirt road for the last 11 miles

On the right side of the road is a bullpen,

Park your car across from it and hike away from the bullpen on an old road

No Restrooms at the trailhead.

**Saddle Mountain Loop (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a 6.8 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 940 feet. At least 2 miles of it 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 and 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. The box in Box Canyon is short canyon somewhat hidden behind a stand of large Salt Cedar 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 the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 105 miles RT. [SCG=6.3/1300/3.5].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Saddle-Mountain-Loop>

### **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 miles 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 and 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.

**Twin Peaks & Dana's Arch (Wickenburg). Rating C+.** This is a 5.8 mile lollipop loop with a short steep side hike up to the arch. The elevation gain is about 800 feet. The trail itself is very rocky in places and goes through a sandy wash for part of it. You can see parts of Wickenburg and the old Renegade mine, as well as Vulture Peak and other surrounding mountains. There is a Crested Saguaro about 50 yards below the mine (on the right as you look up the road to the mine). The vegetation is dense in some areas and would provide many wildflowers in the spring

after winter rains. Dana's arch is an interesting arch reachable by going up to a saddle on the left and hiking across a fairly flat ridgeline. Trail condition - about half of the hike is on a good trail, the rest is in a wash or up a hill to the arch. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Twin-Peaks-Danas-Arch>

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Twin Peaks Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Stay on U.S 60 for 2.5 miles after the first stop light in Wickenburg.

Turn south (left) at the next stoplight onto the Vulture Mine Road.

Then drive 4.2 miles to the trailhead turnoff (right, just after mile marker 22).

The last .7 miles is a dirt road, but is passable by cars.

Follow the main track as it goes slightly left...it dead-ends just before a wash...park here.

There is no restroom at the trailhead (stop at McDonalds in Wickenburg).

**Unida Wash Trail (Wickenburg). Rating C.** This is a 7 mile out and back hike to the Hassayampa River along the Unida Wash. Elevation change is about 700 ft down to the river and then back up to the trailhead. The original point of interest on this trail was the tallest Saguaro, but it fell a few years back and very little remains of it now. There is an interesting micro-canyon ending in a 10 foot dry waterfall about 2.5 miles into the hike. There are enough rocks and the water is shallow enough to cross a numerous points if one wishes to explore it further. A high clearance vehicle is needed to reach the trailhead. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 118 miles.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Unida Wash Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Turn North (right) on El Recreo Drive.

Continue straight as the road changes name to Constellation Road.

The road will become unpaved in a couple of miles.

Drive 8.1 miles from the point it becomes unpaved.

The first 6 miles is a pretty good dirt road, passable by any vehicle. The last 2.1 miles usually requires a high clearance vehicle.

Park just off the road on the second road that goes off to the left just over a high point in the landscape.

No restrooms at the trailhead.

**Vulture Peak Trail (Wickenburg). Rating C-B.** This is a 4.3 mi round trip (4.6 to top), out & back hike on the same trail. Elevation gain is 1360 with the base at 2,480 ft, the saddle at 3,420 ft, and the peak at 3,660 ft. The trail is easy to the base, moderate to the saddle where most hikers will stop. For those who wish to go to the top of Vulture peak, that part is difficult and you leave walking sticks and backpacks behind for hand over hand climbing. Sign in at the top and you can get a certificate at the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce. Vulture Peak Trail meanders through classic Sonoran Desert landscapes, including dense stands of saguaro, ocotillo, cholla, and other cactus varieties; crosses wide desert washes; and offers dramatic scenic vistas of rugged desert mountain ranges and valleys in all directions. Trailhead parking is available for 15 vehicles. Trail condition - basically a very steep and rocky hike up to the saddle. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 120 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/1200/3.0].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Vulture-Peak>

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Vulture Peak Trailhead**

Take Loop 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Stay on U.S 60 for 2.5 miles after the first stop light in Wickenburg.

Turn south (left) at the next stoplight onto the Vulture Mine Road.

Then drive 6.9 miles to the trailhead turnoff (before mile marker 19).

There is a restroom at the trailhead.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Vulture Peak Trailhead - Alternate**

Take I-10 west to 339th Ave (exit 103).

Turn north (right) on 339th Ave until Indian School Road.

Turn west (left) on Indian School Road to Wickenburg Road.

Turn north (right) on Wickenburg Road to Vulture Mine Road.

Turn east (right) on gravel road .5 miles to trailhead just past mile marker 19.

There is a restroom at the trailhead.

**Wickenburg Peak (Wickenburg). Rating C/B.** This is an 8-8.4 mile out and back hike to Wickenburg's namesake peak. Elevation gain is about 1000 ft. Most of the trail is fairly flat, going up and down through a few washes. At around 3.5 miles, the trail comes out of a wash at a dry waterfall and starts to go steadily up. At 4 miles, a good stopping point for C hikers, the trail starts to get steeper, rising 200 ft in .2 miles to the saddle. The final hike to the top is very steep. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 94 miles RT.

### **Directions to Wickenburg - Wickenburg Peak Trailhead**

Take Rte 303 north (right) to U.S. 60.

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

Stay on U.S 60 for about 1.5 miles after the first stop light in Wickenburg.

Turn south (left) at the Charles Steakhouse.

Trailhead is about 1 mile up the road at the top of a ridge, just as the road turns right.

Parking is on the left.

There is no restroom at the trailhead.