

Hiking Trails Near Apache Junction

Compiled by Pete Bauer using excerpts from the *Arizona State Trails Guide*, *Arizona Highways*, *Hiking Arizona*, and Internet sources.

Last updated 2020-01-15.

Table of Contents

Arizona Trail from the Picketpost Trailhead.....	3
Arnett Canyon Trail	4
Butcher Jones Trail No.463.....	5
First Water Trailhead Trails	7
Dutchman’s Trail No. 104 to Coffee Flat Trail No. 108 (Peralta Trailhead)	9
Flatiron Trail	10
Freemont Saddle (Peralta Canyon Trailhead).....	11
Hieroglyphics Trail.....	12
Jacob’s Crosscut Trail No.58	14
Lost Goldmine Trail	16
Lower Salt River Interpretive Trail No. 6.....	18
Massacre Grounds Trail	19
Silverlock Prospect (No Name Trail)	21
Pass Mountain Trail No. 76	22
Picketpost Trail.....	24
Siphon Draw Trail No.53 (also provides access to Flatiron).....	27
Treasure Loop Trail No.56	29
Vista Trail No.77.....	31
Wind Cave Trail No.78	33

Arizona Trail from the Picketpost Trailhead

The Picketpost trail shares a section of the Arizona Trail from the Picketpost trailhead (access to Arnett Canyon is the very first left off this trail and the Picketpost trail is the second left, so just keep on the main trail, which becomes part of the Arizona Trail heading south.)

The trail head is accessed off of a well-marked exit off of highway 60 just before the Boyce Thompson Arboretum (just this side of Superior).

This section of the Arizona Trail is a pleasant meandering, fairly level trail to the west of the Picketpost Mountain. We usually take it for 3 miles then return to the parking lot for a total of 6 miles. We sometimes return to the trailhead via the wash.

Note that it's possible to do a loop trail around Picketpost Mountain by following the Arizona Trail south for 4 miles, then take a left at the sign which then meanders its way down to Forest Road 4, then takes a left through Telegraph Canyon. Telegraph then connects to the trail in Arnett Canyon. Take a left there and it will take you back to the Picketpost trailhead. This loop is between 9 and 10 miles total.

Arnett Canyon Trail



This trail is accessed either off of N. Telegraph Canyon Rd in Superior (take Golf Course Rd south of the high school and it becomes N. Telegraph Canyon Rd.) Continue on gravel after the pavement ends (keep right at junctions) and then take a right just before a sign for Forest Road 4. Following this road to the band of deciduous trees you will see ahead on the left.

The other access is from the Picketpost trailhead; start south on that trail and take the very first left. The distance from the Picketpost trailhead to the far east end of Arnett Canyon is just under 5 miles.

Note that around 1 mile from the east end, you can access Telegraph Canyon off to the left. Look for a large finger-like rock formation on your left and you will also see a rock cairn at the trail split.



Butcher Jones Trail No.463



To get to the trailhead: from the Phoenix area, take HWY-87 North toward Payson. Turn right onto the Bush Highway and go 3 miles to the well signed turn for the Butcher Jones Recreation Area. After turning towards the Butcher Jones Recreation area, you'll drive about 1.8 miles to the well-marked trailhead located at the southwest corner of the parking area. There are restrooms here but no drinking water.

Alternate route: Take Ellsworth road in Mesa North to the Bush Highway. Turn right on the Bush Highway towards Saguaro Lake. Turn right at the well signed turn for the Butcher Jones Recreation Area.

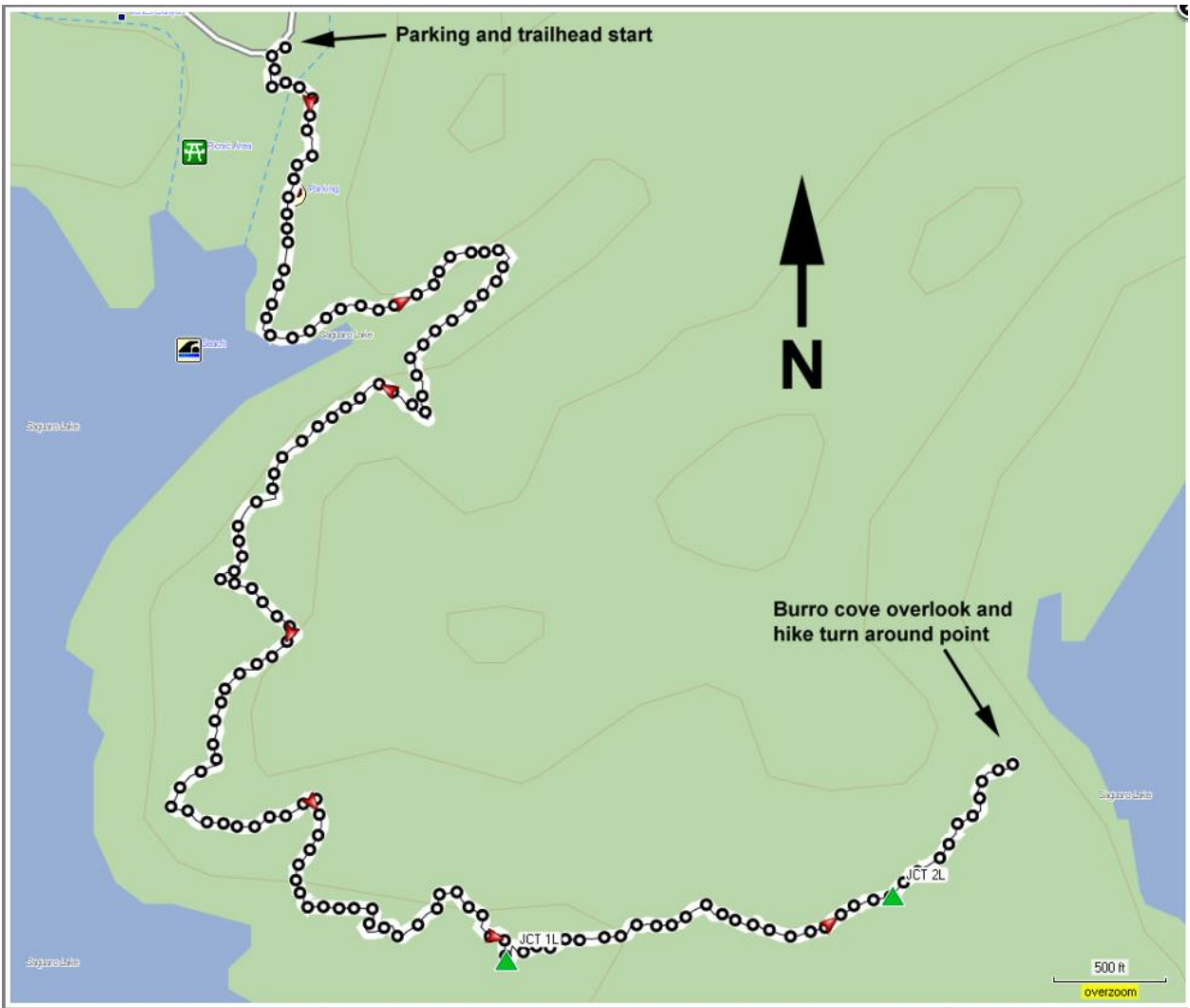
Trail distance is 5 miles round trip.

If a lakeside hike in the desert appeals to you, then you'll like this hike.

The Tonto National Forest has instituted a parking permit for this area. Unfortunately, you cannot purchase this pass at the trailhead. So if you arrived at the trailhead without a permit, it's about a 20 mile backtrack to get one. So please remember to purchase one before you leave or online (link: <http://www.tontopermits.com/>). As of April 2013, it is \$6 for the tonto pass.

The first half mile has a railing and is partially paved. The trail contours around the various coves of Saguaro Lake, providing some nice views of the lake and surrounding Sonoran Desert.

After passing Peregrine point, the hike contours around a small bay and starts a climb up to a small hill. This hill provides some nice views before descending again to just above water level. There are several water access points here and the major trail junctions are well signed (JCT 1L and JCT 2L on the map). Continue to follow the signs pointing towards the Butcher Jones Trail #463. After Camper Cove, the trail heads away from the lake into the desert and over a small saddle to good views of the four peaks and Burro cove. You can probably turn around once you see Burro cove, as lake access would be a nasty bushwhack and the trail eventually peters out near the lakeside anyway without any decent lake access or views. Best to make this the turn-around point and backtrack to one of the lake access points for a nice lunch.



First Water Trailhead Trails

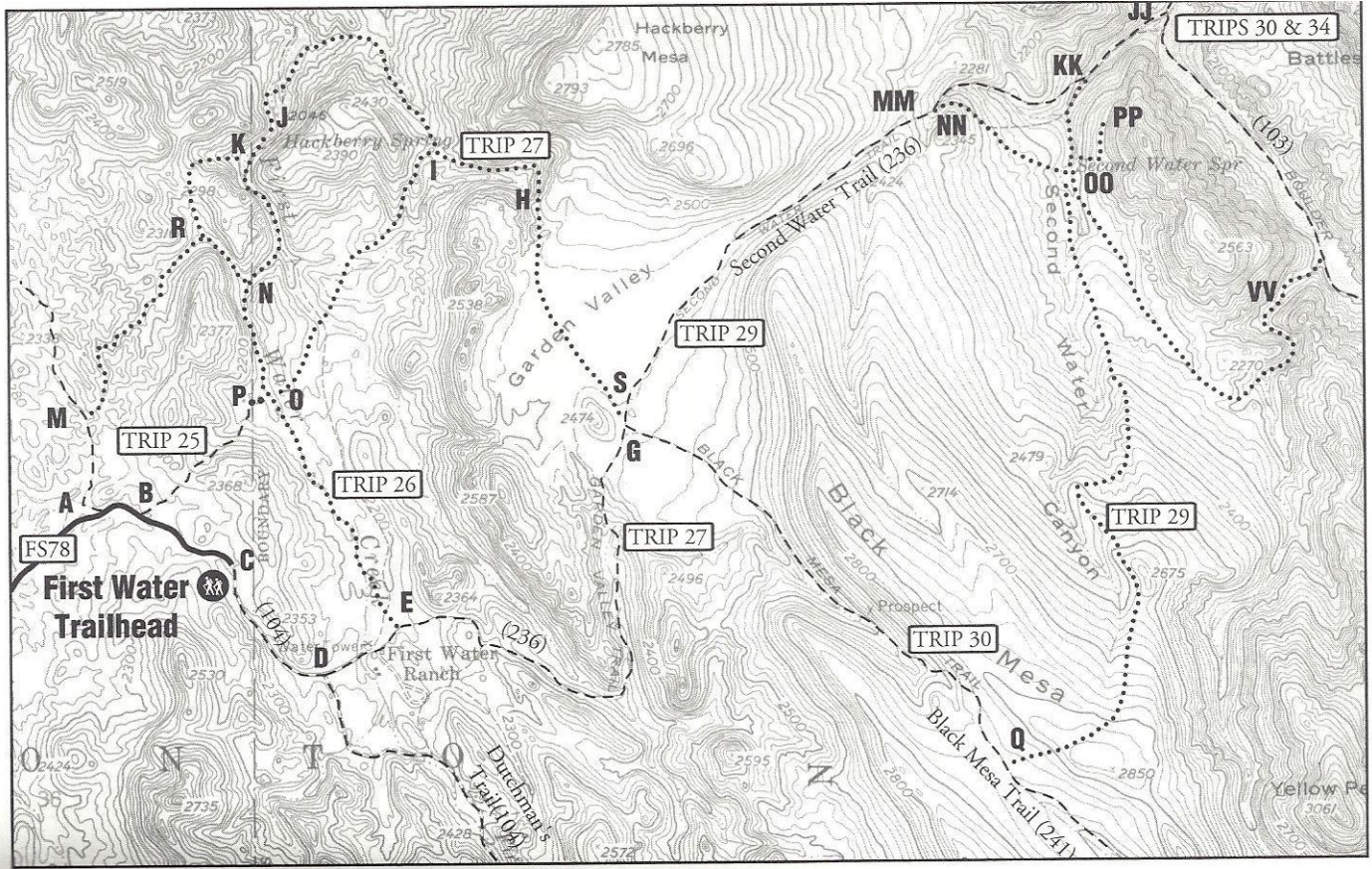


The following map shows a myriad of trails accessed from the First Water Trailhead parking lot or the horseback parking lot (also on First Water road and shown as “A” and “B” in the map) that are a lot of fun to explore. Some can be combined to create “loop” hikes.

For example, “B” to “P” is a short hike down to the remnants of an old ranch that includes a tower from what used to be a windmill. And then from “P” to “N” and “J” is a fun route up First Water Creek (Hackberry Springs hike) where you can return via “I” to “O” and “B”.

Another very enjoyable loop is “C” to “D” to “E” to “G” (the mound) to “S” to “H” through Garden Valley “O” to “E” to “D” and finish back at “C”.

Access to the Dutchman’s Trail #104 is at the first fork on your right at the bottom of the hill from the parking lot. This trail is actually 18.5 miles long from here to the end at the Peralta Trailhead. We usually hike in 3 to 4 miles and then return.



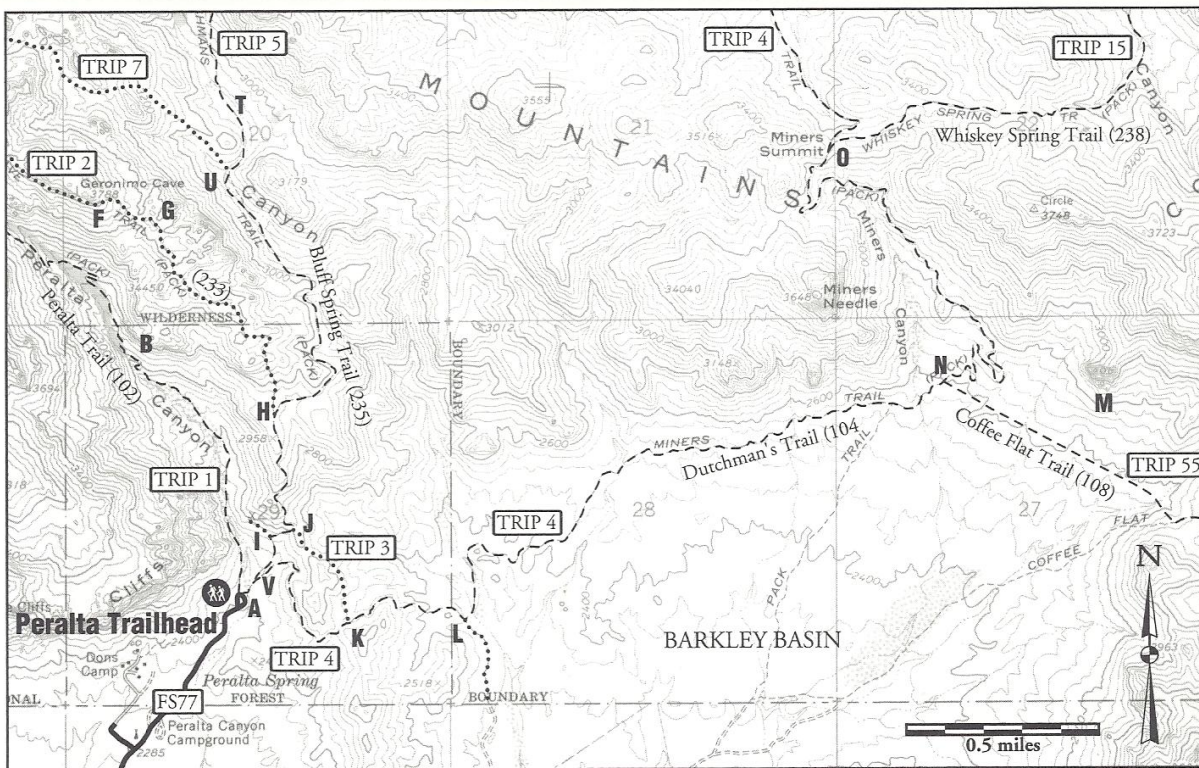
Dutchman's Trail No. 104 to Coffee Flat Trail No. 108 (Peralta Trailhead)



Distance: 6 miles out and back

This trail starts at the Peralta Trailhead parking lot that you are familiar with, but goes east. Take trail 104 until it connects to 108 and keep going until you feel like turning around and returning to the parking lot. An easy and fun trail. Look for the “Miner’s Needle” on your left before you get to the Coffee Flat trail.

If you stay on Dutchman's Trail 104, it will take you to the First Water parking lot (only 18.5 miles from the Peralta Trailhead).



Flatiron Trail



See the [Siphon Draw](#) description for the beginning of this trail.

Distance: 4.8 miles

Elevation Gain/Loss: 2781 feet up and down

Description (*Hikers Guide to the Superstition Wilderness*):

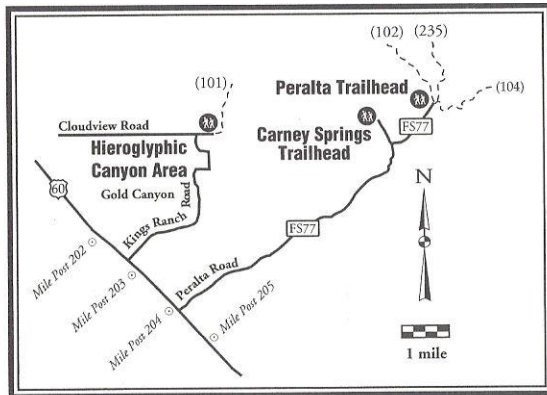
For those going to the top of the Flatiron, bypass the waterfall area on the right (south) side of the wash. There is no official trail here, but you can see where other hikers have established a path that takes you over a low ridge and back into Siphon Draw. It's advised to stay in the canyon the entire way. Most people hike up the bed of Siphon Draw. There is a trail on the south side of Siphon Draw which is easier to follow going downhill. The route goes around the north side of the Flatiron, the prominent buttress, and becomes very steep before reaching the top of the cliffs. Loose rocks make the Siphon Draw route very hazardous.

There are several trails on top. One goes south across the top of the Flatiron (elevation 4861) and another goes up to a saddle below some weathered rock formations. You can easily spend several hours enjoying the views in all directions.

Freemont Saddle (Peralta Canyon Trailhead)



Directions: Go east of Apache Junction on Hwy 60 7.6 miles to FS77 which is Peralta Road (mostly gravel, but cars are OK). Stay on FS77 for 5.6 miles to a fork. Stay left and continue for another 1.9 miles to the Peralta Trailhead.



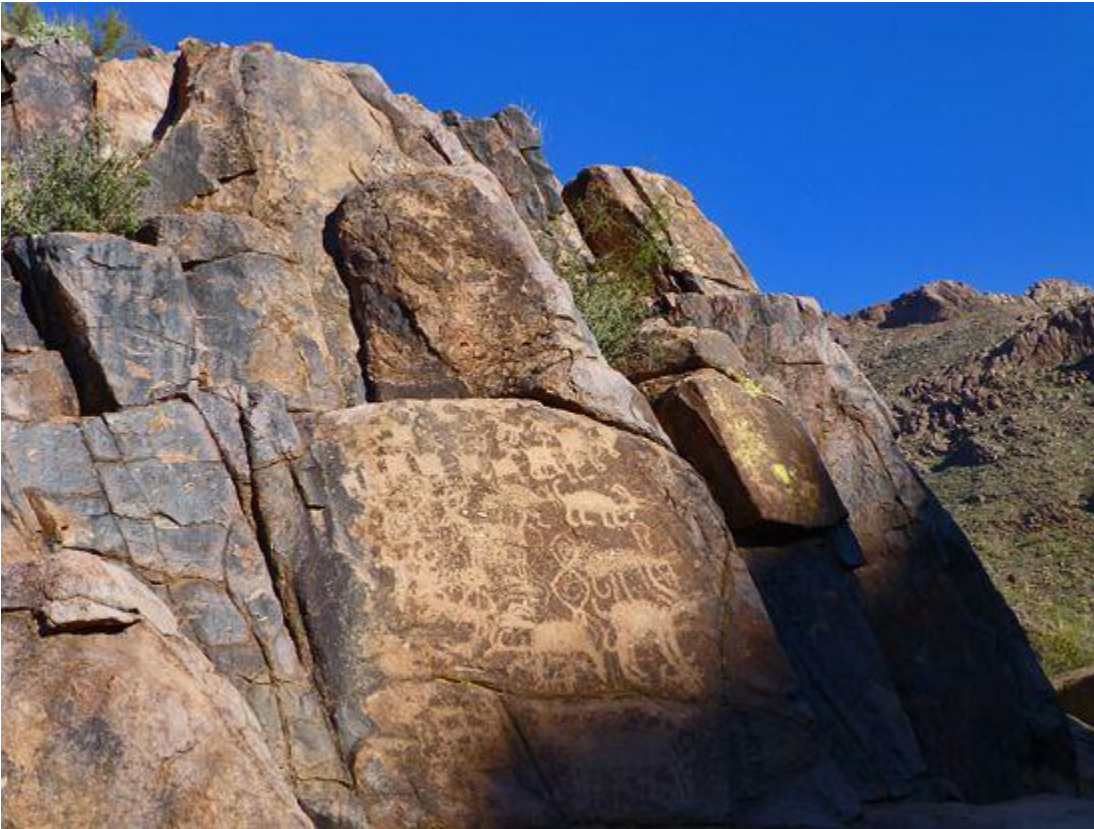
Distance: 4.5 miles round trip

Elevation Gain: 1366 feet

Description:

From the trailhead you start off on the north end of the parking lot. This is also the trailhead for the Bluff Springs trail, Cave Trail, and Dutchman's trail. During peak season, Forest Rangers greet you at the trailhead. Usually a hello and a reminder to pack out everything you pack in. Pay attention to the signs within the first few paces. Hang a left and you'll be okay. The lower sections of the trail cross a wash several times. The tree covered washes offer unexpected shade in the bold and fiery wilderness. It's a shame the shade comes before you work up a sweat. Vegetation thins out midway through the hike. Near the end, Fremont Saddle, the trail becomes bare rock. Once you reach the saddle, Weavers Needle (a 4,553 foot spire that towers over the landscape) comes into view. The view of the needle from here is awesome. I recommend heading out on the Weavers Needle Overlook Ridge. It's a short scramble adding 30-40 minutes. From the end of the ridge you get an even better view of the needle. You can look down on the labyrinth of spires guarding Weavers Needle. Enjoy the view and return by the same route. A popular alternative is to take the Cave Trail back to the parking area.

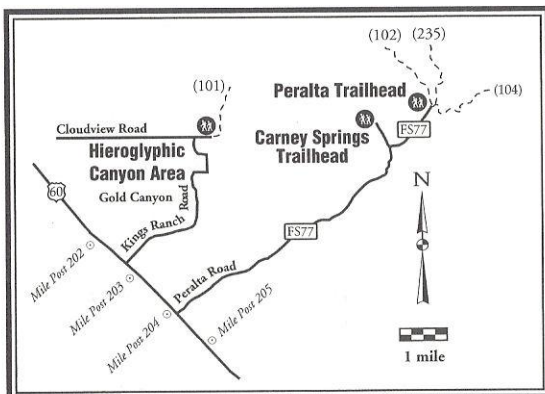
Hieroglyphics Trail



Directions: Take Hwy 60 to Kings Ranch Road and go north.

- Right on Baseline
- Left on Mohican Rd
- 3rd left on East Valleyview Dr
- 3rd right on E. Cloudview Ave

You can park at the end of the road in a turnaround area.



Distance: 3 miles out and back

Elevation Gain: 570 feet

Description (from ProTrails.com):

This trail rises 1.45 miles through a bajada into the mouth of Hieroglyphics Canyon, where several panels of well-preserved petroglyphs are located above seasonal pools. The basalt rock etchings were mistaken by early European settlers for Egyptian hieroglyphs, hence the erroneous name.

These *petroglyphs* were created by the **Hohokam People**, a civilization that thrived in central and southern Arizona from 500 - 1450 AD. Hohokam translates to *those who have gone* or *all used up* in native dialect.

The Hohokam people were master canal builders, which enabled them to exploit water from the Gila, Salt and Verde river basins for centuries. These canal networks are considered the largest gravity-fed irrigation systems built in the prehistoric New World.

Hundreds of miles of canals fed an agricultural system centered on corn, squash, beans and cotton. An estimated 20,000 - 40,000 acres were irrigated and cultivated during the height of this civilization.

Canals were perfectly pitched to maximize water flow while reducing silt build up. The canals were dug largely by hand with rudimentary tools, an effort on par with the engineering feat.

The Hohokam disappeared from archeological records around 1500 AD, the cause of which is still being studied.

Most archeologists don't believe that a single, catastrophic event was the impetus, but rather a series of circumstances related to water, drought, shifts in societal hierarchies and possibly war.

Some hypothesize that land was over-irrigated; infusing high levels of salt that killed crops and collapsed the agricultural economy. This theory has been largely dismissed, however, because evidence in the soil would still be detected today.

War with neighboring Apache tribes may have contributed to the decline, but it's thought not powerful enough to erase the entire civilization.

Extended drought in the late 1400s is a stronger possibility, and supported by tree ring evidence. It's likely that a dearth of water and subsequent strife quietly disbanded the society over time.

Jacob's Crosscut Trail No.58

CROSSCUT TRAIL #58



CROSSCUT TRAIL #58

**MANAGING AGENCY/
CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Mesa Ranger District, 26 N.
MacDonald Rd., Room #120,
Mesa, AZ 85211; 480-610-3300

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:
October through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:
Goldfield

NEAREST COMMUNITY:
Apache Junction

SIGNAGE:
Trailhead, Directional

TRAIL LENGTH:
6.5 miles

FACILITIES:
Parking area, Campgrounds

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:
Hiking, Equestrian, Biking

106

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Pets allowed.

DIRECTIONS:
From US 60 and Hwy. 88 in Apache Junction, drive north 5.5 miles on Hwy. 88, and turn east (right) onto First Water Rd. (FR 78); drive 0.7 miles to open area on right; trail sign is across the wash. Or drive 0.9 miles east on US 60; exit north (left) at Royal Palm Dr., and turn right onto Broadway Rd.; drive 3.4 miles to the trailhead.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:
This trail travels a fairly level route along the desert floor, dipping in and out of washes gouged along the western edge of the Superstition Mountains. From Jacob's Trailhead, the trail shows panoramic views of the Four Peaks, Goldfield Mountains, and the Phoenix metropolitan area. The trail parallels Lost Dutchman State Park and intersects with both legs of the Treasure Loop Trail, ascends gradually to the junction with the Prospector's View Trail, then passes the Siphon Draw Trail at about mile 2. After a wet winter, this segment of trail colors with a strong show of wildflowers. At mile 4.2, the trail crosses a large ravine, then climbs to its highest point up a ridge. The trail descends gradually and curves westward to its end at the Broadway Trailhead.



4238



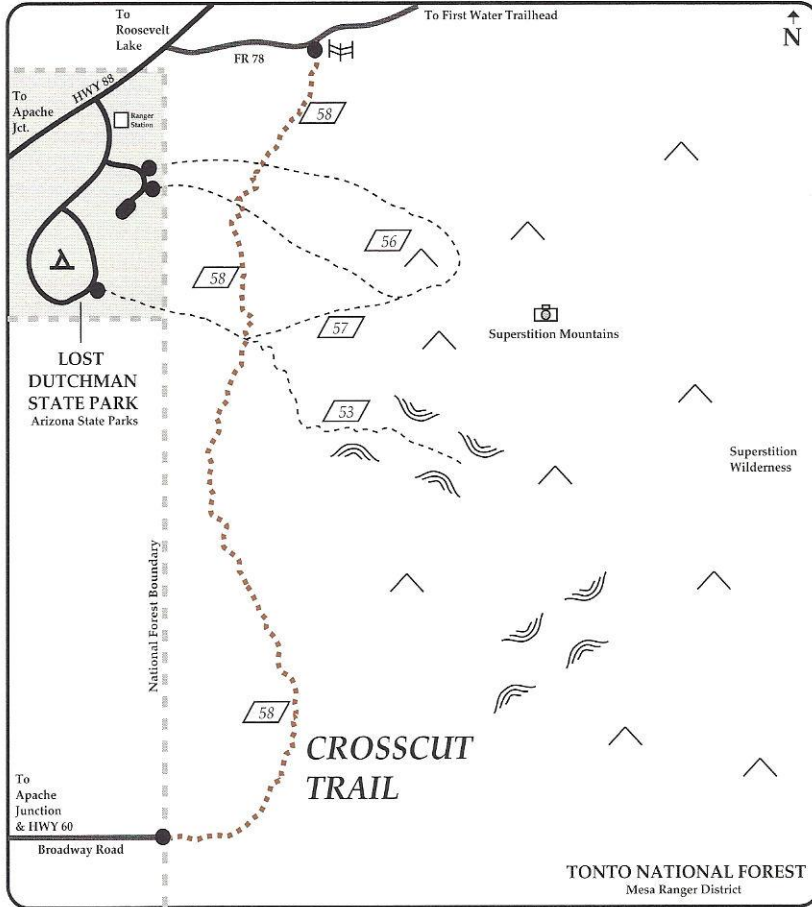
Zone 4

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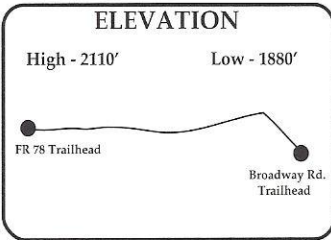
CROSSCUT TRAIL #58

CROSSCUT TRAIL #58



106

LEGEND	
	Canyon or Ridge
	Mountain
	Seasonal Spring
	Surface Water
	Trail Number
	Structure
	Point of Interest
	Trail
	Paved Road
	Secondary Road
	Primitive Road
	Campground
	Trailhead
	Equestrian Staging



4238

Zone 4



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Lost Goldmine Trail



Directions:

West Trailhead: Take Hwy 60 to Kings Ranch Road and go north.

- Right on Baseline
- Left on Mohican Rd
- 3rd left on East Valleyview Dr
- 3rd right on E. Cloudview Ave

You can park at the end of the road in a turnaround area (same trailhead as the Hieroglyphics Trail).

East Trailhead: From the Phoenix area, take US-60 East, leaving the city limits. After leaving Apache Junction, continue about 8.5 miles, turning left onto Peralta Road (FR 77). After starting out as a paved road, this quickly turns into a maintained dirt road. The signed trailhead for the Lost Goldmine trail is on your left after about 7 miles of driving on this road. There is ample parking and the trailhead is well signed.

Distance: 6.5 miles one way

Elevation Gain: 200 feet total gain/loss

Description:

Lower Salt River Interpretive Trail No. 6

Note: Parking requires a Tonto Pass that must be purchased elsewhere, such as Circle K.



Distance: 2.3 miles round trip

Elevation: 1342 feet

Elevation Gain: 100 feet

Directions:

Go north on Ellsworth Rd. and take a left on the Bush Highway. After a short drive, turn right into the Phon D Sutton Recreation Area. It's about 1 mile to the parking lot. The trail starts from the back-left side of the parking lot, behind the bathrooms.

Description:

This trail is a 2.3 mile loop that encompasses various desert ecosystems which provide scenery most desert hikes don't have. There are signs along the entire loop to help keep you on the trail. When you see a sign with left and right arrows, it's indicating the "peak" of the loop, so go left to return to the parking lot.

The footing is very soft fine sand which is pleasant to walk on. Near the beginning of the trail there are spur trails heading towards the banks of the river.

There are clear signs of the wild mustangs that roam the entire area of the loop. If you're lucky, you'll get to see them.

Map of Trail:



Massacre Grounds Trail



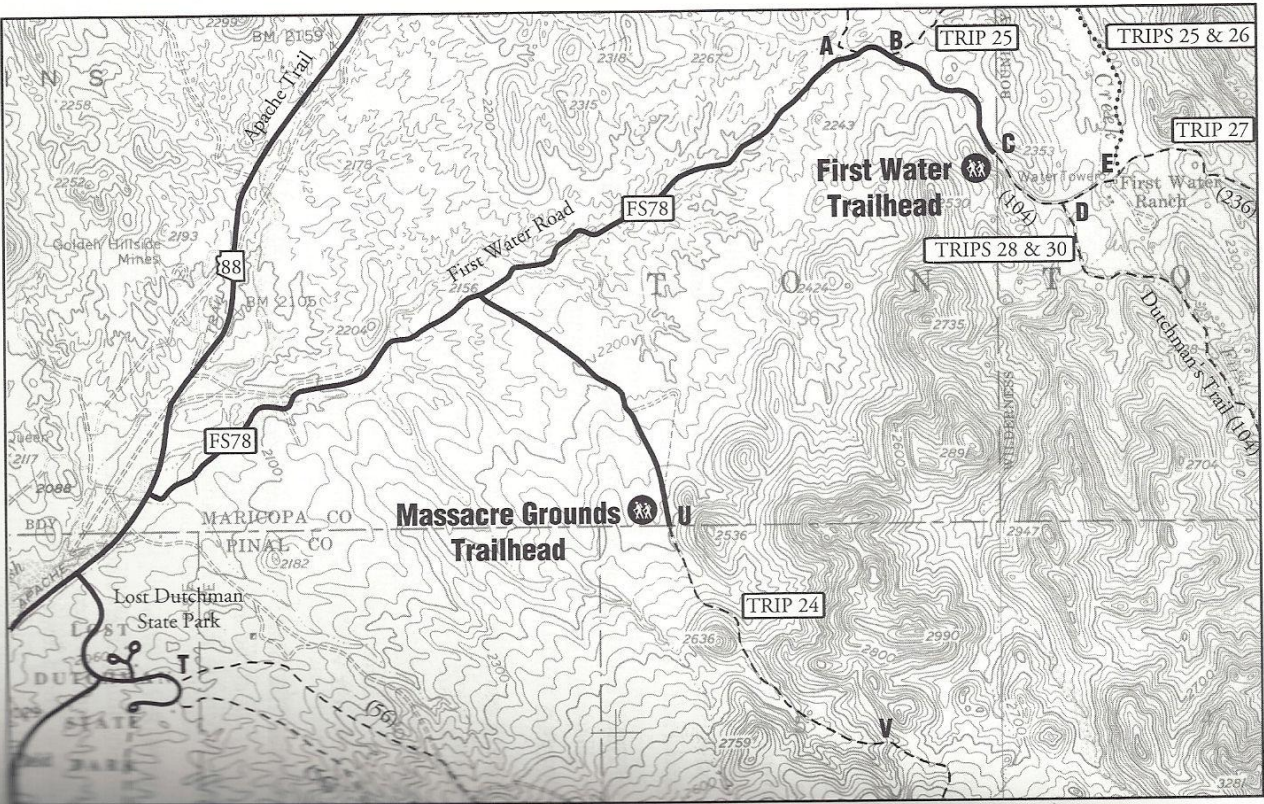
Distance: 5 to 6 miles out and back

This trail gains 984 feet. This trail has been recently well marked with cairns. This is a very interesting and pretty hike. Note that it is fairly rocky for over $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length.

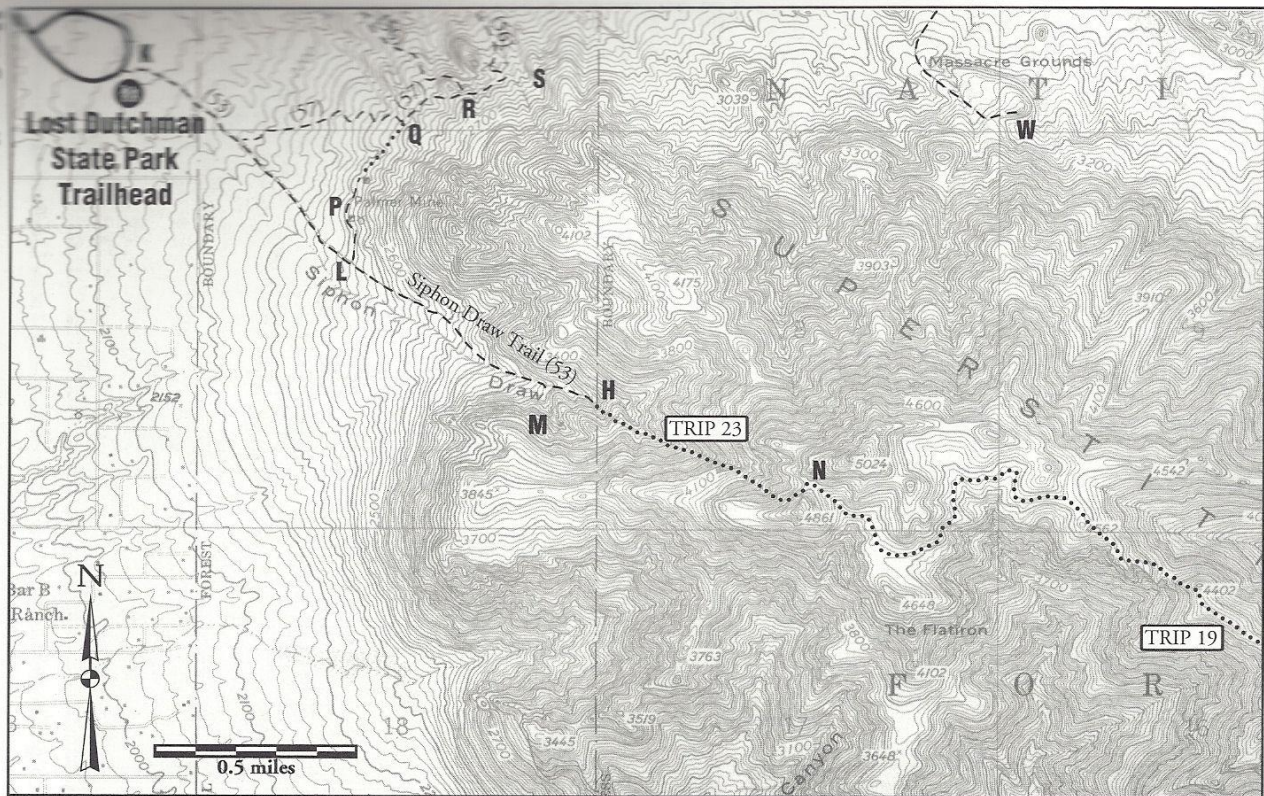
Directions:

Note also that the following image shows the old trailhead before that road to it was closed permanently. The trailhead now is on the left side of the first large parking lot on the left on the First Water road (same parking lot for access to the [Jacob's Crosscut Trail](#)).

Map 9 - Trips 19, 23 and 24.



Map 9 continued - Trips 19, 23 and 24.



Silverlock Prospect (No Name Trail)



We originally couldn't find a name for this trail, but realized it is called the Silverlock Prospect trail. It starts from the same parking lot as the Massacre Grounds trail (or the smaller pullout just before this parking lot) and heads straight up towards the Superstitions. It's between the Massacre Grounds trail and the Treasure Loop trail and is shown as the dark path on the image below.


The entire trail climbs gently to the top near the top where there are some interesting rock formations and great views.

Approximately a 2 ½ hour hike round trip.

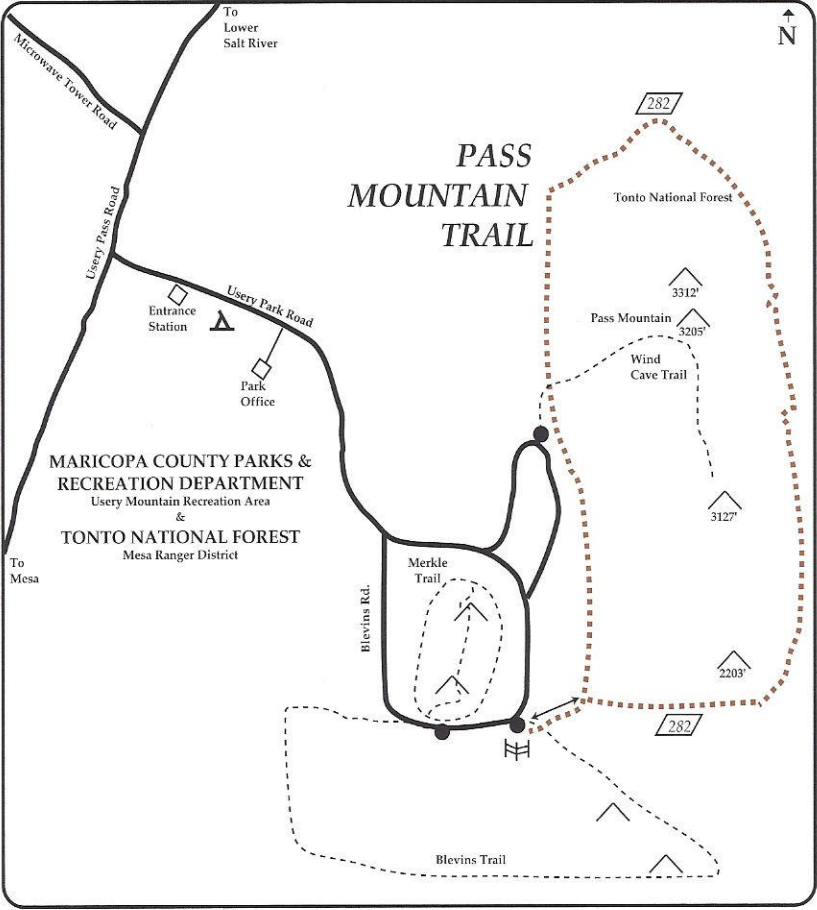


Pass Mountain Trail No. 76

We just hiked this trail on 2020-01-15 and one of our hiking apps measured it at just under 9 miles and the other one was around 8 miles. We found this trail extremely irritating in that 70% of the trail is very rocky and uncomfortable to hike. That plus the north end of the trail just seemed to never end. You couldn't pay me enough to do this trail again.



PASS MOUNTAIN TRAIL



PASS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

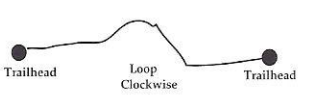
76







LEGEND


	Canyon or Ridge		Trail
	Mountain		Paved Road
	Seasonal Spring		Secondary Road
	Surface Water		Primitive Road
	Trail Number		Campground
	Structure		Trailhead
	Point of Interest		Equestrian Staging

ELEVATION

High - 2650' Low - 1900'

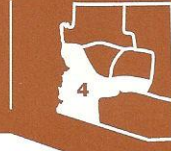


4345
Zone 4


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PASS MOUNTAIN TRAIL



PASS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

MANAGING AGENCY/ CONTACT INFORMATION:

Usery Mountain Recreation Area,
3939 N. Usery Pass Road, Mesa, AZ
85207; 480-984-0032
Mesa Ranger District; 480-379-6446

NEAREST COMMUNITY:

Mesa

TRAIL LENGTH:

7.1 miles; loop

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:

Hiking, Equestrian

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:

September through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:

Apache Junction

SIGNAGE:

Trailhead, Directional

FACILITIES:

Parking area, Restrooms,
Campground, Trailhead water,
Horse staging, Picnic area

76

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Fees required. Daytime use only. The trail is rugged, dry and lengthy: Bring adequate water and wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

DIRECTIONS:

From Hwy. 60 in Mesa, take Ellsworth Road, which becomes Usery Pass Road, 6.5 miles north to Usery Mountain Recreation Area. From park entrance, follow Usery Park Rd. to Blevins Drive. Turn right and follow signs to Horse Staging Area, where Pass Mountain Trailhead is located.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

This trail encircles Pass Mountain and offers tremendous views of the Valley of the Sun and surrounding mountain ranges. Traveling through rugged Sonoran Desert terrain, the trail is steep and rocky in places. It is not recommended for mountain bikers (though mountain bikes are not prohibited). Trail users may encounter all that the Sonoran Desert has to offer, from creosote and saguaros to jackrabbits and coyotes. The trail is cooperatively managed by Maricopa County and Tonto National Forest (Mesa Ranger District).



4345



Zone 4

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Picketpost Trail

Picketpost Mountain HOT

April 16, 2013

10371

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Tweet 0

Like 13

Send

Compare

[Send Inquiry](#)

LOCATION

How to Get There This hike is located near Superior, AZ.

To get to the Trailhead: From the Phoenix area, take US-60 East toward the town of Superior. Between mile markers 221 and 222, turn right on FR231 (a windmill marks the road on the right) and is also called Uno Trail. If you get to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, you've gone too far. Take FR231 0.3 miles to a T intersection. Turn left onto FR310 (also known as Saddleridge trail). The signed Arizona Trailhead is 0.6 miles from this point. There is plenty of parking and pit toilets.



city superior
state az
Region Phoenix Area and Central Arizona

HIKE DETAILS

Distance 4.00 [Miles] Total
Hike Distance-Details 4.0 miles for the out and back described.
Time 4.50 [Hours]
Time-details It took us 4.5 hours with a 30 minute stop for lunch.
Elevation Change 2,200 Total gain/loss [Feet]
Elevation Details about 2200 ft ascent to Picketpost Peak
Hike Trail Type Out and Back
Special Features Wild Flowers

SEASON

Best Season January • February • March • April • September • October • November • December
Worst Season July • August
Date Hike completed April 16, 2013

SOLITUDUE

Solitude High
Solitude Details Great solitude on this hike, especially considering the quality of the hike. We didn't see any other hikers all day on a Sunday.

DIFFICULTY

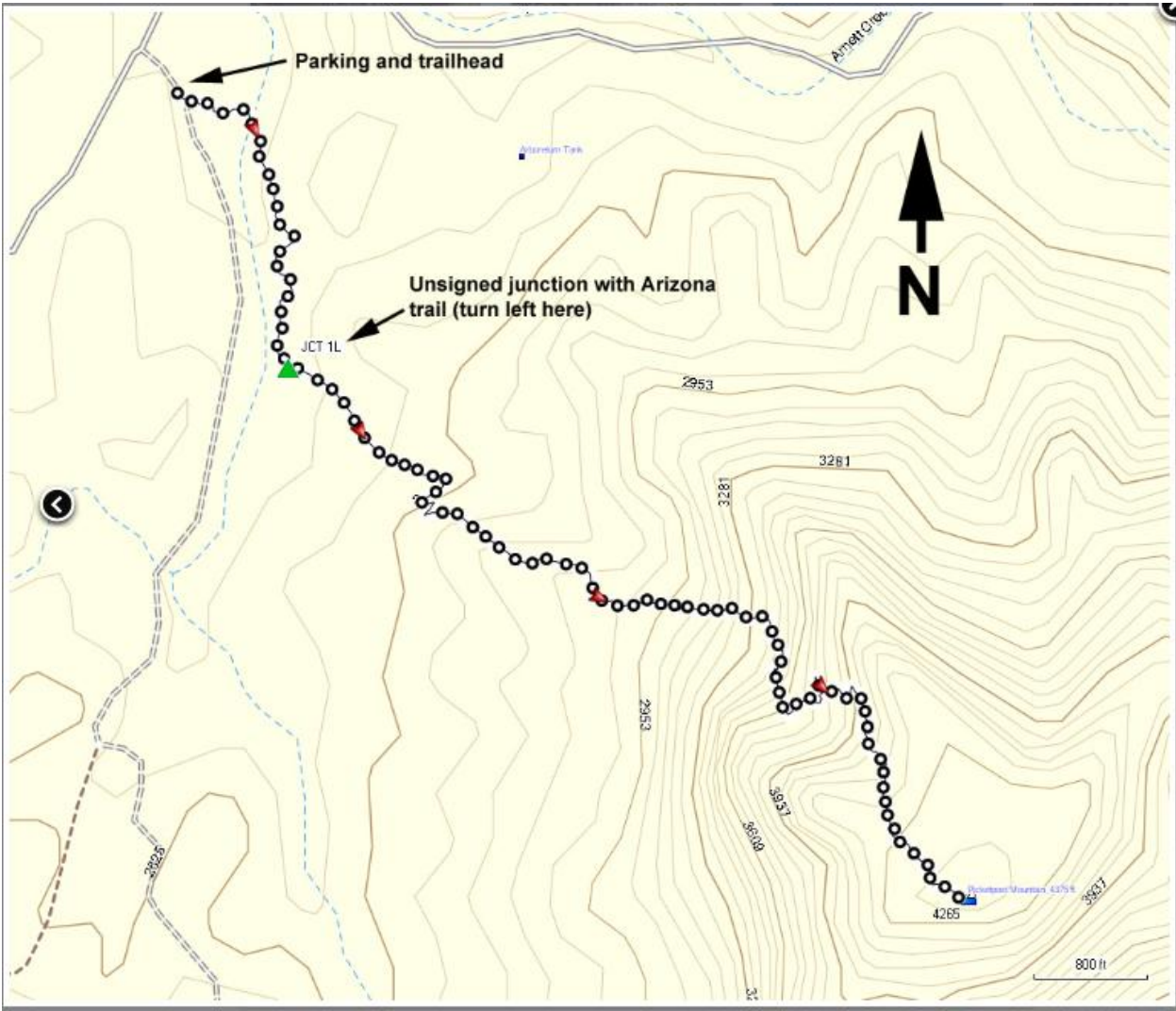
Difficulty Rating Mildly Strenuous
difficulty detail Continuous climb through a Saguaro and wildflower dotted desert to a great view atop Picketpost Mountain. This is a Strenuous hike. The elevation change is steep for most of the hike and the views are killer. This is a good, long desert hike near the Phoenix area. The best part... great solitude here. We didn't see a single hiker all day.

PERMITS

Be Aware of Scrambling, loose rock, route finding, rattlesnakes. Not recommended in the Summer

quiet climb through desert wildflowers to the top of a peak overlooking vast areas of the Superior desert
The hike starts on the Arizona Trail, but doesn't stay on it long. After about 0.55 miles, there are some Cairns marking an unsigned trail (JCT 1L on the map) that crosses a wash and heads directly towards Picketpost Mountain. Make a left onto this Cairn marked trail. After a hundred yards, this trail turns into an old jeep road that ends after about 0.1 miles at an old mine shaft. When we did this hike back in 2003, the mine shaft was open, but now it has been sealed. Here the Picketpost trailhead starts. The climb is steady along the ridgeline. The footing can be a bit slick on some of the loose rock. There are some parts here that require some scrambling as well. You will get a good workout on this hike. On the way up, take the time to enjoy the increasingly impressive views, as well as the multitude of desert wildflowers. After hiking and scrambling 1.6 miles later, you've reached the peak and killer views.

To the north, you see a rare view of Weavers Needle and the Superstition Mountains. To the East, you can see the town of Superior, Queen Creek, and the Magma Mine area. To the South and West are more mountains and desert trails ringing the area.



Siphon Draw Trail No.53 (also provides access to Flatiron)

SIPHON DRAW TRAIL #53



SIPHON DRAW TRAIL #53

MANAGING AGENCY/ CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lost Dutchman State Park,
6109 North Apache Trail, Apache
Junction, AZ 85219; 480-982-4485

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:

October through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:

Goldfield

NEAREST COMMUNITY:

Apache Junction

SIGNAGE:

Trailhead, Directional

TRAIL LENGTH:

1.6 miles

FACILITIES:

Parking area, Restrooms, Trailhead
water, Campgrounds

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:

Hiking

63

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Fees required. Leashed pets allowed. Open from daylight to 10 p.m.

DIRECTIONS:

From Hwy. 60 in Apache Junction, drive 5 miles northeast on Hwy. 88 and turn south (right) at the signed turnoff to the park entrance.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

This difficult trail starts on a reasonable grade on an old road that heads toward Siphon Draw Canyon. During a wet spring, the bajadas that border the precipitous cliffs of the Flat Iron, fill with colorful bands of wildflowers. At mile 1, the trail enters the canyon and gets engulfed by a strange mix of smoothly sculptured rock formations and chiseled columns of ruddy volcanic tuff. The path continues its obsessive climb, picking through boulders, skirting ledges, and clamoring across slickrock. The maintained trail ends at a basin piled with boulders in the shadows of a tangle of mesquite trees. From here, the route is not maintained, but continues as a scramble to the top of the Flat Iron for experienced hikers in good shape only.



4437



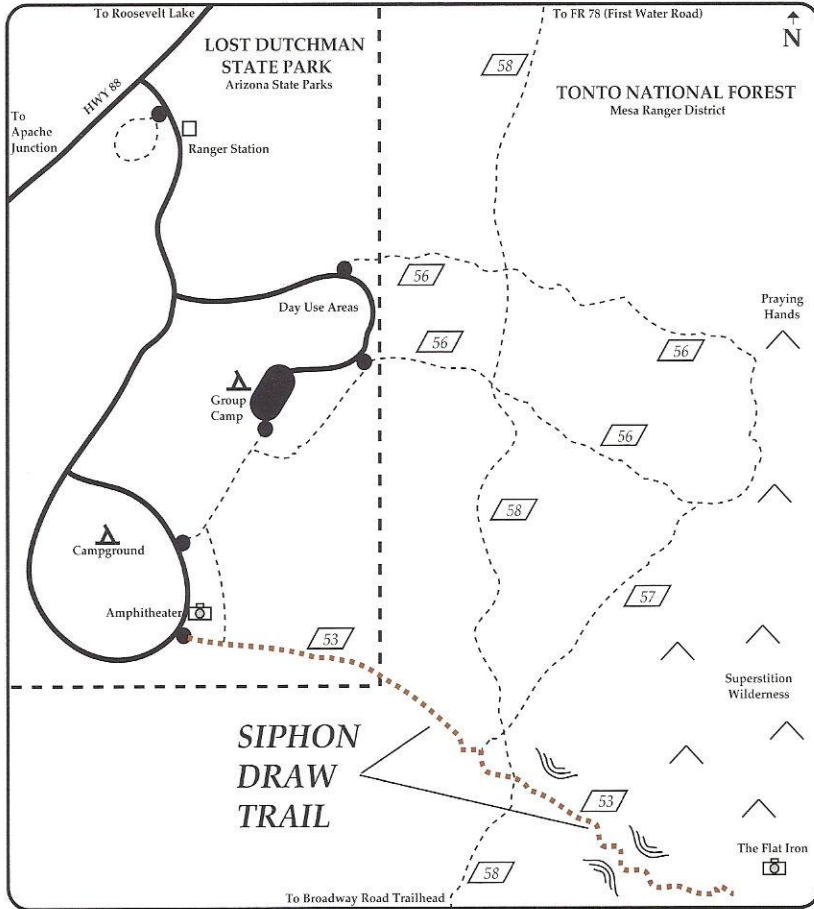
Zone 4

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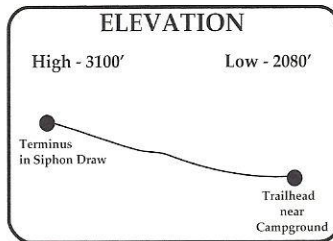
SIPHON DRAW TRAIL #53

SIPHON DRAW TRAIL #53



63

LEGEND	
	Canyon or Ridge
	Mountain
	Seasonal Spring
	Surface Water
	Trail Number
	Structure
	Point of Interest
	Trail
	Paved Road
	Secondary Road
	Primitive Road
	Campground
	Trailhead
	Equestrian Staging



4437

Zone 4



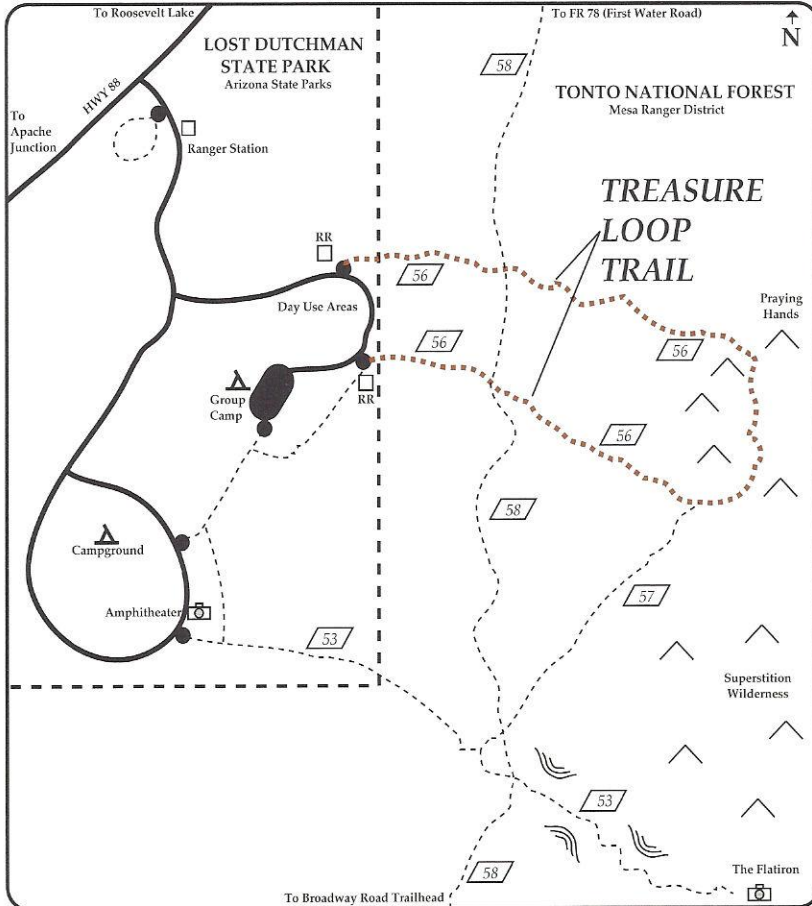
THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS GUIDE

Treasure Loop Trail No.56



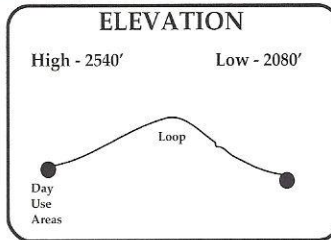
TREASURE LOOP TRAIL #56

TREASURE LOOP TRAIL #56



64

LEGEND	
	Canyon or Ridge
	Mountain
	Seasonal Spring
	Surface Water
	Trail Number
	Structure
	Point of Interest
	Trail
	Paved Road
	Secondary Road
	Primitive Road
	Campground
	Trailhead
	Equestrian Staging



4492

Zone 4



THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS GUIDE

TREASURE LOOP TRAIL #56



TREASURE LOOP TRAIL #56

**MANAGING AGENCY/
CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Lost Dutchman State Park,
6109 N. Apache Trail, Apache
Junction, AZ 85219; 480-982-4485

NEAREST COMMUNITY:
Apache Junction

TRAIL LENGTH:
2.4 miles; loop

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:
Hiking

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:
October through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:
Goldfield

SIGNAGE:
Trailhead, Directional

FACILITIES:
Parking area, Restrooms,
Trailhead water, Picnic area

64

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Fees required. Open from daylight to 10 p.m.



DIRECTIONS:
From Apache Junction, drive 5 miles northeast on AZ 88 and turn south (right) at the signed turnoff to the park entrance.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:
The most popular path in the park, this trail starts from the day-use area parking lot and heads to the Green Boulder, an area of rocky spires just below the cliffs of the Superstition Mountains. The trail climbs 460 feet to the mountain—providing fine views of the surrounding area and downtown Phoenix in the distance—then loops back to the day-use area.

4492



Zone 4

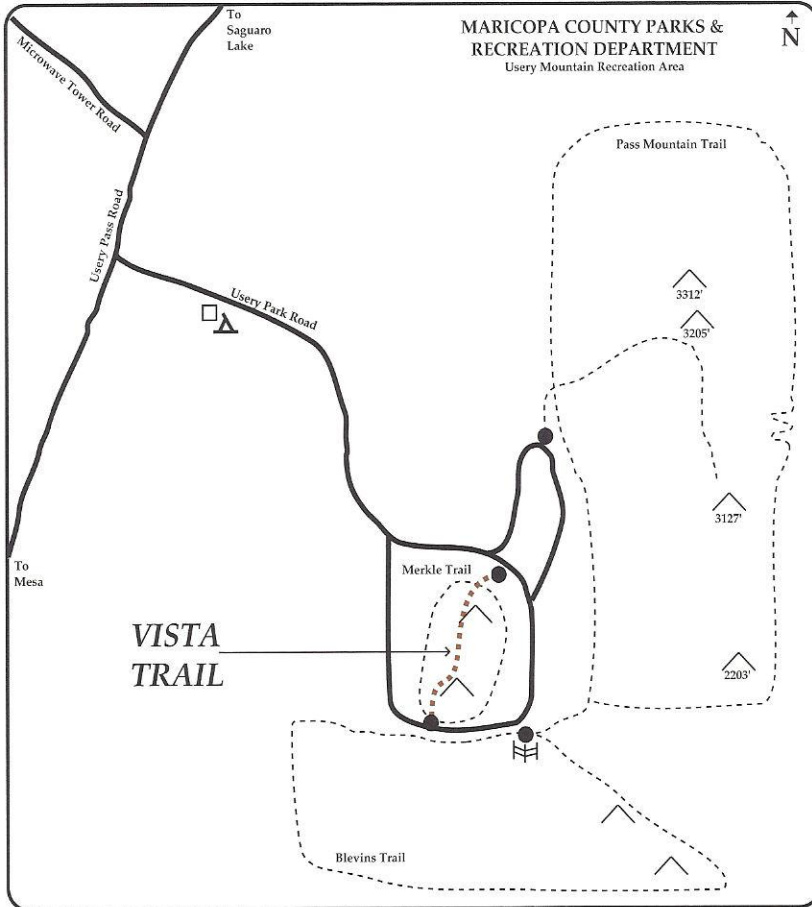
THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS GUIDE

Vista Trail No.77



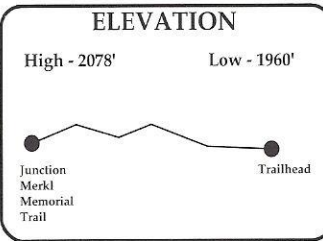
VISTA TRAIL

VISTA TRAIL



77

LEGEND	
	Canyon or Ridge
	Mountain
	Seasonal Spring
	Surface Water
	Trail Number
	Structure
	Point of Interest
	Trail
	Paved Road
	Secondary Road
	Primitive Road
	Campground
	Trailhead
	Equestrian Staging



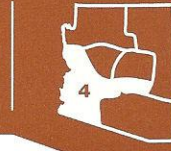
4510'

Zone 4



THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS GUIDE

VISTA TRAIL



VISTA TRAIL

**MANAGING AGENCY/
CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Usery Mountain Recreation Area,
3939 N. Usery Pass Road,
Mesa, AZ 85207; 480-984-0032

NEAREST COMMUNITY:
Mesa

TRAIL LENGTH:
0.5 miles

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:
Hiking

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:
September through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:
Apache Junction

SIGNAGE:
Directional

FACILITIES:
Parking area, Restrooms, Trailhead
water, Picnic area, Campgrounds

77

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Fees required. Daytime use only.

DIRECTIONS:
From Hwy. 60 in Mesa, take Ellsworth Road, which becomes Usery Pass Road, 6.5 miles north to Usery Mountain Recreation Area. From park entrance, follow Usery Park Rd. to Blevins Drive. Turn right and drive to parking area at south end of road.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:
This trail is a shortcut between the north and south ends of the circular Merkle Trail. Vista Trail follows the ridge of a prominent hill in the park's Picnic Area. The trail offers an outstanding view of the surrounding Sonoran Desert.



Zone 4

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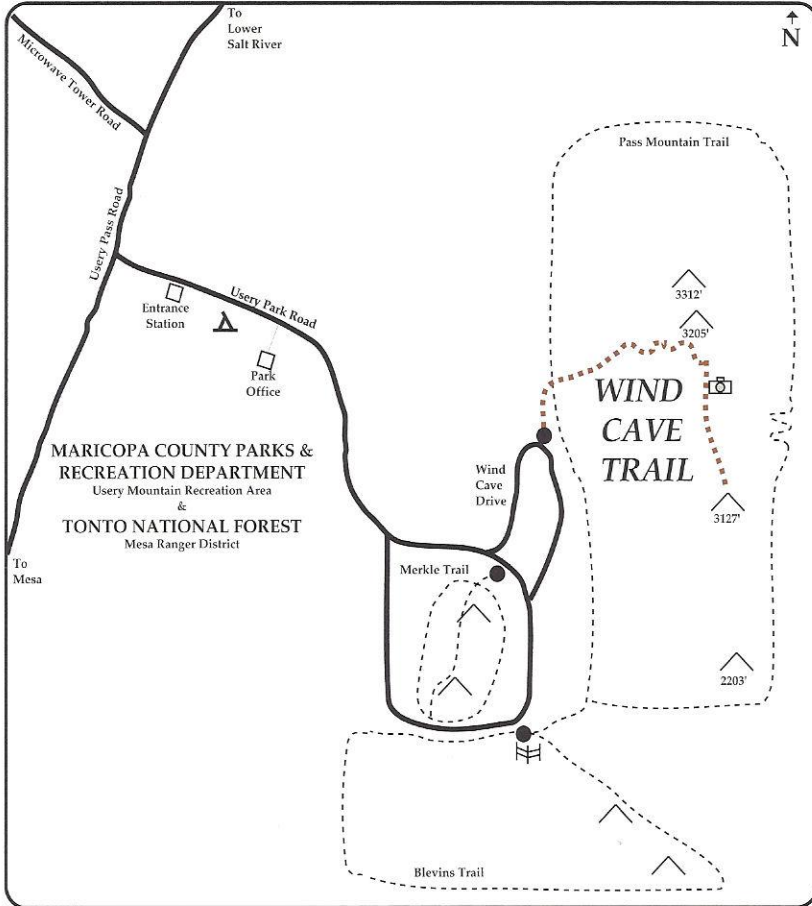
4510

Wind Cave Trail No.78



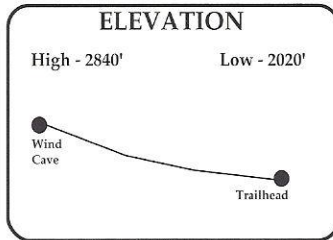
WIND CAVE TRAIL

WIND CAVE TRAIL



78

LEGEND	
	Canyon or Ridge
	Trail
	Mountain
	Seasonal Spring
	Surface Water
	Trail Number
	Structure
	Point of Interest
	Paved Road
	Secondary Road
	Primitive Road
	Campground
	Trailhead
	Equestrian Staging



4537

Zone 4



THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS GUIDE

WIND CAVE TRAIL



WIND CAVE TRAIL

**MANAGING AGENCY/
CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Usery Mountain Recreation Area,
3939 N. Usery Pass Road, Mesa, AZ
85207; 480-984-0032
Mesa Ranger District; 480-379-6446

NEAREST COMMUNITY:
Mesa

TRAIL LENGTH:
1.6 miles

ALLOWED TRAIL USES:
Hiking

RECOMMENDED MONTHS OF USE:

September through May

USGS TOPO MAPS:

Apache Junction

SIGNAGE:

Trailhead

FACILITIES:

Parking area, Restrooms,
Campgrounds, Trailhead water,
Picnic area

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Fees required. Daytime use only.

DIRECTIONS:

From Hwy. 60 in Mesa, take Ellsworth Road, which becomes Usery Pass Road, 6.5 miles north to Usery Mountain Recreation Area. From park entrance, follow Usery Park Rd. to Wind Cave Drive. Turn left to trailhead.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

Wind Cave Trail is cooperatively managed by Maricopa County and Tonto National Forest (Mesa Ranger District). It is one of the most popular trails in metropolitan Phoenix's East Valley area. The trail climbs 800 vertical feet to Wind Cave, a shallow rock recess eroded by wind and rain. Some parts of the trail are steep and rocky, and holes in the cave walls may harbor bees. Hikers can expect a nice view for their efforts, however.



4537



Zone 4

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