

2/5/18: Black Canyon Trail – Little Pan Loop/Table Mesa Trailhead(I-17 Exit 236) Rating B. This is a 9.6 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1260 ft. It covers three segments of the Black Canyon Trail – the Table Top Mesa, Little Pan, and Williams Mesa segments. The hike crosses the Agua Fria river twice, so be prepared for water depending on the season you hike it. It goes through typical rolling desert terrain with distant views of Lake Pleasant. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No rest rooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles RT. [SCG=9.4/1400/4.0].

2/12/18: Apache Wash-Sidewinder-Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North Section). Rating C/B. This is a 7-10 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 800-1260 ft. The loop combines several trails - the Apache Wash, Ridgeback, Sidewinder, and Ocotillo trails. The C version cuts off one section of the loop. There are expansive views of the north side of Phoenix, Anthem, and Cave Creek. The hike goes through rolling desert terrain. Trail condition - this is an outstanding hiking trail with no rocks, stones, steeps, etc. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 80 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Apache-Wash-Trailhead>

2/19/18: Praying Hands/Massacre Falls Loop (Superstitions). Rating B. This is a 9 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 2000 feet. You start on Jacob's Crosscut trail for one mile, passing through typical desert terrain with lots of Saguaros and Jumping Cholla. Then turn left (uphill) on trail 56. Up the hill past a rock cropping is a bench at the junction with a trail going left. This is the Praying hands trail and will pass to the right of the lower rock outcropping known as Praying Hands. There are several winding trails that get you up to the saddle – so take any of them that head toward Praying Hands. There are great views of the valley and various rock formations as you travel along the trail. Once you get past the Praying Hands rock formation, the trail is marked by cairns. Massacre Falls will appear around the 6 mile point - off to the right. After stopping at the falls, you take the trail angling right back down the mountain to the trailhead. Trail condition - the first and last thirds are good hiking surfaces, with the middle third a boulder covered semi-bushwhack. There are no restrooms (though you can go 1.5 miles further up the road to the 1st Water trailhead which has restrooms and then return to the trailhead). No park fee from this trailhead. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Massacre-Falls-Trail>

2/26/18: 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>