

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:15 a.m., depart at 7:30 (early meet/depart is 6:15/6:30...always check the weekly e-mail).

December 7 – Coffee Pot Loop (Sedona). Rating B. This hike combines Adobe Jack, Tea Cup and Skidmark trails to create a somewhat challenging but scenic climb to the base of the Coffee Pot formation with expansive views below. The hike is approximately 9 miles with 1300 ft. elevation gain. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee with Senior Pass. Driving distance is 260 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Adobe-JackTeacupSugerloafGrand>

December 14 - Marcus Landslide/East End/Tom's Thumb Loop (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) Rating B+. This hike combines multiple trails into a "B" level loop of approximately 10.6 miles with 2,100 ft. elevation gain. The hike proceeds in a clockwise direction in front of Marcus Landslide and around to the back side for lunch before climbing the steep East End trail to the trail leading to Tom's Thumb. After group photos at the Thumb, the hike descends the short, steep trail leading to the visitor center. There are great views to the east and north including the Superstitions and Four Peaks areas, plus views of impressive granite boulders. No park fee. Restrooms are at the trailhead (no water). Driving distance is 108 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Toms-Thumb-Marcus-Landslide>

December 21 – Saddle Mountain Loop (Tonopah). Rating B. This is an 8-10 mile loop with an elevation gain of 1200-1400 ft. The trail works its way up to the main saddle of Saddle Mountain with extensive views to the south, west (Eagletail Mountains) and north (Big Horn). It then goes down a challenging, steep rocky slope and around Saddle Mountain to complete the loop. There are great views of the rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the early part of the trail is a very good surface but the last mile to the saddle is along the side of the formation, is composed of loose stones, and is hard to follow; over the saddle it is very steep with lots of loose rocks; the last part is an easy trek along an old jeep road. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-10/Saddle-Mountain-Tonapah/Saddle-Mountain-Loop>

December 28 – Blue Wash/Camp Creek Falls Meander (Cave Creek)

Rating B. This is a 9 mile "adventure" loop hike with an elevation gain of 1300 ft. This is an adventure hike since most of the hike consists of fairly easy bushwhacking up and down several washes with just a small amount of actual trail; it also provides an opportunity to practice route-finding skills. There is one dry waterfall which provides a "B+" challenge but one which can also be bypassed if desired. A few highlights of the hike are an unexpected swing hanging from a juniper, an interesting mine surrounded by chunks of quartz of many sizes, and a short side trip to Camp Creek Falls. No restrooms at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 122 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Cave-Creek-Other>