

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - FRIDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 7:15 am, depart at 7:30.

December 7 - Brins Mesa Trail (Sedona). Rating B/C. This is a 5.4-7.9 mi loop hike with an elevation gain of 900-1600ft. This trail is an incredibly versatile trail, offering many enjoyable options and side excursions. The trailhead elevation is around 4,450 ft. Often, people just hike the 1.5 miles one way (600 ft elevation change) from the Jordan Road trailhead to the mesa rim, admire the spectacular view and then hike back. This gives you a good cardiovascular workout combined with some beautiful scenery. At this point you may go .3 mile to the north for a view of the valley from a boulder formation. Another option is to hike the Brins Mesa Trail to the Soldier Pass Trail then turn left, go to Jordan Trail, turn left and proceed to the Cibola Pass Trail, again turn left and proceed to Brins Mesa Trailhead. This is about a 5.4 mile loop. Down Solders Pass, about .8 miles from the Brins Mesa trail (just before the Wilderness boundary fence) is a side trail to the left that takes you up to the Solder Pass arches, adding about .7 miles to the hike. The long option is take the Brins Mesa Trail to a spot where you are in the wash and there is a high cliff on the north side of the wash. This is near the west end of the trail. This is a nice spot for lunch. After lunch turn around and return to the Soldier Pass/Jordan/Cibola Trails back to Jordan Road. This long option is about 7.9 miles in length. The elevation gain/descent for this long option is about 1,600 ft. Restrooms are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$6.00 (free with Golden Age pass). Driving distance is 256 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Category/Brins-Mesa-Soldiers-Cibola>

December 14 - Tom's Thumb trail from the North trailhead (McDowell Sonoran Preserve Scottsdale). Rating C+.

This is a 6.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The uphill portion of the trail is decomposed granite, making for a somewhat slippery surface to hike upon so the hike will go at a slower than normal pace. Tom's Thumb is a 140 ft high granite rock sticking up on the top of the mountain. The top of the mountain has a small valley with many interesting boulder formations. A side trail takes us up to a viewpoint with 360 degree views. There are excellent views of Scottsdale and areas to the West as well as Fountain Hills and the Superstition Mountains to the East. Trail condition - overall a good hiking trail, but fairly steep going up the initial climb. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 108 miles RT.

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

December 21 - Wild Burro/Pipeline trails to floating Bridge area (Lake Pleasant Regional Park). Rating C. This is 7 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. The hike starts out at the Beardsley Trailhead parking area and goes north to what's left of a floating bridge. The Wild Burro trail goes along the lake around a small cove before rising up to the Pipeline Trailhead and then on to where a floating bridge was before 2017 Monsoon rains destroyed it. We go as little ways past the bridge to a saddle above the ridge for our break. There is a good chance to see wild burros on this trail. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$7.00. Driving distance is 80 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-12/Wild-Burro-Trail-DougJ-Photos>

December 28 - * NEW HIKE *** Maricopa Trail South from the Bronco Trailhead (Seven Springs Rec Area). Rating C.** This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation change of 1000 ft. This hike goes to a bridge over a slot canyon. An optional side hike is to drop down into the slot and go along it for a short distance. There is no park fee despite approach signs along the road stating fees are required – this fee is for other forms of recreation, not hiking. There is a restroom at the trailhead. Driving distance is 130 miles RT (the last 3 miles are on an unpaved dirt road).

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/CaveCreekRegionalPark/Maricopa-Trail-Carefree>