

January 2018 Thursday B Hikes

Jan 4

Peralta Trail #102/Geronimo's Cave/Bluff Springs Loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating B. This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 1900 ft – a steep, continuous climb then drop off. But it is one of the most beautiful hikes we do - Weaver's Needle will be in front of you at the top. We can also go to a lone tree with terrific close-up views of Weavers Needle and/or hike to Geronimo's cave, which provides great views of the valley just hiked and points East. We then go by Geronimo's cave before going down a steep descent to the Bluff Springs trail. The Peralta Road turnoff is located 8.5 miles past Apache Jct. on Hwy 60 east. The trailhead is about 9 miles north on this road – the last 8 miles of which are dirt (a car usually has no problems getting through). Restrooms are available at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx 140 miles RT <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Peralta-Geronimo-Cave-Bluff>

Jan 11

Saddle Mountain Summit (Tonopah). Rating B+. This is a 6 mile in-and -out hike with an elevation gain of 1500 ft. The trail works its way up to a saddle of Saddle Mountain with extensive views to the west (Eagletail Mountains) and south. From the saddle it is a steep bushwhack to the peak over loose material.. There are great views of the rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the first third of the trail is a very good surface, the second third is steeply uphill, with the final third is along the edge of the formation and is composed of loose stones and very steep. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles.

Jan 18

Quartz Peak (Estrella Mountains). Rating B+ . This is a 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2550 ft. Quartz Peak Trail, in the 14,400-acre [Sierra Estrella Wilderness](#), leads visitors from the floor of Rainbow Valley (elevation 1,550 feet) to the summit ridge of the Sierra Estrella at Quartz Peak (elevation 4,052 feet) in just 3 miles. Along the way, visitors are treated to a variety of Sonoran Desert plants and wildlife, scenic vistas, and evidence of the area's volcanic history. The views from the summit are spectacular--to the west is a dramatic panorama of rugged mountain ranges and desert plains, and to the east metropolitan Phoenix unfolds over the valley of the lower Salt River.

The trail begins at Quartz Peak Trailhead by following a closed four-wheel-drive track approximately 1/4 mile. Look to the left as you walk up the old road and see a narrow trail ascending the ridge to the north. The trail is poorly marked in places and does not extend to the summit--the final 1/4 mile to Quartz Peak is a scramble over boulder and talus slopes that requires careful footing. Quartz Peak is a point on the spine of the Sierra Estrella capped with an outcrop of white quartz.

Quartz Peak is accessed from Rainbow Valley and Riggs Roads in Rainbow Valley, Southwest of Pebble Creek. Trail condition - this is mostly a steep, boulder hopping, bushwhack hike. A high clearance vehicle is necessary to get to the trailhead. There are restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 70 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Quartz-Peak>

Jan 25

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. It first climbs from the north to Tom's Thumb on a short but steep trail and then proceeds south on East End (very steep)-Windmill-Coachwhip-Pemberton-Boulder-Marcus Landslide in a CCW loop, eventually passing in front of the Marcus Landslide area. 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>

Sent from my iPhone

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