

"B" LEVEL HIKING GROUP – MONDAY

Meet at the Eagle's Nest clubhouse at 7:15 a.m., depart at 7:30 (Times subject to change for early starts. . . always check the weekly e-mail).

January 7 -- Apache Wash-Sidewinder-Ocotillo Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve - North Section). Rating C/B. This is a 7 to 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>

January 14 -- Skull Mesa, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating B. 12.4 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of 3180 ft. Skull Mesa Trail # 248 features panoramic views of the desert foothills. This is a good place to see deer, javelina, and snakes. This is not recommended for novice equestrians or inexperienced stock. Due to the tall grasses in the area you'll find the rock cairns a useful guide to finding the path. From the west junction with Cottonwood Trail at an elevation of 3260 feet the trail climbs many switchbacks, gaining over 1000 feet in a mile. For next mile, traverse Skull Mesa reaching elevation 4560 feet, then drops to the junction with QuienSabe Trail. The trail climbs and descends for 1.5 miles to its east junction with Cottonwood trail. Directions from Cave Creek: Travel north on Cave Creek road and turn left on Spur Cross Road. The trailhead is about 1.5 miles after the road turns to gravel. Porta-johns at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is approx 110 miles RT

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SevenSpringsRecreationArea/Skull-Mesa>

January 21 -- Mesquite Flats Fork Trail (Superstition Mountains). Rating C/B. This is a 6 to 8 mile "Y" shaped hike with an elevation gain of 1000- to 1600 ft. The C version follows an old road to two overlook areas, while the B version extends the two forks with bushwhacks to higher overlook areas. The overlook areas provide views of parts of Canyon Lake and deep canyons in the Superstition Mountain. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 142 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SuperstitionWilderness/Mesquite-Flats>

January 28 -- Wild Burro/Lower Javalina/Alamo Springs Loop (Marana - Tortolita Mountain Park). Rating B. This is a loop hike of 9 miles with an elevation gain of 1800 ft. This area is known for the many Crested Saguaros that live here (3 on this loop), though “truth in advertising” would state the quality of them leaves a lot to be desired. However, there are many barrel and Cholla cacti that are different than those in the Phoenix area. And the rock formations are excellent including one area that looks like stacked granite sheets. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 260 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Tucson-Area/Tortolita-Mountains-Park/B-Exploratory-HikeLynnW2015/>