

## B Hikers

Here are your Thursday B hikes for December. All hikes subject to change. Please check Pete's weekly email for hikes and meet/depart times.

Clare

Dec 6

**Bluff Springs/Terrapin/Crosscut/Peralta loop (Superstition Mountains). Rating B.** This is an 8.4 mile loop hike with an elevation change of 1400 ft. and elevation gain of 1900 ft. Start out on Bluff Springs, turn left on Terrapin, and turn left again at the Crosscut trail, which crosses in front of Weavers Needle. Turn left on Peralta and head back to the parking lot. The crosscut trail is very steep and goes over many boulders, but there are many cairns on the trail to guide you through the boulders. Restrooms are located at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is approx. 140 miles RT.

Dec13

**Joshua Tree North (Highway 93). Rating B.** This hike goes to the top of the monolith (shiprock). This is a 7 mile lollipop hike with an elevation gain of about 800 ft. It utilizes old jeep roads, regular trails, sandy wash, and a little bushwhacking. This area is part of the Tres Alamos Wilderness. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 160 miles. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Hwy93/Joshua-Tree-North>

Dec 20

**Rainbow/Toothaker/Gadsden/Butterfield Loop (Estrella Mountains). Rating B.** This is a 9.6 mile loop beginning on the west side of the rodeo. The Rainbow Valley trail is wide and relatively flat (320ft elev. Change). It intersects the Toothaker Trail. Turn right onto the Toothaker Trail to the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Pedersen Trail. Turn left on the Gadsden Trail, then right on the Butterfield trail and head back to the rodeo. A restroom is at the trailhead. Park entrance fee is \$7.00 per car. Driving distance is approx 20 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/EstrellaMountainRegionalPark/Rainbow-Toothaker-Gadsden>

Dec 27

**Vulture Peak Trail (Wickenburg). Rating C-B.** This is a 4.3 mi round trip (4.6 to top), out & back hike on the same trail. Elevation gain is 1360 with the base at 2,480 ft, the saddle at 3,420 ft, and the peak at 3,660 ft. The trail is easy to the base, moderate to the saddle where most hikers will stop. For those who wish to go to the top of Vulture peak, that part is difficult and you leave walking sticks and backpacks behind for hand over hand climbing. Sign in at the top and you can get a certificate at the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce. Vulture Peak Trail meanders through classic Sonoran Desert landscapes, including dense stands of saguaro, ocotillo, cholla, and other cactus varieties; crosses wide desert washes; and offers dramatic scenic vistas of rugged desert mountain ranges and valleys in all directions. Trailhead parking is available for 15 vehicles. Trail condition - basically a very steep and rocky hike up to the saddle. Restrooms are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is approx 120 miles RT. [SCG=4.0/1200/3.0].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Vulture-Peak>