

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

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

January 2 - Black Canyon Trail - Black Canyon City North

(Black Canyon City Trailhead - Exit 244). Rating C. This is a 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1050 ft. The trail goes around, up/down and through several little canyons parallel to Black Canyon City. There is an abundance of cacti including hundreds of pincushion cacti, plus more small saguaro cacti (under 5 ft) than large (over 5 ft). The canyons have many interesting rock formations and there are expansive views of Black Canyon City. At the 2 mile point, the trail crosses Black Canyon Creek, which is usually dry. At the crossing is a rock formation they call the China Wall. This could be a great spring hike when the cacti are in bloom. Trail condition - a good biking trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BlackCanyonNationalRecreationT/BlackCanyonCity>

January 9 - Deem Hills Circumference Trail (Phoenix). Rating C/C+.

This is a 7-8.3 mile loop hike around the Deem Hills Recreation area with an elevation gain of 800-1350 ft. There are distinct vegetation areas on the different sides of the hills. Hiking the upper route adds just over a mile and 500 ft of EG, but offers excellent views of the northwest valley. There would be good wildflowers after a wet winter. Good views of the area (north of 101 and west of I-17). Trail condition - typical desert hiking trail.

Restrooms are at the trailhead. No Park Fee. Driving Distance is 60 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/DeemHillsPark/Circumference-Trail>

January 16 - Spur Cross Loop, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek).

Rating C. This is a 7.3 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 1000 ft. There were 2 dozen different wildflowers in April 2008. You cross a stream 3-4 times and there are great views of the cave creek area and Elephant Mountain. Trail condition - half is an average hiking trail and half is somewhat rough. Porta-johns are at the trailhead. Park fee is \$3.00 per person. Driving distance is approx 110 miles RT. [SCG=7.0/1100/3.3].

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Spur-Cross-Loop>

January 23 - Chalky Spring/Slot Canyon Hike (Lake Pleasant Area).

Rating C. This is 6 mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of about 500 ft. The hike starts out going into Morgan City Wash for about a mile. It then turns into a side canyon with an overgrown riparian area due to the wet Chalky spring. Once past the spring area the canyon narrows into a very scenic slot canyon. There is a good chance to see owls on this hike. Trail condition - 1/3 is along a sandy wash, 1/3 is through a wet riparian area with lots of brush, and 1/3 is through a slot canyon with short dry waterfalls to scramble up/down. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 74 miles RT.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/LakePleasantArea/ChalkySprings-SlotCanyonHike>

January 30 - Twin Peaks & Dana's Arch (Wickenburg). Rating C+.

This is a 5.8 mile lollipop loop with a short steep side hike up to the arch. The elevation gain is about 800 feet. The trail itself is very rocky in places and goes through a sandy wash for part of it. You can see parts of Wickenburg and the old Renegade mine, as well as Vulture Peak and other surrounding mountains. There is a Crested Saguaro about 50 yards below the mine (on the right as you look up the road to the mine). The vegetation is dense in some areas and would provide many wildflowers in the spring after winter rains. Dana's arch is an interesting arch reachable by going up to a saddle on the left and hiking across a fairly flat ridgeline. Trail condition - about half of the hike is on a good trail, the rest is in a wash or up a hill to the arch. No restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is 100 miles RT.

<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Wickenburg/Twin-Peaks-Danas-Arch>