

LOCAL HIKING TRAILS

PINNACLE PEAK PARK

Pinnacle Peak Trail

(15 Minutes)

26802 N 102nd Way, Scottsdale, AZ

480-312-0990

www.scottsdaleaz.gov/parks/pinnacle-peak-park

Length - 1.75 Miles (One-way)

Difficulty - Moderate to Difficult

Open Daily 7am-6pm

This trail has a smooth tread and will have a quite a few areas going up and down along the paths. At 3.5 miles round-trip, it is a nice distance long enough to feel it, but not long enough to regret it. Hiking, horseback riding, and rock climbing are allowed at the park. Interpretive signs around the park describe the area's flora, fauna, geology and Cultural history along the way. The hike is a little more than an hour to complete.

PIESTEWA PEAK PARK

Summit Trail

(20 Minutes)

2701 E Squaw Peak Dr., Phoenix, AZ

602-495-5458

www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/piestewa-peak/hiking-trail-map

Length - 1.2 Miles

Difficulty - Difficult

Open Daily 5am-11pm

Summit trail at Squaw/Piestewa Peak Park is a popular trail that has been favored for over 25 years. This hour or more hike follows an easy-to-follow trail with various switchbacks and stair-like sections that lead to the highest peak (2,608 feet) in the park. While located in the heart of the city, the mountain preserve is a seemingly different world. A personal, de-stressing, meditative place that gives you views of the city that are hard to forget.

CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN

Cholla Trail

(25 Minutes)

6131 E Cholla Ln., Paradise Valley, AZ

602-534-5867

<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/camelback-mountain/trails>

Length - 1.5 miles

Difficulty - Difficult

Open Daily from Sunrise-Sunset

This trail is a 3-mile hike to the summit; it is strenuous, steep and demands some athletic ability. The views you will encounter on your adventure include nature, mountainside estates, and the Phoenician Resort's pool. Along your path, you will see painted blue dots to mark the trail where hand-over-foot scrambling is necessary (at the rocky ridgeline). Be sure to take the same trail back or you can extend your workout with a neighborhood cruise back to the car from the other summit trailhead, Echo Canyon.

Echo Canyon Trail

(22 Minutes)

4925 E McDonald Dr., Phoenix, AZ

602-534-5867

<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/camelback-mountain/trails>

Length - 1.14 miles

Difficulty - Strenuous

Open Daily Sunrise-Sunset

This trail earns its popularity due to the amount of workout you will receive hiking it. Although the trail is slightly shorter than a mile and a quarter, its formidable incline makes for some intense lower body cardio and strength training. The trail leads to, then hugs, the "camel's head," and continues with a steep and steady incline along the "camel's hump" to the 2,704 foot summit.

MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY

Tom's Thumb Trail

(25 Minutes)

23015 N 128th St., Scottsdale, AZ

(480) 998-7971

www.mcdowellsonoran.org/toms

Length - 5 miles

Difficulty - Difficult to Strenuous

Open Daily Sunrise-Sunset

Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve is like no other place in the Valley. It is unique geologically. It is home to stunning geography, lush cacti forests and diverse wildlife. It features award-winning trails and facilities. Now is a great time to explore the preserve, stretched across 21,400 scenic acres of Scottsdale. This new amenity lets you access the northern reaches of the McDowell Mountains and 5 miles of new multi-use trails, including the Marcus Landslide Interpretive Trail. Please make sure to bring water with you, as there will be none available. Parking during your hike is free of charge.

Hiking precautions: 1. Stay on the trail 2. Tell someone where you are hiking and when you will return 3. Carry enough water for your entire hike. 4. Turn around and return to the trailhead when your water is half gone. 5. Carry a cellphone. 6. Don't hike alone. 7. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Source: Phoenix Fire Department



Gateway Trail

(15 Minutes)

18333 N Thompson Peak Rd., Scottsdale, AZ

(480) 998-7971

www.mcdowellsonoran.org/gateway

Length - Up to 6 miles

Difficulty - Easy to Moderate

Open Daily 7am-6pm

The Gateway Trailhead, located on the east side of Thompson Peak Rd. between Legacy Blvd. and Bell Rd., is fully barrier-free and has all the amenities an outdoor recreation enthusiast could want. The Gateway Trailhead is the access point to many unique Scottsdale trails. Even kids in strollers love the games and activities along the Bajada Nature Trail. Kids of all ages are able to explore the Gateway Loop trail and older kids love the challenge offered by interior trails.

SONORAN DESERT PRESERVE

Apache Wash Trail

(22 Minutes)

1600 E Sonoran Desert Dr., Phoenix, AZ

(602) 534-1089

Length - 5.6 miles

Difficulty - Easy to Moderate

Open Daily 5am-11pm

The Sonoran Desert Preserve is an excellent example of desert vegetation and landscape with both mountainous and flat terrain as well as several expansive arroyos. With the vast network of trails as well as expanses of open desert, the Preserve is an excellent location to explore.

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK

Go John Trail

(23 Minutes)

37900 E Cave Creek Parkway, Cave Creek, AZ

(602) 506-2930 Ext 8

www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations/sonoran-preserve

Length - 5.8 miles

Difficulty - Moderate

Open Daily 6am-8pm

This hike is just outside of the city so when you hit the north side of the trail, you can see mountains and Sonoran Desert for miles without the slightest hint of the city life. The trail is a 5.8-mile single-track loop and if done leisurely, it can take two hours or more to complete. Elevation ranges from 2,000 feet to 3,060 feet.

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Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

(25 Minutes)

44000 N Spur Cross Rd., Cave Creek, AZ

(602) 506-2930

www.maricopacountyparks.net/park-locator/spur-cross-ranch-conservation-area

Length - 1.2 to 4.6 miles

Difficulty - Easy to Difficult

Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm

This protected area encompasses 2,154 acres of diversely rugged land that features archaeological sites, ancient petroglyphs and lush riparian spots along Cave Creek which generally flows with its crystal waters during the winter months. All of this natural beauty of rolling hills and mountains is dotted with tall Saguaro cacti of unique shapes and forms that have taken thousands upon thousands of years to grow. There are ruins of the ancient Hohokam Indians and an old dude ranch that likely holds many secrets of times past. A scenic, but difficult trail is Elephant Mountain. Designated for hikers and equestrians, this trail leads visitors to the adjacent Tonto National Forest.

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK

Siphon Draw Trailhead (Flat Iron)

(55 Minutes)

6109 N Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ

(480) 982-4485

<https://azstateparks.com/lost-dutchman/things-to-do/trails>

Length - 4 to 6 miles

Difficulty - Strenuous

Open Daily 6am-8pm

One of the most scenic hikes in the Phoenix area, Siphon Draw is located within The Lost Dutchman State Park off the Apache Trail. The Siphon Draw Trail is 4 miles round trip and leads up the bajadas of Lost Dutchman State Park into a rugged canyon within the Superstition Mountain complex. The maintained portion ends at the base of a slick rock chute called The Basin, and continues on a very strenuous route to Flatiron and the summit. It's advised that only experienced hikers in good shape attempt to hike to the top, as the climb is steep and difficult to follow. Allow at least five hours to the Flatiron and back.