

PCHC Hike Descriptions

The meeting and departure times for January 2018 Monday B hikes are 7:15AM and 7:30AM, respectively.

1/1/18: Windgate Pass/Gateway trails McDowell Sonoran Preserve (Scottsdale). Rating C+/B. This is a 7 to 8+ mile hike with an elevation gain of 1300-1600 ft. The C version of the hike goes to Inspiration Viewpoint, which gives nice views of the desert valley, Tom Thumb Peak and Scottsdale. The B version goes to the saddle at Windgate Pass giving views of Four Peaks and Weavers Needle. Both versions start at the Gateway trailhead area and pass through a typical Saguaro forest. This part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve has many crested barrel cacti. Trail condition - trail surface is typical desert but it is basically a steady uphill hike to the viewpoint or saddle. Restrooms and water are at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 88 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Windgate-Pass>
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop>
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/McDowellSonoranPreserve/Gateway-Loop-Windgate-Pass/Gatgeway-Loop-Windgate-Pass/>

1/8/18: Big Horn Mountain Loop (Big Horn Mountain Wilderness). Rating B. This is a clockwise loop hike around Big Horn Peak of 9.3 miles with an elevation gain of 1600 ft. There is no formal trail, but for two-thirds of the hike the vegetation is scarce enough not to have to actually bushwhack. The climb up and back down is a steep, boulder filled bushwhack. There are lots of interesting rock formations along the way. There are no restrooms and no park fee. Driving distance is approx. 90 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BigHornMountainWilderness/Bighorn-Loop>

1/15/18: Dreamy Draw 6 Peaks (Phoenix Mountain Preserve). Rating C+. This is a loop hike of 6-7 mi. with an elevation change of 1100 ft. We start out on #220 and then go on an unnumbered trail up a series of little peaks along the North side of the park, providing views of many of the Valley's mountains. Once we come down the far side we proceed to the Cholla Lane trailhead where we will take our break (there are restrooms & water at this trailhead). We will then return via trail #100, switching to trail 1A for the final 2 miles. Restrooms & water are at the Dreamy Draw trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 55 miles RT. **<B's version is 8 to 10 miles>.** <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/PhoenixMountainsPreserve/Dreamy-Draw>

1/22/18: Palo Verde Trail (Bartlett Reservoir). Rating C+. This is a 7.5 mile out and back hike. It has little elevation change, but an elevation gain of about 1500 ft. The trail is loose, decomposed granite. Consequently, please wear proper hiking footwear. This is a lovely hike with continuous water views. The Bartlett Reservoir is part of the Verde River between New River and Mazatzal Mountains. It is visible the entire hike. Restrooms are at the Rattlesnake trailhead. There is a \$6.00 park fee (1/2 price with Golden Age Passport - get passes at ranger station on Bartlett Reservoir

road). Driving distance is approx 136 miles RT. **<B's version 8 to 10 miles>**.
<http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/BartlettReservoir/Palo-Verde-Trail>

1/29/18: South of the Border/Petroglyphs Loop (Verrado). Rating D+. This is a 5 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 630 ft. The hike goes through typical desert washes, up through a canyon to a saddle and then past the petroglyphs. No park fee. No restrooms at the trailhead. Driving distance is 18 miles RT. **<B's version is Deadman's Pass + SOB. 9.2 miles with an elevation gain of 1,300 ft>**.
<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/WhiteTankMountains-Verrado/Verrado-SOB-South-of-the-Borde>