

Hiking Near Green Valley

"In every walk with nature one receives more than he seeks."

-- John Muir (American preservationist and founder of the Sierra Club)

Marian Mundale, Hikemaster of the EE Hiking Group, has provided these descriptions for some interesting hikes not far from Green Valley. Directions to the trailheads are included.

Each trail is designated either Trail 1 or Trail 2. Trail 1 is a well defined dirt trail/road. Trail 2 is a trail/road with some rocky/loose footing.

SANTA RITA MOUNTAINS HIKES

Madera Trail to Amphitheater (Trail 1)

Park in the Proctor parking area, which is the first parking lot in Madera Canyon. The hike from the Proctor parking lot to the amphitheater is 3.5 miles round trip with a 550 foot elevation.

Madera Canyon Nature Trail (Trail 2)

Park in the Amphitheater parking area. Cross the bridge to the amphitheater to start the hike at the nature trail. The hike is 1.8 miles uphill on the way to the Mt. Wrightson parking area. The round trip is a 3.6 mile hike with a 600 foot elevation gain.

Proctor to Elephant Head (Trail 1)

Park in the Proctor parking lot in Madera Canyon. Hike the short distance to Proctor Rd. which goes to the right. Follow Proctor Forest Service Road #4074 to the end. There is a nice shaded area there and is a nice spot for a water and snack break. This is about 1.5 miles. Walk a short distance uphill and you will see a gate that goes to the right at Forest Service Road #930. This trail will take you to Elephant Head. You will see lichen on the northwest side. The round trip hike is 5 miles.

RINCON MOUNTAINS HIKES IN SAGUARO PARK EAST

Hope Camp (Trail 1)

Driving directions: Take I-19 to the Sahuarita Exit. Take Sahuarita Rd. to Wentworth. Wentworth is 2.9 miles east of Houghton Rd. Turn left on Wentworth and travel 6.3 miles through Vail to Colossal Cave Rd. Turn right on Colossal Cave Rd. and travel 1.1 miles to Loma Alta. Turn left on Loma Alto and cross Old Spanish Trail. Stay on Loma to the trailhead. The last 1/2 mile is a dirt road.

Hope Camp is a loop hike of 5.8 miles with a 600+ foot elevation. When you come to a junction, stay on Hope Camp Trail to the left. About one mile into the hike you will see on the left the remains of the Deer Camp line camp with a windmill and water tanks.

At the 1.3 mile point, watch for a junction sign with the Ruiz Trail on the right. Follow the Ruiz Trail southwest for 2.2 miles. This is uphill and then descends to a junction with the Coyote Wash Trail. Watch for a stone kiln on a hill on the right side of the Ruiz Trail shortly before the junction. Follow the Coyote Wash Trail north for 1.5 miles to the Camp Hope Trail junction and continue 0.8 mile back to the trailhead.

If you stay on Hope Camp Trail, which goes straight from the Ruiz Junction Trail, you come to a dead end, where you will see another windmill and tank. Here you return the same way.

Cactus Forest Trail to Lime Falls (Trail 1)

Driving Directions: I-19 to Sahuarita Exit. Stay on Sahuarita Rd. to Houghton Rd. Turn left on Houghton. Stay on Houghton Rd. to East Saguaro Park sign. Turn right and follow signs to the park's visitor center.

Cactus Forest Trail can be started at three locations. Starting at Broadway, it is a 6.4 mile round trip hike. Starting in the park going to the left on the one way road, the hike is 2.8 miles. Starting from the park going right on the two-way road, the hike is 3.6 miles round trip.

TUCSON MOUNTAINS HIKES IN SAGUARO WEST PARK

Hidden Canyon (Trail 1)

Driving directions: From I-10, exit on 22nd Street/Starr Pass Blvd. Turn west on Starr Pass Blvd. and continue for 4.8 miles. As you approach the Starr Pass Resort at 3800 W. Starr Pass Blvd., turn right onto the service drive. Follow the winding drive 0.4 of a mile to the trailhead on the right.

The hike is a 2 mile loop with a 400 foot elevation. The trail follows a wash for 1/4 mile before it begins up the hillside. After working your way down, the trail gradually levels out; you will be at the unmarked junction with the Bowen Trail. A left will lead you back to Starr Pass, and the right will lead you to Yetman Trail. The Yetman Trail takes you to an old stone house foundation. To the stone house is a 4 mile hike.

Brown Mountain (Trail 2)

Driving directions: Take I-19 to Ajo Way, exit 99 (Hwy. 86 west). Stay on Ajo Way to Kinney Rd. Turn right on Kinney Rd. Stay on Kinney Rd to K23. Turn left to the Juan Santa Cruz picnic area. Drive in one block to the picnic area where the hike will start.

Hike down a ditch and you will soon see the trail split to the left and right. This is a loop hike of 5 miles with an 800 foot elevation. Go to the right and hike the 800 foot elevation on the first half of the hike. The rest of the hike is the loop back and is a flat hike. There is some rocky/loose footing.

When you get up Brown Mountain, you will see beautiful views of Baboquivari Peak and Kitt Peak. To the southwest you can see traces of the canal of the Central Arizona project.

MISCELLANEOUS HIKES

Indian Kitchen (Trail 1)

Route to trailhead: Take a right on Continental Rd. to Duval Mine Rd. Turn left on Duval Mine Rd. to Mission Rd. Turn right on Mission Rd. and continue to mile 8 marker. When you pass Helmet Peak Rd. on the right, go about 0.2 of a mile to Indian Kitchen Rd., an unmarked dirt road on the west side. Do not park blocking the cattle guard on private land at the entrance to Indian Kitchen Rd. Park by the fence before going across the cattle guard.



This is a nice easy hike on a dirt road and is about 2 1/2 miles with a 200 foot elevation. Hike to the two rock piles and go under the U-shaped fence opening on the north side. Go up the rock pile and you will see a number of matates. Matates were formed by the Indians grinding their grain on the rocks.

DeAnza Trail (Trail 1)

To hike DeAnza Trail one way, leave one car at Tubac by the trailhead at the east end of town by the horse corral. The portion of the trail between Tumacacori and Tubac is part of the historic trail DeAnza traveled from Mexico to California in 1775.

Start the hike at Tumacacori Mission. Park in the lot before the mission by the trailhead entrance gate. It is a 4.5 mile hike with a 50 foot elevation. You cross the Santa Cruz River twice. Half way through the hike, you come to an adobe building. The build is said to have been a bunk house for range hands. Towards the end of the trail at Tubac, stay on the trail to the right and go through the gate. The trail is on the east side of the ball park and takes you to the trailhead where the car is parked.

Devil's Cache Box Trail and Sweat Lodge (Trail 2)



Elephant Bike Trail #4077 hike (also known as Devil's Cache Box) is a round trip hike of about 4-5 miles, hiking in and back the same way. Hiking will be at the 5,000 foot level with an 800 foot gain. Trail will be rocky at times with loose gravel.

Driving Directions to Devil's Cache Box hike and Sweat Lodge

Take Hwy 19, south to the 'Canoa Ranch' exit. Take the round-about and head east to the Frontage road. Take a right on the frontage road to Little Elephant Road. Turn left and stay on Little Elephant Rd to Mt Hopkins Road. Stay on Mt Hopkins Rd just pass mile marker 1, where there is a sign 'Elephant Head Bike Trail #4077'; the trail is on the left side of Mt Hopkins Rd. Park at the trail head. To go to the sweat lodge, walk a short distance to the first gravel road. Walk on the gravel road and you will see a small parking area. Follow the path uphill for a short distance to the sweat lodge.

