



**Saturday
March 11, 2017**

Black Canyon Trail #114, AZ, Cottonwood

Approximately 103 Miles and 2 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: Day Hike	Max Rating/Points: 3/1	Elev. Change: 2,200'	Length: 12.8 or GPS
Start Time: 0830	Duration: 6-7 hrs	Max No of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: 2011

- Major Hike:
- Cross-Country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options:
- Pass/Fees Rqd.:

	Coordinator	Alternate
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Required Equipment: Sturdy Hiking shoes with Lugs, 100 oz water, Wide Brim Hat

Recommended Equipment: Trekking Poles, Trail Snack

Cautions and Special Preparations: Rocky Trail, steep in places, Possible Water Crossing

Description: Taken in part from AZ Republic, April 17th 2010, *Paths to Explore off the Beaten Trail*

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3828041.pdf

Back in 2011 we hiked a portion this trail about 1/2 way up the Mingus Mountain slope of which I made the comment, another time we will hike the rest of it. Here it is 6 years later and this time it will be an out and back hike again but to the top of the Mingus Mountain Range.

“This trail begins in a shallow drainage then tilts upward through shaggy meadows dappled with Mesquite and Prickly Pear. It’s a steady heart-squeezing climb that coyly gives no hint of Black Canyon, but it does display panoramas of the Verde Valley, the Sedona Red Rocks and the Peaks to the far north. After about 2 miles the trail bends west and Black Canyon suddenly sprawls below, just a rocky splash, a wound of tumbled boulders and broken columns. The route now levels off and follows the general contour of the canyon. Another couple of miles and the trail will dip into the head of Black Canyon, but this time it is little more than a ditch with dreams. It is at this lush and shady spot, one of those rare desert secrets that will for lunch and if desired a turn-around. The trail continues climbing for another 2 miles through scattered pines to FS413.”

Back when we did a part of this trail I agree; the views were awesome as referenced above.

Driving Directions: North on I-17 to the Cottonwood/Camp Verde Exit #287; Turn west (left) and travel on Hwy 260 about 9.4 miles to the Ogden Ranch Rd, turn NW (left) and drive 4.1 miles to the Trailhead located at the end of the road. The Ogden Ranch Rd is dirt but passable for a moderate clearance vehicle. If there have been recent heavy rains, then 4WD may be recommended. The dirt road is narrow for the last 3 miles, thus limited passing is available.

If there is interest for a before hike breakfast, there is a Denny’s at the I-17 exit. More than likely there may be some limited west bound Hwy 260 construction.