



**Saturday
April 22, 2017**

Houston Brothers Trail #171, Beginner Backpack

Approximately 130-140 Miles and 2.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: BP	Max Rating/Points: 6 / 2	Elev. Change: 300	Length: Max 8 miles RT
Start Time: 9:00am	Duration: 2-3 hrs 1 way	Max No. of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: 5/2016

Check all that apply
(give details in Desc.)

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

Contact Information

	Coordinator	Alternate
Name	Tom Isham	
Work Ph		
Station		
Home Ph	cell 602-943-6104	
Email	tsishams@cox.net	t_hiker@cox.net

Required Equipment: Hiking boots, Backpack and all the gear needed for a 2 day, one night backpack. The website has a link to a comprehensive list of items you might need. Contact the leader for specific things you might have questions about. You don't need to bring the kitchen sink. At least 2 quarts of water. Leader will have a water filter and pack stove. There is a spring located where we will be sleeping. I will verify that it is running before the trip and let everyone know. **There is not much elevation gain though the trek is on the Mogollon Rim.** Leader has an extra backpack, tent, sleeping pad, hiking poles and other assorted goodies. However, I will not carry them for you. If you think you might need something for the trip, ask the leader or other participants and they might be able to help. If you don't need to buy something, why do it.

Recommended Equipment: two way radio tuned in to channel 6, camera, trekking poles, hat, water filter, headlamp, something that can be used as a comfortable pillow,

Cautions and Special Preparations: Types of clothing will be dependent on the weather. The trek was done at the beginning of May and the weather was beautiful and cool though there was a brief rain storm. It is expected that the trek will be cooler this time. Fires are allowed unless otherwise advised by the FS. It is advisable to do some training before the trek. Even though it is only 4 miles one way, it is at a lot higher elevation than Phoenix. The better shape you are in, the easier and more fun the trip. Kids are welcome but use prudence in your evaluation of their ability to do this trek.

Description This trek is ideal for the whole family to enjoy and just get away from the Valley heat and observe nature at its best. I have led this backpack several times over the last several years and this is the third time as a backpack. This Houston Brother's trail is part of the Cabin Loop Trail. At the joint trailhead, we will go east. The Houston Brothers' Trail is part of the Coconino National Forest's Cabin Loop Trail system on Arizona's Mogollon Rim. Once part of a network of trails used by early ranchers and the Forest Service, the route of the historic Barbershop Trail was marked by blazes (notches) cut into the bark of trees. We are only doing the portion where the Barbershop trail intersects this trail near the trailhead and then northward. I have hiked this many times before in the last several years. There should be running water in several locations. You don't have to do the whole trail and being an out and back, can turn around at any time if you only want to do this as a day hike. There is an old cabin, a spring and the remains of an old fireplace at the turn-around point in the hike where we will be camping. The place where we will be camping is in a fairly large grassy meadow. We have seen a lot of wild strawberry plants in the past. See the pictures from when we did this backpack on the website and dated 2015-05-30.

Driving Directions: From Phoenix north on either the Beeline (HWY 87) or I-17(east at Camp Verde on Hwy 279) to the top of the Rim (above Strawberry if from Payson). Continue north on Hwy 87 for an additional 20 miles from the junction of Hwys 279 & 87, past Clint Well to the Blue Ridge Ranger Station where we will meet. There is a rest room at Clint Well but not at the trail head. There was a bathroom at the ranger station last year when we hiked it. From the ranger station we will caravan to the Trail Head. From the ranger station continue on just past the ranger station to FR95. Turn right on FR95 and travel 8 miles to FR139. Continue 7 miles on FR139 to the trailhead. There is a big sign there. No facilities at the trailhead. Here is a link to the Coconino National Forest website for the Houston Brothers Trail. There is a great map of the area with the link. Contact the Hike Leader if you want to do this hike, carpool and/or have any questions.
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/coconino/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=54994&actid=50>

