



**Saturday
October 28, 2017**

Goldwater Lake Trail #396

Approximately 115 Miles and 2.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack".

Type: DH	Max Rating/Points: 3 / 1	Elev. Change: 600	Length: 9.5
Start Time: 8:30 am	Duration: 4-6 hours	Max No. of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: never

Check all that apply
(give details in Desc.)

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

Contact Information

	Coordinator	Alternate
Name	Carmen Garling	Bill Garling
Work Ph		
Station		
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Required Equipment: Boots, Water, Hat, Food.

Recommended Equipment: Trekking poles, sun screen, rain protection, radio, first aid kit.

Cautions and Special Preparations: Thunderstorm activity

Description: Beginning at the White Spar Campground trailhead along U.S. Highway 89, the Goldwater Lake Trail departs next to a locked vehicle barrier gate. Initially following a road up Schoolhouse Gulch, the trail quickly breaks to the left at a fiberglass sign post for trail #396, and climbs into low hills of mixed ponderosa and oak. Along the way, trails #372 and #374 break off to the left at 0.25 and 0.7 miles, respectively.

One mile in, there is a great view to the west of the Sierra Prieta and Thumb Butte from the top of hill 5935'. At this point, the Goldwater Lake Trail begins a descent through tall pines to the wooded floor of Bannon Creek, turning south to follow its course upstream. The Bannon Creek stretch crosses an old road (trail #61), before coming to a seasonal pool and small cascade, at 1.7 miles. This is a great place to take a break, or to just enjoy the cool water and pleasant surroundings.

Leaving Bannon Creek behind, the trail climbs the south bank to contour around pine covered hillsides, eventually passing near Lower Goldwater Lake, which is just barely visible through the trees.

At just over three miles, the trail reaches a low saddle, where it begins a lengthy u-turn descent to the broad basin where Upper Goldwater Lake lies. The Goldwater Lake Trail #396 approaches the lake from the south, but does not actually go to it. Instead, a short bypass trail travels to the lake shore, where it meets the shore line route of the Goldwater Lake Trail. The bypass trail rejoins the route of the Goldwater Lake Trail #396 within a quarter of a mile.

We will return to the trailhead the same way we hiked out. The hike can be shortened by turning around and returning to the trailhead.

Driving Directions: WEST TRAILHEAD ON HIGHWAY 89/WHITE SPAR ROAD: From the intersection of Gurley Street and Montezuma Street in downtown Prescott, head south on Montezuma Street for 2.9 miles (becomes White Spar Road /Highway

89) to White Spar Campground on the left. Turn left and park at the trailhead parking area, located at the entrance to the campground. The Goldwater Lake Trail begins at a locked gate here, and is marked by a trail #396 signpost.