



**Saturday  
February 9, 2019**

**Spur Cross, Tortuga, Elephant Mountain and  
Dragon Fly Loop - Spur Cross Ranch  
Conservation Area, Cave Creek**

Approximately 35 Miles and 1 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: Day Hike

Max Rtg/Pts: 3/1

Elev. Change: 1220

Length: 7.1 Miles

Start Time: 0730

Duration: 3 to 4 Hours

Max No of Part: N/A

Last Scouted: Jan 2019

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

	Coordinator	Alternate
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**Required Equipment:** Study hiking boots, 1-2 quarts of water, snacks and/or lunch (especially if you don't plan on joining us for brunch/lunch after the hike at El Encanto in Cave Creek), first aid kit, layered clothing adequate for warmth in the morning that can be peeled off as the day gets warmer, hat and sunscreen

**Recommended Equipment:** Trekking poles, gloves and rain gear if there is a chance for rain. A radio tuned to channel 6 is nice to have to keep track of each other when we get separated due to different paces, frequency of picture taking or just plain ol' lollygagging and enjoying the sights.

**Cautions and Special Preparations:** Typical desert hike with opportunities to encounter critters that bite or sting and plants that poke

**Description:**  
**The Hike** – We will doing the hike as shown on the attached map in a counterclockwise direction. We hope to see a plethora of wild flowers. There are 2 easy water crossings. Starting at the parking lot we will head NE to the entrance where we will pay our \$3.00 per person fee then proceed to the kiosk where there are restrooms. From the kiosk we will head NNW on the Spur Cross Trail to the Tortuga Trail. We will then head generally NW on the Tortuga Trail to the Elephant Mountain Trail. On the Elephant Mountain Trail we will head NW, then W then S to the Spur Cross Trail. On the Spur Cross Trail we will head generally E to the Dragon Fly Trail. On the Dragon Fly Trail we head S to a T just north of Cave Creek. From here we turn left and head E along Cave Creek through the Jewel of the Desert up to the road and back to the parking lot.

**Après-hike** After the hike we can meet at El Encanto at 6248 E Cave Creek Rd in Cave Creek for brunch/lunch. Click on the following link for directions from the trailhead: [Directions from trailhead to El Encanto](#)

Driving Directions: Spur Cross ranch Conservation Area is located approximately 35 miles north of central Phoenix. Interstate 17, State Route 51, and Loop 101 can all be used to reach the park. From the intersection of Carefree Highway and Cave Creek Road head north on Cave Creek Road about 2.5 miles to Spur Cross road.

Turn north for approximately 4.5 miles to the public parking area. After 3 miles the road turns to all-weather graded.

The last 1.5 miles can be confusing; continue north on the graded road past the green house, through the tall gateposts and on past the horse corrals to the ample signed public parking area on the right where there are numerous mounds of dirt. The road is easily passable with low clearance vehicles.

The entrance to the park is a couple of hundred yards up the road, which is blocked to motor vehicles, where you will pay a \$3 fee, per person (15 years and under are free), for entry into the Conservation area. Note: fee of \$3.00 was verified on line 14 Jan 2019.

Make sure you have the correct amount of money since you can only use cash.