



**Saturday  
March 16, 2019**

## Windgate Pass/Bell Pass Loop

Approximately 28 Miles and 1/2 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: Day Hike	Max Rating/Points: 0/1	Elev. Change: 1,900	Length: 9.6 miles
Start Time: 8:00 a.m.	Duration: 5-6 hours	Max No of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: April 2013

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

	Coordinator	Alternate
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Home Phone		
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Required Equipment: water, hat, snacks, radio

Recommended Equipment: sun screen, rain gear, hiking poles

Cautions and Special Preparations:

Description: Challenging loop hike with two passes to climb and steep sections, this 9.6 -mile hike has an elevation gain of 1900 feet that provides exceptional views eastward from the passes. The area east of the passes is little-used and feels remote, plus you will find many different plants at different elevations all along the hike.

The instructions below are for hiking counter clock wise. I would like to do this hike clock wise which would be the reverse of these instructions:  
 Follow the main trail from the parking area east to the Gateway Loop trail. Turn right onto the Gateway Loop and stay on it to the junction with the Bell Pass trail, and go straight onto the Bell Pass trail. Climb over Bell Pass, go past the Prospector trail on the right, and continue on the Bell Pass trail until it ends at the Windgate Pass/Windmill trails. Turn left onto the Windgate Pass trail and follow it over Windgate Pass, past several trails on the right, until it ends at the Gateway Loop trail. Continue straight on the Gateway Loop trail past the Horseshoe trail on the right to the Saguaro trail. Turn right onto the Saguaro trail and follow it westward back to parking area.

If you are interested in a shorter hike, there is also the option to do the Gateway Loop trail which is 4.5 miles.

I'm hoping we will see some good spring time flowers along the trail depending if we have had enough rain during the winter and the weather has been warm.

Driving Directions: The Gateway Trailhead is located off of Thompson Peak Parkway in Scottsdale, AZ.

From Highway 101, exit on Frank Lloyd Wright if you are coming from the south and Princess/Pima Road if you are coming from the north. Go straight at the first light no matter what direction you are

coming from (north or south) until you get to Bell Road. Turn east on Bell and travel 1.65 miles to Thompson Peak Pkwy. Turn north on Thompson Peak Parkway for .55 miles, then right into the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Continue .2 miles into the main lot.