



Saturday March 30, 2019

Granite Mountain Loop Trail

Approximately 40 Miles and 1 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

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|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Type: Day Hike | Max Rating/Points: 3/1 | Elev. Change: 320 | Length: 6.7 miles |
| Start Time: 8:00 a.m. | Duration: 4-5 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: water, hat, radio

Recommended Equipment: sun screen, rain gear (if rain is expected), hiking poles, snacks

Cautions and Special Preparations:

Description: This nice trail is not as rocky as some of the southern trails in the McDowell Mountains as most of the surface is packed dirt. In addition, there is not a lot of elevation gain compared to the rest of the preserve - enjoy some respite here!

This trail travels through typical desert terrain with some large granite boulders and gravel. The day I scouted the hike was a few days after we had rain and everything was very green with lots of grass. A typical desert terrain it really was.

The plan is to take Bootlegger Trail (.7 miles) to Saddlehorn Trail (.2 miles) to Granite Mountain Loop and go counter clock wise on the loop trail. We will return back to the parking lot on Saddlehorn and Bootlegger Trail once we have done the full loop trail. There is a side option to visit Balance Rock which is on the Balance Rock Trail (.3 miles one way) just off of the Granite Mountain Loop trail. The 6.7 miles noted on this notice includes the side trip to Balance Rock and is worth the visit. It will be a good spot for a break and a small snack.

If anyone is interested in a shorter hike, you could visit Balance Rock and return to the parking lot (Bootlegger Trail, to Saddlehorn Trail, To Granite Mountain Loop Trail going clockwise to Balanced Rock Trail). If you did this, it would make the hike 4.4 miles.

Driving Directions: The Granite Mountain trailhead is located at 31402 N. 136th St Scottsdale, AZ 85262. From Highway 101, exit at Princess/Pima Road. Go north on Pima to Dynamite Road and turn right (east bound) to 136th St. On 136th go north to Lone Mountain Road (about 2 or 3 miles from Dynamite) and turn left into the parking area. I did not see the Lone Mountain Road sign when I scouted this hike, but look for some power lines over head and when you see them that is where you turn left into the parking lot. The trailhead area was under construction when I was there in January. They are building bathrooms and improving the parking lot. Drive past the construction and park at the west end of all the work that is being done. There were porta-johns at the trailhead but no water.

