



Saturday March 13, 2021

McDowell Sonoran Preserve-Brown's Ranch Trails

Approximately 34 Miles and 1 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: Day Hike	Max Rating/Points: 3/1	Elev. Change: 200	Length: 5.7-7.8 miles
Start Time: 8:00 AM	Duration: 3-4 hours	Max No of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: 2021

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

	Coordinator	Alternate
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Required Equipment: 1-2 quarts of water, snacks, hat, sunscreen.

Recommended Equipment: Sturdy shoes/boots are always suggested, camera

Cautions and Special Preparations: There is water and restrooms at the trailhead only

Description: This trailhead features interpretive exhibits about the human history of the Preserve and serves as the major access point to the vast network of trails in the area. It provides access to such unique destinations as Granite Mountain, Cholla Mountain, Brown's Mountain, Balancing Rock, and Cathedral Rock. This area was used for ranching from the late 1800s until the mid-1950s. Currently a site for field experiments to determine how best to restore a grazed area, you can find an excellent show of wildflowers in the spring. You can see more by looking for Brown's Ranch Trailhead on Google. There is not much elevation gain on this series of trails. The trails were in excellent condition when I last hike them.

We will hike in a clockwise direction. We will start on the Upper Ranch trail (.7 mi) then the Cone Mt Trail (2.0 mi) then back on the Upper Ranch Trail (1.1 mi) then Brown's Ranch Trail (.2 mi) then Corral Trail (2.3 mi) then Brown's Ranch Trail again back to the starting point (1.3 mi). A shorter option can reduce the mileage to 5.7 miles by taking the Brown's Ranch Trail back to the starting point rather than doing the Corral Trail.

Driving Directions: The Brown's Ranch Trailhead is located in the northern region of the City of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve, approximately 1 ¼ miles north of the intersection of Alma School and Dynamite Boulevard. From Loop 101 in Scottsdale, take the Scottsdale Road exit and head north on Scottsdale Road to Dynamite Road. Turn right (east) and go to Alma School Pkwy, turn left (north) and drive approximately one mile to the trailhead.