

Sun City Festival Hiking Club
HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM

Hike Name: Richinbar Mine, Ghost Town and Indian Ruins

Rating: Easy/Moderate

Location: Just north of Sunset Point Rest Stop on I-17 North, near mile marker 253.

Hike Description: Begin your hike along the dirt road. The Bradshaw Mountains provide your backdrop to the west. In front of you lies the first hiking trail POI - the Richinbar windmill and corral. Continue on an easterly heading along FR9006 about 1 mile until the Agua Fria Canyon comes into view. The dirt road will bend slightly right to the southeast and begin a gentle descent of about 100 feet. As the dirt road comes to a "T-intersection: near the lip of the Agua Fria Canyon, there are multiple pioneer graves on both sides of the road as reported by the "Arizona Pioneer and Cemetery Research Project" (see map).

Follow the south fork of the dirt road and discover some historic period "sherds." Our first shaft is spotted on the west side of the dirt road in an area that appears to have been surface mined (with a reported shaft depth of 500 feet). A few feet further south, an isolated chimney points the route up a small hill top capped with an earthen water tank. This elevated water tank created the water pressure used in the mining operations. From this high point, you can easily spot the stamp mill and Zyke main shaft head frame foundations lying to the northwest. Tailings are everywhere. Large stamp mill elements are clearly visible.

After exploring the central mining operations, retrace your steps along the dirt road heading north towards the petroglyph site. These are easily spotted - just look for the elevated cluster of boulders. Deer and antelope seem to be the subjects for most of this rock art.

Next up is Richinbar Pueblo located on the high ground just west of the Richinbar town site and slightly north of the central mining operations. There is much rock art surrounding the walled area of the pueblo.

Type: In/Out

Trail Names: Richinbar Mine and Pueblo Trails

Length – Miles and Time: 3-3.5 miles round trip (depends on how much exploration of petroglyphs); 2-3 hours

Trailhead Start and End: The trail head is just off I-17 at the Forest Road 9006. You will see a windmill and cattle corral just east of I-17. Parking is at the gate, well off the highway. The road is for rancher and forest service access but the hike is entirely on the Aqua Fria National Monument.

Elevation Change: 100-200 feet

Travel Directions: East on Sun Valley Parkway to Bell Ave. East on Bell Ave to Loop 303 North. Loop 303 North to I-17 North. Take I-17 north to trailhead of east side of I-17 1 mile north of Sunset Point exit (turn off freeway onto dirt road) Forest Service Road 9006

Travel Time: 50-60 minutes **Parking:** At the gate to Forest Service Road 9006