

Sun City Festival Hiking Club

HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM

Hike Name:

Tom's Thumb Trail

Location:

McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Southern Region, North Scottsdale

Hike Description

This is a very beautiful hike through Sedona-like boulders and rocks to the base of a 140 ft granite spire formation called, "Tom's Thumb". The hike is steep with switchbacks and a total of 1,470 feet elevation gain. However, because of the commanding views, rugged scenery and remoteness, you will want to stop at every turn to take it all in! The trail is mostly smooth packed sand and gravel, except for some loose scree and some rocks the last half mile.

Rating:

Moderate- Difficult

Type:

Out and Back

Length – Miles and Time:

5 miles r/t, with an optional additional mile to a viewpoint. About 2.5 hours hiking time

Trailhead Start and End:

Tom Thumb's trailhead parking lot

Elevation Change:

1,470 feet

Travel Directions:

Take Bell Rd. to the 101 north. Drive about 19 miles and take the N. Tatum Blvd. exit. Turn left and head north on Tatum. Turn right at E. Pinnacle Rd. Take next left at N Scottsdale Rd. Take next right onto Happy Valley Rd. Follow road through beautiful neighborhoods and Troon Golf Club houses. You will see signs for Tom's Thumb. Turn right onto Ranch Gate Road. Turn right at stop sign onto N. 128th St. Take this street right to parking area

At main trailhead parking sign, take a left and then an immediate right downhill and head towards giant pagoda and parking lot. Trailhead is just beyond the bathrooms.

Travel Time:

1.5 hours

Parking:

Lots of Free Parking

Rest Rooms:

at Trailhead.