

**Sun City Festival Hiking Club**  
**HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM**

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**Hike Name:** The Go John Trail

**Location:** Cave Creek Regional Park

**Hike Description:** This is the most popular trail in the park for active hikers. It was named after George O. John, owner of the G.O. John mining claim. This trail includes several moderate and several difficult climbs. We'll be hiking counterclockwise to avoid an initial steep climb and instead gains elevation slowly.

Ranging in elevation from 2,000 to 3,160 feet, this desert oasis offers hikers and equestrian's majestic views. This 5.8 mile loop waves up, down and around a beautiful mountainside.

The Go John Trail leads you through a prototypical Sonoran Desert landscape of cholla, brittlebush, and Palo Verde. Craggy hilltops with steep saguaro-studded slopes loom ahead. The views are excellent!

Before long, the trail begins to climb quite steeply in places, giving you sweeping views of the south. It's often a prime spot see wildflowers in the spring. Even without the flowers, the Go John Trail makes a fine hike, giving hikers not only a scenic overview of the upper Sonoran Desert but a real good workout. The Go John Trail trails offer some great elevation rises to offer beautiful views. This is well-marked trail but full of loose rock. For that reason, Hiking Boots and a Hiking Pole are highly recommended. Bring plenty of water, snacks and a camera.

**Rating:** Moderate to Difficult due to the length      **Type:** Loop

**Length – Miles and Time:** 5.8 miles and 3 hours

**Trailhead Start and End:** Tonalite Drive Parking Area Go John Trailhead sign

**Elevation Change:** 800' accumulative 1,200'

**Travel Directions:** Sun Valley Parkway to AZ 303. Left (north) on AZ 303 North. Continue straight for about 23 miles to I-17 North towards Flagstaff. Merge onto 17 N via ramp on the left towards Flagstaff. Turn right onto Carefree Hwy/ AZ 74 E (Exit 223A). Turn right at the light. In about 6.8 miles, you will see a brown Cave Creek Regional Park & Nature Center sign on the right. Just beyond the sign, turn left onto 32nd St. Continue for about 1.5 miles to gatehouse. There is a \$6 per vehicle fee to enter the park. For the Go John Trail, you will pass the equestrian area (Cave Creek Horse Trail rides) and Nature Center. Take your 2nd left to the Hiking Trails (Tonalite Drive). Park and meet at the Go John Trailhead.

**Travel Time:** Approximately 95 miles round trip. 1 and a half hour each way.

**Parking:** Yes

**Rest Rooms:** Yes at nature center