

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

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**Hike Name:** Harquahala Peak Pack Trail.

**Location:** Between milepost 70 & 71 on US Hwy. 60, west of Aguila, AZ.

**Hike Description:** A great hike and a favorite of many back-country hikers. The trail takes you to the 5681' summit of Harquahala Peak, the highest peak in Southwest Arizona. The trail is maintained periodically, but there is a lot of rock stepping and many cat claw bushes line the trail. Long pants are recommended. There are places on the lower section where the trail is hard to follow, but easy to pick up again.

The last portion of the trail from the lower saddle is a leg burner, climbing 1400' in 0.75 miles. A minimum of 3 liters of water are required for a February hike, with more needed in warmer months. At the summit you will see the historic Sun Observatory built by the Smithsonian institute in the early 1900s. There are 360-degree views for hundreds of miles.

Bring a hardy lunch as you will be burning lots of calories. Avoid eating chocolate, power bars, or anything else that could cause a high glycemic response.

**Rating:** Difficult, very strenuous. If you are not in good physical condition, and you have not completed recent strenuous hikes, this hike is NOT recommended. You could place yourself, and those hiking with you, in danger.

**Type:** Out and Back, Up and Down.

**Length – Miles and Time:** 11 miles, 6 to 6/12 hours depending on how long we linger on the summit.

**Trailhead Start and End:** Harquahala Peak Pack Trail 2 miles south of highway 60.

**Elevation Change:** 3,928'.

**Travel Directions:** From SCF drive east on the Sun Valley Parkway to Loop 303, then north on Loop 303 to the US 60 exit, then northwest on US 60 to Wickenburg. At the 60/93 Hassayampa Bridge Roundabout, stay on US 60 through Wickenburg traveling west on US 60 toward Aguila.

On US 60 between mileposts 70 and 71 there is a marked, unlocked gate on the left side of the road. The trailhead is 2 miles up that dirt road which is passable with a two wheel drive vehicle. High clearance is recommended, but not required. However, if there have been recent heavy monsoon rains, it may be difficult to pass along the dirt road to the trailhead.

**Travel Time:** 2 hours and 88 miles.

**Parking:** Yes, for approximately 6 vehicles with more spaces along the road.

**Rest Rooms:** Yes, at the trailhead.