

Sun City Festival Hiking Club
HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM

Hike Name: White Tanks Mesquite/Willow Canyons Loop Hike

Location: White Tank Mountains Regional Park

Hike Description: The hike begins on the Mesquite Canyon Trail and slowly climbs for about a half mile until reaching some switchbacks. Once the switchbacks are mastered, the hike continues level at times as well as ascending other times. The views of the valley and canyons are exhilarating. At approximately 2.75 miles the hike joins the 1.6 mile Willow Canyon Trail. After hiking roughly a mile, the Willow Springs grotto is reached. The grotto is easily missed. You know you are in the right area, when you see some stones on the right that were the foundation of a sheep herder's house. The grotto is located on the left by taking a sort walk past a broken down gate. This is a very pleasant spot to stop and rest, have lunch and enjoy watching the humming birds and natural fauna. After the grotto the trail continues for 0.6 miles and rejoins the Mesquite trail for the return to the trailhead.

Rating: Moderate to Difficult - strenuous with some switchbacks on 1st mile of Mesquite Canyon Trail. The rest of the hike on the Willow Canyons Trail is moderate.

Type: Loop for the long Mesquite and Willow Canyon trails hike, in and out for the short Mesquite (only) trail.

Trail Names: Mesquite and Willow Canyons Trails

Length – Miles and Time: 8.3 miles at 5.5 hours (including optional picnic at Willow Springs) for the long loop hike or 3.6 miles at 2 hours for the short in and out Mesquite Trail only hike.

Trailhead Start and End: Mesquite Canyon Trail

Elevation Change: Approximately 1,200'

Travel Directions: Take the Sun Valley Parkway (east) to Cotton Lane, turn right (south) onto Cotton Lane. Follow Cotton Lane to Olive and turn right onto Olive traveling west to the White Tanks Regional Park entrance. Drive straight following the White Tank Mountain Road to Waterfall Canyon Road on the left. Turn left on to Waterfall Canyon Road and go to 2nd set of Ramadas (Area 7). Turn left on to Ramada Way to parking lot for Mesquite Canyon Trail.

Travel Time: Approximately 24 miles at 45 minutes.

Parking: Yes plenty

Rest Rooms: Yes