

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

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**Hike Name:** Peralta Trail – Terrapin Loop

**Location:** Superstition Mountains near Gold Canyon, AZ

**Hike Description:** The following description of this hike is from an Arizona hiking guide:

“A popular loop hike around Weavers Needle from Peralta trailhead. The direction of this loop is up the Bluff Springs Trail for 2 miles. Take the Terrapin Trail north through Needle Canyon on the east side of Weavers Needle for 2.9 miles. Crossover on the Dutchman (1.1 miles) to the Peralta Trail ( 6.2 miles ) and bring it home.

The whole loop is a rollercoaster ride with two minor ascents to note. First comes the immediate haul up the Bluff Spring Trail. I prefer to take this loop counterclockwise as stated above. On warmer days you get a shady return down Peralta Canyon. If you go clockwise and first head out on the Peralta Trail, you will encounter a minor ascent on the north end of the Terrapin Trail.

The trail on the south end of Black Top Mesa used to be called Needle Cutoff Trail. Now it's just a section of the Dutchman Trail. Old topographical maps are incorrect near the Peralta / Dutchman junction. The trail on the old topos appears to cut straight down and back up East Boulder Canyon (this canyon runs between Black Top Mesa & Palomino Mtn). Now the trail takes a gentler approach. It zigs zags down and back up so it's not as strenuous.”

**Rating:** Difficult, strenuous primarily due to the long length

**Type:** Loop

**Trail Names:** Bluff Springs Trail 2 miles, Terrapin Trail 2.9 miles, Dutchman Trail 1.1 miles, Peralta Trail 6.2 miles

**Length – Miles and Time:** 12 miles total, 6+ hours

**Trailhead Start and End:** Peralta Trailhead   **Travel Time:** 1 hr. 45 minutes

**Travel Directions:** Travel Directions: The trailhead is 91 miles from SCF. Follow I-10 east to US60. Follow US60 east to Peralta Road (just east of mile marker 204). Turn left on Peralta Road and follow it 7.5 miles to the trailhead parking lot. NOTE: This road turns into a graded dirt road after 1 mile. The road is well maintained and should be suitable for passenger cars.

**Parking:** Adequate parking at trailhead

**Rest Rooms:** At the trail head but no water