

Sun City Festival Hiking Club
HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM

Hike Name: Vulture Peak Trail

Location: Vulture Peak Trailhead Wickenburg

Hike Description: Vulture Peak Trail is a short but steep trail that takes hikers from the base of the trail (2,480') to a saddle (3,420') just below the summit (3,660') in only two miles. From the saddle, experienced hikers need to scramble up an extremely steep and narrow chute to the summit of Vulture Peak itself (3,660'). Vulture Peak Trail meanders through classic Sonoran Desert landscapes including dense stands of saguaro, ocotillo, cholla, and other cactus varieties. It crosses desert washes and offers dramatic scenic vistas on rugged desert mountain ranges and valleys in all directions.

Part 1, the hike starts with an easy hike for 1.4 miles (one way) to the upper trailhead. Part 2 is moderate to difficult for 0.6 miles (one way) and includes bolder hoping up to the saddle. Once on the saddle, the views are spectacular. Part 3 is the final 240' ascent is not maintained and should be attempted only by experienced and well-conditioned hikers.

Rating: Easy to Moderate to Difficult – strenuous **Type:** In and Out

Trail Name(s): Vulture Peak Trail

Length – Miles and Time: 4.2 miles round trip; 3 to 4 hours

Trailhead Start and End: Vulture Peak Access Trail from parking area

Elevation Change: Estimated to be 1,180'. From the beginning of the trail at 2,480' to the saddle 3,420 is 940' in less than 2 miles. From the saddle 2,480' to the summit 3,660' is 240'.

Travel Directions: Travel Sun valley Parkway east to Rt. 303 north to Hwy 60 to Wickenburg. Continue driving north on Hwy 60 past the 60/93 rotary. Drive approximately 2.5 miles to South Vulture Mine Road. Turn left (south) on to South Vulture Mine Road and travel approximately 7 miles to Vulture Peak Access Trail on the left, between mile markers #19 and #20. Travel 0.4 miles on the dirt road to the trail head. All mileages are estimates.

Travel Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Parking: Yes

Rest Rooms: Yes