

Sun City Festival Hiking Club
HIKE DESCRIPTION FORM

Hike Name: Blue Wash to Camp Creek Water Falls Hike

Hike Leader(s): Jim Monachino

Location: Tonto National Forest a few miles north of Cave Creek, Az

Hike Description: This is an easy-moderate hike down the Blue Wash to Camp Creek waterfall.

Camp Creek and Blue Wash are part of the Verde River watershed and both eventually drain into Bartlett Reservoir on the Verde River north of where it merges with the Salt River.

The hike passes through an impressive corridor of massive boulders where the trail is somewhat tricky to follow. A horse bypass route avoids a section of the hike where some minor down-climbing is required.

Past the stone corridor and obstacles, the trail follows the sandy course of Blue Wash to the 1.1-mile point where the drainage of Camp Creek comes in from the north (left). To visit the cascading waterfall, head left and hike 0.28-miles to the stone grotto that shelters Camp Creek Falls.

Camp Creek is a spring-fed waterway that flows year-round, but is best a few days after storms and during spring snowmelt season.

Some hikers like to climb to the top of the grotto, but be aware that there are pockets of private property north of the falls. Please do not trespass.

In/out hike is 3.0 miles long

Hike Date:

Assembly and Departure Time: Arrive at Sage Center Parking lot by 7:15 am for check-in, driving directions and arranging carpooling as possible. Depart SCF at 7:30 am.

Rating: Easy-Moderate

Type: In and out hike

Trail Names: Blue Wash Trail to Camp Creek

Length – Miles and Time: 3 mile round trip, in and out. Approx. 2.5 hours total

Trailhead Start and End: Blue Wash Trail Head to Camp Creek Riverbed to Camp Creek Falls, and, back

Elevation Change: 400 feet

Entrance Fee: None

Report Date/Author: 11-9-2023, Jim Monachino

Website: <https://www.phoenixmag.com/2021/02/19/hiking-guide-to-camp-creek-falls-blue-wash-trail-near-cave-creek/>

Cell Phone Coverage: Verizon

GPS Coordinates, if known: Trailhead: 33.87696924177261, -111.81697772902658

Travel Directions:

Take Sun Valley Pkwy to AZ-303 Loop and go north to I-17 North. Take I-17 North to W. Carefree Highway (Exit 223A) and exit to the right. Head right (East) on W Carefree Highway to N Tom Darlington Drive and follow left (North) onto Tom Darlington Drive. Turn right (East) on E Stagecoach Pass. Turn left (North) on Mule Trail Rd. Turn Right (East) on E Cave Creek Rd. Continue on E Cave Creek Rd and then continue North East/East onto N Cave Creek Rd. Continue on N Cave Creek Rd 2.3 miles to Blue Wash Trail Head parking area on the right. 43168 42800 N Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Travel Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Parking: Yes, free

Rest Rooms: No

Water: No

Emergency Contact Phone Number: 623-853-3287 Jim Monachino Cell

Restaurant & address (optional): Horny Toad Restaurant Cave Creek
6738 East Cave Creek Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
(480) 488-9542