



Name Of Trail Loop: City Creek – Red Hills Loop

Passage and Location: Red Hills Passage 24; west of Payson

Length Of Loop Trail: 20.1 miles

Loop Trail Description: Cross the road from the parking area heading up the City Creek drainage on the Mazatzal Divide (23) Trail. The trail climbs for 6.1 miles until reaching the Arizona Trail/Red Hills (262) Trail. Turn right/west onto the north bound Arizona /Red Hills Trail which was cleared of downed logs and brush in 2010. The Arizona Trail continues for 11.0 miles to the LF Ranch Road. The Red Hills Trail does continue southeast when the Arizona Trail turns right/northwest. The Arizona Trail is the same as the Brush (249) Trail and then becomes Bull Spring (34) Trail. When the trail meets FR 406 there are two options, each about 3 miles.

- One option is to continue east almost to the East Verde River and follow a trail east until it meets FR406 and shortly thereafter, the wilderness boundary and Doll Baby Ranch Trailhead. From there it's a little more than one mile to City Creek Trailhead.
- The other option, especially if there is high water in the East Verde, is to turn right/south taking the FS406 road east and wind around with a 912' elevation gain/loss for approximately 5 miles to the City Creek Trailhead.

Recommended Seasons Of Use: All year. Snow can be present after winter storms at higher elevation and it can be hot at lower elevation in summer.

Elevation Start: 3427'

Elevation Gain/Loss: 5689' if returning on road
4910' if returning up the East Verde River

Access Point: In the town of Payson, drive west 2.0 miles on Main Street, which turns into Country Club Drive. At the end of Country Club Drive, continue on the dirt FR406 (which may require a 4-wheel drive after a heavy rain). It is dirt for less than a mile then it is paved for about 8 miles to City Creek Trailhead.

Water: Seasonal seeps along the Red Hills Trail after about a mile for a half mile and purportedly at Bullfrog Spring. The East Verde River is a reliable source of water. For up to date details on water sources please visit the Arizona Trail Water sources at <https://aztrail.org/explore/water-sources/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/> which has user comments about the status of water sources.

For specific turn by turn information on the Arizona Trail visit the Arizona Trail databook <https://aztrail.org/explore/databooks/> and even use the Arizona Trail App <https://aztrail.org/explore/maps/mobile-app/>

Additional Sources:

Grubbs, Bruce. 2000. Hiking Arizona's Superstitions and Mazatzal Country #45.

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