



Name Of Trail Loop: Twin Buttes, East Verde, White Rock Mesa Loop

Passage And Location: White Rock Mesa Passage 25; southwest of Strawberry

Length Of Loop Trail: 33.4 miles

Loop Trail Description: From the parking area, head southwest on the Verde River Trail (11) which is a two-track jeep road until almost Bull Tank. Use navigation aids – compass/map or gps/map – to stay on the Verde River Trail. In almost 10 miles the trail reaches the Verde River. The map shows a trail meeting the East Verde River in about a mile. Continue on the trail until having to swim thru a large pool. From here, for the next 12.6 miles east, there is basically no trail, but it is easy to follow the East Verde up river, swimming thru 2 or 3 more pools. Just north of the LF Ranch the Arizona/Saddle Ridge Trail (14) crosses the East Verde heading uphill. Polk Spring is about 0.6 miles up the trail and White Rock Spring is another 3.2 miles. If vegetation is high, the trail may be difficult to follow; look for small, white rock cairns along the way. Continue for another 7.4 miles to FR194. Turn left/west, reaching Twin Buttes trailhead in less than a mile. (Once about a third mile past Saddle Ridge Pasture Tank it is possible to go cross country to the trailhead.)

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

Elevation Start: 5744'

Elevation Gain/Loss: 3766'

Access Point: From the town of Strawberry turn west onto Fossil Creek Road (FR708) and continue through the town following the road for about 2.9 miles. Turn left (south) onto FR428 (dirt road) for three-fourths of a mile, then turn right onto FR194. Follow FR194 for about 4.3 miles to the AZT signage (the last 1.2 miles are also used for the trail). Continue on FR194 for another mile to the Twin Buttes trailhead/end of road.

Water: There may be seasonal water in the various tanks on the Verde River and Arizona/Saddle Ridge Trail, but probably murky if present. The Verde and East Verde will have water. Rock Creek at the East Verde should have water. Polk Spring and White Rock Spring are reliable. 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.

Notes/Warnings: Good map/compass and/or gps skills recommended for trail sections of this loop. The pools in the East Verde may be deep, so some flotation device is necessary, such as an air mattress. It is suggested to try floating the backpack on the flotation device prior to swimming in the East Verde River pools. Bikers could float their bikes. Some horses might be able to swim thru the pools. 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/>

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