



Name of Trail Loop: Flagstaff--Walnut Canyon--Schultz Pass Loop

Passage and location: Walnut Canyon, Elden Mountain, Flagstaff, and San Francisco Peaks - Passages 31, 32, 33, and 34

Length of loop trail: 42.2 miles

Loop trail description: From Buffalo Park the Arizona Trail, Urban/Resupply route, is on the east side of the entrance to Buffalo Park. In fact, there is a Memorial for Dale Shewalter, the “Father of the Arizona Trail”, who passed away in 2010 which is just northeast of this entrance. Head south using the bridge over Cedar Ave and continuing southeast then south along the eastern edge of McMillan Mesa the trail loops west then descends down to Route 66 for 1.7 miles. Cross Route 66 following a concrete Flagstaff Urban Trail on the west side of Ponderosa Parkway then tunnels underneath Butler Ave. Head right/west along Butler Road and then left onto Babbitt Road. At the end of Babbitt, take the service road under the freeway. After crossing underneath the freeway, go past the holding ponds of the Rio de Flag then continue on the Arizona Trail going southeast. Head on to Fisher Point trail junction at 4.6 miles from Route 66. Turn east/right then around the point before going uphill with a couple of switchbacks. Continue for another 9.5 miles reaching the road to Walnut Canyon National Monument. If you would like to check out the monument take a right and travel 0.7 miles. It is another 2+ miles before the Arizona Trail goes under the I-40 freeway lanes. In 5.3 miles is Picture Canyon, a Natural and Cultural Preserve with riparian areas and Petroglyphs. It is another 1.7 miles to the US 89 underpass. After a half mile you can turn right/east to arrive at Sandy Seep TH. Continue on the Sandy Seep Trail/Arizona Trail northwest for 1.3 miles then right onto the Little Eden Trail. Schultz Pass & Road is reached in 5.1 miles. Cross the road north using the Weatherford Trail for just 0.1 mile. Continue on the Arizona Trail for another 2.8 miles reaching the junction with the Arizona Trail Urban/Resupply route. Head downhill (to the left) and coming to Schultz Pass Road again. Go downhill just a bit to then go left down another hill and take a right to head south. Follow the trail 2.9 miles. Take a left/east to stay on the Arizona Trail Urban/Resupply route for another 2 miles. Cross Mount Elden Lookout Road for another 1.6 miles. Cross the Pipeline and continue south for another mile back to Buffalo Park.

Recommended seasons of use: Spring, Summer, Fall

Elevation Start: 7123’

Elevation Gain/Loss: ~3594’

Access point: There are multiple starting points, all within the City of Flagstaff: Buffalo Park Trailhead; south of US 89 along the various streets; or at the Sandy Seep Trailhead. Alternatively, one could start at the Schultz Pass Trailhead.

Water: Various sources in Flagstaff. There are two visible wildlife tanks left of trail at 3.7 and 6.4 miles after joining the Arizona Trail at the Fisher Point trail junction. When the Walnut Canyon National Monument is open, water is available at the visitor center about a mile south of the trail. A convenience store is about a mile west of Sandy Seep Trailhead on US 89. Little Eden Spring is about 200’ left of the trail at the base of a cliff, 10.9 miles after crossing I-40, or about 3.4 miles after joining the Sandy Seep Trail. Schultz Tank and Schultz Creek sometimes have water; other times they are dry.

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: 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/> Follow Passage 33 backwards from north to south, reversing directions of left and right turns.

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