

Cochise Stronghold Trail #279, AZ

Print Full | Basic
Jump to Directions

Hike ◆ 33 Triplogs Mine 0 2 Forum Topics

Rated 4.4 by 8

Statistics

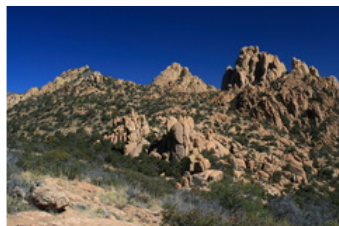
- Difficulty: 3 Route Finding: 2
- Distance **Round Trip**: 9.5 miles
- Trailhead Elevation: 4900 feet
- Elevation Gain: 1100 feet
- Avg Time **Round Trip**: 4 hours
- HAZ Quasi: 15 Kokopelli

Author fricknalexy

Descriptions 91
Routes 48
Photos 2,465
Trips 515 [map](#) (3,551 Miles)
Age 35 Gender ♂
Location Tucson, AZ



HAZ Member Photos



- | | | |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2011-03-23 | Preston Sands |
| 3 | 2011-02-16 | Preston Sands |
| 5 | 2010-11-27 | Booneman |
| 9 | 2010-11-20 | AZWaterRat |
| 20 | 2010-10-31 | Hikergirl81 |
| 22 | 2010-10-30 | juliachaos |
| 8 | 2010-03-07 | Preston Sands |
| 38 | 2010-01-17 | tibber |
| 15 | 2009-12-14 | Hikergirl81 |
| 6 | 2009-09-19 | Hikergirl81 |
| 9 | 2009-01-10 | writelots |
| 6 | 2008-12-24 | Preston Sands |

Page 1, 2

Photosets Rated Viewed

left) and follow up the wash for a while longer. The flora here is cool, with manzanita/juniper/small pines growing alongside yucca/agave and prickly pear. Also there is a huge amount of beargrass lining the way. Eventually the trail swings right and heads out of the wash (which is never that far away as you'll see). As you climb up more the trail takes on more of a cross country feel and becomes more rocky. The trail is pretty easy to follow, anytime you lose it just look for well placed cairns and remember that you are always heading west. At about 2 miles you come to Half-Moon Tank on your right, where some ducks gave me a salutary honk. The trail climbs up a bit more then opens up and becomes absolutely awesome. Boulder-laced mountains fall away into the distance, many with massive bald domes of rock. This part of the walk is incredible. At about 3 miles you come to the Stronghold Divide. You can turn around or head down to the other access point on the west side.

I recommed hiking down because the views down the western canyon are superior

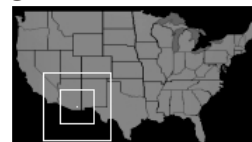
Salutary honk
by fricknalexy

The Dragoon Mountains in southeast arizona are a great mid-altitude range, and are pretty easy to get to. The Cochise Stronghold Trail is one of my favorites in this area. It's a nice combo of distance, difficulty (the elevation gain is only about 1100 feet - but you climb up the divide each way so double it up), and uniquely awesome scenery. It reminds me of Joshua Tree in some ways. Apparently it's where Cochise often held up, and somewhere up in the mountains is where he's buried.

Take off from the campground on the east side of the divide - there is also a western approach but it's 4-WD. There is a signed takeoff for the Cochise Trail. It actually begins from a short nature trail. Start by crossing a bridge and immediately coming to a fork (the nature trail is a loop). Take quick left and follow for a couple minutes to a sign pointing you off to the left again. Again follow for just a couple minutes and a horse trail joins from your left and together (as the sign says) you take a right. Now you are off...

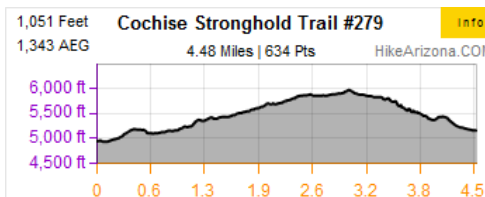
Immediately the scenery is awesome and all around, huge boulder-laced mountains. You start to slowly climb along a wash for about a half-mile before coming to a hiker's gate. Pass through and continue your ascent, which is very pleasant. Just short of a mile you come to a kind of clearing, with some the floor of some sort of really old structure still left in the ground. Hang a right here (there appears to be a more faint trail to your

Douglas



Large Profile
Forecast
Historical Weather
Radar

Forest **Coronado**
Backpack - Yes



GPS Routes		
2010-03-07	Preston Sands	634 Points 4.48 mi 1,343 ft
2011-03-23	Preston Sands	241 Points 4.1 mi 791 ft
2007-07-06	BrettVet	94 Points 9.79 mi 0 ft

No Springs 0.5 mi Near Official Route
[View nearest options](#)

Nearby	Hikes	Springs
Direct Air Miles Away to Trailhead		
0.2	• Cochise Stronghold / Bastion Towers	
0.2	• Cochise Stronghold / Cochise Dome	
0.2	• Cochise Stronghold / Hurt Butt Buttress	
0.2	• Cochise Stronghold / Stronghold Dome	
[View More!]		[View Springs!]

Culture
 Power Plant - Dam

Fauna

and the western side actually does have a bit of a different feel to it. It is steeper though. The hike down is straightforward as it switchbacks down the canyon. The views to your right are always tremendous. After about 1.75 miles you ultimately end back at ground level at the western trailhead - which looks to be pretty remote.

Turn around and start your climb all over. The way back is tougher as you regain all the elevation in a little more than half the distance, but it's not that bad. The views are straight ahead the whole way and that's pretty good incentive.

- Apr 26 2005 [fricknaley](#)

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- Burrowing Owl
- Desert Cottontail
- Gopher Snake
- Heron
- Rainbow Grasshopper
- Sonoran Lyresnake
- Tarantula
- Wasp

Flora

- Banana Yucca
- Bear grass
- Evergreen Sumac
- Green Flower Pincushion
- Schott's Agave
- Turpentine Brush

Preferred Months

Water/Source:

Preferred Start Time: 8 AM

Cell Phone Signal:

Road/Vehicle: FR / Dirt Road / Gravel - Car Okay

Fees/Permit:

Special Use

There is a \$5.00 per vehicle trailhead parking fee at Cochise Stronghold Campground.

Wish List **9** On the Wish List

Public

Private

Sunrise 6:14am

Sunset 6:37pm

Mapped Driving: from **Deer Valley**

or type starting address

-
-
-
-



Directions to hike: Head east out of Tucson on I-10 East to exit number 331 for 191 South to Sunsites. It's about 17 miles or so on 191 South. Look for a brown sign telling you to turn right on Ironwood road. Take this paved to gravel road until it ends at the Cochise Campground. The last bit of the road may be a little rough, but the ol' Taurus made it no problem. National Parks pass with golden eagle sticker appears to be accepted in lieu of fee.

[\[Update Directions\]](#) [\[Update Permit\]](#)

WARNING! Hiking and outdoor related sports can be dangerous. Be responsible and prepare for the trip. Study the area you are entering and plan accordingly. Dress for the current and unexpected weather changes. Take plenty of water. Never go alone. Make an itinerary with your plan(s), route(s), destination(s) and expected return time. Give your itinerary to trusted family and/or friends.



gpsjoe

- [Missing 141 days - View Details](#)
- Forecast [Mormon Grove TH](#), [Peeley TH](#)
- Southern Ravines Map .gpx
- Searched Routes as of Feb 4th 10PM
 - [44 Full](#) | [29 Sheep Ridge](#)
- Search areas to consider [A-F](#), [G-J](#)

Valley of the Sun hikes, now in Season!

- Piestewa Preserve Hikes [Map](#) | [TrailDEX List](#)
- South Mountain Hikes [Map](#) | [TrailDEX List](#)
- Superstition Hikes [FLASH Map](#) | [TrailDEX List](#)
- White Tank Hikes [Map](#) | [TrailDEX List](#)

In season!



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- [2011-04-09](#) [1, 0, 1] [Cooper Camp Loop 4-9-2011](#)
- [2011-04-17](#) [2, 1, 0] [AZT-Sycamore Trail segments Sunday Apr. 17](#)
- [2011-04-23](#) [1, 0, 0] [Wilderness and Remote First Aid Training \(Certifie](#)
- [2011-05-22](#) [3, 3, 1] [Collins Spring to Kane Gulch - May 22-26, 2011](#)
- [2011-08-10](#) [1, 1, 0] [Chilkoot Trail - August](#)

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