

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

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HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

PINE CREEK LOOP TRAIL 280

RANGER DISTRICTS

Mesa Ranger Station
5140 E. Ingram Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

TRAILHEAD (TH)

Ballantine TH: From Mesa, drive up State Highway 87 for approximately 25 miles. The TH is on the right side, back from the highway.

TERMINI

Beginning and ending at: 2240 feet elevation

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Moderate

Trail difficulty: Easiest

Trail length: 3 miles

Season Of Use: Spring - fall

USGS maps: Boulder Mountain

Elevation change: 440 feet

TRAIL NARRATIVE

From Ballantine Trailhead (TH), the southern leg of the loop climbs to 2800 feet. The Pine Creek Trail drops toward the junction with Ballantine Trail 283. Care should be taken because the tread is decomposed granite and you can easily lose your footing. At the junction with the Ballantine Trail 283, Pine Creek Trail almost doubles back onto itself and begins to descend. The trail parallels Pine Creek for a substantial distance on the way back to the TH.

ATTRACTIONS

- This great loop trail passes through Sonoran Desert vegetation and into pockets of semi-desert grasslands.
- Pine Creek runs seasonally through landscapes of mesquite and cottonwoods.
- There are some interesting trailside sandstone rock formations.
- An abundance of wild flowers can be viewed on springtime trips.
- There are nice mountain views at the east end of the loop.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.
- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics including: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- During summer months, it is recommended that this trail be used in early morning hours.
- Care should be used on all parts of this trail; however, particularly strict attention should be paid on the southern portion of the loop because of steep grades and loose decomposed granite.
- Hikers, yield the right of way to all livestock

