

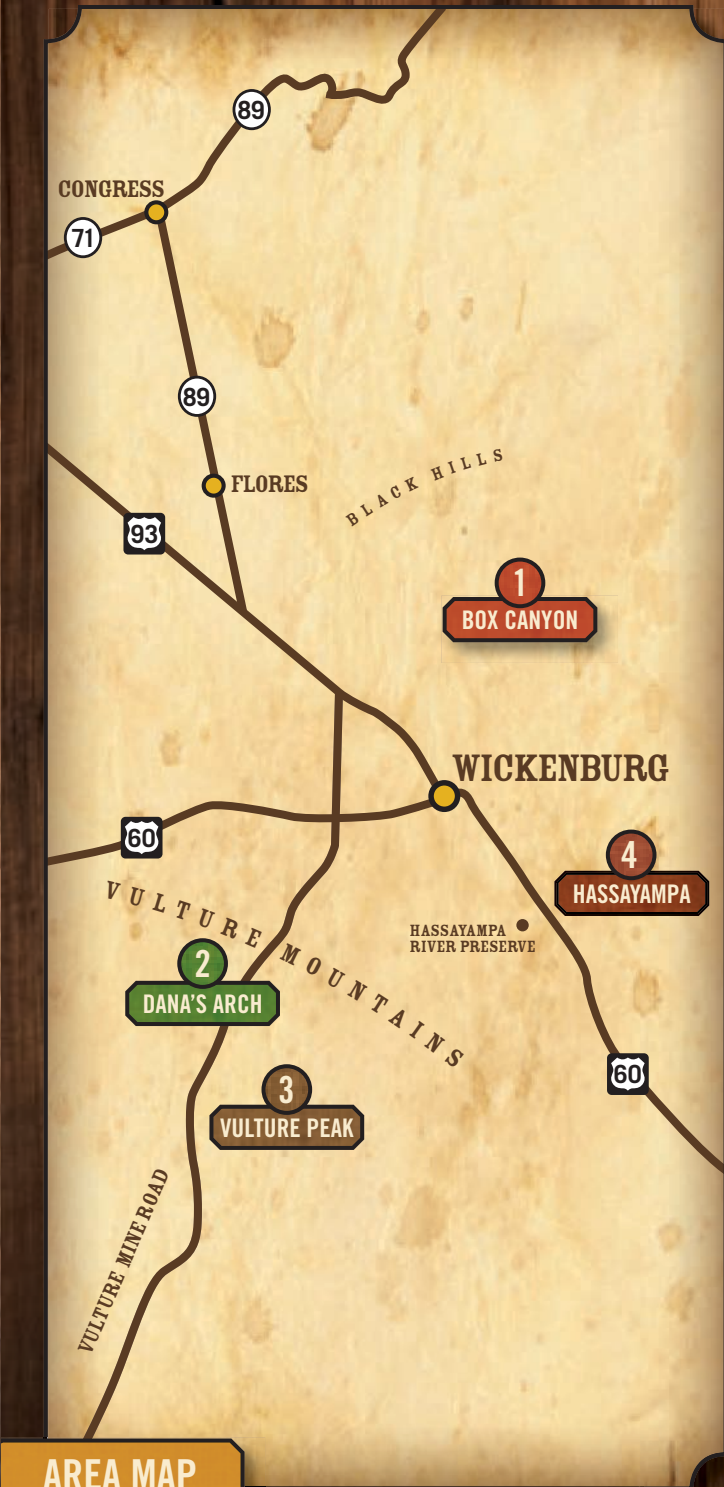
BOX CANYON ROUTE #1



DANA'S ARCH ROUTE #2



VULTURE PEAK ROUTE #3



AREA MAP

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WICKENBURG

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO HIKING



SAFETY TIPS FOR TRAVELING IN THE DESERT

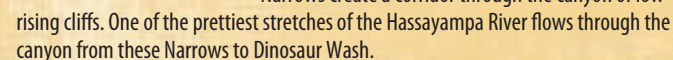
- Always carry enough water (a gallon in warm weather). If you feel thirsty, you are already dehydrated.
- Include electrolyte mixes in your liquid intake.
- Wear a hat.
- Apply sunscreen on exposed areas of skin.
- From May through August, plan to finish your hike or ride by 10 a.m.
- Rattlesnakes, Gila monsters, and coral snakes are poisonous. To avoid getting bitten do not handle them, look where you put your hands and feet, be extra vigilant in rocky areas and off routes, and use a walking stick.
- Do not travel on roads during wet weather, and anticipate water in normally dry washes after wet weather.
- If you travel alone in the backcountry, leave information about where you plan to explore and the time you plan to return with someone reliable.
- Bring basic repair tools for your vehicle when you go into backcountry and a first aid kit in the vehicle or on your person when you hike or ride.

LEAVE NO TRACE PROGRAM

The following points, introduced in the 1970s by the US Forest Service, help keep public lands less impacted and your experience on them safe.

1. Plan ahead and prepare. Always check the geography and weather before you start a route.
2. Dispose of waste properly. Whatever you take into the backcountry, carry it out. Bury all human waste.
3. Leave what you find. Do not remove historical and/or ancient artifacts.
4. Be considerate of other visitors. Don't trespass on private property, and leave gates the way you found them (open or closed).
5. Respect wildlife. Give animals a wide berth, don't move quickly, and keep quiet. Keep your peripheral vision open and tuned for movement.

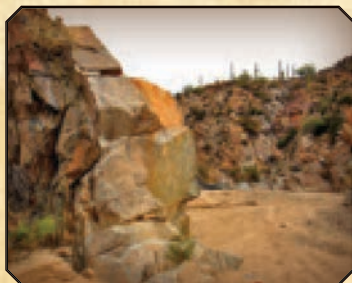
ROUTE #1



Take the eroded road down into the river canyon. At the river, mile 0.2, you can turn upriver (left) to the Narrows, or downstream (right); this route turns right. Depending on the time of year and amount of rain the area has received, the river will generally be a ribbon of a stream with a satin flow interrupted now and again by riffles. A riparian growth of mostly willow trees with some cottonwood and velvet ash trees lines the banks, offering a bit of shade in the warmer weather and rich gold color in November.

At about mile 0.5, you come to The Box, a short side canyon on the right. Your clue is a bench, and walk up the three-sided canyon called a box canyon. The canyon ends at a chute where water pours into the box canyons, then flows through it down to the Hassayampa.

From The Box, you can continue downstream to Dinosaur Wash and Mistake Mine at mile 0.9 or return the way you came. On your return, you can add another mile roundtrip to your trip by continuing past the road out to the parking area to the Hassayampa's other Narrows where the cliffs narrow to about 20 feet. It's a short, but unique stretch of the legendary river.



DIRECTIONS

<i>Distance One-way</i>	0.5 to 1.4 miles
<i>Trail Rating</i>	Easy, suitable for hiking, 4-wheel drive, horseback
<i>Elevation</i>	2,280-2,240 feet
<i>Contact</i>	Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office 623-580-5500

Points of Interest	Hassayampa River, geology, birding, autumn color
Considerations	Watch for quiksand along the banks.
Directions	Go 4.6 miles north on US 93 to unpaved, but graded, Scenic Loop Road (milepost 195), and turn right (north); go 7 miles and turn right (east) where a BLM sign warns, "No Dumping." Go 0.1 miles and park.

Maps Sam Powell Peak

ROUTE #2

Dana Burden, for whom the destination arch in this hike is named, led tours on the Navajo Nation, the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, and the White Mountains, but he loved his Wickenburg.

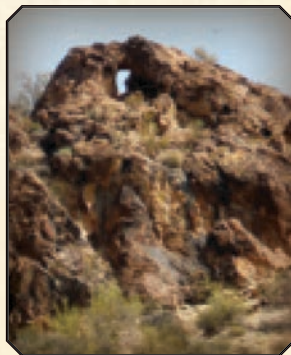
The first half of the route involves a mile-long trail that leads to Dana's Arch; the second half takes you on an adventurous drop into a narrow wash via a dryfall that winds another mile to the Renegade Mine.

Start the hike on the old mining road that drops in and out of the wash located west of the parking area. Once out of the wash, walk about 100 yards to a trail to the left of the road marked by two large cairns. This trail will take you to Dana's Arch.

At about mile 0.5, when the trail tops out on a low-rising saddle, walk another 25 feet and watch for a cairn where the trail forks. This hike veers left.

With the wash running parallel to the trail on the right and a volcanic ridgeline to the left, the trail enters a particularly scenic stretch. Signs of volcanism run high here, with rocks riddled with vesicles (gas bubbles) or filled with quartz lying among the cover of brittle basalt on the trail. At a waist-high calm, about mile 0.8, drift with the trail down to the wash and pick your way through the choke of canyon ragweed, taking the route of least resistance. Most importantly, keep an eye on that eastern volcanic ridge where you'll see Dana's Arch. The arch makes a good turnaround point for a shorter, easier hike. If you plan to continue to Renegade Mine, you should have a topographic map and GPS.

The route scrambles into the wash down a multilayered dry fall and simply follows the wash. Inside the wash's narrow, sinuous confines, you get an excellent look at how the force of water rearranges the desert landscape. At about mile 1.7, a distinctive knob-topped ridge appears, the walls of the wash start to decrease and you may see rusted relics of the Renegade Mine days. Exit the wash in another .1 mile, head south about 10 yards to the road that leads up to the mine, and turn left (east). The mine never produced anything but a place for a handful of renegades to live. Climb up the ridge if you want some far-reaching views, otherwise return the way you came.



DIRECTIONS

<i>Distance One-way</i>	1 to 2 miles
<i>Trail Rating</i>	Moderate
<i>Elevation</i>	2,622-3,000 feet
<i>Contact</i>	Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office 623-580-5500

Points of Interest	Geology, spring wildflowers
Considerations	Segments of the trail have colonies of cholla cacti that drop needle-covered segments on the rail
Directions	Go west on US 60 to Vulture Mine Road, turn left (south) go 4.2 miles to just past milepost 22. Turn right (west) go 0.2 miles and veer left at a fork; go 0.4 miles and veer right, heading toward Twin Peaks. Go 0.2 miles to parking area.

<i>Maps</i>	Vulture Peak Quadrangle
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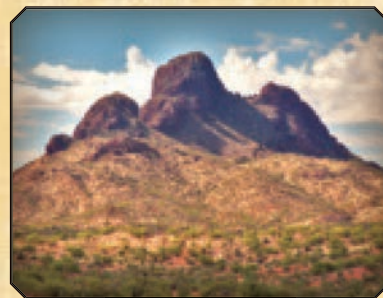
ROUTE #3

You can view some of western Arizona's best panoramas from the top of Vulture Peak, but you have to work for them. The first 1.3 miles follow a pleasant course across the hilly desert floor. The last 0.7-mile starts a non-stop burn up 700 feet to a saddle where the maintained trail ends. The final 240 feet of hand-over-foot climbing boosts you up a chute to the top of the peak. Bill Bass, who followed in the footsteps of his namesake father, built this trail in the 1950s. Even if you don't want to hike the trail, you can stroll a tenth of a mile to a bench that affords an extraordinary view of Vulture Peak – especially at sunset when the peak becomes particularly photoogenic.

At about mile 0.7, the trail heads into a crevice that fills with wildflowers after a wet winter, such as Coulter's lupine, bladderpod, Mexican goldpoppies, and mustard evening primrose. After the path bends southward and drops gradually to the wash, signage will guide you into the wash, where the trail travels briefly, and then comes back out. Once the trail leaves the wash, about mile 1, it heads toward the upper trailhead located at the end of a 4-wheel drive road (2,703 feet).

As the route climbs up the peak, it takes on an austere demeanor picking through a rocky surface and high-stepping boulders. The trail becomes more demanding toward its end onto a saddle between Vulture Peak and its jagged shoulder called Sawtooth. If you suffer from vertigo or don't feel up to the challenge to conquer the peak, return the way you came.

The 240-foot non-maintained path that climbs atop the peak starts out on a steep, rubbly grade that evolves into a hand-over-foot climb and ends with a



shimmy up a chute. When you get to the upper trailhead, you can continue on the non-motorized trail to your vehicle or return on the 4-wheel drive road back to the trailhead in about the same distance, but with a different perspective. Either way gives views even Bill Bass would want to memorialize by camera.

DIRECTIONS

<i>Distance One-way</i>	2 miles
<i>Trail Rating</i>	Easy to difficult
<i>Elevation</i>	2,480-3,420 at 3,660 feet
<i>Contact</i>	Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office 623-580-5500

Points of Interest:	Geology; raptors; spring wildflowers
Considerations	This non-motorized trail allows only foot and horse traffic
Directions	Drive west on U.S. 60 to Vulture Mine Road and turn left (south). Drive about 6.4 miles to the signed trailhead turnout (between mileposts 20 and 19), and turn left (east). Drive 0.5 miles to the lower trailhead. 4-wheel drive vehicles can proceed about a mile to the upper trailhead (2,703 feet) on a difficult track that requires experience.

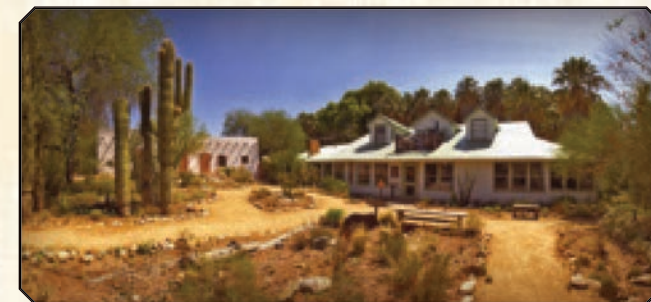
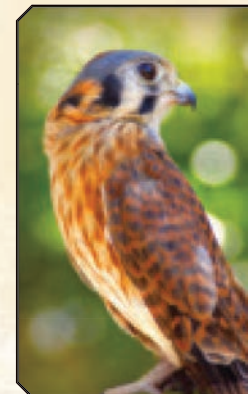
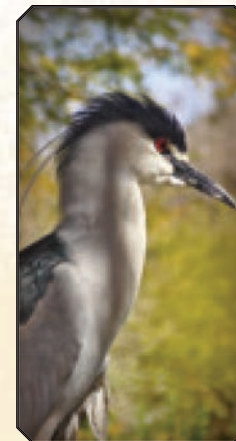
<i>Maps</i>	Vulture Peak Quadrangle
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ROUTE #4

You can peruse the preserve on the network of six trails winding around almost 700 acres. The popular half-mile Palm Lake Loop takes you to its namesake spring-fed marshy pond, a harbor for waterfowl. The Willow Walkway travels a tenth of a mile into a quiet niche off the Palm Lake Loop for an up-close look at the north side of Palm Lake. From the kiosk, take the 0.65 mile-long Mesquite Meander to the half-mile Lions Trail that crosses the river. Or head out on the half-mile River Ramble to Lykes Lookout, a quarter-mile climb to the preserve's high point.

All of the trails give you a chance to admire the Gooding willow and Fremont cottonwood forest

that makes this riverside land so special and important. This forest, one of a dwindling few in the state, provides food and shelter for 280 species of resident and migrant birds. Watch for some of Arizona's rarest raptors (zone-tailed hawk, black hawk, and Harris hawk); as well as javelin, grey fox, coyote, ringtail, and raccoon.



DIRECTIONS

<i>Distance One-way</i>	0.5 to 0.9 mile
<i>Trail Rating</i>	Easy to Moderate
<i>Elevation</i>	2,000-2,080 feet
<i>Contact</i>	The Nature Conservancy, 928-684-2772
<i>Points of Interest</i>	Hassayampa River; birding; watchable wildlife
<i>Considerations</i>	Pets are not allowed in the preserve. An entry fee of \$5 per person required (Conservancy members: \$3. Children under 12: Free). Open: Mid Sept - Mid May, Wed-Sun, 8am-5pm. Summer hours: Mid May- Mid Sept, Fri-Sun, 7am-11am.
<i>Directions</i>	Go south on US 60 about 3.5 miles, and turn right (south) at the signed entrance near milepost 114.
<i>Maps</i>	Current trail map included with entry fee.