# Gateway Trailhead

**SOUTHERN REGION TRAILS**

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**PLAN YOUR ROUTE**

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**EMERGENCY MARKERS**

These markers are posted throughout the Preserve and labeled on the map. Reference the nearest marker to assist emergency personnel in identifying your location.

**TRAIL SEGMENTS**

Trail segments are divided between emergency markers and labeled with the length in miles. Add the segments together to determine the total length of your route.

**ELEVATION ABOVE SEA LEVEL**

Use these labels to understand the elevation change (gain or loss) between trail segments and determine the level of difficulty you will experience along the trail.

**MARICOPA TRAIL**

This 315 mile trail loops the Phoenix Metro area and links nine of Maricopa County’s Regional Parks. For more info please visit: Maricopa.gov/parks/MaricopaTrail.

*For more information, go to ScottsdaleAZ.gov and search ‘Preserve’*

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**REMEMBER TO BRING**

- Water
- Hiking shoes
- Map
- Sunscreen
- Phone
- Hat

*Bring ample water for YOU AND your dog. When your water is half gone, turn around.

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**TRAIL GUIDELINES**

- Yield to horses. Sudden movements or loud noises could startle them.
- Bicyclists and trail runners should travel at safe speeds and yield to all others. Slow down and announce your approach.
- Motorized vehicles, including electric bicycles, are prohibited.
- Please be courteous and share the trail. When in doubt, give others the right of way.
- Protect the Preserve. Stay on the trail, avoid wet or muddy trails and do not disturb or remove plants, rocks or animals.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Please pick up after your dog. There is no Poop Fairy.

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**HOURS**

The Preserve is open only during daylight hours. Nighttime use is reserved for the wildlife.

**GATEWAY TRAILHEAD**

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**EASIEST & ACCESSIBLE Hike**

**BAJADA NATURE TRAIL LOOP**

This ADA accessible trail features a firm and stable walkway ideal for families with young children, strollers, wheelchair or walkers. As the trail winds across the bajada, interpretive exhibits reveal fascinating stories of the plants and animals. It’s the perfect introduction to the Sonoran Desert!

**Round Trip:** 0.45 to 0.7 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 30 minutes

**Elevation Change:** 43 feet

**EASY ROUTE**

**SAGUARO LOOP TRAIL**

This trail keeps you close to the Gateway Trailhead, while also providing a great view of the surrounding area. The loop climbs ever-so-gently on the mountain slope, giving you wonderful western views.

**Round Trip:** 1.1 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 30 minutes

**Elevation Change:** 125 feet

**EASY TO MODERATE ROUTE**

**DESERT PARK TRAIL/HORSESHOE TRAIL LOOP**

Preferred by users not wanting to climb much elevation. Sturdy footwear is recommended for the short up and down as the trail traverses several dry desert washes. Keep a keen eye for desert mule deer nearby. Bikers and equestrians will find this route very rocky and should plan accordingly.

**Round Trip:** 1.7 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 1 hour

**Elevation Change:** 101 feet

**MODERATE ROUTE**

**GATEWAY LOOP TRAIL**

Being immersed in the serenity of the Sonoran Desert while providing a great fitness opportunity makes this one of the most popular trails in the Preserve. The Gateway Saddle is the high point of the route with views across Scottsdale and Phoenix to distant mountains. Bikers and equestrians will find this route very rocky and should plan accordingly.

**Round Trip:** 4.5 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 2 hours

**Elevation Change:** 655 feet

**DIFFICULT ROUTE**

**BELL PASS TRAIL TO BELL PASS**

This challenging venture offers stellar views only recommended for experienced and well-prepared users. The Gateway Loop trail starts out mellow but becomes more strenuous. The valley walls narrow, and the trail steepens as you ascend towards Bell Pass. A breathtaking view opens to the east of the Verde River Valley to the Mazatzal Mountains (pronounced Ma-tu-ZEL) with Four Peaks dominating the skyline. During the cooler months you may be treated to a view of snow-capped peaks.

**Round Trip:** 7.0 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 3 hours

**Elevation Change:** 1484 feet

**DIFFICULT ROUTE**

**WINDGATE PASS TRAIL TO WINDGATE PASS**

This strenuous uphill route to the saddle is rewarded with spectacular views including Four Peaks and the Superstition Mountains. The first 1.5 miles are often crowded with hikers, numbers decrease along WIndgate Pass. Take a break at Inspiration Point (WIP) before continuing on to the saddle (WIP). Bikers and equestrians will find this route very rocky with some steep sections. Recommended for most experienced and well prepared users only.

**Round Trip:** 7.6 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 3 hours

**Elevation Change:** 1311 feet

**VERY DIFFICULT ROUTE**

**WINDGATE PASS AND BELL PASS LOOP**

Stunning desert terrain, spectacular mountain and valley views, and a great workout are your rewards for tackling this calorie-crunching adventure known for its steep inclines and rugged stretches. Recommended for the most experienced and well prepared users only.

**Round Trip:** 9.6 miles

**Estimated Hike Time:** 4 hours

**Elevation Change:** 1400 feet

*Calculated on hiking pace of 2 to 3 MPH.*