

## • LAKE HAVASU HIKES

- The desert can be dangerous if you are not careful!
- This is only a general guide, not meant to be specific.

Revised by Steve Eskenazi , 3/25/10

### Remember:

- Never go alone!
- Be aware of snakes, don't disturb them
- Tell a responsible person where you are going and the latest you expect to be back.
- Wear good, thick-soled, sturdy shoes
- Wear a hat, use sunscreen
- Take plenty of water!
- Leave it cleaner than before!

### ENJOY!

HOURS: Approx. roundtrip time

CODES:

**H** – Suitable for wheel chairs

**A** – Easy-mostly gravel wash trail

**B** – Some hills

**C** – Climbing hills & dry waterfalls involved

**D** – Most difficult, with long steep slopes

- **4 mile walk.** On the island, start at McCulloch Blvd and Beachcomber Blvd. Circle the island counterclockwise on the paved walkway. 1.5 hours, code H
- **Shoreline Walk. (low water levels).** On the island, start at Crazy Horse campground. Turn left just before entrance station. Drive to end of pavement and park. Walk on dirt road down to the lake and go west along the shore to the lighthouses in the distance. 2 hours, code A
- **Shoreline Walks.** Start under the bridge at the English Village. Walk north along the shore past the lighthouse into Windsor Beach State Park. Continue on the nature walk all the way to the park entrance. 2 hours, code A  
Start under the bridge and walk south on the concrete walk to the far end of Rotary Park. 1.5 hours, code H.
- **Chemehuevi Wash.** Go south on HWY 95 to Acoma Blvd. turn right and go to the end of the road. Walk down the wash until tree growth blocks progress. Find the trail on either the left or right banks and follow it up and out to the picnic tables, toilets, and beaches at Wren Cove and Bluebird Cove, respectively. 2 hours, code A
- **Mockingbird Wash.** Start at the end of Powell Dr or Oro Grande Blvd and walk down the wash. If greenery blocks you, follow the trail up the right bank around to the lake campsite at Solitude Cove. 2 hours, code A
- **Mallard Cove/Teal Pt.** Start at the end of Powell Dr and walk down the wash until you reach a really huge rock in the middle of it. Turn right into another wash and follow it to a jeep road up a very steep hill. Turn left at the top of the hill and follow the rim out to the Mallard and Teal campsites. Return all the way back on the rim trail until it goes down a burro trail on the right side back into the wash near your starting point. 3 hours, code C
- **Crack-in-the-Mountain.** Go south on HWY 95 to McCulloch Blvd (mp 177). Turn right into SARA PARK and go ¾ mile to the trailhead on the right. Go through the gate and follow either trail (yellow or red) down to the canyon, which narrows to an arms width, tumbling down a series of dry falls through the crack. Except for a seven-foot dry fall, you can, with care, readily negotiate the drops. The seven-footer is smooth and can be slid down, like in a playground. It is possible to climb back up on the rocks alongside the waterfall. NOTE: ( After a rain, water may block your passage.) The crack widens just before mp 1.4. Those not wishing to walk the additional mile to the lake can ascend the right bank on a trail which climbs to the upper route (blue trail) for the return. Otherwise, continue down the wash. When blocked by greenery, go up the trail on the right (blue), then cut left on the spur to the green trail over to the campsite at Balanced Rock cove (2.5 miles). The return is usually made all the way back on the upper route which meets the yellow and red trails. 3 hours, code C
- **Red Rock Grotto.** Start as in **Crack-in-the-Mountain** above and walk down into the wash (yellow trail). Shortly after the .4 mile marker is a dark round rock, 5 ft. in diameter, on the left, and a bushy Palo Verde tree on the right. Turn right at the tree and follow the trail into the Grotto. Continue past the grotto upstream in the wash, bearing right, up and around a small dry waterfall. When the wash turns left, turn right onto a trail which quickly forks. Take the left fork that curves around the ridge and continue **past** the right turn down a wash until a trail cuts right, going up and over a ridge back to the parking area. 1 hour, code B
- **Lookout Point.** Start as in **Red Rock Grotto** above, but when the wash turns left, continues on until the trail forks. Take the left fork. It is all uphill from here to the base of the ridge and then left to the top of the saddle. Return as in Red Rock Grotto above. ( There are alternate routes to and from this trail ) 3 hours, code D

- **Picnic Table mountain.** Start as in **Crack-in-the-Mountain** above and walk down into the wash (yellow trail). About 60 ft. past the entrance to Red Rock Grotto (see above) is a big rock on the right. Behind the rock is a trail which leads up the mountain to a saddle. There is one difficult section which involves climbing up over a couple of ledges. At the saddle, go left up a steep trail to the picnic table above (elev. 1370 ft.). Return down the switchbacks on the other side of the table, cross over a low rock wall, and continue left down the mountain on the main trail until it forks. The left fork goes down the hill to the yellow trail not far from where you started up. 3 hours, code D  
The right fork follows the ridge down to the blue trail where you can head out to the lake campsite at Balanced Rock cove. See **Crack-in-the-mountain** above. 5 hours, code D
- **Pilot Rock.** Go south on HWY 95 to McCulloch. Turn right. Go to the small parking area across from the Desert Hawks entrance road. Follow the trail from there, which drops into SARA CANYON wash on the left. At about 100 yards before joining the Crack wash, near the old fencepost, a trail climbs over the left ridge. Follow the trail until you end up in a large wash. Cross the wash and continue up the trail on the other side until it meets a jeep trail. Turn right and follow jeep trail to Pilot Rock Campsite on the lake. Go **right** when the trail forks near a tree. The return can also be made all the way back in the wash. Look for the burro trail leaving the jeep trail on the left and heading down into the Grand wash. Walk upstream until you cross the ridge trail where you entered this wash (at big mountain), then exit the wash left and return the way you came. 5 hours, code C
- **Arch Rock Loop.** Start as in **Pilot Rock** above but continue through the crack. Around mp 1.4, a burro trail ascends the left bank. Go over the mound and follow the trail towards the arch. When near two rock outcroppings on the left, leave the trail and walk between them up to and into the rear of the arch. GREAT VIEWS! Come down from the arch towards the right. Walk between the two big rocks and past the large boulder to a burro trail which crosses one mound, then another, and then turns left heading out over a ridge and then descends steeply on the right side down into the Grand wash. Walk upstream just past big mountain where the ridge trail crosses the wash. Exit left on the ridge trail back to SARA CANYON and then right to the parking area. 3 hours, code C
- **Goose Bay.** Start at either parking area in SARA PARK and walk through the crack (or bypass it on the blue trail) until shortly before mp 2 in the wash (yellow trail). Find the trail up the ridge on the left and go over and down a saddle to a small wash. Go right in the wash. Walk until blocked by greenery. Find the trail up the left bank and go up the ridge to a flat area. Turn right, down to the campsite on the lake. Return same way. 5 hours, code C
- **Jurassic Cove.** Start as in **Pilot Rock** above. On entering the Grand wash, turn right and follow it all the way down until blocked by greenery. Under low water conditions, you may be able to beat and crawl your way through the trees and brush on the left side out to the waters edge of this hidden scenic steep-walled cove. There are no facilities or campsites here, at the keyhole, or at lizardtail below. 4 hours, code C
- **Keyhole Landing.** Start as in **Pilot Rock** above but go **left** on the jeep trail when it forks near the tree. Follow the trail to the end, past an old mining area, where it goes over a small hill and drops down into Red Canyon wash. Turn right in the wash to a small beach on the lake. Directly across is Havasu Palms. 5 hours, code C  
( You can get down into this wash at the point where you first got on the jeep trail and make this a loop hike.)
- **Lizardtail Cove.** Start as in **Pilot Rock** above but turn **left** on the jeep trail and quickly take the bypass trail on the right up to the top of a small hill, where another trail branches right and heads straight out towards Shiprock Mountain. When the Shiprock trail starts veering to the left side of the mountain, another trail branches to the right leading over and down into a wash. Follow the wash until it abruptly goes down a series of steep falls into Black Canyon. There is a bypass on the left side providing an alternative down. Go right in the canyon through a mini-crack and continue on until blocked by greenery. A trail up the left bank continues down lizardtail cove. Stop for lunch by a comfortable rock and return the way you came. Long Hike. Scenic. 5 hours, code C
- **Standard Wash.** Drive south on HWY 95 to around mp 173, about 4 miles out of town. Off to the right is an electrical substation. Park at the entrance road near the gate and walk to it. Behind the substation, walk south in the wash (parallel to the highway), until it turns right, heading towards the lake. A large 12 ft high dry waterfall can be climbed down on the right side or slid down on the left. Be sure you can get back up on the return trip. ( There is a **not** very well-defined bypass trail up and around this area on the north side; retreat about 100 yards and look for it, if needed.) When near the lake, go up the left bank at its lowest point on a burro trail (behind a bushy tree) and follow it along the rim and down to the lake and campsite. 4 hours, code C  
(You can also drive another ½ mile and park off road on the east side. Follow the wash downstream from near a culvert until it meets the wash listed above. Be sure to mark every possible wrong turn for the return trip.)
- **Water Tank (AZ Game & Fish).** Start as in **Standard Wash** above but from behind the substation; go right, up a small hill, on a dirt road which soon forks. Turn left and follow the road around into the foothills, turning right over a low saddle, and down into a long valley. Continue as it curves left around the scenic rocks and goes over a small hill directly in front of Shiprock Mountain. The structure can be seen directly ahead. 3 hours, Code B  
(This can also be reached by staying left on the Shiprock trail in **Lizardtail Cove** above, but is a longer hike).

- **White cliffs.** Continue with **Water Tank** above. After the road curves around the scenic rocks, it drops into a wash, which, in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr, and a short detour up a dirt road on the right through the "car" wash, winds its way to the white cliffs and the canyon overlook. Stop for lunch. Return same way. Long Hike. Scenic. 5 hours, code C  
Note: If you have time ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr each way), retreat up the right bank to a trail down into the canyon to the lake.
- **Three Dunes.** About 7 miles south of town on HWY. 95 is a rest area on the west side of the road (mp 170). Park there and work your way down into the wash to your left. The wash narrows as it enters the rocks heading towards the lake. The right bank takes you over to the campsites and picnic tables. 4 hours, code C
- **Dead Burro Canyon.** Go north on HWY 95 past the airport. Start at mp 192 at the dirt road on the west side of the highway. Park off-highway a little further up. Walk past the hills on the left (about a mile), then head right on another dirt road to the top of the left bank of a wide deep wash. Cross the wash on jeep roads (on right or left), or go directly across. A very noticeable jeep road exits the wash on the other side. Follow the trail toward the lake on the mesa and off the end of it. Shortly turn right towards the canyon (gap in mountain) and go up the right bank until just below the top of the big dry waterfall. Stop here. Explore. Return. 3 hours, code C  
Or, carefully walk around the edge of the canyon bank and along a ledge to the top of the waterfall. Continue on the rocks atop the right bank and along the wall until it drops into the wash. A burro trail on the other side is an alternate route. Either way, continue up the wash, climbing up several difficult waterfalls, until it widens, and near the back, splits right and left. Take the wash on the right up to a saddle overlooking a valley. Use burro trails when possible. Go down into the valley and follow the wash downstream (to the right). Watch for the radio towers and exit the wash (steep jeep road on left) towards them and back to the highway. 5 hours, code D
- **Bat Cave.** Go north on HWY. 95 to Chenoweth Drive (by LOWES). Go to the first street (Victoria Farms road). Turn left. Turn right by RV PARK (same road) and go to end of pavement and park. Go cross-country north (left) to the foothills to the right of a rocky peak, passing a dirt road and a grave marker along the way. Enter the wash to the right of the peak and the bat cave will be about 100 yards into the small wash on the left. 2 hours, code B
- **Window Rock.** Start at the east end of Window Rock Drive. Go left through the second gate and park in the wide area on the right. Respect private property! Walk down the road and cut right on the jeep road around to the east side of the mountain. Climb up the steep hill to the window. When back down, walk east (toward mountains) until another dirt road merges on your left. Cut right over a few ridges to a medium size wash. Turn right. The wash comes out near Lakeview Rd. Go up the hill on your right back to your car. 2 hours, code C
- **Pittsburg Mines (filled in).** Drive north on Cherry Tree Blvd to the new housing complex. Turn right on Tierra Vista and left on Vista del Sol to a culvert just past Corte Cabrillo. Enter the wash at the culvert and go upstream to the electrical tower in the distance. A dirt road continues due east from the tower. Shortly after crossing a dirt road along the foothills, look left for a trail up a small hill to the mines area. Explore! 3 hours, code B

**CAUTION: THE FOLLOWING HIKES REQUIRE DRIVING ON ROCKY DIRT ROADS WHICH REQUIRE A HIGH CLEARANCE 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE. BE CAREFUL!**

- 1 **Crossman Peak.** Drive out Bison Blvd 1.3 miles past the end of the pavement to a flat area near the concrete base of an old water tank (elev. 1985 ft.). Turn left and go down the hill into the wash. Follow the main dirt road until it forks just before the road seems to run into a small mountain (2.8 miles). Take the **left** fork for another 2 miles until it ends at the base of a **very steep** cut-in hillside road (elev. 3275 ft.). Park your vehicle and walk up the road. Go around the gate and hike up to the radio towers (1.5 hours). Turn right and follow the trail behind the ridge (another  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour) until you can go no higher (elev. 5100 ft.). The lake is 450 ft. 5 hours, code D
- 2 **Bison Falls.** Same as above except take the 3rd **right** fork off the main dirt road just before the road seems to run into a small mountain (2.8 miles). Continue about a mile to the falls (3.7 miles from the end of Bison Blvd.) Use 4-wheel drive vehicle. Walk to the top of the waterfall on either side (elev. 2720 ft.). 3 hours, code C  
Note: An easier, alternate route into the wash is to drive 1.2 miles on pink rock road which starts at the north end of Paso de Oro drive (off Bison Blvd.). Mileage is the same.
- 3 **Iron Door Mine.** Start at the top of **Bison Falls** (above) and walk to the end of the road. Turn left in the wash and just past a man-made rock structure and an old well, follow the trail up the right bank. The trail is long, uphill, and steep, and ends at the mine, which looks like a grey ledge in the mountain. The mine is single level, solid rock, and safe. Bring a good flashlight. You can go in about 600 ft. 4 hours, code D
- 4 **W.W. II B-25 Bomber Engine.** Start at the top of **Bison Falls** (above) and follow the road into a wide valley. Look for a small side road on the left, which soon curves and runs almost parallel to the main road. Go about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile until it crosses a fairly big wash (big dip in road). Go left up the wash about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. The engine is a 14 cylinder radial at the bottom of the wash, next to a very large saguaro. 4 hours, code C  
Note: Around the fifth peak (higher, pointier, darker) in the valley is the bomber wreck site, a steep climb up a side wash marked by a lone saguaro on the left, about halfway up the hill, if you can find it! 4 hours, code D