

Peralta Trail

DISTANCE: 5 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1400 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Out & Back

THE HIKE

About 2 minutes into the hike you can't even see the parking lot anymore. No matter which direction you look all you are surrounded by is cacti and never-ending mountains. It was so surreal, and you become completely filled with the sense of being in the wilderness. You do snap back to reality rather quickly though due to how popular this trail is. Even though you pass by quite a few hikers along the way, I never felt overcrowded while we were there.

This is definitely a rocky trek. So even though all you're going to want to do the entire hike is look at the incredible scenery surrounding you, please watch your step! Once you're about 1 mile in you will start to feel the incline. Once you get to the top the views are unreal. I would be perfectly content spending an entire day just sitting up there gazing out. Straight ahead of you is Weaver's Needle, and oh my is it beautiful! And if you look to the right of the Needle, there is an adorable little lone tree on a hill. (A fellow hiker told us about a trail you can take over to it and how it offers a different view of Weaver's Needle. Sadly, we didn't have time to check it out, but next time I will for sure!) Eventually, we had to leave this dreamy spot and head back down. It took us about three in a half hours to make it up and back, and that includes a billion stops for pictures and a picnic up at the top. (Which I highly recommend doing.)

GETTING THERE

Once you turn onto Peralta Road from highway 60, drive until you reach a dirt road. You'll take that for about 6.5 miles until you reach the parking lot. We took our jeep just to be on the safe side since we didn't know how the condition of the dirt road would be. But I can confidently say that any car could handle it! It's a little bumpy, but well maintained. There's a good-sized parking lot at the trailhead, and there's also an overflow parking lot you pass on the way. You might need to use this since this is a very high trafficked area.

HIKING TIPS

Tips Bring plenty of water! Hydrate or die-drate. Pack a lunch to eat at the top. Who doesn't love food and killer views?? Pack it in, pack it out! You know the drill!! Dogs are allowed on leashes. This is a moderate trail though, so ask your pup if they're actually up for it. This trail is on the rocky side! Make sure you wear proper footwear! There is a bathroom at the trailhead, use it before you head out!

