

Arizona / SE

Slavin Gulch - Dragoon Mountains

DISTANCE: 7 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 1400 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Out & Back

This is a fun hike on an overcast, breezy day. It's an exposed hike for the first three miles, but gets shaded by oaks and manzanitas in the last mile to the ore chute 3.7 miles up the trail. The views to the west are impressive. The trail starts out level the first 1.2 miles, but once you step over the low-lying cattle fence, the climb begins. Watering holes to the north (left) of the trail follow you for three miles; stop and explore them and the hoodoos! This makes a fun hike even if the watering holes are as far as you go. if you want to explore the Abril mine, a better way there is via Soren Pass off Middlemarch Road.

The trail head is down several dirt roads, so it can be a little confusing at first if you aren't using GPS. Google maps does mark it accurately, however. Like other users had said, this trail can be closer to 7-8 miles depending on how far up the mine trailings you're willing to adventure. We left at dawn and stayed cool for most of the hike. We only ran into two other hikers and it was very beautiful! It does get a little treacherous if you decide to go beyond the first signs of Abril Mine.

Great hike, lots of water crossings after the past couple of storms. Perfect for dog to play in the water and cool down. Was a little over 7 miles to get to the mine site and back. Patches of snow at the bottom and north slopes had several inches. Would definitely do again if back in the area, but don't think it would be very hospitable in the summer

Such a great hike! After the first mile, and right before you start the ascent, there's some barb wire across the trail with a sign that says "Please keep gate closed." We questioned if we were headed the right way, but continued over the fence. It was correct. The hoodoos are awesome. The water is running in the creek and makes for a few small waterfalls. The views at the top of the canyon are phenomenal. We had the whole place to ourselves!

