

Texas / Big Bend NP

Emory Peak

DISTANCE: 12-13 miles

ELEVATION GAIN: 2700 feet

ROUTE TYPE: Out & Back / Loop

Climbed to Emory Peak via the Pinnacles Trail on 21 Nov 2019. Steady uphill climb but the switchbacks provide relief. Amazing views of Casa Grande and surrounding valley going up. Scrambled up the left side then the right, not for the faint of heart but the top provides the best view of the entire park. Less than .25 from the trailhead coming down we ran into bear coming up the trail, snapped a few photos then yelled and the bear left the trail and quietly skirted around to our right, great experience!

Great Hike! Strenuous is correct. The first 3 miles up pinnacles was pretty brutal. I carried 5L of water and drank it all. Carry snacks and be prepared for the climate to change significantly while you hike. The GPX file didn't download correctly and I didn't check it before we left. The GPX I got only got us to the split from Pinnacles to Emory peak. Definitely take advantage of the bear boxes and stash your pack before you hike to Emory. The squirrels at the peak will tear you pack up to get your snacks in the 10 minutes it takes you to climb the scramble to the peak if you leave the pack unattended. We did the scramble on the left. It's a little lower than the peak on the right, but the view was still amazing. I loved this hike and would definitely do it again.

alrighty. this was my first major hiking trip ever and i did this loop by myself. i am from the midwest and had very little. concept of what a desert hike is like. it was BEAUTIFUL . however, i ran out of water after Emory Peak. thankfully I ran into some good people who could spare some. there are some amazing views along the meadow trail. i started at sunrise and it took me 6 hours because i sat for like 30 minutes at emory peak and took a few breaks in between. this is bear country. be sure to bring a loud whistle or something noisy to scare them away especially if you are hiking by yourself. if i do this again, i would do this trail backwards -chisos basin trail;emory;pinnacles;longmeadow. having to hike through the basin at the end was hell but my perspective would probably be different if i was properly hydrated. it is a beautiful trek. bring way more water than you think and always prepare

