

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

PROSPECTOR'S TRAIL 57

RANGER DISTRICTS

Mesa Ranger Station
5140 E. Ingram Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

TRAILHEAD (TH)

Lost Dutchman: Drive east from Phoenix on U.S. Highway 60. At Exit 196, drive north 1 mile on Idaho Road to State Highway 88. Turn right on Hwy. 88; and drive approximately 3 miles to the entry of the Lost Dutchman State Park (entrance fees are charged). The trailhead is a parking lot near the east side of the park (either at the Cholla or Saguaro day-use areas). Trails accessed: Treasure Loop 56, Jacob's Trail 58.

TERMINI

West end: (2,180 feet elevation): at Siphon Draw Trail 53

Southeast end: (2,540 feet elevation): at Treasure Loop Trail 56

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Moderate
Trail difficulty: Easiest
Trail length: 0.7 miles
Season Of Use: Spring - fall
USGS maps: Goldfield
Elevation change: 360 feet

FEES

Lost Dutchman State Park requires an entry fee. For further information: (480) 982-4485

TRAIL NARRATIVE

From the campground at Lost Dutchman State Park, take Siphon Draw Trail 53 for about ½ mile to the junction with Prospector's Trail 57 and turn left. The Prospector's Trail continues up the western slope of the Superstition Mountains to the trail's end at Treasure Loop Trail 56.

ATTRACTIONS

- The trail climbs easily up the western slopes of the Superstition Mountains. This affords wonderful vistas of the valley below, as well as the extraordinary rock formations above.
- The vegetation along the lower part of the trail is mostly brittlebush, grasses and forbs. As the trail climbs toward the cliffs, taller vegetation is found such as Saguaro Cactus and Palo Verde.
- Combining this trail with a part of the Siphon Draw Trail 53 can make an outstanding three-mile loop: the Discovery Trail (a short connecting trail between the day-use area and the campground at Lost Dutchman State Park) and a leg of the Treasure Loop Trail 56.
- The trail has two benches for resting and enjoying the views.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Do not drink untreated water.
- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics including: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Livestock and bicycles are restricted to the lower part of the trail (portion below its junction with Jacob's Crosscut Trail 58).