

TRAIL HEAD DIRECTIONS

Distance: Prescott to TH is 6.9 miles, all blacktop.

Drive east on Gurley Street from Courthouse Square to junction of US 89 and AZ 69. Go left (north) on US 89, then drive 5.8 miles to the Phippen Museum.

- The entrance to the museum is on the right (east).
- The parking area for the Constellation trails is the first wide spot on the right (before museum).
- The trail goes southwest from the parking area.
- Hike the loop counter clockwise

Total loop hike is 2.2 miles (easy to moderate)

TH elevation is 5000 feet, high point is 5240 feet.

Description: This loop trail winds up and down through the boulders that form the eastern boundary of the Granite Dells. It has some short steep segments over the ancient granite. There is little shade except the pretty copse of pinyon, juniper and emory oak near the start and finish. Avoid taking a dead-end side trail -- look for dead brush, tree limbs, lines of blocking rocks. Follow the white dots when walking on the granite. Don't rush this wonderful hike but stop often to admire the fantastic views and the shapes carved over time by wind and weather. Take a camera, see how many balanced rocks you can spot!

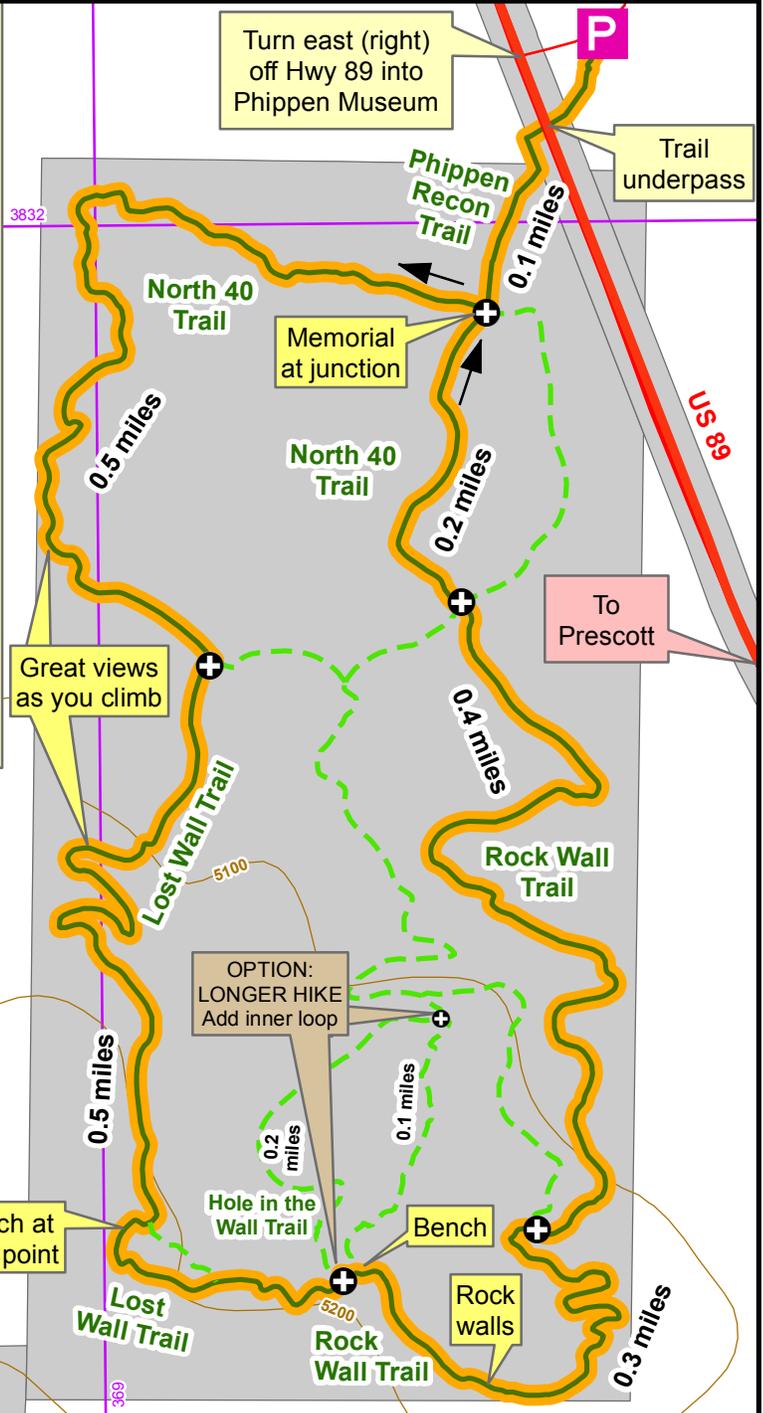
- Stop at the benches, relax and enjoy the views!

HISTORIC NOTES

In February 1959, a military plane flying out of California crashed for unknown reasons on the west side of AZ 89 killing all five men on board. The plane was a Lockheed Constellation, hence the name of this trail system. In October 2011, a memorial was erected to record this tragedy. By memorial, see assorted wreckage from crash.

Farther along the trail, look for a rock wall on both sides of the trail in a rough circle (see map). This crude corral was probably built by shepherds a century ago to protect their flock overnight.

For City map of Constellation Trail System, go to:
cityofprescott.net/_d/trails/constellation_trails_map.pdf



1. Constellation

ROADS

- Surfaced Roads
- Dirt Roads

TRAILS

- SPREE Trail Route
- Spree Motorized
- Other trails
- Old Forest Road

LAND USE 5

- Private Land
- City Owned Land
- State Trust Land

Trail Point/Junction
 (with approx. mileages between points/junctions)

Purple grids are for GPS (UTM NAD83)

Scale is 1:5,000

Yavapai County assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, and/or inaccuracies in this mapping product. NJER Revised 08/27/13



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