

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 new roundabout by the Phippen Museum.

- Go three quarters of the way on roundabout and turn right into parking lot.

- The trail goes south from the parking area.

- Hike the "loop" counter clockwise

Total loop hike is 3.4 miles (moderate)

TH elevation is 5000 feet, high point is 5200 feet.

Description: This meandering loop winds up and down through the boulders that form the eastern boundary of the Granite Dells. It has some short steep segments on the ancient granite. There is little shade except the pretty copse of pinyon, juniper and emory oak along North 40 at start. 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. Use the signs with maps to help find your way.

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!

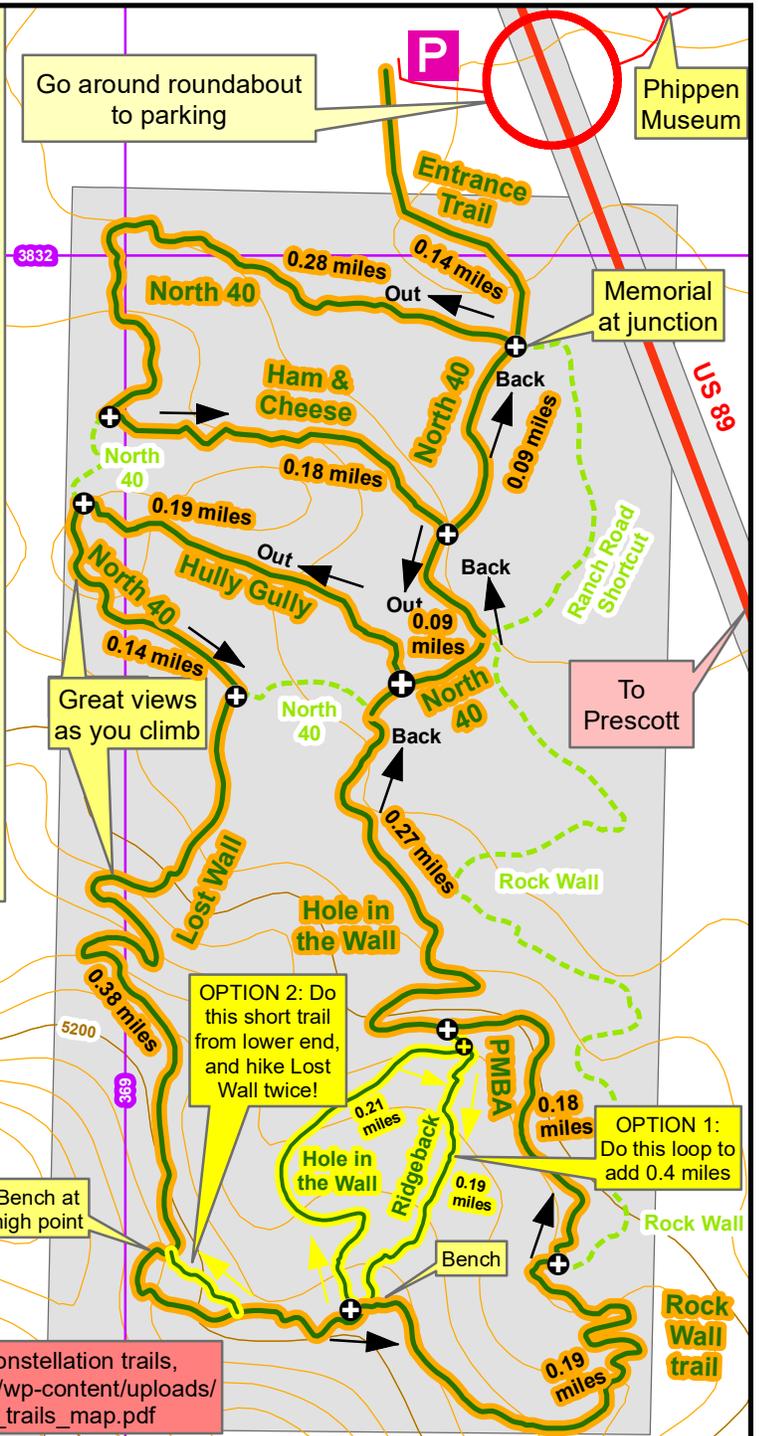
- Mileages are shown to a higher accuracy than normal because each segment is quite short. If you go wrong, don't worry -- you'll soon be on another part of the trail!

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 the memorial, see assorted wreckage from crash.

Farther along the trail, look for walls of rocks 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 the Constellation trails, go to: prescott-az.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/constellation_trails_map.pdf



7. Constellation

ROADS

- Surfaced Roads
- Dirt Roads

TRAILS 3

- Spree trail
- Optional SPREE trl
- Other trails
- Old Forest Roads

LAND USE 5

- Private Land
- City Owned Land
- State Trust Land

Parking (at trail head)

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

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 08/23/18



HIGHLANDS CENTER for NATURAL HISTORY

(Top Ten map for 2018. Original map was 2016.)

