

# Garden Valley Loop

## Summary

- A nice loop hike, most of the hike is pretty flat and the Garden Valley has a lot of bird activity in the morning.
- Hike was initially performed from Trailhead parking area, but I think the horse trailer parking is a better starting place to avoid congestion. As a result the Top and Distance graph don't quite match the route description below.
- Most streambeds on this hike are dry most of the year, with the possible exception of the First Water Creek.

## Amenities

- Toilet located at Trailhead parking, but not at Horse Trailer parking, so there is a 0.7 mile walk to this from start of hike as configured here. No water available at trailhead.

## Raw Numbers

Length (Miles)	Time (Hrs)	Ascent (Ft)	Decent (ft)	Min Elev (ft)	Max Elev (ft)
5.66	2:15	-N/A-	-N/A-	1,945	2,328

## My Statistics

Speed (Mi/Hr)	Rating (10 max)	Difficulty (10 max)	One Liner
2.52	7.0/10	3.0/10	Garden valley is a nice open area with lots of bird action in the morning.

## Getting There

From Phoenix Metro area – Take US60 East towards Apache Junction. Exit off 60 onto 88 North (S. Idaho Road). Continuing on 88, turn off Idaho Road onto N. Apache Trail (Heading N.E.). Shortly after passing Lost Dutchman State Park, between mile post 201 and 202 turn right onto First Water dirt road (FR78). Follow main dirt road for 2.1 miles to First Water Trailhead Horse Trailer parking lot.

## Critters

Various Birds and Rabbits

## What I Liked

Garden Valley area (GVL-07 to GVL-09) is a nice area where there are a lot of birds and rabbits in the morning.

## Garden Valley Loop

Leg	Length	Title	Waypoints	Cumulative Distance
01	0.8 mi	<a href="#">Lost Dutchman Trail (104)</a>	GVL01 - GVL04	0.8 mi
02	1.6 mi	<a href="#">Second Water Trail (236)</a>	GVL04 - GVL08	2.4 mi
03	2.0 mi	<a href="#">Unmarked Trail North</a>	GVL08 – GVL13	4.4 mi
04	1.3 mi	<a href="#">Unmarked Trail South West</a>	GVL13 - GVL01	5.7 mi

### Leg Descriptions

- Leg-01 [Lost Dutchman Trail \(104\)](#):** Trail starts south of First Water Horse Trailhead parking lot (GVL-01). South from parking lot, across the road there is a sign for the Lost Dutchman Trail (104). Follow easy trail South West roughly parallel to road (FR78) crossing over a streambed (GVL-02) and continuing to the First Water Trailhead parking lot (GVL-03). From the parking lot continue to follow the Lost Dutchman Trail (104) to trail junction (GVL-04) with Second Water Trail (236).
- Leg-02 [Second Water Trail \(236\)](#):** At trail Junction (GVL-04) Follow Second Water Trail crossing a couple of stream beds(GVL-05, GVL-06), these are First Water Creek tributaries. Trail starts to turn North working its way up to Garden Valley. Shortly after the trail junction (GVL-07) with Black Mesa Trail. You will approach another unmarked trail junction (GVL-08).
- Leg-03 [Unmarked Trail North](#):** At the trail junction (GVL-08) exit the Second Water Trail and take the unmarked trail heading North. Passing the trail junction (GVL-09) with a small trail from the west continue North. Through Garden valley up to a mountainous area to a nice Scenic View (GVL-10) looking West. The trail now starts to change direction from North to roughly West. The trail starts again to head North as it approaches a mountain. At the trail junction (GVL-11), continue on the North East trail. The trail is wrapping around the mountain range here. And eventually heads due East and then South until it starts running parallel to First Water Creek, and then eventually crosses it (GVL-12).
- Leg-04 [Unmarked Trail South West](#):** Continue South, following up the Creek (GVL-12) crossing it a number of times heading towards cliffs due South that the stream cuts through. Once you get close to the cliffs, you will need to exit the stream bed (GVL-13) East up a hill to a ridge (GVL-14). There are a number of trails in this area that make this section a bit confusing most of them probably end in the same path, just make sure you are going in roughly the right direction, heading uphill. Drop down the ridge until you hit the stream bed and trail junction (GVL-15). Head upstream (West) following stream bed. At the trail junction (GVL-16) continue South West following the stream bed. Eventually the trail will lead you out of the stream bed and you will intersect a dirt road (GVL-17). Follow the dirt road South back to your car at the Horse Trailer Parking lot (GVL-01).

# Garden Valley Loop

Photo #9948



Photo #0263



Photo #9966



Photo #0303



Photo #0307



## Garden Valley Loop

### Locations

Item	Map Ref	Time/ Miles	GPS Coordinates	Description
<b>GVL-01 Horse Trailer Parking</b>	<b>01</b>	0:00 <b>0.0 mi</b>	N33° 28.980' W111° 26.960'	First Water Horse Trailer Parking Cross dirt road (FR78) south to Trail 104
GVL-02 Stream Bed	02	0:02	N33° 28.937' W111° 26.930'	Continue south, roughly parallel to FR78
GVL-03 First Water Trailhead	03	0:11	N33° 28.823' W111° 26.585'	First Water Trailhead From parking lot to Trail 104 (Dutchmans)
<b>GVL-04 Dutchmans Trail Junction</b>	<b>04</b>	0:15 <b>0.8 mi</b>	N33° 28.642' W111° 26.380'	Trail Junction 104(Dutchmans Trail) & 263(Garden Valley Trail) – Continue on 263
GVL-05 Stream Bed	05	0:19	N33° 28.675' W111° 26.291'	First Water Creek Stream Tributary Bed Crossing
Photo-9948	9948	0:27	<i>N33° 28.700'</i> <i>W111° 25.973'</i>	North East View <i>Note: GPS Coordinates Approximate</i>
GVL-06 Stream Bed	06	0:37	N33° 28.599' W111° 25.710'	First Water Creek Stream Tributary Bed Crossing
GVL-07 Black Mesa Trail Junction	07	0:50	N33° 29.126' W111° 25.666'	Trail Intersection 236 (Second Water Trail) & 241(Black Mesa Trail) – Continue on 236
<b>GVL-08 Main Trail Departure</b>	<b>08</b>	0:51 <b>2.4 mi</b>	N33° 29.172' W111° 25.660'	Second Water Trail Departure Take Left (North) Side Trail
Photo-0263	0263	0:52	<i>N33° 29.228'</i> <i>W111° 25.735'</i>	Garden Valley, North View <i>Note: GPS Coordinates Approximate</i>
GVL-09 Trail Junction	09	0:59	N33° 29.388' W111° 25.823'	Garden Valley Minor Trail Junction Continue on main trail North
GVL-10 Scenic View	10	1:04	N33° 29.583' W111° 25.877'	Scenic Overlook (N.E.)
Photo-9966	9966	1:13	<i>N33° 29.682'</i> <i>W111° 26.072'</i>	East View? <i>Note: GPS Coordinates Approximate</i>
GVL-11 Trail Junction	11	1:14	N33° 29.693' W111° 26.110'	Minor Trail Junction Continue on main trail, North West
GVL-12 Stream Bed	12	1:32	N33° 29.762' W111° 26.483'	First Water Creek streambed crossing
<b>GVL-13 Ascend Hill</b>	<b>13</b>	1:41 <b>4.4 mi</b>	N33° 29.648' W111° 26.570'	Hill ascend to West at south pinch point
GVL-14 Ridge	14	1:47	N33° 29.653' W111° 26.678'	Ridge? Continue down ridge South West
Photo-0303	0303	1:47	<i>N33° 29.653'</i> <i>W111° 26.678'</i>	North East View <i>Note: GPS Coordinates Approximate</i>
Photo-0307	0307	1:47	<i>N33° 29.653'</i> <i>W111° 26.678'</i>	South East View <i>Note: GPS Coordinates Approximate</i>
GVL-15 Trail Junction	15	1:55	N33° 29.525' W111° 26.660'	Stream Bed and Trail Junction. Follow stream bed trail South West
GVL-16 Trail Junction	16	1:57	N33° 29.463' W111° 26.733'	Minor Trail Junction, Keep South
GVL-17 Dirt Road	17	2:10	N33° 29.145' W111° 26.927'	Follow Dirt Road South
<b>GVL-01 Trailer Parking</b>	<b>01</b>	2:15 <b>5.7 mi</b>	N33° 28.980' W111° 26.960'	First Water Horse Trailer Parking End of Hike!



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## Trail Path

