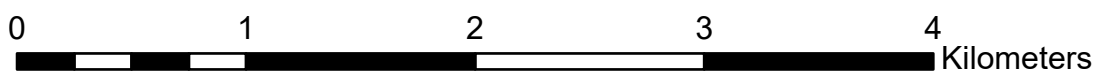
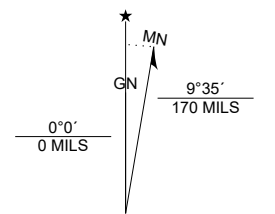


KTNPBlog Saguaro: Manning Camp Backpacking South



Day 1 - 4.1 mi
 Day 2 - 6.4 mi
 Day 3 - 9.9 mi
 Total - 20.4 mi

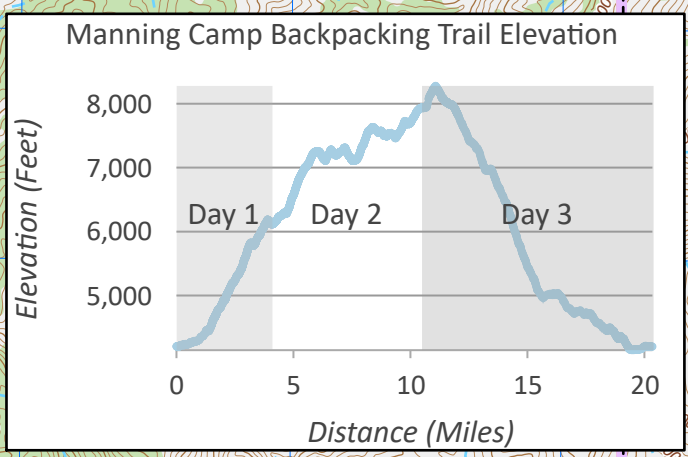
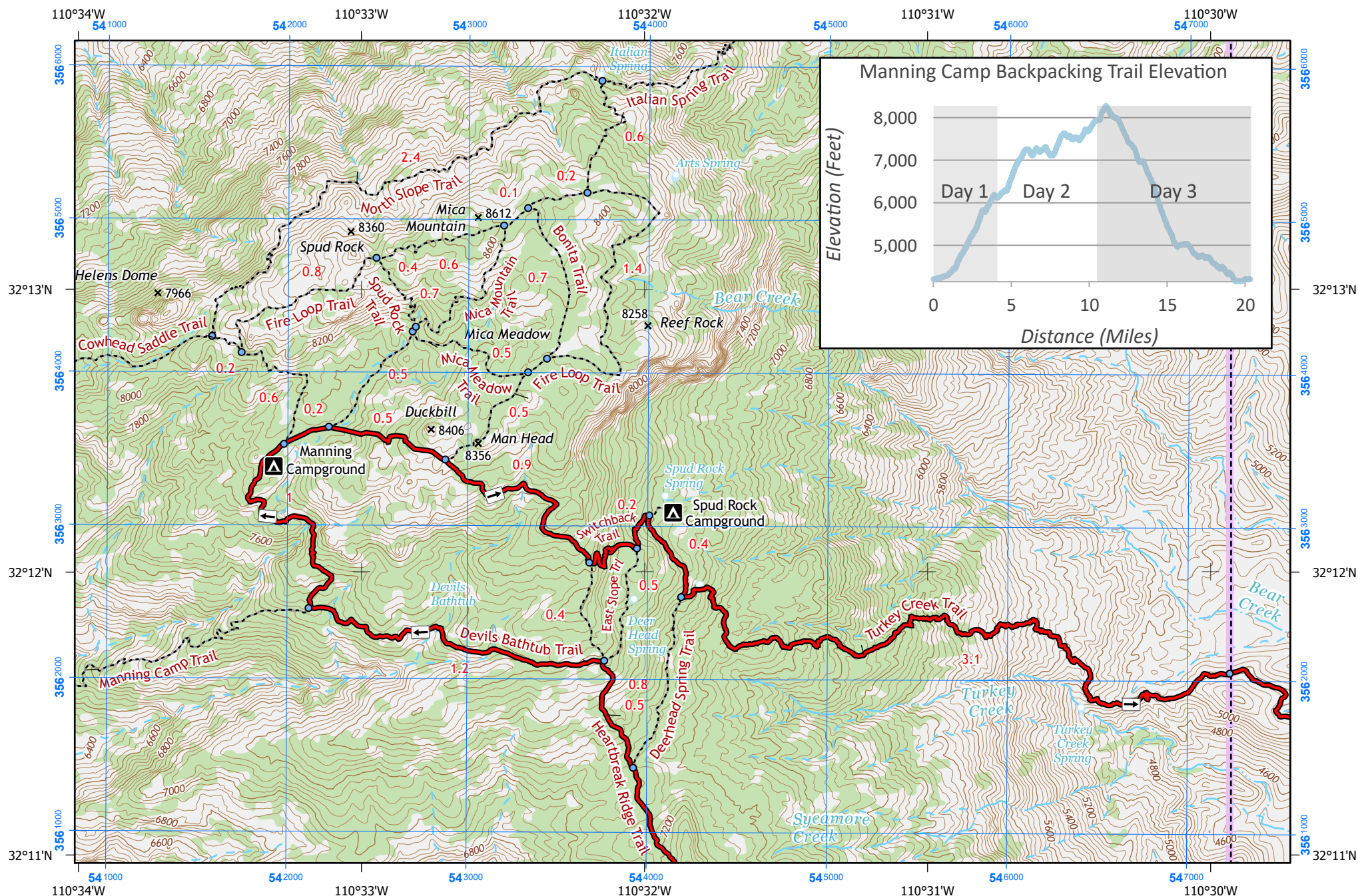
GCS WGS 1984
 Scale 1:33,000
 Contour Interval 20 Feet



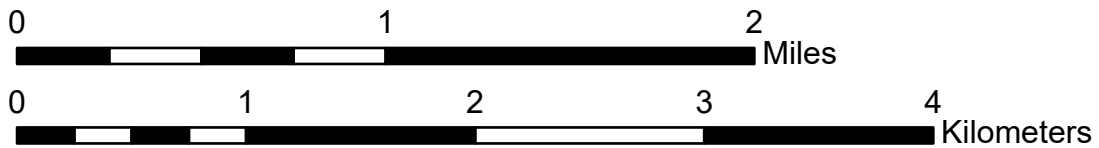
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Map Last Updated:
 Oct 2018

UTM GRID AND 2018 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

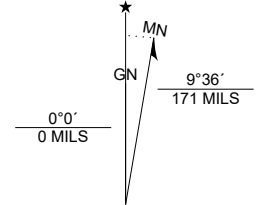


KTNPBlog Saguaro: Manning Camp Backpacking North



Day 1 - 4.1 mi
 Day 2 - 6.4 mi
 Day 3 - 9.9 mi
 Total - 20.4 mi

GCS WGS 1984
 Scale 1:33,000
 Contour Interval 20 Feet



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UTM GRID AND 2018 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Manning Camp Trail Elevation

20.4 miles Loop



Type: Loop

Total Distance: 20.4 miles (32.8 km) round trip

Cumulative Elevation Gain/Loss: 6083 feet (1854 m)

Net Elevation Gain/Loss: 4,076 feet (1242 m)

- **Day 1:** Distance: 4.1 miles (6.6 km), Cumulative Elevation Gain and Loss: 2239 feet (682 m) Gain, 327 feet (100 m) Loss, Time: 5 hours, including lunch and rest breaks
- **Day 2:** Distance: 6.4 miles (10.3 km), Cumulative Elevation Gain and Loss: 2764 feet (843 m) Gain, 939 feet (286 m) Loss, Time: 6.5 hours, including lunch and rest breaks
- **Day 3:** Distance: 9.9 miles (15.9 km), Cumulative Elevation Gain and Loss: 1080 feet (329 m) Gain, 4817 feet (1468 m) Loss, Time: 8 hours, including lunch and rest breaks

Trail Markings: There are infrequent cairns and red metal markers usually pounded into trees. Signs at intersections. Trail is not well defined in some areas. Sticks are placed in areas to mark the "wrong way." We usually found that following the sand led us the right way.

Difficulty: Difficult due to elevation gain, long days, and rough trail in some areas

Crowds: None. We saw absolutely no one on this 3-day backpacking trip.

Water: A small stream near the start of Miller Creek Trail, and then a stream that is coming down from the Manning Camp water source.

Directions to Miller Creek Parking: 32.151886, -110.481803

Trail Directions:

- **Mile 0.0** - From the parking area at Miller Creek, you'll see a fence to your west. Go through it, making sure to close it on your way. This is the Miller Creek Trail, through Coronado National Forest. You'll pass cows, and go up a slight incline. You might see some small pools and streams of water. I'd stay away from it with all the cows around though.

- **Mile 1.3** - You'll see a sign and fence indicating you're entering Saguaro National Park. Again, make sure to close the fence, and continue on the Miller Creek Trail. This next section is more steep and eroded.
- **Mile 3.9** - You've reached the intersection with Heartbreak Ridge Trail! You're almost there. Turn left onto the trail, and you'll be rewarded with small downhill section. As you've noticed, there are a lot of trees in this area, compared to the earlier parts of Miller Creek Trail.
- **Mile 4.1** - Keep an eye out on the left for a Happy Valley Campground sign. Stay the night here (make sure you have a reservation). Site 3 is the best, imo. The next day, go back the way you came.
- **Mile 4.3** - You're back to the intersection with Heartbreak Ridge and Miller Creek Trails. This time, continue straight. This section becomes more exposed to the sun again, leaving behind the big trees. You'll also start to climb steeply in elevation.
- **Mile 6.1** - To your right is a short trail to Happy Valley Lookout. We didn't go up there because of time constraints, but my understanding is that there is an old fire tower there (or was). Go check it out if you wish, it's only 0.4 mi round-trip. If not, continue straight on Heartbreak Ridge Trail. The trail starts to go up and down and level out a bit occasionally.
- **Mile 7.8** - Pass Deerhead Spring Trail on the right, and continue straight on Heartbreak Ridge Trail.
- **Mile 8.3** - You're at "Four Corners," where the Heartbreak Ridge, East Slope, and Devil's Bathtub Trails converge. Head left on Devil's Bathtub Trail.
- **Mile 8.9** - Finally! Your first water since yesterday. On the left is the Devil's Bathtub. I'd only recommend getting water if you're desperate, you're almost to a better source at Manning Camp.
- **Mile 9.5** - Turn right at the intersection, onto Manning Camp Trail.
- **Mile 10.5** - You'll see Manning Camp on your right, you'll pretty much run right into it. Stay the night here, and enjoy it. If you have time, explore the trails around Manning Camp. Even better, stay another night to hike the trails the following day. Whenever you leave Manning Camp, head east on Fire Loop Trail. There's a bit more of an uphill climb, until you begin the long descent.
- **Mile 10.7** - An intersection with Mica Mountain Trail. Continue straight on Fire Loop Trail. On this section, keep an eye out on the left for Duckbill mountain top. We neglected to look for it when we did the trail.
- **Mile 11.1** - Head right at the fork, going onto the Heartbreak Ridge Trail. The trail starts descending here.
- **Mile 12.0** - At the intersection, go left onto Switchback Trail instead of continuing on Heartbreak Ridge Trail.
- **Mile 12.4** - Turn left onto East Slope Trail.
- **Mile 12.5** - At this intersection with East Slope and Deerhead Spring Trails, there's also a short trail to Spud Rock Campground. Check it out, or continue onto Deerhead Spring Trail.
- **Mile 12.9** - You've reached Turkey Creek Trail. You'll more or less be on this for the rest of the trip. This is also where the bulk of your descent is. Be careful because the trail is eroded and steep. Follow cairns as needed. You'll come out of the trees too into more open areas.
- **Mile 15.2** - You'll see a fence, meaning you've come to the end of the Saguaro National Park Boundary. Go through it, and continue on the trail in Coronado National Forest. You'll see your environment start to change as you enter into more of a grassland. It's not quite as steep here as you descend.
- **Mile 17.9** - The end of Turkey Creek Trail. Continue straight on the Turkey Spring Road, a 4WD Road (Forest Road #4408). It has great views!
- **Mile 19.4** - The 4WD road ends, and you come to a primitive campsite area. We got a bit lost here;, exit through a metal gate and follow the dirt road.
- **Mile 19.8** - The road ends in a T intersection. To the left and right is Happy Valley Road (Forest Road #35). Go right.
- **Mile 20.2** - On your right is the road to Miller Creek Trailhead, almost there. Head down the road.
- **Mile 20.4** - You're back where you started.