

Mount Baldy - West

The West Trail of Mount Baldy is much more strenuous than the East Trail. It is a continuous climb, combined with switchbacks that ascend to the 11,200' elevation. Very seldom does it level out (like the East Trail) so we kept a slow and steady pace.

The trail begins along the Little Colorado River and then opens into a wide meadow filled with a variety of wildflowers. Once the meadow ends, the trail enters a mixed conifer and aspen forest. On hot, sunny days, the shade is a welcome retreat. The trail continues under this canopy of trees for most of the hike.

We met a group of hikers from the surrounding area that hike Mount Baldy on a yearly basis. In the picture to the right is Anna Sherod, East Fork Lutheran Church; Pastor Matt Langebartels, Bylas, AZ; Ruth Luehring, Teacher - East Fork Lutheran School; Cindy Horneber Teacher-Taylor, AZ; and Pastor David Parsons, East Fork & Canyon Day churches. Pictured below is Kevin Lorge, Peridot and Darren Vogt, East Fork Lutheran School.

Mount Baldy is a very popular trail and you could meet fellow hikers from all over the world here. It is, however, a wilderness area and all wilderness rules apply. With that in mind, I think the condition of the trail is pretty amazing considering that in a wilderness area you are not allowed to bring in chain saws or any motorized equipment to help clean up the trail. So keep this in mind while hiking Mount Baldy and pack out what you pack in.

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