Some Little Known Gila Valley Dayhikes

By Don Lancaster
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http://www.tinaja.com/gilahike.asp
Let’s skip the obvious ...

- Frey Mesa Falls.
- Mount Graham Observatory.
- Roper Lake State Park.
- Bonita Creek.
- San Carlos Lake.
- Discovery Park.
- Gila Box Riparian Area.
- The Rug Road
- Riggs Lake.
- Cedar Springs.
... and these "been there, done that's" ...

- Cluff Ponds.
- Hot Well Dunes.
- Flying "W" Picnic Area.
- Arivapia Canyon.
- Mills Collection.
- Graham County Historical Society.
- Backcountry Byway.
- Marijilda Picnic Area.
- Apple Annies.
- Leopard Frog Renarium.
... and start off with ...

THE UFO FISH FILLETS
OF TAYLOR TERRACE
... must include the SIXTY MILES (!) of ...

MOUNTAIN STREAM FED
PREHISTORIC "HANGING" CANALS
... and the spectacular cliffs of ...

FISHERMAN’S POINT
... our very own slot canyon at ...

EL CAPITAN CANYON
SAN CARLOS FALLS

... hard to reach & physically challenging ...
MORENCI SOUTHERN RAILROAD
... spectacular but rarely visited ...

OAK GROVE CANYON
... unique but extremely remote ...

HANNAH HOT SPRING
... the strange ghost machinery of ...

THE EMIGRANT CANYON
MARBLE QUARRY
TENS OF THOUSANDS of fields used for...

PREHISTORIC CULTIVATION IN THE SAFFORD GRIDS
MONTEZ AND WEECH
TOLL ROADS
... and finally this favorite of mine ...

THE MOUNT GRAHAM
AERIAL TRAMWAY
7-3/4 miles, 2 reaches, 14 regions...

Transfer Station

Mt. Graham Sawmill

Pima Base Station

36.0 degrees, 3.25 miles

1.0 degrees, 4.50 miles

T = Tension Station
UP first, then drops ONE VERTICAL MILE...

9200 feet
8700 feet
3300 feet

Alabam Point

Max span: 2600 feet with an 800 foot drop

(4X vertical scale)
Typical Wood Tower was 18 feet high...
Carriers were used in pairs...
Over the years, I've managed to make at least one trip somewhere just about every week forever. Some for
This has been an excerpt of...


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More info on Gila Valley day hiking and prehistory can be found at


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