

The Windows - 2011

Huckaby Trailhead, Schnebly Road

4.48 mi

1457 ft Cumulative Elevation Change

2 h 40 min moving time 3 h 45 min total

A moderate climb to a ridge with a window at its end, this hike affords dramatic views of the town of Sedona, the Schnebly Hill area and west to the Soldier Heights and Capital Butte formations.

Start at the Huckaby trailhead. Take Huckaby Trail down across the first main wash. As you climb out of the wash you will see your destination become visible above you to your right. The Huckaby trail will start to turn away from the Windows as it climbs and crosses a smaller wash. At this point, look for a dim trail angling up to the right at about 30 degrees through the rocky terrain. There is juniper tree with an ocotillo growing through it just before the trail (Jct1). Follow the dim track up the ridge. At first the trail will climb the ridge fairly gently as it switchbacks over the ridge. Eventually the trail will make a long switchback that takes you down a deep wash and out again and follows the contours of the ridge all the way around until you can see 89A going up Oak Creek Canyon. The trail will turn and climb the finger-like ridge that gives you access to The Windows. Soon you will come to a faint junction that lies in a small open rocky flat area. Turn right at the junction (Jct2). (The trail that goes straight ahead will take you down to the far end of Huckaby.) After your right turn the trail becomes steeper and climbs directly up to the rocks at the base of the windows. Continue in this direction and make your way up the rock ledges as best you can until you are on the shelf below the windows. Here you may wish to leave your pack and continue climbing the rock without pack or sticks. Finally you will be on a rock outcropping with just a narrow spit ahead of you leading over to the Window. You can stop here on the large ledge, or continue across the spit until you are at the outcropping that holds the Window.

On your way down you can return the way you came (about half a mile less), or, at the junction (Jct2), take the other fork (to the right) and head down to the Huckaby trail and a view of Oak Creek. You will meet Huckaby shortly above the creek meadow area (Jct3). Turn left to take Huckaby back to the trailhead.