

Phoenix College
Physical Sciences Department
GEOLOGY PROGRAM FIELD TRIP

PAYSON FOSSIL SITE

I T I N E R A R Y			
START	FINISH	MILES	HOURS
Phoenix College	Payson	90.7	2 hr
Payson	Paleo Site	15.1	15 min
• Collecting			1 hr
Paleo Site	Mogollon Rim	14.2	15 min
• Lunch			45 min
Mogollon Rim	Payson	29.3	30 min
• Gas Stop			30 min
Payson	Phoenix College	90.7	2 hr
TOTAL:		240.0	7 hr 15 min
T R A V E L D I R E C T I O N S			
FROM	TO	DIRECTIONS	
Phoenix College	Payson	Travel east on Thomas to 7 th Avenue	
		Turn right onto 7 th Avenue and head south	
		Turn left onto I-10 and head east	
		Take the exit to Hwy 202	
		Travel east on Hwy 202	
		Take the Country Club exit	
		Turn left onto 87 and head to Payson	
Payson	Paleo Site	In Payson, turn right onto Hwy 260	
		Head east on Hwy 202	
		Turn right at the Paleo Site entrance road	
Paleo Site	Mogollon Rim	Turn right onto Hwy 260	
		Continue for 14.2 miles	
		Turn right into Mogollon Visitor Center	
FR 29A Site	Payson	Turn left onto Hwy 260	
		Head to Payson	
Payson	Phoenix College	In Payson, turn left onto Hwy 87	
		Continue south on Hwy 87 towards Phoenix	
		Turn left onto Hwy 202	
		Continue onto I-10 west	
		Take 7 th Avenue exit	
		Turn right onto 7 th Avenue	
		Turn left onto Thomas Road, continue to Phoenix College	

G E O L O G I C F E A T U R E S

LOCATION	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
BASIN & RANGE		Tensional tectonic forces ~ 30 million years ago, created normal faults which resulted in mountain ranges separated by wide valleys.
	Salt River terraces	Uplift causing rise in base level causing the river to erode downwards forming the Stewart Mountain, Sawik, Mesa, Blue Point and Lehi terraces (oldest to youngest).
Milepost 202, Hwy 87	Superstition Mountains	Caldera eruption, ash deposits
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS		Also referred to as the Transition Zone, mountains separated by narrow valleys.
Milepost 204, Hwy 87	Four Peaks	Roof pendants in magma chamber, amethyst mines
Milepost 205, Hwy 87	Spheroidal weathering	Weathering of granitic rocks
Various locations	Mass wasting prevention techniques	Drainage, reducing slopes, vegetation, concrete covers.
Payson area	Diamond Point	Herkimer Diamonds (doubly terminated quartz crystals) can be found here
Payson area	Mogollon Rim	Southern edge of the Colorado Plateau

G E O L O G Y O F S I T E

NACO FORMATION:

- Limestone & shale deposited in a shallow sea.
- Purple hue
- Pennsylvanian (~ 300 mya)
- Fossils:
Common: Brachiopod (composites & spiriferoids); Crinoids and Bryozoans,
Rarer: Gastropods

F O S S I L C O L L E C T I O N R U L E S

- Only collect what you need and can use (finding fossils can get addicting).
- On slopes or in quarries, always know what is above you and below you, rock falls can injure or kill you or the people around you.
- Be careful of the wildlife (plants, animals and insects), especially rattle snakes and scorpions.
- Don't litter (pick up anything that you find)
- Have fun and good luck

W H A T T O B R I N G

- Water
- Lunch (we can stop by a convenience store if needed)
- Snack for trip up/back (if desired)
- Hiking shoes (no flip flops)
- Hat
- Jacket (depending on the weather)
- Hammer (a geologist's hammer if you have one)
- Screw driver (regular flat blade)
- Strong cloth bag, etc. for fossil specimens