



Further along Boston Gulch, there are more hydraulic pits to each side, stream channel workings, and some small 9" pipe from the water system. Find various features using the map. Look for piles of rocks to locate the pits.

After seeing all you want to see, turn around and retrace your steps back to where you descended into Boston Gulch. Don't miss the trail junction! Look for the trail switchback on the hill. Take the left trail up the hill and over the ridge. Return to the main trail, return to Kentucky Camp by turning left down the hill into Kentucky Gulch and then left through the gate into the Kentucky Camp site.

You can download GPX (for standalone GPS or smartphone GPS apps) or KMZ (for Google Earth) files of points and descriptions at <http://kentuckycamp.org/> This file is also available for download and print.



Boston Gulch Adventure Hike

Self-guided Tour from Kentucky Camp

This route is for appropriate only for experienced hikers. The route is not marked, and the trail can be difficult to follow. The round trip will take about 3 hours, more if you take side trips. Be sure to take plenty of water and wear sturdy shoes. A compass or GPS unit, a hat, and sunscreen are highly recommended. The old pipes and rock piles often house rattlesnakes, scorpions, and spiders, and sometimes the route winds through patches of thorny bushes. Remember to take only photographs; all artifacts are **protected by law**.

Leave Kentucky Camp site, headed downhill and SE on the Arizona Trail.

Stop #1: *On both sides of the trail, notice the pits dug into the earth, several yards wide and ~1 yard deep. These are hand-dug pits, probably dug in the 1930's during the depression, when desperate*

people tried collecting gold to supplement their income. These holes represent a low tech approach to placer mining, and were largely dug by individuals, not in any organized manner. Today, mining is not allowed within Kentucky Camp, in order to preserve the site.

Turn right immediately after passing through the gate (please close the gate). Ascend up the ridge, alongside the fence that surrounds the Kentucky Camp site. When you reach the corner of the fence, leave the trail, and follow the fence slightly uphill to the NW. About 230 yards along the fence, you will see a large, round, metal water tank just inside the fence. You do not need to get inside the fence to see the tank.

Stop #2: Water tank and cistern. This above-ground metal tank provided water to the Kentucky Camp buildings. Water from the mining water system was piped here through the small incoming pipe you can see exposed on the ground on the NW side. There is also a smaller in-ground cistern about 20 yards to the SW. **BE VERY CAREFUL!** The cistern is deep and unfenced (pictured above the title of this guide.)

Return to the main trail and continue over the ridge to the right (SSW). Descend into Boston Gulch. Turn right (west) on the trail that follows Boston Gulch. (As the trails meet, turn around and take a close look at this junction.) About 350 yards up the gulch, you will see a small trail to the

right, which leads to a small notch. Follow the side trail into a small open area.



Path to Hydraulic Pit 1

walked through was where the sluice was placed. The open area was "dug" out by the high pressure stream of water, leaving the rock piles behind. The dirt, rocks, gold, and water flowed down the sluice, removing the heavier gold. The large piece of metal outside the pit is a "grizzly". The water flowed over it before entering the sluice to filter out larger rocks.

Return to the main trail. If you want to see the distribution gate, bushwhack up the very steep hill SW across the gulch. Be very careful and prepared for thorny bushes, loose footing, and a steep descent on your return. Look for the 2 large metal cranks (>3 feet above the ground) near the top of the hill.

Stop #4: Distribution gate. This valve or gate



Distribution Gate

controlled water distribution. Water entered here from the south and was distributed along Boston Gulch below to the north. An air-release valve is located about 10 yards to the east, a small pipe with a cap.

You can see where the source pipe crossed the drainage to the south by continuing to bushwhack in that direction about 125 yards (115 m). Return to the main trail (be very careful descending the steep hill). Continue up the gulch to the west. Pass through the gate in the fence (please close the gate.) About 100 yards from the gate, you will find 3 sections of water system pipe in the creek bed.

Stop #5: 15" pipe segments in creek bottom. The upper 2/3 of the water system consisted of ditches contouring the hillsides, allowing the water to simply flow down the gentle descent. For the bottom 1/3, the water was directed into pipes and was siphoned across the canyons without pumps. The water was directed through smaller and smaller pipes as it neared Boston Gulch, increasing the pressure. Four different sizes of pipe (24, 20, 15, and 9 inch diameter) were used. These are 15" pipes. Notice the crimped end of the pipe where it fit into another section without rivets. Notice traces of the asphalt coating used to protect the pipe. These pipes were washed down by flooding long after their last use in mining. Consider the flash flood that bent this heavy pipe.

(Continued below map...)