

**Hike:** Lost Creek Peak - round trip

**Trailhead:** Willow Springs - not marked

**Distance:** 5 miles

**Elevation gain:** 2,100 feet

**Elevation peak:** 6,644 feet

**Time:** 6 to 7 hours

**Difficulty:** 4

**Danger level:** 4

**Class:** 4/5

**How easy to follow:** 3

**Children:** No

**Map:** La Madre Mtn, NV See Page 8

**Fees:** Red Rock Canyon Pass. \$5.00 per car; \$20 annually. Golden Eagle accepted.

**Waypoints (GPS):** See Page 8

**Directions:** From the Mirage on Las Vegas Boulevard (the Strip) go north three miles and turn left (west) onto Charleston Boulevard. Drive 16 miles on Charleston to Red Rock Canyon. Turn right, drive to the fee booth, and drive 7.3 miles along the Scenic Loop road. Turn right at the signed turnoff for Willow Springs. Drive 0.5 of a mile and park where the pavement ends and the gravel begins.

**Overview:** The route heads south up Graffiti Ridge. Once at the top of Graffiti Canyon, the route heads west and then south along a ridge to the summit.



**Photo 1**

**Comments:** This route is one of the best hikes in Red Rock Canyon. Tons of Class 4 climbing, virtually no brush and great vistas make for an awesome route. This route is well cairn. Once at the peak, there are numerous descent options: via Goodman Peak, North Peak path to the Rocky Gap road, or through Graffiti Canyon.

**Note:** You must be familiar with the descent routes. No description is

given. The quickest descent route is through Graffiti Canyon.

**The Hike:** From where you parked, find the unmarked path that begins on the south side of the road next to an



**Photo 2**



**Photo 3**



**Photo 4**

aluminum picnic table. Follow the path 50 yards, cross the wash, and walk under the large scrub oak tree in Photo 1 to the start of Graffiti Canyon. Boulder through Graffiti Canyon about a .25 of a mile to the first place where it looks possible to climb out on the left (south) side. (See Photo 2 – [Waypoint 1](#).) Follow a path up the brushy slope and over rock. Cairns help guide you. The path swings to the far right of the chute initially. Once the path reaches a wall, it heads east (left) to sandstone slabs and boulders. Scramble up the slabs and over the boulders to the chute in Photo 3. Use the rope. There’s a short, but exposed section of Class 5 climbing. Once up the chute, veer right to avoid brush and continue south up the mountain. The terrain opens and you’ll climb the extreme right end of a steep moss covered

wall. (See Photo 4.) [Waypoint 2](#) is the top of the wall in Photo





**Photo 5**

4. The terrain opens briefly again.

Continue a few hundred yards to the next wall and climb (Class 3) the ramp marked by a large cairn. See Photo 5. Once up the ramp, traverse right about 10 yards to a small cairn and climb (Class 2) the wall. Once up the wall, veer left to the boulder circled in Photo 6 and climb



**Photo 6**

the wall (Class 4) as indicated by the arrow. At the top of the climb veer right to a cairn next to a fallen log leaning against sandstone. Continue less than 30 yards to a pinion with a cairn next to it, veer right, and climb the erosion holed wall (easy Class 3.) Continue up easy rock about 50 yards to another cairn. ([Waypoint 3.](#))

Walk a few yards to a 7 foot wall. Climb the wall at the cairn and exit right to avoid brush. You are now on the west (right) side of the ridge for the first time. Photo 7 shows the ridge from this point and the peak.

Walk about 30 yards and climb a Class 2 chute to the next level of sandstone. Walk about 25 yards to the chute in Photo 8. A cairn marks the chute. Climb the chute (Class 3) to the crest of the ridge. Walk about 10 feet beyond the crest to a west leaning ramp which

provides the easiest

way up the wall. The terrain levels along this part of the ridge. Craggs soon make





Peak

Photo 7

it impossible to stay on the crest of the ridge. Travel to the west (right) side of the ridge. Walk about 25 yards passing a large ponderosa and scramble up the broken wall in Photo 9.

Once up, exit right and walk around a shoulder of the ridge. A cairn marks this spot. ([Waypoint 4.](#)) Once around the shoulder, start climbing back up to the ridge on large broken rock. Head toward the large, dead-looking ponderosa. Climb the chute

(Class 3) in Photo 10. At the top of the chute, exit right onto flat terrain. Scramble to the pine circled in Photo 11 and continue up the broken wall. At the top of the wall, exit right and then veer left to a 30 yard traverse on a dark, varnished, low, angled slab. Exit right at a cairn to flat terrain covered with manzanita. Climb the two walls



Photo 8



Photo 9





**Photo 10**

North Peak to Graffiti Canyon

(Waypoint 6). Looking west (Photo 14) you can see the last part of the traverse that lies ahead. (This part of the traverse is beyond where the route from North Peak drops down



**Photo 11**

into Graffiti Canyon.) Head SW following a vague path about 100 yards to the Graffiti Canyon traverse. (See Photo 15.)

Once beyond the traditional traverse, continue traversing to the corner in Photo 14. (Waypoint 7.) There's an old fire pit at the corner. Once around the corner, the terrain opens up. Scramble south up the sandstone slabs. The climbing is mostly Class 2. Follow cairns up to the crest of the ridge. Once up, great views of Graffiti Canyon are out to the NE. Continue along the crest of the ridge (Waypoint 8) to the climb in Photo 16. **Be careful of loose rock here.** Continue along the ridge to a wall. Walk around the right side of the wall to several chutes that lead to the summit (Waypoint 9).

There's a large cairn at the summit, but no register as of 5-23-04. This peak has great views. Out

(Class 3/4) as seen in Photo 12.

Walk 30 to 40 yards on flat terrain where a crag splits the ridge (Waypoint 5). Veer east (left) and walk about 100 yards to the chute (Class 3) in Photo 13. Exit right and walk to where the slab ends. You can climb the corner of the next crag (Class 4) or descend a few feet to the scrub oak and walk up the crag. Now head south on the ridge and intersect the traditional descent route from



**Photo 12**

to the south, about a half mile away, stand North Peak. White Rock Hills Peak is to the north.

**To Descend:** Numerous options here: The best descent route is through Graffiti Canyon. You can also walk south and descend the North Peak path to Rocky Gap road. You will have about 2.5 mile walk along the Rocky Gap road to your car. Another descent route involves walking

to Goodman Peak and descending that route. If descending through Graffiti Canyon, retrace your steps from the peak off the ridge and back to the traditional descent into Graffiti Canyon.



**Photo 13**





Photo 14

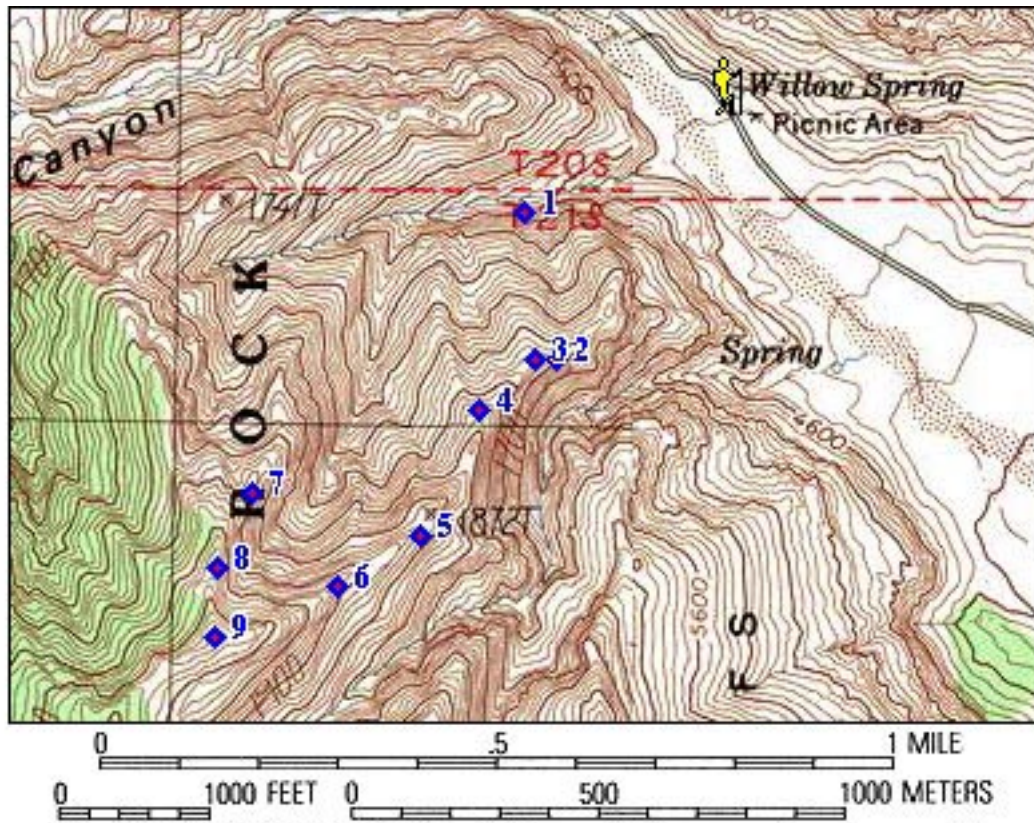


Photo 15





Photo 16



◆ 1	36.15913° N	115.50242° W	4815 ft.
◆ 2	36.15641° N	115.50171° W	5245 ft.
◆ 3	36.15640° N	115.50222° W	5593 ft.
◆ 4	36.15547° N	115.50350° W	5730 ft.
◆ 5	36.15321° N	115.50481° W	6137 ft.
◆ 6	36.15227° N	115.50670° W	6271 ft.
◆ 7	36.15400° N	115.50863° W	6227 ft.
◆ 8	36.15259° N	115.50939° W	6473 ft.
◆ 9	36.15134° N	115.50945° W	6644 ft.