

Hike: Northshore Peak and Unnamed Peak — route

Trailhead: Northshore Parking Lot —marked

Distance: 4 miles — round trip

Elevation gain: 1,300 feet

Elevation peak: 3,329 feet

Time: 3 to 4 hours – round trip

Difficulty: 2

Danger level: 3

Class: 3

How easy to follow: 3

Children: no

Waypoints (WGS-84): See Pages 4 and 5

Fees: \$10 per car; \$30 for a yearly pass. National Park Passes accepted

Best Season: Winter, early spring and late autumn

Driving directions: From the Mirage on Las Vegas Boulevard (the Strip) go north and turn left (west) onto Sahara. In less than one mile, turn right (north) onto I-15. Take I-15 four miles to Lake Mead. Turn right (east) onto Lake Mead. Drive 17 miles on Lake Mead Boulevard, until it dead-ends into Northshore Road. Turn left, drive 17.2 miles on Northshore Road and make a left into the paved parking area ([Waypoint 1](#)). There are bathrooms and trashcans at the parking area. **Photo 1** is Northshore Peak from the parking lot.

Comments: This is one of the best peaks around Lake Mead. Although you can just do Northshore Peak, it's well worth doing the second peak. It has some nice exposure and fun climbing. IMO, it's too long of a drive to just do Northshore Peak. There are great views from along the ridgeline and at both summits.

Note: Always test your handholds before committing to a climb on any Lake Mead hike. The rock is known to break!



Photo 1

The Hike: Cross the road and head south across the open desert. Once you get beyond the small ridge to the west (right) you can see your first destination: the saddle in **Photo 2**. It's easier to drop into the drainage ([Waypoint 2](#)) than to traverse the east side. The drainage ends at a headwall. The easiest route up is to the left. (See **Photo 3**. [Waypoint 3](#) marks the class 2 chute to the east (left).



Photo 2

south (left) from the edge of the ridge. [Waypoint 5](#) marks the class 2/3 down climb. Continue a little more than 100 yards to the summit ([Waypoint 6](#)).



Photo 3

and the Spring Mountains to the west. It should take about an hour to get to the summit. You have hiked 1.3 miles from the trailhead and gained 984 feet.



Photo 4

crest of the ridge where the rock is better and descend south about .25 of a mile to the saddle. Start the ascent

Once up hike across the saddle

[Waypoint 4](#) and head west up the ridge in **Photo 4**. Staying along the north (right) end of the ridge finds better rock and good views out to the north. **Photo 5** shows the last part of the route to the summit.

Just before the summit there's a small down climb. The easiest way down is about 20 yards

A cairn marks the summit of Northshore Peak. The summit offers great vistas of the Bowl of Fire and the Muddy Mountains to the north; Lake Mead to the south,

There's a sign-in book inside the cairn.

Okay, it's decision time. You can retrace your steps back to your car or continue south about a half-mile up the knife-edge ridge to an unnamed peak. If you're wondering whether you can handle the Moapa Peak hike, which has a scary knife-edge ridge, try this one first.

Onto the second peak:

Photo 6 shows the route to the second peak. It's very straightforward. Stay near the



Photo 5

staying on the crest of the ridge or, if you don't like the exposure, move south (left).

When you encounter a wall, go to the far right and scramble up a class 2/3 chute. ([Waypoint 7](#)). Immediately gain the crest of the ridge, walk 20 feet and climb the bump (class 3) that's directly on the ridge.

The grade backs off and you can see the cairn that marks the peak. Continue to the peak

([Waypoint 8](#)). You have hiked a total of 1.87 miles, so far. The sign-in book is a single piece of paper in a glass jar.



Photo 6

To make a loop out of the hike continue south, descend the ridge (good rock here) passing by [Waypoint 9](#) to the first obvious break in the steep cliff to the north (right). It's about 150 yards from the summit. Descend (class 2) about 30 feet to a very wide ledge and head north (back toward the peak you just left). ([Waypoint 11 – There are no Waypoints 10 or 12](#)). Look for cairns and be careful as there's **lots of loose rock**. For the most part you will be near the wall that's to your right. The final down climb pulls away from the wall. Look for a big cairn and solid rock. You step across onto a block of rock ([Waypoint 13](#)) and work your way down the final 15 feet of the wall. It's easy, but loose.

Once down, descend very loose rock heading

toward the peak in **Photo 7**. In about 50 yards there's a path ([Waypoint 14](#)). Follow the path as it heads north (right) across the loose rock. The path is short lived, but gets you through the loose junk. Keep heading north just beyond a small ridge to the descent in **Photo 8**. ([Waypoint 15](#)). Two cairns mark the descent. There's no



Photo 7

good way down; everything is loose, but this looked like the best route.

It's loose, but no cliffs and you can use the wall that's to your left to aid the descent. (Waypoint 16) Descend 250 yards

to the drainage (Waypoint 17), which is in sight. Follow the

drainage north (right) out to Northshore Road (Waypoint 18). Go right (east) and walk just over a mile to your car.



Photo 8

◆ 001	36.22705° N	114.62095° W	2380 ft.	14-APR-10 7:38:54AM - Trailhead
◆ 002	36.22107° N	114.62044° W	2518 ft.	14-APR-10 7:52:16AM -drainage
◆ 003	36.21929° N	114.62019° W	2696 ft.	14-APR-10 7:58:58AM - chute
◆ 004	36.21903° N	114.62026° W	2734 ft.	14-APR-10 8:02:27AM - saddle
◆ 005	36.21641° N	114.62719° W	3209 ft.	14-APR-10 8:21:58AM - down climb
◆ 006	36.21604° N	114.62838° W	3295 ft.	14-APR-10 8:26:16AM - Northshore Peak
◆ 007	36.21104° N	114.63140° W	3029 ft.	14-APR-10 8:53:51AM - class 2-3 chute
◆ 008	36.20985° N	114.63257° W	3099 ft.	14-APR-10 9:03:10AM - Unnamed peak
◆ 009	36.20881° N	114.63297° W	2990 ft.	14-APR-10 9:11:42AM - along the ridge
◆ 11	36.20849° N	114.63317° W	2919 ft.	14-APR-10 9:19:03AM - about 40 feet below the ridge
◆ 13	36.20865° N	114.63324° W	2890 ft.	14-APR-10 9:26:08AM - step across onto a block of rock
◆ 14	36.20897° N	114.63354° W	2816 ft.	14-APR-10 9:31:14AM - path
◆ 15	36.20986° N	114.63369° W	2835 ft.	14-APR-10 9:36:06AM - descent
◆ 16	36.21020° N	114.63384° W	2763 ft.	14-APR-10 9:44:35AM - part way down
◆ 17	36.21166° N	114.63515° W	2413 ft.	14-APR-10 9:56:52AM - drainage
◆ 18	36.21687° N	114.63518° W	2170 ft.	14-APR-10 10:08:10AM - Northshore road

Note: Waypoints 10 and 12 were duplicates of other waypoints and were deleted to prevent confusion. However, they are in the .gpx file.

