

Hike: Fortification Hill — trail
Trailhead: Along Kingman Wash Road — marked
Distance: 4 miles — up and back
Elevation gain: 1,500 feet
Elevation of peak: 3,657 feet
Time: 2 to 3 hours –up and back
Difficulty: 2
Danger level: 2
Class: 2
How easy to follow: 2
Children: no
Waypoints (WGS84): See Page 3
Fees: None
Best season: Winter

Driving directions: From the intersection of Highway 93 and 95 in **Boulder City, NV**, drive east on **Highway 93** three miles through Boulder City making a left turn at the second stop light onto south 93 (Sign reads: Lake Mead – Hoover Dam).

Drive 7 miles to the new bridge over the Colorado River.

(Do **NOT** take the Hoover Dam exit.)

From the “Welcome to Arizona” sign at the far end of the bridge drive 0.8 miles past the “Welcome to Arizona” sign and veer right on the signed Kingman Wash Access Road (Exit 2).

At the stop sign turn **left** going under the highway to the signed Kingman Wash Access Road.

Follow this gravel road for 3.4 miles where you’ll pass an outhouse at Painter’s Cove. Turn right here and continue another 2.7 miles and park near a small metal trailhead sign located on the left (north) side of the road. (See **Photo 1** – [Waypoint 1](#)).



Photo 1

Note: Your mileage might vary.

Comments: The view from Fortification Hill rivals any vista around Lake Mead. On a clear day, with snow covering Charleston Peaks, an award-winning photograph waits. A mile long mesa lies at the top of Fortification Hill.

The Hike: From the trailhead follow the trail 10 yards and veer



Photo 2

right as the trail climbs

onto the ridgeline. There're some steep sections, but there're followed by level terrain. Eventually, you'll pass the huge boulders that have rolled down from the top of the mesa. From the boulders, it's about 150 yards of steep terrain to the base of a wall.

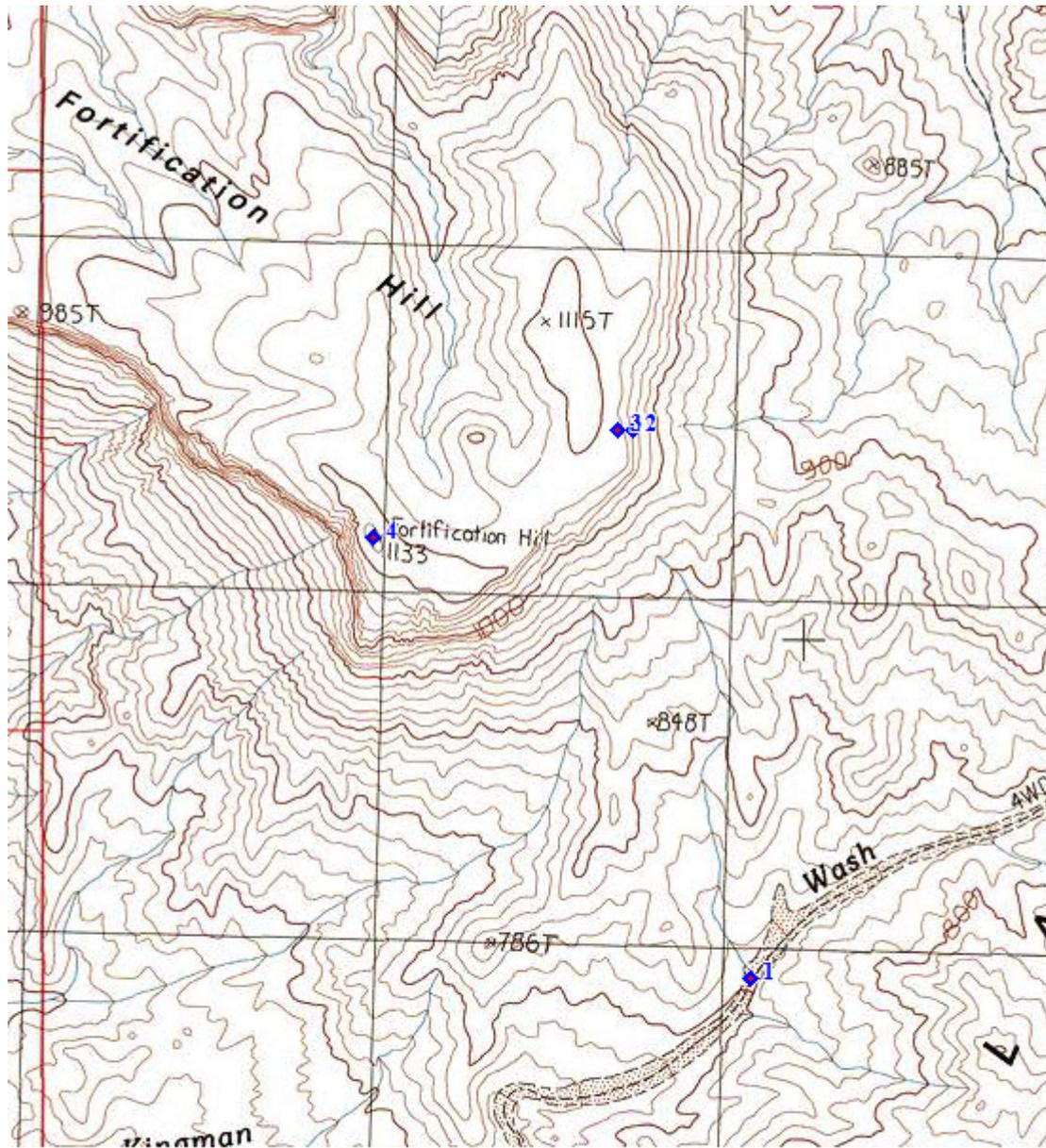
Once at the wall, the path traverses east (right) and levels. Follow the path about 100 yards where it ends at a class 2 climb. (See **Photo 2** – [Waypoint 2](#).)

Once above the wall, the path continues north. It soon makes a hard left and uses switchbacks as it climbs to the mesa ([Waypoint 3](#)).

The path becomes defined along the mesa as it heads south almost a half mile to the peak. This is the most enjoyable part of the hike. The last 50 yards

before the peak are moderately steep. The view from the summit ([Waypoint 4](#)) will take your breath away. To the west lie Lake Mead, then Las Vegas, and finally the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Charleston. Hoover Dam sits to the SW. The rugged Muddy Mountains stand to the north. In front of them you can catch glimpses of the Bowl of Fire. NE of the peak lies remnants of a volcanic crater. It's a short hike from the peak. There's a sign-in book inside an army box.

To Descend: Retrace your steps. About 200 yards past the huge boulders you can follow a steep path down into the wash. Following the wash back to the trailhead is much faster and avoids loose sections on the trail.



Name	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation	Message
◆ 1	36.03284° N	114.66917° W	2120 ft.	Trailhead
◆ 2	36.04704° N	114.67289° W	3455 ft.	Class 2 climb - Photo 2
◆ 3	36.04706° N	114.67335° W	3597 ft.	Top of mesa
◆ 4	36.04429° N	114.68116° W	3704 ft.	Summit