

Hike: North Peak and Ice Box Overlook — up and back

Trailhead: 2.5 miles up the Rocky Gap Road – not mark

Distance: 5 miles — round trip

Elevation gain: 2,694 feet

Elevation Peak: 7,094 feet

Time: 3 to 5 hours

Difficulty: 3

Danger level: 2

How easy to follow: 3

Children: no

Fees: \$7.00 per car; \$30 annually. All National Park Passes accepted.

Map: La Madre Mtn., NEV See Page 6. **Waypoints (WGS-84) See Page 6**

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 and turn right into Red Rock Canyon. Drive 7.3 miles past the fee booth and turn right at the signed turnoff for Willow Springs. Drive to the end of the **paved** road and set your odometer to zero. Drive 2.5 miles up the unsigned Rocky Gap Road and park along the gravel bed on the right. The hike begins at the cairn, which is a few yards east of the road. (See Photo 1.) **A 4 wheel drive vehicle is needed.**

[Waypoint 1](#)

Overview: The hike follows the spur **path** to the North Peak **Path**, which heads east up the slope.

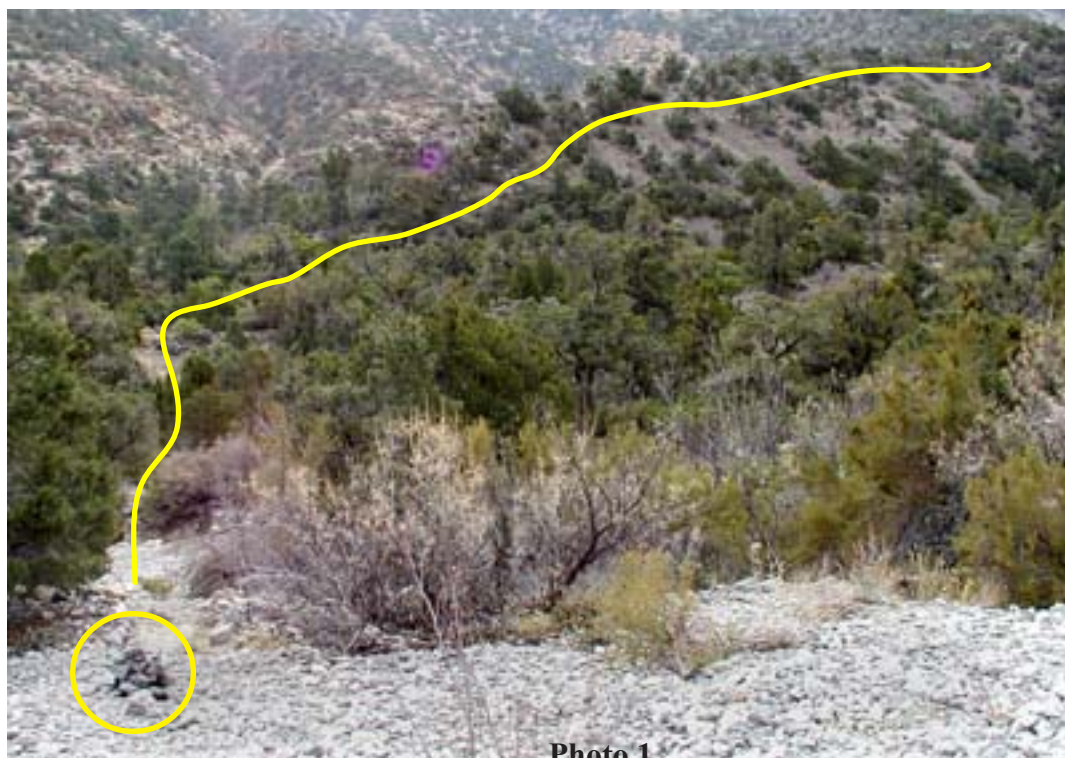


Photo 1

At the ridge the route heads east to the peak.

Comments:

North Peak is the highest peak in Red Rock. A fantastic



Photo 2

view of Red Rock and Las Vegas is seen from the peak. From North Peak it's a few hundred yards to an awesome overlook into Ice Box Canyon. The views will blow you away. Be sure to bring a windbreaker. It's normally windy at the peak.

The Hike: Hike east on the spur path 60 yards to the start of the North Peak Path. The spur path is outlined with rocks most of the way. Turn east (left) at the cairn onto the unsigned North Peak Path. The path starts off steep and quickly heads south up the ridge. Since this is a path it's

much steeper than a BLM trail. The incline lessens after 100 yards or so. The grade picks back up as the path curves east toward the ridge. The grade lessens again as the path continues east. Look for cairns if you lose the path. Unfortunately the path soon climbs the hill that looms in front of you. Follow the path south up the hill. Once up the hill, the path heads east and uses steep switchbacks to climb the next hill. The path levels and heads for the sandstone in Photo 2. The landscape soon changes from gray limestone to light colored sandstone. The grade increases and the path forks. Take either fork; they soon become one again. When the path disappears along the sandstone, follow the cairns. The path continues to disappear and reappear along this stretch. The path weaves around sandstone outcrops and then stops. From here it's a scramble to the ridge. Notice the three-foot cairn



Photo 3

Head toward the ridge as outlined in Photo 3.

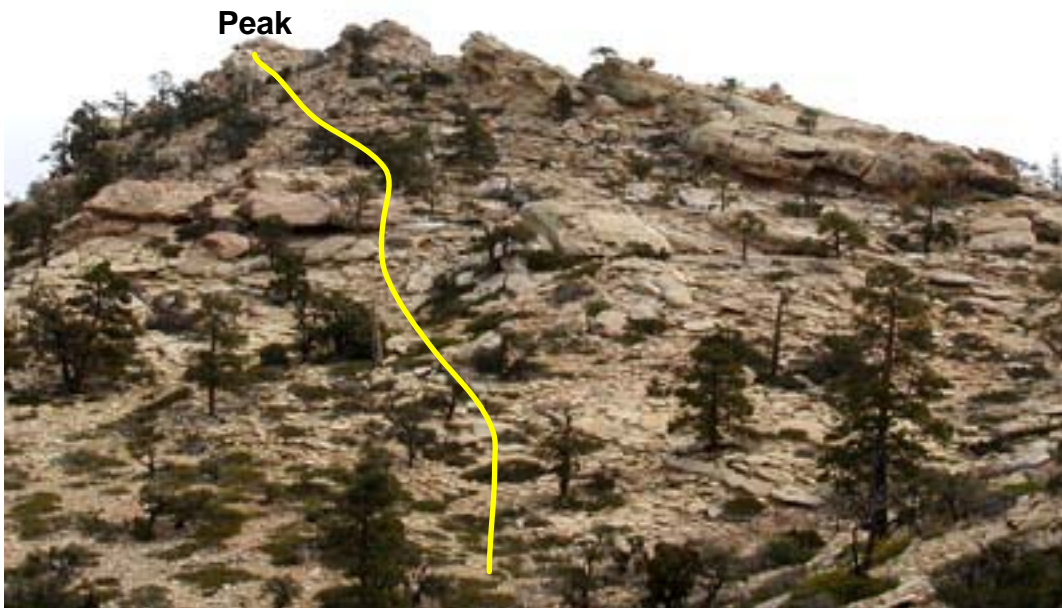


Photo 4

however, there's no sign-in book at the peak and the cairn is very small. Below to the south is an

to the south
(right). This
cairn marks
the start of the
path when you
descend. (It's
important to
locate this
cairn during
your descent.)

Once the
terrain levels,
North Peak
comes into
view. (See
Photo 4.) Head
directly for the
peak. The peak
offers fantastic
views in all
directions;



Photo 5

overlook with an unbelievable view into Ice Box Canyon. This is the best part of the hike. To go to the overlook, head south down the steep ramp. (See Photo 5.) At the end of the ramp make a hard left



Photo 6

and head toward the fire pit. Continue down the sandstone to the cairns and tree in Photo 6. Inside the circled cairn in Photo 6 is a sign-in book. From here head 100 yards to the overlook. It's over 1,000 feet down into Ice Box Canyon. Across from Ice Box looms Bridge Mountain, one of the best hikes in Red Rock Canyon.

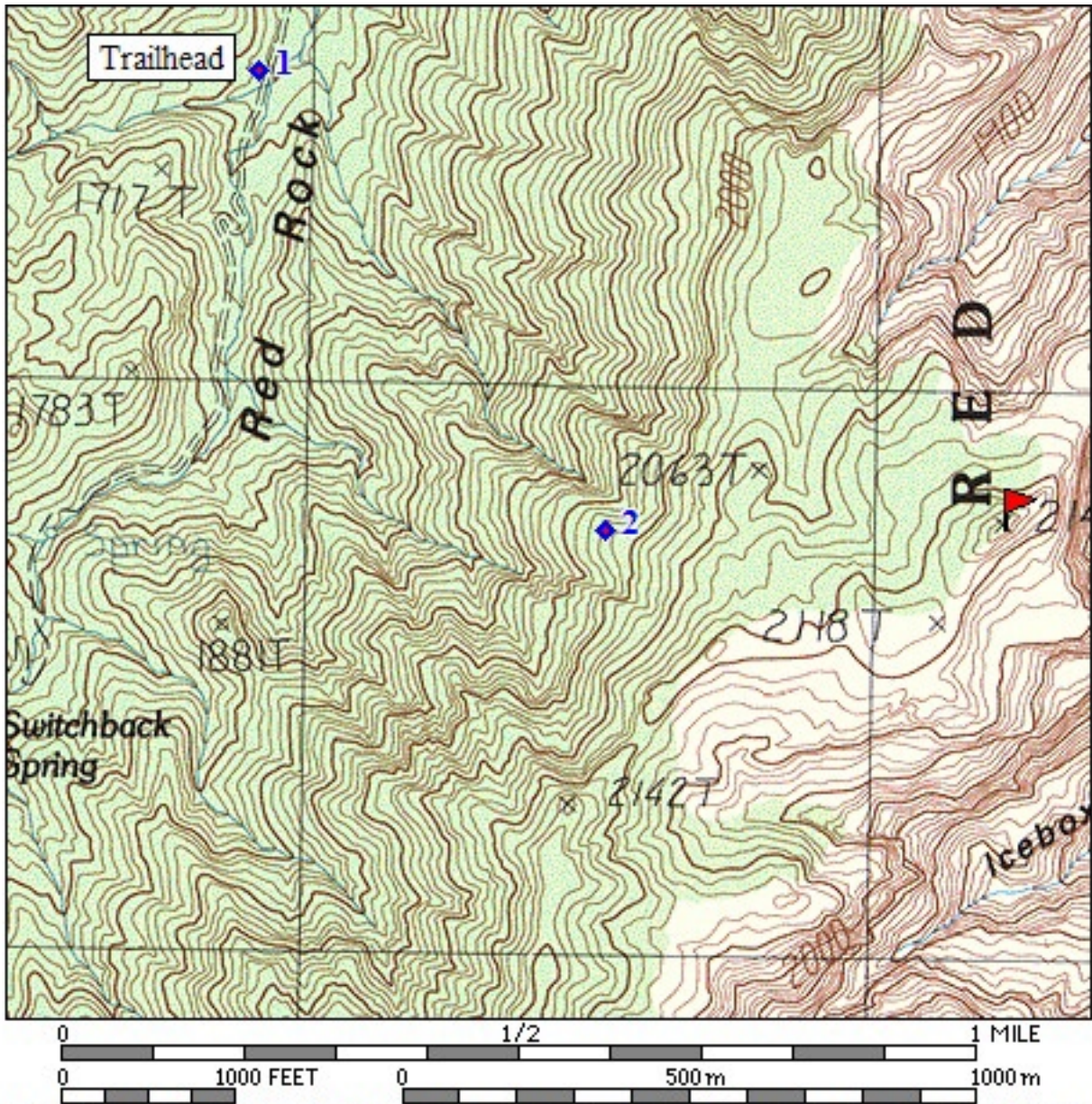
Do you want to see the Buffalo Wall up close? Head north about 80 yards to another huge drop off.

The massive wall that stands in front of you is the Buffalo Wall.

To Descend: Retrace your steps back to North Peak. Look for the fire pit. Ascend the steep ramp (Photo 5) to the peak. Head west off the peak as shown in Photo 7. Once you start to descend the slope, look for the three-foot cairn, which marks the start of North Peak Path. Follow the path back to the trailhead. [Waypoint 2](#) marks the start of the North Peak Path.



Photo 7



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

Waypoints

◆ 2	36.14396° N	115.51663° W
◆ 1	36.15124° N	115.52339° W