

A Hiking Guide to Trails in the Yuma Area

By Geo Montopoli

Retired Professor, Arizona Western College

Jenny Lake Climbing/Rescue Ranger, Grand Teton National Park, WY

(Edition 7 – December 28, 2020)



Author Contact: gmontopoli@gmail.com

URL for Latest Version: <http://virgil.azwestern.edu/~elr/YumaTrails/> OR
<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AprT0tSE6fncio9DiUdaCI0M5q9JGw?e=zF5F9d>

Acknowledgements:

This hiking guide is the culmination of significant effort by many individuals who accompanied me on nearly all of the hikes in this document. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those individuals: Brian Karasek, Liz Renaud, Scott Beebe, Cecilia Vigil, Shanen Aranmor, Hank Harlow, Dave Bywater, Leo Larson, Don Roth, Dan Russow, and others who I have unintentionally overlooked.

I would especially like to thank my family – Delia (spouse) and Michelle (daughter) – who accompanied me on many hikes and supported me on the others.

I would finally like to thank the Jenny Lake Climbing Rangers (Grand Teton National Park, WY), of which I am currently a member (since 1978), and who have honed my mountain knowledge and kept me alive over many years of rescues and ascents of peaks in North and South America.

This guide is dedicated to the memory of Adriana Cecilia Valladares Vidal, my sister-in-law, who succumbed to a long battle with breast cancer on September 2, 2014.

Disclaimer:

Yuma Trails contains detailed information about hikes and climbs in the Yuma area and beyond. Hiking and climbing are, by their very nature, potentially hazardous activities. Hazards include, but are not limited to, rattlesnakes, spiders, scorpions, cacti, cliffs, lightning, hyperthermia, hypothermia, loose rocks, and falling rocks. The essence of the hiking/climbing experience is enhanced by good decision making: the climbing holds you use, the routes you are capable of hiking/climbing, and the information you can trust. While every effort is made to ensure that the information provided here is correct and safe, it is never a substitute for your better judgment. Remember, some hazards you can control, but others are beyond control.

This compilation of hiking/climbing material is not intended to be the only source of information for those wishing to pursue the sports of hiking and climbing. Prior and competent knowledge in the use of various safety precautions is assumed. Always check information with other sources and use common sense before trusting your life to it. By use of the provided information, the reader hereby releases the author and provider of said information from liability for any injury, including death, which might result. You have been warned!

Good luck, have a pleasant hike/climb, and be careful.



Index of Areas	Page	Classification
• Barry M. Goldwater Range		
○ Coyote Peak (Copper Mountains)	5	Hikes – E to D (depends on route); Ascent - V
○ Raven Butte	9	C, E
○ Sheep Mountain	12	V
○ High Tanks North Trail	15	C, T, V
○ Tinajas Altas Peak	19	V
• Gila Mountains		
○ Airplane Wreck Mountain	22	V
○ Flag Mountain (Jester's Peak)	25	C, D
○ Telegraph Peak	28	C, E to V (depends on route)
○ The Trifecta	31	V
○ Trail to Nowhere	32	V
• Kofa Mountains		
○ Castle Dome	35	D (Climbing variation = V, T)
○ Signal Peak	38	D
• Laguna Mountains		
○ Roller Coaster Hill	41	E
○ Sugarloaf Peak	44	C, E
• Mohawk Valley Area		
○ Owl Peak	47	D, T
• Muggins Mountain Wilderness Area		
○ Muggins Mountain Trails	50	C, E
○ Muggins Peak Summit	56	D, T
○ Pagoda Peak (Kloethe Peak)	57	V
• Painted Desert Trail (Imperial NWR)	61	C, E
• Picacho Peak Area (CA)		
○ Little Picacho Benchmark	64	D, T
○ Little Picacho Peak	69	V, T
○ Picacho Trail	74	C, E
○ Picacho Peak Ascent & Rappels	77	D, T
• Pilot Knob (CA)	79	E to D (depends on route)
• Ridge Peak True Summit	88	E to D (depends on route – difficult rocky terrain)
○ Ridge Peak East (CA)	91	E (difficult rocky terrain)
• Stud Mountain (CA)	94	D to V (depends on route)
• Tinajas Altas Climbs (Sneak Peek)	98	T
• Yuma: East and West Wetlands	99	E
• C = classic; D = difficult/strenuous; E = easy; T= technical climbing with exposure; V = very difficult/very strenuous/scrambling		

GPS Tracks' Link:

A link to GPS tracks for all the listed hikes/climbs is: <http://virgil.azwestern.edu/~elr/YumaTrails/> OR <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AprT0tSE6fcio9DiUdaCl0M5q9JGw?e=zF5F9d>. (Copy and paste either of these links into your internet browser to access the tracks.) The tracks are defined for a Garmin GPS unit (*.gdb), and for a general GPS exchange format (*.gpx). You can also open these tracks using Google Earth Pro: Start up Google Earth Pro, then File → Open (be sure to pick the “Gps” file format to the right of “File name”). I suggest that you choose the *.gdb file types to open in Google Earth Pro.

Topographical maps for the United States and other countries are available (for a donation) at:
<http://www.gpsfiledepot.com/> (This is an incredible site!)

Hiking Trails Overview:

Barry M. Goldwater Range

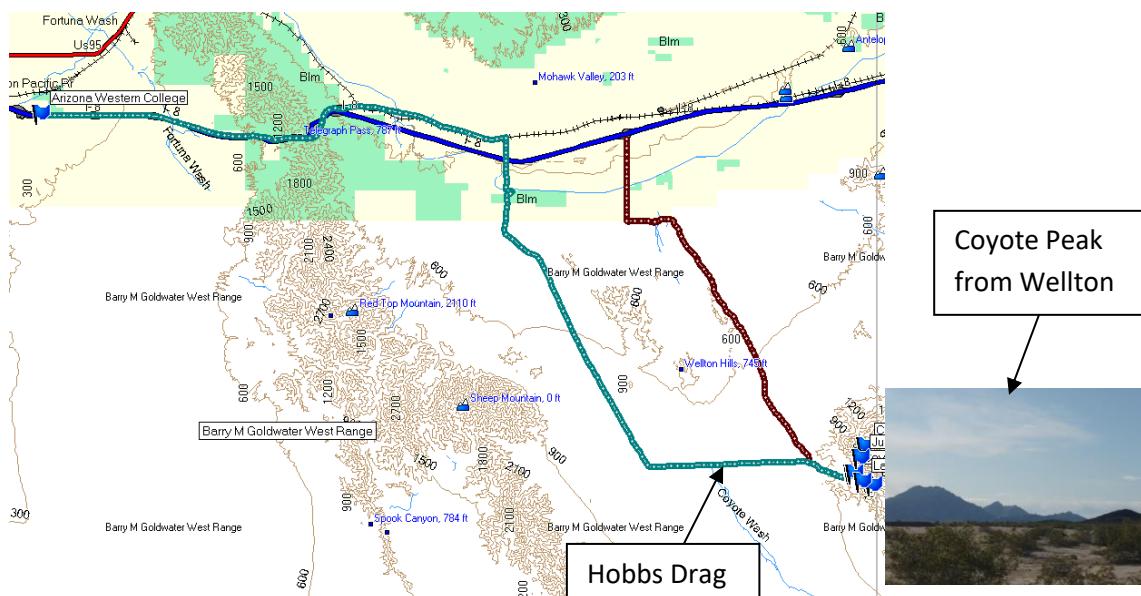
Coyote Peak (Copper Mountains): Coyote Peak, a prominent peak in the rugged Copper Mountains, lies about 13 miles to the southeast of Wellton. The area is pristine and extremely beautiful. One easy hike, one difficult hike, and a very difficult ascent are displayed below. The shorter hike (1 mile) travels to a set of large boulders worthy of top-roping (1st ascent – Renaud family). The other 7.1-mile hike, a walkabout, is difficult. The ascent of the peak is very difficult and involves some scrambling on very steep terrain, as well as avoiding precariously perched large boulders. Plan 1-2 hours for the easy hike, 5-7 hours for the difficult hike, and 3-5 hours for the round-trip ascent from the trailhead.

Access Directions: Two driving routes are described below:

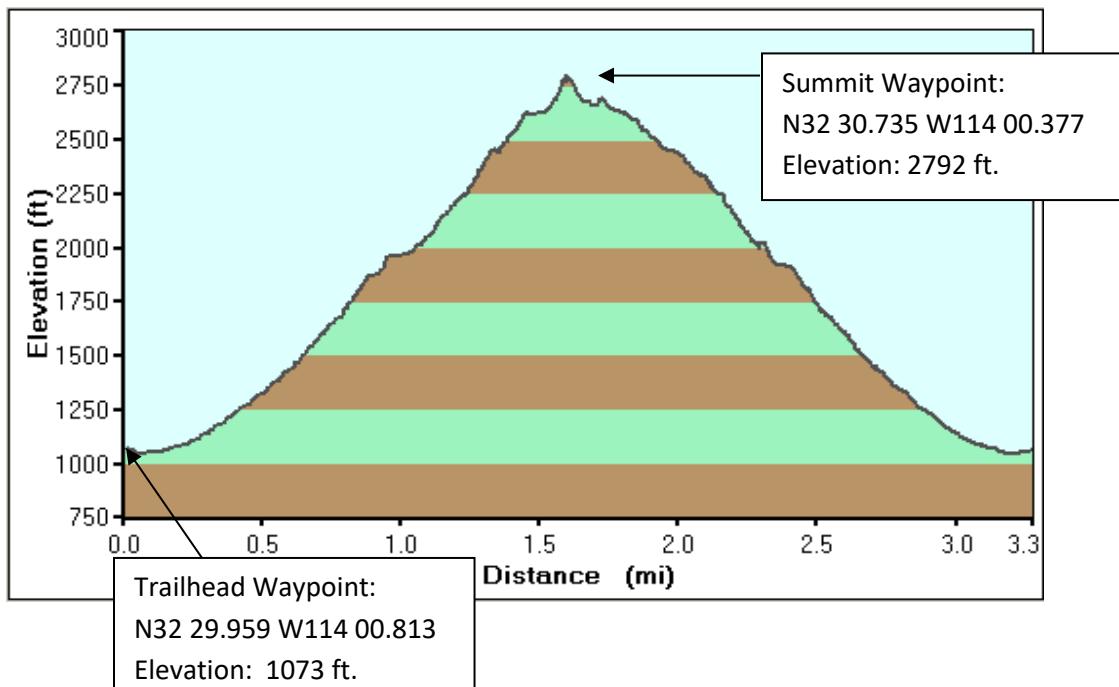
- 1) From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), continue for about another 4 miles, and turn right (south) onto S Ave 25 East. This becomes the Camino del Diablo Highway. Drive approximately 12.2 miles to marker post C10 (Hobbs Drag). Turn left (east) onto Hobbs Drag and follow it about 6.7 miles to the trailhead a short distance before the end of the road.
- 2) From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. Take Exit 30 (Ave. 29E) at Wellton, and drive south on Ave 29E for about 2.5 miles until it ends. Turn left (east) onto County 14th Street and follow it for about 1.7 miles. Turn right (south) onto a road that parallels the Camino del Diablo road, but lies just to the west of the Copper Mountains. Drive about 9.2 miles to marker post D5 (Hobbs Drag junction), and turn left (east). Follow the road 1.5 miles to the trailhead.

Drive Time: About 1½ hours from the AWC Campus.

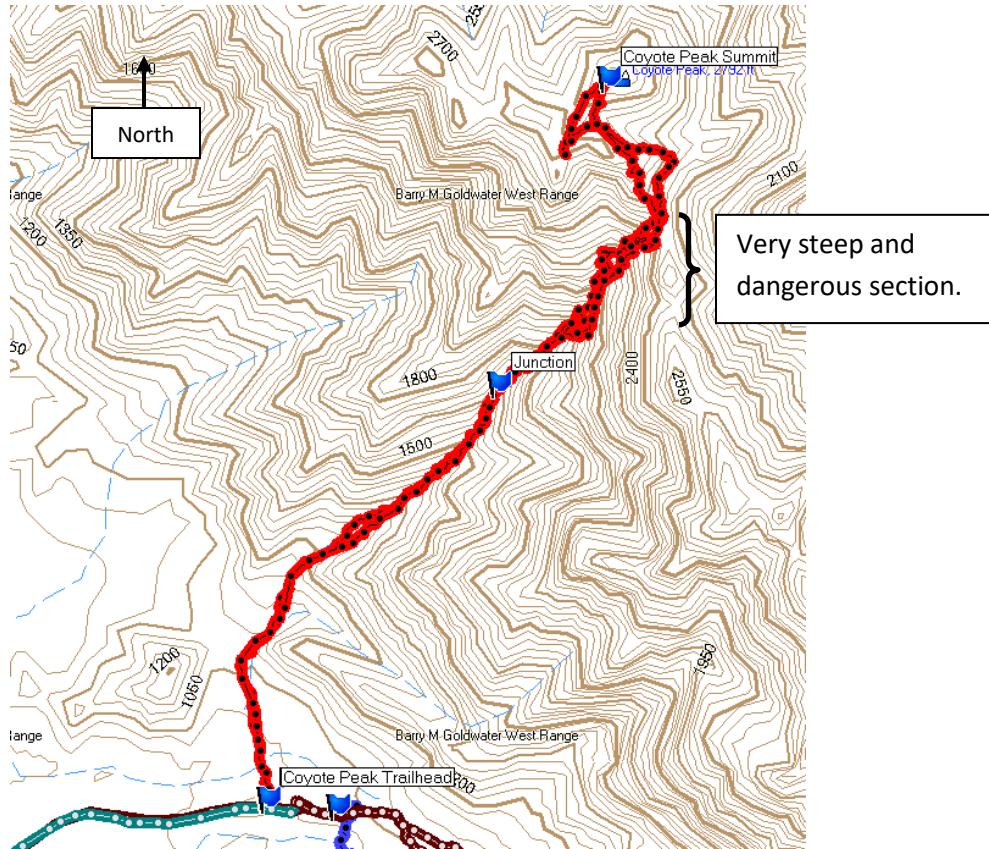
Note: A permit to travel onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range is required. Contact 928-269-7150 for information about obtaining the permit. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is suggested.



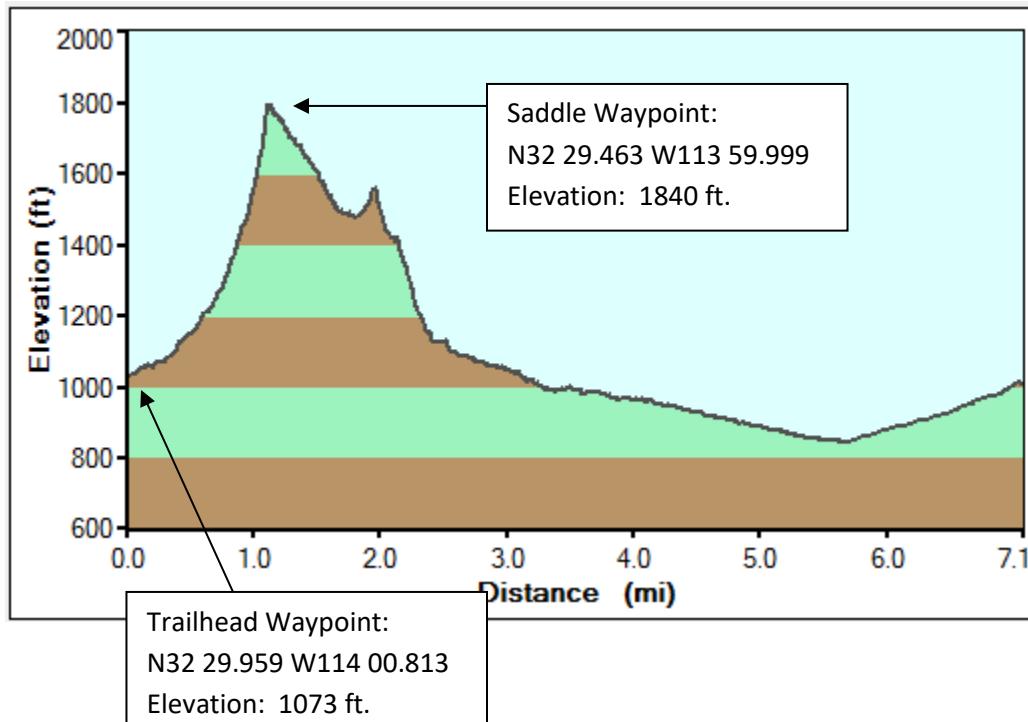
Coyote Peak Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



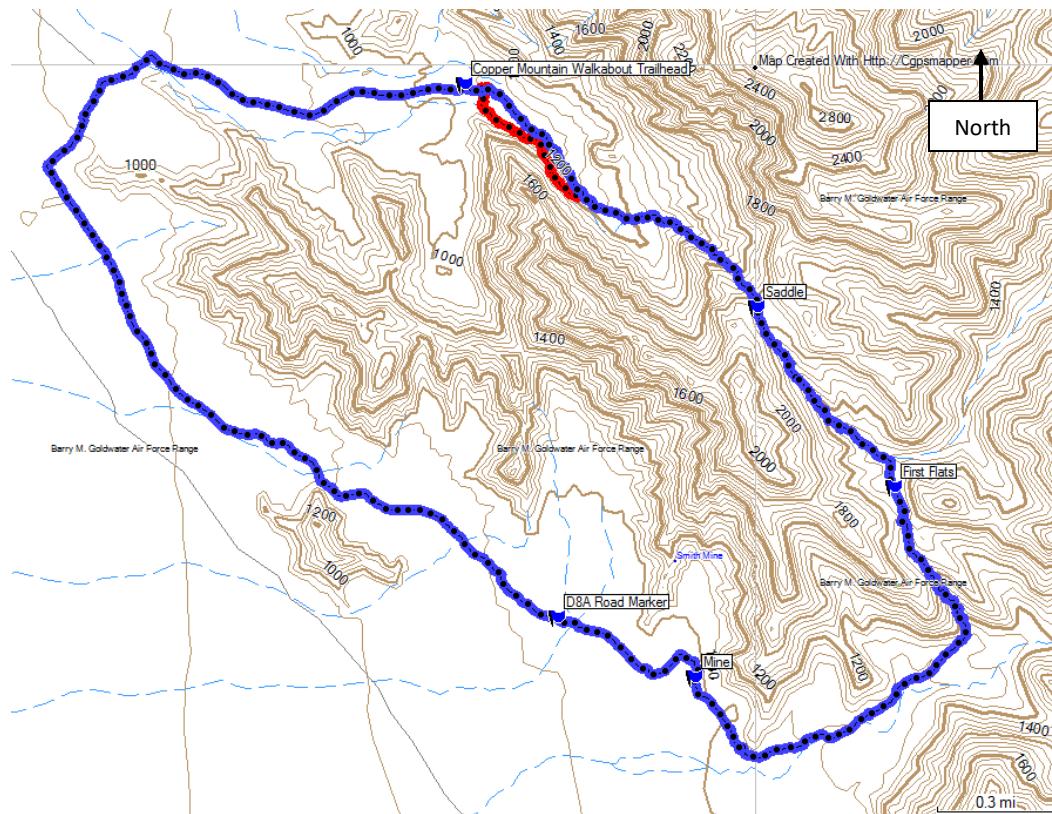
Coyote Peak Trail (north is up):



Copper Mountain Walkabout Trail Distance and Altitude Profile:



Copper Mountain Walkabout Hiking Trail - easy hike to huge boulder is in red (north is up):



Coyote Peak Trail 3-D Image (north is up; road in green; boulder hike in blue):



Coyote Peak Walkabout Hiking Trail 3-D Image (southeast is up):

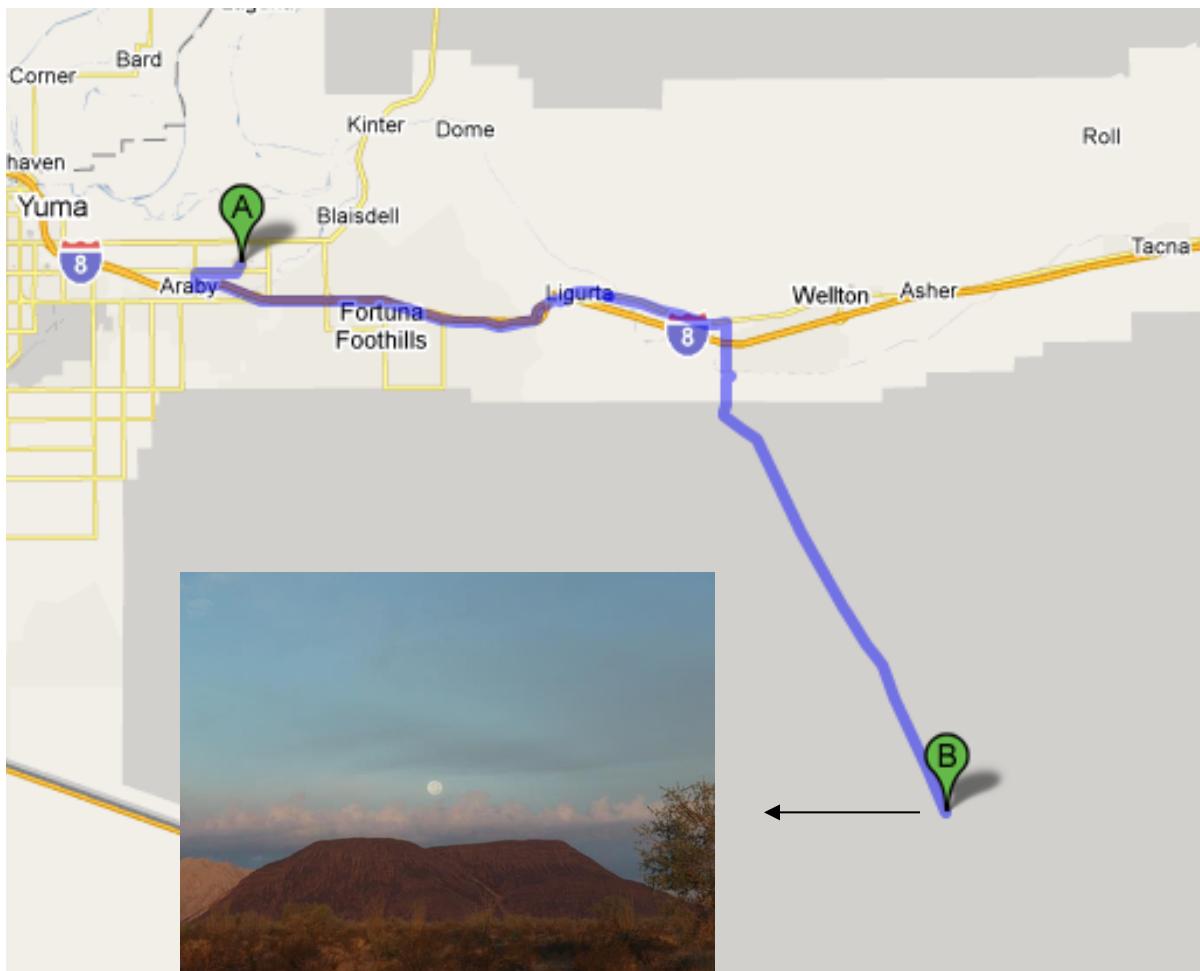


Raven Butte: This is a classic, easy hike with lots of potential variations (even some boulders to climb). Four hours is a comfortable time for the hike that is presented below.

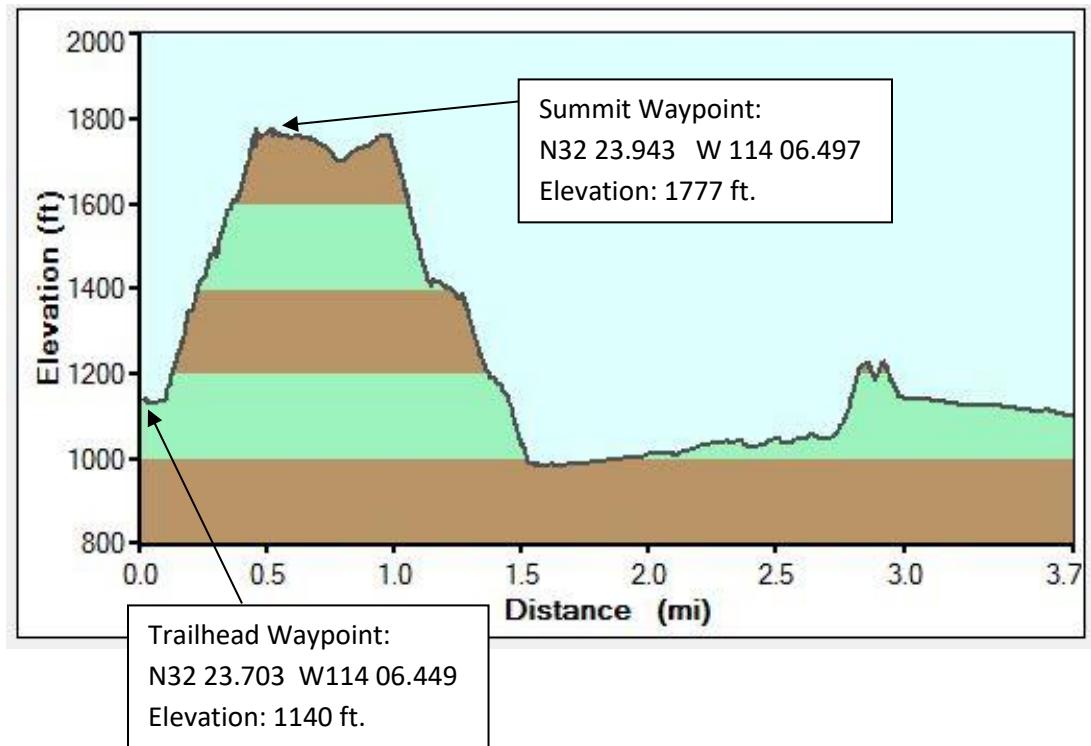
Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), continue for about another 4 miles, and turn right (south) onto S Ave 25 East. This becomes the Camino del Diablo Highway. Drive approximately 18 miles to marker post C14 (Raven Butte is extremely visible to the west). Turn right (west) at C14, and follow the dirt road to the very southern tip of Raven Butte, where you can park under some Palo Verde trees.

Drive Time: About 1-2 hours (depending on Camino del Diablo road conditions).

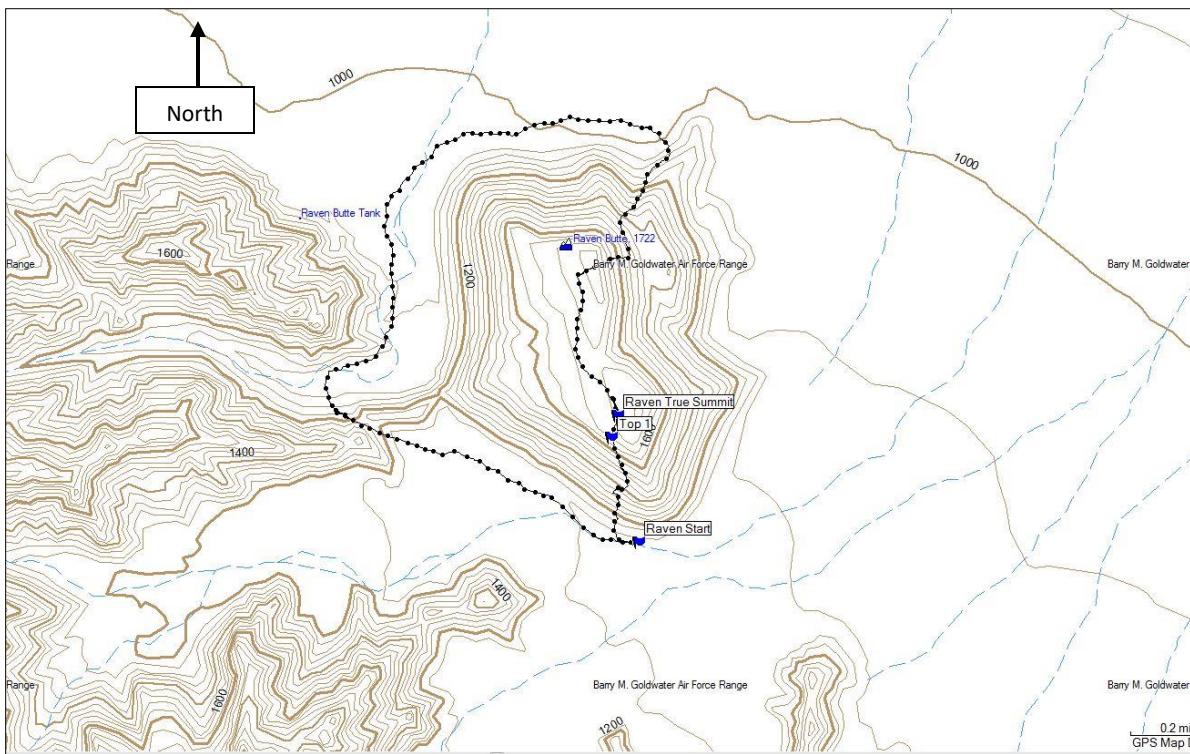
Note: A permit to travel onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range is required. Contact 928-269-7150 for information on obtaining the permit. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is necessary.



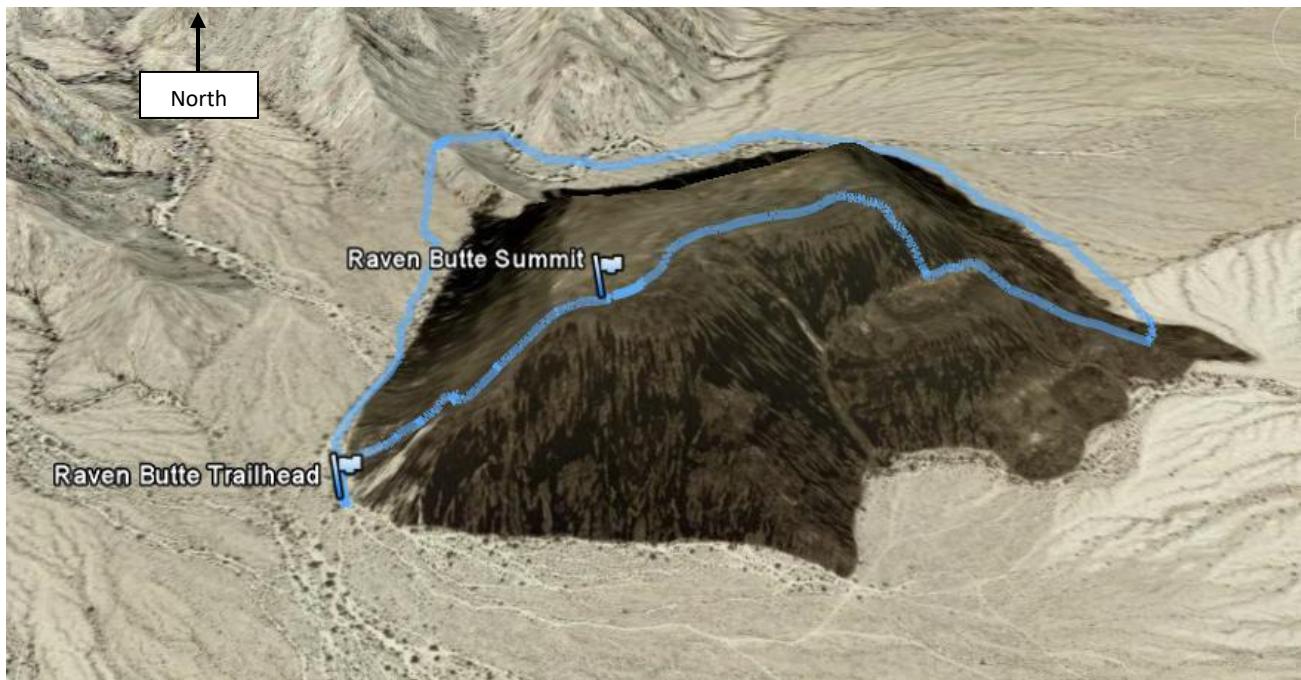
Raven Butte Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Raven Butte Trail (north is up):



Raven Butte Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Raven Butte Trail 3-D Image (north is down):

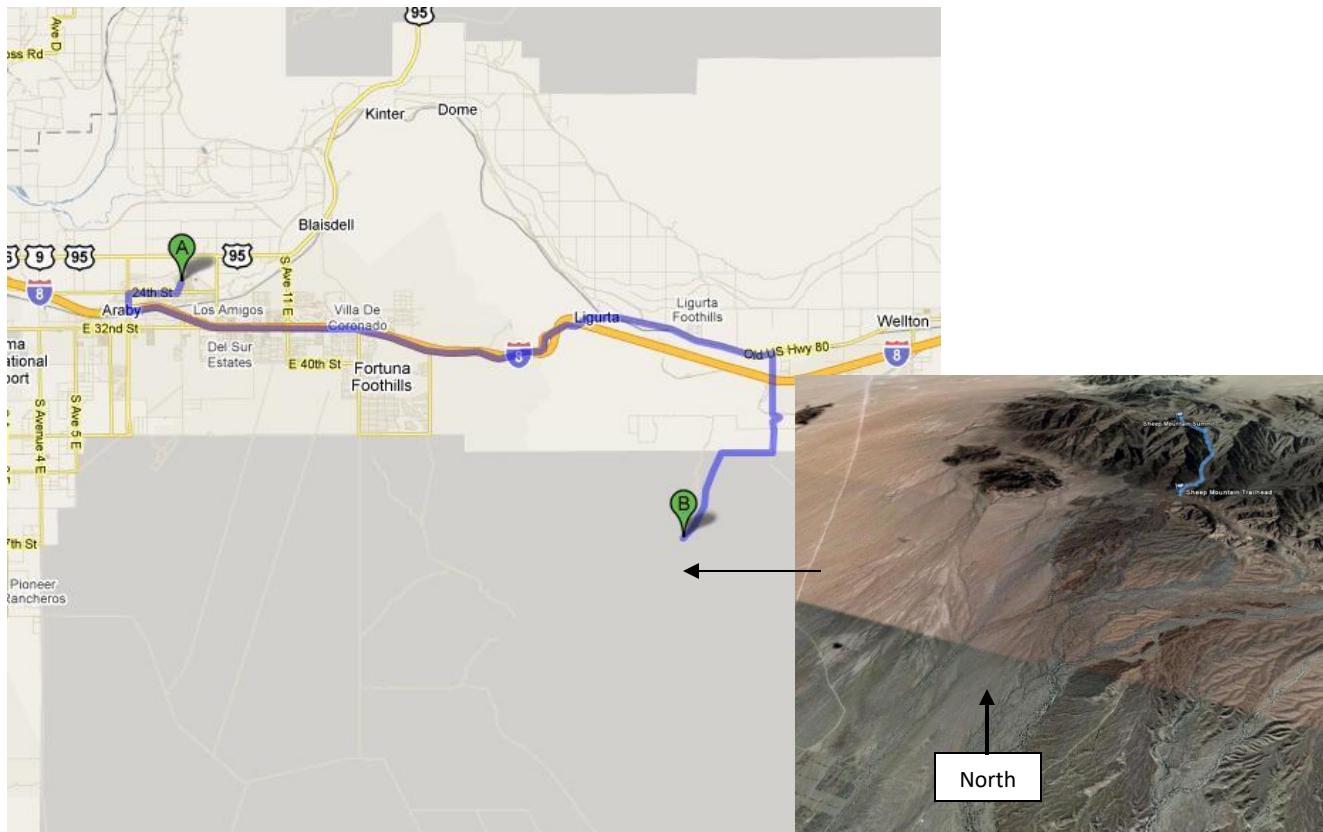


Sheep Mountain: This hike is very strenuous and it contains large, detached boulders (especially after the Saddle). There is no apparent trail and occasional climbing/scrambling is required. Plan 6-10 hours for the round trip of 4.5 miles.

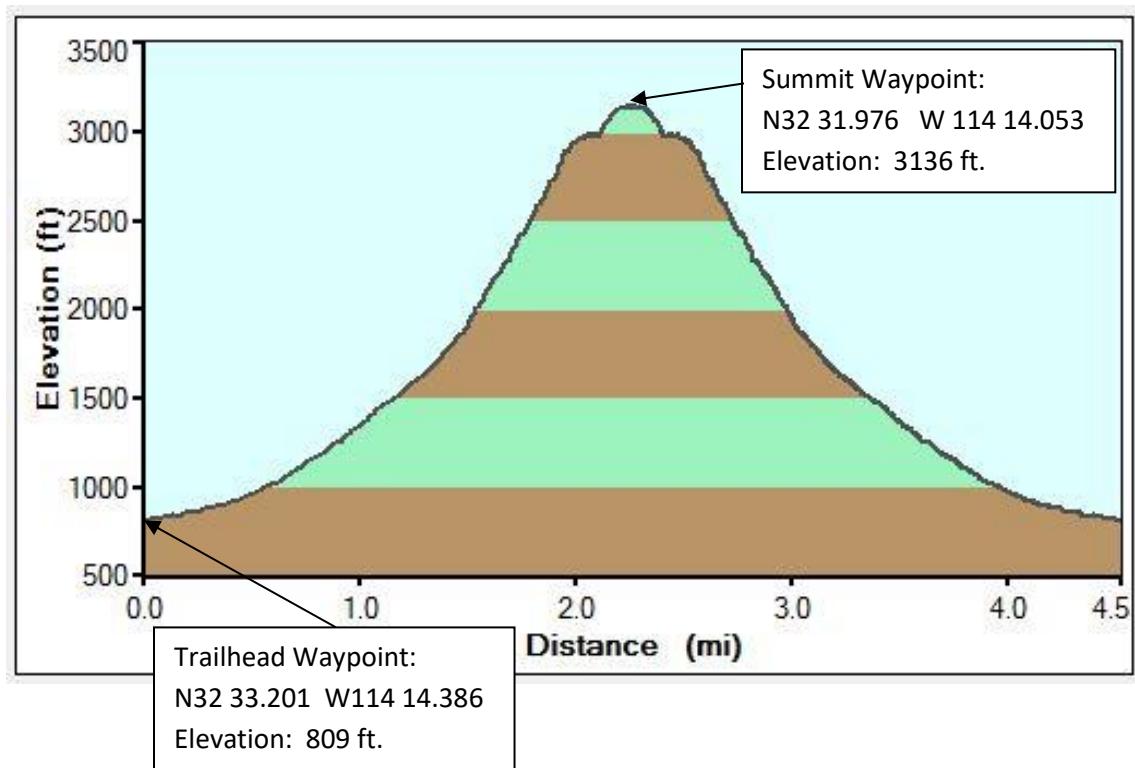
Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), continue for about another 4 miles, and turn right (south) onto S Ave 25 East. This becomes the Camino del Diablo Highway. Drive approximately 3 miles and turn right (west) at E County Road 14th St (northern border of the Barry M. Goldwater Range). Drive approximately 0.65 miles west and then turn left (south) onto a dirt road (Marker Post 4). Stay on the main dirt road for about 2 miles, then look for a lesser road (Marker Post 4A) off to the right (west). Do NOT take this road, but continue south on the same dirt road. After about 2 miles, veer left off the main dirt road onto barely distinguishable dirt road toward an old mine (the tailings are clearly visible). After driving about 0.5 miles, park about 50 yards before the old mine at the road's end. This is the trailhead (see trailhead waypoint below).

Drive Time: About 1 hour (depending on Camino del Diablo road conditions).

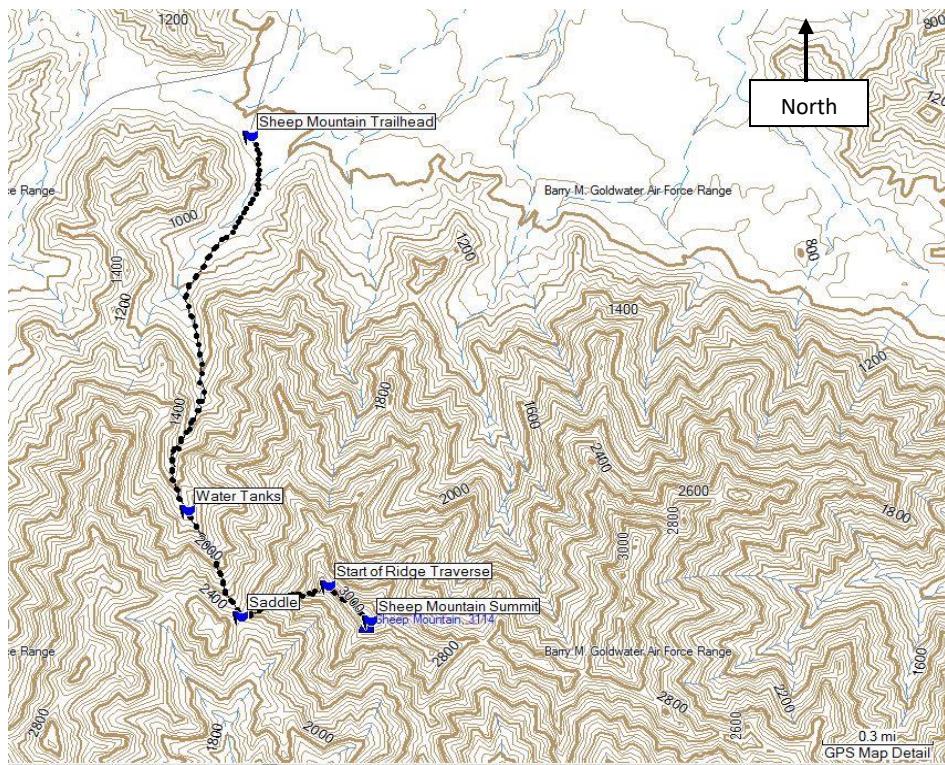
Note: A permit to travel onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range is required. Contact 928-269-7150 for information on obtaining the permit. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is necessary.



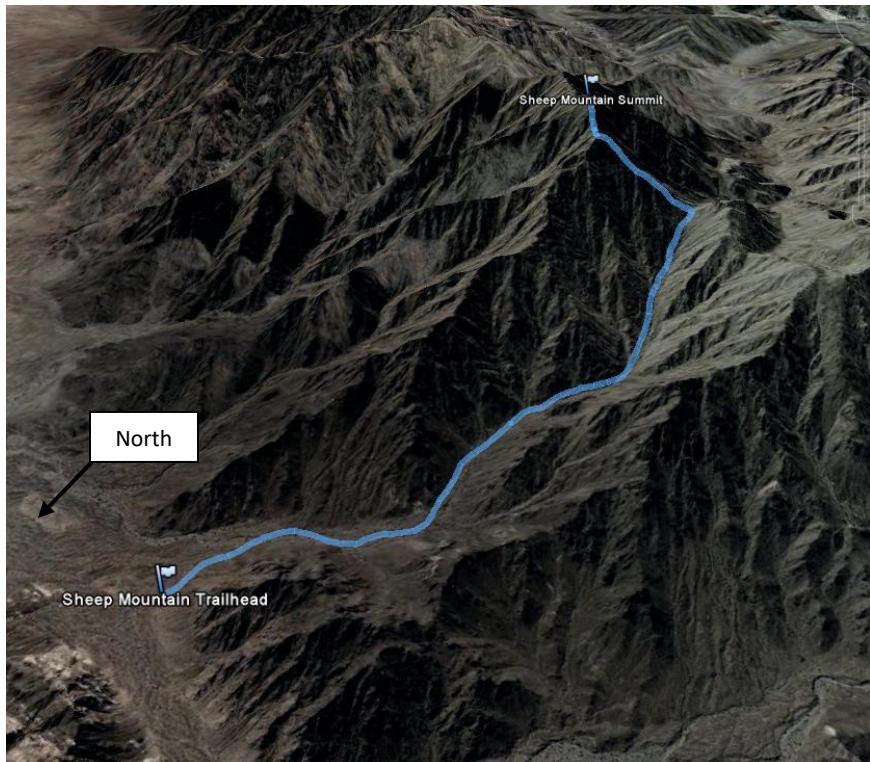
Sheep Mountain Trail Profile:



Sheep Mountain Trail (north is up):



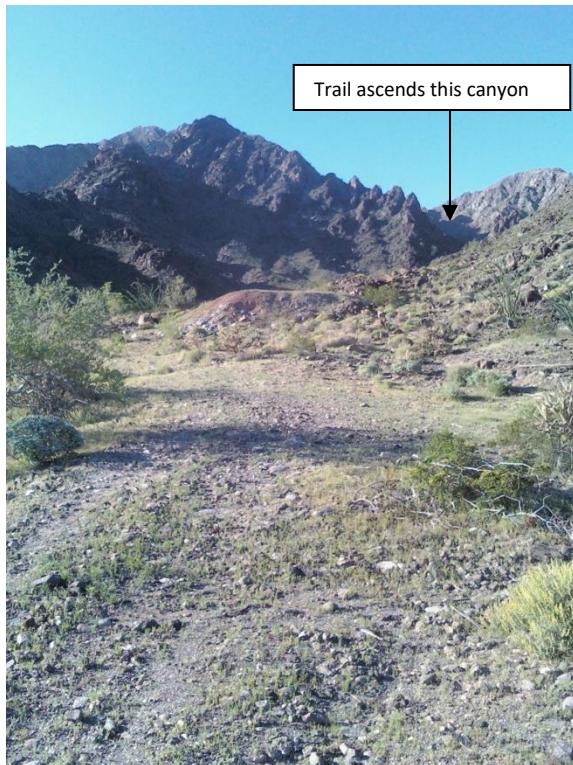
Sheep Mountain Trail 3-D Image (southeast is up):



Looking south from the summit of Sheep Mountain



Old mine with visible tailings at trailhead



Saddle area

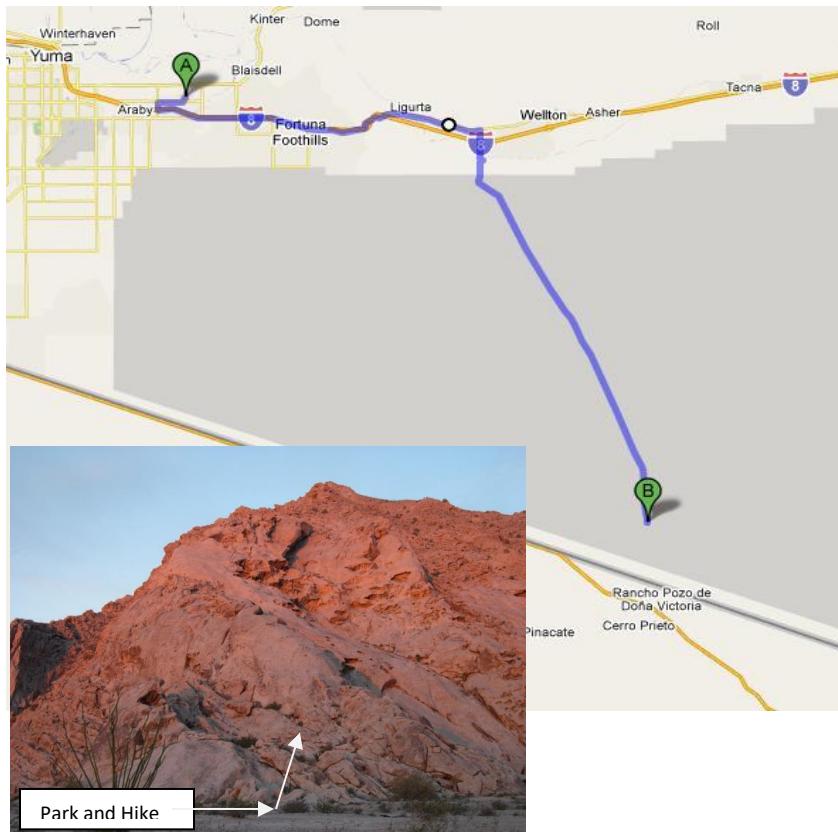


High Tanks North Trail (Tinajas Altas Area): This trip is a classic, strenuous climbing (LBNc) and advanced hiking combination. It begins up and to the right from where you park, and ascends the visible rock ridge (see Picture 1 below). The climbing, although generally not difficult (5.6 with some 5.8 variations), is exposed and technical, and continues for about 800 - 1,000 feet. It is then followed by a strenuous hike to the summit with some scrambling on rock. From the summit down to the top of the High Tanks is a difficult, exposed descent; and from the top of the High Tanks to the valley floor involves some rappelling. A rope and climbing equipment are mandatory to avoid a serious fall. Plan all day for the trip and start early.

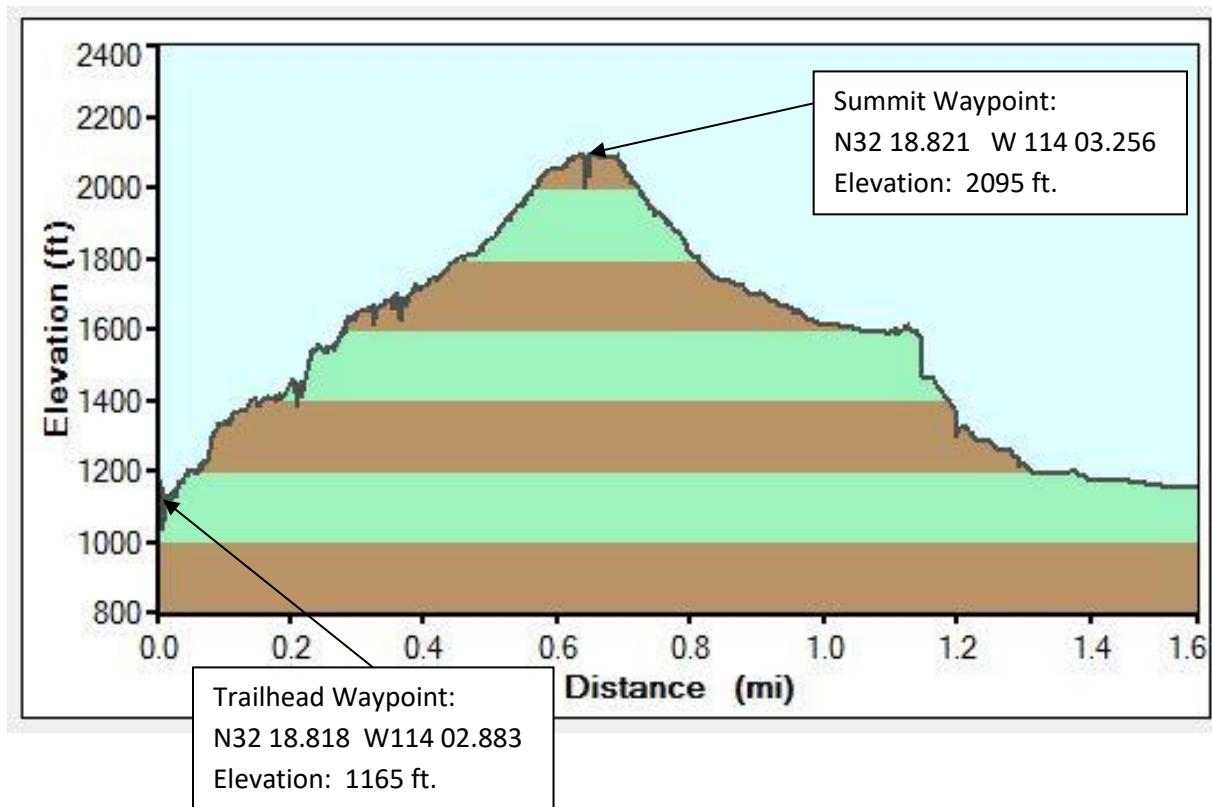
Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), continue for about another 4 miles, and turn right (south) onto S Ave 25 East. This becomes the Camino del Diablo Highway. Drive approximately 25 miles south and bear right at the Tinajas Altas Pass cutoff. Drive about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and bear left (do not continue to Tinajas Altas Pass). Follow the dirt road south to the High Tanks wash where a large ridge of rock forming the north border of the High Tanks wash ends about 20 feet from the road.

Drive Time: About 1½ to 2 hours (depending on Camino del Diablo road conditions).

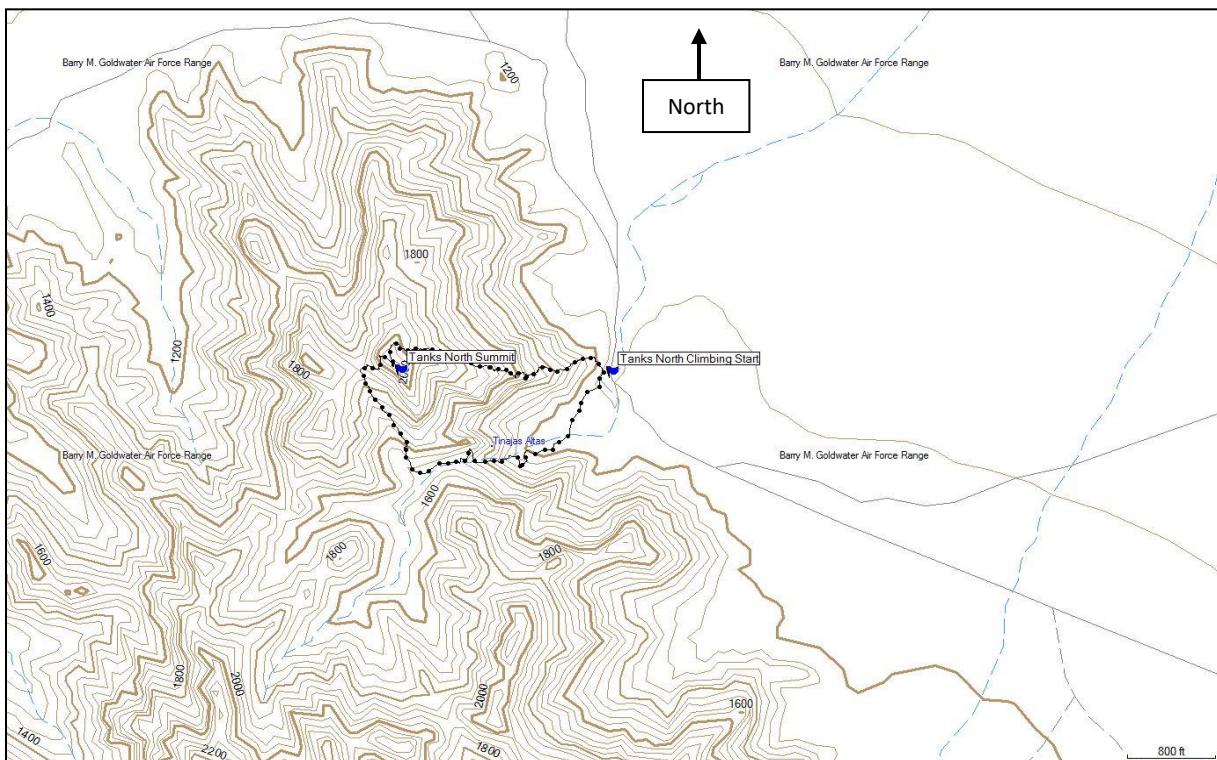
Note: A permit to travel onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range is required. Contact 928-269-7150 for information about obtaining the permit. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is necessary.

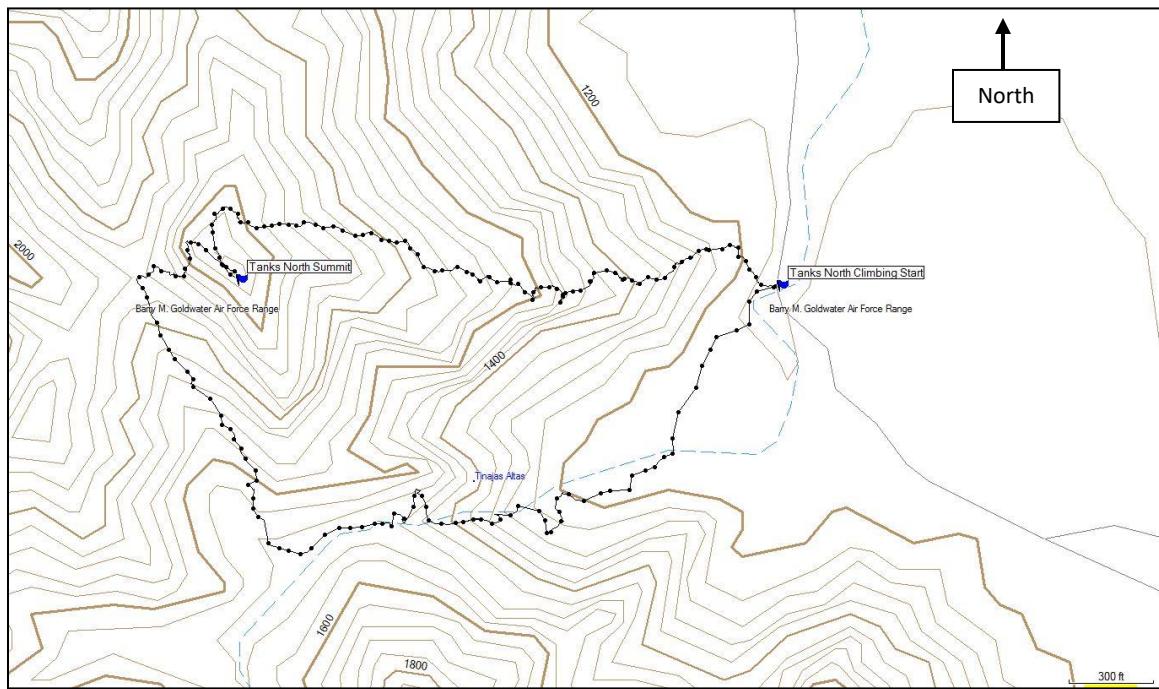


High Tanks North Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):

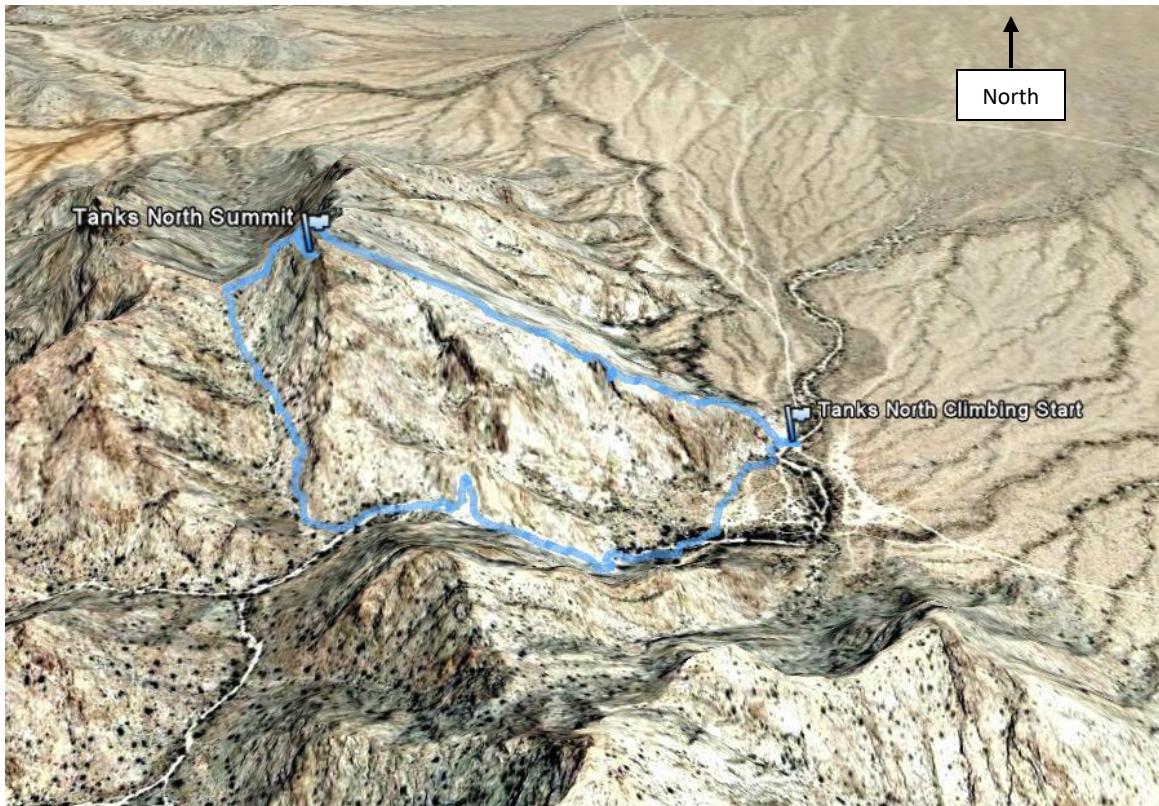


High Tanks North Trail:



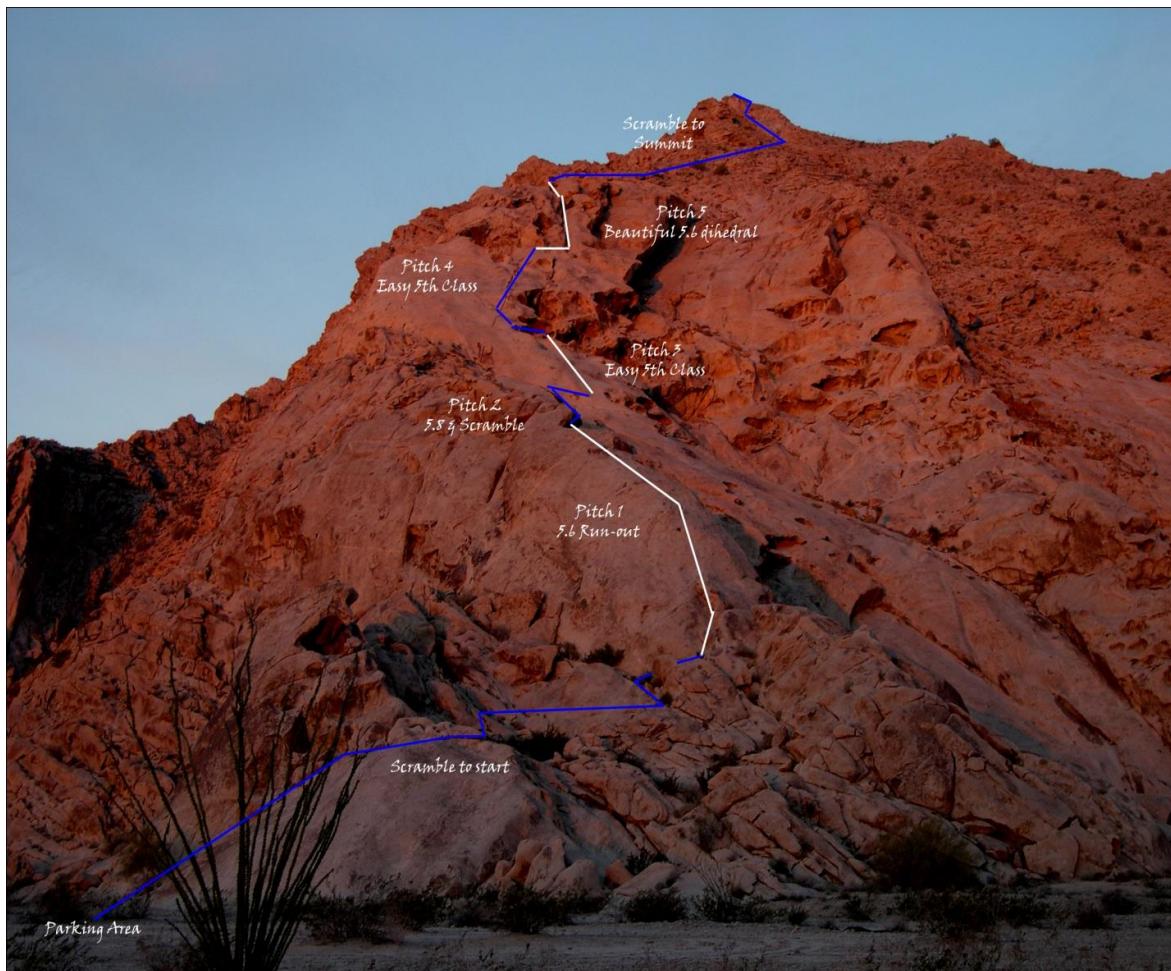


High Tanks North Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



High Tanks North Trail with Climbing Route (LBnC):

Note: At the trailhead (parking area), you cannot see the start of the climb. Instead, you are at the base of Mission Impossible Rock (which has several difficult routes), and a top-rope anchor at its top (2 bolts and a chain). Skirt right (north) and up on the low angle slabs below Mission Impossible rock until you can easily scramble up to the start of the ridge route pictured above. Climbing pitches are pictured in alternating colors (rope length: 200 ft; total climbing: ~1,000 ft.).



From the summit, traverse north along the ridge for about 100-200 meters, then drop down the steep backside to the west until you arrive at the obvious saddle (pass) visible from above.

To descend using rappels, hike south from the pass down a steep canyon until you reach the wash that feeds into the High Tanks drainage. Hike east to the top of the drainage, and then descend the High Tanks drainage directly. This involves hiking, climbing, and a fantastic 200ft rappel (you actually rappel into one of the tanks about 100 ft. down on the rappel).

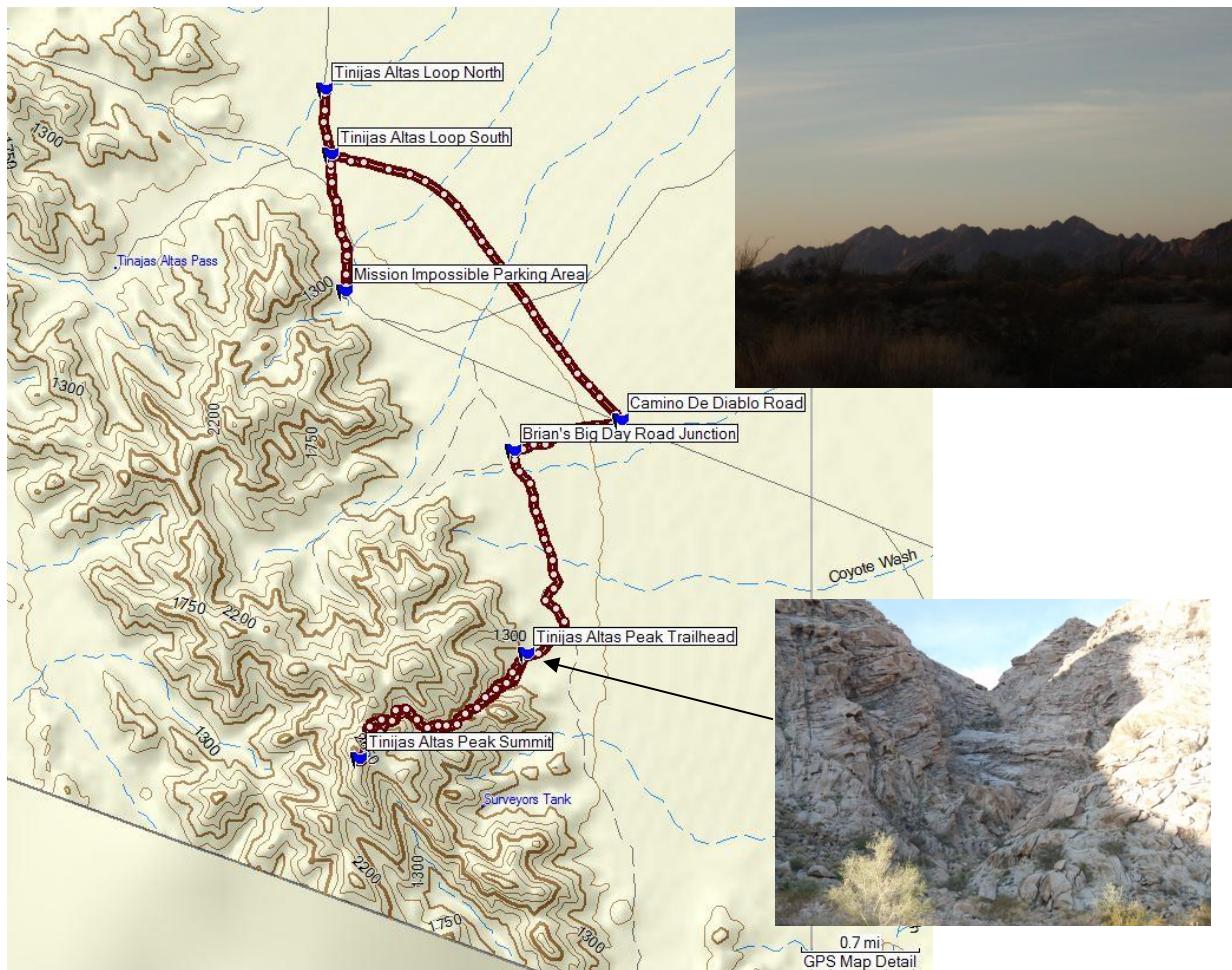
To descent avoiding the rappels, you can hike north from the saddle on easy ground down a moderately steep canyon until you reach the desert floor. Then hike east and south back to the parking area.

Tinajas Altas Peak: This venture to the summit of Tinajas Altas Peak involves a strenuous hike with some exposed scrambling and climbing in a very remote area. Though short, there is no trail, and navigation can be difficult. There is abundant vegetation in the wash along with large boulders and occasional 10 ft. vertical steps. The last 500 ft or so to the summit involve some scrambling and climbing with exposure.

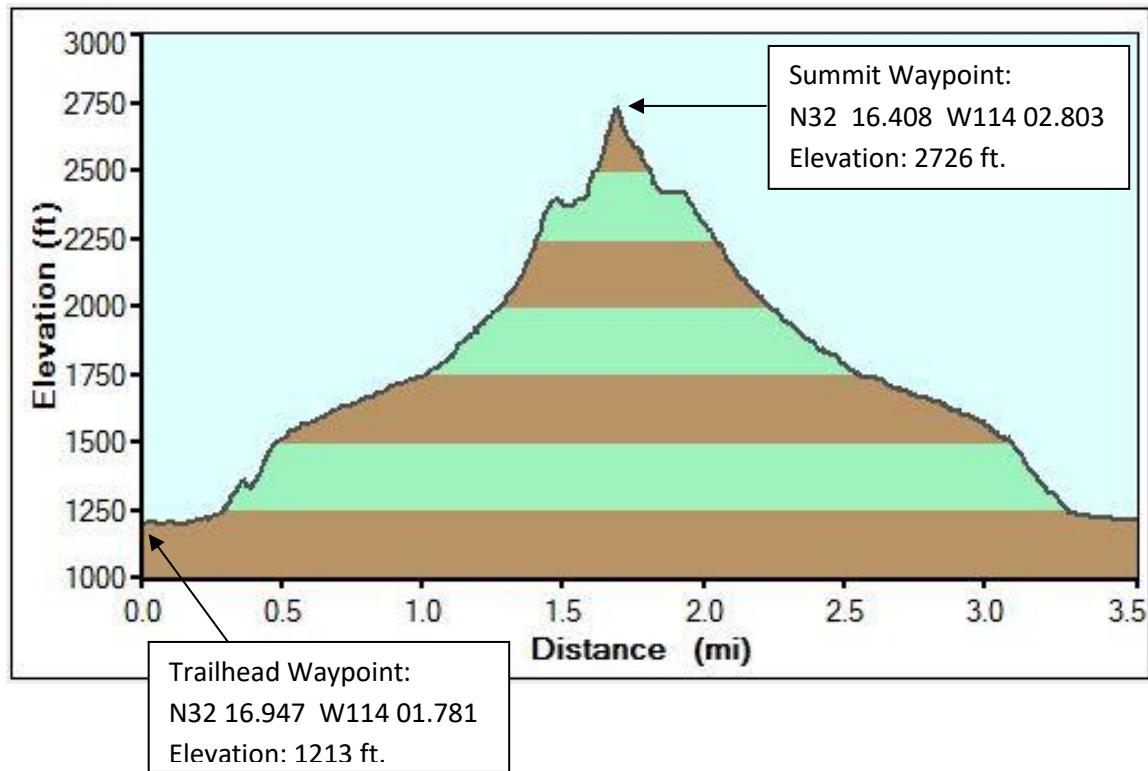
Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), continue for about another 4 miles, and turn right (south) onto S Ave 25 East. This becomes the Camino del Diablo Highway. Drive south about 27 miles until travel further south in vehicle is restricted, and bear right towards the open canyon to the west (Brian's Big Day Road). After about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mile a road will veer to the left (south). Take that road for about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the trailhead. Refer to topo below

Drive Time: About 2 hours (depending on Camino del Diablo road conditions).

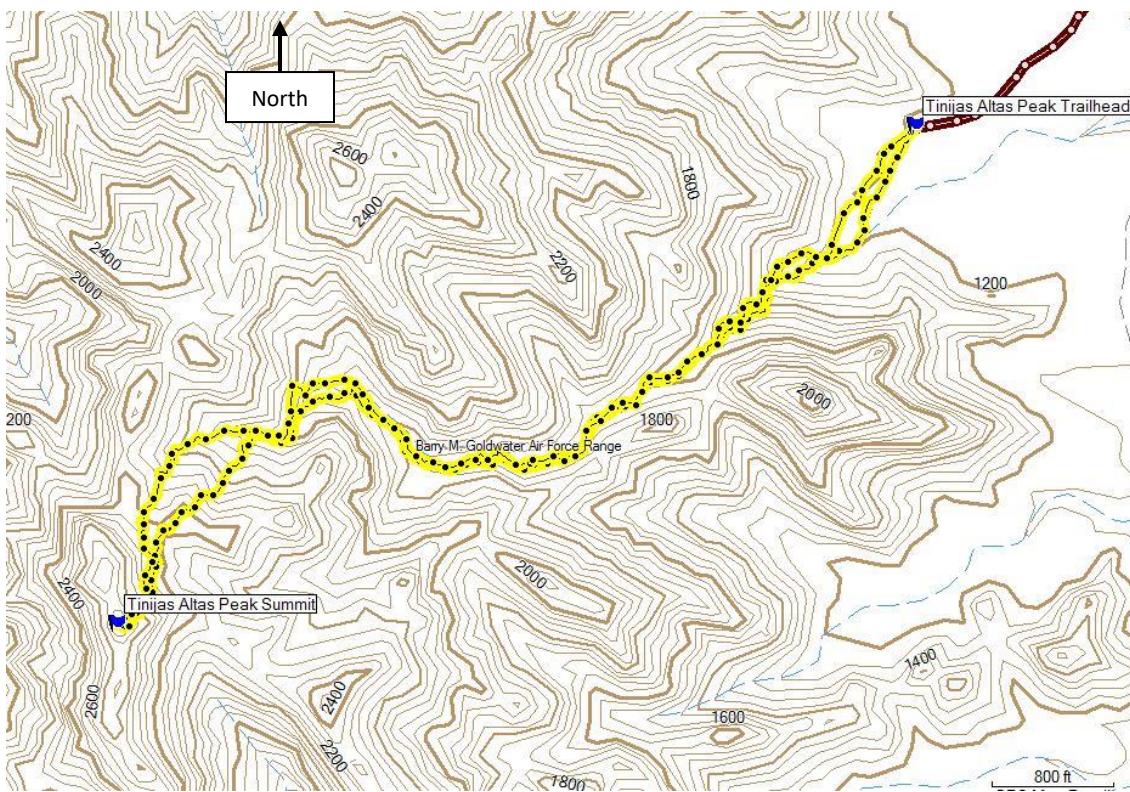
Note: A permit to travel onto the Barry M. Goldwater Range is required. Contact 928-269-7150 for information about obtaining the permit. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is necessary.



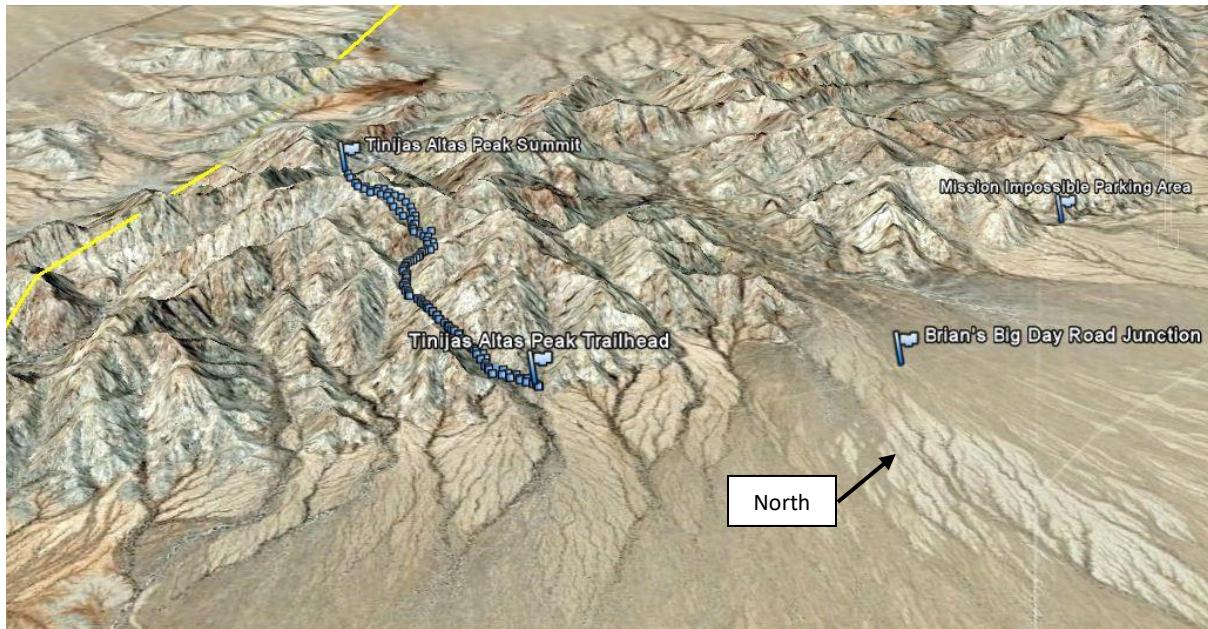
Tinajas Altas Peak Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



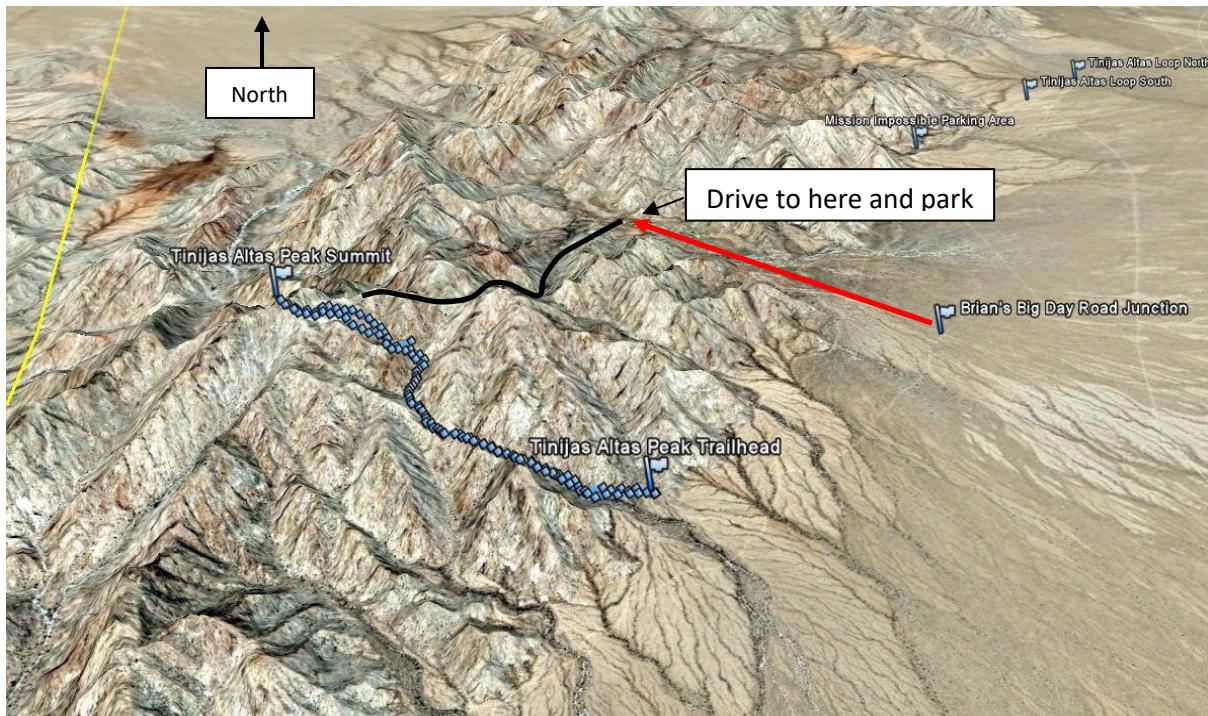
Tinajas Altas Peak Trail (north is up):



Tinajas Altas Peak 3-D Image (northwest is up):



Tinajas Altas Peak 3-D Image (north is up) with Alternate Trail (in red and black):



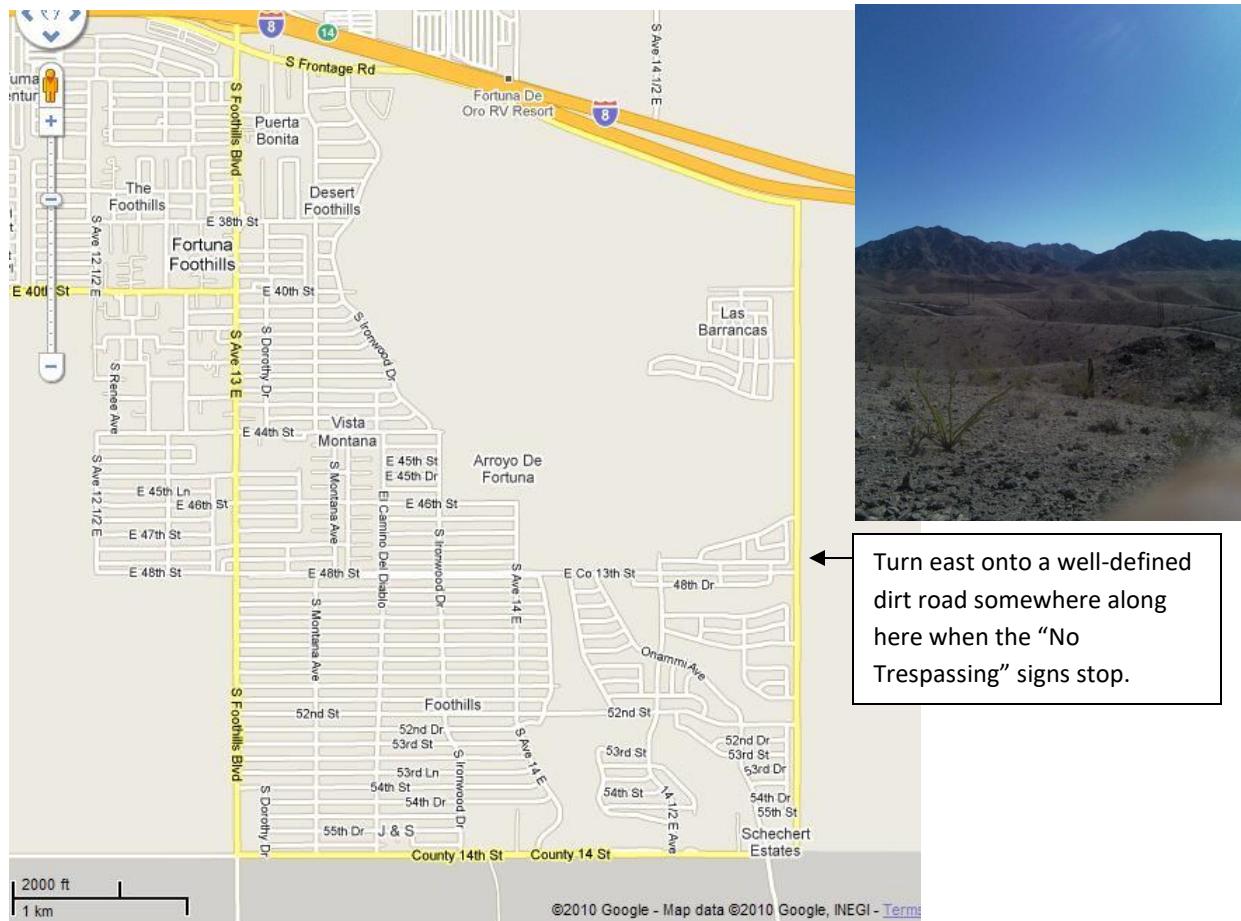
This shows an alternate trail to the summit of Tinajas Altas. Drive to the base of Brian's Big Day climb (in red) and ascend up the wash and steep canyon to the south (in black). B. Karasek and G. Montopoli ascended this alternate route but did not reach the Tinajas Altas Peak true summit. They climbed a different peak to the east, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the true summit.

Gila Mountains

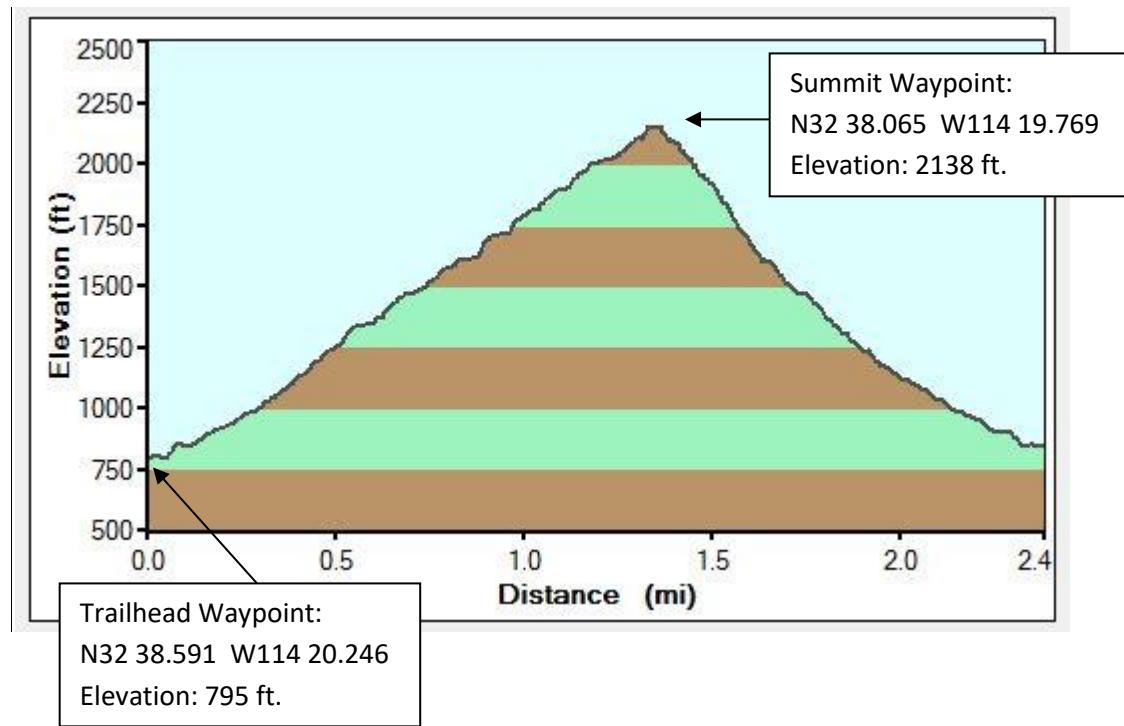
Airplane Wreck Mountain: Though short, this is a moderately difficult hike to the airplane crash site and beyond to the summit. There is a fairly good trail to the airplane crash site, but the trail beyond is sketchy. The descent from the summit to the airplane crash site is the worst part. Plan 4–8 hours for the round trip (It depends on how much time you spend checking out the airplane crash site.)

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east to the Foothill Boulevard Exit. Turn right at the exit, then immediately left onto the South Frontage road. Travel east along the Frontage Road until it turns south. Continue on the road past the golf course on the left and right, until the “No Trespassing” signs stop. Make a left as soon as possible and drive east along the primary 4-wheel drive dirt road that eventually travels along a ridge toward Flag Mountain. Before arriving at the Flag Mountain trailhead (about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from it), turn left (north) and eventually west along an auxiliary dirt road. You must circle around the prominent south ridge of Airplane Wreck Mountain to get to the trailhead. We advise scouting out the access beforehand, as it is quite involved. Access in the past was much simpler prior to the creation of the golf course and private landowners that closed access to the trailhead (there is a direct access road to the trailhead through the golf course if permission is obtained).

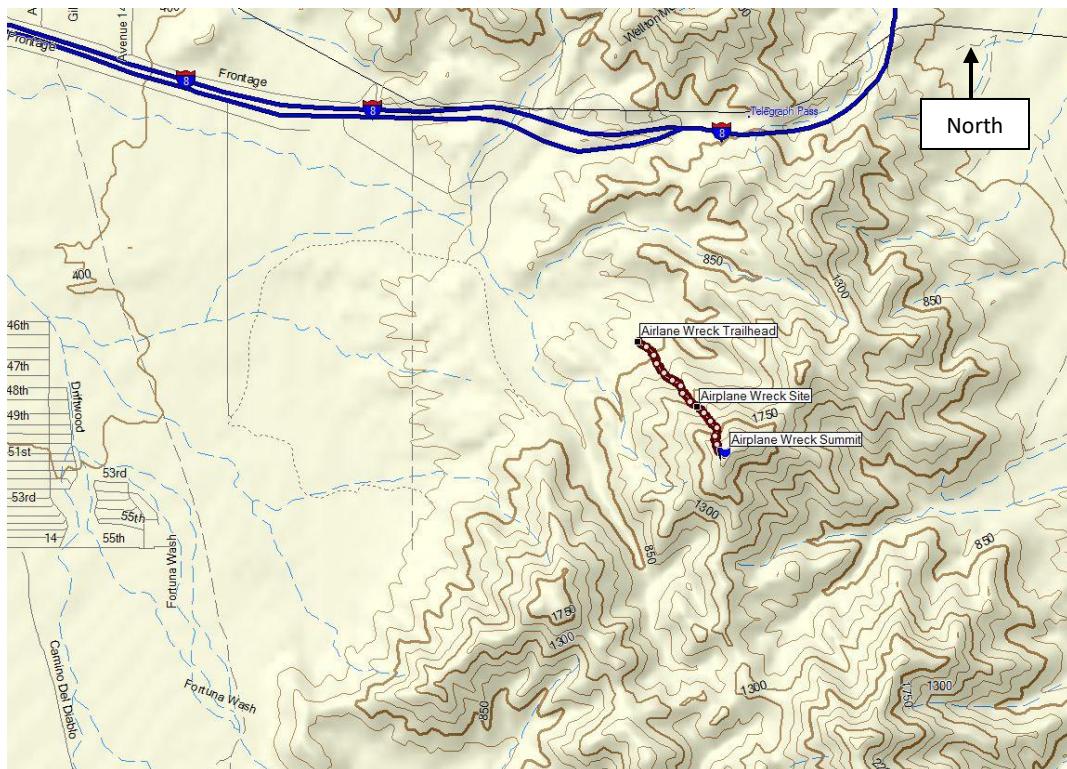
Drive Time: About 45 minutes.



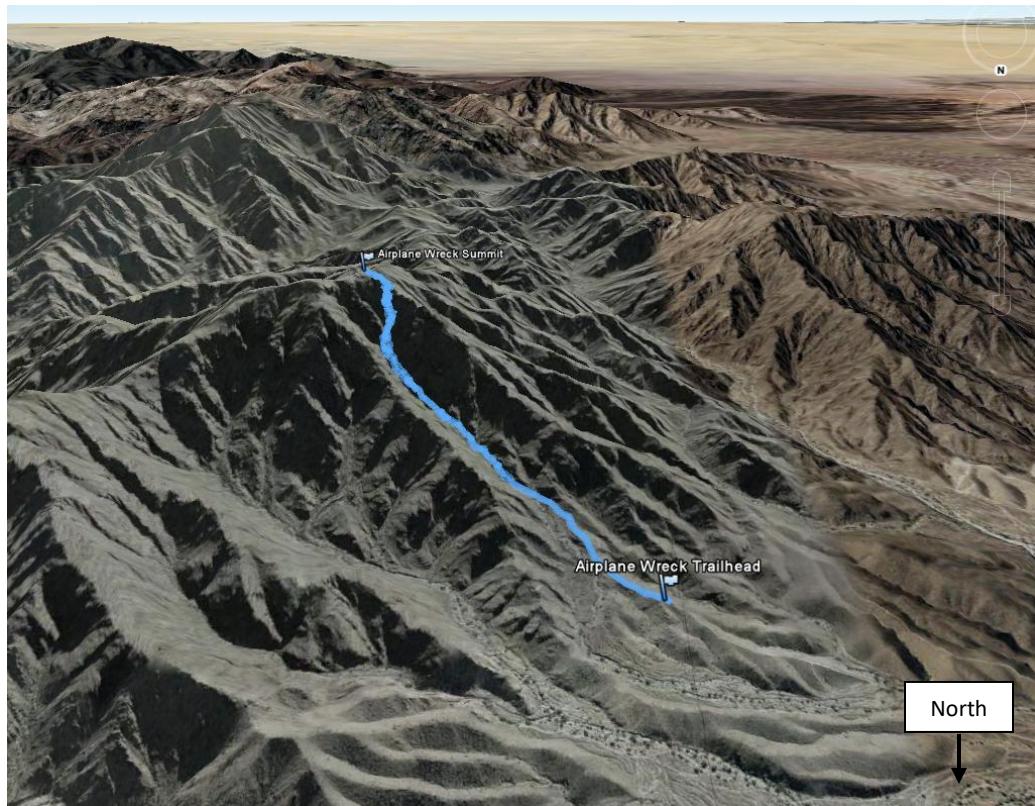
Airplane Wreck Mountain Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Airplane Wreck Trail (north is up):



Airplane Wreck Trail 3-D Image (north is down):



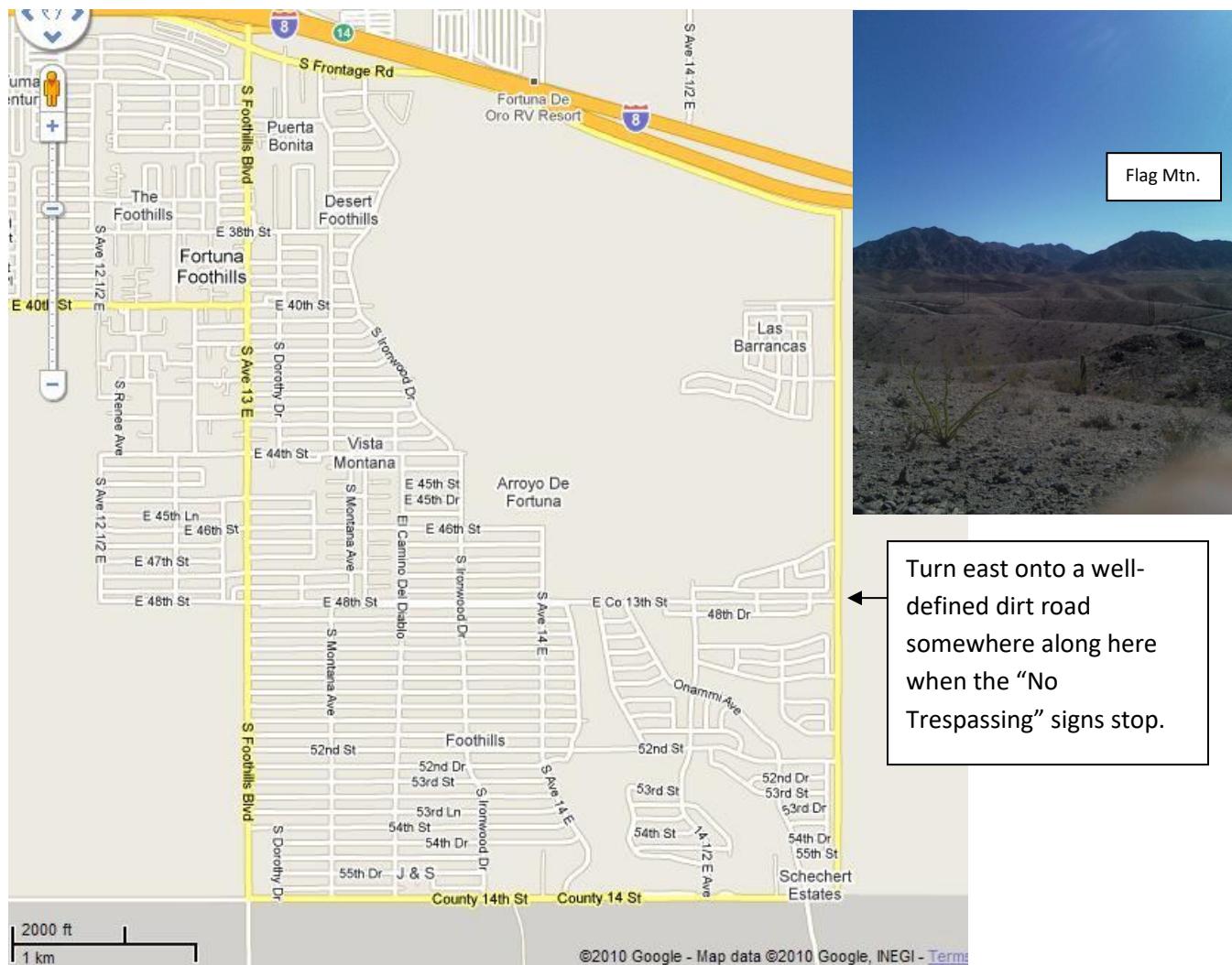
Crash site:



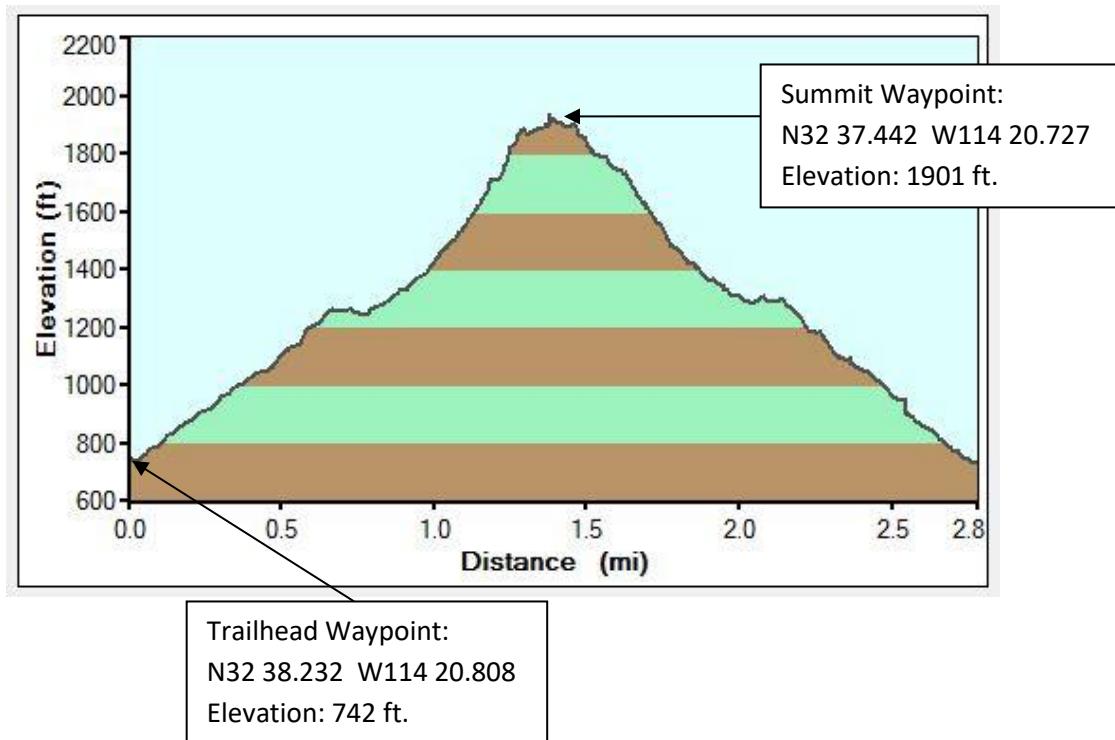
Flag Mountain (Jester's Peak): This is a classic, easy-to-moderately difficult hike that ascends to the top of Flag Mountain. As you approach the summit ridge, the hiking gets more difficult, and the trail becomes sketchier (some rock scrambling is involved). The trail is known as Jester's Trail and is maintained by the BLM Yuma Field Office. The descent from the summit ridge down about 500 ft. is tricky as well. Be careful about losing the trail. Plan 4-6 hours for the trip.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east to the Foothill Boulevard Exit. Turn right at the exit, then immediately left onto the South Frontage road. Travel east along the Frontage Road until it turns south. Continue on the road past the golf course Flagon the left and right, until the "No Trespassing" signs stop. Make a left as soon as possible and drive east along the primary 4-wheel drive dirt road that eventually travels along a ridge toward Flag Mountain. The trailhead is located at the base of a long prominent NNW ridge that descends from the summit of Flag Mountain. A plywood (mostly empty) information billboard is located at the trailhead.

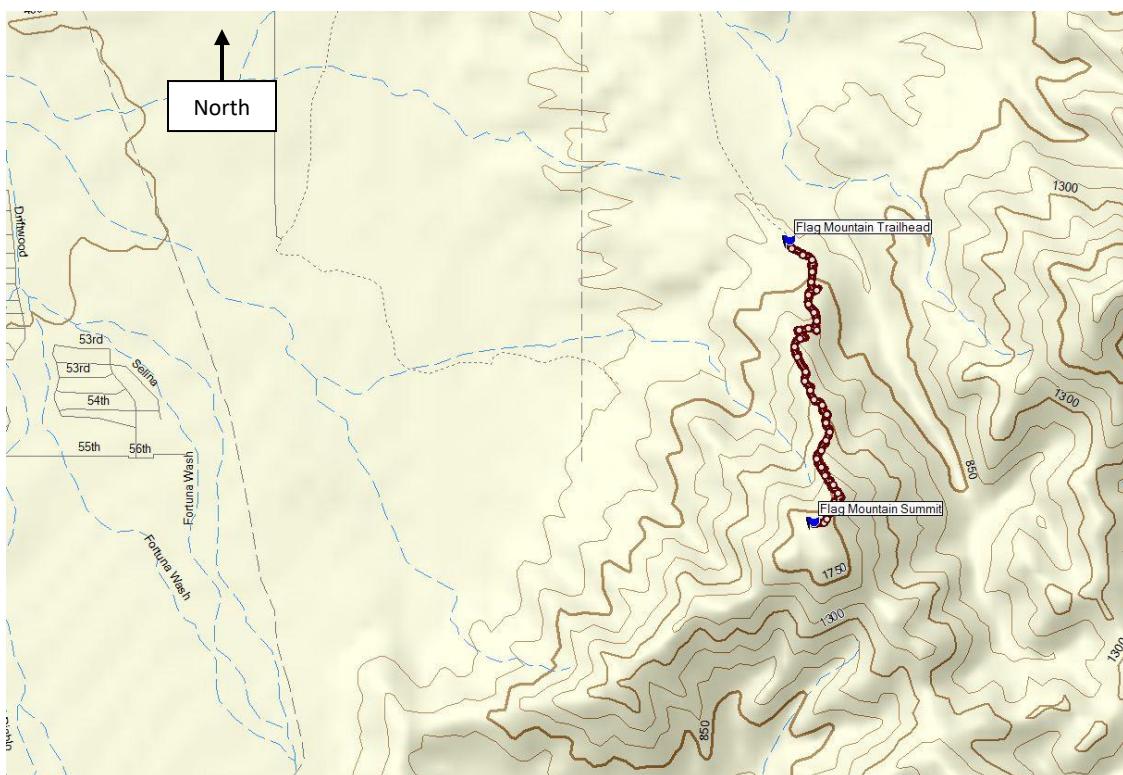
Drive Time: About 30 minutes.



Flag Mountain Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Flag Mountain Trail (north is up):



Flag Mountain Trail 3-D Image (northeast is up):



Flag Mountain Trail 3-D Image (north is up):

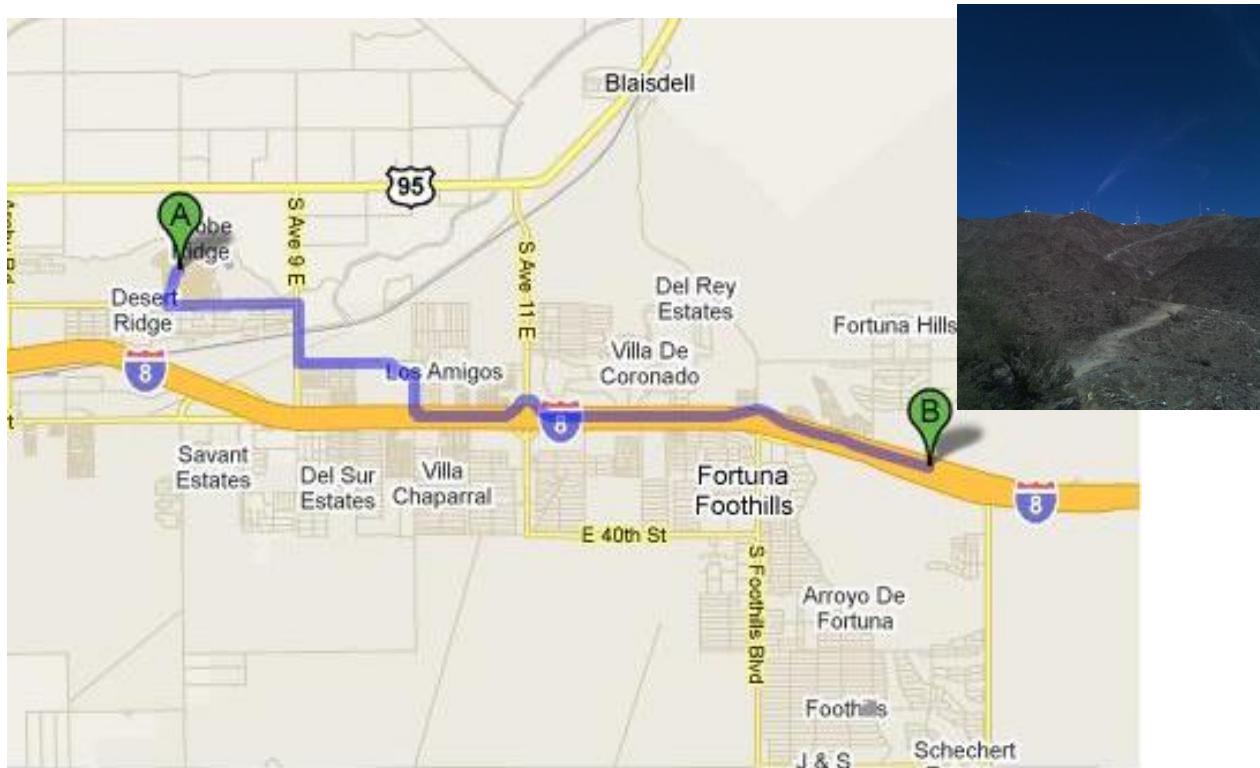


Telegraph Peak: This is an easy to moderately difficult hike up to the summit of Telegraph Peak, depending on the route you take:

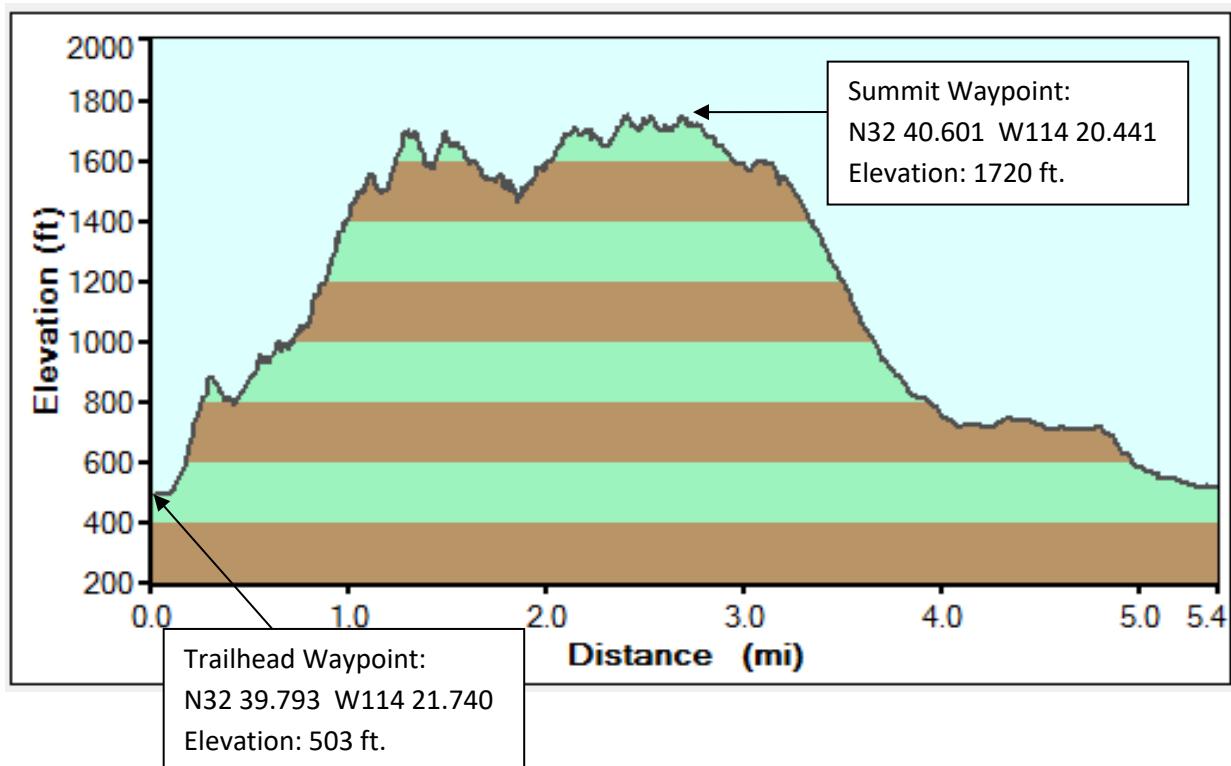
- Easy hike: From the parking area, you may hike up the dirt road from the barrier at the end of the paved road. You may also hike up a trail to the summit from the parking area at the end of the dirt road by dropping into a wash to the northeast of the parking area and following the well-marked trail (this trail eventually joins the dirt road). The dirt road eventually joins a paved road that you take to the summit. Plan about 4-6 hours for the round trip.
- More difficult hike (10-Summit Ridge Route): The more adventurous route to the summit follows the trail we describe below. It starts at the farthest, dirt parking area and ascends northward to the minor peak with the white cross at its top. It then continues along the ridge, or on either side of it, and if you stay on the ridge proper, you will “bag” about 10 summits. It is best to stay on the north side of the ridge whenever necessary to avoid the cholla cactus fields, which are extremely thick at times (bring pliers). Descend back to the trailhead using the road and traditional trail. Plan 6-8 hours for the round trip.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east to the Foothill Boulevard Exit. Turn left at the exit, then immediately right onto the North Frontage road. Travel east along the North Frontage Road until it ends. You may park at the barrier on the paved road, or bear left and drive another quarter mile on a dirt road to a parking area at its end.

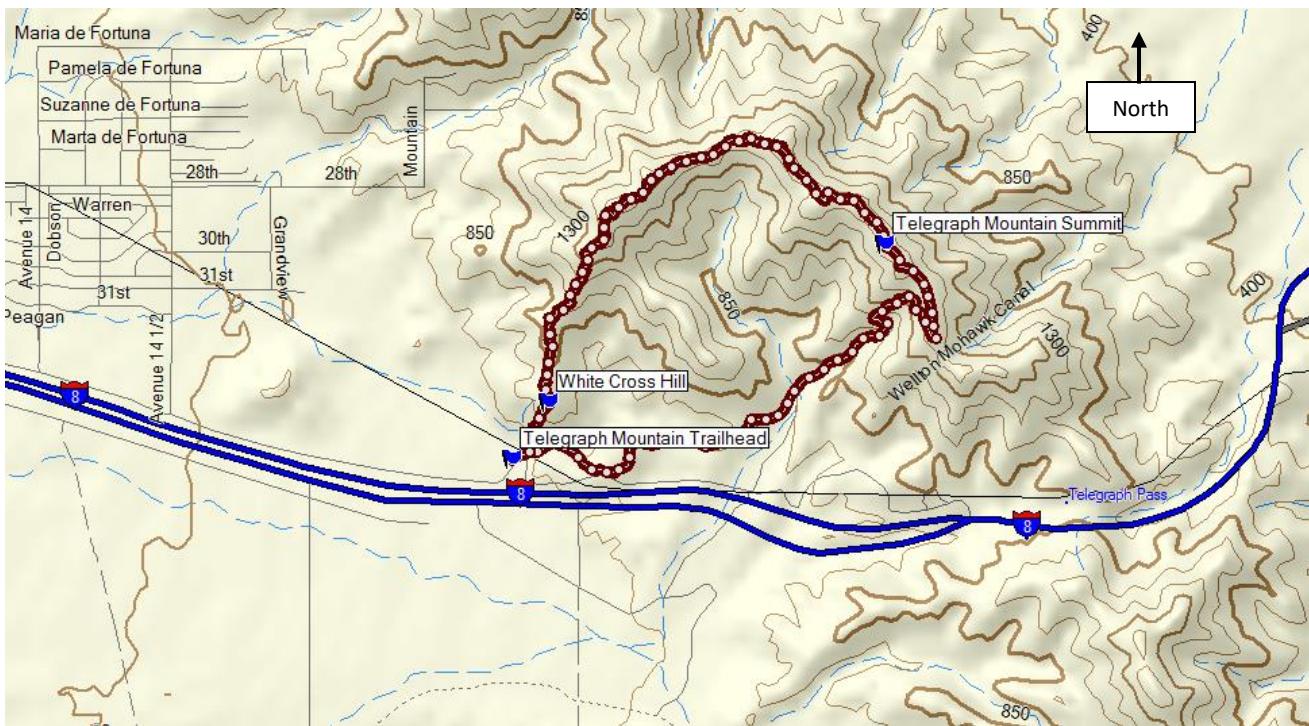
Drive Time: About 20 minutes.



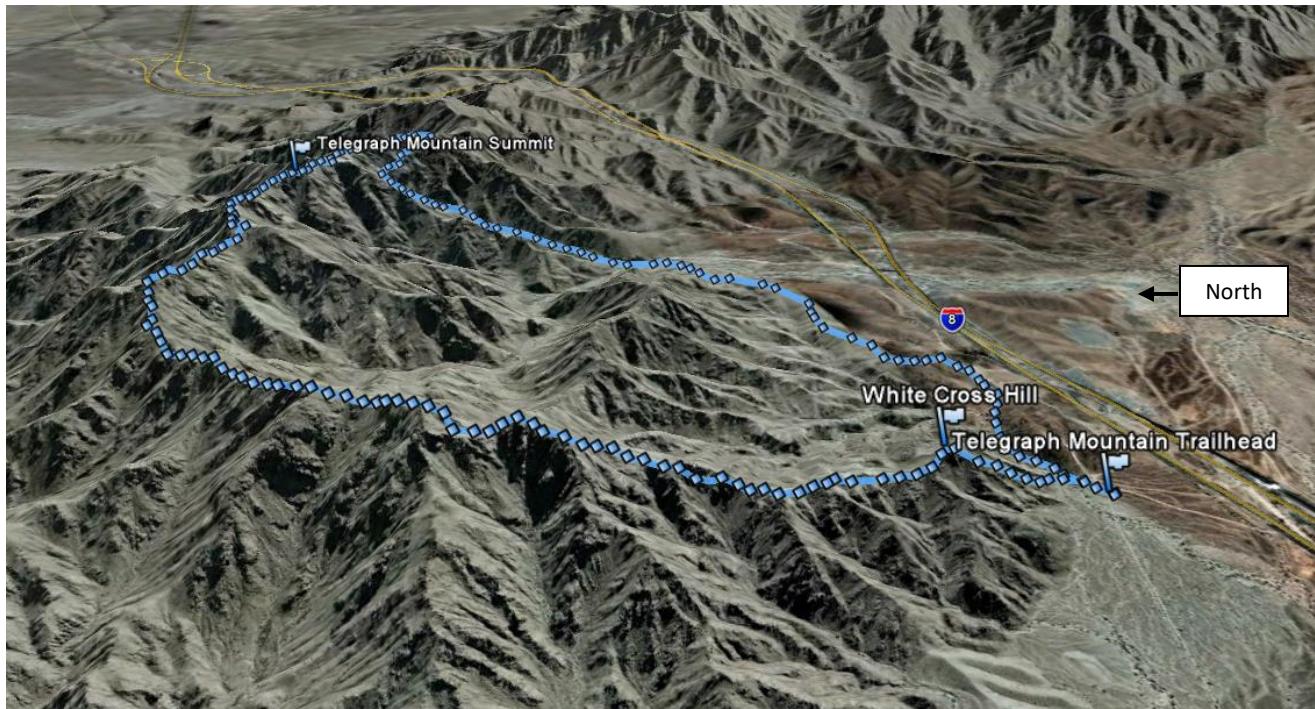
Telegraph Peak Distance (10-Summit Ridge Route) and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



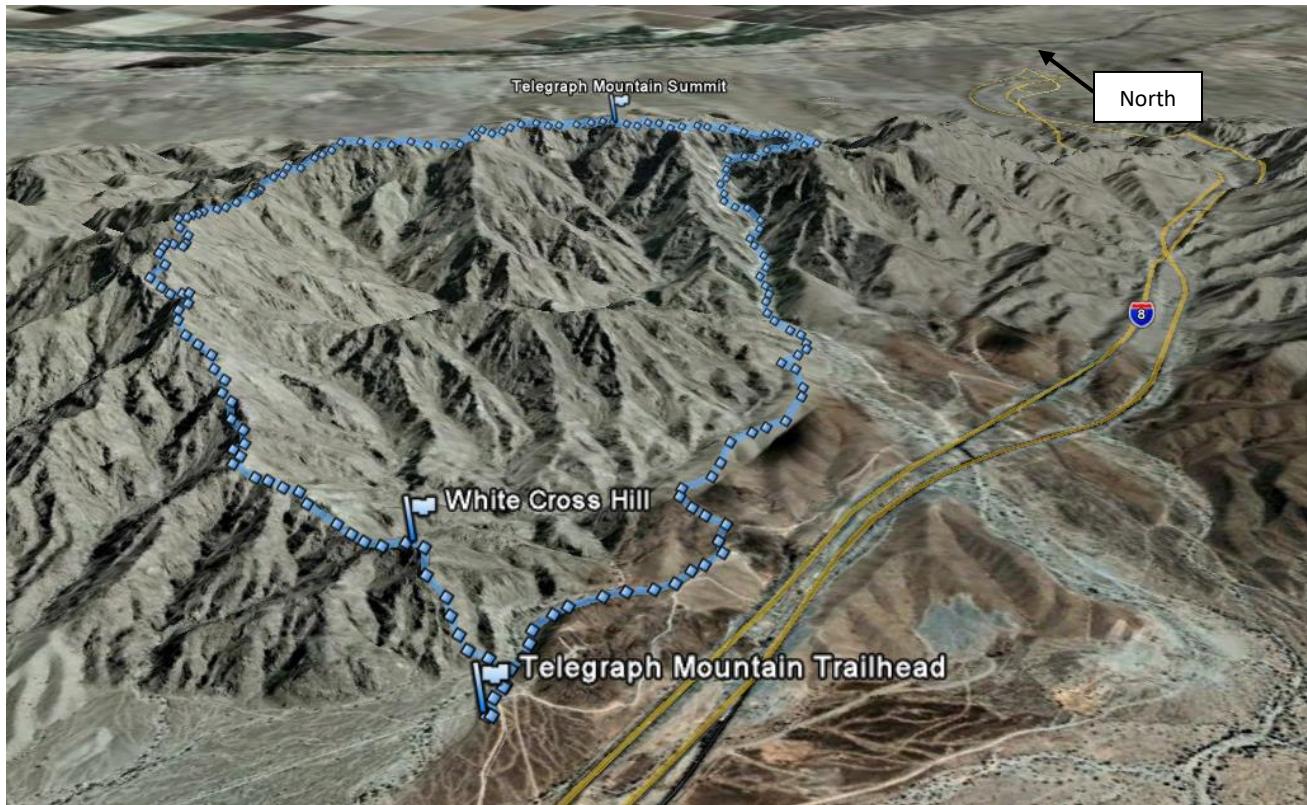
Telegraph Peak Trail and 10-Summit Ridge Route (north is up):



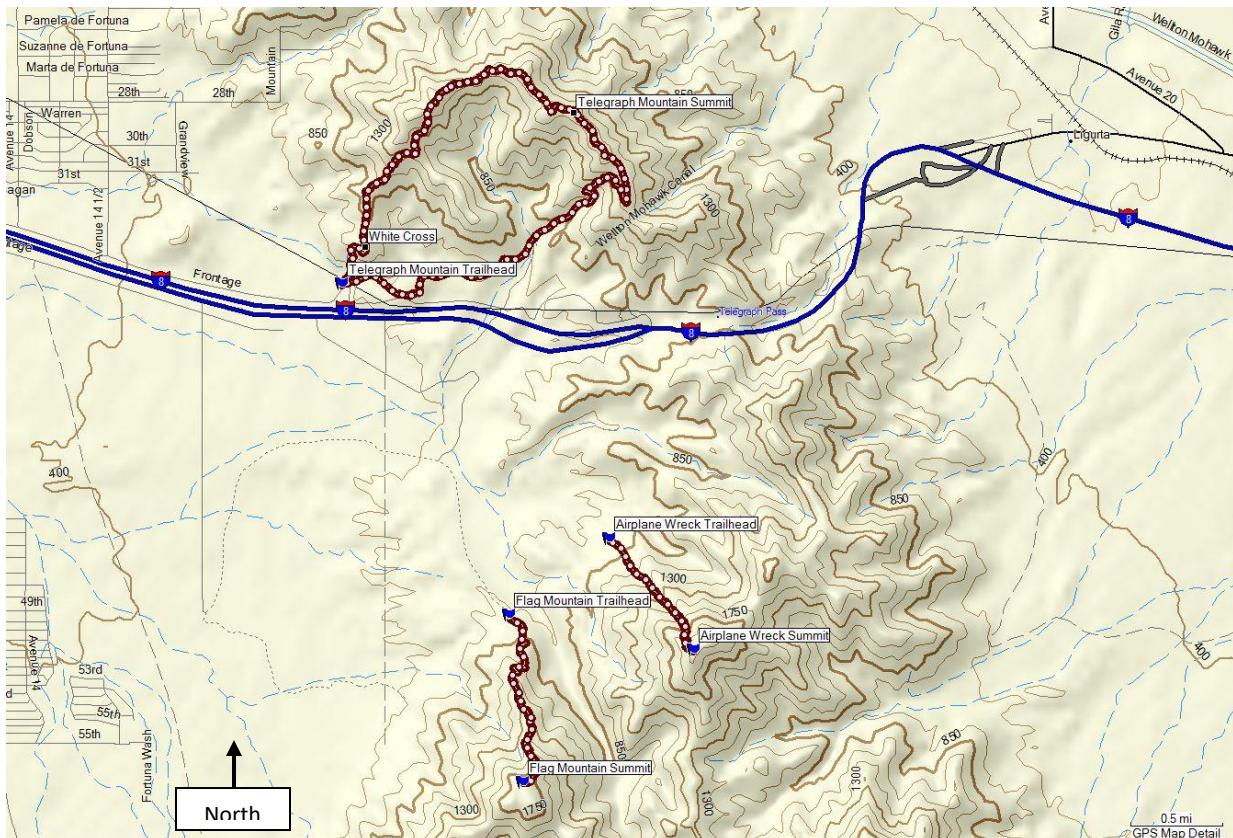
Telegraph Peak Trail (10-Summit Ridge Route) 3-D Image (east is up):



Telegraph Peak Trail (10-Summit Ridge Route) 3-D Image (larger profile – northeast is up):



The Trifecta: This hike involves ascending Flag Mountain, Airplane Wreck Mountain, and Telegraph Peak all in one day. Detailed information about each hike is given individually in their respective sections above. A topographical map containing all three hikes is given below:



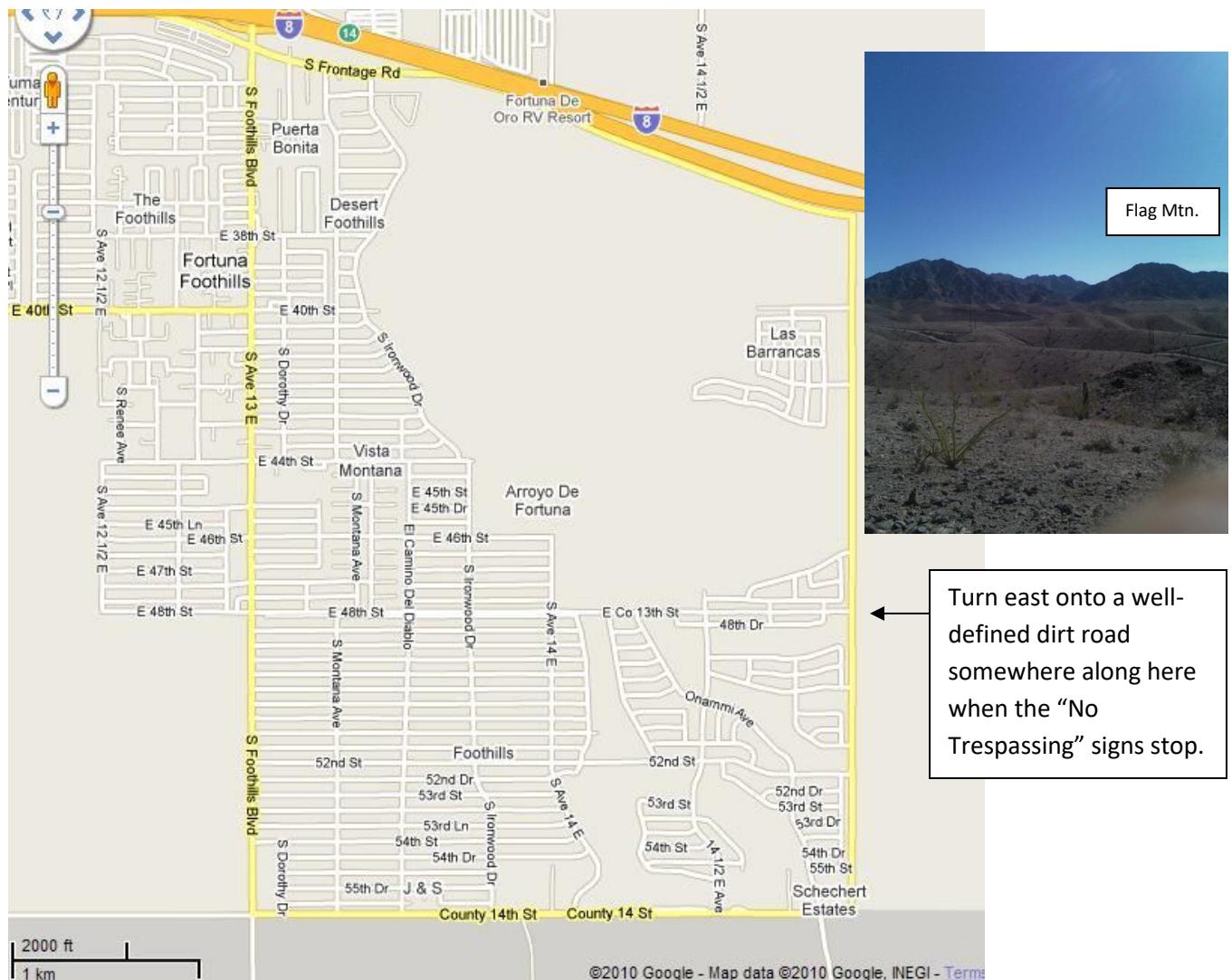
The following itinerary is given as a reference and was recorded by G. Montopoli when he completed the Trifecta in seven hours (October 2009):

- 8am – at the Flag Mountain Trailhead starting the hike up the Flag Mountain trail
- 8:47am – at the flag on the summit of Flag Mountain
- 8:52am – at the true summit of Flag Mountain
- 9:25am – back at the trailhead of Flag Mountain trail
- 9:25am to 9:50am – drove to the trailhead of Airplane Wreck Mountain
- 10am – at the Airplane Wreck Mountain trailhead starting the hike up the Airplane Wreck trail
- 10:55am – at the summit of Airplane Wreck Mountain
- 11:30am – back at the trailhead of Airplane Wreck Mountain trail
- 11:30am to 12:15pm – drove to the trailhead of Telegraph Peak
- 12:20pm – at the Telegraph Peak Trailhead starting the hike up Telegraph Peak trail (easy variation)
- 1:55pm – at the true summit of Telegraph Peak (~1/4 mile past the end of the road/last tower)
- 3pm – back at the trailhead of Telegraph Peak trail

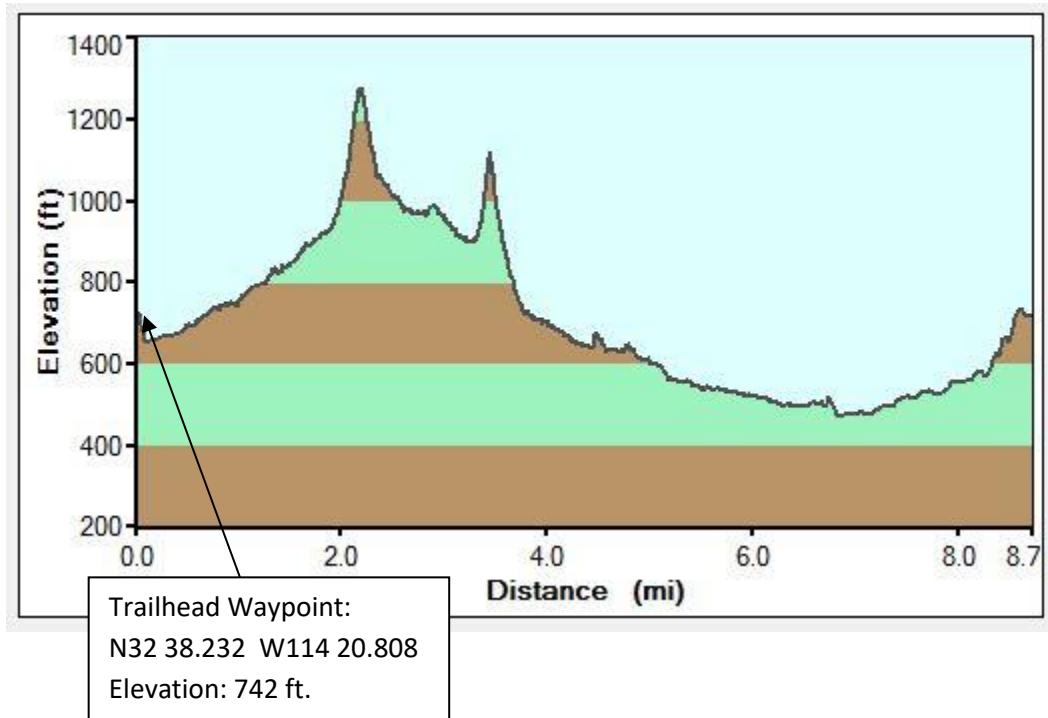
Trail to Nowhere: The Trail to Nowhere is an interesting, but very difficult hike. As pictured below, it circumnavigates Flag Mountain, passing over several saddles and ridges for nearly 9 miles. Plan a long day for the hike (8-10 hours), and take plenty of water.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east to the Foothill Boulevard Exit. Turn right at the exit, then immediately left onto the South Frontage road. Travel east along the Frontage Road until it turns south. Continue on the road past the golf course on the left and right, until the “No Trespassing” signs stop. Make a left as soon as possible and drive east along the primary 4-wheel drive dirt road that eventually travels along a ridge toward Flag Mountain. The trailhead is located at the base of a long prominent NNW ridge that descends from the summit of Flag Mountain. A plywood (mostly empty) information billboard is located at the trailhead.

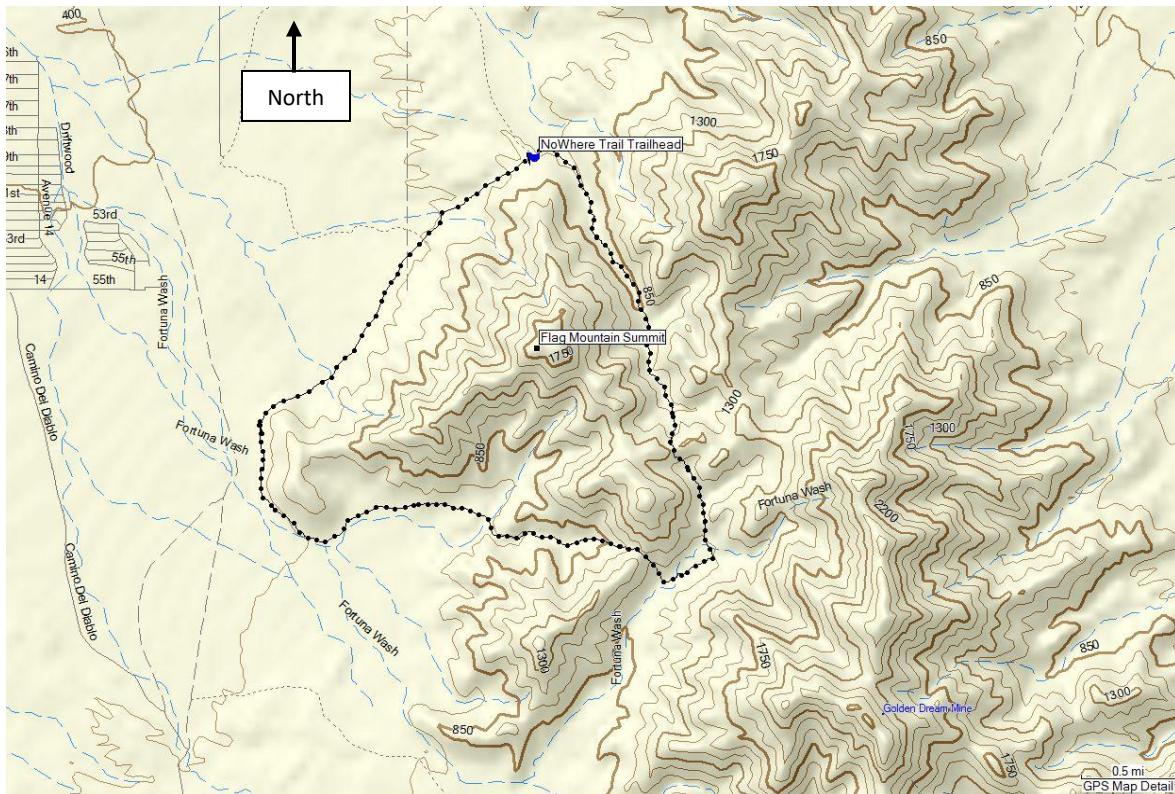
Drive Time: About 30 minutes.

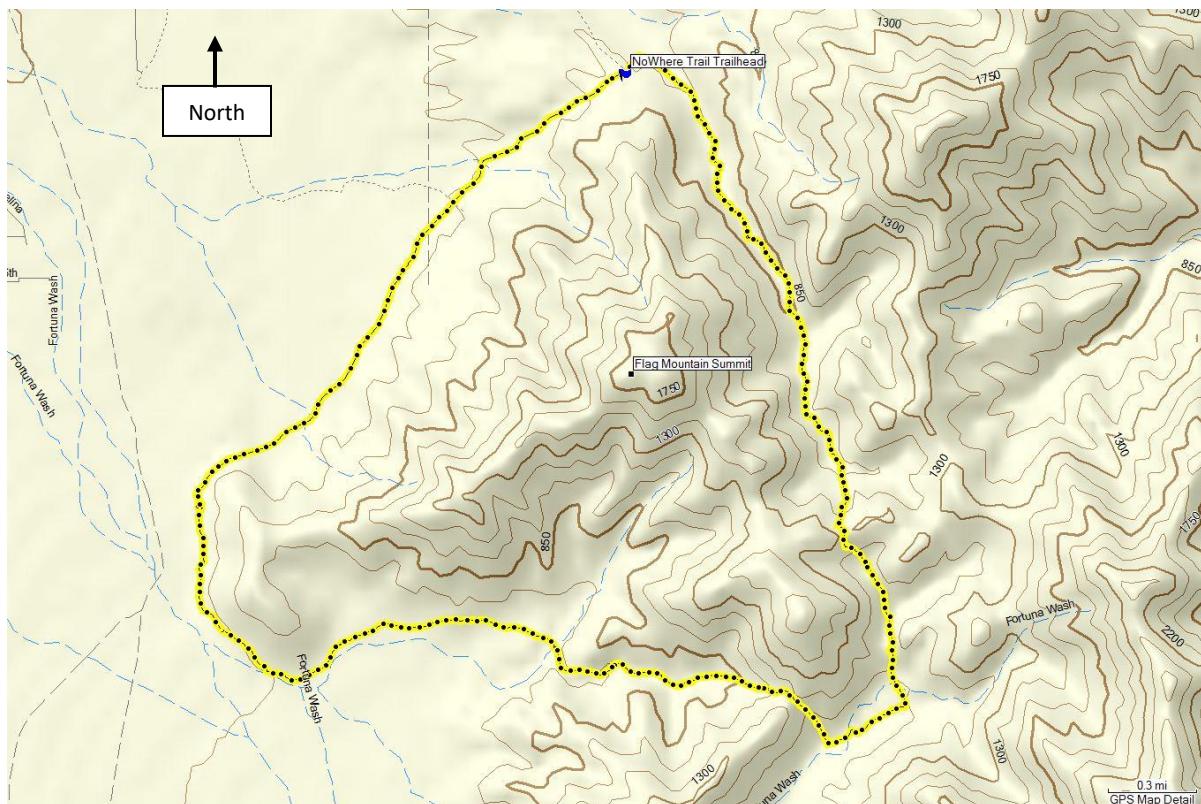


Trail to Nowhere Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead GPS coordinates):

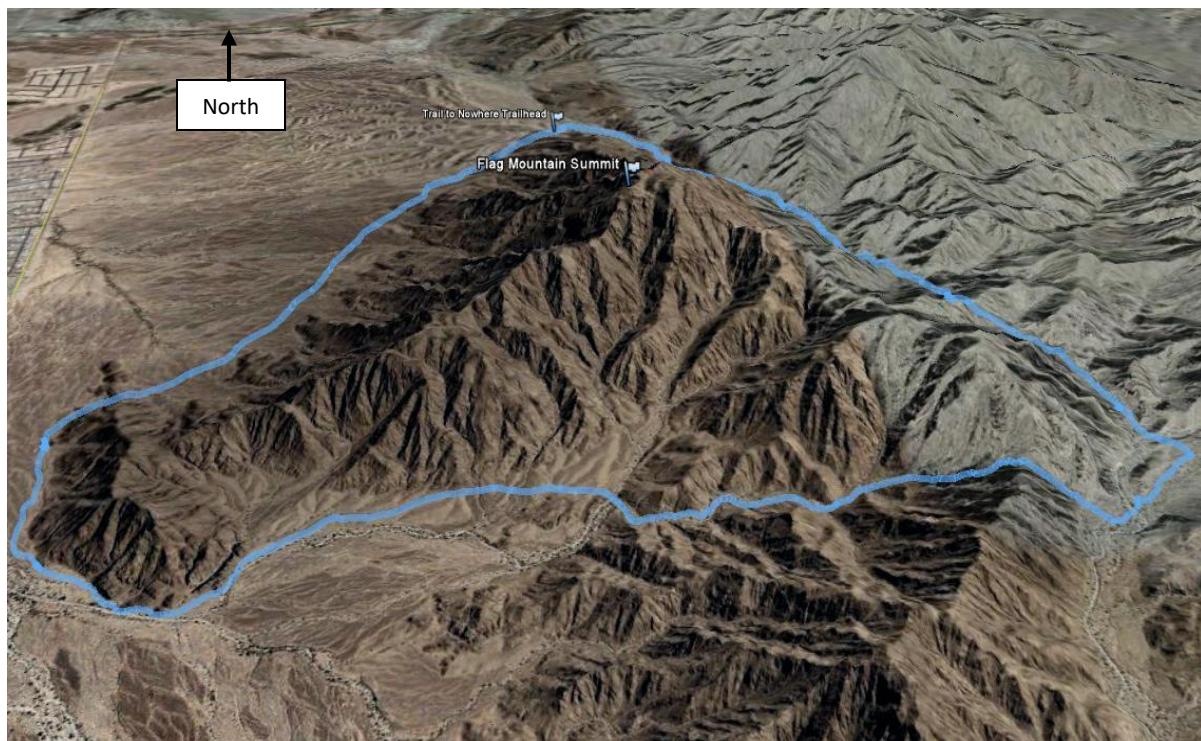


Trail to Nowhere (north is up):





Trail to Nowhere 3-D Image (north is up):

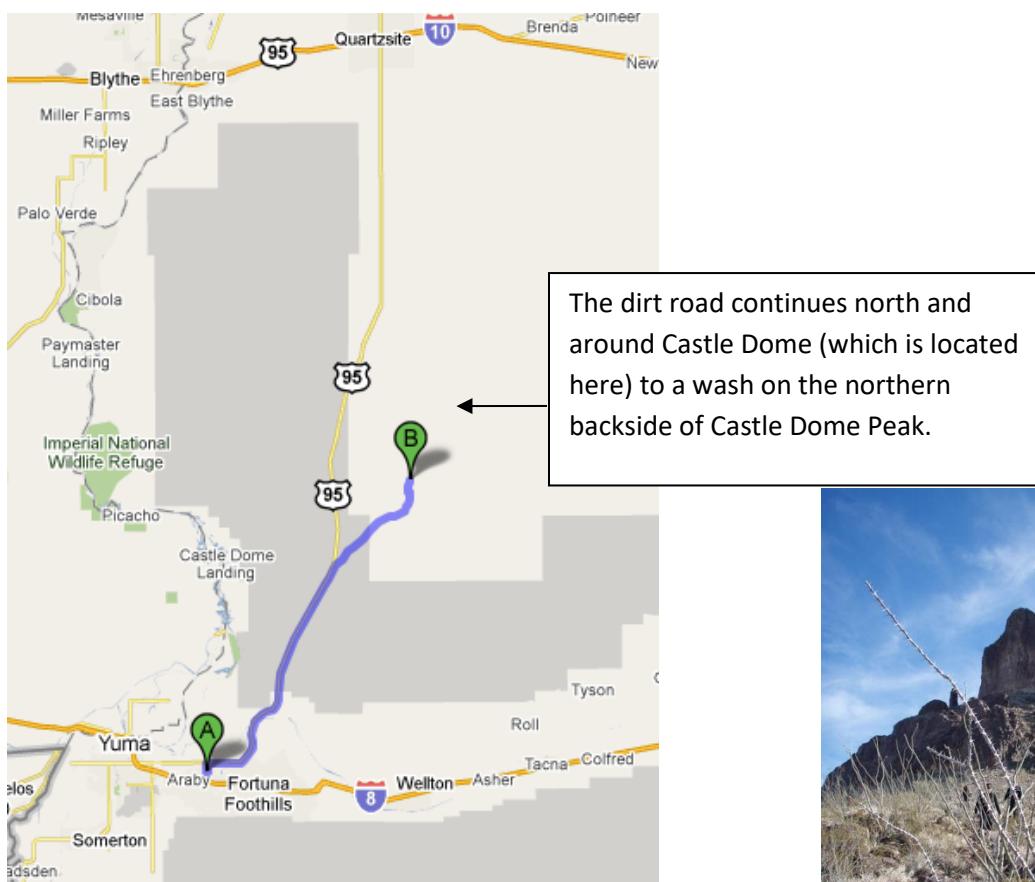


Kofa Mountains

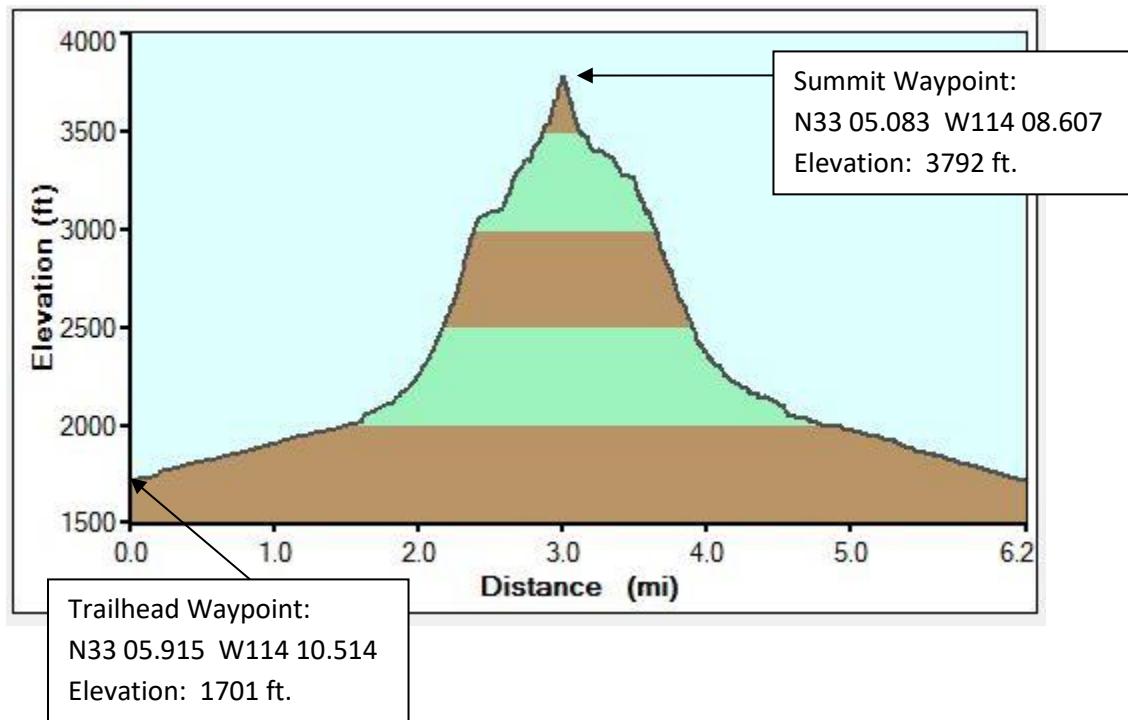
Castle Dome: Castle Dome is a moderately difficult to strenuous hike on a mostly-established trail. Three or so of the 6.2 miles are relatively easy hiking in a wash/gentle slope, but the last 500-800ft to the summit involves scrambling (and easy climbing) with significant exposure. Descending from the summit involves difficult, steep hiking on loose boulders and crumbly rock for nearly a mile. An alternate ascent route involving scrambling/easy climbing on exposed cliffs is shown in the last 3-D image. Plan about 7-10 hours for the round trip

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north along state Hwy 95 for about 36 miles. Turn (slightly) right onto Castle Dome Mine Road, a paved road designated by a sign. After a mile or so the road will become dirt. Stay on the dirt road, which heads east toward the peak, then eventually circles north around the western ridges of Castle Dome Peak and arrives at a large wash that runs on the northern backside of Castle Dome Peak. Stop at the GPS coordinates that define the trailhead.

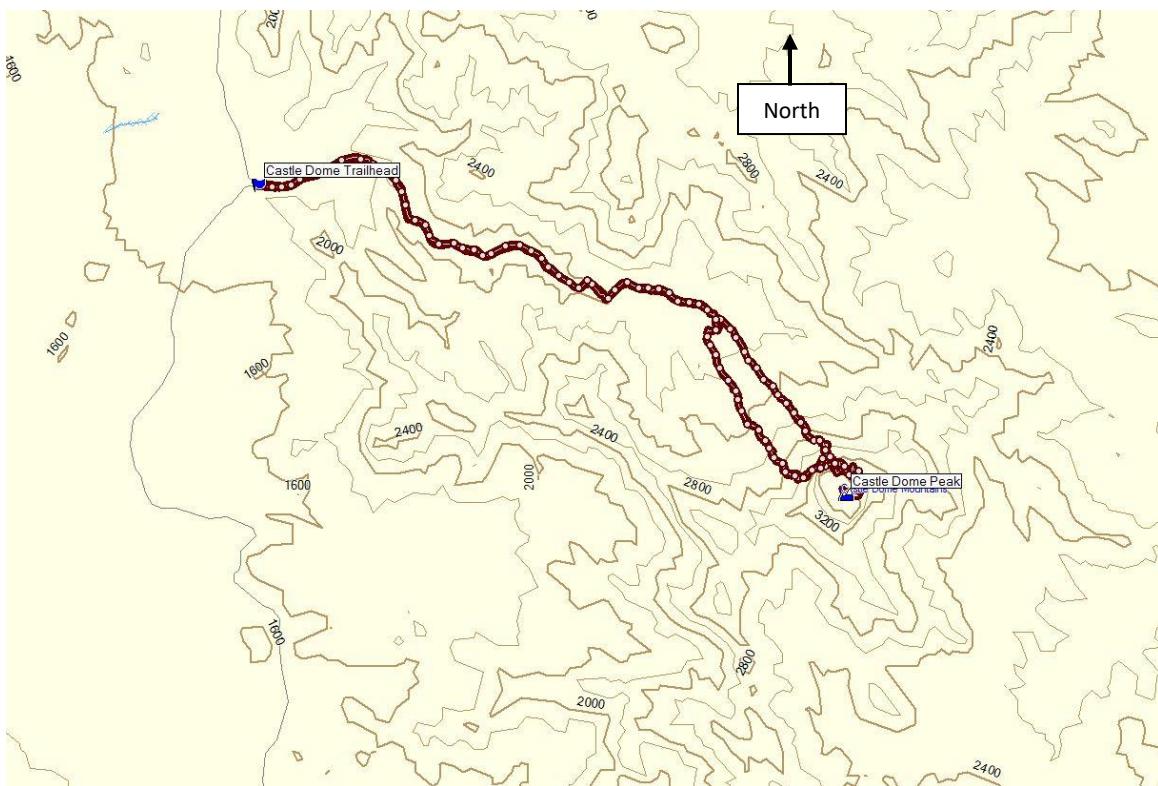
Drive Time: About 1 hour.



Castle Dome Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



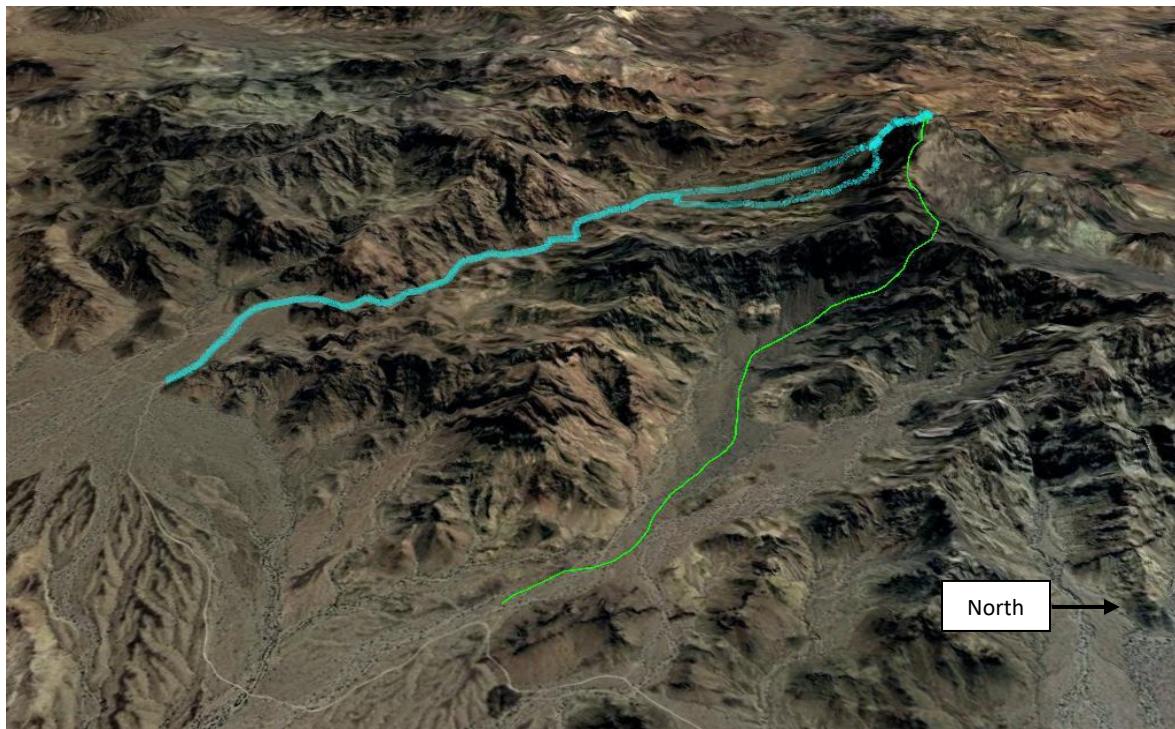
Castle Dome Trail (north is up):



Castle Dome Trail 3-D Image (east is up):



Castle Dome Trail 3-D Image (with an alternate climbing route in green up the east face)



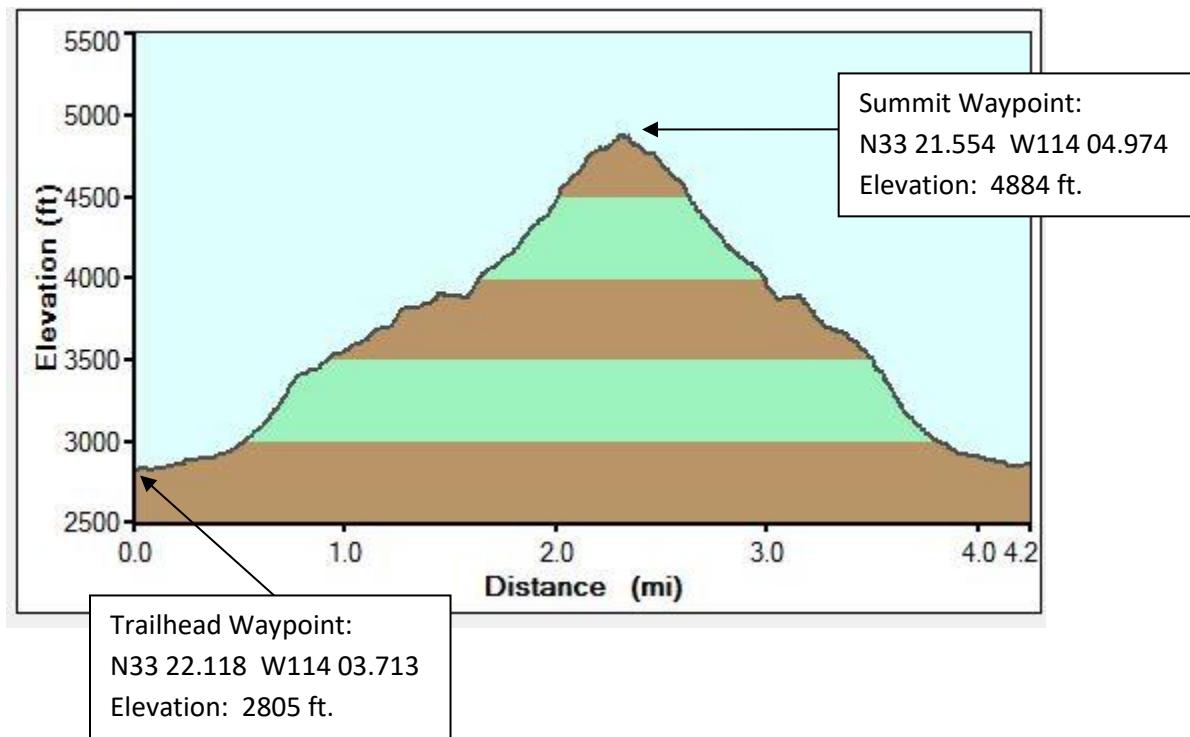
Signal Peak: This is a moderately difficult hike up an established trail. It contains sections that are very steep with some rock scrambling. Signal Peak's cliffs border the east end of Palm Canyon, and the ascent route is actually located on the eastern flank of the peak. Plan 8-10 hours for the round trip.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north along state Hwy 95 for about 60 miles. Turn right at Palm Canyon Road, onto a dirt road designated by a sign. Travel towards the Palm Canyon trailhead for a few miles until you reach another well-defined dirt road on your left (north). Take the dirt road, which circles around the northern ridges of Signal Peak and eventually enters Kofa Queen Canyon. Continue into Kofa Queen Canyon, and drive for approximately 3 miles. The drive in Kofa Queen Canyon is an adventurous 4-wheeled drive dirt road, mostly in a well-defined wash. Drive until you reach the GPS coordinates that define the trailhead. On the way, you will drive by Skull Rock, a beautiful formation shaped like its name – be sure to stop and check it out.

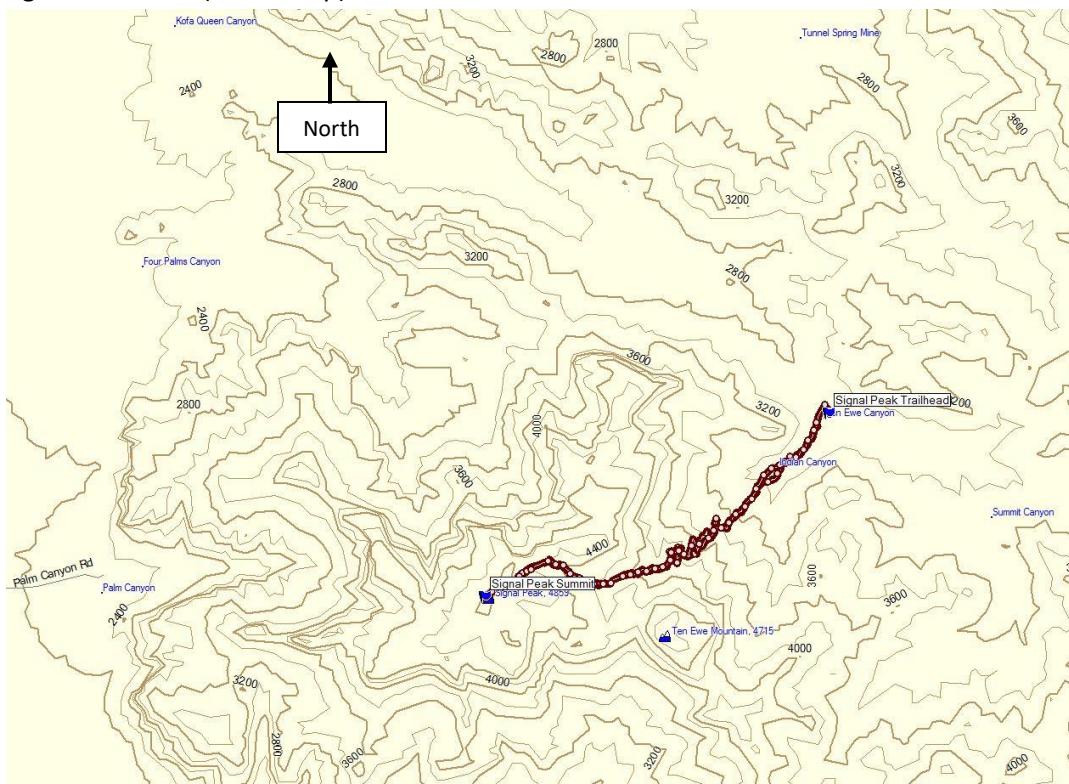
Drive Time: About 2 hours.



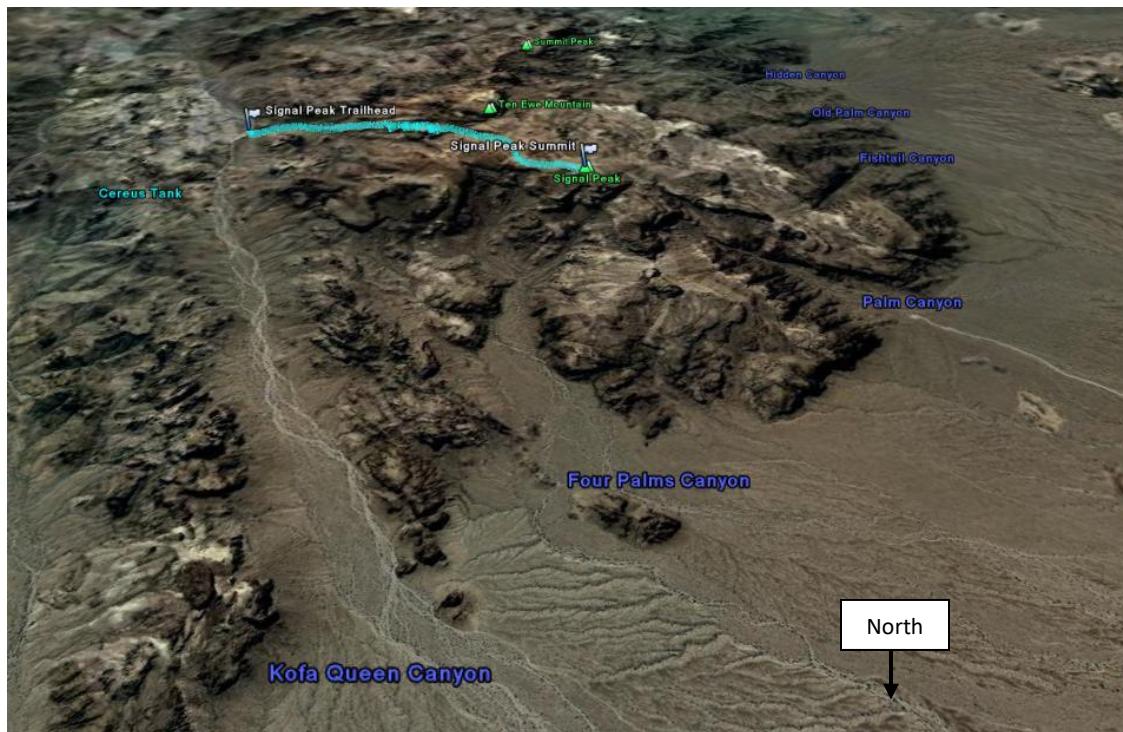
Signal Peak Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



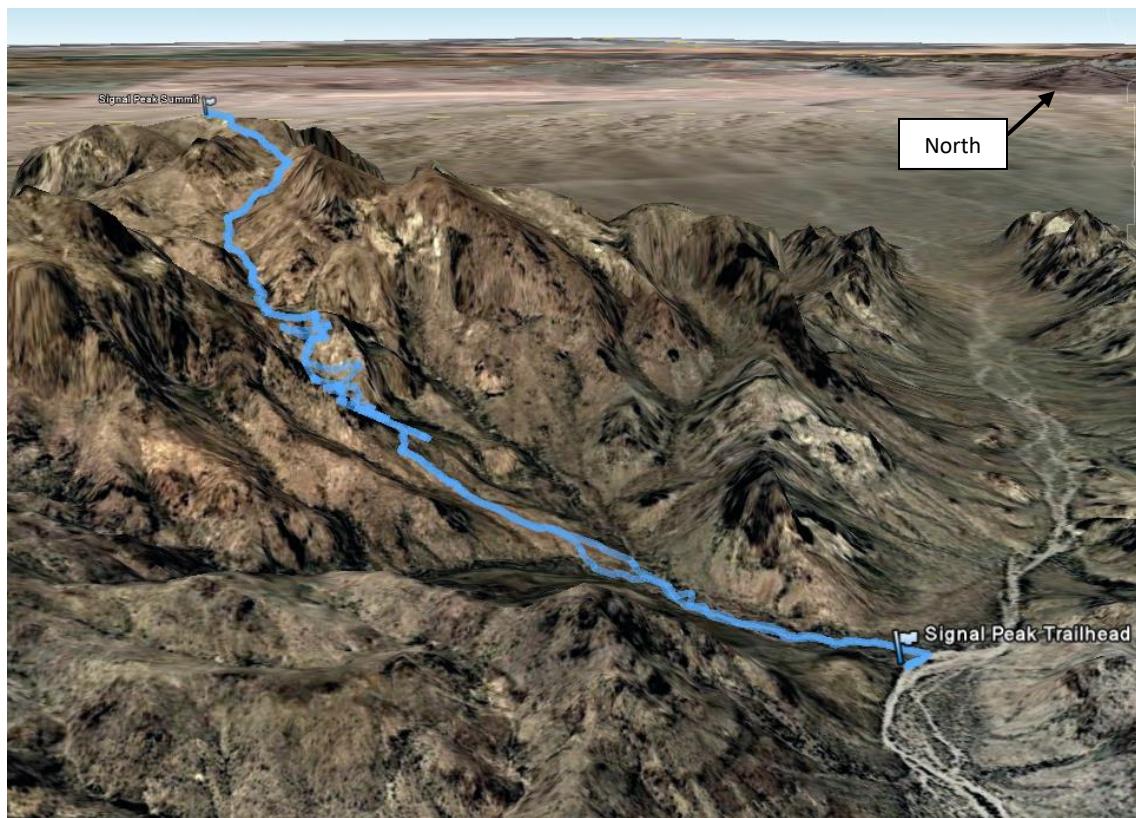
Signal Peak Trail (north is up):



Signal Peak Trail 3-D Image (north is down):



Signal Peak Trail 3-D Image (north-northwest is up):



Laguna Mountains

Roller Coaster Hill Trail: This area, which is easily accessible from Yuma and AWC, contains a myriad of hiking trails, bike trails, ATV trails, and 4WD roads. All hikes are easy and enjoyable, and may include combinations of roads, bike paths, and ridges (no trails). The classic hike described below, Roller Coaster Hill trail, is named for several up-and-down sections. Roller Coaster Hill trail includes hiking to the highest point in the area (Laguna Summit). Plan anywhere from several hours to all day.

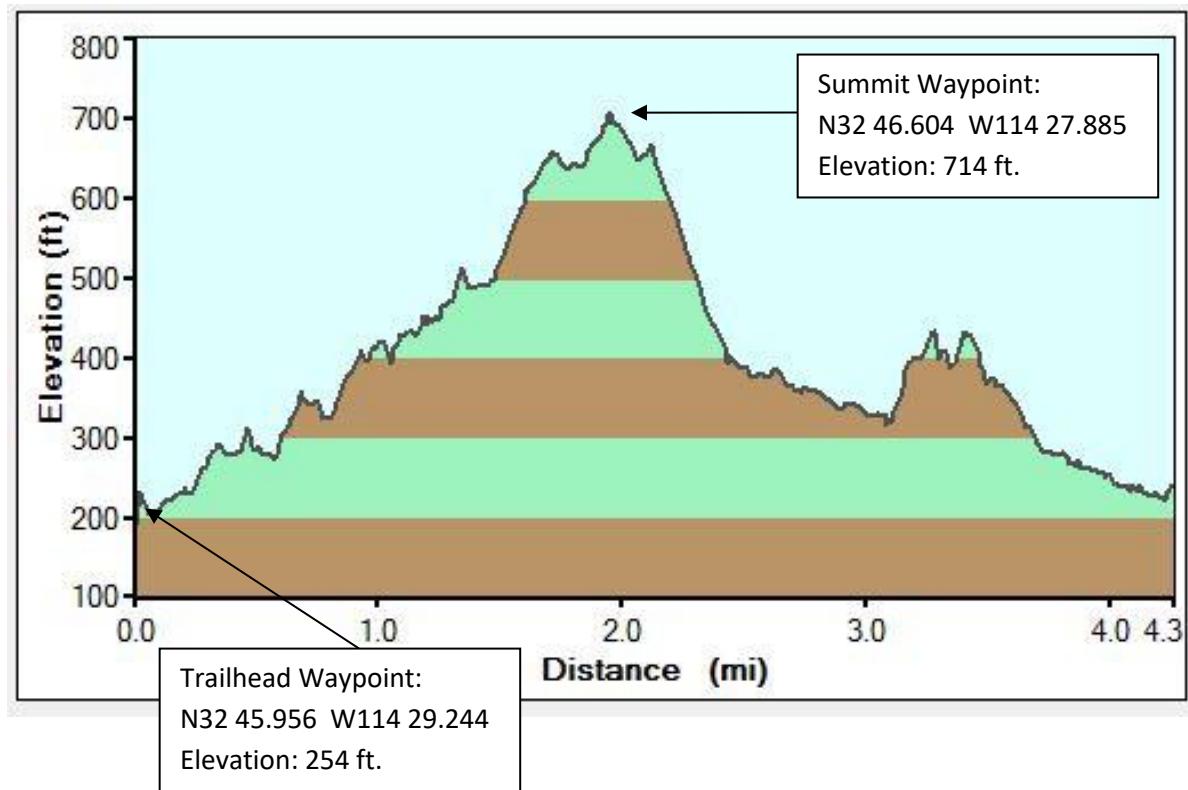
Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north to S Hwy 95 and turn left (west). Drive 1 mile and turn right (north) onto Laguna Dam road. Drive about 4 miles and turn right (east) onto E County 5th Street. Drive about 2 miles, and after driving over the bridge that spans the Gila Valley Main Canal, take a left (north) onto the dirt road that runs along the canal (on the east side of the canal). After 1 mile of driving north on the canal road, it circles to the east at a wash inlet. Continue east for about ½ mile on the dirt road that parallels the wash to the north. Stop and park at a large parking area 200 yards to the northwest of a power line tower (do not ascend the small hill to the tower).

Note: From the parking area, start hiking up the road to the north and east, and then take any one of several ridges running to the east that end at the Laguna Summit. Take any one of several different ridges back and eventually work your way back to your car. The roller coaster section (if you choose to hike it) is the ridge that is directly east of where you park.

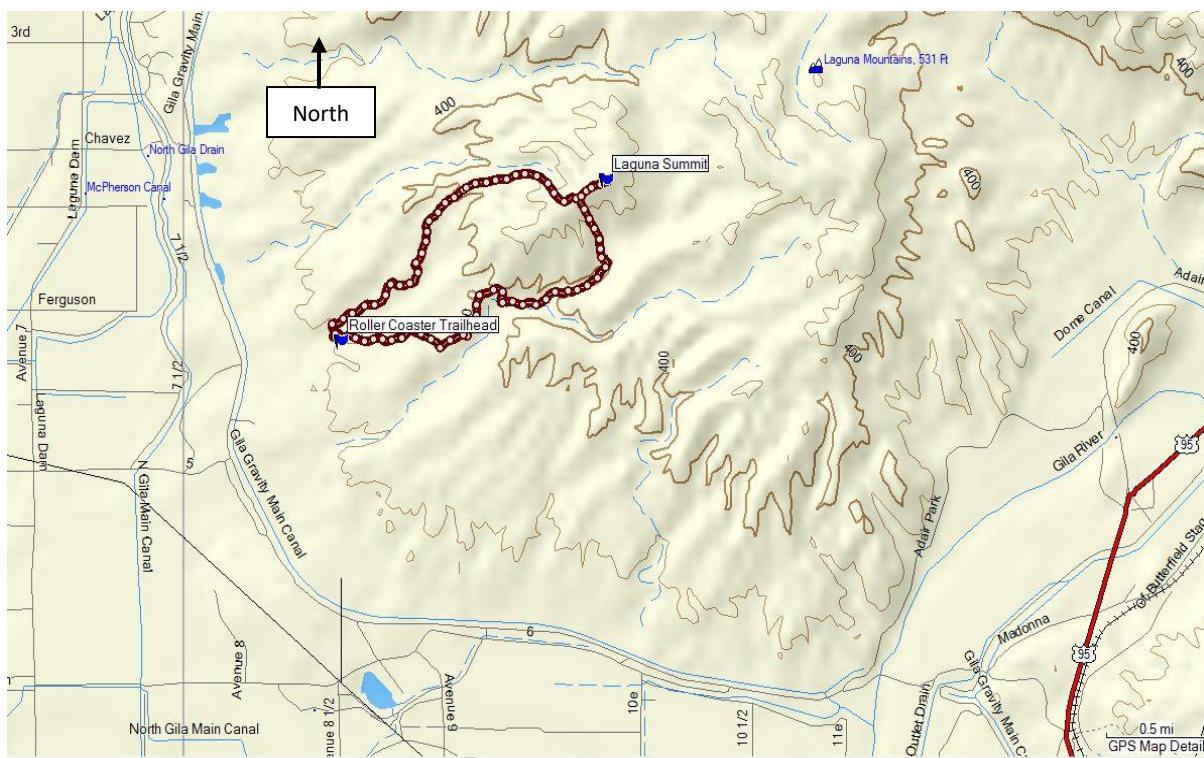
Drive Time: About 20 minutes.



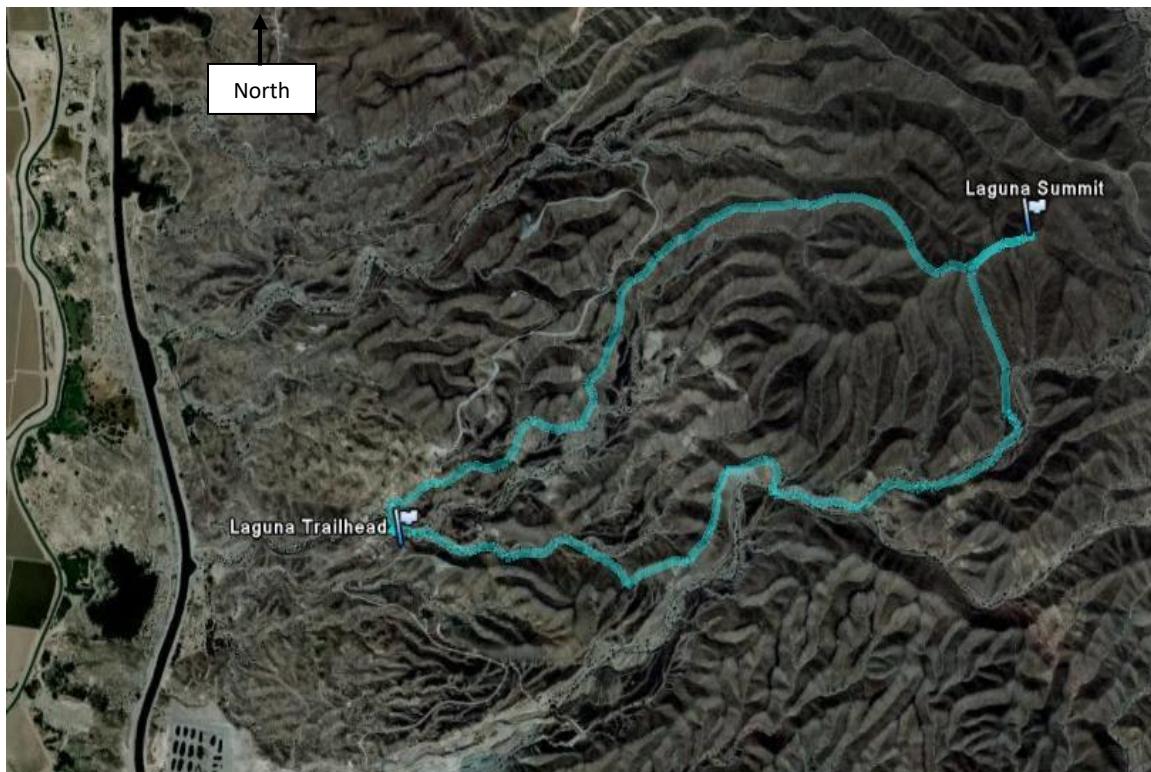
Roller Coaster Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



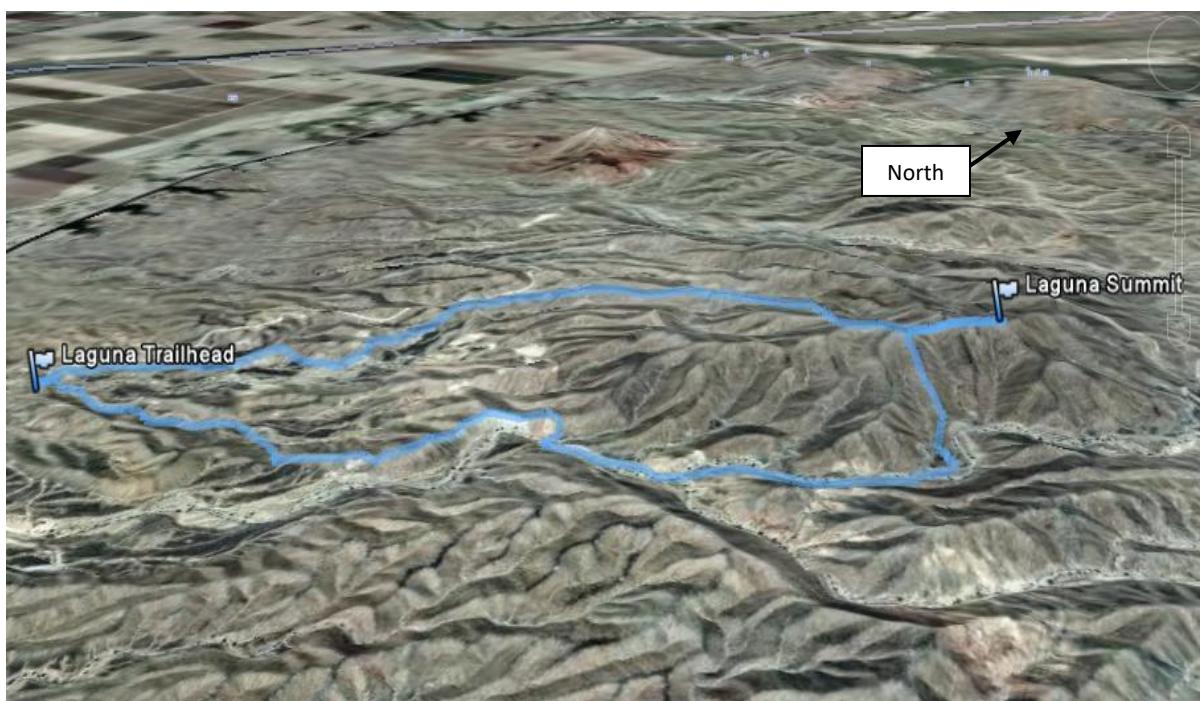
Roller Coaster Trail (north is up):



Roller Coaster Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Roller Coaster Trail 3-D Image (northwest is up):



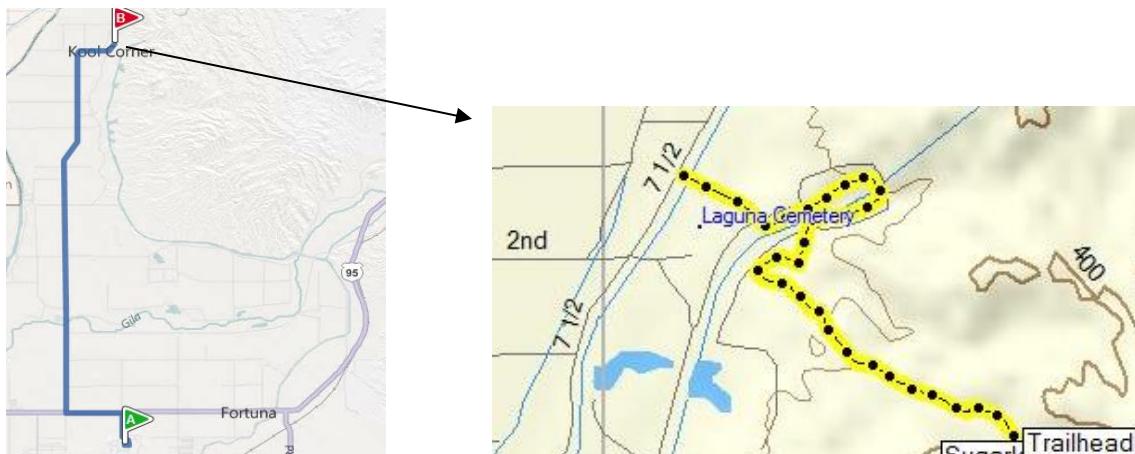
Sugarloaf Peak:



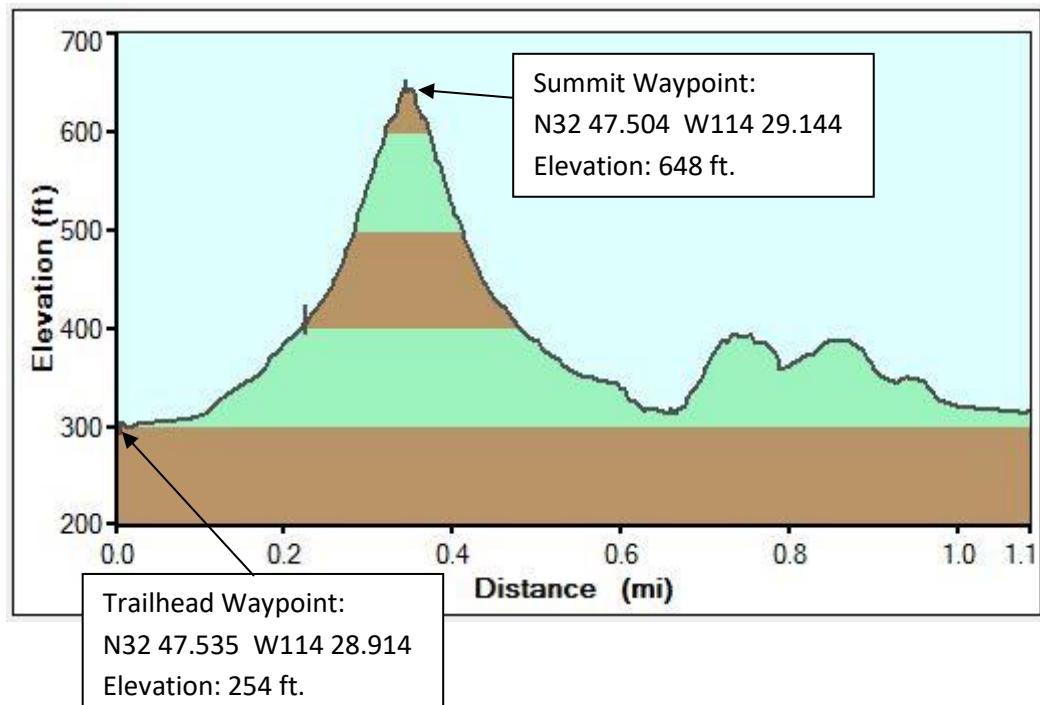
Sugarloaf Peak trail is a “snapshot” of a desert hike: it involves a 4WD trail access; a hike on a 4WD road, a bike path, and a hiking trail; ascending steep, crumbly rock; scrambling; exposure; and it’s beautiful once you arrive at the summit. It’s easy because it’s short: you can get to the summit and back to the car in 45 minutes if you cruise; however, it’s difficult because of the steep, crumbly rock, scrambling, and exposure (plan more time). Plan 1-2 hours for the trip described below, which goes by a practice cliff used in rescue workshops and by the military for training. You can do some easy climbing and rappelling at the practice cliff. There is an abundance of climbing bolts at the top – please do not remove them.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north to S Hwy 95 and turn left (west). Drive 1 mile and turn right (north) onto Laguna Dam road. Drive about 7 miles and the road curves hard right (east) onto E County 2nd Street. After about 1 mile, the road curves north again (Ave 7½ E). Go about ¼ mile and turn right onto a dirt road with a “bridge” that allows crossing the levee canal. Continue on the dirt road with the goal of circling around Sugarloaf Peak on the north side, then east side for a short distance. The east-side road travels under power lines. As soon as possible, turn right on a road that travels west along the south side of the peak. After travelling about 100 yards, the trailhead is a small parking area on the left.

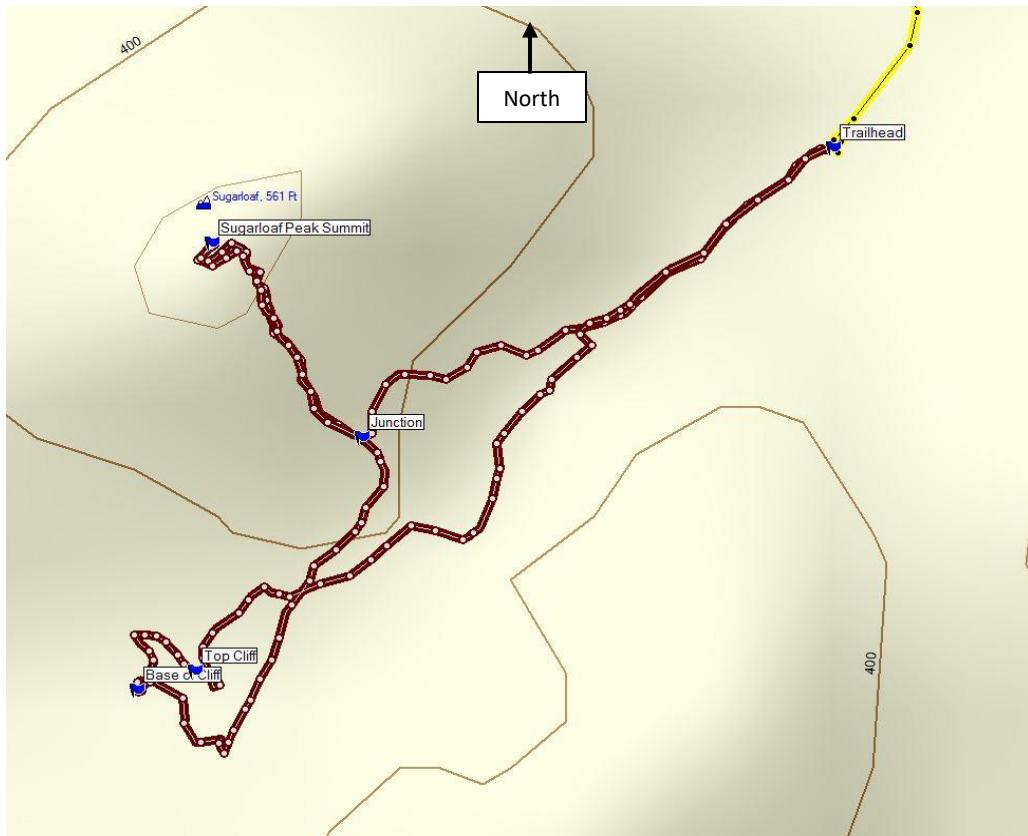
Drive Time: About 40-60 minutes.



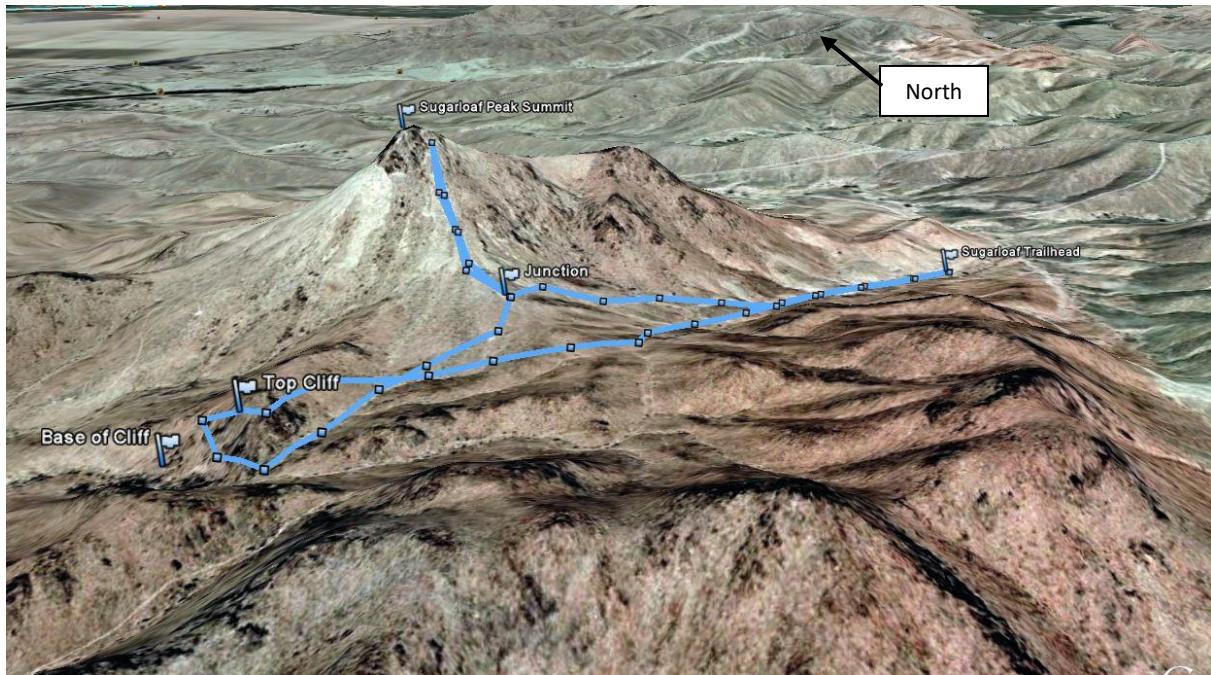
Sugarloaf Peak Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Sugarloaf Peak Trail (north is up):



Sugarloaf Peak Trail 3-D Image (northeast is up):



Sugarloaf Peak from Trailhead:



Base of Practice Cliff:

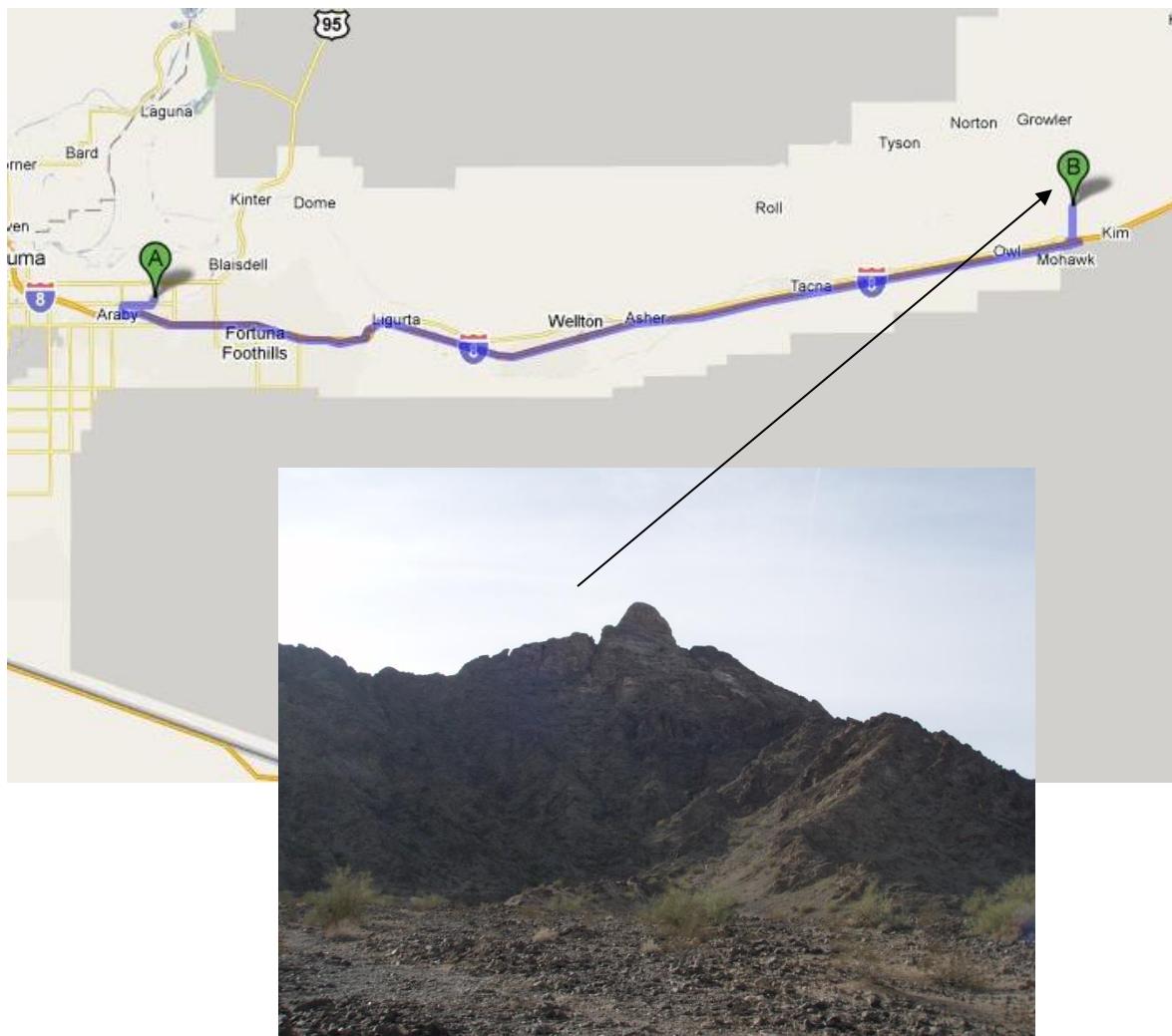


Mohawk Valley Area

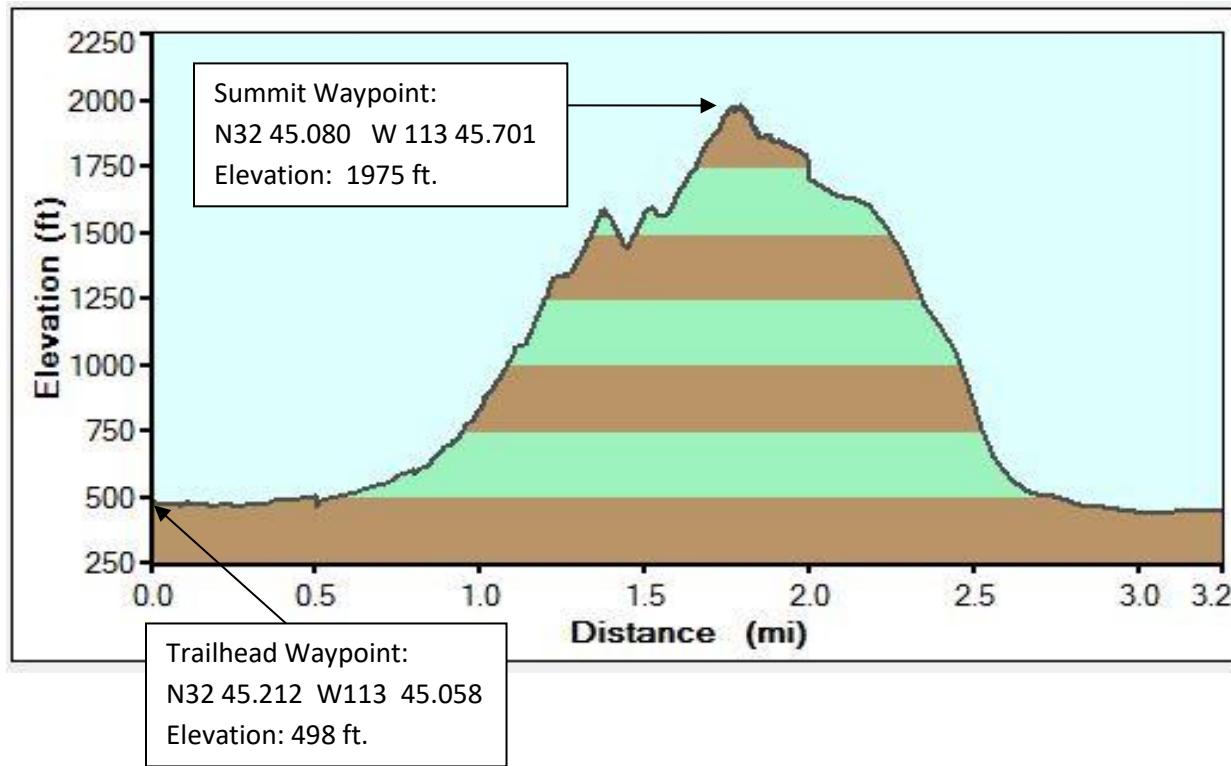
Owl Peak: Although short, this hike is steep and strenuous, and involves some easy, but highly exposed climbing. A climbing rope with appropriate climbing gear is highly recommended. The first half mile or so of the hike is on a minimally-established trail which quickly disappears as the ascent begins. From the summit, hike northwest along the ridge until a step gully that cuts northeast through the cliff band allows you to descend back down to the valley floor. Plan about 4-6 hours for this hike.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After driving for about 50 miles, you will go over Mohawk Pass {Owl Peak is the shear peak to your left (north)]. Take the next exit (Ave 52E/Mohawk Valley), and take a right (toward the northeast) at the end of the ramp onto S Ave 52½ E. Continue north on S Ave 52½ E for about 1½ to 2 miles until a dirt road is visible to your left (west). Take the dirt road for about ½ mile until you arrive at the trailhead.

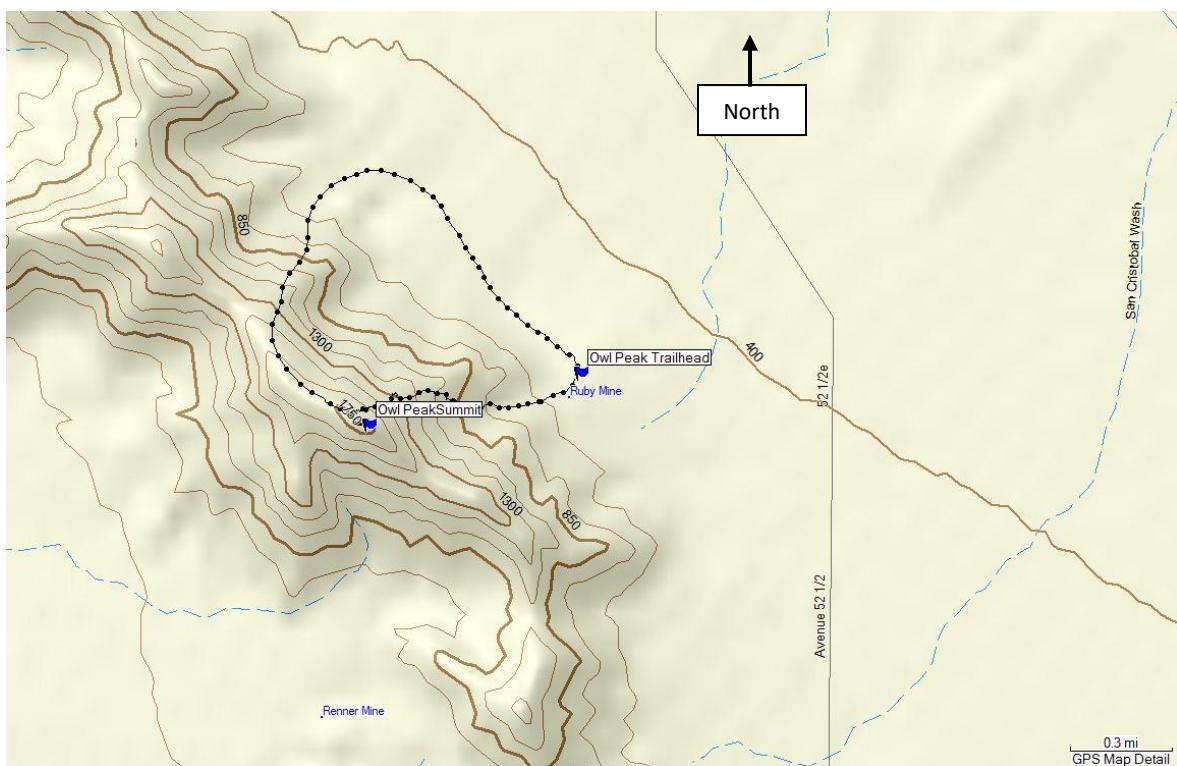
Drive Time: About 1 to 1½ hours.



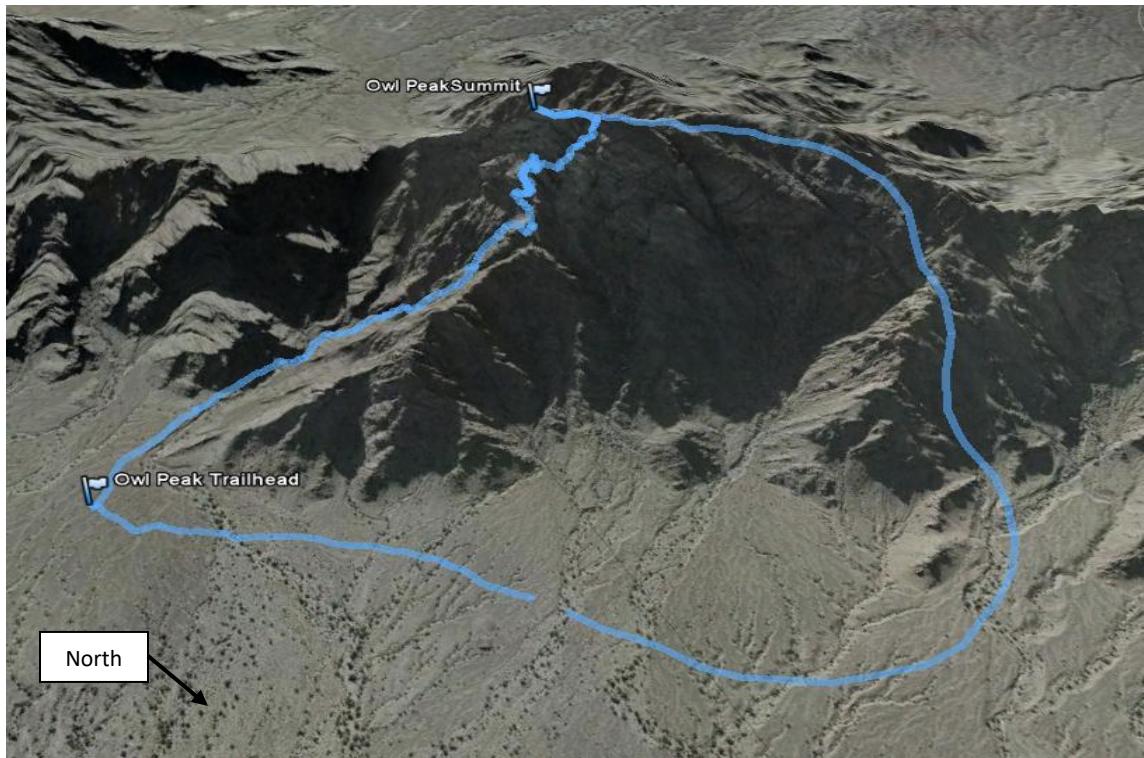
Owl Peak Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



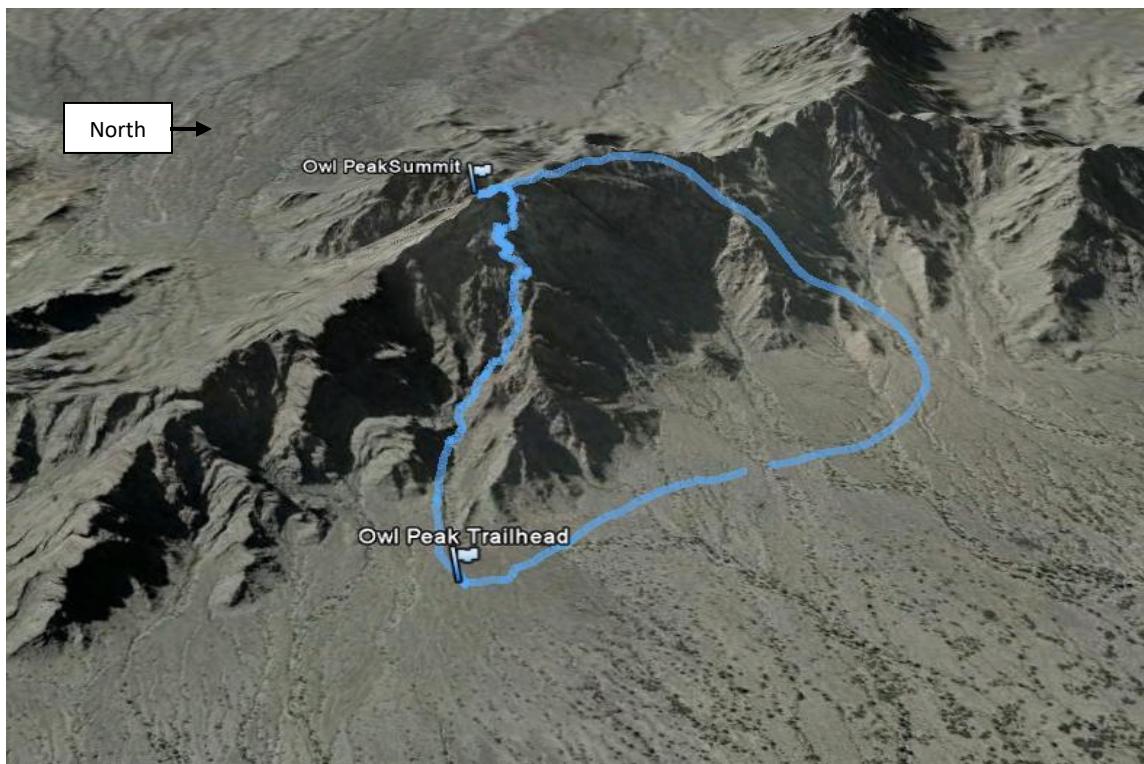
Owl Peak Trail (north is up):



Owl Peak Trail 3-D Image (southwest is up):



Owl Peak Trail 3-D Image (west is up):

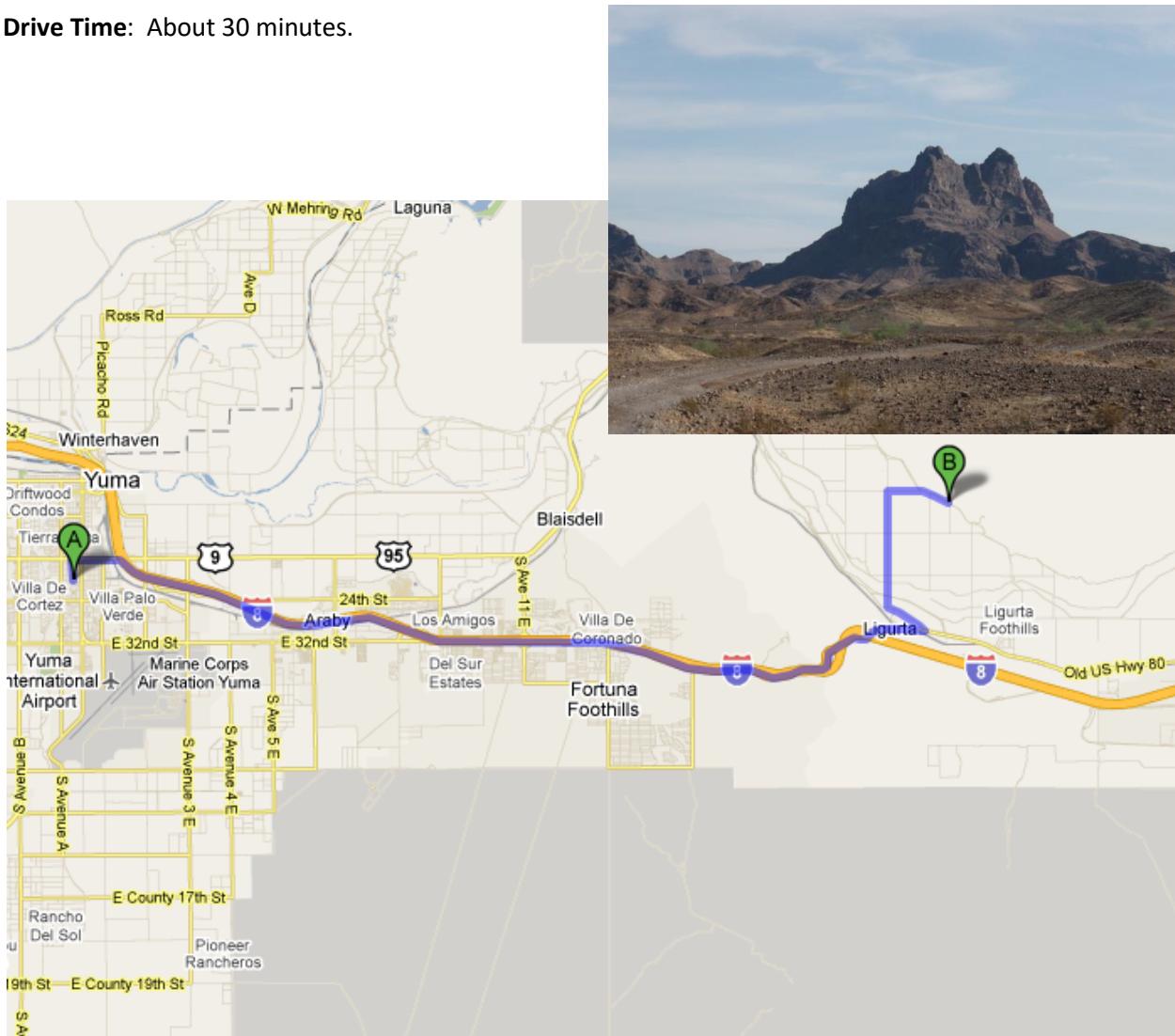


Muggins Peak Wilderness Area

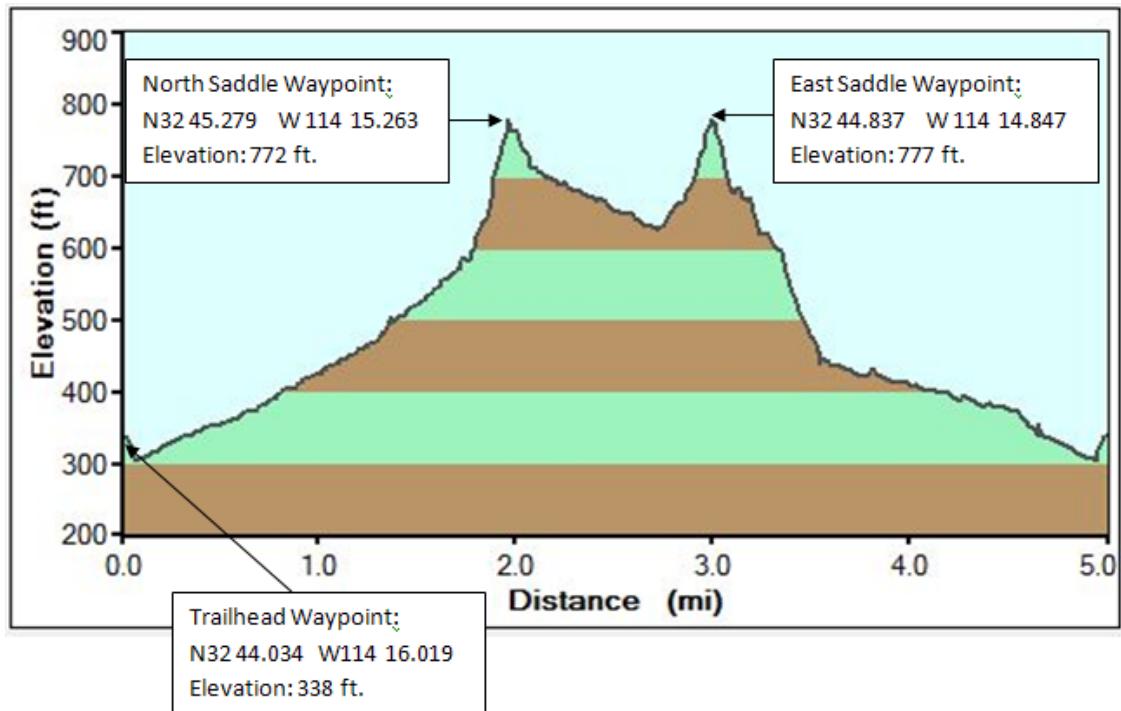
Muggins Peak Trail: The classic hike described below is an easy to moderately difficult hike. The trail is well-maintained, but easy to lose. As it circles Muggins Peak, it passes through beautiful rock-rimmed washes, travels over two saddles, and runs along the upper edge of an open wash. Plan about 4-6 hours for the 5-mile hike, and even more time if you do some exploring.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), and turn left (north) onto the Dome Valley Road (S. Ave 20E). After about 4 miles, turn right (east) at the stop sign onto E County 7th St. After about a mile the pavement ends. Continue following the dirt road past the Muggins Peak Wilderness Area Information Board for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to its end and park. The trailhead starts here.

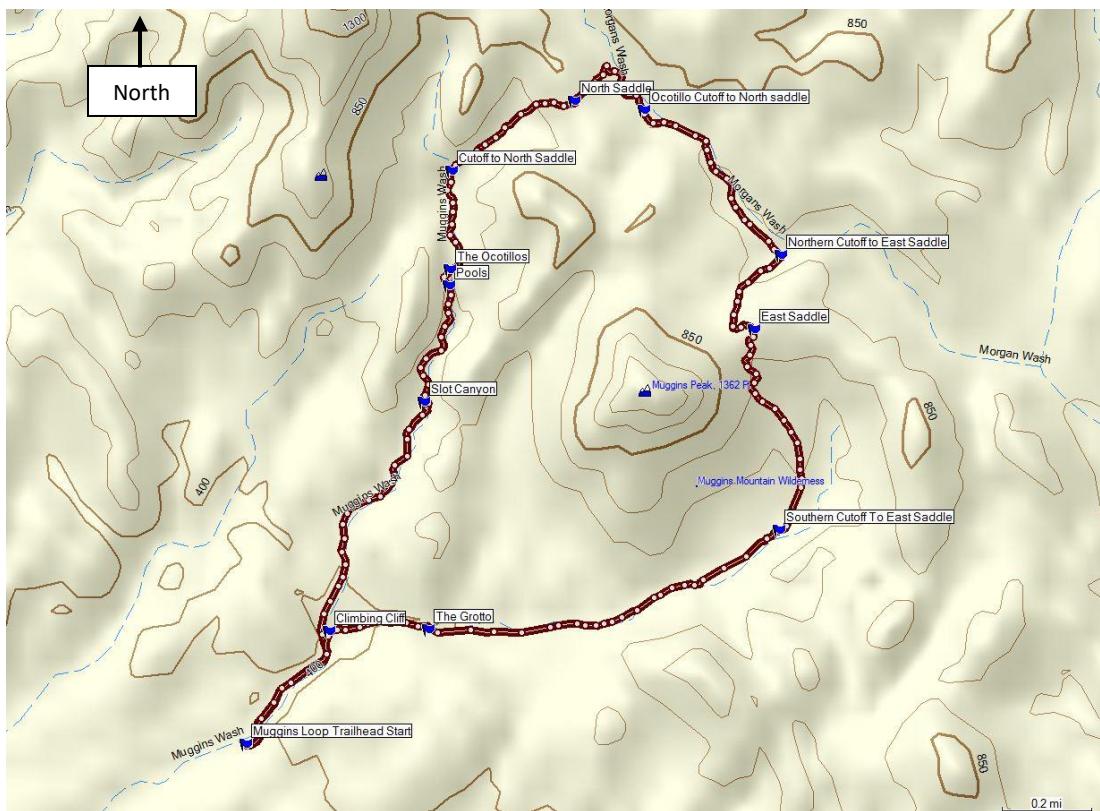
Drive Time: About 30 minutes.



Muggins Peak Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



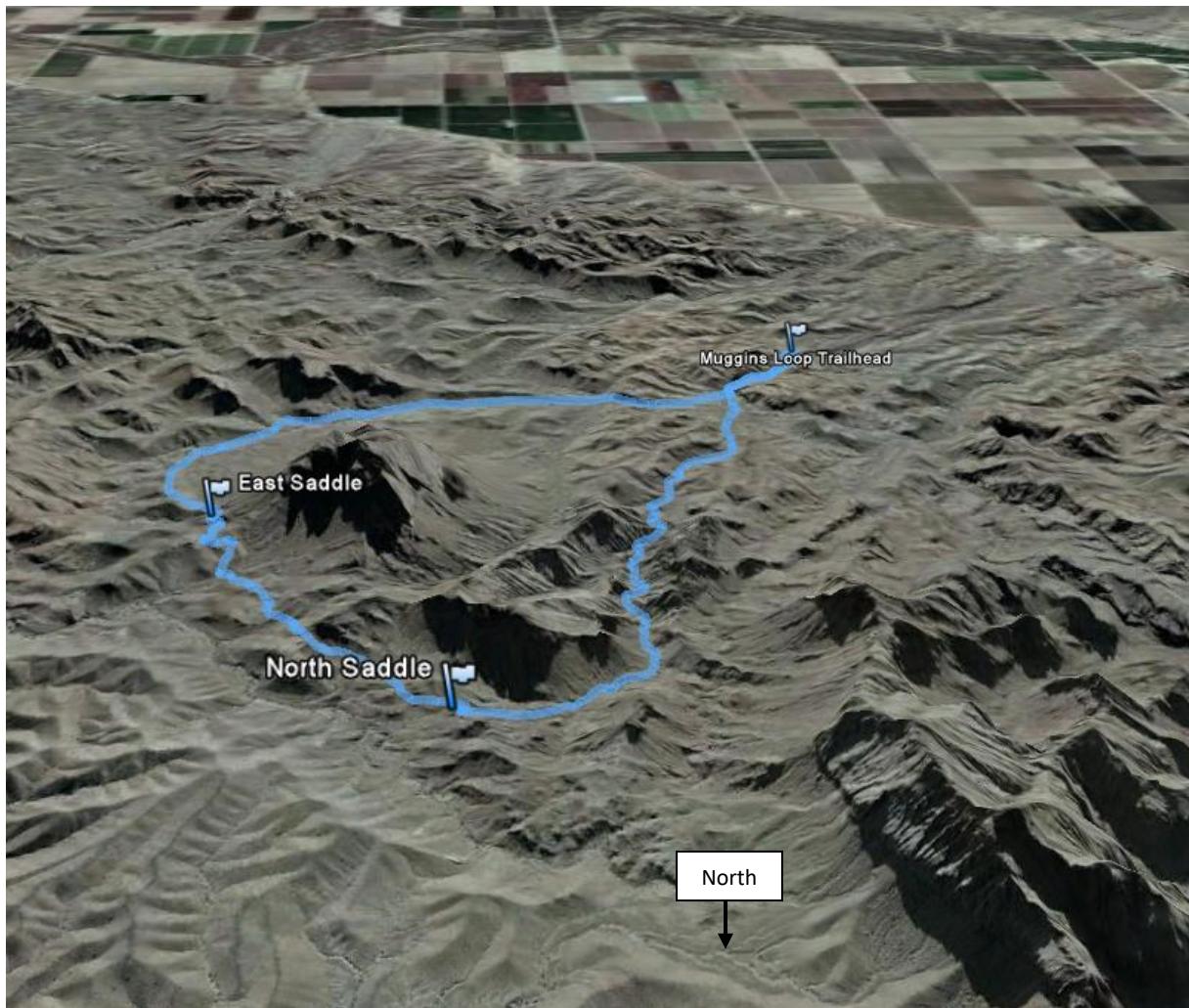
Muggins Loop Trail (north is up):



Muggins Loop Points of Interest Clockwise Order (refer to topo map/photos that follow).

Trailhead	N32 44.034 W 114 16.019	338 ft	
Climbing Cliff	N32 44.252 W 114 15.826	354 ft	Nice top-rope routes
Slot Canyon	N32 44.696 W 114 15.607	429 ft	Go through it or above it
Pools	N32 44.922 W 114 15.550	481 ft	Great after a rainfall
Saguaros	N32 44.953 W 114 15.549	499 ft	Beautiful pair of Saguaros
Cutoff to North Saddle	N32 45.144 W 114 15.544	552 ft	
North Saddle	N32 45.279 W 114 15.263	772 ft	Nice place for a break
Saguaro Cutoff to North Saddle	N32 45.261 W 114 15.102	693 ft	One of areas biggest Saguaros
Northern Cutoff to East Saddle	N32 44.982 W 114 14.785	626 ft	
East Saddle	N32 44.837 W 114 14.847	777 ft	Nice place for lunch
Southern Cutoff to East Saddle	N32 44.448 W 114 14.788	446 ft	
The Grotto	N32 44.257 W 114 15.598	385 ft	Nice, cool shallow cave in cliff

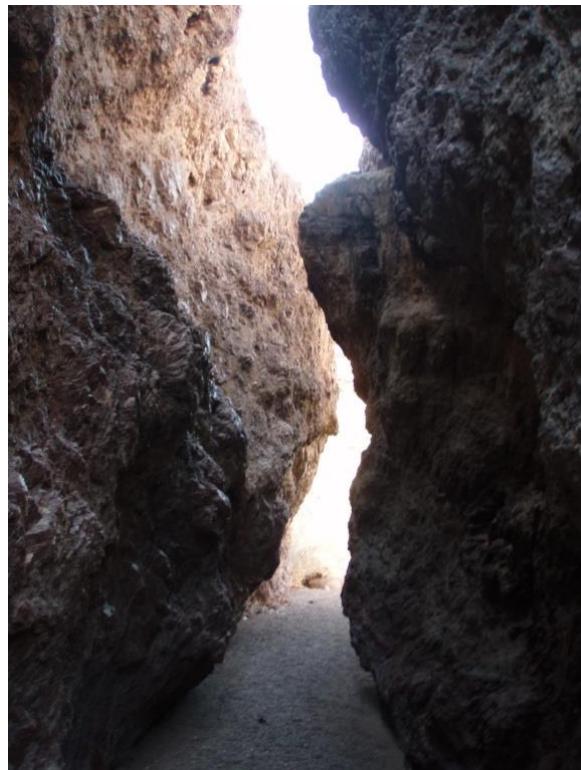
Muggin Peak Trail 3-D Image (north is down):



Climbing Cliff (first ascents by E. Renaud & family):



Slot Canyon:



Pools:



Saguaros:



North Saddle:



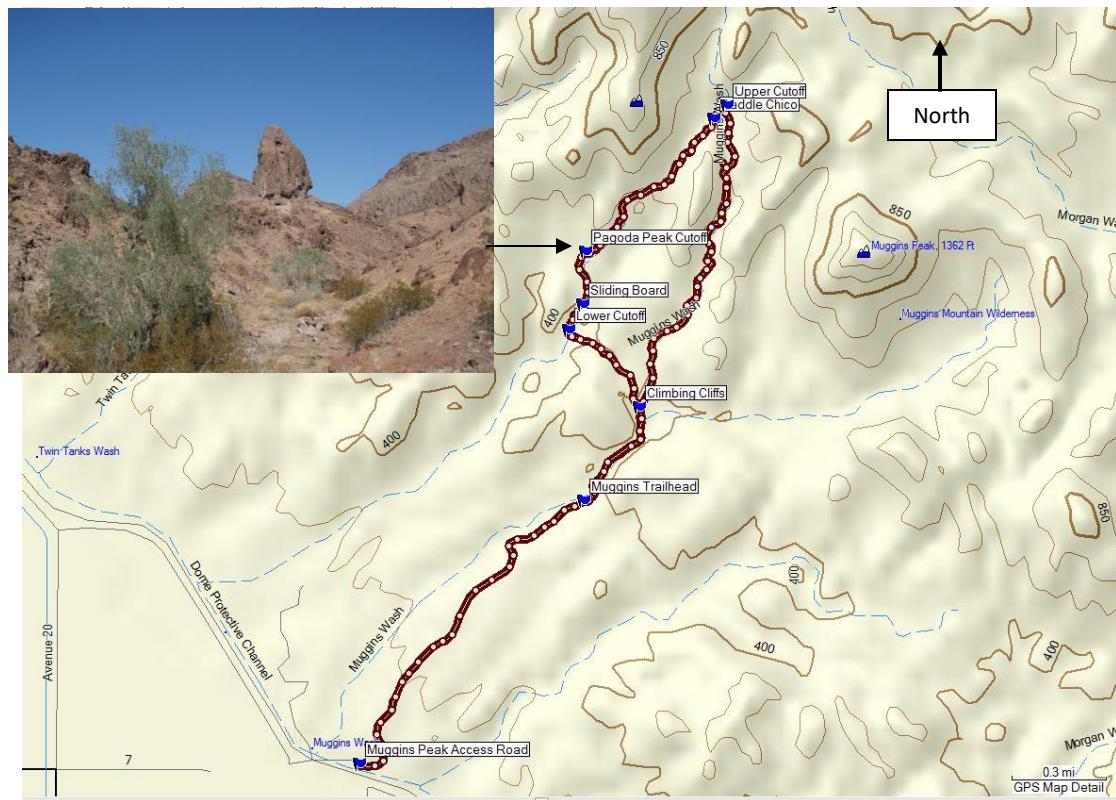
Saguaro Cutoff to North Saddle:



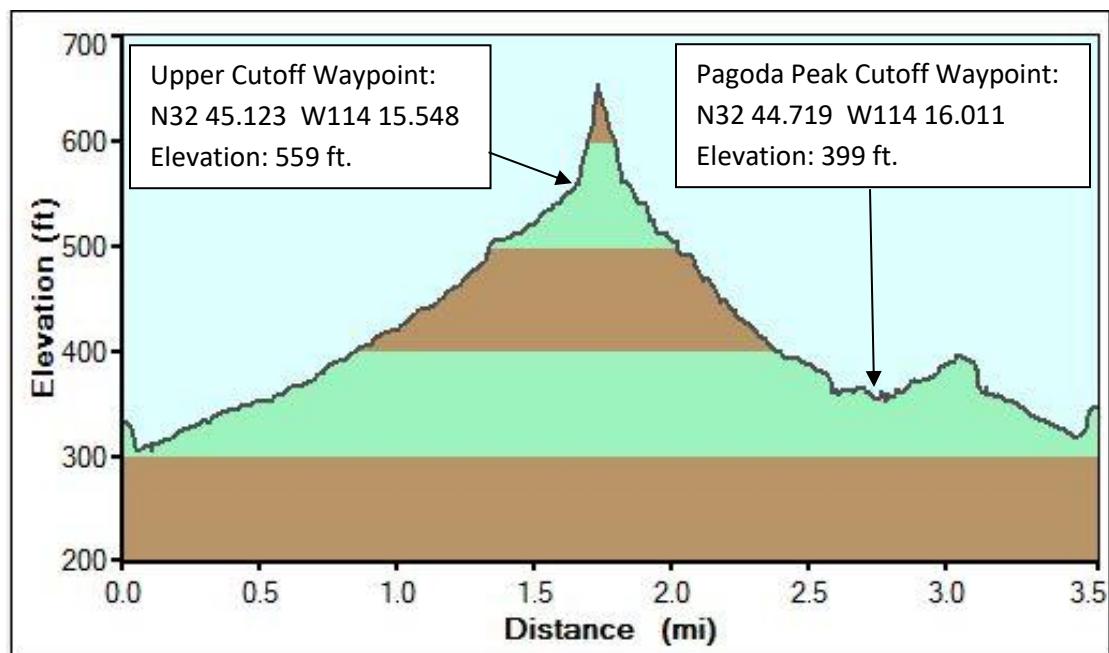
Northern Cutoff to East Saddle:



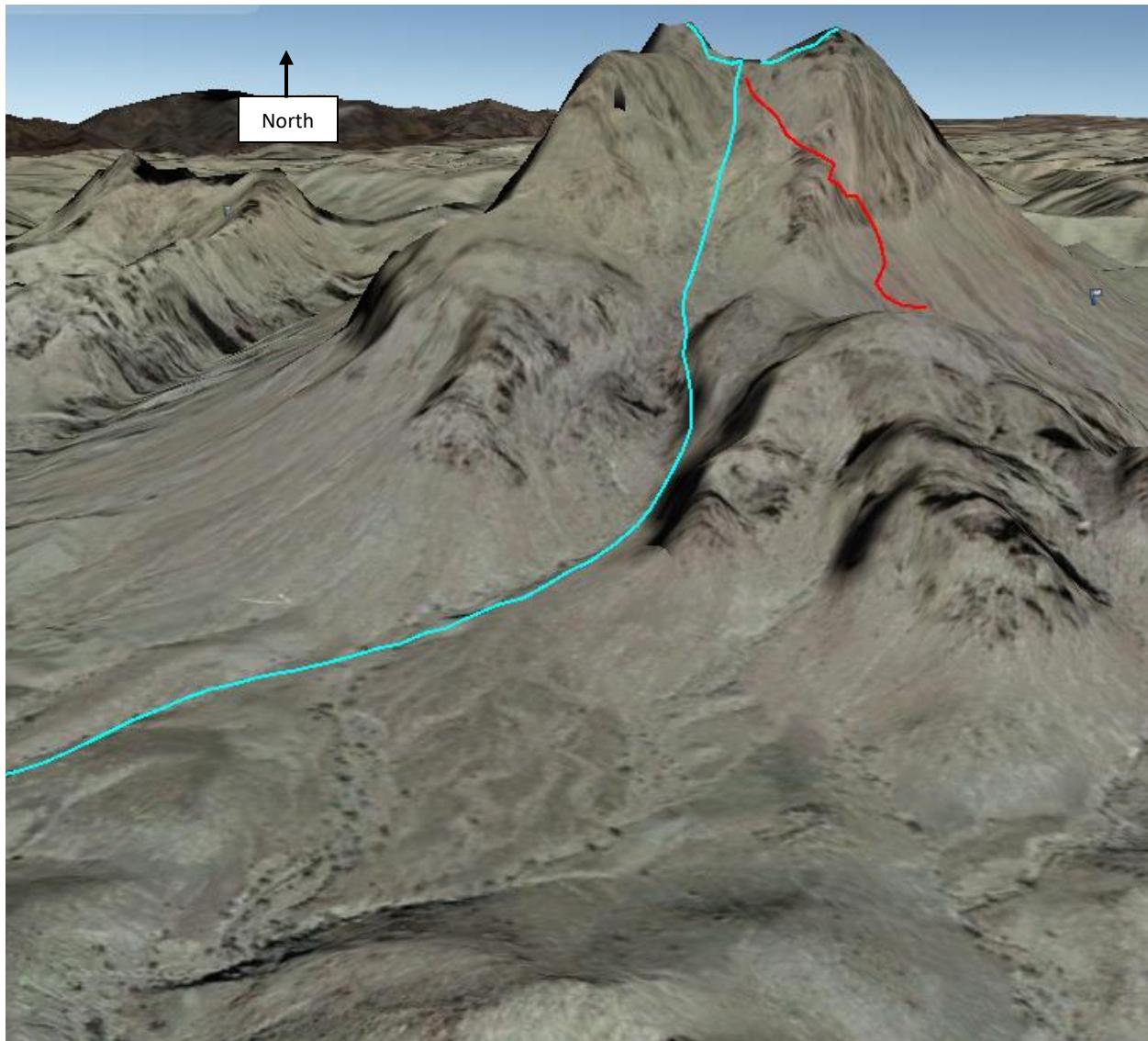
Muggins Peak Trail Alternate Route: For a shorter day, consider taking this trail that cuts off from the Muggins Peak Trail after about 1¾ miles. It traverses some beautiful washes, and passes by the Pagoda Peak Cutoff



Muggins Peak Trail Alternate Route Profile and Trail Distance:



Muggins Peak Summit: Pictured below is an ascent route for the two summits of Muggins Peak (in turquoise), along with a descent route (in red). The orientation is from the south (north is up), as viewed from the trailhead. The ascent of Muggins Peak involves some easy, but dangerous climbing, with high exposure, especially from the saddle to the northwestern summit. The descent route avoids much of the climbing of the ascent route up the steep gully, but it still involves some dangerous terrain. A climbing rope with appropriate equipment is highly recommended if reaching the summit (or summits) is your primary goal.

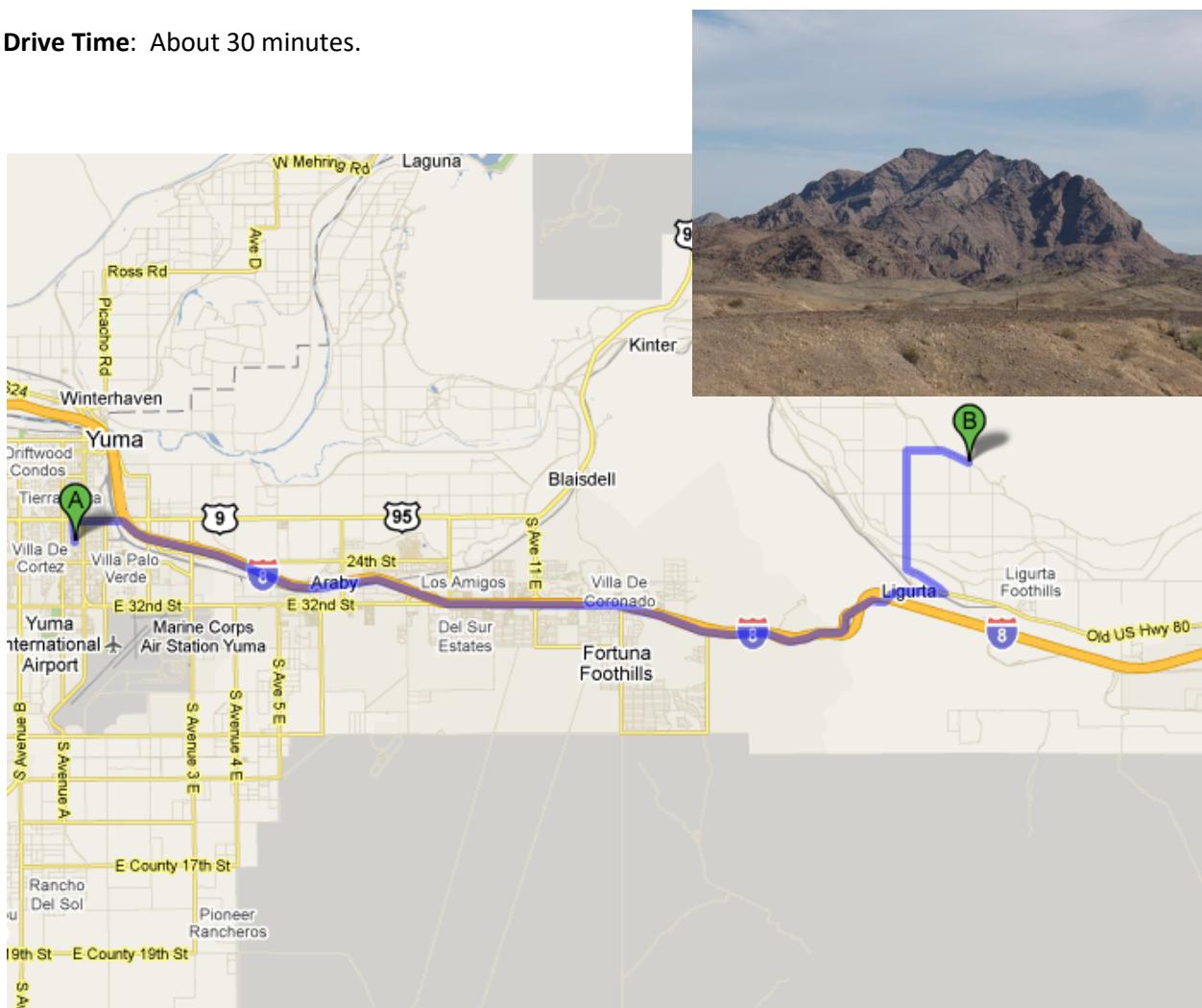


Pagoda Peak: Pagoda Peak is also referred to as Klothos Peak on some maps. It is a very strenuous hike. Although remnants of a trail (cairns) are occasionally seen, for the most part there is no visible trail. The terrain involves crumbly, loose rock for a significant part of the hike, and the descent can be very difficult in some parts. Plan a long day for ascending this peak (8-12 hours), and take lots of water.

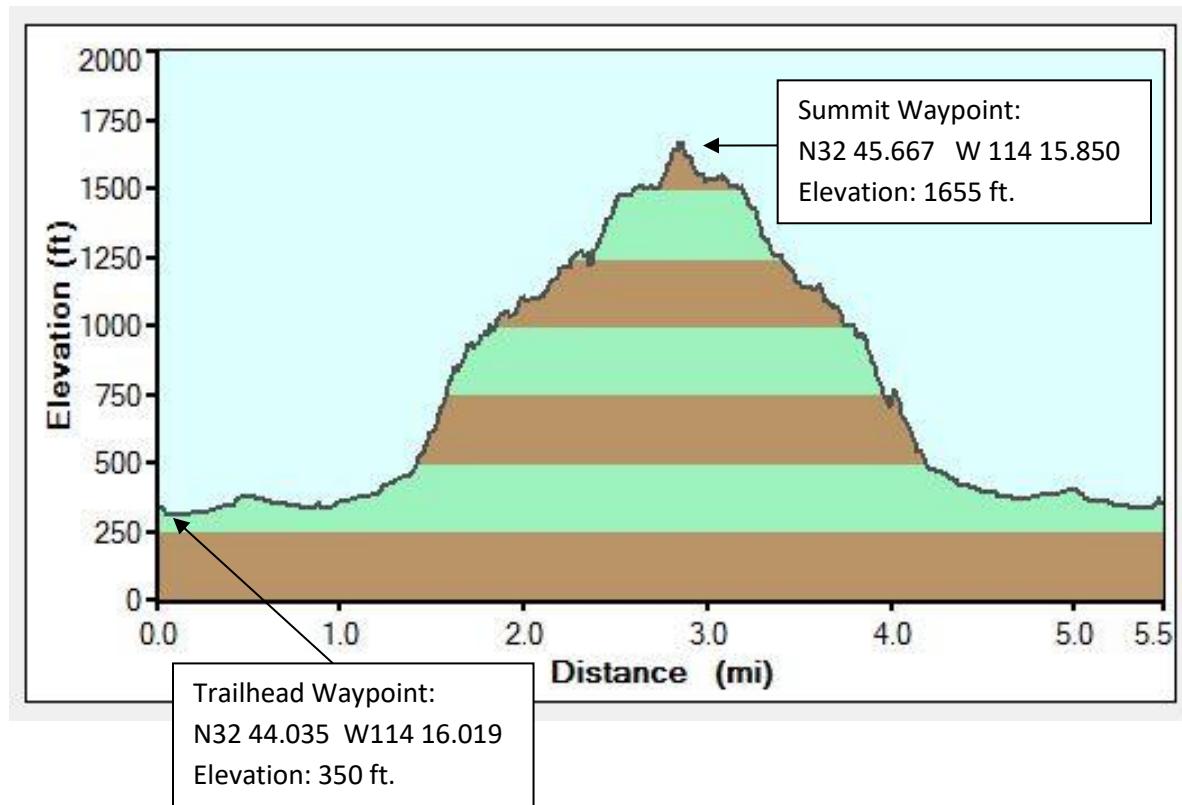
Note: Alternate ascent routes that involve scrambling/climbing for this hike are shown on the last page. A rope with appropriate gear is highly recommended.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel east toward Tucson. After going over Telegraph Pass, take the first exit (Ligurta/Dome Valley). Merge onto the frontage road running north of Interstate 8, drive through Ligurta (which has a great café), and turn left (north) onto the Dome Valley Road (S. Ave 20E). After about 4 miles, turn right (east) at the stop sign onto E County 7th St. After about a mile the pavement ends. Continue following the dirt road past the Muggins Peak Wilderness Area Information Board for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to its end and park. The trailhead starts here.

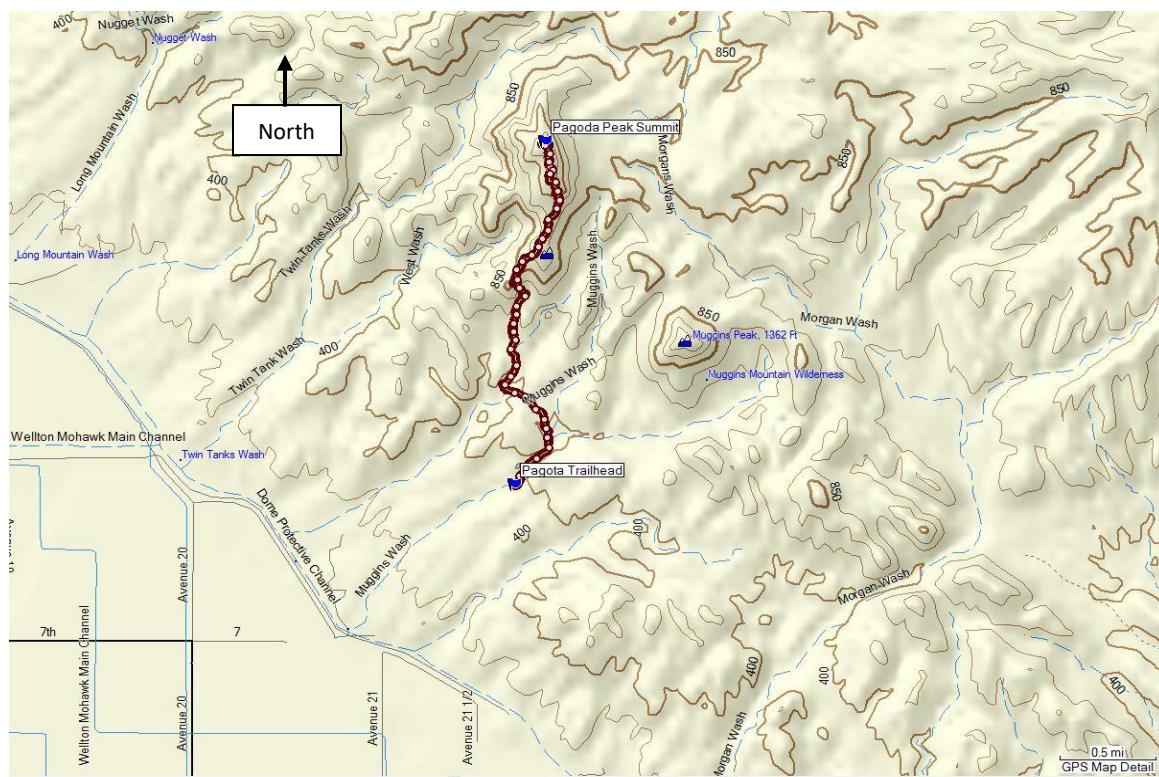
Drive Time: About 30 minutes.



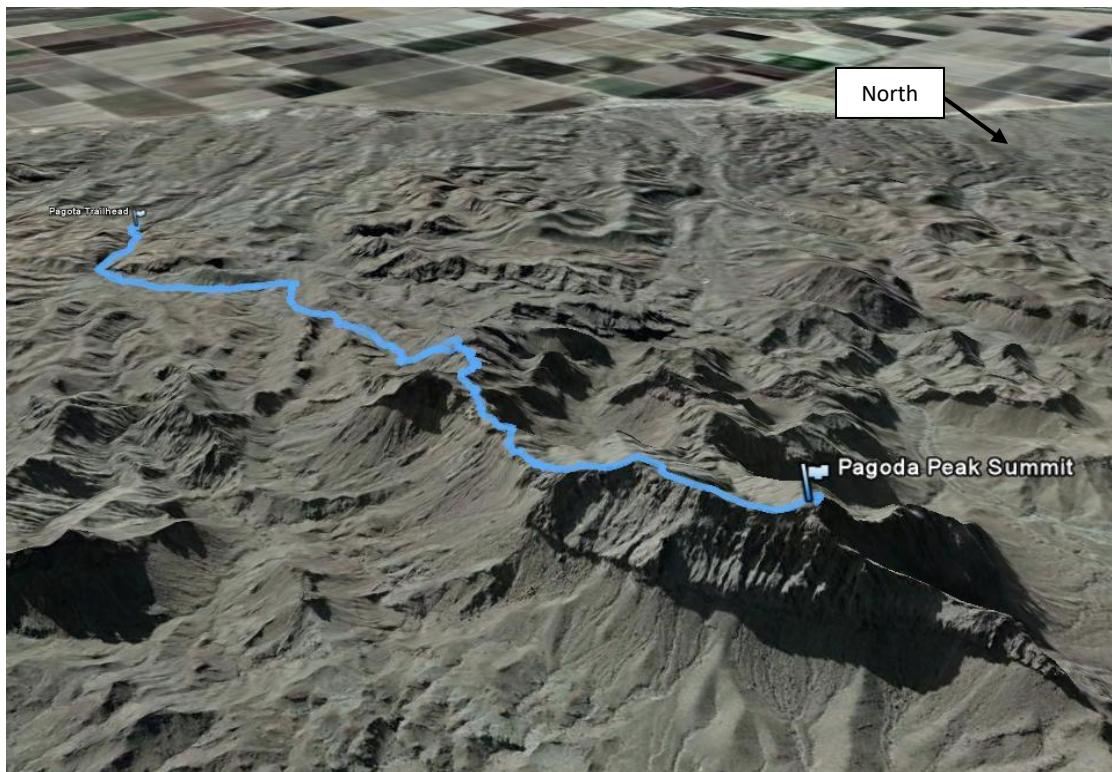
Pagoda Peak Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Pagoda Peak Trail (north is up):



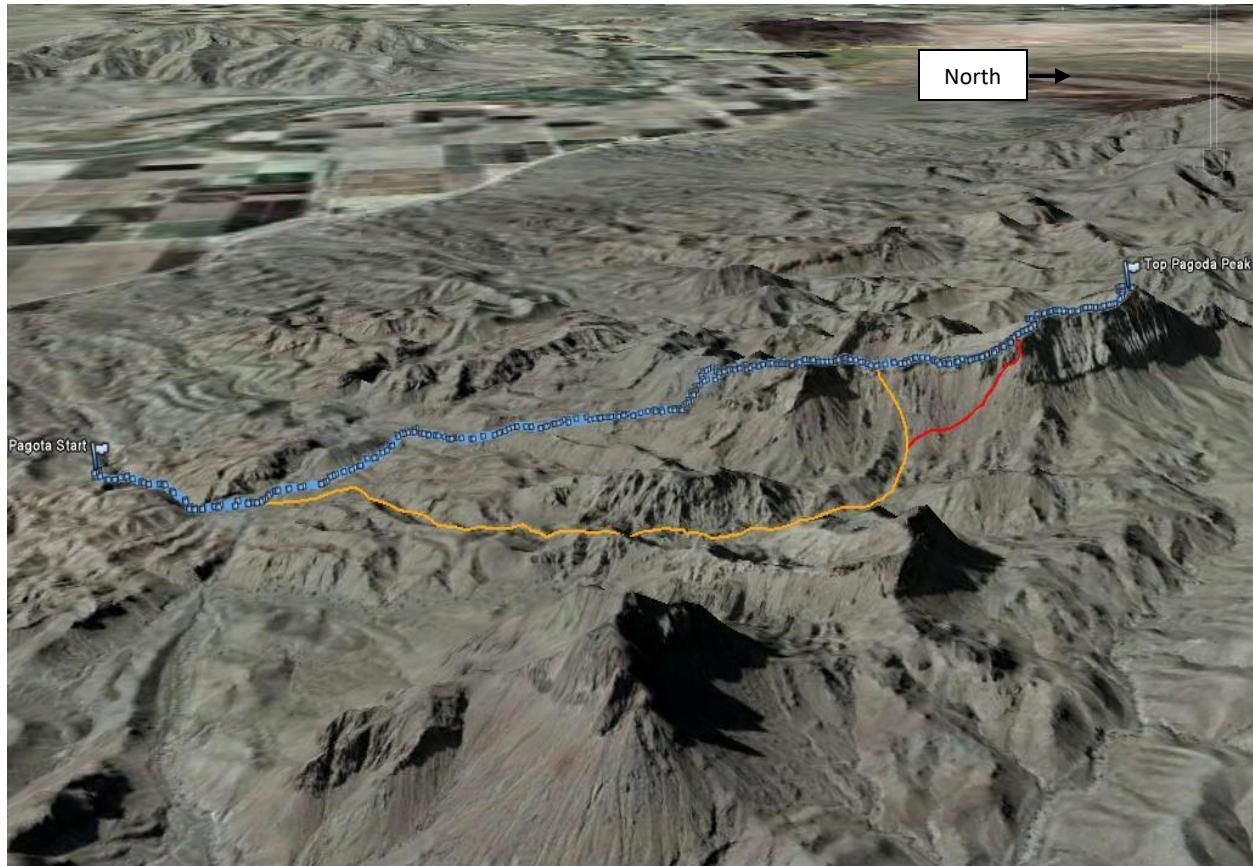
Pagoda Peak Trail 3-D Image (southwest is up):



Pagoda Peak Trail 3-D Image (east is up):



Pictured below are two other ascent routes for Pagoda Peak (in orange and red). The orientation is from the east. The ascents involve some easy, but dangerous climbing, with high exposure in some areas. A climbing rope with appropriate equipment is highly suggested if reaching the summit using one of these routes is your primary goal.



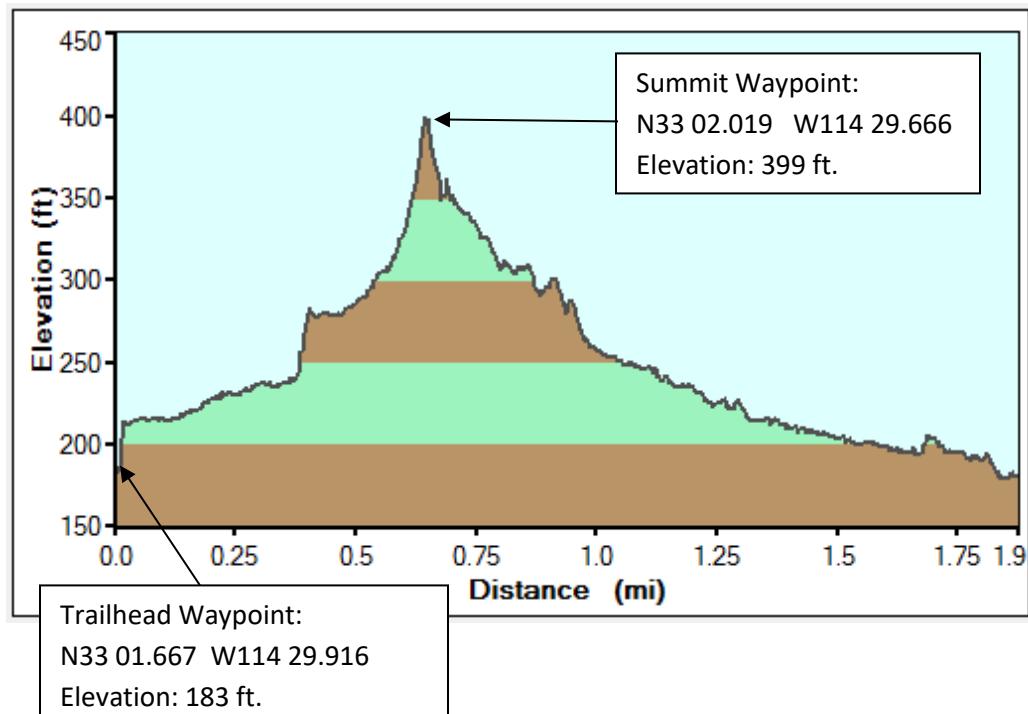
Painted Desert Trail: The Painted Desert Trail is an extremely beautiful, easy 1.3-mile hike in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge through an area that was once actively volcanic (30 million years ago). The landscape is incredibly colorful and panoramic views of the Colorado River are occasionally visible in the distance. There are occasional short climbs and rocky terrain is encountered as you hike through desert washes bounded by steep, short rock walls. A trail brochure detailing the hike with several stops is available at the trailhead and information kiosk that is passed on the drive to the trailhead. I outline below a short, moderate variation to the established trail that ascends a short peak and offers an enhanced panoramic view of the Colorado River and surrounding landscape (total distance is 2 miles).

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north along South Ave 8E and turn right (north) onto Hwy US-95. Drive about 16 miles on Hwy 95, and turn left (west) toward Martinez Lake Road. After about 10 miles, turn right onto Wildlife Refuge Road. After about 0.6 miles, continue straight onto Red Cloud Mine Road. After about 1.5 miles, bear right to stay on Red Cloud Mine Road. Continue about 3 more miles on Red Cloud Mine Road until you arrive at the Painted Desert Trail Parking Area.

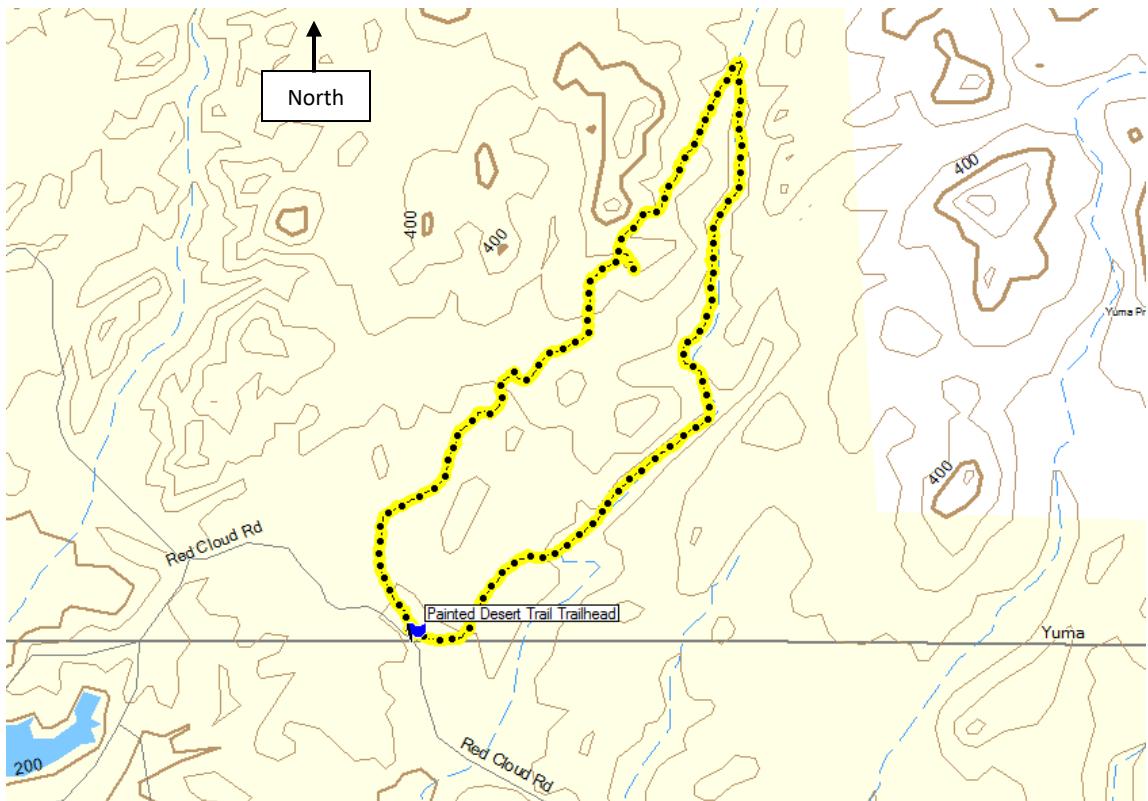
Drive Time: About 1 hour from the AWC Campus.



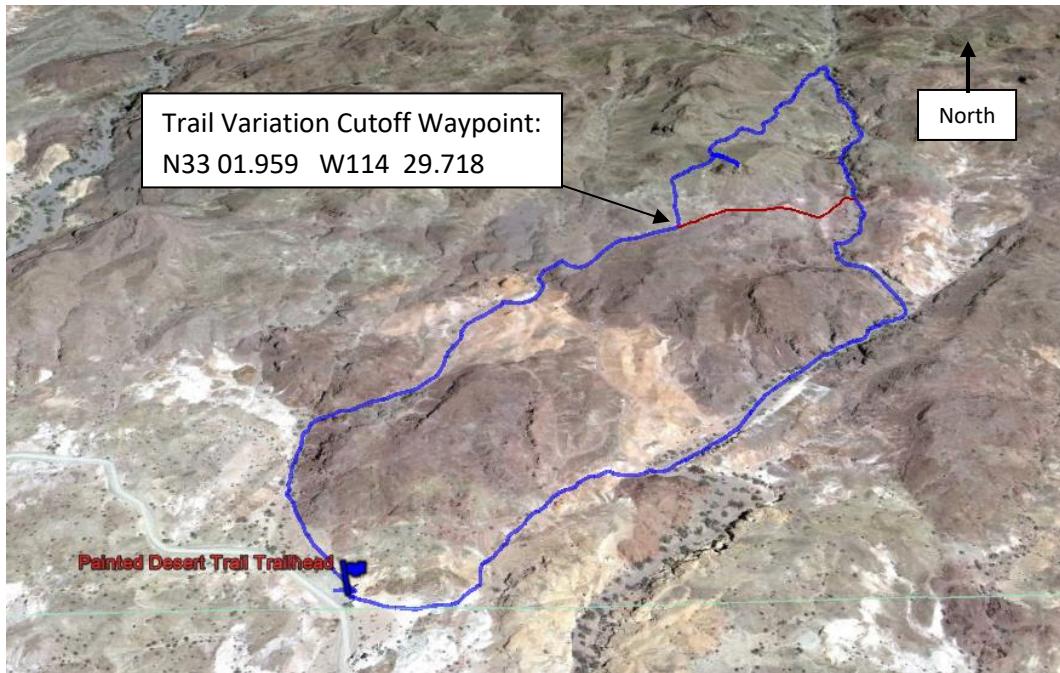
Painted Desert Alternate Trail Profile:



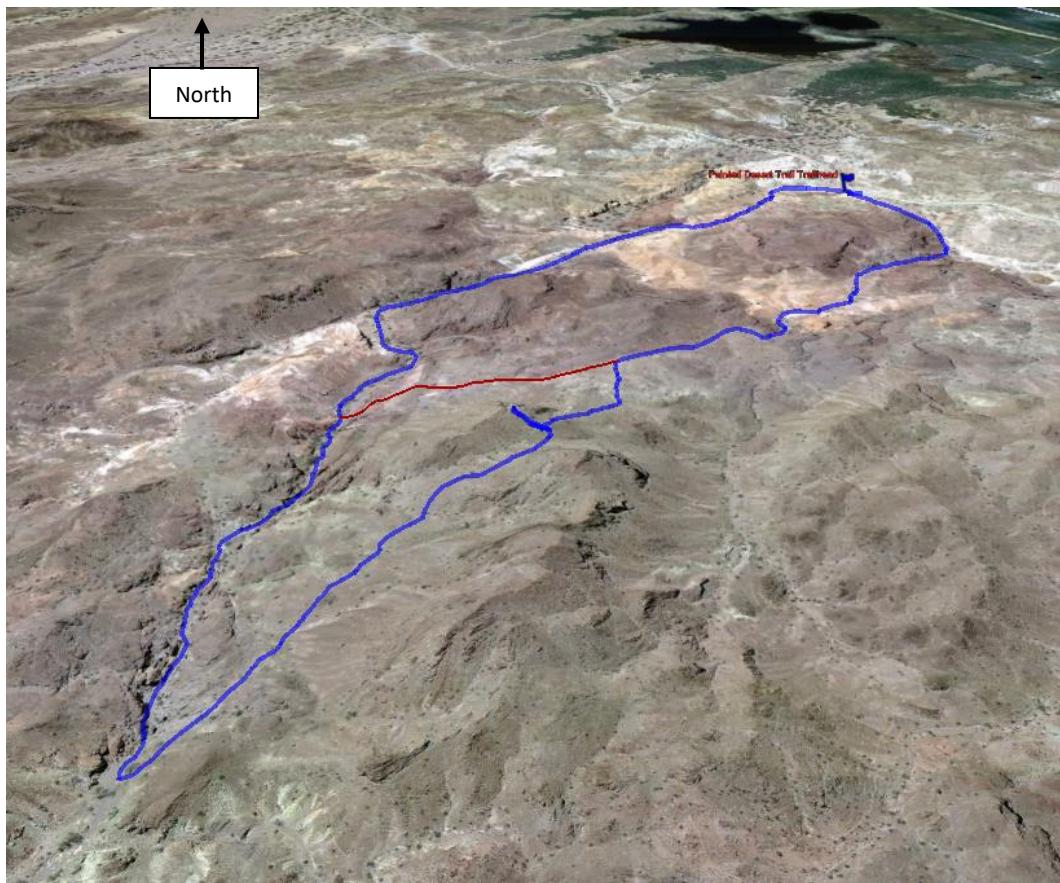
Painted Desert Alternate Trail (north is up):



Painted Desert Alternate Trail 3-D Image - original trail is in red (north is up):



Painted Desert Alternate Trail 3-D Image - original trail is in red (north is up):



Picacho Peak Area (CA)

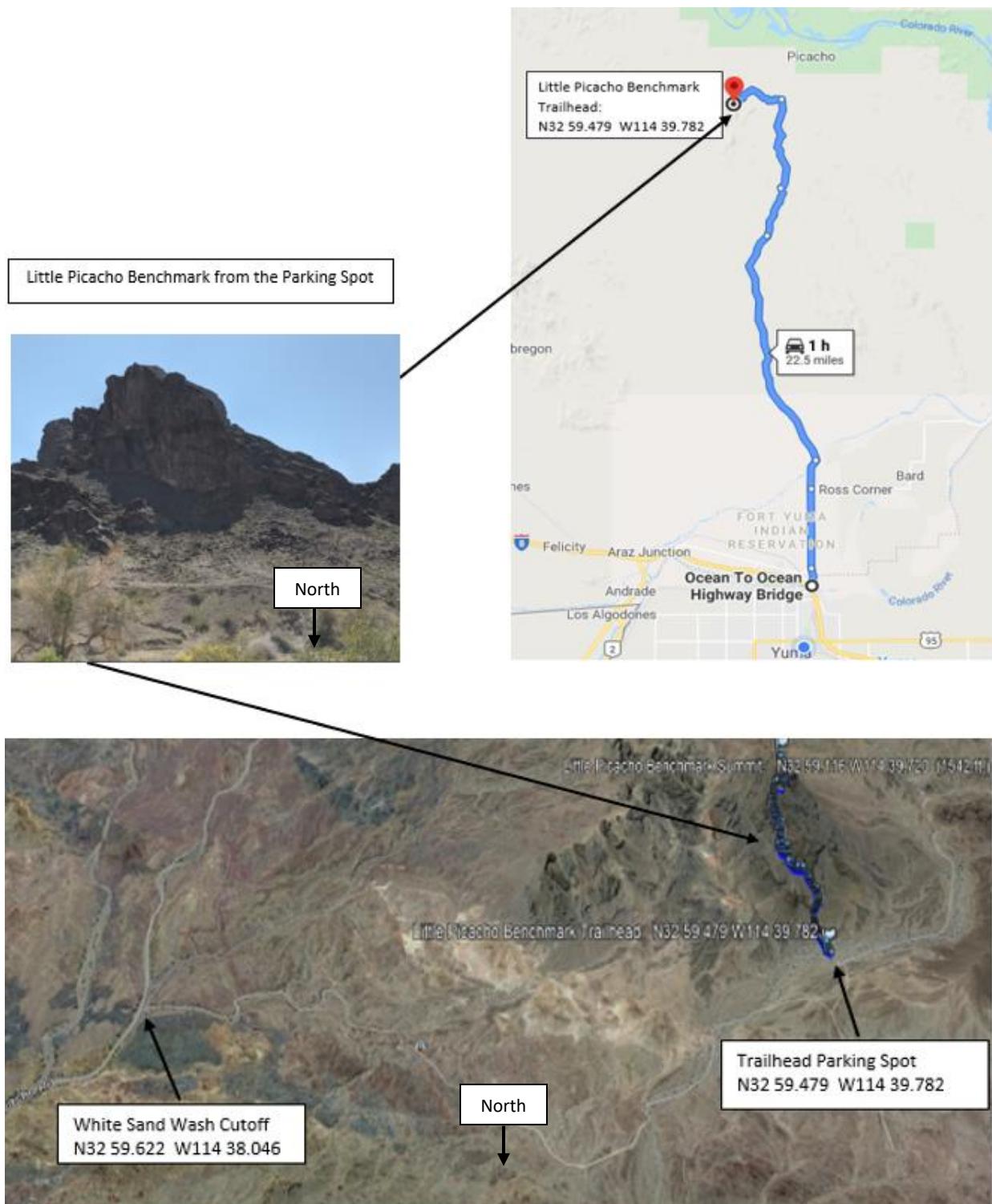
Little Picacho Benchmark (CA):

Little Picacho Benchmark is a fun summit ascent involving essentially no approach – you start the ascent from where you park. The area offers spectacular scenery, especially from the summit where Picacho Peak lies about 1 mile to the south. It is by no means an easy ascent, involving traversing below a very steep (vertical) east face until you reach a steep gully that is ascended without climbing. However, it contains typical desert topography with crumbly terrain full of large boulders. Once you reach the end of the gully at the base of the steep north face, traverse horizontally about 50 feet or so to the right (west) and ascend the first chance that you can. It appears that there is no easy passage, but if you follow the “path of least resistance” (up and west), you quickly arrive at the crux of the ascent – 10 feet of climbing on excellent black rock with large, solid handholds and a deep solution pocket in the rock face. Once you negotiate the crux, continue west on a large ledge until you can ascend upwards (mostly easy climbing). Continue ascending for a few hundred feet on good rock, with cairns marking the way (don’t hesitate to add a few more if necessary). A climbing rope and gear are suggested for the crux if non-climbers are present – a fall would be disastrous. Plan 5-6 hours from Yuma for the round trip.

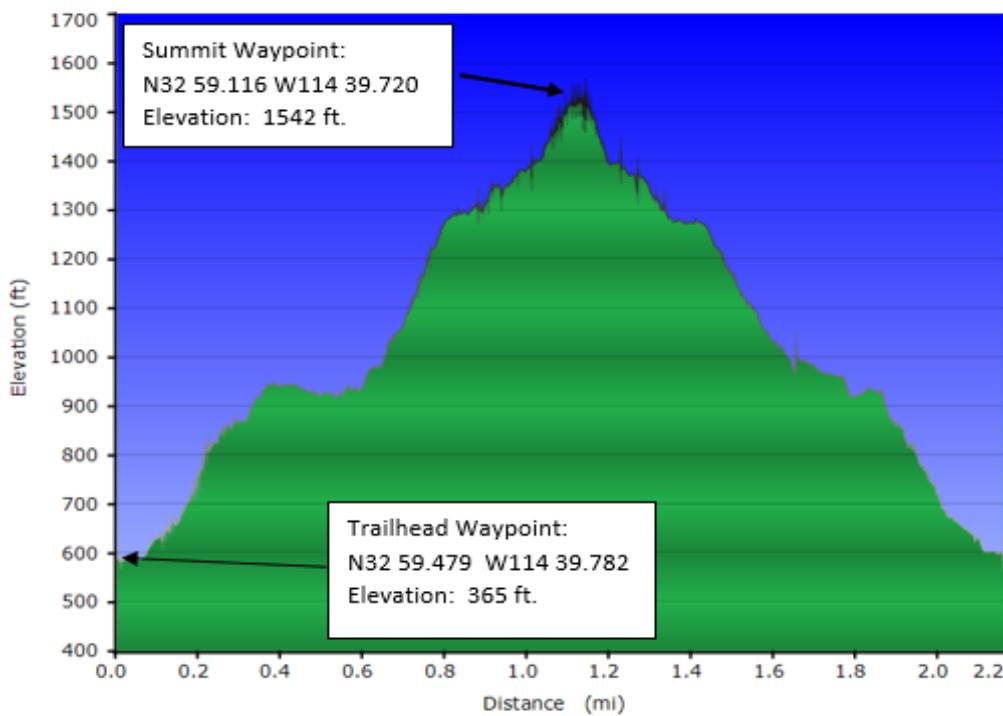
Access Directions: After crossing the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge from Yuma, AZ, drive north on Quechan Drive about 0.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto Picacho Road. Be careful to stay on the main Picacho Road especially in the area of the All-American Canal bridge area. After driving about 20.1 miles, on your left (to the west) will be a small sign for White Sands Wash (N32 59.622 W114 38.046). Take a left onto this dirt road (west) and drive west about 2.3 miles. Pay attention to intersecting roads on your right and be sure to avoid them on your return trip. I suggest that you mark the trailhead waypoint on a GPS unit (N32 59.479 W114 39.782) as there is no established parking area and no well-defined trail – it’s somewhat of an obvious starting point (you will eventually see some cairns once you start hiking).

Note: If you happen to arrive at the Picacho State Recreation Area entrance kiosk (a large informational board and an entrance fee drop-box), you’ve driven too far, so turn around and drive back about 2 miles to the White Sands Wash cutoff. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is recommended.

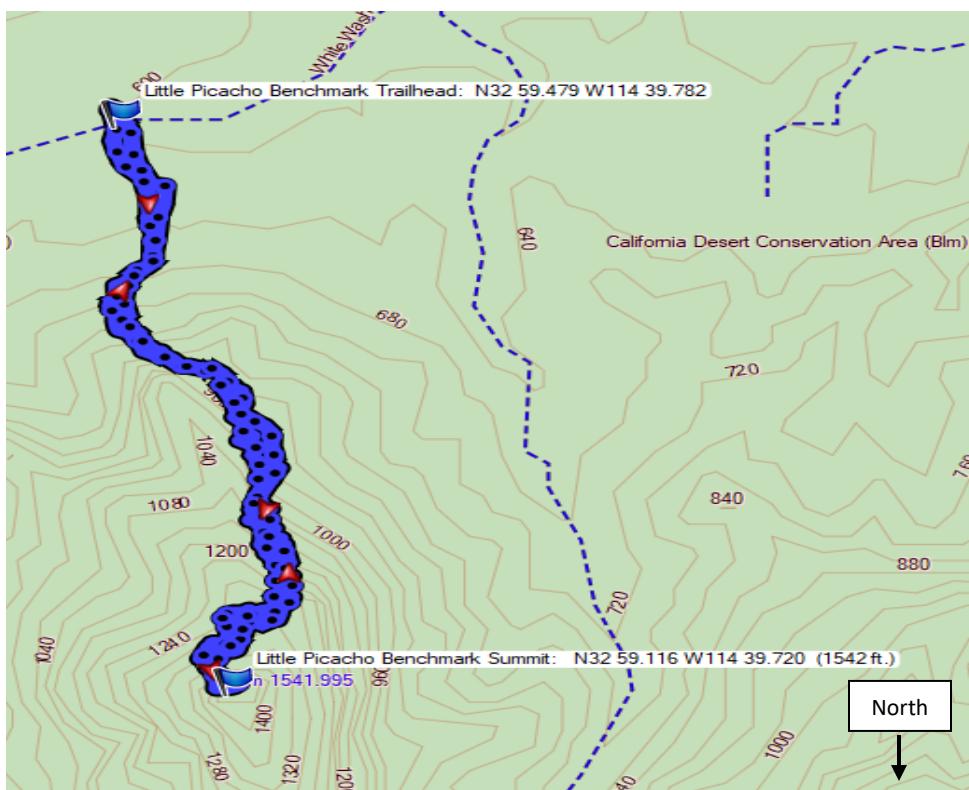
Drive Time: About 1 hour to the trailhead from the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge.



Little Picacho Benchmark Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Little Picacho Benchmark Ascent Trail (north is down):



Little Picacho Benchmark Ascent Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Little Picacho Benchmark Ascent Trail 3-D Image (north is down):



Looking South at Picacho Peak from the summit of Little Picacho Benchmark:



Little Picacho Peak (CA):

Little Picacho Peak is a classic hike and summit ascent involving a 10-mile round trip trek in extremely beautiful desert washes and a challenging 500-foot ascent to the summit up a hidden gully containing steep rock cliffs on its northeast aspect. Location of the hidden gully is confirmed by a large (huge) chockstone blocking the way. One must climb the steep wall to its left, although we climbed a section of steep rock about 30' below it and to its left.

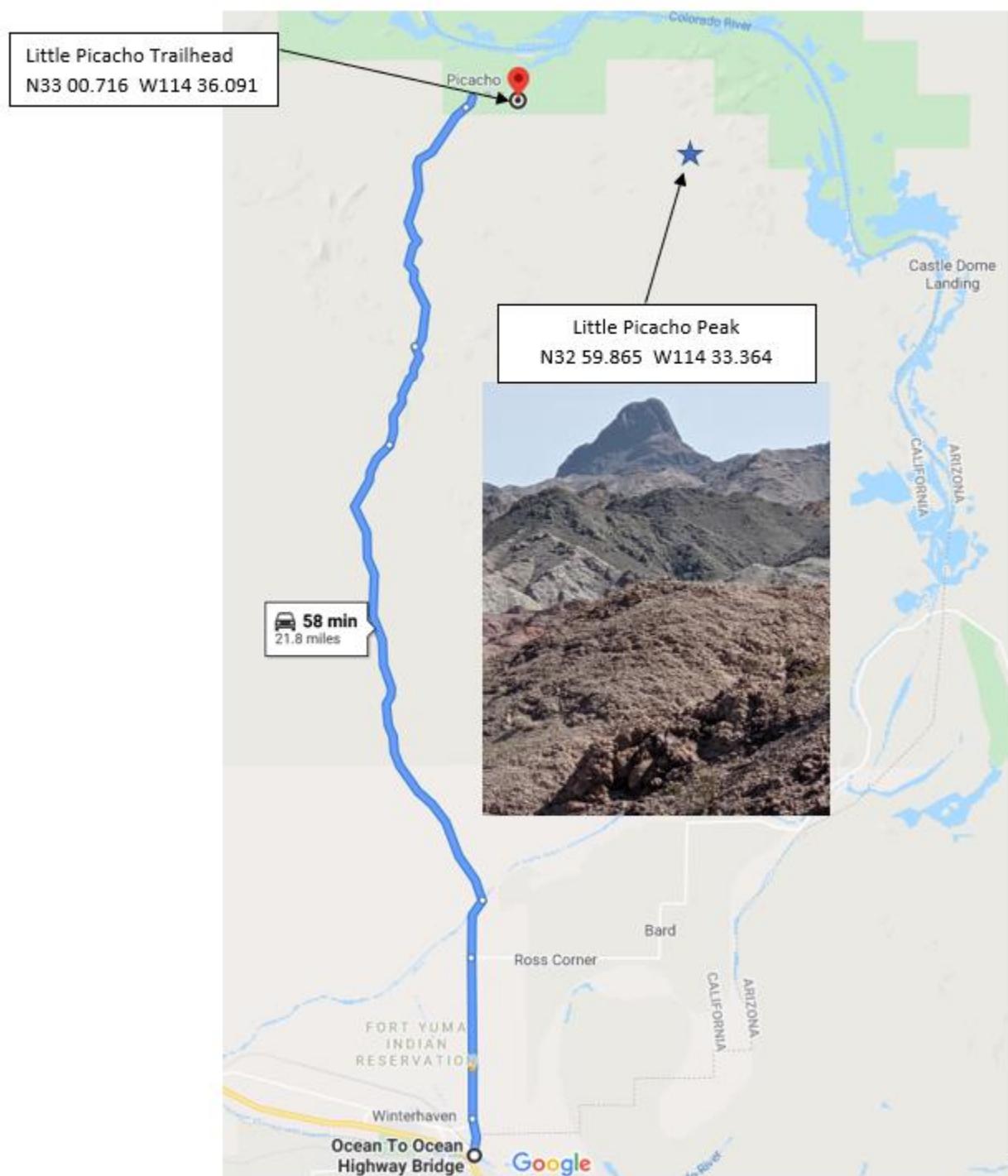
This is by no means an easy ascent. It involves tricky, difficult, 4th to low 5th class climbing with high exposure. A fall could easily result in serious injury (or death) so a rope and climbing gear is highly advised, especially on the descent where a rappel from just above the chockstone facilitates matters. (See the picture of the chockstone in the hidden gully below.)

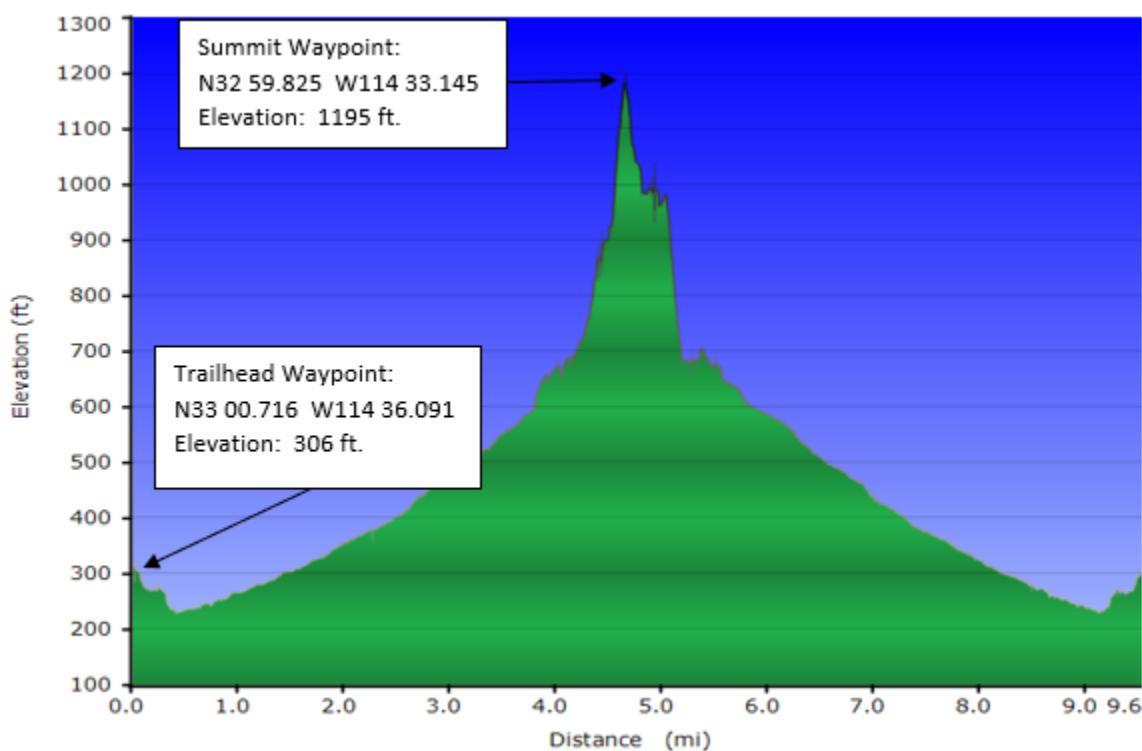
This area also is near Picacho State Recreation Area and the Colorado River if you wish to take advantage of them. Plan 6-8+ hours from Yuma for the round trip.

Access Directions: After crossing the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge from Yuma, AZ, drive north on Quechan Drive about 0.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto Picacho Road and drive about 21 miles. Be careful to stay on the main Picacho Road especially in the area of the All-American Canal bridge area. You will arrive at the Picacho State Recreation Area entrance kiosk (a large informational board and an entrance fee drop-box). After entering the recreation area, drive about 50 yards or so, and take an immediate right (east) onto a well-defined dirt road. Drive about 1½ miles and a sign denoting the Marcus Wash Parking spot will appear on the right. (Be careful not to miss it!). This is the trailhead for Little Picacho Peak. Note that overnight parking is not permitted. A 4-wheeled drive vehicle is recommended.

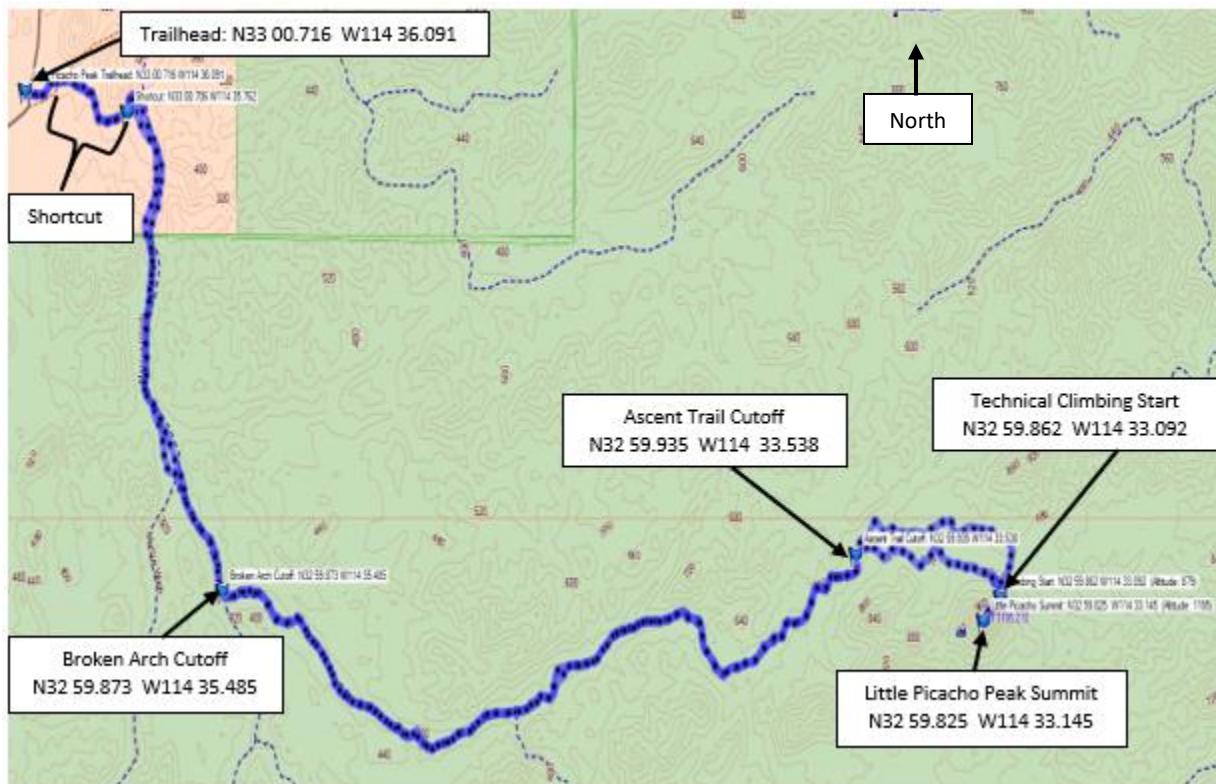
Drive Time: About 1 hour to the trailhead from the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge spanning the Colorado River in Yuma, Arizona (depending on road conditions).

Little Picacho Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):

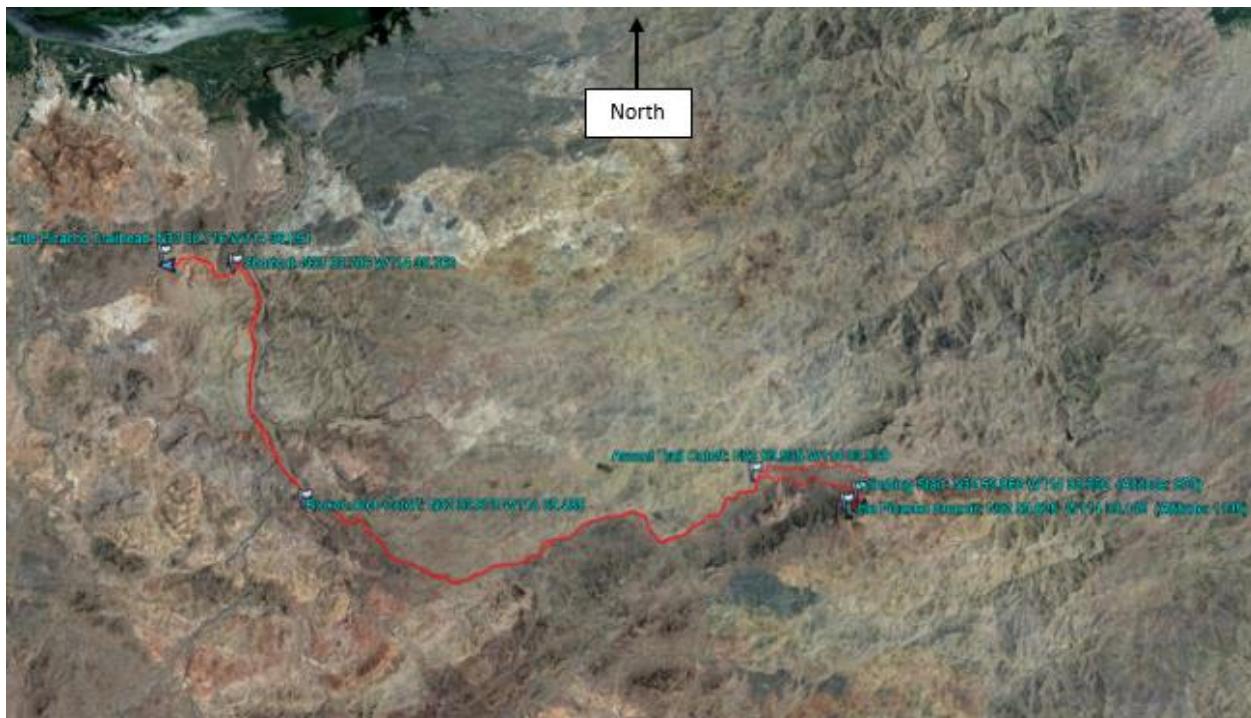




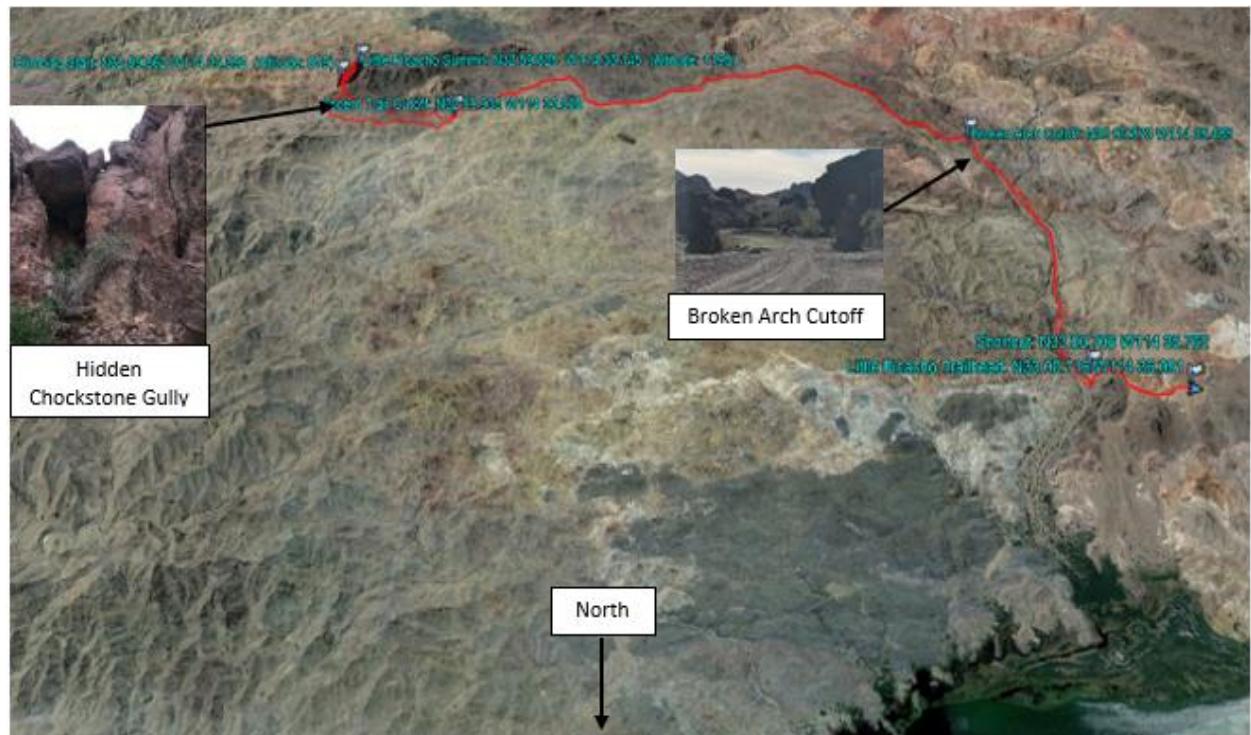
Little Picacho Trail (north is up):



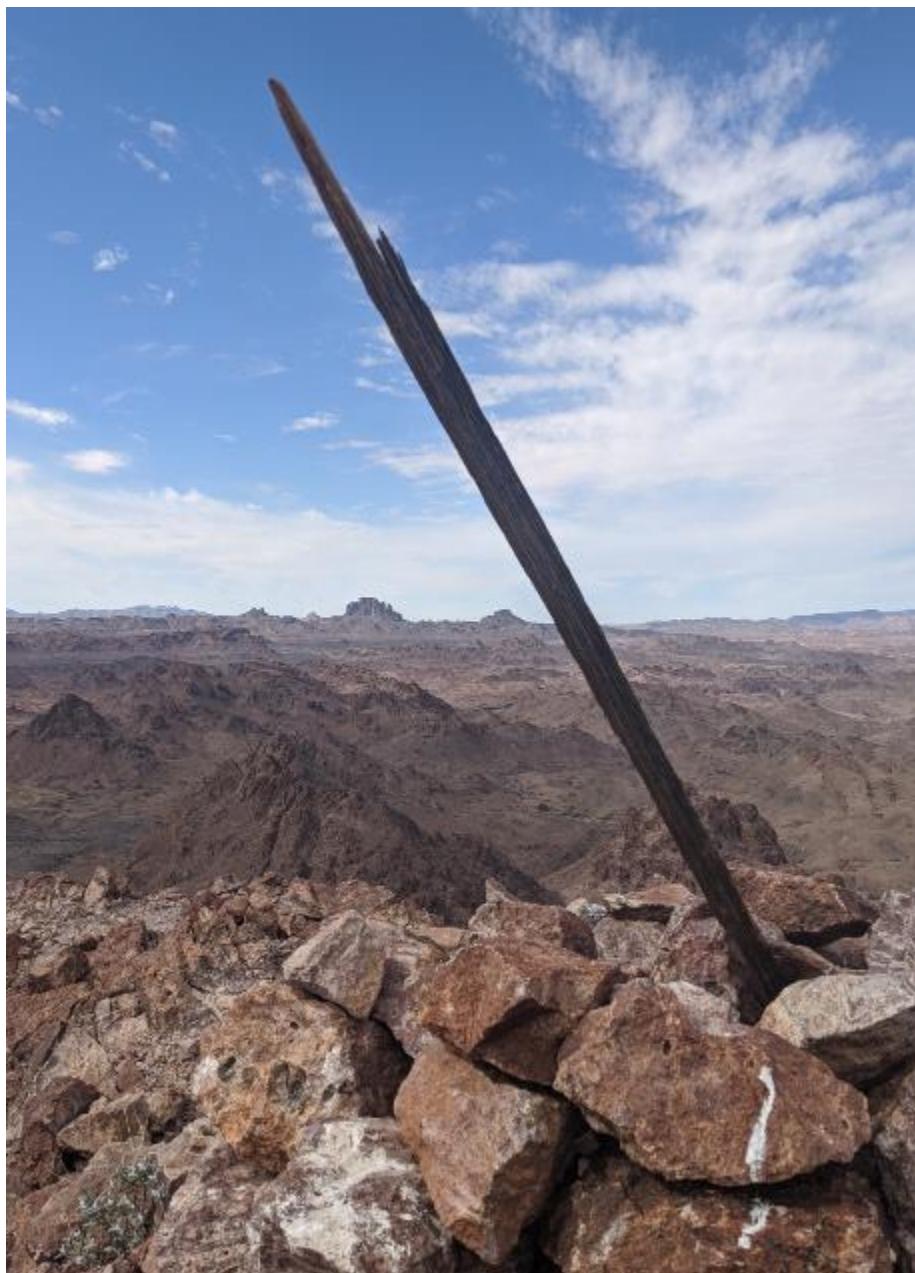
Little Picacho Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Little Picacho Trail 3-D Image (south is up):



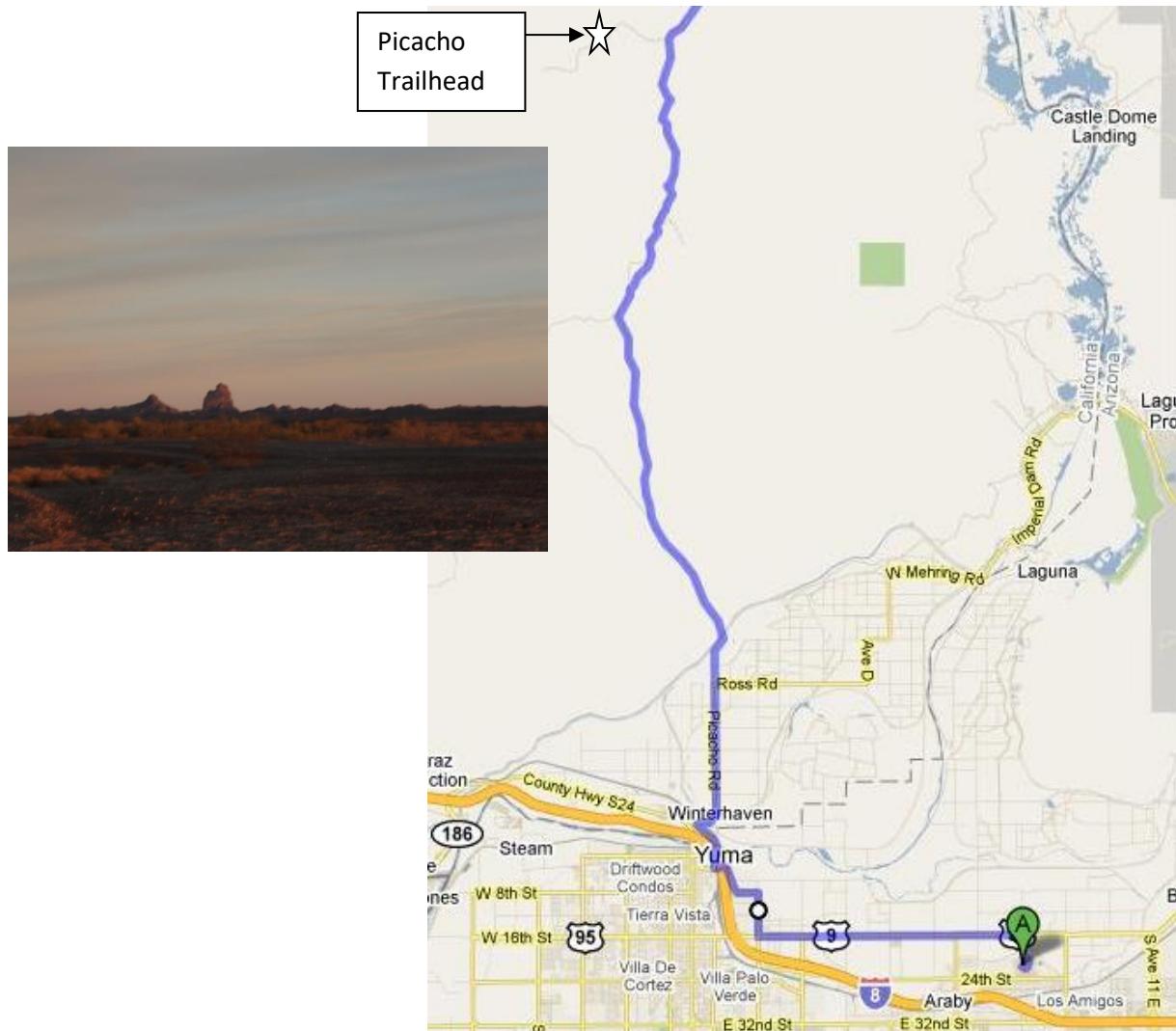
Looking West-Southwest at Picacho Peak from the Summit of Little Picacho Peak:



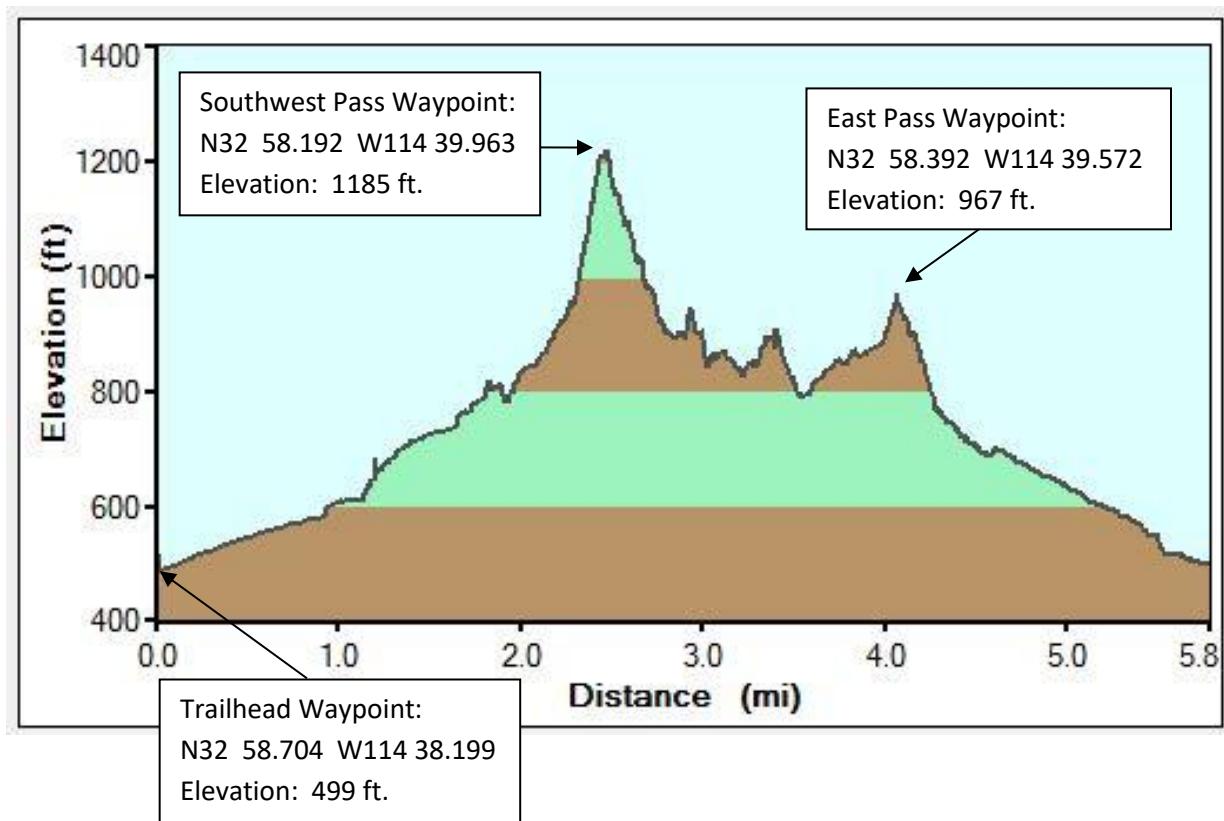
Picacho Trail: This classic, easy-to-moderate hike around Picacho Peak in California is extremely colorful and picturesque. It also is close to Picacho State Park and the Colorado River if you wish to take advantage of it. Plan 4-6 hours for the round trip.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, drive north to US Hwy 95 and turn left (west). Once you reach Yuma, turn right (north) at Pacific Ave. Turn left (west) on E 8th Street and follow it around several bends until you get to S Gila Street. Turn right (north) onto S Gila Street, then right on E 1st Street. Follow it over the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, then bear right (north) onto Quechan Road. Follow Quechan Road until you get to Picacho Road. Turn right (north) onto Picacho Road and follow it some 16 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead lies about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the (non-operational) Picacho Mine at the start of a large wash with a 4-wheeled drive road running into it.

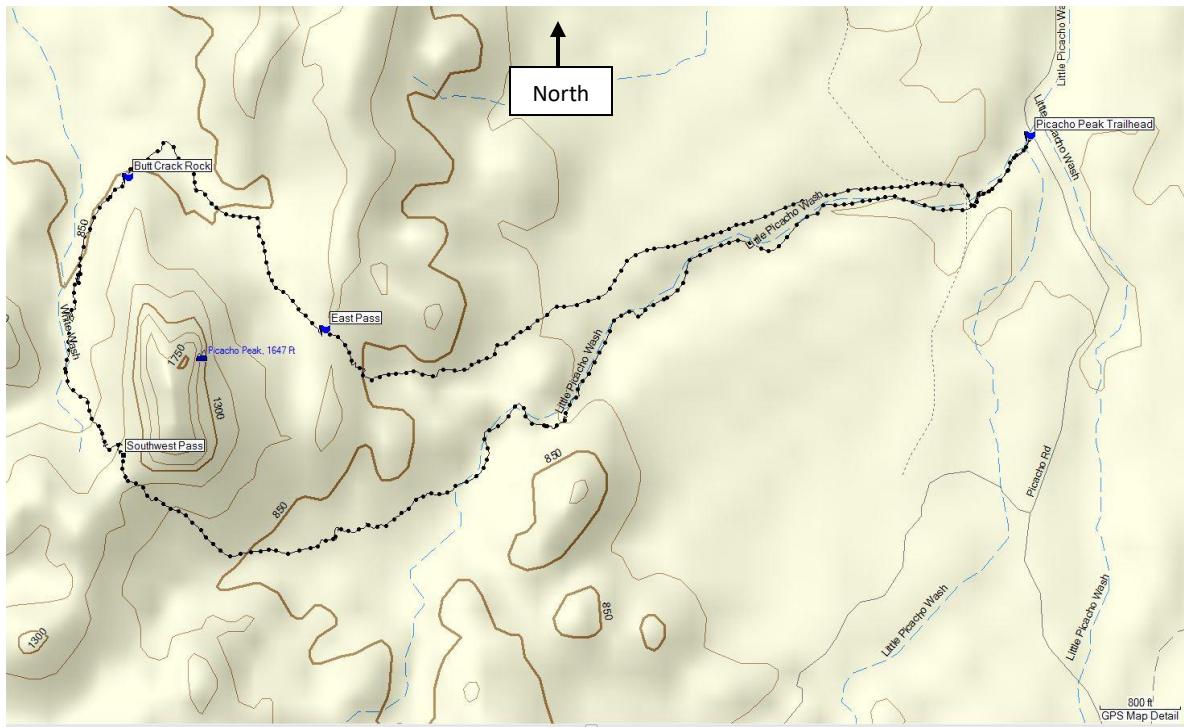
Drive Time: About 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 hours (depending on road conditions).



Picacho Trail Distance and Altitude Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



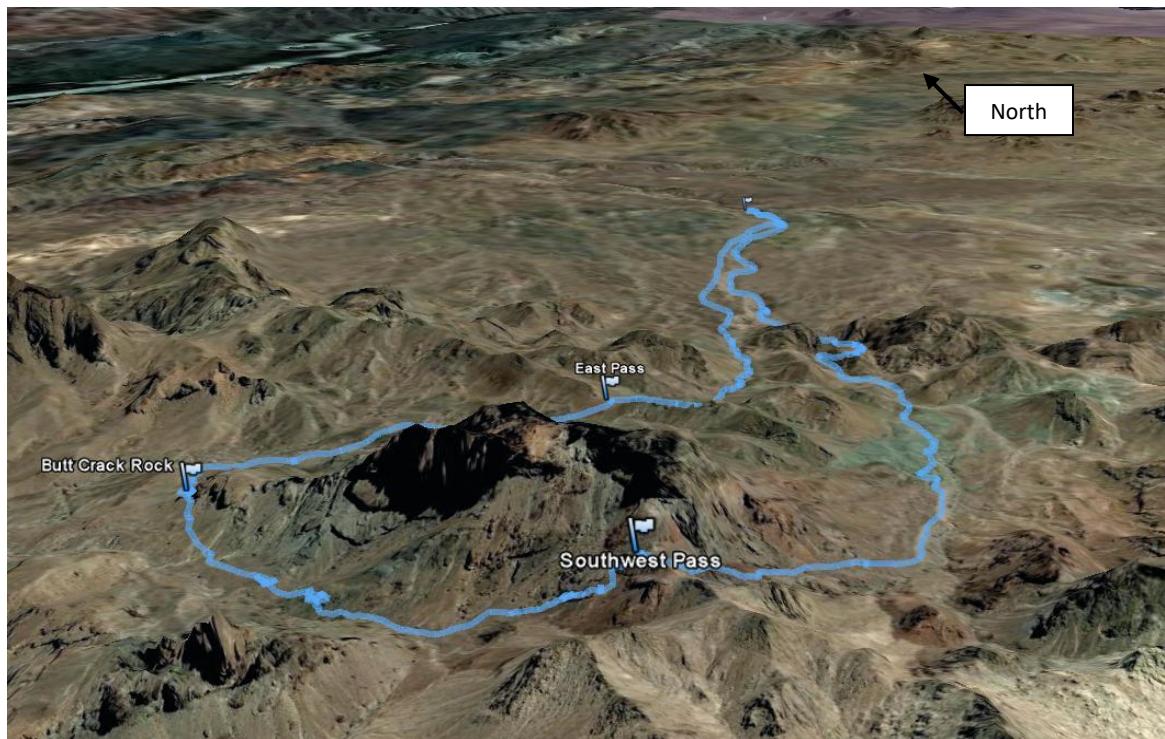
Picacho Trail (north is up):



Picacho Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Picacho Trail 3-D Image (northeast is up):



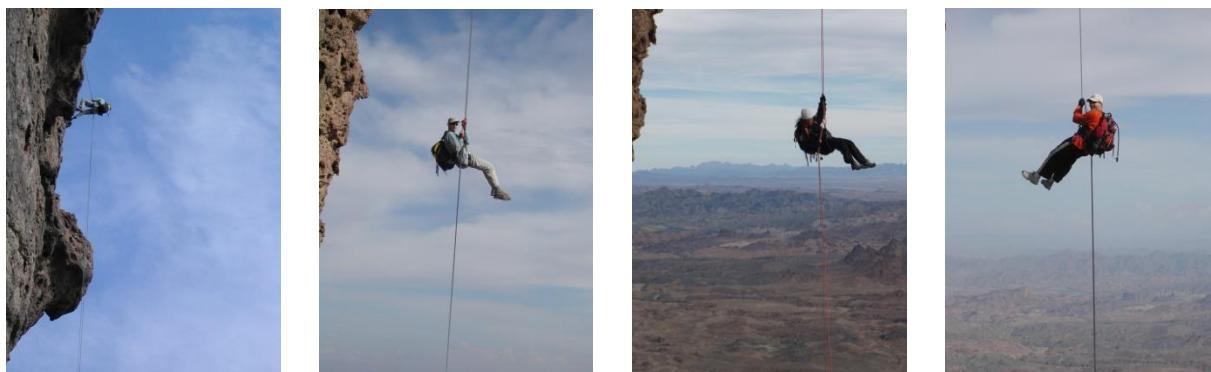
Picacho Peak Ascent & Rappels:

An ascent of Picacho Peak involves ascending a very steep gully on the west side of Picacho that can be accessed from the Southwest Pass. The gully ends in a saddle, from which the route continues up the eastern aspect of Picacho Peak. The route is somewhat straight-forward, ascending the line of least resistance via “wandering” and following an occasional painted arrow. Some very exposed climbing is involved, including climbing over an open abyss, and ascending two ladders. Once the summit ridge is attained, a large block-like formation prevents reaching the true summit without rappelling or difficult down-climbing. A rope and rock-climbing gear are highly advised if the goal is reaching the true summit.

In 2000, George Montopoli, Brian Karasek, Hank Harlow, Scott Beebe, and Liz Renaud placed bolts and pitons, and cables for rappelling down the Southwest Ridge of Picacho Peak. From the true summit of Picacho Peak, scramble west until you get to a shoulder and cannot continue. Four rappels follow:

- 1) Rappel east about 50 ft. down and over an overhang to reach a large ledge system. Total rappel length: 60 ft.; anchor: steel cable and webbing.
- 2) From the large eye-bolt, rappel about 200 ft. to the south-southeast. Two 60m (200 ft.) ropes are mandatory. By the end of the rappel, you will be about 20 ft. out from the wall. In fact, for about 170 ft., you will not be touching the wall at all. Total rappel length: 200 ft.; anchor: eye-bolt, steel cable, and an old gold-line rope.
- 3) From the end of the rappel hike south up and over the knoll, then down and southeast until you get to the next anchor consisting of 2 pitons. From the anchor, rappel down into the first gully (about 20 ft.), then climb up and over into the next gully to the south (this is imperative). Continue the rappel for about 60 ft. to the next bolt anchor located on the wall to the rappeler's right. Total rappel length: 80-90 ft.; anchor: 2 pitons, cable, and slings.
- 4) From the bolt anchor, continue rappelling a full rope-length (100 ft.). Total rappel length: 100 ft.; anchor bolt, piton, natural rock and slings.
- 5) From the end of the rappel, scramble down some 50-100 feet to the top of a ramp. Hike/scramble down the ramp to the north, toward the base of the sheer southeast face of Picacho Peak. From the bottom of the ramp you can hike to the East Pass of Picacho Trail, then back to the trailhead.

Second 200 ft. Rappel:



Third and Fourth Rappels:



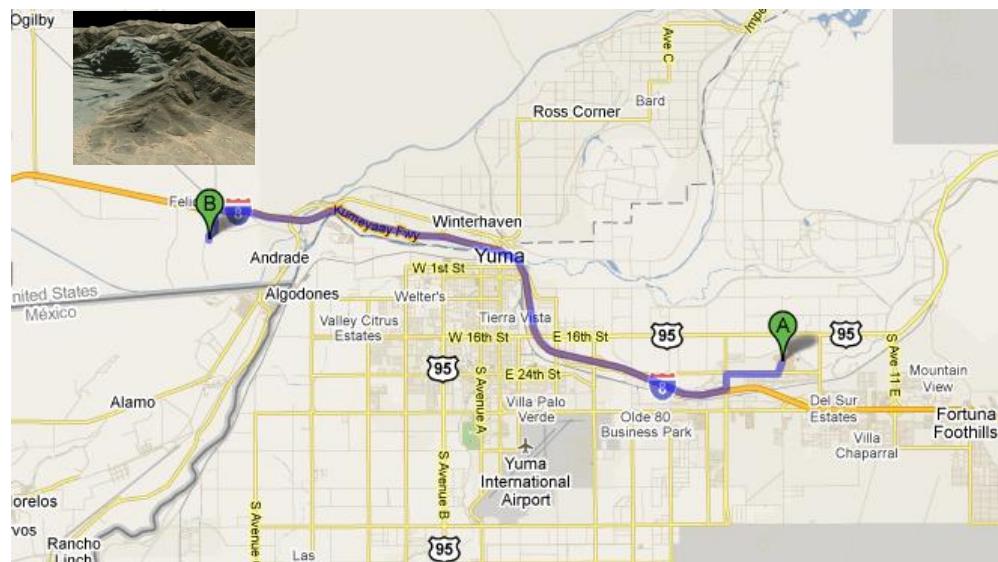
In the photo below, rappels are numbered and red, and scrambling is in yellow. Arrows indicate starting points for each of the four rappels.



Pilot Knob, CA: Pilot Knob lies only 8 miles to the west of Yuma (from the 4th Avenue Bridge) and is a historically significant, well-known landmark. Pilot Knob contains hikes that are easy, moderate, and difficult. I generally cannot classify them as “classic” hikes because of all the “garbage” encountered as one hikes or ascends the trails. There are many variations of trails that meander around the lower flanks of Pilot Knob, and ascend it as well. For all the various routes, plan 2 - 4 hours for the round-trip time.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel west toward San Diego. Drive west on Interstate 8 into California for about 15 miles. After stopping at an Agriculture Inspection Station, continue about another ½ - 1 mile and take the next exit for Sidewinder Road (Exit 164). Turn left (south) at the end of the exit ramp and cross over Interstate 8 onto Sidewinder Road.

Drive Time: About ½ to 1 hour from AWC Campus.



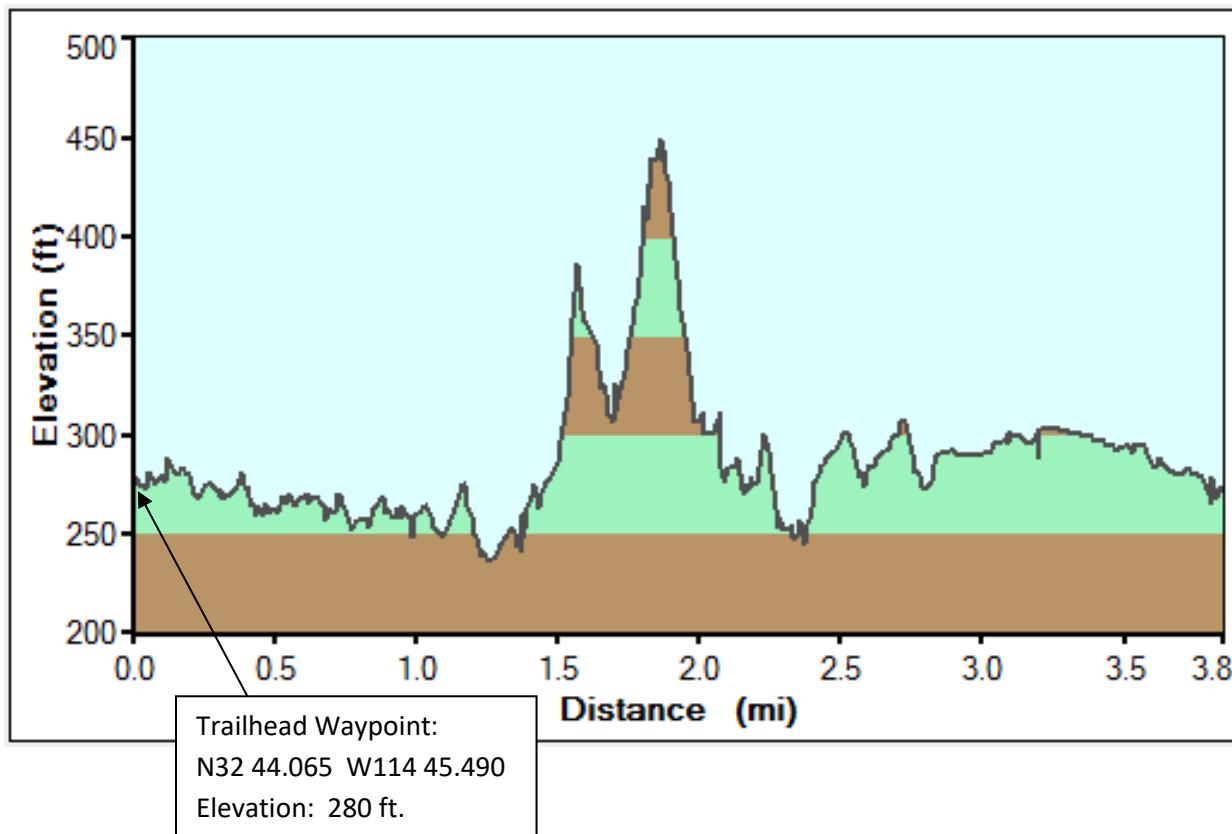
Trails/Ascents (all are shown in maps):

- For an easy 3.8-mile hike, drive south on Sidewinder Road for about 1 mile, to a point where a large western ridge nears Sidewinder Road. Park just before a fence appears on your left (east) that prohibits vehicular traffic. The easier hike that I show below (in red) starts on the west side of the Pilot Knob formation and circles around the mountain. From the parking area, hike to the base of the West Ridge where you will find the trail. Continue hiking south-southeast for a mile or so, then northeast over two small passes. After descending the second pass, you arrive at a junction. At the East Junction (shown on the map), you may continue around the mountain for an easier hike by travelling north, or ascend the peak for a moderate hike by travelling west.
- For an easy 1.4-mile direct ascent to the summit via the northern slopes, drive south about ¼ mile on Sidewinder Road and then bear left (east) to the large quarry on the north side of Pilot Knob. Park more-or-less in the middle of the quarry close to where an old access road toward the summit begins (I generally descend this road after attaining the summit). Hike directly east along the road toward a large boulder at the east end of the road where it turns toward the

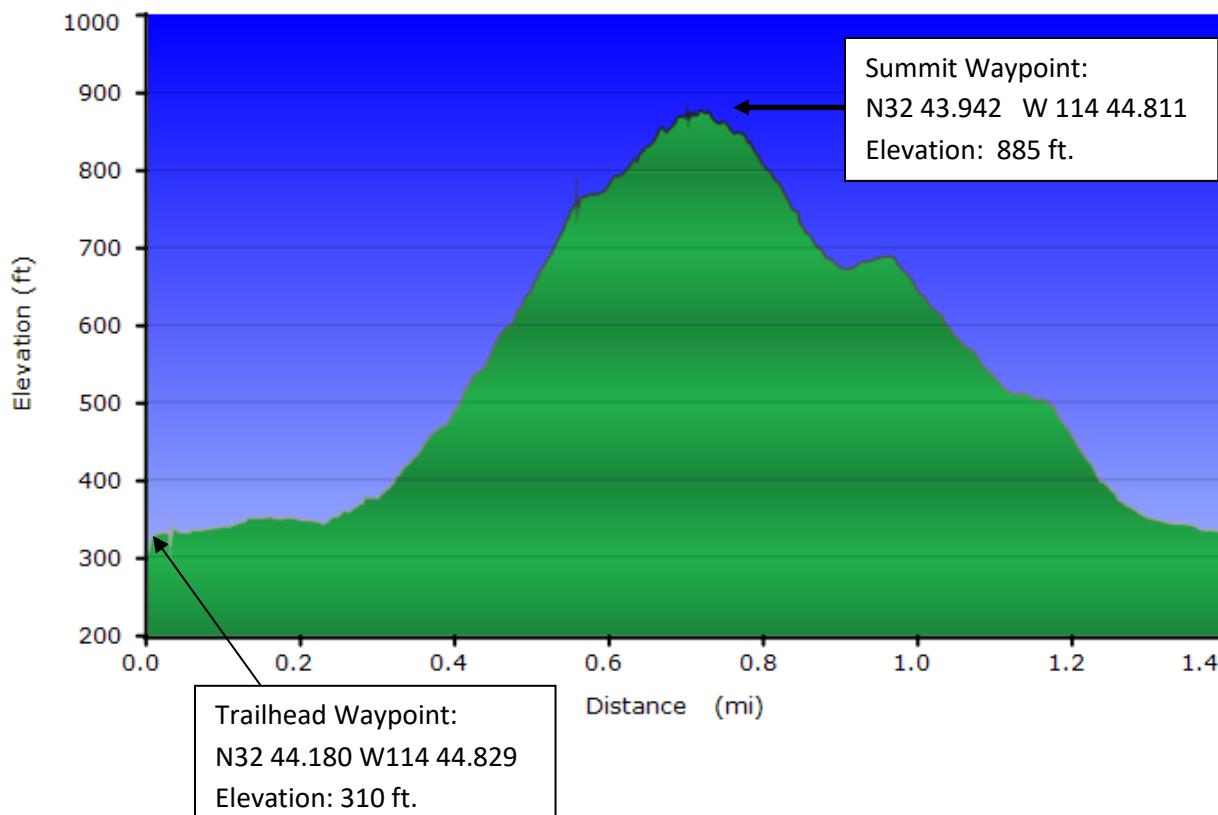
north. Continue hiking east, and slightly up and across a wide gully, until it intersects the obvious trail that ascents south towards the summit ridge. When this trail intersects the summit ridge, hike west to the summit. From the summit, I generally descend to the old access road that takes you back to your car.

- For a more difficult direct route to the summit (some scrambling involved), drive south about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on Sidewinder Road and then bear left (east), to the prominent north ridge at the western edge of the quarry. The more difficult ascent shown below approaches the summit directly on the ridge (route shown below in yellow). The descent follows the trail and road on the western edge of the quarry.
- Another more difficult, truly classic hike ascends the direct west ridge to the summit in three steps. From the same trailhead as the easier hike, travel south for a few hundred yards, and ascend the West ridge that intersects the trail. Some scrambling and exposed, easy climbing is encountered by staying right on the apex of the ridge, but the ascent is fantastic. At the top of the first step, one may easily descend back to the trailhead (on a steep trail) if the ascent is too difficult or exposed.
- Another more difficult 2.5-mile route ascends the southern aspect of Pilot Knob after hiking about one mile on the “easy hike” described above, and involves ascending a combination of gullies and ridge crests.

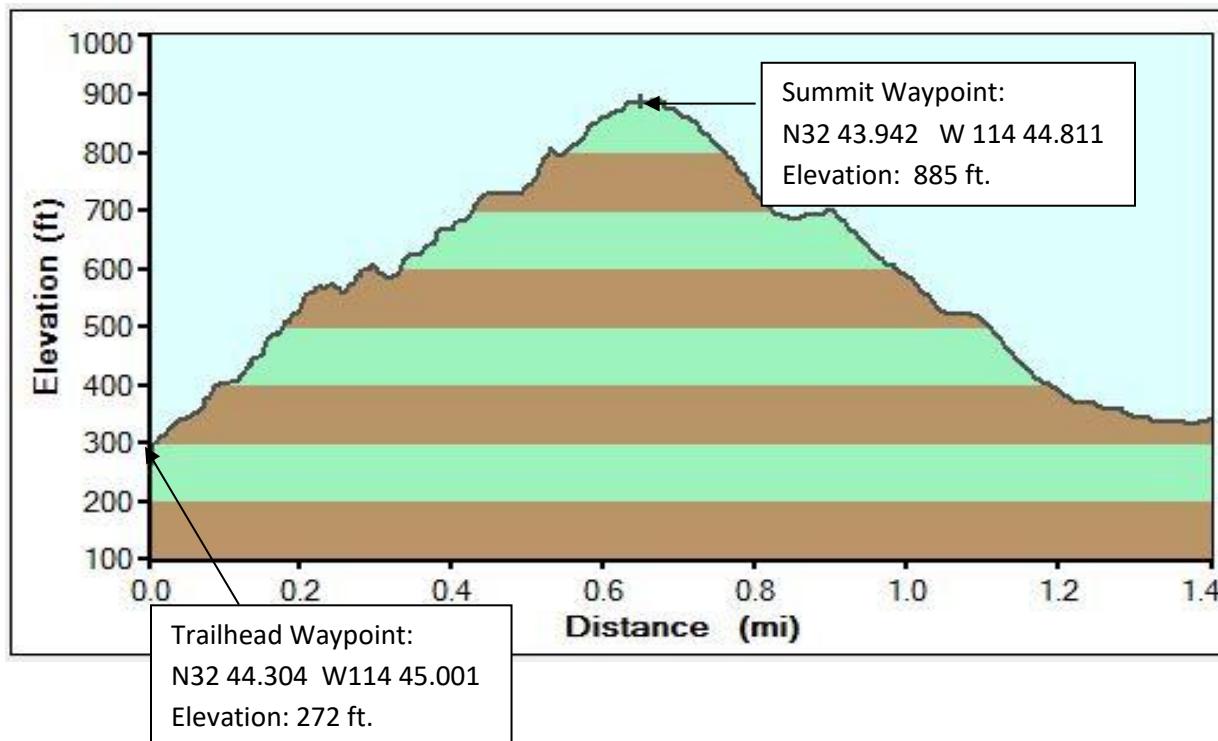
Walkabout (Easy Hike) Profile:



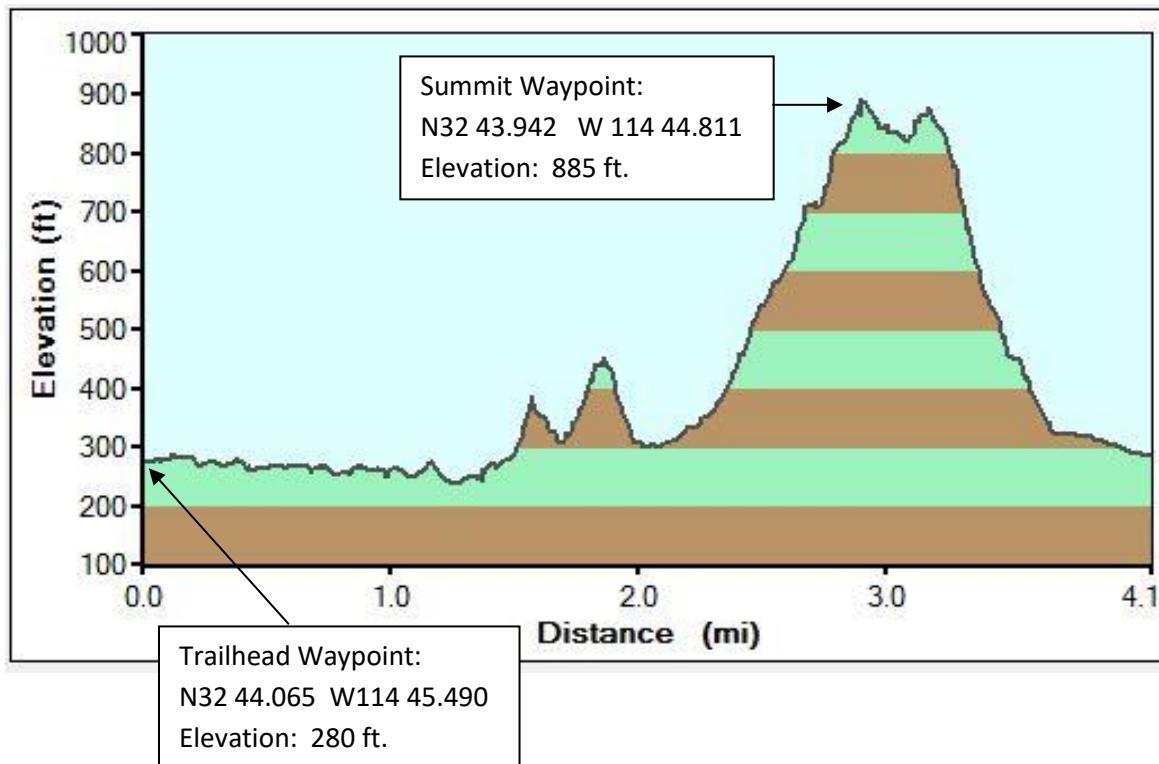
North Slopes Easy (but enjoyable) Ascent Profile:



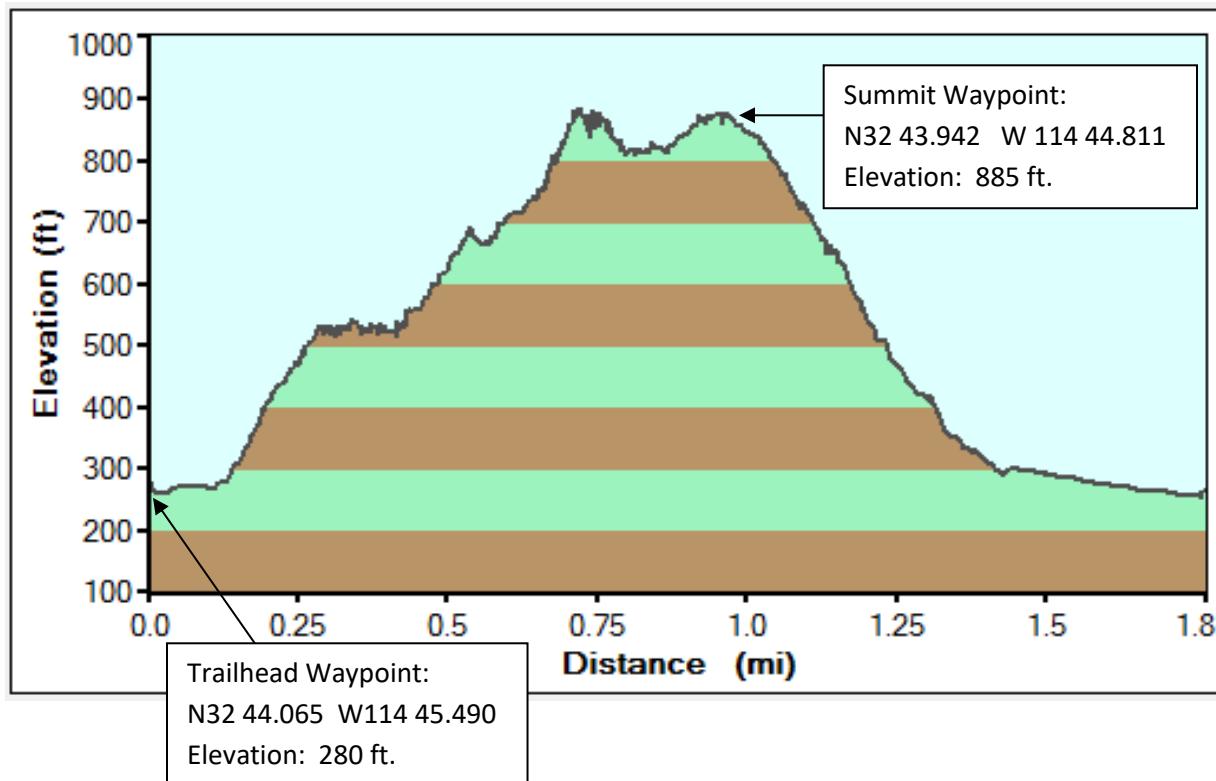
Direct North Ridge Profile:



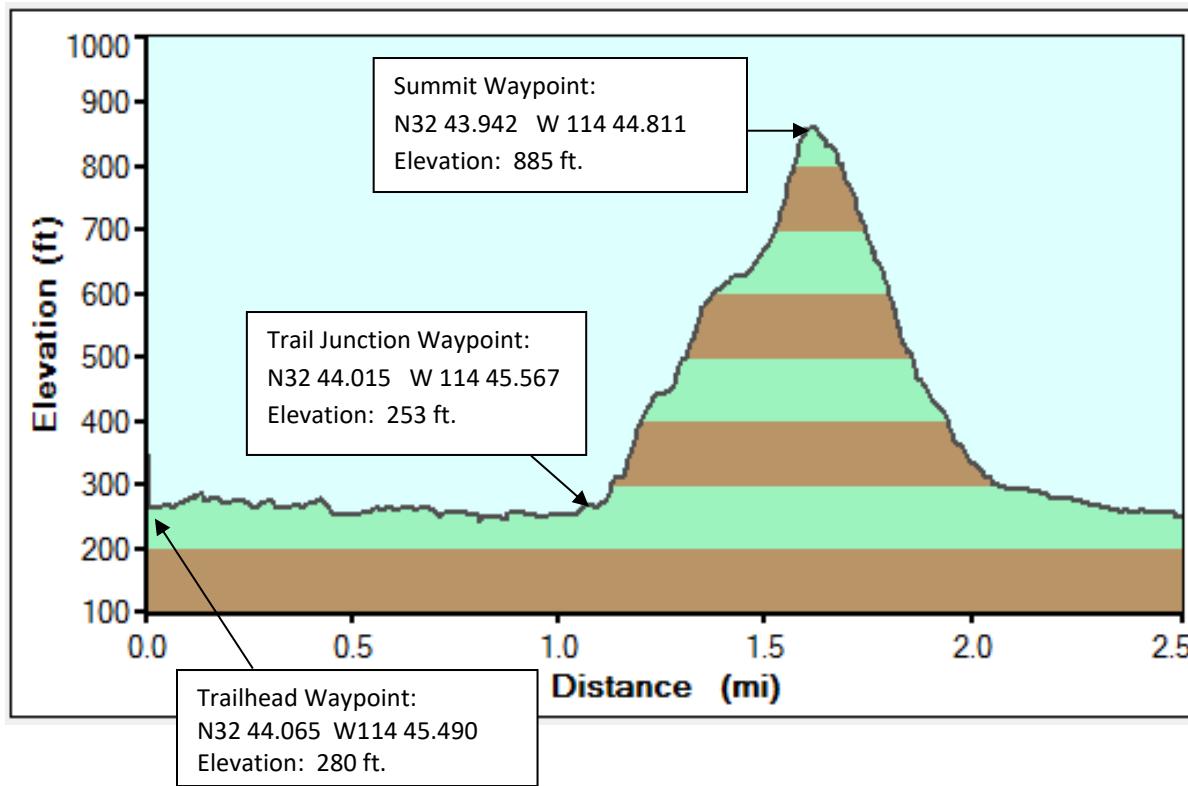
- Moderate Trail (to the Summit) Profile:



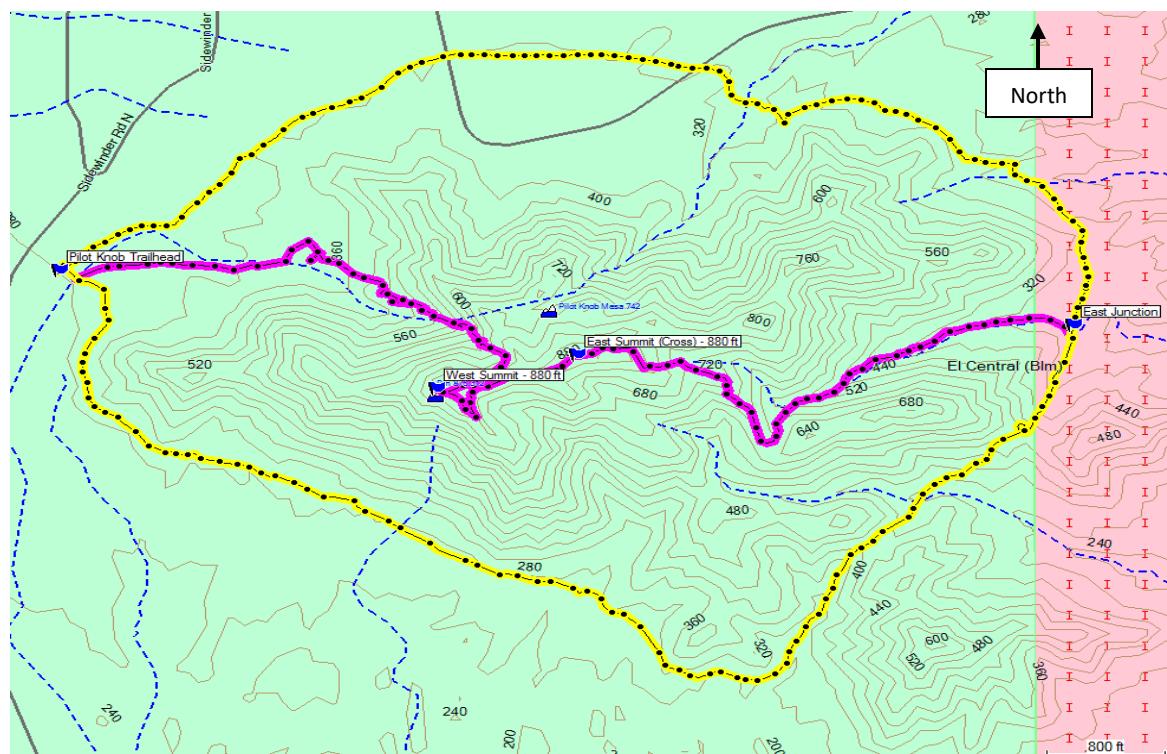
- Direct West Ridge Profile:



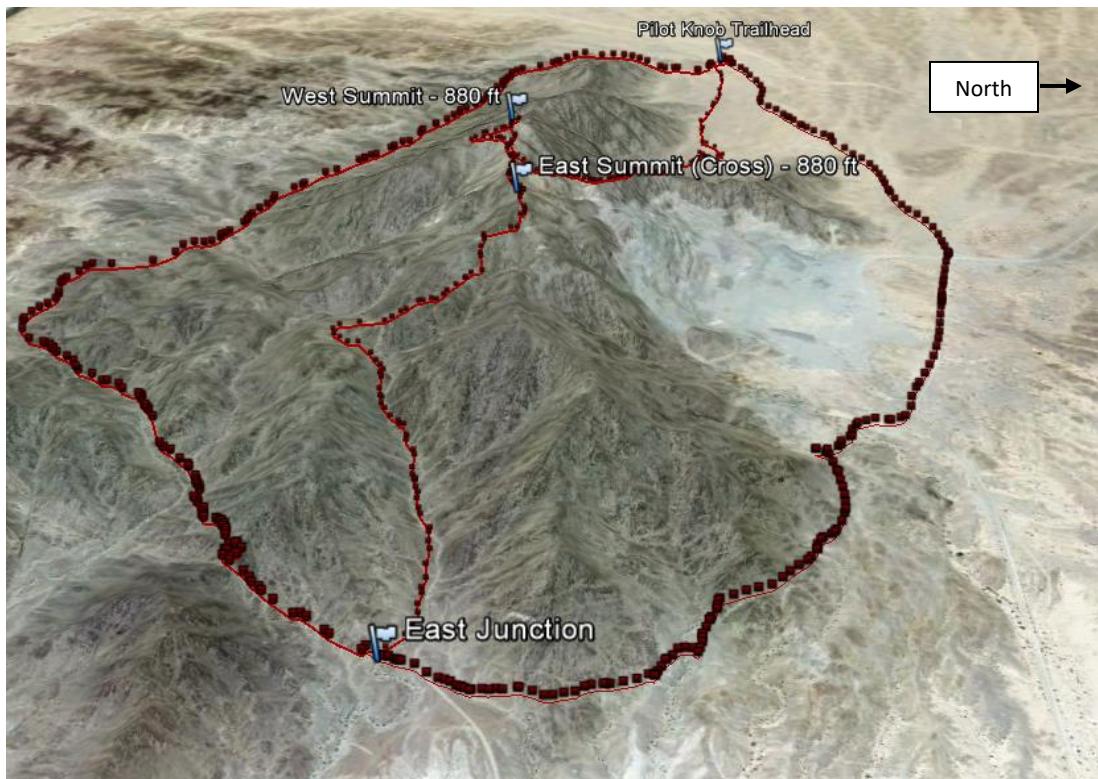
- Southern Trail Profile:



Pilot Knob Walkabout and Moderate Summit Trails (moderate hiking trail to summit in red):



Pilot Knob Walkabout and Moderate Summit Trails 3-D Image (west is up):



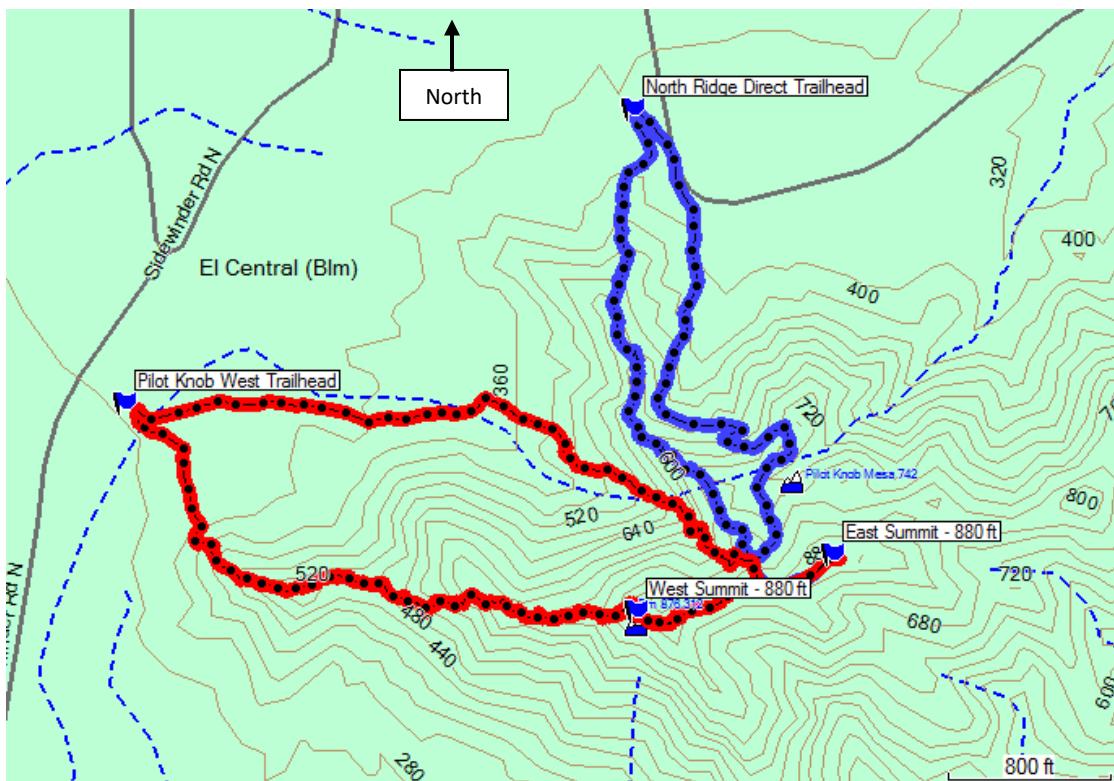
Pilot Knob Easy Ascent up the Northern Slopes (north is up):



Pilot Knob Easy Ascent up the Northern Slopes 3-D Image (southeast is up):



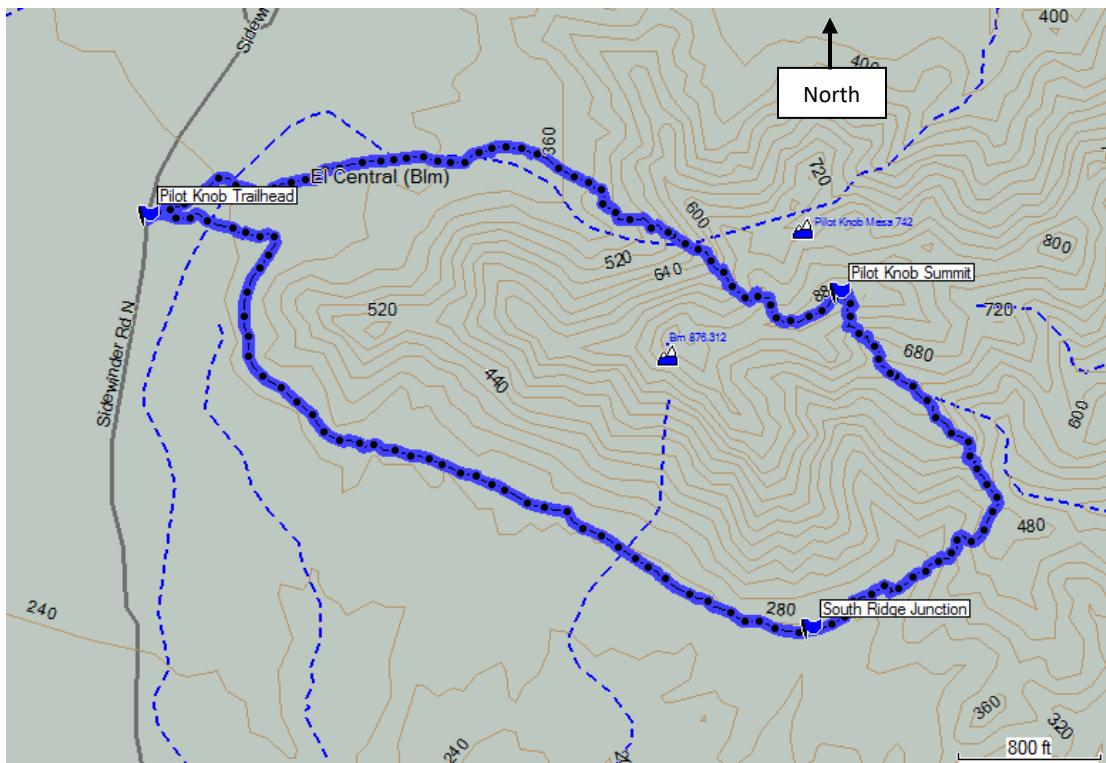
Pilot Knob Direct North Ridge and Direct South Ridge Summit Trails:



Pilot Knob Direct North Ridge and Direct South Ridge Summit Trails 3-D Image (west-southwest is up):



Pilot Knob Southern Summit Trails:



Pilot Knob Southern Summit Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Ridge Peak Main Summit Hike, CA: Ridge Peak lies about 15 miles to the north-northeast of Yuma (14½ miles north of the AWC main campus). The hike is somewhat moderate, involving continuous boulder fields. The roundtrip distance is about 2.6 miles. The hike pictured below runs directly from the trailhead up an obvious northeast ridge until a northwest-southeast oriented ridge is intersected (some difficult hiking is encountered negotiating large boulder fields). The true summit (1,532 ft.) lies about ¼ mile to the northwest. The descent involves hiking southeast along the northwest-southeast oriented ridge until a saddle is encountered (hiking is easier along the descent route after the intersection point encountered while ascending). A poorly defined trail takes one back to the trailhead. The view from the summit is spectacular. Plan 4-6 hours for the round trip. There is a day-use permit fee.

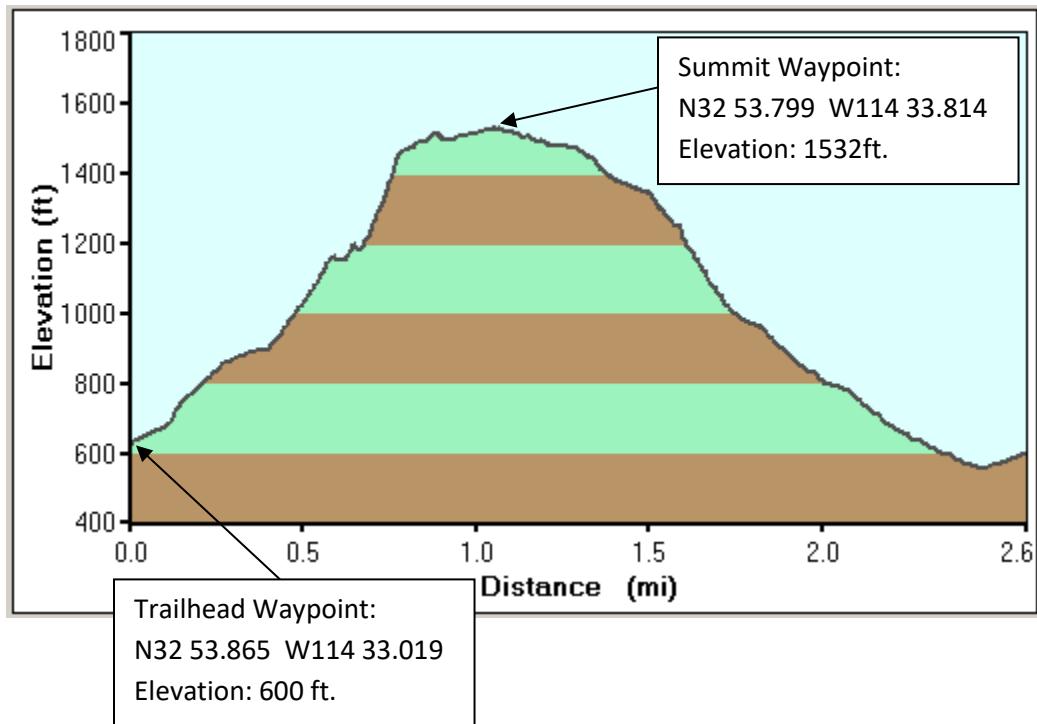
Access Directions for True Summit: From the AWC campus, drive north along South Ave 8E and turn right (north) onto Hwy US-95. Drive about 13.3 miles and turn left (west) onto Imperial Dam Road. After 3.6 miles, continue onto Laguna Dam Road (entering California). After 3.2 miles, continue onto County Hwy S24. After 0.7 miles, turn right toward Senator Wash, and then continue straight onto Senator Wash road for an additional 2.4 miles. Turn left into a Long-term RV area (South Mesa LTVA) and drive along the road (which turns into a dirt road) about 1.2 miles. Bear left at a junction (Road 699) and drive about 2.4 miles arriving at the base of a prominent running northeast ridge.

Alternate Driving Route: As shown in the picture below, you can shorten the distance by turning left from the AWC Campus road onto Hwy US-95 and, after 1 mile, turn north onto South Ave 7E (South Laguna Dam Road to Mittry Lake) until it intersects the Laguna Dam Road just west of the Proving Grounds.

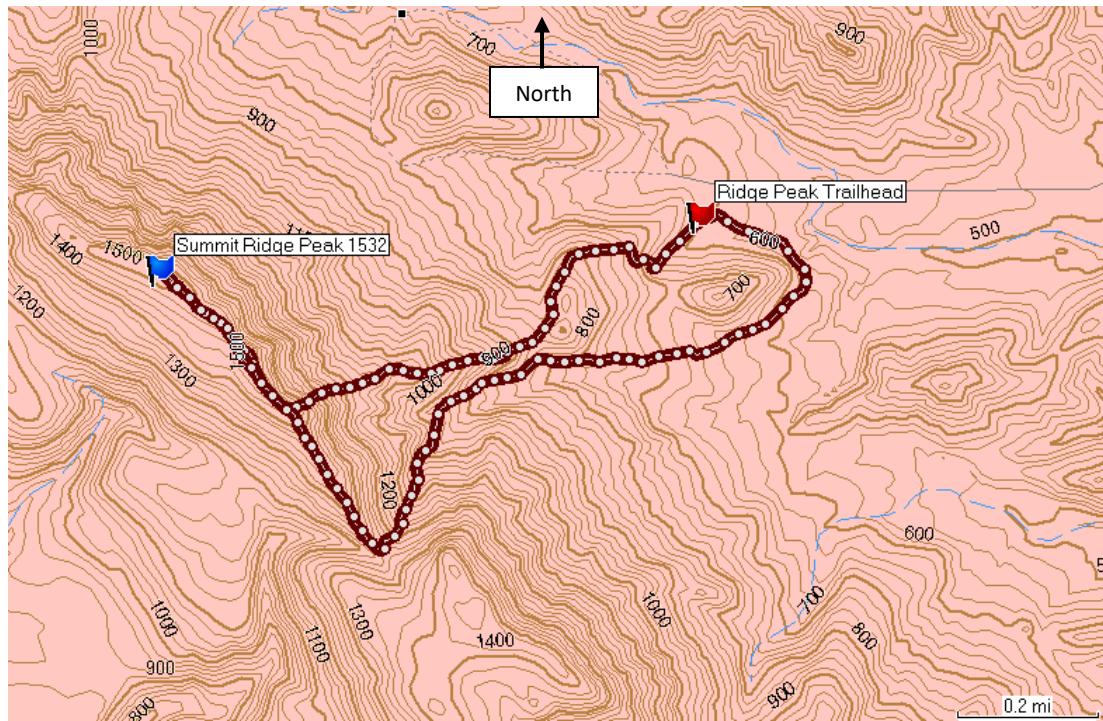
Drive Time: About 1 hour from the AWC Campus. The two routes to the trailhead are shown below.



Ridge Peak Main Summit Trail Profile (with Trailhead and Summit GPS coordinates):



Ridge Peak Main Summit Trail (north is up):



Ridge Peak Main Summit Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Ridge Peak Main Summit Trail 3-D Image (southwest is up):



Ridge Peak East Summit: Ridge Peak lies about 15 miles to the north-northeast of Yuma. This hike is easy, but it does involve continuous hiking on boulders during the entire trip, so be prepared for an “ankle workout.” The trailhead is conveniently accessed from the south, or Yuma-side, of the range, which avoids the long ride to the Laguna Dam area and the day-use permit (with fee).

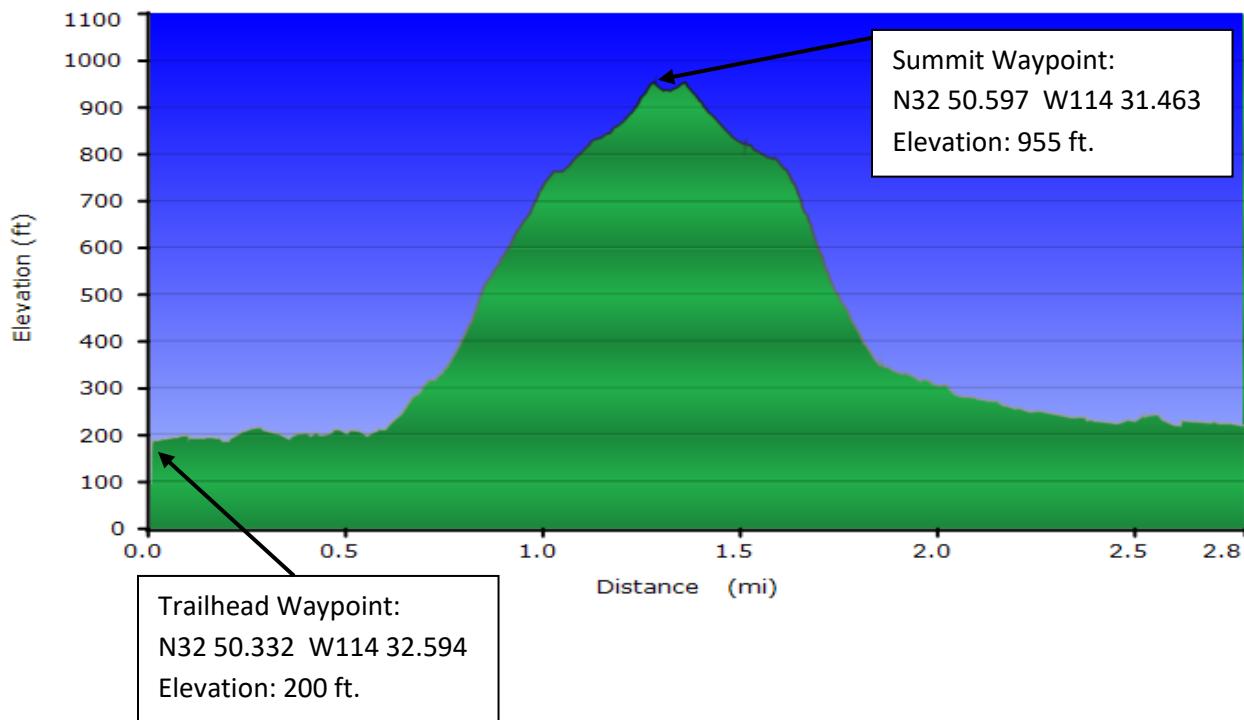
The hike is short and direct, and the summit (to the east of the trailhead) is continuously visible as you hike. Once at the summit, you can return via the ascent route, or lengthen the trip by hiking along the ridge either direction until it is convenient to descend back to the car. The views are quite spectacular. Plan 3-6 hours for the trip, including driving time.

Access Directions from the South: From the AWC campus, drive north to US Hwy 95 and turn left (west). Once you reach Yuma, turn right (north) at Pacific Ave. Turn left (west) on E. 8th Street and follow it around several bends until you get to S. Gila Street. Turn right (north) onto S. Gila Street, then right onto E. 1st Street. Follow it over the Ocean-to-Ocean Bridge, then bear right (north) onto Quechan Road. Follow Quechan Road until you get to Picacho Road. Turn right (north) onto Picacho Road and follow it until you reach the All-American Canal not long after the paved road turns to dirt. Turn right onto the All-American Canal (do not cross over it), and drive about 5.2 miles along the south side of the canal until a small bridge crosses over the canal. Turn left onto the bridge and drive north and east a bit for about 0.5 miles until you reach the trailhead – any of several spur roads may be taken.

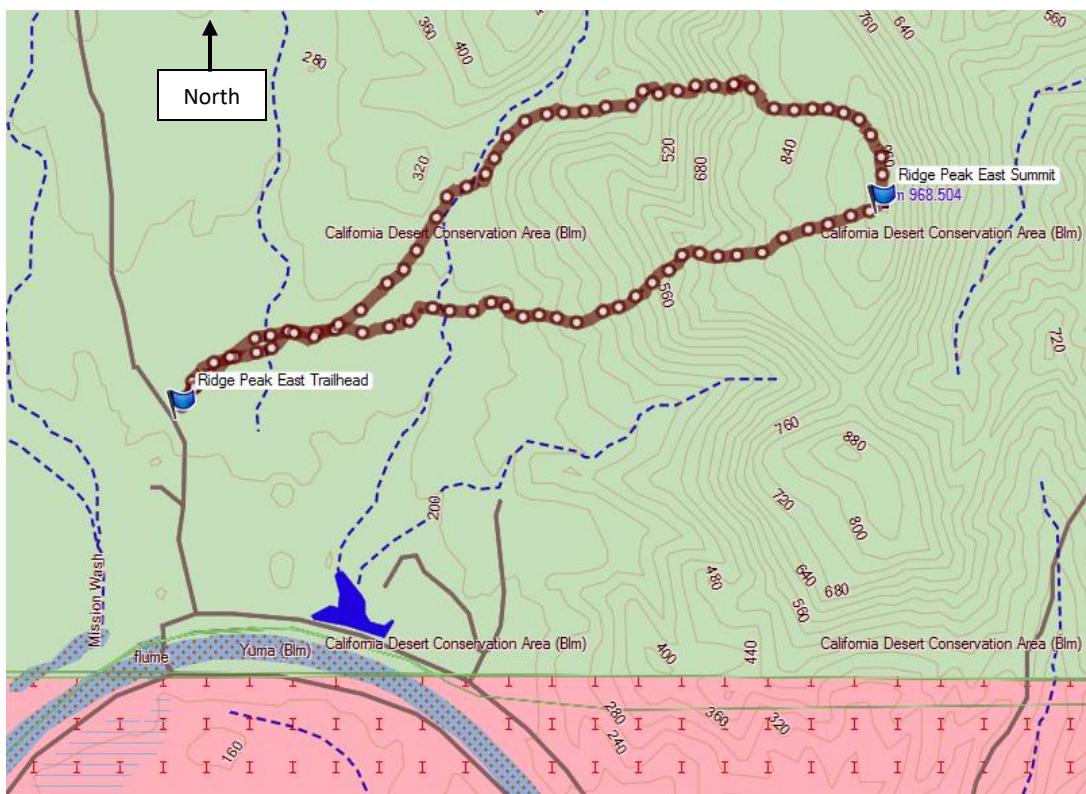
Drive Time: About 40 minutes from the AWC Campus (20 miles)



Ridge Peak East Profile:



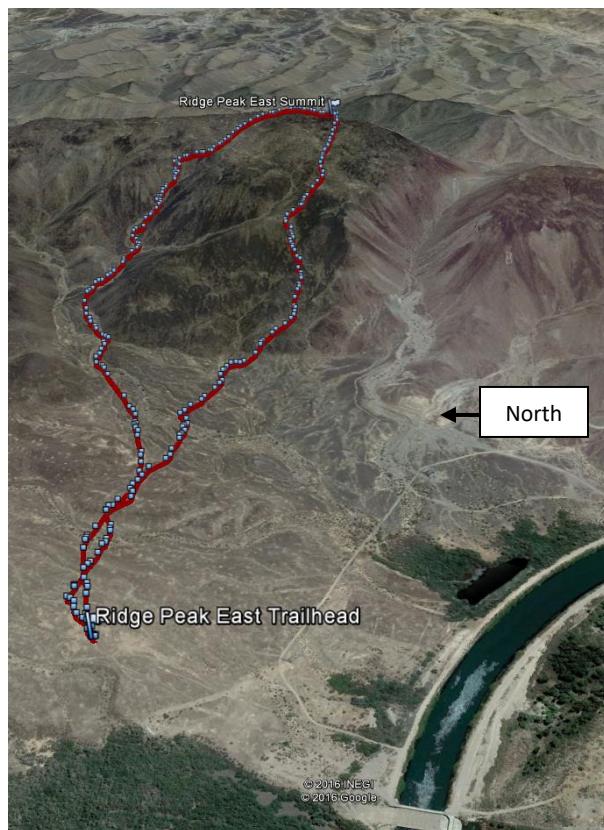
Ridge Peak East Trail (north is up):



Ridge Peak East Trail 3-D Image (north is down):



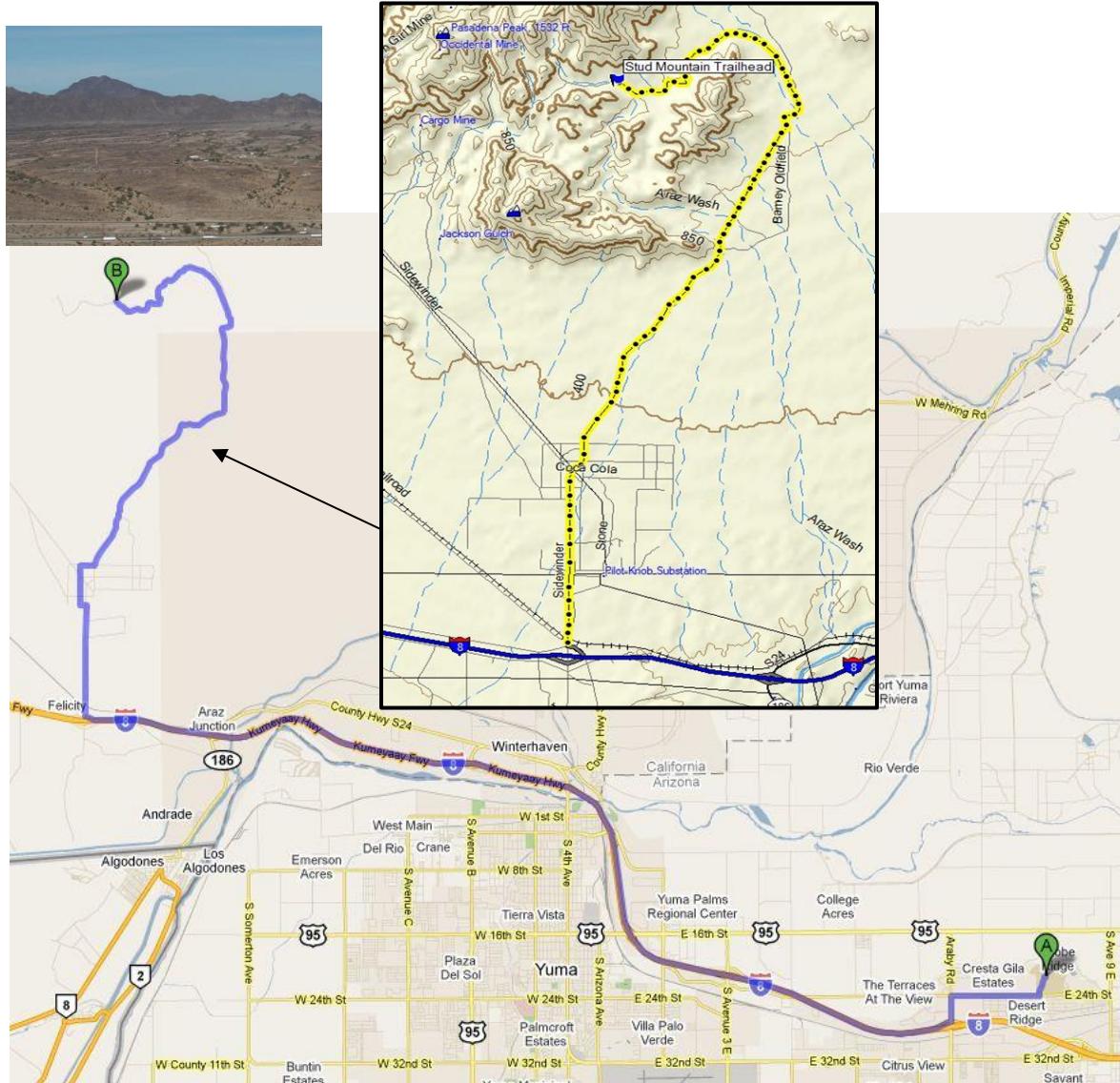
Ridge Peak East Trail 3-D Image (east is up):



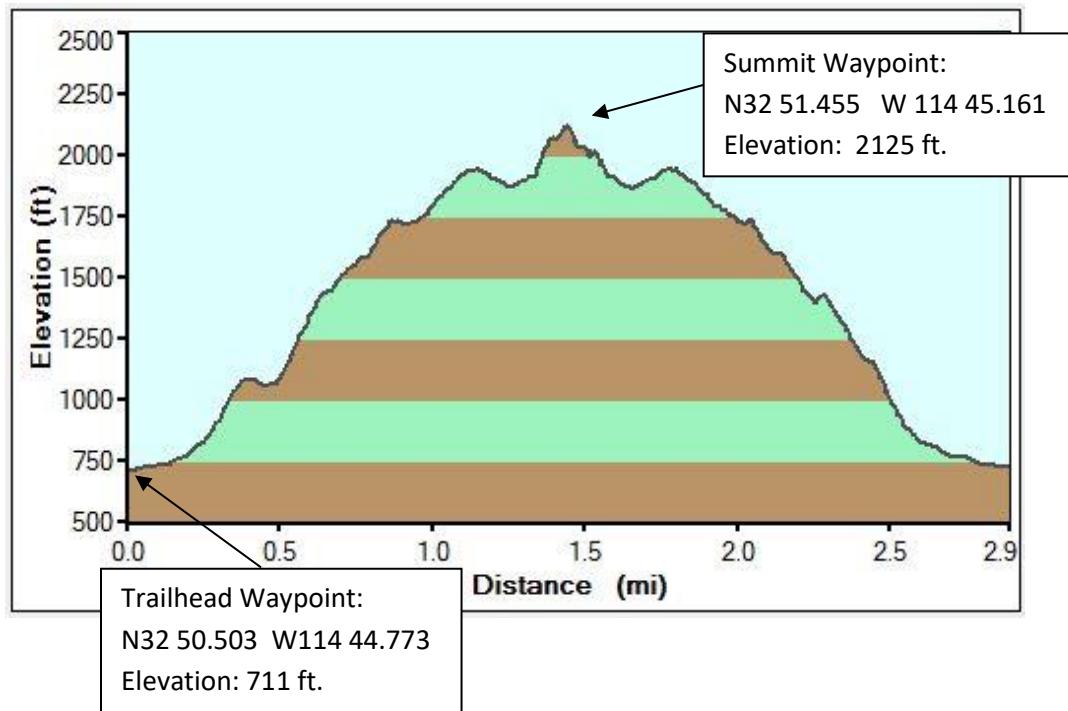
Stud Mountain, CA: Stud Mountain lies about 19 miles to the northwest of Yuma (from the 4th Avenue Bridge). Though the ascent along the south ridge is short in distance (only about 3 miles round trip), it is a difficult ascent, and some scrambling is encountered. The view from the summit is quite spectacular.

Access Directions: From the AWC campus, access Interstate 8 and travel west toward San Diego. Drive west on Interstate 8 into California for about 15 miles. After stopping at an Agriculture Inspection Station, continue about another $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 mile and take the next exit for Sidewinder Road (Exit 164). Turn right (north) at the end of the exit ramp onto Sidewinder Road N. Travel north along Sidewinder Road for about 2 miles, and take a right onto Barney Oldfield Road. Drive in a north-northeast direction for about five miles until you can veer left (west, onto Rd. 715) into a large open canyon that takes you to the trailhead. Although the listed GPS coordinates below take you to a convenient trailhead, any of several southern ridges eventually join the prominent southern ridge that takes you to the summit.

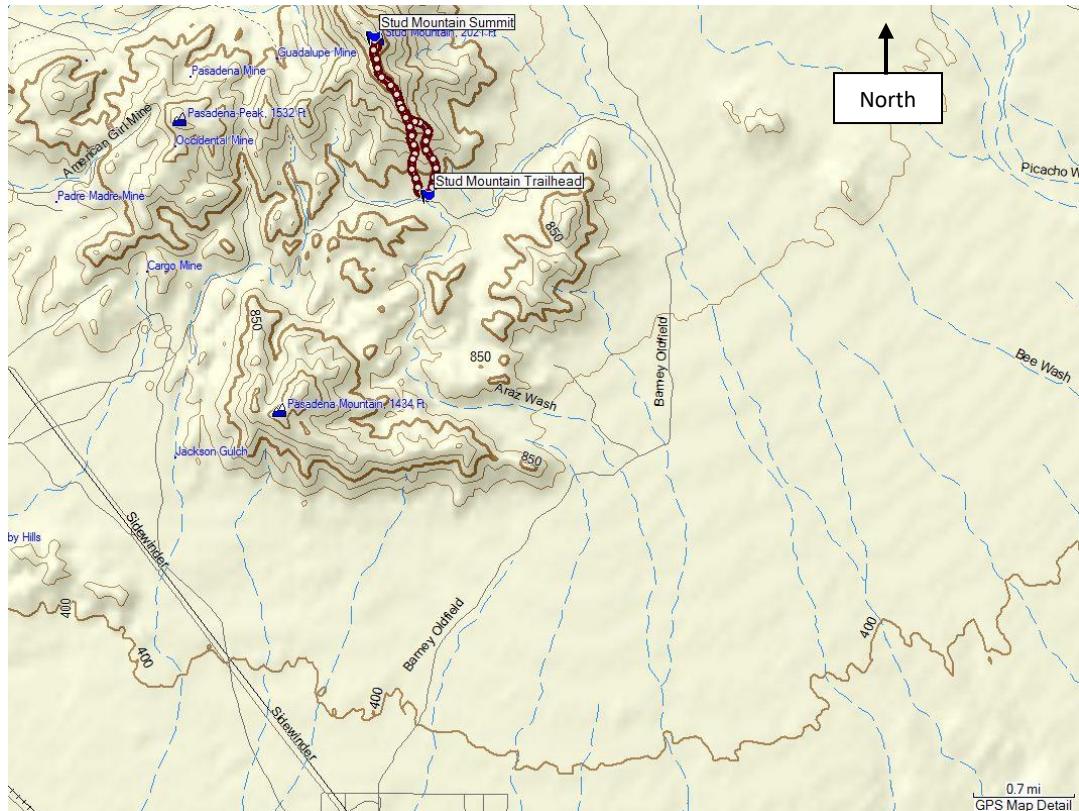
Drive Time: About 1 hour from the AWC Campus.

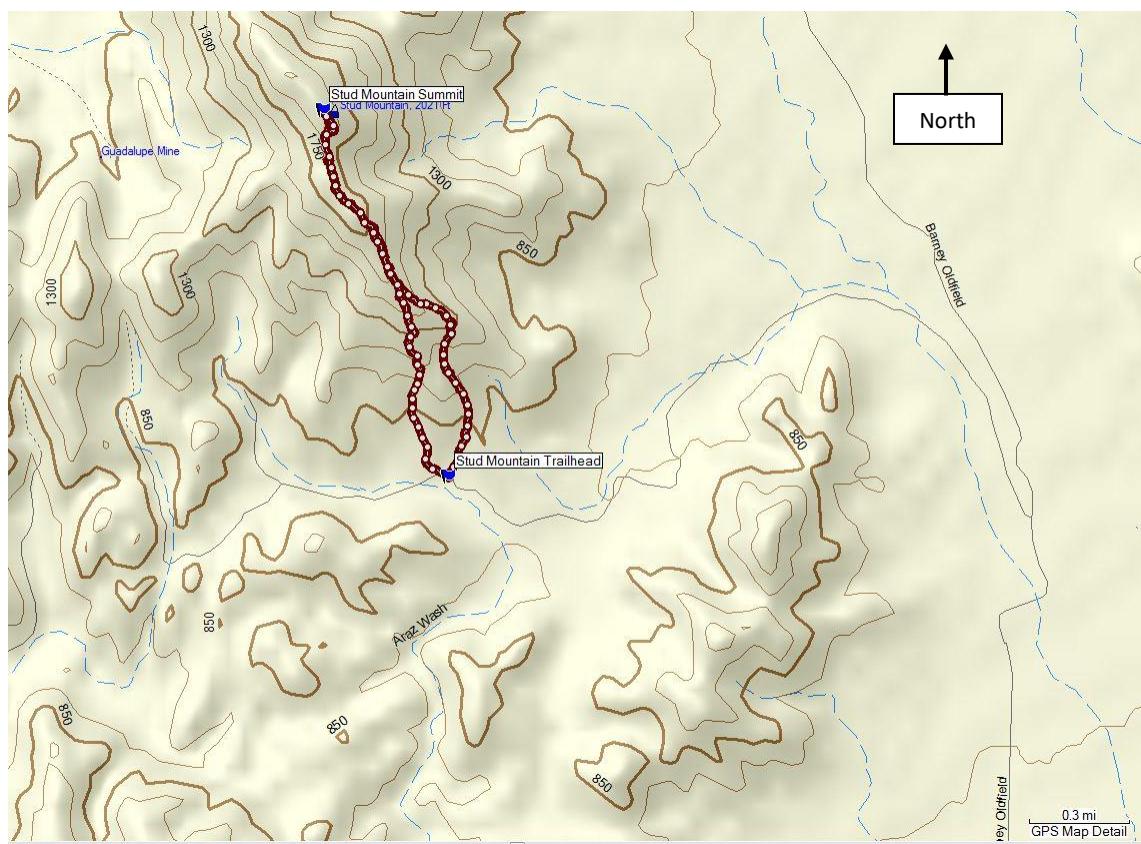


Stud Mountain Trail Profile:

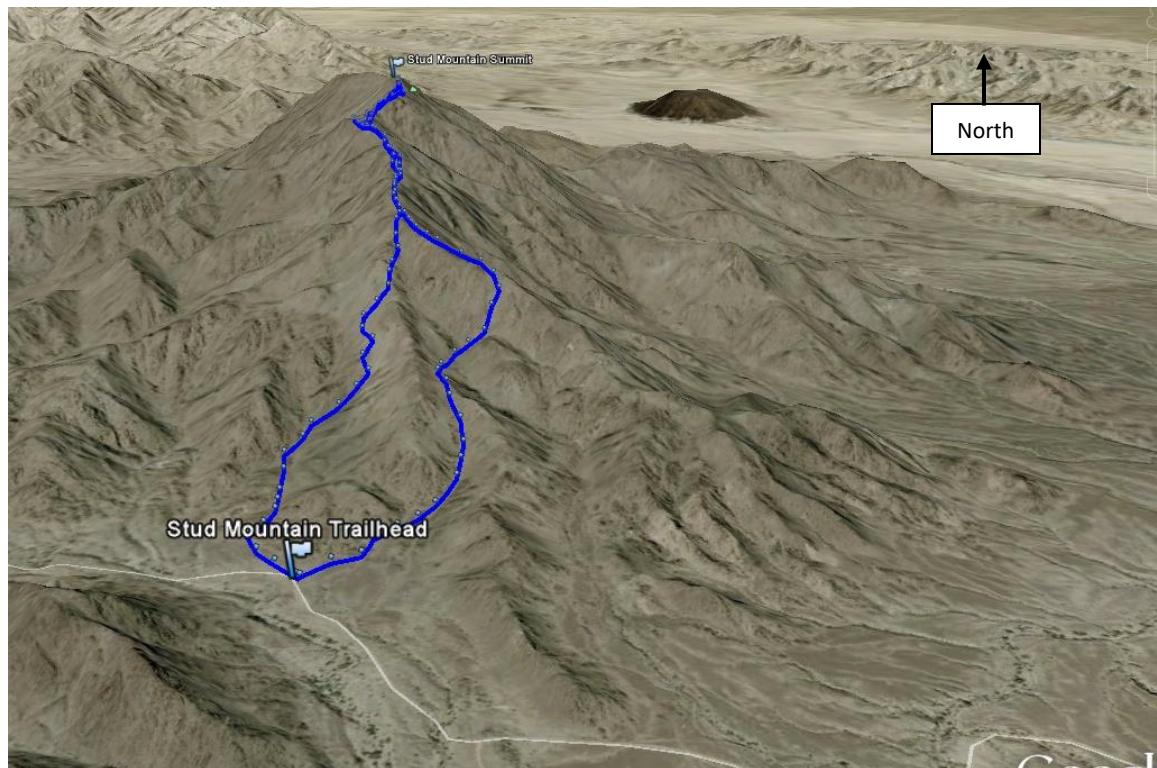


Stud Mountain Trail (north is up):

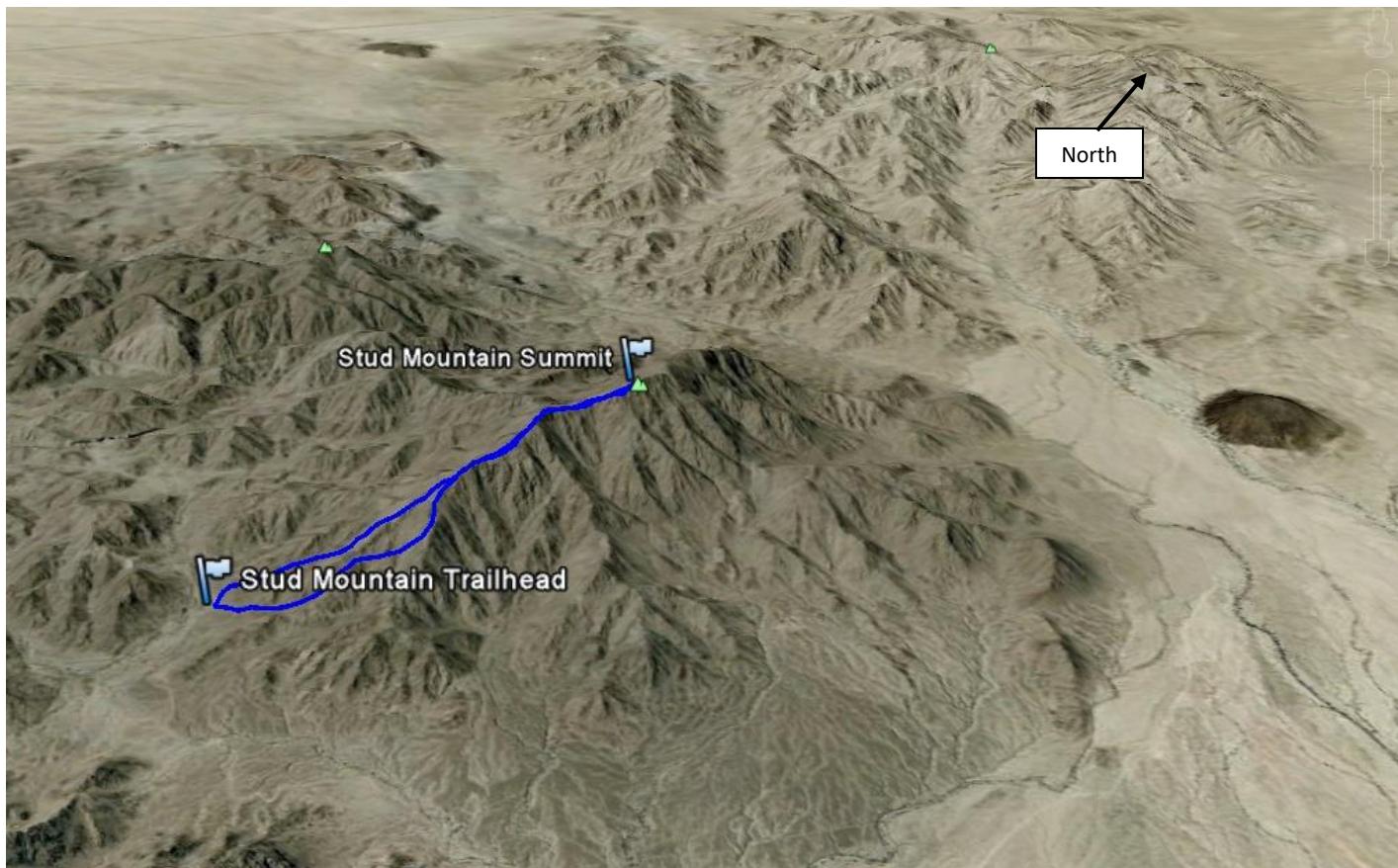




Stud Mountain Trail 3-D Image (north is up):



Stud Mountain Trail 3-D Image (northwest is up):



A Peek at Several Favorite Climbs in the Tinajas Altas Area (Barry M. Goldwater Range)

For driving directions, refer to Tinajas Altas Peak (page 11).

For detailed information on the routes, refer to the document TinajasAltasClimbingRoutes.pdf on the Yuma Trails website:

<http://virgil.azwestern.edu/~elr/YumaTrails/> OR
<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AprT0tSE6fncio9DiUdaCl0M5q9JGw?e=zF5F9d>



The Climbing Routes document is currently being updated – information about the routes is being enhanced. Additionally, there are another 20 routes or so that are not listed, including some multi-pitch classics. Until they are added, contact the author for information about these routes. Also, be sure to check the website occasionally for any updates.

Yuma: East and West Wetlands

The City of Yuma maintains two areas at its northern boundary along the Colorado River, the East Wetlands and West Wetlands Park/Centennial Beach. Both areas contain a few major hiking trails along with a myriad of variations. Additionally, there are bike/skateboard trails, two large beaches (Centennial beach and Gateway Park beach), a fishing pond stocked by Arizona Game and Fish, a playground for children, athletic fields, and opportunities to participate with several city-sponsored events and tours.

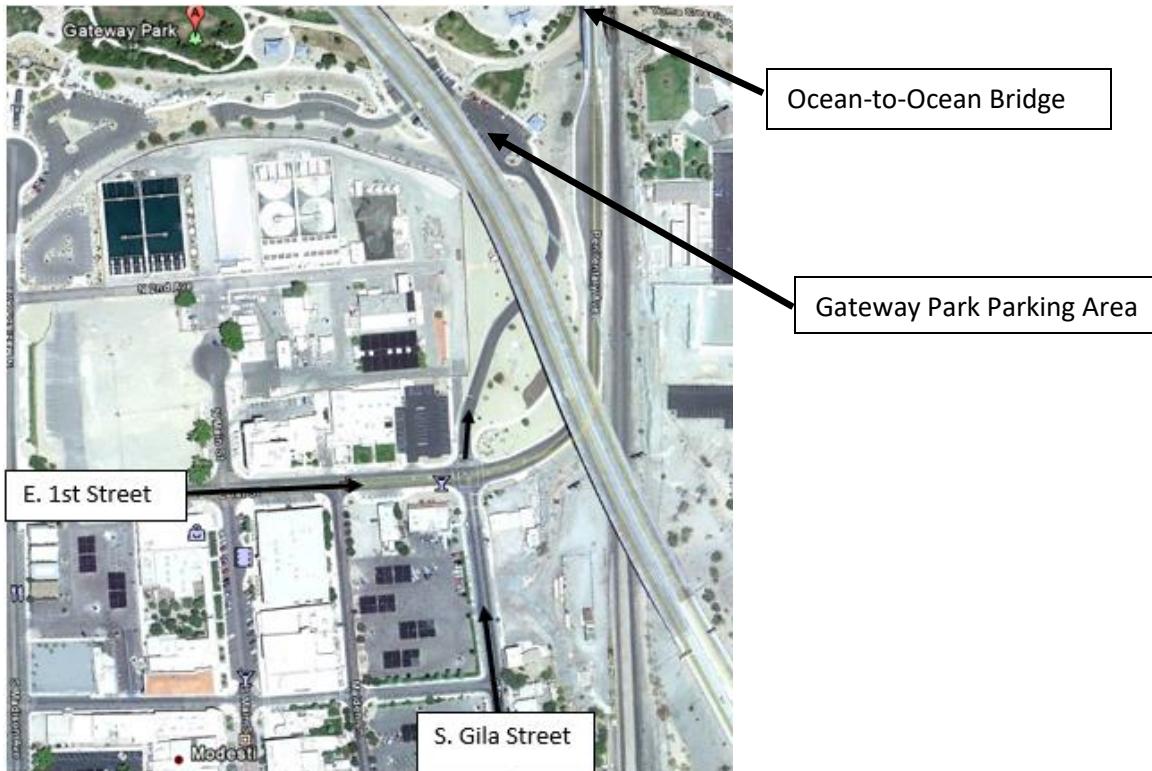
Below is listed location information with a few pictures, along with contact information. Although no specific trails will be discussed, all trails are very easy to negotiate. Be aware that rattlesnakes may be encountered during the hotter months

East Wetlands:

The Yuma East wetlands was created by a partnership involving the Quechan Indian Tribe and the City of Yuma. It involved a major restoration project to return the Colorado River riparian area to its native vegetation. With restoration of the native vegetation, many more diverse bird and animal species have returned as well.

Informational Website: <http://www.yumaaz.gov/parks-and-recreation/gateway-park.html>

Gateway Park, located at the southern end of the East Wetlands, is the easiest access to the East Wetlands (and beach). Directions are given below:



East Wetlands Images (north is up):



Trail Guide taken from the East Wetlands website:



West Wetlands Park/Centennial Beach:

West Wetlands Park is a 110-acre park along the Colorado River that has been restored with native trees and vegetation. It contains a few major hiking trails with many spurs. Additionally, there are biking trails, a boat launch, a fishing pond, Centennial Beach, a kid's playground, athletic fields, and many other amenities.

Address: 282 N. 12th Avenue, Yuma, AZ

Website:

<http://www.yumaaz.gov/parks-and-recreation/west-wetlands-park--centennial-beach.html>

Several images follow (north is up):

