

RED ROCK MOUNTAIN (St. George area)

Distance: about 5 km return.

Difficulty: a short but challenging trail.

Trail Marking: Orange tape + white blazes on the rocks.

CAUTION: HIGH CLIFFS, POTENTIAL ROCK FALLS, STEEP SECTIONS, LOOSE TALUS SLOPES.

GETTING THERE:

Travel route 1 to Saint George, take exit 56 and drive 2.8 km towards Lake Utopia.

At the junction of Routes 780 and 785 turn left onto Route 785.

Drive north on Route 785 for 11.2 km to the Red Rock Road and turn RIGHT. (East)

Drive 1.1 km along this road to an open area where the road intersects the natural gas pipeline.

Leave the road at this point, cross the pipeline and park near where an atv trail ascends a hill. (don't block the trail)

Red Rock Falls:

From the parking area, there is a short trail to Red Rock Falls. (Listen for the falls)

The unmarked trail goes down through a wooded gully, and then turns right towards the falls.

THE TRAIL:

From the parking area, follow the atv track to the right up the hill past some white boulders and large white pines for 420 meters to a bridge across Red Rock Stream.

Cross the bridge and walk 460 meters to an intersection of trails.

Turn left and walk 80 meters to another intersection.

Turn left and walk 215 meters to a large pile of white rocks.

Turn right and walk 100 meters up this trail and turn left onto an insignificant side trail.

Continue on this trail for 170 meters until it intersects another trail.

Turn left and follows this trail to its end. (200 meters)

At this point, follow the flagged trail up through the woods for 150 meters until it joins the looped area of trail.

From here it is best to continue straight up the slope to the top of the mountain, following the loop counter-clockwise.



TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

The loop section of trail traverses the top of the ridge, then descends to wind along the cliff bottom and multiple talus slopes.

There are actually 2 lower trails, both leading back to the large area of talus towards the eastern end of the ridge.

Avoid potential rock falls by keeping out from the base of the cliffs. (especially in the spring)

The trail across the talus is marked, but caution is needed due to unstable footing.

Some of the larger talus is quite tippy.

The loop is best hiked counter-clockwise, and when at the top you may either retrace your steps or choose to complete the loop over the more challenging talus slopes.

Pulpit Rock is a large flat topped boulder protruding from the top of the bluff. It provides great views, but is not the best place for those afraid of heights. The Look Off is a nice spot to enjoy a lunch, but maintain caution as the cliff is still high at this point.

Several Turkey Vultures can often be seen soaring near the cliffs during the summer and fall.

Unfortunately, tree cutters have defaced much of this area, but the mountain's south slope and cliff-top have been largely untouched.

Dave Suttie, November 2017





