

# Hiking Directions for Bridge Mountain

## To the Trailhead:

Enter the main entrance of Red Rock National Park then circle the scenic drive. After reaching the high viewpoint of the scenic drive you will descend, then turn right into the Willow Springs parking area. Go all the way to the back of the parking area. Proceed up Rocky Gap Rd. until you reach the summit of the road, about 7 miles (Walk, or have a high clearance vehicle). You'll see a marked trail heading up to the left from the summit of Rocky Gap Rd. When you get to the very top of the ridge (the predominant north/south ridge—where you can look down into Red Rock Park), you'll see a sign pointing to the Bridge Mt. trail.

## Alternate Route to the Trailhead:

Alternately, from the Willow Springs parking area, about 2 miles up from the start of Rocky Gap road, you will see a small but obvious cairn on the left which marks an unmapped trail that leads up a ridge to the summit you're looking at to your left (the predominant north/south ridge). This is the most beautiful route, but it takes some good path finding skills along the way as the trail appears and disappears often. At the top of ridge turn right and continue along the top of the predominant north/south ridgeline for a couple miles until you see a sign pointing to the Bridge Mt. trail (about ¼ mile after passing Goat Rock).

## Descending to Bridge Mountain:

You can look down and see the smooth light sandstone dome of Bridge Mountain at this point. The trail winds down and you can also see Juniper Peak, Rainbow Wall and Peak, and Mt. Wilson along the way. The vistas keep getting better as the trail curves to the north and Bridge comes back into view. The trail starts to descend to the overlook. The deep canyon off to the right is Pine Creek Canyon. Follow the switchbacks down the red dirt and sandstone to the overlook. From the overlook, climb down the shoulder to a bench. Begin by heading north down the wash 60 yards to where the terrain flattens. Follow the cairns across the sandstone heading directly toward Bridge Mountain.

As you pass the ponderosas, you cross a dry drainage. If you walk east (right) in the drainage you get a great view of Las Vegas. Once across the drainage, follow the cairns up the sandstone 50 yards to the first of three chutes. A pine marks the start of the class 2 chute. At the bottom of the chute, turn left and follow a short path through the manzanita bushes. Once back on sandstone, cairns and black marks lead you 50 feet to the second chute. Descend the class 3 chute. Once down, follow the cairns and black marks to the third chute, which is only 20 yards away. After descending the chute, there's a 20-foot, class 3 wall you have to descend. It's only 15 yards from the bottom of the third chute. Follow the cairns down to the bench. You have descended the shoulder, now it's easy going 150 yards across the bench. Hike up a steep ramp of sandstone to the start of the crack.

## The Ascent to the Summit:

There's a large black arrow on the west (left) wall of the crack. Follow the black marks up the crack. If it is windy stay in the crack; otherwise follow the black arrows when they point up and to the right. Climb out of the crack on the east (right) side and up the beehive sandstone. People who have a fear of heights should stay in the crack. The climb outside of the crack is exposed. Staying in the crack is more protected, but it is a harder climb.

As the crack passes a ledge, follow the black marks west (left) along a ledge for about 10 yards. You are now on the west (other) side of the crack. Climb the ramp as indicated by the marks. It's a 50 yard climb to the 30-foot tall and 50-foot wide arch. On the other side of the arch a giant ponderosa leans against the sandstone. This is a great area to take a break.

Continue by going under the arch and friction climb along the left wall. A fallen log lies near the wall. At the top of the arch the dome-shape peak of Bridge Mountain can be seen. Go SE across the sandstone rim and around the Hidden Forest. The final ascent heads NE along a steep ramp, which is well marked with cairns. At the top of the ramp, the peak stands to the south. It's an easy 40-yard trek to the peak from this point. A large cairn with a sign-in book marks the peak. A natural shelter sits just below the peak.