

Juniper Peak Climbing Directions

The signed turnoff for Oak Creek Canyon is located 12.2 miles past the fee booth. Turn right and drive 0.70 miles on a gravel road to the parking lot. Trailhead and Juniper Peak.

Head west on the signed Arnight Trail passing a shallow wash around a half mile. Continue on the trail another quarter mile and turn SW (left) onto a prominent path, which heads straight for Juniper Canyon. Follow this path about 200 yards where it intersects a prominent trail. Go right 15 yards and turn left onto another path. Follow this path to a major fork and turn right and head for an enormous boulder. (The boulder is also a landmark during the hike back to the trailhead.) The route passes to the left of the boulder and then drops into a wash. Go left in the wash, walk 10 yards, turn right, and follow a steep path up and out of the wash. Go left walk about 15 yards where the path intersects the unsigned Juniper Canyon Path. Go left and follow the Juniper Canyon Path a few hundred yards to a fork. Take the right fork, which heads for Juniper Canyon. (If you miss this turn, you'll soon be heading east toward the trailhead.) After a few hundred yards the path climbs a hill and then parallels a wash coming from Juniper Canyon. You'll scramble over a few boulders before the path dead-ends in the wash.

Numerous cairns have been placed in the wash to help guide you. Climb the huge boulders in front of you (class 3) and follow cairns as you twist and turn in the wash. The overall direction is SW. After a hundred yards the wash narrows and steepens. In less than 50 yards the wash ends and you follow a path that heads (north) right to the top of the slope. The path passes a fallen log. Continue on the path about 200 yards where the path dead ends into another path. Turn right at the divide and scramble over the boulders and into another wash.

Go west (left) in the wash about 30 yards to an opening in the brush to a steep path. It will be to your right. Hike 30 yards up the steep path to a small boulder field. Head SW through the boulder field aiming for a large, blackface boulder at the far side of the boulder field. A cairn sits on top of the boulder. Just to the right and a little beyond the boulder, the path resumes. It travels 30 yards and empties out onto white sandstone. The reddish-brown towering wall is Brownstone Wall.

The next part of the route parallels Brownstone Wall to a gully that is located at the north end of Brownstone Wall. The gully lies below two "turtle boulders". Scramble north toward the turtle boulder to the wall. To get on top of the wall scramble up a steep slab of sandstone before the wall. Continue all the way up to the juniper. Just behind the juniper lies a low point in the sandstone wall. Climb the wall and scramble up the chute (class 3). Pass the down tree.

Hike west up the beehive sandstone until it becomes too steep. Veer north (right) and parallel the north end of Brownstone Wall 100 yards to the top. There's a fantastic overlook 1,000 feet down into the south fork of Pine Creek just to the north (right). From here, you're only 10 minutes from the peak. After taking in the view, head south (left) just past the second of three large ponderosa pines. Hike east (left) about 25 yards on sandstone ledges marked by numerous cairns. The route makes a 180-degree turn and heads west. Climb off the sandstone slab and under the boulder. Hike 30 yards to the big ponderosa. Turn left (SE) and hike 20 yards going between two small sandstone crags to the boulder that marks Juniper Peak.

Congratulations, you made it. Make sure to sign the register. Across Juniper Canyon stands Rainbow Wall, a 1,200-foot wall. To Descend: Retrace your steps.

A Class 2-3 scrambling route goes to the summit via Juniper Canyon.

A less-used scrambling route goes up from the south fork of Pine Creek Canyon, and Juniper Peak pairs well with nearby Gunsight Notch Peak via a nice traverse.