

Tikaboo Hike July 27, 1996

Everyone in the world is invited to a free public hike of Tikaboo Peak, an 8000-foot mountain overlooking the secret Groom Lake air base at Area 51 (and offering a fine view in other directions as well). We will meet at 9:00 am, Saturday, July 27, 1996, at milepoint LN 32.2 on US-93, about 86 miles north of Las Vegas. The hike is sponsored by the Area 51 Research Center.

This is our third Tikaboo hike of the season and our third year of public hikes here. The climate in July should be perfect for camping, and hikers are free to spend Saturday night on the peak (although this is not part of the expedition). We will probably have another hike in October or November to end the season. (In the meantime, you can climb the peak on your own anytime if you have enough information.)

WARNING: This is a strenuous two hour hike (and one hour back). It should not be attempted by people who are not in good physical shape. Experienced hikers or people who get regular exercise you should have no trouble, but this is not a hike for smokers or couch potatoes. The vertical distance traveled is less than 1000 feet and the hiking distance is less than two miles, but at 7000-8000 feet every step can be exhausting for those who are used to sea level.

If you are coming from Las Vegas, you need to leave town around 7 am to arrive at the meeting point in time, and you probably won't get back until evening. To reach the meeting point from Las Vegas, go north on I-15 (Salt Lake City direction) for about 20 miles to the US-93 exit, then go north on US-93 for 66.8 miles to milepoint LN 32.2. (Mileposts are marked every mile by small white signs on the side of the road.) The meeting point is at a minor dirt road (marked only by a stop sign) between the Lower and Upper Pahrnagat Lakes in the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. This location is about 0.3 mile past the well-marked entrance to the refuge headquarters. If you arrive later than 9 am, you can try to catch up with us by following the dirt road west from here, but there is no guarantee you will find us.

After meeting at the highway, we will drive west on a good dirt road (suitable for any vehicle) about 25 miles to Badger Spring. 4WD vehicles can proceed about 0.5 mi beyond this point.

This location is public land many miles from the military border, so encounters with authorities are unlikely. Feel free to bring a camera, although you'll need a telephoto lens to capture any of the secret base. Area 51 appears as an ordinary Air Force base 25 miles in the distance, and only a few large hangars are visible with the naked eye.

BRING. Weather could be hot, but no higher than the 90s and nowhere near as bad as Las Vegas in July. Sturdy hiking shoes, short pants, short-sleeve shirt, a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen are essential, and you need to bring at least 3 quarts of liquid on the hike. Telescopes are needed for viewing the base, but there should be enough of them among the group that not everyone needs to bring one.

CAMPING. If you plan to camp at the top, you'll need to bring a sleeping bag, a foam pad and a pack to carry your supplies. This may be too strenuous for many people, however, since carrying a pack greatly diminishes the pleasure of the hike. You can also camp almost anywhere in the woods and desert near the road, since most of this land is public. The trailhead near Badger Spring is a popular camping spot. In July at this elevation, nighttime temperatures are perfect.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel rooms in Las Vegas can be scarce and expensive on Friday and Saturday nights. If you are not camping, we suggest staying at one of the I-15 hotels in Jean (800-628-6682) or Stateline (800-367-7383), or in one of the few motel rooms in Alamo (702-725-3371).

DISCLAIMER. You are responsible for your own safety on this outing. Organizers of this hike accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or injury.

TIKABOO INFO. Complete information on Tikaboo Peak can be found in the "Area 51 Viewers Guide", available for \$15 plus \$4 postage from Area 51 Research Center, PO Box 448, Rachel, NV 89001. For more info see:

<http://www.ufomind.com/catalog/v/vg/vg.html>

Cellular phones work fine at the highway meeting point and at the summit but not in-between. We will have one with us, so if you have any problems on the day of hike, try that phone at 702-592-9020 (that day only!).

If you plan to come on this hike, you should contact the Research Center the day or two before at 702-729-2648 in case anything changes. You can also contact the trip leader, Glenn Campbell, by email at campbell@ufomind.com.

GPS Coordinates:

Highway Meeting Point (US-93)	37d16.815'	115d07.070'
Intermediate Road Points	37d12.463'	115d11.662'
	37d18.901'	115d17.747'
Badger Spring	37d20.807'	115d20.436'
Trailhead	37d20.887'	115d20.767'
Tikaboo Summit	37d20.650'	115d21.462'

For more information on Area 51, see <http://www.ufomind.com/area51>

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