

Stonewall Mountain

You wont be climbing the "real" Stonewall Mountain, as it lies within the boundaries of the Nellis Range.

Stonewall Mountain is an extremely difficult hike, you must be in great physical condition, be acquainted with USGS Topographical maps and start hiking no later than 0900 hours. If you don't follow these rules, you could DIE.

The hike is a full 7 hours round trip (5 up, 2 down), and rated as one of the toughest we've ever done. This is also a summer hike, the 8000 foot peak will have snow in late fall through early spring. If you try this too late in the day, or in the off season, you could DIE.

Maps: USGS, 30x60 minute Goldfield and 7.5 minute Stonewall Spring are a must, you cannot do this hike without topo's of the region. If you try it without maps, you could DIE.

Directions:

Lida Junction (closest landmark to Stonewall) is about 180 road miles northwest of Las Vegas on US-95. The only thing there is the Cottontail Ranch, one of Nevada's fine brothels ("Always Open"). [37deg30.147', 117deg11.030']

About 0.3 mi north of the Junction on US-94, turn east on a dirt road (Milepoint ES 4.5) Reset odometer here.

Miles from Paved Highway...

- 1.8 -- Intersection. "No Trespassing" sign here refers to the road straight, bear right.
- 2.9 -- Intersection. Go right.
- 5.7 -- road joins from left.
- 5.9 -- Fork. Bear right (unmaintained road). Road is maintained to here and any car should be able to handle. After this, road is rougher and may require high clearance. (A sturdy rental car might manage, but it is risky.)
- 6.5 -- Gate and boundary of Nellis Range. Sign says it is okay to proceed to Stonewall Spring if you stay on existing roads. Close gate behind you.
- 8.5 -- Stonewall Spring. A spectacular (for Nevada) cut in the cliff with a small waterfall running through it. A fine camping spot. [37deg32.456', 117deg03.860'] From here there is a 4 wheel drive track east. Four wheel drive is definitely required. The Spring lies just outside the Nellis Range, but the boundary is not marked, so we continue on this track with the assumption that we are not trespassing if we stay on the existing road.
- 8.6 -- a fork in track, go left.
- 9.8 -- Road becomes impassable, just about at the Nellis Boundary. Hike from here. [37deg32.517', 117deg02.645']

As you hike up the dry wash you'll see that 4 wheel ATV's have been in the area, following the trails they've blazed provides a smooth hike. The ATV trail will leave the wash bed and continue over ground and then return to the wash, shortly after this point you'll look off to the Southwest and see a large rock outcropping on the ridge, just left of this outcropping is the target of your first climb.

Climb up to the Right of the scree/talus slope but staying Left of the outcropping, you'll reach a small clearing at the summit, from this point head South along the ridge, when you near the end of the ridge bear to the left to circumnavigate the 30-40 foot cliff that ends this particular ridge.

At the base of the cliff continue up the knoll directly South, once you've crested this off to the Southwest you'll see the summit of the peak that is your ultimate goal. Continue South into the saddle [37d30.000', 117d02.866'] and climb the small hill in front of you. Once you've crested this continue along the ridge to the saddle that separates it from the larger peak. Hike up the ridge from the saddle to the summit [37d30.833', 117d02.716'] and you have arrived.

The peak directly south of your position (equipped with a solar powered microwave relay station) lies within the Nellis boundary, and wouldn't offer a much better view than the one you currently have.

On a clear day you can see Mt. Charleston 150 miles to the Southeast, and of course, the "goings on" on Pahute Mesa, namely the TPECR site (Toliche Peak Electronic Combat (or Countermeasures) Range). This is a new facility for us, it has a paved road into it (most roads at Nellis are dirt), and people were working there on the Saturday we climbed the peak. It's not as fancy or secret as Groom Lake, but it's still a worthwhile trek.