

## **SAMPLE HIKE -THE MESA HIKE**

**This not a real hike and is only an example of the full size reference photo hiking guide that is included in each photo hike.**

At the time of this writing this was not an official Forest Service trail. Directions are most likely necessary in order to find it.

FEATURES: Panoramic views of the mountains and canyons to the northwest. Vortex site.

LEVEL: Moderate

HIKING TIME ONE WAY: Approximately two hours roundtrip.

DRIVING TIME FROM THE INTERSECTION OF SR 179 AND 89A: About twenty minutes.

### AT THE END OF THE TRAIL



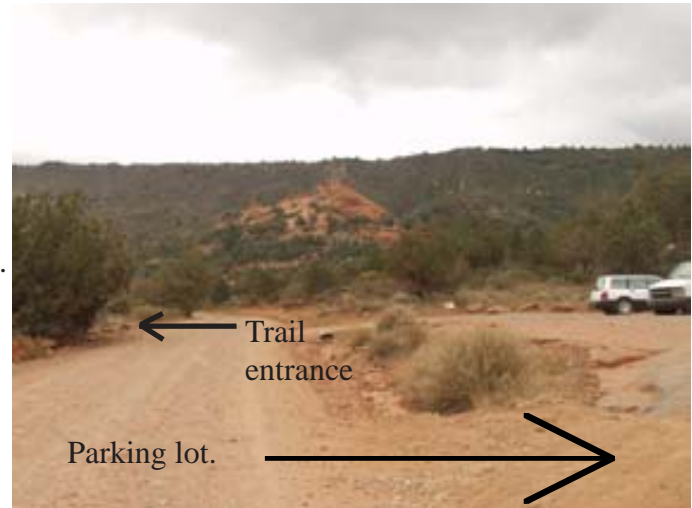
### A VIEW FROM THE SECOND MESA



DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of SR 179 and SR 89A drive west on 89A to Dry Creek Road, turn left on Bill Gray Road and travel 2 mi. to a three way stop. Turn left. After driving about 1.2 miles you will see a parking area to your right.

The parking area is on the right side of the road and the entrance to the trail is on the left.

GPS: N65 50.865'  
W111 75.697'



The trail begins at the sign.

After about 330 paces or about 350 yards a field of lava rock will appear to the left. Depending on hiking speed it is about a five minute walk from the parking area.



A view to the southwest after entering the lava field.

GPS: N 34 54.614'  
W 111 48.637'



Many from the new age community believe this is the site of a vortex from which great spiritual energy flows.

A medicine wheel has been constructed at the end of the lava field.

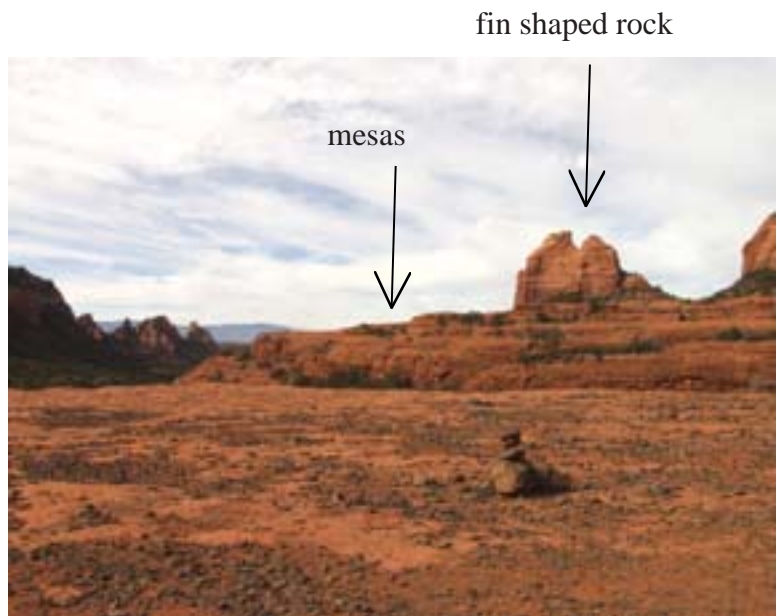


Close up of a medicine wheel.



From the middle of the lava field you can see the final destination. The Three Mesas are to the left of the fin shaped rock.

They can be reached by circling the ravine's right perimeter.



Return to the trail and head northwest. The fin shaped rock is now on the left.



After a few minutes of hiking the trail, a wash will be crossed.

About three hundred paces past the lava field the trail branches. Straight ahead leads to the Robber's Roost Trail. The Mesa trail makes a ninety degree angle just past the tree to the left.



GPS: N 34 54.614'  
W 111 48.637'

fin shaped rock



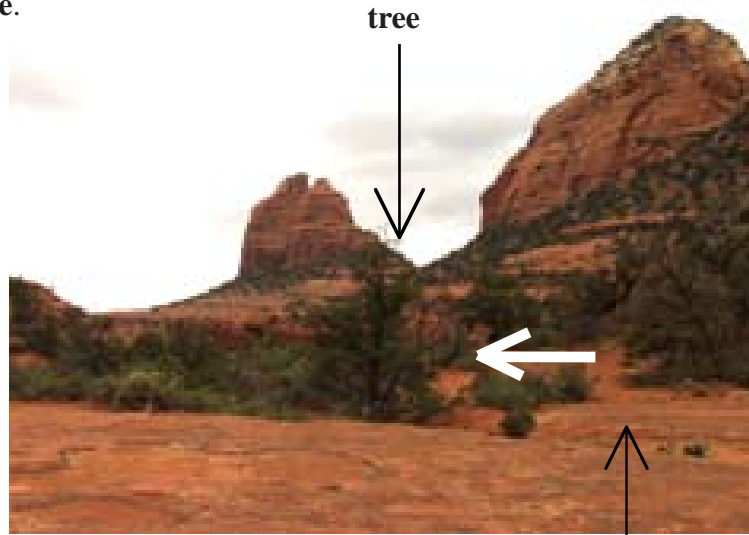
After rounding the tree a plain of smooth rock leads southwest.

fin shaped rock



Continue straight toward the fin shaped rock. The smooth rock upon which you are walking may be marked with cairns.

After about one hundred thirty paces from the first turn the trail branches again. To the right is a social trail that explores the rock bottom of Rosbber's Roost. The Mesa trail takes a ninety degree turn to the left just past the **tree**.



social trail, DO NOT take this trail. The Mesa trail takes a sharp left around the indicated tree.

GPS: N 74 54.658'  
W 141 70.890'  
Elevation:4726'



Go around the tree to the left.

The trail leads to the first mesa.



Within fifty paces the trail diverges into two branches.

GPS: N43 52.511'  
W 117 43.017'  
Elevation: 5069'



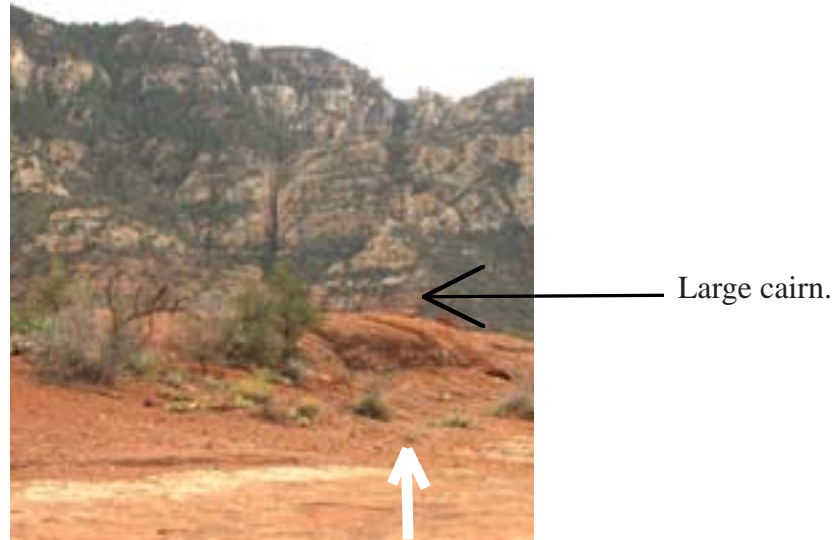
Go up the hill

Nearing the top of the hill.



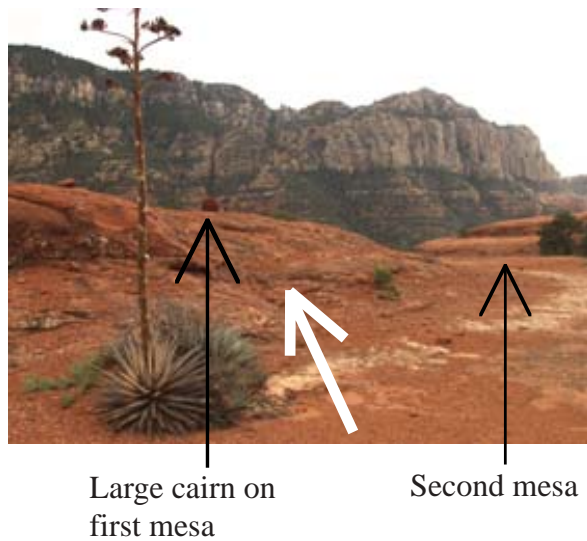
At the crest of the hill the trail proceeds at one o'clock toward a hill on which there is perched a large cairn.

The large cairn sits on the the north edge of the first mesa to the right of the tree.



Hike up the hill

The first mesa is to the left and the second mesa can be seen in the distance to the right. Continue toward the large cairn on the first mesa.



Large cairn on first mesa

Second mesa



This is a close up the large cairn. It resembles a huge pine cone.

Below are views in three directions all taken from the location of the large cairn.

1. A view to the south toward the second mesa.

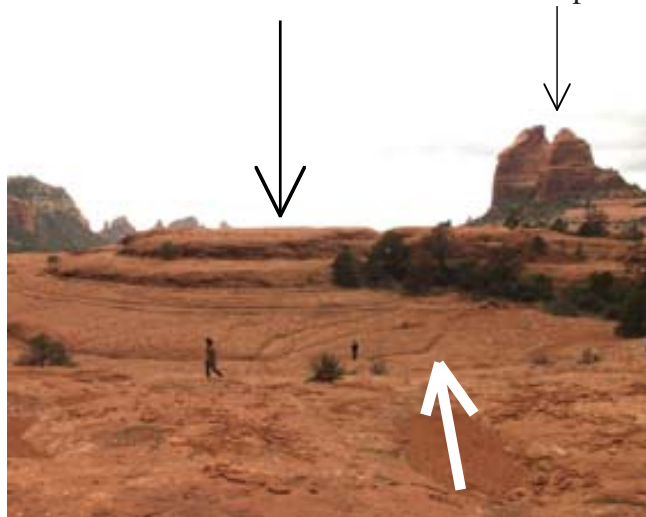


2. A view to the southwest toward the third mesa.



3. A view west toward the third mesa and the fin-shaped rock.

There are many ways to reach the third mesa across the smooth wash.



I have found that angling to the right is the easiest approach

Once you have reached the third mesa, take some time for a break and enjoy the views.

On the top of the third mesa there is a 360 degree view.



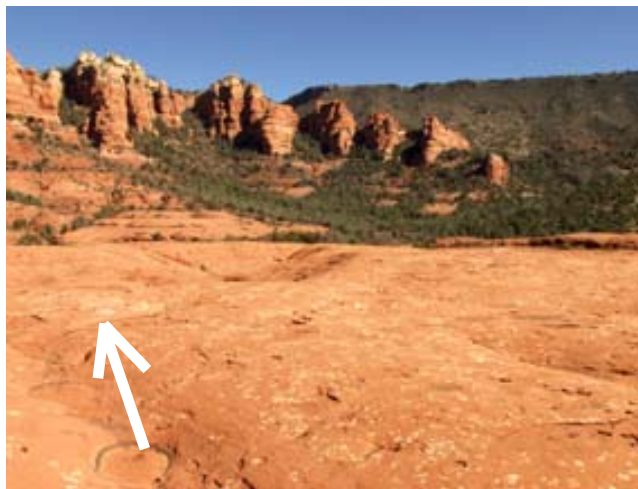
On the second mesa the light gives the illusion of an mystical painting.



## THE RETURN TRIP

The following is a shot taken from the third mesa.

1. The first stop on the return is the large cairn perched on the first mesa. This is a view to the southwest



Start down the third mesa by walking the wash to the left.

The large cairn on the first mesa is the destination.



At the end of the wash that marris the third mesa you will descend stay right of the trees and work your way down the face of the third mesa. After the descent cross the smooth wash and climb the second mesa. Stay to the left of it for an easy assent.



To the left of it is the decent point from the first mushroom. After climbing the first mesa, the large cairn can be seen on the top.



The decent point down the first mesa.  
A cairn may mark the way.



The view while descending the first mesa.



GPS: N432 52.511  
W1113 43'017  
elevation 5069

After about fifty paces to the bottom of the first mesa, the trail diverges. Go left.

GPS: N 74 54.658'  
W 141 70.890'  
Elevation:4726'

After about 75 paces the trail will turn right at a ninety degree angle just past the tree.



After turning right at the tree it is about 150 paces until the next right.



At the end of the slick rock the trail comes to a "T". The trail to the left goes to Robber's Roost. The trail to the right leads back to the parking lot.

GPS: N 54 54.614'  
W 611 46.637'

Turn right at the "T".



It is approximately one half mile back to the parking lot.