

# Directions to Mummy Mountain Summit

By David Smith

## Drive to the Trail Canyon Trailhead

Driving to the trailhead at Trail Canyon is pretty easy, up I-95 North from Las Vegas, take a left at the Kyle Canyon exit, continue about 20 miles up Kyle Canyon to Mt. Charleston Village, pass a fire station continuing straight where the road bends to the left. You'll arrive at a parking area (same parking used for Mary Jane Falls). In all, it's less than 40 miles from the Las Vegas Strip.

## The Trail to Mummy Mountain

Head up Trail Canyon trail for about 2 miles until you reach the junction of the Trail Canyon trail and North Loop Trail.



Take a left at the junction. You're now on the North Loop Trail. Pass Cave Spring.



Continue the switchbacks upward for another mile until you see a sun-bleached bristlecone pine tree trunk marked with an "M" and an arrow pointing to the right.



Note that there is no marked trail beyond the "M" tree, you're pretty much on your own. A kind of trail will at times appear and disappear between the "M" tree and the summit, so go by the landmarks. Look back often so you know how the way should look when you return. It's easy to get disoriented on the return trip and go down a false route ultimately ending in a huge cliff drop-off!

## End of Marked Trails

Now any official trail disappears. Continue up a very steep scree avalanche slope I call "The Horrifying Half".



Take a right up the ridge at the top.



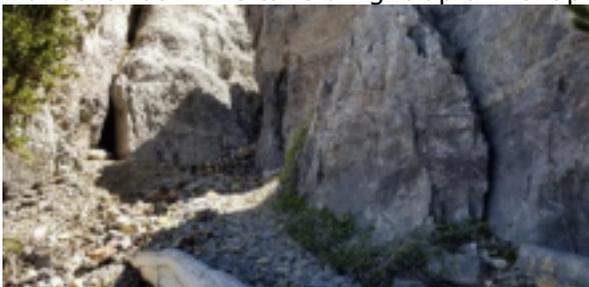
In about an 8th of a mile when you reach a rock wall turn left and skirt to the right and upward around the left edge of the rock wall.



Continue up and take a left skirting along the base of the Mummy Mountain cliff face.



In another 8th mile take a right up a V-shaped canyon on up to the summit.





Mummy Mountain Summit!!

### Return Views and Directions



Head down from the summit, veer left.



Turn straight towards Mt. Charleston and the V-shaped return canyon will appear.



Descent down the V-shaped return canyon.



After skirting the Mummy cliff face, descend right and downward at where a small pile of branches blocks the trail. Stay close to the rock face to your left.



Head down the "Horrifying Half" scree avalanche hill either turning right after about 50 ft and

Take a left around the lower edge of the rock face. Take a right (only option) on the ridge that will take you down to the top of the "Horrifying Half".



...or continue downward back to the lower North Loop Trail and to your starting point at the Trail Canyon trailhead.

continuing along the ridge to the upper North Loop trail and Mt. Charleston (see directions below)...

### **Most Direct Route from Mummy to Mt. Charleston Summit**

On the return trip if you want to loop over to the upper North Loop Trail avoiding descending down the "Horrifying Half" and reascending the North Loop here's the key: Once you descend to the top of the "Horrifying Half", descend about 50 ft, take a right and continue just below the top left side of the upper ridge. Skirt to the left of the rocky outcrop. Descend about 50 feet along a fallen tree. Take a sharp right and hug the rocky outcrop. Cross under a suspended tree trunk.



Continue to weave your way along the upper ridge staying as high on the ridge as possible without ascending any vertical boulders. After the first 8<sup>th</sup> mile the ridge widens out. Stay on the Kyle Canyon cliff side of the ridge. A faint trail will appear and disappear along the way. Stick to the landmarks, not the trail. After a mile or so, when you see an abandoned ski lift tower take a left and descend off the ridge on to the North Loop Trail...surprisingly only about 50 yards from the ski tower! Now you can continue along the North Loop Trail to Mt. Charleston summit having saved yourself about 1000 feet descent and reascent.

Have fun! Mummy Mountain is my favorite summit in the Mt. Charleston Wilderness!