

“Borax Mountain”

We accessed this peak from the 20-Mule-Team side, although it may be possible to ascend from the Artist’s Palette side. Due to stories I have heard of hikers getting lost and having to be helicoptered out of these areas, I do not recommend this hike to anyone except an experienced Death Valley hiker and route-finder. Although others may discover this route to be easier to find than I did, it has taken me multiple trips to find the best way up to this peak.

We parked for the major wash just north of Corkscrew Canyon (I call this wash Church-key Canyon) and followed it towards the Black Mountains:



After following the wash a little ways, it splits. The most direct route is up “Chuckwalla-coot Pass” (please bear with my sense of humor), shown near the middle of the photo:



Looking down into the main wash above “Chuckwalla-coot Pass.” This is where the route-finding gets tricky:



It's probably a good idea to build a cairn at turns in the wash so you can find your way back, as long as you remove them on your return. Follow the main wash as it winds around a couple turns until you can climb up a mud-mound and attain the ridge, or take one of the side washes that will lead you up onto the flat spot below Borax:



Looking towards Undertaker Canyon:



From here, the route to the top is simple; follow the ridge. View from the top looking towards the valley:



Looking towards Furnace Creek:

