

### GRAPEVINE PEAK

The hike to the top of this peak first requires driving up the Phinney Canyon Road, which is navigable for most of the way with a vehicle having reasonable clearance. The last stretch of the road, however, requires a high clearance 4WD vehicle and a skilled driver to navigate. Note that this hike requires a lot of route finding; therefore, a clear map and good map reading skills are a must for this hike!! Also, as there are a lot of trees on the ridge, it is often difficult to see which ridge you are heading towards, so it is not difficult to accidentally follow the wrong ridge and get very far off track from the route you should be on (especially on the return trip, when you don't have Grapevine Peak as an obvious target to reach)!

Looking towards Phinney Canyon from near where the road splits and the left fork goes to Strozzi Ranch:



What appears to be a sort of weather station, just before the road drops into the Phinney Canyon wash:



Parking near the mine in Phinney Canyon, just before the road gets worse:



The mine in Phinney Canyon:



The worst stretch of the road; it looks much, much more passable in the photo than it actually is:





The large boulder in the road which must be bypassed on the right:



Nice wildflowers in the road:



Close-up photo of some of these flowers:



Panorama of the road and Wahguyhe Peak:



Looking down into Moonlight Canyon, with the old road seen to the right (now closed to vehicular traffic):



Starting up the ridge to the north:



Looking towards Grapevine Peak off in the distance:



On this hike there were traces of a use trail, many different use trails in fact, some of which clearly were made by hikers taking a wrong turn then realizing they went wrong and others later following in their tracks. Therefore, following a trail is only smart when it is going in the direction you want to travel—and in that instance it is a very good idea, as it makes the hiking easier. The next three photos show progress towards Grapevine Peak:





Panorama towards Mount Palmer (just right of center, in the distance), with the ridge route we have taken seen to the left:



Our continued progress towards the peak:



Finally the peak seems to be getting a little closer:



In some places there is a quite well-worn use trail, likely when it is obviously the best route:



The last saddle and the last climb to the top:



Try to aim for this ridge when climbing up and down the peak; it is much easier hiking than any other route:



Nearly at the top now:



Looking into upper Death Valley, with Moonlight Canyon to the left and Backthrust ("North Moonlight") Canyon to the right, and the sierras in the distance:



Looking east:



The summit register:



Looking towards Wahguyhe and Palmer:



Panorama with Wahguyhe Peak in the center:



The Grapevine Peak benchmark:

