

## **Boynton Mushroom**

### **Boynton Pass TH**

**6.1 miles**

**1570 Cumulative Elev Change**

**3 h 45 min travel time**

**5 h 30 min total**

A dramatic hike that takes you to the top of the Boynton Canyon east wall to a view of the Dry Creek drainage, this route requires care in navigating the ledges, patience to find the mushroom slot, and bushwhacking to climb to it.

Take the FS Boynton trail for about 35-40 minutes (1.75 miles) from the parking lot, until you see Arizona cypress growing across the wash on your right. You can see the red rock viewpoint (Indian hat) from the trail that is your first destination. Leave the Boynton trail at the point where a pile of brush obscures the route down into the wash. This well-worn trail takes you through manzanita woods and down into wash with cypress and then up to rock lookout. Climb rock lookout. Trail turns right at top of saddle and follows along ledges below a ridge. At the end of the ledges continue to climb up along rock wall until you are at another saddle. This is steep and about half way up you can catch a trail leading off to the left to an alcove visible ahead.

Continue to climb up to top of saddle and then turn left and work your way up to ever-higher ledge levels. (Optional excursion, head right near the top of the saddle and explore the top of the large rock you have been circling.) Eventually you will see a level of ledges that lead far around to your left, starting just below the large rock fall above you. To get there, you go to the right and climb up the slick rock then after climbing to the next level of ledges work your way left and climb up until you end up just below the rock fall.

Then head left along the ledges and work your way around the contours. Occasionally there is a trail through the vegetation and you will have to change levels when you "ledge-out." Continue along the ledges past a dead tree that stands starkly up against the sky. At this point you will need to work your way up the ledges and climb along the crease to get to the higher ledges. Continue around, past the leaning dead tree across the canyon from you until you reach the next canyon. Work your way through dense trees and manzanita at the wash in the crease of the canyon until you get to a large ledge.

If you turn around and look backward from this large ledge you will see the mushroom up at the top of the wash behind you. Head back to the scrub at the base of the wash and turn left to climb up that wash staying close to the rock wall for most of the way up and climb on the mushroom. Good lunch spot.

From mushroom level you can continue to work your way along wide ledges in the southerly direction around to a lookout point where you can see Long Canyon. Go back the same way.

May wish to leave some cairns especially to help find the way back down the ledges on the way down.