

Brins Ridge Loop

Soldier Pass Trailhead

6 Miles

1656 ft. Cumulative Elevation Change

4 h moving time

5 h total

The loop uses portions of the Soldier Pass, Brins Mesa, Cibola, and Jordan Trail, a few cut-off routes, and a route to climb a ridge notable for its views of Soldier Heights, Brins Mesa, Steamboat and the Fin and Sail. This loop with some extension may also be started from the Jordan Road trailhead. A visit to the arch off Soldier Pass Trail may also be appended.

Starting at Soldier's Pass trailhead, take the standard Soldier's Pass trail past the sink hole and the seven pools and into the wilderness area after you cross a low fence line. Soon after you enter the Wilderness the trail makes a 90 degree left turn but a clear off trail route continues straight ahead. **(RT off Trl)** Take this side route over some large ledges and continue in that general direction. Soon you will be approaching a high rock wall. This is where there is an arch and if you wish to see the arch continue to climb to the wall. To continue along the Brins Ridge loop, turn left onto the large shelves below the arch. **(LT-no arch)** Follow these shelves along the wall about mid level and then follow the trail up to the base of the wall and continue to the end of the wall. The trail will then cross a small wash and continue through the vegetation bearing right a bit until it you are facing a rock wall. **(Up)** Climb this wall through several levels until you are on the top on some large wide flat shelves scattered with rocks. **(Snack)** Nice views.

As you are sitting enjoying the views, look behind you and you will see a faint trail leaving the shelves and heading in the direction of Wilson Mountain. Follow this trail and shortly you will cross the Brins Mesa trail. Turn right onto this trail and take it to the point where it starts its descent off the mesa. Here you will see a well worn trail off to the right. **(RT-off Brins)** This trail will lead you up to the crest of Brins Ridge. At the top, take the crest all the way to the far end staying on top of the rocks on the crest. At the rock formation near the beginning that has a large man-sized cave in it, climb on top of the rock and continue to work your way over the rocks, over the highest point, and then down to some large flat rocks that can serve as your viewpoint. Return to the Brins Trail by retracing your steps. You can see from the track that there are several trails that lead down from the ridge and all will take you back.

Take the Brins trail down from the mesa until you reach a point in the trail where you are very close to the Mitten and the trail makes a sharp turn. **(RT-- off Brins)** Here you will see a trail off to the right in the wash. Follow this trail up until you can see the mitten above you and you are following a fence line. Soon you will reach the standard Cibola Pass trail. **(Jct Cibola)** Turn right and take the trail to its junction with the Jordan trail. **(Jct Jordan)** Turn right on the Jordan trail and take it back to the Soldier Pass trail and left back to the trailhead.