

H.S. Overlook from Long Canyon TH - 2011

Long Canyon Rd Trailhead

6.6 mi

3 hr 12 min moving time Total Time: 4 hr 10 min

Cumulative Elevation Change: 947ft

Along a biker constructed trail, this route affords views of Dry Creek and its basin, eventually leading to a view down H.S. canyon. Distant views of Long Canyon, Secret Canyon, Lost Wilson Mountain, Soldier Heights, and Thunder Mountain surround the hiker.

Park at the first Long Canyon trailhead. Head directly across the street and find a bike trail that starts to the right of the electric box and just next to a big dead tree that has been bleached white. Take this trail to the left. This bike trail will lead you down to the Dry Creek Drainage and then follow the drainage upstream. At first only the drainage will be visible, but soon the trail will lead you high up above the drainage and give you excellent views of the valley.

The path skirts the boundary of the Seven Canyons development and passes a house built right at its edge. Soon after you will see a jeep trail ahead and below you in the creek. The trail heads down there and passes the old Van Deren cabin **(1)** built between 1924 and 1930 out of Arizona cypress. After you have explored the cabin and its history, take the jeep trail down to the creek, head upstream over the large water-pocked rock ledges, and turn left up the first side wash. You will see the trail emerge at the top of the rocks just as the wash makes a sharp right turn. A short while later you will enter a sandy clearing where it is possible to get lose your way, but there is a junction there **(2)**. The left fork ahead of you is the start of Earl's Loop. The right fork is where the loop emerges upon your return. Make a note of which path you took on entering the clearing so you can find the correct way back on your return.

The trail now heads up-valley all the way to the large rock shelves above H.S. Canyon. It is possible to find your way down into the canyon, but this description continues around the loop. Along the way you will have excellent views of Brins Mesa, Lost Wilson, Secret Canyon, Long Canyon, Mescal Mountain and more.

Once on the large red rock shelves above H.S. Canyon, look down in a southerly direction and you will see evidence of a trail in front of you. Look for the biker's way down off the shelves. This trail will take you down and then climb up on the next long rise in front of you. At the top of this rise you will have stunning 360 degree views of the entire Dry Creek drainage **(3)**. Eventually the trail will head down through cypress woods and back to the sandy clearing you entered on the way in **(2)**. Go straight through the clearing and backtrack your way to Dry Creek at the jeep road. Take the jeep road up to the parking area and find your trail leaving at the far right corner along the barbed wire fence. This will take you back to the trailhead.