

## HS Canyon Lollipop

Start at Secret Canyon trailhead and make a left about twenty minutes in at the HS canyon sign, just after crossing the main wash.

About ten minutes up the HS canyon trail you can see the return trail coming down the slope on the left. Just a bit further along the trail, about 50 steps, a trail turns off to the right next to a big alligator juniper. Take this trail along wash to get up to rock ledges. Follow the wash until you see a large pool in the middle, then turn right and climb up along the crack to get to the ledges. Return to HS trail the same way.

To do lollipop, continue along HS trail for about another 20 minutes through oak forest. Trail will eventually cross to the right of wash and then return to left side. Soon thereafter you will see a large ponderosa pine in the middle of the wash now deep below you. At this point your trail goes off to the left up a side wash. Follow trail up slope and then turn left and follow along ledges until you reach the Easter Island rock. Walk around that rock and to the right to an overlook into side ravine next to Maroon Mountain.

Turn back and look south (SE) to see ledge that has hippo rock. (Hippo not yet visible.) Make your way down through the manzanita to that rock. Good lunch spot. From hippo rock you can see round rock ledge that is your destination. Ahead of you, above ledge, is a spruce covered knob. Work your way through manzanita to this knob. There are some paths through the manzanita but you may have to bushwhack. Continue to far side of knob until you are at the rim with some rock ledges below you. Turn left along rim and head down to the rock ledge you saw earlier.

From rock ledge it is a short way down steep slope back to HS trail. The trail starts at the left edge of the ledge. Watch the first rock—it is slippery!

*Note:* Very nice to do this lollipop in the opposite direction, heading toward Maroon Mountain first and then going down the side wash to the mail trail.

*Additional explorations:* Not far up the HS trail from the Ponderosa pine, by two big rocks that fill the wash, a scout trail leads up from the right side of the wash. This trail leads up to ledges on this side of the canyon. When you get up to the ledges go to the front (down the canyon) and head down to the next level of ledges below you in the direction of the first area of ledges you visited on this side of the canyon, before doing the lollipop. You can work your way down each step of ledges until you can see the first ledges ahead of you. Work your way down the wash and follow ledges around to the first area or simply go down the wash and head back to the HS trail.