

Long Canyon

Clockwise: Take Long Canyon trail in for about an hour to the turn off (left) to rock ledge with viewpoint. Continue past this point a few feet and you will see a trail leading off to the right obscured by many branches on ground. Follow this trail across drainage and across to the other side then up the slope. As you emerge from the climb you will see cross-bedded rock in front of you. Turn right and follow trail to a series of alcoves at base of rock. Follow the curve of the dwellings to the end and then climb up cross-bedded rocks to upper level where you can see the whole bowl of rocks in front of you. Work your way across this bowl, past the landing pad, to the large alcove visible slightly above you toward the north (good lunch/rest spot.) You can continue along the ledge around the corner and you can also climb up (difficult) to another alcove up above ledge level.

Return to cross-bedded rock area and head for small tree without a top (bonsai) standing alone on rocks. Line up “Aunt Jemima” formation, large Ponderosa pines in drainage next to landing pad, and capstan rock across drainage. This is where you will work your way down cross-bedded rocks. At large Ponderosa you can climb down off rocks to lower level and then work your way up the wash slightly until you can cross to other side at pour-off. Climb up the other side to reach ledges below capstan. You can continue along these ledges for some time around the capstan rock. At the point where you are about level with wash below you, head down rocks wherever you can and head for this wash. Stay in wash and try to head for rim. At rim turn right and follow rim around until end where a trail will lead you down (steeply) to lower level. While on rim you can see some alcoves below you that are your next destination. After you reach lower level, follow curve of dwellings around and continue along rock wall to catch trail back to main trail. Trail will parallel Long Canyon trail for a while and travel through woods and eventually along a drainage until it climbs out of drainage to join main trail.

Counterclockwise: Turn off Long Canyon trail to the right after about 50 min. As you near turnoff you pass a cluster of several large boulders with an emery oak growing out of it. The trail swings around this obstacle. Shortly after there is a dead tree to your right and you will see a large coconino butte on your right as you make your turn. You are about in the middle of this butte at the turn. You will be in Arizona cypress woods and there is a large square rock in the middle of the trail at that point. Trail heads to right and drops into deep drainage next to trail. Eventually trail crosses the drainage and heads up to alcoves.

To find crossover point from capstan rock, look for large Ponderosa pines across drainage and line them up with “Aunt Jemima” rock. Head down toward those pines and cross drainage.

To find trail down from upper series of dwellings, continue along curve past last dwelling and turn right. Trail down starts at about the middle of the cross-hatched wall.