

Lost Wilson

Take Brins Mesa trail from the trailhead on Dry Creek Road to the wilderness boundary fence. This is not far, about five minutes. Turn left into the wash and before the wash turns to the right, about 100 feet later, turn left into a side wash between a cypress tree and some scrub oak. Follow this wash for about 45-55 minutes until you get to an open area with large flat rocks where the wash splits. Take the left fork (behind a big boulder) and work your way up for about five minutes when you will reach a pour-off with a lot of debris. Work your way around this debris and soon after you will see a trail on the right leading up out of the wash. The wash becomes quite narrow at this time. Follow cairns through the manzanita to large rock ledge with large, built-up cairn in the middle. Good morning break spot.

Alternate starting route: To avoid walking in wash for almost an hour, take trail that leads off the Brins Mesa trail just past the juniper tree to the left of the trail just beyond parking lot. This trail follows an old road for a while and eventually parallels the wash described earlier. You enter the wash just before the large open area where wash splits. Follow instructions above from that point.

Trail continues just to the left behind the big rock cairn and eventually climbs steeply up a rock cliff until you reach the level of the rock ledge. (*) Follow this rock ledge to the right all around the face of Lost Wilson, sometimes down through a wash and then up again. Eventually you will see some hoodoos to your left above the trail. There is an Indian dwelling up there in the rock face and if you climb up to the hoodoos you have excellent views for lunch. Return to trail.

Continue along the trail around hoodoos. After turning the corner and leaving the hoodoos behind you, turn to the right and follow trail through cypress woods down and up a wash. After the trail climbs up out of wash it eventually enters an open area. Continue along trail and enter a second open area. At this point there is another Indian dwelling below the rock face. Find the trail leading down on the right side of the open area and climb down a level and follow this level along until you reach dwelling.

Trail continues fairly level along Wilson Mountain all the way to the Brins Mesa rim. Turn right to catch Brins Mesa trail back to trailhead.

To do trail in the opposite direction, follow along the rim from Brins Mesa trail until you are just about at the point where a big red rock ledge juts out from the rim. Trail along the rim divides into a Y at this point. Left fork goes to the high point with overlook by Wilson. Right fork continues along rim. Your trail head off to the left at a right angle by dead yucca and logs covering trail.

(*) To go to alcove, head left at this rock ledge (instead of right) and work your way around at this level past a big red rock and around the red hudoos into the next valley. There is a trail of sorts along ledges and through the brush. Eventually you will be able to see the end of the valley and a tall dead tree at the head of the valley below the huge rock cliffs of Lost Wilson. The alcove is behind that tree. Continue to work your way along the valley and eventually work your way up the drainage to the level of the alcove.

Alcove: 12 428141 E

3865615 N