

## Shadow Loop North – 2011 (GPS YShdwNrth2011)

### **Morgan Road trailhead Broken Arrow**

**4.9 miles**

**Cumulative Elevation Change 809**

**2.5 h moving time    3.5 hours total**

Starting at the Morgan Road trailhead “Broken Arrow,” follow Marg’s Draw trail north out of the parking lot for about 5-10 minutes until you are almost at the top of a rise after traversing a wash. Turn right (Jct1) at a social trail that is the boundary between trails we will call the North and Middle Shadow Loops. Soon you will rise high enough to encounter 360 degree views of the surrounding red rocks. Your vista will include distant sights of Thunder Mountain, Chimney Rock and Cockscomb as well as closer views of Snoopy, Twin Buttes, and Submarine, not to mention the length of Munds Mountain which lies ahead of you.

The trail takes you east along almost level ground along a spit that gets narrower as you approach the mountain. Be sure to note the varied shaped chert along the trail in this area. About 40 min into the hike watch closely as the trail will turn a bit to the right and go between two large juniper trees. At the end of the spit the trail will start down, still traveling in the same direction, toward the wash in front of Munds Mountain. Some faint trails to the right can lead you astray. Keep going until you face a T (Jct2). The right fork will lead you down into the wash and along the Middle Shadow Trail. You will take the left fork.

This part of the trail takes you along the contours of Munds Mountain and brings you to two sets of lovely ledges that make for nice stopping points and also provide you with opportunities to scramble up for even better views (View Point). After you leave the second set of ledges the trail will turn right and climb up to small rise. It is easy to lose the trail at this point so watch for it. Eventually the trail will go down again and lead you around a high red butte to the shelves at the bottom of Damfino saddle (Damfino Shelf), a good place for lunch. Take some time here to explore the rocks and find yourself a nice perch from which to enjoy the views. In the valley below you will see three large open rock ledges that lie among the vegetation. These are your next destination.

Head down from the ledges at the bottom of Damfino Pass and follow a clear trail that leaves the rocks a bit west of where you came in until you reach the first of the large shelves that are in the valley. Turn down onto the ledge and continue across the ledges in the same general direction until you come to the third and last. Your trail comes off the ledge to the right about 2/3 of the way.

*Caution:* There are many trails in this area and you will see other trails leading off the ledges before you come to the third ledge. These other trails will take you a bit out of your way (and may even lead you up to Snoopy Rock!) but generally all will take you in the right direction.

Take the trail in a generally westerly direction (away from Munds Mountain) until it joins Margs Draw trail (Jct3). Turn left here and head back to the Broken Arrow trailhead.