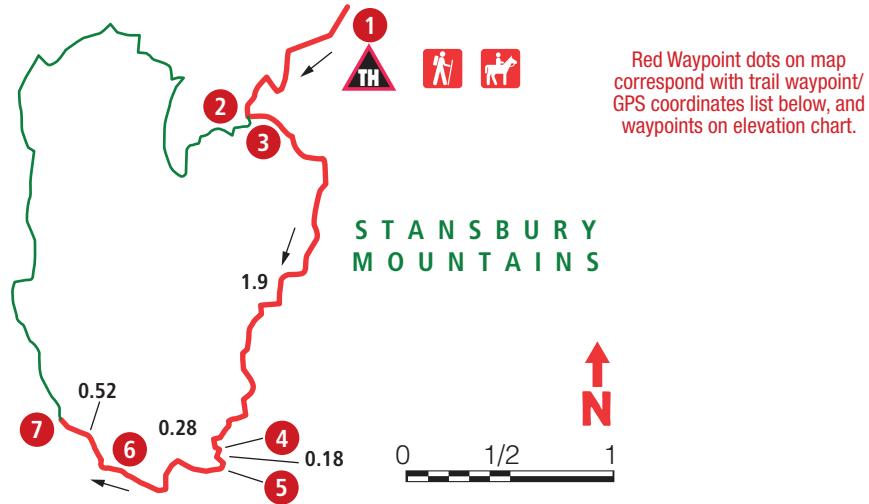
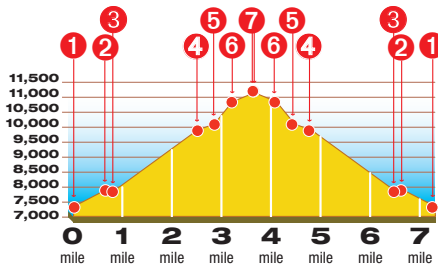


# DESERET PEAK TRAIL

**Type:** Out and Back, or Loop on single-track trail. Hike and Horseback only. Due to wilderness area, Mountain Bikes and ATV/OHVs are prohibited. **Distance:** 7.4 miles. **Elevation gain:** 3,613 feet. **Rating:** Moderate to difficult. Trail time: up to eight hours. **Signage:** Yes. **Season:** May to November. **Water:** Bring your own. South Willow Creek. Any surface water should be purified before consuming. **Services:** Groceries, fuel and general services available in Grantsville. **USGS 7.5 topo maps:** Deseret Peak East, Deseret Peak West. **How to get there:** The Deseret Peak Trailhead is located at Loop Campground at the top of South Willow Canyon. To reach South Willow Canyon Road from Grantsville Main St (SR-138), head south on Mormon Trail Road for 5.2 miles. Follow signs and turn right onto South Willow Canyon Road and proceed west up into South Willow Canyon. Loop Campground is eight miles ahead. You'll pass several campgrounds along the way.



Trail Waypoint	Distance	Altitude	Latitude	Longitude
1 Trailhead	0	7,418	N40 28.981	W112 36.392
2 South Willow Creek	0.7	7,975	N40 28.605	W112 36.813
3 Trail Signage	0.71	7,980	N40 28.619	W112 36.805
4 Base of Cirque	2.72	9,800	N40 27.527	W112 36.913
5 Saddle or Lunch Ridge	2.9	10,042	N40 27.423	W112 36.881
6 West Couloir	3.18	10,600	N40 27.397	W112 37.323
7 Deseret Peak Summit	3.7	11,031	N40 27.569	W112 37.593
1 Trailhead	7.4	7,418	N40 28.981	W112 36.392



**Trail Description:** For the hiking or day-hike enthusiast who loves a full-compass view from a lofty summit near the clouds, the Deseret Peak Trail can't be missed. The trail ascends for nearly four miles through Congressionally-designated Wilderness (1984) to the 11,031 foot-high summit of Deseret Peak. Along the way, you'll pass through old-growth forests of aspen and limber pine, watch a golden eagle soar on wild currents, spot a herd of deer in a meadow that glistens with dew—and not see another soul all day. **The trail begins** at the Loop Campground parking lot and gradually climbs for 0.7 of a mile to where the trail crosses South Willow Creek (**Waypoint #2**). If it's early June, the water is typically running cold and swift with snowmelt. Carefully cross the creek, and the trail turns left and descends beside the creek for a few feet before turning right and heading back into the trees. Here, you'll come to a trail intersection and a wooden directional sign (**Waypoint #3**) that indicates left for Deseret Peak and right for South and North Willow Lakes. The trail to Deseret Peak resumes climbing through a dense forest of pine before briefly crossing an open slope and then ascending Mill Fork. The trail winds its way up the floor of Mill Fork for over a mile to the base of a glacial cirque carved by deep ice thousands of years ago (**Waypoint #4**). Because of the cirque's steep gradient, the trail uses switchbacks to reach the top. During summer and fall it's a hard slog; during late spring when snow may still cling to the north-facing cirque, it can be exhausting. At the top of the cirque is a saddle, which locals call "Lunch Ridge" (**Waypoint #5**). The trail continues up the slope to the west and levels out at the top of two north-facing couloirs (**Waypoint #6**) that drop to Dry Lake Fork below. After taking in the view, the trail continues up the southwest flank of Deseret Peak by a series of switchbacks to the summit, which is a rocky, exposed ridge (**Waypoint #7**). Visible are the Great Salt Lake and Stansbury Island, all of Tooele, Rush and Skull Valleys, many of Tooele County's 13 mountain ranges, and of course, the Great Salt Lake Desert to the west. To return to trailhead at Loop Campground (**Waypoint #1**), either head back on the same route (recommended), or take alternative Pockets Fork descent.