

BISHOPS CAP

Very Strenuous/Expert



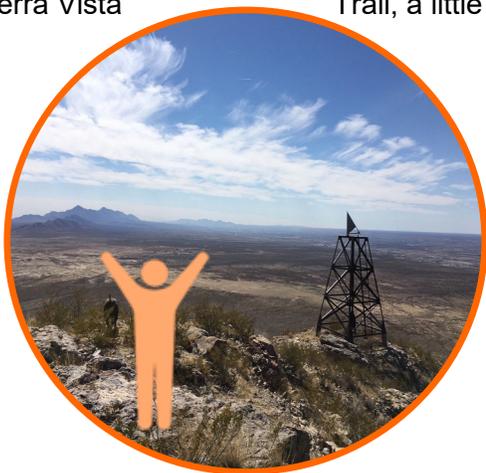
Challenge type: Hiking
Challenge length: 4.6 miles

Trail Notes: This mountain, named for the clerical head gear that it looks like, has a summit of 5,419 feet. The climb of about 1,000 feet elevation gain is a combination of on and off trail. The limestone mountain has a very distinct look from that of Peña Blanca and the rest of the Organ Mountains to the north.

Driving Directions: Take the Mesquite exit (Exit 151) off I-10. Head east past the frontage road on County Road B-59. The first 1.3 miles are paved turning to gravel. At 2.1 miles the road takes a sharp left in front of a gravel operation entrance. The road continues alongside a liquid waste facility turning right to continue around the facility. At 3.2 miles you will pass under power lines. The road will turn left to parallel the lines. Instead of turning with the main road at this point, continue straight ahead on a side road that takes you east toward the mountains. You pass a monument sign at 3.5 miles. At 4.6 miles from the Interstate exit you will arrive at a parking area for the Sierra Vista Trail on the left. Park here to begin.

Hiking Directions: Walk south from the parking area across the road you just arrived on and follow the trail marker, which takes you down into a wide arroyo. Across the arroyo you will find several smaller trails that take you to the main Sierra Vista Trail, a little west of

where you emptied into the arroyo. Follow the trail past an east-west ridge coming off the north-south range. Once around the ridge you can see your objective. At about 0.85 mile you can leave the trail heading cross country toward the saddle on the ridge just north of Bishop Cap. Without a trail, this is slow going as you seek the path of least resistance around arroyos, cacti and ocotillo. In approximately a mile you will reach the ridge. As you work your way up from the ridge toward the peak from the lowest portion of the saddle, you will see a semblance of a trail that becomes more distinct as you ascend. Work past smaller rock outcroppings to the top of a major cliff on your right. When you get there, look on the uphill side of the bench for a trail that heads west under some rock face. The trail will take you around this rock face and above it to the base of the final summit. The trail winds to the east side of the final rock outcropping that you will climb. This is quite short. You arrive at the top in about 2.3 miles. Drop offs at the top warrant caution as you take your selfie with an old radar tower in the background. Retrace your path to return to the parking area.



DON'T FORGET TO
take & post your selfie at the top overlooking the old radar tower.

