

SHAWS ARCH – CR 69

Direction to trailhead: Take US 50 west to CR 69. Go north on CR 69 for about 6.2 miles until you reach a large dirt parking area on your right (east). From the parking area walk up to the northwest corner of the parking lot where you will see the unmarked trail head for trail 5830A (Figure 1). About 12.3 miles one way from Canon City.

Length of hike: 6.60 miles (round trip)

Beginning elevation: 6,332 feet

Elevation Gain: 262 feet.

Difficulty: Easy with a steep and slippery initial slope.

Description: Proceed north on Trail 5830A for about 1 mile as it gradually gains in elevation and takes you through a forest of Pinion Pine and juniper. This is a pretty trail, especially during the winter when snow covers the trees and grass (Figure 2). Continue on the trail until it intersects BLM 5830 (Figure 1). This dirt road goes all the way over to Red Canon. It is a very scenic drive and recommended if you have a high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle. It is not recommend for a low clearance 2-wheel drive vehicle because of the very rough conditions in some locations. One or two cars can park on the western end of BLM 5830, just past the gate located at the western end of the road. The road is passable for 2-whel drive vehicles up to this location.

Take a right (east) on BLM 5830 and continue east for about 1.02 miles then turn south (right) onto BLM 5830B, a two track dirt road. There is an interesting graffiti-covered, cement skeleton of an old building on your left (north) as you walk along the first section of this road (Figure 3). The road enters a large grassy plateau and continues south for about 0.13 miles to a dirt parking area and the trail head for T5830B. You can drive to this location and start your hike here, if you have a high clearance 4-whel drive vehicle.

A dirt track takes you from the parking area southwest to the trailhead. The trail starts out at the southern end of the meadow then quickly takes you southwest up a steep forested slope (Figurer 4). After 527 feet, the trail intersects another trail that heads north, down the side of the hill and into the meadow below. Continue southwest on T5830B as it makes an S-shaped turn before reaching the highest elevation on the trail (6718 feet). The trail then steadily decreases in elevation as it heads south and southwest for about 0.66 miles into a meadow. The trail crosses the western side of the meadow then reenters the forest (Figure 1). It continues south for about 0.23 miles then makes a ninety degree curve to the east. The trail continues east for 0.24 miles along the edge of the mesa to the arch. There are excellent views of the valley below as you walk this section. The arch is very impressive with great views below (Figure 5). Return the way you came for a total hiking distance of about 3.3 miles.



Figure 1. Map of Shaw's

arch



Figure 2. Winter View Along T5830



Figure 3. Remains of an Old Building Along BLM 5830



Figure 4. View Along Shaws Arch Trail



Figure 5. Shaw's Arch