

TABLE MOUNTAIN AREA



Hiking Distance: 3 miles roundtrip
Difficulty: Easy, then moderate to strenuous to the top
Start Elevation: 1300 feet
Elevation Change: About 500 feet
Location: 2 to 3 miles from Jamestown
Map: USGS Sonora Quadrangle (trail is not shown)

Area's Blooming Season	March		April		May		June		July		August		September	
	Early		E	Mid		M	Late		L	Very Late		V		

Description:

This area is about two to three miles from Jamestown. You turn onto Rawhide road at the stoplight in Jamestown and continue until you reach Shell road. Proceed on Shell road until you come to a fork in the road and then turn left and continue until the pavement ends. You can park in this area or drive further if you have a high clearance vehicle and take care to close the cattle gates behind you to the trailhead. If you park here, it is about a 1.5 mile walk to the trailhead that leads to the top of the mountain. The trail to the top can be steep and narrow with numerous places that have large rocks to maneuver around and through. This trail is much easier to traverse if you are wearing hiking boots rather than sneakers or sport shoes. The rocks can make for slippery going if you are visiting after a heavy rain. Beware of the areas that have poison oak overhanging and near the sides of the trail in several places. One of the real treats of spring time in this area is the huge display of vernal pool species on the top of the mountain that bloom in multi colored rings of flowers as the water slowly evaporates from the dozens of small pools of water. Try to avoid trampling the flower areas on top as the soil layer here is very thin and rocky. There are some seasonal seeps and water flows on the trail to the top that support some unusual species that last for a relatively short time before the area dries up for the summer. In a normal weather year the blooming period begins in March and continues until May with a few species that are early bloomers and several that can be relatively late in blooming.

The route described was established by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The trail starts just to the right of the yellow gate across Shell Road. The first section through grassland ends back on the dirt road just past a second yellow gate (about 1 mile). The section of the trail to the top of Table

Mountain (about one-half mile) begins at a white gate (opposite a pit toilet) and is at first a gradual climb, but the last quarter mile is fairly steep and quite rocky in places. On the return to the start I use the dirt road (slightly shorter than the trail). You can drive the dirt road to the start of the trail to the top, but will miss some of the flower species on the list that way. During a wet spring the dirt road can be quite muddy and could prove troublesome for low clearance, two-wheel vehicles. A trail description and detailed trail map can be obtained from the [Bureau of Reclamation website](#).

The top of Table Mountain is flat and volcanic. In the spring there are masses of Goldfields, Blue Dicks, and Dwarf Sedum, followed later by Sky Lupine and then Harvest Brodiaea. A few uncommon Bush Mountain Jewel Flower can be found at the cliff edge.

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Trailhead Directions:

From SR 108 in Jamestown turn onto Rawhide Rd at the signal. At the T turn left onto Shell Road. After 1.8 miles you will reach a yellow gate across the road -- park here. The trail starts at the right of the gate.

