

WRI- Family Activity

If you want to see a great view of almost the entire area there are a couple local hikes right here in town that require only a short drive and then a short hike. They could each easily be done in less than an hour. The first is Webb Hill. The second is the Black Hill.

Webb Hill is the name of the hill in Bloomington Hills with all of the radio towers on top. You access the hill from Hillrise Drive (Bloomington Hills Drive to Fort Pierce Drive to Hillrise Drive). You may want to park on Hillrise and then hike up the rest of the way if you don't want to drive on a dirt road or chance an encounter with a utility vehicle, but as far as I know it is a public access road all the way to the gate (about half way up the hill).

We did two short hikes on Webb Hill in order to see the great views, one up the access road where you can see to the North and to the West, and one around the east side of the hill to see to the East and South. If you hike all the way to the top you will be able to see in every direction. The views are just incredible. Below are the panoramas I photographed with my little digital camera (I used Photoshop to stitch them together).



Figure 1 Location of Webb Hill & the Black Hill



Figure 2 Panorama of St. George area looking North & West from Webb Hill's North Face



Figure 3 Panorama of St. George area looking North & East from Webb Hill's East Face



Figure 4 Panorama of St. George area looking East & South from Webb Hill's East Face

The Black Hill may not be its official name. There are four major lava flows in the St. George area. The northern most I call the Washington Ridge. It is between Washington and Coral Canyon. I-15 cuts it north of Washington. From there it goes south and then makes a hard turn west and ends south of Telegraph near 300 East. The second ridge from east to west I call Foremaster Ridge. Some people also call it East Ridge. It is in St. George between downtown and the Red Cliffs region. The remaining two are right next to each other. They are in St. George also between downtown and Green Valley. The lower ridge I call the Airport Hill and the upper one, with the “D” on it, I call the Black Hill. I am not sure who gives geographical landmarks their “official” names, nor how to verify such, but I think these names are generally used by most “old timers” like myself (we have been here since 1988 which although quite recent, still predates three fourths of the people living in the county).

All of these hills are inverted valleys. When the flood basalts poured out from around Pine Valley Mountain the magma filled the valleys as it rolled across the landscape. Then, over time, the surrounding hills eroded away while the more resilient basalt did not. Now they are all hills in the St. George area, but as you look north from the viewpoints you will see that they still fill the valleys in a few areas closer to the base of Pine Valley Mountain. Most of the lava flows date to the same period. The Black Hill is a little older and that is why it is higher. From the top of the Black Hill you can see a few other remnants of this earlier flow, like T-Bone Hill.



Figure 5 Black Hill Trailhead

There are several trails up the Black Hill. Most of them are cuts made by over eager developers (many of these were done illegally). All of the trails will allow you



Figure 6 Beginning of the trail to right

incredible views of the area. Don’t be deceived though, the top of the mesa is quite large and hiking its entire length is a real hike. Unless you have a lot of time you may want to try the various trails as separate family activities. It is very flat on top, though, so once you are on top it is easy hiking. We were hoping to see Paradise Canyon and Snow Canyon from above so we chose a trail on the northern end.



To get to the trailhead just go west on St. George Boulevard until it becomes Airport Road and begins climbing the Airport Hill. At the top of the hill turn right twice on to South Donlee Drive and follow it north until it turns onto North Donlee Drive. The trailhead is located about half way up the street. The address in the picture is 346 N. Donlee Drive. The trailhead is a public easement

between two houses (where the white car is parked in the picture). From this trailhead you can choose between two paths. If you go left you will be looking down on the temple and the downtown area. If you chose the right fork it will take you up to the northern viewpoint. We went right. This trail gets a little steep toward the end but we were able to do it without anyone needing to be carried or helped (Myself, Rebecca, Robbie 8, Enoch 7, Joshua 5, Marianne 3).



Figure 7 Panorama of Green Valley & St. George looking West & North from the Black Hill



Figure 8 Panorama of Pine Valley Mountain looking North from the Black Hill



Figure 9 Panorama of St. George looking East & South from the Black Hill