

Juniper Canyon Approach Beta

I think that every single time I've hiked into Juniper I've met one person who had to bag plans to climb Geronimo because they missed the turn and hiked all the way to the Rainbow Wall.

For sure, there are plenty of trails, and many will eventually get you where you need to go. However, I've done this hike maybe thirty times in the last year and I record my favorite way here, based on a mix of speed, trail quality, and planetary alignment.

If you want to hike to the Rose Tower (Olive Oil), Jackrabbit Buttress (Geronimo), the Brownstone Wall (Black Dagger, Nightcrawler), or the Rainbow Wall, this is good beta. If you want to get to Cloud Tower, Crimson Chrysalis, Ginger Cracks, Power Failure, etc, then you will save a couple minutes taking the direct approach, which is detailed in another file, also on my website.

Notes: This is not to scale. Not even close. To give a little perspective, I've included the times along the approach in italics. Your times will vary depending on all kinds of variables, but it will give you a rough idea. I have marked offshoot and branch trails when they are obvious. I have not marked faint or 'shwack' trails.

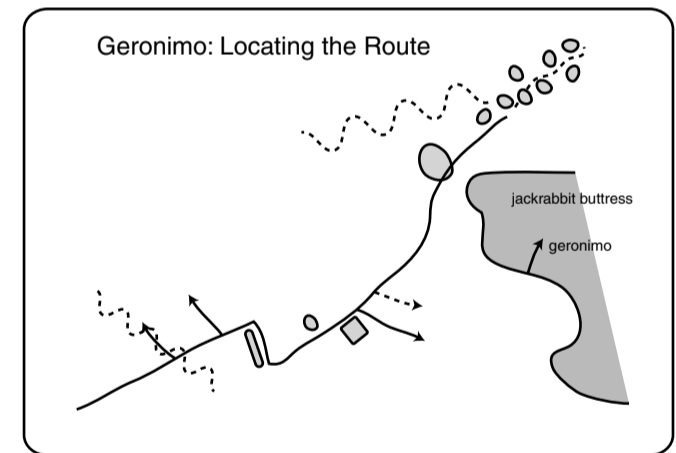
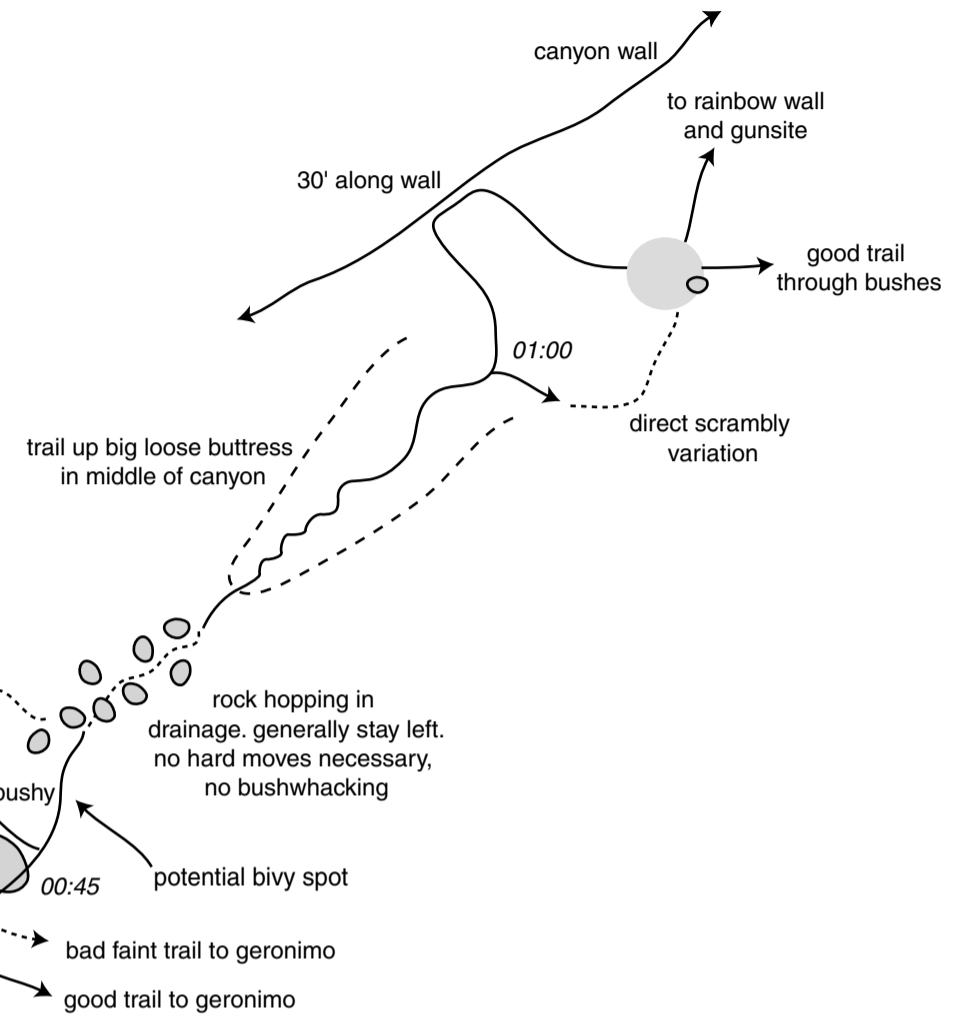
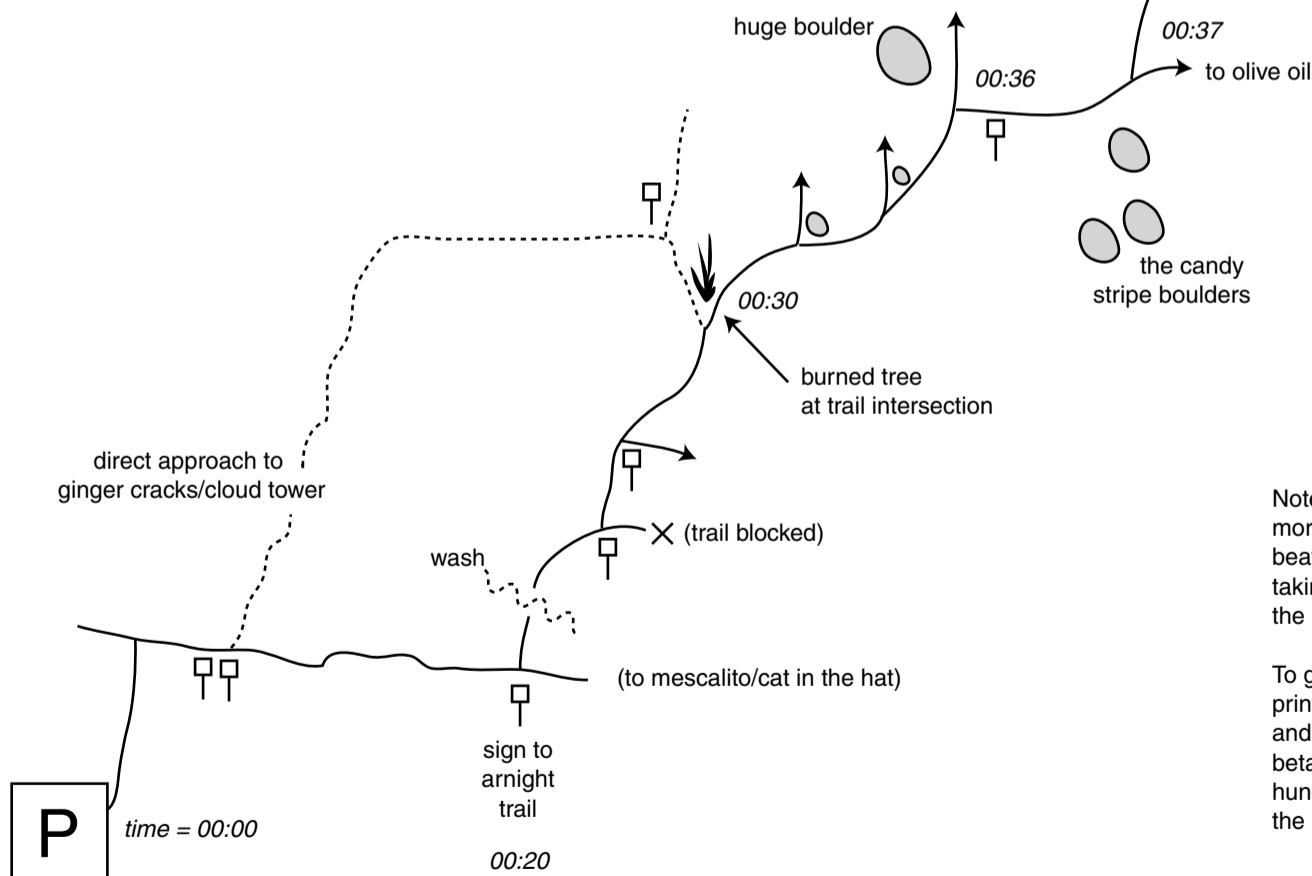
To get to Olive Oil or Geronimo, just follow the beta. To get to the Brownstone Wall, follow the beta to the flat rocky staging area at the upper limit of the approach beta. Take the trail into the bushes, which quickly spits you out onto a hundred yards of steep talus, then slab walking. If you are headed to Black Dagger, head off left after a minute or two on the slabs. If you are headed to Brownstone East (Armatron), or Juniper Peak summit, then follow the cairns up and right, parallel to the base of the wall, heading NE/E. To hike to Juniper summit continue until you get to a large white broad shoulder above Jackrabbit Buttress. This is a nice landmark if you are topping out climbs like Geronimo or Mysterz. Then double back and follow more cairns up the East rib/gully system to the top. The excellent cairned passage all the way from the main Juniper drainage all the way to the summit exists because this is a popular Las Vegas hiker's trail.

NOT TO SCALE
00:36 = time stamp (see notes)

○ = boulder
□ = sign

Common places to get off route on the descent:

- 1) The trail entrance around 00:48. (Folks may not see the cairned trail and continue boulder-hopping down the drainage).
- 2) The big flat rock at 00:45 (people often veer right and down into the drainage).
- 3) The small drainage around 00:39 (folks miss the trail and continue down the drainage).



Note: The 'direct' Cloud Tower approach takes a few minutes longer, and is a little more involved in terms of route finding, and loose trail. However, if you are trying to beat the crowds to Olive Oil/Geronimo, you will look like a lot less of an asshole by taking the direct approach and gunning it, instead of pushing them to the side of the main trail and panting by them.

To get to these climbs from the direct approach, follow the direct approach beta as printed in the other approach file. When you get to the triangle junction with the sign and the tree, instead of bearing left to approach Crimson (as the other approach beta says to) take a right. You will then hike back towards Pine Creek for a couple hundred yards and will rejoin the trail outlined on this page at the intersection with the burned tree. I wouldn't bother with any faint trail offshoots- they generally suck.