

CANYON POINT 5890 FEET CLASS 1

MILEAGE: 260 miles of paved road, 7.8 miles of fair dirt, 10.4 miles of poor to 4WD road

DRIVE: Approaching from Towne Pass on State Highway 190, turn left (NW) on a paved road at the "Campground" sign located just W of the General Store at Stovepipe Wells. Drive 0.1 miles to a signed fork "Campground-Airstrip" and bear left, driving 0.4 miles to a second signed fork "Cottonwood-Marble Canyon" at the end of pavement. Bear right here and drive 7.8 miles on a fair (sometimes sandy) dirt road to a broad wash at the mouth of a large canyon. Follow the road as it drops into the wash and turns sharply left up the canyon. Depending on past weather and/or the back road maintenance schedule of the Park Service, this is where the road can immediately turn into a 4WD route. If you have the proper vehicle for the road, continue 1.4 miles W to a junction, where you'll turn sharply left (S) up Cottonwood Canyon. Drive 0.8 miles to a fork and bear left (right will take you up Marble Canyon; See Sidelines 1). Continue 8.2 miles S to the end of the road at a turnaround. Park. NOTE: This road is particularly subject to storm damage and no guarantee can be made as to its condition during any time of the year.

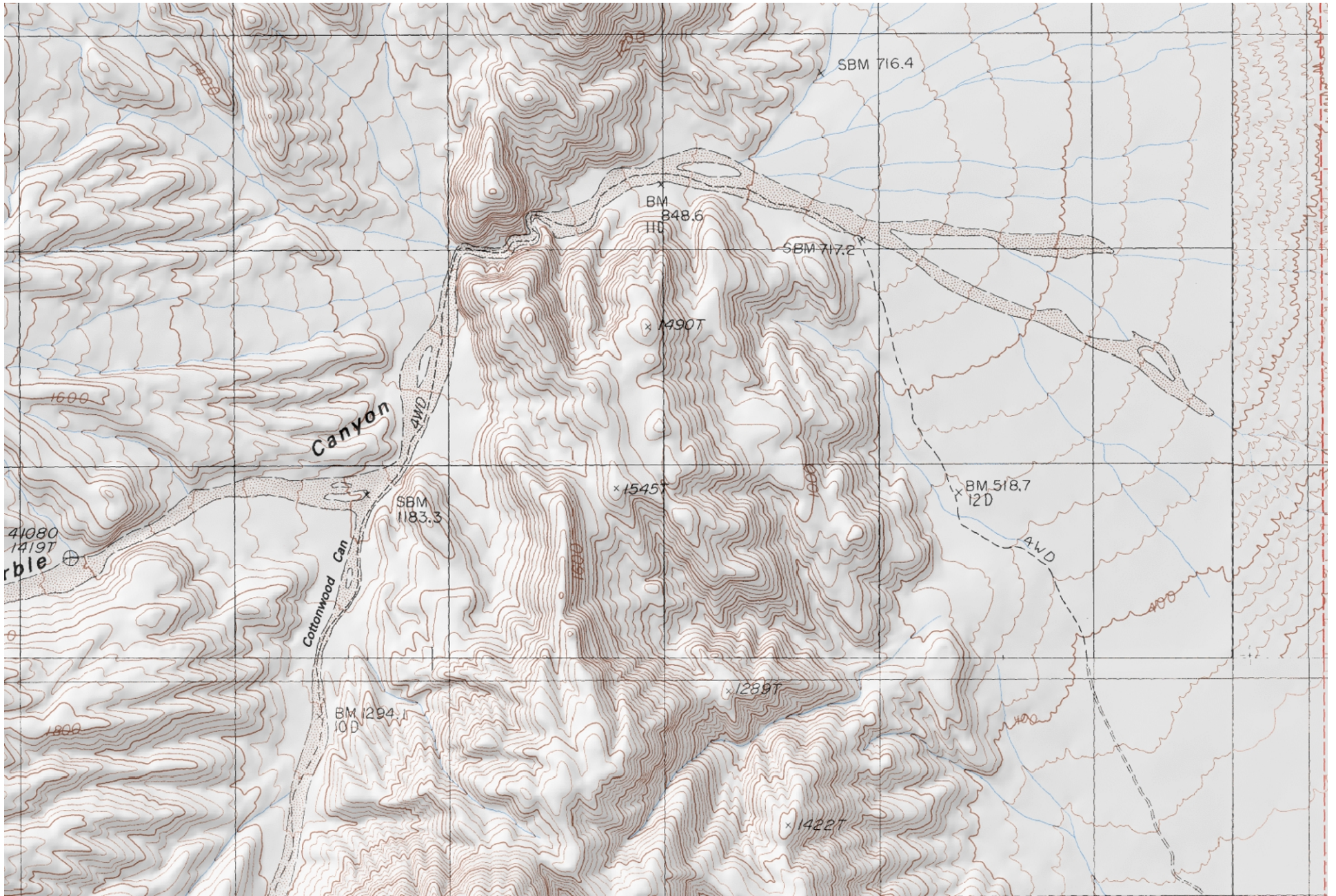
CLIMB: From the end of the road head W up a steep, loose chute for 50 feet to the beginning of an easy wash heading W toward the peak. Hike up this wash about 1.25 miles to the 3800 foot elevation level and then exit left (WSW) up a slope to an E-W running, dark rock ridge. Following this ridge generally W to a saddle at about the 5280 foot level, turn right (NNW) and climb 0.5 miles to the summit. As an option, continue up the wash to a fork near 4200 feet elevation. Bear left (SE) here up a side canyon to the saddle 0.5 miles S of the peak, where you'll join the other route and hike NNW to the summit. On the return to the vehicles drop E off the summit and follow a great sand slope back to the wash. You'll lose over 1000 feet of elevation in a matter of minutes on this fine descent route.

ROUND TRIP STATS: 3100 feet elevation gain, 5 miles, 3-4 hours

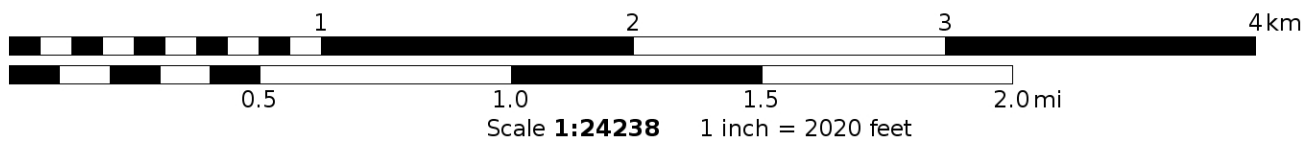
SIDELINES

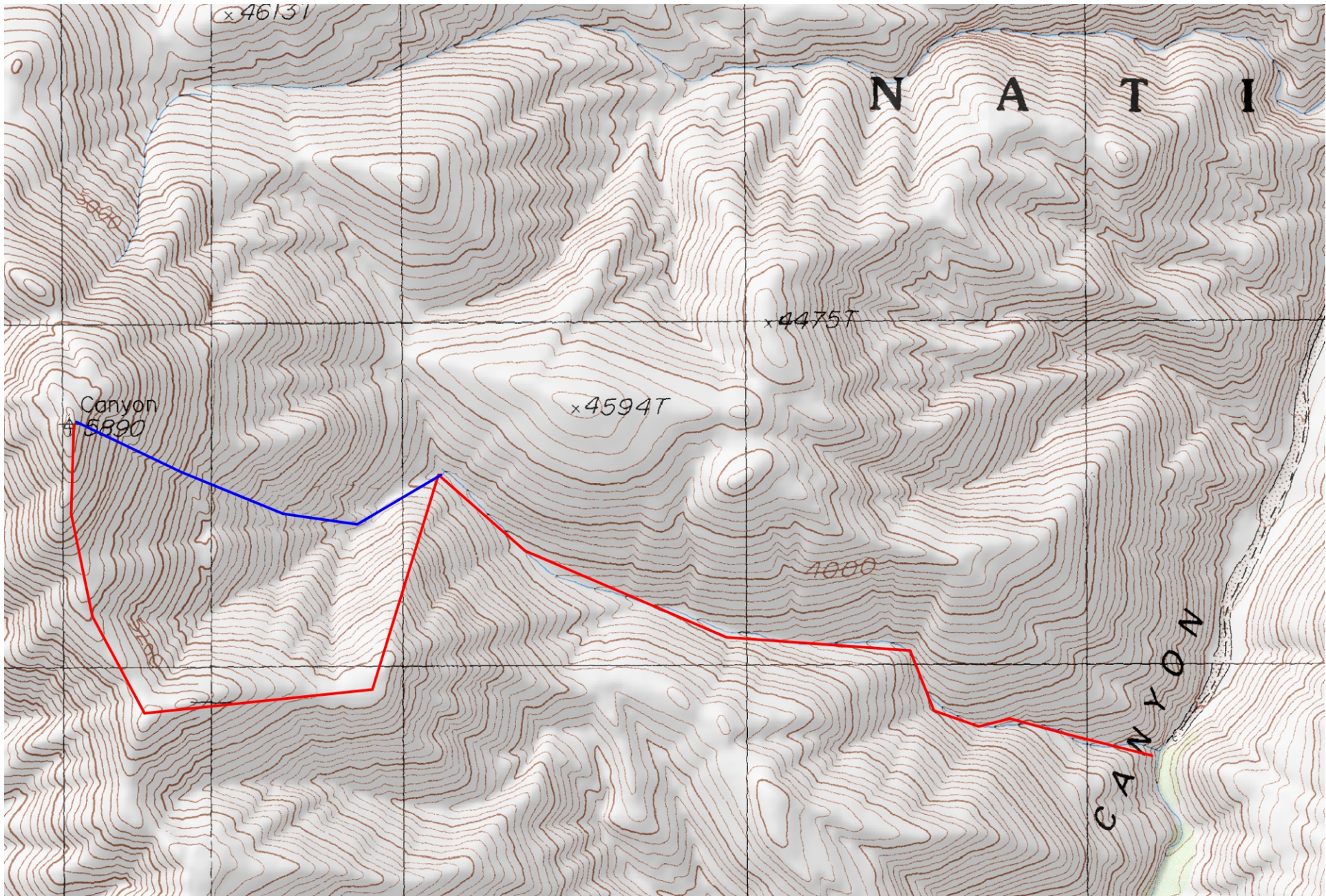
1. This peak is located within the boundary of Death Valley National Park.
2. If you have a 4WD vehicle, consider a side trip up Marble Canyon. Follow above DRIVE directions to the Marble Canyon turnoff. Drive W about 2.0 miles to where the canyon begins to narrow, then on to a very tight spot that will block wide vehicles from entry. Less than 0.5 miles beyond this point the canyon is blocked to all vehicular traffic by a huge boulder firmly wedged between the steep walls. Park. Hiking up the canyon, you'll soon be surrounded by sheer, water polished limestone walls that rise over 100 feet on either side. Explore the canyon walls for both historic and prehistoric petroglyphs, which abound in this narrow slot. One particularly interesting historic carving is "J.B. 1849" chipped into the S wall of the canyon. This is evidence that a splinter group of the 1849 Jayhawker Party found this escape route out of Death Valley. Records indicate that there was a man named Baker in that group. A good grouping of Indian petroglyphs can be found high on the N wall in an area of reddish rock.

Revised 7/21/17



Mercator Projection
WGS84
USNG Zone 11SMA
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