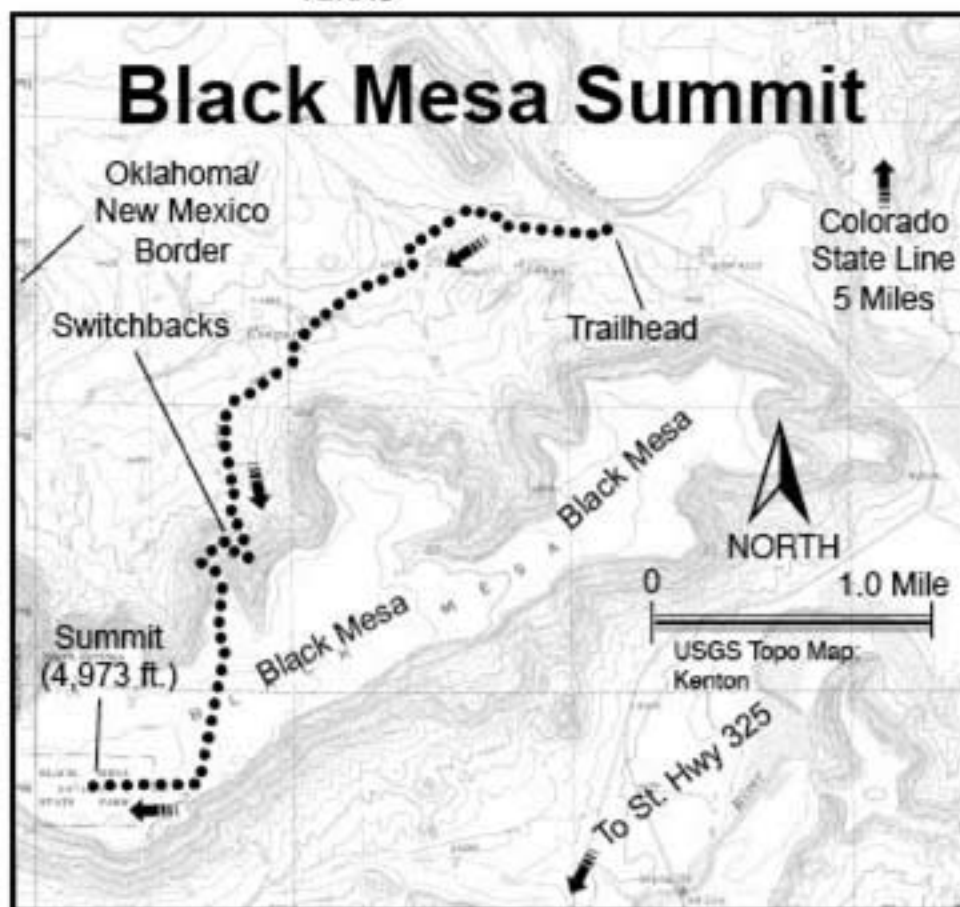
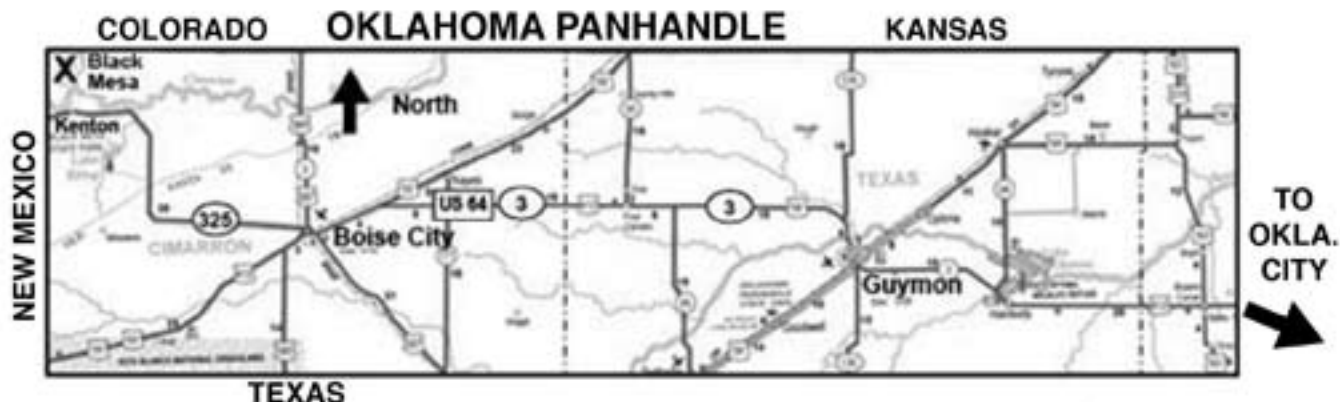


BLACK MESA, OKLAHOMA (Location and Trail Map)

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: From Boise City (in the extreme western end of the Oklahoma Panhandle) take State Hwy 325 west for about 18 miles and then north for another 10 miles, passing the entrance to the Black Mesa State Park. Stay on Hwy 325 as it bends sharply to the west toward Kenton. Just before reaching Kenton, turn right (north) at the sign directing visitors to the Black Mesa Summit. The road leads toward the mesa and around its eastern end. About five miles along this route turn left into the gravel parking lot for Black Mesa Nature Preserve and trailhead for Black Mesa Summit. **TRAILHEAD GPS READING: N 36° 57.633' W 102° 57.817'**



TRAIL LENGTH: 8.4 miles roundtrip
DIFFICULTY RATING: Moderately strenuous
SPECIAL NOTE: No water available and poisonous rattlesnakes and copperheads frequent this area from mid-spring through early fall.

TRAIL NARRATIVE: The well-marked trailhead has several signs with descriptive information on the summit trail and the area's flora and fauna. A rutted jeep trail proceeds west from the trailhead, with Black Mesa to the southwest. The trail stays relatively flat for the first couple of miles. As the trail meanders west-southwest, the small buttes to the north and the mesa to the south provide great views. After less than a mile you can see a railroad car in the distance to the west. The first trail marker soon comes into view: a green metal arrow pointing the way. The third trail marker informs hikers that the summit lies 2.6 miles ahead. The trail makes a sharp turn to the south at 2.2 miles from the

summit, and you can faintly see the trail ahead winding up a projection of Black Mesa. The footing becomes a bit sportier along this rocky stretch, followed by the 600-foot ascent along the switchbacks. The climbing gets steep as another trail marker announces the summit 1.8 miles ahead. While still ascending and a little more than a mile from the finish, you encounter a barbed-wire fence and overhead wire. This marks the end of the ascent and the start of the approximately one-mile panoramic walk atop Black Mesa to the summit marker. The trail proceeds generally to the south-southeast and then bends to the west. Several yellow signs guide the way. About a quarter-mile from the finish a granite obelisk comes into view, jutting up from the surrounding flat terrain. New Mexico lies a few hundred yards west of this marker, and a small mountain rises far on the western horizon. Less than five miles to the north, you can see rugged terrain and hills in southeast Colorado.