Hiko Spring Canyon

Hiko Spring Canyon is a scenic 3-mile long canyon that is easily accessible only a half mile on a dirt road off Nevada State Route 163. Hiko Spring is a natural spring and a hike through the canyon downstream takes you through some spectacular scenery and some ancient Native American petroglyphs. It is particularly beautiful in the spring with all the flowering yellow brittlebush adorning the canyon walls and hillsides and other wildflowers and flowering cactus.

Hiko Spring is located at the trailhead and there are a series of petroglyphs surrounding the spring. There are also petroglyphs at several locations in the canyon, the most prominent series located about a mile down the canyon. The petroglyphs here are pecked into vertical cliffs of granitic rock covered with a dark patina called desert varnish. Because the formation of desert varnish is a very slow process, it suggests that these etchings are quite old. There are also some historical etching, one from 1898.

You can see the power of the water that runs through this wash, with the way the rock has been carved and the amount of tangled up debris. In the spring there is running water through much of the canyon. At other times of the year, the water disappears underground.

While visiting, please respect the traditions of the people who still consider this area to be sacred to their lives and culture. Do not deface the petroglyphs. Even touching them can cause damage. Archeological artifacts and sites are protected in National Parks. It is illegal to remove or damage archeological materials. Disturbance of these resources destroys our heritage. Please do not climb on the rocks and panels. Look, observe, imagine. Be still and listen. Let the rocks speak. And if you are lucky, you might see an eagle or a desert bighorn sheep.
Warning: be sure to take plenty of drinking water. There is none available along the trail. Be prepared for summer temperatures that can be as high as 120 degrees F.

**Directions:** From Las Vegas, you head south on I-11 (U.S. 95 south) towards Boulder City. At the junction of I-11 and U.S.95, turn south on U.S 95 toward Searchlight and Laughlin. You then turn left (east) on Nevada Highway 163 (Laughlin Hwy). After driving 8 miles on Highway 163, there is a fairly open area on the right where a lot of people go four wheeling. About two miles beyond this area the road runs straight downhill. Just before the guard rails where the road makes a sharp left turn, there is an unmarked exit to the right that turns into a dirt road. Turn right and the Hiko Spring is about a half-mile where the road ends.