

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Old Sugarloaf

3,326'

Location: Santa Ana Mountains
Maps: Cleveland National Forest
Topo: Alberhill 7.5, Sitton Peak 7.5

Primary Route: 5.0 miles o/w, 1,200' loss/1,200' gain

Driving Instruction:

From the San Diego Freeway I-5 in San Juan Capistrano take the Ortega Highway Hwy. 74 exit and proceed north for 21.6 miles to just before reaching the El Cariso Ranger Station. Turn left onto a paved road signed 'Los Pinos Camp' and continue 1.8 miles to a T intersection. Keep right and continue another 0.8 miles on the dirt road to a turnaround and signed TH, park here. The paved road leads to the Blue Jay Campground, just around the corner. If the lot is full, park on the road, not in the campground! Note: The TH (3,400') is higher than the peak.

Hiking Instructions:

See hiking instructions for Sugarloaf.

From the bikers meeting point on there is only one trail. Take it downhill for about ½ mile. Look for a duck on your right and a use trail when you pass a rather flat stretch of the trail, just before the trail turns sharply to the South. The use trail leads north through the brush, up a slope between two gullies. Keep to the right side on the edge of the gully and follow the steep trail to the peak. There is a short class 2 climb just below the summit. Return the way you came, or take the other San Juan trail. Remember, there is a 1,200' gain on the return.

Alternate Route: 5 miles o/w, 2400' gain

Driving Instruction:

As above, but after 12 miles on the Ortega Hwy turn left at the San Juan Fire Station. Drive about ¾ mile on a dirt road to the trailhead.

Hiking Instructions:

Proceed up the San Juan Trail for 5.5 miles. The trail goes past the East base of the peak and at the point where the trail turns sharply to the East, take the use trail to the left (see above). Go back the same way, or continue uphill to the Blue Jay Trailhead as described above (car shuttle required).

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. No water on trail, but sometimes available in the Blue Jay Campground. Do NOT park in the campground! Usually the two Sugarloafs are climbed together. There are good views from the summit. The trails are popular with mountain bikers. Old Sugarloaf 3,326' is the higher peak, but on the USGS Topo Sugarloaf 3,227' is marked as the official peak.

Nearby-Peaks: 'New' Sugarloaf 3227'

Write-up: Jack Adsit and Bob Wheatley 1987, rev. 2004