

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Verdugo Mountain

3,126'

Location: Verdugo Mountains, L.A. County N of Burbank
Maps: AAA Los Angeles and Vicinity
Topo: Sunland 7.5, La Crescenta 7.5

Primary Route: 5 miles o/w, 1,700' gain

Driving Instruction:

In La Canada, exit I-210 at La Tuna Canyon Road. Drive 1.4 m to the second Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy sign on the left (South) side of the road. This is the trailhead and can be identified by the trail first dipping into the canyon then ascending through several switchbacks, one with a small wooden cribbing protection.

Hiking Instructions:

Follow the trail, which climbs over a low ridge then descends into the next canyon culminating in a steep rise to the Horny Toad Ridge. In about 2½ miles from the start the trail ends at the Backbone Fire Road. Turn left (East) and follow the road for 1½ miles to the Fire Wardens Grove, a splendid pine and juniper forest started about 60 years ago. Near the entrance to the grove a spur road leads up to the right to the West Peak with its Forest Communication tower. Three more electronic peaks farther to the East by road or ridge travel is the highest point (the 'bicycle peak'), although all 4 peaks vary only within a few feet in elevation. The register can is kept on the next bare bump without any towers, ¼ miles East of the 'bicycle peak'. Return the same way, or choose an alternate route (car shuttle required).

Alternate Route: 4 miles o/w, 1,400' gain

Driving Instruction:

After exiting I-210 at La Tuna Canyon Road, park immediately on the large parking lot on the left side, next to the Freeway.

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking on the paved road past the locked gate, soon the pavement ends. Continue uphill until you reach the Main Backbone Fireroad. Turn left (South). The peak with the fenced-in towers is the 'Bicycle Peak', the Lower Peaks Register is on a peak 1/8 mi to the south. Return the same way, or on the trail (see above), a 9 m RT, car shuttle required.

More Alternate Routes:

The peak can be reached by starting behind the Brand Library in Glendale.

In addition, one can park at the end of Wildwood Park in Glendale, start at a trail sign to water towers, then ascend the very steep ridge to the main Fire Road and then hike to the summit.

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. Good views!

The trail was recently constructed to high standards by the L.A. Conservation Corps and funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Work was performed under the direction of Ron Webster.

Write-up: Bob Wheatley 1989, rev. 2004