

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Iron Mountain

2,696'

Location: South-East of Escondido, San Diego County
Maps: AAA San Diego County Map
Topo: San Vicente Reservoir 7.5

Primary Route: 3 miles o/w, 1,000' gain

Driving Instruction:

Take I-15 to Escondido (64 mi past Corona). Exit on Rancho Bernardo Road past Escondido to the left and drive east, then south 6.7 mi on County Road S5, now Espola Road, to the T-junction with S4, Poway Road. Turn left (East) here for 2.6 mi, where you meet Hwy 67. Turn right. The trailhead is immediately on the left side of the road with roadside parking. There is heavy traffic on this road, take care turning around. Alternately, take I-5 past Oceanside, then Fwy. 78 to Escondido and I-15. Turn South on I-15 and follow above directions.

Hiking Instructions:

The trailhead here is signed. Start hiking on the road which later turns into a trail. Stay in a straight eastern direction with very little gain. A connector trail to the left leads to the Ellie Lane Trailhead, stay on the main trail. Later the trail starts to climb and after 1.5 miles reaches a crossing and a large sign: Iron Mountain 1.5 miles. Turn right and climb the well graded signed trail through chaparral to the peak. The peak has a Picnic Table, a telescope and a mailbox for a register. Enjoy the views and return the way you came.

Alternate Route: 4.5 miles o/w, 1,300' gain / 500' loss

Driving Instruction:

Same as above, but when you reach Hwy 67, turn left and continue 0.7 mi to Ellie Lane, right side, and park in the fenced staging area just east of the Highway. The hike starts at the sign.

Hiking Instruction:

Follow the trail sign. Stay left at a crossing, the right trail is a connector trail to the Primary Route trail. The trail climbs, sometimes steeply, through chaparral. You pass a shady wooden Picnic table, followed by an interesting rock formation named Table Rock. Now the trail zig zags up and down several ridges and creeks and climbs to a saddle. From here you descend to a signed crossing to Ramona Overlook to the East, a good view spot. The main trail continues South and reaches the large sign: Iron Mountain 1.5 mi where the first trail turns East (right) to the Highway. Keep straight ahead and climb the well graded signed trail through chaparral to the peak. Return the same way, or, from the large sign, take the left trail to the Highway, then the connector trail back to Ellie Lane Parking.

Notes:

No water available. Iron Mountain is the second highest peak in Poway and on the San Diego Peaks List. This trail is a long wilderness trail in the city of Poway and was constructed in 1991. In 1995 and again 2003 fires burned the peak and the surrounding area. The terrain is spotted with large boulders, and during spring there are fantastic wildflowers displays. On clear days one can see Coronado and Catalina from the summit as well as San Vicente Reservoir and Mt. Woodson. A side trail to the left, north-east, 1 mi from the Highway trailhead, leads 200' up to small iron mine.

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Woodson Mountain and Iron Mountain are often combined.

Near-by Peaks:

Woodson Mountain

References:

Jetty Schad: Afoot and Afield in San Diego County

Write-up: Gabriele Rau, rev. 2003