

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Woodson Mountain

2,894'

Location: South-East of Escondido
Maps: AAA San Diego County
Topo: San Pasqual 7.5

Primary Route: 4 miles o/w, 2,000' gain

Driving Instruction:

Take I-15 to Escondido (64 mi past Corona). Exit on Rancho Bernardo Road/S5. Turn left (East) for 4 miles to Poway. In Poway the road, now named Espola Rd (S5), turns south; continue to the Lake Poway Road on the left. Turn here, and drive to the Lake Poway Recreation area. Entrance fee. The hike starts at the Picnic Area at the far end. 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:

Start at the signed trailhead on the Mt. Woodson Trail. The trail skirts Lake Poway, crosses a small canyon and after 0.8 miles you come to a trail junction. Turn right (East) on the signed Mt. Woodson Trail, climbing through Chaparral. At 1.8 miles a sign to the left points to the 'Fry Koegel Trail, Peak'. This trail crookedly ascend the southern flank of the peak, it is steep, rather poor and hot. Stay right and continue to the ridge. From here on stay on the ridge in an easterly direction, ignore several trails to the left (North). At one point you pass a big sign 'Mt. Woodson'. After passing a false summit, continue to the towers. After the last steep pitch an old road is reached which turns into the asphalt service road. Continue for 0.2 miles to the highest point: East of the towers is a large rock with an old cubical water tank. The register is located below. On clear days you'll see the ocean and the islands. Don't miss to take a look at the Diving Board Rock! Either return the way you came, or follow the paved road to Highway 67 (see alternate route). Car shuttle required.

Alternate Route: 1.8 miles o/w, 1,200' gain

Driving Instruction

Continue driving past the turnoff to Lake Poway on S5 to the T-junction with the Poway Road, S4. Turn left and drive to Hwy 67, turn left again for 3 miles and park on the side of the road near the fire station. Be careful crossing the busy road.

Hiking Instruction

Follow the footpath south past the fire station where it meets the paved service road. Continue on the paved road to the peak. You pass some impressive rock formations, but otherwise this well traveled path is just an access road, the West approach makes for much more interesting hiking.

Notes:

On the rugged, boulder-strewn slopes you can view fantastic rock formations. This is a prime spot for bouldering practice and many days you can see or hear climbers. The light colored rock is 'granodiorite' and has smooth surfaces, often forming chimneys. The peak was partially burnt in the 2003 Cedar Fire.

References: Jerry Schad, Afoot and Afield in San Diego County

Write-up: Erik Siering, Gabriele Rau 2001