

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Valencia Peak

1,345'

Location: San Luis Obispo County, Montana de Oro State Park  
Maps: State Park Brochure  
Topo: Morro Bay South 7.5

**Primary Route:** 2 miles o/w, 1,300' gain,

#### **Driving Instruction:**

Exit Highway 101, shortly before getting to San Luis Obispo, on Los Osos Road, drive 12 miles NW, turning S on Pechos Road which leads to Montana de Oro State Park. Drive 2.7 miles past the entrance sign and park just beyond headquarters.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

The signed trail starts in a southward direction just across the road and turns uphill in a few hundred yards. In half a mile the trail bears left and heads directly toward the peak. At a level stretch about  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles from the start take the left fork which switchbacks up the ridge, follows the ridge and then climbs again to the summit. Easy rule: Just keep going up – the peak stands by itself.

Return the way you came, or take one of the alternate trails recommended in the Park brochure.

#### **Notes:**

Water is available at the campground near trailhead.

Valencia Peak was selected not only for its sweeping panoramic ocean vista, but also because it is an excellent example of a morro, one of the many cone shaped mountains in the Central Coast Range. Valencia Peak is, geologically speaking, a young mountain, having risen from the sea five million years ago. There are many exposed marine terraces where clam-bored rocks and fossil shells can be found.

Suggested reading: "California Coastal Trails", Vol. I, by John McKinney, Capra Press, Santa Barbara 1983

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