

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Simi Peak

2,403'

Location: Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills
Maps: AAA Los Angeles & Orange Counties
Topo: Thousand Oaks 7.5

Primary Route: 3.0 miles o/w, 1,200' gain

Driving Instruction:

In Agoura Hills, exit the Ventura Freeway 101 on Lindero Canyon Road. Drive North for 4 miles. Look for the signed trail head on the left side of the road, turn around and park in one of the side streets, Wembly Ave. or King James Court. There are two trailheads, both signed 'China Flat Trail': One at Lindero Canyon Road between Wembly Ave. and King James Court, the other one at the end of King James Court. You can also reach the trailhead by parking in Eagle View Park and hiking the bike trail for ½ miles.

Hiking Instructions:

Starting at the end of King James Court TH at a turnaround, walk through a closed but not locked gate and continue on an old road which soon deteriorates to a rocky trail.

(Starting at Lindero Canyon Road TH, take the trail which soon turns left. Follow this trail to a junction on the right, walk a short distance downhill and meet the road coming up from King James Court. Here you turn right. The route up to here is longer than the King James Court TH route.)

The road/trail turns east (Simi Peak is just above you). After about 1 1/2 uphill miles the trail is blocked by an old broken gate and huge rocks, and right away another metal gate. Just walk around both gates. Continue on the trail (East) past a trail sign 'China Flat Trail, Palo Comado Cyn Tr. 1.4 m), pass two minor trails to the right and left. Now the trail turns left (North), drops into beautiful oak woodland. Continue to a sign indicating 'China Flat Trail left (North) and straight (East). Turn left, cross a creek bed and after a few steps meet another road. Take this road to the left, generally leading in a westerly direction. You just circled around peak 2,187'. Continue on this road/trail. On a small saddle a trail branches right (North), stay on the main trail to the West. Generally the trail parallels the Albertson Motorway one can see in the distance. The trail soon turns South and you reach the summit. There is a small solar antenna on the summit. Enjoy the views. Return the way you came; be careful not to miss the small connector trail passing the creek bed.

Alternate Routes:

China Flat also can be reached via Cheeseboro Canyon and Palo Comado Canyon, both are longer hikes. One can also climb the ridge to the summit. There are many small use and animal trails, but it is a rocky and brushy x-country route.

Notes:

The area lies in the National Park Service's Cheeseboro Canyon Site. Simi Peak is the highest point in the Simi Hills.

References: John McKinney, LA Times

Milt McAuley, Hiking Trails in the Santa Monicas Mountains, 5th Edition

Write-up: Erik Siering 2001

Re-write: Gabriele Rau 2002, rev. 2004