

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Eagle Peak

3,226'

Location: Near Julian

Maps: AAA San Diego County, Cleveland National Forest (CNF)

Topo: Tule Springs 7.5

Primary Route: 2.5 m, 450' loss/ 750' gain one way; 2.5 hrs round trip

Driving Instruction:

- From I-15 south in Temecula take Hwy. 79 to Aguanga, Warner Springs, then Santa Ysabel.
- Here turn left on Hwy 78 to Julian. After driving 6 miles turn right on Pine Hills Road.
- At 1.5 miles turn right on Eagle Peak Road and at 3.0 miles bear left on Boulder Creek Road and continue 3 miles to the Pine Hills Fire Station.
- Here the pavements ends, but a good dirt road continues. After 5 more miles (milepost 13) the road makes a sharp hairpin turn, at the corner is a Forest TH sign. Park here at elevation 2930'.

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking on the old road leading west, past the locked gate. An ORV road leads downhill on the right, do not take it. The road descends slightly and after ½ mile a side trail to the left leads 2 miles and 1,000' loss downhill to the Three Sisters Waterfalls. Continue west on the old road which soon deteriorates to a trail, now uphill then descending into a shady canyon. After a mile+ you can see a ridge on the left and a small use trail leading south-west, just before reaching a ranch pond. Leave the main trail here and climb up to the ridge. Then follow a use trail on the ridge, generally west, over several false peaks to the final real summit, which has an USGS marker and a register. The south of the ridge drops sharply and has stunning views. The ridge is brushy and rocky.

Alternative Routes:

The trailhead can also be reached from I-8. Drive north on SR 79, then left on River road to downtown Descanso. Drive up Vieja Grade then an immediate right onto Oak Grove Drive. Continue to Boulder Creek Road and drive 13 miles to the trailhead described in primary route driving instruction.

Notes:

During spring the area has a fantastic display of wildflowers. There is little shade, except in the canyon. The CNF requires an Adventure Pass. The area will be closed from Dec 1 to May 30 annually for species protection. Check with CNF at (858) 673-6180 for conditions before the hike.

Jerry Schad: Afoot and Afield in San Diego County

Write-up: Gabriele Rau 2003, Edited by George Wysup, Dec 2004,