

# USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

## Bishop Peak

1,559'

Location: City of San Luis Obispo

Maps: <http://www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/download/rangers/bpmap.pdf> (aerial map)

Topo: San Luis Obispo 7½

**Primary Route:** 1.6 miles, 1000' gain one way

### Driving Instruction:

From Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo, exit Santa Rosa St. (Highway 1).

Follow the signs that say Morro Bay and Hearst Castle.

Go north on Santa Rosa approximately 1.5 miles to Highland Dr.

Turn west on Highland Drive, then right on Patricia Drive and drive 0.5 miles to signed trail on left.

### Hiking Instructions:

The trailhead marks the entrance to the Bishop Peak Natural Reserve. Proceed up the trail to the signed Felsman Loop sign on your left before a paved road that leads to a water tank. The trail takes some broad switchbacks up through some trees where it levels off at a junction where you meet the Ferrini trail coming from the left. Turn right and stay on the wide path until you approach a fence that goes straight up. Stay to the left of the fence and go up to the right of a water tank. The trail leads into pleasant oak woodland where you can turn right to access the climber's route or continue up to the peak. The trail curves around and then switchbacks up the southeast side of the peak. The top consists of three distinct rock piles. There is a bench and a memorial at the top. The eastern side of the peak has nice views of the city below. Do not attempt to climb to the actual high point. Take in the coastal panorama and return the way you came up.

**Alternative Route:** 1.1 miles o/w, 900' gain

### Driving Instruction:

Same as above but instead of turning onto Patricia continue on Highland until it becomes Brittany. Go to end and begin the hike at the trailhead by the end of the road.

### Hiking Instructions:

Enter the Ferrini Ranch Open Space and follow the trail through oak woodland that meets up with the Patricia Drive trail where it levels off. Continue up the trail using the above directions from the junction.

**Of note:** Word has it the peak was named by the padres of Mission SLO for its resemblance to a bishop's miter. Its quarries were the source of rock for foundations, curbing and buildings in SLO. As you switchback up the peak you will find rocks that bear marks of past quarry work.

There are 21 major and minor peaks in the Morros. Morro Rock is the most famous. Bishop is the tallest of the Nine Sisters. The Nine Sisters are the major peaks and are in a very rare alignment. They were formed from the plugs of long-extinct volcanoes (20 million years ago).

**Near-by Peaks:** Valencia Peak, Cerro Alto

Original: Dana Hunter 2007

References: Sunset Magazine, January 2000; National Geographic Adventure, March 2007.