

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Cachuma Mountain

4,696'

Location: Los Padres National Forest – Santa Maria District
Maps: Los Padres National Forest Map
Topo: Figueroa Mtn. 7.5

Primary Route: 2.5 miles o/w, 1,600' gain

Driving Instruction:

From Santa Barbara proceed on Hwy. 154 over San Marcos Pass, turning right on first “Y” after passing Lake Cachuma onto Armour Ranch Road. In 1.3 miles another right turn onto Happy Canyon Road. Happy Canyon Road is paved except for 3 miles. Travel 12.9 miles to Cachuma Campground (no water), continue 2.2 miles to signed Cachuma Saddle. Ample parking (3100').

Hiking Instructions:

The route starts on a dirt road going east from Cachuma Saddle. Proceed on this road approximately 2 1/4 miles to a saddle NW of mountain (4,100'). Route is obvious up the fire break on NW slope, 1/4 mile and 600' gain. The fire break is a gentle brushy slope; half-way up it becomes steep and rocky, with poison oak and brush.

Notes:

View from top is spectacular as the mountain falls off sharply on West. In the North is a good view of San Rafael Mountain range with its up-tilted projections. USGS marker. This peak could be coupled with the Hundred Peaks List to climb the Big 3's (McKinley, San Rafael and Santa Cruz Mountains). It can also be combined with Gaviota on the Lower Peaks List in the coastal area.

Adventure Pass required.

Sometimes Happy Canyon Road is closed by a slide. In this case continue farther W on Hwy. 154 to the town of Los Olivos: go N on Figueroa Road, which joins Happy Canyon Road at Cachuma Saddle. Call for conditions: Santa Lucia District (805) 925-9538

Original: Jack Trager 1986

Rewrite: Jean Hermansen 1996