

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Exchange Peak

2,960'

Location: Santa Monica Mountains, Ventura County adjoining Mugu State Park
Maps: Harrison - Trail Map of the Santa Monica Mountains Western Section
Topo: Trifuno Pass 7.5

Primary Route: 2.5 miles o/w, 1,250' gain

Driving Instruction:

From Pacific Coast Highway, just past the Ventura County Line, take the Yerba Buena Road to your right 6 miles to Circle X Ranch Ranger Station. Continue about 1 mile further to the signed 'Backbone Parking' lot on your left. Elevation 2,030'. No fee.

Hiking Instructions:

See hiking instructions to Sandstone Peak, then Boney Peak. After passing Boney Peak continue on the road, past the signed Inspiration Point. Total mileage to this point is 2 miles with 1100' gain. Continue West on the road to 2 large water tanks on the left side of the road. Take the left road; leave the tanks to your right, the road turns into a trail leading South to Exchange Peak. The trail is partly overgrown, but easy to find. ¼ m and 150' gain takes you to the open summit. The register is on the farthest peak to the South.

Either return the same way to the parking lot, or continue on the Boney Mountain Road to the West to the signed trail Junction with the Misha Mokwa trail to the right. Take this trail and hike back (East) past Split Rock to shortly before the Misha Mokwa Trailhead, where a connecting trail brings you back to the original Backbone Trail and the trailhead. This makes a 7.5 mile RT hike.

Notes:

See additional comments on Sandstone Peak.

Near-by Peaks: Sandstone Peak, Inspiration Point, Boney Peak, Tri Peaks, Big Dome

Write-up: Louis Quirarte 1987, Rewrite: Jean Hermansen 1996, rev. 2004