

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Cerro Alto

2,624'

Location: Los Padres National Forest  
Maps: Los Padres National Forest  
Topo: Atascadero Quadrangle 7.5  
Latitude 35.4195 degrees, Longitude -120.7359 degrees

**Primary Route:** 2.7 miles, 1600' gain one way

From Highway 1 in Morro Bay, exit on Highway 41(North) and continue for 7 miles to Cerro Alto Campground, drive 0.9 more miles to the end of the campground on the East fork of Morro Creek. Park in the day use area near the turn around.

#### Hiking Instructions:

This trail is well maintained with lots of signage and many other paths throughout the area. But begin hike at the marked Cerro Alto Trail 12E01 sign on the East side of the parking lot. This portion of the Trail is called the AT & T Trail. Hike through the oak canyon with lots of poison oak. After a steady climb out of the canyon you will meet the Ridge road (1440'), about 1 mile from the campground, turn right and continue uphill for approx. 1/2 mile until you come to another marked sign to the left for the summit 1.2 miles. About 0.3 miles up make a sharp left up the hill. You will see a small shack down below with several trails nearby. At the next ridge turn left and take the trail on the west side of the peak that winds around to the small rocky summit mound.

**Alternative Route:** 2.2 miles o/w, 1624' gain

#### Driving Instruction:

Same as above

#### Hiking Instructions:

Begin hike between campsites 15 and 16 at the 10 mph speed limit sign. This is called the Bridge Trail. You can see the small footbridge from the trailhead. Continue up this steeper route to the junction of the Ridge road and turn left. Continue approximately 100 yards up the trail and turn right at the marked trail to the summit.

**Recommended route:** Go up the AT & T Trail and come down the Bridge Trail-nice loop hike.

**Notes:** The peak is best hiked in the spring during wildflower season. The peak was the former site of a Lookout. Along the trail above the canyon are spectacular views of the coastline, Morro Rock and Valencia Peak. The peak offers 360 degree views from the ocean to the San Luis Obispo and Atascadero Valley and points in between. Adventure Pass required.

**Near-by Peaks:** Valencia Peak.

Original: Dana Hunter 2004

References: Sunset Magazine, March 1996. Los Padres National Forest Web Site  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/trails/slrd.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/trails/slrd.html)