

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Mt. Bliss

3,720'

Location: Los Angeles National Forest, north of Azusa  
Maps: AAA Los Angeles County  
Topo: Azusa 7.5

**Primary Route:** 5.0 miles, 3,000' gain one way

#### **Driving Instruction:**

Exit I-210 in Duarte on Mt. Olive Drive, drive North, turn right on Royal Oak Drive, left on Melcanyon Road, right on Opal Canyon to Brookridge. Park here.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

Walk up the asphalt lane on Brookridge close to Opal Canyon, marked by a mailbox, past a house and a locked gate. Follow the road to the water storage tank; then take the left short (approx. 200 yards) but rather steep and eroded trail to the Van Tassel Fire Road 1N36. Turn left. Hike up the road, pass another locked gate, passing under power lines, 4.5 miles to just about the road summit, elevation 3,600', where the power lines cross again. Make a sharp turn right up a short service road (the main road continues left to White Saddle), turn left on an obvious use trail at the ridge top and follow the trail under three power towers, down into a shallow saddle, and up the peak, marked by a metal post.

The Van Tassel Fire Road 1N36 starts past the stables near the San Gabriel River just follow Brookside road. To avoid private property, the hike can start here.

**Alternate Route:** 4 miles, 1400' loss/500' gain one way

#### **Driving Instruction:**

From I-210 take Hwy 39 exit in Azusa and drive Hwy. 39 north to the OHV area, 12 miles. Stop and get the permit for the Rincon-Shortcut Road 2N24 (the day before call Glendora Ranger Station (626) 335-1251 or OHV (626) 910-1151 if road is open and how to get the free permit and lock combination number. The OHV is not open every day!) 2N24 is on the left side shortly after the OHV station. Drive about 10 miles on this 2N24 to a gated side road 2N30 on the left, marked 'Upper Clamshell Truck Trail' on the topo. 2N24 takes a 90' right turn here, a large barren area for parking is straight ahead. 2N30 turns to the left. Park here.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

Start hiking on 2N30 past the locked gate. The road drops steadily and after 3 miles you reach White Saddle. Turn left here, on 1N36 (2N30 goes down to Monrovia Canyon Park), now uphill for another mile. Keep right at a side road. Just after passing the crest of the road and power tower SCE 522, turn left up a brushy slope to the open ridge, turn left again to the summit, or continue to the service road on your left (see above) and hike the short distance on the ridge to the peak. Remember, there is a 1,400' gain on the return.

#### **Notes:**

Adventure Pass required. No water on trip. There is no shade on the fire road.

The views are excellent on clear days: L.A., Catalina, Sawpit Canyon, the Van Tassel Ridge, Mt. Wilson, and Mount Baldy.

**Near-by Peaks:** Silver Mtn, Pine Mtn, Clamshell Peak, Newcomb Peak

Write-up: Lori Raubiere and Bob Wheatley 1986, rev. 2004