

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

McAuley Peak

2,049'

Location: Santa Monica Mountains
Maps: Tom Harrison: Trail Map of the Santa Monica Mountains Central
Topo: Malibu Beach 7.5
UTM: 341029mE 3771499mN

Primary Route: 3 miles, 1550' gain one way

Driving Instruction:

Exit 101 Fwy at Las Virgenes Road. Go south about 3¼ miles past Mulholland Dr., where it becomes Malibu Canyon Road. Proceed about 2 more miles just past light at Piuma Road and park in Malibu State Park hikers' lot. Pay fee and place permit on dashboard. UTM 342846mE 3772256mN

Hiking Instructions:

Hike up the Backbone Trail (west). After about 2/3 of a mile the trail joins a road coming from the north, the Mesa Peak Motorway (be careful to rejoin the trail on the way back). Continue up the Mesa Peak Motorway to where it meets the Puerco Fire Road just before the ridge. Take the right fork (west) and continue past a bump on the left until you rejoin the ridge. You will see McAuley Peak, a sandstone bump to the right (north) of the road. Just before reaching the peak, the road dips down. Leave the road and follow a well-worn use trail to the peak. The class 3 summit block is optional. Return the way you came.

Alternate Route: 2.5 miles, 655' total gain one way (500' gain on return)

Driving Instruction Alternate Route::

Take Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu to Corral Canyon Road. Follow the road to the end to the trailhead for the Backbone Trail (about 5 miles). Park there.

Hiking Instructions

Take the Backbone Trail right (east) about 2½ miles to the point mentioned in the primary route where you leave the road, which from this direction is just past the peak. Follow the use trail to the peak. The class 3 summit block is optional. Return the way you came.

Notes:

The area around the peak is part of Malibu Creek State Park.

Near-by Peaks: Saddle Peak East

Original: Coby King, 2009