

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Sandstone Sextet

3,111'

Sandstone, Boney, Inspiration, Exchange, Tri Peaks, Big Dome

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

Primary Route: 9 miles round trip, 2500' gain

Driving Instruction:

From Pacific Coast Highway, just past the Ventura County Line, take the Yerba Buena Road to your right 5 miles to Circle X Ranch Ranger Station. Continue 1 m further to the signed 'Sandstone Parking' lot on your left. Elevation 2,030'. No fee.

Hiking Instructions:

These peaks can be done in one day by hikers in decent shape. Fog makes navigation difficult. Start at the gate, hiking uphill on Boney Mountain Road to Sandstone. After about 1.3 miles, the road crests, and there is a well defined path with steps going up to the top of the peak on your left. Return and continue southwest about 1/2 mile on the road, losing 100' to a saddle at elevation 2725'.

Boney is next, 1/2 mile on your left. A use trail to the peak starts 10-20 feet before a wooden post with a sign that reads 'Trail Closed'. Follow this trail to your left to the summit block past the first large rocks. Stay on the left side of a large square rock. The register is below the summit block on the north side. Retrace your path back around the large square rock.

1/10 mile further along the road is Inspiration Point, a short, signed trail.

For Exchange, proceed along the road to two large water tanks on the left; take the road to your left, leaving the tanks at your right, hike up a use trail going around the right side of a big rock to the summit in about 1/4 mile and 150' gain. The register is on the flat summit.

Return to the road; continue 1/4 mile to a signed junction. Here a trail sign points to Tri Peaks to your left (north-west), the trail to the right (north-east) is the Misha Mowka Trail, leading back to the highway. This crossing is called 'Backcountry' on some maps. Follow the sign to Tri Peaks. Take the second trail to the left (the first one is the Backbone trail) to Tri Peaks, 0.4 miles and 325' gain to the summit. The trail goes downhill and then uphill to a saddle at 2,900'. Go north up a rocky ridge. Near the summit the trail turns east to the summit block on the south slope. The register is at the base of the summit boulders.

Now Big Dome: descend about 10 steps back to a small use trail that branches off to the left. Stay close to the rocks. At one spot you have to crawl underneath some rocks. After a saddle the use trail continues for 1/4 mile to Big Dome, a small easily walked-onto dome. The register is at the summit.

Return the way you came over Tri Peaks and down to the Boney Mountain Road to the Backcountry crossing. There you have a choice of going back the way you came or taking the Mishe Mokwa Trail past Split Rock and Balanced Rock, 2.8 miles. There is a connector trail (0.5 miles) to the original Backbone trail and the parking lot.

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