

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Potato Mountain

3,422'

Location: 4 airline miles N of Claremont, bearing 20° true  
Maps: Angeles National Forest  
Topo: Mt. Baldy, 7.5

**Primary Route:** 2.5 miles, 1,200' gain

#### **Driving Instructions:**

In Claremont, exit the I-10 on Indian Hill Blvd., turn North for 1.5 miles, then turn right on Foothill Blvd. for ¾ miles, turn left on Mills Ave. Continue on Mills for 2 1/2 miles to the Stop Sign on Mt. Baldy Road. Turn right on Mt. Baldy Road and continue for about 3 miles to just past the dam for the reservoir to the East. Park on the left (West) side in the small parking area with a locked gate.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

Walk around the locked gate (see note below) following the road downhill a few yards, then up through Evey Canyon which presents a magnificent stroll through a dense oak forest and along a year-round stream. In about 1.5 miles a saddle is reached. Double back on the road to the East which reaches the peak in 1 mile. A large water tank is located on the summit.

**Alternate Route:** 4.5 miles, 2,000' gain

#### **Driving Instruction:**

See above Driving Instructions. At the intersection at the Stop Sign on Mt. Baldy Road, park in the large paved parking lot for the Claremont Wilderness Park located at the NE corner. Or, continue a short distance to a fenced parking area on your left, which is usually crowded. The road ends here.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

Walk north on the road to the entrance on the left (West) side to the Claremont Wilderness Park. Walk through the gate and follow the road (road popular with mountain bikers) through shady Cobal Canyon, the only shade on this hike. Stay right at any side roads. After 2 miles there is a Y-fork and a small water tank on the right side. Take the right road again and continue uphill. At the next intersection stay left, the right road leads to private property. Continue through open Chaparral until the road slightly dips. Either climb the firebreak straight ahead or take the uphill road to the left to the peak. A large water tank is located on the summit.

#### **Notes:**

Special permission for the Primary Route must be obtained from the landowner, Claremont Colleges. Call (909) 621-8000 ext. 2950 and receive a permit by mail. Adventure Pass required for parking. Watch it! A good deal of the spring and summer greenery in the canyon is poison oak! The mountain probably derived its rather comical name from its resemblance to a giant baked potato. An earlier Route via Padua Hills Theater (now torn down) leads through private property. Potato Mountain was burnt in the 2003 Padua Fire.

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**Near-by Peaks:** Stoddard Peak, Frankish Peak

**References:** John McKinney, Walk Los Angeles: Adventures on the Urban Fringe  
Original: Bob Wheatley 1988, rev. 2004