

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Mugu Peak

1,266'

Location: Santa Monica Mountains, Ventura County, in Point Mugu State Park
Maps: Harrison - Trail Map of the Santa Monica Mountains Western Section
Topo: Point Mugu 7.5

Primary Route: 3 miles o/w, 1,266' gain

Driving Instruction:

Drive west on Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1), 7 miles past the County line (near Leo Carillo State Beach). Do not park at the main entrance in Sycamore Canyon, continue for 1 ½ miles past the "Great Sand Dune" and turn right at the signed La Jolla parking area. This is also called Ray Miller Trailhead. Fee. Ample parking.

Hiking Instructions:

From the gate in the parking area walk N along the flat canyon bottom for 1/2 mile gaining 200'. The trail rises high above the streambed (after crossing) providing many striking canyon views. Walk with care, there are many switchbacks and parts of the trail are exposed. After ¾ mile and 500' gain you turn left at a signed fork. After another mile and 40' loss and gain you turn left again at a second fork. This leads around the East and South slopes of Mugu gaining 300' in ¾ miles (also signed). The last fork is at elev. 1040' (meeting the old 'Chumash Trail) coming around the W slope. From here, elev. 1200, you gain the final 126' to the summit in ½ mile.

Alternate Route: 1 mile o/w, 1,266' gain

Alternate Driving Instructions:

See above, but drive 2 miles past the La Jolla Canyon Road to a large cleared parking area on the right side of PCH. The road marker reads 8.07. Across the highway is a military firing range.

Alternate Hiking Instructions:

The trail leads straight up the hill without any switchbacks. This is characteristic of Indian trails, this one is called Chumash Trail. The trail crests in a saddle in ½ mile just northeast of Mugu Peak at el. 886'. The summit is SE on a steep scree use trail.

Notes:

Water and facilities may be found at the La Jolla Canyon Parking area or La Jolla Valley primitive campground. On all but the worst days, the view of all the Channel Islands is unparalleled. In La Jolla Valley a loop hike is possible via good trail. The flowers including the Giant Coreopsis are in bloom during February through April.

Original: Louis Quirarte 1987
Rewrite: Jean Hermansen 1996