

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Sierra Peak

3,045'

Location: Santa Ana Mountains near Corona
Maps: Cleveland National Forest
Topo: Black Star Canyon & Corona South 7.5

Primary Route: 7.5 miles o/w, 2,200' gain

Driving Instruction:

Drive the Riverside Freeway 91 to Corona. Take the Lincoln Avenue exit and drive south 1.6 mi, turn right on Ontario Ave, continue 0.3 miles to Oak Ave and turn left. Drive 0.9 miles on Oak Ave to Chase Ave, turn right, after 0.2 miles on Chase Ave turn left on Skyline for 0.2 miles. Park along the side of the road before the locked gate.

It is possible to get a key and access to the Main Divide Road by calling the Riverside County Transportation Dept, Riverside, Mon-Thu 8-5, (909) 955-1814.

Hiking Instructions:

Follow the road beyond the gate for one mile, then turn sharply to the right, past the old gate, as the road starts to climb up the mountain. Continue on the road as it winds up the ridge 5.5 miles to Oak Flats. Oak Flats is identified by a flat grassy area with many large antenna poles on the north hillside. At Oak Flats turn right on the Main Divide Road through an open gate. The first ¼ miles is on private property, however there has been no access problem in recent years. From Oak Flats junction it is 2 miles to the summit, which is covered with communication towers and utility buildings. Return the same way.

Alternate Route: 7.0 miles o/w, 2,600' gain

Driving Instruction:

From the 91 Riverside Freeway drive past Yorba Linda and exit on Green River Road. Turn left and cross the freeway. At the stop sign continue driving straight ahead (Dead End Sign), past the trailer park, for 0.7 mi. Park in the wide space on the right side of the road. The freeway is just on the other side of the road.

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking on the road for 0.1 mi to where the road turns right to the golf course. Here you take a bike path between the Santa Ana River and the freeway. Hike on this bike path for 1 mi and you see a large underpass below the freeway and a sign 'Chino Hills Park'. At this time there is no access to the Park from here, but it is planned for the future. Turn left under the Freeway and straight ahead through open gates to the Coal Canyon Road. Keep right, and after crossing a streambed take the jeep road to your right. You pass through the Tecate Cypress Forest. After some steep 3.5 mi, at a saddle with good views, you reach a junction with another road. Turn left (East) and follow this road for an additional 2.5 mi to another junction. Turn left (North) and hike up the short distance to the peak. Return the same way, or return on Skyline Road (car shuttle necessary).

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Notes:

There is no water available on the trails or at the trailheads.

The Skyline Road is popular with mountain bikers.

Looking down into Coal Canyon one can see the Tecate Cypress Forest. This rare tree is found only in two areas in the U.S.

A fire during the winter 2003 destroyed a large area of the Tecate Cypress Forest, but many Tecate Cypressess were spared and can be seen near the ridge.

From Coal Canyon Road an overgrown side road leads to an old coal (lignite) mine.

A clay mine was located near the ridge and clay pipes were manufactured, transported down the road. Lots of broken clay pipe pieces can be seen on the road.

There were major efforts by many agencies, including the Sierra Club, to preserve this area from development and building a large jail. The underpass under the freeway is a wildlife corridor to allow mountain lions and other wildlife to cross from the Santa Ana Mountains to Chino Hills Park. The area now belongs to the State, Conservancies and Cleveland National Forest.

Original: Jack Adsit, rev. 2005