

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Monument Mountain

4834'

Location: Joshua Tree National Park, Riverside County, 9 m N of I-10
Maps: AAA Riverside County
Topo: Washington Wash 7.5

Primary Route: 2.5 miles o/w, 1594' gain

Driving Instructions:

From Indio, drive east about 23 miles on I-10 to Cottonwoods Spring Road, the southern entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. Turn left (north) and go 7 miles to the Cottonwood Springs Visitor Center and pay entrance fee. About 100 feet before the Visitor Center and across the highway west is a dirt road. On the Joshua Tree National Park map this is shown as the Pinkham Canyon Road. Mark your odometer. Go North on this road to a "Y". There is a locked gate on the right and Pinkham Canyon Road continues to the left (west). The road narrows and is rough in spots but is passable with a high clearance vehicle. Go a total of 4.8 miles from the Visitor Center and park off the road.

Hiking Instructions:

The shortest, most gradual route to the summit is up the mountain's southeast ridge. This is the ridge seen on the horizon from the parking spot. Attain the southeast ridge by heading north up one of the three lower, south-facing ridges. Climb (northwest) up the main southeast ridge to a high point (false summit). From the top of this point, look for the true summit of Monument Mountain, which looks like a pointed cone. Follow the ridge as it bends to the north and continue to the base of the summit cone. A steep, unavoidable scramble leads up the rocky cone to the summit.

Near-by Peaks: Mastodon

Note: A description of the peak and this route can be found in "On Foot in Joshua Tree National Park" by Patty Furbush.

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