

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Sandstone Peak

3,111'

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

Primary Route: 1.5 mile o/w, 1,100' gain

Driving Instruction:

From Pacific Coast Highway, just past the Ventura County Line, take the Yerba Buena Road to your right 6 miles to Circle X Ranch Ranger Station. Continue 1 m further to the signed 'Backbone Parking' lot on your left. Elevation 2,030'. No fee.

Hiking Instructions:

Walk up an old road past a locked gate. This is part of the Backbone Trail. After 0.3 miles a connector trail on the right side leads to the Misha Mokwa Trail, but stay left. The road climbs steadily, after the switchbacks it turns in a westerly direction. At 1.2 miles there is a post to the left with an arrow, a trail starts with several big steps steeply uphill. Continue, leave the false peak with an antenna to your right and climb the rocky trail 0.3 of a mile to the peak, which has a plaque of W. Herbert Allen and a large sign-in book.

Either return the same way to the parking lot, or continue on the road to the west past Boney Peak, Inspiration Point and Exchange Peak to the trail Junction with the Misha Mokwa trail to the right. Take this trail and hike back (East) past Split Rock to shortly before the Misha Mokwa Trailhead, where the connector trail brings you back to the original Backbone Trail and the trailhead. This makes a 7 m RT hike.

Notes:

A trail starting just across the Circle X Ranch up to Sandstone is now permanently closed by the State park. This is a very popular peak. The trail has been graded December 2003. No water on trail. Trails maybe closed after significant rainfalls.

Historical Notes:

All of Boney Ridge was once the sacred mountain 'Satiwa' to the native Chumash Indians. In the 1940's The Exchange Club, a Los Angeles service organization, bought the land to support boys and girls camps. Later, it was owned by the Boy Scouts as part of their Circle X Ranch, and most of the colorful names in this area were supplied by them and are still in use (except 'Mt.Allen' in place of Sandstone Peak never achieved currency, however, a plaque to this philanthropist still remains on the summit). This vital property was heroically rescued from eminent destruction in large part through the efforts of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club. It was purchased in November 1986 at a great sacrifice by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The area is now a National Recreation Area of California and administered by the National Park Service.

For information, call National Park Service at (818) 597-9192 x 201

Near-by Peaks: Boney Peak, Inspiration Point, Exchange Peak, Tri Peaks, Big Dome

Original: Louis Quirarte 1987, Rewrite: Jean Hermansen 1996, rev. 2004