

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Bald Peak 3,947'

Location: Santa Ana Mountains
Maps: Cleveland National Forest
Topo: Corona South Quadrangle 7.5 and Santiago Peak 7.5

Primary Route: 7 miles, 2,800' gain/500' loss one way

Driving Instruction:

From the NewportBeach/Costa Mesa Freeway 55 in Orange County take the Chapman East exit which turns into Santiago Canyon Road S18. Follow Santiago Canyon Road for approximately 7 miles to Silverado Canyon Road on the left side. Turn left and follow Silverado Canyon Road for about 6 miles to the gate at entrance to Cleveland National Forest. Park in the large turn-around.

Hiking Instructions:

From the parking area start hiking along the road up Silverado Canyon. After you cross a stream proceed about 100 yards to road 5S03 on the left which turns back, north-west direction, then climbs up the mountain. This road is also called Silverado Motorway and just a trail now. Follow the trail for 3 miles to the junction with Main Divide Road (3691' elevation). Turn right (North-East) on the Main Divide Road, go on past Bedford Peak (1/2 mile) for 2.5 miles, generally East, to the signed Bedford Road Junction, then continue for another 1.5 mile to the first peak on the left side of the road after the Bedford Road junction. Scramble up the short steep use trail to the summit. The USGS marker shows the county lines. Return the same way.

Alternate Route: 6 miles, 2800' gain/300' loss one way

Driving Instruction:

Exit I-15 South of Corona on Weirick Road, set odometer to 0.0. Nearly immediately turn left on to Knabe Road. After 0.5 m turn right on Maely Ranch Road, just before the equipment yard. This road has hard-to-see speed bumps. At 1.1 m pavement ends, at 1.2 m past the old iron gate there is a large parking area. It is possible to drive farther. At 1.7 m there is an old iron fence just past 2 houses. At 2.0 m the road bends and several 4WD roads cross. Park here. The Forest gate is 0.6 m farther and there is no parking. Park here (elevation: 1450').

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking the Bedford Road 4S03, gaining elevation steadily all the while. This road offers good views! At 3.5 miles you cross a small flat with two large, half-burned bay trees, a place to stop for shade. After 4.5 miles turn left (South-East) on the signed Main Divide Road. Continue for another 1.5 mile. Bald Peak is the first summit on the left side of the road. Scramble up the short steep use trail to the summit. There is a USGS marker with the county lines. Return the same way.

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. This is truly a Bald Peak, not a single tree or brush is growing on the summit. No water on trail. The Peak can also be reached by driving on the Main Divide Road.

As of January 2004, the alternate TH at Weirick Road cannot be reached due to housing construction, and the Bedford Road 4S03 is closed. Call Cleveland National Forest RS in Corona (909) 736-1811 for more information.

Near-by Peaks:

Bedford Peak

Original: Jack Adsit, rev. 2004