

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Mt. Russell

2,704'

Location: Riverside County, 3 airline miles NE of Lake Perris
Maps: Lake Perris State Recreational Area – available at Park Entrance
Topo: Sunnymead 7.5

Primary Route: 2.0 miles o/w, 1000' gain

Driving Instruction:

Exit Freeway 60 about 10 miles east of Riverside on Moreno Beach Drive. Drive South and turn left at Via Del Lago. Look for signs to the Lake Perris State Recreational Area. Follow Via Del Lago to the entry booth to Lake Perris SRA. Pay the Day use fee per car. Drive inside and take the first road to the left, signed 'Group Camping.' At the "T" junction turn left into the hunters' dirt parking area and park.

Hiking Instructions:

Look for the horse trail (dirt road) on the east side of the parking area by the sign. Take it north, then east. After about 1 mile you can see a canyon to your left with a telephone pole on the upper right side horizon. Turn left here at the canyon mouth, elev. 1,800'. From here walk north cross-country through open brush to the mouth of the canyon. Take the use trail on the left side. About half way up the canyon, cross over to the obvious use trail on the right side. You can see the peak due north and a burned pole near the base of this peak. Aim for this burned pole. From here remnants of an old switch-back trail can be used to the saddle. The summit is the furthest bump to the north. The benchmark has been removed, but the imprint can still be seen. Return the same way to the parking lot.

Notes:

This is the highest point of the Bernasconi Hills. Good view of major mountain ranges to the north and east; also unusual terrain. The trip was first scouted after a recent fire and the brush was open. Again fire damaged the area in 1997.

The Lake Perris State Recreational Area is popular for camping and boating, there is also a museum. Water is available at the campground.

Near-by Peaks: None

Write-up: Don Taylor 1988, rev. 2006