

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Los Pinos Peak

4,510'

Location: Santa Ana Mountains
Maps: Cleveland National Forest
Topo: Alberhill 7.5, Santiago Peak 7.5

Primary Route: 2.8 miles o/w, 1,300' gain

Driving Instruction:

In San Juan Capistrano exit I-5 on Hwy. 74 (Ortega Hwy.) and drive East for 23 miles to El Cariso Ranger Station. (Also reached from Elsinore by driving 8 miles West on Hwy. 74). Turn left past the Ranger Station (or right just before the Ranger Station, coming from Elsinore) on the Main Divide Road. Follow the paved road 4 miles to a Y, where the unpaved Main Divide Road turns right, the left paved road leads to Blue Jay Campground. Park here.

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking on the Main Divide Truck Trail. After 1.8 miles you arrive at a wide saddle (4200' elevation) with a SW leading firebreak (blocked by metal railing) and the signed Trabuco Trail turning right (NW). From this Trabuco Trail another trail immediately takes off to the left (SW) side. Take this shady trail up to the ridge. The steep firebreak intercepts the trail. Continue hiking about 1 mile on the open ridge, generally SW, up and down, over several bumps to the rocky Los Pinos Peak.

Alternate Route:

The Peak can also be reached by following the Los Pinos Ridge Trail (6W06) uphill from the Lazy W Church Camp off Ortega Highway. Permission from the camp to pass the property is required. (P.O.Box 579, San Juan Capistrano 92675 (949) 728-0141). This is a very strenuous hike, 10 miles, gain/loss 2400'/5200'. The trail is very overgrown, but follows the ridge with steep uphill and downhill.

Notes:

Adventure pass required. No water on trail.

The peak offers an excellent view to the Santa Ana Mountains and Orange County.

Nearby Peaks: Trabuco Peak

Original: Jack Adsit, rev. 2004