

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Agua Tibia

4,779'

Location: San Diego County, 11 air miles SE of Temecula
Maps: Cleveland National Forest – AAA San Diego County
Topo: Vail Lake 7.5

Primary Route: 8.5 m o/w, 3,200 gain

Driving Instruction:

Take I-15 south (direction: San Diego) past Corona to Temecula, then Hwy.79 south (direction: Indio). Drive East on Hwy.79 for 10 mi to Dripping Springs Campground. Turn right into the campground and park outside the gate.

Hiking Instructions:

Walk through the campground to a large board sign with a trail map at the end of the paved street. The trail is marked and crosses a stream immediately. After about 1/4 mile a trail turns left to Wild Horse Peak, but stay on the main trail (right), the Dripping Springs Trail. The trail climbs steadily through chaparral, in the upper area there are several fallen trees to climb over. After 7 miles you reach a woodsy area, now burnt, keep in a southerly direction to the crossing with the old Palomar-McGee Road. Turn East (left) on this road for about 1 mile. The road makes a broad U-turn to the South and the hill on the left (East) is the peak. There is a duck and a streamer on a tree, but from here on there is no trail and the ascent can be a bushwack. There are 2 rock outcrops on the peak, the USGS marker (and the register) on some flat rocks between them. The large block can be climbed from NE.

Alternate Route:

Take the Wild Horse Trail 10 m to Palomar-McGee Road, and then turn west to the peak.

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. No water on trail. Summer fire closure.

Dripping Springs Campground has fee, water, pit toilets.

Wilderness Permit required for camping: Apply at USDA Forest Service, Palomar District, 1624 Black Canyon Rd. Ramona, CA 92065 (760)788-0250

The ascent to the peak can be **extremely brushy**. During the summer of 2000 the Agua Tibia Fire burnt the area and reached the woodsy section. The trail up to here was not damaged. The Palomar Truck Trail was bulldozed and is open as of now. The peak was also burnt and is open, but chaparral grows fast. When you reach the woodsy section be sure and hike south (no visible trail) a couple hundred yards to the truck trail. Fire fighters did clear some side trails, do not take these.

There is not much of a view from the summit, but there are many nice views along the way. Some of the largest Manzanitas can be found along the Dripping Springs Trail. Above 4000' there are many Coulter Pines. Tall Red Shank Chamise grows here, typical for the San Jacinto Mountains. This is the last bump to the west side of Palomar Mountain and is in the center of the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

Eagle Craig can be reached by continuing for about 3 miles on the Palomar-Mc Gee Road, then turning left to the summit, which makes this peak a 24 miles RT trip.

Near-by Peaks: Wild Horse Peak, Eagle Craig (HPS)

Original: Alan Coles 1986, rev. 2000