

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Redrock Mountain

3,991'

Location: Near Castaic Lake, Los Angeles County
Maps: Los Angeles National Forest Map
Topo: Liebre 7.5 and Whitaker Peak 7.5

Primary Route: 11.1 miles total, 2477' gain

Driving Instruction:

Exit I-5 on Templin Highway (past Lake Hughes road) and drive right (north) for 4.3 mi to a locked gate where the road makes a right turn. Park here.

Hiking Instructions:

Start hiking downhill past the locked gate, the road being first paved then unpaved. Cross the bridge and continue about ¼ mile to a road on your left. Turn left and follow this dirt road along Fish Canyon for 2.5 miles to the deserted Cienega campground. This is a very nice hike through the narrows of Fish Canyon, crossing the creek many times.

At the north end of the campground take a road to the left (west) behind an old metal gate. This road becomes a trail, crossing and re-crossing Fish Creek several times and reaches the Pianobox Prospect in about 1 mile. The mine is to the right of a magnificent old oak. Cross the creek here to the left and find the obscure beginning of a trail starting under a Sycamore tree. Do NOT continue into the narrow canyon! The overgrown trail climbs steeply out of the canyon and switchbacks through chaparral for 1.6 mi and 1,200' gain to a high saddle at 3,200'.

From here, hike cross-country up the very steep ridge to the right, NE, to the peak, keeping to the right of the first outcropping and to the left of the second one. The ridge is partly open with drainage channels, clear brush and animal trails. There is a USGS marker on the first peak, but the two next bumps in the Redrock Mountain Ridge are actually higher. For the return, drop down to the saddle and retrace your steps.

Notes:

At an earlier time one could drive to Cienega campground by exiting I-5 on Lake Hughes Road and driving N on Lake Hughes Road for 13 miles. Then a left turn on 6N32 at the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center and a few stream crossings would take a high-clearance vehicle to the campground. At the time of this revision, 6N32 is closed at Lake Hughes road.

Adventure Pass required. Water is available most of the year in Fish Creek Canyon.

From the summit one can see the following peaks: Cobblestone, White, Black, Whitaker, Slide Mountain LO, Warm Springs Mountain LO, Liebre, Burnt and Sawtooth.

Once a piano was transported to a settlement called Rogers Camp, about one mile above the prospect, hence the name of the mine. Rogers Camp was a mining camp, later a church camp and now is a primitive campground.

Near-by Peaks:

Slide Mountain LO

References:

John Robinson: Trails of the Angeles – 100 Hikes in the San Gabriels

Write-up: Original: Jack Grams 1990, Re-Listing: Hugh Blanchard: 2001