

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Mendenhall Peak

4,636'

Location: NE of San Fernando, at head of Little Tujunga Canyon
Maps: Harrison Trail Map of the Angeles Front Country
Topo: Sunland 7.5

Primary Route: 6 miles o/w, 2,000' gain

Driving Instruction:

From I-210 in Sunland take the Osborne St. exit toward the mountains. Osborne St. shortly becomes the Little Tujunga Highway. Continue for 7 miles, past the Wildlife Way Station, to a saddle, Dillon Divide, Forest Road 3N32. The Mendenhall Ridge Road crosses the highway here. There is limited parking here.

Hiking Instructions:

Take the Forest Road to your right (East), past a locked gate. After ¼ mile a road forks to the left, continue right, a steady uphill. After 3 miles you reach power poles at Highline Saddle. The Burma Road 3N37 comes up from the right and continues to the left. Stay on 3N32 for 2 more miles to Mendenhall Saddle.

At Mendenhall Saddle, turn sharply right, around an old gate, and after 100 yards leave the road, keep right and take the steep ridge to the left (west). There is a poor use trail. The ridge levels out, passes a saddle where a yellow rope is attached to a tree and a poor trail leads downhill. Continue west and you reach the old road, turn left and walk to the peak. There is an abandoned site of an old Lookout.

On return you might try to slip down the poor trail where you can see the yellow rope (it has been there for at least 4 years), get to the old road below the washout. Continue on the road to the old gate.

Alternately, from Highline Saddle take a very steep firebreak along the ridge to the summit.

Alternate Route: 5.5 miles o/w, 2,250' gain

Driving Directions:

After 6 miles on the Little Tujunga Road, the Burma Road 3N37 turns right. Park here, very limited parking.

Hiking Directions:

Take the Burma Road, which meets the Mendenhall Ridge Road at Highline Saddle. Then see Primary Route. This route is ½ miles shorter, but has 200' more gain.

Near-by Peaks: McKinley Peak

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. No water on trail. During spring time there are plenty of wildflowers and lots of poison oak on the road sides. There is very little shade on the road. At the time of the original write-up, this peak was a drive-up, but now all the roads are closed to automobile traffic.

Original: Bob Wheatley 1986