

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Gaviota Peak

2,458'

Location: 8 miles SSW of Solvang, Santa Barbara County  
Maps: Los Padres National Forest  
Topo: Solvang 7.5 and Gaviota 7.5

**Primary Route:** 3 miles o/w, 2,100' gain

#### **Driving Instruction:**

Exit US 101 approximately 33 miles North of Santa Barbara on Highway 1. Before crossing the bridge over US 101 make a sharp right turn and drive 0.3 miles to the end of the road which is the parking area for Gaviota State Park. There is a day-use parking fee.

#### **Hiking Instructions:**

From the gate take the fire road to Gaviota Hot Springs. Soon you get to the pools. There are two alternatives:

Continue hiking on the fire road, a long switchback in the open grassland.

Take the trail along the pools to your right. Walk across the rocks at lower end of the upper pool and continue on one of several trails uphill on your left to the fire road, there turn right.

Follow the road to the ridge passing a rusty gate with a sign 'No Motor Vehicles'. On the ridge turn right and follow a trail to the peak. Excellent views to Channel Islands and the hills and ridges of Lompoc Valley! Return any route, stopping by hot springs (use upper pool) to soak weary feet.

#### **Notes:**

The water is lukewarm at best. The smell of Hydrogensulfide (rotten eggs) can be strong. Do not drink it.

It is possible to return in a SW direction downhill from the peak, meeting the fire road below the springs.

Reference: Benham, Arthur, "Santa Barbara Trail Guide", Santa Barbara Group, Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club 1988. Hike #22.

Original: Jack Grams 1990, rev. 2004