

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Newcomb Peak

4,166'

Location: 6 miles N of Monrovia, Los Angeles County
Maps: Angeles National Forest Map, Six Trails to Mt. Wilson
Topo: Mt. Wilson 7.5

Primary Route: 14 miles, 2,700' gain/400' loss round trip.
With Mt. Zion it is 15 miles round trip, 3,100' gain/400' loss.

Driving Instruction:

From I-210 exit N on Santa Anita Ave, drive 5 miles to end of road at Chantry Flats. Ample parking in the upper and lower lots. During the rainy season the Chantry Flat Road is frequently closed, call the Ranger Station for information: (626) 574-5200

Hiking Instructions:

Follow the paved fire road downhill from Chantry Flats (elev. 2200') to Roberts Camp (elev. 1800'). Here the Lower Winter Creek trail turns left. But stay right, hike past some cabins to another trail fork. The trail straight ahead leads to Sturtevant Falls. On the left two trails lead into Santa Anita Canyon: the left one is the horse trail, the right one is the more scenic trail following the creek and giving you a view of the falls. After 1 mile, where the two trails join, keep right. Soon you reach the Cascade Picnic area, then the shady Spruce Grove Campground. The trail climbs, at a fork take the right (NE) trail, signed Newcomb Pass. At the pass, take the overgrown road to the right (East). At a water tank you meet a road, continue right (East) to a saddle just below the peak.

Either climb the peak from the West (overgrown, but can be done), but it is easier to stay on the road for a short distance and approach it from the South-East corner: Remain on the road, pass a locked gate and continue for 0.2 miles to a road fork. Here, the Rincon-Shortcut Road 2N24 turns left, downhill. At the corner is a paddle marker 'Trail →', referring to the 2N24 road, not to the peak. At that very corner (SE corner), behind this brown sign, scramble up the steep slope, staying close to the drop-off and after a few precipitous steps turn slightly right to a use trail which turns SW up the fairly open slope to the summit. The peak has a high voltage tower on the summit. Return the way you came.

Notes:

Adventure Pass required. Weekends are crowded. The pack station has supplies and is open weekends, so is the Ranger Station. There is ample water on this trip, but it should be treated. The peak can also be reached by driving the Rincon-Shortcut Road. (see Clamshell Peak)
From the peak one has views of Cogswell Dam, Mt. Wilson, San Gabriel Peak, Mt. Baldy and Iron Mountain.

In the early 1960's The L.A. County Flood Control Board together with the Forest Service decided to build 95 unsightly dams in the beautiful canyon to prevent erosion. These scars remain. At one time gold was found in the Lower Canyon, but not enough for miners to exploit. This hike can easily be combined with climbing Mt. Zion.

Original: Jack Grams 1991, rev.2006