

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

Wild Horse Peak

3,277'

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

Primary Route: 5.25 miles o/w, 1,900' gain

Driving Instruction:

Take I-15 South from Corona (Rt. 215 from Riverside) to Hwy.79 South (direction: Indio) in Temecula. Drive East on Hwy. 79 for 10 miles to the Dripping Springs Campground. Turn right into the campground and park outside the gate. You can drive ¼ mile to a campsite next to the start of the trail. There is a day use fee (free with the Golden Age pass). This will save you ½ mile of hiking.

Hiking Instructions:

From the parking area, follow the paved road South through the campground for 0.5 miles. The signed trail begins at the registration box adjacent to Arroyo Seco Creek. Cross the creek, continue on the trail to a signed junction. Turn left onto the signed Wild Horse Trail. Travel approximately 4 miles where the trail turns SW along the South slope of Wild Horse Peak. Continue on the trail approximately 140 paces and look for ducks on the right side. Brush will be more open at this location. Turn right, NW, climbing the steep, sandy, and brushy slope cross-country to the crest of the ridge. The four huge rocks in a circle you can see from the trail are not the peak! Turn left, SW, following the ridge slightly downhill through a shallow saddle, then uphill to the next bump, which is the summit. There are no rocks or any special landmarks on Wild Horse Peak. Return the same way or descend any other open slope to the trail below. There is a 300' gain on the return.

An alternate approach is as follows:

- Continue on the trail for a total of approximate 5 miles to a point where a large boulder (approximately 5' high) is right next to the right side of the trail. There may or may not be ducks at this point.
- Start up a shallow gully, pushing through some brush to a ridge on the left side of this gully.
- Continue up this ridge to some big boulders. Go left of these boulders and you will see a shallow drainage ditch. Cross this ditch at the high end and aim for a bump with a pile of rocks on top. Once on the top of this bump you will see a use trail leading to the peak about 1/10th of a mile away.

Notes:

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

Dripping Springs Campground has fee, water, pit toilets.

Agua Tibia was established as a Wilderness in 1975. Wilderness Permit required for camping: Apply at USDA Forest Service, Palomar District, 1624 Black Canyon Rd. Ramona, CA 92065 (760) 788-0250. There is an excellent map displayed at the trailhead.

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The season is late fall to early spring, due to high temperatures and fire closure. The summit has a spectacular 360' view. The vistas are Mt. Baldy, San Bernardinos, San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, Mt. Palomar Observatory, Agua Tibia Mountain, and Vail Lake. Agua Tibia can be reached by continuing for about 3 m miles to the Palomar McGee Road at Crossley Saddle, then turning right (north-west) to the base of the peak and right (east) again to the summit. Eagle Craig can be reached by continuing to the same junction, but turning left (south-east) on the Palomar-McGee Road, turning left again to the summit, which makes this peak a 24 miles RT trip.

Near-by Peaks: Agua Tibia, Eagle Craig (HPS)

Original: Jean Hermansen 1994, rev. 2004