

Split Mountain 01C

Lat/Lon 35.751062,-118.4823089
UTM 11S 365980E 3957351N

Elevation: 6835'

View Caltopo [map](#) or download [GPX](#)

Download this [pdf guide](#) or visit its official [page](#)

Split Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Kern County, about 3 miles northwest of Wofford Heights, 175 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Black Mountain #5, Sunday Peak, Bohna Peak

Land Manager: Sequoia National Forest, Kern River Ranger District (760) 376-3781

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. CONDITIONS MAY CHANGE, AND UNEXPECTED HAZARDS MAY BE PRESENT.

About the peak

Split Mountain, with its distinctive cleft appearance, is reached on a pretty forested trail, once a logging road, to the ridge between Black Mountain #5 and Split, then up and down along the ridge to the summit. It weaves through some brushy terrain then climbs up and around a boulders-manzanita mix to spectacular views of the Kern River Valley and Lake Isabella. It is typically hiked with Black Mountain #5 by various route variations.

Many groups climb all of the peaks in the area in a two or three day trip. They usually do Bohna and Sunday the first day, Split and Black the second and Cannel Point (delisted in 2008 but still in the HPS archives) the third day. There are good car-camping spots (for example Black Mountain Saddle) and motels in Wofford Heights and Kernville. The drive from Sylmar is about 2.5 hours.

Split Mountain has 2 official HPS routes:

Split Mountain Route 1

Distance: 8 miles round trip on road and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 2, strenuous, summit area is class 2

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 2400

Time: 6 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- From Sylmar rideshare point, go north on I-5 to SR 99.
- Go north 24.5 miles on SR 99 to SR 58.
- Go east 7.1 miles on SR 58 to Weedpatch Highway (SR 184).
- Go 4.3 miles north on SR 184 to SR 178. Please note: SR 184 goes right (east) at a stop sign 1.7 miles from SR 58.
- Go 33.5 miles east on SR 178 to the intersection of SR 178 and SR 155. This road is scenic as it follows the Kern River, but is very winding.
- Alternatively, you can reach the intersection of SR 178 and SR 155 from Walker Pass (please refer to your AAA map). This route is about 20 miles longer from Sylmar, but the road is not as winding and those traveling from the east might find it shorter.
- From the intersection of SR 178 and SR 155 in the town of Lake Isabella, go north on SR 155 for 7.0 miles to where SR 155 turns left in the town of Wofford Heights. Turn left.
- Go uphill on SR 155 for 7.7 miles to Greenhorn Summit.
- Turn right onto 24S15 (dirt). Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 1.2 miles, a fork to the right. Turn right on 25S16. (This is the turnoff for Sunday Peak.)
- At 2.8 miles, a fork at a saddle. This is Black Mountain Saddle. This is the parking area for Black Mountain #5. Keep left. The gate at Black Mountain Saddle may be closed, adding 2 miles each way.
- At 3.2 miles 2WD vehicles should park. High clearance vehicles can go another 2 miles, to an old road on the right, with a large parking area on the left, a remnant of a timber cutting operation.

Hiking directions:

- From the 2WD parking area, hike north along the road to the 4WD parking area (2 miles, 6000').
- Go east on an old logging road, which becomes very overgrown, to the saddle at 6300' just above Cane Spring.
- Follow the ridge east over three small bumps and down into a saddle at 5720'+.
- From here climb up to the summit following a use trail.
- Scramble to the summit along a ducked class 2 route.

Additional Route notes:

Split Mountain Route 2

Distance: 3.5 miles one way, 9 miles with Black

Difficulty rating: Class 2, strenuous, summit area is class 2

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 1500

Time: 2-3 hours one way

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- See the Black Mountain #5 guide.

Hiking directions:

- The Black Mountain #5 guide is required to climb Black Mountain #5. From the summit, hike down the north ridge about 0.5 mile to a wide flat area.
- From here hike northeast down to meet the saddle just above Cane Spring.
- Continue on to the summit by following the Route 1 instructions from here.

Additional Route notes:

From Black Mountain #5.

