

Five Fingers 01I- Star Emblem Peak

Lat/Lon 35.6888418,-117.9089595
UTM 11S 417756E 3949818N

Elevation: 5174'

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Five Fingers on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Kern County, about 7 miles northwest of Inyokern, 153 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Morris Peak, Mount Jenkins, Owens Peak

Land Manager: Bureau of Land Management, Owens Peak Wilderness (760) 384-5400

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

About the peak

Five Fingers, also known as Aquila Peak, is part of a dramatic formation standing out like a crown from Indian Wells Canyon, where the southeast end of the Sierra Nevada meets the northwest end of the Mojave Desert. One can hardly pass by it without wanting to climb it!

Route 1 starts with a steep ascent up a sandy slope then up a third class chimney to the peak.

Route 2 starts by driving (or hiking if the road is not passable) up a high-clearance/4WD road to a higher starting point near bump 4475', then following a use trail west about ½ mile behind the summit to join the other route. All routes to the peak involve third class scrambling. Helmets are recommended for all routes, and required for official outings.

Special conditions: Five Fingers, Owens Peak, Morris Peak, and Mount Jenkins are all in the Owens Peak Wilderness. At the date of this guide no permit is required.

Alternate routes: It is possible to hike up to the spiny ridge from any convenient parking area near the peak. It is suggested that a Wilderness map is obtained to be sure that you do not violate the Wilderness boundaries.

Five Fingers has 2 official HPS routes:

Five Fingers Route 1

Distance: 2 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1600

Time: 2-3 hours round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 3, moderate, climbing helmets required

Navigation difficulty:

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take SR 14 to Mojave.
- Continue north on SR 14 to the intersection with SR 178 (Freeman Junction).
- Continue north on SR 14 another 5.3 miles to a dirt road on the left. Turn left. This is 0.4 mile past Indian Wells, with a lodge and brewery. SR 14 is under construction. It may be necessary to continue farther north and turn around, returning to the dirt road. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 2.6 miles, Powers Well on the left. Keep straight. This is a good camping spot.
- At 2.7 miles, fork. Turn right.
- At 3.2 miles, fork. Keep right. This is the turnoff for Owens Peak, Morris Peak and Mount Jenkins.
- Park in a parking area a short distance from the fork.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (3600'+), the peak is visible as the leftmost of several points. Hike up the slope through the saddle between the summit and the next point to its right.
- Continue around to the northeast side of the summit to a spiny ridge coming down from the summit.
- Scramble up onto this ridge, turn left, and follow it up toward the summit.
- Soon you will see two slots coming down from the summit. Follow the left slot through some easy class 3 rock up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Note: HPS policy requires the possession and use of a climbing helmet on Class 3 terrain or where the hazard of rockfall is present.

Five Fingers Route 2

Distance: 1.3 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 800

Time: 1.5-2.5 hours round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 3, moderate, climbing helmets required

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- Take SR 14 to Mojave.
- Continue north on SR 14 to the intersection with SR 178 (Freeman Junction).
- Continue north on SR 14 another 5.3 miles to a dirt road (SE 152) on the left. Turn left. This is 0.2 mile past Indian Wells, with a lodge and brewery. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 1.4 miles, turn right onto SE 147.
- After about 100 feet, turn left onto SE 183.
- At 2.0 miles, fork. Keep straight.
- At 2.5 miles, park in a parking area at trailhead (near peak 4475).
- Note: 4WD vehicles may be necessary for driving up SE 183 to the trailhead.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4350'), the peak is visible as the rightmost of several points. Hike initially down but mostly up the slope to a spiny ridge coming down to the right of the summit.
- Continue to the summit as per Route 1.

Additional Route notes:

4WD vehicles may be necessary for driving up SE 183 to the trailhead, adding an additional 2.5 miles RT and 1200' gain.

HPS policy requires the possession and use of a climbing helmet on Class 3 terrain or where the hazard of rockfall is present.

