

Red Mountain 02O- Star Emblem Peak

Lat/Lon 35.3488528,-117.5847809
UTM 11S 446865E 3911888N

Elevation: 5261'

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Red Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Bernardino County, about 18 miles south of Ridgecrest, near the town of Red Mountain, 135 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks:

Land Manager: Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office (760) 384-5400

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

About the peak

Red Mountain is a unique and interesting peak for a multitude of reasons. This extinct volcano with its namesake red clay pigment was the site of the Kelly, one of the most successful silver mines in the country, which yielded about 20 million dollars worth of ore from 1920 to 1947. It has a colorful history, described in the summit history. The area is popular with both hikers and offroaders and the summit is littered with tanks and remains of weather balloons that were once launched from there. While you are there, look for the graffiti-engraved rocks at the summit carved by the original USGS surveyors at the turn of the century. The summit yields views of the grand expanse of the high desert.

The drive to route 1 requires a high clearance vehicle. The parking location on our map is what we usually use and can be reached by the average driver; a more skilled driver, preferably with a 4WD vehicle, can continue another half mile. The route meanders between formations, past a tarn, then up a ridge to the peak. Route 2 steeply ascends an adjacent peak that can be mistaken for Red and traverses ridges to the summit. Route 3, reached by equally bad road, follows a series of ridges from the northeast before joining the other routes.

Red Mountain is the El Paso Mountains Wilderness, managed by BLM. On a rock at the summit is engraved "Nov 10, 1907" by some USMC personnel. The summit is littered with abandoned yellow gas tanks and other debris.

Red Mountain has 3 official HPS routes:

Red Mountain Route 1

Distance: 4 miles round trip on road, trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 1600

Time: 3 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- From Mojave, go north on SR 14 for 20.7 miles to the Randsburg Road on the right. This is just after Jawbone Canyon Road. Turn right. Note your odometer, and go as follows:
- At 12.2 miles, fork with Garlock Road to left. Turn right.
- At 20.7 miles, junction in Randsburg. Turn left.
- At 21.7 miles, junction with Three Flags Highway (US 395). Turn right.
- At 23.6 miles and just before you get to the town of Red Mountain you come to the intersection with the Trona Road on the left. Turn left and then immediately right onto a dirt road. Note your odometer, and drive this road as far as possible:
- At 0.1 mile, keep left at a fork.
- At 0.7 mile, Keep left at a fork. High clearance 2WD should be able to drive in another 1/2 mile to about 3800' elevation. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area hike east following an old jeep road to a saddle at about 4300' just north of elevation 4728'.
- From the saddle at 4300', follow a dirt road south past elevation 4728' and into a flat area.
- Continue south a short distance on a use trail to a crest, then go left to the ridge (probably a ducked route here).
- Continue along the ridge over elevation 5180'+.
- From here go southeast down across a saddle, and up the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Red Mountain Route 2

Distance: 3.5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1500

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Time: 3 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- Follow first three instructions for Driving Route 1.
- At 21.7 miles, junction with Three Flags Highway (US 395). Turn right.
- At 24.8 miles, an abandoned garage in the town of Red Mountain. Turn left (southeast) onto a dirt road just past the garage. Note your odometer again.
- Go straight at an immediate junction.
- At 0.5 mile, a fork at a large pipeline valve. Go right.
- At 0.8 mile, a shallow saddle due east of elevation 3833'. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (3770'), hike up the jeep road that starts at the parking area. It turns into a trail that then disappears.
- Continue southeast up the slope passing elevation 5024' on the left, then east-northeast to elevation 5180'+.
- From here go southeast down across a saddle, and up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Red Mountain Route 3

Distance: 3.5 miles round trip

Gain: 1700

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Time: 3-4 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- From Mojave, go north on SR 14 for 20.7 miles to the Randsburg Road on the right. This is just after Jawbone Canyon Road. Turn right. Note your odometer, and go as follows:
- At 12.2 miles, fork with Garlock Road to left. Turn right.
- At 20.7 miles, junction in Randsburg. Turn left.
- At 21.7 miles, junction with Three Flags Highway (US 395). Turn right.
- At 23.6 miles and just before you get to the town of Red Mountain you come to the intersection with the Trona Road on the left. Turn left. Reset your odometer.
- Go 1.3 miles to Steamwell Road. There is a sign board with maps. Turn right.
- At 3.0 miles, junction with RM 189. Turn right. Go to the left of bump 3476'. Follow paddle boards. Stay left at all junctions.
- At 4.4 miles, turnaround spot with campfire ring in middle. You can park here or turn right, go down a steep incline, turn right at the spur road, go about 200 yards to the base of a steep incline. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the trailhead (3730'), go over the ridge and drop down into a wash.
- Follow the wash about 1/10 of a mile to the beginning of a north-south ridge to bump 4824'.
- Follow ducks up this ridge, staying to left of the large rock out cropping. This portion is steep and loose in spots.
- Once up to 4824', it levels off and is fairly easy the rest of the way. Follow a gentle slope up to the saddle just before the peak. Here you will meet a use trail from Route 1 & 2. Follow it to the peak.

Additional Route notes: