

Old Man Mountain 06O

Lat/lon 34.5172136,-119.453455
UTM 11S 274786E 3822239N

Elevation: 5538'

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Old Man Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Santa Barbara County, about 13 miles northwest of Ojai, 90 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Monte Arido

Land Manager: Los Padres National Forest, Santa Barbara and Ojai Ranger Districts (805) 967-3481
(805) 646-4348

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

About the peak

Unlike its cousin Monte Arido, Old Man Mountain and its surroundings are aptly named and full of history. The peak and Old Man Canyon are named for Jose Ortega, a descendent of a member of the Portola expedition, 1769-1770, the first recorded European land entry and exploration of present-day California.. The canyon through which Route 2 ascends is rumored to have been the hideout of the outlaw Joaquin Murrieta. The views from the peak are marvelous, with expansive views of the magnificent Pacific Ocean and the wild remote canyons and ranges of the Los Padres. Old Man is usually hiked with nearby Monte Arido.

Route 1 is an extremely long mostly road hike which, however, makes an excellent, though strenuous, mountain bike. Follow the route on the map for the least brushy route, or hike a little further to the north ridge. Route 2 is also a long trip, ascending Murrieta Canyon on good road to Murrieta Divide, after which the road gets somewhat rougher, to a short off trail ascent to the peak. Both routes, especially Route 1, are good mountain bike outings for the fit biker, though with considerable gain overall.

Monte Arido is next to the road that leads to Old Man Mountain. Both of these peaks are usually done on the same outing.

Old Man Mountain has 2 official HPS routes:

Old Man Mountain Route 1- From Highway 33

Distance: 36 miles round trip on road and cross-country

Gain: 5300

Time: Variable depending on whether hiking, backpacking, or biking.

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very difficult - consider carefully your own conditioning, skills, water requirements (no water on route), etc.

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Paved

Adventure Pass may be required

Driving directions:

- Take US 101 west to Ventura.
- Go north on SR 33 to the town of Ojai.
- From the intersection of SR 150 and SR 33 in Ojai, go north on SR 33 for 32 miles to Pine Mountain Summit. Turn left on a gated and locked dirt road. This is the Potrero Seco Road. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- Hike or bike past the gate, and go as follows:
- At 3.4 miles, keeping right at all forks, a cattle guard. Continue straight.
- At 4.9 miles, Don Victor trail on the right. Continue straight.
- At 7.3 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 8.1 miles is a set of large gendarmes marked on the TOPO as "Three Sisters". This is the turnoff for Hildreth Peak.
- At 8.6 miles, gate. Keep straight ahead.
- At 14.1 miles, gate at a road fork.
- From this point (5800'+), take the left road fork.
- At 0.8 mile, the summit of Monte Arido is just west of the road.
- Continue down the road (south) another 1.9 miles to the bottom of a long downhill.
- Leave the road here (4980'+) and climb south up the open ridge to the prominent saddle (5300').
- From here go east up the brushy ridge to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Old Man Mountain Route 2- Murietta Canyon

Distance: 20 miles round trip on trail, road,
and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 5100

Time: 9-10 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take the US 101 freeway to Ventura.
- Go north on SR 33 to Ojai.
- From the intersection of SR 33 and SR 150 in Ojai, go north on SR 33 for 5 miles and turn left on paved Matilija Road.
- Go west 5.0 miles to a locked gate. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (1540'), hike up the road past the gate.
- Pass some houses, a small stream crossing, and then a larger one. A short distance past this crossing is a trailhead on the right. Continue on the road to another trailhead on the left with a sign "Murietta Canyon Trail 24W07".
- Turn left (south) on this trail and follow it about two miles to where it meets a road.
- Turn left (west) on this road and continue about 3 miles to a saddle. This is Murrieta Divide.
- Turn sharp right (north) and continue up the road about 4 miles to where the road crosses the ridge coming southwest down from the west summit of Old Man Mountain.
- Go northeast up this ridge and then contour left to a saddle (5300').
- Turn right and go east up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Note: This southwest ridge is likely to be extremely brushy and is rocky in places. An easier alternative is to hike another 1.0 miles and ascend from a small saddle before reaching the southwest ridge to join that ridge at 5200' and continue up to the summit ridge and to the peak. Another longer alternative is to continue along the road 1.8 miles and go up the north ridge as in Route 1.

Special conditions: The second river crossing about 1/2 mile from the parking area is sometimes impassable after heavy rains.

The land on both sides of the road is part of the Murrieta Canyon Wildlife Study Area. Public entry is prohibited. Please stay on the road or trail.

Mountain bikes should not be used on the Murietta Canyon Trail. Continue on the road past the Murietta Canyon trailhead about 0.2 mile to a road fork with a sign "<-- ALL TRAILS". Keep left and continue another 0.2 mile to a road junction. Turn left at this junction and follow it up to Murietta Divide.