

McDonald Peak 07H

Lat/Lon 34.6333199,-118.9403769
UTM 11S 322139E 3834093N

Elevation: 6870'

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McDonald Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Ventura County, about 15 miles southwest of Gorman, 83 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Alamo Mountain, Sewart Mountain, Snowy Peak, Black Mountain #2, Cobblestone Mountain, White Mountain #2

Land Manager: Los Padres National Forest, Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts (661) 245-3731 (805) 646-4348

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

About the peak

McDonald Peak is a short but worthwhile hike through open forest. The summit offers unobstructed views of Cobblestone, White, Black, and Snowy and all the Topatopa Mountains. The remains of the namesake prospector's cabin are near a trail camp to the southwest of the summit along the Alder Creek Trail.

Route 1 follows the NE ridge, accessible from the saddle west of the bump 6562 near the parking area.

Contact the USFS at (661) 245-3731 for information about the status of the seasonal gate at the Piru Creek crossing.

McDonald Peak has 1 official HPS route:

McDonald Peak Route 1

Distance: 1 mile round trip on use trail

Gain: 400

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Time: 1 hour round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Adventure Pass may be required

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- Go north on I-5 to the town of Gorman. Get off on the signed Gorman exit.
- Turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp and go under the freeway.
- Go 0.1 mile to Peace Valley Road. Turn right.
- Go 1 mile to the entrance to Hungry Valley Recreation Area on your left (paved). Turn left. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 0.2 miles, entrance station. If manned, you can avoid payment of the fee by telling the State Park employee that you are passing through to Alamo Mountain.
- At 5.2 miles, intersection. Turn right (west) toward "Piru Creek", signed.
- At 11.2 miles, improved car camping area on right, with toilets. Often used as a meeting point.
- At 11.4 miles, Piru Creek crossing. There is a seasonal gate just before this stream crossing.
- At 13.4 miles, the pavement ends.
- At 17.8 miles, fork to the left. Keep right.
- At 17.9 miles, junction with the Alamo Mountain Road. Go straight. Note your odometer again and go as follows:
- At 3.3 miles, fork immediately beyond a small road cut through the ridge. To the right leads to Alamo Mountain Route 1. Turn left.
- At 4.0 miles, the road forks at the Little Mutau trailhead. Turn left. Past this point the road can sometimes be poor but is usually passable.
- At 6.3 miles the road comes out on a ridge with a parking area above the road on the right (south). Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6500'), the peak can be seen to the southwest.
- Start west along the ridge and follow it as it swings around to the southeast and then up to the summit.

Additional Route 1 notes:

