

Chief Peak 07P

Lat/Lon 34.5105467,-119.1678864
UTM 11S 300989E 3820900N

Elevation: 5550'+

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

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Chief Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Ventura County, about 6 miles northeast of Ojai, 107 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Topatopa Bluff, Hines Peak

Land Manager: Los Padres National Forest, Ojai Ranger District (805) 646-4348

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

About the peak

Chief Peak, with its interesting rocky pyramid shape that someone must have fancifully likened to an Indian Chief's face, is usually hiked along with the other peaks on the Nordhoff Ridge Road. or can be hiked by itself from the gate. It has awe inspiring views out to the Pacific, the Channel Islands, the town of Ojai below with the dramatic Topatopa Bluffs and the surrounding Sespe Wilderness. See the notes below to obtain access through the Forest Service.

Route 1 starts from Rose Valley Campground and is mostly a road walk until it leaves the road (Route 2), for a short scramble to the peak.

Special conditions: The Nordhoff Ridge Road is open for driving (4WD vehicles only) between May 15 and December 15 except for rain. A permit or a gate code is no longer required.

Chief Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

Chief Peak Route 1- From Rose Valley Campground

Distance: 9 miles round trip on road and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 2300

Time: 4-5 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty:

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take US 101 and SR 33 to the town of Ojai.
- From the intersection of SR 150 and SR 33 in Ojai, go north on SR 33 for 14.7 miles to a road on the right signed "Rose Valley - 4". Turn right.
- Go 3.1 miles to a fork on the right. Turn right.
- Drive into the campground. If you are not going to camp here, park just outside the campground. If you are camping, there is a limit of two cars per campsite.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (3450'), hike up a road (22W15) on the west end of the campground past a locked gate.
- Continue up the road 2.2 miles to its junction with the Nordhoff Ridge Road (22W07) at 5050'.
- Turn left and continue on 22W07 past a wire gate at 3.7 miles.
- Continue to a saddle at 3.9 miles where the road leaves the ridge and goes down around the north side of Chief.
- Leave the road on the right side and follow a faint use trail up the ridge.
- Go over elevation 5471' and down into a saddle.
- Then follow a ducked route around the right side of the ridge and then left up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Chief Peak Route 2- Nordhoff Ridge Road

Distance: 1 mile round trip cross-country

Gain: 600

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:

- Take US 101 and SR 33 to the town of Ojai.
- From the intersection of SR 150 and SR 33 in Ojai, go north on SR 33 for 14.7 miles to a road on the right. Turn right.
- Go 3.1 miles to a fork on the right with a sign "Rose Valley Campground - 1/2". Turn right.
- Drive into the campground. There is a road with a locked gate on the west side of the campground. Use the combination supplied with your permit to unlock the gate and lock it behind you. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 2.2 miles, junction with the Nordhoff Ridge Road (22W15). Turn left (east).
- At 3.5 miles, pass through a wire gate.
- At 3.9 miles a saddle with a duck on the south side. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- Leave the road on the right side and follow a faint use trail up the ridge.
- Go over elevation 5471' and down into a saddle.
- Then follow a ducked route around the right side of the ridge and then left up to the summit.

Additional Route notes: