

Pallett Mountain 13E

Lat/lon 34.3849987,-117.8853415
UTM 11S 418610E 3805200N

Elevation: 7760'+

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Location: Los Angeles County, about 9 miles south of Pearblossom, 49 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Pleasant View Ridge, Will Thrall Peak, Mount Williamson

Land Manager: Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (626) 335-1251

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

About the peak

Pallett is named for pioneer homesteaders who were friends of the reclusive mountain man Charles Tom Vincent, after whom Vincent Gap is named, and after whose daughter Mount Emma is named. The views from this peak, where the forested mountains of the Angeles Forest give way to the San Andreas Rift and then the desert, are sweeping. It is usually hiked in strenuous combinations with the complex of nearby peaks.

HPS routes 1 and 2 start from the beautiful Burkhart Trail, named for homesteader B.K. Burkhart who built the trail to carry supplies. Route 1 starts from the south at Buckhorn Campground then descends into Cooper Canyon, where you will find lemon lilies in the spring and Cooper Canyon Falls where you can make a small detour to pay them a visit. It then descends along the dramatic canyon walls to cross the creek and ascend to Burkhart Saddle, from which you can follow the west ridge to climb over Will Thrall Peak to reach the HPS peak Pleasant View Ridge, or hike up the east ridge to the peak. Route 2 starts from Devil's Punchbowl, worthy of a visit in itself, and works its way first west then south and up to the saddle and then on to the peak. Route 3 is an enjoyable though strenuous adventure that starts from the PCT on Angeles Crest Highway before departing to the top of Mount Williamson and traverses the Pleasant View Ridge (which the HPS peak PVR is at the tail end of), crossing over Goodykuntz Peak then down and up again to Pallett.

Pallett Mountain has 3 official HPS routes:

Pallett Mountain Route 1- Burkhardt Trail

Distance: 12.5 miles round trip on trail and steep use trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3300

Time: 6-7 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of I-210 and Angeles Crest Highway (SR 2), drive north on Angeles Crest Highway 33.5 miles to the entrance to Buckhorn Campground on the left. Turn left.
- Proceed down the entrance road and then turn left at the next two forks, then follow the signs "Burkhart Trail" to a large parking area.
- If the campground entrance is locked, drive SR 2 another 0.8 mile to the campground exit road, which intersects SR 2 at a sharp angle to the left. Park beside the exit road and hike down through the campground to the signed trailhead. This adds 1 mile and 200' gain to the round trip.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6460'), hike north down the Burkhardt Trail (10W02) about 2 miles to a junction with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) near Cooper Canyon Falls.
- Turn right (east) on the PCT, crossing Little Rock Creek (5600') in about 0.3 mile, and then proceed 100' farther to a trail junction with the Rattlesnake Trail (signed). Turn left onto the Burkhardt Trail.
- Follow this trail north over occasionally loose slopes for 3.2 miles to Burkhardt Saddle (6959').
- Hike about 0.5 mile east up a steep use trail to the summit. (Will Thrall Peak can be reached by turning west at Burkhardt Saddle and climbing a steep use trail about 1/2 mile to the summit.)

Additional Route notes:

Pallett Mountain Route 2- High Desert Trail

Distance: 15.5 miles round trip on trail and steep use trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 4600

Time: 7-9 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take the Antelope Valley Freeway (SR 14) northeast toward Palmdale. Get off at the Angeles Forest Highway/Pearblossom Highway.
- Go 4.5 miles northeast and then east on Pearblossom Highway to the intersection with SR 138.
- Turn right and drive 9 miles to Longview Road (N6) (shown as 131st Street on the 7.5 minute topos) in the town of Pearblossom, where a sign "Devils Punchbowl" points to the right. Turn right (south) onto N6. Note your odometer and proceed as follows:
- At 2.0 miles, junction with Fort Tejon Road. Turn left.
- At 2.5 miles, junction with Longview Road (N6) (shown as 13st Street on the 7.5 minute topos). Turn right.
- At 4.5 miles, signed junction marked "Lewis Ranch" and "Devils Punchbowl" on the left. Turn left.
- Drive 3 miles farther to a parking lot at the end of the road at the Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center. Park in the parking lot. (At the time of this revision, there is no fee.)

Hiking directions:

- From your parking spot (4760'), walk to the signed beginning of the Burkhart Trail next to the portable toilet.
- Proceed onto the trail, which swings southwest past a large, green water tank to a trail junction at about 0.7 mile.
- Take the right (west) fork, which reads "Burkhart Saddle 6.2 miles".
- After 2 miles the trail descends steeply to a junction with a dirt road. Turn left (south) on this road, signed "Burkhart Saddle 3.7 miles".
- The road passes a windmill high above Cruthers Creek and then descends into the canyon, where you follow a wide trail alignment that heads uphill on the right immediately after crossing the creekbed (4600').
- Ascend the trail for 3.4 miles to Burkhart Saddle (6959').
- Hike about 0.5 mile east up a steep use trail to the summit. (Will Thrall Peak can be reached by turning west at Burkhart Saddle and climbing a steep use trail about 0.5 mile to the summit.)

Additional Route notes:

Pallett Mountain Route 3- From Mount Williamson

Distance: 6 miles round trip steep cross-country (9 miles round trip from Mount Williamson trailhead)

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass maAdventure Pass may be required be requiredes

Gain: 1000

Time: 3-4 hours round trip (6-7 hours round trip from Mount Williamson trailhead)

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- See the Mount Williamson guide.

Hiking directions:

- From the summit of Mount Williamson, descend the northwest ridge on a use trail.
- Hike over bumps 8244', 8248', down 300' to a saddle and up 160' to bump 8160'+.
- Go northwest and then west down to a second saddle at 7280'+ and up 500' to the summit of Pallett Mountain.
- Return to Mount Williamson.

Additional Route notes:

From Mount Williamson.