

Copter Ridge 14L

Lat/lon 34.3261127,-117.7917267
UTM 11S 427165E 3798599N

Elevation: 7499'

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Copter Ridge on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Los Angeles County, about 15 miles north-northeast of Glendora, 56 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Mount Hawkins, Throop Peak

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

Copter Ridge, named for a 1953 helicopter crash there, is one of two nearby hikes that require you to summit another peak before reaching it (the other is Ross). In this case, Copter Ridge can only be reached from the summit of Mount Hawkins. From Hawkins, the trail descends a wonderfully forested ridge, accompanied by marvelous views to the east, a magnificent ridgeline drops from Baden-Powell to Ross, and the spectacular San Antonio Ridge makes its daunting traverse from Baldy to Iron; Rattlesnake makes its serpentine ascent from the south; and, Hawkins ridge reaches and stretches impressively to the west. Enjoy the view and save your energy, as you have a great deal of elevation gain on the return,

Route 1 follows a use trail to Windy Gap and then the PCT to Mount Hawkins. Route 2 begins at Dawson Saddle and crosses either over or around Throop Peak before reaching Mount Hawkins. Islip Saddle and Crystal Lake are two additional options for starting points if you are looking for a longer approach.

Copter Ridge has 2 official HPS routes:

Copter Ridge Route 1

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

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3450

Time: 6 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From I-210 and Angeles Crest Highway (SR 2), go north on Angeles Crest Highway for 41.6 miles to a parking area on the right just before a gated dirt road at mile marker 66.37. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (7240'), note 3 gullies on the south side of the highway. The large center gully has a vertical culvert pipe at the bottom. On the left side of the gully there is an obvious use trail.
- Hike up this use trail, bearing about 210° 1/4 mile to Windy Gap (7588').
- Continue east on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) for 1.5 miles farther to saddle 8400', where a trail forks to the south. This is the turnoff for Middle Hawkins and South Mount Hawkins (LO).
- Take the left (east) fork, the PCT, up past bump 8800'+ and on to where the trail arrives on the ridge northeast of the summit. Here there is a fork to the southwest along the ridge. This is the turnoff for Throop Peak.
- Turn right and follow this trail up to the summit of Mount Hawkins.
- From here, hike southeast down the slope, picking up a use trail which descends the ridge. Follow it down to about 8350' where the ridge splits.
- Take the right ridge (southeast) and continue following the use trail down to a shallow saddle at 7400'- and up about 150' to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Copter Ridge Route 2- From Dawson Saddle

Distance: 9.6 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3000

Time: 6 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of I-210 and Angeles Crest Highway, drive north on Angeles Crest Highway for about 44.8 miles to a parking area just past Dawson Saddle. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (7920'), cross to the south side of the road to where trail begins. Hike up this trail to a trail junction northeast of Throop Peak.
- Turn right and follow the trail about a mile to the saddle northeast of Mount Hawkins. Here there is a prominent use trail branching to the left along the ridge.
- Turn left and follow this use trail up to the summit of Mount Hawkins.
- From here, hike southeast down the slope, picking up a use trail that descends the ridge. Follow it down to about 8350' where the ridge splits.
- Take the right ridge (southeast) and continue following the use trail down to a shallow saddle at 7400'- and up about 150' to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Note: Hiking over the summit of Throop Peak via its northwest trending ridge shortens the distance and time while adding about 400' of gain round trip.