

Smith Mountain 15B

Lat/lon 34.2811137,-117.8633952
UTM 11S 420530E 3793663N

Elevation: 5111'

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

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Smith Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Los Angeles County, about 10 miles north of Azusa, 42 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks:

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

The pleasure of hiking to Smith Mountain starts shortly into the drive to the trailhead as the road gradually winds its way through the beautiful green mountains that surround the destination. The pleasure continues as you take the pleasant Upper Bear Canyon Trail to Smith Saddle, and then leave it for a use trail up a sometimes steep ridge to the summit. Wonderful views abound, among them Bear Creek's deep canyon, Triplet Rocks, Waterman, Islip, Hawkins, Rattlesnake, Wilson and Baldy.

Route 1 is a popular and moderate hike that is suitable for most reasonably fit hikers. It is traditional trail for the first 3 miles and then it makes a left turn up a firebreak to the summit. Route 2 starts further up highway 39 and then follows the firebreak all the way down and then back up to Smith. Remember that Route 2 has 1,700' of gain on the way back to Hwy. 39, so be prepared if you choose that option. A car shuttle hike between those two trails is also a possibility.

Notes: Routes 1 and 2 can be combined for an excellent car shuttle trip by hiking south on Route 2 and east on Route 1. Smith Mountain and its north-south ridgeline form the eastern border of the San Gabriel Wilderness, but no permits are required to hike the peak at this time.

Smith Mountain has 2 official HPS routes:

Smith Mountain Route 1

Distance: 7 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 1800

Time: 3-4 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of I-210 and Azusa Avenue (SR 39), drive north on Azusa Avenue about 18.2 miles to a wide paved parking area on the left. Park here. This is about 0.2 mile before the Coldbrook Ranger Station and Campground.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (3280'), a trail starts at the north end of the parking lot.
- Hike up this trail about 3 miles to a saddle just north of Smith Mountain (4240').
- There may be a sign here reading "San Gabriel Wilderness".
- Leave the trail on the left and follow a use trail south along a firebreak up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Smith Mountain Route 2- From Crystal Lake

Distance: 6.5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 2800

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Time: 5 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Adventure Pass may be required

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of I-210 and Azusa Avenue (SR 39), drive north on Azusa Avenue to the Crystal Lake entrance.
- Continue on SR 39 for 0.3 miles to a locked gate. Park on the left in the wide paved parking area before the gate.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (5200'), hike past the locked gate and up the road for about a mile until you see a gated dirt road on your left.
- Pass through this gate and continue uphill to gain the ridge.
- Follow this wide firebreak on the ridge to the saddle (4240') north of Smith Mountain where there is a junction with Route 1.
- From here follow a use trail south along a firebreak up to the summit.

Additional Route notes: