

Iron Mountain #1 15D- Star Emblem Peak

Lat/Lon 34.2883367,-117.7128348
UTM 11S 434394E 3794357N

Elevation: 8007'

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

Download this [pdf guide](#) or visit its official [page](#)

Iron Mountain #1 on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Los Angeles County, about 13 miles north of Claremont, 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

Iron Mountain #1 is by far the hardest single peak hike in all of the Angeles Forest. Big Iron was originally called Sheep Mountain by the local miners for all the bighorn sheep that used to call the area home. The hike delivers stunning views of Rattlesnake Peak as well as Ontario Peak, and the 360 degree panorama from the top includes Baden Powell, Mount San Antonio, Dawson Peak and Pine Mountain #1.

Route 1 describes the starting area and the turn off onto Heaton Flat Trail (near the toilet). The trail is easy to follow as it climbs the canyon, crosses a saddle and then keeps climbing to Allison Saddle, named for the nearby Allison Gold Mine, where you can leave some water for the long hike back. From that saddle, the hike really gets challenging as the trail goes up and down at least 7 times before reaching the summit and trail can be loose and slippery. This hike is best done in spring after any snow has melted, or in the fall when it is cooler, as it can be hot and there is little shade. A few sections are steep enough where your hands will be touching the ground to help you keep your balance. Experienced and well trained hikers looking for a challenge will love this hike. An even more challenging route is to traverse the San Antonio Ridge to Baldy ("Iron to Baldy"), which involves some third class scrambling and a great deal of additional elevation gain, both going out and on return. Leaving a car at Heaton Flat would allow one to do Baldy to Iron (the direction with the least gain) as a car shuttle hike.

Alternate routes: This peak has been climbed from many different directions including a route that traverses Mount San Antonio. All of these routes are very difficult and should not be attempted by inexperienced hikers.

Historical notes: This peak is considered to be the hardest climb in the San Gabriels. Also known as Big Iron, it was originally called Sheep Mountain by the early miners in San Gabriel Canyon because

of the large bands of Bighorn sheep that formerly roamed the slopes. The Geological Survey, which mapped the San Gabriels in the 1890's, ignored the local designation and gave it its present name.

Special conditions: On the return trip the ridge forks about 1/4 mile below the summit. Be sure to follow the use trail off to the left at this point. Many experienced hikers have made a mistake at this point.

Wilderness permits are required to hike the Heaton Flat Trail. They are available at the following locations:

- 1) Self-serve at a kiosk near the entrance to the parking lot.
- 2) The USFS Entrance Station on SR 39.
- 3) The San Gabriel River Ranger District Office at 110 N. Wabash in Glendora.
- 4) By mail from the San Gabriel River Ranger District, Angeles National Forest, 110 N. Wabash, Glendora, CA 91741. (626) 335-1251

Iron Mountain #1 has 1 official HPS route:

Iron Mountain #1 Route 1

Distance: 14 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 7200

Time: 10-12 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of I-210 and Azusa Avenue (SR 39), drive north on Azusa Avenue about 12 miles to the intersection at the East Fork Bridge.
- Turn right and drive 6.1 miles to a parking lot at the end of the road. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area, pass the locked gate and hike north and east up the road about 1/2 mile to the beginning of trail 8W16 on the right at Heaton Flats. There may be a sign "Heaton Flat Trail".
- Take this trail, keeping right at an immediate fork. Follow the trail up to the top of the ridge. Continue on the trail over several small bumps to its end at Allison Saddle (4582').
- Leave the trail and head north up the ridge following an obvious use trail up to the summit.

Additional Route 1 notes:

