

## Dawson Peak 16D

Lat/Lon 34.3033365,-117.6358882  
UTM 11S 441486E 3795973N

Elevation: 9575'

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Dawson Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Bernardino County, about 4 miles south of Wrightwood, 84 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Wright Mountain, Pine Mountain #1

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

Dawson Peak, named for an Angeles Chapter and later National Sierra Club president from the early 20th century, is a remote peak that is hidden behind Mount San Antonio until you are on the final ridge of the Devil's Backbone trail. Named in honor of Ernest Dawson, who was an influential early member of the Sierra Club, this hike is often combined with Pine Mountain and Wright Mountain along a ridge that continues to the summit of Baldy which some have called the "other Devil's Backbone trail". Dawson has views of Baldy towering above you and inviting you to continue on, of Stockton Flats and Lytle Creek to the east, Fish Fork and Wild View to the west, and Blue Ridge to the north.

Routes 1 and 2 begin off the Blue Ridge Road, subject to seasonal closure. If the gate at Guffy Camp is closed this adds 1.8 miles each way on road. The routes then climb straight up the ridge. Route 3 requires you to hike up and over Mount Baldy and then back up and over Mount Baldy on the way out, adding 1,900' of elevation to your 4,000' Mount Baldy climb. One can also reach these peaks from Wrightwood via the Acorn Trail (see the description for Wright Mountain Route 3). The remoteness and beauty of Dawson is certainly a draw, but no matter the route you choose, it requires solid planning and conditioning.

Alternate Routes:

Drive to the trailhead for Gobblers Knob (6400'). See driving instructions for Gobblers Knob. Walk west along the PCT to the parking area for Route 1. The additional distance to the parking area for Route 1 is about 5 1/2 miles round trip with 2000' of additional gain. Class 1, very strenuous.

Mount San Antonio (Mt Baldy) can be climbed from Dawson Peak. The combination of Pine Mountain #1, Dawson Peak, and Mount San Antonio would be very strenuous. Using Route 1 above the gain would be 4500', and the distance 8 1/2 miles.

Special conditions: The peak is in the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Permits are not required for day hikes at this time.

Dawson Peak has 3 official HPS routes:

## Dawson Peak Route 1- North Backbone Trail

Distance: 5.5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 2600

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: Dirt

### Driving directions:

- Go east on I-10 to I-15.
- Go north on I-15 to SR 138. Turn left (west).
- Go west on SR 138 to the junction with SR 2. Turn left.
- Go southwest on SR 2 through Wrightwood and 4 miles further to the junction with N4. Keep left on SR 2.
- Go 1.8 miles farther to a large parking area on both sides of the road. At the beginning of the left parking area is the Blue Ridge Road (dirt). Take this road. Note your odometer and go as follows:
  - At 0.3 mile, fork. Keep right.
  - At 1.4 miles, fork at a ski run. Keep left.
  - At 2.4 miles, Blue Ridge Campground (pavement ends).
  - At 5.1 miles, Guffy Campground on the left. Keep right and go through a gate.
  - At 5.6 miles, fork. Keep left.
  - At 7.2 miles, the road swings left around a ridge with a parking area on the right. Park here. This is also the trailhead for Wright Mountain and Pine Mountain #1.

### Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (8310'), follow the obvious trail (quite steep in spots) over several bumps to Pine Mountain #1, which is just to the left of the trail.
- Continue on trail past the summit of Pine Mountain #1 and go down to the saddle between Pine Mountain #1 and Dawson Peak.
- Continue up to Dawson Peak. It is to the left of the trail. Leave the trail when it starts down to the Dawson-Baldy saddle.

### Additional Route notes:

## Dawson Peak Route 2- From PCT

Distance: 8.5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 3600

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Time: 6 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Adventure Pass may be required

Road type: Paved

### Driving directions:

- Go east on I-10 to I-15.
- Go north on I-15 to SR 138. Turn left (west).
- Go west on SR 138 to the junction with SR 2. Turn left.
- Go southwest on SR 2 through Wrightwood and 4 miles further to the junction with N4. Keep left on SR 2.
- Go 1.8 miles farther to a large parking area on both sides of the road. At the beginning of the left parking area is the Blue Ridge Road (dirt). Take this road. Note your odometer and go as follows:
  - At 0.3 mile, fork. Keep right.
  - At 1.4 miles, fork at a ski run. Keep left.
  - At 2.4 miles, Blue Ridge Campground (pavement ends).
  - At 5.1 miles, Guffy Campground turnoff on the left. Keep left, go about 0.2 mile, and park at east end of Guffy Campground (8250'). Do not occupy a campsite unless you plan to use it.

### Hiking directions:

- Hike east past the outhouse going along a ridge which leads down to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Follow the PCT past the intersection with the Acorn Trail (to Wrightwood).
- Continue along the PCT for about 0.7 mile until the parking area (8310') for Route 1 is visible below you to your right.
- Hike down to the parking area for Route 1. There is a spade marker with a red and white sign and a wooden sign with the legend "Sheep Mountain Wilderness" at the parking area.
- Follow the obvious trail (quite steep in spots) over several bumps to Pine Mountain #1 which is just to the left of the trail.
- Continue on trail past the summit of Pine Mountain #1 and go down to the saddle between Pine Mountain #1 and Dawson Peak.
- Continue up to Dawson Peak. It is to the left of the trail. Leave the trail when it starts down to the Dawson-Baldy saddle.

### Additional Route notes:

Special conditions: The ridge up to Pine Mountain #1 is also known as the "Other Devil's Backbone". It has very steep slopes on both sides and can be very dangerous in icy conditions. The road from Blue Ridge goes through the top of a ski resort. This road is always closed at the SR 2 junction during the ski season.

## Dawson Peak Route 3- From Mount San Antonio

Distance: 3 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1900

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Time: 2.5 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

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Road type: Paved

### Driving directions:

- See the Mount San Antonio guide.

### Hiking directions:

- From the summit of Mount San Antonio, hike north down a ridge to the saddle just southwest of Dawson Peak.
- Hike northeast along the ridge up to the summit.

### Additional Route notes:

Note: You must first climb Mount San Antonio (Mt Baldy) by any appropriate route to reach Route 3.