

Mount San Antonio 16E- Star Emblem Peak

Lat/lon 34.2888927,-117.6467218
UTM 11S 440479E 3794378N

Elevation: 10,064'

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Mount San Antonio on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Los Angeles County, about 13 miles north of Upland, 48 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Dawson Peak, Mount Harwood

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

Mount San Antonio, affectionately known as Mount Baldy, is one of the most popular peaks in Southern California and is just a one hour drive from Los Angeles. The views are spectacular: to the north, the distant high desert; around us, steep rugged canyons shouldering marvelous forested mountains (Baden-Powell, Ross, Iron, Pine, Dawson, Telegraph, Thunder, Cucamonga, Ontario, and more).

There are many routes to climb up Baldy that offer something for everyone. The most popular is the so-called ski hut trail (route 2), that passes by the Sierra Club San Antonio ski hut where members and guests can stay during certain times of year (check the Angeles Chapter outings calendar for open dates). A popular and more challenging variation is the Register Ridge trail (route 4, named because it leaves the ski hut trail at the sign-in register), which ascends a steep, rocky ridge to rejoin the trail from Baldy Notch at Mount Harwood then on to the summit. If you ascend this way be sure to note where you left the ridge; missing the ridge on return and descending the ridge further east is considerably more difficult terrain. One can also climb up adjacent to the ski lift to Baldy Notch (route 1), with a restaurant for your return when open, then traverse across the Devil's Backbone to Mount Harwood and the summit. Devils Backbone is an easy but narrow trail on a knife edge ridge with serious drop offs on both sides that with care is quite safe most of the year but becomes dangerous when there is even a modest amount of snow. There are deaths here almost every winter, even among experienced hikers with proper equipment. If you hike to the Notch consider a short short side trip to Thunder Mountain.

If you want more elevation gain, the Bear Creek Trail (route 3), starts from Baldy Village near the visitors center and climbs steeply 6000 feet in 6 miles through very scenic terrain. In winter those inclined toward mountaineering climb directly up the Baldy Bowl by multiple routes with varying levels of challenge. As its ease of access often attracts the inexperienced, accidents and avalanche deaths occur regularly among those climbing the Bowl. Other routes include from the north over

Pine Mountain and Dawson Peak and a challenging route to or from Iron Mountain #1 on a narrow ridge with some third class scrambling.

Peak combinations: It is possible to hike from Dawson Peak up to the summit of Mount San Antonio. Wright Mountain, Pine Mountain #1, Dawson Peak, and Mount San Antonio make a popular trip.

Special conditions: The ski lift at the end of Baldy Road operates in the summer months on weekends and some holidays. It is possible to take this (for a fee) to Baldy Notch. This significantly reduces the gain and distance from this direction.

Historical notes: This peak is commonly know as Mount Baldy. It is the highest point in the San Gabriel Mountains and Los Angeles County. The road and trail to the summit were originally established by gold-seekers in San Gabriel Canyon.

Mount San Antonio has 4 official HPS routes:

Mount San Antonio Route 1- Baldy Notch/Devil's Backbone

Distance: 12.5 miles round trip on road and trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3900

Time: 6-7 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take the 210 freeway east to Baseline Road exit in the City of Claremont. Turn left (west) at the bottom of the off-ramp onto Baseline Road.
- Almost immediately, take the first right (north) onto Padua Ave.
- Go 1.8 miles north on Padua to the intersection with Mount Baldy Rd. Turn right (northeast).
- Take this road northeast and then north about seven miles to Mt. Baldy Village.
- Pass through Mt. Baldy Village and in about four miles, intersect San Antonio Falls Road on the left (gated). Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6160'), pass the gate and hike up the road to Baldy Notch at the top of the ski lift.
- Turn left (northwest) and follow a road up a ridge to where it becomes a trail.
- Follow this trail up the Devils Backbone, going by Mount Harwood on your right (to the north), and up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Special conditions: Do not hike up the slope beneath the ski lift. This is not legal.

The Devils Backbone trail can be dangerous in winter months and there have been many deaths.

Mount San Antonio Route 2- Ski Hut Trail

Distance: 8 miles round trip on road, trail,
and use trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3900

Time: 5-6 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take the 210 freeway east to Baseline Road exit in the City of Claremont. Turn left (west) at the bottom of the off-ramp onto Baseline Road.
- Almost immediately, take the first right (north) onto Padua Ave.
- Go 1.8 miles north on Padua to the intersection with Mount Baldy Rd. Turn right (northeast).
- Take this road northeast and then north about seven miles to Mt. Baldy Village.
- Pass through Mt. Baldy Village and in about four miles, intersect San Antonio Falls Road on the left (gated). Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6160'), pass the gate and hike up the road about 1/2 mile to where a faint trail goes up the left bank.
- Follow this trail up to the Sierra Club's Baldy Ski Hut at 8100'.
- From here a use trail crosses the main bowl west to the south ridge of Mount San Antonio.
- It then goes up this ridge to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Mount San Antonio Route 3- Bear Canyon Trail/"Baldy From the Village"

Distance: 12 miles round trip on trail

Gain: 6000

Time: 10-12 hours round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Paved

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Driving directions:

- Take the 210 freeway east to Baseline Road exit in the City of Claremont. Turn left (west) at the bottom of the off-ramp onto Baseline Road.
- Almost immediately, take the first right (north) onto Padua Ave.
- Go 1.8 miles north on Padua to the intersection with Mount Baldy Rd. Turn right (northeast).
- Take this road northeast and then north about seven miles to Mt. Baldy Village.
- Park in the USFS Visitor's Center parking lot or by the road.
- Note: The Forest Service is now encouraging Bear Canyon hikers to park in the large clearing on Mt. Baldy Road opposite the Trout Farm, about 0.3 mile above the visitor center.

Hiking directions:

- From the Visitor Center parking area (4200'), hike up past the church on Bear Canyon Drive. Bear Canyon Drive is about 200' south of the Visitors Center. It soon becomes the Bear Canyon Trail.
- Hike this trail past several cabins for about a mile to Bear Flat.
- Continue up the trail as it follows a ridge up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Mount San Antonio Route 4- Register Ridge

Distance: 10 miles round trip on road, trail,
and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 3900

Time: 5-6 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take the 210 freeway east to Baseline Road exit in the City of Claremont. Turn left (west) at the bottom of the off-ramp onto Baseline Road.
- Almost immediately, take the first right (north) onto Padua Ave.
- Go 1.8 miles north on Padua to the intersection with Mount Baldy Rd. Turn right (northeast).
- Take this road northeast and then north about seven miles to Mt. Baldy Village.
- Pass through Mt. Baldy Village and in about four miles, intersect San Antonio Falls Road on the left (gated). Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6160'), pass the gate and hike up the road where it turns right past the waterfall. About 1/4 mile past the waterfall there is a faint trail goes up the left bank.
- Follow the trail to a sign in register (about 100 meters) from the road.
- Proceed up the trail for about another 50 meters past the sign-in box to where the trail makes a bend to your right (east). There is a stand of three trees at this bend on your left (west).
- About 15 meters past the bend, there is a lone tree on your right (east) where a use trail begins.
- Turn right (east) and ascend the slope via the use trail until you reach the ridge. Please be sure to note where you met the ridge for your return.
- Turn left (north) and hike up the ridge until you meet the Devil's Backbone Trail. Please note where you met the trail for your return.
- Turn left (east) and follow the trail to the summit.

Additional Route notes: