

Modjeska Peak 18B

Lat/Lon 33.7197414,-117.5450468
UTM 11S 449501E 3731216N

Elevation: 5496'

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

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Modjeska Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Orange County, about 11 miles south of Corona, 58 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Santiago Peak

Land Manager: Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District (951) 736-1811

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. CONDITIONS MAY CHANGE, AND UNEXPECTED HAZARDS MAY BE PRESENT.

About the peak

Modjeska Peak and its neighbor Santiago Peak in the Cleveland National Forest, are the only HPS peaks in Orange County. It was named for a famous actress in the late 1800s who lived here, described in the summit history. It has lovely view of the surrounding mountains and canyons, and Orange County all the way to the ocean. Its west side burned badly in the 2018 Holy Jim Fire but is regrowing. Modjeska is typically hiked in conjunction with adjacent Santiago Peak, hiking or driving between the two.

There are numerous routes to the peak. Route 1 is the route from Santiago, however you got there, to Modjeska, either on road or trail. Routes 2 and 3 are from the parking area for Santiago Route 2, so you can hike both from the same spot. Route 4 follows ridges, crossed the road, then ascends to the peak.

Special conditions: Silverado Canyon Road and Bedford Road are seasonal, with fire, weather or other closings. Further, Silverado is closed at special times of the year to protect an endangered frog. Check with the Trabuco District Ranger Station, Cleveland National Forest at (951) 736-1811.

Historical note: Mme. Helena Modjeska was a world-famous dancer and artist, who lived with her husband Count Rozenta in Silverado Canyon. The peak was named for her after her death in 1909.

Modjeska Peak has 4 official HPS routes:

Modjeska Peak Route 1- From Santiago Peak

Distance: 4 miles round trip on road and trail	Gain: 500
Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy	Time: 3/4 hour one way
Trailhead location on Google Maps	Navigation difficulty:
Adventure Pass may be required	Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- See the Santiago Peak guide.

Hiking directions:

- From the summit of Santiago Peak, hike down the road about 0.25 mile to a junction with the Main Divide road. Turn right (east, towards Holy Jim trail) and go a short distance to where the road widens at about 5400'.
- An unsigned and not very obvious trail leaves the road on the left. Shortly the trail becomes more obvious. Note: This trail can become overgrown if not maintained regularly.
- Follow this trail northwest to saddle 4988' where the trail meets the Main Divide road, then continues to the right of the road.
- Continue on the "Modjeska Peak trail" for about 0.5 mile to a junction with an old road.
- Turn right (northeast) on the road and follow it to the summit. It saves some distance to shortcut the road, taking a use trail on the right (east) of the road which runs northeast to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Notes: From Santiago Peak.

Alternate (avoiding the trail): Turn left (northwest) on the Main Divide road and follow it for about 3/4 mile to saddle 4988', then continue about 3/4 mile to a junction with an old road going to the right (northeast). Follow the old road to the summit, or take the use trail shortcut. The direct route from saddle 4988 to the summit is (obviously) quite brushy.

If you return to Santiago Peak, there is 700' gain. If you return to the road going to Holy Jim Trail, it's 450' gain.

Modjeska Peak Route 2

Distance: 2 miles round trip on road or 1.5 miles round trip on road and use trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 460

Time: 1 hour round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- See Santiago Peak Route 2

Hiking directions:

- From the 2WD parking area, hike the road up to the summit or hike east up the ridge to the summit.
- 4WD vehicles may drive 1.0 mile further to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Modjeska Peak Route 3

Distance: 2 miles round trip on road or 1.5 miles round trip on road and use trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass maAdventure Pass may be required be requiredes

Gain: 460

Time: 1 hour round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of SR 55 (Costa Mesa Freeway) and Katella Avenue in the City of Orange, go east on Katella and then southeast on Santiago Canyon Road (S18) to Silverado Canyon Road. Turn left.
- Drive east 5.7 miles to the end of the pavement at a Forest Service gate. If the gate is open, pass through the gate, note your odometer, and go as follows:
- At 6.5 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 7.4 miles, fork. Go left.
- At 7.5 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 9.1 miles, fork on the left. This is the turnoff for Santiago Peak. Turn left. 2WD vehicles should park here.
- 4WD vehicles may drive 1.0 mile further to the summit.

Hiking directions:

- From the 2WD parking area, hike the road up to the summit or hike east up the ridge to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Modjeska Peak Route 4- From Silverado Canyon

Distance: 7 miles round trip on use trail and road

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 2500

Time: 3.5 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the intersection of SR 55 (Costa Mesa Freeway) and Chapman Avenue in the City of Orange, go east on Chapman and then southeast on Santiago Canyon Road (S18) to Silverado Canyon Road. Turn left.
- Drive east 5.7 miles to a Forest Service gate. If the gate is open, pass through the gate, note your odometer, and go as follows:
- Drive 3 miles to the end of the pavement (3 parking spaces).
- High clearance vehicles may go an additional 0.4mi to the hairpin turn where the use trail leaves the road (about 4 parking spaces).

Hiking directions:

- From the end of the pavement, hike the road 0.4 mile, 150' gain, up to the next hairpin turn (3100').
- Leave the road and ascend the ridge behind the guardrail going south. This use trail crosses the road twice and continues to highpoint of ridge at 4550'.
- From highpoint of ridge, descend use trail on the left (NE) side of ridge to large open area where roads converge (4500').
- Continue east on road (do not follow right fork that goes downhill) through first gate marked Maple Springs Rd.
- A few yards farther, turn right onto CNF 3S04 Modjeska Peak Road (called Main Divide Truck Trail on topo maps).
- Twenty yards after passing through this gate, a use trail continues up on the left. Follow this until it reaches a road.
- Ten yards to your left and across the road is the continuation use trail that goes to Santiago Peak.
- Turn left on the road and continue 30 yards.
- Ascend the firebreak on your right to the summit of Modjeska Peak.

Additional Route notes:

Note: From the summit of Modjeska, you can continue to Santiago Peak (3 miles, 1000' round trip): Descend Modjeska Peak down the firebreak to the road the way you came. Turn left on the use trail, indicated above, that goes to the saddle between Modjeska and Santiago Peaks.

The use trail again leaves the road just past the saddle. Follow this until it joins the road, and follow the road to the summit of Santiago Peak.