

Bertha Peak 21G

Lat/Lon 34.2830617,-116.899199
UTM 11S 509278E 3793547N

Elevation: 8201'

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Bertha Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Bernardino County, about 3 miles north of the town of Big Bear Lake, 102 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks:

Land Manager: San Bernardino National Forest, Mountaintop Ranger District (909) 382-2790

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

About the peak

At 8,201 feet, Bertha Peak offers fantastic foreground views of Big Bear Lake, backed by a birds-eye view of many of the tallest peaks in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. To the north and east, respectively, on clear day, one can see as far as Telescope Peak and Mount Charleston.

Route 1 is a short hike up a dirt road that services the communication site atop Bertha Peak. Route 2 offers a maintained trail (including a short stretch of the PCT) for most of its length, except the last mile which is co-located with the road that comprises Route 1. Both routes are relatively sun-exposed, Route 2 can be an enjoyable snowshoe experience in winter. Route 2's parking is at the Cougar Crest trailhead which does have restrooms (federal pass required to park in the lot).

Bertha Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

Bertha Peak Route 1

Distance: 3.25 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 800

Time: 2 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Drive east on I-10 to I-215.
- Drive north on I-215 to SR 210.
- Drive east on SR 210 to SR 330.
- Drive north on SR 330 to SR 18 at the town of Running Springs.
- Drive east on SR 18 to the dam at Big Bear Lake. Turn left on SR 38.
- Drive on SR 38 to Fawnskin.
- Continue east on SR 38 for 2.0 miles to Polique Canyon Road (Holcomb Valley turnoff). Turn left (north). Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 1.5 miles, T intersection with 2N71 to the left. Go right (northeast) on 2N09.
- At 2.0 miles, a gated road on the right. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (7420'), hike north on 2N09 about 250 yards to where the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses the road. Turn right (east).
- Continue about 1 1/2 miles to where the PCT begins to pass the north slope of Bertha.
- Leave the trail here and hike southeast up the slope to the summit. There is a radio transmitter site on the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Alternate routes: From the same parking area, pass the gate and hike east up road 2N09C to the summit.

Bertha Peak Route 2- Cougar Crest trail

Distance: 7.0 miles round trip on trail and dirt road

Gain: 1500

Time: 3 hours round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Paved

Adventure Pass may be required

Driving directions:

- Follow Route 1 directions to Fawnskin.
- From Fawnskin, continue 2.5 miles east on SR-38 to the Cougar Crest Trailhead parking lot. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the Cougar Crest Trailhead (elevation 6850') hike north about 0.1 mile on a paved walking path.
- As the paved path turns to the right, continue straight on a dirt road and hike up to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).
- Upon reaching the PCT (2 miles from your car), turn right and proceed another 0.5 miles to another dirt road.
- Leave the PCT, turn right and follow this dirt road for about 1 mile to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Note: The views of Big Bear Lake from much of this route are very nice.