

Silver Peak 21I

Lat/Lon 34.3377821,-116.810029
UTM 11S 517474E 3799626N

Elevation: 6756'

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Silver Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

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Location: San Bernardino County, about 6 miles north-northeast of Big Bear City, 112 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

Silver Peak sits atop Blackhawk Mountain on the northeastern edge of the San Bernardino Mountains. A party of Texans first found silver on the South slope of this peak (1873). This resulted in the short-lived Arlington Mining District and its many colorful characters, such as "Cactus Jim" Johnson, who carved out a wagon road on nearby "Johnson's Grade". He is buried at Cactus Flat, near the trailhead for Route 2. This peak may once have been known to the Cahuilla Indians as Makaveat. The peak offers extensive views of the Granite Peaks Wilderness to the south, and panoramic views of the Mojave Desert.

Route 1 offers an interesting ramble up a canyon and ridge through remnants of the mountain's nineteenth century mining history, with mineshafts, ore carts, an old truck and other mining paraphernalia aplenty. Route 2 is a high-clearance vehicle drive-up to the summit.

Historical notes: Cactus Jim Johnston, builder of "Johnston's Grade" (SR 18 between Lucerne Valley and Baldwin Lake), selected his burial site and is buried at Cactus Flat.

Silver Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

Silver Peak Route 1

Distance: 3 miles round trip on road and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 1000

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 6.5 miles to the junction of SR 38 and SR 18, north of Big Bear City.
- Drive east on SR 18 for 7.5 miles to a dirt road 3N62 on the right. This is at mile marker 62.00. There is a pullout with ample parking along the highway. High clearance vehicles can turn right (east) onto the dirt road and drive in (following the hiking directions) a short distance and park.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (5800'), hike east along the dirt road 0.3 mile to a fork.
- Keep left (north) for 0.2 mile along the road to a parking area, and then farther along the dirt road down into a gully.
- Here turn left and hike up the gully to its end at a dirt road.
- Turn right (east) and follow the road to its end at a large graded area.
- Turn north up a canyon, approximately following cables to the top of the ridge.
- Follow the spur ridge up to the main ridge where there is a dirt road.
- Turn right (east) and follow the road up to the summit, which is at the east end of the ridge, and is a hole in the ground.

Additional Route notes:

Silver Peak Route 2

Distance: None

Gain: 0

Time: None

Difficulty rating: Drive-up

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: High-clearance

Adventure Pass may be required

Driving directions:

- Western approach:
- 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 6.5 miles to the junction of SR 38 and SR 18, north of Big Bear City.
- Drive east then northwest on SR 18 for 10.8 miles to Silver Road (3N36). Turn right. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 0.2 mile, fork. Go right.
- At 0.4 and 1.4 miles, forks. Go left.
- At 1.6 miles, junction. Turn right.
- At 1.8 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 2.9 miles, fork. Go left.
- At 3.1 and 3.3 miles, forks. Go right.
- At 3.7 miles, fork. Go left here and at another fork 50' farther.
- At 3.8 miles, fork. Go left.
- At 4.2 miles, summit.
- Northern approach:
- Drive east on I-10 to I-15.
- Drive north on I-15 to Bear Valley Road interchange in Hesperia.
- Drive east on Bear Valley Road to SR 18 in Apple Valley.
- Drive east on SR 18 to junction of SR 247 in Lucerne Valley (note odometer).
- Drive southeast on SR 18 9.0 miles to Silver Road (3N36).
- Turn left. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 0.2 mile, fork. Go right.
- At 0.4 and 1.4 miles, forks. Go left.
- At 1.6 miles, junction. Turn right.

- At 1.8 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 2.9 miles, fork. Go left.
- At 3.1 and 3.3 miles, forks. Go right.
- At 3.7 miles, fork. Go left here and at another fork 50' farther.
- At 3.8 miles, fork. Go left.
- At 4.2 miles, summit.

Hiking directions:

- None if driving. Hiking up the rough road is 4.4 miles and 2300' gain round trip.

Additional Route notes:

Special conditions: 3N36 (Silver Road) has become increasingly eroded over the years. High clearance 4WD vehicle required.