

## San Bernardino Peak 24B

Lat/lon 34.122439,-116.922405  
UTM 11S 507155E 3775735N

Elevation: 10,649'

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

Download this [pdf guide](#) or visit its official [page](#)

San Bernardino Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Bernardino County, about 9 miles northeast of Yucaipa, 89 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: San Bernardino East Peak, Anderson Peak, Shields Peak

Land Manager: San Bernardino National Forest, Front Country Ranger District (909) 382-2851

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

### About the peak

San Bernardino Peak has an important place in the history and development of Southern California. What is now called Washington Monument is a large cairn erected in 1852 near the summit by a party lead by Colonel Henry Washington. This monument was the reference point from which all future surveys of Southern California were taken. Baseline Avenue is on the main east-west baseline derived from that. The summit has fabulous views of Big Bear, San Geronio and the cities below. The lovely surrounding forest burned in the 2020 El Dorado Fire, but is beginning to regrow slowly. This peak is the 11th highest peak in Southern California.

Route 1, the San Bernardino Divide Trail, is the main route trail to the top of San Bernardino Peak and it makes a beautiful out and back hike. Route 2 comes from San Bernardino Peak East, which can be reach by multiple directions; see the San Bernardino East peak guide for more information. A popular but strenuous loop hike is to hike to San Bernardino Peak East Peak Route 1 from the Forsee Creek Trail (perhaps bagging Anderson and or Shields on the way) then to San Bernardino and down Route 1 with a car shuttle.

Note: The most popular route is to climb San Bernardino East Peak via the Forsee Creek Trail and continue on to San Bernardino Peak.

Historical note: Part way up the San Bernardino Peak Trail is the Washington Monument. This is a large rock cairn and a metal plaque. This is named for Colonel Herbert Washington who was in charge of the initial USGS survey in this area. This point was the initial point on that survey on November 7, 1852 and marks the "principal meridian" that is the basis for all maps and surveys in this part of the state. Baseline Road follows this meridian, indicating the east-west line of thie meridian.

The peak was named long before Colonel Washington made his famous survey. The name "San Bernardino" dates from May 20, 1810, the feast day of Saint Bernardino of Siena, a Franciscan

preacher of the 15th century, when Padres from the Mission San Gabriel set up a temporary chapel in the valley and named the location "San Bernardino". Just when the name was transferred to the peak is not known.

Special conditions: Permits for day or overnight use are required for all routes and have a limit of 12. Permits can be obtained online from the San Geronimo Wilderness Association at [swga.org](http://swga.org) up to 90 days in advance or at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, 9 miles from Redlands on SR 38.

San Bernardino Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

## San Bernardino Peak Route 1- San Bernardino Peak Divide Trail

Distance: 18 miles round trip on trail

Gain: 4900

Time: 8 hours round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Navigation difficulty:

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Dirt

Adventure Pass may be required

### Driving directions:

- Take I-10 east past San Bernardino to the Orange Street exit (SR 38).
- Go one block east, then go north (left) 0.5 mile to Lugonia Avenue. Turn right on SR 38 (east).
- Continue east on SR 38 about 20 miles to Angelus Oaks.
- Here, turn right (east) at the entrance road to the fire station (signed). Turn left immediately and go 0.1 mile to a fork signed "Trail". Turn right, then immediately half right again.
- Continue 0.3 mile to the trailhead. Park here.

### Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (5950'), hike up 1W07, past the Washington Monument, to the summit.

### Additional Route notes:

## San Bernardino Peak Route 2- From San Bernardino East Peak

Distance: 1 mile one way on trail from East Peak, 20 miles total round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous with San Bernardino Peak East

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)  
Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 200

Time: 1/2 hour one way

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

### Driving directions:

- See the San Bernardino East Peak guide.

### Hiking directions:

- From the summit of San Bernardino East Peak, return to the trail just north of the summit.
- Follow the trail west down 300' and 3/4 mile into a saddle at 10,400'+.
- Continue as the trail climbs 200' to bypass the summit.
- Just past a short switchback, a use trail goes back to the southeast. Take it to the summit.

### Additional Route notes:

From San Bernardino East Peak.