

Shields Peak 24E

Lat/Lon 34.126955,-116.8816932
UTM 11S 510909E 3776239N

Elevation: 10,680'+

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Location: San Bernardino County, about 11 miles northeast of Yucaipa, 89 miles from Los Angeles

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

Shields Peak was named for Leila Shields, who loved the outdoors and managed the camp of a surveyor mapping the San Gorgonio area in the 1920s. This hike is the 9th highest peak in SoCal. Part of the beautiful San Bernardino Divide Trail, most hikers will summit this peak via the Forsee Creek trail mentioned in Route 1. The four pack of peaks at the top of this ridge are often strung together for an epic multi-peak hike. Much of the lovely surrounding forest burned in the 2020 El Dorado Fire, but is beginning to regrow slowly.

Route 1 describes the main and most direct route up the Forsee Creek Trail. Route 2 uses the South Fork trailhead to reach the top. Route 3 describes the route from Anderson Peak, reached by the various routes described in that peak guide. Route 4 is a very strenuous route along the Momyer Trail from the South.

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 Gorgonio Wilderness Association at [swga.org](#) up to 90 days in advance or at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, 9 miles from Redlands on SR 38.

If backpacking in the area, there is water at springs along the Forsee Creek Trail.

Shields Peak has 4 official HPS routes:

Shields Peak Route 1- Forsee Creek Trail

Distance: 13 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 4000

Time: 7-8 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Dirt

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 26 miles to paved Jenks Lake Road on the right. Turn right (south).
- Drive 0.3 mile to a fork at a sign "Forsee Creek Trail". Turn right (southwest).
- Keep left at an immediate fork. Drive 0.5 mile farther to a parking lot at a sign "Forsee Creek Trail". Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6720'), hike up the Forsee Creek Trail (1E06). At about 1/4 mile you will pass a Wilderness Area sign. About 200 yards farther the trail forks. The signed "Johns Meadow" trail goes to the right.
- Go left (signed "Jackstraw Springs"). Proceed about 5 1/2 miles (passing by a turnoff to Jackstraw Springs at 9250' to Trail Fork Springs at 10,400').
- Turn left at a trail junction just past Trail Fork Springs and follow the trail southeast to where it meets the San Bernardino Peak Trail.
- Continue east to where the trail begins to descend the left side of the ridge.
- Leave the trail on the right and follow the very rocky ridge east a short distance to the summit. Any path through the talus slope can be taken to reach the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Shields Peak Route 2- South Fork Trail

Distance: 18 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 4230

Time: 8-9 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

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 26 miles to Jenks Lake Road on the right. Turn right (south).
- Continue to the signed South Fork Trailhead parking lot on the left (restrooms). Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6900'), hike the South Fork Trail (1E04) past the old Poopout Hill trailhead to South Fork at Slushy Meadows where the Dry Lake Trail forks left (8200').
- Keep right on the South Fork Trail and continue to the fork to Dollar Lake.
- Keep straight and continue to Dollar Lake Saddle (9960'), at a junction with the San Bernardino Peak Trail (1W07).
- Hike west on 1W07 for 2 miles to where it comes out on the ridge just west of Shields Peak.
- Come back east along the very rocky ridge to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Shields Peak Route 3- From Anderson Peak

Distance: 1.5 miles one way on trail and cross-country from Anderson, 11 miles total round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 1

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

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Gain: 300

Time: 1 hour one way

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Follow the driving and hiking instructions in the Anderson Peak guide.

Hiking directions:

- From the summit of Anderson Peak, descend northeast down the ridge to the San Bernardino Peak Trail.
- Continue east about 1/3 mile to where the trail begins to descend the left side of the ridge.
- Leave the trail on the right and follow the very rocky ridge east a short distance to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

From Anderson Peak.

Shields Peak Route 4- Momyer Trail

Distance: 16 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, very strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 5400

Time: 9-10 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

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).
- Go 8 miles to the Mill Creek Ranger Station, a standard rendezvous spot.
- Continue east on SR 38 about 5 miles to the Valley of the Falls Road on the right.
- Turn right. Drive 2 3/4 miles to a large parking area on the left with a sign showing the start of the Momyer Trail. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the trailhead (5500'), follow the trail northward and cross Mill Creek. Pick up the trail on the north side of the creek.
- In 2 1/2 miles encounter a fork. The right fork goes to Alger Creek Trail Camp and Dollar Lake Saddle.
- Turn left. Proceed up the steep, mostly shadeless trail for another 4 1/2 miles to the top of the ridge at the San Bernardino Peak Divide Trail (1W07) (10,400').
- Turn right and continue east on trail 1W07 about 1 mile to where the trail begins to descend the left side of the ridge.
- Leave the trail on the right and follow the very rocky ridge east a short distance to the summit. Any path through the talus slope can be taken to reach the summit.

Additional Route notes: