

Dobbs Peak 24H

Lat/Lon 34.0980668,-116.8597466
UTM 11S 512937E 3773038N

Elevation: 10,459'

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Dobbs Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Bernardino County, about 12 miles north of Banning, 90 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Charlton Peak, Jepson Peak, San Gorgonio Mountain

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

Dobbs Peak, overshadowing the first 5 miles of the Vivian Creek Trail, is named for the colorful mountain man John W. Dobbs, whose interesting story is recounted in the summit history, his former cabin site now a campground on the side of Anderson Peak.

Route 1 follows the Vivian Creek Trail, passing Jepson along the way and making a possible double (or triple with San Gorgonio) peak combination. Route 2 follows the South Fork Trail, passing both Charlton and Jepson on the way. Route 3 is a more challenging route that starts above Vivian Creek Trail Camp and ascends a steep gully to reach the west ridge of Dobbs.

Special Conditions: There is water at High Meadow Spring Campground, 1 mile northwest of Dollar Lake Saddle, along trail 1W07. This is an excellent campsite for backpacking along this ridge.

Alternate routes: When climbing Dobbs Peak via the Vivian Creek Trail (Route 1), it is possible to return to the trail by descending southwest from the summit and meeting the trail near 7200'. This saves considerable mileage and time but requires significant navigation skills. See Route 3.

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.

Historical note: The peak was named for an early explorer in the area. In 1904 the George Grant party was led by a guide named Dobbs to the summit, reaching it as a thunderstorm broke. A bolt of lightning struck Dobbs and knocked him senseless. Another bolt killed another member of the party. Dobbs had to be restrained until help arrived the next morning, when he regained his senses but not his memory. (Charles Francis Saunders' "The Southern Sierras of California", 1923).

Dobbs Peak has 3 official HPS routes:

Dobbs Peak Route 1- Vivian Creek Trail

Distance: 17 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 5200

Time: 7-8 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

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 8.0 miles to the Mill Creek Ranger Station.
- Continue east on SR 38 about 5 miles to the Valley of the Falls Road on the right. Turn right.
- Drive 4.25 miles to the Vivian Creek parking area at the end of the road. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6080'), hike past the locked gate on the initially paved road east for 1/2 mile to where the trail descends into the wash.
- Cross the wash and pick up the trail again on the north side. Hike up the trail to where it intersects the San Bernardino Peak Trail (1W07) at 11,240'.
- Turn left and hike about 1 mile to where the trail crosses a ridge at about 10,880'.
- Leave the trail and hike southeast down the ridge to a saddle.
- Turn right and hike west about 3/4 mile to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Dobbs Peak Route 2- South Fork Trail

Distance: 18.5 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: 4250

Time: 8-9 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

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. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (6850'), 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 (9520').
- Keep right again and continue to Dollar Lake Saddle (9960'), at a junction with the San Bernardino Peak Trail (1W07).
- Turn left on 1W07 and follow it south about 2 miles to a point where it crosses a ridge at about 10,880'.
- Leave the trail and hike southeast down the ridge to a saddle.
- Turn right and hike west about 3/4 mile to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Dobbs Peak Route 3- Vivian Creek Trail

Distance: 7 miles round trip on trail and steep cross-country Gain: 4400
Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous Time: 5-7 hours round trip
Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#) Navigation difficulty: Moderate, use extra care on descent
Adventure Pass may be required 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 8.0 miles to the Mill Creek Ranger Station.
- Continue east on SR 38 about 5 miles to the Valley of the Falls Road on the right. Turn right.
- Drive 4.25 miles to the Vivian Creek parking area at the end of the road. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the Vivian Creek trailhead (6080'), walk up the road about 1/2 mile to the Mill Creek crossing.
- Cross the creek and proceed about 1 mile to where the trail crosses a creek (on a large log) at the 7200' contour.
- Ascend the slope generally north, avoiding brush as best you can until you attain a ridge running generally east at about 8200'.
- Continue east and the east-northeast along this ridge, staying slightly to the north side to avoid brush, to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Special conditions: If descending Route 3, take care to turn south at the point the ridge runs out, lest you descend into Falls Creek.

