

Bernard Peak 26H

Lat/lon 33.868555,-116.080449
UTM 11S 585051E 3747962N

Elevation: 5430'

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Bernard Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Riverside County, about 12 miles northeast of Indio, 130 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Little Berdoo Peak

Land Manager: Joshua Tree National Park, Joshua Tree NP Visitor Center (760) 367-5500

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

About the peak

Bernard Peak and its nearby cousin Little Berdoo Peak are two of Joshua Tree National Park's more remote peaks. Although the park extends far south from here, in this area we are already far into the transition from Mojave to Colorado desert, with ocotillo, mallow, and barrel and other varieties of cactus less commonly seen further north in the park. The rock has also changed. The iconic quartz monzonite seen ubiquitously elsewhere and so loved by climbers is rare here (and there is not a single climbing route for miles). The solitude is palpable, which adds to the experience. There are a wealth of views from the summit, San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, Palm Springs, and the Salton Sea among them. Berdoo and Bernard are typically hiked together.

Route 1 (identical to Little Berdoo Route 1) starts up a pretty canyon, leaving it to follow southeast ridge of Bernard to its summit. Bernard, then descends and climbs again to Little Berdoo's north ridge. Route 2 follows a sandy wash (in common with Little Berdoo Route 2), exiting it to ascend a finger of south ridge. There are various route combinations involving the two peaks, and Routes 1 and 2 can be combined for a loop hike with a short road walk or car shuttle.

Notes: This peak is normally done as a loop trip in combination with Little Berdoo Peak. Route 2 statistics for the loop: about 6 1/2 miles round trip, 1800' gain.

Bernard Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

Bernard Peak Route 1

Distance: 3.5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1200

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Time: 2 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- Take I-10 east past Banning to the intersection with SR 62.
- Go north on SR 62 to the Park Road in the town of Joshua Tree with a sign "Joshua Tree National Park". Turn right.
- Drive 16 miles on this road to the intersection with the Keys View Road. Keep left.
- Continue 5.3 miles on the Loop Road to the Geology Tour Road on the right (south). This dirt road also goes to Squaw Tank. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 5.6 miles, fork. Go left (one way road) and cross a dry lake.
- At 7.9 miles, fork. Go left (south) on Berdoo Canyon Road.
- At 11.4 miles, fork. Go straight.
- At 12.5 miles, the road crosses a wash just before the end of a ridge on the right. Park here. Parking is limited.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4270'), hike northwest up the wash 3/4 mile to a shallow saddle.
- Turn right and follow the ridge northwest about a mile over one bump and up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

National Park Service entrance fee is required.

Bernard Peak Route 2

Distance: 6 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1500

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Time: 3-4 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: High-clearance

Driving directions:

- Take I-10 east past Banning to the intersection with SR 62.
- Go north on SR 62 to the Park Road in the town of Joshua Tree with a sign "Joshua Tree National Park". Turn right.
- Drive 16 miles on this road to the intersection with the Keys View Road. Keep left.
- Continue 5.3 miles on the Loop Road to the Geology Tour Road on the right (south). This dirt road also goes to Squaw Tank. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 5.6 miles, fork. Go left (one way road) and cross a dry lake.
- At 7.9 miles, fork. Go left (south) on Berdoo Canyon Road.
- At 11.4 miles, fork. Go straight.
- At 12.5 miles, the road crosses a wash just before the end of a ridge on the right. This is the parking spot for Route 1.
- Continue south 0.5 mile. Park where convenient.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4150'), hike west-northwest across a number of small gullies to a large sandy wash, shown as an intermittent stream on the topo.
- Go northwest up this wash about 1 1/2 miles, ignoring all side gullies, to where it narrows down and divides into two washes, one heading north (with a dead tree in it), and the other heading west. There may be ducks on each side of the wash at this point. The wash heading west heads for Little Berdoo. The wash heading north heads for Bernard.
- Ascend the ridge to the right of the north fork to the top of the main ridge, where the rocky summit of Bernard is visible. Continue up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

National Park Service entrance fee is required.