

Marion Mountain 27I

Lat/Lon 33.7958525,-116.6866838
UTM 11S 529003E 3739565N

Elevation: 10,320'+

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Marion Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Riverside County, about 8 miles west of Palm Springs, 112 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Folly Peak, Cornell Peak, Jean Peak, San Jacinto Peak

Land Manager: San Bernardino National Forest, San Jacinto Ranger District (909) 382-2921

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

About the peak

Though the surveyor who named this peak rejected its namesake for another, for whom Jean Peak was named, most of us find Marion to be a more interesting and challenging peak than its neighbor Jean. Its rocky summit overlooks Idyllwild below and Lily Rock and Tahquitz Peak directly across the canyon. Note that Marion is one of several HPS peaks where the location of the HPS summit (the western bump) is different from the USGS summit.

Route 1 starts from the tram and passes through Round Valley like San Jacinto Route 1, but turns south at Wellman Divide for a short distance before climbing a gully on use trail to the rocky summit. Route 2 describes the route from Idyllwild via the Devil's Slide Trail, joining Route 1 for the final climb. Route 3 describes the route between Jean and Marion, which follows the ridge over an intermediate bump (Shirley Peak, perhaps named after the surveyors third girlfriend). Route finding on this route can be difficult. There are other less common cross country routes, which can be very brushy.

Special conditions: Wilderness permits are required under all circumstances. Permits for day hikes can be obtained from the Long Valley ranger station (near the tram) for Route 1. For Route 2, they may be obtained at Idyllwild Ranger Station, as can permits for backpacking. Permits are limited to 12 hikers. The Idyllwild Ranger Station is just off SR 243 at 54270 Pine Crest Road. There is a self-issue permit stand outside of the ranger station. Permits may be obtained in advance from:

San Jacinto Ranger District

54270 Pinecrest

P.O. Box 518

Idyllwild, CA 92549

Voice: (909) 382-2921

Fax: (951) 659-2107

Historical note: The area was designated a state park in 1937.

Note: Temperatures are 30 to 40 degrees cooler on the peak than on the valley floor. Please dress accordingly.

Marion Mountain has 3 official HPS routes:

Marion Mountain Route 1- From Palm Springs Tramway

Distance: 9 miles round trip on trail and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 3, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 2000

Time: 6-7 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty:

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take I-10 east past Banning to the junction with SR 111.
- Take SR 111 southeast 8.5 miles to the Palm Springs Tramway Road. Turn right.
- Go up this road 3.7 miles to its end at the tramway terminal. Park where indicated by the signs in this area.

Hiking directions:

- Take the tram (fee required) to the upper station at 8560'.
- Go downstairs and exit the building. Follow the concrete sidewalk as it descends to the valley below.
- Continue straight ahead to a ranger station.
- Continue about 1/4 mile to a trail junction with a sign "Round Valley - 2".
- Keep right and continue to Round Valley Campground.
- Keep left here at a junction and continue up to Wellman Divide (9700').
- Keep left at this junction and follow the trail southwest (downhill) through some switchbacks about 1/2 mile to Wellman Cienega.
- Leave the trail on the right and hike cross-country up to the saddle northeast of Marion Mountain.
- Turn left (south) and go up to the summit block. This is on the west end of the ridge.
- To climb the summit block, start at an upright dead tree on the northeast side. Go up a crack for about 10'. Turn right for another 10'. Turn left into another crack that leads to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Note: Trailhead is at top of Palm Springs Tramway; fee required.

Marion Mountain Route 2- From Devils Slide Trail

Distance: 16 miles round trip on trail

Gain: 4100

Difficulty rating: Class 3, strenuous

Time: 9-10 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Adventure Pass may be required

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- From the Chevron Station in Idyllwild, go northeast on North Circle Drive for 0.8 mile to South Circle Drive. Turn right.
- Go 0.1 mile to Fern Valley Road. Turn left.
- Go 1.8 miles to the loop at the end of the road in Humber Park. Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From Humber Park (6480'), hike up the Devils Slide Trail to Saddle Junction at 8080'. This is a multiple trail junction.
- Take the far left trail and continue up to Wellman Cienega.
- Leave the trail on the left and hike cross-country up to the saddle northeast of Marion Mountain.
- Turn left (south) and go up to the summit block. This is on the west end of the ridge.
- To climb the summit block, start at an upright dead tree on the northeast side. Go up a crack for about 10'. Turn right for another 10'. Turn left into another crack that leads to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Marion Mountain Route 3- From Jean Peak

Distance: 1.5 miles one way cross-country
from Jean, 12 miles round trip

Difficulty rating: Class 3, strenuous with Jean
Peak

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 300

Time: 1 hour one way

Navigation difficulty: Moderate with Jean
Peak

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- See the driving instructions for Routes 1 or 2 depending on your trailhead selection.

Hiking directions:

- See the hiking instructions for Jean Peak.
- From the summit of Jean Peak, hike south along the ridge passing a bump on its right side until you come to the saddle just north of Marion Mountain.
- Go south up to the ridge.
- Turn right and follow the ridge to its western end.
- To climb the summit block, start at an upright dead tree on the northeast side. Go up a crack for about 10'. Turn right for another 10'. Turn left into another crack that leads to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

From Jean Peak.

