

Apache Peak 28F

Lat/Lon 33.7186333,-116.6266837
UTM 11S 534588E 3731022N

Elevation: 7567'

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Apache Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Riverside County, about 6 miles east-southeast of Idyllwild, 114 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Spitler 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

Apache Peak is named after a tribe that never lived in the area, but archeological evidence suggests they might have raided this far west. The peak stands sentinel over Apple Canyon and the Pacific Crest Trail, and offers views of Spitler Peak, Antsell Rock, and all the Desert Divide.

Route 1 uses the Spitler Peak Trail, which once offered more shade before the 2013 Mountain Fire. The two peaks are often hiked together, and an alternate route uses the Fobes Trail from the south. Apache Peak can also be reached from the PCT via the gully to its north.

Note: Turning right (south) at Apache-Spitler Saddle to hike to Spitler Peak; the combination would add 1 mile and 500' of gain to the round trip.

Alternate routes: Via Fobes Trail and Spitler Peak:

Use the Spitler Peak guide to ascend that peak using the Fobes Trail. From Spitler Peak, return to the PCT and continue north to Apache-Spitler Saddle. Proceed to the summit of Apache Peak as in Route 1 above. Totals: 10 miles round trip for both peaks, on trail and short, brush cross-country, 3300' gain round trip in 7-9 hours. Class 1, moderate hike. Leader Rating: "I".

Special conditions: Wilderness permits are required under all circumstances. Permits are limited to 12 hikers. Permits may be obtained from the Idyllwild Ranger Station 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

Apache Peak has 1 official HPS route:

Apache Peak Route 1- Spitler Peak Trail

Distance: 12 miles round trip on trail and a short, brushy cross-country segment

Difficulty rating: Class 1, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 2700

Time: 6-7 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take I-10 or SR 60 east to SR 79 in Beaumont. Exit right (south) on SR 79.
- Drive 6.5 miles south, where SR 79 heads left to Gilman Hot Springs. Do not exit here. Continue straight for 1.5 miles on Sanborn Avenue to Ramona Expressway. Turn left (east).
- Drive 8.5 miles east and then southeast on the Ramona Expressway, which acquires the name Mountain Avenue, until it ends at SR 74. Turn left (east).
- Drive 15 miles east on SR 74 to Mountain Center (junction with Idyllwild Highway - SR 243).
- Continue east on SR 74 for 3.5 miles to Apple Canyon Road (paved) on the left. Turn left.
- Pass the entrance to the Hurkey Creek Campground on the left and continue 2.6 miles to a large parking area on the right. Park here. This is the parking area for the Spitler Peak Trail.

Hiking directions:

- The Spitler Peak Trail, 3E22, begins at a square post at the north end of the parking area (4940').
- Hike 5 miles up the trail to where it meets the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) at Apache-Spitler Saddle (6980').
- Turn left (north) and follow the PCT 0.6 mile to a trail junction (7340') with a side trail to Apache Spring heading right.
- Leave the PCT on the left side at this junction, following a small gully northwest by the most convenient paths until reaching a high saddle (7460') between the two summits of Apache Peak.
- The register is located on the western, higher summit. Turn left at the high saddle and scramble through easy brush and rocks to the summit.

Additional Route 1 notes:

