

## Butterfly Peak 28M

Lat/lon 33.6225258,-116.5827945  
UTM 11S 538698E 3720382N

Elevation: 6240'+

View Caltopo [map](#) or download [GPX](#)

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Butterfly Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Riverside County, about 11 miles southeast of Idyllwild, 120 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Ken Point, Rock Point

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

Butterfly Peak and its neighbors mark the end of the Desert Divide that began at Mount San Jacinto. A trip to Butterfly Peak takes one up slopes dotted with green chaparral, outstanding outcrops, impressive rock walls, and numerous mine ruins. The area is rich with mining history, and was part of a notorious 1896 swindle. You can read about its history when passing the sign at Gold Hill. It has nice views of Garner Valley below, Palomar Mountain in the distance to the southwest, and the Anza Borrego Desert to the south.

Route 1 follows a good trail to the summit, with some mine ruins to explore. Route 2 starts from Santa Rosa Summit and follows the PCT to a junction with trails to Ken Point to the southwest and continues west to Butterfly on old road trail that can be very brushy in parts.

Special conditions: All other roads in the area are private. Do not attempt to hike along either road that runs parallel to the PCT.

Butterfly Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

## Butterfly Peak Route 1

Distance: 6 miles round trip on trail, road,  
and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 2, moderate

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 1700

Time: 4-5 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

### Driving directions:

- Take I-10 or SR 60 east to SR 79 in Beaumont. Take exit south to SR 79.
- Go south on SR 79 to the Ramona Expressway. Turn left (east).
- Go east and then southeast on the Ramona Expressway until it ends at SR 74. Turn left (east).
- Go east on SR 74 to Mountain Center (junction with Idyllwild Highway - SR 243).
- Continue east on SR 74 for 10.1 miles to Toolbox Springs Road on the left. Turn left. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 0.6 mile, fork. Go left on Butterfly Mountain Road.
- At 0.8 mile, fork. Go right on Table Mountain Road.
- At 1.0 mile, a narrow dirt road on the right, with a "private property" sign. All vehicles must park here along Table Mountain Road.
- The route is generally clear of brush.

### Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4560'+), hike southeast on the paved road for about 150 yards to a T intersection in front of a house.
- Turn left and hike along a fence. After about 1/8 mile, the road turns sharply right at a locked gate, and goes uphill.
- Keep right at a fork and continue on to another fork just southeast of Gold Hill (on topo, about 1 mile). This is the turnoff for Rock Point.
- Hike up the left fork past a mine shaft and equipment (non-operating) to its end at another mineshaft, approximately 2 miles from the cars.
- Go about 15 yards past the shaft to a brushed-out and ducked miner's trail.
- Follow this trail steeply up to the top of a ridge and curve around a bump on your left until you come to a saddle between the bump on your left and the ridgeline coming down from the top of Butterfly summit.
- From the saddle follow the ducks going northwest and down into a shallow canyon.
- From there the use trail contours in a northerly direction below the western slopes of the rocky summit ridge heading for a small gully. Eventually, the ducked route bears right (northeast) near the base of the gully and ascends the slope to the ridge.
- Turn left and continue a short distance to the summit.

**Additional Route notes:**

## Butterfly Peak Route 2

Distance: 19 miles round trip on road, trail,  
and cross-country including Ken Point.

Difficulty rating: Class 2, strenuous

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 4300

Time: 10-11 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Paved

### Driving directions:

- See the driving instructions for Ken Point Route 1.

### Hiking directions:

- See the Ken Point guide for climbing Route 1.
- From the first road crossing on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), turn left and go west about 1/2 mile to an intersection in the center of a canyon.
- Turn right and go north along this road to a fork.
- Go left on a 4WD road keeping left at a fork. This road turns right (northwest) at a corral.
- Continue to where the road turns left, leave it on the right and follow the ridge up to the summit.
- Retrace your steps back to the center of the canyon. Now take the right fork and follow it up past Tunnel Spring to the PCT in a saddle.
- Turn right and go a short distance and pass through a gate. Here you will rejoin Ken Point Route 1.

### Additional Route notes: