

Little Cahuilla Mountain 29B

Lat/lon 33.6066926,-116.8102989
UTM 11S 517599E 3718564N

Elevation: 5042'

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Little Cahuilla Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: Riverside County, about 11 miles south-southwest of Idyllwild, 125 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Cahuilla Mountain

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

Little Cahuilla Mountain is the lesser, but still worthy, companion of nearby Cahuilla Mountain near the town of Anza and the Cahuilla Indian reservation. It overlooks surrounding scrub land, with views of the Desert Divide where it tapers off into the Anza Borrego Desert, and HPS peaks Santa Rosa and the very prominent Toro Peak visible in the distance. It is usually hiked together with Cahuilla Mountain, with a short drive between them.

Cahuilla and Little Cahuilla Mountains are best known, however, for its connection to Helen Hunt Jackson's famous 1884 novel Ramona. The area around the trailhead was the home of Ramona Lubo, believed to be the inspiration for the main character in the novel. The novel, which became wildly popular in the 1930s, is a tragic love story set in the rancho period which served to highlight the terrible plight of indigenous peoples, though in a somewhat romanticized way. The play adapted from the novel is performed every year in the Ramona Pageant in Hemet, and is a Southern California tradition.

Route 1 follows a brushy use trail that follows ridges to reach the peak from the northeast.

Special conditions: With the passage of time, ducks disappear and brush regrows. The hiker should be prepared to find no ducks in place and the route completely overgrown with brush. Conditions in the field are dynamic and changes over time are to be expected.

Dirt roads in the area may be closed for fire or rainy season. Check with the Forest Service in Idyllwild: (909) 382-2921

Little Cahuilla Mountain has 1 official HPS route:

Little Cahuilla Mountain Route 1

Distance: 2 1/2 miles round trip on use trail
and cross-country

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 700

Time: 2 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Moderate

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- Northern approach:
- 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 at the junction with Idyllwild Highway (SR 243).
- Continue east on SR 74 for 12.5 miles to the intersection with SR 371 on the right. Turn right.
- Go 9.5 miles on SR 371 to Cary Road on the right. Turn right. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 3.7 miles, fork, with sign "Tripp Flats". Go left (west).
- At 4.5 miles, fork, with Tripp Flats Station on the right. Go left (west) on 6S22, through a gate.
- At 6.1 miles, saddle and road fork. This is the parking for Cahuilla Mountain.
- At 6.2 miles, fork. Go right on 6S22.
- At 7.5 miles, fork with sign "Allesandro Trail". Park here.
- Southern approach:
- Take I-15 south to Temecula.
- Go east on SR 79 about 17 miles to Aguanga. Turn left on SR 371.
- Go northeast on SR 371 for 11 1/4 miles to Cary Road. Turn left.
- Continue as in the northern approach.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4520'+), begin hiking on an obvious trail leaving to the west.
- After a short distance, look for a boulder where a clipped and ducked use trail leaves the main trail and heads west-northwest following the ridge to the top of the prominent bump 4930'.
- From here, follow the trail along the ridge west-southwest around a rocky bump, up over elevation 4920'+, down into a saddle, and up to the summit.

Additional Route 1 notes:

