

Boucher Hill 31C

Lat/Lon 33.3347566,-116.9189147
UTM 11S 507546E 3688402N

Elevation: 5438'

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Boucher Hill on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Diego County, about 17 miles northeast of Escondido, 120 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks:

Land Manager: Cleveland National Forest, Palomar Mountain Ranger District (760) 788-0250

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

About the peak

Boucher Hill (5438') might be light on difficulty but makes up for it with a deep history in Palomar Mountain State Park. Originally named after the "Bougher" family that lived there in the early 20th century, the summit is capped with a historical fire tower that is still maintained as a living museum today. The easy access gives plenty of time to enjoy the panoramic viewing deck as well as to take a tour of the tower with the Forest Fire Lookout Association volunteers on site in summer.

Route 1 is a drive-up that takes a paved road through Palomar Mountain State Park all the way to the summit. Route 2 (3 miles, 600' gain) starts in the park at Cedar Grove Campground. The pleasant walk follows maintained trails and passes by the Bougher family's 19th century log cabin on the way to the fire tower.

Historical note: The man who lived here from the 1880's to the 1920's spelled his name Bougher, not Boucher.

Special conditions: The summit is located in the State Park. There is no entrance fee if you hike in but there is a fee for day use and for overnight camping. Due to budget restraints, the park is sometimes closed in the winter and entry is forbidden.

Boucher Hill has 2 official HPS routes:

Boucher Hill Route 1- Drive up

Distance: None

Gain: 0

Time: None

Difficulty rating: Drive-up

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take I-15 south to Temecula.
- Continue south on I-15 to SR 76.
- Go east on SR 76 to its junction with S6 at the south end of Pauma Valley. Go left (east).
Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 5.5 miles, fork with SR 76 straight and S6 left (north). Turn left on S6.
- At 12.0 miles, a junction with S7 at Crestline. Turn left (west) on S7.
- At 15 miles, Palomar Mountain State Park entrance. An entrance fee is charged at this point.
- Continue to the second left turn, where four roads branch off. Straight ahead is the Nate Harrison Grade Road, take the paved road to the left of it.
- Drive 1/2 mile to the summit, where there is a radio installation.
- Note: The junction of SR 76 and S6 can also be reached from Warner Springs or from Julian. From Warner Springs drive south on SR 79 for 7.6 miles and then turn northwest on SR 76 to the junction of S6, then proceed as above. Or, from Julian drive north on SR 79 for about 14 miles to SR 76. Turn left and go to the junction of SR 76 and S6, then proceed as shown above.

Hiking directions:

- None.

Additional Route notes:

Parking fee required.

Boucher Hill Route 2- Boucher Trail

Distance: 3 miles round trip on trail

Gain: 600

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Time: 3/4 hour round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- See the driving instructions for Route 1. From the Park entrance, follow the signs to Cedar Grove Campground. Parking is limited.

Hiking directions:

- The Adams Trail starts on the far side of a small meadow across from campsite No. 9 (4840'). Follow this trail for 1/2 mile to the Nate Harrison Grade Road.
- Cross the road to the Boucher Trail which starts at the junction of the two one-way roads. A signpost reads 1 mile to the lookout.
- Follow the trail to a small flat area. This is the site of Bougher's 2-story log house, removed in 1963. Continue on the trail to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Parking fee required.