

San Ysidro Mountain 31I

Lat/Lon 33.2539271,-116.4986274
UTM 11S 546702E 3679550N

Elevation: 6147'

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San Ysidro Mountain on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Diego County, about 9 miles west of Borrego Springs, 137 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

Isidro of Seville, the namesake for San Ysidro Mountain, was the Bishop of Seville at the start of the 7th century. At the start of the 21st century, Isidro became the patron saint of the Internet among Catholics. In addition to having a mountain named after him, San Isidro/Ysidro is a place name around the world and in southern California there is creek, ranch, trail, and falls named San Ysidro.

Located in Anza Borrego State Park, there are two official HPS routes to the summit. Both traverse the shoulders of The Thimble (5779'), but Route 1 passes along the eastern flank and Route 2 ascends a gully on the western flank.

Route 1 is entirely within the Anza Borrego State Park, though no entry fee is required. Route 2 first crosses the San Ysidro Mountain Wilderness Study Area (another example of San Ysidro namesakes) before entering Anza Borrego State Park and at the very end joining Route 1 to reach the summit. The private property signs along Route 2 do not prevent hiking the abandoned jeep road at the start of the hike.

On the summit there is a generous flat area surrounded by three or four gendarmes (depending on how you count) guarding the mountaintop. This is where you will find the peak register. The USGS cemented the "Ysidro" benchmark on top of the tallest of the gendarmes. As always, climbing the summit block is optional when claiming the peak. Gazing southeast between the gendarmes, you can see Mexico on the horizon, 80 miles away.

Both approaches include extensive off-trail shadeless routes. The occasionally ducked paths over uneven desert terrain wind through ceanothus species and occasional yuccas. The potential passages between boulders are often clogged with brush that become denser as you climb the last 400 feet before the peak.

Visiting in the spring, after the winter rains, the varieties of flowering ceanothus, blooming yuccas, and California poppies provide additional color to the year-round greens and grays, with temperate hiking weather before the scorching summer months.

Notes: San Ysidro Peak lies within the Anza-Borrego State Park, but no fee is required when parking along the shoulder of paved road S22.

San Ysidro Mountain has 2 official HPS routes:

San Ysidro Mountain Route 1

Distance: 10 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 3200

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Time: 6-8 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Take I-15 south to Temecula.
- Take the second off-ramp for SR 79, signed "79 South / Indio". Turn left (east) on SR 79 for 37 miles to the town of Warner Springs.
- Continue south of Warner Springs on SR 79 for 3.5 miles to a junction with S2 coming in from the left. Turn left onto S2.
- Drive southeast 4.7 miles to S22. Turn left.
- Drive east on S22 for 6.6 miles to the Anza-Borrego State Park Boundary, which is signed at the top of a rise in the road. Park on the road shoulder just past the rise at the end of the fence on the left side of the road.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4200'), head north up the ridge, parallel to the fence but eventually veering northeast, following openings through cholla and scrub brush.
- Within a mile of the highway, the fence takes about a 1/4 mile jog to the east. When you meet this east-west fence portion, turn east around the fence corner, ending up about 1/4 mile south of a prominent formation known as Chimney Rock. Head north past this rock and the next bump on their east sides.
- Then go north up a ridge and over bump 5326', which has a register on top ("White Benchmark").
- Continue north from White BM through moderate to heavy brush along the east side of the Thimble.
- Upon meeting a major gully about 0.2 mile to the northeast of the Thimble, turn west and ascend the gully to the saddle at its head.
- From the saddle, go north up brushy slopes to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

San Ysidro Mountain Route 2

Distance: 4-5 miles round trip cross-country

Gain: 1500

Difficulty rating: Class 1, strenuous

Time: 2-3 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Difficult

Road type: Dirt

Driving directions:

- Take I-15 south to Temecula.
- Continue south of Warner Springs on SR 79 for 3.5 miles to a junction with S2 coming in from the left. Turn left onto S2.
- Drive southeast 4.7 miles to S22. Turn left.
- Drive east on S22 for 5.4 miles to the good dirt Lease Road. Turn left.
- Drive 1.5 miles north on Lease Road. Just past Jack Ass Road, turn right onto a dirt road.
- Drive 0.5 mile until you reach an Anza-Borrego boundary sign. Park here. The dirt road to the right is private property.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4500'), head north up a broad canyon on a dirt road and use trail.
- After approximately 0.7 mile, reach a steep gully. To the right of the gully is a dirt road between Prospects Peak (5685') and 5035'. Turn onto the dirt road.
- Follow the jeep road in a southeast direction to a saddle.
- Leave the road at the saddle to avoid private property down the road. Walk across a flat area toward a gully, staying low enough to avoid brush.
- Ascend the gully on the west side of The Thimble.
- When the gully becomes brushy, pick a path through the brush to the peak. The route is lightly ducked.

Additional Route notes: