

Oakzanita Peak 32G

Lat/Lon 32.8906052,-116.5614072
UTM 11S 541022E 3639245N

Elevation: 5054'

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

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Oakzanita Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Diego County, about 13 miles south of Julian, 160 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Cuyamaca Peak, Stonewall Peak

Land Manager: Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger District (619) 445-6235

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

About the peak

Oakzanita Peak is a popular hiking destination within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, a creek-crossed landscape of meadows, pine forests, and oak woodlands which also encompasses Middle Cuyamaca and Stonewall peaks, Cuyamaca Lake, and has numerous excellent campgrounds.

Route 1 is an easy hike that starts on fire road, continuing on a well-groomed trail that ascends gently to the peak through a mix of oak and manzanita (hence the peak name). Route 2 takes a longer route, continuing along Descanso Creek on the fire road before departing on use trail to the peak, lending itself to a nice loop hike. It is often hiked together with nearby Stonewall Peak.

Notes: Oakzanita Peak lies within the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The Diegueno Indians originally inhabited this area. Visit the Park Indian Museum, located 1 1/4 miles north on SR 79.

Oakzanita Peak has 2 official HPS routes:

Oakzanita Peak Route 1

Distance: 5.5 miles round trip on road and trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Gain: 1100

Time: 2-2.5 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Northern approach:
- Take I-5 south to SR 78 in San Diego County.
- Go east on SR 78 through Escondido to the junction with SR 79 just past the town of Julian. Turn right (south) on SR 79.
- Go south on SR 79 for 9 miles to the Cuyamaca Dam.
- Continue 2.7 miles to the entrance to Paso Picacho Park on the right.
- Continue 5.6 miles further (mile marker 4) to a gated dirt road on the left side. Park on the left just before this road.
- Southern approach:
- The drive is longer, but generally quicker by taking SR 79 north from I-8 via San Diego.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4020'), hike a few yards south to a gate. Pass the gate and hike up the road about 0.5 mile past the signed "Lower Descanso" trail, to a trail on the right with a sign "Upper Descanso" trail.
- Follow this trail 1.6 miles to a saddle with a fork and a sign "Oakzanita Peak".
- Turn right and follow the trail 0.6 mile up to the summit.

Additional Route notes:

Oakzanita Peak Route 2- East Mesa Fire Road

Distance: 8 miles round trip on road and trail

Gain: 1000

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Time: 3-4 hours round trip

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- Northern approach:
- Take I-5 south to SR 78 in San Diego County.
- Go east on SR 78 through Escondido to the junction with SR 79 just past the town of Julian. Turn right (south) on SR 79.
- Go south on SR 79 for 9 miles to the Cuyamaca Dam.
- Continue 2.7 miles to the entrance to Paso Picacho Park on the right.
- Continue 5.6 miles further (mile marker 4) to a gated dirt road on the left side. Park on the left just before this road.
- Southern approach:
- The drive is longer, but generally quicker by taking SR 79 north from I-8 via San Diego.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (4020'), pass the gate and hike up the road, passing the trail mentioned in Route 1, about 2 1/2 miles to a saddle where there is a junction at 4870' with a post reading "Oakzanita Peak 1.2".
- Turn right (west) and continue about 1/4 mile where you keep right at a fork.
- Follow the road about 1/2 mile farther down into a shallow valley. The peak is visible off to the right.
- Continue on the road to where it ends on the ridge coming down south from the peak.
- Turn right and follow a use trail up to the summit.

Additional Route notes: