

Garnet Peak 32I

Lat/Lon 32.9256045,-116.458072
UTM 11S 550667E 3643170N

Elevation: 5880'+

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

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Garnet Peak on [Peakbagger.com](#)

Current Weather on [NOAA](#)

Location: San Diego County, about 13 miles southeast of Julian, 158 miles from Los Angeles

Nearby peaks: Garnet Mountain, Monument Peak #1

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

Overlooking the popular Anza Borrego Desert State Park to its east, Garnet Peak (not Mountain!) rises nearly 6000 feet and offers panoramic views as a reward to those who climb its short but steep slopes. The peak has a unique reddish color like the mineral it is named after and is often covered in wildflowers and vegetation, adding even more to its colorful appearance. This popular climb is surrounded by campsites, the PCT, and Big Laguna lake, making a great opportunity for great views and climbing multiple peaks in one trip. The views are marvelous and the old Butterfield Stage Route through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park can be seen about 3000' below and to the east of the summit. Garnet is typically hiked together with other nearby HPS peaks include Garnet Mountain, Monument Peak #1, and Sheephead Mountain which are often combined in a single outing, driven in a loop.

Garnet Peak is reached from a single short route starting from a self-titled trailhead. The route starts up a wide dirt road and eventually crosses the Pacific Crest Trail. From here the road narrows to a trail and winds up the mountain to the summit. Spend some time on the rocky summit enjoying the views of surrounding national and state lands, with views that reach from the Salton Sea to San Geronio.

Notes: The entire area east of the jeep road, including the mountain, was burned in the Julian fire of August 2002. The summit affords an excellent view of the old Butterfield Stage Route through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This is about 3000' below and to the east of the summit.

Garnet Peak has 1 official HPS route:

Garnet Peak Route 1

Distance: 2.5 miles round trip on road and trail

Difficulty rating: Class 1, easy

Trailhead location on [Google Maps](#)

Adventure Pass may be required

Gain: 500

Time: 2.5 hours round trip

Navigation difficulty: Easy

Road type: Paved

Driving directions:

- 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 6 miles to the junction with Sunrise Highway (S1) on the left. Turn left. Note your odometer and go as follows:
- At 7.4 miles, a paved road on the left with a sign "Kwaaymii Point". This is the turnoff for Garnet Mountain. Keep straight.
- At 9.9 miles (after mile marker 28) a parking area at a barricaded dirt road on the left. There is a small sign that says "to Garnet Peak". Park here.

Hiking directions:

- From the parking area (5380'), hike north up the dirt road for about 0.4 mile to a fork. Take the left fork.
- Stay on this path for about another 0.3 mile, crossing a jeep road (do not turn left onto the jeep road) and, in a few yards, cross the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) marked by a square post with the PCT insignia. Do not turn onto the PCT, continue straight.
- Continue up the trail that winds around the side of the mountain and then up to the summit.

Additional Route 1 notes:

