

San Diego Peaks List

The County Peaks List is an offering of the Outings Section of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club. It is composed of one hundred peaks located within San Diego County. Each peak is publicly accessible and with the exception of one, all are rated non-technical¹. The peaks on the list were selected based on their accessibility, topography, variety of terrain, prominence, and ability to offer climbers a well-rounded representation of the entire county. Some peaks can be combined for long “grand tour” type outings and backpacks, while some can be done as conditioning hikes after work. The main purpose of the list is to encourage outings to less traveled areas, to explore remote high points, to develop navigational skills and to instill within climbers a sense of stewardship of the land.

100 San Diego County Peaks²

Loc	Peak	Topo	UTM,E	UTM,N	EL,ft	EL	CL	Land Sta
NE 1	Combs	Bucksnot Mtn.	536750	3694890	6193	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 2	Villager	Rabbit Peak	572720	3694410	5756	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 3	Collins	Bucksnot Mtn	545810	3694350	4559	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 4	Elder	Collins Valley	547670	3694040	3433	BM	3	ABDSP ³
NE 5	Palms	Collins Valley	548000	3693030	3121	BM	3	ABDSP ³
NE 6	Knob	Bucksnot Mtn.	546000	3693020	3431	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 7	Mile High (P5340)	Rabbit Peak	575280	3693000	5340	Inter	2	ABDSP ³
NE 8	Rosa	Fonts Point	577440	3691500	5020	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 9	Square Top (P4649) ¹	Hot Springs Mtn	545260	3691200	4649	Spot	5	ABDSP ³
NE 10	Coyote	Clark Lake	562530	3689360	3192	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 11	Pyramid (P3500)	Fonts Point	578760	3688700	3500	Inter	2	ABDSP ³
NE 12	Pike	Borrego Palm Cny	547100	3685980	5571	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 13	Palm Mesa (P4660)	Borrego Palm Cny	550000	3685580	4660	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 14	Palm	Fonts Point	581430	3685570	2701	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 15	Cody	Borrego Palm Cny	546950	3684930	5587	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 16	Indianhead	Borrego Palm Cny	553110	3683670	3980	Inter	3	ABDSP ³
NE 17	San Ysidro (P5386)	Borrego Palm Cny	550250	3681300	5386	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 18	Kay	Borrego Palm Cny	552180	3679990	3587	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 19	Ode	Borrego Palm Cny	554230	3679940	1510	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 20	Sirens (P4401)	Borrego Palm Cny	551420	3679820	4401	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 21	San Ysidro	Borrego Palm Cny	546800	3679350	6147	BM	2	Clev NF ⁴
NE 22	Thimble	Tubb Canyon	546880	3678600	5779	Spot	3	ABDSP ³
NE 23	Webo	Tubb Canyon	550880	3678540	4173	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 24	Goat	Tubb Canyon	548840	3678430	4232	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 25	Ted	Tubb Canyon	552370	3678320	2369	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 26	White	Tubb Canyon	547690	3677270	5326	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 27	Bonny	Tubb Canyon	547670	3675430	4574	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 28	Borrego (West Butte)	Borrego Mtn.	574260	3672580	1207	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 29	Pinyon Ridge (P4614)	Tubb Canyon	550880	3670950	4614	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 30	Wilson	Tubb Canyon	552860	3670890	4586	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 31	Borrego (East Butte)	Borrego Mtn.	577640	3670220	1196	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 32	Grapevine	Earthquake Valley	549830	3664570	3955	BM	1	ABDSP ³
NE 33	Sentenac	Earthquake Valley	552030	3663080	3068	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 34	Sunset	Whale Peak	567500	3662680	3658	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NE 35	North Pinyon (P3660)	Earthquake Valley	555050	3661660	3660	Inter	2	ABDSP ³
NE 36	Vallecito (P3583)	Harper Canyon	573860	3658430	3583	Spot	2	BLM ⁵
NE 37	Pinyon (P4492)	Whale Peak	561600	3657540	4492	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
NE 38	Granite	Earthquake Valley	548660	3656880	5633	BM	2	ABDSP ³

NE	39	Whale	Whale Peak	563940	3654560	5350	BM	2	ABDSP ³
NW	40	Agua Tibia	Vail Lake	501760	3696530	4781	VABM	2	Clev NF ⁴
NW	41	Eagle Crag	Vail Lake	504140	3694040	5077	Spot	2	Clev NF ⁴
NW	42	Palomar	Palomar Obs	515300	3691400	6142	BM	1	Clev NF ⁴
NW	43	Boucher Hill	Palomar Mtn	507580	3688210	5448	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
NW	44	Black #1	Mesa Grande	517980	3668840	4045	BM	1	Clev NF ⁴
NW	45	Israel	Rancho Santa Fe	486750	3659450	1346	Spot	1	BLM ⁵
NW	46	Bernardo	Escondido	491880	3658150	1150	Spot	1	BLM ⁵
NW	47	Gower	Ramona	522130	3653250	3110	Inter	1	Clev NF ⁴
NW	48	Woodson	San Pasqual	502820	3652060	2901	BM	1	SD City ⁶
SE	49	Split MtWest (P1690)	Harper Canyon	581500	3653560	1690	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	50	Split MtEast (P1690)	Borrego Mtn S E	583920	3651560	1690	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	51	Ghost	Earthquake Valley	558040	3651700	3420	Inter	1	ABDSP ³
SE	52	Roost	Monument Peak	547090	3650740	4351	VABM	1	ABDSP ³
SE	53	Diablo	Agua Caliente Spr	570030	3650390	2460	BM(l)	1	ABDSP ³
SE	54	Middle	Cuyamaca Peak	537410	3649000	5883	Spot	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	55	Stonewall	Cuyamaca Peak	54007	3646840	5730	Spot	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	56	Cuyamaca	Cuyamaca Peak	536830	3645260	6512	VABM	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	57	Garnet Mtn	Monument Peak	548150	3644360	5700	Inter	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	58	Japacha	Cuyamaca Peak	537460	3643900	5825	Spot	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	59	Garnet Peak	Monument Peak	550680	3643000	5900	Inter	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	60	Pine	Monument Peak	547380	3642140	5660	Inter	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	61	Stage	Agua Caliente Spr	566890	3641910	2817	BM	2	BLM ⁵
SE	62	Monument	Monument Peak	554270	3639310	6271	VABM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	63	Oakzanita	Cuyamaca Peak	541070	3639080	5054	Spot	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	64	Red Top	Agua Caliente Spr	561640	3638540	4467	Spot	2	BLM ⁵
SE	65	Sawtooth (P4684)	Agua Caliente Spr	560240	3638450	4684	Spot	3	BLM ⁵
SE	66	Peak 5243	Cuyamaca Peak	542960	3638325	5243	Spot	1	Cuy SP ⁷
SE	67	Manza	Mt Laguna	548790	3636700	5556	BM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	68	False Sombrero	Sombrero Peak	566253	3635766	3463	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	69	Wooded Hill	Mt. Laguna	552530	3634700	6223	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	70	Mine	Sweeney Pass	581090	3632780	1850	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	71	Sombrero	Sombrero Peak	566400	3632720	4229	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	72	Sheephead	Mt. Laguna	550270	3631400	5896	Spot	1	ClevNF ⁴
SE	73	Red Hill	Sweeney Pass	580827	3628406	1720	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	74	Peak 3339	Sweeney Pass	570375	3627633	3339	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	75	Indian Hill	Sweeney Pass	577528	3624541	2240	Spot	3	ABDSP ³
SE	76	Corte Madera	Descanso	538390	3624310	4657	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	77	Moan	Sweeney Pass	576560	3623700	2939	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	78	Piedras Grandes	Jacumba	579566	3622672	2601	Spot	2	ABDSP ³
SE	79	Gasp	Jacumba	572710	3622400	3223	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	80	Los Pinos	Morena Reservoir	539660	3621740	4809	BM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SE	81	Groan	Jacumba	574880	3621720	2732	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	82	Puff	Jacumba	576790	3621600	2716	BM	2	ABDSP ³
SE	83	Tule	Jacumba	572520	3618260	4649	VABM	1	BLM ⁵
SE	84	Jacumba	Jacumba	578390	3617890	4516	VABM	1	ABDSP ³
SE	85	Morena Butte	Morena Reservoir	542870	3615010	3919	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	86	Eagle	Tule Springs	527180	3649370	3226	BM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	87	Black #2	Poway	489190	3649040	1544	BM	1	SD City ⁶
SW	88	Iron	San Vicente Res	504260	3647830	2696	Spot	1	SD City ⁶
SW	89	El Cajon	El Cajon Mtn	516910	3641660	3675	VABM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	90	Viejas	Viejas Mtn	525720	3635730	4189	VABM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	91	North Fortuna	La Mesa	494400	3634120	1291	Spot	1	MTRP ⁸
SW	92	Kwaay Paay (P1194)	La Mesa	494940	3632820	1194	Spot	1	MTRP ⁸
SW	93	Pyles Peak (P1379)	La Mesa	496520	3631470	1379	Spot	1	MTRP ⁸

SW	94	Cowles	La Mesa	497110	3630340	1593	BM	1	MTRP ⁸
SW	95	Bell Bluff	Viejas Mtn	528040	3629670	3409	VABM	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	96	McGinty	Alpine	513130	3623620	2183	Spot	1	BLM ⁵
SW	97	Gaskill	Barrett Lake	52664	3622190	3836	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	98	Lawson	Barrett Lake	525760	3620770	3664	Spot	1	Clev NF ⁴
SW	99	Otay	Otay Mtn	514660	3606160	3569	BM	1	BLM ⁵
SW	100	Tecate	Tecate	529300	3604530	3885	VABM	1	BLM ⁵

- ¹Square Top (Point 4649) has an optional class 5 summit block; rope recommended
²List Notation Peaks Are Listed From Northern Most to Southern Most in the Quadrant
³ABDSP Anza Borrego Desert State Park
⁴Clev NF Cleveland National Forest
⁵BLM Bureau of Land Management
⁶SD City San Diego City
⁷Cuy SP Cuyamaca State Park
⁸MTRP Mission Trails Regional Park

Climbing Information

Depending upon current levels of interest within the club, it can be difficult to locate information regarding outings, leaders and the peaks on this list. To aid in the successful individual pursuit of this list when necessary, the following list pursuers and list finishers have graciously provided contact information for peak list related questions:

Mark Adrian*		markadrian@juno.com
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* List Finisher

List Finishers

1) Paul Freiman	Rass ⁹	11/30/91
2) John Strauch	Palms	04/04/93
3) Carol Murdock	Dawns	04/16/94
4) Mark Adrian	Combs	05/04/96
5) Jerry Higgins	Black #2	06/04/96
6) Sue Holloway	Vallecito	03/24/97
7) Virginia West	Vallecito	03/24/97
8) Lorin Mitts	Tule	03/09/98
9) Steve Hernandez		2001
10) Jan Crist Hernandez		2001
11) Dave Zimmerman	Palomar	2002
12) Terry Flood	Gower	02/06/05
13) Shane Smith	Red Hill	03/21/10

⁹Rass Benchmark Listed on the original San Diego Peaks Club List (1991); UTM 11S 554410, 3677660

2nd Time List Finishers

1) Paul Freiman	Moan	03/31/97
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2) John Strauch	Moan	03/31/97
3) Jerry Higgins	Tule	03/10/98
4) Virginia West	Eagle	05/11/02

3rd Time List Finishers

1) Jerry Higgins	Tecate	03/18/02
2) Virginia West	North Pinyon	2010

Halfway Emblem (50 Peaks)

Terri Astle, Jasper Blume (1 year old), Bob Burd, Richard Carey, Gail Hanna, Al Holden, Laurie Jenkins-Black, Vic Henney, Chris Landa, Rob Langsdorf, Gordon MacLeod, Hannah North, Bob Pinsker, Dennis Richards, Wes Shelberg, Jim Sugg, Terri Sutor, Russ Weber, Richard Whitcomb, Sue Wyman-Henney

Original Peaks Lists

To avoid confusion, previous list finishers and climbers pursuing a list prior to the final version posted on this website, are credited with a list finish by completing a combination of 100 peaks on any of the list versions. This includes the original San Diego Peak Club List (1991) and the current San Diego Sierra Club County Peak List. In order to maintain clarity, future list finishers will only be credited with a list finish by completing all the peaks currently on the San Diego Sierra Club County Peak List posted on this website.

History

The first two people to extensively climb peaks in San Diego County were two members of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter Desert Peaks Section: Gordon Macleod and Wes Shelberg. In the early 1970's, Gordon climbed most of the peaks in the Anza-Borrego desert. Wes soon followed and climbed many additional peaks in the Anza-Borrego desert in the 1980's. Both Gordon and Wes were solo hikers but helped pave the way for future climbers to follow. In June of 1987, friends from the San Diego Bicycle Club, Hannah North and Russ Weber used Cleveland National Forest maps to form a list of San Diego county peaks they wished to climb. Life soon got in the way and the two friends moved, but not before they each had climbed half the peaks on their list. Avid San Diego area outdoorsman Paul Freiman happened along and he completed this original list not long after Hannah and Russ's departure. Paul eventually eliminated 35 of these peaks due to insignificance or trespassing/access issues. He then started the San Diego Peaks Club in March 1991 when he added 20 more peaks to the list, forming a total of 117 peaks. By early 1998, a total of 8 climbers had completed this SDPC list.

During the summer of 1998, San Diego Sierra Club activist Skip Forsht contacted Paul to gain permission to use the SDPC list as a basis for a new San Diego Sierra Club County Peak list. Skip then consulted with long-time area climbers Richard Carey, Al Holden, and Sue Holloway. Their suggestions, along with Paul Freiman's insights, enabled Skip to divide the peaks into four quadrants and select an even number of 100 peaks to ensure that future climbers would be exposed to a suitable representation of all areas of the county. Skip presented this new San Diego Sierra Club County Peaks List to the chapter Outings Committee meeting on July 20, 1998 where it was approved and posted on the club website. It was, and is intended, to encourage leaders to offer more adventurous hikes. Thanks to Skip's persistent and timely efforts in the mid to late 1990's, the County Peaks List got exposed to a greater number of climbers via the relatively new medium of the internet

Along with the afore-mentioned list finishers and founders, many additional people helped pave a path for hiking and climbing in San Diego County. Among the more prolific climbers were Jim Sugg and Al Holden. Jim led over 1000 trips for the San Diego Sierra Club. Jim always incorporated a lot of cross-country travel in his trips throughout the 1980's. Paul Freiman credits Al Holden with starting the age of exploration in the San Diego Sierra Club. Al came along at a time when the San Diego Sierra Club didn't encourage much in the way of cross-country hiking. Not deterred, in 1991 Al began to schedule weekly cross-country hikes with a group of faithful climbers who came to be known as the Monday Maniacs. Area

climbers Jerry Higgins and Loren Mitts then listed all 148 benchmarks in Anza-Borrego State Park. This list inspired a loosely organized group called the Borrego Benchmark Club (BBC), which heightened the interest of many climbers. San Diego area adventurer and experienced climber Richard Carey further expanded area climbing opportunities by compiling a list of 259 San Diego County Peaks and Benchmarks available for viewing at the link located in the information section cited above. With the combination of Paul Freiman's efforts to establish the San Diego Peaks Club in 1991, Al Holden's persistence to schedule strong, all-day activities off trail, and Skip Forsht's timely introduction of the list to the internet, these visionaries helped pave the way for all future climbers to successfully follow.

The future looks bright for the San Diego Sierra Club County Peaks List, as renewed interest is bringing about exciting changes. Feedback and input from many of the area's finest and most experienced climbers has added depth and character to the information contained herein. List finisher Shane Smith has worked in close conjunction with Skip Forsht in establishing a list finisher page on the current website. In addition, as a testament to the lure of the San Diego County Peaks list, prolific northern California area based climber Bob Burd is currently in pursuit of climbing all the mountains on the list. Bob has been a pioneer in establishing unequalled documentation of his climbs; all the while summiting at a pace that few can match. Due to his efforts and his outstanding website, climbers who follow in his footsteps have the luxury of more information when planning San Diego County peak list trips. Bob's website is located in the climbing information section cited above. Today, the San Diego Sierra Club's County peak list, coupled with the invaluable information of many of the area's finest climbers, along with the Monday Maniacs hiking group, provides ample opportunity for new hikers to venture into and explore the wonderful county of San Diego.