

One Hundred Hikes

83

Red Box to San Gabriel Peak, Mt. Disappointment **29**

4 miles round trip; 1200' elevation gain
 Classification: Moderate
 Season: All year
 Topo maps: Chilao Flat, Mt. Wilson

FEATURES

This trip follows the new San Gabriel Peak Trail, built by the JPL Hiking Club in 1988, then the upper end of the Mt. Disappointment fire road to gain the San Gabriel Peak-Mt. Disappointment saddle, and then climbs both peaks. The views from both summits are panoramic.

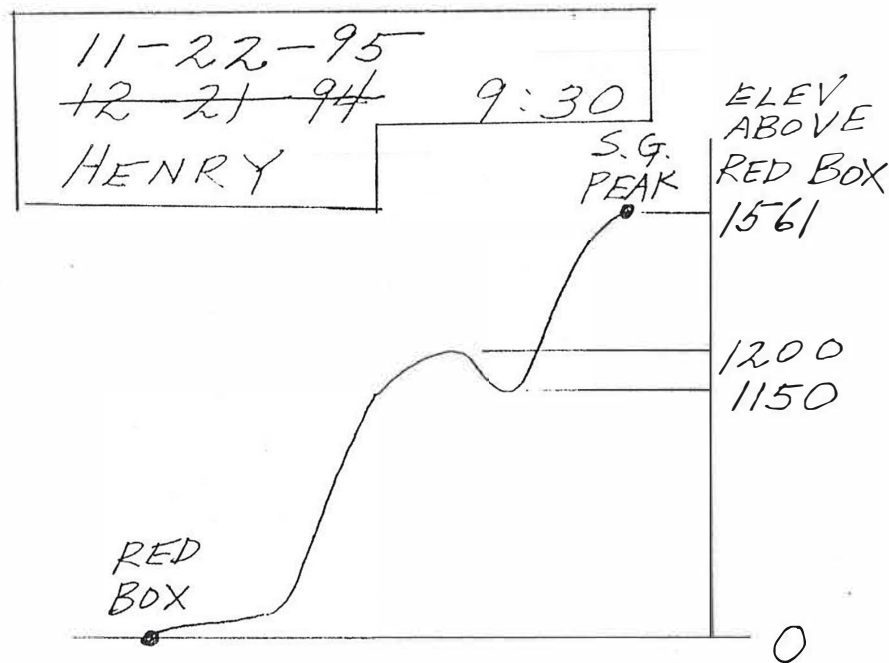
DESCRIPTION

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway from La Canada to Red Box, 14 miles, then turn right onto the Mt. Wilson Road. Follow the latter about one-third mile to the beginning of the Mt. Disappointment fire road on your right. ~~Park here, but don't block the roadway.~~

Take the new San Gabriel Peak Trail, which begins about 50 feet to the left (east) of the fire-road gate. The trail switchbacks up, under a canopy of big-cone spruce and live oak, to a junction with the upper section of the Mt. Disappointment fire road, 1 mile. Proceed up the fire road to the ridgetop, 200 yards. Take the trail left, which drops 50 feet to the San Gabriel Peak-Mt. Disappointment saddle, then climbs the west ridge of San Gabriel Peak to the summit, 1/2 mile.

On your return, follow the fire road to the summit of Mt. Disappointment, 1/4 mile. The top is cluttered with electronic installations and empty buildings dating from the 1950s, when an Army Nike missile station was located here.

Descend the way you came up. An option, adding a mile to the trip, is to follow the fire road down. ~~Or, if you can arrange a 2-mile car shuttle, descend the trail from the San Gabriel Peak-Mt. Disappointment saddle to Markham Saddle and on to the Mt. Wilson Road at Eaton Saddle (see Trip 32).~~



PARK HERE IN RED BOX PARKING LOT AND WAIT FOR EVERYBODY. THEN WALK

	ELEV ABOVE S. L.	ELEV ABOVE R. B.	TOT ASCENT
RED BOX	4600	0	0
JNC.	5800	1200	1200
SADDLE	5750	1150	↓
S.G. PK	6161	1561	1611
MT. DISAP.	6000	1400	