

Location: Kern County, 10 miles northwest of Inyokern.
150 miles from downtown L.A.

Maps: Auto Club Kern County.
Forest Service Sequoia National Forest
Topo Owens Peak 7½, Walker Pass 7½
HPS Topo SST-6 HPS Regional SSR-4

Nearby Peaks: Morris Peak, Owens Peak, Five Fingers.

ROUTE 1

Distance: 13 miles r.t. on trail and cross-country.
Gain: 2700'
Time: 6-7 hours r.t.
Rating: Class 3; Strenuous

Original: John Backus Jun 1987

DRIVING ROUTE 1

- Take Hwy. 14 to Mojave.
- Continue north on Hwy. 14 to the intersection with Hwy. 178 (Freeman Junction).
- Go west on Hwy. 178 to Walker Pass. Park here. Unlimited parking space.

HIKING ROUTE 1

From Walker pass, (5246') hike north on the Pacific Crest Trail about six miles to the ridge which comes down northeast from the peak. There is usually a duck at this point. Leave the trail and go up the ridge to a flat area at 7320'+ (UTM 106520). Continue up the ridge and pick up a ducked route off to the left side of the ridge. Follow this up to the base of the summit block. Go up a very short class 3 section to the summit.

ROUTE 2

Distance: 4 miles r.t. on trail and cross-country.
Gain: 3100'
Time: 7-8 hours r.t.
Rating: Class 3; Strenuous

Original: John Backus Jun 1987

DRIVING ROUTE 2

- Take Hwy. 14 to Mojave.
- Continue north on Hwy. 14 to the intersection with Hwy. 178 (Freeman Junction).
- Continue north on Hwy. 14 for 5.3 miles to Indian Wells Canyon road (dirt) on the left. This is 0.4 miles north of the Homestead Cafe. Turn left. Note your odometer and go as follows.
- At 2.6 miles, Powers Well on the left. Keep straight.
- At 2.7 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 3.8 and 3.9 miles, forks. Keep left.
- At 5.2 miles, fork. Go right.
- At 5.8 miles, fork. Keep left. This is the turn-off point for Owens Peak.
- At 6.2 miles, a cable across the road at the entrance to a mine (UTM 130507). Park in a clearing to the right of the road. Do not block the entrance to the mine.

HIKING ROUTE 2

From the parking area (4840'), hike up the road past the cable. Keep left at the first fork and right at the second fork. Continue past the end of the road into the canyon ahead. Continue up to the saddle at 6500'. The Pacific Crest Trail passes through this saddle. Turn right, and follow the PCT north to the ridge which comes down

northeast from the summit. There is usually a duck at this point. Continue as in route 1.

ROUTE 3

Distance: 3 miles one way from Owens Peak on trail and cross-country.

Gain: 1100'

Time: 2 hours one way.

Rating: Class 3; Strenuous when done with Owens.

Original: Frank Dobos Mar 1992

HIKING ROUTE 3

From the summit of Owens Peak, go down the trail to about 7600'. Then contour southwest cross-country through brush and boulders to the saddle at UTM 094540 where you intersect the PCT. Turn left and go south along the PCT for about 2 miles to the ridge which comes down northeast from the summit. There is usually a duck at this point. Continue as in route 1.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The mine is currently in operation, mining gold and tungsten. The mine operator does not object to considerate hikers crossing the claim.

CAMPING

About a mile past Walker Pass is the entrance on the left for Walker Pass Campground. There are restrooms and water during summer months. There are walk-in primitive sites. There is no fee or reservations at this time.

Powers Well is on the driving route for route 2. It has no water or facilities. It is very close to the starting point for Five Fingers.