

CALIFORNIA GIRL SCOUT BACKPACKERS

San Jacinto Peak

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Station to Round Valley Campground

Itinerary provided by Girl Scouts San Diego

Created: January 2020

Distance: 5 miles round trip

Starting Trailhead: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

Finishing Trailhead: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

Best Months: Late May - August

Permit Limit: 15 people

Preview: San Jacinto Wilderness State Park provides one of the prettiest, most accessible high-altitude backpack trips in Southern California. Access from the Palm Springs tramway means that this is also an easy trip — just 2.5 miles to Round Valley Campground (9000') where a base camp gives you easy access to San Jacinto Peak (10,800') for a day hike.

Girl Scout Progression Points: This excellent beginner's trip allows new backpackers to employ all their new skills and knowledge. Camping is in specified sites, but each feels remote. Water is available from a central spring and must be filtered.

Key Risks:

- Altitude (8,600' at the top of the tram, 9,000' at Round Valley Camp)
- Water: The spring in Round Valley Campground will often go dry late summer. Depending on the year's rainfall, water may or may not be available in June, though sometimes the spring runs year-round. Check with the Long Valley Ranger Station in advance of your trip.
- Weather
- Heat
- Late-season snow can linger till end of May.

Sample Itinerary (By Day):

1. Take the Palm Springs Aerial Tram up to Long Valley. Backpack 2.5 miles to Round Valley Campground.
2. Day hike to the top of San Jacinto Peak (10,800').
3. Hike out, buy a souvenir patch at the ranger station in Long Valley, take the tram down.

DISCLAIMER: Although California Girl Scout Backpackers attempts to keep the content contained in their itineraries up to date and accurate, it is up to each individual to check the accuracy of such information on their own. We assume no liability or make representations or warranties (expressed or implied) of any kind regarding the information provided.

Itinerary Options:

- For spectacular views, hike back to the tram via the Hidden Lake/Willow Creek trail.
- Alternatively, this trip can be lengthened to a shuttle trip ending in Idyllwild, CA.

Permits Needed:

- Wilderness Permit: Permit applications are accepted 56 days in advance.
<https://pstramway.com/wilderness-permits/>

Resources & Safety Management:

- Idyllwild Ranger Station: 951-659-2607
- Long Valley Ranger Station (top of tram, in Long Valley): 760-327-0222



San Jacinto Peak Trail

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