

outing type: hike

Outing address: White Mountain Summit (14,242 ')

City: Big Pine

State: CA

Outing phone: ()

Contact person: Dan Marks

Outing cost: \$

Comments: No Permits Needed, Camp at the Barcroft Gate. The Barcroft Gate is open only 2 days of the year, including the Sunday of every Labor Day. It cuts 4 miles off of the climb when it is open. Go to the White Mountain Research Station website for details.

The trailhead is 20 miles up a very remote jeep trail, leading from the Shulman Grove Visitor Center on the Ancient Bristlecone National Scenic Byway. There is no water and no services, including cell service once you leave Shulman Grove. Plan accordingly.

The hike itself takes you from 12,000 feet to 14,262 feet in five miles, and it is important to acclimate and hydrate ahead of time. Temperatures on September 2, 2007 were in the 30's with the wind chill factor, and there were scattered thunderstorms in the area. All nine of us summited, but six of our party suffered later from altitude sickness. On the Labor Day Sunday, staff from Barcroft sell souvenirs, so bring some cash with you. On the way up the peak, look for wild horses, bighorn sheep and lots of friendly marmots.

This is a very strenuous hike, but well worth it when you make it to the top. Officially, it is the third highest peak in California, and it is like another planet when compared to the rest of the Sierras. From US 395, take the Westguard Pass just north of Big Pine, east to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine National Scenic Byway. The paved road ends at Schulman Grove, and you'll need to pay a "per car" fee there. Be sure to stop by the visitor center and have lunch and see the films offered. The Bristlecone Pines are the oldest living trees on the planet, and are worth the trip in of themselves.

Tread lightly in this area. This is one of the most remote areas of California and the environment is extremely fragile. We think that you will find an experience that will last a lifetime.

Submitted by [Dan Marks](#).