

Area A-13, Trip 1 Mount Baden-Powell Traverse

ALTITUDE
9399

	Distance	9.2 miles (includes Throop Peak and Mt. Burnham summits)
	Total Elevation Gain/Loss	2400/3700 1500/2800 (1730)
	Hiking Time	5 hours
	Optional Map	USGS 7.5-min <i>Crystal Lake</i>
	Best Times	May through November
	Agency	ANF/VD
Difficulty	★★★	

Named in honor of Lord Baden-Powell, the British Army officer who started the Boy Scout movement in 1907, massive Mt. Baden-Powell stands higher than any other mountain in the San Gabriels—except the Mt. San Antonio complex to the east. Many thousands of hikers troop to Baden-Powell's summit yearly, mostly by way of Vincent Gap on Angeles Crest Highway.

Baden-Powell's summit is the last major milestone on the 52-mile trek from Chantry Flat to Vincent Gap known as the Silver Moccasin Trail (in this part of the range it coincides with the Pacific Crest Trail). The five-day-long Silver Moccasin backpack is a rite-of-passage for L.A.-area Scouts.

If you want to climb Mt. Baden-Powell in a most interesting way, try this one-way hike from Dawson Saddle to Vincent Gap. The effort involved is only little more than what's involved in the usual round trip from Vincent Gap, and you'll visit two other peaks as well. All three peaks offers their own unique and panoramic perspective of the rugged Sheep Mountain Wilderness below. The shuttle between ending and starting points is only 5 miles long.

You begin where the Dawson Saddle Trail meets Angeles Crest Highway, mile 7901 FT 69.6, just east of Dawson Saddle. There's parking space on the north side of the highway. On the trail you switchback up through pines and firs to gain the top of a long, gradually ascending ridge leading toward the main crest of the San Gabriels at Throop

Peak. An impressive 3540 hours of volunteer labor by Boy Scouts were required to build this trail, completed in 1982.

At 1.8 miles, near the bench mark 8789', you join the Pacific Crest Trail. Head southwest on the PCT, then climb cross-country about 300 yards to reach the summit of Throop Peak. Hiker's registers are found here, as well as on the other two peaks you'll be visiting. 9139 FT

Return to the Dawson Saddle Trail junction and continue northeast on the PCT, which follows the main ridgeline. You descend to a saddle, then ascend to Mt. Burnham's north flank, where switchbacks take you over to Burnham's east shoulder. You can make an easy side trip to Burnham's summit from the east shoulder.

After bagging Burnham, continue east, climbing a breathless 400 feet more, to reach the impressive Boy Scout monument on Baden-Powell's summit. Weather-beaten lodgepole and timber pines dot the summit area, one of the latter identified by an interpretive sign. 9399

Return by way of the trail descending Baden-Powell's northeast ridge. After 40 switchbacks and 3.8 miles of descent you'll reach the large Vincent Gap parking area (mile 74.8 on Angeles Crest Highway). About halfway down the trail, on the 25th switchback corner, a side trail leads about 200 yards east to a dribbling pipe at Lamel Spring.

6585 FT

Mount Baden-Powell Traverse OTP Hike for 5 August 1998

Dick Battin

Meet at Dawson Saddle at 9 AM.

This is about 50 miles from La Canada on Hwy 2 at mileage marker 69.6.

We will drop passengers and set up a car shuttle to Vincent Gap.

Enough cars will be left at Dawson Saddle so those who may not want to go all the way can turn around and drive the cars to Vincent Gap.

