

# Visiting Mount Umunhum's Summit

## Gain Perspective

Enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views of our region, including San Francisco, Monterey Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and sometimes even the Sierras from ADA-accessible viewpoints.

## Immerse Yourself in Nature

As the peak was restored, its serpentine geology and unique community of plants and animals were revealed. Check out the plant and animal guide in this brochure and see how many you can spot during your visit.

## Discover a Rich History

Delve into Mount Umunhum's fascinating past going back thousands of years through interpretive signs. To enhance your visit, download the free audio tour app. More information is available in the Audio Tour section in this brochure.

## Explore New Trails

Bike, Hike, or horseback ride up the mountain using the Mt. Umunhum Trail. Enjoy views, woodlands, and the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek.

## Summit Features

- **Ceremonial Circle** – Honoring the site's Native American history and the return of local tribes to the mountain, this is a place to reflect on and renew connections with nature.
- **Radar Tower** – The radar tower was part of a system of 23 similar radar stations in California, and one of hundreds across the country that fed radar signals into the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) defense system. This tower was in operation as part of the Almaden Air Force Station from 1957 to 1980.
- **Summit Shelter and Viewpoint** – A shaded area for visitors to rest. A cantilevered deck extends over the hillside, providing an amazing vantage point of the Santa Clara Valley. Inside, interpretive panels highlight the site's unique cultural, military and natural histories.
- **East Summit Viewpoint** – From here, the high point of Mount Umunhum, Mount Diablo, and Mount Tamalpais can be seen as well as the valley below.



## Know Before You Go

**Call Box:** Available for emergency use only.

**Restrooms:** Vault toilets are provided at the Bald Mountain and Mount Umunhum Summit parking areas.

**Water:** No potable water is available anywhere on the Trail or Summit. Non-potable water is provided for horses at a trough near the Summit.

## Accessible Features

Accessible parking, restrooms, shade shelters, and pathways are located at the Mount Umunhum Summit and shown in purple on the map above. At the main parking area, visitors can use accessible parking, restrooms, trailhead shelter, and picnic tables. Restrooms are only available at this location.

At the Summit turnaround area, there are three (3) accessible parking spaces and a drop-off area. Visitors can enjoy the accessible pathway to the west Summit and ceremonial circle, the east Summit, Summit shelter, and interpretive displays.

Accessibility in Midpen preserves is continually improving. For updates visit [www.openspace.org/about-us/accessibility](http://www.openspace.org/about-us/accessibility)



Mount Umunhum, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

# Audio Tour – Stories of Mount Umunhum

## Download Information

**Audio Tour App – *Stories of Mount Umunhum***

Download the Stories of Mount Umunhum Audio Tour to experience a “virtual” guide around the Summit at your own pace. Hear how Mount Umunhum got its name and hear Air Force veterans, Native Americans and others tell their personal stories about life on the mountain.

- Make sure to download the audio tour app before your arrival at the Summit due to limited wireless connectivity. Available free from iTunes or Google Play stores. Note: cell service may be unavailable beyond Mt. Umunhum Road.
- Follow the stops along the map. Stops can be listened to in any order.
- If you wish to skip ahead, stop the chapter and move on to the next one.

### Audio Tour Starts Here

#### 1 Welcome – (Summit Shelter)

At this stop you'll be introduced to Mount Umunhum. Here, visitors will be standing on one of the highest peaks in the Bay Area at almost 3,486 feet in elevation – high enough to get snow on a cold winter's day. From the Summit, you can enjoy a 360-degree view spanning more than 2,000 miles. Along with its human history, you'll discover the unique climate and habitat that makes the Summit an “island in the sky”.

#### 2 Views – (Cantilever Deck)

The Deck provides an exhilarating vantage point from which to enjoy sweeping views of the valley below. To the north is the Peninsula, San Francisco and Mount Tamalpais beyond. On a clear day you can even see the Golden Gate Bridge.

#### 3 Air Force History – (Radar Tower West Side)

This eight-story concrete tower was once a base holding a large radar dish operated by the US Air Force. Between 1957 and 1980, the Air Force used Mount Umunhum's spectacular views to help protect the West Coast from the possible threat of Soviet planes during the

Cold War. The Almaden Air Force Station permanently closed in 1980 when satellite technology made the radar station here obsolete. Some military veterans who worked at the Air Force Station took their technical skills down the mountain and contributed them to the growth of Silicon Valley.

#### 4 A Clean Watershed – (Radar Tower East Side)

Today, the Summit supports a different kind of technology that is also serving an important role for people: measuring drinking water. Learn how Mount Umunhum is part of a network of weather stations that affect water that eventually comes out of faucets in people's homes in the valley below.

#### 5 Life on the Summit – (East Summit)

This mountaintop was not an easy place to live. The high elevation and exposure means it can be baking hot or bitterly cold. Winds can reach 100 miles per hour, and it's not unusual to see snow in the winter, or for up to ten inches of rain to fall in a single day. Learn how in spite of these challenges, this mountaintop is surprisingly rich with plants and wildlife.

#### 6 Creation Story – (Ceremonial Circle)

The first people to visit Mount Umunhum thousands of years ago were the native people of California for whom this mountain was sacred. Their descendants requested a place where they could return to Mount Umunhum for the first time in nearly 200 years to pray and dance where they feel closer to their creator, just like their ancestors did.

#### 7 Conservation Lands – (West Summit)

Standing near the highest point on Mount Umunhum you'll see the City of Santa Cruz and beyond to the Pacific Ocean. Look directly down the spine of the Santa Cruz Mountains towards other Midpen preserves. A special plaque dedicates Mount Umunhum to you, the public, for generations to come.