



**Pilón de Las Parras (Pilón Lolita; “Sharkstooth” peak)**

25°58'42.8"N 111°29'23.8"W

Baja California Sur, Sierra Giganta, Loreto

Summit ~3330 ft

Trailhead elevation 1450 ft

Elevation gain: 1880 ft

Difficulty: Class 3+: scrambling and route finding required

Duration: 6+ hours

**KEY**

**Black star:** chapel/trailhead 1450 ft

**Yellow star:** “helipad” 1750 ft - a flat small mesa, most-easily appreciated from higher elevations, bordered to the south by a canyon-wall drop-off

**White star:** 2380 ft; the “nipple” - a beautiful purple-brown butte southwest of the summit connected to baby shark’s tooth rock via a saddle

**Purple star:** saddle nadir: 2345 ft

**Green star:** baby shark’s tooth: 2433 ft

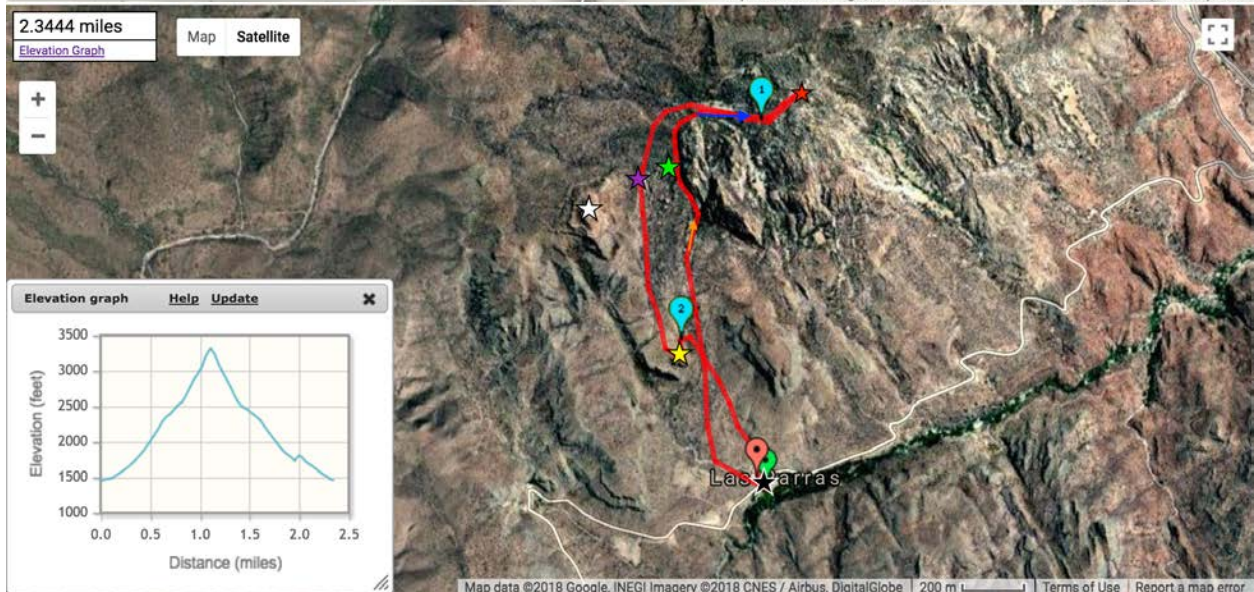
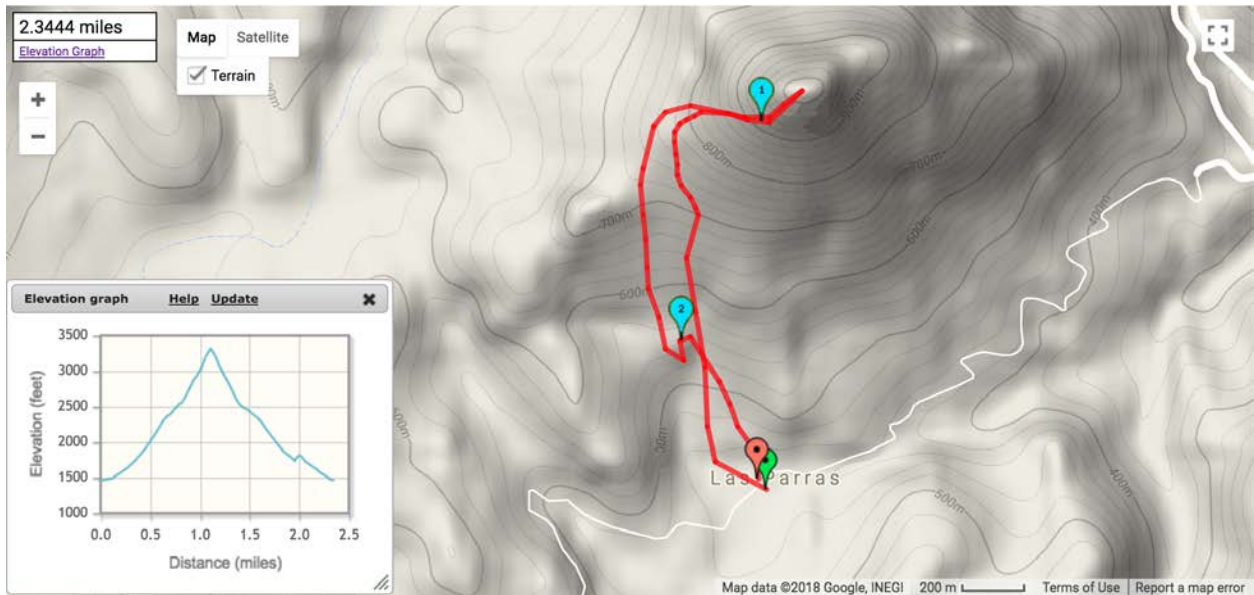
**Orange arrow:** south-facing scree; 2100-2300 ft; near the middle of the scree is a large wild fig tree

**Blue arrow:** west-facing scree; 2620-2905 ft  
**Red star:** summit 3330 ft

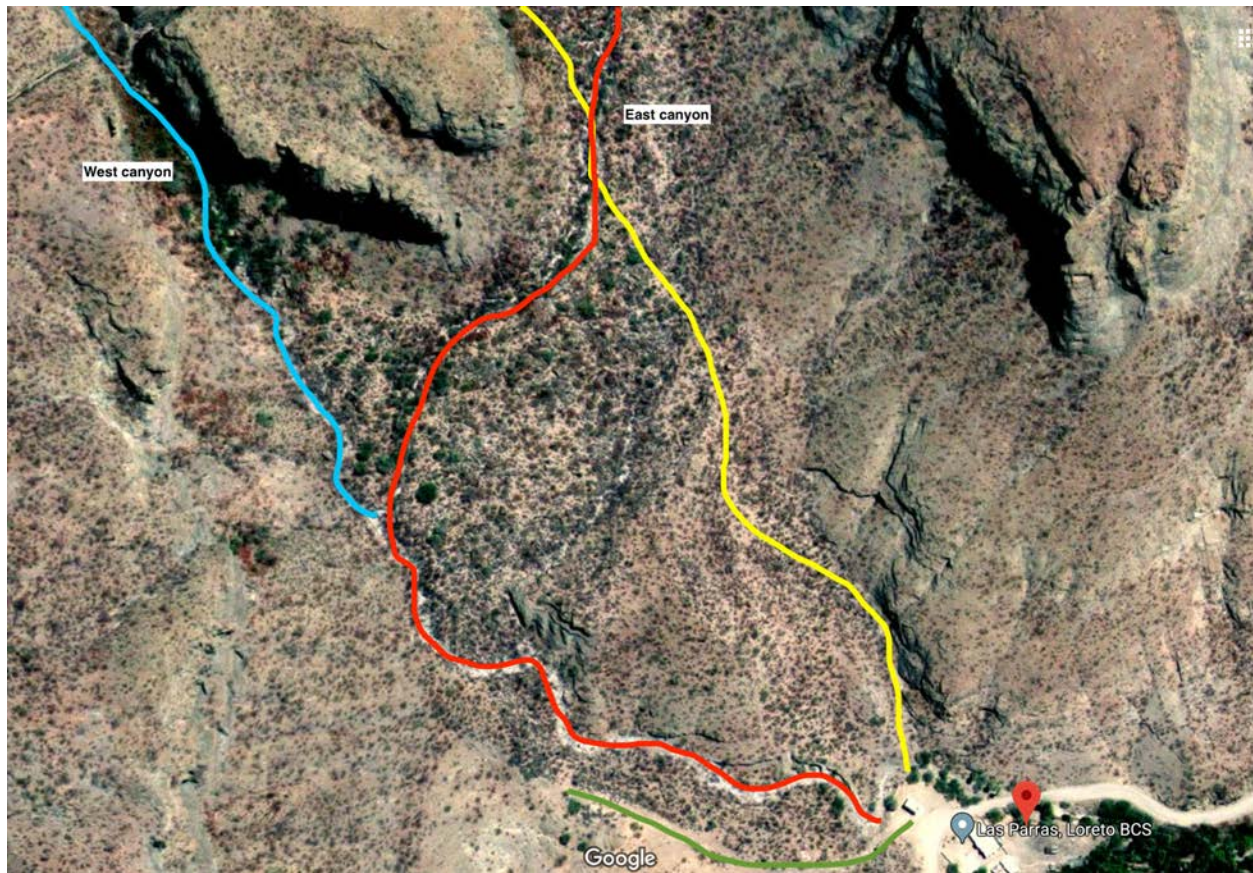
**To trailhead:**

Take highway 1 south from Loreto or take highway 1 north from Marina Puerto Escondido or Nopolo. Turn west on the road to San Javier. Drive around 18 km to Rancho Las Parras where you will see a small stone chapel on the right side of the road. Park at the Chapel.

Our first summit was in December 2017. The trail was very dense with underbrush and trail-finding was essential. There were many thorny bushes and long pants and long-sleeves are recommended. We followed the following route:

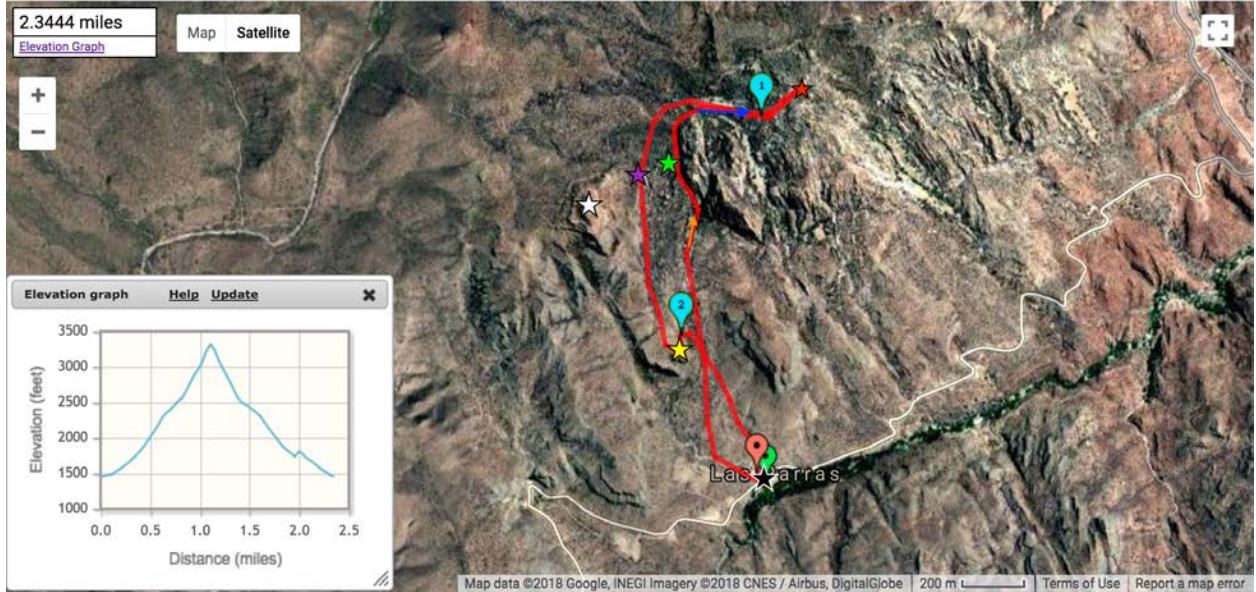


From the chapel, there is what appears to be the beginnings of a trail which runs to the west. (indicated in green) There are 2 main canyons that run north from the chapel. The west canyon will take you to the west side of the “nipple.” We ascended through the river bed to west canyon for around 1/4 mile (the red route), however the canyon extends farther (in light blue). We descended via the yellow route. Either is acceptable. We were able to find cairns in disrepair, but only on our descent, however, they generally support the yellow-route.



We then hiked north (red route) along the south-facing scree (orange arrow) to a large wild fig tree which is visible from the chapel. We then ascended to the wall and traversed along the wall to the west, passing between the baby shark's tooth rock (green star) and the wall. Due to the hurricanes in Summer and Fall 2017, the underbrush was very thick here. We recommend hiking further west to make the ridge nearer to the saddle (yellow route).





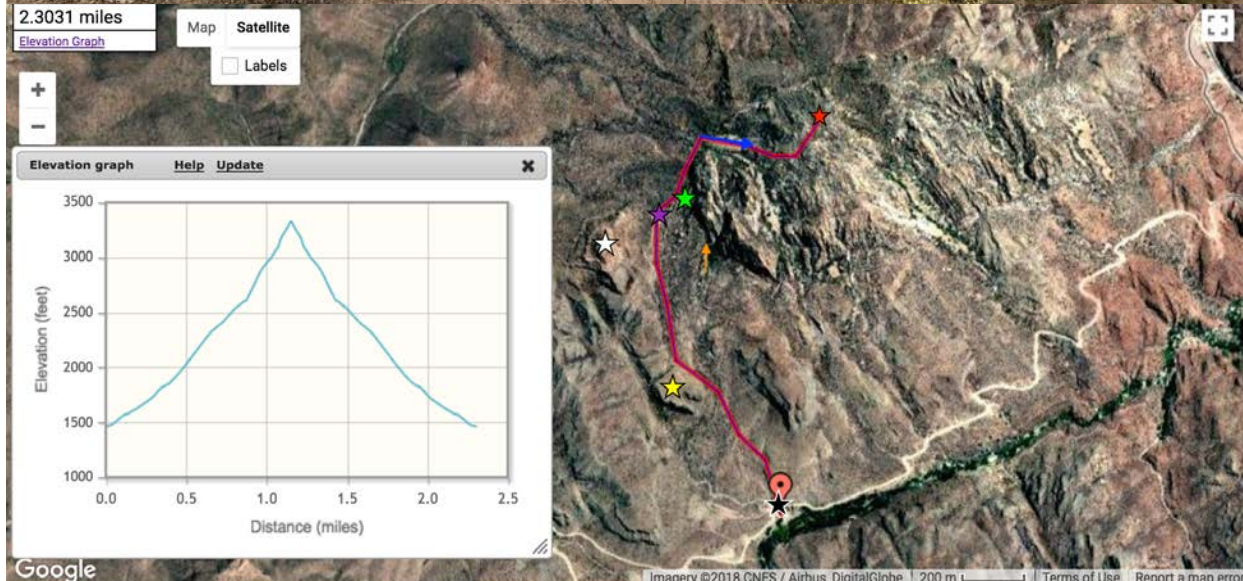
Next, we traversed north and east to arrive at the base of the west-facing scree (blue arrow). This scree field is comprised of boulders which decrease in size and have increased mobility as elevation increases. At the top of the scree, there is a pylon of round, mammillated igneous rock to the south which is studded with the more polygonal granite and green lichens. Incredible.



From the top of the scree, there is a difficult ~300ft elevation scramble to the summit. While the slope is not exceedingly steep, the climb was difficult due to loose dirt and rocks. Proceed with caution. We hiked in a group of 5, and we ascended several areas 1-by-1 as falling rocks were common. The summit is a group of boulders and stately cardon cactuses. There are incredible views of the Sea of Cortez, Coronado Island, and Loreto to the east, the Sierra la Giganta, including Cerro Giganta to the north. To the west, you can see the XXX river which turns south to San Javier, and to the south, you can see Sierra la Giganta with the “gorilla head” which obscures Puerto Escondido.

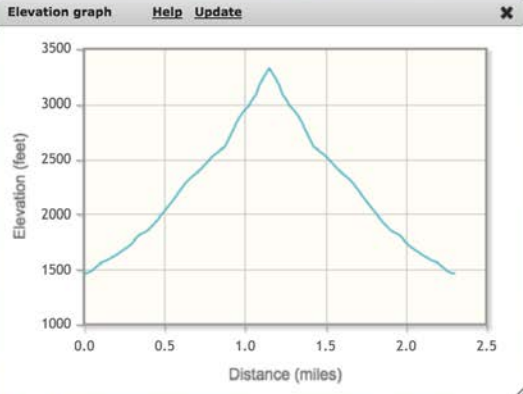


For future hikes, we would recommend the following (yellow) route: ascend north via the east canyon, then make for the saddle between the “nipple” and the baby shark’s tooth. Traverse to the north-east to reach the scree field (blue arrow). Finally, scramble to the summit.



2.3031 miles  
Elevation Graph

Map Satellite



Google

