

0016

OTP & OTHERS

CASTRO PEAK

The hike for March 28, 1990 will be Castro Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Trip data:

Distance: 4.5 miles, round trip
Elevation gain: 824 feet
Effort: Moderate

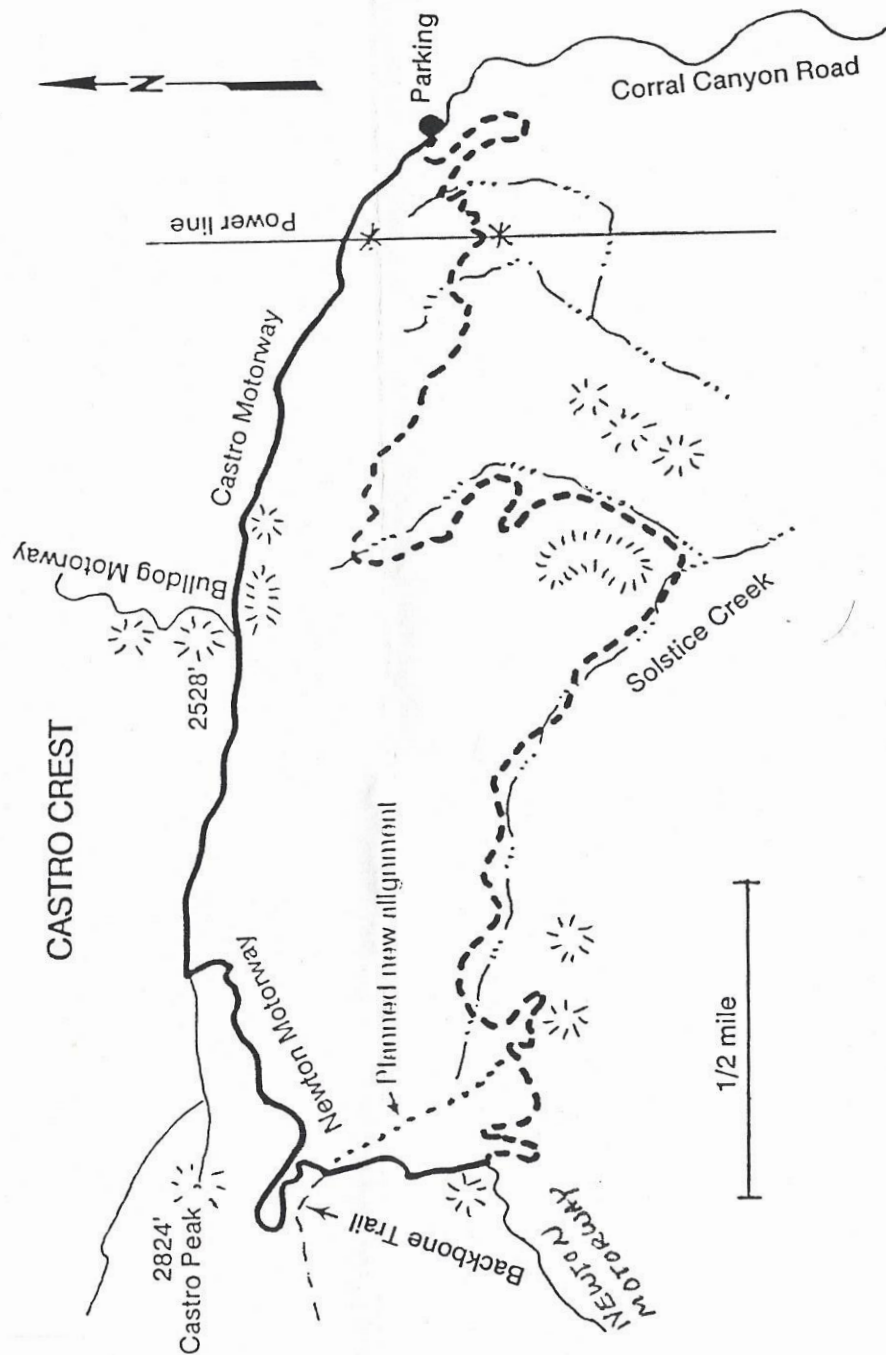
From the west end of the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10), continue north on Pacific Coast Highway (SR 1) 23 miles to Corral Canyon Road. Turn right and follow this winding route to its dirt end near a locked gate in 5 miles.

We will start the hike at 9:30 AM.

From the locked gate, head west along the ridge-hugging fire road known as Castro Mountain Way, which is part of the Backbone Trail. Stay to the right, then to the left, at two road junctions, and you will soon approach conical Castro Peak at 2,528 feet. Continue climbing on the ridge road straight ahead to the top of Castro Peak.

Recommended Maps:

Los Angeles County and Vicinity: Automobile Club



HIKE 23

CASTRO CREST
from Corral Canyon Road

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|------------|----------------------|
| Maps: | Point Dume, topo |
| Distance: | 6.4 miles |
| Elevation: | 1050' gain and loss |
| Terrain: | Fireroad and trail |
| Time: | 2 hours |
| Trailhead: | Corral Canyon Road |

Castro Crest is National Park Service land in upper Solstice Canyon. The area is adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park and has interconnecting trails. The Backbone Trail follows the east-west ridge on Mesa Peak Motorway and Castro Motorway, and as an alternate route, the Backbone Trail follows the trail in Upper Solstice Canyon. The loop trip described here will be on the Backbone Trail. (See more on pages 282 and 283.)

We reach the roadhead by driving the Pacific Coast Highway to Corral Canyon Road a little over 2 miles west of Malibu Canyon Road. The road marker reads 50.36. Turn north and drive uphill on a paved winding road for about 5½ miles to the end of the pavement and on to a large parking area.

A trail leads down into Solstice Canyon from the west edge of the parking area. After 10 minutes of travel we cross a streambed and walk up to a ridge on the west. An old road comes down the ridge and out to a rise — several service roads still remain from the time the power line was put through the area. The trail temporarily follows the bed of the service road then angles right as the road turns left and goes steeply downhill to a streambed. The trail contours along the slope. As it crosses a stream we can see a 20 foot waterfall (after heavy rain only) upstream.

This entire area was burned in October 1982 during the Dayton Canyon fire — a riot of wildflowers covered the basin five months later. The chaparral will recover in seven or eight years but upper Solstice Canyon will always be a garden. We follow the trail downstream until coming to a fork at the stream junction. We turn right and go uphill — a left turn would take us out of the Park and onto private land. The trail stays close to the streambed as it