

Palos Verdes Peninsula Suburbia OTP Hike April 10, 1996 9:30 AM

This hike will include 8.5 miles (about one third) of the beautiful Palos Verdes Loop Trail. We will meet and leave our cars in the parking lot at Ernie Howlett Park. At 9:30 AM we will begin our hike, arriving at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center, near the former site of Marineland, after lunch. After refreshments we will be shuttled back to the cars via prearranged vehicles.

Trailhead Directions

From the 405 Freeway take Hawthorne Boulevard South. From the 110 Freeway take the Pacific Coast Highway exit and go West to Hawthorne Boulevard where you turn South. At the second stoplight after crossing Pacific Coast Highway the road begins to go up the hill. After two more stoplights watch for the entrance to Ernie Howlett Park, it is the next possible road on the right, about .3 mile beyond that fourth stoplight. (If you get to Palos Verdes Drive North, you've gone too far, flip a U and come back.) We'll meet at the left (as you enter) end of the parking lot.

The Hike

The entire Loop Trail is not (and probably never will be) completed all the way around the peninsula. For that reason it is called a "conceptual trail" with a few detours along city streets. For the portion we will do, we start on a horse trail which leads down into a canyon West of Ernie Howlett Park. After 1.2 miles we reach Palos Verdes Drive North. We'll walk along a jogging path in the middle of the divided road for 1.1 miles. Then we go up a trail which skirts the end of the Palos Verdes Golf Course, though we'll only get a glimpse of it because of the limited view from the secluded trail. We follow a stream bed up under a bridge and after .6 mile get to a fire road. From the fire road we will have splendid views of the South Bay, the coast line, Los Angeles, and the San Gabriel mountains. In order to enjoy the view our cookie break will be along this part of the hike. After .9 mile we reach landlocked civilization which will require walking along paved city streets. After walking 1.3 miles dodging cars we will come to our lunch break spot at Bluff Cove, with a beautiful view overlooking the ocean, the beaches below, and a view of the coast past Malibu. After lunch we will walk on the jogging trail in the center of the two lanes of traffic for 2 miles, and then along a pathway at the edge of the road for .3 mile. Then we take a trail along the bluffs until we get to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center where we end our hike after the last 1.1 miles. We'll have our refreshments on a bluff overlooking the ocean with a view of the Point Vicente Lighthouse, the migrating whales and Santa Catalina Island. After food and beverages we will shuttle you back to your cars at Ernie Howlett Park.

Bob Bernard