

TRAILS OF THE ANGELES
YERBA BUENA RIDGE

TRIP: Gold Creek to Oak Spring, Fascination Spring

7 ⁶ miles round trip; ¹³⁰⁰ 2000' elevation gain

Classification: Moderate

Season: November-May (fire closure 7/1 to winter rain)

Topo map: Sunland

1-22-92

FEATURES

In the gentle hills above Little Tujunga Canyon are two delightful springs - little oak-sheltered oases nestled in hills covered with chaparral. Oak Spring lies in a shallow recess near the head of Oak Spring Canyon, just over the ridge from Gold Creek. Fascination Spring - one can only guess as to how it got this intriguing name - is hidden in a narrow crease on the south slope of the mountains, 2000' above the Sunland-Tujunga Valley.

You start from Gold Creek, Little Tujunga's major tributary. As the name suggests, Gold Creek was once the scene of feverish mining activity. Most storied were the so-called "Little Nugget" placers, gold being recovered right from the creekbed. The gold is gone now, and this is ranch country.

A good trail leads south from Gold Creek and climbs into the gentle hill country of Yerba Buena Ridge. A mile and a half up is Oak Spring, hidden in a small draw so that you don't see it until you're almost there. Then you climb over Yerba Buena Ridge and drop abruptly down to Fascination Spring. The two springs are shaded by oaks; the rest of the trip is through open chaparral. This is an ideal outing for a cool winter or spring day. Try it after a rain, when the springs bubble full and the aroma of damp chaparral perfumes the clean air.

TAKE OSBORNE EXIT
OFF OF 210 FRYE

DESCRIPTION

From Foothill Boulevard, right behind Hansen Flood Control Dam, drive 4/4 miles up Osborne Street, which

becomes Little Tujunga Road. Turn right (east) onto Gold Creek Road and follow it ~~down the road to the fairway~~ ^{down the road 1 mile. Park in the oak shaded clearing outside the gate.} THE TRAIL STARTS WHERE GOLD CREEK ROAD CROSSES GOLD CREEK

~~Proceed past the gate and on the creek side and north~~ ^{and 1/4 mile. The sign says "Down to the Spring" but hikers are allowed. Cross the creek and turn up the badly graded road that winds a short distance up the south slope. At the west end of the long third switchback look for a distinct but unmarked trail that leads west along the slope. Follow this trail as it makes one long switchback, then climbs south up the chaparral covered hillside. Vistas open up over the wrinkled Gold Creek basin. The ranch you see down to the north is Paradise Ranch, scene of many a Cecil B. DeMille film extravaganza. Below to the east are the stone quarries where 770,000 tons of granite rock were removed for Hansen Dam in 1938-40. In a mile and a quarter you cross a divide and drop down to lush Oak Spring - water except in the driest months. If it's a sunny day, the shade here is welcome. You'll see a fire road coming down to Oak Spring from the other side; don't take it. Walk down along the creek about 100 yards and pick up a trail that contours around the slope (south). This section of trail ~~is~~ ^{is} good, ~~as what you've just been over, but it's~~ ^{is} easily ~~possible~~ ^{possible}. Follow the trail through dense chaparral around the slope, across a small gully, and up to the Yerba Buena Ridge fire road, 1 1/2 miles from Oak Spring. Here you have a spectacular panorama southward over the Tujunga and San Fernando valleys. Walk 100 yards down the road, then look for the trail dropping south down the steep mountain side. Fascination Spring is a mile down this trail (900' elevation loss), nestled in a small gully.}

Return the same way. Or you have two other options: Drop down the fire road below the spring, continuing south at a 4-way junction to Ebeo Canyon and the maze of roads around the head of Oak Vista Avenue in Sunland, 2 miles. Or descend to the above-mentioned 4-way junction, then turn right (west) and follow the fire road 3 1/2 miles to Little Tujunga Canyon.

34°
30'

22°
30'

15'

