1092

Griffith Park – Mt. Hollywood
From the Old Zoo Picnic Area

Leader: Marta Jahn
Date: July 25, 2012

Direction to trailhead: Take I-5 and exit at Los Feliz. Continue west to Griffith Park Drive and turn right (north). We will meet at the Old Zoo picnic area which is on Griffith Park Dr., where it makes a major curve from being E/W to more N/S. This curve is a bit west of Griffith Park Drive's intersection with Crystal Springs Dr. We will park on the small road/parking lot that extends a couple of hundred yards into the canyon. Restrooms are available.

The hike: The hike is a clockwise loop starting at the Old Zoo, climbing Mt. Hollywood, and ultimately returning either via the Eckert or Ed Curl trail. The Eckert trail return is a total distance of 6 miles and an elevation gain of 1500 ft. Returning via the Ed Curl trail will add 1.5 miles.

Detailed description: Starting from the Old Zoo picnic area, we hike a couple of hundred yards of a paved path that leads through the cages and grottos of the Old Zoo to a "hole" in the fence (between points 12 and 10 on the numerically keyed map which will be available). Immediately turn left on the Old Zoo trail (fire road). We will traverse S/E and join the Fern Canyon trail above the Merry-go-round. An upward climb leads us to a crossing of Vista del Valle (#3) and a great overlook of downtown LA.

The Hogback trail will get your heart going and leads to the green oasis of Dante's View. Another half mile gets us to the top of 1625 ft. Mt. Hollywood. The Observatory is below and there is an oblique view of the Hollywood sign on the slope of Mt. Lee. Our trail leads north toward Mt. Bell (#39) and a fork. By turning right, the shorter hike heads down towards Vista del Valle (#16) and the Eckert trail which leads us back to the hole in the fence and the trailhead, but misses Amir's Garden..

By continuing straight (from #39), the longer version of the hike leads us to Amir's Garden. From there descent to the Ed Curl trail which traverses above Griffith Park Dr. and returns you to the hole in the fence and the trailhead.