

## ELYSIAN PARK

Leader: Dorothy Ferrington Date: 7/3/13

Distance: 6 Miles RT Elevation Gain: 250 FT

**Directions to Trail Head:** Take I-5 and exit at Stadium Way. Go about .5 miles on Stadium Way and make a right turn to the Grace E. Simon Lodge (Elysian Park Drive). After entering area make a left to park (you will see Lodge on the right). From 110 Southbound, exit at Academy Road and continue past the LAPD Police Academy. Turn right on Stadium Way and proceed .5 miles to Elysian Park Drive. Turn left at Grace E. Simon Lodge (Elysian Park Drive). After entering area, make a left to park (you will see Lodge on the right). From 110 Northbound, exit at Solano/Academy Road which puts you on Solano. Immediately turn right at Amador and continue to Academy Road. Continue past the LAPD Police Academy. Turn right on Stadium Way and proceed .5 miles to Elysian Park Drive. Turn left at Grace E. Simon Lodge (Elysian Park Drive). After entering area, make a left to park (you will see Lodge on the right).

**THE HIKE:** Hike with us at the oldest park in Los Angeles (opened in 1886) and the second largest with 604 acres.

Behind Grace E. Simon Lodge, follow trail that parallels Park Drive and stay on it returning to Elysian Park Drive & Stadium Way. Crossing Stadium Way (WATCH OUT FOR CARS!) take trail left of Angeles Point Road. The trail parallels the I-5 Freeway high up on the cliff. Slow down to see the scenery & watch your footing on you'll end up on the I-5. When returning on Angeles Point Road – you will pass tennis courts on left & later a large bougainvillea on the right – make a left onto a dirt path (road) with a swing pole gate.

Shorter hike: After passing the Grace E. Simon Lodge, take a trail leading downhill to Elysian Park Drive and Stadium Way. Cross Stadium Way and continue as above.

Look for the *Odd Gems in the Rough* located in the Elysian Park, as described in a recent article from Auto Club magazine. (1) **First Jewish Cemetery**. From 1855 to 1902 more than 360 people were buried at this site. By 1911, they'd been moved to a graveyard along Whittier Blvd, in East LA. Take Lilac Terrace and you'll find a monument and plaque behind the U.S. Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center. (2) **LAPD Rock Garden**. Past the Academy entrance, follow the tunnel on the left side of the cafe and up the stairs to discover a verdant stash of waterfalls, winding paths and scenic vistas. (3) **Birds of Elysian Park**. An artist hid eight avian sculptures in the trees. We can vouch for two of them: To spot the pteranodon, follow Elysian Park Trail Loop; that's it on the hillside above the second ravine that overlooks Stadium Way. There's an *Argentavis magnificens* to the right off Elysian Park Drive just before Academy Road. (4) **Chavez Ravine Arboretum**. It's easy to see the arboretum sign in the parking lot across from Grace E Simons Lodge; it's harder to find the actual arboretum. Placards identify the oldest trees.

Refreshments at picnic tables near parking lot.