

OTP HIKE FOR 4-9-97 Hike #368

9:30 A.M.

Leader: Marlene Adamcik

Season: All year
Recommended map: Trails of
the Santa Monica Mountains
Topo: Newbury Park
Triunfo Pass



Rancho Sierra Vista Loop Trail

8 miles RT; 1000' gain

Acre by acre, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is slowly expanding. One new park, Rancho Sierra Vista/Satiwa, on the northern boundary of Point Mugu State Park, was purchased by the National Park Service in 1980. Twenty miles of trail wind through the park, connecting with about 70 miles of trails in Point Mugu State Park. You can trek from Rancho Sierra Vista to the ocean.

This day hike, which explores, both state and national parkland, offers a variety of scenery—a Santa Monica Mountains sampler—including chaparral-covered slopes, oak woodland, a waterfall and giant woodwardia ferns.

The name of the park, Rancho Sierra Vista/Satiwa, reflects its history as a 1940s horse ranch and as the longtime tribal land of the Chumash. Parkland has been designated as the Satiwa Native American Indian Natural Area. A short walk from the parking lot is the Native American Indian Cultural Center, which has exhibits of Chumash, Gabrielino and Hopi crafts and culture; it's open Sundays from 10 to 4.

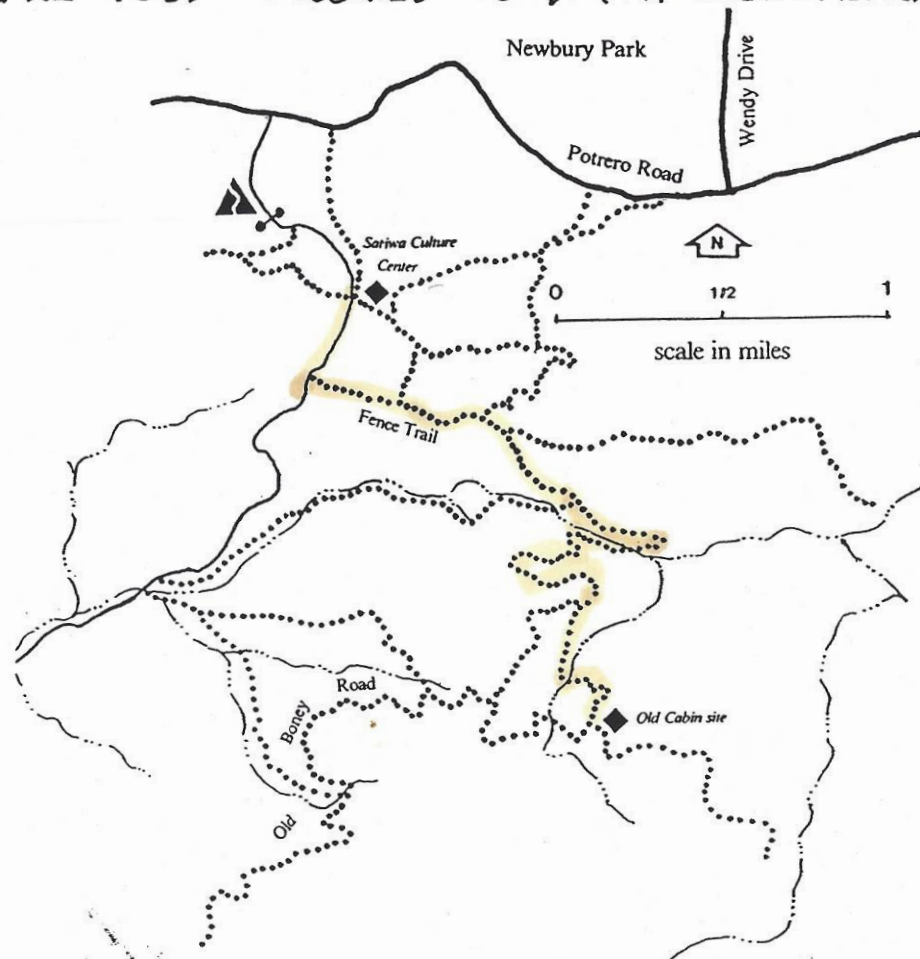
Directions to trailhead: From the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101) in Newbury Park, exit on Wendy Drive. Head south for 4 miles, then turn west on Potrero Road for 2 miles. Follow the signs to the park's parking lot on your left.

The Hike: From the parking lot, begin hiking on the dirt road. In a mile you reach an overlook perched above upper Sycamore Canyon. Turn left, heading east here, on the Fence Trail, which true to its name follows a barbed wire fence.

The trail reaches Old Boney Road, which you'll follow to the right as you begin ascending the north slope of the canyon. After dropping down to a creek, the road leads beneath oaks and sycamores.

When you reach the first switchback to the right, enjoy a brief diversion by following the trail leftward. You'll soon intersect a creek, which can be followed a short distance to the waterfall. Woodwardia ferns thrive in the cool moist canyon. A series of a half dozen tiny falls cascade from pool to pool.

IF ITS A WINDING ROAD TO THE TRAILHEAD
I'LL "TOSS MY COOKIES" TO YOU AT COOKIE BREAK!



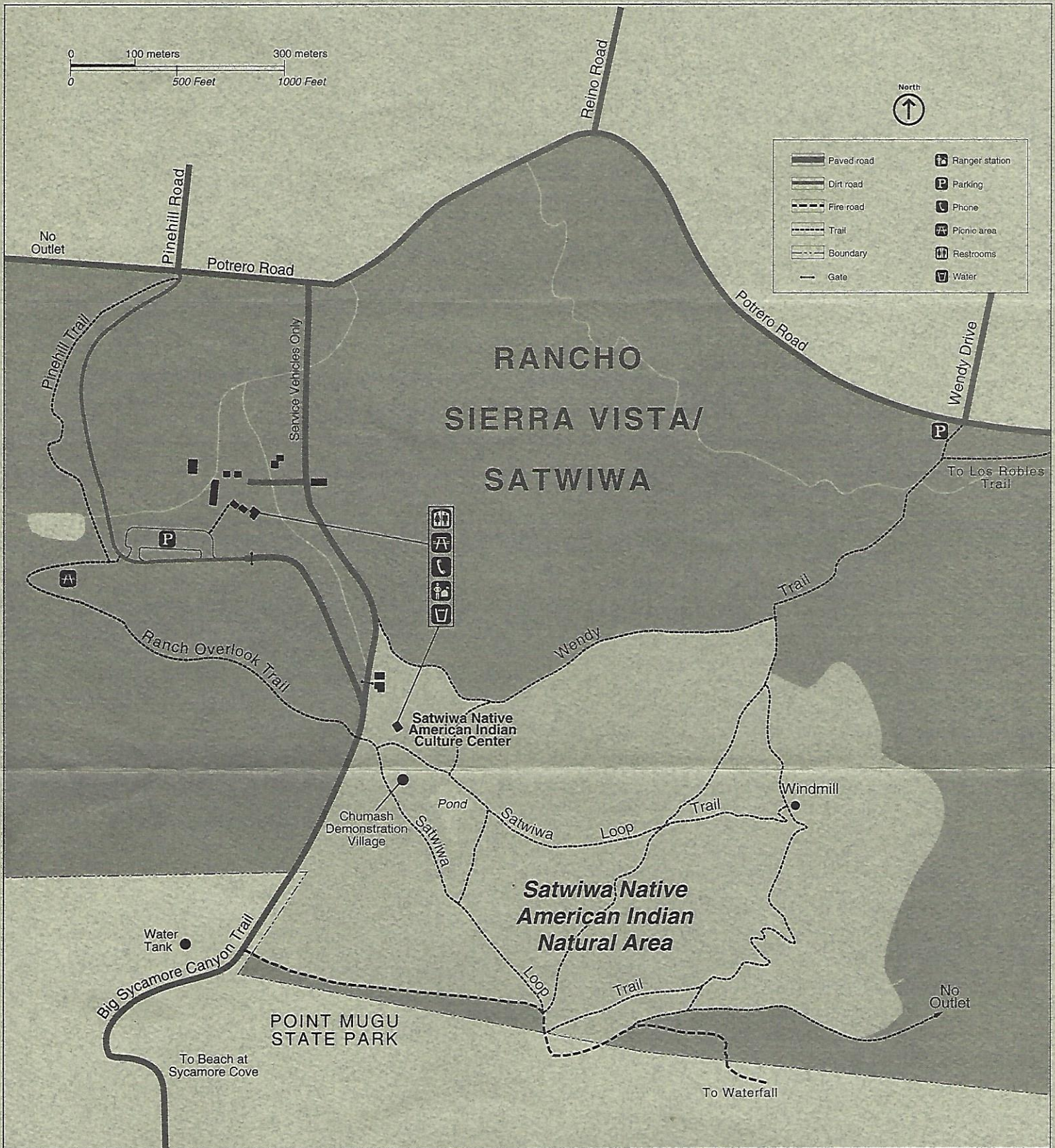
After enjoying the falls, return to Old Boney Road and continue your ascent. On a clear day, the upper reaches of the road offer views of the wide Pacific and Channel Islands. The road forks and you'll continue straight ahead.

A little farther along, you'll spot a stone chimney standing amongst some oaks. The cabin that once stood here was used by ranch hands when cattle and sheep grazed the high country. When a 1956 fire burned from the valley side of the mountains to the ocean, the cabin was destroyed. Near the cabin, a year-around spring offers drinking water. If the bugs aren't biting, this area around the cabin makes a nice lunch stop.

You'll notice a trail that leads up to Boney Mountain, but this day hike continues another mile on the road that brought you here. You'll intersect a steep one mile connector trail branching right and take it a mile back to the paved park service road, which returns you to the trailhead.

* Bring Insect Repellent

RANCHO SIERRA VISTA/SATWIWA



Trails

Satwiwa Loop Trail 1.5 miles, easy—
Stroll through grasslands and channel of

in Point Mugu State Park to the sea. This is a
multi-use trail. Please exercise extreme caution