

Hike #471

UPPER SANTA YNEZ CANYON
to the waterfalls
from Dead Horse Trail

DISTANCE: 8 1/2 miles roundtrip
ELEVATION: 1500' gain and loss
TERRAIN: trail and steep ridge
TIME: 4 hours
TRAILHEAD: DEAD HORSE TRAIL

DIRECTIONS:

The hike begins at the Dead Horse parking lot, 200 yards from Topanga Canyon Blvd., 1/2 mile north of the post office in the town Topanga, We must take care driving to the parking lot, the turn onto Entrada Road is sharp and steeply uphill. \$1.00 parking fee for seniors.

HIKE: After 10 minutes on the trail we cross Trippet Creek on a beautiful, rustic, wooden bridge. From Trippet Ranch parking lot past the right of the white brick building, turn right and wind uphill through the woods. At the top of the hill turn left on the fireroad and continue uphill until the basalt knoll on the right is passed, then turn right and start down into Santa Ynez Canyon. About half mile down the trail start looking for a side trail on the left, it isn't well marked and can be missed. Take this side trail and descend along a rocky ridge. About 500 yards down the trail are some caves in the cliff on the right. To the left in about 200 yards and obscured by chaparral are two chimneys, all that remain of an old cabin site. The trail forks farther downstream. Take the left fork and go upstream.

Follow a trail upstream for about 3/4 mile. You will cross the stream several times and may even run out of trail on occasion. By staying close to the stream you will come to some waterfalls. That is the objective of this segment of the hike. At this point there is a rope to climb a large rock, or this is a good place, for some of us, to turn around retracing our steps to return to the roadhead. We will have lunch at the foot of this big rock.

POISON OAK by the side of the trail.

Vicky Ritter hike
June 16, 1999