

Hike #499

FRIENDSHIP PARK TO ROYAL PALMS STATE BEACH, SAN PEDRO HIKE

JANUARY 5, 2000

Hike leader: Bill Nakano

Trail head: Friendship Park, 9th St. / Miraleste St. entrance parking lot, San Pedro

Start time: 9 : 30 AM

Distance : Moderate 6 miles

Elevation: 800 feet to sea level and back up

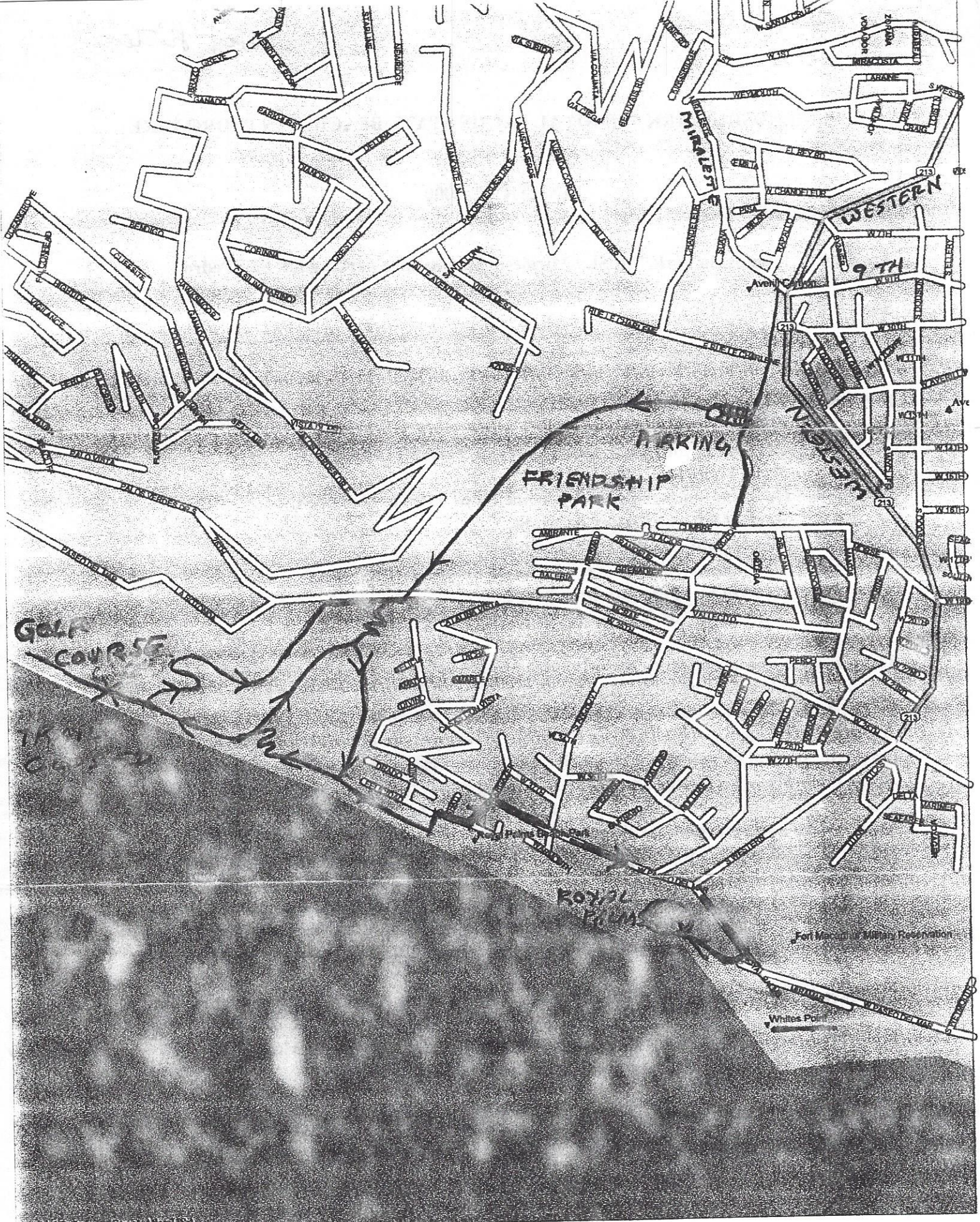
View : excellent view of the South Shores of Palos Verdes Peninsula

**Directions : Go to the southern end of Harbor Fwy (110) to Gaffey St.
South (left) on Gaffey to 9th St.
West (right) on 9th to Western Ave
Cross Western and turn left almost immediately
(9th St. turns into Miraleste)
Enter the Park and park in a lot at the first right turn**

The trails are unmarked since they traverse private properties. So we need to stick together - even though it would be difficult to get lost. (We could hike by dead reckoning of the Friendship Park hill.) I have marked up a map with darkened lines showing the approximate route we will be taking. The trail goes down from the park to the cliffs along the coast. We will be going east along the cliff and streets to Whites Point where we will spend some time viewing the scenery and reading markers describing the history of this area and then hike down to the Royal Palms State Beach. We will have lunch there where picnic tables and rest room facilities are available. The return trip is essentially tracing back the morning trails with a minor detour up the hill to view the Pete Dye designed golf course which is towards the end of the hike. There are some changes since the last trip. They have completed the Ocean Trails Golf Course but the 18th hole slid into the Ocean causing the owners to declare bankruptcy and grading for housing lots on the upper part of the property is complete. The trail to the west along the cliff is closed at the landslide area.

This area is the home for the endangered gnatcatcher living among the sage scrubs. Cactus Wrens and Brown Towhees also reside among the bushes along the cliff. The Red Tail Hawks keep the rabbit population down while the Red Shouldered Hawks and the American Kestrel keep the rodent population in check.

Refreshments will be served at the Friendship Park picnic tables overlooking the beautiful San Pedro hills, its harbor and lands beyond.



1" = 2.25 miles