

Hike #643

Elevation Gain: About 1,000 ft

9:30

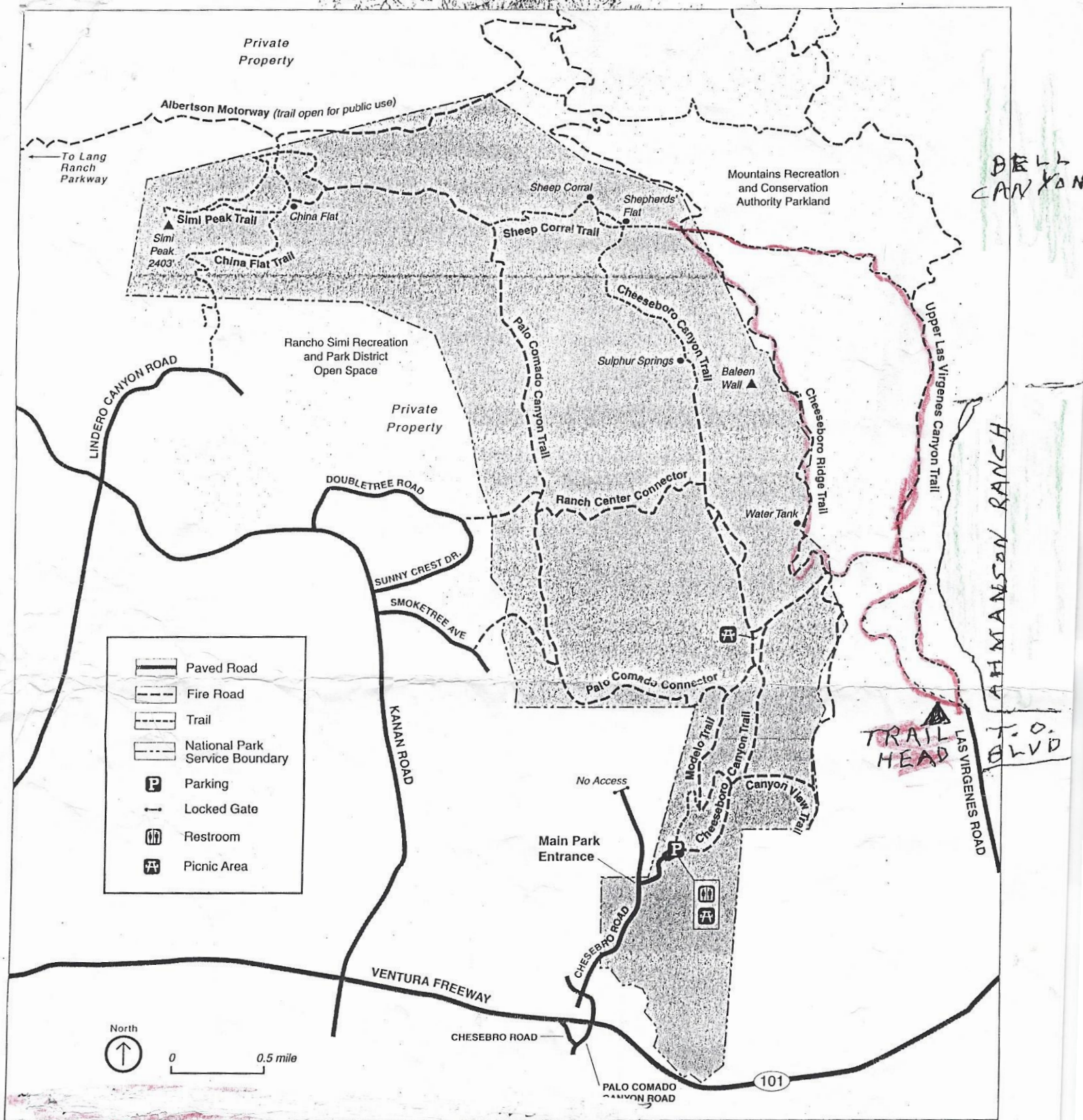
Distance: About 8 mi.

The Hike: The trail head is at the North end of Las Virgenes Rd. about a mile north of the Ventura (101) Fwy.

RESTROOMS: Turn right on Thousand Oaks Blvd. which is between the Fwy. and the trail head. Go seven-tenths of a mile to the park on the left. If it works out, we will go there after the hike for refreshments.

The trail starts by running along the West canyon hill side, and after climbing a couple of hundred ft. drops to the road in the canyon bottom. We follow the road past the infamous Ahmanson Ranch on the East. When we get to the back reaches of the Bell Canyon Tract on the East, the road starts climbing out of the canyon toward the Albertson Motorway. At this point, we

turn left on the Sheep Corral Trail. The trail is an old road that is steep and rutted. In about a mile and a half, we meet and turn left on the familiar Upper Cheeseburo Ridge Road and follow it up to the summit where, from the gray rocks, there is a view of the Sheep Corral Trail Valley, with Rocketdyne in the background. We continue south on the Upper Cheeseburo Ridge Trail for about one and a half mi., then turn left through a gate onto the trail to the left that drops back down into Las Vergenes Canyon. We turn right and follow the road back to the trailhead, avoiding the foot trail on the side of the hill.



Trails

Modelo Spur 0.7 mile, moderate—This trail meanders from the parking lot through grasslands to a lone coast live oak on the ridge. The trail drops east and joins the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail.

Modelo Trail 1 mile, easy—Starting at the ridge line of the Modelo Spur and continuing north along the ridge, this pathway offers views of both canyons. It ends at the Palo Comado Connector Trail where you can turn right, and travel east to Cheeseboro Canyon.

Palo Comado Canyon Trail 4.4 miles, moderate to strenuous—The first 1.2 miles of this trail is a gentle stroll along a creek to the old ranch center. The dramatic elevation gain begins a mile past the ranch site where you will climb from 1,200 feet elevation to scenic China Flat at 2,140 feet elevation.

Cheeseboro Canyon Trail 4.6 miles, easy—Follow an old ranch road along a streambed through a valley oak savannah and coast live oak riparian zone. A picnic area is located 1.6 miles from the parking lot

Canyon View Trail 0.7 mile, moderately strenuous—This trail splits to the east of the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail and climbs to a knoll above the Lost Hills landfill. Looking back towards the west, you can see most of Cheeseboro Canyon.

Ranch Center Connector 1.1 miles, moderate to strenuous—This trail crosses a chaparral hillside and connects Cheeseboro and Palo Comado Canyons.

Simi Peak Trail 0.8 mile, moderate—This trail winds