

Temescal Peak Loop Hike

November 22, 2006.

Leader: Norm Maclean

Hike: 6 miles (7.4 miles with Temescal Peak)

This hike, scheduled for November 22, 2006, starts from the Trippet Ranch Visitor Center of the Topanga Canyon State Park. You get there by driving North on Topanga Canyon Blvd. from Pacific Coast Highway to the town of Topanga. Valley residents can drive south on Topanga Canyon Blvd. from highway 101. Turn East on Entrada Rd. and follow the signs to Topanga State Park. Be prepared to pay State Park fees.

From the parking lot (1200 ft. elev.), take the fire road East and up the hill. At 0.2 miles (1340) you turn left and hike along the Topanga Fire Rd (Santa Ynez Fire Rd on the Topanga St. Park Map). Continue on the road about 1.1 more miles to Eagle Junction (1660 ft.), where the road splits and the trail to Musch Camp takes off. Take the right hand road (Backbone Trail), and continue 1.3 more miles past Eagle Spring to Hub Junction (1980 ft.), where you meet the Temescal Ridge Fire Rd. Cookie break here.

The ambitious hikers who want to climb Temescal Peak will continue south from Hub Junction about 0.6 miles where you see the poorly marked trail to Temescal Peak summit (2126 ft.), about 0.1 mile more. Return to Hub Junction.

From Hub Junction take the alternate trail back to Eagle Junction. After 0.8 miles you arrive at the Cheyey Fire Rd junction (1860 ft.). Bear left on the trail that goes to Eagle Rock where a lunch stop is planned. Then continue on to Eagle Junction (1660 ft.). At Eagle Junction, take the Backbone Trail down to Musch Camp about 1.1 miles more. This is shady most of the way. At Musch Camp (1310 ft.), cross the paved road, and continue on the trail, being alert for the left hand branch that returns to the Triplet Ranch Visitor Center (1.0 mile).

For those of you who like to plot, here is the data.

Location:	Elev.:	Miles:
Trippet Ranch Parking Lot:	1200	0.0
Eagle Junction:	1660	1.6
Hub Junction:	1980	2.6
Temescal Peak (rabbits):	2126	3.3
Hub Junction (return):	1980	4.0
Cheney Fire Rd (don't take it):	1860	4.8
Eagle Rock (lunch):	1880	5.1
Eagle Junction:	1660	5.3
Musch Camp:	1310	6.4
Trippet Ranch Parking Lot	1200	7.4