

Carlin Hike for May 13, 2009**Runyon Canyon in the Hollywood Hills**

You'll do well to get 3.5 miles in, but with mucho sweat!

Maximum elevation change: 760 ft.

Introduction: Excerpted from LA Times, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008: "There is the Hollywood sign everyone knows – white letters 50 feet high, recognized the world over as Tinseltown. And there is the *other* Hollywood sign, the hidden one, whose red neon letters 30 feet high were once as familiar as the larger sign, just across the canyon. The sign that read "OUTPOST" was, like the original Hollywoodland sign, raised up to publicize a new housing development, Hillside Homes of Happiness. Once one of the biggest neon signs in the world, it was shut down at the beginning of World War II, and today sits on the hillside a twisted wreckage of rusted steel letters and girders, covered by overgrown brush."

Runyon Canyon is a small canyon located in the Hollywood Hills between Cahuenga Canyon on the east and Laurel Canyon on the west. The canyon routes are *leash-free dog runs*, so be advised that there are more canines than humans on the trail. The dogs we saw were very well behaved - essentially ignore humans, and their masters are very careful to pick up after them. The views of the city and the valley are outstanding, but I would also watch where I step.

The Hike: (See attached picture) The *upside-down* baseline hike route starts from the Mulholland Dr. trailhead (1298 ft.), makes a side trip to the local overlook (1338 ft.) (waypoints 1-2-3), backtracking to a junction (waypoint 4), then down the center road to the Hollywood gate (580 ft.) (waypoints 4-5-7-8). At this point there are 3 options for returning to the trailhead:

- The steep east ridge past the OUTPOST sign wreckage (waypoints 8-9-5-1).
- The very steep west ridge (waypoints 8-7-6-4-1).
- The center canyon road (waypoints 8-7-5-1).

Getting there: Drivers: Check these directions out on your map BEFORE leaving!

The trailhead (north gate to Runyon Canyon) is located near the junction of Mulholland and Pyramid Place. Some parking is available there, plus more on Pyramid. Get there as follows:

From the North: Hollywood freeway south, exit Barham Blvd. (exit 11) onto West Cahuenga Blvd. Continue south past the Barham Blvd. bridge to the intersection with Woodrow Wilson Dr. – turn right. Woodrow Wilson Dr. soon becomes Mulholland Dr. (If you pass under the bridge crossing the freeway, you've gone too far).

From the South: Hollywood Freeway north, exit Barham Blvd (exit 11A) onto East Cahuenga Blvd. and almost immediately turn right onto Lakeridge Rd. Follow it around counter-clockwise turning left to cross the bridge crossing the freeway. Turn left again onto Mulholland Dr. and snake your way up into the hills.

After Hike Party: At the trailhead.



Runyon Canyon Hike

Distances

- 1-8 via 5, 9 = 1.4mi.
- 1-8 via 2, 4, 5, 7 = 1.6mi.
- 1-8 via 2, 4, 6, 7 = 1.5mi.
- 2-3 stub = 0.3 mi. out & back

Altitudes

- 1 - Mulholland Trail Head (1238ft.)
- 2 - Overlook (1298ft.)
- 3 - Overlook (1338ft.)
- 4 - Trail Junction (1226ft.)
- 5 - Overlook (1059ft.)
- 6 - Overlook (1148ft.)
- 7 - Trail Junction (615 ft.)
- 8 - Lower Park Entrance (579ft.)
- 9 - Overlook (725ft.)

439 m
 34°06'40.64" N 118°21'06.37" W

elev 292 m

Jul 31, 2007

Eye alt 1.96 km