

Solstice Canyon

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Trailhead: Turn North off of Pacific Coast Highway at Corral Canyon Road, which is 2.5 miles West of Malibu Canyon Road. Within a couple of hundred yards continue straight into Solstice Canyon Park, as Corral Canyon Road makes a sharp eastward turn. The parking lot is about half a mile from PCH. Parking is free and there are restrooms. Hiking maps are available at the trailhead.

Summary: The lower loop climbs the ridge between Solstice and Corral Canyons and then descends back into Solstice Canyon, and arrives at Tropical Terrace at 2.5 miles. Hiking back down the road makes for a 3.7 mile loop with about 600 feet of gain. About 0.1 mile on the road below TT, the Sostomo Trail starts its upward 1.3 mile climb to the upper or Deer Valley (1.3 mile) loop. The Sostomo Trail is of medium quality and follows the heavily foliated canyon continually upward. Logical rest or turnaround points on the Sostomo can be found at the first or second stream crossing, or at the junction with the Deer Valley Loop. The completion of both loops will result in 7.6 miles and 1800 feet of gain.

Hike Options:

A. From the gate, head up the road and veer left onto the trail near the picnic table and large oak. You pass the remains of two former TRW buildings used for instrumentation testing. This trail heads up the ridge, with great views of the ocean, then drops down into the somewhat mysterious Tropical Terrace. This is actually the ruins of a home build in the 1960s, and burned in 1982. There are exotic plants, lovely pools, a 30 foot waterfall, and a hidden statue of the Virgin Mary just before you cross the creek heading into the ruins. This is really a fun place to explore!

B. Stay in the canyon bottom and hike up to the site of the Tropical Terrace and return (3 mile RT)

C. After getting to Tropical Terrace, hike the Sostomo Trail to the Deer valley loop trail and return. (adds 4 miles).