

Castle Peak and El Scorpion Park

October 8, 2014

Distance: 4 to 10 miles, Elevation Change: 100 to 1000 ft.

Carol Hartung

Directions to Trailhead: For those in the Valley area, the trailhead is on Vanowen Street, one-tenth mile west of Valley Circle Blvd. Park on street near house at 6800 Vanowen. No restrooms are available.

For those traveling from the south, take the northbound Ventura Fwy. (101), exit Valley Circle Blvd. Turn right (north) on Valley Circle Blvd. and go approximately 2.8 miles to Vanowen Street. Turn left (west) and go approximately one-tenth mile to the trailhead. Park on the street. No restrooms are available.

The Hike: This is a new hike with city and mountain views. It consists of a four-mile loop with several side-trails to climb three small peaks and view caves. Maps will be provided, and a Google Earth photo is attached. The basic hike is a counter-clockwise loop (shown in yellow), and has an approximately 600 ft elevation gain. Taking the side-trails (shown in red) can increase that to 1000 ft or more. Those wishing to hike on a flat trail may turn around after about 1.5 miles (100 ft. elevation gain).

Refreshments will be provided at the Hartung home (about one mile from the hike) as there are no facilities at the trailhead.

The Hartung home location is shown on the photo.

From the trailhead, drive east on Vanowen Street to Valley Circle Blvd. and turn left (north).

Proceed on Valley Circle Blvd. about six-tenths mile and turn right on Hillhurst Dr. Turn left on the first available street on the left (Westcliff Dr.) and drive for one-half mile to 7479 Westcliff Dr.

[Google Earth photo - Castle Peak and Escorpion Park](#)

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