

606

APR 3, 2002 – Chino Hills State Park – Richard Braun

Main Hike: 6 miles, 1450 feet

Short Hike: less than 5 miles, 700 feet

Alternate longer hikes: 8 miles and up, 1600 feet and up

#### The Hike:

Our hike starts at the Aliso Canyon Campground, going south for ½ mile and crossing the creek, then turning right at the junction ahead. After about 100 yards the signed Water Canyon Trail will start. In about ½ mile we will come to a sign indicating the end of the trail – ignore it and keep on walking for another ¼ mile, then follow the path that veers steeply northwest for about four tenths of a mile to meet South Ridge Trail. (Triangle on the map, 1.8 miles and 700 feet of elevation). I hope we can all stay together to this point and have our cookies there.

Here we split into the various optional hikes.

The short hikers turn right and continue on South Ridge Trail to the Aliso Canyon Trail and back on the road we started out on to the campground.

The main hikers turn left to the Telegraph Canyon Trail and at the next Y turn right to continue on Telegraph Canyon to Aliso Canyon Trail and back as shown above.

The alternate hikers may turn left at that Y and take any loop shown on the map, ending at the Aliso Canyon Trail and back as shown above.

#### Getting to the trail head:

Take the 118/210, the 60 or the 10 freeways to the 71 freeway and turn south, or the 91 freeway to the 71 and turn north. Exit at Soquel Canyon Parkway; go west 1 mile and turn left on Elinvar Drive which turns sharply left at the end. Look immediately right for a dirt road entering the State Park, which becomes pavement again in two miles. Shortly after that you will see the Aliso Canyon Campground on your left. Enter and turn right to the end of the dirt road to a closed gate and a parking area.

#### Some Notes:

Thanks to Hazrat who joined me on scouting the main hike.

There is a \$2 day fee for parking, but the collection booth at the entrance to the Chino Hills State Park was closed when we were there and nobody checked the car. The visitor center is in a barn and was not staffed either, it looks like this place is not managed too well.

It seems like a long way to get to the park but it is less than 40 freeway miles east from the 110 or 2 freeways, easier and faster than 20 or 30 miles on winding highway 2 in the mountains!

