

Eaton Saddle to Mt. Lowe, or Inspiration Point, or Panorama Point  
June 25, 2003  
Henry Ito

Direction to trail head:

From La Canada take Angelus Crest Highway to Red Box and then take Mt. Wilson Road for about 2 and a half miles to unsigned Eaton Saddle where there is a fairly large parking area.

Hike:

Option 1: From Eaton Saddle (elev. = 5100), walk up the road behind the gate and come to Markham Saddle (elev. = 5300) after about 0.5 mile. From there you take the Mt Lowe East Trail on your left and make a gentle climb to the junction with the Mt. Lowe West Trail (Elev. = 5400) after about another 0.5 mile. At this point you make an almost 180 degree turn to your right and continue climbing on Mt. Lowe West Trail to the top of the mountain which is Mt. Lowe (Elev. = 5603) after about 0.2 mile. We are going to have our cookies here. If you do not want to go any further you may return to the trailhead after this. If you go any further you will have a hard time climbing back to the trailhead.

Option 2: From top of Mt. Lowe come down the way you came for about 0.1 mile till you come to a "Y". Instead of going back the way you came, take the branch to your left and continue descending on a rugged trail for about 1 or 2 miles till you come to a road at elevation 4400'. You will lose elevation of 1200 feet during this descent. At this junction turn to your left and walk on the gently descending road till you come to a "Y" on the road and take the left branch which is gently climbing till you reach a newly built structure at elevation of 4500' with numerous lenseless telescopes pointing toward various landmarks below. This is a nice place to have lunch. From the bottom of the West Trail to here is less than half mile.

Those people who don't want to go any further may return the way you came till you come to the junction with the Mt. Lowe East Trail and climb back the East Trail this time. You have a continuous steep climb of about 1000 feet till it levels off. The East Trail is not as rugged as the West Trail. When you come to a "Y" where you initially made an almost 180 degree right turn, be sure to take the branch going downhill to your right to go back to the trail head.

Options 3: Those of you who want to go farther may continue to go on this horizontal road till it suddenly quits at Panorama Point approximately 1 mile from the Inspiration Point. You may return the way Option 2 People are coming back.

Special Option. Those of you who took Option 2 or 3 may take the road back to Markham Saddle instead of taking the trail. The road is a monotonously long gentle climb.