

UPPER SANTA YNEZ CANYON TO THE WATERFALL  
FROM DEAD HORSE TRAIL

June 9, 2004

Vicky Ritter

Distance: 8 miles roundtrip

Total elevation: 1500 Ft. loss and gain

Trailhead: Dead Horse Trail

Start time: 9:30 AM

Trail directions:

101-South on Topanga Canyon Blvd. 7.6 miles

North 4.6 miles from PCH

Turn East on Entrada Road, 200 yds. to parking lot on the left.

**HIKE:** After 10 minutes on the trail we cross Trippet Creek on a beautiful, rustic, wooden bridge and climb gradually for 1.1 miles to Trippet Ranch headquarters and the upper parking lot. From the east end of the upper parking lot take the trail past the right of the white brick building. Turn right on the Nature Trail and wind uphill through the

Woods. This trail goes across a grassy area that has a succession of attractive flowering plants every spring. At the top of the hill turn left on the fire road and continue uphill until the basalt knoll on the right is passed, then turn right and start down into Santa Ynez Canyon. The section of the trail in Santa Ynez Canyon is in the area burned over in Nov. 1977, and as a result other vegetation has temporarily replaced the chaparral. Mustard, Morning Glory, Filaree, Horehound, Wild Cucumber, Bush Lupine, Tree Tobacco, and many other flowering plants can be seen along the trail. Soap Plant (Amole) is everywhere along the ridge. Six foot tall plants bloom in May and June, the flowers opening in late afternoon. Farther down the trail, the ridge is covered by deerweed. Down in the canyon you are instantly in a new environment of Oak, Sycamore and Walnut trees, Blackberries and Currants line the trail. If anyone wants to, about half a mile down the trail, start looking for a side trail on the left, it isn't well marked and can be missed. Take this side trail and descend along a rocky ridge. About 500 yards down the trail are some caves in the cliff on the right. To the left about 200 yards and obscured by chaparral are two chimneys all that remain of an old cabin site. Back on the trail after 1.4 miles we take a left turn and go upstream 1.1 miles to the waterfall. There is a rope to climb up a large rock. We will have lunch at the waterfall. We will return on the same trail.

Be prepared for POISON OAK.

We will drive to the upper parking lot and have refreshments. If you want a shorter hike, start at the upper parking lot, however the dead horse trail is enjoyable.

There is a parking fee at both lots.